

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:

☐ **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?

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

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

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

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

☐ **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?

☐ **wing bars**
Does the bird have wing bars or patches?

☐ **Red-winged Blackbird**
Agelaius phoeniceus
"Conk-la-reee"

☐ **beak**
What shape and color are the beak?

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Kids in Parks Founding Partners

Birds of Oregon's High Desert

☐ Western Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
"kwikwikwikwik"

Over 500 different bird species live in or visit the state of Oregon. Use this brochure to discover how you can identify birds with clues such as location, behavior, size, shape and field marks.

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 hopping on the ground? Next, think about size and shape. Is it big like an osprey or small like a swallow? Does it have pointy wings or a long tail? Finally, you can use field marks to identify birds. Flip to the side panel to discover how.

Check off each bird you find on your hike today!

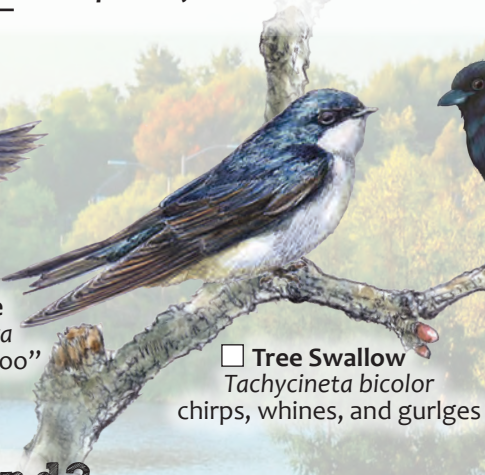
in the shrubs and trees?

Shrubs and trees provide food, perches and nest sites for many birds. Mourning doves coo from the swaying branches of the trees while swallows and magpies scan for insects from low perches. Scrub-jays search for insects, lizards, seeds, and nuts.

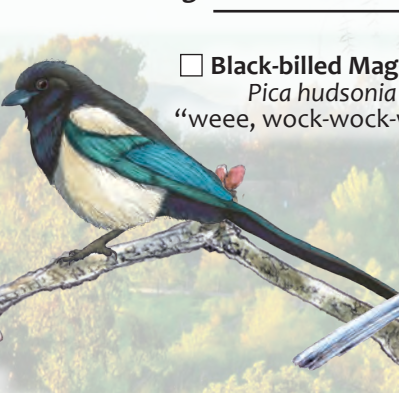
Look into the trees and shrubs. How many different birds can you find? _____ What parts of the tree or shrub are the birds using? _____



☐ Mourning Dove
Zenaida macroura
“ooOOH coo coo coo”



☐ Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor
chirps, whines, and gurgles



☐ Black-billed Magpie
Pica hudsonia
“weee, wock-wock-wock”



☐ California Scrub-jay
Aphelocoma californica
shrill “riiike”



☐ Osprey
Pandion haliaetus
“tewp, tewp, teelee, tewp”



☐ Bald Eagle
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
high pitch whistles

on the ground?

Birds that feed along the ground usually specialize in eating seeds or invertebrates such as worms and snails. The robin pecks at plants and animals while flickers hammer the soil like a woodpecker, looking for ants.

Look around the trail for birds resting or feeding on the ground. How many different birds can you find? _____ Can you tell what they are eating? _____



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



☐ Western Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
“kwikwikwikwik”



☐ Common Raven
Corvus corax
croaking “rawwk”



☐ Canada Goose
Branta canadensis
honks “h-ronk”



☐ Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
“keee-arr” raspy scream



☐ Great Horned Owl
Bubo virginianus
“hoo-h’HOO-hoo-hoo”

in the air?

Birds that spend a lot of time in the air use their strong eyesight to find food. These birds of prey often can be found perched, hovering or flying above the land and water as they search for their next meal.

Scan the sky and the branches of tall trees. Are there any large birds flying overhead? Are they flapping, hovering or gliding? _____

making noise?

What is that noise? Some birds are noisy neighbors. Look for the Canada Goose with its distinctive honk. Listen for the piercing cry of the red-tailed hawk as it soars overhead or the soft hoot of the great horned owl. How many different noisy birds can you find? _____