

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

Backyard BIRDS

CHECKLIST

See if you can spot these common backyard birds:

1 AMERICAN CROW

American Crows will gang up on a predator to chase it away. If you see a mob of crows harassing a larger bird, you might get a glimpse of a hawk or an owl.

2 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Thistle is an important source of food and nesting material for the American Goldfinch. It can cling to narrow stems and delicate seed heads, sometimes upside down.

3 AMERICAN ROBIN

Cocking its head from side to side, the American Robin seems to be listening for worms. Actually, it spots them by sight and pulls them from the ground.

4 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

The Black-capped Chickadee may become quite tame and can learn to eat from your hand. It's named for its call, which sounds like "schick-a-dee."

5 BLUE JAY

The Blue Jay can be noisy and aggressive at feeders. It also has a habit of robbing other birds' nests and eating the eggs and young birds.

6 COMMON GRACKLE

Though the Common Grackle looks black from a distance, its feathers shimmer in glossy blue, purple, bronze, and green.

7 DOWNY WOODPECKER

The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest woodpecker in North America, similar in size to a Chickadee with which it often flocks.

8 EUROPEAN STARLING

The most common songbird in North America, the European Starling travels in large groups, often with blackbirds and grackles.

9 HOUSE SPARROW

The House Sparrow is a noisy and aggressive bird will steal nest sites from native hole-nesting birds.

10 MOURNING DOVE

The Mourning Dove's wings and tail make a whistling sound during flight, especially when the bird takes off.

11 NORTHERN CARDINAL

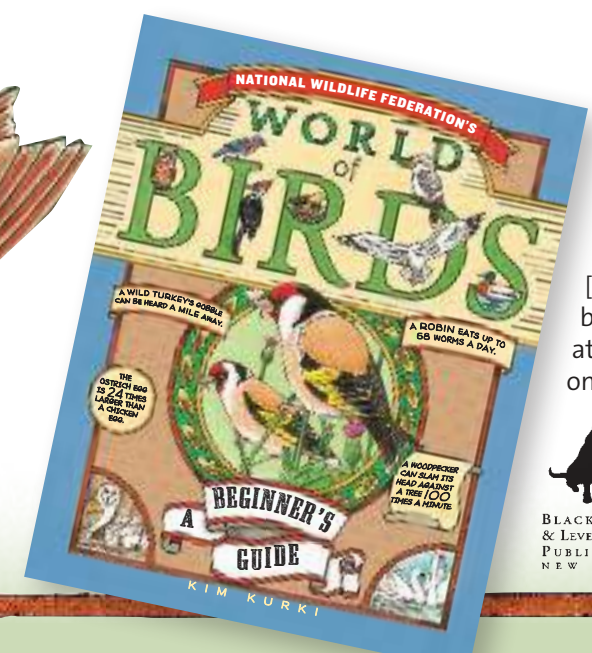
A male Northern Cardinal will fiercely defend his feeding territory. You may see him fighting his reflection in a car mirror or window, trying to scare off the "other" bird.

12 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

The male Red-winged Blackbird can hide his red feathers when he searches for food. It eats mostly insects, as many as a trillion a year.

13 TUFTED TITMOUSE

The Tufted Titmouse lines its nest with fur, sometimes plucked from living animals.



FROM
National Wildlife Federation's World of Birds
 [ISBN: 978-1-57912-969-9]
 by Kim Kurki, available at bookstores everywhere on June 6, 2014.

