



madison
AUDUBON

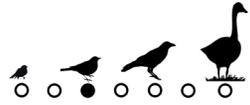


BIRD GUIDE *for* KIDS



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Birds in this guide are categorized as “Songbirds,” “Birds of Prey,” and “Other Birds.” Each bird page gives a description of the adult’s appearance, one or more photos of the adult bird (unless noted), as well as the following information:



How big is this bird? Look for the black circle to see how it compares to other birds.



Where will you find this bird? What type of habitat does it live in and where does it typically find its food?



What does this bird’s nest look like? What is it made from? Where does this bird nest?



What types of food does this bird eat?



What sounds does this bird make? What are its common songs and calls?

Fun Fact: A cool tidbit about this bird that will help you remember it!

BIRDS BY THE SEASONS

What time of year should you expect to see the birds in this guide in Central Pennsylvania? We’ve got the answer here!

YEAR-ROUND

Eastern Screech Owl
Cooper's Hawk
Mourning Dove
Downy Woodpecker
American Crow
White-breasted Nuthatch

SUMMER

Baltimore Oriole
House Wren
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

WINTER

Dark-eyed junco

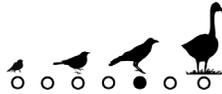
Fun Fact: Approximately 400 different kinds of birds have been seen in Pennsylvania

AMERICAN CROW

All black with a strong, black beak and rather short, square-tipped tail.



Dick Daniels / CC BY-SA



Fields, open woodlands, forests, agricultural fields, parking lots, towns, and garbage dumps. Found in groups and feeds on the ground.



Platform nest resembling an open bowl made of twigs and lined with pine needles, weeds, or animal hair. Nests in trees, preferring evergreens.



Grains, seeds, nuts, fruits, insects, fish, bird eggs, mice, earthworms, garbage, and more.



A harsh *caw*.

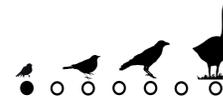
Fun Fact: In the winter, crows sleep in groups (roosts) of a few hundred up to 2 million.

HOUSE WREN

Dark brown on top and paler below with bars on wings and tail. Fairly long, curved beak and long tail.



AD/82 / CC BY



Open forests, backyards, farmyards, and city parks. In winter: brushy tangles and hedgerows. Looks for food in low tree branches and shrubs.



Piles twigs into old woodpecker holes, natural crevices, and nest boxes. Builds a cup of twigs and soft materials on top.



Spiders and insects such as beetles, caterpillars, and earwigs. Also eats snail shells.



Long, jumbled bubbling. Males often sing 9-11 times per minute during breeding season.

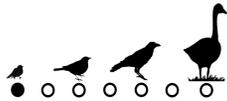
Fun Fact: House wrens can live anywhere from Canada to the tip of South America.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

All white face and chest with a black (or gray) stripe down its head. Lower belly is orange-brown.



Bill Bouton / CC BY-SA



Mature woods, parks, and yards, especially with deciduous trees. Creeps along trunks and branches probing the bark for food.



Lines a natural tree hole or old woodpecker hole with fur, bark, and dirt. Builds a cup-shaped nest of grass, bark, and feathers on top.



Mainly insects, including larvae, beetles, and caterpillars. Also eats seeds and nuts.



A rapid *wha-wha-wha*. Also a loud, nasal *yank* repeated a few times.

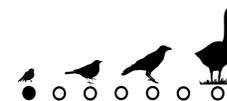
Fun Fact: Nuthatches can move head first down trees and can hang upside down beneath branches.

DARK-EYED JUNCO

Solid gray on head, back, and sides. White belly and pale pink beak. Female is slightly browner than male.



Mdf / CC BY-SA



Coniferous or mixed forests. In the winter: open woodlands, fields, parks, and backyards. Hops along the ground to find food.



Woven cup made of a variety of materials such as grass, pine needles, twigs, leaves, hair, moss, or ferns. Usually nests on the ground.



Primarily seeds and sometimes insects.



A loud trill of 7-23 notes that lasts up to 2 seconds.

Fun Fact: In the summer, dark-eyed juncos can be found very far north, even in the Arctic.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Male is bright orange with black head, back, and wings. Wings have white bars. Female is usually brown on top and slightly orange underneath with white bars on its wings. It sometimes has black on its head.



Male



Female

Hannah McBrearty / Public domain

Mike's Birds / CC BY-SA



Open woodlands, parks, and backyards with leafy deciduous trees. Found high in trees or in bushes searching for food.



Pendulum nest woven from thin fibers made of grass, wool, horsehair, twine, or fishing line. Nest is hung high in a tree using these fibers.



Insects, nectar, and fruits such as raspberries, oranges, and cherries.



Here, come right here, dear.
Has a flute-like sound.

Fun Fact: The Baltimore oriole was named for Lord Baltimore, founder of Maryland, because his coat of arms had similar colors.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL

A small owl with blotchy coloring and yellow eyes. Usually gray, but sometimes red or brown. Typically has prominent "ear" tufts though they are sometimes flattened.



Dick Daniels / CC BY-SA

Gray morph



Dick Daniels / CC BY-SA

Red morph



Almost anywhere with enough trees. Forests, farmland, suburbs, and parks. Mostly active at night. Watches from above for prey.



Does not build a nest. Lays eggs in tree holes made by woodpeckers, squirrels, fungus, or rot. Also lays in nest boxes.



Small animals including birds, mammals, insects, frogs, and lizards.



A shrill, descending whinny (like a horse) and an even-pitched (monotonic) trill.

Fun Fact: Screech-owls throw-up the bones, fur, and feathers of their prey in an oval pellet. We learn about their diet from pellets.

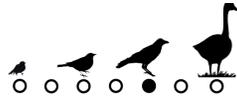
COOPER'S HAWK

Blue-gray above with reddish bars underneath. Broad, rounded wings and a very long, rounded tail. Red eyes. Young (juvenile) has yellow eyes and is brown above with sharp, brown streaks on chest. Keeps juvenile plumage for over a year.



Adult

Juvenile



Forests and subdivisions, backyards, and parks with trees. Flies after and catches other birds for food.



Platform nest made of piled sticks and lined with bark flakes and green twigs. Nests in trees on flat ground.



Mainly medium-sized birds such as mourning doves and American robins. Sometimes eats small mammals.



Usually silent. Sometimes a loud *cak-cak-cak* in defense or a *kik* call to a mate.

Fun Fact: A Cooper's hawk captures a bird with its feet and squeezes it to death. They've even been known to drown prey.

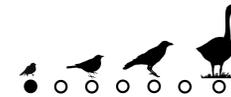
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Tiny bird. Long, thin beak. Male has a shiny, ruby-red throat that looks black in most lights. Has white chest, green sides, and black, forked tail. Female is green on top and whitish below with white tip on its tail.



Male

Female



Open woodlands, grasslands, parks, gardens, and yards. Usually seen flying or hovering to eat.



Thimble-sized cup nest made of thistle or dandelion down and held together with spider silk or pine resin. Nests in trees.



Nectar of red or orange tubular flowers. Also eats tree sap and insects caught in mid-air.



Chee-dit. Wings make a quiet humming sound.

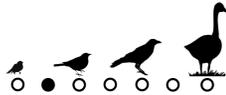
Fun Fact: Ruby-throated hummingbirds can beat their wings about 53 times a second.

DOWNY WOODPECKER

Small woodpecker. Black with white back, white belly, and striped face. Has a very short beak. Male has a red spot on back of head.



Wolfgang Wander / CC BY-SA



Woodlands, parks, and backyards. Moves quickly over tree trunks, branches, and stems of grasses and flowers looking for food.



Digs a nest hole in dead trees or dead parts of living trees. Usually nests in deciduous trees.



Mainly insects like beetle larvae that live inside wood or tree bark. Also eats berries, acorns, and grains.



A string of high-pitched notes as well as a sharp *pik* note. Also drums on trees with its beak.

Fun Fact: Think—downy woodpeckers are downsized compared to hairy woodpeckers—to help remember the difference.

MOURNING DOVE

Mostly plain with black spots on wings. Long, pointed tail. Male has a pinkish chest and is blue-gray on the top of its head. Female is a duller plain brown.



USFWS / Public domain



Everywhere except the deep woods. Often seen in fields or overhead perches like telephone wires. Feeds on the ground and in the open.



Flimsy cup nest of pine needles, twigs, and grass stems. Nests in trees, on the ground, or on gutters of buildings.



99% of diet is seeds. Sometimes it eats snails and berries.



Hoo-la-hoop, hoop, hoop.

Fun Fact: Unlike humans, mourning doves can drink slightly salty water without becoming dehydrated.

**This guide was modified for the
3rd-4th grade York County
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