

OKANOGAN  
HIGHLANDS  
ALLIANCE

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Hello Birders and Aspiring Birders!

We had planned a “Birding By Ear” field trip at OHA’s Triple Creek wetland restoration site in Chesaw on May 30. However, in order to protect public health we are not holding group events at this time. But don’t think that we have forgotten about you! In place of our in-person field trip we have assembled a set of resources to support your independent efforts to identify birds by sight and sound.

The Okanogan Highlands is such an amazing place to birdwatch, whether you are a casual observer, a beginner or an experienced birder. Please reach out to share your observations and ask questions ([info@okanoganhighlands.org](mailto:info@okanoganhighlands.org)). If we don’t know the answers we would love to help connect you with people or organizations who will.

We miss you and we can’t wait to see you in person, hopefully someday soon! In the meantime, happy birding!

-Jen, Sarah, and Julie

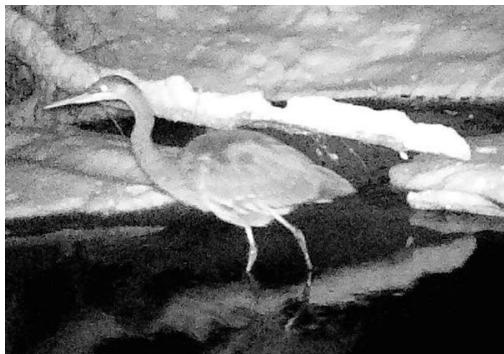
**Thoughts On Birding**  
from our “BIRDING BY EAR” Field Trip Leaders



*“When I started focusing on bird songs I used CDs, which I suppose is old technology these days. A helpful CD that can still be obtained is *Bird Songs of the Okanagan* by John Neville from BC. Nice due to focus on our local species and if you have a CD player in the car you can practice while driving.”*

-Todd Thorn

Okanagan Bluebird Trails: Lee Johnson has been working with local enthusiasts to restore bluebird populations to the highlands, building on an effort started by Dale Swedberg 34 years ago. They are sharing their tried and true method for building and caring for bird nesting boxes! Building plans are attached, and a how-to video is in the works. For more info, or to report on boxes you have cleaned, contact Todd Thorn ([todd@canyonwren.us](mailto:todd@canyonwren.us)).



*“My 5 year old daughter tolerates my birding pretty well. I have found photos help. Now we do near daily trips for her to catch butterflies. We then put her bug barn in the refrigerator for a while. After a couple hours we can take excellent photos before releasing them. Now she has butterfly pictures decorating all her walls! It's great to see her so excited about nature.”*

-Joe Veverka



*“As humans, it seems instinctive to focus on identifying bird species, and it sure can be rewarding to make our life lists longer and be able to name a bird by sight or sound. But, it can really open my experience to set aside ID and just notice the bird. What are its feet and beak best at doing? What field marks stand out most on the wings, tail, or head? What is it eating and what is it doing? The more time spent observing, the more identification will come naturally. And -- it's great to role model curiosity instead of feeling like we are supposed to always know the names!”*

-Julie Vanderwal

## Birds You Can Expect to See in the Okanogan Highlands (draft list)

<b>Chicken-like birds</b>	<b>Raptors</b>	<b>Shorebirds</b>	<b>Sparrows</b>
chukar	eagle, bald	curlew, long-billed	American tree-sparrow
grouse, dusky	eagle, golden	dipper, American	Brewer's sparrow
grouse, ruffed	falcon, peregrine (very uncommon)	dowitcher, long-billed	chipping sparrow
grouse, sharp-tailed	falcon, prairie	heron, great blue	clay-colored sparrow
grouse, sooty	goshawk, Northern	killdeer	fox sparrow
grouse, spruce	gyrfalcon	phalarope, red-necked	golden-crowned sparrow
partridge, gray	harrier, Northern	phalarope, Wilson's	Harris's sparrow
pheasant, ring-necked	hawk, Cooper's	plower, semipalmated	house sparrow (invasive)
quail, California	hawk, red-tailed	rail, Virginia	lark sparrow
turkey, wild (invasive)	hawk, rough-legged	sandpiper, Baird's	Lincoln's sparrow
	hawk, sharp-shinned	sandpiper, least	savannah sparrow
<b>Flycatchers</b>	kestrel, American	sandpiper, pectoral	song sparrow
flycatcher, dusky	merlin	sandpiper, solitary	vesper sparrow
flycatcher, gray	osprey	sandpiper, spotted	white-crowned sparrow
flycatcher, Hammond's	owl, barred	sandpiper, Western	
flycatcher, least	owl, boreal	snipe, Wilson's	<b>Swallows</b>
flycatcher, olive-sided	owl, burrowing	sora	bank swallow
flycatcher, Pacific-slope	owl, flammulated	stilt, black-necked	barn swallow
flycatcher, willow	owl, great gray	whimbrel (very uncommon)	cliff swallow
kingbird, Eastern	owl, great horned	yellowlegs, lesser	Northern rough-winged swallow
kingbird, Western	owl, long-eare	yellowlegs, greater	tree swallow
Say's phoebe	owl, Northern hawk		violet-green swallow
wood-peewee, Western	owl, Northern pygmy		
	owl, Northern saw-whet		<b>Warblers</b>
<b>Corvids</b>	owl, short-eared		Tennessee warbler
crow, American	owl, Western screech-owl		orange-crowned warbler
jay, Canada (formerly gray)			Nashville warbler
jay, Stellar's			yellow warbler
magpie, black-billed			magnolia warbler
nutcracker, clark's			yellow-rumped warbler
raven, common			Townsend's warbler
			MacGillivray's warbler
			Wilson's warbler

<b>Waterfowl</b>	<b>Woodpeckers</b>	<b>Other:</b>	
bufflehead	black-backed woodpecker	blackbird, Brewer's	nighthawk, common
canvasback	downy woodpecker	blackbird, red-winged	nuthatch, pygmy
coot, American	hairy woodpecker	blackbird, yellow-headed	nuthatch, red-breasted
duck, harlequin	Lewis's woodpecker	bluebird, mountain	nuthatch, white-breasted
duck, ring-necked	Northern flicker	bluebird, Western	oriole, Bullock's
duck, ruddy (blue beak!)	pileated woodpecker	bobolink	pipit, American
duck, wood	red-naped sapsucker	bunting, Lazuli	poorwill, common
gadwall	three-toed woodpecker	bunting, snow	redpoll, common
goldeneye, Barrow's	white-headed woodpecker	catbird, gray	redpoll, hoary
goldeneye, common	Williamson's sapsucker	chat, yellow-breasted	robin, American
goose, Canada		chickadee, black-capped	rosy-fin, gray-crowned
grebe, eared	<b>Wrens</b>	chickadee, boreal	shrike, Loggerhead
grebe, horned	canyon wren	chickadee, chestnut-backed	shrike, Northern
grebe, pied-billed	house wren	chickadee, mountain	siskin, pine
grebe, red-necked	marsh wren	cowbird, brown-headed	solitaire, Townsend's
grebe, Western	Pacific wren	creeper, brown	starling, European
loon, common	rock wren	crossbill, red	swift, black
loon, Pacific		crossbill, white-winged	swift, Vaux's
mallard		cuckoo, yellow-billed	swift, white-throated
merganser, common		dove, Eurasian collared	tanager, western
merganser, hooded		dove, mourning	tern, black
pintail, Northern		dove, rock	tern, Caspian
redhead		finch, Cassin's	tern, Forster's
scaup, greater		finch, House	thrush, hermit
scaup, lesser		goldfinch, American	thrush, Swainson's
shoveler, Northern		grosbeak, black-headed	thrush, varied
swan, trumpeter		grosbeak, evening	towhee, spotted
swan, tundra		grosbeak, pine	Turkey vulture
teal, Blue-winged		gull, Bonaparte's	Veery
teal, cinnamon		hummingbird, black-chinned	vireo, Cassin's
teal, green-winged		hummingbird, calliope	vireo, red-eyed
wigeon, American		hummingbird, rufous	vireo, warbling
		juncos, dark-eyed	waterthrush, Northern
		kingfisher, belted	waxwing, Bohemian
		kinglet, golden-crowned	waxwing, cedar
		kinglet, ruby-crowned	yellowthroat, common
		lark, horned	
		meadowlark, western	

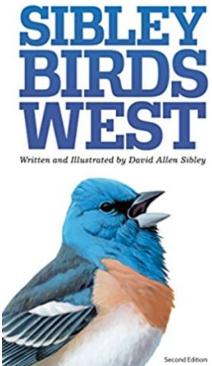
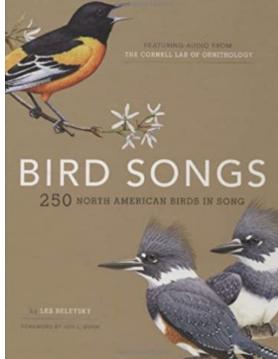
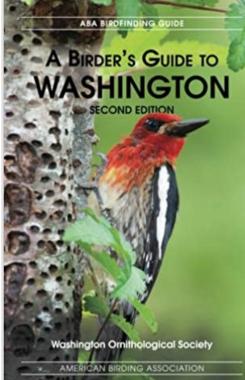
## Bird App Recommendations

These apps are all free (except the Sibley guide) and available for both iPhone and Android.

Logo To Look For	App Name	Notes
 <a href="http://MerlinBirdID.com">MerlinBirdID.com</a>	Cornell Lab's Merlin ID	<p>Answer five straightforward questions and the Merlin Bird ID app suggests likely species matches. This app focuses on ID, songs, and range, but provides limited additional info.</p> <p>Have a photo? Upload it to the app, and Merlin will offer a list of possibilities.</p>
	Audubon Bird Guide	<p>This free app includes a good set of audio files to listen to bird calls and songs, as well as lots of interesting info about each species. Great for learning more and you can add sightings!</p>
	eBird	<p>There are many features with this app but it is straightforward to use. There are easy to use charts showing most common birds in the area. An especially good resource if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• looking for somewhere to go birding</li> <li>• want to see what birds can be expected in a certain region during a certain time of year.</li> <li>• Checking for Citizen Science projects.</li> </ul>
	Song Sleuth	<p>The app listens to the bird songs around you and suggests possible matches. Once you've identified the bird you heard, the built-in Sibley guide provides detailed info on the species.</p>
	iNaturalist	<p>This app is not just for birding but allows you to record observations and discuss with other naturalists. Another great way to keep track of your species lists and participate in citizen science!</p>
	Sibley Bird Guide v2 (2018)	<p>This app includes all of the content in the printed guide as well as over 2800 audio recordings, additional text, complete seasonal status data for every species in every state and province, and hundreds of searchable criteria. \$19.99</p>

## Bird Book Recommendations

If you order from Amazon, head to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% of your purchase goes to the charity of your choice (ahem...ahem...OHA?)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beautiful illustrations and detailed descriptions of bird species found west of the Rockies</li><li>• Revised and updated in 2016</li><li>• \$15.49 on smile.amazon.com</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A succinct description of each of the 250 birds profiled, with an emphasis on their distinctive songs. Lavish full-color illustrations accompany each account, while a sleek, built-in digital audio player holds 250 corresponding songs and calls</li><li>• \$39.94 on smile.amazon.com</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hawks in Flight provides in-depth descriptions of hawk/eagle behavior and identification, which is a real help with this challenging group of birds -- that we have a lot of.</li><li>• \$11.77 on smile.amazon.com</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This book lists bird species and where to find them nearly to the neighborhood level around Washington, so it's a good way to focus on our local birds.</li><li>• \$20.71 on smile.amazon.com</li></ul>

## Additional Resources

Cornell Lab of Ornithology  (Note: these are just a few of the many, many resources available from the Cornell Lab. As Joe Veverka says, "It seems Cornell Lab of Ornithology is becoming a one stop shop for all things birds!")	<p><a href="#">Sign up for newsletters, citizen science opportunities and more.</a></p> <p><a href="#">A series of "How To" videos to help you with your birding skills</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sign up for courses, ranging from Bird Identification to Bird Biology to Bird Art...choose from beginner or advanced and go at your own pace!</a></p>
Sierra Club	<p>Great article: <a href="#"><i>Quarantine Birding 101: three easy hacks to keep your bird game flying high</i></a></p>
WREN Radio, podcast series	<p>A series of short podcasts focusing on the sounds, identification and biology of birds, from waterfowl to game birds to summer songsters. Available on <a href="#">Apple Podcasts</a> and Google Podcasts</p>
Audubon Society, local chapter: <a href="http://www.ncwaudubon.org/">http://www.ncwaudubon.org/</a>	<p>Our <a href="#">local chapter of the Audubon Society</a> is participating in a nationwide <a href="#">Climate Watch</a> program. The effort involves half-day surveys at 12 local sites once or twice a year, targeting focus species such as bluebirds and nuthatches. The information gathered will contribute to knowledge on climate change impacts. Locals wanting to get involved can contact Todd Thorn at <a href="mailto:todd@canyonwren.us">todd@canyonwren.us</a>.</p>