

**Songbird  
ReMix**

# Magpies

OF THE WORLD



**Avian Models for 3D Applications**  
Characters and Procedural Maps by Ken Gilliland

# Songbird ReMix

## Magpies

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# Songbird ReMix

## Magpies

### Introduction

Magpies are birds of various species of the family *Corvidae*. Like other members of their family, they are widely considered to be intelligent creatures. The Eurasian magpie, for instance, is thought to rank among the world's most intelligent creatures, and is one of the few nonmammalian species able to recognize itself in a mirror test. Magpies have shown the ability to make and use tools, imitate human speech, grieve, play games, and work in teams. They are particularly well known for their songs and were once popular as pets.

As with all Songbird ReMix models, this product uses an arsenal of morphs to help mimic all the behavior its real-life counterparts would have from flight, to feeding, to sleeping.

There are two versions of this set for native support in Poser and DAZ Studio. Materials have been tuned to support Iray, Superfly and Firefly renderers.

### Overview and Use

The set is located within the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Here is where you will find a number of folders, such as **Bird Library**, **Manuals** and **Resources**. Let's look at what is contained in these folders:

- **Bird Library:** This folder holds the actual species and poses for the "premade" birds. Birds are placed into a "type" folder (such as "Birds of Prey (Order Falconiformes)" which for example would hold falcons, hawks and eagles). The birds for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
  - **Perching Birds (Order Passeriformes)**
    - **Crows, Jays & their Allies**
- **Manuals:** Contains a link to the online manual for the set.
- **Props:** Contains any props that might be included in the set
- **Resources:** Items in this folder are for creating and customizing your birds
  - **Bird Base Models:** This folder has the blank, untextured model(s) used in this set. These models are primarily for users who wish to experiment with poses or customize their own species of bird. When using physical renderers such as

Iray and Superfly, SubD should be turned to at least “3”. For DAZ Studios 3Delight renders, the SubD must be turned from the “High Resolution” setting to the “Base” setting (otherwise some areas will render incorrectly transparent).

## Poser Use

Select **Figures** in the **Runtime** Folder and go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer (*Firefly or Superfly*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses**.

## DAZ Studio Use

Go to the **Animals : Songbird ReMix** folder. Select the bird from the renderer (*3Delight or Iray*) folder you want and simply click it to load. Some birds in the Songbird ReMix series may load with attached parts (*Conformers*) such as tail or crest extensions. Some of these parts have specific morphs. You will need to click on the attached part to access those controls. Associated poses can be found in the same folder- **Bird Library : (Type) : Poses**. **Note:** Using the "Apply this Character to the currently selected Figure(s)" option **will not** properly apply the correct scaling to the bird selected. It is better to delete the existing character first and load the one you want to use.

## One Folder to Rule Them All

When I reworked the entire Songbird ReMix library starting in 2018, I decided to abandon the way the birds were sorted (by product name) and choose an Ornithological approach. All birds are found in the Bird Library folder and are arranged by type of bird. This approach is hopefully easier for most to find what bird they are looking for. Admittedly, it will take some getting use to for some longtime users, but I’ve always approached the Songbird ReMix series as a learning tool as well as a graphics tool, so hopefully some knowledge will rub off by seeing how birds are grouped.

Probably the most deceiving subfolder in the **Bird Library** is “**Perching Birds (Order Passeriformes)**”. This is folder you probably will end up “favoriting” because this one folder (Passeriformes) **holds more than 50% of all birds**. Perching birds range from cardinals and jays to chickadees, crow and swallows.



By default, DAZ Studio's IK feature is turned on when loading a bird. This will cause the thigh and shin rotations change when the character is moved. The CTRL K keypress will turn IK on and off in DAZ Studio. IK doesn't work that well in Studio, so I suggest selecting the character in the Scene tab and simply deleting the two IK body parts to remove IK.

## Where to find your Birds and Poses

Type Folder	For what species?
<p><b>Perching Birds (Order Passeriformes)</b> Crows, Jays and their Allies</p>	<p>Red-billed Blue-Magpie            Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie            White-winged Magpie            Sri Lanka Blue-Magpie            Common Green-Magpie            Indochinese Green-Magpie            Javan Green-Magpie            Bornean Green-Magpie            Azure-winged Magpie            Iberian Magpie            Black-billed Magpie            Asir Magpie            Maghreb Magpie</p>

### Magpies included in other Songbird ReMix sets:

- Formosan (Taiwan) Blue-Magpie ([Songbird ReMix Cool & Unusual Birds v3](#))
- Eurasian Magpie ([Songbird ReMix European Edition v1](#))
- Australian Magpies ([Songbird ReMix Australia v2](#))

# Songbird ReMix

## Magpies

Red-billed Blue-Magpie  
Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie  
White-winged Magpie  
Sri Lanka Blue-Magpie  
Common Green-Magpie  
Indochinese Green-Magpie  
Javan Green-Magpie  
Bornean Green-Magpie  
Azure-winged Magpie  
Iberian Magpie  
Black-billed Magpie  
Asir Magpie  
Maghreb Magpie

**Common Name:** Red-billed Blue-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Urocissa erythroryncha*

**Size:** 20.9–27 inches (53–68 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it ranges from the western Himalayas eastwards into Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, and through central and eastern China to southwest Manchuria. There was a small feral population, originating as escaped cagebirds, became established for a while on Oahu, in Hawaiian Is, but seems now to have been exterminated.



It is found in tropical and subtropical broadleaf evergreen forest in Himalayan foothills. It is also seen elsewhere in hill forests, including parks, botanical gardens and large gardens.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population. It is widespread and locally common over most of its extensive range.

**Diet:** Omnivorous, but mainly carnivorous. Prey items include wide variety of larger invertebrates, especially beetles, caterpillars, land-leeches, tree-frogs, small lizards, birds' eggs and nestlings, and even small mammals. It will also take carrion and kitchen scraps. A variety of fruits and berries also taken.

It is usually encountered in small parties of six or seven (sometimes up to twelve), individuals, which are presumably family-based groups. It tends to be shy, but in some areas, it will scavenge about villages and forest settlements, where it may become less wary. Parties fly low across clearings in follow-my-leader style, swooping up under canopy of a desired tree. It forages at all levels, including forest floor, where it jumps about with its tail

raised (the very tip drooping).

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. It is a highly distinctive Blue-Magpie with exceptionally long, strongly graduated, sweeping white-spotted tail, central feather pair projecting beyond next by up to 40–50% and drooping towards tip. The nominate race has its head down to upper breast and upper mantle a velvety black, with feathers of rear crown and nape with extensive white tips (showing either as spangling or as whitish area, depending on extent of feather wear). The feathers of the forecrown also have tiny whitish tips. The upper-parts are dull medium-blue with weak mauve wash, while the upper tail-coverts have narrow whitish subterminal bars and black tips. The upper wing is a brighter blue with stronger mauve tones. The tips of the primaries and secondaries narrowly whitish with narrow dark subterminal lines (this pattern is clearest on tertials). The tail is mauve-blue; the feathers have broad white tips and black subterminal bars (latter weakest on the longest central pair). The white tips are progressively more extensive towards shorter outermost feathers. The under parts are below upper breast whitish, washed lightly with gray (and can be tinged salmon-pink in very fresh plumage). The under tail-coverts are whiter. The iris is dark brown while the bill and legs reddish-pink to coral-red. The juvenile is duller than the adult, with throat, face and breast center more whitish, leaving the black as a mask across face and side of neck. The bill and legs are drab grayish, becoming dull yellowish-flesh.

Egg laying occurs April through June in India, March through June in Myanmar, April in southern China and June in northern China. It tends to be a solitary breeder, but encountered throughout year in small parties and probably, therefore, sometimes a social breeder. The nest built by both sexes, of sticks and twigs. The cup-shaped nest is lined with fine rootlets and plant fibers, and placed 3–6 m above ground inside upper canopy of sapling or near end of long bough of larger tree. The clutch size is 3–6 eggs. The male feeds the incubating female at the nest and helps to feed nestlings.

**Cool Facts:** Five subspecies are recognized. Races differ mainly in overall brightness of adult plumage, to certain extent also size:

- *U. e. occipitalis*. First reported by Blyth in 1846. This race is endemic to northwest India to east Nepal. This race has relatively bright bluish upper parts, and bold white fringes on the tertials. The juvenile has a blackish throat and chest.
- *U. e. magnirostris*. First reported by Blyth in 1846. This race is endemic to northeast India to south Indochina. It is palest and grayest, with a very extensive pale lavender (rather than white) patch on rear crown and nape.
- *U. e. alticola*. First reported by Birckhead in 1938. This race is endemic to north Myanmar and south-central China. It has bluer upper parts than the nominate race.

- *U. e. brevivexilla*. First reported by R. Swinhoe in 1874. This race is endemic to northeast China. It is brightest race, with strongest mauve tones in quite blue upperparts. The bill is relatively larger than in others.
- *U. e. erythroryncha*. First reported by Boddaert in 1783. The nominate race is found in central, east, and southeast China and north Indochina.

**Common Name:** Yellow-billed Blue-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Urocissa flavirostris*

**Size:** 21.7-24 inches (55-61 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it is endemic to northern parts of the Indian subcontinent, including the lower Himalayan foothills, with a disjunct population in Vietnam.

It prefers moist deciduous and mixed temperate forests with oaks, chestnuts, conifers and rhododendrons. It favors forest edges, such as clearings with settlements, with or without terraced agriculture; also borders of tea plantations and the like. It breeds above 2000 m, ascending to about 3600 m.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a stable population trend. This species is clearly under no obvious threats, using secondary growth and thriving about mountain temples and villages.

**Diet:** Omnivorous, but mainly carnivorous. Takes all manner of invertebrates, small vertebrates and various fruits and berries; scavenges other bird's nests, taking both eggs and nestlings.

They are primarily arboreal birds. While most common in areas of dense jungle, they can also be found in agriculture areas and bare mountain sides at higher elevation. They frequently feed on the ground and adopt a hopping gait with the tail held high to prevent it coming into contact with the ground. They live in parties of seven or eight birds and are highly territorial. Their flight is slow and undulating once the bird comes into the open. Their diet consists of small mammals, the eggs and young of other birds, insects, wild fruits and berries. This bird is very vocal with a variety of



vocalizations.

**Nesting:** Sexes are alike. It is a distinctive black-hooded, pale-billed blue-and-white magpie with very long, strongly graduated tail. The central pair of rectrices projecting beyond the next by up to 40%, drooping towards tip. It has a stout bill with curved culmen. The nostrils are concealed by soft plumes (rather than bristles). The nominate race has head down to upper breast and upper mantle that is velvety black. There is a clear whitish patch on the upper nape. The upper-parts are dull gray-blue, washed with olive when the plumage is fresh. The upper-tail-coverts have narrow whitish subterminal bars and black tips; upper-wing dull blue, tips of primaries and secondaries narrowly whitish (this pattern clearest on tertials); tail grey-blue, feathers with broad white tips and black subterminal bars (latter weakest on longest central pair); underparts below upper breast whitish, washed lightly with gray and pale yellow (latter only in very fresh plumage). The iris is dark brown and the bill and legs are yellow, light orange or rich orange. The juvenile is duller than adult, with a dusky bill and legs, nape patch whitish that is more extensive.

The magpies build their nests in the forks of trees in areas of heavy foliage. The large nests are constructed out of sticks and lined with grass and other fibers. The clutch consists of three or four eggs. The base-color varies from a pale, dingy yellowish-stone color to a darkish rather reddish-stone color, and there is very occasionally a faint greenish tinge. The markings consist of small specks, blotches, streaks, and mottling of various shades of brown, sienna or purple, and they generally tend to collect in a cap or zone about the broad end of the egg.

**Cool Facts:** There are four subspecies; races differ mainly in strength of olive and yellow tones in fresh plumage, as well as size:

- *U. f. cucullata*. This race ranges in northern Pakistan (from Hazara) eastward through northwestern India to western Nepal. It is smaller than the nominate race, blue above, a purer white below. The juvenile has white on the nape that is more extensive, from mid-crown to lower nape and, on some, even over malar region.
- *U. f. flavirostris*. The nominate race is distributed from eastern Nepal eastward to Bhutan, northeastern India and northern Myanmar. It is also in adjacent extreme southeastern Tibet, western Yunnan.
- *U. f. schaeferi*. This race is endemic to western Myanmar (Chin Hills). It is on average smaller, but is close to the nominate race.
- *U. f. robini*. This race is endemic to extreme North Vietnam (northwestern Tonkin). It has a brighter yellow wash below and brighter olive above than others.

**Common Name:** White-winged Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Urocissa whiteheadi*

**Size:** 16.9-18.1 inches (43-46 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it occurs locally in southern China (north to southern Sichuan, east to Guangxi and Hainan Island), northern Vietnam, and northern and central Laos.

In mainland southeast Asia, it is found in dry broadleaf evergreen forest, pine and mixed deciduous semi-evergreen forest and forest edge, including heavily logged areas, as well as secondary forest, plantations of Manglietia, and edges of cultivation, from the lowlands to 1,500 m. In Laos, noted as being particular to streamsides and other gaps, as well as secondary growth.

**Status:** Endangered and Near Threatened. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population. The total population is tentatively placed in the range 1,000–2,500 mature individuals for the nominate race (endangered); Race *xanthomelana* appears to be locally, fairly common, but it is likely to be declining moderately rapidly, as well (listed as Near-threatened). Both are believed to be endangered owing to ongoing habitat destruction and, probably, hunting pressure.



**Diet:** Omnivorous; the species is said to feed on various invertebrates and berries.

It is very sociable, appearing in large groups of 20–25 individuals (in various plumage stages, adults and immatures) moving through forest together. These foraging parties are quite active, flitting from tree to tree and into bamboo thickets in gulleys by streams.

**Breeding:** The sexes are similar. A bulky-bodied forest magpie with a relatively long and strongly graduated tail, with the central pair of feathers only a little longer than next. The bill is heavy and long with a soft nasal tuft, and a small patch of bare skin behind eye. Adults are mainly blackish gray and white, with a strongly patterned tail and wings, whereas young birds appear somewhat duller but retain the strong color pattern.

In mainland southeast Asia (race *xanthomelana*), the season is reported to be April–August, with a nest under construction reported from Vietnam in early July. A nest was documented in the third week of April in southeast China.

**Cool Facts:** The White-winged Magpie has traditionally been considered a single species but more recently the two subspecies (groups) were split by del Hoyo and Collar.

- *U. w. xanthomelana*. First reported by Delacour in 1927. It is often referred to as the “Black-tailed” White-winged Magpie. It is found in Southern China (southern Sichuan, southern Yunnan, and southern Guangxi), northern Vietnam (West and East Tonkin and North and Central Annam), and northern and central Laos. It differs in its darker, blacker head to back and breast. It has much broader yellowish-white lesser and greater wing-coverts (in fact, lesser coverts all yellowish white, without blackish bases of the nominate race).
- *U. w. whiteheadi*. First reported by Ogilvie-Grant in 1899. The nominate race is endemic to Hainan (southeast China).

**Common Name:** Sri Lanka Blue-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Urocissa ornata*

**Size:** 15.7-18.5 inches (40–47 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; endemic to Sri Lanka.

It is found in tall, undisturbed forest in the mountains, foothills, and adjoining lowlands of the wet zone. It is found from elevations of below 150 to 2150 m. It is not often seen in disturbed habitat such as gardens or plantations.

**Status:** Vulnerable. **Global Population:** 9,500-19,500 mature individuals with a decreasing population. It is listed as vulnerable, due to its population fragmentation and ongoing habitat destruction,



The main threat to the survival is habitat loss due to forest being cleared for agricultural land, mines, logging, and human settlement. A moratorium on logging in wet zones in 1990, plus the legal protection of this species in Sri Lanka, have the potential to slow their population decline, but air pollution causing forest die-back and the use of biocides in the hill country continue to threaten the species.

One of the factors preventing it from colonizing disturbed habitat has been suggested to be the presence of another bird, the Asian koel, which is a brood parasite.

**Diet:** Mainly carnivorous, featuring insects, frogs, and small lizards, but they have been known to consume fruit, as well, and some observations suggest that they also prey on eggs or young of other bird species.

It has been observed rubbing hairy caterpillars against mossy branches to remove irritating hairs prior to consuming them.

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. Its plumage is bright blue, with a reddish-brown or chestnut head, neck, and wing. The blue tail is long and graduated, with a white tip. Its bill, legs, feet, and featherless eye ring of this species are all vibrant red. The juvenile of this species has a plumage similar to that of an adult, but overall duller, with a brown eye ring and a greyish hue to its blue feathers, especially on its underside. Its molting season is from August to November.

They are monogamous, use co-operative breeding to raise their young, and can be seen in small flocks of up to seven birds, while each bird maintains a territory. Breeding season is from January through March, and three to five eggs, which are white covered with brown spots, are laid in a clutch. Cup-shaped nests are built atop small, slender trees and lined with soft materials like lichen. Both sexes build the nest and feed offspring, with only the female incubating them.

**Cool Facts:** In Sri Lanka, this bird is known as කැහිබෙල්ලා (*kehibella*) in Sinhala. This magpie appears on a 10c Sri Lankan postal stamp, which was in wide usage in the 1980s through 1990s.

**Common Name:** Common Green-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cissa chinensis*

**Size:** 14.6-15.4 inches (37–39 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it is found from the lower Himalayas in north eastern India in a broad south easterly band down into central Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra and northwestern Borneo.

It is most common in evergreen forest (including bamboo forest), clearings and scrub.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population. Generally, not uncommon to locally common over main part of range. It is distinctly scarce in the western Himalayas (Uttarakhand, in northern India). It is rarely seen in its limited range in extreme southern China, where it just extends into southwestern Guangxi and southern Yunnan. There have been some sightings in Sumatra, where it is known to occur in the Barisan range. Its reliance on foothill forests could make it vulnerable to habitat destruction.

**Diet:** Mainly carnivorous; animal prey from countless invertebrates, small reptiles, mammals and young birds and eggs. It will also take flesh from a recently killed carcass. They will usually feed the newborns first.

Usually met with singly, in pairs or in small family parties, moving through dense undergrowth, often associating with laughingthrushes and drongos. These noisy mixed foraging parties move from one thicket to another, sometimes pausing to mob human observer, but rarely coming into the open to do so. They avoid crossing open country or large clearings.

Despite their short legs, they readily forage on ground, noisily turning over leaf litter. They work their way up through shrub layer, clambering between hanging creepers, and sometimes ascending into the upper canopy.

**Breeding:** Sexes are similar. They are a bright and lush green in color, slightly lighter on the under-side and have a thick black stripe from the bill through the eyes to the nape. Compared to that of the other members of its genus, the tail is quite long. This all contrasts vividly with the red fleshy eye rims, bill and legs. The wings are reddish maroon.

The nest is built in trees, large shrubs and often in tangles of various climbing vines. There are usually 4–6 eggs laid.

**Cool Facts:** Five subspecies are recognized:

- *C. c. chinensis*. First reported by Boddaert in 1783. The nominate race is found in the Himalayas to south China, north Indochina, Thailand and Myanmar.
- *C. c. klossi*. First reported by Delacour and Jabouille in 1924. This race is endemic to central Indochina. This race has a yellow forecrown, with the remainder of crown a yellowish-green.
- *C. c. margaritae*. First reported by Robinson and Kloss in 1919. This race is endemic to Lang Bian Mountains (south Vietnam). It has the entire crown bright golden-yellow, prominent white spots on tertials, and longer tail (the longest within genus).
- *C. c. robinsoni*. First reported by Ogilvie-Grant in 1906. This race is endemic to Malay Peninsula. It is similar to race *Minor*, but has larger white marks at tips of tertials.
- *C. c. minor*. First reported by Cabanis in 1850. This race is endemic to Sumatra and Borneo. Race *minor* is similar to nominate but a little smaller.

**Common Name:** Indochinese Green-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cissa hypoleuca*

**Size:** 13.4-14 inches (34-35 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; endemic to the forests of China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

It can be found in moist forests within the tropical and subtropical regions of their distribution. Due to their bright green plumage, they can be seen easily when jumping from branch to branch in foliage. Therefore, this is why they mainly occur in the tree canopies of forests, as this camouflages their green plumage better, protecting them from predation.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population. It is not uncommon to locally common over parts of Vietnam; in Thailand, it is considered rare and very localized in the extreme southeast. Isolated Chinese populations near Maupin, in southern Sichuan, and in Yao Shan hills of Guangxi (Race *jini*) and on Hainan Island (Race *katsumatae*) must be considered under greatest threat by virtue of their isolation from other populations; however, Race *katsumatae* occurs in 300 km<sup>2</sup> of old-growth forest at Yinggeling, the largest continuous tract of old-growth tropical forest in China. The main range of nominate race suggests that it is locally numerous in some areas, but on the whole this is a poorly studied species that could become endangered, despite its tolerance of secondary forest. Occupation of lowland and foothill forests could make it vulnerable to habitat destruction.

**Diet:** Mainly carnivorous diet. The diet includes various insects, frogs, snakes, lizards, and contents of birds' nests.

It is usually found singly, in pairs or in small family parties, moving through dense undergrowth, often in mixed flocks with laughingthrushes. It forages on the ground, turning over leaf litter, and up through shrub layer, clambering between creepers. It is sometimes found in the upper canopy.

It is very loud and loves to hang out in the foliage of its forest habitat. They have been spotted alone, in pairs, or in small groups. They can be sometimes seen in mixed flocks with laughing thrushes and drongos.

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. It has a unique fluorescent plumage just like the other members of the *Cissa* genus. However, its body is mostly green and those with an underbelly of yellow color are unique to the southern populations in Southeast Asia with the exception of the Chinese population that still have green underbellies. They have a black band that goes from their bill, over their crimson eyes, and to the back of their head. Juveniles have duller colors than the adults.

Eggs are laid in May in northern Annam. It is a solitary breeder. The nest built by both sexes, and is a bowl of twigs, interwoven with rootlets, making a relatively deep cup lined with dry grass and feathers. It is typically well concealed and placed about 2–3 m above ground in a small tree. The clutch is about 4 eggs, which the female incubates for 18–20 days. The chicks leave the nest about 25 days after hatching. Usually, two young are successfully reared.

**Cool Facts:** Five subspecies are recognized. Races vary mainly in intensity of yellow wash on under-parts and relative tail length:

- *C. h. jini*. First reported by Delacour in 1930. This race is endemic to central southern China. It has a longer tail than the others, and is less yellowish overall, and the tail feathers are tipped light buff.
- *C. h. concolor*. First reported by Delacour and Jabouille in 1928. This race is endemic to northern Vietnam. It is darker green above, paler below, with relatively weak yellow wash, and pale buff tips of the tail feathers.
- *C. h. chauleti*. First reported by Delacour in 1926. This race is endemic to central Vietnam. It has brightest and most extensive yellow on under-parts, also its head lightly washed yellow, and tail (especially tips of outer feathers) are washed brownish-buff.
- *C. h. hypoleuca*. First reported by Salvadori and Giglioli in 1885. The nominate race is found in southeast Thailand and south Indochina.
- *C. h. katsumatae*. First reported by Rothschild in 1903. This race is endemic to Hainan Island (off southeast China). It is similar to race *Jini*, but the central tail feathers are washed yellowish-green and tipped blue-gray (not buff), the tertials are tipped bluer green.

**Common Name:** Javan Green-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cissa thalassina*

**Size:** 12-13 inches (31–33 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; endemic to montane forests on the island of Western Java, Indonesia.

**Status:** Critically Endangered. **Global Population:** 50 mature individuals with a decreasing population. Once common, it has suffered significant population declines due to habitat loss and illegal capture for the wild animal trade. It is now found in only four protected areas. Some speculate that the lack of recent sightings might mean that it already is extinct in the wild.

In an attempt at saving the species, the Javan Green-Magpie has been part of a captive breeding program since 2011. A captive breeding program based on confiscated individuals has been initiated by the Cikananga Wildlife Center in Java and a few European EAZA zoos starting in 2015. It has successfully bred at both the Javan and European facilities, and as of 2018 this captive population had reached about 50 individuals.



**Diet:** Mainly carnivorous diet. It feeds primarily on invertebrates, including snails, crustaceans, isopods, scarab beetles, and other insects. During the breeding season, the bird has been observed feeding on small vertebrates, such as

lizards, smaller birds, eggs, frogs, and even snakes. This diverse diet supports the bird's energetic lifestyle and is particularly important during the breeding period.

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. It has a green crown and underparts, with a black "mask" marking around the dark brown eyes, russet wings and white tertiary feathers. It has bright red beaks and eye rings; its legs are equally bright, ranging from red to orange.

Nests are typically built in trees using thin twigs, bamboo, and large leaves, located 2-3 meters above the ground. These nests are often in areas with thin branches, making them vulnerable to poaching. The magpies typically lay one or two eggs, which are smooth and glossy with a pale yellow or off-white color, marked with reddish or yellow streaks.

**Cool Facts:** It formerly included the Bornean Green-Magpie as a subspecies, in which case the "combined" species was known as the short-tailed magpie.

**Common Name:** Bornean Green-Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cissa jefferyi*

**Size:** 13 inches (33 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it is endemic to montane forests on the southeast Asian island of Borneo. Northern Borneo from Mt Kinabalu southward to Mt. Murud, the Usan Apau Plateau, Mt. Dulit and Menyapa Mountains.

It dwells in thick vegetation in the mid and upper canopies of the forests, and makes only short flights.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population.

**Diet:** Omnivorous; eating a wide range of insects, earthworms, berries, and fruits.



**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. It is a distinctive green magpie with fairly long, bluntly graduated tail, slightly elongated rear crown feathers, and a prominent bill. Its green, yellow and reddish colors of plumage can bleach to, respectively, dull light blue, whitish and brown if exposed to prolonged bright sunlight. The adult has a prominent black band from base of bill across sides of head, enclosing eye and crossing under slight crest on nape. The rest of the head, as well as body, scapulars and tail, are almost a uniform apple-green (lacking yellow wash). The lesser upper wing-coverts are green and the rest of the upper wing and its coverts are a bright reddish chestnut color. The tertials are green but outer webs of inner two tertials are chestnut. The tail is green with the outer feathers having a narrow black subterminal marks and white tips. The iris is whitish or bluish

white, with a red orbital ring. The bill is red and the legs can be a bright red to orange-red. The juvenile has a duller bill and legs, and more pointed tail feathers than those of the adult.

It builds an open cup nest of sticks in the canopy.

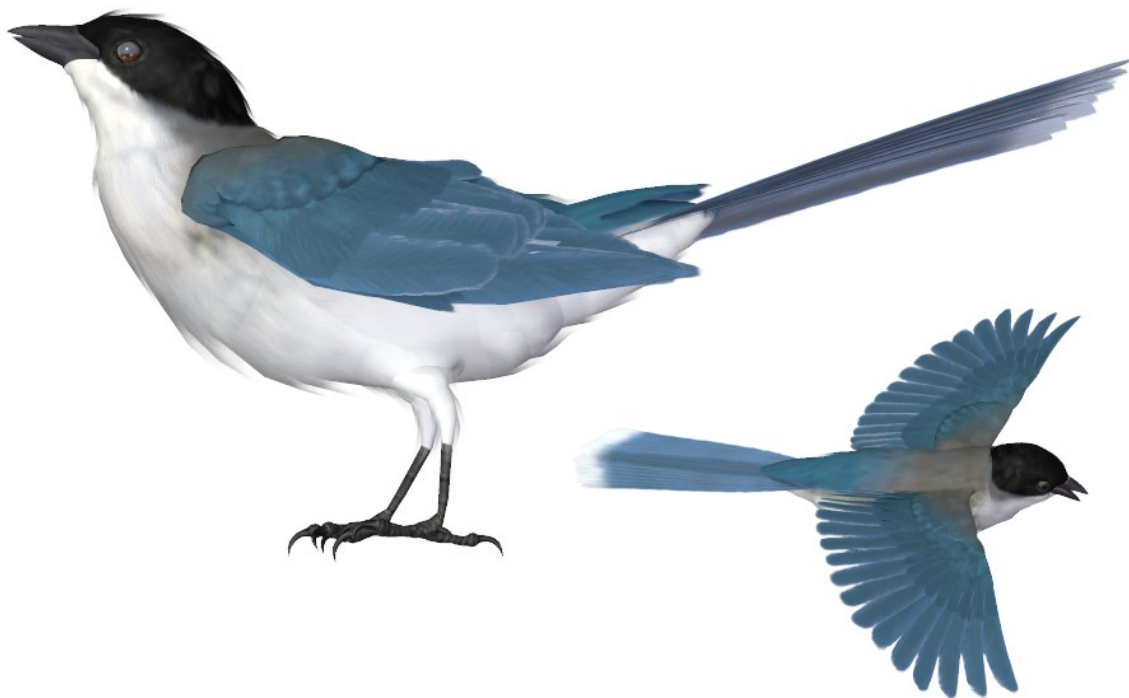
**Cool Facts:** It was formerly included as a subspecies of the Javan Green-Magpie, but under the common name Short-tailed Green-Magpie. Uniquely among the Green-Magpies, the Bornean Green-Magpie has whitish eyes (dark reddish-brown in the other species).

**Common Name:** Azure-winged Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cyanopica cyanus*

**Size:** 12-16 inches (33–40 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it occurs over a large region of eastern Asia in China, Korea, Japan, and north into Mongolia and southern Siberia. Most populations are basically resident. In Ussuriland, it disperses in winter, turning up in open country and even on inshore islands, some reaching northern Heilongjiang (Northeastern China). There are no such movements recorded in Japan in winter, although may descend 1–2 km following heavy snowfall.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a decreasing population. It is widespread and locally common. Throughout its wide range can be relatively inconspicuous, its colonial habits also making it seem scarcer than it really is, particularly in the western portion of its range, where populations particularly fragmented. Localized extinctions have been blamed on competition with introduced Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*).



**Diet:** It consists mainly of acorns (oak seeds) and pine nuts, extensively supplemented by invertebrates and their larvae, soft fruits and berries, and also human-provided scraps in parks and towns.

Often azure-winged magpies find food as a family group or several groups making flocks of up to 70 birds. The largest groups congregate after the breeding season and throughout the winter months.

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike, although females are larger than males. It has a glossy black top to the head and a white throat. The underparts and the back are a light grey-fawn in color with the wings and the feathers of the long (16–20 cm) tail an azure blue.

Egg-laying begins in May–Jun, with its peak in second half of May in southeastern Russia (Ussuriland) and Japan. It is believed to have a monogamous pair-bond, as pair-members seem to keep together within flocks. It is a social breeder, forming loose colonies; nests on average 15–20 m apart, rarely more than one nest in any one tree. Helpers (presumed young from previous year), work with parents to feed nestlings. The nest is built mostly by the female with the male bringing material to the site; helpers may often participate. The nest construction work takes 10–18 days. The nest a mass of twigs and rootlets, often domed by naturally amassed twigs (such as would form after floodwater had receded), deep cup lined with soft plant material, particularly animal fur. It is placed inside the outer foliage of a long branch and is rarely more than 2 m above ground, sometimes at ground level itself. The clutch is 5–8 eggs, and the incubation is performed by female alone for about 15–16 days. The chicks fed by both parents, often also by helpers. The nestling period is 16–19 days.

**Cool Facts:** Races differ mainly in size and color intensity.

- *C. c. cyanus*. The nominate race is found in east-central Asia.
- *C. c. pallescens*. This race is endemic to Middle and lower Amur River region.
- *C. c. koreensis*. This race is endemic to Korea. It is whiter below and browner above.
- *C. c. stegmanni*. This race is endemic to Manchuria. It is darker and grayer in body color than the nominate race.
- *C. c. swinhoei*. This race is endemic to east-central and eastern China (northern and central Sichuan eastward to Jiangxi and Zhejiang). It is similar to Race *stegmani* but browner.
- *C. c. interposita*. This race is endemic to northern China (Shaanxi).
- *C. c. kansuensis*. This race is endemic to western China (Gansu, Qinghai and northwestern Sichuan). It is grayish above, creamy whitish below, and has a smaller bill than the other races.
- *C. c. japonica*. The “Japanese” Azure-winged Magpie is endemic to central Japan (north and central Honshu; formerly found also in Shikoku and Kyushu). It is smaller and darker, with brighter blue wings and tail.

**Common Name:** Iberian Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Cyanopica cooki*

**Size:** 13.4-14.2 inches (34-36 cm)

**Habitat:** Europe; southwestern and central parts of the Iberian Peninsula, in Spain and Portugal. It can sometimes be spotted also in south-western France and north-western Italy.

It inhabits various types of coniferous (mainly pine) and broadleaf forest, including parks and gardens in the eastern populations.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 290,000 mature individuals with a decreasing population. Recent population estimates suggest about 40,000 pairs in Portugal and 250,000 pairs in Spain. The destruction of extensive stands of holm oaks has been blamed for its disappearance over several areas. The competition with increasing numbers of the Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*) has also been suggested as possible reason for local decreases, and it seems that, in places where one species is numerous, the other is excluded.



**Diet:** Omnivorous. It takes wide variety of food items, especially beetles and other insects and their larvae, including hairy caterpillars, also millipedes, snails and leeches. It feeds on quite a number of fruits and nuts, including grapes, olives, mulberries, myrtle, asparagus, cherries, daphne, acorns and pine seeds.

It forages in small to quite large groups, moving from tree to tree in follow-my-leader manner. On reaching feeding site, some flock-members investigate tree canopy, examining foliage for insects and fruits, even hanging upside-down. Others may drop to the ground, hopping about as they turn over leaf litter and examine tree boles. They store food items in caches in loose soil of banks. They are generally shy and very wary, but can become confiding where unmolested.

**Breeding:** Sexes are alike. It has a glossy black top to the head and a white throat. The underparts and the back are a light grey-fawn in color with the wings and the feathers of the long (16–20 cm) tail an azure blue.

This species usually nests in loose, open colonies with a single nest in each tree, same mean clutch size is 6.2 eggs, but only 32% of nesting attempts are successful, with an average 5.1 young fledged

**Cool Facts:** It was formerly thought to be conspecific with the Azure-winged Magpie, but recent genetic analysis has shown them to be distinct at species level. It differs in having a smaller size, a relatively shorter bill, somewhat brighter blue wings and tail, and the lack of white tips on tail.

The Iberian magpie was formally described in 1850 by the French naturalist Charles Lucien Bonaparte based on a specimen that had been collected by Samuel Edward Cook in Spain. Bonaparte coined the binomial name *Cyanopica cooki*, to replace the preoccupied *Pica cyanea*. The specific epithet was chosen to honor the collector. The type locality was restricted to Madrid by Harry Forbes Witherby in 1923

**Common Name:** Black-billed Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Pica hudsonia*

**Size:** 17.7-24 inches (45–60 cm)

**Habitat:** North America; their range is disjunct. The northern portion of range includes southern Alaska (including Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and northern portions of southeastern Alaska), extreme northwestern British Columbia (Tatshenshini Basin, Chilkat Pass, Atlin), and southwestern Yukon Territory. The southern portion of range includes central and southern interior of British Columbia (north to Cariboo and Chilcotin regions), southern two-thirds of Alberta (with range extending north locally to Lake Claire area in east, Vermillion area in west, and northwest into Peace Lowlands of northeastern British Columbia), the southern half of Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, and the extreme southwestern portion of Ontario. The range extends south through areas of Washington, Oregon, and California east of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada ranges to central Inyo County in California, south-central Nevada, south Utah, extreme northeastern Arizona (Apache County south to Many Farms), north New Mexico, and extreme western Oklahoma (Cimarron County). The range extends east to east-central Kansas and east-central Nebraska, central South Dakota, and northwestern Minnesota. Although formerly described as occurring throughout northern interior of British Columbia, populations in northwestern and southern interior of British Columbia appear to be disjunct, with only scattered breeding records from intervening area where species' status remains undetermined.



It prefers thickets in riparian areas, often associated with open meadows, grasslands, or sagebrush for foraging. This habitat is often linear along streams

in West, and clumped in distribution, which in some cases can lead to near-colonial nest aggregations.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a stable population trend. Food availability is the most critical factor; winter and early spring appear to be the most stressful times. They have been persecuted as "vermin" until mid-twentieth century; to some extent this prejudice still lingers among farmers and ranchers. Magpies associate with large ungulates, removing ectoparasites such as ticks from hard-to-reach places like ears and the anal region. It has been suggested that this is a symbiotic association that could easily translate to flesh eating when open sores are exposed.

**Diet:** Omnivorous; ground-dwelling arthropods, seeds, and carrion.

It forages on ground in open areas and is rarely found in trees. It is an opportunistic and omnivorous feeder, individuals watch each other, as well as predators with food, and gain information about potential food sources. On the ground, usually walks, often with apparent swaggering gait. When in a hurry or about to take off, hops, sometimes intermixing short flights with hops. This fly-hopping behavior appears to be used as visual signal to stimulate flock to follow; as the first magpie to leave a flock does this, then others frequently follow.

**Nesting:** Sexes similar in appearance, and plumages similar throughout year. Adults largely black, with contrasting white scapulars, white belly, iridescent metallic blue-green wings and tail, and large white markings on primaries (rarely on secondaries), which form white patch on wing when wing is extended. Tail long and graduated. Sexes distinguished by differences in size (males are larger and have 16–20% greater mass than females). Juveniles similar to adults, but duller overall, with less iridescent upperparts, buffier underparts, and rounder (less square) tips on rectrices. Immatures (after first Prebasic molt) similar to adults, but with smaller white patches on primaries and white on secondaries more often than in adults.

Pairs form usually in a non-breeding flock, during fall and winter. It begins nest building on warm days in January and February. Pairs, in which male is an adult, build nests earlier and faster than pairs, in which male is a juvenile. Nest building takes about 43 days for construction and is a mud bowl with a superstructure of twigs. Anywhere from 1 to 9 eggs are laid (average 6) and incubated by the female for about 18 days. Competition among nestlings for food is important factor in nestling mortality. Starvation accounted for most of the nestling mortality in first 9 days after hatching, but siblicide and sibling cannibalism are also common. The young remain near nest for 3–4 weeks, and depend on food from parents for up to 6–8 weeks. Adult magpies never feed young inside nest after brood has fledged. Only about 22% of fledgings (egg to juvenile) survive.

**Cool Facts:** The American Black-billed and the Eurasian Magpies are close cousins. They are nearly identical in plumage—black and white with blue-green iridescent wings/tails—but are separate species separated by geography and minor structural differences. The Black-billed is found in North America with a longer tail, while the Eurasian is in Europe/Asia, having a slightly larger body with a shorter tail. The Eurasian Magpies are well known for their ceremonial gatherings in early spring. Interpreted as territorial probings by dominant young birds, these gatherings have never been observed in either of North America's magpie species, probably owing to fundamental differences in the types of territories they hold. This is a marked difference in social behavior and spacing between North American magpies and those from Europe.

**Common Name:** Asir Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Pica asirensis*

**Size:** 18.1 inches (46 cm)

**Habitat:** Asia; it is endemic to Asir Massif, in southwestern Saudi Arabia.

It is restricted to juniper forests and well-vegetated wadis on southern facing slopes, at 2200–3000 m.

**Status:** Endangered. **Global population:** 500 mature individuals with a declining population trend. It is a restricted-range species: confined to the South-west Arabian mountains EBA. Research indicates that perhaps fewer than 500 individuals survive, with a minimum of 135 breeding pairs. These now are restricted to Abha and 120 km to the north, and at Jibal al Qahr, where the species appears most numerous (about 50 pairs). The lush vegetation in this part of Arabia is under threat from development for tourism, and climatic change is producing hotter and drier weather, forcing this species into pockets of remaining suitable habitat.



**Diet:** Omnivorous; feeding on “insects”, millipedes, caterpillars, and juniper berries. It also picks up food scraps from picnic sites, including boiled rice, as well as fallen grain, roadkill (e.g. lizards), other carrion and fruiting figs.

It forages in small groups of up to seven individuals (presumably family parties) and is rarely seen alone. It roosts in trees in well-vegetated wadis, foraging ceaselessly from dawn to dusk over area 2–3 km from roost-site. At first light group leaves roost and scatters into nearby trees, moving on after a few minutes.

**Nesting:** Sexes are alike. It is a distinctive black-and-white corvid with long, graduated tail. The head to breast and upper-parts are black with a slight sheen (not obvious). There is only a little white on outer scapulars; the upper-wing is black, glossed dark purplish blue on coverts and tertials, and the inner webs of primaries with white centrally. The tail is black with dark greenish-purple or bronze-purple gloss. The flanks and central under-parts are white and the under-tail-coverts, lower belly and tibia feathering are black. The plumage is prone to bleaching when worn (exposed glossy parts of wings and tail become dull bronze-brown). The iris is dark brown and the bill and legs are black. The juvenile is similar to the adult but duller, with black areas of plumage unglossed, and white areas washed with brown.

Egg-laying in early February, with nests with young observed between early March and mid-June. The nest is a somewhat oval, domed mass of twigs with side entrance, interior cup lined with soft plant materials (chiefly rootlets) and feathers. It is placed 3–8 m above ground at base of fork in juniper tree (more rarely in acacia). Fresh nests are constructed each year, although these are usually close to previous year's site. Both sexes feed the young, perhaps most frequently during the morning hours.

**Cool Facts:** This bird differs from the Eurasian Magpie (*P. pica*) mainly in having more extensive black in the plumage, a wholly black rump, a narrower white scapular patch, and less extensive white in the primaries. Its tail is relatively shorter, while its bill is relatively larger and feet larger.

**Common Name:** Maghreb Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Pica mauritanica*

**Size:** 18.9 inches (48 cm)

**Habitat:** Africa; it is endemic to northern Africa (Morocco, northern Algeria and Tunisia).

It is generally found in open country with scattered trees or small wooded areas, including arable land, pastures and woodland clearings, from sea-level to 2300 m. It is also seen in places with human habitations occurs such as gardens and parks.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global population:** Unknown number of mature individuals with a stable population trend. It is patchily distributed, with nests on average 264 m apart within “patches”. It appears not to be in decline and it is not at risk from habitat destruction.



**Diet:** Omnivorous; its diet consists predominantly of invertebrates such as beetles, along with lizards, small mammals, frogs, and the eggs and nestlings of other birds, as well as carrion. It feeds also on fruits and seeds, when these are available, and will readily consume discarded food scraps.

It forages on ground and rarely at higher levels. Generally, it is seen alone or in pairs or family parties. More rarely, in small groups and it is often wary.

**Nesting:** Sexes are alike. The adult has relatively large blue patch of bare skin behind eye. The rest of the head down to breast and entire upper-parts are black with hint of purple and green sheen. The scapulars are white, the upper-wing is mostly black, the secondaries and tertiaries with steely-blue gloss (becoming more bronzy with wear), and the primaries are white with well-demarcated broad black edges. It has a very long tail black with metallic green or purplish gloss. This becoming more bronze-purple with wear. The central under-parts are white, the lower belly to the rear flanks, the tibia feathering and the under-tail-coverts are black. The iris is a dark brown and the bill and legs are black. The juvenile is similar to adult but duller, with the black parts of plumage more sooty and unglorified, the white areas less pure.

Nest building occurs from December to January. It is a large domed structure built by both sexes, constructed of thorny sticks and twigs. The entrance is at the side, lined with softer fibers and animal hair (sometimes also some mud), and placed well above ground in tree or tall shrub. The clutch size usually 4–6 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** The most common call is a rapid chatter (similar to that of *P. pica* but higher-pitched and uttered with more undulating rhythm). It is said also to have a more varied vocabulary than *P. pica*.

## Special Thanks to...

...my beta team

Alisa andFlintHawk

## Species Accuracy and Reference Materials

Many birds of the same species do vary considerably in color. This package tries to emulate the colors and markings in the most commonly found variants.

The author-artist has tried to make these species as accurate to their real-life counterparts as possible. With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. The texture maps were created in Painter with as much accuracy as possible. Photographic references from photographs from various Internet searches and several field guides were used.

### Field Guide Sources:

- **Wikipedia** (<http://www.wikipedia.com>)
- **Birdlife International** (<http://www.birdlife.org> )
- **Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive** (<https://www.hbw.com>)

# Songbird ReMix Merchandise



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