

# Kids at the Co-op

## DAVIS WILDLIFE

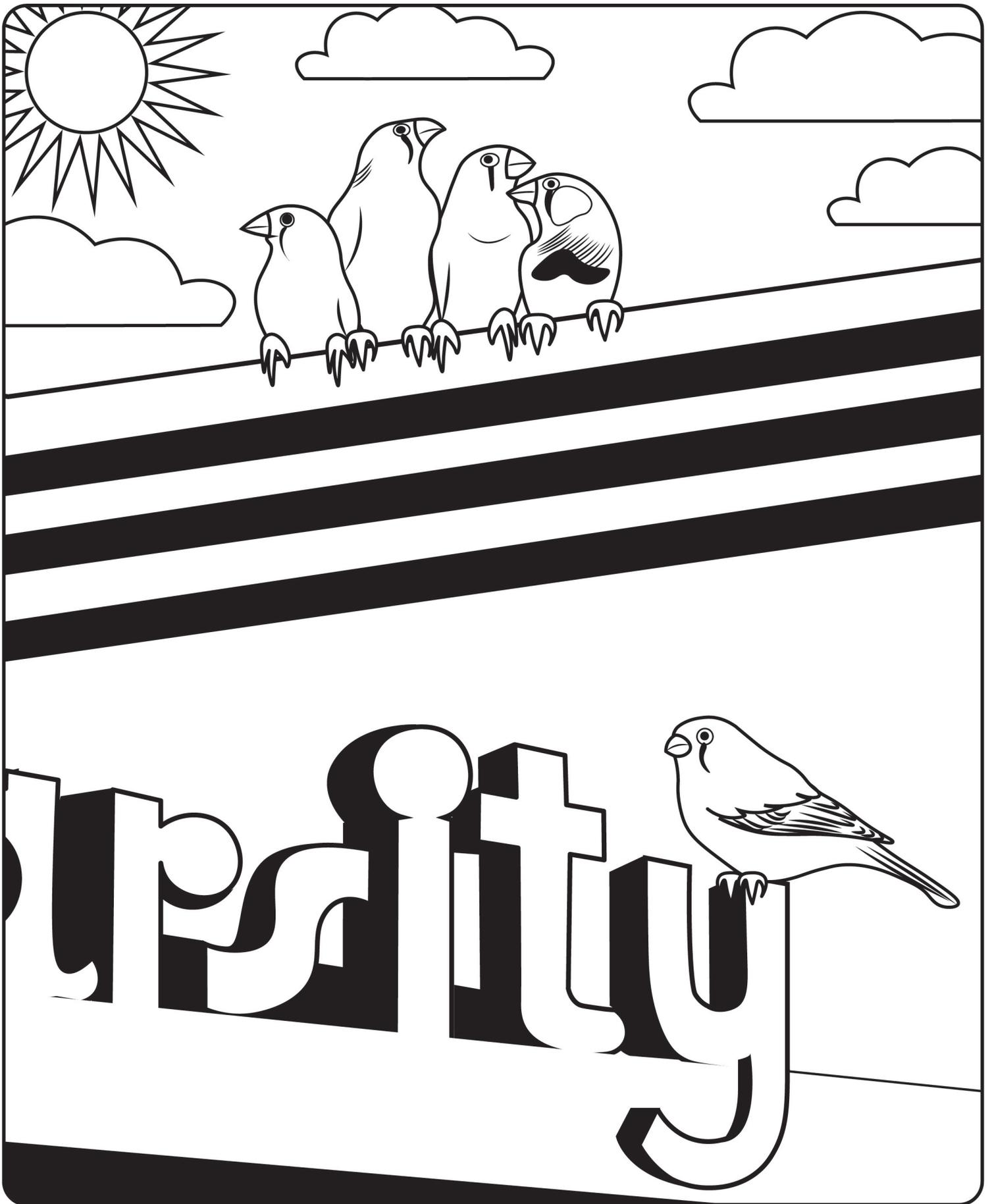
### Finches

Finches are small birds with squat little bodies. Their beaks are adapted for eating nuts and seeds, which means they like to hang around backyard bird feeders. Finches often have colorful plumage, or feathers, and live in a great range of habitats. Unlike other birds, most finches do not migrate. Instead, they stay in one place for their whole life. There are many kinds of finches that call Davis home, but the most common is the house finch.

House finches can be found just about everywhere in Davis. Male house finches are small and brown with rosey red feathers on their head and breast. Females are small too and covered in streaky shades of brown and tan. These are the little birds that hop around your picnic table waiting for crumbs to fall. While it is okay to set up a bird feeder to feed house finches bird food, never feed them people food. It can hurt them, lead to overpopulation, and unbalance the Davis ecosystem.

House finches look very similar to house sparrows. You can tell the difference by checking for black in the wings. House sparrows have a darker coloring with more black feathers in their wings. House finches have grayish beaks, while house sparrows' beaks are black or yellow.

Purple finches, lesser goldfinches, and American goldfinches live in Davis too. You probably won't see these birds hopping about Downtown. You can try to spot these at the Northstar Park ponds. Purple finches are rosey red all over. Lesser goldfinches have bright yellow bellies with grey feathers everywhere else. American goldfinches look very similar, but have bright yellow feathers all over with grey wingtips.



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