

Birding in Your Backyard

Library online resources

The Library has several excellent online resources to learn about birds.

1. Go to the library's website: <https://skokiellibrary.info/>
2. Hover over "Books, Movies, More," then click on Ebooks & Downloads.
3. Scroll down to Ebooks. You'll find instructions on how to use these resources.
 - a. **Hoopla** has "Midwestern Birds, Backyard Guide" by Bill Thompson, a great field guide.
 - b. **Kanopy** (scroll down the page a bit) offers series from "The Great Courses."
Recommended resources include:
 - i. The National Geographic Guide to Birding in North America
 - ii. The Scientific Wonder of Birds.
 - iii. Many non-fiction books for Kids.

Web resources

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has tremendous resources for beginning birders through serious ornithologists. Highlights are:

- Web cams to get up close with birds by bird feeders and nesting cameras <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>.
- Online guide to birding. Search for your bird and find many photos of different morphs (some birds are different colors throughout their life), listen to the bird's songs, and learn about bird behavior <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>.
- Try the Bird ID app, Merlin, which is also available for your phone. Describe a mystery bird and the app suggests possibilities. Or give it a photo and it uses AI to make an identification.
- eBird for entering bird lists and seeing what birds other people reported <https://ebird.org/explore>.

Join a birding club! Most organizations have on-line meetups:

- "Illinois Birding Network" group on Facebook
- Audubon Society <https://www.audubon.org/>
- Evanston North Shore Bird club <http://www.ensbc.org/>