

What kind of bird is that?

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

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!



○ Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
low, throaty hissing



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



○ Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens
"pik, pik, pik" and whinnying call



○ Ovenbird
Seiurus aurocapilla
"tea-cher, tea-cher, TEA-cher"

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



○ Eastern Towhee
Pipilo erythrophthalmus
"drink your tea-eeee"



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



○ American Goldfinch
Spinus tristis
"po-tay-to-chip"

○ Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes carolinus
shrill, rolling "kwirr" or "churr"



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



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



○ Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus
"kill-deer"



Birds of the River



Mallard
Anas platyrhynchos
 "quack, quack, quack"

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.

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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?

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?

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

beak or bill
What shape and color are the beak?

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

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"