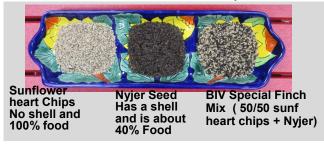
#### **Frequently Asked Questions About Finch FOOD:**

**O.** What do Finches eat?

A. Finches utilize many small grass seeds and flower seed in nature and are built to shell tiny seeds easily. At Backyard Bird feeders they will consume Nyjer Seed (traditionally referred to as "thistle" in the bird feeding industry, but now more correctly referred to as "Nyjer"). They also consume Black Oil sunflower Seed and LOVE Sunflower HEARTS whether whole or in fine chips. In recent years, more and more backyard birders are feeding Sunflower hearts (which does not have a shell) either alone or combined with the traditional Nyjer seed (which DOES have a shell). Because they have become familiar with Sunflower hearts in recent years, Gold-



finches will often chose this shell-free food over Nyjer. One important note: Squirrels also prefer Sunflower hearts over Nyjer seed!

- Q. Is Nyjer Seed the same seed as the noxious invasive thistle seen growing in fields and yards?
- A. NO! Nyjer is related to aster plants and not the invasive "Canada thistle" that has been detrimental to our native plants. Confusion about that arose due to the traditional habit of bird seed vendors referring to Nyjer as "Thistle Seed".



A Purple Finch (left) enjoys Sunflower Hearts and an American goldfinch (right, in winter plumage) munches on a 50/50 blend of Sunflower heart chips and Nyjer Seed.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q.** Do Goldfinches migrate in winter? A. In much of the US, including the Midwest, Goldfinch are year-round residents. There are areas of the US that only experience Goldfinch in the Winter and parts of northern US and Canada only have them during breeding season. Check out the notable difference between the Goldfinch's plumage in the winter and during breeding season on the cover of this brochure!

**O.** What other finches can I see at feeders used by Goldfinch?

**A.** Year-round House Finch as well as nonfinch family birds like chickadees, tufted Titmouse, and Downy Woodpecker will eniov your finch feeder. In the winter months Pine Siskins, Purple finch, and even a Redpoll might share your finch feeder. See the inside of this Brochure form more detailed info on these special birds!

**O.** When do Goldfinch nest?

**A.** American Goldfinch are considered Late nesters, usually nesting in July. Therefore,

they are not as territorial as other birds in the spring and we get to see them flocking together at our feeders! Goldfinch are easily attracted to nesting material of natural cot-



ton fibers, hair and fur.



### Birds-I-View

# **FAQ** about Goldfinches and **Finch Food!**







## **Birds-I-View** 573-638-BIRD(2473) www.birds-i-view.biz

Committed to providing Products & Information that Benefit Wildlife

# Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch **Birds-I-View Learning Page** Comparing:

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

Common Redpoll

Steve Garr All Photos by

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

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

Common Redpoll

Pine Sisk

(Winter plumage) American Goldfinch Pages and Educational www.birds-i-view.biz 573-638-BIRD(2473 See more Learning

512 Ellis Blvd Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Birds-I-View** 







**Brochures** at:



show striping at this angle...however the Siskin has a forked or "notched" tail, while the House Above: Both the Pine Siskin and House Finch Finch's tail is more squared.

# Making Comparisons at your feeder!

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



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

