



**Illinois Ornithological Society: Birding By Ear**  
**RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING**

**Bird song/call compilations**

- Field Guide to Bird Songs - Eastern Central North America  
Roger Tory Peterson, editor  
2 cassettes or 1 CD  
This is a good set of recording to use to learn the birds of our area. Keyed to the Peterson's Guide to Birds East of the Rockies. Includes over 250 species.
- A Field Guide to Western Bird Songs  
Cornell/Interactive  
3 cassettes or 2 CDs  
A supplement that is useful if you travel. Keyed to the Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds. Includes more than 500 species.
- Guide to Bird Sounds  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
2 CDs  
Keyed to the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Has good recordings, but is not as encompassing as the Peterson's set of recordings. Focuses more on species for which song is very helpful or almost essential for identification. Individual recordings are longer than in the Peterson's set. Includes 179 species.
- Stokes Field Guide to Bird Song (Eastern)  
Lang Elliott with Donald & Lillian Stokes  
3 CDs or cassette set  
Companion to the Stokes Field Guide to the Birds: Eastern Region. Covers 372 species, has booklet describing precise call & song descriptions plus helpful hints on distinguishing sounds of similar species.
- Stokes Field Guide to Bird Song (Western)  
Lang Elliott with Donald & Lillian Stokes  
3 CDs or cassette set  
Companion to the Stokes Field Guide to the Birds: Western Region. Covers 551 species, has booklet describing precise call & song descriptions.
- BCN: Songs and Calls of the Breeding Birds of the Chicago Region  
Includes 108 species from the Chicago area. Contact BCN ([www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org), 847-965-1150) for information on availability.

- Songs of the Warblers of North America  
Donald J. Borror and William W.H. Gunn  
2 cassettes  
Includes 281 samples of songs of 57 species; also calls of 48 species.
- Many other regional compilations are also available.

### **Bird song learning tools**

- Birding by Ear: Guide to Bird Song Identification  
Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson  
3 cassettes or 3 CDs  
Recorded lectures that goes through a repertoire of common birds and teaches techniques for remembering what's what. Associates a "handle" with each bird and plays comparisons side by side for songs that are similar. A good learning tool. Focuses on birds east of the Rockies.
- More Birding by Ear: Eastern and Central  
Richard K. Walton and Robert W. Lawson  
3 cassettes or 3 CDs  
A continuation of the Birding by Ear method, taking on some of the more important groups of birds (empid flycatchers, shorebirds, terns, warblers) for which song ID is necessary or very helpful.
- birdJam ([www.birdjam.com](http://www.birdjam.com))  
Puts the sound files of the Stokes Field Guide to Bird Song (Eastern and/or Western) into mp3 format, organized into "playlists," for easy access and playback on an mp3 player (e.g. the iPod series from Apple). This is a portable system that is quite useful in the field to check to see if you did know what you were hearing.

### **CD-ROM**

- Guide to Birds of North America  
Thayer/Cornell  
Multimedia CD-ROM guide to the bird life of North America. Includes songs and calls of most birds.
- Flight Calls of Migratory Birds  
William R. Evans and Michael O'Brien  
Multimedia reference guide to the flight calls of 211 species of migratory landbirds in eastern North America. Contains audio recordings, spectrographic portrayal of calls, and information on migration and calling behavior.