

Winter Finches

Pine Siskin



While most migratory birds head south to more tropical climates, there are a few Canadian residents that find refuge within the northern U.S. each winter. Birds like

Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree sparrows are predictable winter migrants to Michigan each year.

A group known as “winter finches” are occasional visitors and only show up to this region when food supplies are low. Ornithologists predict this year will be an irruption year for winter finches due to a poor growing season in the eastern boreal forests.

Birds such as Pine Siskins, Purple Finches and Common Redpolls should be more common in our area as they search for seeds and fruits to eat.

Look for these winter visitors at CNC’s Wildlife Viewing area.

Interested in attracting winter finches to your own yard? Make sure to keep bird feeders stocked with thistle and sunflower seeds this winter.

Common Redpoll



Rare Visitors

Even with food scarcity up north, some winter finches like crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks are still very rare in this area.

Red Crossbill



Crossbills rely completely on coniferous trees for food. Their unique crossed bills enable them to pry the cones open to reach the seeds inside.

The Evening Grosbeak is a colorful finch whose thick bill is designed to crush large seeds.

Evening Grosbeak



Stop by the Visitor Center Office for program information.

This inSTALLation is available online at www.chippewanaturecenter.org under About Us, Publications, Nature Notes.