

**Avian Models for 3D Applications**  
by Ken Gilliland

# **Songbird ReMix** *European Edition 2*

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# Songbird ReMix

## *European Edition 2*

# Manual & Field Guide

## Introduction

European Edition 2 contains many of the most populous bird species on European continent. Included is a good variety of species including pigeons and doves, shorebirds, woodpeckers, warblers, flycatchers, thrushes, finches and sparrows. There are 16 species included (21 birds in all).

While many of these birds are common, their presence in your imagery will be anything but that. Adorn your Valentine or Christmas images with the European Turtle-dove or fill a plaza with Common Wood-pigeons. The Crested Lark is awaiting a field fence post and the Black Caps or as the Italians called them, “*La Capinera*” some ruins to forage in. From the detailed patterning of the Eurasian Wryneck to the bold and striking colors of the Hawfinch to the elegance and effervescent sheen of the Northern Lapwings, European Edition 2 will add realism and authenticity to your imagery.





## Overview and Use

Select **Figures** in Runtime Folder and go to the **Songbird ReMix** folder. Here you’ll find an assortment of files that are easily broken into 2 groups: **Conforming Parts** and **Bird Base models**. Let’s look at what they are and how you use them

- **Bird Base Models included in this volume:**
  - **Songbird ReMix3 Base** - This model is used with all songbirds. Here it is used with about 80% of the bird species included.
  - **Songbird ReMix3 Gamebird Base** – This model is used with all Doves, Pigeons and other Gamebirds and is identified with the “**G**” icon. Here it is used with the Common Wood-pigeon, the European Turtle-dove and the Eurasian Collared-dove.
  - **Songbird ReMix3 Zygodactyl Base** – This model is used with Zygodactyl birds and is identified with the “**Z**” icon. Here it is used with the Black Woodpecker and the Eurasian Wryneck.
  - **Waterfowl 7 Base Model** - This model is used with small shorebirds and is identified with the “**WF7**” icon. It is used with the Northern Lapwing characters

- Conforming Parts** (All Conforming Crests have alpha-numeric icons in the lower right corners such as “C02”, “C07” or “T4”. This corresponds with characters in the Pose folders. All MAT/MOR files with the same icon use that particular Conforming Part. **Be sure to read this:** Most conforming parts are Crest which covers the head part. When posing the Base Model, the Conforming Part will follow any Bend, Twist or Rotate Commands. It will not obey any **SCALE** or **MORPH** commands you give the Base Model. You must manually scale the Conforming Part and with morphs such as “Stretch” you must also set its counterpart in the head part of the Conforming Crest; “MatchStretch”. So Now let’s look at what’s included in Conforming Parts:
  - Crest 31.** This model is used with the Northern Lapwing characters. It contains many feather shaping and bending morphs in the HEAD section. It is identified with the “**C31**” icon.

## Quick Reference Guide

Load Model(s)	To Create... (apply MAT/MOR files)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Cap (male/female)</li> <li>• Collared Flycatcher (male/female)</li> <li>• Common Chiffchaff</li> <li>• Crested Lark</li> <li>• Dunnock</li> <li>• European Serin</li> <li>• Fieldfare</li> <li>• Hawfinch</li> <li>• Northern Wheatear (male/female)</li> <li>• Willow Tit</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Wood-pigeon</li> <li>• European Turtle-dove</li> <li>• Eurasian Collared-dove</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Woodpecker (male/female)</li> <li>• Eurasian Wryneck</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Lapwing (male/female)</li> </ul>

## Creating a Songbird ReMix Bird

Here's a step by step to create a bird:

1. Choose what you want to load. For this example, we'll create an "Black Cap".
2. Load Poser and select **FIGURES** and the Songbird ReMix folder. Because the "Black Cap" uses the basic "Songbird" base model we'll load that.
3. Go to the **POSES** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. In this case, we'll select the "Black Cap" pose and apply it to our loaded Songbird ReMix base model. This pose contains morph and texture settings to turn the generic model into an "Black Cap". As explained earlier in the Character Base Section, the Alphabet letter appearing on the base of a bird's Icon refers to what model it expects to adhere to. Thus the "Parrot" character is going to want the <P> Parrot Base Songbird ReMix Model. Birds with no icon usually want the Songbird Base.

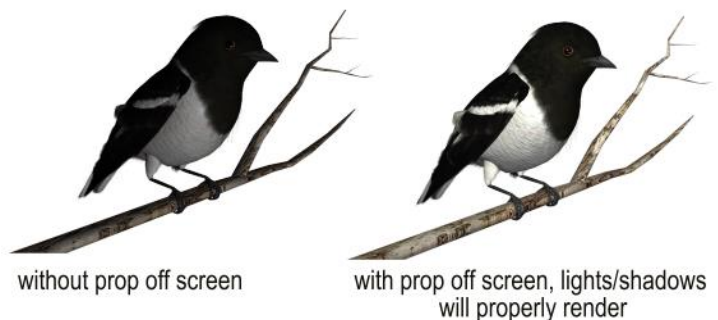
## Displacement in Poser 5+

In Poser, several settings will help to bring out the best in this bird set.

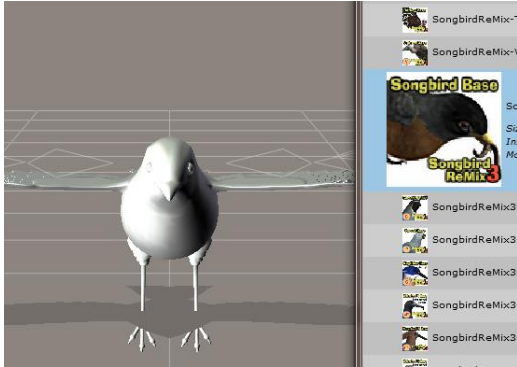
Under "Render Settings" (CTRL+Y) make sure you check "**Use Displacement Maps**" and (in some rare cases) the "**Remove Backfacing Polys**" boxes. In some poses, the wing morphs will expose backfacing polygons which tend to render black. Clicking the "Remove Backfacing Polys" fixes this.

## Scaling and Square Shadows in Poser

All the birds in this package have to scaled proportionally to DAZ 3D's Victoria and Michael models. The smallest of the included birds (such as the Robins) **MAY** render with a Square shadow or improper lighting. This is a bug in Poser. Poser can't figure out how to render a shadow for something really small, so it creates a square shadow. The solution is to put a larger item that casts a normal Poser shadow in the scene (even if it is off camera) and the square shadows will be fixed or BODY scale the bird to a larger size.

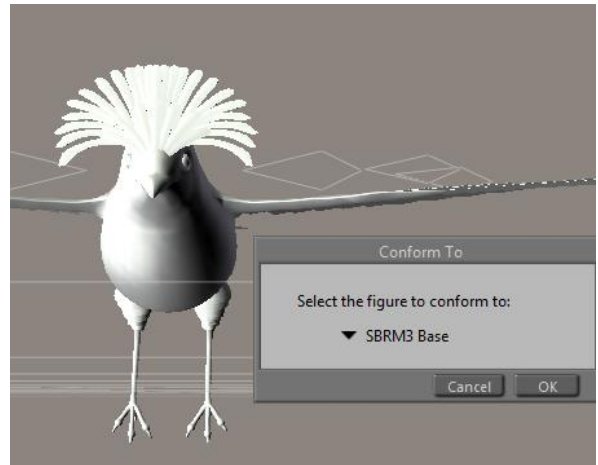


# How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in Poser



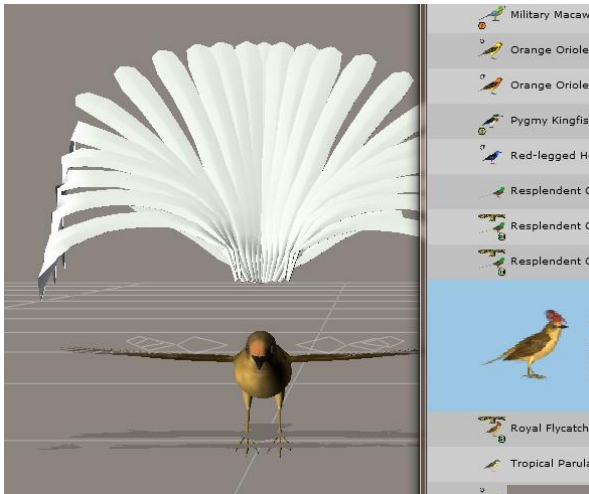
1. In the Figures section, load a Bird base Model. Then load the appropriate conforming part for the bird you're trying to create.

2. **Conform** it to the bird base model.



3. Select the Base Model and go to **POSES**. Select and apply the appropriate Character/Material pose setting for the bird you're creating.

3. Sel



4. The Conforming part will look wrong. That's okay—we're going to fix that now. Select the conforming part and apply appropriate Character/Material pose for the part.

5. Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.

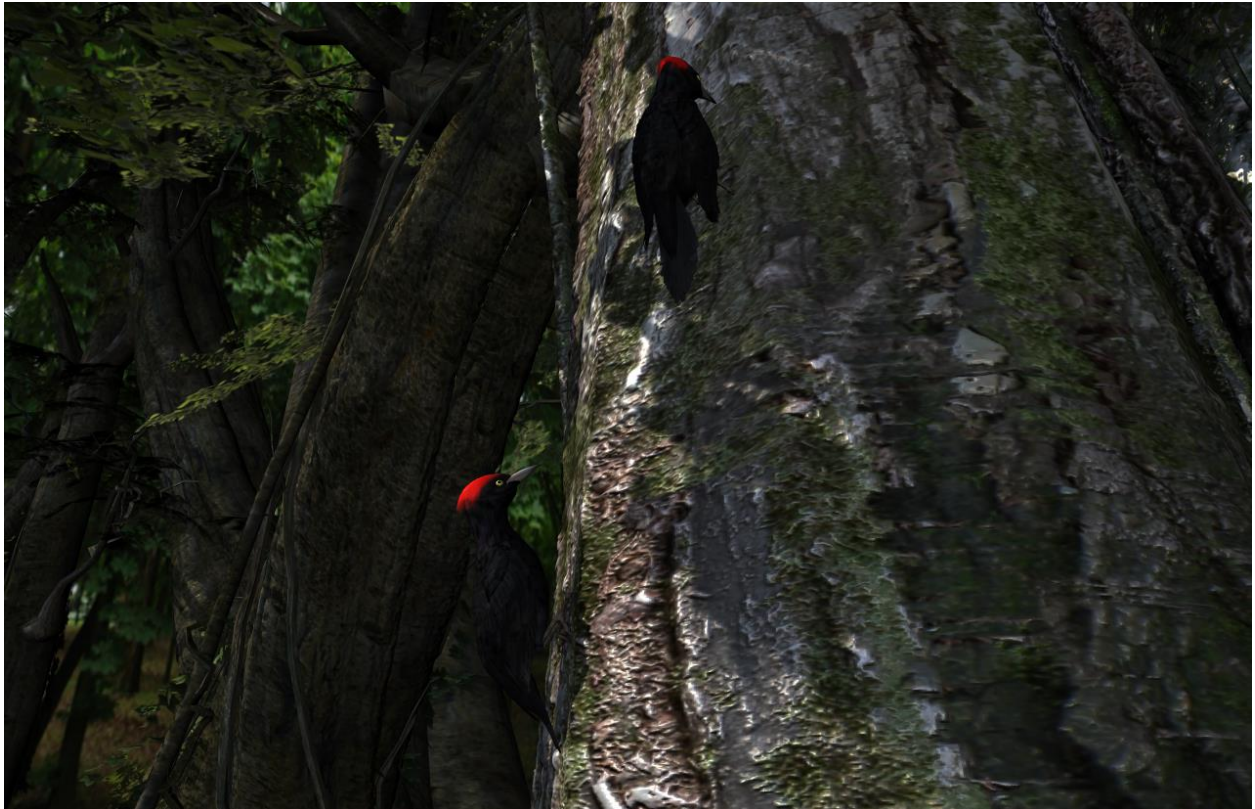


## Updates and Freebies

The Songbird ReMix series is constantly growing and improving. New morphs and additions to upcoming and future products often end up benefiting existing sets with new geometry, morphs and textures.

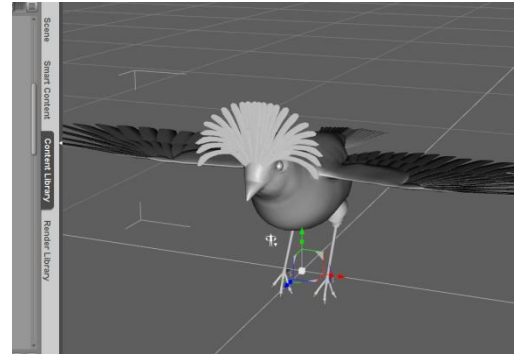
Songbirdremix.com always has the latest updates and additions to existing Songbird ReMix products (often months before they are updated at DAZ), plus the latest digital and real bird news, tutorials, videos, all the Field Guides, free bird characters, props and much more...

**[Songbird ReMix.com](http://SongbirdReMix.com)**

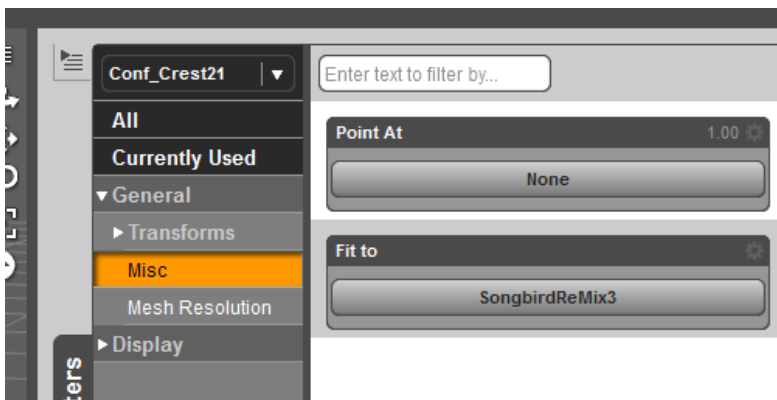


## How to build a Songbird ReMix Character with a Conforming Crest in DAZ Studio

In the **Runtime** folder, select **Figures** and load the Songbird ReMix Model and the appropriate Conforming Crest in Studio. Select the Conforming Crest by selecting on the screen or in the **Scene** Tab.



Now, using the "FIT TO" command in the Parameters Tab, Select the Songbird ReMix Model. Go back to the **Scene** Tab and select the Songbird ReMix Model.

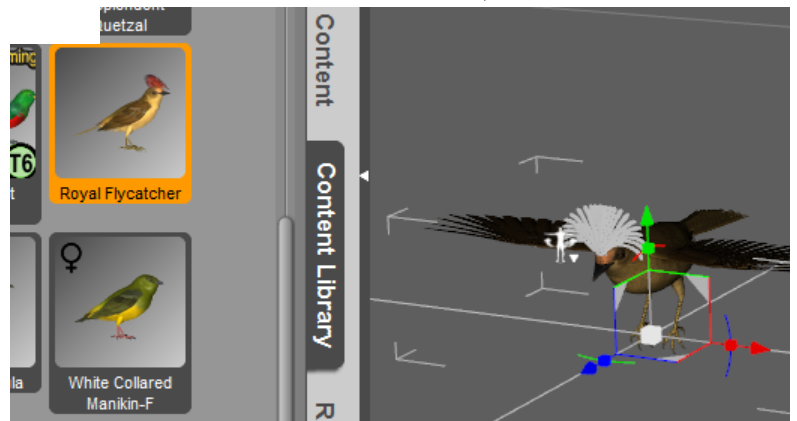


Select the Studio **Content** Folder and go to the **Animals : SBRM :** **!CreateYour Own : Characters** folder and select the appropriate Songbird Remix library. Apply the Character setting to the bird base. It will probably reduce the size significantly and change the shape of the bird.

Now that the bird is sized, select the

conforming part and apply the conforming part character settings.

Voila! Your bird is done. Just remember to select the bird base when posing and often there are additional morphs in the conforming part you can use.





# Field Guide

**Shorebirds**

Northern Lapwing

**Pigeons & Doves**

Common Wood-pigeon

European Turtle-dove

Eurasian Collared-dove

**Woodpeckers**

Black Woodpecker

Eurasian Wryneck

**Larks**

Crested Lark

**Warblers**

Black Cap

Common Chiffchaff

**Thrushes**

Fieldfare

**Flycatchers**

Collared Flycatcher

Northern Wheatear

**Tits & Nuthatches**

Willow Tit

**Sparrows**

Dunnock (Hedge sparrow)

**Finches**

European Serin

Hawfinch

**Common Name:** Northern Lapwing  
**Scientific Name:** *Vanellus vanellus*

**Size:** 11-12.2 inches (28-31 cm)

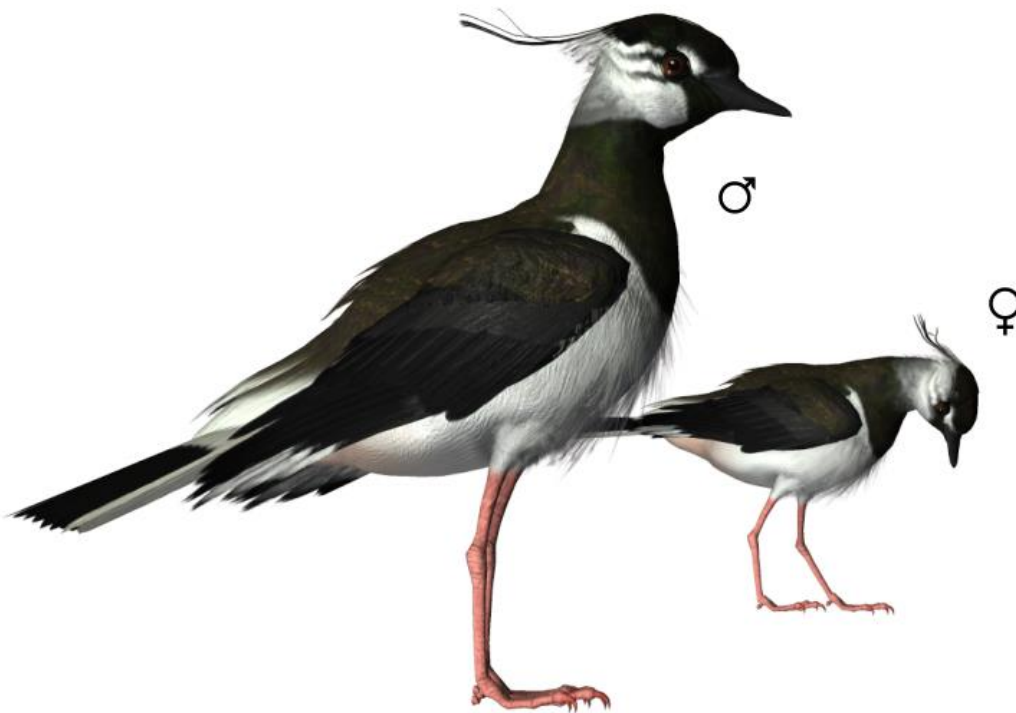
**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; Most populations of this species are fully migratory and travel on a broad front out of Europe although some breeding populations in more temperate regions are sedentary. **Breeding:** The species shows a preference for breeding on wet natural grasslands, meadows and hay meadows with short swards and patches of bare soil at low altitudes (less than 1,000 m). It will also breed on grassy moors, swampy heaths, bogs and arable fields. **Non-breeding:** During the winter the species utilizes large open pastures for roosting and forages on damp grassland, irrigated land, stubble and ploughed fields, riverbanks, lake shores, fresh and saline marshes, drainage ditches, estuaries and mudflats (Africa).

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 5,200,000 - 10,000,000 Mature individuals. The overall population trend is decreasing, although some populations have unknown trends. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a

moderate decline.

This species suffered past declines as a result of land-use intensification, wetland drainage and egg collecting.

Today it is threatened by reduced breeding productivity as a result of intensifying and changing agricultural practices, especially the improvement of grasslands (e.g. by drainage, inorganic fertilizing and



reseeding). Important migratory stop-over habitats for this species on the Baltic Sea coastline are threatened by petroleum pollution, wetland drainage for irrigation, land abandonment and changing land management practices leading to scrub overgrowth. Clutch destruction may also occur during spring cultivation (using machinery) on arable fields. The species is susceptible to avian botulism so may be threatened by future

outbreaks of the disease, and may suffer from nest predation by introduced mammals (e.g. European hedgehog *Erinaceus europeaus*) on some islands.

**Diet:** Insects such as beetles, ants, diptera, crickets, grasshoppers, dragonflies, mayflies, cicadas, Lepidoptera, spiders, snails, earthworms, frogs and small fish. It may also eat seeds or other plant material.

**Breeding:** The nest is a shallow scrape in short grass vegetation. The species breeds from April to July in solitary pairs although pairs may also nest close together, even semi-colonially, in optimal habitat. The species may roost communally at night during both the breeding and non-breeding seasons and after breeding the species gathers in large flocks for migration and remains highly gregarious during the winter in flocks of several thousand.

**Cool Facts:** The name lapwing has been variously attributed to the "lapping" sound its wings make in flight, from the irregular progress in flight due to its large wings, or from its habit of drawing potential predators away from its nest by trailing a wing as if broken. *Peewit* describes the bird's shrill call. This is a vocal bird in the breeding season, with constant calling as the crazed tumbling display flight is performed by the male.

**Common Name:** Common Wood-pigeon

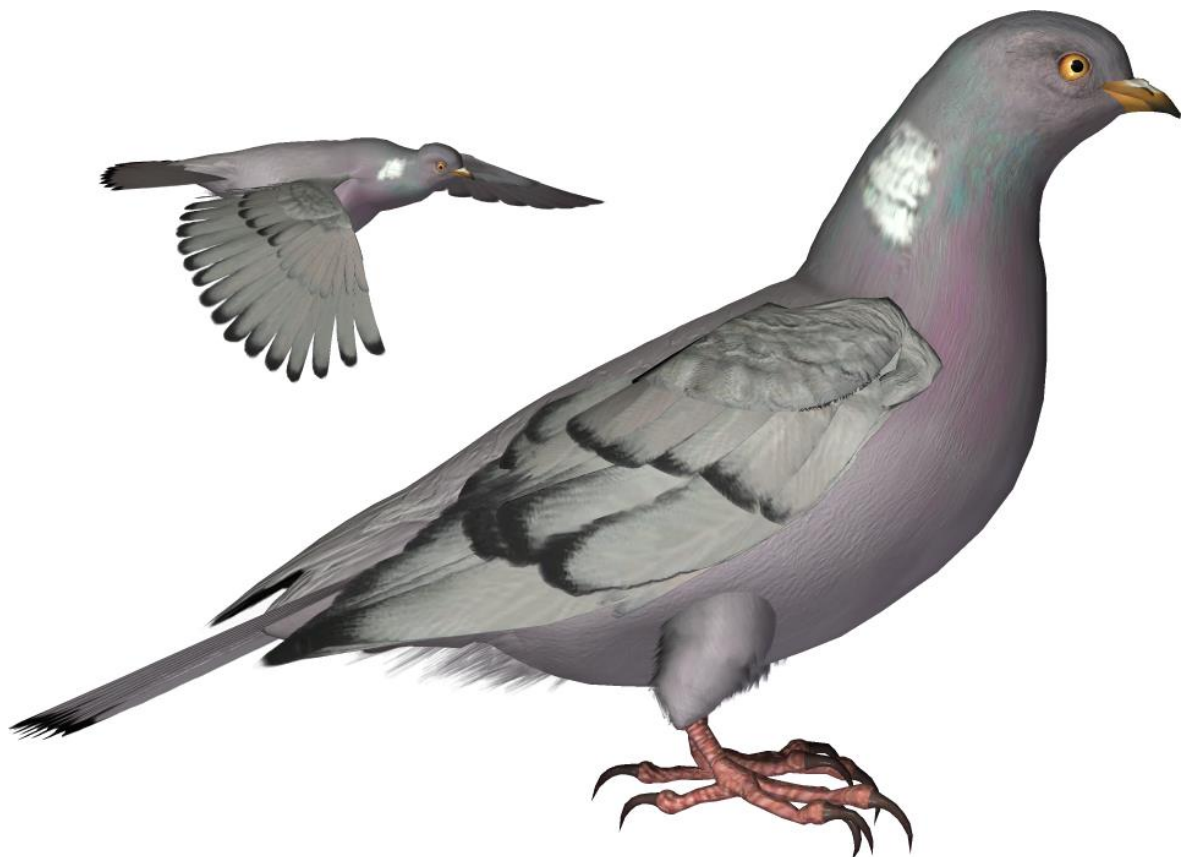
**Scientific Name:** *Columba palumbus*

**Size:** 15-17 inches (38-43 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; In the colder northern and eastern parts of its Europe and western Asia range the Common Wood Pigeon is a migrant, but in southern and western Europe it is a well distributed and often abundant resident.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 30,000,000 - 70,000,000 Mature individuals. The population is increasing in many parts of its range as it can exploit human-modified habitats; it has expanded its range northwards to Fenno-Scandia and Faeroe Islands. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase.

**Diet:** Plant material, seeds and occasionally insects.



**Breeding:** Juvenile birds do not have the white patches on either side of the neck. When they are about 6 months old (about 3 months out of the nest) they gain small white patches on both sides of the neck, which gradually enlarge until they are fully

formed when the bird is about 6–8 months old (approx. ages only). Juvenile birds also have a greyer beak and an overall lighter grey appearance than adult birds.

It perches well, and in its nuptial display walks along a horizontal branch with swelled neck, lowered wings, and fanned tail. During the display flight the bird climbs, the wings are smartly cracked like a whiplash, and the bird glides down on stiff wings. The noise in climbing flight is caused by the whipcracks on the downstroke rather than the wings striking together. The Common Wood Pigeon is gregarious, often forming very large flocks outside the breeding season.

It breeds in trees in woods, parks and gardens, laying two white eggs in a simple stick nest which hatch after 17 to 19 days. Wood pigeons seem to have a preference for trees near roadways and rivers. The nests are vulnerable to attack, particularly by crows, the more so early in the year when the leaf cover is not fully formed. The young usually fly at 33 to 34 days; however if the nest is disturbed some young may be able to survive having left the nest as early as 20 days from hatching.

**Cool Facts:** The Common Wood Pigeon is the most common pigeon in the United Kingdom, with numbers having doubled from 2008 to 2009. Although they are often seen as a pest, and their urine can cause damage to buildings, the health risks carried by these birds are minute.

The three Western European Columba pigeons, Common Wood Pigeon, Stock Pigeon, and Rock Pigeon, though superficially alike, have very distinctive characteristics; the Common Wood Pigeon may be identified at once by its larger size at 38–43 cm, and the white on its neck and wing. It is otherwise a basically grey bird, with a pinkish breast.

**Common Name:** European Turtle-dove  
**Scientific Name:** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Size:** 17 inches (27cm)

**Habitat:** Europe, Asia and Africa; a migratory species with a southern Palearctic range, including Turkey and north Africa, though it is rare in northern Scandinavia and Russia; it winters in southern Africa.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 20,000,000 - 100,000,000 Mature individuals. According to the State of Europe's Common Birds 2007 report, the Turtle Dove population in Europe has drastically fallen by 62% in recent years. This is partly because changed farming practices mean that the weed seeds and shoots on which it feeds, especially Fumitory, are scarcer. The population drop is also partly due to shooting of birds during migration in Mediterranean countries.

**Diet:** Seeds from native plants.

**Breeding:** Male and female look alike. The nuptial flight, high and circling, is rather like that of the Common Wood Pigeon, but the undulations are less decided; it is accompanied by the whip-crack of the downward flicked wings. They built nests of twigs and sticks in the canopy and lay 2 to 3 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** The arrival in spring is heralded by its purring song, a rather deep, vibrating "turr, turr", from which the bird's name is derived.

Despite the identical spelling, the "turtle" of the name, derived from Latin turtur, has no connection with the reptile, "turtle" in that case coming originally from Late Latin tortuca.

The Turtle Dove, one of the latest migrants, rarely appears in Northern Europe before the end of April, returning south again in September, but is often seen in April.



Biblical references (especially the well-known verse from the Song of Songs), along with its mournful voice, and the fact that it forms strong pair bonds, Turtle Doves have

become emblems of devoted love. In the New Testament, a two turtle doves are mentioned to have been sacrificed for the Birth of Jesus In Renaissance Europe the Turtle Dove was envisaged as the devoted partner of the phoenix. Robert Chester's poem Love's Martyr is a sustained exploration of this symbolism. It was published along with other poems on the subject, including William Shakespeare's poem "The Phoenix and the Turtle" (where "turtle" refers to the turtle dove).

Turtle Doves also feature in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas", as the gift "my true love gives to me" on the second day of Christmas; by the end of the song, she ends up with 22 of them.



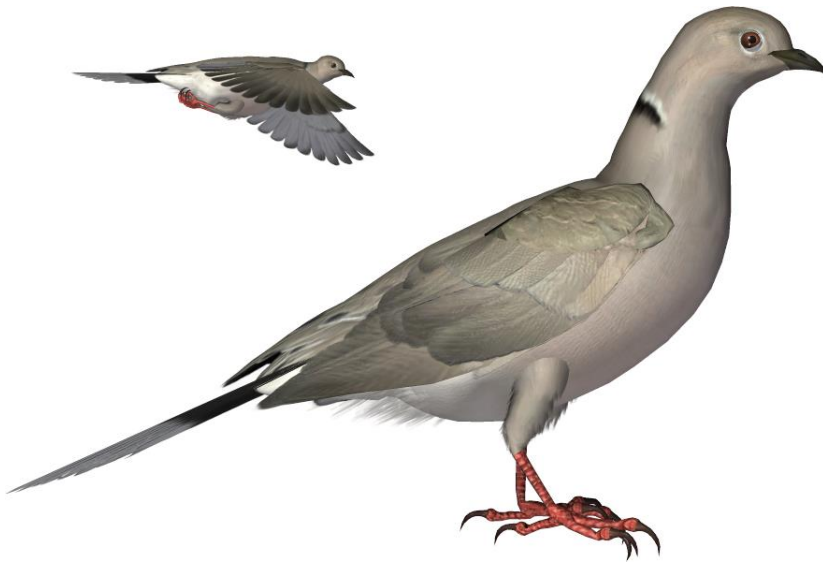
**Common Name:** Eurasian Collared-dove  
**Scientific Name:** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Size:** 11.4-11.8 inches (29-30 cm)

**Habitat:** Worldwide; The Eurasian Collared-Dove has exploded across the globe. It is thought that the species occurred historically only in and around India, and that a massive expansion in the 1600s brought it into Turkey and the Balkans. It spread across Europe in the 1900s. It was introduced in the Bahamas in the late 1970's and has spread rapidly across much of North America with 2001 sightings on the California coast and 2009 sightings in Alaska.

It prefers urban, suburban, and agricultural areas where grain or seed is available.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 20,000,000 - 50,000,000 Mature individuals. The population is suspected to be increasing as ongoing habitat degradation is creating new areas of suitable habitat. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase.



**Diet:** Seeds and grain; occasional insects.

**Breeding:** Juvenile similar to adult, but has reddish edges to body feathers, brown eyes, and brownish red legs.

Eurasian Collared-Doves are monogamous and may have 3-6 broods per year. They create a simple saucer-shaped nest of twigs and plant fibers in trees and on buildings. 1-2 smooth, glossy, oval; white eggs are laid.

**Cool Facts:** The Eurasian Collared-Dove is often kept as a pet. The occurrence of the species in some areas of the United States can be traced not to the dispersal of wild breeders, but to escaped or released cage birds.

The domesticated Ringed Turtle-Dove is similar to the Eurasian Collared-Dove, and it frequently escapes or is released from captivity. The occurrence of the first Eurasian Collared-Doves in the United States went unnoticed for quite a while because of confusion with feral Ringed Turtle-Doves. The two species occasionally hybridize in wild populations.



**Common Name:** Black Woodpecker  
**Scientific Name:** *Dryocopus martius*

**Size:** 16.5–19.5 inches (45-47cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; It is the sole representative of its genus in that region. It does not migrate. It lives in mature forest across the northern Palearctic region.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 5,000,000 - 15,000,000 Mature individuals. Its range is expanding in Eurasia.

**Diet:** Carpenter ants and wood-boring grubs

**Breeding:** In males, the entire crown is red, but in females only the top hind-crown is red with the rest of the body all black.

The woodpecker digs a nest hole, usually in a live poplar or pine tree where it lays four or more eggs

**Cool Facts:** Unlike other woodpecker species, the Black Woodpecker does not have a dipping, bounding flight.



**Common Name:** Eurasian Wryneck

**Scientific Name:** *Jynx torquilla*

**Size:** 6.26 inches (16-17cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; the breeding range of Wryneck lies entirely within the Palearctic region, from France and Iberia eastwards to Japan, between latitudes 35 and 64 degrees. In continental Europe it breeds regularly from sub-arctic Fenno-Scandia (Lapland) to the Mediterranean and Black Sea. In the British Isles most Wrynecks are seen at coastal observatories. As a breeding species it is more common away from the



European coastline, in particular the Atlantic and North Sea coasts of France and the Low Countries, seemingly preferring a drier inland, continental climate. However, Wrynecks do breed on the Atlantic coasts of Norway and northern Spain, so perhaps other factors besides climate, such as habitat land use, are involved. It is unclear which race breeds in Greece, though it is possible that both *torquilla* and *tuschusii* do. The latter

race is also thought to winter there. Some Wrynecks also winter in southern Spain and southern Italy. The bulk of the population however winters in Africa.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 5,000,000 - 15,000,000 mature individuals. The population has suffered a long term reduction in numbers and range since the mid 19th century in west and central Europe owing to increased rain during the breeding season caused by climatic changes, agricultural improvement, loss of orchards and unimproved meadows, replacement of hardwoods with conifer plantations and widespread over-use of pesticides and herbicides. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations are still undergoing a moderate decline. The Eurasian Wryneck is red-listed (Endangered) in Britain by RSPB.

**Diet:** Ants and other insects.

**Breeding:** The sexes are almost identical in plumage and visually rarely separable in the field. Adult males are warmer and richer in color than females with more rufous and yellowish tones on the under-parts. Wrynecks are cavity nesters often reusing abandoned woodpecker nests.

**Cool Facts:** Wrynecks are in Woodpecker family though Wrynecks beaks are noticeably shorter. These birds get their English name from their ability to turn their heads almost 180 degrees. When disturbed at the nest, they use this snake-like head twisting and hissing as a threat display. This odd behavior led to their use in witchcraft, hence to put a "jinx" on someone.

This species is a long distance migrant, and can cover a distance of 600 km (360 miles) in 8 days.

There are six subspecies:

- *Jynx torquilla chinensis*
- *Jynx torquilla himalayana*
- *Jynx torquilla mauretanica*
- *Jynx torquilla sarudnyi*
- *Jynx torquilla torquilla*
- *Jynx torquilla tschusii*

**Common Name:** Crested Lark  
**Scientific Name:** *Galerida cristata*

**Size:** 6.7 inches (17cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; open territories, steppes and meadows in southern and central Europe, as well as North Africa and the Middle East. They prefer territories with scarce vegetation and few trees. Populations living more to the north, migrate to warmer areas when the winter comes, while those Larks living in half-deserts, such as in Saudi Arabia, stay at the same place all year round.



**Status:** Least Concern.

**Global Population:** 20,000,000 - 100,000,000 mature individuals. The population is estimated to be in decline following regional declines in recent decades; probably owing to habitat loss and degradation (intensive farming and usage of pesticides destroy the Crested Larks' nests).

**Diet:** Mostly seeds; insects during breeding season. Larks look for food on the ground, searching the top layer of the soil and catching bugs, crickets, larvae, spiders and ants with the strong beak.

**Breeding:** Male and female look alike. In spring, Crested Lark males start looking for a partner – running around; singing, flapping the wings and stretching the neck are all parts of the mating ritual. After a partner has been found, the female builds a nest on the ground and lays 2-4 eggs, which are then incubated for 12-14 days. The male keeps the territory safe of predators and rivals. If another Crested Lark enters the territory, the male tries to daze them with a loud song.

Chicks leave the nest 9 days after hatching, but the parents keep feeding them for 20 more days – until they have learned to fly.

**Cool Facts:** The Crested Lark can easily be recognized by the prominent crest on the head. If aroused, the bird raises the crest.

**Common Name:** Black Cap  
**Scientific Name:** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Size:** 5.3-5.9 inches (13.5-15 cm)

**Habitat:** Europe; Breeds in northern and central European and winters in southern Europe and North Africa where the local populations are resident. In recent years, substantial numbers of central European birds have taken to wintering in gardens in southern England. Presumably the ready availability of food, particularly from bird feeders, and the avoidance of migration over the Alps compensate for the sub-optimal climate. Black Caps prefer shady woodlands with ample groundcover.

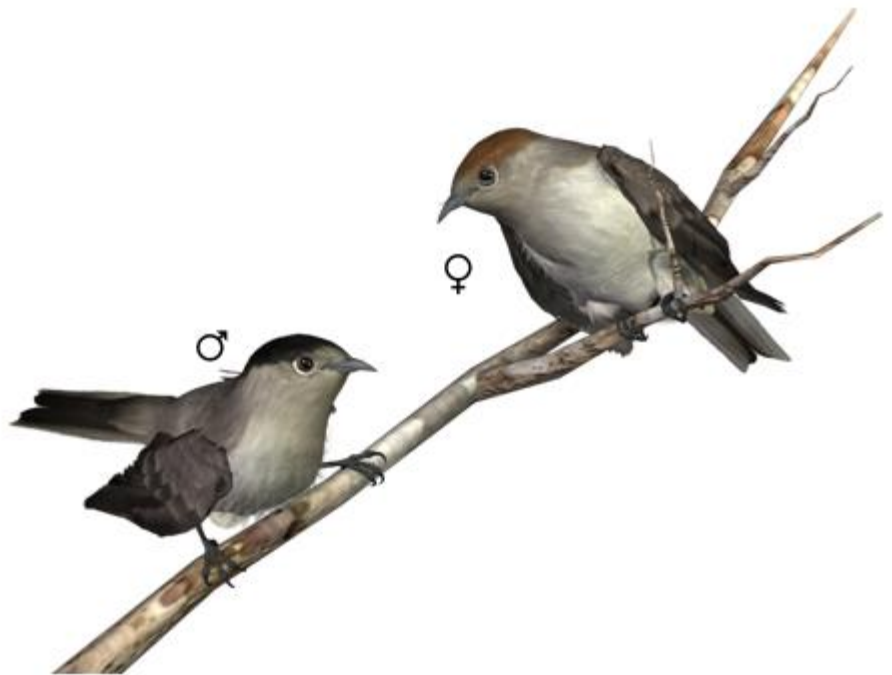
**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 80,000,000 - 200,000,000 Mature individuals. The population is suspected to be increasing owing to afforestation and land use changes leading to increased shrubby growth in parts of its range. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase.

**Diet:** Insects and berries. Unlike most warblers, it will eat berries as readily as insects.

**Breeding:** As with most species in the Sylviid family, male and female distinct differences in their plumages:

male has the small black cap and in the female the cap is light brown. The nest is built in a low shrub, and 3–6 eggs are laid. The song is a pleasant chattering with some clearer notes like a Blackbird. that characteristically ends with an emphatic fluting warble..

**Cool Facts:** The Blackcap is a common and widespread sylviid warbler which breeds throughout northern and temperate Europe. Its color pattern is unique in the genus *Sylvia*; the Blackcap's closest living relative is the Garden Warbler which looks different but has very similar vocalizations. These two, whose ranges extend farther



northeastwards than other *Sylvia*, seem to form sister species well distinct from the other typical warblers



The presence and sounds of this bird have since long inspired Italian writers. "*La Capinera*" (Italian for Blackcap) is the title of one of the most famous poems by Giovanni Pascoli. "*Storia di una capinera*" is a 1993 movie directed by Franco Zeffirelli and distributed with the international title "Sparrow".

The Blackcap is considered a delicacy in some Mediterranean countries where many of these birds are illegally trapped and killed every year.

The Blackcap's call symbolizes St Francis in Messiaen's opera, Saint-François d'Assise.

**Common Name:** Common Chiffchaff  
**Scientific Name:** *Phylloscopus collybita*

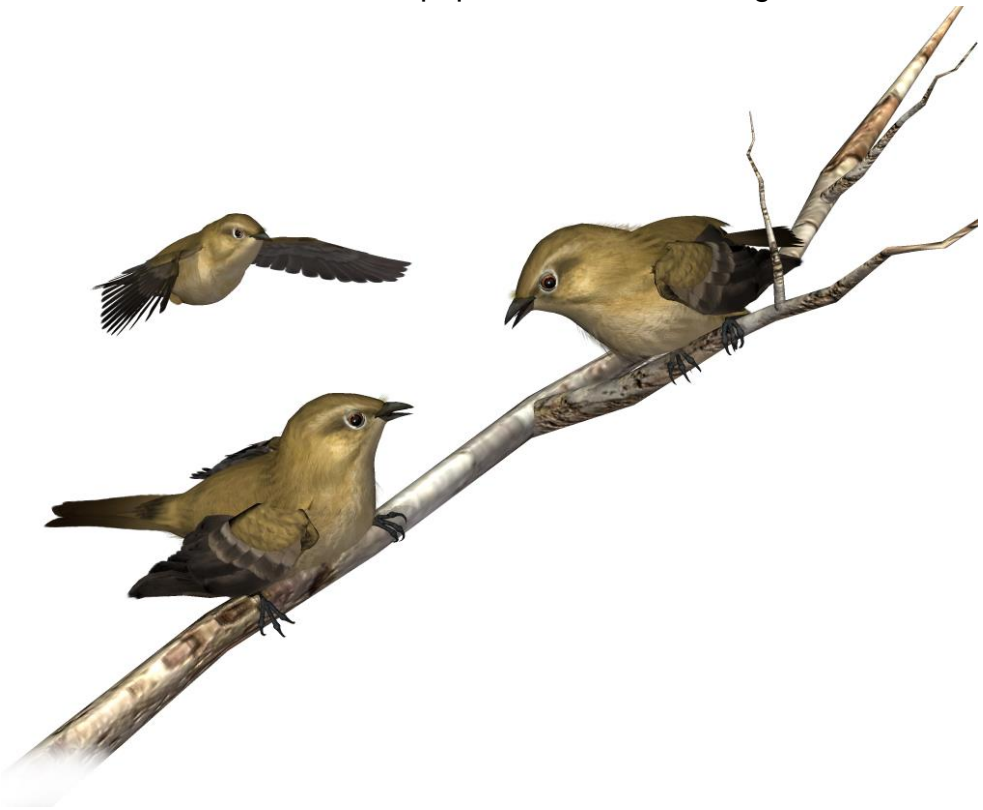
**Size:** 4-4.7 inches (10-12 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; **Winters:** Southern and western Europe, southern Asia and North Africa. **Summers:** Northern Europe and Siberia.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 200,000,000 - 700,000,000 Mature individuals. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase.

**Diet:** Insects.

**Breeding:** Females builds a domed nest on or near the ground, and assumes most of the responsibility for brooding and feeding the chicks, whilst the male has little involvement in nesting, but defends his territory against rivals, and attacks potential predators.



**Cool Facts:** The British naturalist

Gilbert White was one of the first people to separate the similar-looking Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Wood Warbler by their songs, as detailed in 1789 in *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, but the Chiffchaff was first formally described as *Sylvia collybita* by French ornithologist Louis Vieillot in 1817 in his *Nouvelle Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle*. The chiffchaff more recently has been moved to its own family *Phylloscopidae*. The Chiffchaff's closest relatives, other than former subspecies, are a group of leaf warblers which similarly lack crown stripes, a yellow rump or obvious wing bars; they include the Willow, Bonelli's, Wood and Plain Leaf Warblers. The Chiffchaff has three still commonly accepted subspecies, together with some from the Iberian Peninsula, the Canary Islands, and the Caucasus which are now more often treated as full species.

- *P. c. collybita*, the nominate form, breeds in Europe east to Poland and Bulgaria, and is described below. It mainly winters in the south of its breeding range around the Mediterranean and in North Africa. It has been expanding its range northwards into Scandinavia since 1970 and close to the southern edge of the range of *P. c. abietinus*.
- *P. c. abietinus* occurs in Scandinavia and northern Russia, and winters from southeastern Europe and northeastern Africa east to Iraq and western Iran. It is intermediate in appearance between *P. c. tristis* and *P. c. collybita*, being grey-washed olive-green above with a pale yellow supercilium, and underparts whiter than in *P. c. collybita*, but it has very similar vocalisations to the nominate subspecies. Due to individual variation, it can be difficult to reliably separate *P. c. abietinus* and *P. c. collybita* outside their main breeding and wintering ranges. Some Chiffchaffs in the Middle East are browner and have a more disyllabic *swee-hu* call than *P. c. abietinus*, and may belong to a poorly known taxon "*brevirostris*"; further research is needed to clarify the affinities of this form.
- *P. c. tristis*, the Siberian Chiffchaff, breeds in Siberia east of the Pechora River and winters in the lower Himalayas. It is also regularly recorded in western Europe in winter, and it is likely that the numbers involved have been underestimated due to uncertainties over identification criteria, lack of good data and recording policies (Sweden and Finland only accept trapped birds). It is a dull subspecies, grey or brownish above and whitish below, with little yellow in the plumage, and the buff-white supercilium is often longer than in the western subspecies. It has a higher pitched *suitsistsuisit* song and a short high-pitched *cheet* call. It is sometimes considered to be a full species due to its distinctive plumage and vocalizations, being similar to *P. s. sindianus* in these respects. Nominate *P. c. collybita* and *P. c. tristis* do not recognize each other's songs.

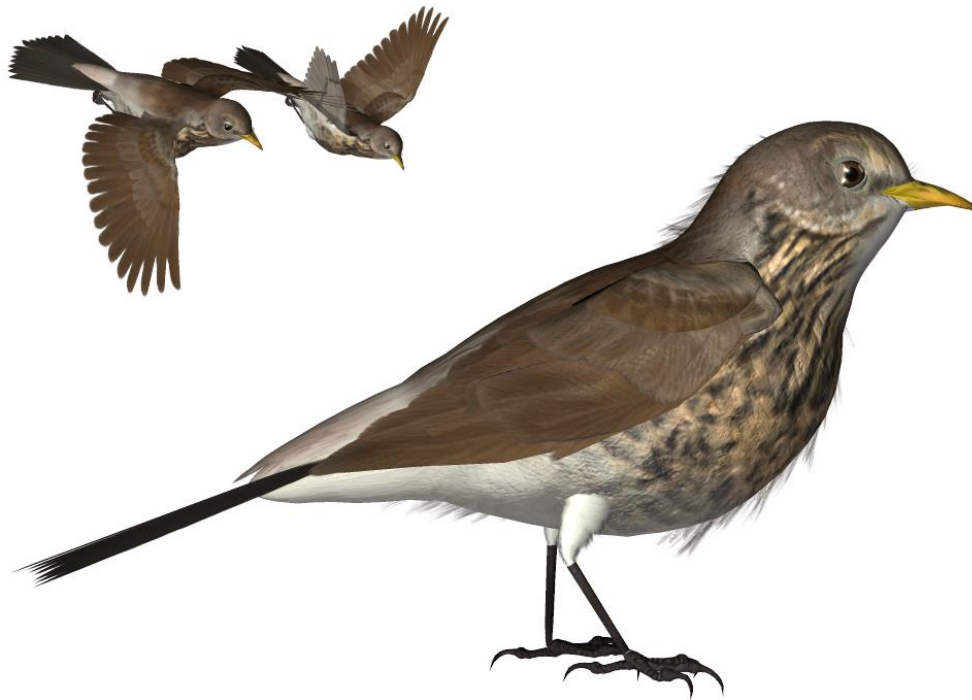


**Common Name:** Fieldfare  
**Scientific Name:** *Turdus pilaris*

**Size:** 8.6-11 inches (22-27 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; northern Europe and Asia. It is strongly migratory, with many northern birds moving south during the winter. It is a very rare breeder in Great Britain and Ireland, but winters in large numbers in these countries. It breeds in woodland and scrub areas.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 45,000,000 - 100,000,000 Mature individuals. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase. Europe forms 75-94% of the global range.



**Diet:** Worms and insects.

**Breeding:** The sexes are similar. The male has a simple chattering song, and a chattering flight and alarm call. It nests in trees, laying several eggs in a neat nest. Unusually for a thrush, they often nest in small colonies, possibly for protection from large crows. Migrating birds

and wintering birds often form large flocks, often with Redwings.

**Cool Facts:** The English common name “fieldfare” dates back to at least the eleventh century. The Anglo-Saxon word “feldefare” which meant traveler through the fields.

Fieldfares nest in colonies which offers good defense against predators. In the BBC series “Life of the Birds (with David Attenborough)”, fieldfares are shown mobbing a raven. After driving the raven to the ground, the fieldfares bombard the raven with their droppings. This practice water-logs the predators’ feathers turning it into prey as well.

**Common Name:** Collared Flycatcher  
**Scientific Name:** *Ficedula albicollis*

**Size:** 4.9-5.1 inches (12.5-13 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; It breeds in southeast Europe (isolated populations in the islands of Gotland and Oland in the Baltic Sea, Sweden) and southwest Asia and is migratory, wintering in sub Sahara Africa. It is a rare vagrant in Western Europe. Found in deciduous woodlands, parks and gardens.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 4,200,000 - 7,200,000 mature individuals. In Europe, trends since 1982 show that populations have undergone a moderate increase.

**Diet:** Insects (caught in flight); this species also hunts caterpillars amongst the oak foliage, and will take berries.

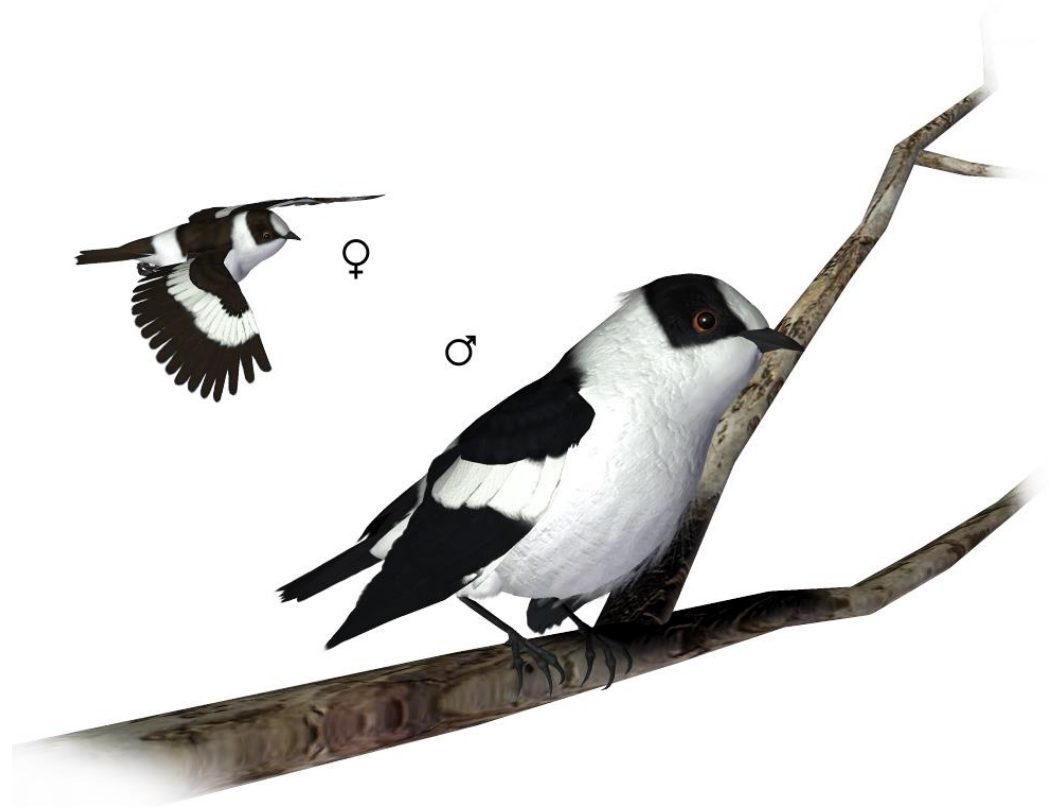
**Breeding:** The breeding male is mainly black above and white below, with a white collar, large white wing patch, black tail (although some males have white tail sides) and a large white forehead patch.

Non-breeding

males, females and juveniles have the black replaced by a pale brown, and may be very difficult to distinguish from the European Pied Flycatcher and the Semi-collared Flycatcher, with which this species hybridizes to a limited extent.

They build an open nest in a tree hole, or man-made nest-boxes. Normally 5-7 eggs are laid.

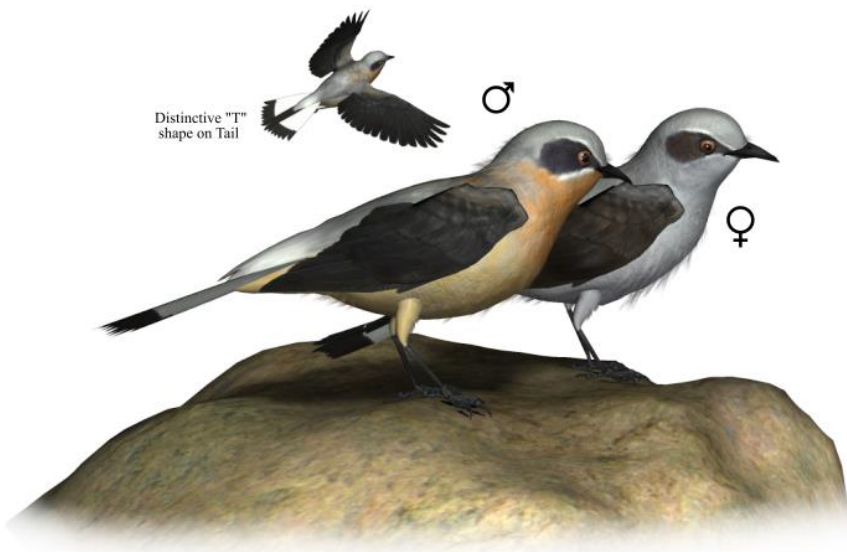
**Cool Facts:** The song is slow strained whistles, quite unlike the Pied Flycatcher. Pied flycatchers can mimic the song of the Collared Flycatcher in sympatric populations.



**Common Name:** Northern Wheatear  
**Scientific Name:** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Size:** 5.7-6.3 inches (14.5-16 cm)

**Habitat:** Africa, Eurasia and North America; **Winters:** Sub-Saharan Africa. **Summers:** Northern Eurasia, Greenland, Canada and Alaska. Found in rocky tundra, barren slopes, hill pastures and sand dunes.



**Status:** Least Concern.  
**Global Population:** 20,000,000 - 100,000,000 mature individuals. In Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate decline.

**Diet:** Insects and some berries.

**Breeding:** Breeding males have Grey upperparts, a buff throat, black wings and face mask and a white

stripe above the eye. Females are sandy-brown above and buff below with an eye patch and their wings are brown. In Autumn, the male, female and juvenile are browner.

Nest is on ground on dry tundra, usually in hole in a wall, under stones, or in old rodent burrow. The nest construction is a cup of grass, twigs, weeds, lined with finer material such as moss, lichens and rootlets. The clutch is usually 5-6 pale blue eggs; unmarked, or with fine reddish brown dots, which are incubated by the female for 13-14 days.

**Cool Facts:** The Wheatear was formerly classed as a member of the thrush family *Turdidae*, but is now more generally considered to be an Old World flycatcher, *Muscicapidae*.

The Northern Wheatear makes one of the longest journeys of any small bird, crossing ocean, ice, and desert. It migrates from Sub-Saharan Africa in Spring, over a vast area of the northern hemisphere that includes northern and central Asia, Europe, Greenland, Alaska, and parts of Canada. In autumn, all return to Africa, where their ancestors had wintered. Arguably, some of the birds that breed in north Asia could take a shorter route and winter in south Asia; however, their inherited inclination to migrate takes them back to Africa.

**Common Name:** Willow Tit  
**Scientific Name:** *Parus montanus*

**Size:** 4.5 inches (11.5 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; widespread and common resident breeder throughout temperate and subarctic Europe and northern Asia. It is a conifer specialist, which explains it breeding much further north. It is resident, and most birds do not migrate.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 150,000,000 - 500,000,000 Mature individuals. Both increases and decreases in regional populations have been noted in the second half of the 20th century, but in Europe, trends since 1980 show that populations have undergone a moderate decline.

**Diet:** Insects, caterpillars, and seeds.

**Breeding:** The Willow Tit often excavates its own nesting hole, even piercing hard bark; this is usually in a rotten stump or in a tree, more or less decayed. Most nests examined



are cups of felted material, such as fur, hair and wood chips, but feathers are sometimes used. The number of eggs varies from six to nine, with reddish spots or blotches.

**Cool Facts:** The Willow Tit is distinguished from the Marsh Tit by a sooty brown instead of a glossy blue black cap; the general color is otherwise similar, though the under

parts are more buff and the flanks distinctly more rufous; the pale buff edgings to the secondaries form a light patch on the closed wing. The feathers of the crown and the black bib under the bill are longer, but this is not an easily noticed character. However, the more graduated tail (not square) shows distinctly when spread.

The most common call is a nasal 'zee, zee, zee', but the notes of the bird evidently vary considerably. Occasionally a double note, 'ipsee, ipsee', is repeated four or five times.

**Common Name:** Dunnock or Hedge Sparrow

**Scientific Name:** *Prunella modularis*

**Size:** 5.3-5.8 inches (13.5-14 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; widespread and common resident breeder throughout temperate Europe and Asia. It is a resident in the milder west and south of its range, but as an insectivore, must migrate south from the colder parts of its range. Found in woodlands, scrublands and gardens.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 36,000,000 - 78,000,000 Mature individuals. The population is suspected to be stable in the absence of evidence for any declines or substantial threats.

**Diet:** Insects and some seed.

**Breeding:** This species makes up for its drab appearance with its randy breeding behavior. Females are often polyandrous, breeding with two males at once, and thus giving rise to



sperm competition. Males compete for mating access to the female, but DNA fingerprinting has shown that chicks within broods often have different fathers, depending on their success at monopolizing access to the fertile female. Males try to ensure their paternity during courtship by pecking at the cloaca of the female to stimulate her to eject the sperm of other males with whom the female has recently mated. Males provide parental care in proportion to their mating success, so it is not uncommon to see two males and female provisioning nestlings at one nest. Polyandry is rare in birds, with only about 2% of species showing such a mating system; the majority are monogamous, where one male and one female breed together.

It builds a neat nest low in a bush or conifer, laying 3-5 unspotted blue eggs.

**Cool Facts:** Dunnocks are also known as Hedge Accentor or Hedge Sparrows. Dunnocks are a host of the Common Cuckoo. It is likely that this association is recent, since other Cuckoo hosts have learned to discriminate between eggs, and the Cuckoo has consequently evolved eggs that match those of its host. In the case of the Dunnock, there is no resemblance, yet the Cuckoo eggs are accepted.

**Common Name:** European Serin  
**Scientific Name:** *Serinus serinus*

**Size:** 4.5-4.7 inches (11-12 cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia and Africa; breeds across southern and central Europe and north Africa. Southern and Atlantic coast populations are largely resident, but the northern breeders migrate further south in Europe for the winter. Open woodlands and cultivated areas, often with some conifers, are favored for breeding.

**Status:** Least Concern. **Global Population:** 30,000,000 - 80,000,000 Mature individuals. In Europe, trends since 1982 show that populations have undergone a moderate decline. Europe forms 75-94% of the global range.

**Diet:** Mainly seeds; insects in the breeding season.

**Breeding:** It builds its nest in a shrub or tree, laying 3-5 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** The European Serin is the smallest in European species of the family of finches (*Fringillidae*) and is closely related to the Canary.



**Common Name:** Hawfinch

**Scientific Name:** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

**Size:** 6.5-7 inches (16.5-18cm)

**Habitat:** Eurasia; breeds across Europe and temperate Asia. It is mainly resident in Europe, but many Asian birds migrate further south in the winter. It is a rare vagrant to the western islands of Alaska. Usually found in deciduous or mixed woodlands, including parkland, with large trees (especially Hornbeam) which is favored for breeding.



**Status:** Least Concern. **Global**

**Population:**

15,000,000 -

50,000,000

Mature individuals. The population is suspected to be stable in the absence of evidence for any declines or substantial threats.

**Diet:** Mainly seeds and fruit kernels (especially cherries).

**Breeding:** The sexes are similar. It builds its nest in a bush or tree, and lays 2-7 eggs.

**Cool Facts:** Hawfinches do not form large flocks outside the breeding season, and is usually seen in a pair or small group. Their song is quiet and mumbled.

Hawfinches closest living relatives are the Evening Grosbeak (*C. vespertinus*) from North America and the Hooded Grosbeak (*C. abeillei*) from Central America.

## ***Special Thanks to...***

....my beta team (Ali, Bea, Jan, Kelvin, Rhonda, Sandra)

## ***Species Accuracy and Reference Materials***

Many birds of the same species do vary considerably in color. This package tries to emulate the colors and markings in the most commonly found variants.

The author-artist has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique bird species, some give and take is bound to occur. The texture maps were created in Painter with as much accuracy as possible. Photographic references from photographs from various Internet searches and several field guides were used.

### ***Field Guide Sources:***

- **Wikipedia** (<http://www.wikipedia.com>)
- **All About Birds/Cornell** (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/> )
- **Birdlife International** (<http://www.birdlife.org> )
- **Woodpeckers of Europe** (<http://woodpeckersofeurope.info>)

### ***Other Resources:***

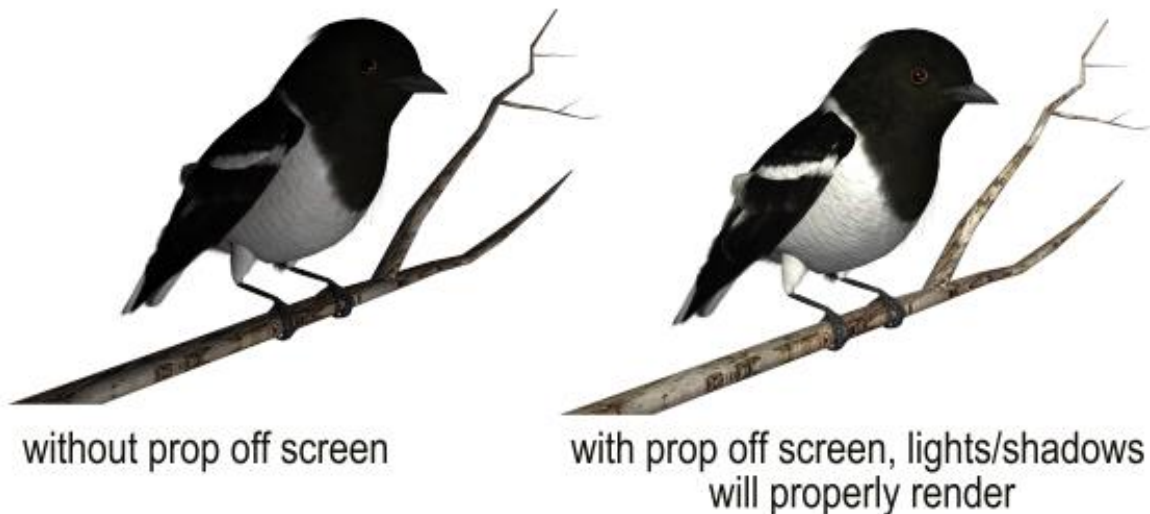
- **Songbird ReMix Central** (<http://www.songbirdremix.com>)
- **Songbird ReMix "Bird Brains" User Group and Forum** (<http://artzone.daz3d.com/groups/songbirdremix> )



# Rendering & Posing Tips

## Scaling and Square Shadows in Poser

All the birds in this package have to scaled proportionally to DAZ 3D's Victoria and Michael models. The smallest of the included birds (such as the Riro!Riro!Riro!) **MAY** render with a Square shadow or improper lighting. This is a bug in Poser. Poser can't figure out how to render a shadow for something really small, so it creates a square shadow. The solution is to put a larger item that casts a normal Poser shadow in the scene (even if it is off camera) and the square shadows will be fixed or BODY scale the bird to a larger size.



## Working with “Creation” morphs

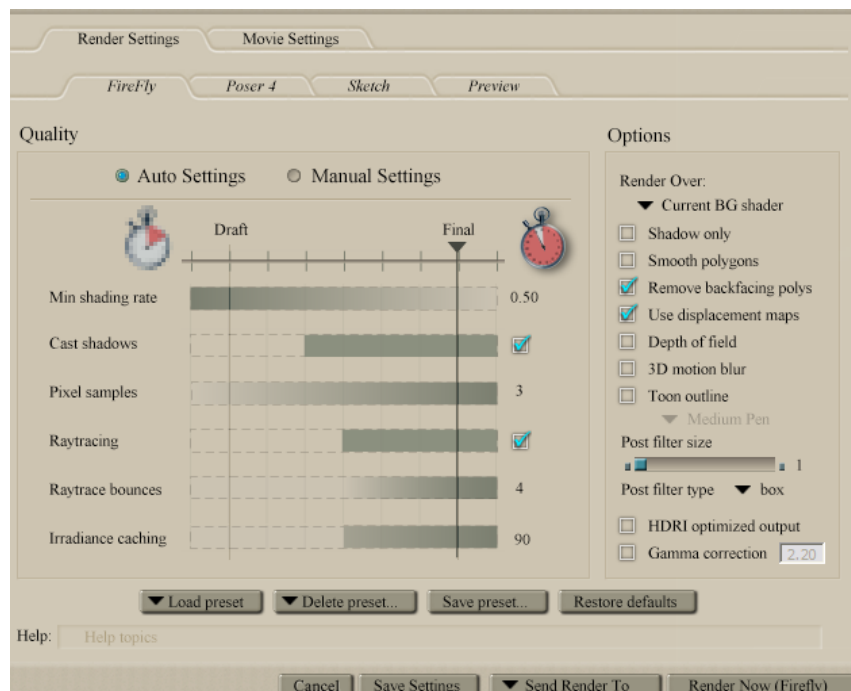
Because birds in the Songbird ReMix series use generic bird bases and morphs, adding morphs upon morphs more often than not will create undesirable results. Case in point is the Parrot base which defaults with the “Parrot” morph be loaded found in the HEAD section (*Creations morphs : Specific Bird morphs*). Adding the other creation morphs on top of that will be a hit and miss experience. Press **CTRL + E** to clear all the morphs in that section.

The reason why I have chosen to leave non-parrot morphs on for instance the parrot base is for experimentation and creating unique and imaginary species. In some cases, such as with a parakeet, it's better to shape the parakeet head from the standard Songbird ReMix head than the default parrot morphs.

## Displacement in Poser 5+

In Poser, several settings will help to bring out the best in this bird set.

Under “Render Settings” (CTRL+Y) make sure you check “**Use Displacement Maps**” and (in some rare cases) the “**Remove Backfacing Polys**” boxes. In some poses, the wing morphs will expose backfacing polygons which tend to render black. Clicking the “Remove Backfacing Polys” fixes this.



## In VUE...

Vue has trouble with back-facing polygons which tend to show-up in certain wing and “Fluff” poses. The easiest and fast solution is to limit the amount of bending in the Forearm, Hand and Feather controllers and the hide or limit the ‘Fluff’ used

**Bake it!** The better (but much slower solution) is to in “Polygon Mesh Options”, **bake the model**. You might also click “Force double-sided baking” as well as playing with the Max smoothing angle and checking Dynamic Subdivison. Put Quality boost into the + area. Then bake it—“baking” will take hours on most computers.

The “Eye” material uses a Poser reflection map; since Vue has a built-in environment, it’s better to use the Vue one and cut down the reflection to 20-50% depending on light in the scene.

I also often find in better to also cut down the “Highlight Global Intensity” to 40% and “Highlight Global Size” to 50% on Plumage, Wings and Beak materials in the “Highlights” section.

## In Carrara...

Carrara can have multiple issues with Songbird Remix models. The most common are scaling issues; Carrara does not accept internal Propagating Scale (a scale variable tied to the parent that tells all attached children to do the same) so will not import Poser files correctly. Songbird ReMix uses Propagating Scale in the wings, feet and head regions. Most issues seem to be tied to the Foot Scaling. Determine the amount of scaling in the foot and scale the 8 talon parts to match each foot.

The second most common problem is weird shapes or depressions in the rump area. This is because Carrara does not understand how to interrupt the scaling of the thighs. The best and easiest solution is to set each Thigh parts YScale to 100%.

I have seen some issues (primarily with the wings exploding) when importing a Poser scene file (.pz3) into Carrara. This doesn't appear to happen all of the time. I've corrected it by going into the BODY and each WING part and turning off/on the Wing Fold morph and making sure the BODY section's Wing Shapes are all in the default setting.

There is a Carrara Fix package available in the SongbirdReMix.com downloads that provides foot scaling poses.

## In DAZ|Studio...

DAZ Studio can have multiple issues with Songbird Remix models when using the Poser Version. Download and Use the DAZ|Studio version. You will find the installation in the CONTENT folder of DAZ|Studio, not the RUNTIME folder as most of your installed content is found. The primary issue with using the Poser version with DAZ|Studio is Scaling; DAZ|Studio does not accept internal Propagating Scale (a scale variable tied to the parent that tells all attached children to do the same) so will not import Poser files correctly. Songbird ReMix uses Propagating Scale in the wings, feet and head regions. Most issues seem to be tied to the Foot Scaling. Determine the amount of scaling in the foot and scale the 8 talon parts to match each foot.

The second issue is that material setting will be off. The DAZ|Studio version has Material files tuned to DAZ|Studio included. This version also has Character files so it is possible to load the Poser .cr2, then apply the DAZ|Studio character setting which will fix the scaling and material issues. This method can be helped if updated Songbird Remix CR2s are available.

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