

Birding Resources

Virtual Links

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

- eBird: <https://ebird.org/home>
 - Use to find certain species, hotspots, see what others report, and report your own findings and keep records of your statistics
- Merlin app: search on apple or android app store
 - Sound ID
 - Photo ID
 - Bird ID
 - Mobile field guide- includes bird sounds, photos, and descriptions
- BirdNet App: search on apple or android app store
 - Sound ID
- All About Birds: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>
 - An online field guide that gives extensive info about each species along with photos and ID tips
 - A diverse amount of other resources
- Projects and citizen science: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/engagement-in-science-and-nature/>
 - Cornell runs a variety of fun and engaging citizen science projects

Audubon

- Guide to North American Birds
 - Online field guide- includes typical field guide features and more- including predictions of climate change vulnerability
- Other resources such as news, blogs, and databases

Connecticut Birds Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/125313460911467/>

Use for updates on bird news in CT, post questions or photos for ID, or share your bird experiences! People on this page are friendly and welcoming to new birders

COA Listserve <https://www.ctbirding.org/birds-birding/ct-birds-email-list/>

Receive or send updates on bird news, rare birds in CT, updates on findings during migration, or anything bird related in CT!

During Migration

- BirdCast: <https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>
Shows migration forecast
- Windfinder: <https://www.windfinder.com/#3/39.5000/-98.3500>
Shows wind forecast (use during hawkwatching to see large kettles)

Field Guides and Books

- *Sibley East* by David Allen Sibley
 - Small and compact, provides a few drawings of multiples plumages and positions and includes written details and range map
- Crossley ID Guides
 - Large and heavy but provides great photos of many different plumages and positions
- *Birding in Connecticut* by Frank Gallo
 - Extensive info on popular birding sites in Connecticut
- *Peterson ID for Sound* by Nathan Pieplow
 - Learn how to analyze bird sounds with spectrograms

Backyard Resources

Guidelines for building backyard habitat: See last page of document

Bird Feeding

- Interactive Database by Cornell's Project Feeder Watch-
<https://feederwatch.org/learn/common-feeder-birds/>
- Audubon Bird Feeding Guide https://www.sfvaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Audubon_Guide_Bird_Seed_printPDF.pdf

Native Gardening for Birds

- Audubon Native Plant Database- <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Database-
<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants>

Birdhouse specifics: <https://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/bird-house-dimensions.html>

DIY House Sparrow Removal: (an invasive species that will kill your cavity nesting birds,

especially bluebirds)

- Shake eggs so they will not hatch
 - Removing the nest does not work because the birds will just rebuild somewhere else
- Attach something that the birds have to fly through
 - Short fishing line hanging above entrance hole (just a few inches to cover the hole, not long enough that other birds will get tangled)
 - Wire caging or PVC pipe
 - Remove the perch underneath the entrance hole

Building Backyard Habitat for Birds

To support and attract birds, you need to support the entire ecosystem and food chain. This means supporting the insects and rodents that birds rely on, as well as providing space for birds to nest.

It is even more important to create a safe place for birds by not letting your cats roam outdoors and avoiding pesticides that will poison the birds

- Native plants, remove invasives (avoid planting along road)
- Plants that provide food year round (berry and seed producing plants, no deadheading)
- No outdoor cats!!!!
- No/less mowing, especially during nesting season (lawn space has no benefit to birds but overgrown yards are very valuable! And mowing will destroy any ground nests- always check for nests before mowing)
- No/less raking (insects that hide in leaf litter is a valuable source of food)
- No pesticides or rodenticides that will poison birds and eliminate their food source
- Multiple levels of flora
- Brush/wood piles to provide habitat for rodents and insects
- Bird houses (with guards against mammals and House Sparrows, not near the road)
- Bird feeders (only if they will be cleaned well regularly with a solution of 1:9 bleach:water)
- Have a source of water, if using a bird bath it should be kept fresh and clean
- House Sparrow control
- Bird friendly windows
- Support pollinators