

Songbird  
ReMix

# A Bird in the Hand

Paired Poses with Humans & Birds

Compatible with Genesis, M5, V5, M4, V4 & a wide variety of Songbird ReMix Birds

# The Nature of Paired Poses

Poses that interact with each other need a common location. In this “Bird in a Hand” set, the Human figures are loaded at a default (0,0,0) BODY and Hip coordinate. The Bird pose is located at an X-Y-Z BODY and Hip coordinate relative to its Human counterpart. In order to move the set as a whole, the Bird model should be “parented” to the human model. Then the human model (using the BODY section) can be moved and placed where desired.

## Difficulties with the Songbird ReMix series

There is a reason why paired pose sets have never been released for the Songbird ReMix series. The very nature of the bird shapes makes paired poses difficult if not impossible. The main issues are the physical size of the bird and the length of its legs which vary from species to species. This pose set resolves this issue by hard-coding the BODY scale and the YScale of the shins of the bird selected in Perched poses (Avian-Master, Bird-in-Hand, Pet-Bird, Storybook and Yoho-Yoho). These poses will force the Songbird ReMix birds to a set size (regardless of its true size) and should be applied AFTER creating the bird. In Poser, birds with Conforming Parts, will need their conforming parts manually scaled to the bird size as well. DAZ Studio does this automatically.

The poses will give you hints as to the type of bird you’ll want to use by its size information located on the pose icon. A “Small Songbird” would be a Finch or Sparrow size. A “Medium Songbird” would be a jay, cardinal or towhee size and a “Large Songbird” falls into the Crow, Raven and Jackdaw size. But these sizes are simply suggestions, there’s nothing to stop you from creating a Raven-sized Hummingbird or Finch-sized Bluejay.

If you want to retain the bird’s true scale, load the pose first and then apply the MAT/MOR settings to the bird. Use the X-Y-Z Translation in the BODY part to adjust the bird to its human counterpart.

There are several good practices to follow when posing a Songbird ReMix bird.

- BODY vs. Hip parameters...
  - Never use X-Y-Z Translation in the HIP section to place the bird—instead use the BODY X-Y-Z Translation
  - To Rotate the bird use yRotate in the BODY section
  - To make a bird more upright, use the Bend parameter in the Hip Section.
  - Use the Hip’s Bend, Twist and Side Parameters to shift body weight when IK is being used.

# The Relationship of Birds and Humans

Birds have been at the heart of human culture since the Neolithic Age. Through the ages, it is the most referenced life-form outside of our own species. From the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Mexican Aztecs, birds were used to depict the nation's central deities. The ancient Egyptians worshipped many bird-gods; Horus (hawk), Nekhbet (Vulture), Thoth (Ibis) and Maat (Ostrich). Pharaonic law made the Egyptian Vulture the first legally protected bird in history—harming the bird was punishable by death. The ancient Greek and Roman architecture with eagle statues were a universal feature. The eagle symbolized Zeus in Greece and Jupiter in Rome. The Meso-American cultures worshipped the god Huitzilopochtli, represented as a hummingbird. Within the Christian religion, angels are shown with feathered wings and the holy spirit is frequently depicted as a white dove.

Today, birds continue to symbolize nations from the Macaw of Brazil to Phoenix of Greece to the Eagle of the United States and dozens of other countries.

Our connections with birds far exceed any religious or national symbolism. Birds are considered by scientists to be the key indicator in environment sciences. Drops in bird populations mirrors drops in habitat quality. Many scientists believe our own existence is linked as to bird populations. Since 1960, worldwide bird populations have declined from 60% to 90% in most species. Currently 1 in 6 species of all non-human life are on the brink of extinction.

Our dependence of birds is considerable. The combined value of 17 different ecosystem services that birds provide - such as pollination and water catchment - is estimated between \$16-54 trillion per year worldwide, which is around twice the entire world's economic output per year.

Birds are a major economic force for humans... from the purchase of domestic bird as pets to birdseed, bird feeders, birdhouses, bird field guides, binoculars, birding trips and more, the "bird" business generates hundreds of billions of dollars. Humans spend more on birds than cats and dogs combined. Just within the United States,



birdwatchers generated \$85 billion in economic benefits, produced \$13 billion in tax revenues and helped create 863,406 jobs (2001 USFWS Study). There are currently over 46 million birdwatchers in the US (conservatively defined as having taken a trip a mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing and identifying birds or tried to identify birds around the home. USFWS, 2001 survey).

Apart from symbolism, science and economics, birds provide something much more simple benefit. Birds are the more common wildlife experience we have on a daily basis. Walk outside—you'll see a bird. Birds are a direct connection to "wildness" and "freedom" .

*"Some birds are not meant to be caged, that's all. Their feathers are too bright, their songs too sweet and wild. So you let them go, or when you open the cage to feed them they somehow fly out past you. And the part of you that knows it was wrong to imprison them in the first place rejoices, but still, the place where you live is that much more drab and empty for their departure."* — Stephen King (author)

*"Birds should be saved for utilitarian reasons; and, moreover, they should be saved because of reasons unconnected with dollars and cents... The extermination of the Passenger Pigeon meant that mankind was just so much poorer... And to lose the chance to see frigate-birds soaring in circles above the storm, or a file of pelicans winging their way homeward across the crimson afterglow of the sunset, or a myriad of terns flashing in the bright light of midday as they hover in a shifting maze above the beach— why, the loss is like the loss of a gallery of the masterpieces of the artists of old time."* --Theodore Roosevelt, 1916 (US President)

*"Feed the birds in winter; in return, they will feed your soul with the look of gratitude!"* — Mehmet Murat ildan (author)

*"I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes."* -Charles Lindbergh (aviator)

*"The very idea of a bird is a symbol and a suggestion to the poet. A bird seems to be at the top of the scale, so vehement and intense his life. . . . The beautiful vagabonds, endowed with every grace, masters of all climes, and knowing no bounds -- how many human aspirations are realized in their free, holiday-lives -- and how many suggestions to the poet in their flight and song!"* --John Burroughs (Naturalist)

*"There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before."* --Robert Lynd (British Politician)

*"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children."* --John James Audubon

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