

A photograph of three Brown-headed Cowbirds perched on a branch. The birds have dark, iridescent bodies and a distinct reddish-brown head. They are positioned on a light-colored branch against a background of out-of-focus green foliage. The text 'Brown Headed Cowbird' is overlaid in white, and 'How do the continue to exist?' is overlaid in grey below it.

Brown Headed Cowbird

How do the continue to exist?



Blackbirds

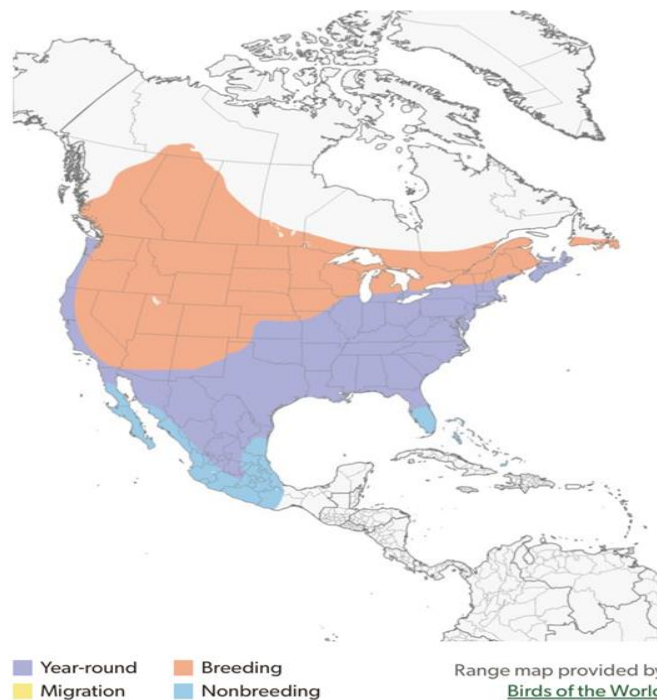
Habitat
GrasslandsFood
SeedsNesting
TreeBehavior
Ground ForagerConservation
Low Concern

Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

ORDER: Passeriformes

FAMILY: Icteridae



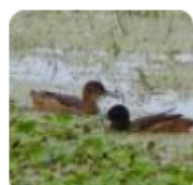
Basic Description

The Brown-headed Cowbird is a stocky blackbird with a fascinating approach to raising its young. Females forgo building nests and instead put all their energy into producing eggs, sometimes more than three dozen a summer. These they lay in the nests of other birds, abandoning their young to foster parents, usually at the expense of at least some of the host's own chicks.





Barka indigobird



Black-headed duck



Cuckoos



Cowbirds

Brown Headed Cowbirds are Brood Parasites
About 1% of bird species practice Brood parasitism.

