

LETTER - WHAT ARE CONVENTIONAL BIRDERS?

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I am sorry to hear about your handicap of not being a conventional birder (March 1996). Allow me to enlighten you. We conventional birders pride ourselves in being very good at identifying birds in the field, either by sight or sound. Our long lifelists reflect this skill.

If you have tried hard to become one of us, but failed, and you are more

interested in bird biology, then why don't you just work with chickens? A lot of ornithologists do, you know. I can't see anyone with a lifelist below 500 editing a birding journal. Although, perhaps being chained to a computer is a good place for you. You can stay inside, hunched over your boring manuscripts and obscure references, so that we real birders can spend more time in the field telling you paper pushers what is going on out here.