

## **Digital Resources for Bird Lovers in Colorado**

*prepared by Ted Floyd, Apr. 18, 2023*

**1. COBirds listserv**—This venerable old electronic bulletin board emphasizes recent sightings—especially rarities, but also general observations of the spring bird migration.

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cobirds>

**2. CFO Facebook**—Colorado Field Ornithologists (more on them below) hosts this Facebook group about all things related to birds and birding in Colorado.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CFObirds/>

**3a. eBird**—One of my kids calls it eBorg. If you don't yet know about eBird, you sure will by the end of our time together. eBird has revolutionized birding and ornithology.

<https://ebird.org/home>

**3b. Merlin by eBird**—This is the ID app for eBird. Most amazing to me is Merlin's ability to recognize birdsong. Point your phone in the direction of an unknown songster, and Merlin tells you what you're listening to!

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

**4a. iNaturalist**—Think of it as eBird on steroids. "iNat," as it is widely known, is a crowdsourced website of sightings of birds (cue eBird), plus anything else alive or once alive. Like eBird, iNat is a resource you'll get to know well during our time together.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

**4b. Seek by iNaturalist**—Same basic idea as Merlin (3b, above), but check this out: It works for everything! Alive or dead. If it has (or had) protoplasm, Seek will tell you what you're looking at.

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

**5. Xeno-Canto**–This crowdsourced website based out of The Netherlands hosts a digital library of the sounds of all the world’s birds. The search engine is excellent. eBird and Xeno-Canto (and to a lesser extent iNat) overlap somewhat, and we’ll discuss that.

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/>

**6. Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO)**–CFO’s mission is to promote understanding and awareness of the birdlife of Colorado. CFO provides resources like COBirds and CFO’s Facebook page, as well as “traditional” offerings like a print journal and annual conference.

<https://cobirds.org/>

**7. Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO)**–Similar in broad outlook to CFO, this organization focuses primarily on the Denver metro region. DFO’s monthly meetings are consistently brilliant, and the organization offers weekly field trips. Both CFO and DFO “went virtual” in 2020, but have gradually been returning to in-person offerings as prudence allows.

<https://dfobirds.org/>

**8. What’s This Bird?**–The American Birding Association hosts this Facebook group with a disarmingly simple goal: to identify any photo of any “mystery bird” that might put itself in front of your digital camera.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/whatsthisbird/>

**9. BirdCast**–Run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this website predicts what birds will be migrating across North America in the hours and days to come.

<http://birdcast.info/>

**10. NOAA Doppler radar**–There’s a bit of a learning curve with this one, but once you’ve got it figured out, it’s mesmerizing. Watch bird migration on a continental scale as it actually happens.

[https://www.nws.noaa.gov/radar\\_tab.php](https://www.nws.noaa.gov/radar_tab.php)

**11. Birds of the World**—Most of this site's content are behind a paywall. But I think the modest investment is worth it. If you want to know anything and everything about the birdlife of planet Earth, this website has it.

<https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/home>

**12. Denver Museum of Nature & Science**—I refer specifically to the museum's bird collection, now fully digitized and available to all. And I allude to a bigger point: Everything about studying birds has changed in the past couple decades.

<http://arctos.database.museum/SpecimenSearch.cfm>