

10 Common Birds to Look For

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



10 common backyard birds you may see

It's nice to know the names of the birds that visit your backyard. Below, we list 10 common backyard birds that are found in large areas of North America, along with the places they live and their favorite foods. Are any of these birds currently using your backyard feeders and birdbaths? If you would like to see more of these birds in your yard, follow the tip given for each species.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

EATS: Seeds, insects, and berries.

LIVES: Open areas with some shrubs and trees: farms, suburban yards, and gardens.

TIPS: Will visit feeders for thistle seed and sunflower seed.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

AMERICAN ROBIN

EATS: Earthworms, but will also eat insects, fruit, and berries.

LIVES: From suburban yards, to plains, to wooded areas.

TIPS: May visit a fruit feeder. They love freshly watered gardens, where they are likely to find their favorite food, earthworms.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

RED BREASTED NUTHATCH

EATS: Insects from tree trunks. Also eats seeds of conifer trees.

LIVES: Coniferous or mixed woods.

TIPS: Visits feeders for sunflower seed and suet.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

CEDAR WAXWING

EATS: Insects, fruits, and berries.

LIVES: Open rural or suburban areas.

TIPS: Visits chokecherry, mulberry, and other fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

EATS: Insects, weed seeds.

LIVES: Marshy lands, meadows all over the U.S.

TIPS: Visits feeders for cracked corn and seed mixes.



MOURNING DOVE

EATS: Seeds of weed, grass, and grain, and also insects.

LIVES: Almost any open habitat.

TIPS: Eats seeds scattered on ground from feeders and visits ground feeders, too.



SONG SPARROW

EATS: Seeds, insects, and fruit.

LIVES: Shrubs found at the edge of open areas, such as meadows, lawns, or streams.

TIPS: May visit a feeder with seed scattered on ground or a ground feeder.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

EATS: Insects, seeds, and berries.

LIVES: Suburbs, wooded areas, and farmland in the northern and middle states.

TIPS: Commonly visits feeders for sunflower seed. Watch them hold the seed in their feet and crack it open.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

EATS: Insects, fruits, berries, seeds, and spiders.

LIVES: Woods, suburban areas, and shrubs near open areas.

TIPS: Visits feeders for sunflower, safflower, and cracked corn.



HOUSE FINCH

EATS: Weed seeds, blossoms, fruits, and buds.

LIVES: Urban and suburban areas, open areas with some trees, canyons, semi-dry brush habitats.

TIPS: Visits hanging feeders for sunflower seed.



