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Features

YardBirds makes identifying wild birds fun and easy. If you've ever thumbed through a traditional field guide, looking for birds with a particular field mark -- say, a white or gray wingbar-- you've probably come away pretty frustrated. That is true enough of one field mark; how about two together? White wingbars and cinnamon napes. Or how about *five* field marks at the same time? Or five field marks and your own state in the spring?

No book can do that for you, but YardBirds makes it a snap. And now you can listen to songs, learn what styles of feeders attract particular species, and even keep an online searchable birding journal.

YardBirds contains the work of dozens of dedicated professionals, and represents many thousands of hours of effort -- all available with a click or two of a button. We're very pleased to share YardBirds with you and sincerely hope you enjoy using this wonderful new way of bird watching as much as we did inventing it.

Choosing an Experience Level

To select, click the left mouse button on the appropriate [radio button](#); or select the Options menu from the top of the screen, and then [Searching Level](#).

You can switch between levels at any time.

See [Selecting a Field Mark](#)

Related Topics:

[Novice](#)

[Experienced](#)

Novice

Move the mouse cursor to the part of the bird you want and click either button. Seasoned birders may use Novice because it is quick and simple. You still have the complete range of other variables, including Names, Habits, Sizes, Regions, and Journal.

Novice Gives you five main field marks:

Head, Body above, Wings above, Body below, and Tail.

(Click on field marks colored green too see pop-up definitions.)

Experienced

Move the mouse cursor to the part of the bird you want and click either button. New birders may use Experienced to get a feel for avian field marks, or to access field marks as Wingbars or Rump.

Experienced gives you 32 main field marks:

Head equivalent: Bill color, Lores, Eye, Eyering, Eyebrow, Forecrown, Crown patch, Eyeline, Cheek, Malar, Throat, Chin, Crown, Nape, Side neck.

Body Above equivalent: Mantle, Rump, Uppertail coverts.

Wings Above equivalent: Scapular, Upperwing coverts, Wingbars, Primaries, Secondaries.

Body Below equivalent: Head equivalent: Bill color, Lores, Eye, Eyering, Eyebrow, Forecrown, Crown patch, Eyeline, Cheek, Malar, Throat, Chin, Crown, Nape, Side, Upper breast, Lower breast, Belly, Flank, Thigh, Tarsus.

Tail equivalent: Central retrices, Outer retrices.

More Marks

In Experienced you may also click on the box labeled "**Click for more marks**".

-- Gives you 22 more field marks:

Crest, Median stripe, Mask, Collar, Bill shape, Bill length, Upper mandible, Lower Mandible, Body Above, Body Below, Wing patches, Speculum, Wing shape, Wings above, Wings below, Tail patches, Tail edges, Tail tip, Tail above, Tail below, Tail length, Tail shape, Terminal bands.

Strategy

Choose one, two or three field marks you are sure of. These will narrow the field sharply. It is best not to guess, since YardBirds will assume you are positive about any field mark you select. The program will look for birds having these marks to a clearly distinguishing extent. (Of course, if you are exploring YardBirds, and not trying to identify a particular bird, it can be great fun to try out different combinations of field marks and other variables.)

A bird might have a faint brown wingbar, for example (most birds have a faint wingbar of some sort) but if you select "Wingbar" and then choose "Brown" YardBirds will hunt for birds with *striking* brown wingbars, and may miss the more subtly marked bird you want.

Rather than going out on a limb with risky field marks, try Habits or other environmental variables to narrow your search as well.

Related Topics:

[Selecting a Field Mark](#)

Selecting a Field Mark

Click on the field mark you want by rolling your mouse cursor over the bird schematic in the Start Screen. You aren't limited to the field marks in any one Experience Level. You might begin in Novice, for example, select Head, and Brown; then switch to Experienced to get access to Wingbars.

Related Topics:

Colors

Patterns

Other Field Marks

Colors

Once you have clicked on a field mark, the Color Window in the upper left hand corner of the Start Screen gives you color choices. These colors vary according to the field mark you have chosen. Use the scrollbar to scan the full list of colors.

Sometimes you will decide a bird is not one color or another, but something of both. A typical example is a grayish-blue bird. In such cases, you can select *both* colors by dragging the cursor. YardBirds takes a "fuzzy logic" approach to situations like this. The colors, however, must be adjacent. What if the colors you need have an intervening hue you don't want? (In fact, with blue and gray, the color brown intervenes.) Go ahead and drag the cursor over all three colors.

The addition of "brown" when you really want only blue and gray will not materially throw off your search for the grayish-blue bird. You are not telling YardBirds to look for birds with blue *and* gray *and* brown (i.e., for birds having all three colors at once); rather, you are telling it to look for birds blue *or* gray *or* brown (i.e. for birds having any of these colors.) In other words, having brown in addition to blue and gray merely forces YardBirds to cast the net a bit wider, making sure your grayish-blue bird will be in the catch.

Patterns

When you have selected a color from the Color Window, you will see a Pattern Window open beside it. You will then have choices such as Iridescent, Streaked, Spotted, etc. You do not *have* to choose any of these. When in doubt, leave it out.

Other Field Marks

Conical Large Bill Shape.

Conical Small Bill Shape.

Hooked Bill Shape.

Broad Bill Shape.

Pointed Large Bill Shape.

Pointed Small Bill Shape.

Slender Bill Shape.

Slight Decurve Bill Shape.

Throat:

Forked Tail.

Banded..

Barred.

Iridescent.

Rufous.

Olive.

Spotted.

Streaked.

Strategy

You can find birds skipping field marks entirely, although usually you will choose a mixture of distinguishing characteristics. These File Folders allow you to select birds by names, habits, feeder preferences, Journal entries and other variables.

Names File Folder

Names, Specific

Genus

Species

Family

Sex

Chapter

Names, Specific

Names commonly used, for example "Crows," rather than "Corvids." Move the cursor to the bird you want and click. Use the scrollbar at the right to scan the entire list. Where the genders of species differ, they are listed separately.

Genus

Lists birds by scientific classification of similarities, usually spanning several species. "Corvus," for example, includes more than one species of crow. Click on any Genus to select these related species.

Species

Combined with Genus, this lists birds individually. Any one species breeds within itself, but generally does not breed with other species, except with occasional hybrids between closely related species. Click on any listed species to select it.

Related Topics:

[Hybrid](#)

Hybrid

Not a button or field mark in YardBirds. However, some hybrids are noted or pictured in image screens. Hybrids occur between closely related but different species, particularly where their ranges overlap.

Family

Larger groups of related species. For example, "Corvidae" includes not only crows, but many jays as well. Click on any Family to select the group.

Sex

This button separates birds by gender, where they have distinctive differences. Where the genders are almost identical, they are grouped as "Similar." Note that the image screens generally show both genders, when unlike, on a single screen, although the YardBirds database tracks the genders separately. (That's the reason you may find a discrepancy between the number of birds found, and the number of images available.)

When you are in an image screen, click on the "More Data" button to read gender-specific details. You can also scroll through the database looking for males or females separately.

The image screens often show seasonal or maturational variations, although these are not sorted in the YardBirds database. (Seasonal occurrences, as in migratory birds, are sorted, however.)

Chapter

If you have more than one chapter installed, click on this button to select which one to use. For example, if you have both the "Eastern US and Canada" and "Wood Warblers" you can opt to study warblers alone. To select two or more chapters simultaneously, drag your cursor down the list to highlight your choices, and click.

Related Topics:

[Adding Chapters](#)

Adding Chapters

A wide variety of chapters is under development. When you have one chapter, adding additional chapters is easy, because they all use the same structure, which you have already received. To install, please follow the instructions included with your update disk. Once you have purchased one chapter, subsequent chapters are available at a discount. Please call 1-888-221-2473 for additional details.

Habits File Folder

Bird Feeders

Feeding Location

Habitat

Identifying Habits

Bird Feeders

Click on this button to identify birds based on their preferences of feeder styles. In some cases these also have natural equivalents. For example, a platform feeder mimics the ground surface. Many birds -- the doves, among others-- will take seeds both from such a feeder, or from scattered seeds on the ground. But doves are unlikely to take from a vertical feeder. You can select several types of feeders at once by clicking on them sequentially.

The Advice Window to the left gives you general tips on placing and maintaining each type of feeder. You may wish to ask your local wild bird seed retailer which seed is appropriate for any of these feeders (or birds) you've seen in YardBirds. The goldfinches, for example, are particularly attracted to thistle seeds, which require a specialized feeder.

Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.

If you have received a special edition of YardBirds jointly promoted by Ramphastos and Blue Seal Feeds, Inc., in late 1997, you will see a "Blue Seal" button in the Habits File Folder. Click on this and a list of Blue Seal wild bird mixes and feeds will appear in the window to the right.

Select any of these mixes --for example, "Concerto"-- and YardBirds will find those birds attracted to this mix.

You can also select a bird by name (or by searching the usual way) and if you are curious to see what Blue Seal mixes attract this bird, just click on the Blue Seal button.

If you click on the fruit feeder icon, then on the Blue Seal button, you may see a list of seed mixes (but no fruits). That is because many fruit eaters will also eat seeds. Likewise with suet feeders.

Feeding Location

Click on this button to differentiate birds according to their favored natural feeding areas. For example, the "Brown Creeper" tends to feed along the trunks and limbs of trees, and that's where it is usually observed. Doves prefer to feed on the ground. Other birds stick to the higher foliage. Where you see a bird can be an important clue to its identity.

Habitat

Like "Feeding Location," "Habitat" differentiates birds according to their preferred environments. Ducks favor watery areas. Pheasants or the Killdeer hew to open, grassy places. This is another important clue to a bird's identity.

Identifying Habits

Birds adapt to their environments by behaving in a variety of ways. Do they snatch insects in mid-air? Or rather pry up bits of bark looking for insect eggs? Do they flick their tails in bold display, or instead lurk in the evening darkness?

Click on any of these choices to identify (or explore) a bird by its behavior.

See [The Observations Screen](#)

Size File Folder

Size Choices

Very large: 20 inches (50.8 cm.) or more from bill to tail tip.

Large: 12 inches (30.5 cm.) to 20 inches (50.8 cm.) from bill to tail tip.

Medium: 7 inches (17.8 cm.) to 12 inches (30.5 cm.) bill to tail tip.

Small: 5 inches (12.7 cm) to 7 inches (17.8 cm) bill to tail tip.

Very small: Less than 5 inches (12.7 cm.) bill to tail tip.

Click on the "tape measure" to select. You may select two or more sizes sequentially. (Selecting all the sizes equals selecting none.)

Regions File Folder

Move the cursor to a state or province and click. You can select several. Those states and provinces not covered by the chapter you've installed will not operate. Extreme Northern Canada and Hawaii are outside the scope of YardBirds at this time.

Related Topics:

[Seasons](#)

Seasons

The Regions File Folder works in tandem with seasons. (Choosing a season is not essential, however.) Many warblers and other migratory birds (nearly half of all species) are most common in North America during summer and fall, when food is plentiful. In some cases, species are "common" only when they are in transit, and stop for refueling along the way. You can select more than one season at a time.

NOTE: Selecting no season is equivalent to selecting all.

Journal File Folder

This section describes how to use the Journal as part of a search. That requires, of course, pre-existing entries. For help with setting up and making entries into your Journal, please see [Making an Entry](#)

With YardBirds, your Journal becomes another kind of "[field mark](#)" or variable. (You can also simply use it as a diary, of course.) The Journal operates best in conjunction with other marks or variables. You can, for instance, begin a search in the usual way --head color, wingbars, habits and the like-- and then have YardBirds search for any entries you may have made about birds with those characteristics.

To access the Journal, click on the Journal File Folder tab. Then choose whether to search for "[Specific Text](#)" (e.g., for words and letters you have entered) or for "[Any Text](#)" (e.g., for any entry that contains anything at all).

Type the text (exactly) into the Search Text box, then click on "Accept," or, in the "Any Text" mode, simply click on "Accept."

The Range Finder Window will tell you how many Journal entries match your criteria. See also [Using the Range Finder Window](#)

To view the entries, select "See Birds" or binocular button, then, "More data" in the image screen.

Finally, if necessary, click on the Journal tab. To move through your Journal entry by entry, click on the [scrollbar](#) in the [Button Cluster](#) to the right.

NOTE: You can scroll through all the Journal pages available in YardBirds this way --even empty ones.

To delete Journal entries, you can use either your Delete key, or highlight the text with your keyboard SHIFT + arrow keys, or with by dragging your mouse cursor, then press the Delete key.

Related Topics:

[Journal Example:](#)

Journal Example:

Susan Smith enjoys recording the birds she has seen during her many trips to the woods. On a hike near Waterville Valley, NH, she noted seeing a *Black-capped Chickadee*, a *Baltimore Oriole*, and in late evening, a *Great Horned Owl*.

On an excursion near Saranac Lake, NY, she noticed a *Brown Creeper*, a *Sharp-shinned Hawk*, another *chickadee* and the male *Pileated Woodpecker*.

During a camping trip in the Daniel Boone National Forest, KY, she saw a female *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, a *Purple Finch*, a *White-breasted Nuthatch*, and the *chickadee* again.

Finally, on another visit to New Hampshire, at Little Monadnock Mountain, she recorded seeing the *Golden-crowned Kinglet*, a *Pine Siskin*, a *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*, and the *chickadee* yet again.

(For the sake of clarity, this example assumes these are the only entries in Ms. Smith's Journal.)

At a later date, Ms. Smith activates her Journal File Folder and chooses the "Any Text" setting. She sees in the Range Finder Window that she has 12 entries. That's how many birds she has recorded seeing in her YardBirds Journal.

Now she decides to explore the range of field marks among the birds she has recorded. How many have, say, white chests? First she selects that field mark and color (in the Experienced Searching Level) and returns to the Journal File Folder, clicks on "Any Text." The Range Finder Window tells her that eight of the birds she has recorded had that field mark. How many had red crowns? (Two.) Six had white wingbars.

Ms. Smith remembers her visit to Saranac Lake but can't recall how many or which birds she saw. So she begins a "New Search" and types "Saranac" into the "Search Text" box. She sees the four birds from that visit.

Next she wonders which birds she saw in both her visits to New Hampshire. She types "NH" into the "Search Text" box, and sees six birds.

Now Ms. Smith remembers seeing the *Black-capped Chickadee* in many places -- but which places? She opens the "Names File Folder," clicks on "Chickadee, Black-capped." Then she selects "See Bird," and in the image screen, clicks on "More data" and then the Journal File Folder. In the Journal screen she reads:

June 5, 1996. Waterville Valley, NH

August 13, 1997. Saranac Lake, NY

September 5, 1997. Daniel Boone National Forest, KY

October 1, 1997. Little Monadnock Mountain, NH

Ms. Smith might have searched for birds by the month or by the year, as well. In fact, being familiar with the use of the wildcard symbol "*" she could refine the search even further. If she entered into the "Search Text" box the following: *Oct*97*NH* she would have come up only those entries made in October of 1997, in New Hampshire.

See Strategy and Example of a Journal Entry

Strategy

The Journal is a powerful tool, and as you make entries, it actually becomes part of the YardBirds database.

The key is to put a little forethought into how you want to use your Journal.

There is ample room for recording all your ideas -- each entry page (one per bird) will accept about 50 pages of text (approximately 15,000 words). You could write poems and novellas about every bird, if you so wish.

However, like a supercharged spreadsheet, YardBirds is built to zip through organized data -- the more organized the better. If your entries maintain a consistent structure, you will find them easier to search.

See also [Journal File Folder](#) and [Journal Example](#):

Related Topics:

[Making an Entry](#)

[Example of a Journal Entry](#)

[Multiple Users](#)

Making an Entry

After you have located a bird in YardBirds, and you wish to make an entry, click on the "See Bird" or binoculars button. Then, when the image screen is on, select the "More data" button from the button cluster at the right.

You will now see three file folder tabs: Observations, Field Marks Detail, and Journal. Choose "Journal" and then slide your cursor into the writing screen and begin typing. (You can automatically enter today's date --according to your computer clock chip-- by clicking first on "New Journal Entry.")

To save an entry, move out of this screen -- hit "New Search" or "See bird." You can edit the text with the usual key sequences (CTRL + C to copy, CTRL + V to insert, etc.)

Related Topics:

[Printing an Entry](#)

[Erasing an Entry](#)

Printing an Entry

Print your Journal (one entry at a time) by selecting the "Print" button. Set printing options under "File" and "Printer Setup."

YardBirds does not support printing the entire Journal as one document.

Erasing an Entry

Highlight the text you wish to erase, using SHIFT+arrow, or by dragging the mouse cursor, then hit the Delete key.

Example of a Journal Entry

At the end of the year Ralph Jones likes to look back over his birding expeditions and track what birds he saw, where, when, under what conditions, and with whom. In his YardBirds Journal, Mr. Jones always writes his entries this way, as he did for the Common Loon.

Oct. 15, 1997. 8-am. Moses Lake, Grant County, WA. Light rain and windy. 48-degrees. Accompanied by Joe Henderson and Susan Smith (she was unhappy -- she prefers forests). This loon saw us and flew rapidly away. Particularly good color. Good tour.

Now, on New Year's Eve, Mr. Jones can find all the birds he saw on Moses Lake, for starters. By using the wildcard symbol "*" he can add dates, people, weather, etc. to his search for Moses Lake sightings. He can type *97*Henderson* to find out how many times he went birding with Joe Henderson during the year. He might search for *Susan Smith*unhappy* and see only those times he had made that note. He can search for *"-am"* or *"-pm"* sightings, perhaps by weather conditions, too: *-am*rainy*. (Note the use of the hyphen in the entry of *8-am*. This avoids inadvertent matches with bigger words having "am" embedded in them, such as "Grand Coulee Dam.")

See also [Journal Example](#):

Multiple Users

These same techniques can maintain a Journal used by several people. In a family or classroom, for example, each member of the group can be given a unique identifier, which he or she then places in each entry. At the end of the year or quarter the Journal can report how many birds the entire group saw; which birds no one saw; which birds any one member saw, etc.

See also [Journal Example](#):

Getting to from Place to Place

Buttons

The Observations Screen

The Slide Show

Using the Range Finder Window

Buttons

See Birds (or binoculars) Button

The Button Cluster

See *Birds (or binoculars)* Button

Calls up the image screens. You can look at a species after a search, or you can browse through all the birds.

The Button Cluster

To the right of each image is a cluster of buttons:

"More Data" --takes you to the "Observations" screen, where you can read about each species, check for a detailed list of field marks for each bird, or write in the Journal.

"New Search" -- Starts over.

Scrollbar-- Scroll through the available images.

Music note-- Plays the song of each species.

A comparable button cluster operates in the "Observations" screen, except the top button says "See Bird," rather than "More Data."

See also [The Observations Screen](#)

The Observations Screen

Each species is described by a professional ornithologist and educator.

"Field Marks Detail" -- These are the detailed field marks by which each bird is classified in the YardBirds database.

"Journal" -- Click on this to make an entry about a specific species.

The Slide Show

YardBirds always starts in Slide Show mode. The images and songs play randomly as long as you let it run. In Windows you can minimize YardBirds and create your own "jungle noise" effect; the bird songs will continue to play randomly in the background, while you run other programs (word processing, etc.) Very handy for driving co-workers crazy.

The Slide Show also functions as a sort of screen saver.

You can vary how the Slide Show plays the songs through the Options menu under "Sound Settings." If you choose "Fast Response" you can operate buttons while the song is playing. If you choose "Slow Response," an individual bird song will finish before letting you click buttons.

Using the Range Finder Window

When the Range Finder Window says you have fewer than 10 birds to choose from, ideally seven or fewer, should you keep trying field marks to get the number even lower? Generally, no.

At this point your own eye is the best tool. You'll find you can scroll through this number of birds quickly, and the target bird is likely to "pop" right out at you.

If you guess on a field mark and are wrong, you may get the target number down further, but you may also have eliminated the very bird you were looking for.

What if the Range Finder Window says *"There are 7 birds to choose from"* but when you go to "See Birds," you find only three or four images? That's because both the males and females of many species count as individual birds, if they have significantly different field marks. Yet both may share the field marks you selected. Therefore, in many cases you will have "two birds" but only one image (with two birds in it).

See also [Strategy](#)

History, Thanks and Credits

About YardBirds

The groundwork for YardBirds was laid in the late 1980s, when we began looking for a means of organizing the results of ornithological investigations in South America. The amount of data was huge, and existing commercial software was not extensive enough or fast enough to handle the job. Over several years we developed our own unique "on the fly" relational database algorithms with unrivaled power.

It soon became clear this approach could be used to help birders in North America as well. We then assembled an expanded team to gather songs, create original illustrations, and handle the other tasks involved with an ambitious undertaking like this. We formed Ramphastos, LLC (after the family name of toucans) in mid-1996, and began marketing our first chapter -- the *Eastern U.S. and Eastern Canada* -- later that year. Since then we have continued developing additional chapters, including the *Wood Warblers of North America*, and the *Western U.S. and Western Canada*, with others to follow.

Related Topics:

[Contributors](#)

[Thanks](#)

[Credits](#)

[References](#)

[How to reach us](#)

Contributors

Rick Blaisdell, programming and coordination; Thomas Y. Butler, editing, program design, sound production; Paul Bunning, illustration and text; Scott Cornell, interface and Internet design assistance; Peter Hunt, Ph.D., editing, text and ornithology; John LaGreca, additional programming; Kathy J. Varney, additional programming and project coordination; Michael Walker, tester and Internet design.

Thanks

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Credits

Work by the following recordists appears in YardBirds:

Sharp-shinned Hawk - Gregory F. Budney; *Barred Owl* - Budney and James L. Gullledge; *Pine Siskin* - Budney and Geoffrey A. Keller; *Common Redpoll* - William W. H. Gunn and Bernadette E. Schrempf; *Bohemian Waxwing* - Gunn; *Vaux's Swift* - David S. Herr; *Eastern Screech Owl* - Hugh McIsaac; *Golden-crowned Kinglet*, *Red-naped Sapsucker*, *Lesser Nighthawk*, *Lawrence's Goldfinch* and *White-crowned Sparrow* - Keller; *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, *Ruffed Grouse* - Randall S. Little; *Allen's Hummingbird* - Charles A. Sutherland; (all the above associated with The Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Anna's Hummingbird, *Black-chinned Hummingbird*, *Western Flycatcher*, *Plain Titmouse*, *Spotted Dove*, *Inca Dove*, *Ladder-backed Woodpecker*, *Nuttall's Woodpecker*, *Ash-throated Flycatcher*, *Canyon Towhee*, *Common Ground Dove*, *Blue Grosbeak* - R. A. Bradley; *Brown-headed Nuthatch* -- M. Brown; *Yellow-billed Cuckoo*, *Great-tailed Grackle*, *Band-tailed Pigeon*, *Pygmy Nuthatch*, *White-headed Woodpecker*, and *Clark's Nutcracker* - J.W. Hardy; *Northern Pygmy-Owl*, and *Rufous-crowned Sparrow* - G. Lasley; *Bullock's Oriole* and *Black Phoebe* - Tom Webber (all associated with The Florida Museum of Natural History.)

Black-headed Grosbeak, *California Quail*, *Cassin's Finch*, *Cliff Swallow*, *Green-tailed Jay*, *Lazuli Bunting*, *Lark Sparrow*, *Lincoln's Sparrow*, *Mountain Bluebird*, *Western Scrub Jay*, *Spotted Towhee*, *Violet-green Swallow*, *Western Tanager*, *White-throated Swift*, and *Wrentit* - Arthur C. Borror.

Bewick's Wren, *Common Bushtit*, and *Mountain Chickadee* -- Chan S. Robbins; *Groove-billed Ani*, *White-winged Dove*, *Hooded Oriole*, and *Eastern Meadowlark* - John R. Sauer; *Common Barn Owl* - Jim Stasz (all associated with The Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, Laurel, MD.

Cooper's Hawk, *Western Screech-Owl*, *Calliope Hummingbird*, *Broad-tailed Hummingbird*, *Rufous Hummingbird*, *Red-breasted Sapsucker*, *Gray Jay*, *Black-billed Magpie*, *Chestnut-backed Chickadee*, *Western Bluebird*, *Varied Thrush*, *Golden-crowned Sparrow*, *Brewer's Blackbird*, *Red Crossbill*, *Lesser Goldfinch*, *Gambel's Quail*, *Common Poorwill*, *Costa's Hummingbird*, *Gila Woodpecker*, *Say's Phoebe*, *Vermillion Flycatcher*, *Cassin's Kingbird*, *Western Kingbird*, *California Thrasher*, *Hutton's Vireo*, and *Acorn Woodpecker* --The Borror Laboratory of Bioacoustics, Ohio State University.

Remaining vocalizations recorded by Thomas Y. Butler.

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How to reach us

We at Ramphastos are dedicated to having you use and enjoy YardBirds to the fullest extent possible. If you have questions or comments --or even the slightest difficulty-- please feel free to reach us in any of the following ways:

During normal business hours (Eastern time, Monday-Friday) call (603) -742-5477.

Off-hours, you may leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

E-mail, at www.ramphastos.com.

Or write: Ramphastos

P.O. Box 310

Dover, NH 03820

For information on upgrades, other chapters, etc. please call our product information line, toll-free, 1-888-221-2473.

Troubleshooting

Images have strange colors

Your computer must be capable of showing 256 colors or more in a 480 x 640 format. If the images look strangely colored, you are probably in 16-color mode. Reset your system to 256 colors (SVGA in Windows), or if necessary, upgrade your color system (many SVGA-compatible boards are available at low cost).

No sounds

If you heard songs when you first loaded YardBirds, but don't now, check to make sure your speakers are connected and turned on, with volume up. If you have been unable to hear sounds from the start, and your speakers are properly set up and attached, you may not have a compatible sound board. If necessary, you can upgrade your system at minimal expense, since compatible sound boards are plentiful and inexpensive.

YardBirds loads, but doesn't run well

YardBirds makes heavy demands on your system's memory, and taxes your system CPU to the fullest. Check to make sure you have the following minimum requirements:

-- 4 Mb. of RAM * at least 10 Mb. free on your hard drive (25 Mb. if you are using the diskette version) * 256-colors in 480 x 640 format * A 386 or higher (if PC); System 7.0 or higher (if Macintosh) * Current sound board * Double-speed CD player (if you are using the CD-ROM version.)

If your system meets the physical requirements, but YardBirds doesn't run well, you may have to exit any other programs, windows, or extensions you may be running simultaneously. (You may have a "toolbar" loaded automatically --Microsoft Office, for example -- which takes up valuable real estate in your computer's memory and CPU.) Exit these and try YardBirds again.

If you have checked both steps noted above, you may have a very unusual confluence of factors. Please contact us. We would very much like to hear about, and solve, this problem.

YardBirds used to work fine, but odds things have begun to happen.

In some cases, YardBirds does not run correctly on machines that are left continuously running for days

at a time. Try shutting down your machine, then starting up again. YardBirds should now be back to normal.

Glossary of Terms

Any Text

Banded

Barred

Belly

Bill color

Bill length

Bill shape

Body above

Body Above equivalent

Body below

Body Below equivalent

Broad Bill Shape

Central retrices

Cheek

Chin

Collar

Conical Large Bill Shape

Conical Small Bill Shape

Crest

Crown

Crown patch

Experienced

Eye

Eyebrow

Eyeline

Eyering

Field mark

File Folders

Flank

Forecrown

Forked Tail

Fruit feeder

Head equivalent

Hooked Bill Shape

Iridescent

Large

Lores

Lower breast

Lower Mandible

Malar

Mantle

Mask

Median stripe

Medium

Migratory birds

Nape

Novice

Olive

Outer retrices

Platform feeder

Pointed Large Bill Shape

Pointed Small Bill Shape

Primaries

Radio button

Rufous

Rump

Scapular

Scrollbar

Searching Level

Secondaries

Side

Side neck

Similar

Slender Bill Shape

Slight Decurve Bill Shape

Small

Songs

Specific Text

Speculum

Spotted

Streaked

Suet feeders

Tail above

Tail below
Tail edges
Tail equivalent
Tail length
Tail patches
Tail shape
Tail tip
Tarsus
Terminal bands
Thigh
Throat
Upper breast
Upper mandible
Uppertail coverts
Upperwing coverts
Vertical feeder
Very large
Very small
Wildcard
Wing patches
Wing shape
Wingbars
Wings above
Wings Above equivalent
Wings below

Any Text

Designation for any Journal entry with something in it.

Banded

A marking of one or more wide bands across the body below.

Barred

A pattern of alternating bars of contrasting color.

Belly

The area between the lower breast and flank.

Bill color

Color of the bill -- commonly yellow, gray, black, etc.

Bill length

Length varies according to the feeding habits of each species (probing flowers for nectar vs. cracking heavy seeds.).

Bill shape

Straight, hooked, conical, etc.

Body above

The back.

Body Above equivalent

"Experienced" field marks equating to "Body above."

Body below

The body below the wings.

Body Below equivalent

"Experienced" field marks equating to "Body below."

Broad Bill Shape

A wide bill, as seen in ducks, swallows, flycatchers.

Central retrices

Central feathers of the tail.

Cheek

The region below and behind the eye.

Chin

Between the throat and bill.

Collar

A contrasting band across the nape.

Conical Large Bill Shape

Deep, heavy bills as seen in grosbeaks.

Conical Small Bill Shape

Deep, seed-cracking bills, but little in relation to the face, as seen in sparrows.

Crest

Raised feathers at the top of the head.

Crown

Upper part of the head.

Crown patch

A patch of contrasting color at the top of the head.

Experienced

Gives 54 main field marks (plus several color patterns for each.)

Eye

The color of a bird's eye is sometimes an important field mark.

Eyebrow

A stripe of color over and behind the eye.

Eyeline

A stripe directly behind the eye.

Eyering

A ring of color, often white, around a bird's eye.

Field mark

A visible feature that aids in identification.

File Folders

Groupings of identifying characteristics --Size, color, etc.

Flank

The rear part of the body beneath the folded wing.

Forecrown

Forward part of a bird's head.

Forked Tail

A tail in which the outer feathers are substantially longer than the inner ones.

Fruit feeder

A feeder, often simply a nail sticking out of a board, with pieces of orange or other fruits pinned to it.
Attracts berry-eating birds.

Head equivalent

"Experienced" field marks equating to "Head"

Hooked Bill Shape

A bill with a noticeable hood at the tip, seen in birds of prey.

Iridescent

Rainbow-colored sheen.

Large

12 inches (30.5 cm.) to 20 inches (50.8 cm.) from bill to tail tip

Lores

The areas of tiny feathers between a bird's bill and its eyes (plural form of "Lore.")

Lower breast

The area just below the upper breast.

Lower Mandible

Bottom half of a bill.

Malar

"A "whisker" descending from the base of the bill and running between the chin and cheek..

Mantle

Upper back, between the scapulars.

Mask

An area of contrasting color (often black) near the eyes.

Median stripe

A stripe down the center of the head.

Medium

7 inches (17.8 cm.) to 12 inches (30.5 cm.) bill to tail tip.

Migratory birds

Birds that move seasonally between summer breeding areas and winter ranges.

Nape

The back of the head.

Novice

Gives five main field marks: Head, Body above, Wings above, Body below, and Tail. (plus several color patterns for each.)

Olive

A green-brown color.

Outer retrices

The outer tail feathers.

Platform feeder

A tray-shaped feeder, usually on a post.

Pointed Large Bill Shape

Heavy, pointed bills, as seen in woodpeckers, crows and tanagers.

Pointed Small Bill Shape

Tapering and pointed bills, usually also short and fairly little, as seen with warblers.

Primaries

The long, outer wing feathers.

Radio button

Onscreen button shaped like a circle.

Rufous

Rusty or orange-red-brown color.

Rump

Lower back.

Scapular

A "shoulder" area bordering the mantle and above the upperwing coverts.

Scrollbar

A sliding button used for scrolling through screens, images, entries, etc.

Searching Level

The setting that determines the degree of detail in choosing a field mark.

Secondaries

The short, innermost wing feathers.

Side

The forward part of the body below the folded wings.

Side neck

The region just behind the cheek.

Similar

Males and females that look essentially identical.

Slender Bill Shape

Neither wide nor very tapered or pointed, as seen in doves and thrushes.

Slight Decurve Bill Shape

A bill that tends to curve slightly toward the end, as seen in flickers, cuckoos and thrashers.

Small

5 inches (12.7 cm) to 7 inches (17.8 cm) bill to tail tip.

Songs

Vocalizations usually meant to attract a mate or defend a territory.

Specific Text

Exact alphanumeric characters you want Journal searched for (plus wildcards, if any.)

Speculum

An iridescent patch on the secondary wing feathers of a duck.

Spotted

A pattern of small spots of contrasting color.

Streaked

A pattern of longitudinal markings of a contrasting color.

Suet feeders

A feeder containing animal fats, appealing to birds that feed on insects or animals.

Tail above

The tail, as seen from above.

Tail below

The tail, as seen from below.

Tail edges

Contrasting colors at the outer edges of the outer tail feathers.

Tail equivalent

"Experienced" field marks equating to "Tail."

Tail length

Length of tail compared to the body.

Tail patches

Areas of contrasting color on the tail.

Tail shape

Forked, broad, pointed, etc.

Tail tip

The end of the tail, often having a contrasting color, or characteristic shape.

Tarsus

The thin lower leg.

Terminal bands

Stripes of color across the end of the tail.

Thigh

The upper leg.

Throat

Between the chin and upper breast.

Upper breast

The area just below the throat.

Upper mandible

Top half of the bill.

Uppertail coverts

A section of covering feathers over the base of the tail behind the rump.

Upperwing coverts

A region of covering feathers at the top of the wing.

Vertical feeder

A tube-shaped feeder with individual perches .

Very large

20 inches (51 cm) or more from bill to tail tip.

Very small

Less than 5 inches (12.7 cm.) bill to tail tip.

Wildcard

The * symbol, which stands for one or more alphanumeric characters. Used in Journal searches.

Wing patches

Areas of contrasting color on various parts of the wing.

Wing shape

Pointed, broad, rounded, etc.

Wingbars

Stripes of contrasting color (often white) running across the middle part of the wing.

Wings above

The surface of the wings, as seen from above.

Wings Above equivalent

"Experienced" field mark equating to "Wings above."

Wings below

The underneath surface of the wings as seen from below.

