

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 also get a glimpse of a hawk or an owl.

2 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.

3 DOWNY WOODPECKER

The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest woodpecker in North America, similar in size to a Chickadee with which it can be seen at backyard feeders.

4 EUROPEAN STARLING

For winter feeding, some starlings will gather in huge flocks with grackles, cowbirds, and other blackbirds, sometimes numbering in the millions.

5 MOURNING DOVE

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

6 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.

7 TUFTED TITMOUSE

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

8 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.

9 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."

10 AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

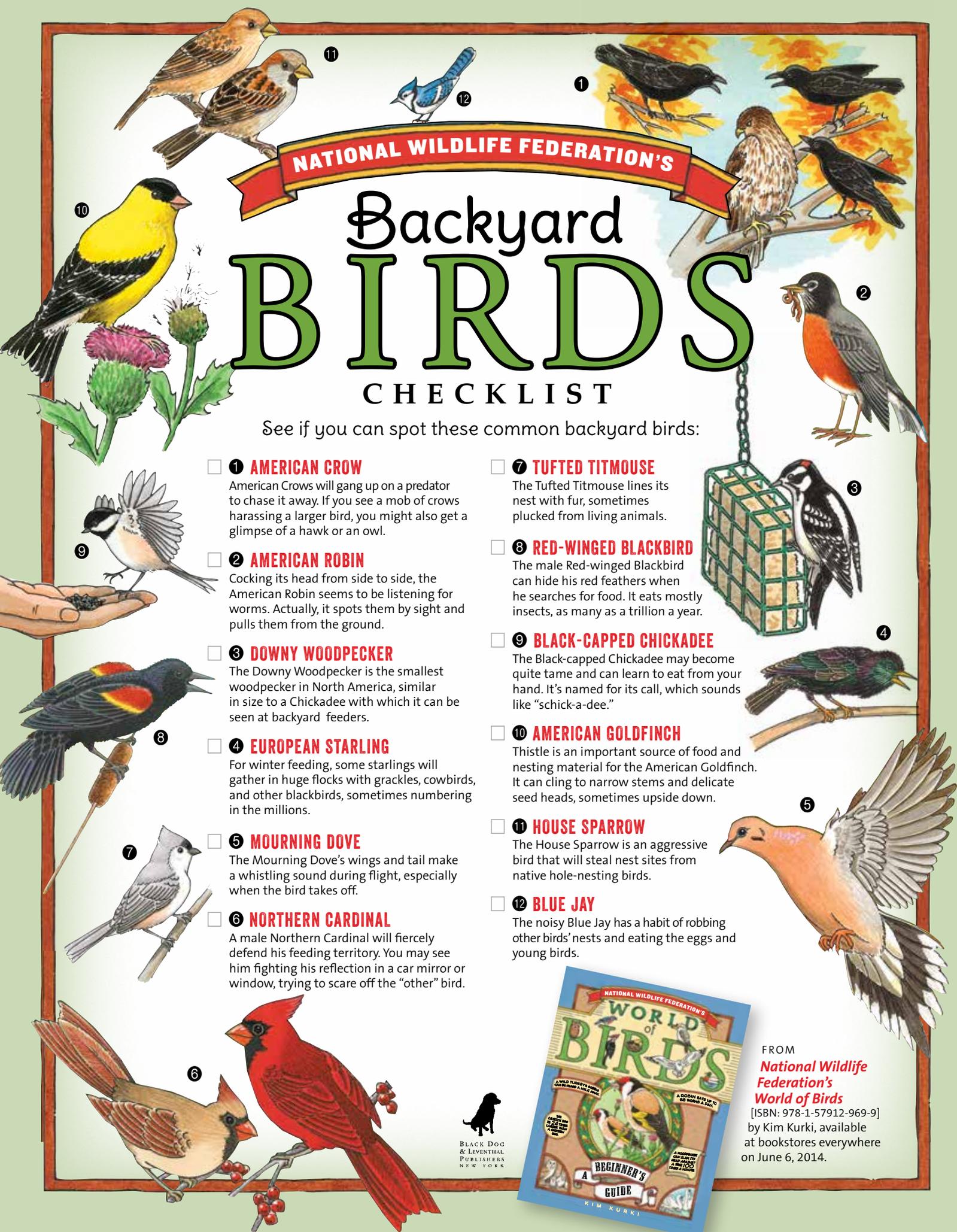
Thistle is an important source of food and nesting material for the American Goldfinch. It can cling to narrow stems and delicate seed heads, sometimes upside down.

11 HOUSE SPARROW

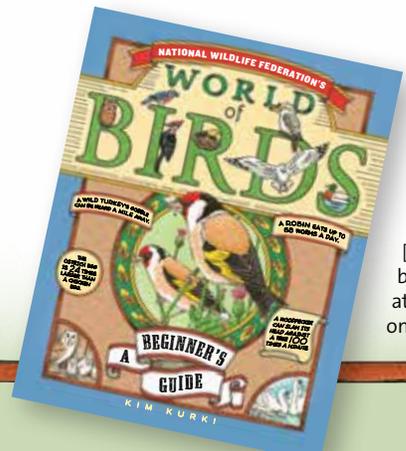
The House Sparrow is an aggressive bird that will steal nest sites from native hole-nesting birds.

12 BLUE JAY

The noisy Blue Jay has a habit of robbing other birds' nests and eating the eggs and young birds.



BLACK DOG & LEVENTHAL PUBLISHERS NEW YORK



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.