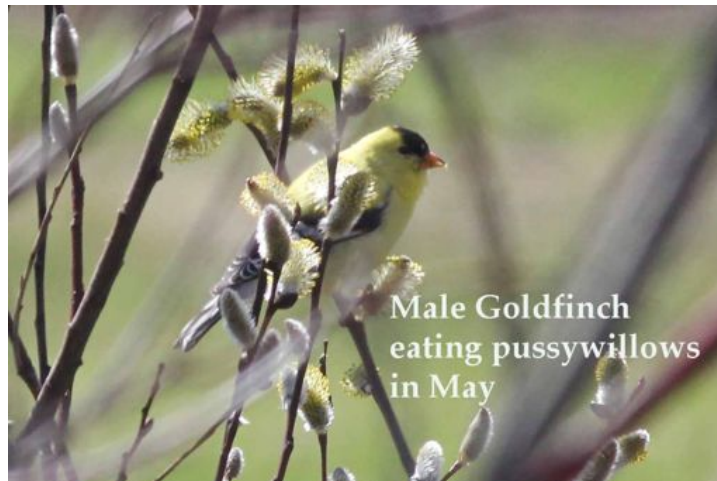


Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*)

Goldfinches change in appearance from season to season. They eat a variety of seeds and fruit in woods and fields.

In breeding season, the males have shiny black heads, some white and many bright yellow feathers. Females also begin to change their feathers but are dull in color year round.



Goldfinches seek seeds in flower stalks remaining from previous seasons.



Note the notched tail and conical bill.





Goldfinches make cup-shaped nests.

Goldfinches nest when fluffy nesting down is available and seeds are plentiful for young birds. This is later in summer than many birds.





Male Goldfinch Eating Seeds from Hemlock Cone in October



Goldfinches

Gone are coats of gold
Replaced with tan and buff,
Feathers better than the old
The goldfinch coat and muff.

They dine on seeds
In woods and fields
All kinds of weeds
The area yields.

Our feeders overflow
With suet and with seeds
Birds soon see and know
This will fulfill their needs.

Now we provide
Winter fare
And watch from warmth inside
As winter birds feast there.

Loretta Kuse

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