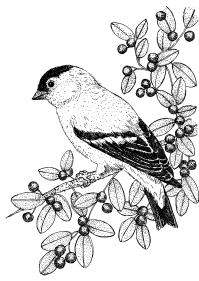


It seems to me that I do
not know a bird until I
have heard its voice...
Wake-Robin



For many of us, birds are a
reflection of all nature . . . its
beauty, its harshness, its
mystery, its fascination.

Know your Bird Song

- Bird “songs” tend to be long, complex, vocalizations produced by males during the breeding season.
- Bird “calls” tend to be shorter, simpler and can be produced by both sexes throughout the year.
- Unlike songs, calls are less spontaneous and usually occur in particular situations related to specific functions such as flight, threat, and alarm.
- Birds are often heard before they are seen. Knowing bird song can greatly enhance your birding experience.

The Importance of Birds

- Birds play important roles in most habitats and many use Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve to feed and nest.
- Birds provide food for predators, help control insect populations, and disperse seeds.
- Birds act as natural barometers of environmental health.

Sign up for one of our
birding programs or
workshops to improve your
birding by sight and sound
skills.



Programs are offered year round and pre-
registration is required.
Specific program information can be found
in the Town of Cary Brochure, in the
Stevens Nature Center or online at
myCary.org

BIRDING BY EAR



BIRD SONGS AND CALLS

This simple guide was designed to
introduce visitors to the songs and calls of
some of our resident birds at Hemlock
Bluffs Nature Preserve.
Birds vocalize often to communicate. To
aid you in identifying the birds, they have
been grouped according to their associated
habitats at Hemlock Bluffs.

Stevens Nature Center
Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve
2616 Kildaire Farm Road
Cary, NC 27518
(919) 387-5980



Pileated Woodpecker
Call: irregular "kik-kik-kikikik"
Habitat: woodlands



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Call: "churr", also a loud rattle
Habitat: woodlands



Downy Woodpecker
Call: rattle that descends at the end
Habitat: woodlands



Hairy Woodpecker
Call: loose rattle, no descending at the end
Habitat: woodlands



Blue Jay
Call: "jay! jay!"
Song: "queedle"
Habitat: woodlands



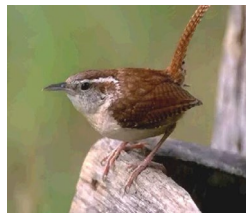
Carolina Chickadee
Call: "chick-a-dee-dee-dee"
Song: "Car-o-lin-a"
Habitat: woodlands



Tufted Titmouse
Song: "bird-bird-bird" (monotone) or "peter-peter-peter"
Habitat: woodlands



White-breasted Nuthatch
Call: "ank-ank-ank"
Habitat: woodlands



Carolina Wren
Song: "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle"
Habitat: woodlands with brushy spots, logs



Common Grackle
Song: harsh metallic hiss
Habitat: woodlands, edges



American Crow
Call: a harsh "caw, caw, caw"
Habitat: woodlands, edges



Northern Cardinal
Song: "birdy, birdy, birdy"
Habitat: edges, shrubs



American Goldfinch
Call: "potato-chip" (in flight)
Song: canary-like notes
Habitat: edges, open woods



Brown Thrasher
Song: repeats each phrase twice (mimic)
Habitat: edges, shrubs



Chipping Sparrow
Song: dry trill, metallic sounding
Habitat: edges, open woodlands



Eastern Towhee
Song: "drink-your-tee!"
Habitat: edges, shrubby areas



Mourning Dove
Song: "ooaah-coo-coo-coo"
Habitat: edges, open woodlands



Brown-headed Nuthatch
Call: squeaky toy sound
Habitat: pine woods



Pine Warbler
Song: slow or fast trill
Habitat: pine woods



Eastern Bluebird
Call: "truly, truly"
Habitat: open areas, edges



American Robin
Song: rising & falling phrases "cheerily, cheer-up, cheerily, cheer-up"
Habitat: open areas, edges



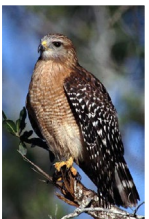
Brown-headed Cowbird
Song: "bubble-zee" (males)
Habitat: open areas, edges



Northern Flicker
Call: "wick-wick-wick-wick"
Habitat: open woodlands



Red-tailed Hawk
Call: "keeer-r-r" (1 part, goes down)
Habitat: woodlands, overhead



Red-shouldered Hawk
Call: "kee-yer" (2 parts)
Habitat: floodplain, overhead