Getting Started with Birding

Try making observations about these birds. This will help you practice making quick observations under any conditions. Remember to notice what you can about their appearance, setting, and behavior. Their names are listed at the end along with some sample observations about each bird and more resources. Then go outside and find some birds!

1.  

2.  

3.  

4.
1. Blue Jay – about robin sized, blue color paler on head and neck and brighter on back and tail, black stripe on side of neck, black barring on tail with blue, white underparts

2. Black-capped Chickadee – small bird, small beak, black cap on head, white stripe around middle of head, black throat, white chest and belly, notch on end of tail

3. Eastern Screech Owl – well hidden in hole of tree, brown coloring blends in with tree color including variation in the bark, pointed tufts or “ears”, not active during day

4. Great Crested Flycatcher – about robin sized, pale yellow belly, throat and chest pale grayish, end of tail square shaped

5. Black-capped Chickadee – small bird, underparts pale white, black cap on head, white stripe around head, black throat, not staying still long is typical

6. Song Sparrow – small brown sparrow-like bird, short thick bill, darker brown stripes on head, dark brown streaking on chest, dark colored spot in center of chest, paler stomach

7. Dark-eyed Junco – sparrow sized, black upper half of body, white underparts, small light-colored beak

8. Northern Cardinal – bright red on most of body, robin sized, tuft on head, black around eye, short and thick red beak, brighter color indicates a male as females are a duller red

9. House Wren – small mostly brown bird, thin beak (so not a sparrow), darker brown above, paler underparts, darker streaking on wings and tail, white eye ring

10. White-throated Sparrow – small brown sparrow-like bird, white throat, white and black stripes on top of head, small yellow spots above eyes, grayish underparts, brown back, holding twig in beak

11. Rose-breasted Grosbeak – red chest in almost heart-shape, white belly, black head, short and thick light-colored beak

Additional Resources

Web:
https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search

Apps:
Audubon Bird Guide – virtual field guide, hotspots, list making
Merlin Bird ID – virtual field guide, list making
Chirp! USA – listen to bird sounds by species

Field Guides: My personal favorite is the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Sibley field guides are also excellent. There are numerous other options as well.

Other Birders: Most birders love to share their experience with others!