



## When did the Norfolk&Western "Redbirds" replace the Class J's?

Andy Sperandeo answered this question several years ago in *Model Railroader*. He explained the transition was two-fold. Diesel passenger service between Lynchburg, VA and Bristol, TN as well as leased diesels from Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac E began running in 1958. July 1958 marked the end of regular passenger service with the J class steam engines. By October 1958, the N&W's "redbird" passenger GP9s allowed N&W to begin operating passenger trains with its own diesels.

The 506-521 series of passenger GP9s arrived in October 1958. They had large fuel/water tanks. These locomotives also introduced the metallic Tuscan Red "redbird" passenger paint scheme. Using the Tuscan Red may have been a shout out to the beloved Class J-611!

<http://cs.trains.com/mrr/f13/t/194323.aspx>

<https://mrr.trains.com/news-reviews/new-products/2015/10/andy-sperandeo-has-passed-away>

## Try your hand at this "Red Bird" Word Search!

S R S F R E D E R I C K S E B  
C A M O T O P S T E A M S A O  
P U L S L E S E I D E L N T R  
N M K E N I G N E D P N N E I  
R P T R R G T R E D B I R D C  
T A R E E R R N R U J D F E H  
B S R R T U A O B I I U G E M  
G S R C S B I R R I A T E O O  
L E G R E H N F I O G U M T N  
S N E E W C I O S D I S R O D  
I G A D V N O L T R O C I S G  
R E L D T Y G K O F R A A R S  
P R R R F L E I L E A N L T E

BRISTOL • PASSENGER • NORFOLK  
ENGINE • TRAIN • POTOMAC  
REDBIRD • FREDERICK • STEAM  
DIESELS • TUSCAN • LYNCHBURG  
RICHMOND • WESTERN • RED