If you want to bring birds to your own backyard, provide their favorite foods. They also need water, as well as shelter, like bushes or trees. Keep a notebook handy so you can keep track of who visits you!

### American Goldfinch
- Look for: short tail; yellow or brown; white bars on black wings; short, cone-shaped bill
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds, nyger
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: weedy fields and

![American Goldfinch](image)

### American Robin
- Look for: round body with long legs and tail; red-orange stomach & chest; white streaks on dark throat
- Foods: earthworms, fruits, berries
- Visits Iowa: spring
- Habitat: gardens, parks, fields, forests, pastures, and backyards

![American Robin](image)

### Baltimore Oriole
- Look for: orange or yellow belly; black head, wings, and tail; silver bill
- Feeder Foods: grape jelly, oranges, nectar
- Visits Iowa: summer
- Habitat: open areas with tall trees

![Baltimore Oriole](image)

### Black-capped Chickadee
- Look for: big head with black cap and throat; white cheeks; gray back, wings, and tail
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: anywhere with trees or woody shrubs

![Black-capped Chickadee](image)

### Cardinal
- Look for: crest of feathers on head; short, thick bill; males bright red with black around bill; females pale brown with red markings on wings, tail, and crest;
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: shrubby areas with people, like parks and backyards

![Cardinal](image)
Downy Woodpecker
- Look for: straight bill; small body; checkered black and white; white stripe down back; males have small red patch on back of head
- Feeder Foods: suet, peanut butter
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: woodlands, parks and backyards

Grackle
- Look for: large, black, glossy body; purple-blue head; gold eye
- Feeder Foods: white millet, cracked corn
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: open areas like fields, feedlots, and pastures

Mourning Dove
- Look for: small head; slender, long tail; plump, light brown body with black spots on wings
- Feeder Foods: white millet, cracked corn
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: anywhere but deep woods

Red-winged Blackbird
- Look for: Males glossy black with red-and-yellow shoulder patches; females streaky brown
- Foods: grains, seeds, insects
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: fresh and saltwater marshes, old fields, or pastures

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Look for: Large, pale, cone-shaped beak, males have rosy-red patch on breast, black head and shoulders, and white belly; females light brown with black streaks on sides, breast, and crown; pale stripe through eye
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds, safflower
- Visits Iowa: summer
- Habitat: forests

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Look for: slender, long bill; short wings; bright green on back and crown, with gray-white underparts; males have bright red throat
- Feeder Foods: sugar water, nectar
- Visits Iowa: summer
- Habitat: open woodlands, forest edges, and gardens

White-breasted Nuthatch
- Look for: large head with almost no neck; long, narrow bill; gray-blue back with white face and underparts; black or gray cap and neck feathers that look like a little hood
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds, peanuts
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: mature woods, particularly with deciduous trees