

Internet Bird Sources

Explore these websites. They have a wealth of information; for example, Cornell's site has bird sounds, videos, photos, and "how to" sections.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

- <http://www.allaboutbirds.org>
- <http://www.ebird.org>

National Audubon Society

- www.audubon.org
- www.ncaudubon.org

American Birding Association

- www.aba.org

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

- www.pwrc.usgs.gov/birds

Carolina Bird Club

- www.carolinabirds.org

Birding Ethics

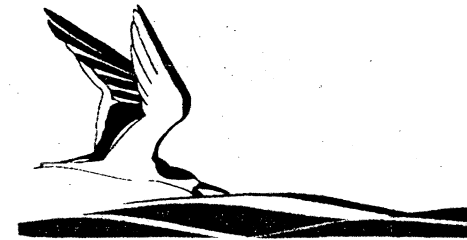
- Above all, respect the welfare of the birds
- Respect the habitat by staying on trails and pathways
- Be quiet
- Be considerate of others in the group
- Limit the use of electronic recordings of bird sounds

Visit www.aba.org for more on birding ethics and tips.

Cape Fear Audubon Society

Getting Started

Birding Basics



Cape Fear Audubon Society

www.capefearaudubon.org

A Few Tips on Identifying Birds . . .

Birds are like a jigsaw puzzle - sometimes you have to put the pieces together to get the whole picture!!

Color

- Is it one color all over?
- Is its head or tail a different color?
- Is its underside a different color than on top?

Size

- Is it sparrow-like in size?
- Is it Cardinal-like in size?
- Is it big like a Turkey Vulture?

Field Marks

- Does it have wing bars? How many?
- Does it have head stripes?
- Does it have eye rings?
- Does it have colored legs?
- Is the tail long, short, forked, square, rounded, striped?

Beak

- What shape is the beak?
- Is it long, short, stubby, curved, large?
- Does it have a small, pointed warbler beak?
- Does it have a small, thick conical beak like a cardinal or finch?

Song

- Does it whistle?
- Does it warble, trill, like a song?
- Does it screech?
- Does it coo?

Habitat

- Where is it? Fresh water, salt water?
- Is it high, low, or mid-story?
- Is it in the open or hidden?

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Binoculars & Field Guides

Binoculars

Most birders use 8 x 42 binoculars (8 = magnification; 42 = size of the lens, 42 millimeters, field of view) Depending on how often you use your binoculars and your budget, consider the following:

- Are they water and fog proof?
- Do they let in enough light (field of view)?
- Are they lightweight (if you plan to carry them a lot)?
- What is the optimum magnification? Usually 8 x 42 is best for birding; 8 x 32 is also good and easy to pack. Larger magnification often results in a blurry image.
- If you wear glasses, be sure the eye relief (distance from the viewing lens) is sufficient.
- For more information visit www.audubon.org or www.allaboutbirds.org

Field Guides

A good field guide is indispensable. Refer to it often to reinforce the image of the bird.

- Does it show winter, breeding, and juvenile plumage?
- Does it have range maps?
- Does it give extra information on the bird?

Some excellent field guides include *Sibley's*, *Peterson's*, and *National Geographic's*.

You'll find yourself getting more than one guide as your birding skills increase!!!

Enjoy the birds. Join a club. Learn from others. Practice!

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BIRD

Red-tailed Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Turkey Vulture
 Black Vulture
 American Kestrel

Eastern Screech Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl

Barn Owl

Mourning Dove

yellow-billed cuckoo

common nighthawk
 whlp-poor-will
 chuck-will's-widow

Ruby-throated hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

HABITAT

open country, edges
 woodlands, bottomlands
 woodlands, edges
 soaring (little flapping)
 soaring w/flapping
 open country, but cavity
 nester

woodlands (esp. pines)
 woodlands
 bottomlands

open country

open woods, edges

woodlands

overhead
 woodlands
 woodlands (esp. pines)

wood edges

streams, ponds

SONG/CALL

"keer-r-r" (1 part, goes down)
 "kee-yer" (2 parts)
 "pweeee" (high pitch)

"Kee-kee-kee" (high pitch)

whinny, descending
 "who's awake, me too"
 "who cooks for you? who
 cook for you all?"
 shrill hissing and rasping

cooing

"koop-koop-koop-koop ..."

nasal "peent"
 says name over & over
 says name over & over

high pitched squeeks

a dry rattle

FIELD MARKS

top of tail red
 reddish shoulders, tail bands
 size of crow, tail bands
 V-shape to wings
 short tail, white wing windows
 size of Jay, fast

small, fake ear tufts
 large, fake ear tufts
 large, no ear tufts

tawny color, long legs

listen for wings, pointy tail

tail spots, long tail, bill

white marks on pointy wings
 calls at night
 calls at night

listen for humming

crest

<p>pileated woodpecker common flicker</p>	<p>woodlands open forests, edges</p>	<p>irregular call, like flicker call note "clear" wick-wick-wick-wick... "churr" whinny that descends at end rattle, no descending at end</p>	<p>large, red top to crest spots on front</p> <p>zebra back, clear front small, short bill long bill</p>
<p>Red-bellied woodpecker Downy woodpecker Hairy woodpecker</p>	<p>woodlands woodlands, edges woodlands</p>		
<p>Eastern Kingbird Great Crested flycatcher Eastern Phoebe</p>	<p>open areas, edges woodlands (cavity nester) streamslides, bridges, buildings, edges woodlands, edges lowlands, streams</p>	<p>"high pitched tension wire" a loud whistled "wheep" says name</p> <p>says name "pit-seel" (explosive)</p>	<p>white edge to tail brown tail, yellow belly pumps tail</p> <p>wing bars, no tail pumping eyering, 2 wing bars</p>
<p>Eastern Pewee Acadian flycatcher</p>			
<p>Barn Swallow Rough-winged Swallow</p>	<p>near water or open areas near water</p>	<p>dark on top, lighter below dark on top, whitish below</p>	<p>deeply forked tail no deeply forked tail</p>
<p>Chimney Swift</p>	<p>high above flying</p>	<p>"twittering"</p>	<p>short tail, "flying cigar"</p>
<p>American Crow Fish Crow Blue Jay</p>	<p>woodlands, edges, fields often near water, edges woodlands, edges</p>	<p>a harsh "caw" "softer" call call: jay! jay! song: "queedle" (pump handle)</p>	<p>voice voice blue w/crest</p>
<p>Carolina Chickadee</p>	<p>woodlands (cavities)</p>	<p>song: Car-o-lin-a call: "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" song: "bird-bird-bird" monotone</p>	<p>black cap small gray w/"tuft"</p>
<p>Tufted titmouse</p>	<p>woodlands (cavities)</p>		
<p>White-breasted nuthatch Brown-headed nuthatch</p>	<p>woodlands (cavities) woodlands (cavities)</p>	<p>"auk-auk-auk" kit-kit-Kit-Kit (fast)</p>	<p>down tree head first small, brown - on limbs a lot</p>

Carolina wren	woodlands, edges	"cheeseburger-cheeseburger-cheeseburger"	white eye stripe
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	woodlands	high pitched zips & buzz	mini mockingbird, long tail
Brown thrasher Gray catbird	edges, thickets edges, thickets	repeats each thing twice disjointed notes, "mew" note	long tail, streaked front all gray w/black cap
Eastern bluebird American robin Wood thrush	open areas, edges around camp, "open areas" woodlands	"truly" rising & falling phrases "e-oo-lay", flutelike	blue back w/rusty breast brick red breast spots on front, head
Red-eyed vireo yellow-throated vireo	woodlands woodlands, near water	short phrases w/short pauses like red-eyed vireo w/sore throat	eyestripe, rowing bars wing bars
Solitary vireo white-eyed vireo	woodlands edges, thickets	slower & sweeter notes 2 "bookends" around notes	blue-grey head, wing bars wing bars, white front
Northern Parula Warbler	woodlands	zeeeeee (period)	2 wingbars, bluish-gray back male: necklace, yellow throat
Yellow-throated warbler Black-and-white warbler American redstart	pin woodlands woodlands, near water	sweet-sweet-swisher-sweet "rusty wagon wheel" several notes then up and down at end	yellow throat, blackened eyes on trees like a woodpecker male: black with orange spots
Pine Warbler Prairie warbler	pin old clearcuts, edges, 2nd growth	slow trill, one pitch "helicopter taking off"	white wing bars, yellow front yellow front, black near eyes and on sides
Common yellowthroat	near water, moist fields	"witchity-witchity-witchity"	yellow front male: black mask
Yellow-breasted chat	old clearcuts, edges, 2nd growth	odd mix of notes	yellow front, big

Louisiana Water thrush

ovenbird

lowlands, near streams
and swamps
dry woodlands

3 sharp whistles then jumble

eye stripe "teeters"

teacher-teacher-teacher...
louder at end

red-winged blackbird
Brown-headed cowbird
common grackle
European startling

marshes and swamps
edges, fields
edges, fields, thin woods
open areas, edges (cavities)

"cong-oo-ree"
"bubble-zee", sharp whistles
"chack" (sharp)
whistles, clicks, etc. (mimic)

Male: red patch on wing
Male: brown head
long tail, gold eye
short tail, dark eye

Summer tanager

woodlands (esp. pines)

robin w/sore throat
call note: pick-e-tuck
horser than summer tanager
call note: chip-burr

Male: red
Female: yellowish
Male: red with black wings
and tail

Scarlet tanager

woodlands

pretty whistled notes

Male: red w/crest
Female: duller w/crest
Male: dipped in purple paint

Northern cardinal

woodland edges

long disjointed song ends
with wheer (upward)
canary-like song
call note: "potato-chip"
often in flight, "per-chickaree"

Male: yellow w/black wings
and cap
Female: duller, no cap

House finch

edges, people places

American goldfinch

open woods, edges, overhead

guttural warbling song

Male: blue w/brown wing
bars

Blue grosbeak

brushy areas often with
water nearby
clearcuts, edges, brushy
areas

paired notes:
fire-fire--here--here--quick-quick
putit out - putit out
"drink-your-teeee!"
call note: says name

Male: all blue
Female: brown

Indigo Bunting

thickets, old clearcuts
undergrowth

dry trill, metallic sounding

red eye, long tail
rufous colores sides
white belly
small sparrow
brown cap
eye stripes
clear breast

Rufous-sided towhee

Chipping Sparrow

Reptile and Amphibian Web Sites

NC PARC

<http://www.ncparc.org>

NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

USGS NAAMP

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp>

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

USGS Frog Quizzes

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz/>

A direct link to the frog quiz page including the NAAMP quiz

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/>

http://www.ncwildlife.org/NCWildStore/Frog_Call_Product.htm

NCWRC web site that offers information on programs and data on various wildlife species

Second link is direct link to order Frogs and Toads of NC booklet and CD

Carolina Herp Atlas

<http://www.carolinaherpAtlas.org/>

Joint project between Davidson College and NCWRC to collect citizen data on herps in NC and SC

UNC Cricket Frog Study

<http://www.unc.edu/~micancin/cricketfrogs/research/>

Website by Jonathan Micancin on separating the two NC cricket frogs by call

Frog Calls Website

<http://www.knapp.home.mindspring.com/GAFrog.Toad.html>

The Frogs and Toads of Georgia website – great site with downloadable MP3s of frog calls

Frog Call CD

<http://www.naturesound.com/stackpole/frogs.html>

The Calls of Frogs and Toads CD and booklet by Lang Elliott

Frogwatch

<http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>

A citizen's monitoring program

Herps of NC

www.herpsofnc.org

Guide to ID of reptiles and amphibians in NC run by Davidson College

NC Herpetological Society

<http://www.ncherps.org/>

Web site dedicated to herp conservation and education

NC Museum of Natural Sciences

<http://www.naturalsciences.org/research-collections/research-specialties/amphibians-reptiles>

Direct link to amphibian and reptile research page

AmphibiaWeb

<http://amphibiaweb.org/index.html>

Database of amphibians worldwide with species names, range maps, and more

Scientific Names Explained

<http://ebeltz.net/herps/etymain.html>

Scientific and common names of reptiles and amphibians of North America translated and explained

Tadpoles of the United States and Canada: A Tutorial and Key

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/tadpole/>

Tadpole key from USGS and other partners

National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.enature.com/>

Web page that offers extensive field guide and habitat information on reptiles and amphibians

NC Natural Heritage Program

<http://www.ncnhp.org>

Web site that provides occurrence and habitat information on Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern species in NC

Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center

<http://www.coolsprings.org>

Cool Springs' web site

PARC

<http://www.parcplace.org>

National Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation website

SEPARC

<http://www.separc.org/>

Southeast chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation website

Herp Monitoring Protocols

<http://www.uncg.edu/soe/herpetology/>

UNC-G site - Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring with Elementary School-aged Students

Davidson Herp Site

http://www.bio.davidson.edu/people/midorcas/dorcas_home.htm

Davidson College herpetology lab

Critter Crossings

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings/main.htm>

Federal DOT wildlife crossings web page

SREL

<http://www.uga.edu/srelherp/index.htm>

Savannah River Ecology Lab

ARMI Atlas

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naa>

Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative National Atlas

Lake Jackson Ecopassage

<http://www.lakejacksonturtles.org/>

Wildlife crossings information for the Lake Jackson Ecopassage

April 2010