



Recommended Field Guides

- Kenn Kaufman's **Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2005** Enhanced photos show key field marks. Good for beginners.
- National Geographic's **Birds of North America, Seventh Edition**
- David Sibley's **The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition** Be sure to get the July 2014 second printing for best color renditions. Both Sibley and National Geographic have colored illustrations.
- Richard Crossley's **The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds** Photos of birds in many different poses and extra text which I find helpful in learning more about the species. Downside - Eastern U.S. birds.

Bird Identification Tools

- **Merlin Bird ID** – from Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Download the free app to your iPad or iPhone or Android, and it will help identify birds based on their color, size and your location. New feature is photo identification.
- **Audubon Birds Pro (free)** <http://www.audubonguides.com/field-guides/bird-identification-app.html>
- **The Sibley eGuide to Birds App** <http://www.sibleyguides.com/about/the-sibley-eguide-to-birds-app/>
A lot of people really like this app as it allows side by side comparison of similar species.

Binoculars help you see the birds better.

7x 35, 7 x 42, 8 x 40 are all good choices. If you need a little extra magnification then 10 x 42 are good, but they have a narrower field of view so it can be harder to find the bird and hand shake is increased. Good for car birding. Try binoculars out at specialty bird stores, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop or better yet, at a birding festival. Evaluate for ease of use and how heavy they feel. Check websites, such as Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birdwatcher's Digest for binocular reviews. There are several reputable online retailers if you can't locate a local dealer.

To identify birds pay attention to

- Size - bigger than a ...smaller than a ...
 - Bill shape, length and color
 - Head - large, small, crested, eye ring, eye line
 - Throat and breast
 - Wings – wing bars
 - Tail
 - Back, rump and undertail
 - Behavior
 - Habitat
- And range maps!*

Expected backyard bird species within 60 mile radius of Austin - Permanent residents except as indicated. Depends on your location and proximity to preferred habitats. Visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website to learn more.

White-winged Dove	House Finch	Great-tailed Grackle
Mourning Dove	Eastern Screech Owl	European Starling
Inca Dove	Great Horned Owl	House Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	Northern Cardinal	Northern Mockingbird
Blue Jay or Woodhouse's Scrub Jay	Carolina Wren	Lesser Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	Bewick's Wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler – winter
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	American Robin	Cedar Waxwing – winter
Red-bellied or Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Black-crested (west) or Tufted Titmouse (east) or mostly hybrid	Ruby-crowned Kinglet – winter
	Black-crested/Tufted in Austin	American Goldfinch – winter
		Common Grackle – summer

Learn bird song – There are many apps and CDs available including Audubon and Sibley already mentioned. Here are a few suggestions:

- **Any CDs by Lang Elliott. Some are out of print, but can still be found.**
- **Birding by Ear CDs** by Dick Walton and Robert Lawson

- **iBird Pro Guide to Birds** – A field guide at your smart phone fingertips!
<http://ibird.com/app/iphone/ibird-pro-guide-to-birds/>
- A book, **Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America**, March 2017, by Nathan Pieplow, is ground-breaking in its approach to teaching bird sounds. Supplemental materials online for free.
- **Song Sleuth and Bird Genie** claim to ID songs you have recorded but the technology is still young.
- **Larkwire** is a web-based game. Experiment with **BirdNET** also, and upload a recording.

Attract birds to your backyard – Provide food, clean shallow water, shelter and places to raise young.

- Select Texas native plants. Visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Information Network website to learn about the native plants of your area. Attend a Native Plant Society of Texas Native Landscape Certification Program class to get started. See <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/> for more info.
- Certify your yard as a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation and educate your neighbors.
- **Travis Audubon Society** – Bird plant recommendations and hummingbird-specific plant list.
<http://travisaudubon.org/bird-friendly-communities> and scroll down to find plant lists.

Websites

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website has many resources, and all are excellent. They include All About Birds, <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1189>

eBird, <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> The go-to website to get info on hotspots, what is being seen, bird occurrence and to keep track of your sightings. Contribute to citizen science.

Nestwatch and Project Feederwatch are other citizen science projects sponsored by Cornell.

Facebook Birds of Texas <https://www.facebook.com/groups/birdsoftexas/> Click on join. Ok to ask for ID help. Enjoy many bird cams through Audubon <http://www.audubon.org/birdcams> and Cornell <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/> A great Facebook page run by the American Birding Association is What's This Bird? <https://www.facebook.com/groups/whatsthisbird/about/>

Magazines

Bird Watcher's Digest <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/> Human interest stories, and not too technical with great bird-attracting advice. Excellent for beginning birders. Also try **BirdWatching** magazine <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/the-magazine/current-issue/> Great photos. Both have online materials for free.

Living Bird Cornell Lab of Ornithology's amazing magazine. The photography is stellar and the stories are compelling <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/living-bird-latest-issue/>

Audubon The monthly magazine of National Audubon gives you the broader context of birds in the USA. <https://www.audubon.org/past-magazine-issues>

Listserv for learning about Texas birds **Texbirds**

<http://moonmountaingroup.com/texbirds/index.html#subscribe> Take your Texas bird watching experience to a whole new level. The free statewide Texbirds listserv has a wealth of information about recent sightings around the state, as well as discussions on difficult identifications, occurrence and distribution of Texas birds. Also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/texbirds/>

Other Texas Birding Groups

Texas Ornithological Society has twice yearly meetings which feature lots of birdwatching. If you live north you might enjoy the Williamson Audubon Group meetup and meetings.

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