

Naming Committee Honouring People and Places in Our City

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street Edmonton AB T5J 3P4 Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

Crossbill

(White-winged Crossbill)



The White-winged Crossbill is a medium sized finch. It lives in coniferous forests, especially where large crops of spruce and tamarack cones can be found. It feeds by extracting seeds from the cones found in its habitat. The White-winged Crossbill lives year-round in most of Alberta, and throughout the winter in southern Alberta.

Flycatcher

(Least Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher)



Least Flycatcher



Alder Flycatcher

The **Least Flycatcher** lives within Alberta during the summer. It breeds within semi-open woodlands, orchards, and fields filled with shrubs. In the winter, they nest along wooded ravines, woodland edges, and brushlands. This flycatcher mostly eats insects, but also eats fruit during the winter.

The **Alder Flycatcher** was thought to be the same species as the Willow Flycatcher for quite some time, and their songs are the only definitive way to tell them apart. The Alder Flycatcher can be found throughout most of Alberta in the summer, eating insects and sometimes fruit during the winter. This species breeds in wet thickets, especially of alder, maple, and birch. In the winter, it occupies early successional scrubby growth.



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Goldfinch

(American Goldfinch)



The American Goldfinch lives throughout some of Alberta in the summer during the breeding season. The American Goldfinch is among the strictest of vegetarians in the bird world, exclusively eating seeds from composite plants. They live in weedy fields, open floodplains, and other overgrown areas, and are often seen in shrubs, parks, and backyards. They are very active little birds and cling to weeds and seed socks.

Nuthatch

(Red-breasted Nuthatch and White-breasted Nuthatch)



Red-breasted Nuthatch White-breasted Nuthatch

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** is an energetic bird, travelling through tree canopies with chickadees, kinglets, and woodpeckers. They feed on insects hidden in tree trunks and branches, but develop a seed diet in the fall and winter. The Red-breasted Nuthatch selects the heaviest food item available, and if the item is too large to eat, it will jam the item into bark and hammer the item open/apart. This bird can be found in Alberta year round, living throughout coniferous woods and the mountains.

The **White-breasted Nuthatch** will eat insects and nuts. Similarly to the Red-breasted Nuthatch, they can "hatch" food by placing items in bark and hitting them open. The White-Breasted Nuthatch has been known to eat corn crops and seeds, as well. These birds have a very high pitch and distinctive voice, and can be heard within their habitat in mature wooded areas with deciduous and coniferous trees, woodland edges, and open areas with large trees. They live in southern and western part of Alberta year round.



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Siskin

(Pine Siskin)



The Pine Siskin lives throughout all of Alberta in the summer, but occupies the most southern portion year round. These tiny, nomadic finches occupy areas in response to seed crops, making them highly adaptable to different habitats. They prefer coniferous and deciduous forests, and will flock to backyard feeders offering small seeds. Pine Siskins are able to temporarily store seeds totaling as much as 10% of their body mass. They are able to survive in below-zero temperatures due to accelerating their metabolic rates to typically 40% higher than most songbirds of their size.

Information compiled by Danielle Ferchoff January 2015

CITATION ON FILE

"All About Birds." Accessed 29 January 2015. http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/



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