

# How to use Nature Instruct:

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## Step 1: Sign in

- ➔ Navigate to <http://www.natureinstruct.org/> and select “Dendroica”
- ➔ Or go to: <http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/>
- ➔ Returning users: Sign in

Username: sbeilke  
Password: Kingrail2018

- ➔ Choose country to begin: USA

NatureInstruct | Skip navigation

English | Français | Español

Environment and Climate Change Canada / Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad

USGS science for a changing world

# DENDROICA

Dendroica: An aid to identifying Western Hemisphere birds

Canada

U.S.A.

Mexico

Caribbean

Central America

South America

About Dendroica

Contribute to Dendroica

User Home Page

Sign Out

Choose country to begin:

Canada U.S.A.

Mexico Caribbean

Central America South America

About Dendroica  
Version 2014

Canada

## Step 2: Load a bird list

To change to a list → Select “Manage Lists”

NatureInstruct > Dendroica > Dendroica USA - American Bittern - Botaurus lentiginosus Turn on autoplay English | Fr

[Photo List](#) | [Range Map List](#) | [Recording List](#) | [Species List](#) ⌵

Lists: [USA](#) | [BCR-22](#) | [Cal marsh birds](#) Exclude: Rare | Non-breeding ⌵ **Manage Lists** ⌵ Preferences (Opens in a new window)

### American Bittern - *Botaurus lentiginosus*



Photo: tony battiste; 2013 Jan 24; USA, Arizona; Whitewater Draw Wildlife Refuge Cochise Co; Adult;

Song: Primary advertising call of male a deep, resounding series of one to 10 "pump-er-lunk" calls.  
Select a 'Sound' button below to play initial song. Macaulay Library (Macaulay Library, Cornell); Adult; Primary Sound;

Photos: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) [28](#) [29](#) [30](#) Sounds: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) ⌵

Range Maps: [Americas](#) [North](#) [Central](#)

[View Spectrograms](#) ⌵

**Number of species: 27**  
Select a species (double-click or button below list):

- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Pied-billed Grebe
- American Bittern**
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot
- Black Tern
- House Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow

[Select](#)

[Random Species](#)

Filter Species:  ⌵ ⌵

Add to My List: [--- Select ---](#) ⌵ [Select](#)

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➔ Load custom list – Select one of the options from the drop-down menu:

- Calumet Focal: Includes all 17 primary and secondary focal species\* for the Calumet Region (Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois)
- Indiana Focal: should include all focal species\* for the Indiana Marsh Bird project (southern region)
- Wetland Birds: Includes all the focal species\* as well as other common bird species you may encounter at wetlands
- **\*IMPORTANT: *There is a glitch with loading Common Gallinule using this website, please use other audio files for practice!***

➔ Select “Save and Exit”

If no species show up after selecting “Save and Exit,” make sure you are in **Dendroica** (natureinstruct.org/dendroica). If you are in “Piranga,” go back to the home page and select “Dendroica”

## Manage Lists

You can select lists of species to limit the species that you are studying based on geopolitical regions (the whole country, or an individual province, territory or state), Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), taxonomy or song types. You can also create your own customized lists to study particular groups of species.

The country, province and territory or state lists include all species known to have occurred in each region based on data in the Avibase database <http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/>. By default, only those species that occur regularly in a region and which are known or believed to breed there will be displayed. To show non-breeding species or rare species, unselect the boxes above the lists.

Note that even if a species is on the list, it will not be shown if we lack photographs and sound recordings.

In some cases, changing a geopolitical list may change the selection or order of photographs or sound recordings presented for a species to emphasize plumages or dialects most likely be encountered in a particular region.

Note that if you select more than one list, your current species list will be restricted to only those species that appear in ALL of the active lists. If you select contradictory lists, you may end up with no species being displayed.

You may remove a list from your filters by setting the list selection box to the top option (---None---). If you select this option for the Geopolitical list, it will automatically refer to the most inclusive geographical region (the country).

**List Filters** **Modify/Create Custom Lists**

[Click here for details on list types \(OPENS NEW WINDOW\)](#)

You may change the checklist authority that is used on this project: American Ornithologists Union (7-56) - Default ▼

Exclude from list:  Rare species for region  
 Species not breeding in region

Geopolitical: USA ▼

BCR: BCR 13 - Lower Great Lakes/ St. Lawrence Plain ▼

Load Custom List: Indiana Focal ▼ 

### Step 3: Practice bird ID

→ Click on “Select” to view the highlighted species

NatureInstruct > Dendroica > Dendroica USA - Great Egret - Ardea alba Turn on autoplay [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)

[Photo List](#) | [Range Map List](#) | [Recording List](#) | [Species List](#) About Dendroica | [Contact Us](#)

Lists: USA | BCR-22 | Cal marsh birds Exclude: Rare | Non-breeding Manage Lists Preferences (Opens in a new window.) | Quiz

#### Great Egret - *Ardea alba*



Photo: Isaac Sanchez; 2012 Apr 21; USA, Texas; High Island; Adult; Breeding;

Song: Few vocalizations, except during courtship on nest or when foraging birds startled. Various low, gravelly croaks.  
Select a 'Sound' button below to play initial song. Bill Evans; 1989 Apr 20; USA, Florida; Adult; Primary Sound;

Photos: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) Sounds: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#)

Range Maps: [Americas](#) [North](#) [Central](#) [South](#)

[View Spectrograms](#)

00:00 00:00 Play Restart

Number of species: 27  
Select a species (double-click or use 'Select' button below list):

- Canada Goose
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- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- King Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot
- Black Tern
- House Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow

[Select](#) [Random Species](#)

Filter Species:  > +

Add to My List: --- Select --- [Select](#)

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Canada

➔ Select a photo number or sound number to view different images or sounds for the selected species

NatureInstruct > Dendroica > Dendroica USA - Great Egret - Ardea alba Turn on autoplay English | Français | Español

[Photo List](#) | [Range Map List](#) | [Recording List](#) | [Species List](#) [About Dendroica](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Lists: USA | BCR-22 | Cal marsh birds Exclude: Rare | Non-breeding [Manage Lists](#) | [Preferences \(Opens in a new window.\)](#) | [Quiz](#)

### Great Egret - *Ardea alba*



Photo: Isaac Sanchez; 2012 Apr 21; USA, Texas; High Island; Adult; Breeding;

Song: Few vocalizations, except during courtship on nest or when foraging birds startled. Various low, gravelly croaks.  
*Select a "Sound" button below to play initial song. Bill Evans, 1969 Apr 20; USA, Florida; Adult; Primary Sound;*

Photos: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 Sounds: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Range Maps: **Americas** North Central South

[View Spectrograms](#)

00:00 00:00 [Play](#) [Restart](#)

**Number of species: 27**  
Select a species (double-click or use 'Select' button below list):

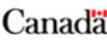
- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Pied-billed Grebe
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[Select](#) [Random Species](#)

Filter Species:  [+](#) [-](#)

Add to My List: --- Select --- [Select](#)

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→ Select the play button at the bottom of the page to listen to an audio recording

NatureInstruct > Dendroica > Dendroica USA - Great Egret - Ardea alba Turn on autoplay English | Français | Español

[Photo List](#) | [Range / Map List](#) | [Recording List](#) | [Species List](#) [About Dendroica](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Lists: USA | BCR-22 | Cal marsh birds Exclude: Rare | Non-breeding Manage Lists Preferences (Opens in a new window.) | Quiz

### Great Egret - *Ardea alba*



Photo: Isaac Sanchez; 2012 Apr 21; USA, Texas; High Island; Adult; Breeding;

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Select a 'Sound' button below to play initial song. Bill Evans; 1989 Apr 20; USA, Florida; Adult; Primary Sound;

Photos: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [26](#) [27](#) Sounds: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#)

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[View Spectrograms](#)

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- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow

Select Random Species

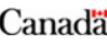
Filter Species:  > ⚙

Add to My List: --- Select --- Select

Share this Page



Play Restart



## Step 4: Quiz yourself

→ Select the Quiz button to quiz yourself

NatureInstruct > Dendroica > Dendroica USA - Great Egret - Ardea alba

Turn on autoplay English | Français | Español

Photo List | Range Map List | Recording List | Species List

About Dendroica | Contact Us

Lists: USA | BCR-22 | Cal marsh birds Exclude: Rare | Non-breeding Manage Lists

Preferences (Opens in a new window) | Quiz

### Great Egret - *Ardea alba*

Photo: Isaac Sanchez; 2012 Apr 21; USA, Texas; High Island; Adult; Breeding;

Song: Few vocalizations, except during courtship on nest or when foraging birds startled. Various low, gravelly croaks.  
Select a 'Sound' button below to play initial song. Bill Evans; 1989 Apr 20; USA, Florida; Adult; Primary Sound;

Photos: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Sounds: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Range Maps: Americas North Central South

View Spectrograms

00:00 00:00 Play Restart

Number of species: 27  
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- King Rail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot
- Black Tern
- House Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow

Select

Random Species

Filter Species:

Add to My List: --- Select --- Select

Share this Page

Canada

→Select Quiz Options to quiz yourself on:

- Photos,
- Sounds, or
- Photos AND sounds together

The screenshot shows the Nature Instruct website interface for a quiz. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'NatureInstruct', 'Dendroica', and 'Dendroica USA; Quiz - Question # 1'. Below this, there are links for 'Species List', 'Photo List', 'Range Map List', 'Recording List', and 'Quiz Options'. The main content area is titled 'Quiz - Question # 1' and features a photograph of a bird perched on a branch. To the right of the photo is a list of bird species, including Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, King Rail, Virginia Rail, and Sora. Below the list are buttons for 'Select Species', 'Show Answer', and 'Skip Question'. A 'Quiz Options' section is circled in red, containing checkboxes for 'Play Sound', 'Show Photo', and 'Display Sound / Photo List'. At the bottom of the page, there is a video player with a 'Play Restart' button and a 'Canada' logo.