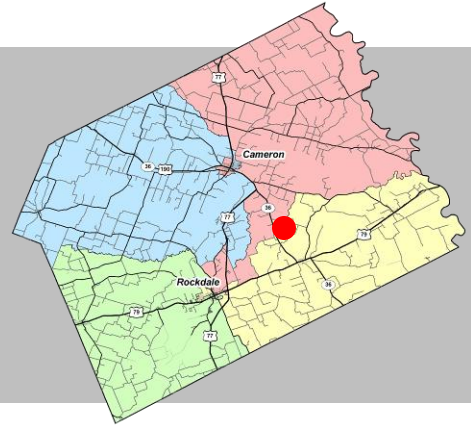


## Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)



**Physical Characteristics:** Red-brown with pale slate-gray rump, buff underparts. Head is crested, has black mask with narrow white band above and below eye. Yellow-tipped tail. Gets its name from red wax-like tips on wing feathers. Black bill, legs and feet. Adult eye deep redish-brown. Size: 6-7 in. Wingspan: 9-12 in. Weight: 1.3 oz.

**Interesting Facts:** Except during nesting they live and travel in flocks of 10 to 100 or more birds. When the end of a twig holds berries that only one bird can reach, members of a flock will line up along the twig and pass berries beak to beak down the line so that each bird gets a berry. Orange tipped tails are seen lately due to fruit from newly introduced non-native honeysuckle.

**Family:** Bombycillidae

**Status:** Migratory

**Habitat:** Open woods, edges, and orchards.

**Nesting:** Monogamous. 2 to 6 pale blue gray eggs spotted with brown and black. Bulky cup nest of twigs and grass built in a tree. Incubation from 12 to 16 days by both parents.

**Food Habits:** Insects but primarily fruit eaters. Can live on fruit alone for several months. Vulnerable to alcohol intoxication and death after eating fermented fruit.

**Song:** Call thin, high-pitched warbled "zee" or "zeet."

**Range:** Breeds from southeastern Alaska east to Newfoundland and south to California, Illinois, Virginia, and northern Georgia. Spends winters from British Columbia, southward through the United States into northern South America and even into Western Europe.

**Milam County:** Winter visitor.