



BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

JASON GORMAN, Nature Preserve Manager, Finger Lakes Land Trust.

When did you become interested in birding?

American goldfinches at my grandparents farm in Michigan.



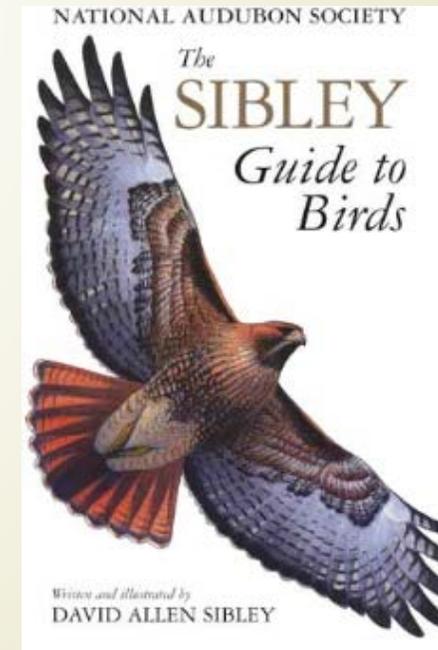
Basic Equipment Needed

Binoculars and a Field Guide

7-8 X Power Binoculars are preferred
Lighter and Bigger Field of View.
\$75 - \$200

Pick a Field Guide That Works Best for You

Popular Choices include: Sibley's, Peterson, Kaufman



Where Can I Go Birding? Go Where They Are!

- Your yard – birdfeeders are a good way to attract birds
- Many natural areas and parks in the area; rail trails; Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge;
- Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve; Roy H. Park Preserve
- gofingerlakes.org
- Check your local bird listserv: American Birding Association
 - Cayuga and Genesee in Finger Lakes Region



Basics of Identifying Birds:

- Size
- Markings
- Habitat
- Range
- Sound



Comparing The Size of Birds

Use Familiar/Common Species to Help Narrow Things Down



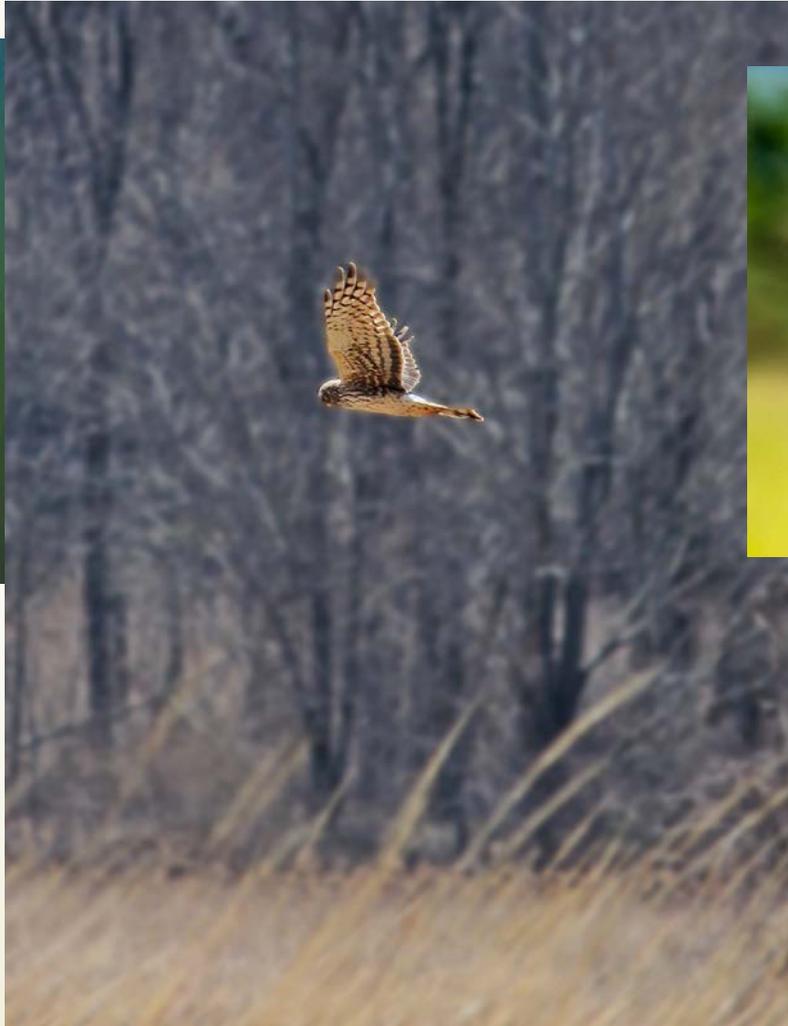
Markings Can Help To Distinguish Similar Species

- Look for: eye rings, patterns on the tail and chest, wing bars, breeding vs non-breeding plumage

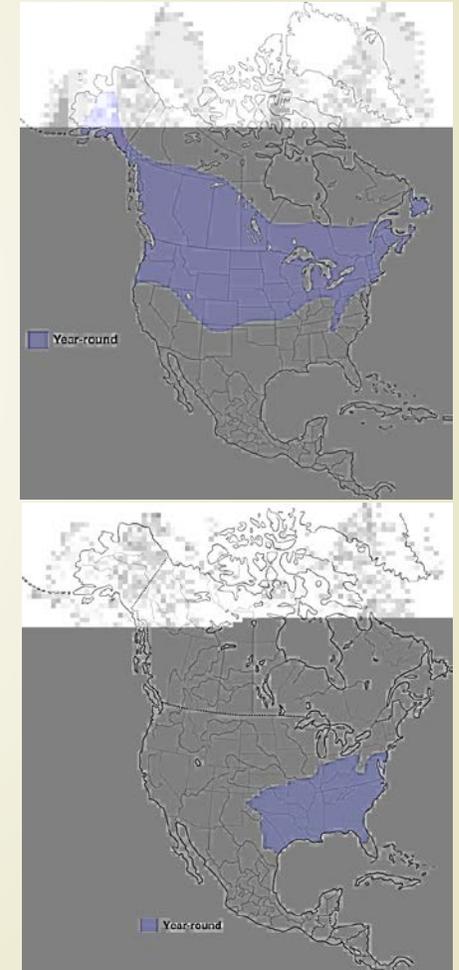
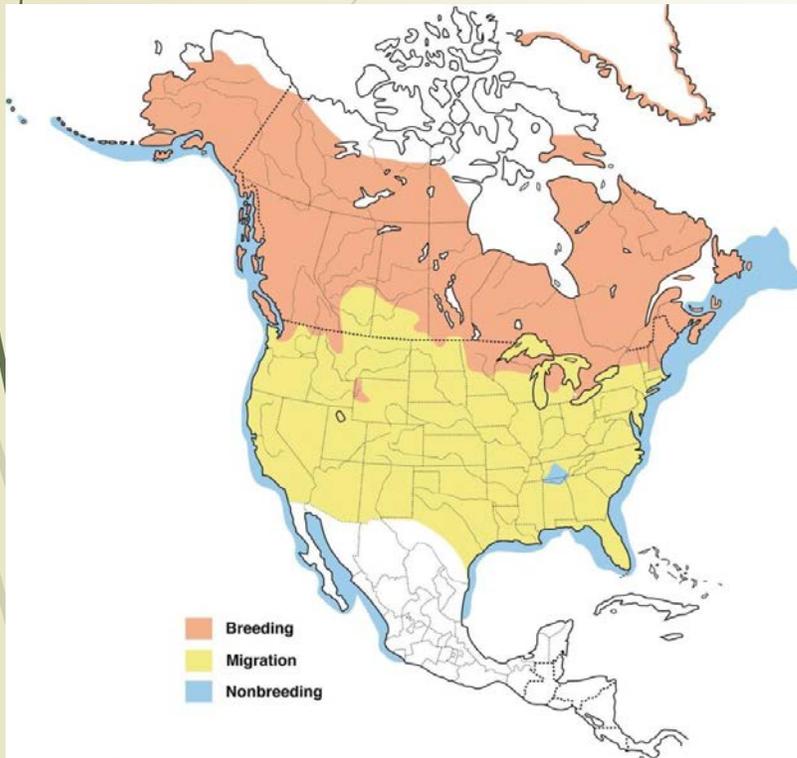


What Type of Habitat?

Most birds have a specific habitat preference.



Range – A Good Field Guide Will Have a Clear Range Map



Bird Song: They Sing A Little While, Then Fly On

- Very Challenging
- Try to Identify Patterns, and Phrases
- Once You Learn a Few Songs, Use Them To ID Other Birds That Share The Same Habitats





Resources:

Cayuga Bird List: <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/NY02>

Rochester Birding Association: <https://rochesterbirding.org/>

Chemung Valley Audubon: <http://cvaudubon.org/>

Onondaga Audubon: <https://onondagaaudubon.com/>

Braddock Bay Raptor Research: <https://www.bbrr.org/>

E-Bird: <https://ebird.org/home>

All About Birds: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>

Merlin ID App can be accessed through All About Birds

How to Use iNaturalist and Join FLLT's June BioBlitz:

<https://www.fllt.org/recording-learn-how-to-bioblitz-using-inaturalist/>

Questions?????

