

Common Birds in Iowa

Use this as a reference for winter bird counts

White-breasted Nuthatch

Males and Females look the same

Small bird about the size of a sparrow

Food preference:

Sunflower, peanuts, suet



Downy Woodpecker

(watch for its twin the Hairy Woodpecker)

Males and Females look the same

Small woodpecker about the size of a sparrow

Food preference:

Suet feeders, black oil sunflower, millet, peanuts, chunky peanut butter



Hairy Woodpecker

Male and Females look similar

Larger than the Downy
woodpecker

(Look at next slide of size comparison)

Food:

Suet, peanuts, black oil sunflower



Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Male and females look similar

Medium sized woodpecker

Food:

Suet (Winter), peanuts, nectar
(summer)



House Sparrow



← Male

Female →

Small bird found in abundance at feeders in winter



Food: any birdseed, millet, corn, sunflower seed

House Finch

Female (Top) Male (Bottom)

Small bird, about sparrow size

Food:

Black oil sunflower seed, safflower,
Nyjer



American Goldfinch

Males and Females look the same during the winter months

Small bird size of sparrow

Food:

Sunflower and nyjer



Dark-eyed Junco

Males and females are similar in pattern

Small bird, sparrow size or smaller

Food:

Cracked corn, crushed peanuts, millet,
oats, milo, sunflower



Black-capped Chickadee

Males and Females look similar

Smaller than a sparrow

Food:

Safflower, sunflower, nyjer, suet,
peanuts, mealworms



Purple Finch (RARE)

Female (top) Male (bottom)

Small, about sparrow size

Food:

Millet, nyjer, black oil sunflower, hulled sunflower seed



