

Birdwatching for Beginners



A Brief Introduction to Birdwatching:

Known as one of the easiest and oldest hobbies, birdwatching has become a great opportunity for those wanting to spend more time in natural places. It is simply the act of being outside and acknowledging wildlife.

While some birdwatchers have been seen carrying around large cameras, binoculars, and field guides, these things are not required. Binoculars can help for long distance identification, but are not necessary for all birdwatching. An alternative to using equipment, interested participants can go for walks in wooded areas, sit by trees, and watch marshy areas for bird activity. Instead of field guides, here is [an online field guide](#). There is also [an app](#) that is free to download and use.

Equipment Needed

Locations for Good Birdwatching: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Normandale Lake, Marsh Lake Park, Bloomington Bass Ponds, Nine Mile Creek Park & [more](#).

Birds in Bloomington



**Yellow-Rumped
Warbler**

Staying true to their name, Yellow-Rumped Warblers are well-known for their yellow armpits and rumps. They typically forage in trees and bushes to find berries, and they nest mostly in pine trees on the edges of the forest.

The Great Blue Heron is a subtle blue/grey shade with long legs. It's ideal habitat is within a marsh and their main food source is fish.



Great Blue Heron



Red-Headed Woodpecker

Red-Headed Woodpeckers, named rightfully so, create their habitats in open woodlands, and live on bugs and nuts. They occasionally visit bird feeders filled with nuts and seeds.

Birds in Bloomington Cont.

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Often mistaken to be a duck, the American Coot lacks webbed feet, and is actually more closely related to a crane. They live around ponds and lakes and survive on plants.

American Coot

The American Goldfinch is an easy bird to attract to feeders as its main food source is seeds. Planting native milkweed and thistles can also attract them to your yard. They often make their homes in weedy fields and floodplains.



American Goldfinch



Indigo Bunting

Well known for their blue shade, the Indigo Bunting is also well known for their bird song. They live in open woodlands and eat insects and seeds. You can attract them to your yard with feeders or live meal worms.