



THE **CORNELL** GUIDE TO BIRD SOUNDS
Essential Set for North America



TheCornellLab 

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The Cornell Guide to Bird Sounds (Essential Set) is an introduction to the most common sounds of 729 bird species found in North America. Selected from more than 195,000 recordings in the Cornell Lab's Macaulay Library (the world's largest collection of natural sounds), the Essential Set includes 1,379 cuts representing North America's regularly breeding bird species and some rarities that you may be lucky enough to encounter.

Birds captivate us in a way that few other animals do, with their spectacular plumages, their sheer physical stamina to undertake feats such as migration, their fascinating behaviors, and their beautiful sounds that have inspired our own music for millennia. Knowledge of the sounds of birds also offers a powerful tool to understand and explore the lives of these compelling creatures. In forested settings and even in open habitats, listening can dramatically enhance our ability to detect the presence of birds nearby and at a distance.

With this guide, you'll hear sounds recorded in a variety of habitats of North America: the ethereal song of Hermit Thrush in eastern woodlands; the wail of Pacific Loon on remote lakes in Canada; the flight call of Black Rosy-Finch on mountaintops. Also included are the sounds of vanished species—the songs of Bachman's Warbler and calls of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker—reminders of what we've lost—and the sounds of imperiled species such as the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and Florida Scrub-Jay—reminding us of what we still have time to save.

This guide is a powerful tool for conservation, to help people identify and survey birds by sound. Sound can also help reveal differences among species, subspecies, or groups that are difficult to discern visually, such as the Mexican Whip-poor-will and Eastern Whip-poor-will, vocally distinct and now recognized as two species. Recordings even help us restore bird populations directly. One of the most poignant conservation successes has been the use of recordings to attract birds to safe nesting sites. For example, scientists have played back the calls of Roseate Terns to attract terns to new breeding sites after former colony sites were destroyed by hurricanes.

Creating the Essential Set is the effort of more than 150 sound recordists and researchers working in North America, as well as archivists dedicated to the preservation of the life's work of these many collaborators. Since 1929 and continuing to this day, the Macaulay Library has been built by contributing recordists from around the world for scientific research, education, conservation, and the arts. This guide is designed to enhance people's enjoyment and knowledge of birds, inspire new discoveries, and advance conservation efforts for these amazing birds and their vanishing habitats.

The Essential Set is a special selection of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Master Set, a work in progress. We welcome your corrections and suggestions by email at MLproductions@cornell.edu. Email notifications will be provided as corrections and updates to the Essential Set are made available online. If you enjoy the Essential Set and wish to learn more, the Master Set is also available for purchase, and is the most comprehensive guide available for the sounds of North American birds. To explore the full measure of recordings that many volunteers have created, we invite you to listen to the archive at www.macaulaylibrary.org.

Good birding!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are especially grateful to all of the individuals whose dedication to field recording and archiving made this guide possible. Among the many recordists who contributed to this guide, several talented individuals warrant special mention for their efforts. They are: Geoffrey A. Keller, Gerrit Vyn, William W. H. Gunn, Randolph S. Little, Michael J. Andersen, Wilbur L. Hershberger, Thomas G. Sander, Curtis A. Marantz, David S. Herr, and Robert C. Stein.

We are thankful to all the photographers who have contributed images for inclusion in this guide, especially Greg Lavaty who contributed hundreds of images. Special thanks to Thomas B. Johnson, Greg Lavaty, Bill Scholtz, Brian E. Small, and Glen Tepke for providing access to additional images and to Scott Haber for technical support and assistance in finding images.

We thank supporters and members of the Cornell Lab for their generous contributions enabling the production of this Essential Set.

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USING THIS AUDIO GUIDE

Common and scientific names used in this guide follow *The eBird/Clements Checklist of Birds of the World: Version 6.7*. To view the species in taxonomic order, sort by the track number column. The file names include the common name and vocalization type.

If using iTunes, you can use the “Grouping” column to view the family names. Additional information has been included in the “Comments” field: the scientific name, state or province and country where the recording was made, recordists, and Macaulay Library catalog number. Other data for these recordings are available by contacting the Macaulay Library.

A photo of each species is embedded within each sound file. In the case of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and Fox Sparrow, a different photograph is provided for each distinctive eBird/Clements group within the species. We hope to add photos for all of the most important eBird/Clements groupings in the future. If you can provide photos of any of these, please let us know at MLproductions@cornell.edu.

PLAYING RECORDINGS IN THE FIELD

Please take the greatest care when using recordings in the field. Playback of these recordings should be done responsibly, particularly near nesting birds, and should be terminated immediately whenever a bird shows signs of agitation. Some recordings in this guide, especially distress and alarm calls, could cause undue stress and should never be played in the field. One of the most fulfilling ways to experience birds is simply to go out and listen. 4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Macaulay Library: The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is the world's largest natural sound and video archive of animal behavior. Its mission is to collect and preserve recordings of each species' behavior and natural history, to facilitate the ability of others to collect and preserve such recordings, and to actively promote the use of these recordings for diverse purposes spanning scientific research, education, conservation, and the arts. To experience more than 200,000 audio and video recordings from around the world, visit www.macaulaylibrary.org.

eBird: eBird is an online database of bird observations providing researchers and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance across the world. To submit your own observations to eBird and explore the sightings of others, visit eBird at www.ebird.org.

All About Birds: Check out this free online bird guide to help you identify birds of your backyard and beyond. Learn about the life history of nearly 600 North American birds, listen to their sounds, and watch videos of their behavior at www.allaboutbirds.org.

Membership: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is supported by 82,000 supporters. Your support furthers the Lab's mission to protect the earth's wildlife through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. To find out how you can join and help conserve the birds that touch our lives and enrich our planet, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/membership.

Sound Recording Workshop: Each year experienced staff from the Macaulay Library teaches techniques for recording the sounds of wildlife and introduces students to the principles of sound analysis. Participants learn through daily field recording sessions, coupled with lectures and demonstrations. To learn more about recording wildlife, visit www.macaulaylibrary.org/inside/record/workshops/index.

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