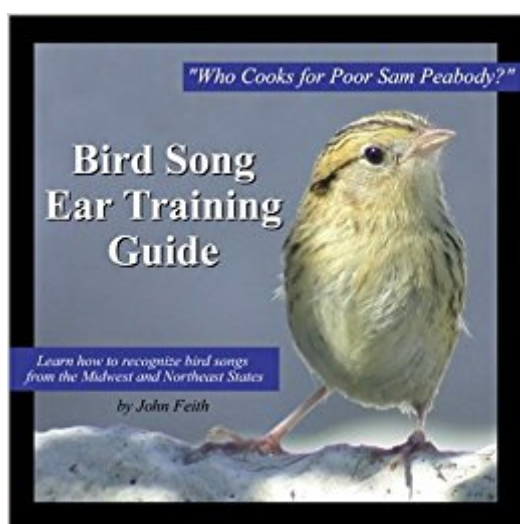


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# Bird Song Ear Training Guide: Who Cooks For Poor Sam Peabody? Learn To Recognize The Songs Of Birds From The Midwest And Northeast States



## Synopsis

This Audio CD is designed for anyone who wants to learn how to recognize bird songs. It features the sounds of 189 different bird species found in the Midwest and Northeast States. Each bird song recording is followed by a short description of the sound along with a common mnemonic used to remember it. Many well-known song mnemonics such as "Who cooks for you?" for the Barred Owl and "Poor Sam Peabody" for the White-throated Sparrow are included. Following the song and mnemonic, the source of the sound is revealed. By naming the bird at the end of each track, the listener is allowed to wonder and guess at the nature of the sound. Active listening, similar to what one experiences in the field while searching for an unknown bird song, is a key to engaging the memory process. One way to use this CD is to enable the "Random Play" or "Shuffle" option on a home CD player, portable stereo, or personal computer. Although it may be frustrating at first, repetition of this "quiz" game will quickly improve recognition skills. Gaining familiarity with these songs will greatly increase any bird watcher's enjoyment and awareness of birds in their natural habitat. Features: - 189 bird species found in the Midwest and Northeast states - Digital bird song recordings made in Wisconsin - Brief narration after each song includes descriptive, memorable and often funny mnemonics - Can be used as a field guide to learn and identify songs or as a recognition quiz game - Easy to use alphabetical track listing of all birds and their mnemonics - It is a great gift for any birdwatcher, beginner or advanced. - Total running time: 60 minutes

## Book Information

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

A unique and impressive CD audiobook providing instructions on how to recognize songs of birds. --

Midwest Book Review, March 2003Excellent idea! Having had a chance to hear it, I'm as impressed as I thought I'd be. -- Fatbirder, December 4, 2002The best format I've seen yet for learning birdsongs...the most fun of any songstudy CD I've used. -- Diane Porter, Birdwatching.com, November 17, 2002

This CD is a real quick overview of a variety of calls. It is definitely not for the serious birder, who will find its brevity frustrating. What it IS good for is someone just getting into birding who is wondering about a lot of different typical calls. If you aren't quite ready for the "Here are six varieties of male cardinal song north of the Mason Dixon line in the spring months when they are angry" grade CDs, you just want to get a basic idea of the most common calls of birds sound like, this CD is a good option. Due to the very high number of tracks on the CD, I do notice that it skips more than a typical CD (full disclosure, I normally played it in the car, which makes it more prone to skipping anyway), which can be a minor annoyance, but normally if you just rewind it a little, it will play fine on repeat. If you want something that, again, focuses on bird calls, but gives more focus to habitat, groupings, and variety of song (without being completely overwhelming), I would recommend Peterson Field Guides "Birding by Ear" audiobook/CD. If you really want in-depth coverage of the full range of each species' song (or if you're a beginning who would rather learn a few birds VERY well at a time), check out the "Know Your Bird Sounds" series or the Stokes guides. Enjoy!

I decided to get serious about learning bird song for the Eastern US but had a hard time figuring out which CD to buy. What I found was no one CD does it all, they all have pros and cons. I ended up with 4 CDs -- and a DVD. Below is my take on them. In the end, while it took a bit of persistence, learning bird song has been an extremely rewarding experience, adding a new dimension to any walk. I started with Feith's "Bird Song Ear Training Guide", the CD featured on this page. The big advantage of this CD is that it gives the song/call first, and then identifies it. So you can download the clips to an iPod, set it on random, and constantly test yourself. It covers 189 species, which is a lot. Finally, the narrator has a pleasant voice and often gives mnemonic suggestions (e.g., "Over here dear" for the Baltimore Oriole). However, this CD has two big disadvantages. First, many of the songs/calls are very short (many less than a few seconds). Second, there are very few songs/calls given for each bird (usually only one or two). In retrospect, they simply tried to cram too many birds onto one CD. These two defects greatly undercut the value of an otherwise good disk. Also, the birds are coupled so that if you download clips and try and randomize them you will always get the same two birds paired in the same order (the birds are organized by alphabet). This makes it hard to

learn the second birds based solely on the song of the bird - the Turkey always comes after the Towhee. A friend gave me Elliott and Read's *Common Birds and Their Songs* (Book and Audio CD). In contrast to "Bird Song Ear Training Guide" this disk provides a variety of lengthy songs/calls for each bird. It pretty thoroughly covers 50 of the most common birds. It also comes with a glossy softcover book with great pictures and informative one page write-ups. I have a few problems with this disk. First, the bird is identified before each call, so it's hard to test yourself. Second, I'm sure Lang Elliott is a very nice man, but he doesn't have the most sonorous voice. Finally, the audio CD does not provide any mnemonics and there are only a few in the book. Another friend gave me Elliott's *Know Your Bird Sounds, Volume 1: Yard, Garden, and City Birds*. This is similar to "Common Birds and Their Songs" but only covers 35 birds (as opposed to 50) although some are not included in "Common Birds." It also comes with a book with nice photographs but has less information on the birds and just focuses on describing their songs. The CD includes more information on the bird song than "Common Birds" (Elliott essentially reads the book) but has the same drawbacks; mainly, it identifies the bird before the song. Having read that it greatly helps to simultaneously see and hear a bird singing its song, I purchased Feith's DVD *Birds, Birds, Birds! An Indoor Birdwatching Field Trip DVD Video Bird and Bird Song Guide*. This was a disappointment. In general it is the "Bird Song Ear Training Guide" CD (see above) matched up with still photographs and occasional video footage of the appropriate bird. It includes about a dozen more birds than the CD and can be arranged by "sound alike" and set up to give one a quiz, but the drawbacks that undercut the CD - the brevity of the songs and lack of diversity of calls per bird - undercut the DVD. If you want to look at a bird while you hear its song, consider buying one of Lang Elliott's CD/book combinations. Having made progress but still unsatisfied, I finally broke down and bought Walton and Lawson's *Birding by Ear: Eastern and Central North America* (Peterson Field Guides(R)). It is a nice combination of lots of birds (about 85) with a long and diverse set of song/calls for each. The birds are also categorized by the similarity of song, which I found a helpful learning device. It comes with a paper pamphlet giving a very short description of each bird and a nice list of mnemonics at the back. The CD gives a fair amount of information along with the songs and is easy to listen to. The biggest drawback is the birds are identified before the song and the clips go on for so long, due to the narration and groupings, that you can't really use them to download on an iPod and test yourself. Nonetheless the set includes an extensive set of 'quizzes' arranged by habitat that goes at least part of the way to compensating for this. Nothing is perfect but I'd say *Birding By Ear* is the best product in this group.

This is very good: a woman softly says the type of bird, and sometimes mimics the song. At one part, Ch 7 I think, she says "cheeseburger".

The calls and songs presented were short and confusing. How many different sap suckers does one encounter? We were looking for a more thorough presentation of common back yard birds.

Quite simply the easiest, most user-friendly tool there is for ID-ing and memorizing birdsong.

Very good

I had wanted this CD for awhile, and was quite pleased with it, when it came. I enjoy the woman @ the end of each call, mimicking what the bird sounds like in an entertaining way, EX: Free Beer, for the Alder Flycatcher, or Cheeseburger! Cheeseburger! of the Black Capped Chickadee. It makes it easier, in my opinion, to grasp each unique song. This CD is good for young and old birding fans. It is done in a simple, straight forward style. The only "fault" I had, was confusion over the cover. It says "Who Cooks For Poor Sam Peabody?", and I thought that was an actual representation of a call, and could not find it. In actuality, it is a combo of two bird calls... "Who cooks for you?", of the Barred Owl, and "poor Sam Peabody", of the White Throated Sparrow. Not a big deal, but it may be "misleading".

This is a pretty comprehensive collection of bird songs from the Midwest, but for each bird only a short snippet of its song is played, which makes it hard to memorize. It would be better to repeat the songs several times and to add the bird's call notes. This would mean this collection of songs would no longer fit on one CD, which I think would be fine. This single CD is probably best for those who already know a lot of songs and want to refresh their memory. I think the "Birding by Ear" series are preferable for learning, even though that series has fewer birds and doesn't use the birds' Midwestern dialects.

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Ear Candling - The Essential Guide: Ear Candling - The Essential Guide: This text, previously published as "Ear Candling in Essence", has been completely revised and updated.  
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