

# 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.

**Check off the birds you find on your hike today!**

## in the woods?

Many birds found along the coast 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 carolina wrens to eat.

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



**Carolina Chickadee**  
*Poecile carolinensis*  
“chickadeedeede”



**Red-bellied Woodpecker**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*  
shrill “kwirrrr”



**Carolina Wren**  
*Thryothorus ludovicianus*  
varied “pidaro pidaro pidaro”

## near the water?

Some birds specialize in living near the water. Cormorants dive for fish in the water and perch on sunken branches to dry their wings. Mallards dabble in shallow water, sifting through algae. Snowy egrets wade at the water’s edge spearing minnows and catching crabs with their narrow, pointed beaks.

Check along the edges of the water and in the water. How many different birds can you find? \_\_\_\_ Can you tell what they are eating? \_\_\_\_\_



**Double-crested Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*  
pig-like grunts



**Mallard**  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
“quack quack”



**Snowy Egret**  
*Egretta thula*  
loud, nasal squawks



**Brown Thrasher**  
*Toxostoma rufum*  
varied phrases “peter peter, keekeeder keekeeder”



**Northern Mockingbird**  
*Mimus polyglottos*  
varied phrases “krrDEE krrDEE krrDEE, wikwikwikwik”

## in the air?

Birds that spend a lot of time in the air use their strong eyesight to find food. Black vultures circle high above looking for dead animals and other vultures to follow. Laughing gulls also look for the activity of other birds and animals, even humans, to lead them to their next meal. Lower in the air, hummingbirds hover near gardens and meadows sipping nectar from flowers. Scan the gardens and woods, and the sky over the marshes and beach. Can you find any large birds flying in the woods? How about small birds high in the air?



**Black Vulture**  
*Coragyps atratus*  
raspy “hsssss”



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**  
*Archilochus colubris*  
“chee-dit”



**Laughing Gull**  
*Leucophaeus atricilla*  
loud, high pitched  
“ha ha hah haaah  
haah haa ha”

## making noise?

Birds make all kinds of noises. Some sing to attract a mate, while others will call attention to food, danger or territory. Northern mockingbirds and brown thrashers are called mimic birds because they imitate the calls of other birds. Brown thrashers tend to double their phrases, while mockingbirds repeat phrases 3 or 4 times.

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

Illustrations by David Williams,  
Wingin' It Works



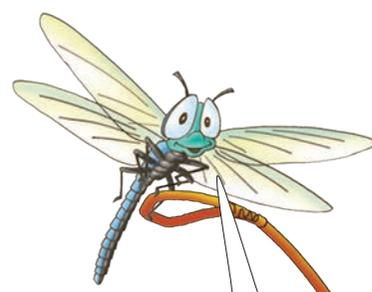
# Birds of the Coast



**Great Blue Heron**  
*Ardea herodias*  
hoarse "fraawnk"

Whether perching in the trees, wading in the shallows, flying overhead, or singing from the shrubs, many types of birds specialize in a life on or near the coast. Use this brochure to see how many birds you can find on your hike today.

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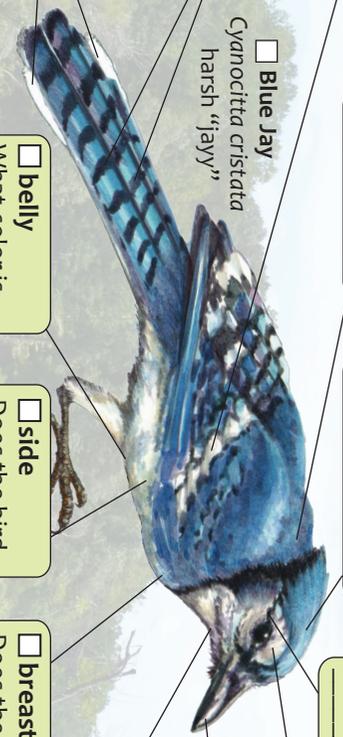
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## Field Marks

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:

**Blue Jay**  
*Cyanocitta cristata*  
harsh "jayy"



**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?

**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?

**eyestripe**  
Does the bird have a stripe through the eye?

**eyebrow**  
Does the bird have an eyebrow? What color?

**throat**  
Is the bird's throat a different color?

**beak or bill**  
What shape and color are the beak?