

To be a
birder, you
must also
be ...



... an **adventurer**: Birders search for birds in their backyards and communities, in local parks and at lakes, in woodlands and mountains, along seashores, or anywhere they travel.

... a **detective**: Birders look for clues when on the trail of an unknown bird. For example: *“What’s that noisy bird in the bush? I can’t see it but it’s making a real racket.”* Clue #1: What season of the year is it? Clue #2: What’s the surrounding habitat? Clue #3: What kind of noise is the bird making? Clue #4: What’s the bird doing (its behavior) inside the bush? Clue #5: What kinds of birds inhabit bushes (as opposed, say, to treetops)? If able to find and answer enough clues, the birder can solve the mystery!



... a **collector**: Birders enjoy “collecting” birds by keeping a **Life List**, a list of every bird seen or heard that they’ve identified. As a new birder, you’ll begin by listing the birds you already know. This list may be short, only a few birds, but with passing time it can grow to hundreds, even thousands if you travel around the country or visit other countries.