



## American Goldfinch

Is a small North American bird in the finch family. It is migratory, ranging from mid-Alberta to North Carolina during the breeding season, and from just south of the Canada-United States border to Mexico during the winter.

The only finch in its subfamily to undergo a complete molt, the American goldfinch displays sexual dichromatism: the male is a vibrant yellow in the summer and an olive colour during the winter, while the female is a dull yellow-brown shade which brightens only slightly during the summer. The male displays brightly coloured plumage during the breeding season to attract a mate.

It is a granivore and adapted for the consumption of seed heads, with a conical beak to remove the seeds and agile feet to grip the stems of seed heads while feeding. Its breeding season is tied to the peak of food supply, beginning in late July, which is relatively late in the year for a finch. This species is generally monogamous and produces one brood each year.

Human activity has generally benefited the American goldfinch. It is often found in residential areas because it is attracted to bird feeders, which increase its survival rate in these areas. Deforestation also creates open meadow areas, which are its preferred habitat.



◇ Compared to other native North American birds, American goldfinches are late breeders. The birds wait to start building nests until late June and early July when the thistle and milkweeds are going to seed. These small birds like to use the seeds in their nest, and also as a nearby food source for their young

- ◇ While some other bird species are omnivores, American goldfinches are avid vegetarians. The only time the birds stray from their vegetarian diet is when they accidentally swallow a small insect
- ◇ Brown-headed Cowbirds are known to lay their eggs in an American Goldfinch nest. While the Goldfinch doesn't mind, it's unfortunate for the Cowbird hatchlings. Cowbird chicks need a diet that consists of more than seeds and only survives a few days
- ◇ Goldfinches weave their nests tight enough to hold water, though only temporarily. To keep their nests secure in the trees the birds use spider webs. The webbing is used to attach the nest to twigs and even small branches
- ◇ When Goldfinches pair up their flight calls become almost identical. It's thought that these calls help other flock members distinguish one pair of Goldfinches from another
- ◇ American Goldfinches use a four-syllable call when they're ready to take flight. If you listen closely, it sounds like the birds are saying "po-ta-to-chip". Both male and female Goldfinches use that call
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# JIM ST. LAURENT

Jim's years of guiding bird walks for the Wild Bird Store has been instrumental in teaching "birders" how to get the most out of their birding excursions.

As per usual, Jim reminds you to dress for Spring weather and carry water for rehydration.



**FRANK LAKE** Saturday May 9, 2026 **PLEASE NOTE: This is an actual walk, kindly note meeting place.**

9:00am meet at rear of the Wild Bird Store and carpool from there. Please bring a lunch.

Ticket price \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)

**CARSLAND** Saturday May 23, 2026

9:00am meet at rear of the Wild Bird Store and carpool from there. Please bring a lunch.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an actual walk, kindly note meeting place**

Ticket price \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)

**FRANK LAKE** Saturday June 6, 2026

9:00am meet at rear of the Wild Bird Store and carpool from there. Please bring a lunch.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an actual walk, kindly note meeting place**

Ticket price \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)

**IRRICANA SLOUGHS** Saturday June 20, 2026

9:00am meet at rear of the Wild Bird Store and carpool from there. Please bring a lunch.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an actual walk, kindly note meeting place**

Ticket price \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)

**FRANK LAKE** Saturday July 11, 2026

9:00am meet at rear of the Wild Bird Store and carpool from there. Please bring a lunch.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is an actual walk, kindly note meeting place**

Ticket price \$7.00 (includes GST +fees)



## ON LOCATION

Wildwood Community Centre (4411 Spruce Drive SW)

1st Tuesday of each month 3:00pm to 5:30pm

Seed Truck will be at this location Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Crowfoot Arena (corner of John Laurie & Nosehill Drive NW)

Every Wednesday 2:00pm to 5:30pm

The Mobile Seed Truck is a mini version of The Wild Bird Store, and as such, we are limited to what we can carry. It is therefore, highly recommended that you place an order the day before the truck is to be at your desired location. This will ensure that when you come to the Mobile Seed Truck you get the items you need. You can place orders by emailing [orders@wildbirdstore.ca](mailto:orders@wildbirdstore.ca) or texting to

(403) 701-4571

# OPTIONS FOR SHOPPING AT THE WILD BIRD STORE

In Store or on the Seed Truck



**Shop in Store**



**Curbside Pick up**

Phone your order in and pay for it at least 30 minutes prior to arriving at The Wild Bird Store for pick up. Park in the curbside parking stall, call the store (403) 640-2632, pop your trunk or hatch and leave the rest to us.



**Home Delivery**

Please phone the store at (403)640-2632 any day prior to 12:00noon on the Wednesday before your delivery with your order, place and pay for your delivery.

**PLEASE PHONE YOUR ORDER IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AS SPACE IS LIMITED!**

If you have any specials instructions, please do not forget to inform us when you place your order.

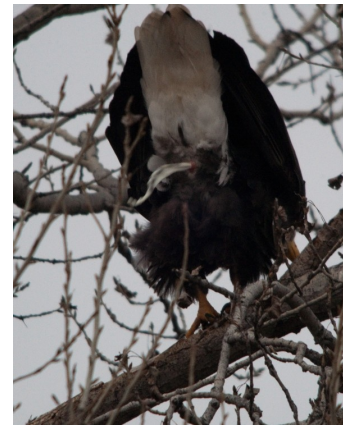
A minimum of \$25.00 (before GST) is required on ALL delivery orders



**QUESTION:** I was watching some Black-capped chickadees seemingly deliberately placing fecal sacs, presumably from their nestlings, all in a row in one specific spot on a large Douglas Fir branch. Any thoughts as to why they might do this? Do they do it to attract insects to eat or feed to their nestlings?

**RESPONSE:** For those of you not aware of what a fecal sac is, they are tiny gelatinous bags of poop generated by the nestlings in many songbird species. Rather than let the feces accumulate in a nest to possibly create a non-hygienic environment for the young, or worse, generate an odour for a predator to key in on, the parents generally either eat the sacs for extra nutrition or they carry them away from the nest, often

dropping them into water. For the pair of chickadees in your yard, you suggested that they placed the sacs nearby on a branch to attract insects which the parents could feed upon or even to their young. Anyway, your question created quite a discussion among five ornithologists, all of whom had studied chickadees and one in particular who wrote the book on Black-capped chickadees! None of them, including Dr. Susan Smith, the top expert, had never seen this behaviour in their birds. None believed that your chickadees did it to attract insects, but it was not ruled out. One suggested that the fecal sacs just happened to fall onto that same location from a bird perched above the site, but I do not buy that. Dr. Smith suggested that maybe they actually put them there in storage to be consumed later. That makes the most sense to me.



Older nestlings may “shoot” away from the nest.

<b>DAVID M. BIRD, Ph.D</b> Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology McGill University			<b>CANADA JAY</b> MÉSANGEAI DU CANADA  FRIENDLY, SMART, LOYAL AND TOUGH TRULY THE MOST CANADIAN BIRD!  AMICAL, INTELLIGENT, FIDÈLE ET ROBUSTE UN OISEAU VRAIMENT CANADIEN!
david.bird@mcgill.ca www.askprofessorbird.com			<b>WWW.CANADAJAY.ORG</b>

## ABOUT DR. DAVID



David M. Bird is Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology and the former Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre at McGill University. As a past-president of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, a former board member with Birds Canada, a Fellow of both the American Ornithological Society and the International Ornithological Union, he has received several awards for his conservation and public education efforts. Dr. Bird is a regular columnist on birds for Bird Watcher's Digest and Canadian Wildlife magazines and is the author of several books and over 200 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He is the consultant editor for multiple editions of DK Canada's Birds of Canada, Birds of Eastern Canada, Birds of Western Canada, and Pocket Birds of Canada. To know more about him, visit [www.askprofessorbird.com](http://www.askprofessorbird.com) or email [david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca).

**We offer a discount** if you return your seed bags (sorry—not the Mother Nature bags which we cannot re-use), suet ball containers, if you bring your own container to fill or use a bag from our re-cycle bin. This discount is in addition to any other discount offered.



**Write a Google review** on your experience at The Wild Bird Store, and as a thank-you, we will give you 100 customer loyalty points (\$5.00 value). To get a promo code, kindly email [info@wildbirdstore.ca](mailto:info@wildbirdstore.ca)



(Please one Google review per customer)

**Earn 200 customer** loyalty points (\$10.00 value) by referring a friend, acquaintance or fellow birder.



Please visit the store to get a promo code

**No need for a card** just give your phone number.

You earn \$1.00 for every \$20.00 spent (sorry, excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items) and can be used in-store and on Mobile Seed Truck. As a loyalty member, our monthly promotional and in-store “specials” are automatically given at the cash register.



**Combining our Seniors** 10% discount with the loyalty program (sorry—excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items.)



**Discount for membership** 10% discount for members of Fish Creek Park, AIWC, Priddis Golf Club, Nature Calgary, Sandy Cross Conservation, Springbank Garden Club and Calgary Horticultural Society. Must present valid membership card at time of purchase. (Sorry! - excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items.)



**Discount for Military Members & Veterans** 10% discount on purchases in-store or on Mobile Seed Truck (sorry—excludes “sales” items, books, optics and consignment items)



# Creating A Mason Bee Habit Seminars



## CREATING A MASON BEE HABIT

Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 6:00pm

Ticket price: \$15.00 (plus GST)

Tickets must be purchased through the Wild Bird website [www.wildbirdstore.ca](http://www.wildbirdstore.ca) and are non-refundable.



Store

Please purchase your tickets early as these seminars fill up very quickly and space is limited.

The Wild Bird Store carries a complete line of Mason bee supplies and which be available for sale after the seminar.

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## The Forgotten Bird Artist—Rex Brasher

[The Wildlife Society](http://TheWildlifeSociety.org)

July 31, 1869—February 29, 1960 was an American water colour painter and amateur

ornithologist in the vein of John James Audubon and

Louis Agassiz Fuertes. But even today, many people—even avid birders—have never heard his name. Brasher's 875 surviving paintings depicted 1,200 species and sub-species of North American birds in accurate detail, representing all the species and sub-species identified in the American Ornithologists' Union's Check list of North of North American Birds.

Brasher started to paint birds at the age of 16, travelling throughout the United States, visiting every state in an effort to find birds to paint, betting on horse races and working odd jobs to support his travels.

To listen to a podcast from The Wildlife Society, please visit: <https://wildlife.org/listen-the-forgotten-bird-artist/>



# World Bee Day | 20 May

Bees are essential pollinators that play a critical role in our ecosystem and food system. Honey bees are responsible for pollinating many crops that provide us with food, including fruits,

vegetables, nuts and seeds. Unfortunately, honey bee populations have declined in recent years due to habitat loss, pesticide exposure, and disease. This decline has significant implications for our food system and the environment making it crucial to raise awareness and take action to protect honey bees.

Disappearing pollinators can mean losing some of the nutritious food we need for a healthy diet. The decline of pollinators could have disastrous effects for our future of food. Their absence would jeopardize the three-quarters of the world's crops that depend at least in part on pollination, including apples, avocados, pears and pumpkins. And enhancing pollination isn't just about mitigating disaster—with improved management, pollinations has the potential to increase agricultural yields and quality. Pollinators also play a crucial role in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity thus improving the resilience of plants to climate change and other environmental threats.

**Pollinators**

**20 000**  
DIFFERENT SPECIES OF WILD BEES EXIST

Some species of butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats and other vertebrates also contribute to pollination.

Icons: Butterfly, Bee, Wasp, Beetle, Bird, Bat

**Honey**

**NUTRITIONAL VALUE**  
for 100 g

Vitamins (mg)	Minerals (mg)
Phytochemicals 0.025	Sodium 14 - 17
Phenolics 0.01	Calcium 3 - 35
ADRibosin 0.01 - 0.02	Potassium 40 - 2000
Pyridoxin 0.01 - 0.32	Magnesium 0.1 - 1.9
Niacin 0.20 - 0.24	Phosphorus 2 - 15
Phenylethanol acid 0.02 - 0.11	Zinc 0.05 - 2
Ascorbic acid 0.2 - 2.5	Copper 0.02 - 0.06
<b>Energy</b>	Manganese 0.02 - 4
Carbohydrates 300kcal	Molybdenum 0.02 - 2
Protein 0.6g	Chromium 0.001 - 0.3
Fats 0g	Selenium 0.002 - 0.01



**Springtime Advice from a Robin**

Bask in the warm sun whenever you can.

Beautiful!

Find a partner who fills the air with song.

Lovely words!

Build a strong, cozy nest that is suitable for 3-5 offspring.

Sweet, if... specific

Consume fecal sacs after each feeding, but begin to transport fecal sacs far away from the nest as the size...

Okay I think we are done here



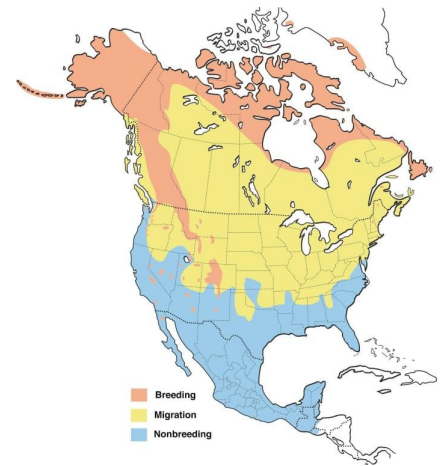
# American pipit

Has a relatively long tail, which is often seen bobbing up and down as the bird moves. Foraging birds walk quickly, strutting and often changing direction as they inspect the ground and low vegetation for food. They

sometimes catch aerial insects in short sallying flights and consume prey whole, sometimes removing the wings first.

During the breeding season, the American pipit becomes more vocal, with the males singing a high-pitched, trilling song to attract a mate. The song is often accompanied by a display flight, in which the male will fly high into the air, hover momentarily, and then glide back to the ground while continuing to sing.

The nest is placed on the ground of tundra or alpine fields above the tree line, usually under an overhanging rock or clump of grass. Males bring food to incubating females, which receive the meals, wings fluttering, away from the nest site. Nests are always on the ground in meadows, scree fields, tussocks, or similar open environments, usually in a spot that is partly sheltered by vegetation, earth or rock.



- ◇ Scree field: Scree is a collection of broken rock fragments at the base of a cliff or other steep rocky mass that has accumulated through periodic rockfall.
- ◇ Tussocks (grasses): usually grow as singular plants in clumps, tufts, hummocks, or bunches, rather than forming a sod or lawn, in meadows, grasslands, and prairies.

## DONATIONS

Located at The Wild Bird Store (near the seed bins). We collect your cash as well as “wishlist” donations and arrange for delivery of the donations to these organizations that we support.

For the months of March, April and May 2026 will be Alberta Wildlife Institute for Conservation (AWIC)



Thank you for your support

[awic.ca](http://awic.ca)

*Staying  
Connected*



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Calgary, AB T2H 1K3  
Phone: (403)640-2632  
web: wildbirdstore.ca  
email:  
info@wildbirdstore.ca

Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

**CLOSED** Sundays and ALL Statutory holidays for Faith, Family & Friends



**Victoria Day**  
**Monday, May 18, 2026**  
The Wild Bird Store will be **CLOSED** for this holiday

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Go to YouTube, type in the search bar “The Wild Bird Store” to watch our videos and to help us become more visible. Be sure to click on “subscribe” before you leave the page.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

## GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Greater yellowlegs use their bright yellow legs for multiple survival functions including prey detection in murky water, thermoregulation during extended wading, and mate attraction during breeding season.

Adults leave breeding grounds by late June to early July, following well-defined flyways through interior wetlands and coastal estuaries. Spring arrival dates hit peak numbers from early March to April across the southern United States. Juveniles depart 4-6 weeks after adults, with fall departure extending into November.



**SENIOR'S DAY**

Is **EVERY** Tuesday.

If you are over 60 you will receive  
10% off your order

Sorry! Excludes optics, books,  
cards & consignment items

**HAPPY BIRDING!**