

Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Birding Basic

Step 1. Size, Shape and Silhouettes

How large or small is the bird is it the size of a sparrow, 5", size of an American Robin 10", or a large bird like an American Crow at 18".

Shape, is it long and tall or short and round. Proportion and posture.

Step 2. Color

Is it dark on top and light on the bottom? Where is the green or red?

Step 3. Behavior, Posture, Movement, Flight Pattern and feeding.

Step 4. Field Marks

Wing bars, eye strips, spots, strips, etc.

Narrow down the possibilities by looking in a field guide to see if the is found in this area at this time of year or at all.

Step 5. Families There 800 birds in North America. Use a field guide to learn the different groups of birds. This will help you narrow the bird species down.

Step 6. Keep a journal of the dates, description or a sketch of the bird, note the habitat it was in and what it was doing.

On line guides

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/> Online bird guide

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/building-skills-the-4-keys-to-bird-identification/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/browse/topic/bird-id-skills/>

Merlin App

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

<https://www.audubon.org/birding>