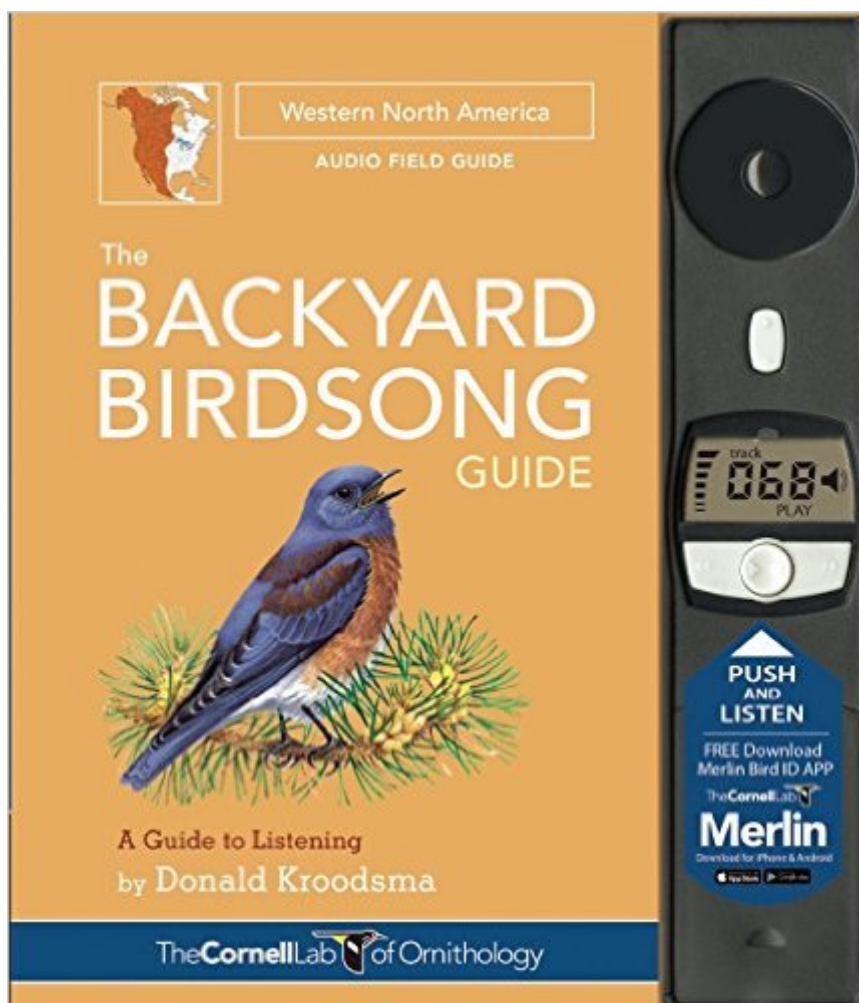


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# The Backyard Birdsong Guide Western North America: A Guide To Listening



## Synopsis

Back by popular demand with more than 300,000 copies sold, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is proud to re-release the widely acclaimed and bestselling bird audio field guide series, Backyard Birdsongs, from award-winning Ornithologist and Author, Donald Kroodsma. Backyard Birdsongs is an interactive handbook of birds and their songs for beginning bird-watchers. With a touch-button electronic module housing common vocalizations of 75 species from across Eastern and Central North America, this volume offers a truly sensory way to identify and get to know local birds. Crisply detailed and scientifically accurate illustrations accompany each entry, and up-to-date range maps provide clear geographical reference points. Complete with an introduction to birdsongs that will inspire readers to look out their kitchen windows and venture out in the field, this unique book provides an exciting entryway into the subtle art of birding. This second edition includes a much-requested new Sound Track Index (to help make watching and listening to birds easier), and a free download of the Cornell Lab's own MERLIN<sup>®</sup> Bird ID App (on iTunes and Android stores). And as with all Cornell Lab Publishing Group books, 35% of the net proceeds from the sale of Backyard Birdsongs supports projects at the Cornell Lab, such as children's educational and community programs.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #31,824 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Birds & Birdwatching > Field Guides](#) #35 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Field Guides](#) #40 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

I was on a nature walk this week and a young hiker in the group had this book, Backyard Birdsong by Donald Kroodsma (Western North America area). He showed it to me and demonstrated how to

listen to the recorded bird songs that matched the birds we saw (or hoped to see) here in Northern California. When we pressed the button for the bird song that matched the page for the Red Tailed Hawk, it's primitive cry from the recorder sounded just like the one I had heard on previous walks in that area. In minutes, a local Red Tailed Hawk came flying overhead in answer to the call from the recorder! That was a sure sign to get that book with it's great audio feature of bird songs. I plan to buy one for myself and also give one as a gift. It's lightweight, slim and slightly bigger than a paper back, fits easily in a backpack or wide jacket pocket. Although it doesn't hold a large inventory of birds, it does feature enough of the local ones to make it a worthwhile purchase.

great book! i bought my first copy from costco for \$15.99 . our 3-yr old grandson loved it. but it was our 2-yr old granddaughter that cherished it so much she wore out the pages because it had to go everywhere with her. i willingly paid \$59.99 TO REPLACE IT. IT IS WONDERFUL FOR CHILDREN OR ANY ADULT WHO HAS EVER BEEN FASCINATED BY THE BEAUTY AND SONG OF BIRDS!

While this book does not include all varieties of birds in the west, it is a very nice cross section with good digital recordings and pleasant artwork. It's a very nice product for the amateur bird enthusiast.

I have the huge book in this format -- way too heavy for carrying about. So, I got this very small size. Our 2-y/o granddaughter loves it. She quickly learned how to use the buttons to hear the birds. A great, great gift for anyone, but particularly for little kids. They will love it. Batteries easy to replace.

Waiting for pre-order. These books are worth the wait. Got it! Thanks! If you have kids and go camping, this book is a must have. The batteries last forever. The volume is loud enough that other birds will hear it and come around. Just remember there are some calls that are seasonal, have different meanings etc. I knew it was pre-order when I bought it. I did not care. This was worth the wait! Thank you! I will buy it again if this one gets ruined in the rain, or kept by someone that seemed to like it better than me or any other reason. I'll always have a copy.

I love the new smaller size! I hit the play "ALL" and my parrot loves it. He has even learned several of the bird calls and in the precise order. Our autistic son likes to flip through the book and push the button for the matching bird song. Excellent.

Back in 2008, I was excited to see this book, but then disappointed when it went out of print. Now

itâ™s back, and from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology itself!!! Iâ™ve started buying them again to give to grandkids, friends, and others of all ages who love birds. Hereâ™s my review of 8 years ago for the eastern guide, and it still applies, to both eastern and western guides, in spades. Wow!! What a terrific book . . . the text, the sounds, the selection of species, the layout . . . everything works perfectly together. I opened my pre-release copy, intending to spend just a few minutes and return to it later. Two hours went by, and I was still reading and listening; I couldn't stop turning the pages. Of course, I went right to my favorite birds, reading the text and pushing the buttons to listen, as I expect that most people will do. But then I settled in and went to other species, and then I read the introductory pages. The information there will bring you to a whole new level of enjoying these remarkable creatures. I have struggled for years to identify birds through their song, aided by mostly meaningless mnemonics as these are presented in most guides. For the first time, Kroodsma's full description of each species' song gives readers enough detail and context to help them understand what they are listening to. These birds come to life in the text and then the icing is the lovely songs themselves. Push the loon button and you are immediately transported to remote northern lakes. Push the phoebe button and hear how he sings his two different songs. Hear how animated a pewee is at dawn compared to later in the day. Try the wrens, thrushes, warblers, sparrows. They're all there and more, in the text and at the push of a button! This is a truly special book. I'd give it ten stars if I could. Now I have the perfect gift to give to my friends to show them why I've always been so thrilled to hear a singing bird

You're out in the woods, but you don't hear any birds? Play one of the hawk calls from this book, and listen to all of the responses! Okay, that would be disturbing the birds and wasting their energy, so maybe you shouldn't do that, but I played a hawk call, just to see what it sounded like, and the birds in our forest preserve sure did respond! That's how realistic these calls are! Our dogs get excited when I play any of these bird calls indoors. Our smarter dog (half corgi) runs to the window seat and looks out at the trees to see if he can see the bird. So cute! We gave this book to all of the kids in our life, and they all love it. I'd give it 10 stars if I could!

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