

Aginjibagwesi (Goldfinch)

*Maajii-Ojibwemowag (They Begin to Speak Ojibwe) – ANA Language Project
Teacher/Caregiver Supplemental Document*

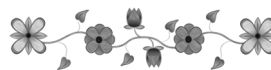


“Tony” by Blaire Truer

“The goldfinch is a constant in my work. It is the language bird in Ojibwe culture. In my work however, I’ve expanded their representation to include the entire Ojibwe cultural and spiritual “tool box” if you will, which also includes the language. The birds represent that depth of knowledge and understanding that my family and other Ojibwe people who follow a traditional path possess about who they are, where they come from, and what their purpose is while they are here. This portrait is about my husband’s life work as an educator and an activist preserving his language and culture for generations to come. The goldfinches are flying out of his mouth as he bestows these gifts to our son.”

-Blaire Truer

Aginjibagwesi Facts

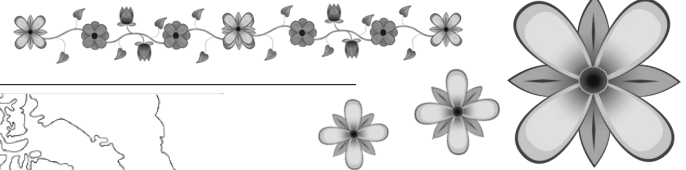


- Aginjibagwesiwag are very strict vegetarians. Besides accidentally ingesting an insect once in awhile, they stick to consuming vegetation.
- While the average lifespan of a wild aginjibagwesi is 2-4 years, the oldest known aginjibagwesi lived to be 10 years old! In 2007, Maryland researchers were putting tags on aginjibagwesiwas to track and study them. One of the tagged birds was confirmed to be 10 years and 9 months old.
- Aginjibagwesiwag have a very unique flight call. When they’re ready to take flight, they will make a four-syllable call that sounds like “po-ta-to-chip.”
- Aginjibagwesiwag use spiderwebs to build their nests. The webbing allows twigs and branches to stick together, and the nests are even able to temporarily hold water in them.
- The little yellow bineshiwag have their own insulation! At the end of summer, aginjibagwesiwag grow a soft undercoat of feathers that helps keep themselves warm throughout the winter.
- While they do grow an undercoat to help with colder winter months, these bineshiwage still prefer to migrate to the south as they cannot survive well in temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

Giiwedning Set: Aginjibagwesi Ojibwe Language Word List

- **Nindizhinikaaz**– I am called
- **Nindaaw**– I am
- **Ojibwemodaa**– let’s speak Ojibwe
- **Goshkozidaa**- let’s wake up
- **Banajaanyag**– little birds
- **Baakadawaabiyok**– open your eyes
- **Giziibiigiingweyok**– wash your face
- **Giziibiigininjiiyok**– wash your hands
- **Asemaadaa**– lets offer asema
- **Omaa**– here
- **Agamiing**- at the lake; at the water; on the shore
- **Gigizhebaa-wisinidaa** – let’s eat breakfast
- **Wiigwaasi**- a birch
- **Miinikaan**– a seed
- **Minopogwad**– it tastes good
- **Wewiibitaayok**– hurry
- **Mii**– It is, it is that
- **Apii**– at the time; then; when
- **Miinawaa**– and
- **Onow**– these

Aginjibagwesi Location



Aginjibagwesiwag can be found across most of Turtle Island. The top colored section represents where they like to breed. The middle section is where they reside year round. The southern portion is where the nonbreeding aginjibagwesiwag resides, who looks a bit different than the breeding



The breeding aginjibagwesi with its signature yellow feathers



Non breeding aginjibagwesi with its yellow face and brown feathers

Giiwedining Set: Aginjibagwesi Book Ojibwe Language Word List Continued

- **Gikinoo'amaagoziyeg**– they go to school
- **Bizaan-ayaadaa**– let's be quiet
- **Bizindaagedaa**– let's listen
- **Maadagindaasodaa**– let's start counting
- **Ninga-agindaanan**– I shall count
- **Aniibiishan**– leaves
- **Giminotaagozim**– you sound good
- **Ginitaa-ojibwemom**– you know how to speak Ojibwe
- **Ninooshkaachige**– I am windowing
- **Niwiidookage**– I am helping
- **Odamino yok**– go play
- **Agwajiing**– outside, outdoors
- **Baaga'adowedaa**– let's play lacrosse
- **Gibakadem Ina?**– Are you hungry?
- **Onaagoshi-wiisinidaa**– Let's eat supper
- **Gawishimodaa**– Let's go to bed
- **Minogwaamiyok**–

Sleep well

Want aginjibagwesiwag in your yard? Plant a garden for them!

Aginjibagwesiwag are seed eaters, so some great plants to grow in your yard to attract them would be:

- Sunflowers
- Coneflowers
- Milkweed
- Thistle plants
- Zinnias
- Dandelions



Aginjibagwesiwag will be attracted by bird feeders as well, just make sure to:

- Check to make sure seeds inside the feeder are not spoiled. Believe or not, seeds can rot and get mold, which isn't good for aginjibagwesiwag.
- Clean up hulls and spilled seed around the feeder. This will reduce the spread of diseases among aginjibagwesiwag and other ground foragers.



Extra Resources:

More Aginjibagwesi Information & Facts
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Goldfinch/overview
<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/american-goldfinch>
<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-attract-goldfinches-386247>



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