SMITHSONIAN Q&A: BIRDS
Christina Wilsdon

The renowned Smithsonian Institution answers questions like "How do birds perch and sleep without falling?" and "Why are some birds called songbirds but not others?" While definitely detailed enough for adults, the short question-and-answer structure and photo-heavy layout will appeal to teens and older children as well.

AUDUBON
BIRDHOUSE BOOK
Margaret A. Barker
Interested in adding a birdhouse to your yard? Learn from the experts at the Audubon Society!

THE BIRD WATCHING ANSWER BOOK
Laura Erickson
A great backyard guide that explains common bird behavior.

THE THING WITH FEATHERS
Noah Strycker
What makes birds birds - and what can that teach us about what makes us human?

NPR SOUND TREKS: BIRDS
You often hear birds before you see them, so make sure to include some audio! Enjoy a full hour of NPR reporting about birds and birdwatchers.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BACKYARD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, 2ND EDITION
Jonathan Alderfer and Noah Strycker
Not sure what birding is or what to look for? Start with this accessible guide to attracting, feeding, and identifying different types of birds. 150 species get full-color illustrations and descriptions of their habitat, call, and nesting behavior. If you have fun with this book, take the next step with the region-specific books on the rest of this page!

BIRDS OF CHICAGO
Chris C. Fisher and David B. Johnson
Learn more about the species you’ll find in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. Pair this with the book below to find the best bird-watching locations in your area.

A BIRDERS GUIDE TO THE CHICAGO REGION
Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg
This book assumes that you have some basic knowledge of bird species (which is why we suggest pairing it with the book above), but it’s an excellent resource for specific bird-watching locations in Chicago and neighboring counties.

MIDWESTERN BIRDS: BACKYARD GUIDE
Bill Thompson III
Written by a longtime editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, this guide will help you begin birdwatching from the comfort of your own backyard. Which birds are most common in your area in wintertime? How can you attract birds to your yard and observe them without scaring them off? What equipment should you buy if you want to continue? This book has all those answers and more.