

What kind of bird is that?

When identifying birds, start by observing their location and behavior. Is the bird up high, making noise? Or is it on the ground, digging in leaves?

Next, observe its appearance. Is it big like a crow, or small like a sparrow? Does it have pointy wings, or a long tail? What color is it? And what sort of markings does it have?

These things can help you identify the birds you are looking at!

Check off the birds you find on your hike today!



○ **American Bald Eagle**
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
high-pitched whistling or piping notes



○ **Turkey Vulture**
Cathartes aura
low, throaty hissing



○ **Red-tailed Hawk**
Buteo jamaicensis
hoarse, screaming "kee-eeee-arr"



○ **American Crow**
Corvus brachyrhynchos
"caw, caw, caw"



○ **American Cliff Swallow**
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota
varied "pidaro pidaro pidaro"



○ **Great Blue Heron**
Ardea herodias
squawking "roh-roh-roh"
or rapid "frawnk" squawk



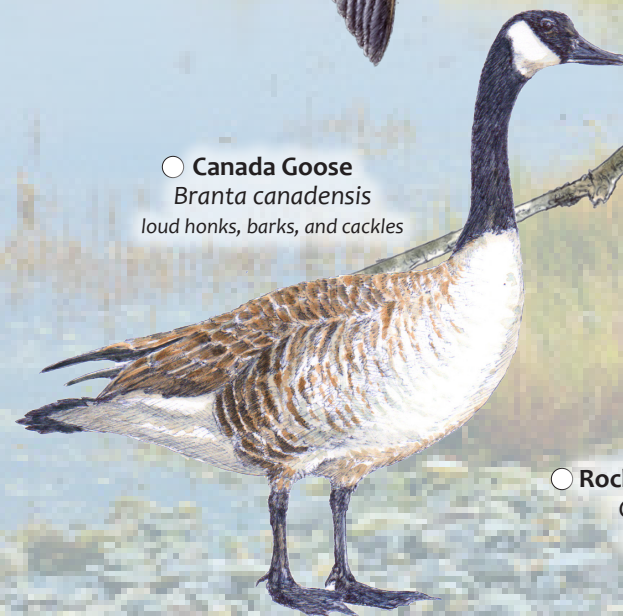
○ **Northern Parula**
Setophaga americana
rising, buzzy trill



○ **Cedar Waxwing**
Bombicilla cedrorum
high-pitched, trilled "bzeee"



○ **Baltimore Oriole**
Icterus galbula
series of short notes;
flute-like sound



○ **Canada Goose**
Branta canadensis
loud honks, barks, and cackles



○ **Rock Dove (Pigeon)**
Columba livia
throaty "coos"



○ **American Goldfinch**
Spinus tristis
"po-ta-to-chip"



○ **Northern Cardinal**
Cardinalis cardinalis
"cheer, cheer, cheer"

☐ **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?

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

☐ **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?

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

☐ **breast**
Does the breast have speckles or bands of color?

☐ **side**
Does the bird have coloring on the sides?

☐ **belly**
What color is the bird's belly?

☐ **Blue Jay**
Cyanocitta cristata
harsh "jay"

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:

Field Marks

TRACK your hike at
kidsinparks.com
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Birds of the River

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 river. Use this brochure to see how many birds you can find on your hike today.

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

