

*Voices of*  
**Eastern Backyard Birds**



The sounds of birds fill the air in backyards, woodlands, and open space throughout the world. This compilation of recordings is an introduction to the vocalizations of 14 common species found in backyards, parks and suburban habitats throughout the eastern United States.



Macaulay Library  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
telephone: 607-254-2404  
email: [macaulaylibrary@cornell.edu](mailto:macaulaylibrary@cornell.edu)  
website: [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org)

## VOICES OF EASTERN BACKYARD BIRDS TRACK LIST

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Eastern Backyard Bird Medley  | <b>Tufted Titmouse</b><br><i>Baeolophus bicolor</i><br>13. Song (ML 94271)<br>14. Call (ML110375)                                   | <b>Red-winged Blackbird</b><br><i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i><br>24. Song (ML 94234)<br>25. Calls (ML 106799) |
| <b>Mourning Dove</b><br><i>Zenaidura macroura</i><br>2. Song (ML 22930)  | <b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b><br><i>Sitta carolinensis</i><br>15. Song (ML 77256)<br>16. Call (ML 107225)                          | <b>House Finch</b><br><i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i><br>26. Song (ML 22938)<br>27. Call (ML 44967)           |
| <b>Downy Woodpecker</b><br><i>Picoides pubescens</i><br>3. Calls (ML 107281)<br>4. Drum (ML 44905)                         | <b>Eastern Towhee</b><br><i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i><br>17. Song (ML 84753)<br>18. Call (ML 110247)                              | <b>Pine Siskin</b><br><i>Carduelis pinus</i><br>28. Song, calls (ML 44845)                                |
| <b>Northern Flicker</b><br><i>Colaptes auratus</i><br>5. Call 1 (ML 119469)<br>6. Call 2 (ML 105296)<br>7. Drum (ML 63117) | <b>Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)</b><br><i>Junco hyemalis</i><br>19. Song (ML 105801)<br>20. Call (ML 130987)                     | <b>American Goldfinch</b><br><i>Carduelis tristis</i><br>29. Song, call (ML 111054)                       |
| <b>Blue Jay</b><br><i>Cyanocitta cristata</i><br>8. Call 1 (ML 107392)<br>9. Call 2 (ML 105451)<br>10. Call 3 (ML 13448)   | <b>Northern Cardinal</b><br><i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i><br>21. Song 1 (ML 130905)<br>22. Song 2 (ML 49062)<br>23. Call (ML 110211) |   |
| <b>Black-capped Chickadee</b><br><i>Poecile atricapillus</i><br>11. Song (GFB 1988)<br>12. Call (ML 40796)                 |   |   |

It can be challenging to identify bird vocalizations. The best way to learn is to track down the birds that you are hearing. Grab your binoculars and try to see the mysterious songster. This sort of experience will help you remember the species next time you hear them.

You can also start off by learning a few common birds very well. Focusing on differences in pitch, pattern, and tone will help you learn to distinguish different species.

- Pitch: the frequency of the notes, for example: high-pitched or low-pitched
- Pattern: the rhythm or rate of delivery of the notes, for example: five short notes speeding up at the end of the song
- Tone: the quality of the notes, for example: sweet, burry, hoarse

Notice that a Black-capped Chickadee's simple whistle, *phoe-beee*, is a clear two-note song that drops in pitch on the second note. However, a House Finch's bubbly song is more complex. The song packs in many notes of different pitch, some of which have a burry tone.

## 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 and to make them available for research, education, conservation, zoos and aquaria, wildlife managers, publishers, the arts, and both public and commercial media. Since 1930, recordists of all backgrounds have contributed their recordings, which now number several hundred thousand in total. A large percentage of the recordings can be searched and played online. To hear more recordings of bird sounds or see videos, visit [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org).

**eBird:** Visit eBird at [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)—an online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance across the world. From the eBird home page, click on the 'View and Explore' data tab. Then click on 'Bar Charts' and select the state or county where you live or want to go birding. Finally, click on the link for the species you are interested in finding.

**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. [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org).

**Membership:** The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is supported by 35,000 members. Your support furthers the Lab's mission to protect the earth's wildlife through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit [www.birds.cornell.edu/membership](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/membership) to find out how you can join and help conserve the birds that touch our lives and enrich our planet.

**Sound Recording Workshop:** Each year the Macaulay Library teaches state-of-the-art techniques for recording the sounds of wildlife with skilled staff from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants learn through daily field recording sessions, coupled with lectures and demonstrations. If you would like to learn more about recording wildlife, visit [www.macaulaylibrary.org/inside/record/workshops/index.do](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org/inside/record/workshops/index.do).

## CREDITS

**Recordists:** Gregory F. Budney, William R. Fish, David S. Herr, Wilbur L. Hershberger, Geoffery A. Keller, Randolph S. Little, Thomas G. Sander, Gerrit Vyn

**Booklet Images: Cover from left to right:** Northern Cardinal by Bruce Echols, Blue Jay by Gary Mueller, Eastern Towhee by Jean Kuns, White-breasted Nuthatch by Lew Scharpf, Black-capped Chickadee by Shirley Gallant, Tufted Titmouse by Judy Howle

**Digital Images:** Jerry Acton, Bruce Echols, Shirley Gallant, JudyHowle, Linda Koning, Jean Kuns, Gary Mueller, Don Rash, Cameron Rognan, Lew Scharpf, Ted Schroeder, Irene Verweij, Donna Wilson

### Digital Production:

Director, Macaulay Library: Michael S. Webster

Studio Engineer: Matthew A. Young

Introduction Text: Jessie Barry

Digital Image Processing: Jason van Staveren

Booklet Design and Layout: Tammy L. Bishop

Production Facilities: Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

TheCornellLab  
of Ornithology 

© 2011 Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)