**LET’S START**

**Birding**

**Identifying Birds**

1. **How big is the bird?** Is it large like a hawk, medium like a crow, small like a sparrow, or tiny like a hummingbird?
2. **What is its overall shape?** Is the bird’s body round like a ball, long and oval-shaped, plump or skinny? What shape is its beak, its bill?
3. **What patterns and colors do you see?** Is the bird brightly colored or camouflaged? Does it have stripes, bars or dots? What color are its legs and bill?
4. **What sounds is the bird making?** Listen closely. Birds have distinct songs, calls and warning sounds.
5. **Where is the bird?** Is the bird in the woods, in a lake, along a city street, in a field?
6. **What is the bird doing?** Is the bird coming to a bird feeder or catching insects in the air? Is it walking on the lawn or diving underwater? Does it “bob” its tail?

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**CHECKLIST OF 25 Common birds**

- **Canada Goose**
- **Mallard**
- **Rock Pigeon**
- **American Robin**
- **Black-capped Chickadee**
- **Northern Mockingbird**
- **Red-winged Blackbird**
- **House Sparrow**
- **Mourning Dove**
- **American Crow**
- **American Goldfinch**
- **Downy Woodpecker**
- **White-breasted Nuthatch**
- **Song Sparrow**
- **Brown-headed Cowbird**
- **Blue Jay**
- **House Wren**
- **White-throated Sparrow**
- **House Finch**

**TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS**

- **Get Outside!** Enjoy your birds, up close and personal.
- **Find, Aim, Focus.** Practice using your binoculars.
- **Practice giving good directions to a bird’s location.** Think of a tree or shrub as the face of a clock.
- **Keep a bird sighting journal.** Write notes and draw.
- **Keep Learning.** Learn one to two new birds a month.

**When bird watching:**

- **Move slowly.**
- **Talk softly.**
- **Respect a bird’s space.**
- **Don’t trespass.**
- **Be a good role model for others.**
- **Have fun and share birds with others.**

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**Contact New Jersey Audubon**

Visit one of our nature centers, join a program, come on a bird watching walk, or talk to a bird expert. We want to hear from you!

**LORRIMER SANCTUARY**
908-764-0100 | lorrimer@njaudubon.org

**SCHERMAN HOFFMAN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**
201-335-5690 | shws@njaudubon.org

**PLAINSBORO PRESERVE**
609-427-3052 | plainsboro@njaudubon.org

**NATURE CENTER OF CAPE MAY**
609-430-5840 | ncm@njaudubon.org

**NJ YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB**
www.njaudubon.org/youthbirding

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**Can you spot all 25?**

Keep track of the birds you see.

**BIRD PHOTOS BY KEVIN T. KARLSON**