

# Birds-I-View Learning Page

## Comparing: Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch

Many areas of the U.S. are fortunate to have Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Goldfinch during the Winter months— some winters in great numbers, other winters not so many. Although American Goldfinch are present all year long in many areas, they certainly have brighter, more vibrant plumage during the breeding season than during the winter.

Often, these three species can be found together foraging for natural food in trees, or at bird baths and feeding stations.

The next time you have a winter flock of Goldfinch in your yard, be sure to take a closer look to see who else might be there, too!

*All Photos by  
Steve Garr*



**Common Redpoll**  
12/25/12

**Pine Siskin**



**Common Redpoll**  
03/06/09



**American Goldfinch**  
(Winter plumage)



**Pine Siskin**

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**House Finch**

**Pine Siskin**

### Making Comparisons at your feeder!

Sometimes the only “view” of birds at your feeder is the angle that blocks your view of much of the birds! It is helpful to be able to identify who is at your feeder with out having to see the bird’s head. Check out the differences in these birds by looking at their tails. (see notes under photos)



**Pine Siskin**

**American Goldfinch**

**Above:** Both the Pine Siskin and House Finch show striping at this angle...however the Siskin has a forked tail, while the House Finch’s tail is more “squared”.

**Above:** Both the Pine Siskin and Goldfinch have “forked” tails, however note how white the underside of the Goldfinch is compared to the stripes on the Pine Siskin.