



Bird of the Month: Tufted Titmouse

Meet one of **LMT's** lively year-round residents, the **Tufted Titmouse**! With its perky crest and bold personality, this small songbird is a favorite among bird lovers.

The Tufted Titmouse is closely related to the Black-crested Titmouse of Texas and Mexico. Although the two species can hybridize where their ranges meet, they remain distinct due to differences in their calls and genetics.

Unlike many chickadees, the Tufted Titmouse doesn't form large winter flocks. Most pairs stay together on their territory all year. Sometimes a young bird from the previous brood sticks around to help—and in rare cases, even assists with raising the next generation.

Smart food savers!

In fall and winter, titmice cache food for later. They often grab just one seed at a time from feeders, shell it, and hide it nearby to survive colder months.

Home sweet home

Tufted Titmice nest in tree cavities, usually old woodpecker holes, since they can't make their own. Dead trees are important habitat! Nests are lined with soft materials—including hair from mammals like squirrels, pets, livestock, and even humans.

With lifespans reaching over 13 years in the wild, Tufted Titmice are a long-term part of our community. Keep an eye (and ear!) out for this spirited little bird right here in **LMT**.