

# THE COLOURFUL GROSBEAKS

## #5 THE BLUE CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS

### ULTRAMARINE GROSBEAK



Photo: Frank Wouters

The Ultramarine Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa brissonii*, is a species of Grosbeak in the Cardinalidae family. It is found in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, and subtropical or tropical dry shrubland.

Their length is 15cm (6"). They have a heavy black, slightly swollen, beak. The male's rump is paler and brighter than its back. The female is a pale sandy brown with underparts markedly paler than the upperparts.

The song has been reported as being "a flat warbled wee-se-weep wee-so-weeep wee see wee-so-weeep without latter's two slow introductory phrases; and a sharp, metallic pik".

### BLUE-BLACK GROSBEAK



Photo: Marcio Ruiz  
[www.flickr.com/photos/marcio\\_ruiz/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/marcio_ruiz/)

The Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) is a Grosbeak in the Cardinalidae family.

It is found in Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests and heavily degraded former forest. The female is reddish-brown above with paler brown underparts.

### BLUE GROSBEAK



Photo: Peter Wallack

The Blue Grosbeak, *Passerina caerulea*, is a medium-sized seed-eating migratory bird, with nesting grounds across most of the southern half of the United States and much of northern Mexico. It eats mostly insects, but it will also eat snails, spiders, seeds, grains, and wild fruits. The Blue Grosbeak forages on the ground and in shrubs and trees.

This species is found in partly open situations with scattered trees, riparian woodland, scrub, thickets, cultivated lands, woodland edges, overgrown fields, hedgerows. It nests in a low tree or bush or a tangle of vegetation, usually about 1-3 m above ground, often at the edge of an open area.