

Have you seen birds in your yard?

You can help UW researchers by reporting sightings of color-banded birds near Discovery Park!

For many years, the Song Sparrows in Discovery Park have been banded with colored leg bands so researchers can identify individuals to study them. From this research we've learned a great deal about the behavior of birds, especially how they learn to sing and use their songs to communicate. Recently, I've been using radio-telemetry to study the movement patterns of young sparrows to better understand how they learn to sing—you may have seen me in the neighborhood with my telemetry antenna, or even read the story about my work in the *Seattle Times*. I've been surprised to find that many birds leave the park and spend time in the surrounding neighborhood. You can provide valuable information to help me understand bird movement and dispersal patterns by reporting sightings of any banded birds you see outside of Discovery Park. Thanks for your help!



Kara Whittaker

Example

Top left: **Yellow**

Bottom left: **Metal**

Top right: **Red**

Bottom right: **Black**



Birds are banded with 2 bands on each leg. One leg has 2 colored plastic bands, the other leg has 1 colored band and one shiny metal U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service band. Make sure to note which bands are on the birds right leg and the bird's left leg (This can actually be really tricky--remember that if the bird is facing you, his right leg is on your left!). And note which colors are on top (closest to the bird's body) and bottom (closest to the bird's foot).

To Report a Sighting, Note:

- What color is the TOP band on the bird's LEFT leg?
- What color is the BOTTOM band on the bird's LEFT leg?
- What color is the TOP band on the bird's RIGHT leg?
- What color is the BOTTOM band on the bird's RIGHT leg?
- On what date and at time did your sighting occur?
- Location of sighting (street address and front or backyard)?
- What was the bird doing at the time of the sighting? (foraging, perching, preening, with other birds, singing, chasing other birds, dead, unknown, other)
- Is there anything special about your house that might attract birds (feeder, garden, water source, etc)?
- Additional comments?
- Please provide your name and contact info (email, phone, or address) so that I can contact you if I have questions about your observations.

Please send your report to:

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