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**
- Short, notched tail
- White bars on black wings
- Short, cone-shaped bill
- Spring males bright yellow with black forehead
- Females and winter birds dull yellow or brown with black wings
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds, nyjer
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: weedy fields, floodplains, and backyards

**American Robin**
- Large, round body with long legs and tail
- Gray-brown with warm orange stomach & breast
- White streaks on dark throat
- In flight, will show white patches on lower belly and under tail
- Foods: earthworms, fruits, berries
- Visits Iowa: spring
- Habitat: gardens, parks, fields, forests, pastures, and backyards

**Baltimore Oriole**
- Bright orange or yellow on belly, shoulders, tip of tail, and rump
- Black head, throat, wings, and tail
- Males much brighter in color than female
- One white wingbar on males; two on females
- Silvery, pointed bill
- Feeder Foods: grape jelly, oranges, nectar
- Visits Iowa: summer
- Habitat: open areas with tall trees, like parks and backyards

**Black-capped Chickadee**
- Oversized round head with a black cap and throat
- White cheeks
- Gray back, wings, and tail
- Whitish underside and buff sides
- Small body with long, narrow tail
- Very curious and active
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: anywhere with trees or woody shrubs, like backyards

**Blue Jay**
- Crest on head
- Broad, rounded tail
- White or light gray underneath
- Larger than robins, but smaller than crows
- Various shades of blue, black, and white above
- Holds seeds or nuts in feet to peck them open
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds, peanuts
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: forest edges, especially where there are oaks

**Cardinal**
- Males bright red all over with black around bill
- Females pale brown with red markings on wings, tail, and crest; black face
- Large crest of feathers on head
- Short, thick, red-orange bill
- Make a loud, metallic chirp
- Feeder Foods: sunflower seeds
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: shrubby areas with people, like parks and backyards
Downy Woodpecker
- Straight, chisel-like bill
- Small, not much bigger than a chickadee
- Checkered black and white
- White stripe down back
- Males have small red patch on back of head
- Looks like Hairy woodpecker, but smaller
- Feeder Foods: suet, peanut butter
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: woodlands, parks and backyards

Grackle
- Large, black birds with glossy body
- Purplish-blue head
- Males glossier than females
- Bright golden eye
- Flat head
- Long legs and tail
- Feeder Foods: white millet, cracked corn
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: open areas like agricultural fields, feedlots, parks, and backyards

Mourning Dove
- Small head and bill
- Slender, long, pointed tail
- Plump, light brown body with black spots on wings
- Black-bordered, white tips on tail
- Soft, drawn-out calls
- Feeder Foods: white millet, cracked corn
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: anywhere but deep woods

Red-winged Blackbird
- Stocky and broad-shouldered
- Males glossy black with scarlet-and-yellow shoulder patches they can puff up or hide
- Females streaky brown
- Slender, cone-shaped bill
- Foods: grains, seeds, insects
- Visits Iowa: year-round
- Habitat: fresh and saltwater marshes, old fields, or pastures

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Large, pale, cone-shaped beak
- Males have rosy-red patch on breast, black head and shoulders, white belly and patches on wings
- 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
- Slender, down-curving bill
- Short wings don’t reach tail when bird is sitting
- Bright emerald or yellow-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
- Large head with almost no neck and a 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