

*Voices of*  
**Western 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 western United States.



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

## VOICES OF WESTERN BACKYARD BIRDS TRACK LIST

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|--|---|---|
| 1. Western Backyard<br>Bird Medley   | <b>Black-capped Chickadee</b><br><i>Poecile atricapillus</i><br>11. Song (GFB1988)<br>12. Call (ML 40796)                               | <b>House Finch</b><br><i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i><br>23. Song (ML 22938)<br>24. Call (ML 44967) |
| <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>13. Song (ML 120272)<br>14. Call (ML 109256)<br>15. Call 2 (ML 56885)    | <b>Pine Siskin</b><br><i>Spinus pinus</i><br>25. Song, calls (ML 44845)                         |
| <b>Downy Woodpecker</b><br><i>Dryobates pubescens</i><br>3. Calls (ML 107281)<br>4. Drum (ML 44905)                        | <b>White-crowned Sparrow</b><br><i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i><br>16. Song 1 (ML 42260)<br>17. Song 2 (ML 130914)<br>18. Call (ML 50106) | <b>American Goldfinch</b><br><i>Spinus tristis</i><br>26. Song, call (ML 111054)                |
| <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>Red-winged Blackbird</b><br><i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i><br>19. Song (ML 94234)<br>20. Calls (ML 106799)                               | <b>Evening Grosbeak</b><br><i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i><br>27. Calls (ML 111139)           |
| <b>Steller's Jay</b><br><i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i><br>8. Call (ML 44859)<br>9. Calls (ML 119433)                           | <b>Cassin's Finch</b><br><i>Haemorhous cassinii</i><br>21. Song (ML 107518)<br>22. Call (ML 80354)                                      |   |
| <b>California Scrub-Jay</b><br><i>Aphelocoma californica</i><br>10. Calls (ML 120228)                                      |   |   |

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 and see the mysterious songster. This sort of experience will help you remember the species next time you hear it.

You can start by learning a few common birds very well—that's where these recordings come in handy. 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, *fee-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 other media. Since 1930, recordists of all backgrounds have contributed millions of recordings and photos. Many can be searched, viewed, and played online at [www.macaulaylibrary.org](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org).

**eBird:** eBird is an online database of bird observations that provides scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance across the world. Visit [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) to save lists of all the birds you see and hear, anywhere in the world; and also to explore data about where and when to find birds you're interested in.

**All About Birds:** Check out this free online bird guide to help you identify birds of your backyard and beyond. Learn about more than 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 is supported by more than 100,000 members and donors. Your support furthers the Lab's mission to protect the Earth's wildlife through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/give> 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, skilled Macaulay Library staff teach state-of-the-art techniques for recording the sounds of wildlife. Participants learn through daily field recording sessions, coupled with lectures and demonstrations. To learn more about recording wildlife, visit [www.macaulaylibrary.org/resources/sound-recording-workshop](http://www.macaulaylibrary.org/resources/sound-recording-workshop).

## 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:** Steller's Jay by John McKean, California Scrub-Jay by Donald Metzner, Evening Grosbeak by Ted Schroeder, White-breasted Nuthatch by Lew Scharpf, Cassin's Finch by John McKean, White-crowned Sparrow by Tiny Gehrke

**Digital Images:** Jerry Acton, Shirley Gallant, Tiny Gehrke, Linda Koning, John McKean, Donald Metzner, Don Rash, Cameron Rognan, Lew Scharpf, Ted Schroeder, Irene Verweij

### 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

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