

Lyda Phillips
Birding 101: Summary
Lifespan Academy: Summer 2020

Class 1: Introductions

Basic Elements of Identification

- Color
- Shape
- Call
- Habitat
- Behavior
- Range

Parts of a bird <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/bird-id-skills-field-marks/>

What physical tools do you use to help you identify birds you know?

- Binoculars (get to that later)
- Field Guides

Roger Torey Peterson, many guides, like this one.
Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America
Golden Books

But now the gold standard is Sibley's.

<http://www.birdchick.com/blog/2014/10/29/color-corrected-second-edition-sibley>

And the best thing about Sibley's is that it's available as an app. \$20

<https://www.sibleyguides.com/about/the-sibley-eguide-to-birds-app/>

Homework:

- Review the Parts of a Bird
- Get Sibley App and play with it
- Be prepared to come next week ready to talk about how that went

Lesson 2:

Discussion of how the Sibley App Worked 15 minutes

LISTING:

Who's seen The Big Year with Jack Black and Steve Martin

Would you like to do that? Do you do that?

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/05/24/metro/competitive-birding-turned-me-into-monster/?fbclid=IwAR29f2AOCZdY0pEA-lfwYUV3c2xmKAOTQMFEXzOV1mmK3gfeGfZVwnxbjPE>

Aside from the obsessive aspect why list? Why record your sightings?

It's fun for some people

It's citizen science.

Explain and show my father's meticulous records going back to 1962. The Lab wants those records. They want *your* records.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's activities

- The Great Back Yard Bird Count
- Feeder Watch

But the greatest of these is eBird

Call it up and explain how it works.

Homework:

Download eBird and explore.

Next week, tell us how that went.

Class Three:

Discussion of eBird 15-20 minutes

We've looked at tools. Now what about starting to keep lists. (if there's not much interest I can skip or just touch on this)

LISTING

- Yard lists
- Year lists
- County Lists
- State lists
- Country list
- Life lists

Once you start listing, you're going to start Day Tripping:

Online forums, Facebook pages, local Audubon Society Chapters, etc.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Limpkin/overview>

HOMEWORK:

Using online sites, Sibley's and eBird, find a bird that's in your area that you've never seen (or even if you have) and try to find it. Your yard doesn't count.

CLASS 4

Sum up what we've learned.

Miscellaneous:

- LBJs
- Pishing
- Chasing
- Hiring Guides
- Foreign travel (big numbers)

Questions?

Contact information if they ever want to ask me a question.