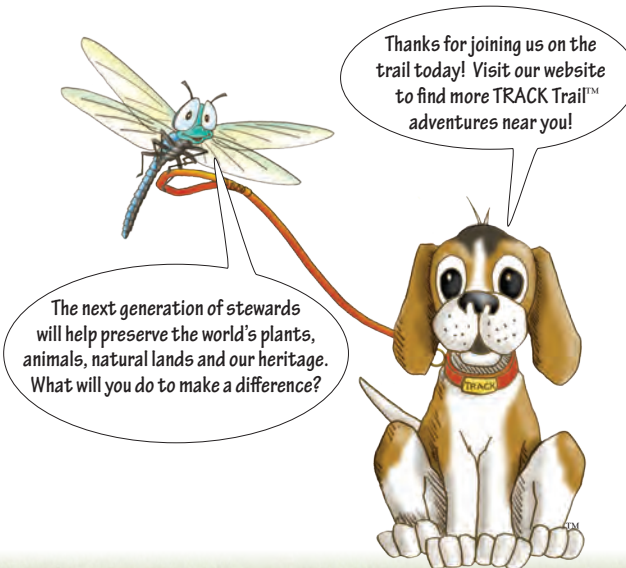



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Birds of Lakes and Rivers

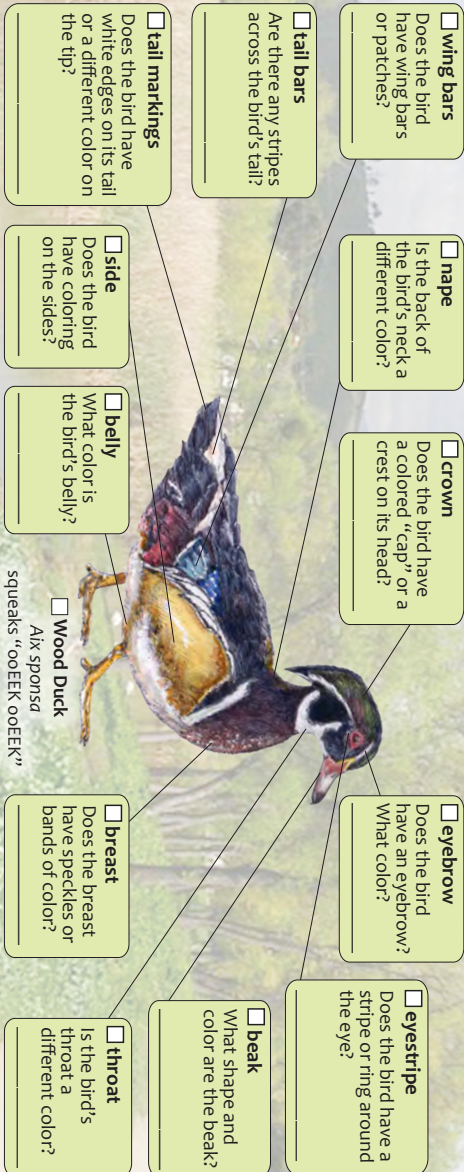


☐ Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
 hoarse "fraawwnk"

Whether perching along the banks, wading in the shallows, flying overhead, or diving in open water, many types of birds specialize in a life on or near the water. Use this brochure to see how many birds you can find on your hike today.

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:



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 hovering up high over the water, or wading in the shallows? Next, think about size and shape. Is it big like an eagle, 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 trees and shrubs?

Almost all birds found around the water use trees and shrubs for feeding, shelter, or nesting. Red-winged blackbirds and tree swallows nest in the trees and shrubs and feed on the abundant insects near the water. Belted kingfishers perch on branches over the water and dive for small fish. **Look into the trees and shrubs along the banks. How many different birds can you find?** _____

☐ **Red-winged Blackbird**
Agelaius phoeniceus
trills “kon-ka-reee”

☐ **Tree Swallow**
Tachycineta bicolor
high-pitched chirps
and gurgles

☐ **Belted Kingfisher**
Megasceryle alcyon
long, mechanical rattle

at the water's edge?

Some birds specialize in living at the water's edge. Green herons perch on sunken logs and hunt for frogs and fish, while shorebirds such as killdeer probe mudflats and sandbars for insects. Mallards and Canada geese dabble in the shallow water eating plants and algae. **Check along the edge of the water. How many different birds can you find?** _____ **Can you tell what they are eating?** _____

☐ **Green Heron**
Butorides virescens
harsh “skow”

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

☐ **Killdeer**
Charadrius vociferus
“kill-deeerr, didideeerr”

☐ **Canada Goose**
Branta canadensis
honks “h-ronk”

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

☐ **Osprey**
Pandion haliaetus
whistles “cheerp,
cheerp, cheeyee-urp”

☐ **Bald Eagle**
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
weak, chattering whistle

in the water?

Birds that swim on the open water usually eat small fish, aquatic insects, clams, or underwater plants. The American coot, double-crested cormorant, and pied-billed grebe are all strong swimmers and can dive to the bottom of the water to find food.

Do you see any birds out on the water? _____

Are they diving or dabbling? _____

☐ **Pied-billed Grebe**
Podilymbus podiceps
long, loud series of
whoops and chuckles

☐ **American Coot**
Fulica americana
clucks “krrrrp” or “pri-KI”

illustrations by David Williams,
Wingin' It Works