

Songbirds of Missouri

Gold Finch



Vocabulary

Match the word with the definition, then write a sentence using each word. Share your sentences with the class.

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| _____ Shrubs | A. An animal original to a particular place |
| _____ Flocks | B. Areas near, or within towns, cities or other developments |
| _____ Brood | C. The feathery covering of a bird |
| _____ Nesting | D. The area that an animal lives within |
| _____ Urban | E. The process of creating nests to prepare for the arrival of offspring |
| _____ Plumage | F. To provide the heat necessary for hatching |
| _____ Range | G. A family of young birds |
| _____ Sociable | H. Inclined to seek companionship |
| _____ Native | I. Large group of animals |
| _____ Preen | J. Low, woody bushes or plants |
| _____ Bacteria | K. To trim or clean with the beak |
| _____ Algae | L. Microscopic organisms that can produce disease |
| _____ Incubates | M. Plant life without stems, roots or leaves that grow in or around water |

(Missouri Show-Me Standards: CA.1, CA.6, Goal 2.1)

Classroom Activity

(Missouri Show-Me Standards: S.3)
Grade levels: K-1

Objectives: After completing this activity, students will be able:

- To explain the importance of color in the bird world
- To list some of the more brightly colored bird species
- To explain why spring is the time when birds show their brightest colors

Materials:

- Multiple copies of line-drawing pictures of various colorful species of birds, such as goldfinches, cardinals, bluebirds, indigo buntings.
- Crayons, colored pencils or colored markers

Background:

The American goldfinch is one of many bird species that utilize bright colors as a way of attracting mates. This activity will help students recognize some of the brighter-colored bird species found in this region.

Procedure:

Prior to the activity, explain to the students that spring is when birds are showing their brightest colors. The reason for this is that males need to stand out in the "bird" crowd so they can attract a mate more easily. They do this by being brightly colored. Tell the students they will get to color some of this area's well-known colorful species.

- Through Internet research or through local birding groups, find line drawings of various bird species that are known for their bright color. Then, using illustrations in birding books or individual pictures of the selected species as guides, have the students color the birds.

If enough pictures are found, you may want to assign each student his/her own bird. If not, more than one student can do the same bird. Make a class notebook that's categorized by colors (red birds, blue birds, yellow birds). If possible, have a bird expert visit the class to talk about each of the species and discuss with the students where these birds can be seen.

Word Search

Find the vocabulary words below

D	K	F	P	L	U	M	A	G	E	L	M	T	H	R
F	B	R	O	O	D	C	Z	E	S	B	U	R	H	S
K	E	A	U	M	N	T	R	L	E	W	O	V	C	O
M	K	T	F	G	P	S	J	E	D	Q	E	P	A	C
E	N	A	P	T	R	N	A	T	I	V	E	U	T	I
G	H	D	E	L	P	G	O	F	L	N	B	Z	K	A
N	G	R	Q	H	K	R	I	E	K	B	P	E	H	B
A	J	F	G	T	A	E	E	G	E	P	E	W	H	L
R	D	L	S	U	E	P	T	E	I	F	U	R	N	E
F	S	O	P	R	T	L	E	I	N	V	I	B	E	K
I	N	C	U	B	A	T	E	S	E	Z	D	G	S	K
Y	U	K	E	A	P	A	S	K	A	M	A	N	T	D
N	E	S	R	N	G	M	H	E	P	M	E	Z	I	S
R	P	E	L	L	K	C	J	A	U	Y	L	I	N	E
W	L	P	A	Y	T	B	I	L	K	W	H	O	G	N
P	K	J	F	P	R	E	P	E	T	Q	F	Y	U	E
A	T	C	B	A	C	T	E	R	I	A	R	I	O	P

Short Answer Q&A

(Missouri Show-Me Standard: Goal 1.5)

1. Why is the goldfinch a favorite of many bird watchers?
2. What factors have contributed to the goldfinch population increasing?
3. What is the preferred habitat of the goldfinch?
4. How is the male goldfinch's coloring different in the spring and summer than in winter?
5. Why do goldfinches nest later than most songbirds?
6. Where do goldfinches make their nests?
7. How many broods do goldfinches typically raise per nesting season?