



# Who's Who at the Bird Feeder?

**Birds Most Commonly Seen at Bird Feeders in Northern New York**

## House Finch

The House Finch is a small bird, but notice the strong, thick beak for cracking seeds! The male has the red coloring, and the female does not. House Finches look similar to Purple Finches (shown in the next slide), but with more breast striping and less red on the male bird.



Photo:



## Purple Finch

Do you see the difference between these birds and the House Finches? The male's red color goes all the way down onto his belly and wings. Notice also the females' stronger white stripes from their eye to their shoulder.

Females

Male

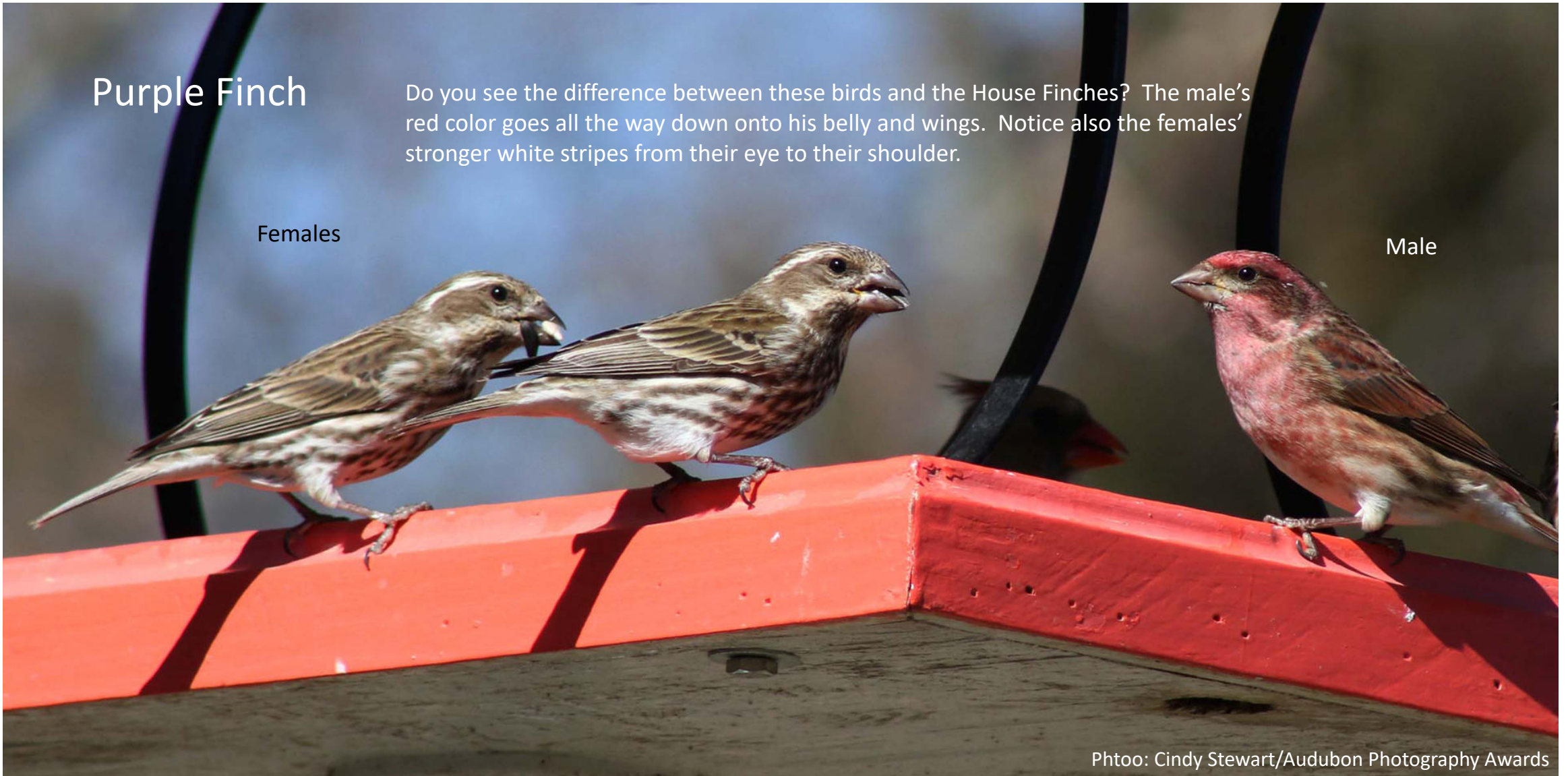


Photo: Cindy Stewart/Audubon Photography Awards

# House Sparrow

Do you see the reddish brown patch on the male bird, and the bit of pink on the female?



Photo: Ian Preston/Flicker (CC BY 2.0)



# White-throated Sparrow

You might see this sparrow on the ground under your feeder, or nearby in shrubs or trees mostly in the spring and fall. White-throated Sparrows may be tan or gray in color, with a white patch on the throat, a white stripe between two black stripes on the head, and yellow spots near the beak. They like to eat insects, too, so you might see them pushing and hopping in leaves to find food.



Photos: Doug Greenberg/Flicker (CC-BY-NC-ND-2.0)



# European Starling

In 1890, the Starling was brought to North America from Europe by humans. They quickly increased in number and are very common now. They have yellow beaks, and dark, spotted plumage. They often feed in large groups, or flocks.



Photo: Joey Herron, Great Backyard Bird Count



## Northern Cardinal

Cardinals are larger than finches and sparrows, and have feather tufts that stick up on their heads! Notice again that the male bird is bright in color, and the female is less colorful. Why do you think this is helpful to many birds?



## Black-capped Chickadee

Tiny and fast, these birds often like to grab a seed from the bird feeder and fly to a nearby branch to eat it!



Photo: Rick and Nora Bowers/VIREO



## White-breasted Nuthatch

Do you see how this bird is stockier with no black on its chin, more gray on its back, and has a longer, narrower beak than the Black-capped Chickadee? Look at the long toenails that help it hold on to move down a tree trunk!





## Blue Jay

Blue Jays are one of the larger birds at bird feeders. They tend to feed in pairs or groups, so other, smaller birds sometimes stay away while the Blue Jays feed.



Photo: Susan Kiesel/Audubon Photography Awards



## Dark-eyed Junco

These small birds will feed in bushes, on the ground and at feeders. We see them a lot in the winter time. Notice the almost completely gray head and back, white or light gray belly and the small, slightly pink beak.





# Mourning Dove

The Mourning Dove is a larger bird that likes to eat mostly on the ground under the bird feeder. This bird makes a low, gentle “coo” sound.





# American Goldfinch

The male Goldfinch is brightest yellow in the summer time, and more dull in color during the winter. Goldfinches tend to feed in groups.

Male, Breeding Plumage



Photo: Murray Head/Audubon Photography Awards

Male,  
Molting



Photo: Brian Kushner

Female

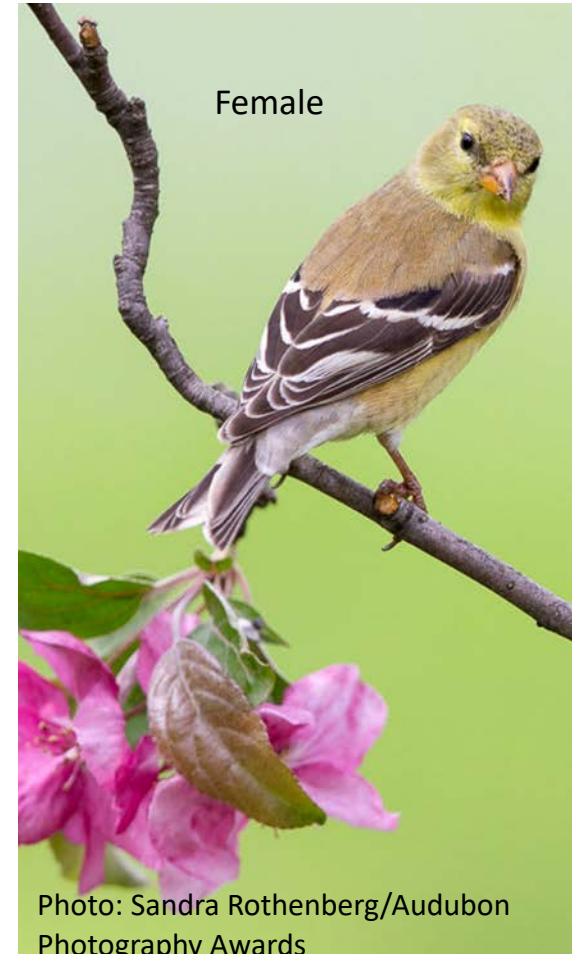


Photo: Sandra Rothenberg/Audubon Photography Awards

## Tufted Titmouse

This little bird has lots of energy, and likes to eat seeds, insects, and fruits on trees and shrubs. A Tufted Titmouse will feed both on and below a bird feeder, and likes to have bushes and trees nearby. They can open a seed holding it with their feet and pounding it with their beak.



Photo: Jocelyn Anderson/Audubon Photography Awards



Robins eat more earthworms and insects than they do seeds, so you will see them most often on the ground nearby. Notice their yellow beaks and orange-red breast and belly, especially on males in the Spring.

## American Robin



Photo: Seth Davis/Great Backyard Bird Count

# Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are about the size of Robins. They eat seeds, insects and berries. Look at their thick beaks! You might see these birds if you have trees, shrubs and water nearby your feeder.





## Downy Woodpecker

This is the smallest and most common woodpecker found at the feeder. Males have a red spot on the back of the head.

Photo: Erin Brady/Audubon Photography Awards

## Hairy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpeckers look a lot like Downy Woodpeckers, but are slightly larger with a longer beak. Males have a red spot on the back of the head.



Photo: Eugene Becks/Flicker (CC BY-ND 2.0)





Photo: Lynne A. Tweedle/Audubon Photography Awards

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

You may see this larger woodpecker at your feeder, especially if you have both seed and suet feeders. Most striking is the red stripe these birds have on their heads.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have become more common in our area in recent years. Even though they are named for the slight reddish coloring on their bellies, it is very hard to see.



To watch a live bird feeder on camera at Cornell University's Sapsucker Woods Campus,

Go to:

[www.allaboutbirds.org/cams](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams)

For more information about all kinds of birds, visit:

[www.audubon.org/bird-guide](http://www.audubon.org/bird-guide)

And/or

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide)