

Avian Models for 3D Applications  
Characters and Texture Mapping by Ken Gilliland

# Songbird ReMix

# European Edition

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*Opinions expressed on this booklet are solely that of the author, Ken Gilliland, and may or may not reflect the opinions of the publisher, DAZ 3D.*

# Songbird ReMix European Edition

## Manual & Field Guide

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### Introduction

European Edition includes many of the most common birds found in Europe such as the robin, chaffinch and linnet. Also included are the colorful avian species such as the vivid European Goldfinch or Eurasian Jay. The Jackdaw, Magpie or Starling are perfect for perching on castle walls or medieval villages. The entire Tit family is also included (the Blue Tit, the Crested Tit, Great Tit and even the Long-tailed Tit) are a perfect addition to wooded or even urban scenes.

### Overview and Use

Select **Figures** in Runtime Folder and go to the **Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you'll find an assortment of files that are easily broken into 2 groups: **Conforming Parts** and **Bird Base models**. Let's look at what they are and how you use them:

- **Bird Base Models**
  - **SBRM Base Model**- This model is for use with all Songbird Characters included in this package.
- **Conforming Parts** - No conforming parts are needed for this Songbird ReMix volume. It is possible that with future add-on volumes and/or future free download Birds that they *may* be needed. (All Conforming Crests have alphanumeric icons in the lower right corners such as "**C09**", "**C22**" or "**T03**". This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the same icon use that particular Conforming Part. ***Be sure to read this:*** Most conforming parts are Crests, which cover the head part. When posing the Base Model, the Conforming Part will follow any Bend, Twist or Rotate Commands. It will not obey any **SCALE** or **MORPH** commands you give the Base Model. You must manually scale the Conforming Part and, with morphs such as "OpenBeak" or "Stretch", you must also set its counterpart in the head part of the Conforming Crest.



## Conforming Crest Quick Reference

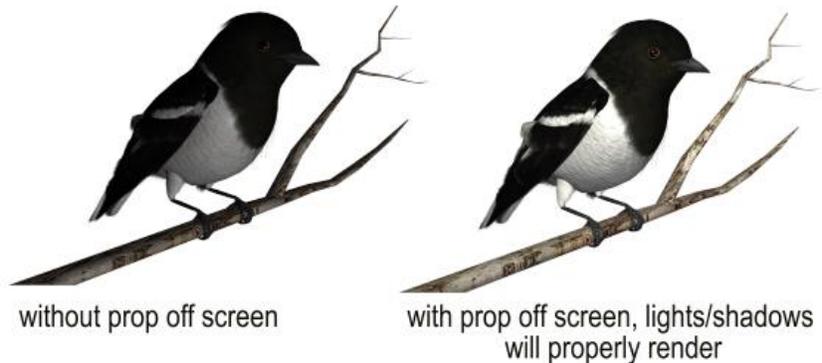
Load Model(s)	To Create... (apply MAT/MOR files)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Tit</li> <li>• Crested Tit</li> <li>• Great Tit</li> <li>• Long-tailed Tit</li> <li>• Eurasian Jay</li> <li>• Common Magpie</li> <li>• Common Jackdaw</li> <li>• European Starling</li> <li>• Common Chaffinch</li> <li>• Common Linnet</li> <li>• European Goldfinch</li> <li>• European Robin</li> <li>• Eurasian Nuthatch</li> </ul>

## Creating a Songbird ReMix Bird

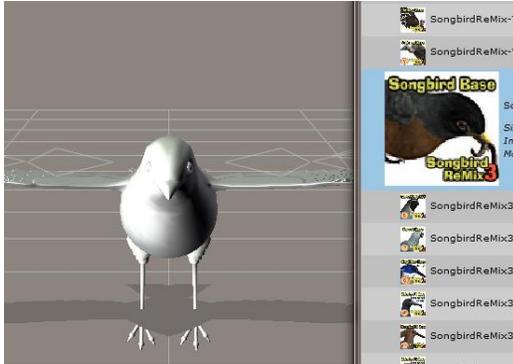
1. Choose what you want to load. For this example, we'll create a Blackbird species.
2. Load Poser or DAZ Studio and select **FIGURES** and the Songbird ReMix folder. DAZ Studio users will select the "Poser Formats" → "My Library" → "FIGURES" → "Songbird ReMix".
3. Because all of the Blackbirds use the "Songbird" base model we'll load that.
4. Go to the **POSES** folder and **Songbird ReMix** Master folder, then select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. This again, for DAZ Studio users will be found in the "Poser Formats" file section.
5. Select one of the Blackbird Species and load/apply it by clicking the mouse on to our loaded Songbird ReMix base model. This species pose contains morph and texture settings to turn the generic model into the selected Blackbird. It will automatically apply the correct DAZ Studio material settings if you are using DAZ Studio.

## Scaling and Square Shadows in Poser

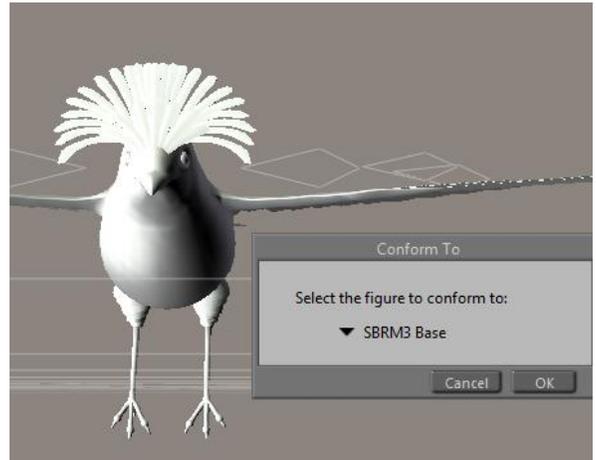
All the birds in this package have to scaled proportionally to DAZ 3D's Victoria and Michael models. The smallest of the included birds **MAY** render with a Square shadow or improper lighting. This is a bug in Poser. Poser can't figure out how to render a shadow for something really small, so it creates a square shadow. The solution is to put a larger item that casts a normal Poser shadow in the scene (even if it is off camera) and the square shadows will be fixed or **BODY** scale the bird to a larger size.



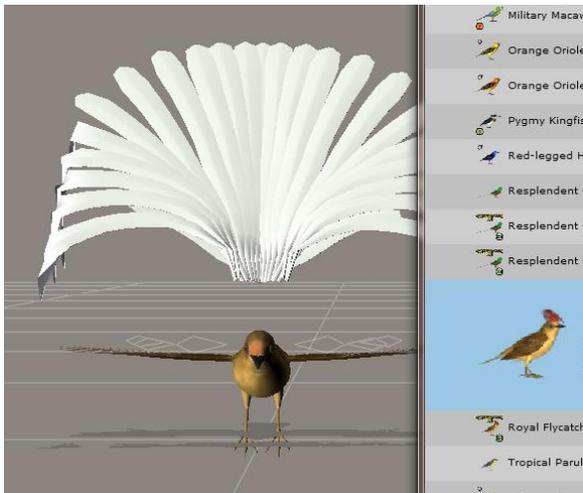
# How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in Poser



1. In the Figures section, load a Bird base Model. Then load the appropriate conforming part for the bird you're trying to create.
2. **Conform it** to the bird base model.



3. Select the Base Model and go to **POSES**. Select and apply the appropriate Character/Material pose setting for the bird you're creating.



4. The Conforming part will look wrong. That's okay—we're going to fix that now. Select the conforming part and apply appropriate Character/Material pose for the part.

5. Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.





## Updates and Freebies

The Songbird ReMix series is constantly growing and improving. New morphs and additions to upcoming and future products often end up benefiting existing sets with new geometry, morphs and textures.

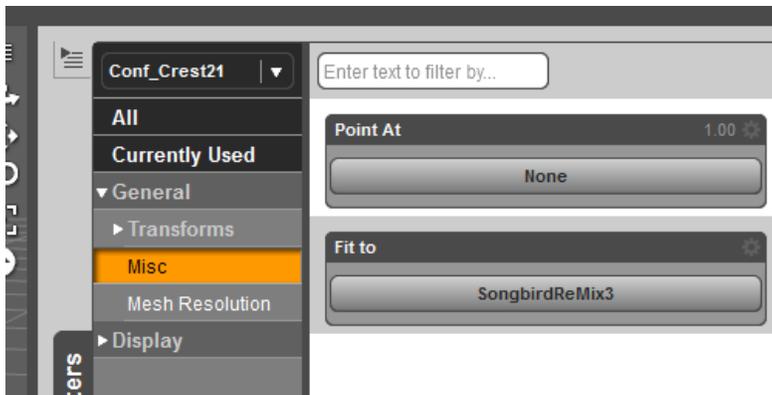
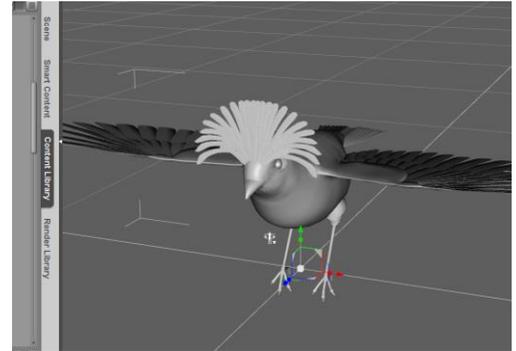
Songbirdremix.com always has the latest updates and additions to existing Songbird ReMix products (often months before they are updated at DAZ), plus the latest digital and real bird news, tutorials, videos, all the Field Guides, free bird characters, props and much more...

**[Songbird ReMix.com](http://Songbird ReMix.com)**

# How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in DAZ Studio

In the **Runtime** folder, select **Figures** and load the Songbird ReMix Model and the appropriate Conforming Crest in Studio. Select the Conforming Crest by selecting on the screen or in the **Scene** Tab.

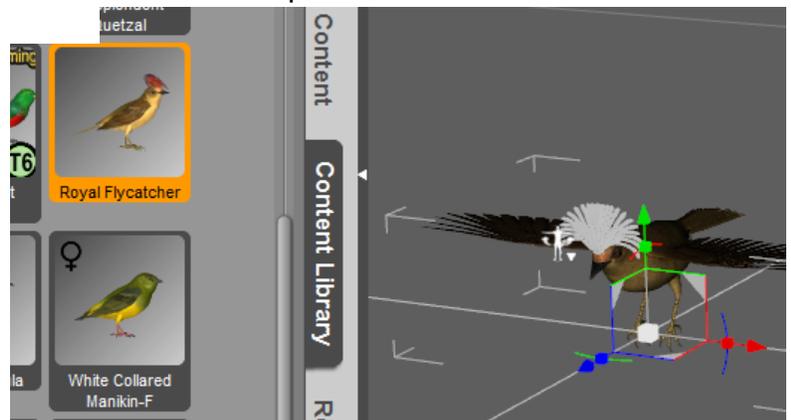
Now, using the "FIT TO" command in the Parameters Tab, Select the Songbird ReMix Model. Go back to the **Scene** Tab and select the Songbird ReMix Model.



Select the Studio **Content** Folder and go to the **Animals : SBRM : !CreateYour Own : Characters** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. Apply the Character setting to the bird base. It will probably reduce the size significantly and change the shape of the bird.

Now that the bird is sized, select the conforming part and apply the conforming part character settings.

Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.



**Songbird ReMix**  
**European Edition**  
**Field Guide**

**Blue Tit**

**Crested Tit**

**Great Tit**

**Long-tailed Tit**

**Eurasian Jay**

**Common Magpie**

**Common Jackdaw**

**European Starling**

**Common Chaffinch**

**Common Linnet**

**European Goldfinch**

**European Robin**

**Eurasian Nuthatch**

**Common Name:** Blue Tit  
**Scientific Name:** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

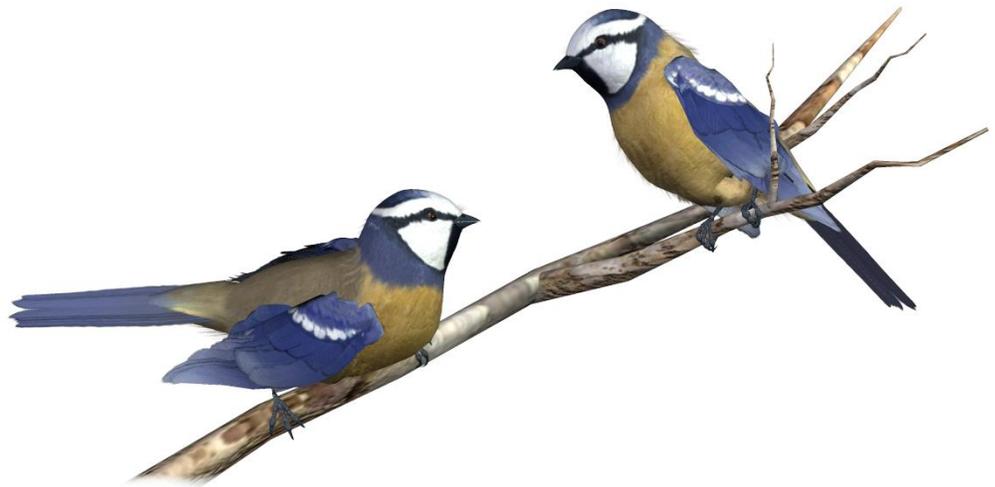
**Size:** 4 ½ to 5 inches (12cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; Found in Europe, Near East, Northwest Africa. Lives in woodland and scrub areas and in urban settings.

**Status:** Least Concern **Global Population:** 10,000,000 Mature individuals. Throughout Europe, the populations have been increasing since 1980.

**Diet:** Insect and spiders, also fruit and seeds in winter

**Breeding:** Eight to ten eggs in hole in a tree and nest box. Pairs will return to the same nesting area year after year.



**Cool Facts:**

The Blue Tit is considered a valuable destroyer of pests, although it has not an entirely a beneficial species. It is fond of young buds of various trees, and may pull them to bits in the hope of finding insects, thus destroying the flower and fruit of the tree. But no species in Europe destroys more coccids and aphids, leaf miner grubs and green tortrix moths.

“An interesting example of culturally transmitted learning in birds was the phenomenon dating from the 1960s of Blue Tits teaching one another how to open traditional British milk bottles with foil tops to get at the cream underneath. This behaviour has declined recently because of the trend toward buying low-fat (skimmed) milk, and the replacement of doorstep delivery by supermarket purchases of milk.” (Wikipedia)

Blue Tits, Great Tits and Crested Tits often form mixed winter flocks.

**Common Name:** Crested Tit  
**Scientific Name:** *Lophophanes cristatus*

**Size:** 5 inches (12cm)

**Habitat:** Europe. Found in conifer and mixed conifer forests.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 8,600,000 - 32,300,000 mature individuals. Populations are declining moderately throughout Europe due to urbanization.

**Diet:** Mostly insects, spiders, winter, also plant material especially conifer seeds, will cache food

**Breeding:** Five to six eggs are laid in a hole in rotting stumps. The nest cup is made from moss and lichen, lined with hair, wool and spiders' webs.

**Cool Facts:** This species was formerly placed in *Parus*, but *Lophophanes* now recognised by the American Ornithologists' Union and the British authorities as a distinct genus.

After the breeding season, Crested Tits often form social groups, sometimes with other species such Blue and Great tits.



**Common Name:** Great Tit  
**Scientific Name:** *Parus major*

**Size:** 6 inches (14cm)

**Habitat:** Europe, Asia, and Northwest Africa. Found in forest, woodland areas, towns and mangrove groves.

**Status:** Least concern. **Global Population:** 300,000,000 - 110,000,000 Mature individuals. Populations are stable although populations in Europe have been in moderate decline since 1980.

**Diet:**

Invertebrates, butterflies, beetles and spiders and in the winter, seeds and fruit.

**Breeding:**

Seven to nine eggs are laid in a tree cavity or nest box.

**Cool Facts:**

The black stripe on the belly of a male Great Tit is an indicator of its status; larger stripes are more attractive to females.



In England, Great Tits learned to break open the foil caps sealing bottles of milk that had been delivered to homes to get at the cream floating on top.

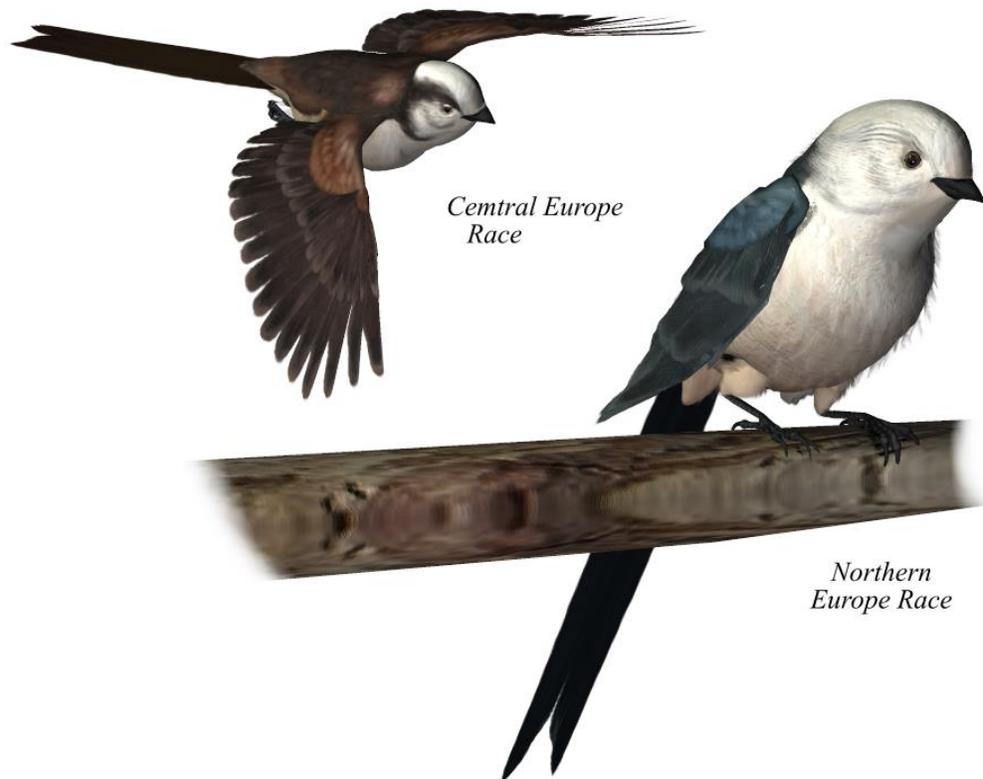
There are three subspecies of the Great Tit. Birds in temperate Europe and Asia are essentially green above and yellow below. Great Tits in Far East are green above and white or yellow-tinged white below and birds in India and southeast Asia are grey above and whitish below.

**Common Name:** Long-tailed Tit  
**Scientific Name:** *Aegithalos caudatus*

**Size:** 6 inches (14cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia. Found in woodland and woodland edges.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 30,000,000 - 150,000,000 mature individuals. Populations are suspected to be fluctuating owing to the effects of severe winters and recorded range expansions and regional declines in recent decades.



**Diet:** Mostly arthropods, insect eggs, larvae of butterflies/moths

**Breeding:** Six to twelve eggs are laid in a woven closed nest. The nest is held together with spider webs, and camouflaged with lichen. Adult birds will find a relatives nest and help feeding their "nephews and neices", if their own nest is destroyed. They nest in a tree or shrub

**Cool Facts:** The Northern species of this bird is blue with no head markings while the Central and southern species are brown with a pronounced "eyebrow".

Their call is loud trisyllabic "*srih-srih-srih*". They are very gregarious and travel in small flocks of about 20 in winter months.

**Common Name:** Eurasian Jay  
**Scientific Name:** *Garrulus glandarius*

**Size:** 13.5 inches (34cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; A vast region from Western Europe and Northwest Africa to the eastern seaboard of Asia and down into Southeast Asia. Found in forests, woodland, towns.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 40,000,000 - 150,000,000 mature individuals.

**Diet:**

Invertebrates, beetles, caterpillars, fruit and seeds. Feeds in both trees and on the ground

**Breeding:** Four to six eggs are laid in a nest in a tree or large shrub. Both sexes typically feed the young.

**Cool Facts:** The Eurasian Jay

occurs a huge area and have evolved into several very distinct and racial forms.

It inhabits mixed woodland, particularly with oaks, and is an habitual acorn hoarder. In recent years with habitat loss, the jay has readily adapted to urban areas.

The Jay is well known for its mimicry, often sounding so like a different species that it is virtually impossible to distinguish its true identity. It has even been known to imitate the sound of the bird it is attacking, such as a Tawny Owl, which it does mercilessly it finds one during the day. The tables are turned at night though with the Jays being on the menu for the owls.



**Common Name:** Common Magpie  
**Scientific Name:** *Pica pica*

**Size:** 17-18 inches (45cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia. Found in open woodland, scrub and urban settings.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 40,000,000 - 150,000,000 mature individuals.

**Diet:** Invertebrates, beetles, fruit, seeds, carrion, small vertebrates and trash.



**Breeding:** Five to Six eggs.

**Cool Facts:** Until very recently, the Black-billed Magpie of North America was considered the same species as the Common Magpie. Vocal and behavioral differences suggest that the American magpie with the black bill is more closely

related to the Yellow-billed Magpie than to the European black-billed magpie.

When seeing a Magpie, one would say, “One for sorrow, two for joy; three for a girl, four for a boy; five for silver, six for gold; seven for a secret, never to be told; eight for a wish, nine for a kiss; ten for a bird that’s best to miss.” When this rhyme originated Magpies were actually a lot less common.

Known for its noisy chattering, the European Magpie may have acquired its name as an allusion to nagging; in old English it was called the “Chatterpie”. And while the English appeared to be annoyed by the magpie and it’s chatter, the magpie is a symbol of happiness in Chinese culture.

**Common Name:** Common or Eurasian Jackdaw  
**Scientific Name:** *Corvus monedula*

**Size:** 13 inches (34cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Northwest Africa. Found in open woodland, farmland and urban settings.

**Status:** ~~Status:~~ Least Concern. **Global Population:** 20,000,000 –100,000,000 Mature individuals.



**Diet:**

Invertebrates, fruit, seeds, carrion, small vertebrates, eggs and nestlings.

**Breeding:** Four to five eggs nests in colonies in cavities of trees, cliffs or ruined buildings and sometimes in dense conifers One brood per year.

**Cool Facts:** The jackdaw is one of the smallest species from the Crow family.

They are sociable birds, couples traveling together in larger flocks.

“The complex social interactions that occur in groups of Jackdaws was studied by Konrad Lorenz and a detailed description of the Jackdaw's social behaviour is described in his book "King Solomon's Ring". Lorenz put coloured rings on Jackdaws' legs so that individual birds could be easily identified and he caged them in the winter because of their migration from Austria. Lorenz observed Jackdaws' hierarchical group structure with dominance of the higher-ranking birds over others. He noticed Jackdaws' strong male–female bonding and that each bird of a pair occupy about the same position in the hierarchy. He reported that a low-ranked female Jackdaw rocketed up the Jackdaw social ladder when she became the mate of a high-ranking male. He also described some Jackdaw calls.” (Wikipedia)

**Common Name:** European Starling  
**Scientific Name:** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Size:** 8-9 inches (22cm)

**Habitat:** Summers Europe (except Greece & Iberia) and winters in Africa, Southern Asia. Introduced to North America and Australasia. Found in forest edges, farmlands and urban settings.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 310,000,000 Mature individuals. Threatened in England, European populations are in decline. Considered an invasive pest in North America.

**Diet:** Mostly insects, crane-fly larvae, fruit and seeds. Feeds usually on ground,



often near cattle

**Breeding:** Four to five eggs in nest boxes and woodpecker holes.

**Cool Facts:** Starlings have diverse and complex vocalizations, and have been known to imbed sounds from their surroundings into their own calls, such as car alarms and human speech patterns. The birds can recognize particular individuals by their calls.

They are very gregarious. “During spring in Denmark, at approximately half an hour before sunset, flocks of more than a million European starlings gather from all corners to join in incredible formations. This phenomenon is called “Black Sun” and can be witnessed in early spring throughout the marshlands of western Denmark, from March through to the middle of April. The starlings migrate from the south and spend the day in the meadows gathering food, sleeping in the reeds during the night. The best place to view this amazing aerial dance is in the place called Tøndermarsken.” (Wikipedia)

All the European Starlings in North America descended from 100 birds released in New York's Central Park in the early 1890s. A group dedicated to introducing America to all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's works set the birds free. Today, European Starlings range from Alaska to Florida and northern Mexico, and their population is estimated at over 200 million birds. Its successful spread is believed to have come at the expense of many native birds that compete with the starling for nest holes.

**Common Name:** Common or Eurasian Chaffinch  
**Scientific Name:** *Fringilla coelebs*

**Size:** 5½ - 6 inches (14cm)

**Habitat:** Europe, North Africa, and Northwest Asia. Winters Southern Europe to Southern Asia. Introduced to South Africa and New Zealand. Found in forests, woodlands and farmed areas.

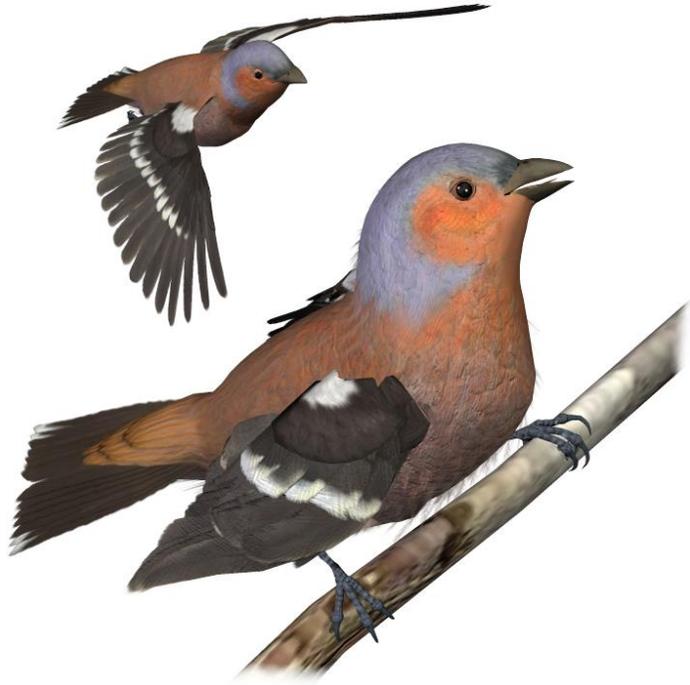
**Status:** Least Concern.

**Global Population:**  
500,000,000 – 1,500,000,000  
Mature individuals.

**Diet:** Mostly seed; some invertebrates in summer. Forages on the ground.

**Breeding:** Four to five eggs are laid in nest in a tree fork, and camouflaged with moss or lichen to make it less conspicuous. Young are fed almost exclusively insects.

**Cool Facts:** Although, it is now illegal to catch birds in the wild, in a number of countries such as Belgium, the Chaffinch is a popular pet bird.



In Western Belgium, “finching” is a popular sport. In a finching contest, a number of cages each housing a male finch are lined up, usually along a street. Every time the bird sings its song this is marked with a chalk stripe on a wooden stick, and the bird singing its song the most times during one hour wins the contest.

The song of the Chaffinch is very well known, and the “fink” contact call gives the finch family its English name. Males typically sing two or three different song types, and there are regional dialects too. The learning of the chaffinch song by its’ young was the subject of an influential study by British ethologist William Thorpe. “Thorpe determined that if the chaffinch is not exposed to the adult male’s song during a certain critical period after hatching, it will never properly learn the song. He also found that in adult Chaffinches, castration eliminates song, but injection of testosterone induces such birds to sing even in November, when they are normally silent” (Thorpe 1958).

**Common Name:** Common or Eurasian Linnet  
**Scientific Name:** *Carduelis cannabina*

**Size:** 5½ -6 inches (14cm)

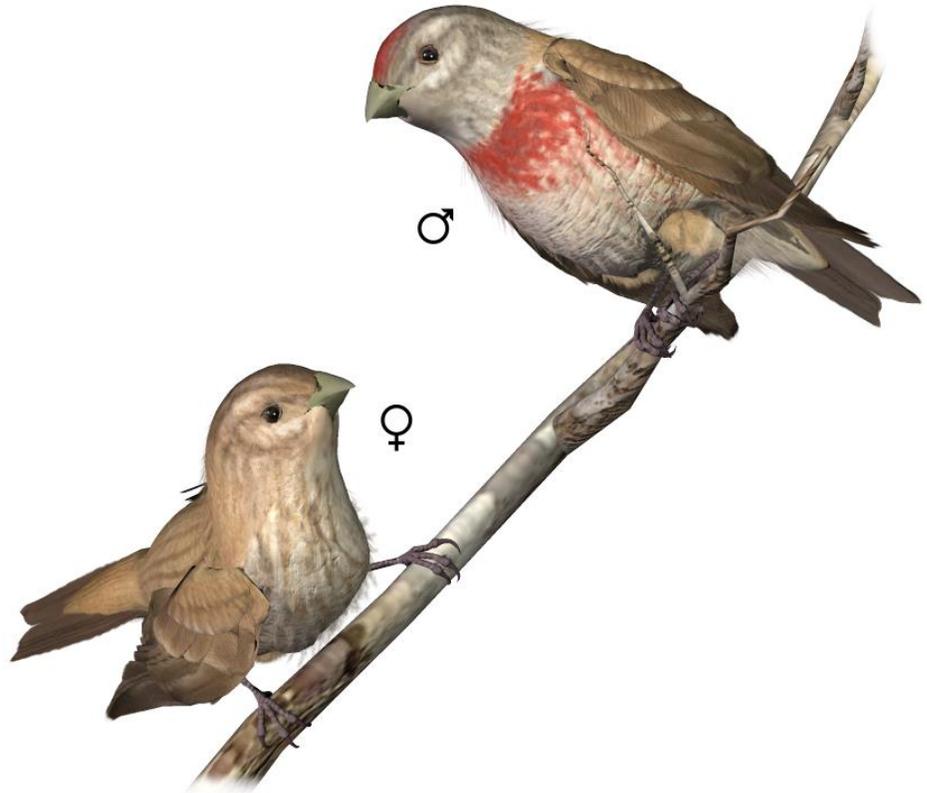
**Habitat:** Europe, North Africa, West and Central Asia. Prefers open country and farmlands.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global**

**Population:**  
40,000,000 -  
150,000,000 Mature  
individuals.  
Threatened in  
England, European  
populations are in  
moderate decline.

**Diet:** Mostly seed,  
occasionally  
insects. Forages on  
the ground.

**Breeding:** Four to  
seven eggs are laid  
in nest generally in  
a shrub. Open land  
with thick bushes is  
favoured for  
breeding, including  
heathland and garden.



**Cool Facts:** Linnets can form large flocks outside the breeding season, sometimes mixed with other finches.

While many Linnets are year-round residents, Northern birds do migrate and have been found several hundred miles at sea.

The Linnet is also used on the crest of the town of King's Lynn (Norfolk, England) and 'The Linnets' has become the nickname of King's Lynn Football Club.

**Common Name:** European Goldfinch  
**Scientific Name:** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Size:** 5 inches (12-13.5cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and introduced to Southeast Australia. Found in open field areas, forest edges.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 75,000,000 - 350,000,000. Populations are stable.



**Diet:** Small seeds especially daisies and thistle; some invertebrates are eaten in summer months.

**Breeding:** Five eggs are laid in a nest in the outer twigs of tall leafy trees. Insects are caught to feed the young.

**Cool Facts:** Throughout history, the European goldfinch was kept as a caged songbird for its pleasant medley of trills and twitters, but always including the trisyllabic call phrase or a “teLLIT-teLLIT-teLLIT”.

While in warmer times, the goldfinch is more solitary they, in the winter, group together to form flocks of up to about 40 birds.

Goldfinches migrate locally or great distances to avoid colder weather.

**Common Name:** European Robin  
**Scientific Name:** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Size:** 5½ -6 inches (14cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; throughout Europe & West Asia; wintering in Africa. Found in forests, woodlands and urban settings.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 150,000,000 - 350,000,000. Populations have been stable in Europe since 1980. In Europe, the breeding population is estimated to number 43,000,000-83,000,000 breeding pairs.



**Diet:** Insects, worms, beetles, larvae and some fruit and seed in winter. Forages on the ground.

**Breeding:** Four to five eggs in laid in a neat cup nest in crevices, holes or artificial sites such as a discarded pot.

**Cool Facts:** The European Robin is tough bird; fighting with its own kind and attacking other birds, with or without prevarication, and merrily singing his threats and challenges during the altercation.

In “Birds of Briton”, an attack was described as follows.

“Initial attacks between rival robins usually involve striking the opponent single blows with feet and wings, or bowling it off a perch. But as fighting develops, both adversaries begin rolling over and over on the ground, before fluttering face to face while striking with legs then tumbling to the ground interlocked. Each robin then attempts to pin its rival to the ground. The victor rains blows down on the vanquished bird's head particularly around the eyes even blinding or killing it. The majority of fights last less than a minute before the loser (almost always the intruder) flees. But some encounters continue off and on for an hour or more and exceptionally over several days.”

“In the event of a prolonged contest the fighting alternates with rapid pursuits, outbursts of song, threat displays and even bouts of foraging. The final loser wisely terminates a particularly aggressive encounter with a rapid retreat.”

**Common Name:** Eurasian or Wood Nuthatch  
**Scientific Name:** *Sitta europaea*

**Size:** 5½ -6 inches (14cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; found in open conifer and mixed conifer forests and some urban settings.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 50,000,000 - 250,000,000. In Europe, the breeding population is estimated to number 7,500,000-19,000,000 breeding pairs. The population is suspected to be fluctuating owing to fluctuations in food availability.

**Diet:** Insects and spiders. Nuts and seeds are important in winter and are often hoarded for harder times ahead. Forages on tree trunks, usually head downward.

**Breeding:** Six to eight eggs are laid. Old woodpecker holes and nest boxes are usually used for breeding, with the hole adjusted to the correct size by using mud plastered around the entrance.

**Cool Facts:** This is the only European bird that can climb headfirst down a tree trunk.

The Eurasian or Wood Nuthatch is very vocal in the breeding season producing a loud, rapidly repeated, ringing call note. It can also produce a series of whistles and musical trills and churrs.



## Acknowledgments:

This package wouldn't have been possible without the support of Rhonda (my wife), B.L.Render (aka Bloodsong) for her contributions to Songbird ReMix, and my dad, for making me do all those birding trips I hated as a kid.

Also a special thanks to my reference sources, "The Sibley's Guide to Birds", Cornell Lab of Ornithology website, the National Audubon Society and various other birding websites.



**Shirts, jerseys, sweatshirts,  
prints, cards, posters, pillows,  
coffee cups, calendars & more**

