

What kind of bird is that...

When trying to identify a bird, the first things to look for are location and behavior. Is the bird up high making noise, or on the ground digging in leaves? Next, think about size and shape. Is it big like a crow, or small like a sparrow? Does it have pointy wings, or a long tail? Finally, you can use field marks to identify birds— flip to the back panel to discover how.

Circle the birds you find on your hike today!

in the trees?

Almost all the birds of Indiana use trees and shrubs for food, shelter, or nesting. Woodpeckers and chickadees make their nests in the cavities of trees and pick insects from the bark. Trees can provide seeds and berries for birds such as bluebirds to eat.

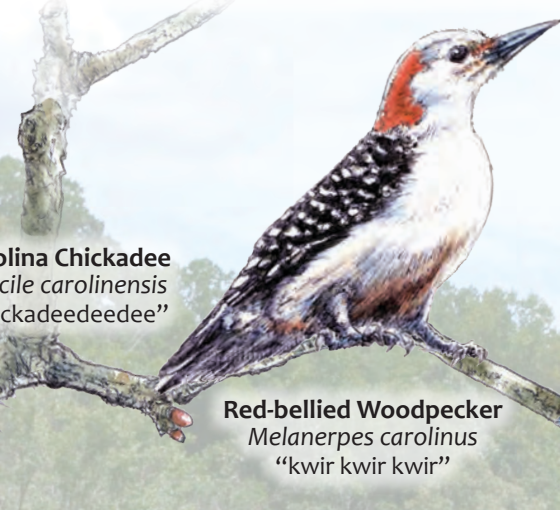
Look into the trees. How many different birds can you find? _____ What parts of the tree are the birds using? _____



Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens
“pik.....pik...pik”



Carolina Chickadee
Poecile carolinensis
“chickadeedeede”



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
“kwir kwir kwir”



Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis
“too-a-wee”

on the ground?

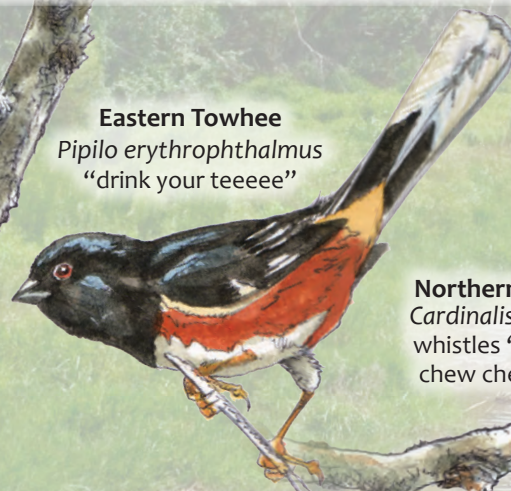
Birds that feed on the ground usually specialize in catching bugs or finding seeds. American Robins use their beaks to pull earthworms from the ground. Towhees, cardinals, and sparrows scratch through leaves to uncover fallen seeds and berries.

Check the ground near trail, stream, and field edges. How many different birds can you find? _____

Can you tell what they are eating? _____



American Robin
Turdus migratorius
“plurri, kliwi, plurri, kliwi”



Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
“drink your teeeee”



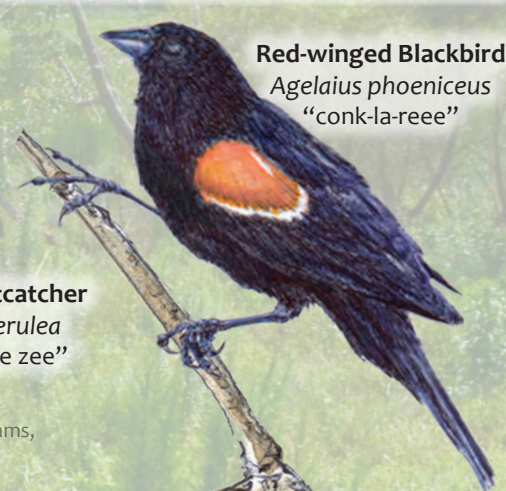
Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis
whistles “woit woit chew chew chew”



House Sparrow
Passer domesticus
“chirrup chirrup”



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Poliptila caerulea
sharp “zee zee zee”



Red-winged Blackbird
Agelaius phoeniceus
“conk-la-reee”

in the air?

Birds that spend a lot of time in the air use their strong eyesight to find food. Hawks, crows, and vultures can usually be found perched or circling up high as they search for their next meal. **Scan the sky over fields and through openings in the trees. Are there any large birds flying overhead? _____ Are they flapping or gliding? _____**



Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
warning “hsssss”



Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
“keeee-arr” raspy scream

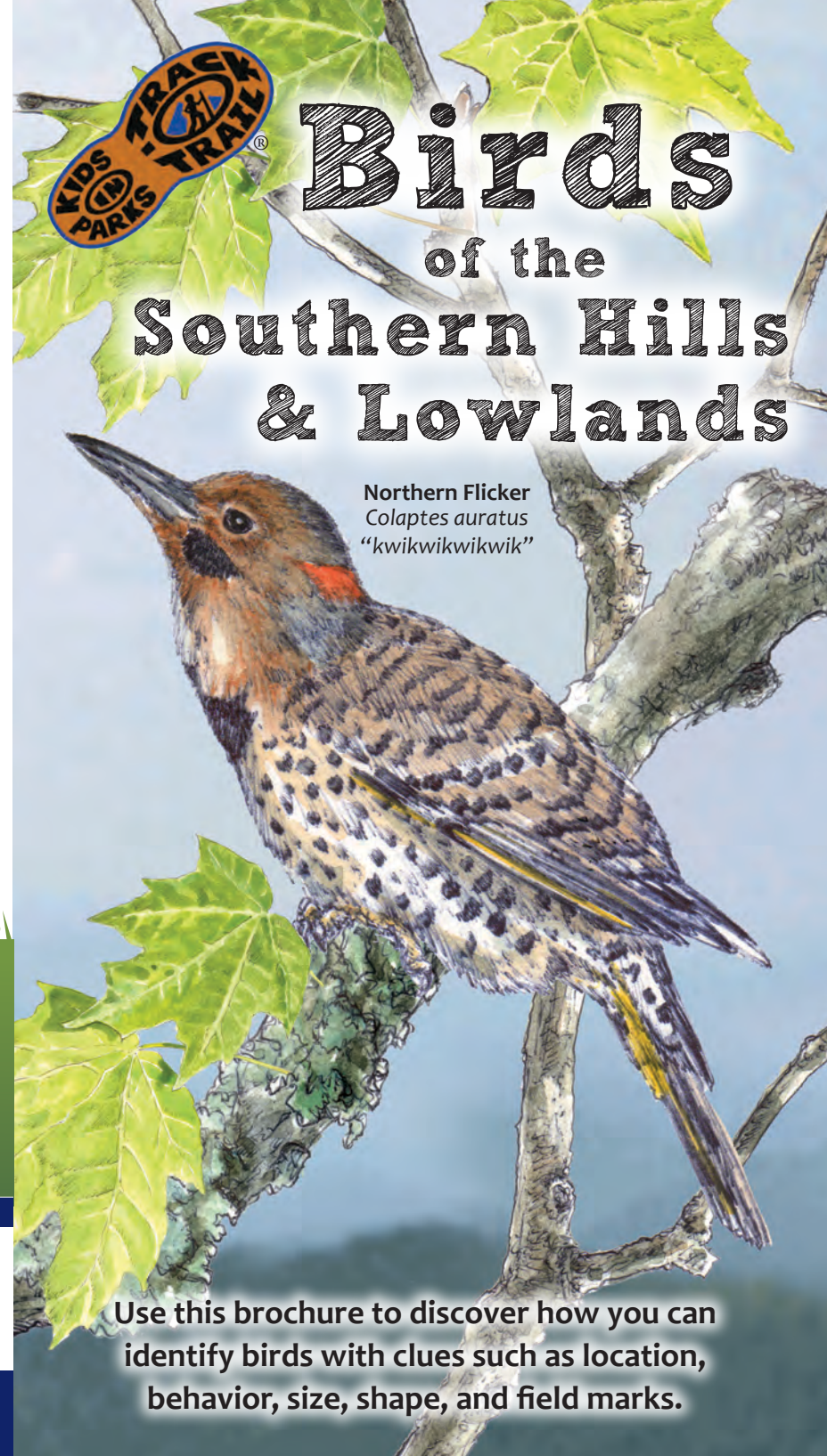


American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
“caww caww”

making noise?

Birds make all kinds of noises – some sing to attract a mate, while others will call attention to food, danger, or territory. The song of a red-winged blackbird is an early sign of spring. Blue-gray gnatcatchers sing complex songs incorporating pieces from other species songs!

Close your eyes and listen for one minute. How many different birds can you hear around you? _____



Birds

of the Southern Hills & Lowlands

Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
"kwikwikwikwik"

Use this brochure to discover how you can identify birds with clues such as location, behavior, size, shape, and field marks.

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Field Marks

In addition to size, shape, location and behavior, field marks can be used to help identify birds. If you can't identify a bird on your hike, remembering what certain parts of the bird looked like can help you identify it when you get home. On your birding adventure, try to find a bird you don't know and see if it has any of the following field marks:

wing bars
Does the bird have wing bars or patches?

tail bars
Are there any stripes across the bird's tail?

tail markings
Does the bird have white edges on its tail or a different color on the tip?

nape
Is the bird's nape a different color?

crown
Does the bird have a colored "cap" or a crest on its head?

eyestripe
Does the bird have a stripe through the eye?

eyebrow
Does the bird have an eyebrow? What color?

beak or bill
What shape and color are the beak?

belly
What color is the bird's belly?

side
Does the bird have coloring on the sides?

breast
Does the breast have speckles or bands of color?

throat
Is the bird's throat a different color?

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
harsh "jayy"