

# Bird Watching Terms

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- Avian:** Referring to birds, or typical of birds
- Bird Call:** A vocal sound produced by a bird, usually to talk with birds of the same species
- Bird Watching:** Looking at birds in their natural world
- Brood:** Young birds that were hatched at the same time and raised together; some birds have more than one brood per nesting season
- Cavity Nester:** Birds that will only nest in enclosed areas, like holes in trees or nest boxes
- Clutch:** The total number of eggs that are laid and incubated at one time (see incubate below)
- Coniferous:** Various, mostly needled trees that produce cones, like Pine, Balsam, etc.
- Crest:** Raised feathers on the head of a bird that form a peak
- Deciduous:** Trees or plants that shed their leaves at the end of the growing season
- Diet:** The usual foods a wild bird eats; can include food offered by humans that birds will eat
- Down:** Fluffy feathers closest to a bird's skin that help keep it warm; the first feathers of a young bird
- Evergreen:** A tree or shrub that keeps its leaves all year; these trees provide birds with hiding places year-round
- Fledgling:** A young bird that has left the nest but still needs help from parents with feeding
- Forage:** To look for food or other needed items, such as nest materials
- Glean:** A method birds use to pick-off insects from trees, branches, structures, or the ground
- Habitat:** The landforms and plant types (environment) in which a bird lives
- Incubate:** To warm the eggs
- Life Span:** The average number of years a bird may live
- Mated Pair:** A male and female bird of the same species that get together to nest
- Migrate:** Fly to a different location during a portion of the year
- Molt:** To shed feathers so that new growth or adult feathers can take their place
- Nestling:** A baby bird from the time it hatches until the time it leaves the nest
- Open Nesters:** Birds that will not nest in enclosed areas
- Ornithologist:** A scientist who specializes in the study of birds
- Plumage:** The external covering of a bird, made of feathers and down. (Plumage is often spoken of in terms of seasonal color changes or changes in appearance from youth to adulthood)
- Predator:** An animal that lives by attacking and eating other animals or creatures
- Range:** Includes all the areas in the world a bird lives
- Roost:** A place where birds can rest or sleep or stay warm on cold nights

**Songbirds:** Birds that can produce musical note sounds or calls

**Species:** Related living creatures that have common traits and can produce offspring together

**Suburban:** On the outer rim of a larger city or outside the official limits of a city

**Territory:** An area around the nest usually including feeding areas that most backyard birds will defend

**Urban:** Within a city or area of larger population

**Wingspan:** The length of a bird's outstretched wings from tip to tip