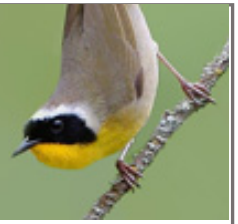


Neighborhood Bird Project



Birding by Ear

Songs to know (comparison pairs and common birds):

Song Sparrow vs. Bewick's Wren

Orange-crowned Warbler vs. Wilson's Warbler

Dark-eyed Junco vs. Spotted Towhee

Hairy Woodpecker vs. Downy Woodpecker

Black-capped Chickadee vs. Chestnut-backed Chickadee

American Robin

Pacific Wren

Practice Resources:

CD and DVD Sets

Cornell Guide to Bird Sounds: Macaulay Library - Master Set - \$49.99 or Essential Set - \$12.99

NOTE – available FREE through Seattle Public Libraries

Bird Songs of the Pacific Northwest CD set - \$38.95 - available in Seattle Audubon Nature Shop

Thayer's Birds of My State: Version 4 DVD for MAC and Windows - \$29.95- available in Seattle Audubon Nature Shop

Apps

Larkwire Birdsong Master Birder: Land Birds of North America - \$14.99 <http://www.larkwire.com/>

Larkwire Birdsong Master Birder: Water Birds of North America - \$12.99 <http://www.larkwire.com/>

NOTE – to receive 10% off at Larkwire.com, use discount code: SEAAUD

iBird Pro Guide to Birds - \$14.99 <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibird-pro-guide-to-birds>

Peterson Birds of North America Birding- \$14.99 <http://petersonguides.com/Birds.php>

National Geographic Birds: Field Guide to North America - \$9.99 - <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mobile/apps/handheld-birds/>

Audubon Bird Guide – free - <https://www.audubon.org/apps>

Web sites

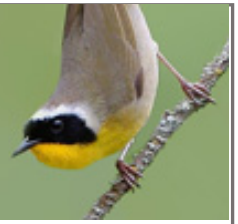
BirdWeb web page- free - <http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology - <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

* See reverse side for tips on birding by ear.



Neighborhood Bird Project



Birding by Ear Tips

What to Listen For

When you've isolated a bird call, you have to listen to it carefully for a positive identification. Just as [observing birds carefully](#) and looking for all the details of their plumage is necessary for proper identification, so too is careful listening essential. While birding, you should listen for...

- **Pitch:** How high or low is the song? How does it change in a single call? Where in the song does the pitch change?
- **Quality:** Would you describe the song as a warble, buzz, rattle, screech, whistle, bugle or some other tone?
- **Length:** How long is the song? Can you count the seconds it lasts?
- **Tempo:** How many beats does the song have? How quick are those beats? What pauses are part of the song?
- **Volume:** Does the song change volume? If so, where and how?
- **Repetition:** Are the same syllables repeated several times? How many times?

Once you've clearly distinguished the song, compare it to your [field guide](#) or audio resources to try to identify the bird. At first this may be difficult unless you are able to see the bird as well, but with practice you will learn to identify many birds by sound alone.

More Birding by Ear Tips

To make the most of auditory identification:

- Start with the birds you are most familiar with, including your backyard birds. Because you see and hear these birds most often, you will be able to practice and perfect your birding by ear technique while being certain of the birds' identities.
- Learn the regional accents of your local birds. Many birds develop geographic variations in their songs that can make identification more challenging, particularly if you travel while birding.
- Take notes on the bird sounds you hear in a [field journal](#) or notebook. By writing detailed descriptions of the sounds, you'll force yourself to listen more closely and you will have a reference to use when comparing to audio clips or field guides.
- Have fun listening to birds and learning their language, even if you can't always identify them by sound alone. Just as it is impossible to visually identify every bird in the field, it will also be impossible to identify every one you hear, though perfecting your bird sound identification techniques can make this hobby even more rewarding.

Source: (<http://birding.about.com/od/identifyingbirds/a/birdingbyear.htm>)

