

# How to Take Identifiable Photos of Birds for iNaturalist.ca

## Pro Tip

Birds are one of the most accessible groups of animals and can be found at feeders, in trees, on shorelines and more. However, they can be difficult to photograph. Consider using a **digital camera** instead of a phone camera for bird observations.

### Did you know?

You can also upload **sound recordings** to iNaturalist. Bird songs are unique to most species and can help others identify what you saw or heard.

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The **wing and tail feathers** sometimes have a unique flash of colour, shape or length that differentiates them from other birds.

Many species have brightly coloured males and much duller brown or gray females that make them much harder to identify. If possible, **snap a photo of the male**.

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1

Try getting an in-focus photo of the **head** as it can be a different colour than the rest of the body, such as the black crown on this Canada Jay. Some birds, like Northern Cardinals, have an identifiable mohawk on their head.

2

When taking a photo of the head, including the **beak** shape and length will help others identify your observation.

3

The **chest, throat and face mask** can have different colours or patterns depending on the species. For example, the Canada Jay has a white mask, throat and chest.

4

Some bird species, especially birds of prey, are seen most often **soaring** in the sky. There are species that can be identified this way based on their tail shape, wingspan and other features. Try to get an in-focus photo of the bird to help others ID it.

5

Getting a photo of the colour, length or shape of a bird's **feet** may help others identify your observations. This is especially true with shorebirds, many of whom can be differentiated this way!



It can be difficult to take photos of wildlife. It is not essential to photograph every point on this diagram to get an identifiable observation. Just try your best! Birds face many threats including window strikes and cats. Consider keeping cats indoors and bird-proofing your windows. Uploading observations of birds killed by these threats are very valuable for conservation.