

Voices of
Shorebirds



Shorebirds can be difficult to identify by sight, but their voice is another tool in the identification toolkit. Many shorebird calls are distinctive, and can clinch an ID without even having to see the bird. Even soft and unremarkable calls can be characteristic enough when you get familiar with them.

This compilation contains the common vocalizations of over 50 shorebirds found in North America.

Cover photo: Willet by Jay W. McGowan

The **Cornell** Lab 
of Ornithology

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USING THIS AUDIO GUIDE

Common and scientific names used in this guide follow *The eBird/Clements Checklist of Birds of the World: Version 6.7*. To view the species in taxonomic order, sort by the track number column. The file names include the common name and vocalization type.

If using iTunes, you can use the “Grouping” column to view the family names. Additional information has been included in the “Comments” field: the scientific name, state or province and country where the recording was made, recordists, and Macaulay Library catalog number. Other data for these recordings are available by contacting the Macaulay Library.

A photo of each species is embedded within each sound file.

PLAYING RECORDINGS IN THE FIELD

Please take the greatest care when using recordings in the field. Playback of these recordings should be done responsibly, particularly near nesting birds, and should be terminated immediately whenever a bird shows signs of agitation. Some recordings in this guide, especially distress and alarm calls, could cause undue stress and should never be played in the field. One of the most fulfilling ways to experience birds is simply to go out and listen.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Macaulay Library: The Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is the world’s largest natural sound and video archive of animal behavior. Its mission is to collect and preserve recordings of each species’ behavior and natural history, to facilitate the ability of others to collect and preserve such recordings, and to actively promote the use of these recordings for diverse purposes spanning scientific research, education, conservation, and the arts. To experience more than 200,000 audio and video recordings from around the world, visit www.macaulaylibrary.org.

eBird: eBird is an online database of bird observations providing researchers and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance across the world. To submit your own observations to eBird and explore the sightings of others, visit eBird at www.ebird.org.

All About Birds: Check out this free online bird guide to help you identify birds of your backyard and beyond. Learn about the life history of nearly 600 North American birds, listen to their sounds, and watch videos of their behavior at www.allaboutbirds.org.

Membership: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is supported by 40,000 members. Your support furthers the Lab’s mission to protect the earth’s wildlife through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. To find out how you can join and help conserve the birds that touch our lives and enrich our planet, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/membership.

Sound Recording Workshop: Each year experienced staff from the Macaulay Library teaches techniques for recording the sounds of wildlife and introduces students to the principles of sound analysis. Participants learn through daily field recording sessions, coupled with lectures and demonstrations. To learn more about recording wildlife, visit www.macaulaylibrary.org/inside/record/workshops/index.