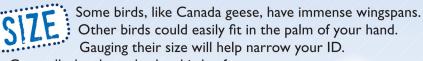


Birding is fun no matter the season, and there's no better place to get started than right outside your window. Follow these pointers and you'll be a better birder in no time.





Generally, hawks and other birds of prey are much larger than birds commonly seen at birdfeeders, such as chickadees, sparrows, and robins.

From left: Black-capped chickadee, 5½ inches; Rock pigeon, 12½ inches; American crow, 17½ inches; Canada goose, 48 inches



Start out by learning Missouri's common birds, such as robins, crows, cardinals, Canada geese, blue jays, and pigeons. Others, such as the downy woodpecker and great blue heron, have distinctive colors and shapes you'll soon know by heart.

Become a Better Birder

The Conservation Department offers free publications to get you started. Request a copy of Feeding Backyard Birds and Enjoying Missouri's Birds by emailing pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.