Recommended Bird Apps

Bird apps are a great way to identify species. There are many bird apps available; here are some of our favourites.
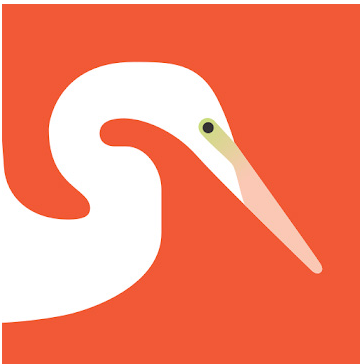
Click on one of the two links below. Download the app, then select your location before using the app for bird identification in your area.

Merlin Bird App

Ai free resource developed by Cornell Lab. After downloading a 'bird package' for your region, the birder will log a sighting. The app leads you through a short survey to select the date of sighting, the size of the bird, the three main colours and what the bird was doing. Next, the app suggests possible matches based on this information. If the user does not know the approximate size or colours of the bird, they cannot skip steps. Alternatively, the birder can also take a photo of the bird and submit to get possible matches.

Audubon Bird Guide

A free resource, based on the Audubon field guide. Before attempting to identify a bird, the birder will need to select their location within North America. This app allows the birder to add as much (or as little) information as they are able and will limit the 'possible bird matches' as more details are added. This app has more extensive information: size, colour, bird type, activity, habitat, voice, wing shape and tail shape. It includes over 3000 images and 8 hours of bird call audio.

Important: You do not need to take your device on your birding trips, you can also identify birds after coming back inside as long as you draw a sketch and take notes!

Books

Bird guides and natural history books are great tools to put in your pack when you're out exploring. ID books can be overwhelming for students, but with a little help from an adult, there is so much to discover!

Kid Friendly Bird ID books recommended by Audubon

Handbook of the Canadian Rockies by Ben Gadd

Websites to use for Identification

If you would rather use a website than an app or birding book, either of the following are great resources:

Audubon Guide to North American Birds

The Cornell Lab Bird ID Guide

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EDUCATION

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