Ultrasonic sensor

It detects the distance of the closest object in front of the sensor (it uses sound instead of light as in the IR sensor).

It measures distance by sending out a sound wave at a specific frequency and listening for that sound wave to bounce back. By recording the elapsed time between the sound wave being generated and the sound wave bouncing back, it is possible to calculate the distance between the sonar sensor and the object.

This video explains how it works and some possibilities to use it in your projects.

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