

Facts on Goldfinches

What is a group of these birds called?
A charm of Goldfinches...

Goldfinches are primarily monogamous birds, but a few females will seek a different partner after producing the first brood. These prolific females leave their original mate behind to raise their fledglings, while they journey off to start a new family.



The American Goldfinch is the only member of its family to complete two full molts a year. All other species only molt once in the fall, but Goldfinches molt in the spring as well.

When other songbirds are finished with breeding season, the American Goldfinch is just getting started! They are one of the latest birds to breed (typically waiting until late June or early July).



You can encourage Goldfinches to nest in your yard by providing nesting material including the following:



SEWF91010
Birdie Bell with
Nesting Materials



SE907
Alpaca
Nest Bag



SE7021 Hummer
Helper Material
(Goldfinches love it too!)



SEWF91011
Birdie Bell Only

Birdie Bells are all-weather cage holders. They are versatile enough to house either nesting material or seed bells and fruit! Nesting material refills are available. The image to the left shows how Birdie Bells can be utilized for holding seed bells, and birds love it!

Gardening for Goldfinches



FACT: Habitat can also be a key to attracting Goldfinches. When utilized you do less work, not more. Don't worry about dandelions! Goldfinches love 'em! Also, don't cut off the tops of your Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos, or Cone flowers as Goldfinches love these as well.

Want to Learn More?

Ask a store employee to play you the Goldfinch Segment of the "Bird Man Mel's, In Your Own Backyard DVD", or go to the website www.birdmanmel.com.



You can also ask any of our friendly, knowledgeable staff on how you can attract Goldfinches to your backyard!

Tips for Attracting GOLDFINCHES



A favorite backyard songbird is the American Goldfinch...adored for their lemony color, graceful flight and enchanting song.

Many people call this bird the "Wild Canary." Much of the public does not realize that Goldfinches are not bright gold all year.

As the nesting season winds down and fall colors begin to appear, Goldfinches molt. That is, they replace their worn, tattered feathers with a set of fresh, new feathers.

The appearance of males changes drastically at this time. The brilliant yellow body feathers are replaced by dull brownish plumes and the striking black cap disappears. Females also molt, but their appearance doesn't change.

Goldfinches wearing drab winter plumage flock to bird feeders. In the South and West, a cousin, the Lesser Goldfinch is also found.

Keep Finch feeders out year-round to enjoy their bright colors during warmer months.

Tips for Attracting **GOLDFINCHES**

Finch Feeding Tips

Unlike most other birds that come to our feeders, Goldfinches eat seed almost exclusively. In fact, unlike many other Finches, Goldfinch chicks are fed few, if any, insects. Instead, they get the seeds their parents eat.

When a parent returns to feed its young, its crop is full of partially digested seed (enough to feed the whole brood). Because of the amount of food brought each time, the young are only fed twice each hour. Perched at, and around, the feeders, Goldfinches eat seed after seed. It gives us a wonderful opportunity to watch them at greater lengths.



SE979
17" Yellow Spiral



SEBQSBF5Y
36" Yellow Spiral
Finch Tube

We love the Songbird Essentials Spiral Feeder as it has more openings per inch of feeder than standard "Perch Restricted" feeders. Also, its "Flip N'Fill™" feature means you can fill it from the top one time, and the bottom the next. This means seed never gets old in the bottom of the feeder, keeping your finches happy with fresher seed for them to eat.

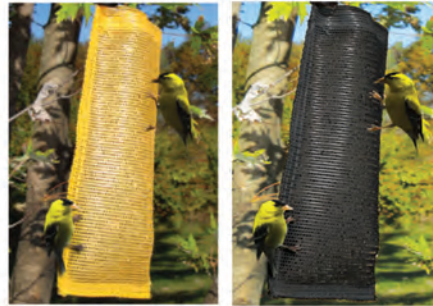
Many people come in and complain "Finches" don't eat the seed at the bottom. This happens when seed gets packed down and draws moisture when always filled from the top. Either get a Songbird Essentials feeder or remember to dump out and mix old seed in the bottom of the feeder with new seed and then refill. Either solution will help you attract more Finches.



SE324C Copper Finches Favorite
SE324 Red Finches Favorite

Nyjer Socks

One of the keys to keeping Goldfinches around is eliminating their need to compete. Goldfinches will often just give up and fly away when other species crowd around a feeder. To enjoy Finches when they are bright gold, many people put out "extra" Finch Feeders utilizing inexpensive thistle socks. Try it! It works!



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|-------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| SE612 | 12" Nyjer Sock, Black | SE637 | 18" Nyjer Sock, Yellow |
| SE613 | 18" Nyjer Sock, Black | SE650 | 12" Nyjer Sock, White |
| SE636 | 12" Nyjer Sock, Yellow | SE651 | 18" Nyjer Sock, White |

Seed

Nyjer Seed resembles grains of wild rice and is coveted by Goldfinches for its high fat and protein content. Most Finches and some other birds enjoy a little Nyjer in their diet. Nyjer imported to the United States has been heated to prevent it from germinating so that seed sprouting is not a concern. Mixing Nyjer seed with fine chopped Sunflower Kernels reduces the mess on the yard and patio. Pine Siskins also like it better than straight Nyjer. All Finch mixes require a feeder with very small openings. Some of the best feeders for feeding Goldfinches are listed inside of this brochure.



SE979 Squirrel Deflector Nyjer Feeder



SE977



SE972



SE970

Ask about other Songbird Essentials™ Clear View Feeders not shown here!

Clear View Window Feeders

Up close and personal bird watching! Easy to fill. Great for introducing children to birding! Covered roof provides all-weather feeding. Suction cups attach securely to windows. Just hang, fill, and enjoy the show!

- SE970** Clear View Mini Window Feeder
SE972 Clear View Deluxe Open Diner Window Feeder
SE977 Clear View Deluxe Hopper Mirrored Feeder

Clingers Only Feeders

A special feeder for Goldfinches! Perfect for feeding either straight Nyjer seed or a mix of Nyjer & fine chopped Sunflower Hearts.



- SE7011** Clingers Only Feeder, Yellow
SE8012 12" Limb Protector Hanger
 - Great for hanging the Clingers Only Feeder!