

The Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*)



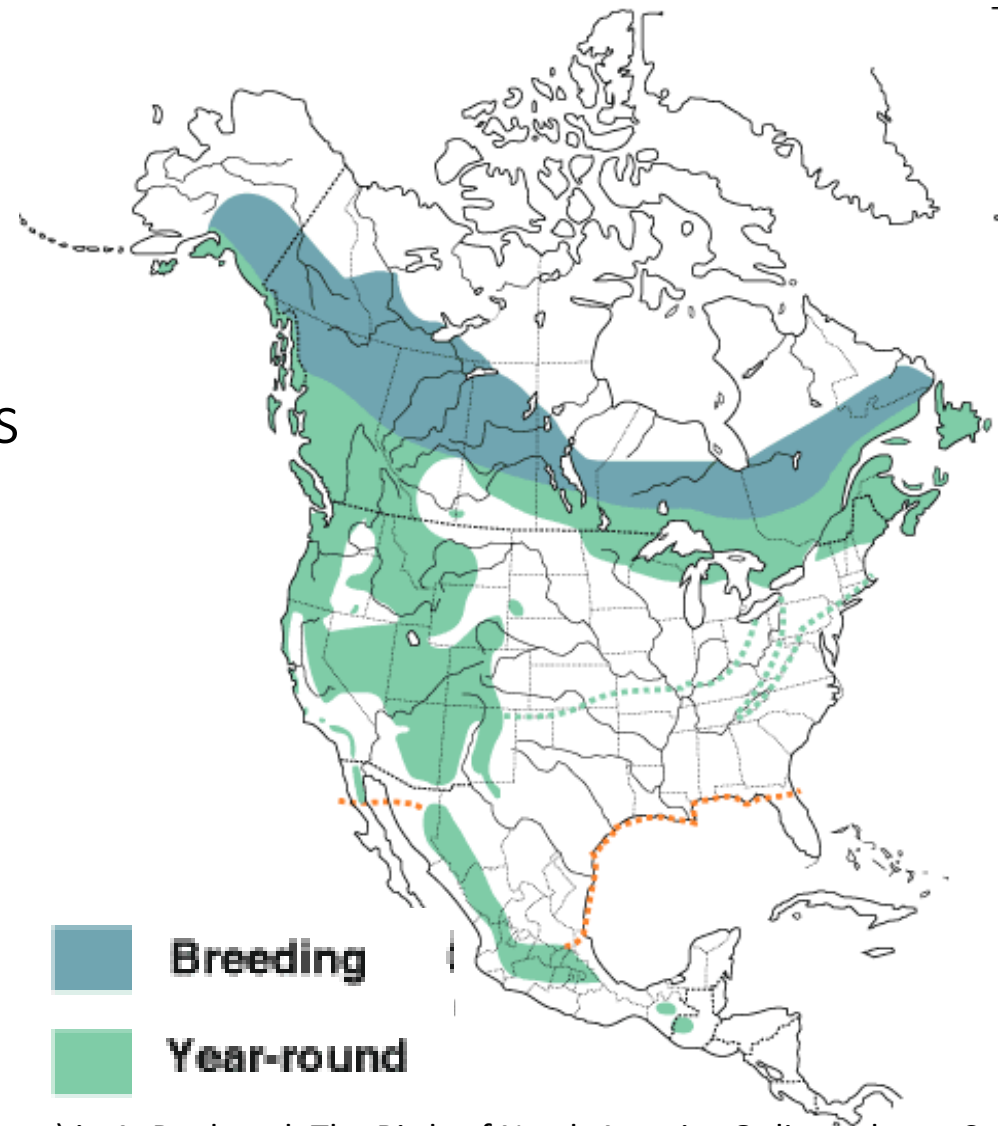
Photo by: Heather Watts

Key science vocabulary

- Migration
- Facultative migration

Where are pine siskins found?

- Found in North America
- Lives mostly in coniferous forests, but can be found elsewhere



Map from: Dawson, W. R. 2014. Pine siskin (*Spinus pinus*) in A. Poole, ed. The Birds of North America Online. Ithaca, Cornell
<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/280>.

What do pine siskins eat?

- Seeds, especially seeds of conifer trees (e.g., pines)
- Also insects
- Will visit bird feeders



Migration

- The movement of an animal between regions (habitats or home ranges) that are further than an animal would travel as part of its normal daily routine
- Typically takes animals between a breeding location and non-breeding location or wintering ground
- Many migrations are *seasonal*, happening in the spring (to breeding grounds) and fall (to wintering grounds)

Facultative migration

- Migrations that happen less predictably, often in response to changes in food availability, are called facultative migration
- Facultative migrations may be unpredictable in the direction and distance that animals move. They can also be unpredictable in the timing of when they occur.

Pine siskins are facultative migrants

- They don't migrate to the same place each year
- They don't migrate at the same time each year