

Yellow-Billed Cardinal Layer Cake

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The yellow-billed cardinal is found in Southern Brazil, Paraguay and Northern Argentina. It can be found living in the shrubs of humid areas like marshes, flooded grasslands and shorelines of lakes and rivers. The yellow-billed cardinal is rarely seen alone; it is almost always in pairs or small groups. It rarely travels far from home and typically remains within 20 miles of its home range.

Ingredients:

Cake

- 1/3 cup softened shortening
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2-1/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup milk

Chocolate Buttercream Frosting

- 3/4 cup baking cocoa
- 2-2/3 cup confectioners' sugar
- 6 tbsp. butter at room temperature
- 5 tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions:

Cake

1. Cream softened shortening and butter. Add the eggs to the mixture, mix well.
2. Sift together all dry ingredients and add to the creamy mixture. Stir in milk and vanilla.
3. Bake at 350° F in two 9" round cake pans for 25 to 30 minutes.
4. Frost with Chocolate Butter cream Frosting.

Chocolate Buttercream Frosting

1. Combine cocoa and sugar in a bowl.
2. With an electric mixer, cream the butter with 1/2 cup of the cocoa/sugar mixture in a medium bowl.
3. Add the remaining cocoa/sugar mixture alternately with milk, beating to spreading consistency.
4. Blend in vanilla.

Serves: 8-10