



Smithsonian  
National Zoological Park  
Conservation Biology Institute



# BIRDING ID RESOURCES

## WEB-BASED

The **Cornell Lab** of Ornithology



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

### All About Birds

- Great online guide to birds and bird watching
- In-depth information on 589 North American species

### eBird

- Powerful citizen science database recording avian biodiversity
- Ability to search for where birds are

**Audubon**

([audubon.org](http://audubon.org))

- Online field guide to North American birds
- Bird & Conservation news

([virginiabirds.org](http://virginiabirds.org))



- Resources for birders and a network of clubs/activities to connect with other birders and learn more about birds.
- Official checklist of all species documented in Virginia

([dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt](http://dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt))



- Organized trails of the best birding locations in Virginia's Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal regions

([aba.org](http://aba.org))



- Code of Birding Ethics
- How to Know the Birds blog
  - Monthly blog that presents new ways to become a better birder



**U.S. F&WS Forensics Laboratory**

The Feather Atlas

- Online resource to identify feathers

## APPS



### Merlin Bird ID

- Three question bird ID
- Photo and Sound ID
- Ability to filter by region



### Audubon Bird Guide

- Field guide with over 800 North American birds



### Sibley Birds 2nd Edition (\$)

- Field guide of North American birds
- May be difficult for beginners to navigate



### Larkwire (\$\$)

- Visual and audio flashcards for North American birds



### iNaturalist

- Take a photo and identify plants and animals!

## BOOKS

### Field Guides:

- The Sibley Guide to Birds
- Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
- Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern/Central North America
- Birds of Virginia by Stan Tekiela
  - This book is organized by color, rather than taxonomic order

### Supplemental Reading:






















- Sibley's Birding Basics
- The Warbler Guide
- The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior
- Complete Idiot's Guide to Birdwatching

# BIRDING MNEMONICS



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A song tends to be more complex, while a call is shorter and more simple

 Northern Cardinal	pew pew pew, purdy-purdy- purdy-purdy	 American Goldfinch	potato chip	 Carolina Wren	teakettle teakettle teakettle  Jimmy-Jimmy- Jimmy
 Mourning Dove	whoooo-AA- whoo, coo, coo	 Eastern Bluebird	descending "cheer-cheery- cheer"	 Tufted Titmouse	peter peter peter
 Chipping Sparrow	steady trill	 Song Sparrow	Abrupt, evenly- spaced first few notes leads to bouncing trill	 Field Sparrow	dropped ping pong ball
 Common Yellowthroat	witchety- witchety- witchety	 Red-eyed Vireo	here-I-am, look- up-here, see- me, high-in-the- tree, can-you- see-me?	 Prairie Warbler	Increasing zee-zee-zee- zee-zee- zeeee
 Eastern Meadowlark	but-I-DO-love- you  Seeoo Seeyeer	 Red-winged Blackbird	konk-a-reee!	 Northern Bobwhite	poor...bob- WHITE!
 Eastern Towhee	drink-your- teaaa!	 Indigo Bunting	sweet, sweet, chew, chew, see-it, see-it	 Yellow-breasted Chat	slow, varied song of whistles and harsh notes
 Northern Mockingbird	Repeats phrase 2-8 times before next phrase	 Gray Catbird	Rambling warble but includes distinct "maaaanh"	 Brown Thrasher	Repeats phrase twice before next phrase