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Israel Veterinary Medical Association

P.O.Box 22, Raanana 4310001, Israel
Tel: 09-7419929 • Fax: 09-7431778
E-mail: ivma@zahav.net.il

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Front Cover: **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

The European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) occurs in habitats with grassy vegetation, scrub gardens and farmlands. In Israel, it is abundant as a resident, migrant and winter visitor in the northern and central parts of the country. Recommended locations to see the European Goldfinch include the Golan Heights. Males and females have appearances, which are very similar, but females have a slightly smaller red area on the face.

The nest of the European Goldfinch is built entirely by the female and is generally completed within a week. The male accompanies the female, but does not contribute. The eggs, typically 4-6, are incubated for 11-13 days by the female, who is fed by the male. The chicks are fed by both parents. The nestlings fledge 13-18 days after hatching. Antonio Vivaldi composed a Concerto in D major for Flute where the singing of the European Goldfinch is imitated by a flute. Mr. Moshe Technai generously provided the pictures for the covers.