

Birds of the Mar Menor

I was out for a walk in Mar de Cristal the other day and came across a large number of Finches nesting in the trees in Calle Puerto. On closer inspection they turned out to be Greenfinches.

There are two things that are very distinctive about Finches; the first is their bill, which is often large and very tough, as they use it to crack open seed shells. The second is, they are quite noisy with a chattering song and tend to gather in large flocks in autumn and winter.

The Greenfinch is common around the Mar Menor but only in isolated pockets. They like to nest in trees or dense bushes and since most of the countryside around the Mar Menor is farm land or open scrub much of it is not that suitable.



Greenfinches feed primarily on seeds, though they feed insects to their young. Compared to other Finches they are quite large and stocky and have a very strong bill.

Another type of Finch that may be seen in the area is the Goldfinch. These are also common further inland. I saw a large



Goldfinches often gather in large flocks and fly on mass, swooping low above the fields. Their bouncing flight and bright yellow wing markings make them very distinctive.

Goldfinches also feed on seeds, however

they have a delicate pointed bill, which they use to prize open cones on trees or dried seed heads on plants.

Name: **Greenfinch**
Carduelis chloris
 Length: ~6" (15 cm)
 Wingspan: ~10" (26 cm)
 Under body: apple-green
 Upper body: apple-green



Wings: green-grey with yellow markings
 Bill: pale, thick & strong

Name: **Goldfinch**
Carduelis carduelis
 Length: ~5" (13 cm)
 Wingspan: ~9" (23 cm)

Under body: orangey-brown
 Upper body: beige
 Wings: black & yellow
 Bill: pale, narrow & pointed



Face: red with black eye stripe and white around the edges.

Lesley Singleton
 AQUA ADICTA

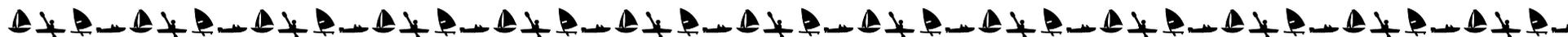
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