

# American Goldfinch

*Carduelis tistis*

## General Information:

-Often called the “wild canary” in the Southeast, the male in breeding plumage is a bright canary yellow. The female is duller overall, while the young have whitish cinnamon wing bars and rump. Adult males in the winter look more like the females and juveniles.

## Song:

-A jumbled series of musical warbles and trills often with a drawn-out *baybee* note. Flight song sounds like *per-chick-oree* or *po-tato-chips*.

## Behavior:

-Occurs in flocks in non-breeding season. In the spring, it feeds on the small seeds from dandelions. In the late summer breeding season, males engage in aerial displays of exaggerated roller-coaster-like flights across the sky, singing *po-tato-chip* with each downward glide.



## Breeding:

-Monogamous; among the very latest songbirds to nest each year. Territorial defense and mate selection begins in later summer and continues into early fall.

## Nesting:

-Incubation of 10-12 days by the female. The 1-2 broods per year of altricial young are fed by both sexes and remain in the nest for 11-17 days

## Population:

-Common, but declining in eastern North America.

## Conservation:

-Are attracted to feeder containing sunflower seeds and thistle.

## Shoreline Restoration Issues:

- If you would like to create an environment friendly to the American Goldfinch on your shoreland property I would recommend that you plant a series of coniferous trees such as Balsam Fir and White Spruce for protection along your lot lines. Off of the conifers, and more into the meat of your property, I would concentrate on a mixture of deciduous trees and shrubs. Off of this, I would concentrate on ferns, and then trail the ferns into a nice patch of native wildflowers. If you are even somewhat interested in the American Goldfinch, I would absolutely plant Cup-Plant, Prairie Dock, Compass Plant, and Blazingstars. Some other choices are Black-eyed Susan, Wild Bergamot, Oswego Tea, Pale Purple Coneflower, Ironweed, and Blue Vervain.