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**B**ackyard Birds of New York is a handy expert guide to identifying, attracting, and providing habitat for the top 25 wild birds most likely to be seen in yards and neighborhoods throughout New York. Here is everything you need to know about creating the ultimate backyard bird sanctuary.

Includes:

- ◆ Bird identification marks
- ◆ Specific bird behavior
- ◆ Nesting and migration patterns
- ◆ Types of birdsongs
- ◆ Tips on bird baths and favorite bird foods
- ◆ Plants and trees to attract specific birds
- ◆ Easy bird index

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BACKYARD BIRDS OF NEW YORK

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# BACKYARD BIRDS OF New York

How to Identify and Attract the Top 25 Birds



Bill Fenimore

BACKYARD BIRDS OF

# California

How to Identify and Attract the Top 25 Birds

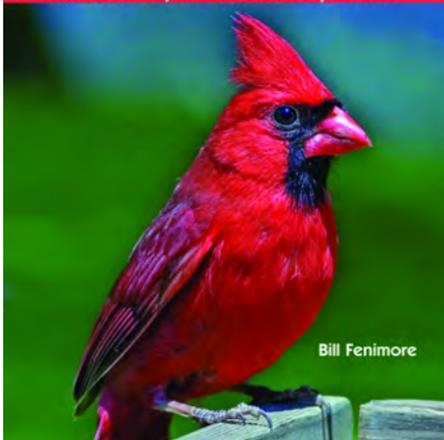


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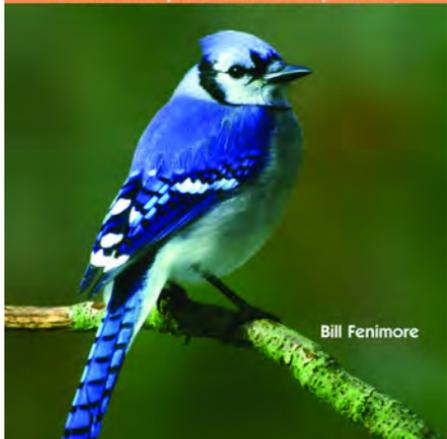


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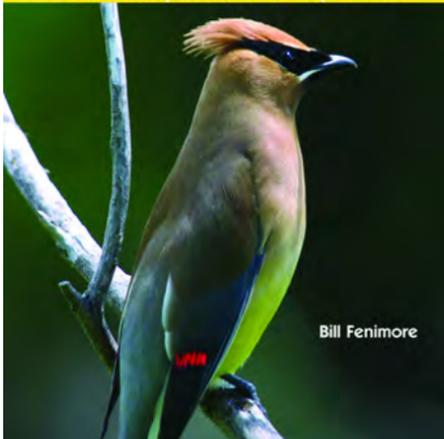


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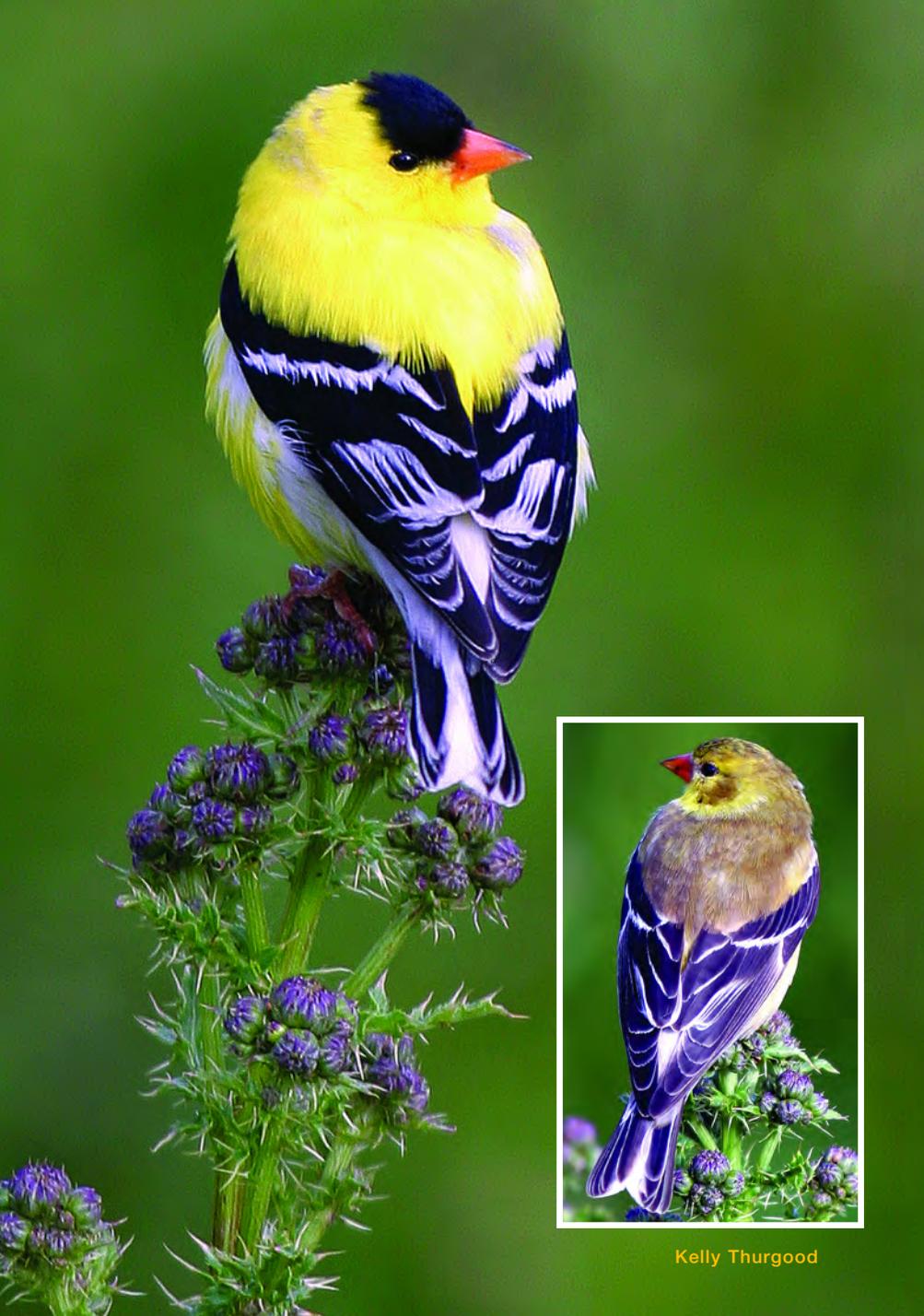
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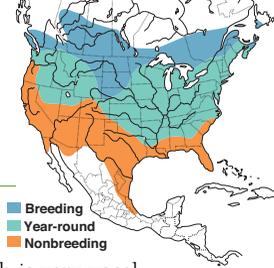
Bill Fenimore



Kelly Thurgood

## American Goldfinch

*Carduelis tristis*



**DESCRIPTION:** The American goldfinch is the beautiful yellow “canary” of backyard habitats. Adult male breeding plumage is a bright yellow, set off by black wings with white wing bars and a black cap. The female is a grayish brown with an all-yellow head.

Many backyard observers do not recognize the winter goldfinch when it loses its bright yellow breeding plumage. It molts into a rather drab grayish or brownish plumage so that its energy goes into maintaining the body rather than bright feathers during winter.

**BEHAVIOR:** The goldfinch is a flocking bird in winter that gathers around backyard feeders and habitats. It feeds on seed-producing flowers, like dandelion and weed seeds. A shallow water feature where it can bathe and drink is a welcome mat for the goldfinch.

**SONG:** The goldfinch is very vocal, especially in flight where its call note is likened to the mnemonic “po-tato-chip” or “per-chick-oree, perchickoree.”

**HABITAT:** Prefers open areas with trees and shrubs. Backyards provide ideal habitats. Easily attracted to feeders and water features.

**NESTING:** Nest is woven plant material with plant down, especially from the thistle. The goldfinch incorporates spider silk and caterpillar webbing in its nest construction. Four to six bluish-white eggs are incubated by the female for 10–12 days. Fledging takes place within 11–17 days. One or two broods per year. Both parents feed young.

**RANGE:** Throughout the continental United States.

**SIZE:** 5 inches with a wingspan of 8–9 inches.



### To Attract:

Use Nyjer and black oil sunflower seed. Nyjer seed in socks or MoBi Mesh screen feeders are an ideal way to attract

these colorful songbirds.



Hummingbird	Wren	Sparrow	Starling	Robin	Dove	Crow
3 3/4"	4 3/4"	6"	8 1/2"	10"	12"	18"



George Jett

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird

*Archilochus colubris*



**DESCRIPTION:** The ruby-throated hummingbird is a flying jewel. The male has an iridescent ruby throat called a gorget when it is flushed. The throat looks black when not lit up, contrasting with a white chest and green sides. The tail is black. The bill is long, straight, and black. The bird has a green crown with green upperparts. The female has green upperparts and white underparts. She has white outer tips on her tail feathers.

**BEHAVIOR:** The ruby-throated hummingbird feeds on the nectar from wildflowers, which it helps pollinate. It will also take insects and spiders, particularly when feeding young, as a source of protein. It will rob insects from spiderwebs and hawk insects in flight. It will also take sap from sapsucker wells and insects trapped in the sap. Males fly a

pendulum display flight that forms a 180-degree arc.

**SONG:** Rapid chatter; twitter notes.

**HABITAT:** Suburban landscapes, parks, and gardens, fields with wildflowers.

**NESTING:** Female builds a small cup nest from soft plant material, thistle down, and lichen, bound together with spider webbing. The nest is just large enough to contain the jellybean-sized eggs. Two white eggs are incubated for 11-16 days by the female. Altricial young (born naked, eyes closed, and helpless) fledge within 22 days.

**RANGE:** Throughout the eastern United States and west to the Mississippi River.

**SIZE:** 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches with a wingspan of 4  $\frac{1}{4}$ –4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches.



### To Attract:

Offer nectar made from water and sugar (4:1 ratio of water to sugar). Do not use red food dye. Boil water 2 minutes at a rolling boil. Turn off heat. Slowly pour sugar into the hot water while stirring until sugar melts and goes into solution. Cool. Make more than you need and store extra in refrigerator. Change nectar every 3-4 days so that it remains fresh. Specialty retailers store other a convenient liquid nectar or quick-dissolving powder. Plant flowers and vines with tube- or bell-shaped blossoms.



Hummingbird 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Wren 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Sparrow 6" Starling 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Robin 10" Dove 12" Crow 18"

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Judd Patterson

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

*Melanerpes carolinus*



**DESCRIPTION:** The red-bellied woodpecker has black and white barring down the back. It has a red crown and nape with a pale buffy chest and face. The red belly for which it is named is not always seen but is low on its belly and between the legs when visible.

**BEHAVIOR:** A very vocal woodpecker that drums in the spring to establish a breeding territory. Red-bellied woodpeckers eat insects, seeds, suet, berries and fruits, and sap taken from sapsucker wells.

**SONG:** Loud repeated *churr*, and *chuck, chuck*.

**HABITAT:** Forests and forest edges; swamps; parks and suburban landscapes with trees.

**NESTING:** Both sexes excavate a cavity-nesting chamber. Three to eight white eggs are incubated by both parents for 11-14 days. Young fledge within 27 days.

**RANGE:** Northern and southeastern United States into the Midwest.

**SIZE:** 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches with a wingspan of 15-18 inches.



### To Attract:

Offer suet, shelled tree nuts and peanuts, and hulled sunflower seeds.



Hummingbird 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Wren 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Sparrow 6" Starling 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " Robin 10" Dove 12" Crow 18"

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