beginning birders

“...the difference between a beginning birder and an accomplished birder is that, thus far, beginning birders have misidentified very few birds. Accomplished birders have misidentified thousands.” — Pete Dunne, The Art of Bird Identification, 2012.
1. **Introduction**
   A. What is birding all about?
   B. Who birds?
   C. Why should I go birding?
   D. Basic Equipment
      a. Binoculars
      b. Spotting Scope
      c. Bird Book and Magazines
      d. Recordings
      e. Checklist
      f. Feeders

2. **Bird Books**
   A. “Coffee table” books
   B. “Cheap Identification books
   C. “Field Guides”
      
      
      
      
      
      
      
      D. “Group” Field Guides
f. *Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors In Flight* [Paperback], Jerry Liguori, $13.57
g. *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors* [Paperback], Jerry Liguori, $13.57

E. “Pseudo” Field Guides
F. “Specialty Shelf” books
   a. Nests
   b. Behavior
   c. General biology
   d. Migration
   e. Advanced identification

G. “Odds and Ends”
   e. Peterson, R.T., *The Bird Watcher’s Anthology*, 1957, Birds: Stories

H. Magazines
   a. Bird Watcher’s Digest
      www.birdwatchersdigest.com
      P.O. Box 110
      Marietta, OH 45750
      (614) 373-5285
      Small format magazine devoted to birds and bird watchers.
   b. BirdWatchers (was Birder’s World)
      www.birdwatchingdaily.com
      Kalmbach Publishing
      21027 Crossroads Circle
      P.O. Box 1612
      Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
      Each issue includes foolproof ways to make positive bird IDs, spectacular photographs taken by expert photographers, hands-on information about the best birding locations in North America, tips on how to make your yard a birding hotspot, and much more!
   c. *Birding* (magazine) *Winging It* (newsletter)
      www.aba.org

American Birding Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 6599
Colorado Spring, CO 80934
(800) 850-2473
The ABA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides leadership to birders by increasing their knowledge, skills, and enjoyment of birding. We are the only organization in North America that specifically caters to recreational birders. We also contribute to bird and bird habitat conservation through our varied programs.

d. *Jackpine Warbler* Michigan Audubon Society
f. *Michigan Birds and Natural History*

I. Internet Resources
   a. *The Virtual Birder* <virtualbirder.com> - Internet Magazine for Birders, includes birding trips with scores based on bird identification, regional birding information, competitions, community news and articles.
   b. Others

3. **HOW TO USE A FIELD GUIDE**
   A. Organization of Guide (Primitive to complex nature of birds)
   B. Levels of birders experience
   C. Record keeping
   D. Carriers, belts

4. **FIELD CHECKLISTS**
   A. Regional types
   B. State types
   C. Ordering of names
   D. Hearing vs. Seeing
   E. Record Keeping
      a. Life list
      b. State lists
      c. Regional lists
      d. Computer programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AviSys</th>
<th>Windows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birder’s Diary</td>
<td>Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BirdBase</td>
<td>Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td>Guide to Birds of North America Gold DVD version 5 Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td>Guide to Birds of North America version 4 Windows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td>Guide to Birds of North America version 4 Windows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See 700 species seen in the United States and Canada.*
5. Bird Song Recordings

A. Types


Common Bird Songs, (with paperback) by Donald J. Borer, $7.95.


*Peterson Field Guides: Eastern/Central Bird Songs, Roger Tory Peterson, editor; Cornell Lab, 2003; $17.95 (CD) Keyed by page number to Peterson's 5th edition of Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies

*Peterson Field Guides: Eastern/Central Birding by Ear, Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson; Houghton Mifflin, Abridged edition (April 4, 2002); $20.00 (CDs)

*Peterson Field Guides: Western Bird Songs, Cornell/Interactive; Cornell Lab, revised 1992; Keyed by page number to Peterson's revised Field Guide to Western Birds, $21.50 (CD)

*Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs (Western Region), Kevin J. Colver with Donald and Lillian Stokes; Little, Brown and Co., 1999; 4-CD set; Companion to Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Western Region, $34.95 (CD); $34.95 (cassette)

*Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region, Audio CD – Audiobook, Unabridged by Donald Stokes (Author, Reader), Lillian Stokes (Author, Reader), Lang Elliot (Author, Reader)

birdJam Maker — Welcome to the revolution in learning bird songs!

What birdJam Does

birdJam Maker organizes and formats bird songs and, in many cases, adds photographs, for specific regions or specialty species collections. birdJam Maker does not contain the songs, but is paired with a specific song collection to:

- Remove narration and bird name announcements for pure bird song playback
- Split double tracks so each bird is visible on an iPod
- Creates alphabetic, taxonomic, habitat, species and other playlists for speedy access
- Add definitive photographs (for most collections)
- Rename birds (i.e., an Eastern Bluebird becomes a Bluebird, Eastern) so you find them faster
- Add scientific names, song descriptions, and information about the recordings
- Provide bird names in English, Spanish or French

Plus, if you have use an iPod Touch or iPhone, the birdJam App adds range maps!

Yes, you could load the bird songs CDs directly to an iPod® without using birdJam Maker®, but then you'd have to do all the formatting and organizing yourself. Most people don't have the time, patience, or expertise to do so. Moreover, you wouldn't have the spectacular photographs.

Or, you could use the songs without doing the formatting and organizing, but you'd have a cumbersome, slow-to-use tool that would forever-and-always make those irritating bird name announcements.

Many people assume that the birdJam Maker software is loaded onto the iPod. What really happens is that the birdJam-formatted bird songs and photographs are loaded onto the iPod. The formatting and organizing is done in iTunes on a computer, whether it is your computer or ours.

Oh yes, you may have noticed that we use both “birdJam” and “birdJam Maker,” and you may be wondering why. birdJam Maker is used specifically to refer to the software, while birdJam is a generic term that can refer to the software, the iPod once the formatted songs/photographs are loaded, etc. We sometimes use them interchangeably, which can be confusing.

B. How to use bird recordings

a. Using pictures
b. Using word phrases instead of musical notes
c. See “Learning Bird Songs and Phrases”

6. Binoculars

A. Identification of parts

a. Numbers and their meaning (7x35), 8x32, 8.5x42, 10x42 (Ocular Mag size X Objective diameter mm)
b. How to focus the first time (use printed sign)
c. How to focus thereafter
d. Alignment

B. Locating the bird in the habitat

a. Direction in tree, clock-face
b. Tree size, distance from observer
c. Bird placement, left, right of trunk, height above ground, eye level
C. Locating the bird in the binocular
   a. Interrupting the line-of-sight
   b. Focusing
   c. Can’t find the bird, look without, find and try again
   d. Staying with bird in flight; whole body movement

D. Care of binoculars
   a. Keeping clean, use of cloth and case
   b. Lens covers, pro and con
   c. Dusty roads
   d. Insect repellents
   e. Car hood (Oh! Where are my binocs?)
   f. Insurance; a must; replacement rider on home-renters policy

E. Buying binoculars
   a. Nikon 8x42 Monarch 3 ATB Binocular (Black), $179.95, http://www.bhphotovideo.com
   b. Swarovski EL Swarovission 8.5x42 Binocular, $2,275.00, eagleoptics.com
   c. Mirakel Optical Co., 331 Mansion St., West Coxsackie, N.Y., 12192, 518-731-2610, 10-15% discounts to students and educators, the best for service.
   d. Link Braid Harness Strap, Lightweight design also takes weight off your neck. Link Braid Harness Strap - $9.95 Al-K-Line 218-326-0258 541-347-5444
      Alex and Kathi Schultz

7. SPOTTING SCOPES AND TRIPods
   A. Zoom is best; 15x - 60x, 20x - 60
   B. Vortex, Swift, Bushell, Kowa, and Swarovski are good scopes
   C. Bogen tripods are good and Vanguard tripods are too. Tripod and head must be sturdy in a strong wind. It must be able to service short and tall individuals alike. Material: aluminum or carbon fiber.
   D. Carrying bags, straps, foam covered legs.

8. PHOTOGRAPHY
   A. Do’s and don’ts
   B. Separate from birding activities

The following 3 tables are for Page 12: Section “21. THE FOOD TYPES, subsection B”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marvel-Meal Original Recipe</th>
<th>Cheaper Marvel-Meal Alternative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cup peanut butter</td>
<td>1 Cup peanut butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cup Crisco or other shortening</td>
<td>2 Cup melted beef suet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Cups cornmeal (white or yellow)</td>
<td>4 Cup finely cracked corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cup white flour</td>
<td>2 Cups cornmeal (white or yellow)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Store in my refrigerator will make about 2 pounds of the doughy mix, which has the consistency of putty after it is completely hand-mixed, as one would mix cookie dough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Another Marvel-Meal Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Cups of bacon drippings (save in a tin can)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cups of cornmeal</td>
</tr>
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Added to bind the ingredients together to form a paste like mixture.
### 9. Birding Apps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab of Ornithology (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, and Android)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • It requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch and is optimized for iPhone 5. The app features the following:  
  • Merlin was created for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Merlin identifies the 350 most common bird species in the United States and Canada (excluding Hawaii).  
  • Intelligent results. No more scanning through hundreds of possibilities! Merlin shows the birds near you that fit your description.  
  • Customized location and date tools generate best answers for your neighborhood and time of year.  
  • It is powered by eBird to deliver the most accurate results based on millions of sightings from bird watchers across North America.  
  • Enjoy more than 1,000 photos of birds, including males, females, and juveniles.  
  • Learn ID tips from Cornell Lab of Ornithology experts.  
  • Listen to beautiful bird songs and calls from the Cornell Lab’s Macaulay Library.  
  • The app is completely free. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s goal is to help you and millions of others to learn about birds. |
| **iPhone Rating (5.0)** | **Android Rating** | **Merlin Logo** |
| ![iPhone Rating](image) | ![Android Rating](image) | ![Merlin Logo](image) |
| Version 1.0.3, updated 07-2014 | Version 4.0 and up. Updated 01-2015 |  |

![Merlin Bird ID Interface](image)
**iBird Pro: North America, (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad)**

Features of this App from developers website: [www.ibird.com](http://www.ibird.com)

- Interactive field guide for every species (924) found in North America, Canada, Hawaii, and all coasts and islands, even extinct birds!
- Audubon-quality full sized color illustrations, with perching and flight views
- Full color range maps for every species
- Search by song, conservation status, genus, species, shape, size, color, flight pattern, bill shape and length, wing shape and more
- Lifetime updates to bird species information

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<th>Average Rating:</th>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<th>Average Rating:</th>
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<td>167</td>
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**iBird Pro: (Android)**

12-2013: Version 3.1.0, Android 2.3 and up. $9.99.

**iBird: (Windows 8.1)**

$9.99 ★★★★★ 302
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features of this App from developers website: petersonguides.com</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 800+ species, over 700+ bird songs, 500 bird nest &amp; egg photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Compare similar species (illustrations, range maps and songs) on one screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Zoom in and out on illustrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Playable bird songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family details, including comprehensive molt information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Quick facts on each species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Search, including by state and month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Browse in taxonomic or alphabetic sequence, and a unique Quick Find index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Check birds of a Life List, and create and share your own checklists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Record sightings, with date, count, place &amp; notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extras folder includes: illustration of Warbler undertail patterns, backyard birding tips, including what to put in your bird feeder, typography of a bird and a beginners guide to identifying birds</td>
</tr>
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**Rating of Current Version**

![Average Rating](image)


★ Winner Best Outdoors App Ever Award 2011 ★…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="Range Maps" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="Nest Photos" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="Links to similar species" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="Add your own photos" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="Species details from 8 Peterson books" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Sibley eGuide to the Birds of North America (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android)

Features of this App from developers website www.mydigitalearth.com:

- The most popular printed field guide to North American birds is now available in its entirety on the iPhone!
- The Sibley Guide to Birds has become the most popular and fastest selling printed guide to birds as well as the most comprehensive and authoritative guide to North American Birds:
- Over 6600 images.
- Every species is shown perched and in flight from above and below.
- Shows every major seasonal, age, and sexual variation.
- Detailed coverage of subspecies and regional variations.
- Detailed maps showing not just winter and summer range but also migration and rare occurrence.
- Detailed descriptions of songs and calls, comparing similar species measurements of length, wingspan, and weight for every species.
- Now all of that information is available in an easy-to-navigate portable format on the iPhone. In addition, version 1 of the iPhone app already includes:
- Over 2300 carefully selected and edited sound recordings. Nearly all species are represented with multiple examples showing the range of vocalizations.
- The ability to compare any two images, maps, or sounds, side by side on the screen. The ability to filter by state/province, so that you see only the species likely to occur in your location, and to further reduce the possibilities to the most common birds in that area.
- The ability to search by distinguishing features such as size, prominent colors, habits, and group.
- A basic personal species list that stores your sightings saved to the device* (ability to upload list coming soon)
- *Uninstalling/reinstalling the program will result in the loss of your list, it is recommended that you keep your own backup (master list) separate from the application.
- We invite all users to share their comments and ideas on our forum at www.mydigitalearth.com
- NB. This Application WILL ONLY work on an iPhone or iPod Touch (2nd GEN) running OS V3.0 or higher NOT A NORMAL IPOD CLASSIC/NANO and the download is about 300MB. $19.99

Rating of Current Version

---

Bob Pettit, Holiday Beach Migration Observatory and Erie Shores Birding Association  Page 9 of 13  © 2017 Beginning Birding
The Warbler Guide App

This app is designed for both the iPhone (5 and above) and iPad by Princeton University Press Apps. It requires iOS 7.0 or later. $12.99. See website for complete videos of App. http://press.princeton.edu/video/warbler/warbler_app_videos.html

The Warbler Guide App is the perfect companion to Princeton’s revolutionary and widely acclaimed book The Warbler Guide, by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. Taking full advantage of the Apple iOS® platform, the app allows you to identify birds by view or song, quickly and intuitively.

Exciting new 3D graphics enable you to view a bird from the exact angle you see it in the field. And the whole range of warbler songs is easily played, compared, and filtered. Whether for study or field use, this innovative app delivers the full power of The Warbler Guide in your pocket, built from the ground up for the Apple iOS® platform, and complete with unique new app-only features.

**Breakthrough features include:**

- Rapid and confident two-step ID process using visual finders and comparison species
- The first complete treatment of warbler songs, using a new objective vocabulary
- An intuitive visual finder that includes side, 45 degree, and undertail views
- Master Pages with detailed ID points
- Complete guide to determining the age and sex of warblers with photos of all ages and sexes
- Annotated sonograms showing song structure and key ID points
- Complete songs, chip calls, and flight calls for all species
- Comparison species for visual and audio IDs
- Many additional photos to show behavior and reinforce key ID points
- Highlighted diagnostic ID points
- Color Impression Icons for narrowing down ID of warblers from the briefest glimpse
- Behavior and habitat icons

**Unique new app-only features:**

- 3D models of birds in all plumages, rotatable and pinch-zoomable to match field experience of a bird
- Intuitive, visual, and interactive finders with filters for possible species based on audio and visual criteria chosen by the user
- Playback of all songs and vocalizations with sonograms makes study of vocalizations easy
- iPhone® and iPad® versions let you take these useful tools into the field
- Selectable finder sortings grouped by color, alphabetical order, song type, and taxonomic order
- Interactive song finder using objective vocabulary for fast ID of unknown songs
- Simultaneous visual and song finders makes identifying an unknown warbler even easier
- Half-speed song playback allows for easier study of song structure
- Comparison species with selectable side, 45 degree, and undertail views
- Features 75 3D images
- Covers 48 species and 75 plumages
- Includes 277 vocalizations, 156 songs, 73 contact calls, and 48 flight calls

**Tom Stephenson's** articles and photos have appeared in Birding and Bird Watcher's Digest, at Surfbirds.com, and in the Handbook of the Birds of the World. He has guided groups across the United States and Asia. A musician, he has had several Grammy and Academy Award winners as clients, and was director of technology at Roland Corporation. **Scott Whittle** lives in Cape May, New Jersey, and has twenty years of experience as a professional photographer and educator. He holds an MFA in photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York, is a fellow of the MacDowell Colony, and is a onetime New York State Big Year record holder.

**Review:**

"[The Warbler Guide App took] the rich content of a groundbreaking print identification guide and re-conceptualized it into a new product that is convenient and educational and more fun to use than any bestselling computer game. . . . The app offers flexibility of access and multiple options for viewing and listening to warbler species, including options for comparison viewing and listening. . . . The app is delightful. The book is serious. In a perfect world, or in a world where you could ask some nice person for one or two gifts for the holidays, a birder could conceivably own The Warbler Guide in both formats. The pricing does not make this inconceivable. The app should be available for purchase through iTunes in a matter of days. And, then think of all the fun you would have come warbler time, in April (for you southern birders) and May."--**Donna Schulman,** 10,000 Birds

"This will be a valuable tool for every bird banding station in North America."--**Thomas LeBlanc,** Monarch’s Nature Blog

"Some people say ‘There is nothing new on this Earth,’ but they have never seen The Warbler Guide App. This app is a fast, intuitive way to identify the warblers of the United States and Canada by visuals and/or song. . . . You have to see this app--welcome to the new world of field guides.‘--**Dan Tallman’s Bird Blog**
10. BIRDERS FIELD ETIQUETTE
A. Leave all habitats as they are found.
B. Stay on existing pathways; avoid trampling.
C. Don’t chase or repeatedly flush birds.
D. Avoid repetitive imitations, which might be disturbing.
E. Keep away from nests and nest sites.
F. Enhance the birding community image.
G. Teach others proper birders ethics by example.

11. BIRD TOPOGRAPHY AND IDENTIFICATION — OR — WHAT BIRD IS THAT?
A. The identification process
   a. Look for special field marks and behaviors.
   b. Know the habitat you are in.
   c. What is the general size and shape?
   d. What activities are being exhibiting?
   e. If it is on the water, how is it feeding?
   f. Does it wade?
   g. Does it climb trees?
   h. If it walks, how?
   i. If it hops, how?
   j. If it hovers, how?
   k. If it flies, how?
   l. Look for the tail shape, size and patterns.
   m. Look for the wing shape, size and patterns.
   n. Look for the rump patch.
   o. Does it have a crest?
   p. Do the wings have wing bars?
   q. Are there stripes on the head?
   r. Is there an eye ring?
   s. What patterns are on the breast?
B. Practice, Observe, Rehearse
   a. Where is the field notebook and pencil?

12. STUDY (MUSEUM) SKINS
A. Care in handling and storage of “tray” birds
B. Preparation
C. Permits
D. How to successfully use them

12. FIELD TRIPS
A. Places
   a. Woodlots, fields, ditches, roadsides, airports, marshes, etc.
   b. Michigan
      1. Your City parks
      2. Sterling State Park
      3. Lake Erie Metropark
      4. Oakwoods Metro Park
      5. Crosswinds Park (north county-line)
      6. Pt. Mouillé State Game Area
      7. Erie Marsh Preserve (Erie Gun Club)
      8. Grosse Ile (Westcroft Gardens)
      9. Metropolitan Beach Metropark
      10. Ford Estate, U of M Dearborn Campus
      11. Belle Isle
   c. Canada
      1. Bradley’s Marsh
      2. Comber sewage lagoons
      3. Essex County sewage lagoons
      4. Hillman Marsh
      5. Holiday Beach Conservation Area
      6. Jack Miner’s Bird Sanctuary

7. Ojibway Park
8. Pt. Pelee
9. Wheatley Provincial Park

13. BIRDING ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS
A. American Birding Association
B. Erie Shores Birding Association
C. Holiday Beach Migration Observatory
D. Whitefish Point Bird Observatory
E. Detroit Audubon Society
F. Michigan Audubon Society (40 Chapters)
G. National Audubon Society
   a. Camps/Workshops
   b. Christmas Bird Count

14. FEEDING ADAPTATIONS OF BIRDS
A. Bill shape has evolved according to feeding methods
   1. Flat “duck bill” of Mallard for straining water for food
   2. Curved sharp bill of hawk for tearing off food
   3. Long bill of shorebird for probing for food
   4. Chisel-like bill of woodpecker for chipping wood for food
   5. Thin short bill of finches used for small insects and seeds
   6. Thick stout bill of Cardinal used for larger seeds, insects, and fruits

15. FEEDING HABITS
A. Food types
   1. Herbivores
      a. Vegetable matter; “living”
         (1). Whole plants, fruits, leaves, flowers, nectar
      b. Vegetable matter; “non-living”
         (1). Dried fruits, seeds
   2. Carnivores
a. Animal matter; “living”  
   (1). Insects, fish, snakes, birds, small mammals  
b. Animal matter, “non-living”  
   (1). Carrion  
3. Omnivores  
   a. “All matter”

15. Migration As A Response To Food Supply
   A. All birds migrate to some extent, even a few miles to 100 miles

15. ‘Living’ Requirements for Birds
   A. Food  
   B. Water  
   C. Cover  
   D. Nesting site

15. Requirements for Attracting Birds
   A. Food  
   B. Water  
   C. Cover  
   D. Nesting site

20. The Plan
   A. Provide the food, water, cover, and nest sites through the year.  
      1. This process provides for the development of a varied habitat  
         a. Birds will not use your backyard if it lacks trees, shrubs, and other herbaceous growth.  
      2. Enjoy the birds throughout the year, NOT just in the winter.  
   B. Inventory your backyard to the types of plants and their placement on a map.  
   C. Test the soil  
   D. Plant a supply of food so that something is always fruiting or flowering but don’t over plant.  
   E. Use only plants for your area.  
   F. Have fun in your work, don’t make it perfect, expensive or have a timetable.  
   G. Create a summer feeding/nesting program with the plantings.  
      1. Fruit, nectar, birdbath, seeds  
      2. Nesting boxes, platforms, nesting material; string, etc.  
   H. Become official through certification with The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program of the National Wildlife Federation (Dept. FH, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036)  
   I. Create a winter-feeding program with your plantings  
      a. Feeders; ground, tabletop, hanging, post-type, and tree.

   b. Provide shelter, roosting boxes, “quick” cover, water (heated bath), grit, and place a hawk Silhouette on windows

21. The Food Types
   A. Seed
      1. Black-striped sunflower  
      2. Black oil sunflower  
      3. Hull sunflower  
      4. White proso millet  
      5. Red proso millet  
      6. Niger  
      7. Peanut kernels  
      8. Peanut hearts  
      9. Cracked corn  
     10. Fine cracked corn  
     11. Milo  
     12. German (golden) millet  
     13. Safflower  
     14. Hull oats  
     15. Mixtures; supermarket, mail order, other  
     16. Collected natural dried seeds
   B. Other mixtures
      1. Marvel Mix:  
         b. Combine  
            1 cup Peanut butter,  
            1 cup flour,  
            1 cup shortening (not oil),  
            2 cup corn meal.  
         c. Mix. Make into balls, stuff into containers, etc.  
         d. Refrigerate. Made for year-around use.  
   C. Other stuff
      1. Beef suet  
      2. Leftovers

22. The ‘Art’ of Feeding
   A. Enjoy  
   B. Educate  
   C. Experiment  
   D. Economics  
   E. Ethics  
   F. Effort

23. To be continued ....
   A. Open your eyes and ears.  
   B. Keep looking up!  
   C. See you on the trail.
If you like watching birds in your backyard or you want to travel the world to see all 10,000 bird species, use these ten tips to get started! You might also want to visit WildBirds.com, a great site for newer birders!

**Hint #1**
You need a field guide for your area. A field guide is a book with pictures of the birds and tips for identifying them. The best book for new birders is the Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds or the Peterson Field Guide to Western Birds. When you become familiar with the birds in your area, you will want the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America 3rd edition. For young birders, we recommend Peterson First Guide: Birds. It describes 188 common and conspicuous birds and it won't overwhelm them with too many choices. You will also want to look at the new Stokes Field Guides.

**Hint #2**
You need a binocular to see the birds. You will soon discover an ironic fact. The best birders have the best binoculars -- even though they can identify a bird 100 yards away by its silhouette. Newcomers with a cheap binocular see a fuzzy ball of feathers and don't have a clue which bird it is. There is an unbelievable difference between a $59 binocular and a $900 binocular. For help in selecting the right binocular, at the right price, see the Binoculars & Scopes section of Birding.com. (You would need four eyes to use a pair of binoculars!)

**Hint #3**
You need to know what to expect in your area. The giant woodpecker you saw in the woods was a Pileated Woodpecker, not an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Checklists of birds in your area will tell you this. Many State and National parks near you have checklists of the birds seen in the park. Birding.com has checklists for every state and province in the United States and Canada as well as every country in the world! Finally, check out the Where to Bird section of Birding.com for even more checklists of National Parks or local areas near you.

**Hint #4**
You need to be able to find the birds. To do this, you should learn about the habitat each species of bird prefers. Do they like to spend their time at the top of a tree or on the ground or on a lake? You should learn the songs of the birds in your yard. Later, learn the songs of other birds in your area of the country. To find a bird, you will often hear it first. Go to the Bird Identification section of Birding.com for identification tips. There are some great song recordings in the Photos & Song section of Birding.com. You will want to read about the good birding spots in your area. The Where to Bird section of Birding.com is extremely helpful.

**Hint #5**
Join a group of other birders. Birders are very friendly and helpful. They are always willing to share their knowledge. We were all beginners once. Start by calling the local Audubon Society, the local Nature Center or Parks Commission, or the local Bird Club. Local and regional birding organizations are listed in the Organizations section of Birding.com. If all else fails, go to the park with your binocular. Someone is sure to strike up a conversation and they might lead you to a whole new group of birding buddies.

**Hint #6**
Try a birding trip or tour. Local bird trips are sometimes advertised in the newspapers. These are often led by park rangers or a local Audubon member. To find out about local trips you should also call your local Rare Bird Alert phone number. After reciting the list of rare birds seen in the area, they often mention upcoming field trips. The trips may last a morning or most of the day. These trips are usually free of charge. You might also want to join a professional guide on a tour. Tour guides charge for their services but they are worth every penny. Birding tours can take you all over the world. When birding, wear neutral colored clothing, not white.

**Hint #7**
Read about birds. There are many good magazines about birds and birding. For North American birds Birder's World, Bird Watcher's Digest, Birder and WildBird are magazines you might like. For UK birds, try BirdWatch. Subscribe to the ones that appeal to you. There are also thousands of books about birds. The List of Stores section at WithoutBricks.com will take you to Affiliates who have set up their own Nature Store. These on-line stores have very attractive prices for bird books and field guides! Why not locate one in your area and order your birding books and supplies from them.

**Hint #8**
Bring the birds to you. You can attract birds to your yard with just a little work. Planting the right flowers will attract hummingbirds. Sunflower seeds will bring lots of new birds to your house. You might even want to build a bluebird house. Learn about the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Habitat" Program. The Backyard Birding section of Birding.com has all the information you need to get started!

**Hint #9**
Record your bird sightings. You might want to keep a "diary" or list of the birds you see in your yard. You can also keep a list of birds you see in your town or on your vacation. Birders often keep lists for their county, state or country. They may also keep track of birds seen in one day or one month or one year. This is all terribly easy to do with a computer listing program. Our favorite is Thayer Birding Software's Birder's Diary version 2.5.

**Hint #10**
Have Fun. Ask Lots of Questions. Be Kind to Birds.