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BRIGHT YELLOW

by Donna Emerson

Summer birds fly to our bird feeders: American gold finch, rose breasted grosbeak, chickadee, American sparrow.

The gold finch visits the feeders most often. The vibrant male approaches first while the softer yellow-green female watches from the nearby locust branch. Then she joins him on the alternate perch. He has zig-zagged through the meadow for her and here they are.

As I regard the meadow from the porch swing, all these birds fly singly or in groups at all heights. Above our heads, at eye level, near our waists, below our knees, near the ground.

Some fly a straight line, other form scallops in the air from tree to tree.

Here, our summer farm, where no one stays long but birds and animals, no interference. The birds are free to follow their whims and fancies. We feed and watch.

On our day of departure, the male and female gold finch follow me to the meadow. Fly around my head three times, as if to say, "You will remember us."