



Birdsong Crib Sheet

Size; if you can see it	Where is it singing from?	What it sounds like	Likely bird	Check list
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On or close to water				
Small	Water edge	Twitter	Wagtails	
Small	Very close to water	Harsh cheap	Kingfisher	
Duck-sized	On the water	Creck	Coot, moorhen	
		Quack	Mallard	
		Shrill whistle	Wigeon, Pochard	
Largish	Open ground near water	Peewit	Lapwing, Peewit	
large	Overhanging trees	Raucous	Cormorant	
Large and tall	Water edge		Heron	
Enormous	Water, grass, fields	Not mute	Mute swan	
Black and white	On shore, in flight	Piping with shrill beginning, sinking to a quavering	Oyster catcher	
In the Air				
Small, long tail	Always Sometimes	Scream Twitter	Swift Swallow	
Smallish	Other side of river	Tuneful and continuous	Sky lark	
Large & long neck		Honk Whoosh	Goose Swan	
In or from trees and woodland				
Tiny	Conifers	Pip,pip...se-se-se-se	Gold Crest	
Small, brown	From cover	Wee-te-wee	Whitethroat	
Small :	Trees, shrubs	Tweet, cheep, chip	Choose from Marsh tit Willow tit Blue tit Coal Tit Long tailed Tit	
Long tail	Low cover Anywhere	Sibilant chiff-chaff Chip		
Mediumish	Thick cover; often after dark	Rich, fruity melody	Nightingale	
		Just rich and fruity	Cetti's Warbler	
Medium	Trees	"Did you do it? You did! I saw you!" Each phrase repeated	Song Thrush	



		3 phrases. Tuneful short bursts	Mistle Thrush	
		Full throated melody; throaty warble	Blackbird	
Largish		Screech	Jay	
		Caw; echolalic	Carrion Crow	
			Rook	
		Caw with a bit of “ch” in it	Jackdaw	
		Clach	Magpie	
		Stone-tapping on trunk	Greater Spotted Woodpecker	
		Yack, yack yaffle	Green Woodpecker	
	Small, brown		Rippling warble, short, sweet, plaintive, going down the scale	Willow Warbler
Tops of tall trees		Sibilous, shivering noise	Wood Warbler	
Coppice		Short, sweet, warble – near perfect	Black Cap	
		Less perfect & longer	Garden warbler	
Green, smallish		“Tjoi tjoi tjoi tzweeer”	Green finch	
Striped head		“twit”	Gold finch	
Red on head		Soft and liquid	Linnet	
Tiny, brown	Everywhere	Loud, strident, tuneful with trill towards the end	Wren	
	In trees near reeds	Cuckoo Gurgling	Male female	
Largish		Coo coo	Pigeon, doves	
In or near Reeds				
Small	Both	Grasshopper	Grasshopper Warbler	
		Tuneful but grating	Sedge Warbler	
		Grating whistle, long crooning soliquoy	Reed Warbler	
In or near hedges				
Small	On top branch	“A little bit of bread and no cheese”	Yellow Hammer	
	On or in hedge	Not quite tuneful	Reed Bunting	
		Like a bowler	chaffinch	
		Short, thin, tuneful	Dunnock	
Elsewhere and everywhere				
Small	Depends	Persistent cheep	House sparrow	
		Bicycle pump	Great tit	
			Chiffchaff	
			Coal tit	
Red breast		Autumnal leaves falling	Robin	