



How to Use the Peck Application to **Look up Reference Information**

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1. Overview

With a paperback field guide, the typical approach to looking up information about a species is

- search for the species name in the alphabetically sorted index,
- note the page number, and
- flip to that page.

With the Peck application, the typical approach is

- scroll to a species name by entering part of the species name,
- highlight the species name (by tapping it) to display the available document icons (e.g., ‘A’ for audio, ‘E’ for etymology, ‘I’ for identification tips, ‘L’ for life history, ‘P’ for photograph, ‘W’ for Wikipedia article),
- tap a document icon to display its document.

The rest of this document describes scrolling and other navigation details. Although it is rather dry reading, it is short and reviewing it will save you time if you are a frequent user of the Peck application.

2. Switching to a Different List

There is a list selector in the bottom left corner of the Peck and Species Inventory applications.

- If your device has a touchscreen, select a different list by tapping the list selector.
- If your device does not have a touchscreen, navigate through the lists by using parentheses: right parenthesis ‘)’ to go to the next list and left parenthesis ‘(’ to go to the previous list.¹

3. Toggling Checks in a List

There is a column of checks at the right of each list in the Peck and Species Inventory applications. As described in peckdoc_start.pdf, the same checks can be used in a variety of tasks.

- If your device has a touchscreen, toggle a check by tapping on it.
- If your device does not have a touchscreen, toggle a check by entering zero ‘0’ on your keypad followed by the check’s 0 referenced position number on the screen. As examples, enter ‘00’ to toggle the check of the top-most item, enter ‘01’ to toggle the check of the second item, and enter ‘09’ to toggle the check of the bottom-most item.

¹ Even if your device has a touchscreen, you could still use parentheses to navigate through the lists. However using the list selector is faster than parentheses to navigate because the list selector is not limited to switching to adjacent lists.

4. Scrolling in a List

4.1 Simple

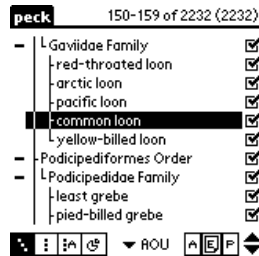


Figure 4-1. Screen Showing Peck Application's AOU List

- If your device has a touchscreen, you can scroll one item at a time by tapping the upward or downward triangles in the lower right corner of the screen. For multiple scrolls, tap and hold.
- If your device does not have a touchscreen, you can scroll by using punctuation: period '.' to scroll down the list one item and semicolon ';' to scroll up the list one item.²

4.2 Faster

They are simple to use, but the upward and downward triangles scroll just one line at a time. Using the downward triangle to scroll through the full AOU list one line at a time takes about four minutes. Fortunately, there are other scrolling options. It is much faster to scroll a page at a time rather than a line at a time. By pressing and holding the bottom edge of the 5-way navigator, you can scroll down through the full AOU list in about 30 seconds.



Figure 4-2. Photograph Showing Location of 5-way Navigator

² Even if your device has a touchscreen, you could still use the period '.' and semicolon ';' to scroll. However entering a semicolon in Graffiti 2 is no small task.

4.3 Fastest

Scrolling by pages can still intrude upon field observation time, especially if each page must be visually inspected before scrolling to the next page. Therefore, the Peck application has yet another scrolling option: quick find. Unlike the Palm OS global find utility that requires interaction with two dialogs (i.e., one to enter the global find text, and another to show the global find matches), the Peck application's quick find has no dialogs. You simply enter the text using your device's graffiti area or keypad, and the list scrolls to it. For example, suppose you want to scroll the document list to 'Summer Tanager'. Start entering the word 'summer'. In this case, data entry of only three letters is sufficient. Quick find typically requires just a few characters to scroll to the correct position in the list.



Figure 4-3. Document List, in Alphabetical Order, Scrolling to 's', 'su', and 'sum'

4.3.1 Quick Find Guidelines

- 1) By default,³ the quick find text you enter is limited to lower case letters because upper case letters are reserved for viewing documentation (e.g., 'A' for audio, 'P' for photograph). Because the quick find search itself ignores case you can enter, for example, 'olive' to scroll the document list to 'Olive Sparrow'.
- 2) Your quick find text does not need to start at the beginning of a word.⁴ For example, you can enter 'live' to scroll the document list to 'olive sparrow'.
- 3) You keep appending to the quick find text by entering more characters. The match will be underlined, always shown at the top of the list. Most other user interface tasks, such as switching to another list or scrolling a page or selecting a menu item, clear the quick find text.
- 4) The Peck application beeps if you enter quick find text that cannot be found in the list. Typically, a user's response to this beep is to enter a backspace⁵ to remove the last character. If you prefer to reset your quick find text in its entirety rather than backspacing one character at a time, enter the return character, which **returns** the list to its beginning. As a reminder to graffiti users, the return character is a diagonal line from upper right to lower left. And as a reminder to keypad users, some devices map the return key to the center button of the 5-way navigator. With a device that maps the return key, the most intuitive way to start a new quick find search is to enter the number '1' and the

³ If you prefer to use capital letters when entering Quick Find text (e.g., you use an on-screen keyboard and you prefer using capital letters because they are easier to see), check the 'ignore case of quick find' option in the 'Select/Text Search Options' menu item, which is available in the AOU, document, audio and BCR lists.

⁴ This is in contrast to the Palm OS global find utility that does require search text to start at the beginning of a word.

⁵ In Graffiti 2, a backspace is a horizontal line drawn from right to left.

Peck application will scroll back to the 1st item in the list.

- 5) Some species have multiple common names and quick find searches all of them. Therefore quick find might scroll to a common name that is not presently displayed. For example, the default common name for *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* is Eastern Towhee. However you can scroll to it by entering the quick find text 'ruf' because its other common name is **Rufous**-sided Towhee.
- 6) The period '.' is a quick find shortcut. If you have already entered quick find text, entering a period causes quick find to scroll to the next occurrence of that text. If you have not entered quick find text, entering a period causes quick find to scroll to the highlighted item in the list. For example, in the full AOU list you can enter 'fli' to scroll to 'Northern **Flicker**' and then enter '.' to scroll to 'Gilded **Flicker**' and another '.' to scroll to 'Firnandina's **Flicker**'.
- 7) The @ sign is another quick find shortcut, restoring your previously entered quick find text. This can be helpful when switching back and forth between different Peck application forms, which clears your quick find text.
- 8) In addition to entering text, you can also enter item numbers. When you enter a number, quick find scrolls to that item in the list. For example if you are viewing a page near the end of a lengthy list and you want to scroll back to the list's beginning, just enter '1'.
- 9) Quick find scrolling, as with scrolling one item at a time or scrolling one page at a time, does not change which species is highlighted. However if you want to highlight the species containing quick find text in order to see what documents are associated with it (e.g., 'I' for identification tips, 'P' for photograph), enter a comma.

4.3.2 Quick Find Exercise

In this exercise you will use quick find to scroll the document list to warblers.

- 1) Switch to the AOU list and view the full AOU list (by selecting 'AOU' as the AOU list mode, located in the middle of the status bar at the bottom of the AOU list).
- 2) Switch to the document list and put it in AOU order (by selecting the 'Select/Sort Order' menu item, checking 'AOU', and tapping the 'OK' button).
- 3) Scroll the document list to a warbler by entering the quick find text 'warble'. This scrolls the document list to 'Arctic **Warbler**' which is not grouped with other warblers in the AOU list. To scroll to the subsequent occurrences of 'warble', enter '.'.
- 4) See what documents are associated with the species containing underlined quick find text by entering a line feed character (i.e., in Graffiti, a line feed is a diagonal line drawn from upper right to lower left). Note that after highlighting a species in this way, you can still enter '.' to scroll to subsequent occurrences of the quick find text.

4.4 Scrolling to Checks

There are times when scrolling the list to checked items is preferred over scrolling the list to a particular word. For example, the document list's 'Check/Similar Looking' menu item checks species that are documented in the identification tips as looking similar to the currently highlighted species. Depending on the sort order, these checked species could be almost anywhere in the document list. To scroll to checked species, press the left or right sides of the 5-way navigator button. The left side scrolls to the previous check in the list, and the right side scrolls to the next check in the list. Alternatively, and less efficiently, you could use the 'View/Previous Check' and 'View/Next Check' menu items.

4.5 Scrolling to the Highlighted Item

Because scrolling does not affect which item is highlighted, the highlighted item can be scrolled off screen and it is rather easy to forget where it is. To scroll back to the highlighted item, wherever it is, enter a comma (i.e., ',') using your device's keypad or Graffiti area.

5. Opening a Document

When you highlight a species, single-letter icons appear at the bottom of the screen. Each icon is associated with a type of document: 'A' for audio, 'D' for description, 'E' for etymology, 'I' for identification tips, 'L' for life history, 'M' for mnemonic, 'P' for photograph, 'W' for Wikipedia article.

- If your device has a touchscreen, open the document by tapping its icon (e.g., 'A' for audio).
- If your device does not have a touchscreen, open the document by entering the icon's letter using your device's keypad or Graffiti area.

6. Navigating Photographs

A special case of the scroll to check scrolling technique is the technique to scroll through photographs in the document list. After displaying one photograph through the usual means (e.g., tapping the 'P' icon in the status bar), you can scroll through other photographs of the same species or scroll to photographs of other species. It may be helpful to think of all the photographs included in the Peck multimedia as being on a conveyer belt and stacked according to species. Pressing the top/bottom edge of the 5-way navigator button scrolls up/down in the stack of photographs for a particular species, and pressing the left/right edge of the 5-way navigator button scrolls to (i.e., moves the conveyer belt to) photographs of the previous/next stack, which is the previous/next species that is checked in the document list.

If you prefer using the stylus instead of the 5-way navigator, you can treat the photograph itself as a big 5-way navigator by checking the 'tap photo to navigate' option in a photograph's 'Select/Photograph Navigation' dialog. Then tapping the top/bottom edge of the photograph scrolls up/down through the photographs for the same species, and tapping the left/right edge of the photograph scrolls to photographs of the previous/next species that is checked in the document list.

7. Scrolling within Documents

Although the Peck application's quick find is much faster than the Palm OS global find utility at scrolling to a listed item, the Palm OS global find utility is the one that can search through documents. Therefore to get the most out of the Peck application, you should become familiar with both.

A notable constraint of the Palm OS global find utility is that it searches for matches only at the beginning of words. For example, searching the species names for 'sparro' will result in a lot of matches but searching for 'parrow' will result in none. Also note that the Palm OS global find utility treats the hyphen character like a space. Therefore you can use the global find utility to search for 'plover' and it will match 'golden-plover'.

When the Palm OS global find utility finds matches, tapping a displayed match directs the Peck application to open the correct document and scroll to the matched text within the document.

an advantage of field guide applications : electronic search

The ability to search for text in an electronically stored document is a significant advantage over printed documents. It is even more of an advantage for a field guide application with the ability to check each species that has documentation with the specified search text. For example, with the Peck application you can check all the species in the document list that have the text "eye ring" somewhere in their identification tips by selecting the 'Select/Text Search Options' menu item, checking 'Identification Tips' and 'check found records', and performing a Palm OS global find on "eye ring". The same search done manually with a printed field guide would probably take hours and would be prone to errors.

an advantage of field guide applications : efficient cross referencing

When documentation is integrated in a way that is easy to filter and navigate, a level of cross reference checking becomes feasible that is not feasible with printed documents. For example, suppose you run the Peck application's diet filter to find out which species eat worms. You quickly find that nine species in the document list eat worms, but you are surprised to see that the Worm-eating Warbler is not one of them. So you quickly switch to the documentation about the etymology of 'Worm-eating Warbler' and find that the species is called "worm-eating" because it eats smooth caterpillars, which of course are insect larvae rather than worms. With integrated documentation, it is easy to check cross references, which gives multiple perspectives and therefore increases understanding.

Appendix. Change Log

2008 June 01

- Changed 'Select/Next Check' menu item to 'View/Next Check'.
- Changed 'Select/Previous Check' menu item to 'View/Previous Check'.

2008 January 11

- Removed section '1. Background'.
- Throughout document, updated figures.

2007 November 05

- Changed name of the document (from Peck Application Navigation).
- Added new section: 1. Background.

2007 April 27

- Updated section '4.3.1 Quick Find Guidelines' to include description of '@' shortcut, that restores your previously entered quick find text.

2007 April 05

- Updated section '4.3.1 Quick Find Guidelines' to include description of how entering a carriage return causes the list to return to its beginning.

2007 January 20

- Added to section '6. Scrolling through Photographs' a description of the photograph navigation option.

2006 October 23

- Updated figures to show capitalized common names.
- Added to section '4.1 Quick Find Guidelines' a description of the Quick Find underline.

2006 September 09

- Updated figures, replacing the old list icons with the new list selector.

2006 July 18

- Created.