



WILDLIFE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

BIRDS

Common Name	Image(s)	Description	Call
Sharp-shinned hawk i,m i = immature m = mature		smaller hawk; rusty-barred chest, under-side of shoulders (primary feathers) blends with the rest of the wing in flight	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sharp-shinned Hawk/sounds high pitched, short, repeated call
Cooper's hawk		Adults are steely blue-gray above with warm reddish bars under their wings and thick dark bands on the tail. A medium-sized hawk with classic accipiter shape: broad, rounded wings and a very long tail. Head often appears large, shoulders broad, and tail rounded.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Coopers Hawk/sounds The most common call is a loud, grating cak-cak-cak, 2-5 seconds long, given by both sexes in defense of the nest, and during courtship.
Red-tailed hawk		larger hawk; red upper-side of tail is seen as it veers in flight, tail with little-to-no banding	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed Hawk/sounds high pitched, held out screech

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Red-shouldered hawk		larger hawk; heavy dark bands on both sides of tail, red color on shoulders, not always seen from underside, but wings are translucent after primaries (“window wings”)	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-shouldered Hawk/sounds high pitched, longer than sharp-shinned but shorter than red-tailed, repeated screech
American Kestrel		very small hawk; no other hawk has a red back and tail like this; “mustached” black-and-white face; dark tail tip; hovers with rapidly beating wings	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American Kestrel/sounds very similar to sharp-shinned, but quieter, and almost meeker
Osprey		very large; eagle-like head but with broad black cheek patch; only raptor you’ll see plunging into water; clean white belly with black wrists	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/sounds short, chirping whistles
Bald eagle m,i		very large; clean white head and tail	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald Eagle/sounds range of low and high whistle sounds

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Turkey vulture		<p>large like an eagle, but with two-toned black wings; rocks and tilts unsteadily with wings slightly up, creating a shallow V. The head is a distinctive red color.</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Turkey_Vulture/sounds Loud hissing sound</p>
Black vulture		<p>Very similar to the Turkey vulture, but the underside of the wings are not two-toned black, but a solid black color. The head is black also, not red like the turkey vulture. May travel in groups, unlike the Turkey Vulture.</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black_Vulture/id Loud hissing sound, very similar to the Turkey Vulture.</p>
Turkey		<p>obvious; males display feathers</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild_Turkey/sounds crescendo of gobbles</p>
Ruffed grouse		<p>medium grassland bird; unmistakable fan shaped tail</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruffed_Grouse/sounds Male drums with wings to produce a series of deep thumping sounds that increase in tempo.</p>

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Great horned owl		very large owl; large horned ears; the “cat owl”	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/sounds adult: loud HOO-HOO. Juvenile: raspy screech
Eastern screech-owl		our tiniest owl, with little ears; can be brown or grey	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Screech-Owl/sounds whinny and/or bouncing trill
Barred owl		large owl; puffy head; dark eyes; striped are horizontal on chest and vertical on belly	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/sounds starts with hoo, hoo, hoo, then makes a sound like an electric drill
Great blue heron		our largest heron (stands up to 4' tall); blue-gray; folded neck in flight	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/sounds hoarse croak, much like a frog

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Green heron m,i		much smaller heron, dark matte colors, with light yellow-orange legs	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Green_Heron/sounds kuk,kuk,kuk, kuk sound, followed by a loud screech
Glossy ibis		medium shorebird; deep glossy colors; long decurved beak	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Glossy_Ibis/sounds rubbery squeaks (almost like wet sneakers walking on a floor)
Spotted sandpiper s,w s = summer w = winter		in the summer chest is covered in spots; teeters up and down as if it is trying to balance; winter has olive-grey coat with a white line over the eye	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Spotted_Sandpiper/sounds high pitched, fast paced tweet (repeated)
Killdeer		shorebird with two thick chest stripes	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Killdeer/sounds high pitched, fast paced KILL DEER sound
Black-bellied plover s,w		Small shorebird; In the winter, belly is solid black with white on under-tail between legs; in summer chest is clean; legs still darker than a spotted sandpiper	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-bellied_Plover/sounds similar to the call of a seagull

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Sanderling s,w		smaller than black-bellied plover; lightly mottled back in winter with tiny black mark on shoulder	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sanderling/sounds high pitched, fast paced, rubbery squeaks
Common tern s,w		shape is more stream-lined than a gull; forked tail in flight; full black cap in winter, half-black in summer	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Tern/sounds Calls a short "kip" and a harsh "kee-arr."
Gull		we can group all gulls	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Herring_Gull/sounds classic "seagull" call
Canada goose		obvious	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose/sounds classic honking call
Mute swan		obvious	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mute_Swan/sounds snorting "heorrr." Hisses aggressively.

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Double-crested cormorant m,i		medium (33") black water bird with yellow-orange bill; stands upright with neck in an "S" often extending wings; fly in lines or Vs like geese, but silently; swim "low" in water	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Double-crested_Cormorant/sounds Deep guttural grunts.
Common loon m,f m = male f = female		male obvious; female shaped the same with grey head and light grey beak; swim "low" in water	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Loon/sounds tremulous wail
Bufflehead m,f		small duck; male obvious; female shaped the same and obvious in comparison to others listed here	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bufflehead/sounds throaty cluck
Mallard m,f		male obvious; female differs from female black duck by lighter coat and darker "dirty" bill; blue speculum	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/sounds classic "quacking" sound
American black duck		darkest duck with blue speculum; differs from female mallard by darker coat and clean, brighter bill. To make things more confusing, there are hybrids between mallards and black ducks	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Black_Duck/sounds similar to the mallard's "quack," but more

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Belted kingfisher m,f		obvious	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/sounds loud, harsh rattle
American crow		obvious in comparison to others listed here	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Crow/sounds classic “caw” sound repeated
Common grackle		large black bird; wedged tail; blue iridescent face, smooth coat, large well defined eye	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Grackle/sounds short, high pitched squeal/tweet
European starling w,s		short-tailed; more mottled and colorful in winter, more like the grackle in winter but smaller, with darker eye and still some spots	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/European_Starling/sounds high pitched trills and tweets
Rock pigeon		darker than morning doves, with iridescent neck	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rock_Pigeon/sounds throaty coos

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Mourning dove		lighter than pigeons, pointed tail	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/sounds low “hoo, hoo” sounds
Chimney swift		blackish swallow-like bird; cigar-shaped body, no apparent tail; bat-like in flight (almost like it is beating one wing at a time).	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Chimney_Swift/sounds rapid high-pitched musical chip notes strung together into a rapid twitter
Bank Swallow		Dusky brown swallow above, white below except brown stripe under the neck. Small “swallow” tail. Distinguishable from the other swallows in flight by: no true swallow tail (this would be a barn swallow), brown stripe under chin.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/bank_swallow/id loud “rubber-like” chattering, often multiple birds will call at once.
Barn swallow		our only swallow with a true swallow-tail, and the only one with white tail spots; blue-black above like a tree swallow, but cinnamon brown below.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barn_Swallow/sounds a twittery series of squeaky notes, often with dry rattle in the middle.
Tree swallow		blue-black above, dusky-brown when immature; all white below; small “swallow” tail	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Tree_Swallow/sounds series of repeated whistles and twitters.

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Eastern kingbird		black-grey above, white below; distinct white band across the tail tip;	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Kingbird/sounds "Ti-t-t-ti-zeer."
Gray catbird		full body is grey with a black cap and tail tip; tail is rust below	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gray_Catbird/sounds long, halting series of short notes. Sounds include whistles, squeaks
Dark-eyed junco m,f		slate-colored sparrow-shaped; white outer tail feathers (obvious when flying)	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Dark-eyed_Junco/sounds musical trill of repeated tweets
Tufted titmouse		"mouse" colored; rusty patches by legs; crest on head; "acrobatic" in flight; often flying in pairs	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Tufted_Titmouse/sounds peter-peter-peter

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White-breasted nuthatch m,f		tree climber (down head first) with woodpecker-like bill; males with black caps, females with grey;	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-breasted Nuthatch/sounds wha-wha-wha-wha-wha-wha-wha
Blue jay		larger than a blue bird with a crest and striped tail	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue Jay/sounds loud, repeated jeer
Eastern bluebird m,f		smaller than a blue jay; rusty chest; female is duller blue; immature has grey-brown speckled chest, but still has blue on the wing	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern Bluebird/sounds chatter, chatter, tweet, tweet
Indigo bunting		short finch beak; male obvious with blue all over; female shaped and is the most "plain" brown finch	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Indigo Bunting/sounds high pitched warbles
Rose-breasted grosbeak		short and stout beak; male obvious; female has white wing bars and a thick white eyebrow	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Rose-breasted Grosbeak/sounds rich warble

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Red-winged blackbird m,f		male obvious; female with sharp pointed bill and distinct dark striping below	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-winged Blackbird/sounds undulating screech
Northern cardinal m,f		short and stout orange beak; male obvious; female is brown with traces of red on wing and tail	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern Cardinal/sounds <i>cheer, cheer, cheer or birdie, birdie, birdie</i>
Cedar waxwing m,i		mature obvious; both have black mask, tuft; yellow band on tail tip	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cedar Waxwing/sounds a high-pitched, trilled <i>bzeee</i>
Northern flicker		black chest mark make it unique among woodpeckers	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern Flicker/sounds <i>long, kyeer sounds with pauses between</i>

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Downy woodpecker		small-billed woodpecker with a white back and	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Downy_Woodpecker/sounds rapid pik, pik, pik, then drumming sound of beak against tree
Ruby-throated hummingbird m,f		our only hummingbird	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Ruby-throated_Hummingbird/sounds cheeee-dit and thrum of wings
American robin m,f		obvious; females are paler but similar	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/sounds cheer up, cheer up, repeated
American goldfinch m,f		male obvious, though resembles female in the winter; female is a subdued version of a male.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Goldfinch/sounds long and variable series of twitters and warbles

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House Finch M,f		Males are small light brown and gray finches with a distinctive red face and chest. Females are extremely similar to the males, but lack the red face and chest.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Finch/sounds Male House Finches sing a long, jumbled warbling composed of short notes. The song often ends with an upward or downward slur, and lasts about 3 seconds
Yellow-rumped warbler m,f		only one here with a distinct yellow rump and yellow "armpits"; male with black mask	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-rumped_Warbler/sounds slow, soft, sweetly whistled warble or trill...speeding up as it ends
Red-eyed vireo		olive colored, with a white belly; black-bordered white eyebrow stripe with a red eye (can only see the red up close)	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-eyed_Vireo/sounds downslurred tweets
Carolina wren		reddish-brown above and buff below; conspicuous white eyebrow stripe; wren tails are often cocked upward	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Wren/id "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle"

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Song sparrow		<p>streaks on sides of chest with a dark central spot</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Song_Sparrow/sounds</p> <p>starts with abrupt, well-spaced notes and finishes with a buzz or trill</p>
House sparrow		<p>males with distinctive black throat with white cheeks females with dull yellow eye-stripe and spot on the shoulder</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Sparrow/sounds</p> <p>chirrup, cheep, cheep, cheep</p>
Field Sparrow M,f		<p>Males are a dull brown color. Females are also brown, but not as streamlined as the males. Also, females are a lighter brown with brown speckles on their chest.</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Field_Sparrow/sounds</p> <p>Song a series of clear whistled notes, increasing in rate until they become a trill, much in the same pattern as a bouncing ball.</p>
Black-capped chickadee		<p>black cap and throat with white cheeks; “acrobatic” in flight</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-capped_Chickadee/sounds</p> <p>fee-bee-bee-bee</p>
Baltimore Oriole M,f		<p>Males have a mostly black back with distinctive bright orange coloring underneath. Females’ colors are more subdued: the back is mostly brown rather than black, and the underneath is a more subtle orangey-yellow.</p>	<p>http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Baltimore_Oriole/id</p> <p>Flute-like whistle, repeated.</p>

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Brown-headed Cowbird M,f		Males are very dark brown with a lighter brown head. Females are very similar, but their entire bodies are a lighter brown.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brown-headed_Cowbird/id High-pitch clicks, whistles and chatter-like calls in addition to a flowing, gurgling song.
Common Yellowthroat M,f		Males have an olive colored back with a distinctive yellow throat and black "eye patch." Tail may also be a yellow color. Females are more subdued, with the olive colored back and yellow throat, but the yellow of the throat is not as bright, and they do not have the black "eye patch" like the males.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Yellowthroat/sounds Song a musical "wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty, wich-i-ty." Call note a distinctive sharp "tchat."
Eastern Wood Pewee		Males and females are very similar. Mostly a dusty grey with slightly darker wings and head.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Wood-Pewee/sounds Slurred whistled "pee-ah-wee," rising on last note. Also a downslurred "wee-ur"
Northern Mockingbird		Mockingbirds have a cream colored chest with mostly black wings and a light gray back. While in flight, they can be identified by the white bands on their wings.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Mockingbird/sounds Often mimic the sounds of birds (and frogs) around them.

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Willow Flycatcher		Dull gray/brown bird. May or may not have very thin white band around eyes. Males and females are very similar visually.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Willow_Flycatcher/sounds Song a harsh "fitz-bew" or "rrritz-bew," accented on the first syllable. Call note a mellow "whit."
Wood thrush		Earthy brown back, wings, and top of head. White chest with numerous dark brown spots. Males and females are very similar visually.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Thrush/sounds Series of yodeled phrases with a pause in between each phrase, and complex, flute-like notes. "ee-oh-lay." Calls a rapid "pit-pit-pit."
Yellow Warbler M,f		Male is entirely a pale yellow. Females are a more olive-yellow with light brown wings.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow_Warbler/sounds Variable. Most common song is a rapid musical "sweet-sweet-sweet-I'm-so-sweet."

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Scarlet Tanager M,f		Males are a distinctive blazing scarlet color with black wings. The females are completely different from the males visually. They are an olive green color with gray wings.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Scarlet_Tanager/sounds Song a series of short, burry syllables, reminiscent of a robin with a sore throat. Call a springy "chik-burr."
Eastern Phoebe		Sleek dark gray bird with lighter gray chest. Females and males are very similar visually.	http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Phoebe/sounds Two rough, whistled notes, "fee-bee" with the second note rasping or with a stuttered, more whistly second note "fee-b-be-bee."