

# Urban Bird Sounds Project

[www.urbanbirdsounds.org](http://www.urbanbirdsounds.org)



[www.codmanacademy.org](http://www.codmanacademy.org)

## Getting Started Packet

**Ideas and materials for educators and students.**

**Middle/High School Materials (Could be adapted for Elementary)**

## Ideas for Educators: Using the Urban Bird Sounds Project with Students

**Getting Started:** Before listening to the CD you may want to...

- **Take your students on a “Listening Walk”:**
  - Using the *Listening Walk Handout* on the next page, ask students to keep a record of how many birds (and other things) they hear outside.
  - Encourage students to share findings and make guesses. Let them know they will learn more soon!
- **Find out how much they already know:**
  - Give “Final Quiz” as a pretest. (Audio: Track 24, Handout, attached) (Do let students know it is not graded!)
  - Begin a KWL (“Know, Want to Know, Learned”) chart about the birds in your area.

**Diving In:** When listening to the CD you may want to...

- **Ask students to fill in the *Listening Notes Handout*** (attached here) as they listen to the CD.
  - You might want to listen to only three to five tracks per day. (Could plan to stop CD after each review quiz.)
  - Be sure to ask students to share their notes aloud. And don’t hesitate to let them try the quizzes more than once. These are opportunities for learning!

**Going Beyond:** After listening to the CD you may want to...

- **Gather Data for a Citizen Science Project!** Once your students are able to recognize local birds by sound (and sight too) they will be ready to collect data and explore questions about the birds. Examples of opportunities include:
  - Project Feederwatch, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>
  - Celebrate Urban Birds, <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/join-us/data>
  - Schoolyard Birding Challenge, <http://fledgingbirders.org/challenge.html>
  - The Christmas Bird Count for Kids, (Even if there isn’t one in your area yet, you and your students could easily start one! Contact: Tom Russert: [sonomabirding@gmail.com](mailto:sonomabirding@gmail.com))
- Use new bird identification skills to investigate questions about the birds in your area. (Great opportunity for experimental design.)
- And/or... **Create your own guide to the birds of your area!** (Please visit website for more ideas about how to do this.)

For more ideas and materials, please visit [www.urbanbirdsounds.org](http://www.urbanbirdsounds.org) (Just click on *Teaching Materials*) ☺

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Urban Bird Sounds Project: Listening Walk Handout

**Directions:** During this walk you will be listening closely and keeping track of what you hear.  
Please write your responses in the spaces provided.

**Where?**

Where are you taking your walk/making your observations? \_\_\_\_\_

**Who?**

Are you on your own, with a group, or with your whole class? \_\_\_\_\_

**When? (and more)**

What time of day is it? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the weather like? \_\_\_\_\_

How much time will/did you spend listening? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you hear?						
Please use the spaces below to record what you hear.						
What did you hear?	Example: <i>Cars</i>	Cars/Trucks	Birds	People	Construction	Other
Tally:						
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5</b>					

**Reflections:**

Did you hear anything that you could not identify? Yes/No

If so, what did it sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

And... what was the most interesting thing you heard? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Urban Bird Sounds Project: Listening Notes Handout (Page 1)

### Track 1: Introduction

Please record your notes here as you listen to the Introduction:

### Tracks 2-5: Information about the birds

Track:	Name of species?	Basic appearance?	Please circle one of each pair:	What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?	Other info?
2			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i> <i>Native or non-native?</i> <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
3			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i> <i>Native or non-native?</i> <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
4			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i> <i>Native or non-native?</i> <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
5			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i> <i>Native or non-native?</i> <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		

### Track 6: Short Review Quiz #1

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening Notes Handout (Page 2)

### Tracks 7-10: More information about the birds

Track:	Name of species?	Basic appearance?	Please circle one of each pair:	What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?	Other info?
<b>7</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  This species is non-migratory.		
<b>8</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>9</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>10</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		

### Track 11: Short Review Quiz #2

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening Notes Handout (Page 3)

<b>Tracks 12-14: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>12</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>13</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>14</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>Track 15: Short Review Quiz #3</b>					
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____					

*Continued on next page.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening Notes Handout (Page 4)

### Tracks 16-18: More information about the birds

Track:	Name of species?	Basic appearance?	Please circle one of each pair:	What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?	Other info?
<b>16</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>17</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>18</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		

### Track 19: Short Review Quiz #4

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Listening Notes Handout (Page 5)

<b>Tracks 20-22: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>20</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  These species are native and non-migratory.		
<b>21</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>22</b>			<i>Monomorphic or dimorphic?</i>  <i>Native or non-native?</i>  <i>Migratory or non-migratory?</i>		
<b>Track 23: Short Review Quiz #5</b>					
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____					

*Good job making it through! Are you ready for the final quiz now? If so, please go to track 24. ☺*



## The Urban Bird Sounds Project: Final Quiz Handout

**Directions:** Please use the space below to record your answers to the quiz!

Number:	Your Answers:	Correct? Yes/No
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
<b>Total Correct:</b>		<b>/18</b>

# The Urban Bird Sounds Project: Listening Notes ANSWER KEY (Page 1)

## Track 1: Introduction

Please record your notes here as you listen to the Introduction:

*The Introduction tells listeners where the audio guide was created (Dorchester, MA) and explains some key terms:*

*Monomorphic- both sexes look the same*

*Dimorphic- both sexes look different*

*Migratory –the species migrates to different regions in different seasons*

*Non-miratory – the species does not migrate*

## Tracks 2-5: Information about the birds

Track:	Name of species?	Basic appearance?	Please circle one of each pair:	What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?	Other info?
2	<i>Song Sparrow</i>	<i>-Brown with dark brown stripe above eye -size=bar of soap</i>	<i>Monomorphic Native Migratory (in some areas)</i>	<i>"Anything, I can do better-etter-etter-etter."</i>	
3	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	<i>-Male= bright red with black face mask -Female= mostly brown with some red -both sexes have a crest -Size=about as big as a can of soda</i>	<i>Dimorphic Native Non-migratory</i>	<i>"Birdie, Birdie, Birdie."</i>	
4	<i>Red-winged Blackbird</i>	<i>-Male = black with some red on their wings -Female= dull brown -Size= about the same as an American Robin</i>	<i>Dimorphic Native Migratory (some of them are non-migratory)</i>	<i>"Don't agree!" or "Step away!"</i>	
5	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	<i>-Grey and white -Size= about the same as an American Robin</i>	<i>Monomorphic Native Migratory (but only in the northern part of its range)</i>	<i>-Imitates other birds. Repeats songs usually three or more times (both males and females sing)</i>	<i>-Unmated males sometimes sing at night</i>

## Track 6: Short Review Quiz #1

1. Northern Cardinal 2. Red-winged Blackbird 3. Northern Mockingbird 4. Song Sparrow

*Continued on next page.*

## Listening Notes ANSWER KEY (Page 2)

<b>Tracks 7-10: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>7</b>	<i>Black-capped Chickadee</i>	<i>-little, grey, has a black "cap" -Size= chicken egg + a tail</i>	<i>Monomorphic Native (Note: the CD doesn't tell you this but this bird is non-migratory)</i>	<i>"Chickadee-dee-dee-dee-dee" and "A-O! A-O!"</i>	
<b>8</b>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	<i>-grey with a white belly -crest (or "tuft") on top of head -Short beak</i>	<i>Monomorphic Native Non-migratory</i>	<i>"Cheater, cheater!"</i>	
<b>9</b>	<i>European Starling</i>	<i>-black (but feathers have gold-brown tips when they are new) -Size= about the same as a newborn kitten</i>	<i>Monomorphic Non-native Non-migratory</i>	<i>Many different sounds and can imitate other birds –and even people. Sounds are "confusing, disorganized, electronic, and not very beautiful."</i>	
<b>10</b>	<i>House Sparrow</i>	<i>-Small and brown. -Males have black patch on breast. -Size= about the same as a Chips Ahoy cookie</i>	<i>Dimorphic Nonnative Non-migratory</i>	<i>"Cheap. Cheap. Cheap."</i>	
<b>Track 11: Short Review Quiz #2</b>					
1. European Starling    2. Black-capped Chickadee    3. House Sparrow    4. Tufted Titmouse					

*Continued on next page.*

## Listening Notes ANSWER KEY (Page 3)

<b>Tracks 12-14: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>12</b>	<i>Mourning Dove</i>	-beige with white on its tail -Size= about the same as a ruler (12 inches long)	<i>Monomorphic</i> <i>Native</i> <i>Non-migratory</i>	<i>"Boo hoo." (as if it is crying)</i>	
<b>13</b>	<i>Rock Pigeon</i>	-grey but can also have many different colors -Size= same as a small loaf of bread	<i>Monomorphic</i> <i>Non-native</i> <i>Non-migratory</i>	<i>Sound like a purring cat or like a car getting fixed</i>	
<b>14</b>	<i>Red-tailed Hawk (and Bald Eagle)</i>	-Brown with a reddish orange tail -Size= about the same as a small classroom trash can	<i>Monomorphic (but male is usually smaller than the female)</i> <i>Native</i> <i>Some are migratory (and some are not)</i>	<i>"Scare! Scare" (Note: This call is used as a Bald Eagle call in the movies. A real Bald Eagle sounds like a little chick.)</i>	
<b>Track 15: Short Review Quiz #3</b>					
1. Rock Pigeon   2. Red-tailed Hawk   3. Mourning Dove   4. Bald Eagle					

*Continued on next page.*

## Listening Notes ANSWER KEY (Page 4)

<b>Tracks 16-18: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>16</b>	<i>American Crow</i>	-All black, all over -Size= about the same as a size 13 shoe	<i>Monomorphic</i> <i>Native</i> <i>Non-migratory</i>	"Crow! Crow!"	
<b>17</b>	<i>Canada Goose</i>	-brown with a long black neck -Size= same as medium sized dog	<i>Monomorphic</i> <i>Native</i> <i>Many are migratory but not all of them</i>	"She called! She called!" and "WHAT? WHAT?"	
<b>18</b>	<i>Blue Jay</i>	-Blue with some black and white -spiky feathers on top of the head -Size= a little bit bigger than a Northern Cardinal	<i>Monomorphic</i> <i>Native</i> <i>Non-migratory</i>	"Jay! Jay! Jay!" and "Tweedle-Dee! Tweedle-Dee!"	
<b>Track 19: Short Review Quiz #4</b>					
1. Blue Jay    2. Canada Goose    3. American Crow					

*Continued on next page.*

## Listening Notes ANSWER KEY (Page 5)

<b>Tracks 20-22: More information about the birds</b>					
<b>Track:</b>	<b>Name of species?</b>	<b>Basic appearance?</b>	<b>Please circle one of each pair:</b>	<b>What does it "say"? Or, how does it sound?</b>	<b>Other info?</b>
<b>20</b>	<i>Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker</i>	<i>-Both species are white on breast and abdomen with a black and white pattern on wings and back.                      -Males have red patch on the back of heads                      -Size= Downy is a little smaller than Hairy</i>	<i>Dimorphic                       The CD doesn't tell you but these species are both Native and Non-migratory.</i>	<i>"Hey! Hey! Hey!" and laughing in a "Ha, ha, ha, ha" way.                      The Hairy laughs in a flat way and the Downy goes down.</i>	
<b>21</b>	<i>American Robin</i>	<i>-Dark grey, rusty orange, and white                      -Size= small as a soda can</i>	<i>Monomorphic<sup>1</sup>                      Native                      Many are migratory but some are not.</i>	<i>"Arielis, LaChai! Arielis, LaChai!"</i>	
<b>22</b>	<i>American Goldfinch</i>	<i>-Males are bright yellow with some black and white                      -Females are dull yellow with some grey and white                      -Size= about the same as a dill pickle</i>	<i>Dimorphic                      Native                      Migratory</i>	<i>"Potato Chips!" or "I'm outa here." Also, "Yup, yup, yup..."</i>	
<b>Track 23: Short Review Quiz #5</b>					
1. American Robin   2. American Goldfinch   3. Downy Woodpecker   4. Hairy Woodpecker					

*Good job making it through! Are you ready for the final quiz now? If so, please go to track 24. ☺*

<sup>1</sup> Please note: The CD describes this species as monomorphic. However, males do tend to be more intensely colored than the females.

## The Urban Bird Sounds Project: Final Quiz ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** Please use the space below to record your answers to the quiz!

<b>Number:</b>	<b>Your Answers:</b>	<b>Correct? Yes/No</b>
<b>19</b>	<i>Black-capped Chickadee</i>	
<b>20</b>	<i>Hairy Woodpecker</i>	
<b>21</b>	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	
<b>22</b>	<i>Canada Goose</i>	
<b>23</b>	<i>Blue Jay</i>	
<b>24</b>	<i>American Goldfinch</i>	
<b>25</b>	<i>Red-tailed Hawk</i>	
<b>26</b>	<i>Red-winged Blackbird</i>	
<b>27</b>	<i>European Starling</i>	
<b>28</b>	<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>	
<b>29</b>	<i>American Robin</i>	
<b>30</b>	<i>House Sparrow</i>	
<b>31</b>	<i>Mourning Dove</i>	
<b>32</b>	<i>American Crow</i>	
<b>33</b>	<i>Rock Pigeon</i>	
<b>34</b>	<i>Bald Eagle</i>	
<b>35</b>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>	
<b>36</b>	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	
<b>Total Correct:</b>		<b>/18</b>