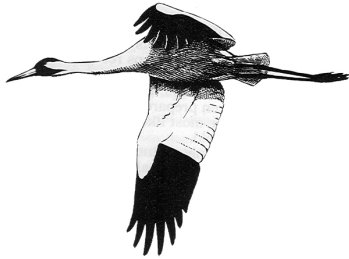


**Cornell Lab of Ornithology** is a nonprofit membership institution whose mission is to interpret and conserve the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. We believe that bird enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels can and do make a difference. We invite you to learn more about our areas of study at [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)



**Other Books About Birds:**

*Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City* (2008) by Janet Schulman, illustrated by Meilo So

*Flute's Journey: The Life of a Wood Thrush* (1997) written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry

*How Do Birds Find Their Way?* (1996) by Roma Gans, illustrated by Paul Mirocha

*Eyewitness Books: Bird* (1988) by David Burnie

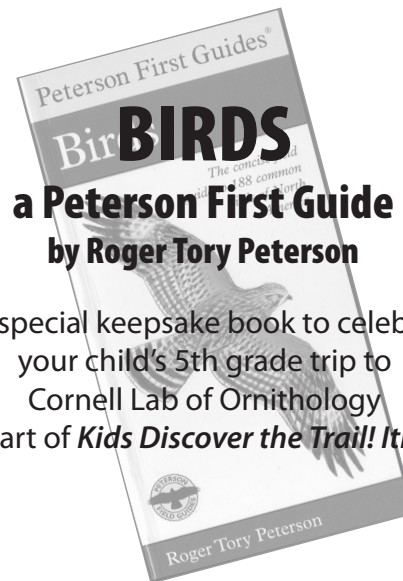


5th Grade Discovery Trail Site:

The **Cornell** Lab of Ornithology 

159 Sapsucker Woods Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(800) 843-2473 • (800) 254-2473  
[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)

FREE ADMISSION  
Hours:  
10am-4pm  
daily



is a special keepsake book to celebrate your child's 5th grade trip to Cornell Lab of Ornithology as part of *Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca*



***Kids Discover the Trail! Ithaca*** (KDT! Ithaca)

is a collaboration of the

- **Ithaca Public Education Initiative**
- **Discovery Trail**
- **Ithaca City School District**

to provide curriculum-based field trips to the eight sites of the Discovery Trail for Ithaca City School District students grades pre-K through 5.

For more on KDT! visit: [www.kidsdiscoverthetrail.org](http://www.kidsdiscoverthetrail.org)  
[www.ipei.org](http://www.ipei.org)  
[www.discoverytrail.com](http://www.discoverytrail.com)

*Dear Bird Watchers,*

What better way to celebrate spring than by going outside and getting to know the birds found in your area as they prepare to start their families!

*Birds: a Peterson First Guide* covers most of the birds you'll find right in your backyard. So grab your copy and head outside!

## Get to Know Your Field Guide

To start with, take a close look at the field guide and notice how it is organized.

In most bird field guides, the birds are arranged by taxonomic order—that is, species that are closely related are found together.

After you have been using your guide for a while, you will be able to find a bird by knowing which group it belongs to (hawk, woodpecker, duck, songbird, etc.) and looking at that section of the field guide.

*Here are a few ideas for ways you can use your new field guide:*

### Sketch a Bird

A good way to get started is to choose a bird that interests you in the field guide and draw your own sketch of that bird. Include the field marks you should look for when you go outside.

### Visit Our *All About Birds* Website

Go to [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds) to learn more about your bird and listen to what it sounds like. This is a great way to get to know each bird.

### Bird Quiz

Another activity with your field guide is to use the book to quiz each other.

One person picks a bird in the field guide, and describes it to the rest of the family, one clue at a time.

See how soon they can guess the bird you chose—and which clues give the bird away most quickly!

## Keep Your Field Guide Handy

Most of all, just bring your new field guide with you wherever you roam this spring. Everywhere you go, there are sure to be birds.

Now you have a wonderful resource for “decoding” the mystery behind all those flitting, flying, and hopping flashes of color you meet in the many beautiful parks and paths in the Ithaca area.

### Let Us Know What Birds You Find

You can even identify and count the birds you see, and become a citizen scientist by sending your data to us so we can better understand bird populations. Visit <http://www.ebird.org> to find out how!

### Tell Us Your Ideas

We hope you enjoy your new *Birds: a Peterson First Guide* as much as we do. Feel free to write and tell us how YOU use your field guide! Email us at: [baj3@cornell.edu](mailto:baj3@cornell.edu).

