

Birding Basics

Jim Wolf, Co-Owner of Wild Birds Unlimited of Panama City, FL



*Downy
Woodpecker*

**In 2011 - 46.7 million
people** observed birds
around the home and on
trips



What is Birding?

- Bird watching or Birding is simply paying attention to wild birds.
- It can be relaxing hobby or a very involved passion.
- (Backyard or Big Year)
- Neil Hayward - 749 (2013)

Pileated Woodpecker

Tools of the Hobby

- Binoculars
- Field Guide

*Red Headed
Woodpecker*

Binos

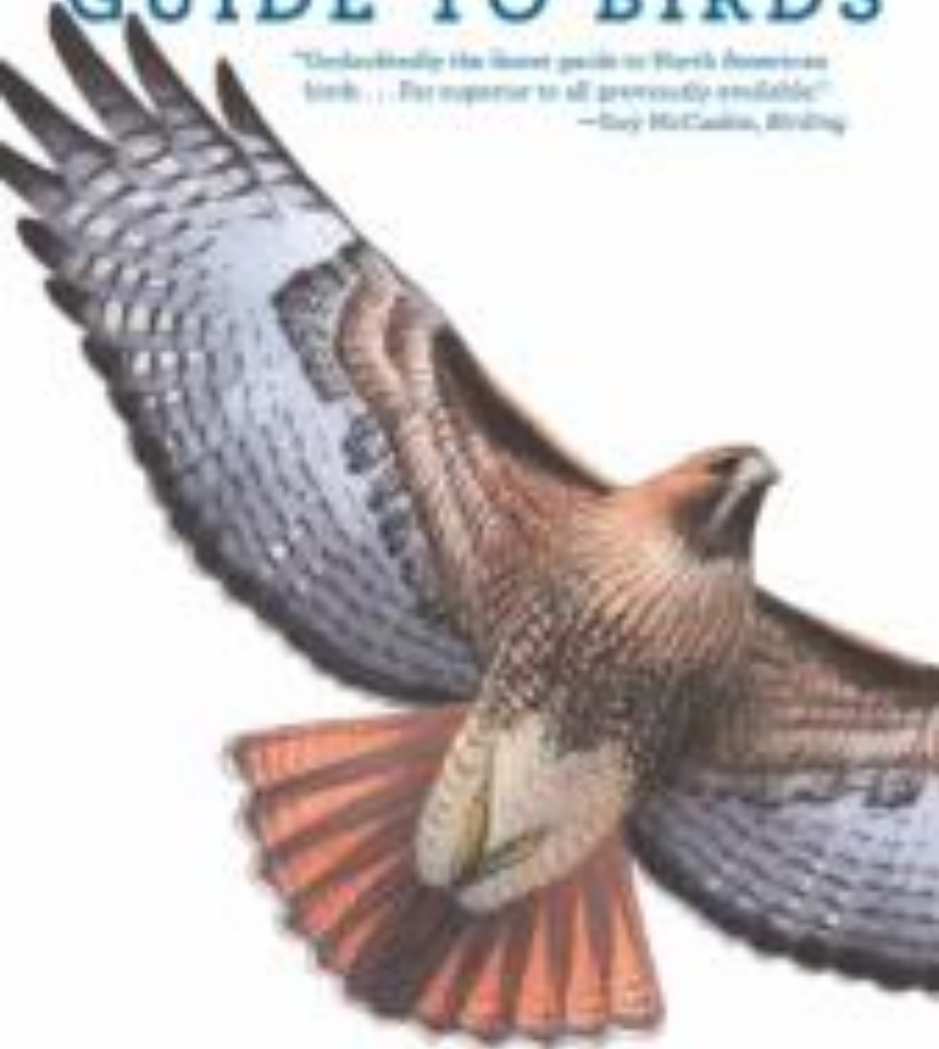
- Poro Prism or Roof Prism
- The Numbers – 8 x 42
 - 8 = Magnification
 - 42 = Size of the Objective Lens in Millimeters

Brown Haired Birder



THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS

"Undoubtedly the finest guide to North American birds . . . far superior to all previously available!"
—Guy McCulloch, *Birding*



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY

Field Guides

- Organized by taxonomy
 - Similar species are together
- Artist depiction of birds
 - Usually better than photos for bird ID
- Species Range maps

Eastern Bluebird

Sialia sialis



LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Range Maps

- Not Perfect
- Compare similar species to help ID
- Compare time of year



Where to go Birding

- Start with your own back yard
- Go on a bird walk
 - Audubon field trips
 - Panama City Beach Conservation Park Bird Walks
 - Great Florida Birding and Wildlife trail

Red Bellied Woodpecker

Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail

[Pitt Spring Recreation Area](#)

[Pine Log State Forest](#)

[Camp Helen State Park](#)

[St. Andrews State Park](#)

[St. Andrews Bird Trail / Oaks
by the Bay Park](#)

- [Lynn Haven Sports Complex
and Nature Trail](#)

- [Parker Environmental
Exploratorium Park](#)

Hairy Woodpecker



Top 20 Feeder Birds in the Southeast

- 1. Northern Cardinal – seen at 97.43% of feeders with an average of group size of 4.02 birds



2. Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee



- 88.14% 2.04
- Carolinas have less white wing-feather edging and longer songs than Black-capped Chickadees.





3. Mourning Dove

- 87.61% 3.89

4. American Goldfinch



- 83.01% 5.60
- Winter and Spring in Bay County



5. Tufted Titmouse

- 82.02% 2.09

6. Carolina Wren

- 81.19% 1.38





7. Blue Jay

- 79.53% 2.04
- Boisterous and animated

8. Red-bellied Woodpecker

- 76.36% 1.23



9. House Finch

- 75.15% 3.06

10. Northern Mockingbird



- 71.07% 1.22

11. Downy Woodpecker

- 68.28% 1.36



12. American Robin



- 64.27% 2.68

13. Dark-eyed Junco



- 62.24% 3.76
- Not really seen much in Bay County

14. Chipping Sparrow



- 55.66% 5.77

15. Yellow-rumped Warbler



- 53.47% 1.86

16. Eastern Bluebird

- 51.36% 2.29



17. White-throated Sparrow

- 51.21% 3.26



18. Red-winged Blackbird



- 46.83% 6.76



19. American Crow

- 46.37% 2.61

20. Brown-headed Cowbird



- 42.67 4.82