

Black-capped vs. Carolina Chickadee
- how do you really tell?

By

Frank Windfelder

Black-capped characteristics

- Larger and fluffier bird
- Proportionately bigger head
- More extensive bib with ragged lower edge
- Different wing pattern with much more white
- Longer tail with more white on outer retrices
- More colorful underneath – more white on breast
- Entirely white cheek patch
- Lower-pitched, slower call, notes never doubled
- Different song (learned so not always reliable)
- Greener back? (Sibley)
- More confiding behavior











Photo: Bill Moses





KRISTI DUBOIS















KRISTI DUBOIS

The call and song

Greener back ?

Confiding behavior

Tweeners !









Photo: Howard B. Eskin

Howard Eskin's chickadee quiz

[http://www.howardsview.com
/Chickadee/Chickadee.html](http://www.howardsview.com/Chickadee/Chickadee.html)

***Crazy songs and
intermediate calls***

Which species do we see in Philadelphia?

- Carolinas are not irruptive
- Hybrids are not irruptive?
- Black-capped are irruptive

Chickadee sp. ?

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QUIZ BIRDS

Peace Valley photos,
recently taken by
Howard Eskin









References

“Personal Commentary”

From Bob Curry

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My own field experience