

Learn about .  . TEXAS



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Learn about . . . TEXAS

A Learning and Activity Book

Color your own guide to the birds that wing their way across the plains, hills, forests, deserts and mountains of Texas.

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4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

PWD BK P4000-038 10/97

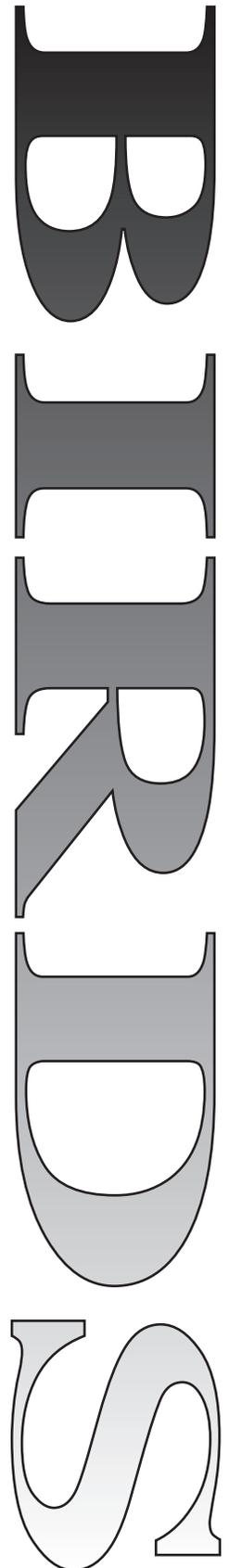
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Another "Learn about Texas" publication from

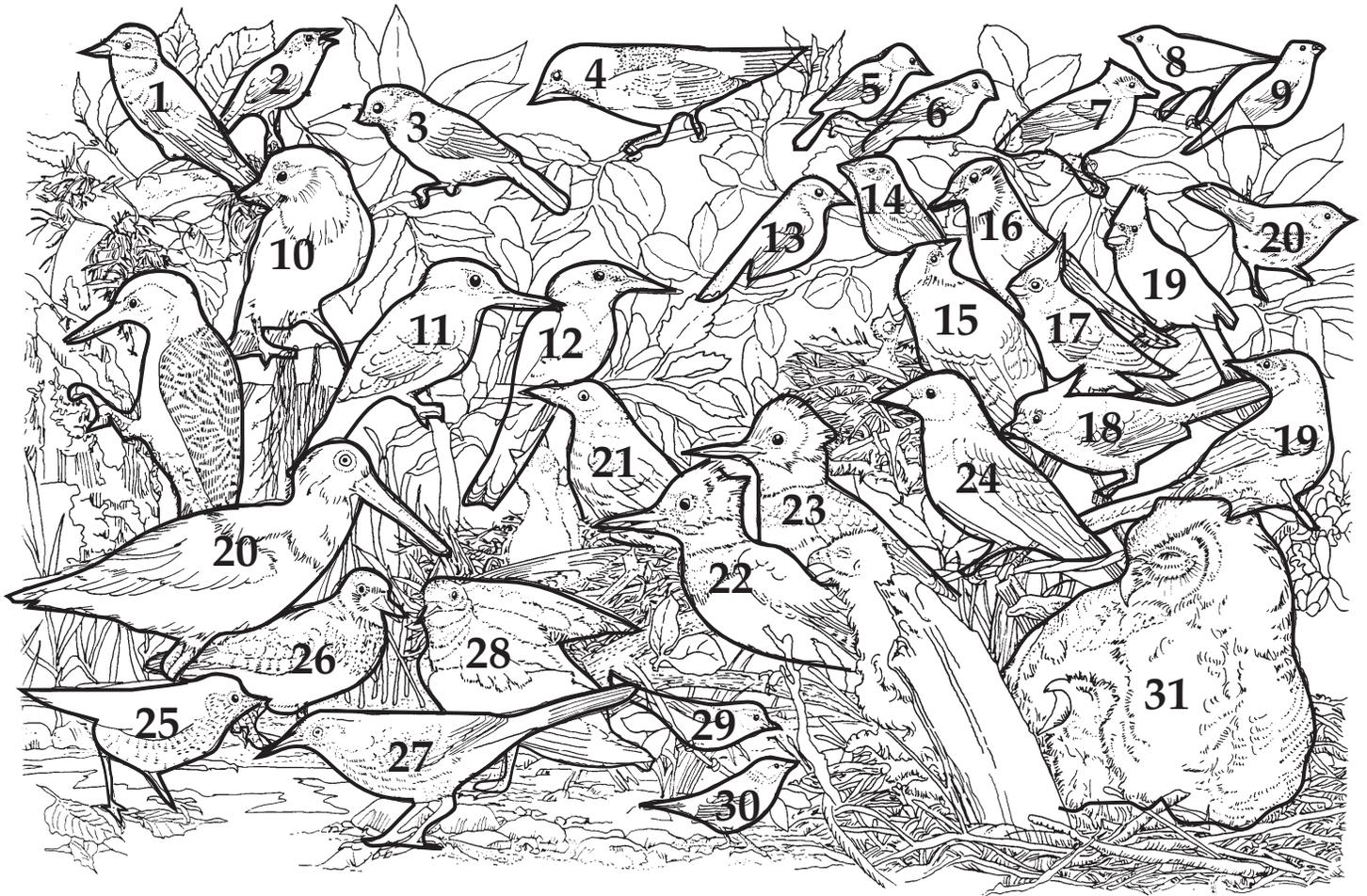
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE PRESS



ISBN- 1-885696-17-5



Key to the Cover



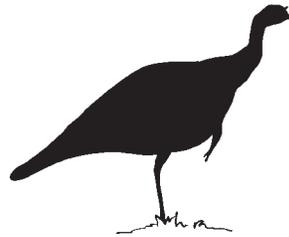
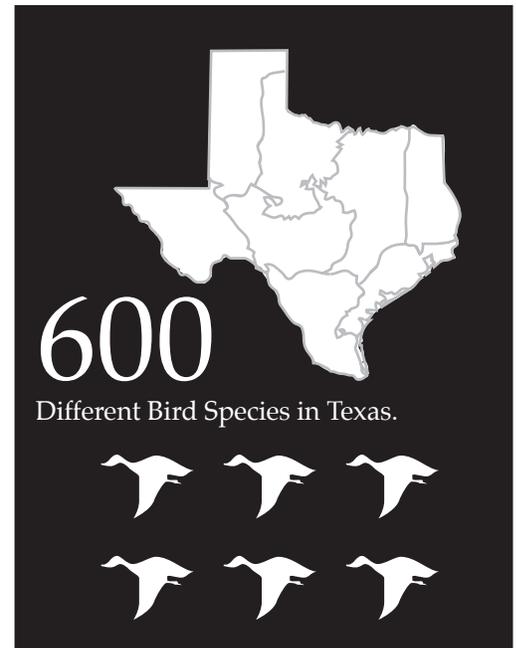
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|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Great Kiskadee | 16 Blue Jay ♀ |
| 2 Carolina Wren | 17 Pyrrhuloxia ♀ |
| 3 Carolina Chickadee | 18 Pyrrhuloxia ♂ |
| 4 Altamira Oriole | 19 Northern Cardinal |
| 5 Black-capped Vireo ♀ | 20 Ovenbird |
| 6 Black-capped Vireo ♂ | 21 Brown Thrasher |
| 7 Tufted Titmouse | 22 Belted Kingfisher ♂ |
| 8 Painted Bunting | 23 Belted Kingfisher ♀ |
| 9 Indigo Bunting | 24 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher |
| 10 Green Jay | 25 Wood Thrush |
| 11 Green Kingfisher ♀ | 26 Ruddy Turnstone |
| 12 Green Kingfisher ♂ | 27 Long-billed Thrasher |
| 13 Vermillion Flycatcher ♂ | 28 Killdeer |
| 14 Vermillion Flycatcher ♀ | 29 Olive Sparrow ♂ |
| 15 Blue Jay | 30 Olive Sparrow ♀ |
| | 31 Great Horned Owl |

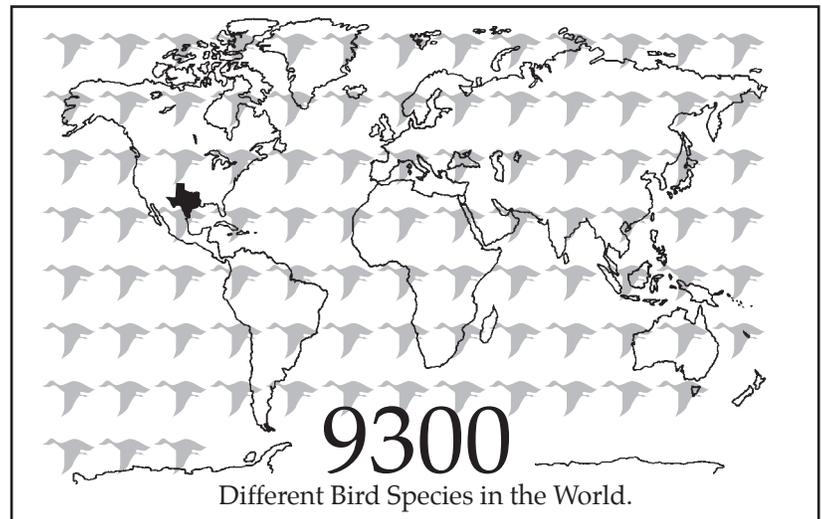
♀ =female ♂ =male

Texas Birds

More kinds of birds have been found in Texas than any other state in the United States: just over 600 species. One of the main reasons Texas has so many birds is its location. Texas is in the southern part of the United States and it is also in the center of the continent. This central location means that birds from both the eastern and western U.S. can be seen in Texas. Texas also shares a long border with Mexico and as a result we have many species of birds that are found primarily in Mexico.



Mark an "X" on the map where you live.



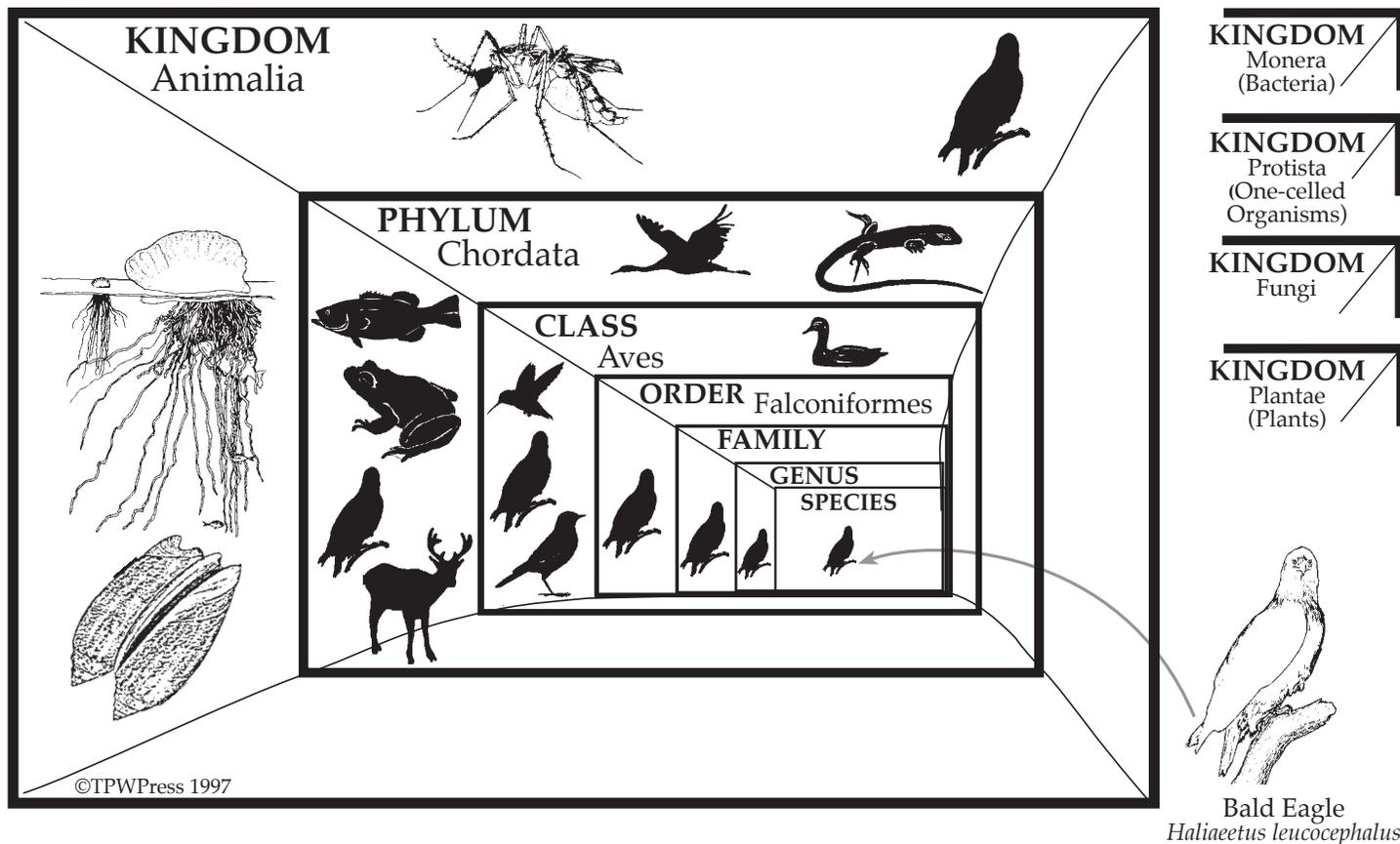
Texas birds can be grouped into four major categories: **summer residents**, **winter residents**, **permanent residents**, and **migrants**.

- **Summer residents** come to Texas during the nesting season, usually from the south. Some of these arrive in Texas as early as March and may leave as early as July.
- **Winter residents** generally are found farther north during the nesting season and migrate south to Texas to spend the winter.
(There are birds that are summer residents in some areas of Texas and winter residents in others.)
- **Permanent residents** are birds that spend the entire year in part or all of Texas. Some birds are present all year, but actually consist of two populations. The summer resident population migrates south in the winter as birds of the same species move into Texas from up north for the winter.
- **Migrants** are species that only pass through Texas on their way north and south as part of their migration. Most of these are **neotropical migrants**, meaning that they come from the New World tropics. These birds spend the winter in the tropical climate of Central and South America and then migrate back to the temperate climates of the United States and Canada. Many of our summer residents are also neotropical migrants.
- **Accidentals** are birds that don't fit into any of these major categories. These birds are far from where they naturally occur and they got to Texas by sheer accident.

Taxonomy

Scientists have developed a **system** in which all living things (organisms) can be placed and then given a scientific name. This system is called **taxonomy** and it consists of "higher" and "lower" groups. The higher the group, the more broad it is – meaning that it contains a wider range of organisms than the group below it. Let's see how this system works for, let's say, the Bald Eagle.

To fit this organism into the topmost level, we need to place it into one of five divisions called **kingdoms**. Animals, plants, fungi, bacteria and one-celled organisms each have their own kingdom. The Bald Eagle is obviously an animal, hence it belongs in the Kingdom Animalia (Latin for "animal").



KINGDOM ANIMALIA (ah-nee-mah-lee-ah) contains: coelenterates (jellyfish, etc.), echinoderms (starfish, etc.) flatworms, segmented worms, mollusks, jointed-legged animals (insects, etc.), **backboned animals**. The level below the kingdom is that of the **phylum**. Among animals, birds belong with the chordates (called Chordata in Latin) which include all the backboned animals.

PHYLUM CHORDATA (kor-dah-tah) contains: backboned animals — fishes, amphibians, reptiles, **birds**, mammals. The next level down is that of the **class**. Among chordates, birds have their own class called Aves (Latin for "birds").

CLASS AVES (ay-vees) contains: ostriches, penguins, cranes, pelicans, storks, geese and ducks, **birds of prey**, shorebirds, game birds, gulls, pigeons, parrots, owls, swifts, woodpeckers, perching birds. On the level below the class is the **order**. There are 27 orders of birds. Eagles, together with other birds of prey, belong in the order Falconiformes (which means "shaped like a falcon").

ORDER FALCONIFORMES (fall-ko-nee-for-mees) contains: **eagles, hawks, kites**, the Secretary Bird. Below the level of order comes the grouping called the **family**. Eagles, together with hawks and kites (but not the Secretary Bird), are placed in the family Accipitridae (meaning "hawks" in Latin).

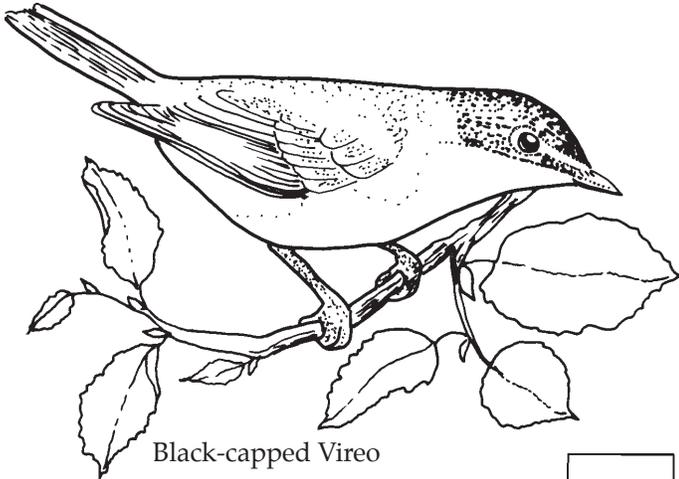
FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE (axee-pitt-ree-day) contains: **eagles, hawks, kites**. Below the family level is the level of the **genus** (plural genera). The genus is a group of very closely related species. The genus that contains the Bald Eagle of North America as well as the White-tailed Eagle of Eurasia is called **Haliaeetus**, meaning "sea-eagle." (Other kinds of eagles belong to several other genera.)

GENUS HALIAEETUS (hally-eh-eetus) contains: **Bald Eagle, White-tailed Eagle**. Each genus usually contains several **species**, the lowest level in taxonomic classification. It is at the species level that an organism gets its scientific name which always contains two parts. The first part is the genus name and the second is the name of the species in that genus. Both names are usually italicized, with the genus spelled with a capital. In the case of the Bald Eagle, its species name is leucocephalus (meaning "white-head"). The full scientific name is therefore *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

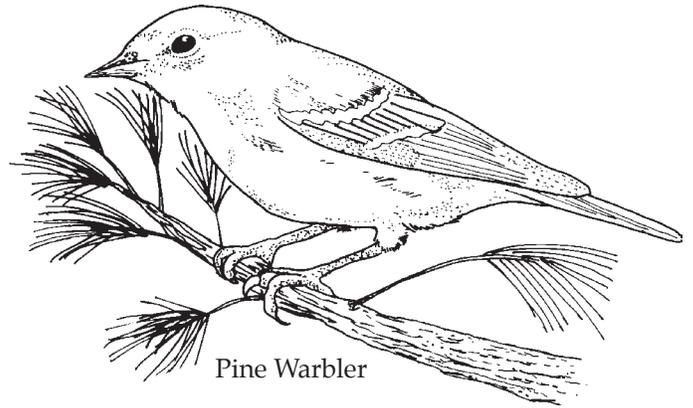
SPECIES HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (lew-koh-sefa-luss) contains only the Bald Eagle.

Ecological Regions of Texas

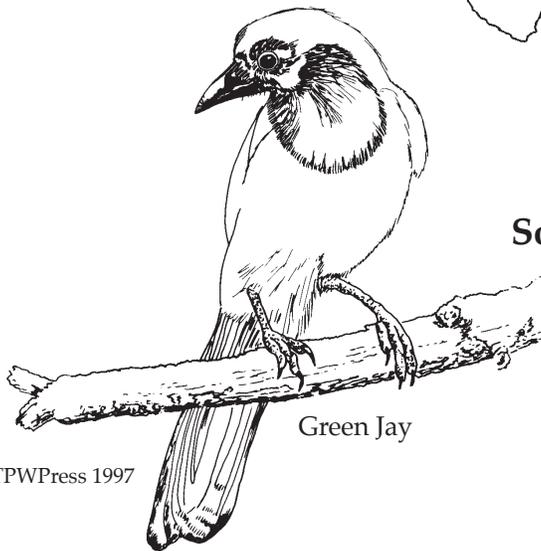
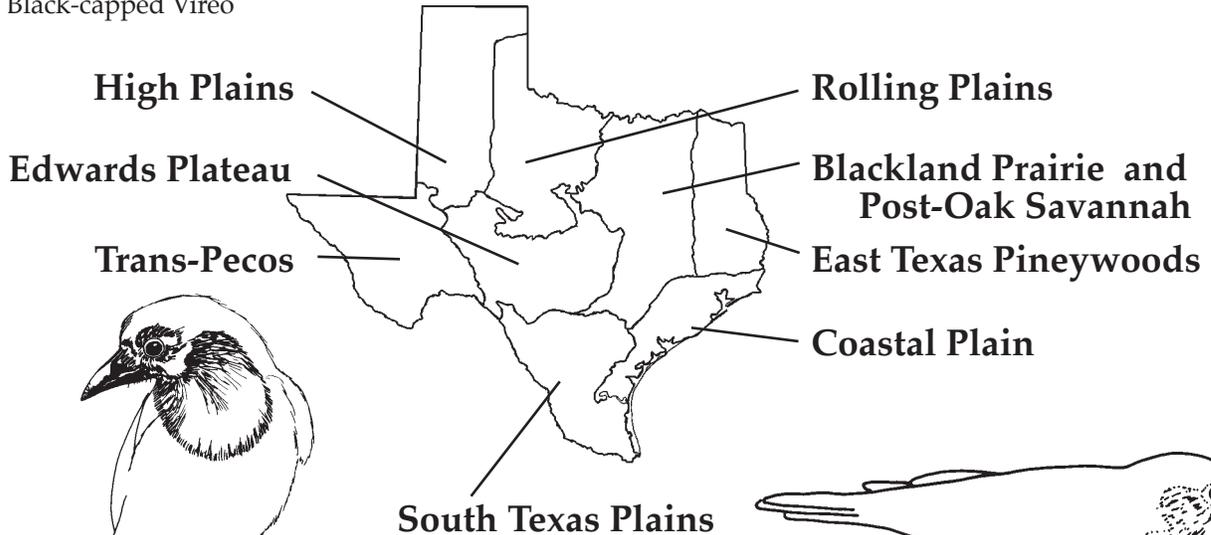
Texas is roughly 800 miles across from east to west and a little more than 800 miles from the north to the south. Not only is Texas a big state, but it is also one of contrasts. Elevations range from over 8,000 feet in the mountains of the west to sea level along the Gulf coast. As you travel from east to west in Texas, it becomes drier. The average rainfall for a year ranges from about 56 inches in the southeastern part of the state to just eight inches in far West Texas. These differences from region to region have resulted in a wide variety of habitats.



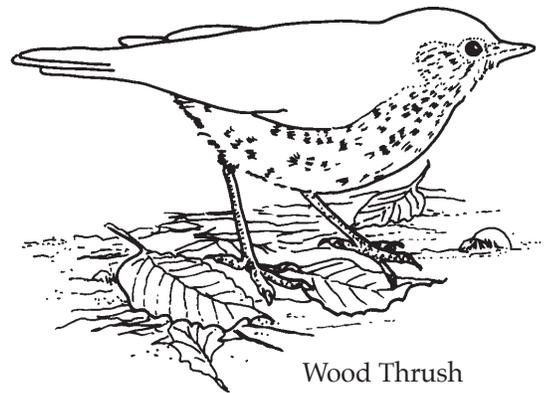
Black-capped Vireo



Pine Warbler



Green Jay



Wood Thrush

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There are large areas of Texas that have similar habitats. In East Texas, along the Louisiana border, the habitat is primarily a pine forest, but as you go west and the land becomes more arid, or dry, the forests become grasslands and finally those grasslands become desert. Areas with similar habitats are often referred to as ecological regions or ecoregions. Each of these regions is very different from the others and each has a few special birds that are not found in any other area of Texas. These birds may be adapted for the overall habitat in which they live or they may be so specialized that they have to be around a certain plant. But, there are also birds that are not restricted to a certain area of the state and can be found in all of the ecoregions.

Symbols Used for Field Notes

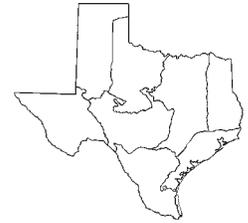
About . . . Geographic Range



You might live in a wet and humid forested area or in a dry desert region. You could be in the cold north or the warm south.



Birds live in all of the different ecological regions of Texas. You can find birds in forests, marshes, grasslands and deserts as well as up in the mountains and in the lowlands along the coast.



About . . . Nesting Place



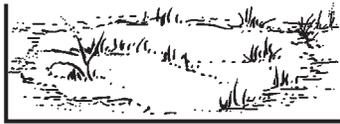
Your house might be on a hill or along a river. It could be on a busy street or along a quiet country road.



Birds make their nests in all kinds of places, from nests on the ground to nests placed high up on trees or on cliffs.



Deciduous Tree



Ground

Abandoned Nests of Other Birds

Abandoned Nest



Bank



Shrub



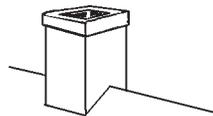
Floating



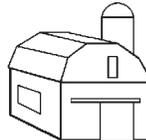
Snag



Cliff



Chimney



Building



Conifer (pine tree)



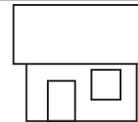
Reeds

Almost half of all woodland birds nest in treeholes.

About . . . Nest Type



You could be living in a little shack or a big house or in a tent or a cabin.



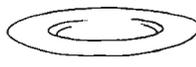
Some bird nests are shaped like cups, while others resemble saucers. And sometimes the nest is just a tree cavity or a hole in the ground.



Platform



Scrape



Saucer



Burrow



Cup



Cavity



Pendant



Sphere

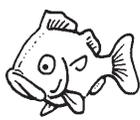
About . . . Favorite Food



What is your favorite food? Is it fish, salad or pizza? Well, birds have preferences, too, depending on whether they are birds of prey or seed-eating sparrows.



Birds' diets are as varied as their physical appearance. Food preferences range from catching other birds in flight to fishing to pecking for seeds on the ground.



Fish



Small Mammals



Insects



Fruit



Seeds



Aquatic Invertebrates



Greens



Birds

About . . . What They Like To Eat

Purple Martins can easily eat 2,000 mosquitoes a day.

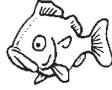
A Northern Flicker makes a snack of 5,000 ants.

Scarlet Tanagers can eat 35 harmful Gypsy Moth larvae a minute.

The Mourning Dove eats seeds, like ragweed seeds, and can eat 9,000 in one meal.

Remember you can make up your own symbols for your journal.

Field Notes for the Great Blue Heron



Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food
Size: Length 38", Wingspan 70"

Upperparts & neck: slate gray
Head: white
Bill: yellow
Underparts: dark
Legs: yellowish



True or False?

A bird that hatches with its eyes open, is covered with down and leaves the nest within two days is called precocial.

Did You Know That . . .

The English name "heron" for this kind of a long-legged, long-necked bird goes back to about 800 years ago.

Hérons are considered semi-altricial. That means that when they hatch they can't leave the nest or feed themselves, yet their eyes are open and they are covered with down.

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True or False?

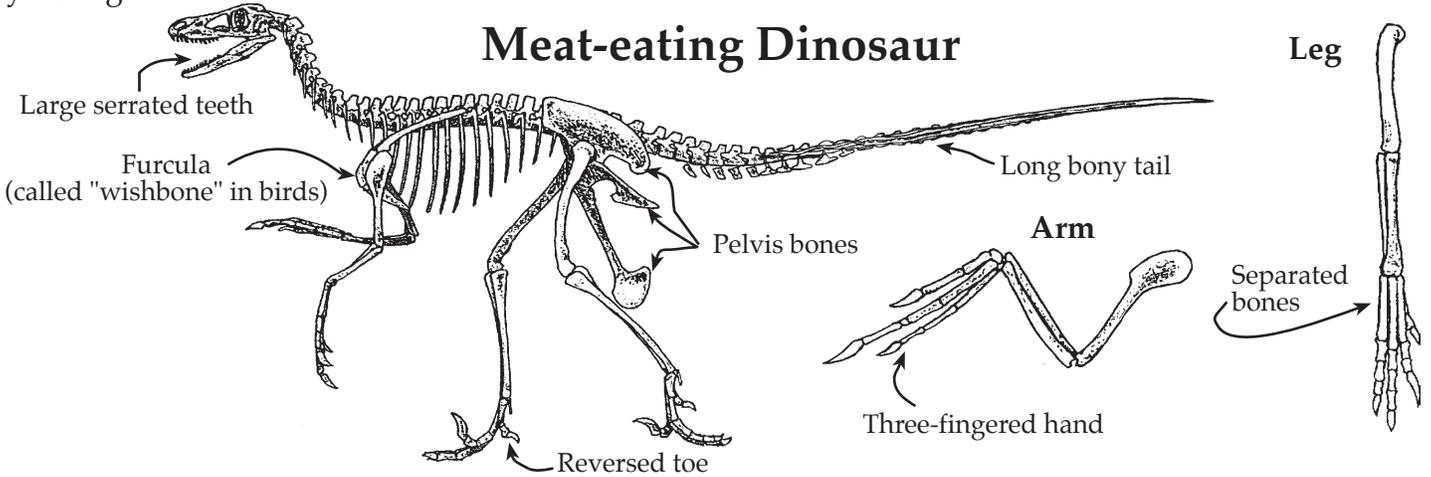
A bird that hatches naked, helpless, and with its eyes closed is called altricial.

Great Blue Heron

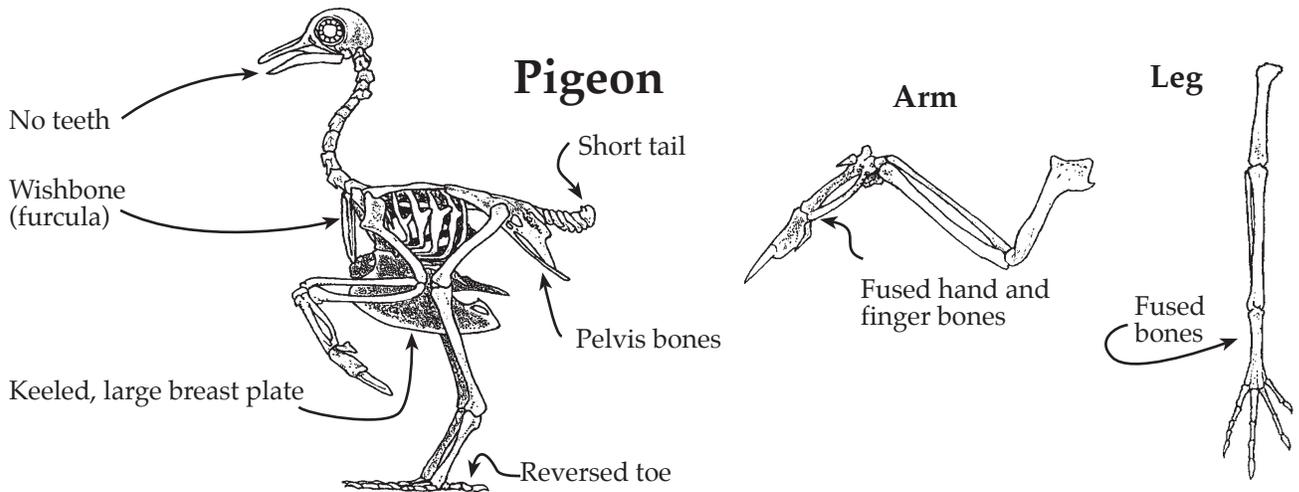
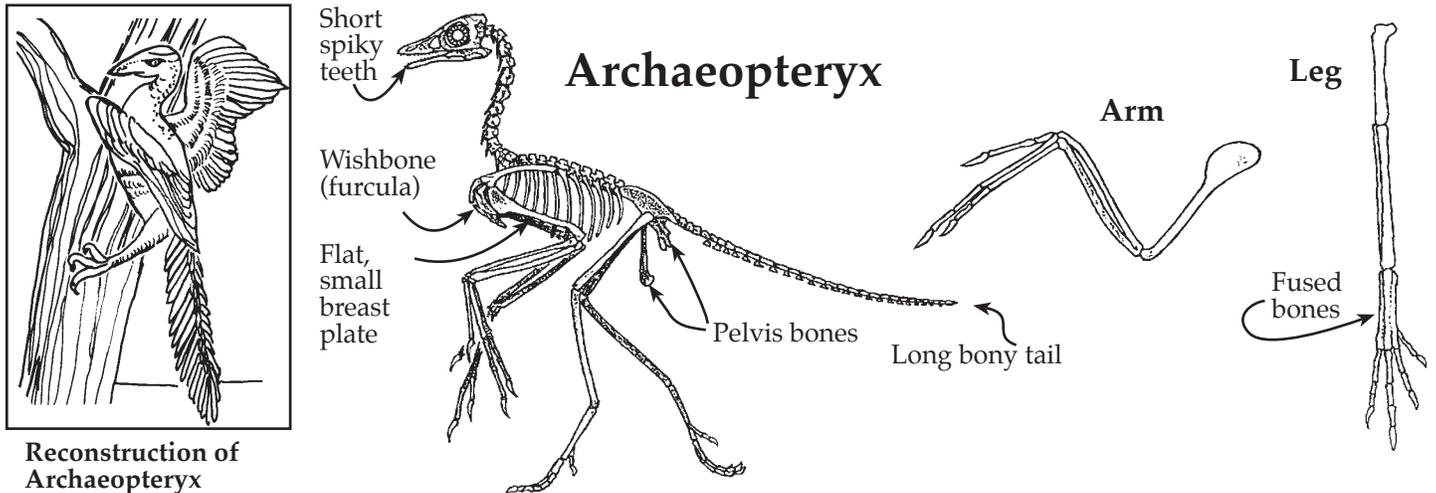
The Great Blue Heron is the largest heron found in Texas. It can be seen throughout the state wherever fish and frogs, its favorite food items, are available. Herons can be told from cranes in flight by the way they hold their necks. Herons fly with their necks folded over their shoulders, while cranes hold their necks straight out.

Living Dinosaurs?

What sets birds apart from all the other backboned animals (the vertebrates) are their feathers. The earliest fossil vertebrate, found together with unquestionable feather impressions in the rock that contains the bones, is called *Archaeopteryx*. It comes from Germany and it is dated to about 150 million years ago.



The skeleton of *Archaeopteryx* is so strikingly similar to that of the small meat-eating dinosaurs that fossil experts believe that dinosaurs and birds are closely related. Some even think that birds are directly descended from dinosaurs and could be called living dinosaurs.



Field Notes for the Great Horned Owl



abandoned nest
of hawk or crow



Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food
Size: Length 20", Wingspan 55"

Above: mottled brown, gray, buff and white, heavily streaked
Below: grayish-white, barred with brown
Eyes: yellow
Facial disc: rust
Throat: white
Long ear tufts

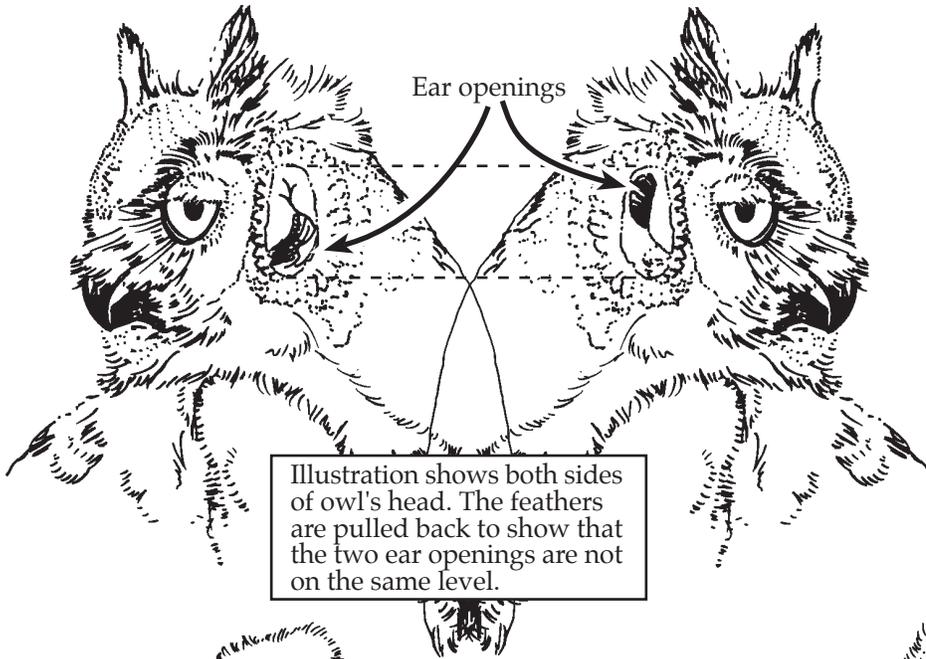
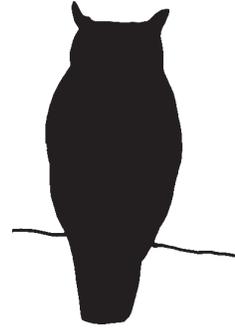


Illustration shows both sides of owl's head. The feathers are pulled back to show that the two ear openings are not on the same level.

Did You Know That . . .
Owls can turn their fourth (outer) toe either forward or backward.

Owls have soft velvety body feathers and fringes on their flight feathers to muffle any sounds made while flying.



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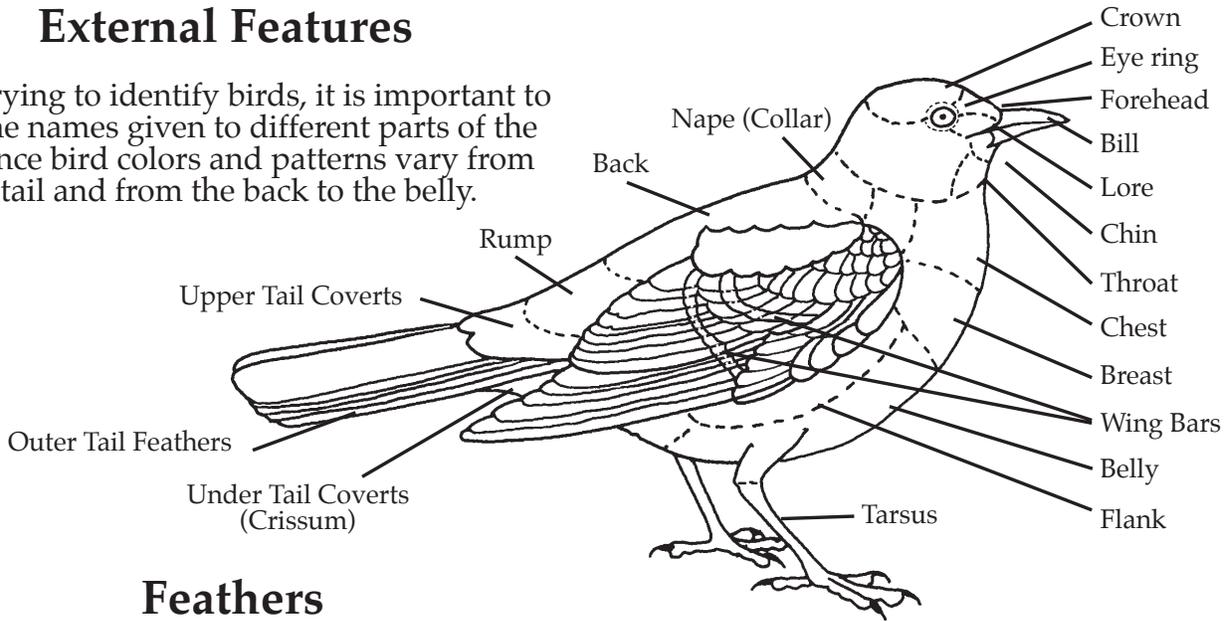
Great Horned Owl

The Great Horned Owl is the largest species of owl in Texas. The ear openings of an owl face forward on the head and they are not symmetrical. In other words, they are not at the same level on each side of the head. This allows an owl to pinpoint the exact spot from which the sound comes. The owl's facial disc, formed by a ruff of stiff feathers, helps funnel sound to its ears.

What makes up a Bird?

External Features

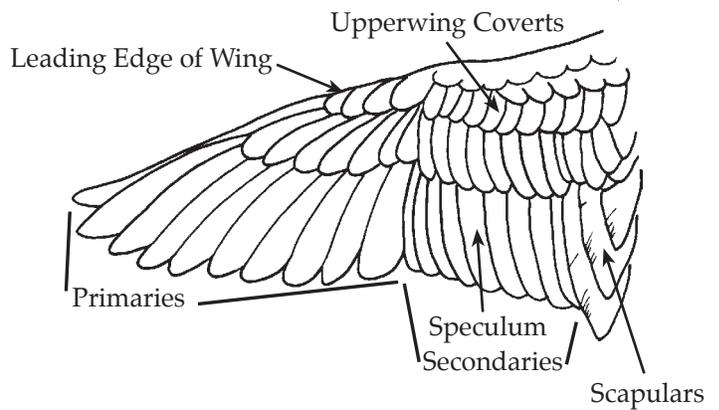
When trying to identify birds, it is important to know the names given to different parts of the body, since bird colors and patterns vary from head to tail and from the back to the belly.



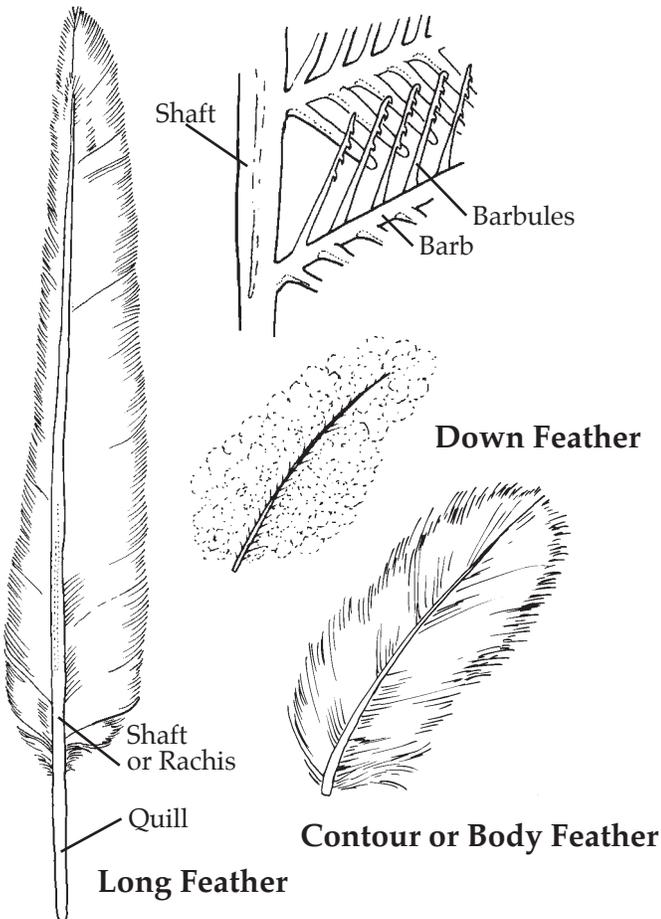
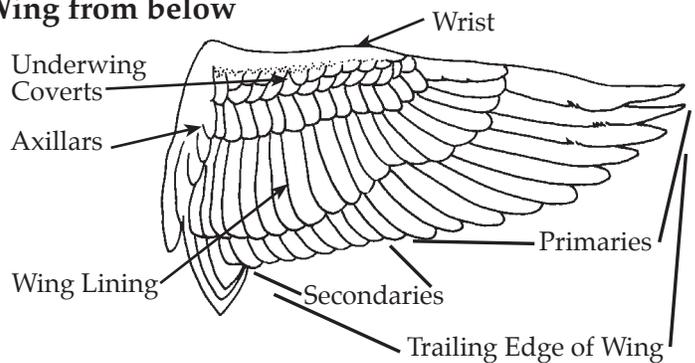
Feathers

The **long feathers** of a bird (that is, its wing and tail feathers) have a strong central shaft that carries interlocking feather barbs on each side. In addition to long feathers, birds also have a layer of shorter **contour** or **body feathers** covering their bodies, and a lining of fluffy feathers called **down** located mostly on their undersides.

Wing from above



Wing from below



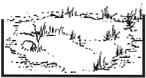
Feather Color

The colors of bird feathers are produced in two ways. One is by chemical pigments laid down in the feather when it is being formed. The other is by the structure of the feathers determining how they reflect light.

Looking after the Feathers

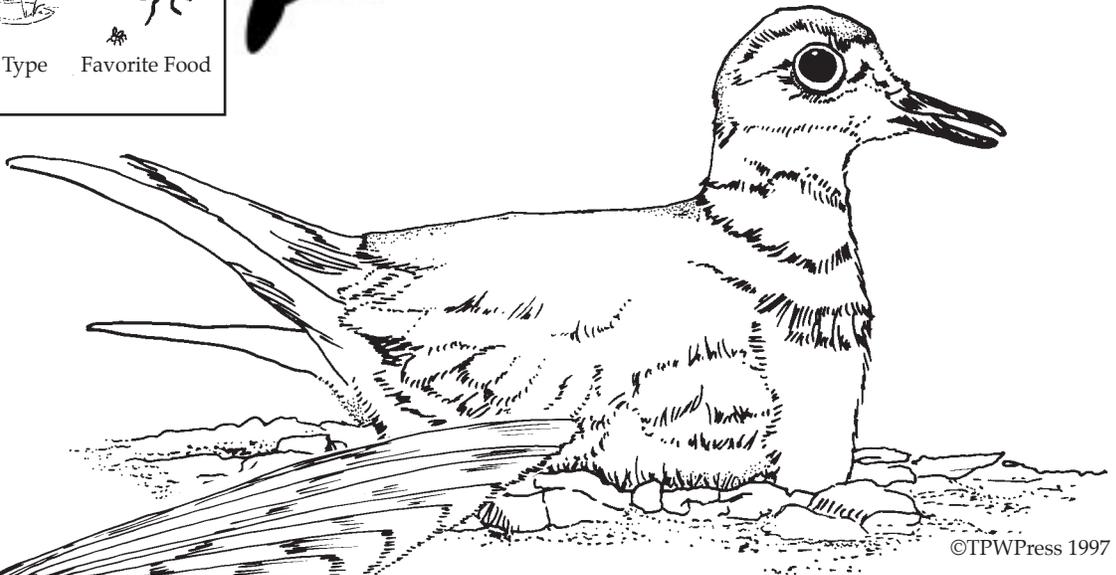
To preen its feathers, a bird draws each feather carefully through its bill. This action fits the barbs and barbules back into place. Preening also removes parasites.

Field Notes for the Killdeer

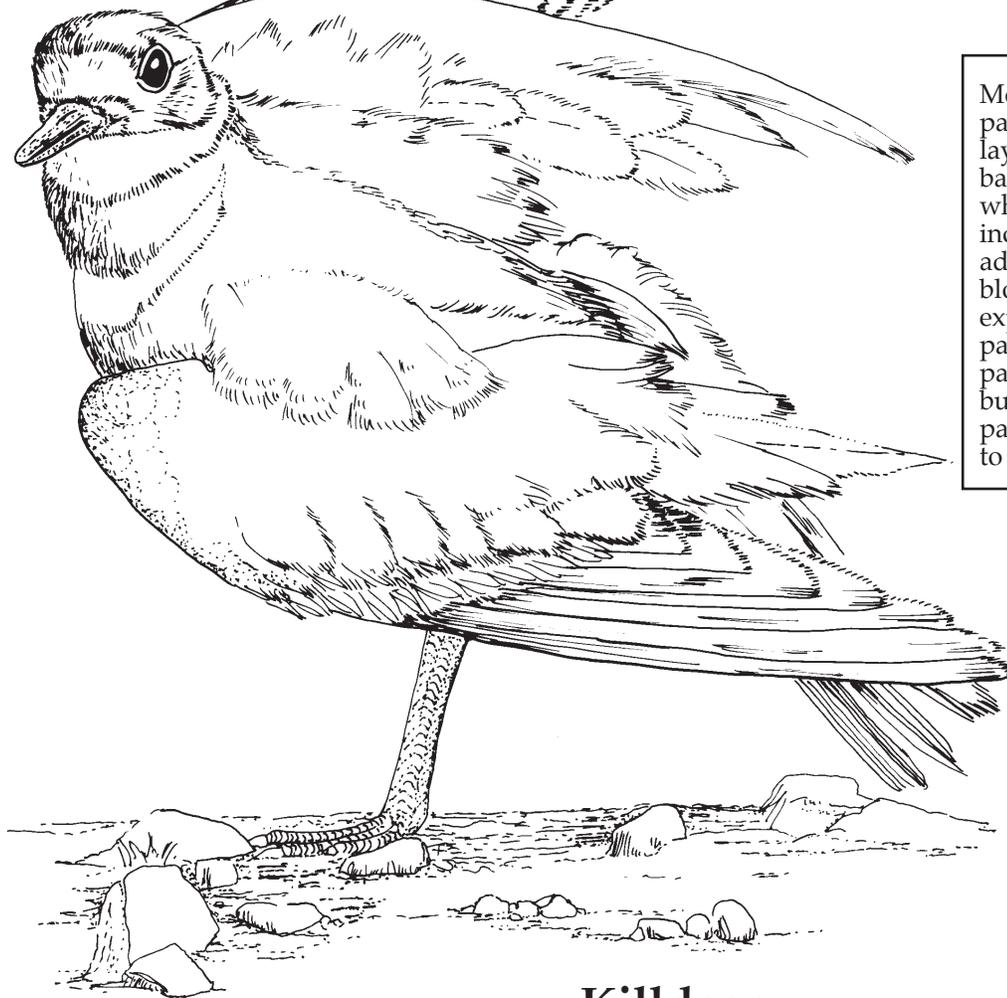


Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food
 Size: Length 8", Wingspan 20"

Back & head: brown
 Forehead, chin & collar: white
 Eye ring: orange
 Underparts: white
 Legs: pale
 Upper tail & lower back: orange
 Adult: two black neckbands
 Juvenile: only one neckband



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— What's a "brood patch"? —
 Most birds develop a "brood patch" near the end of their egg-laying period. This is an area of bare skin on the belly through which body heat passes readily to incubate the developing eggs. For additional heating action, extra blood vessels grow close to the exposed skin surface of the brood patch. Usually, the feathers in the patch area are shed automatically, but ducks and geese pluck their patch and use the plucked down to make an insulating nest lining.



True or False?
 Birds can see color.

Killdeer

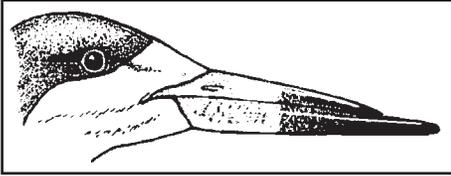
The Killdeer calls out its own name and, as with many other birds, that is how it got its common name to begin with. Like many ground-nesting birds, the young are precocial (pree-koh-shul) meaning that when they hatch they are fully feathered. Precocial young leave the nest very soon after hatching and do not return.

Bird Bills and Feet

The bills and feet of birds have to do the work that many other backboned animals do with their forelimbs. (Birds use their forelimbs almost exclusively for flying.)

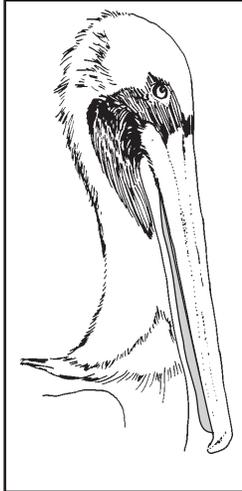
Bills

Bills (or beaks) are mainly used for obtaining and grasping food, and sometimes also for processing it before swallowing. But bills also serve to preen, build nests, dig, turn eggs, fight and climb. Hence, depending on a particular bird's way of life, bill size and shape vary greatly.



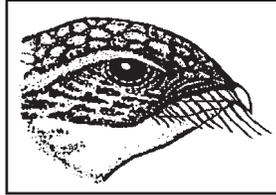
Black Skimmer

As the bird flies low with mouth open, the longer lower jaw slices through the water in search of fish.



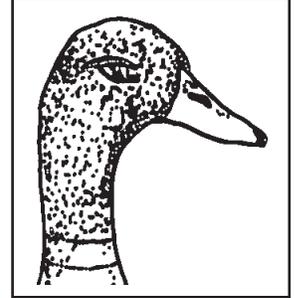
Brown Pelican

The huge pouch on the lower jaw is used to capture fish.



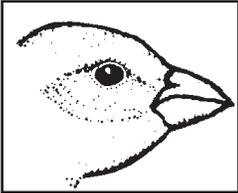
Chuck-will's-widow

The wide gaping bristle-fringed mouth sweeps in insects during flight.



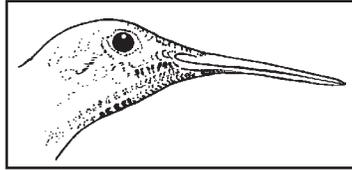
Mallard (Duck)

The edges of the bill act like a sieve to sort out seeds and insects from the water.



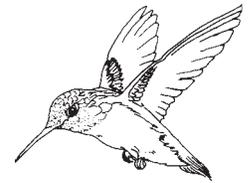
Painted Bunting

The short stout bill is designed to crack and husk seeds.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

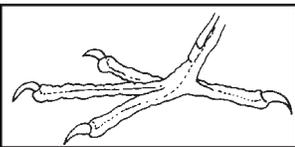
The long thin bill is just right for inserting into flowers to get to the nectar.



Hummingbird

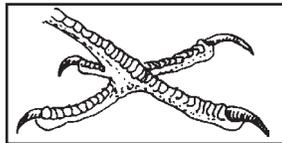
Feet

Birds use their feet for walking, grasping, climbing, perching, digging, scratching and swimming. Bird feet, like bird bills, are related to the life-styles of the birds.



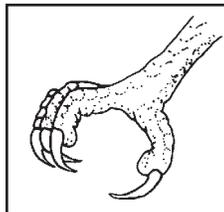
American Robin

A typical "perching" foot. The three toes in front and the rearward-facing toe curl themselves around branches. (More than half of the 9,300 species of birds are passerines or "perching birds.")



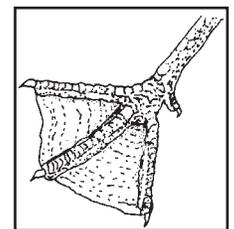
Golden-fronted Woodpecker

Two toes forward and two toes back give this foot a powerful grip for clinging to tree trunks.



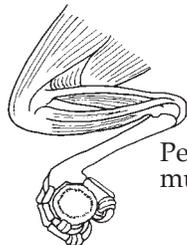
Harris's Hawk

The powerful toes and strong, highly curved claws (called talons) help grasp prey.

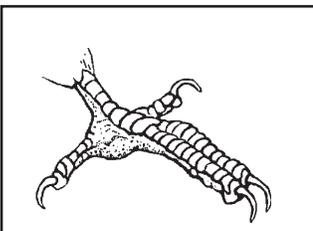


Mallard (Duck)

The webbing between the toes works like a paddle while swimming.

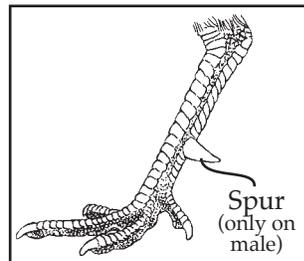


Perching muscles



Belted Kingfisher

The fused middle toes help in digging out nest tunnels in river banks.



Spur (only on male)



Turkey footprint

Wild Turkey

Like in all game birds, the foot is flat with a reduced backward-pointing toe. This is a real "walking" foot.

Field Notes for the Greater Roadrunner



Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food

Size: Length 22", Wingspan 22"



Above: olive with white feather edgings

Below: buff streaked with brown

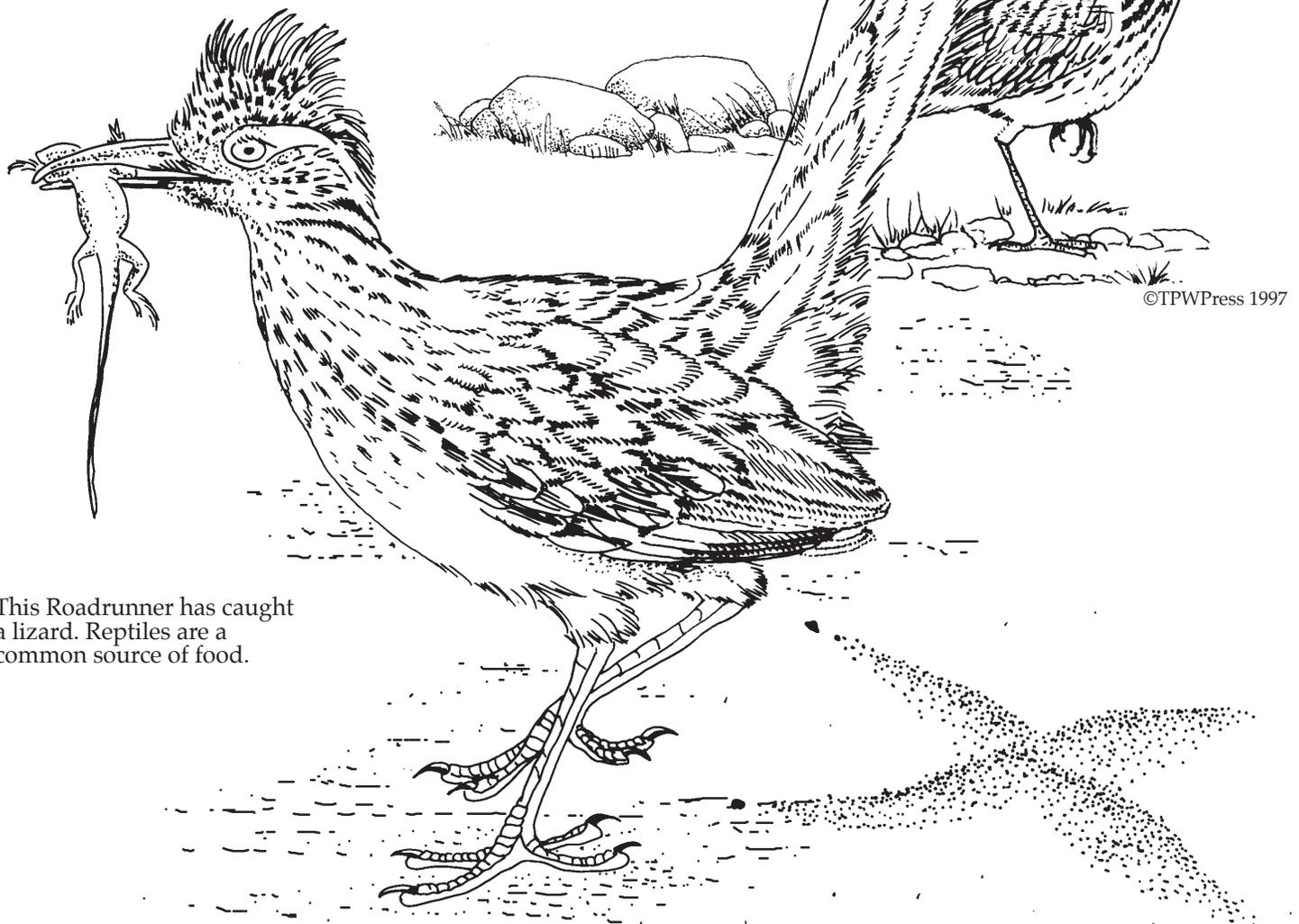
Crest: dark brown

Tail: extremely long, graduated with white tips, held cocked

Skin behind eyes (male): white in the front, pink in the back

Skin behind eyes (female): blue in the front, blue in the back

Voice is a descending series of soft, low "coo"s, not a "beep, beep, beep" like in the cartoon.



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This Roadrunner has caught a lizard. Reptiles are a common source of food.

Greater Roadrunner

Full-sized track

This bird is a cuckoo that lives on the ground and runs more than it flies. It has a long, black tail and the body is heavily streaked with brown and white. It has an obvious bushy crest. Look for it speeding across the ground on its long, strong legs. It builds a neat saucer-shaped nest usually among the thorns of a cactus plant and lays 3 to 6 white eggs. It hunts grasshoppers, lizards, snakes and rodents, quickly killing its prey with its strong pointed bill.

Field Notes for the Red-tailed Hawk



Range



Nesting Place



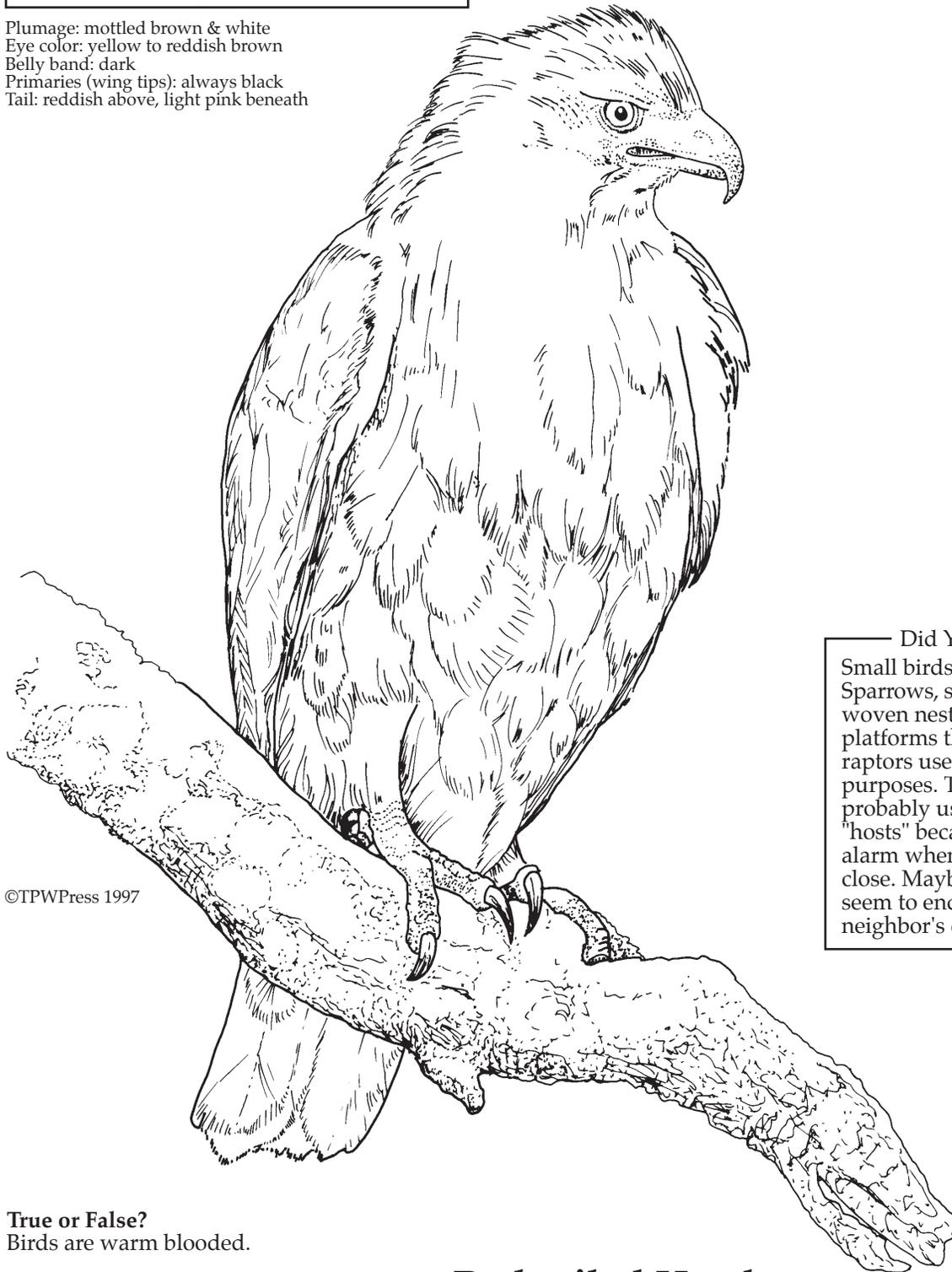
Nest Type



Favorite Food

Size: Length 18", Wingspan 48"

Plumage: mottled brown & white
Eye color: yellow to reddish brown
Belly band: dark
Primaries (wing tips): always black
Tail: reddish above, light pink beneath



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— Did You Know That . . . —
Small birds, such as House Sparrows, sometimes build their tiny woven nests on the same large stick platforms that hawks and other raptors use for their own nesting purposes. The little birds are probably useful to their raptor "hosts" because they sound the alarm when an intruder gets too close. Maybe that's why they never seem to end up on their fierce neighbor's dinner menu!

True or False?
Birds are warm blooded.

Red-tailed Hawk

The Red-tailed Hawk is the most common hawk in Texas. It is one of a large group of hawks called *buteos* (*beaut-ay-ohs*). Unlike other hawks, *buteos* have broad, rounded wings and can often be seen soaring for long periods of time.

Field Notes for the Belted Kingfisher



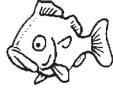
Range



Nesting Place



Nest Type



Favorite Food

Size: Length 12", Wingspan 22"

Male ♂:

Above: blue-gray with ragged crest
Collar, throat & belly: white
Breast band: blue-gray

Female ♀:

Above: blue-gray with ragged crest
Collar, throat & belly: white
Breast bands: one blue-gray, one chestnut

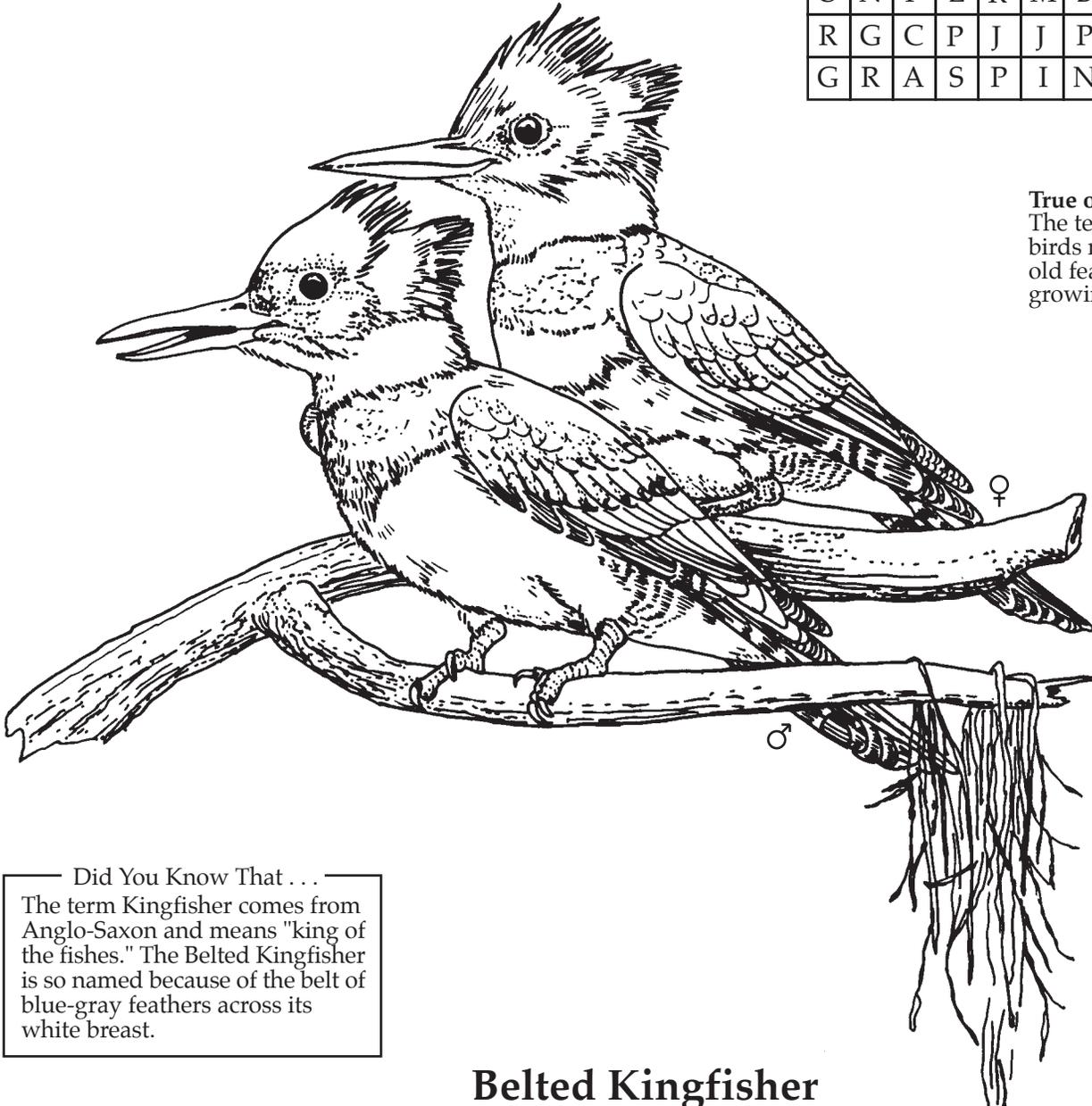


Find the words in the puzzle list. They can be forward, backward or diagonal.

SWIMMING
PRYING
FIGHTING
PERCHING
CLIMBING
CLUTCHING
HOLDING
GRASPING
ROOSTING
CLAWING

Actions of the Feet

C	A	G	N	I	T	H	G	I	F	B
C	L	H	O	L	D	I	N	G	D	E
G	P	U	F	G	H	I	J	K	G	L
N	E	G	T	M	N	O	P	N	Q	G
I	R	N	R	C	S	T	I	U	G	N
T	C	I	V	W	H	B	X	Y	N	I
S	H	Y	Z	S	M	I	L	J	I	M
O	I	R	E	I	I	H	N	P	W	M
O	N	P	L	R	M	B	Z	G	A	I
R	G	C	P	J	J	P	O	O	L	W
G	R	A	S	P	I	N	G	S	C	S



True or False?

The term "molting" in birds means shedding old feathers and growing new ones.

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Did You Know That . . .

The term Kingfisher comes from Anglo-Saxon and means "king of the fishes." The Belted Kingfisher is so named because of the belt of blue-gray feathers across its white breast.

Belted Kingfisher

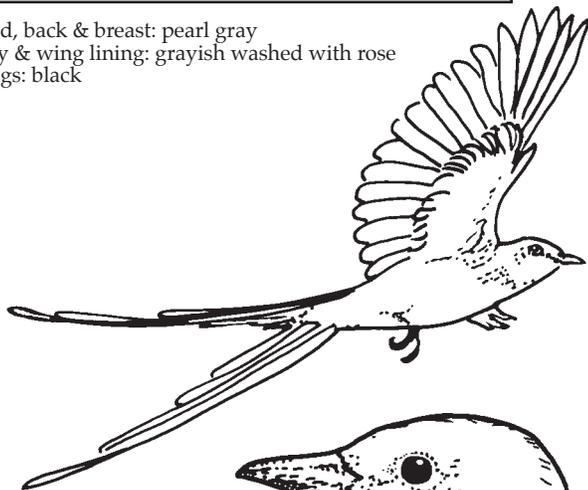
Texas has three species of kingfishers. The Belted Kingfisher is the most widespread of the three. Kingfishers, as their name suggests, feed on fish. They hunt by sitting up in a tree and looking for fish in the water. Hence, they need clear water to be successful. Once they have spotted the right-sized fish, they dive into the water to catch it.

Field Notes for the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

			
Range	Nesting Place	Nest Type	Favorite Food
Size: Length 14", Wingspan 14"			

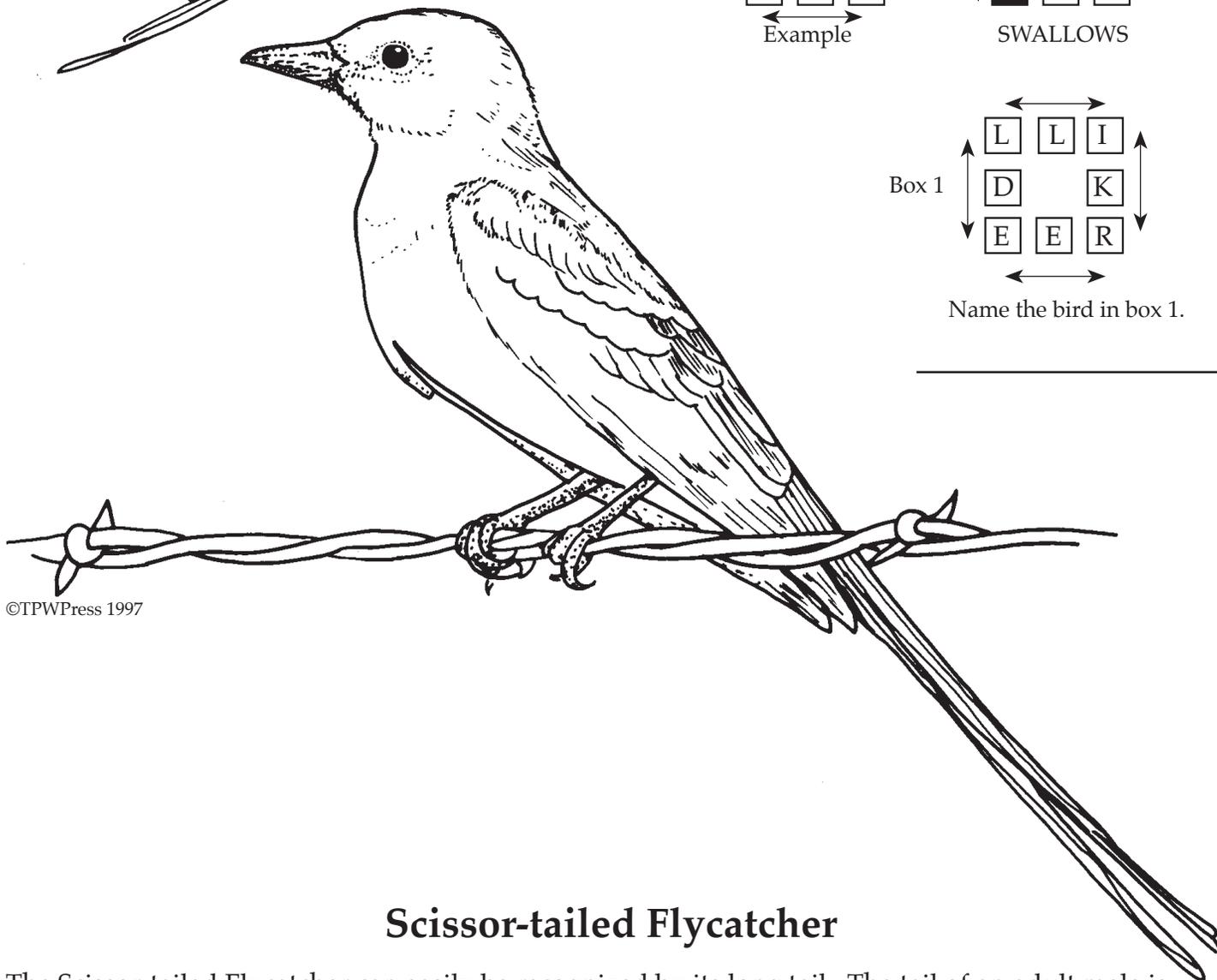
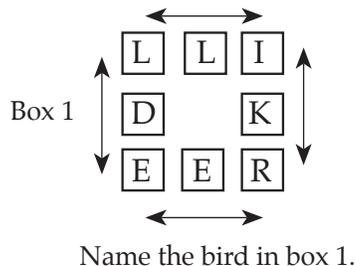
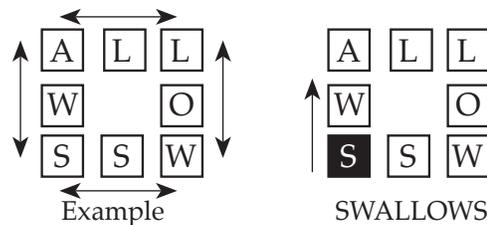


Head, back & breast: pearl gray
 Belly & wing lining: grayish washed with rose
 Wings: black



Box Puzzle

Each of the letter boxes throughout the book contains an 8-letter word. It can be found by starting at one of the letters and reading either **clockwise** or **counter-clockwise**. In the example below the word SWALLOWS is found by starting at the S in the lower left corner and reading clockwise.



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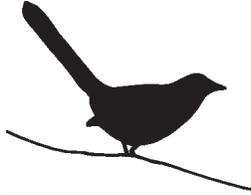
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher can easily be recognized by its long tail. The tail of an adult male is almost twice as long as its body; the female's is somewhat shorter. In the U.S., this flycatcher is found only in Texas and Oklahoma. As its name suggests, this bird feeds mostly on insects which it often catches on the wing.

Field Notes for the Northern Mockingbird



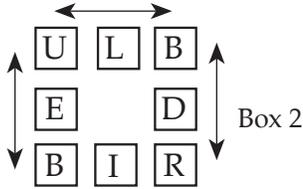
Body: gray, paler below
Tail: black with white outer feathers
Wings: gray with white bars & patches



The Northern Mockingbird was officially recognized by the Legislature in 1927 as the State Bird of Texas.

Did You Know That . . .

Many birds swallow sand, grit or pebbles to help them grind up their food. The swallowed materials are stored in a muscular section of the stomach called the gizzard. This organ is lined with bony ridges, and it is here that grains, acorns, nuts, beetles, snails and other hard-shelled food items are rapidly tossed about and crushed. Thus, in birds – none of which have teeth – the gizzard with its stony materials can be said to take the place of the chewing and crushing teeth found in many other animals.



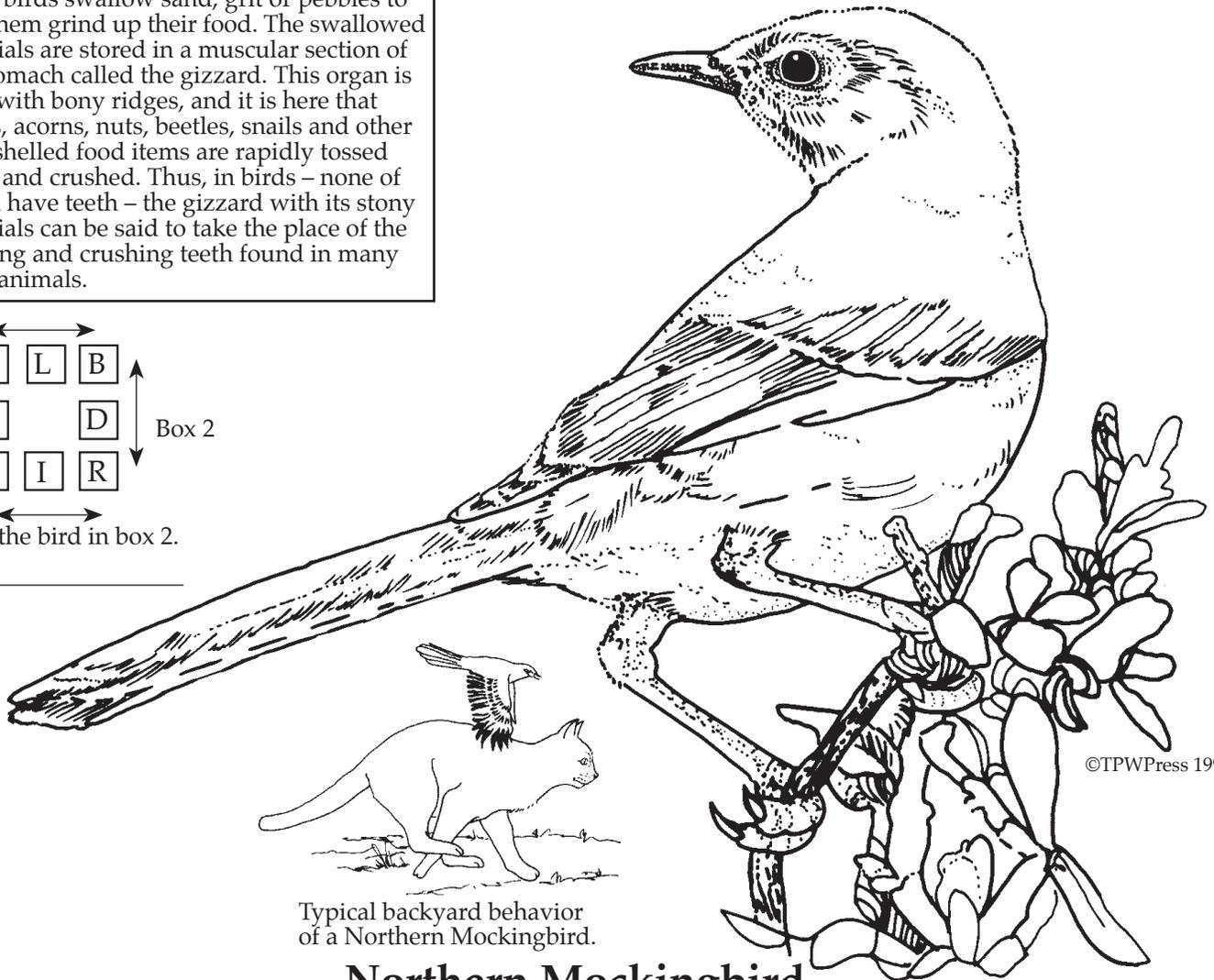
Name the bird in box 2.

Actions of the Bill

Find the words in the puzzle list. They can be forward or backward or diagonal. Make a list of the remaining letters and put them together in a sentence.

- GRASPING
- CARRYING
- SCRATCHING
- DIGGING
- CRACKING
- CATCHING
- EATING
- CUTTING
- HATCHING
- CLIMBING
- EGG TURNING

G	N	I	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	I
F	C	L	I	M	B	I	N	G	G	Y
G	D	I	G	G	I	N	G	N	O	U
N	S	G	R	A	S	P	I	N	G	G
I	E	E	A	F	E	N	E	D	I	N
H	N	C	A	R	R	Y	I	N	G	I
C	G	B	I	U	R	D	N	O	N	H
T	C	U	T	T	I	N	G	T	I	C
A	I	G	C	E	I	T	S	B	T	T
C	G	E	H	A	V	I	O	R	A	A
E	C	R	A	C	K	I	N	G	E	H



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Typical backyard behavior of a Northern Mockingbird.

Northern Mockingbird

The Northern Mockingbird is the state bird of Texas. It belongs in a family of birds called thrashers. Many of the birds in that family are mimics, but none can match the Northern Mockingbird which imitates the songs of other birds, and occasionally other sounds. Mockingbirds can be recognized by the large white patches on their wings and tail.

Field Notes for the Northern Cardinal



Range



Nesting Place



Nest Type



Favorite Food

Size: Length 9", Wingspan 12"



Male ♂:
 Body: red with crest
 Face patch: black
 Bill: red

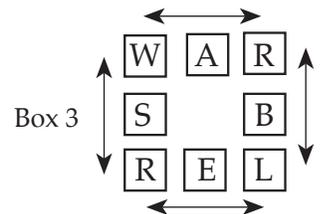
Female ♀:
 Body: crested, reddish-brown, paler below



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Did You Know That . . .
 Most birds drink by dipping their bill and then tipping the head back to let the water run down the throat for swallowing.

Northern Cardinal



Name the birds in box 3.

The bright red plumage of the male Northern Cardinal is well known throughout the eastern United States. The female is mostly brown, tinged with red on the wings, crest and tail. Seven states in the eastern U.S. count the Northern Cardinal as their state bird. Cardinals are named after officials in the Roman Catholic Church, called cardinals, who wear red robes.

Field Notes for the Painted Bunting



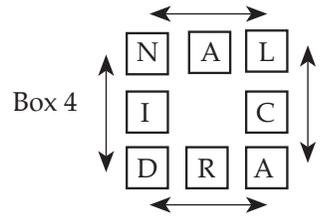
Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food
 Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



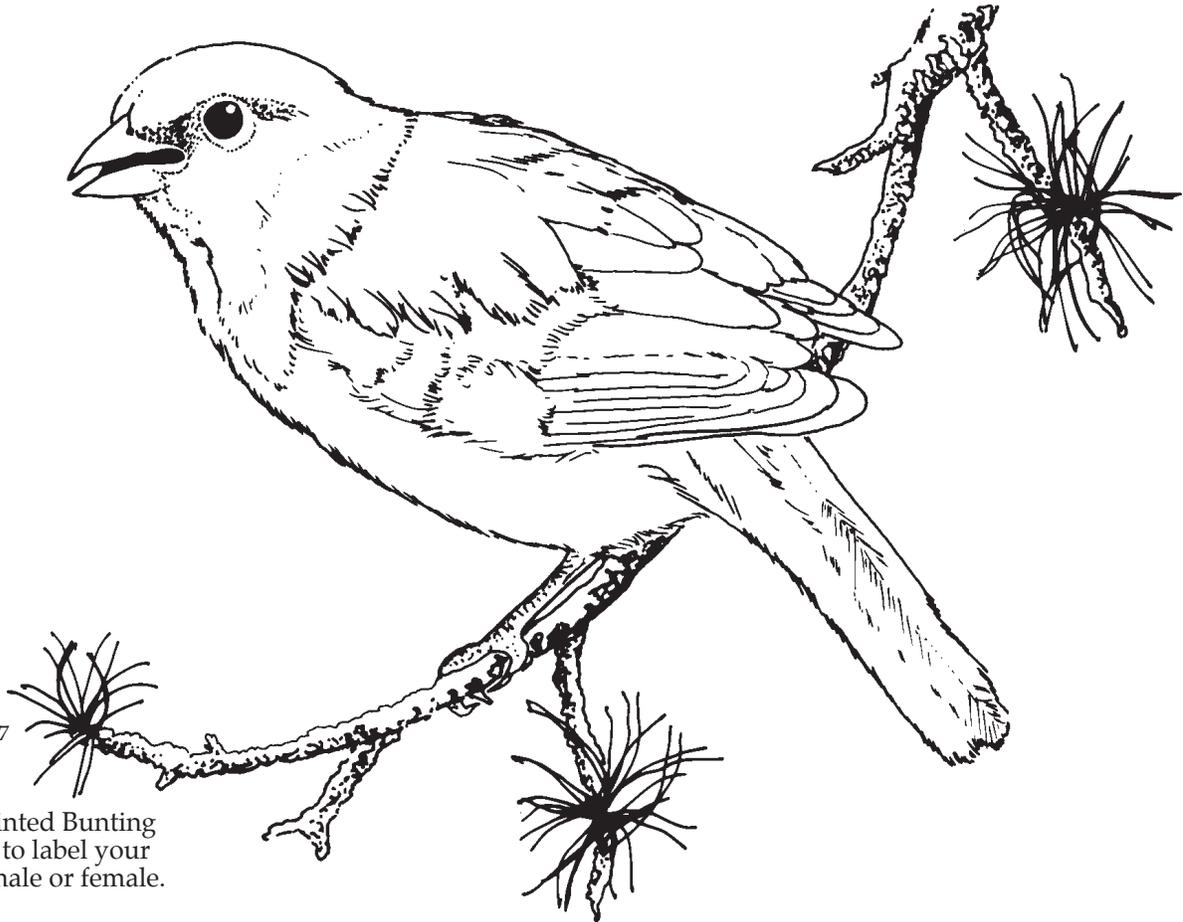
— Did You Know That . . . —
 Some of the smaller birds, like warblers and sparrows, sip on dewdrops for their water needs.

Male ♂:
 Head: blue-violet
 Underparts and rump: red
 Back: green
 Wings & tail: dark red

Female ♀:
 Above: bright yellow-green
 Below: paler yellow-green



Name the bird in box 4.



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Color the Painted Bunting making sure to label your illustration male or female.

— Did You Know That . . . —
 Female and male birds of the same species often look different. The male is usually the more colorful bird since he uses his colors to "show off" for the female and to "warn off" other males. The dull colors of the female help to camouflage her on the nest.

Painted Bunting

True or False?
 Feathers evolved from the scales of the reptile ancestors of birds.

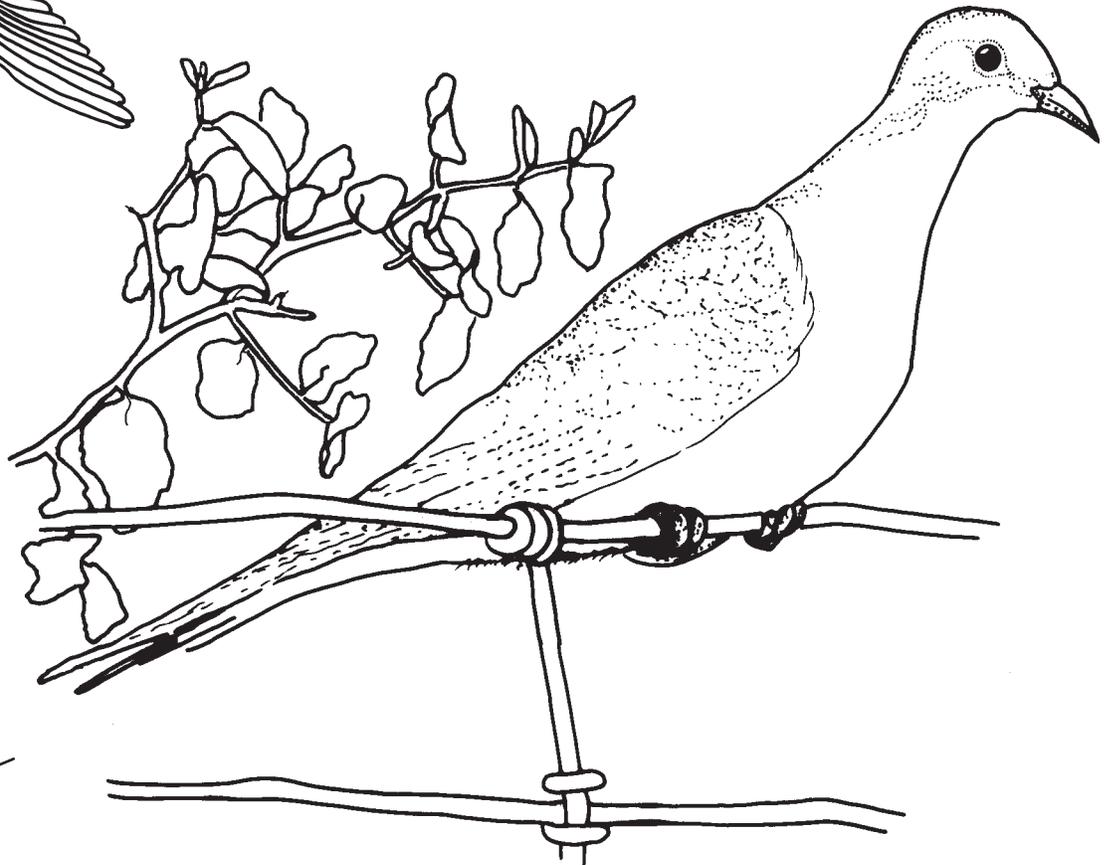
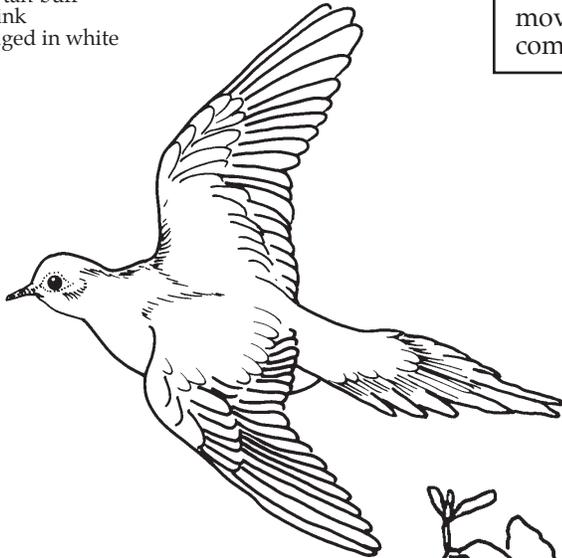
The male Painted Bunting is one of the most colorful birds in Texas. The bright plumage is not attained by young males until they are two years old. This is unusual among songbirds. The one-year-old males are solid green like the females, but they do sing and defend territories.

Field Notes for the Mourning Dove



Range Nesting Place Nest Type Favorite Food
 Size: Length 12", Wingspan 18"

Above: tan
 Cap: gray
 Bill: brown
 Whisker: black
 Eye ring: blue
 Eyes: brown
 Side of neck: purplish-bronze highlights
 Wings: brownish with spots of dark brown
 Below: tan-buff
 Feet: pink
 Tail: edged in white



Can you identify these perched birds?

Mourning Dove

Mourning Doves get their name from the mournful cooing sounds these birds make. Mourning Doves nest three or four times during the breeding season. They begin nesting as early as February in South Texas.

— What's an "egg tooth"?

We all know that modern birds don't have teeth. What then is the "egg tooth," which all birds have when they hatch? It is a temporary toothlike structure at the end of the upper beak that helps the chick get out of what would otherwise become its tomb — namely, the tough egg shell that has protected its development as an embryo.

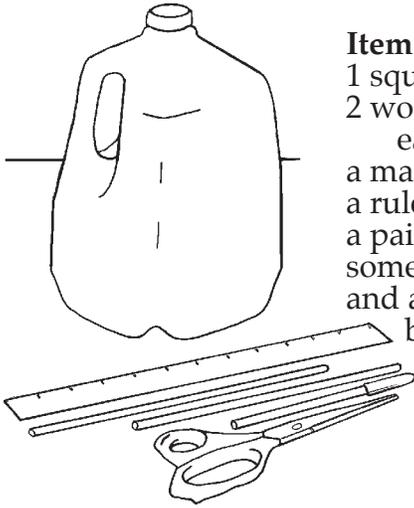
Here is how it works. When the chick is ready to hatch, it swallows most of the liquid inside the egg, draws the remaining yolk into its lower body, and pushes its head into an air space that has now opened up next to the shell. There, it begins to breathe air and peep. Then, by contracting powerful muscles along the back of its head and neck, it drives the egg tooth into the shell, making a small hole. Finally, further movements of the head and feet crack the shell enough for the chick to come out. After hatching, the egg tooth drops off.

— Did You Know That . . .

Doves and pigeons drink by dipping their bill and then sucking up the water. (That's unlike most other birds.)

Build a Simple Feeder

A square, gallon-sized plastic milk jug can be converted into a simple feeder quite easily. It may not be as attractive as a commercial feeder, but the birds won't mind.



Items you will need:

1 square, gallon-sized plastic milk jug
2 wooden dowels,
each 1/2 inch round and 10 inches long
a marking pen
a ruler
a pair of scissors
some wild bird seed
and a creative method of mounting the
bird feeder to a post, tree or the house.

Mark for the openings

The openings should be about 2-1/2 inches from the bottom of the jug, 3 inches wide and 4 inches high, on the two sides opposite the handle.

Cut the openings

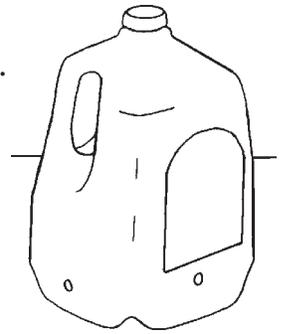
Arching the tops of these openings will make them more decorative. (A hobby knife is a good tool for this job, but because these knives usually are very sharp, it would be wise to get help from an adult.)

Add perches to the milk-jug feeder

Drill a set of holes through the jug about 1/4 inch below one of the openings. (Use the point of the scissors to start the hole.) Insert a 1/2 inch round wooden dowel, cut to a length of 10 inches, through these holes. Drill another set of holes through the jug 1/2 inch below the other opening and insert a second dowel. The ends should extend about 2 inches beyond the sides with the openings to form perches. Drilling one set of holes lower than the other set allows the dowels to cross inside the jug.

Your birdfeeder is ready to use. You could tie it outside or attach the milk jug feeder to a piece of wood with a couple of wood screws through the handle. Mount the pieces of wood on a post, tree or any structure in view from your window.

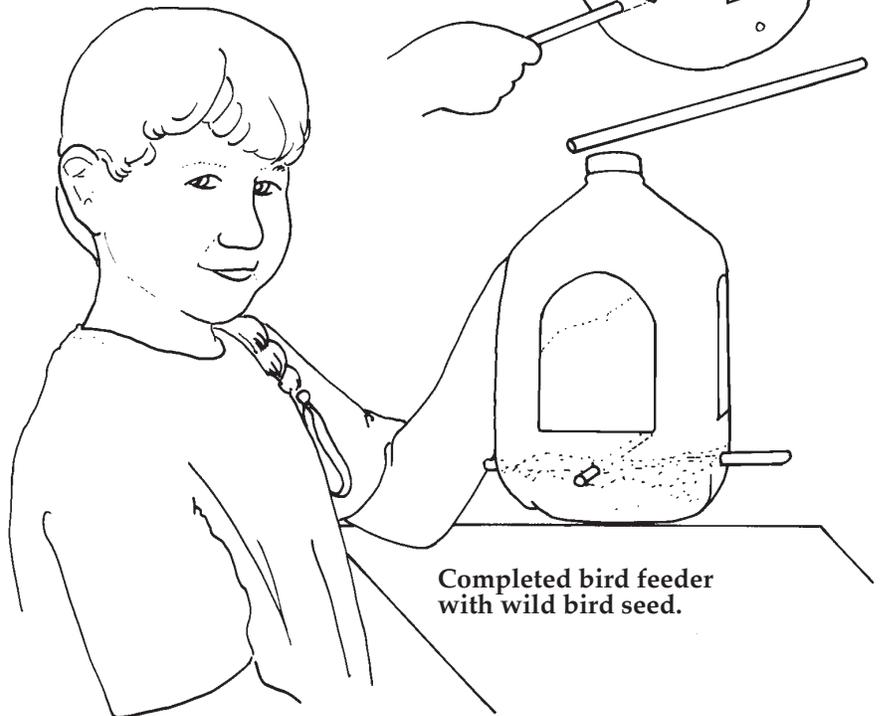
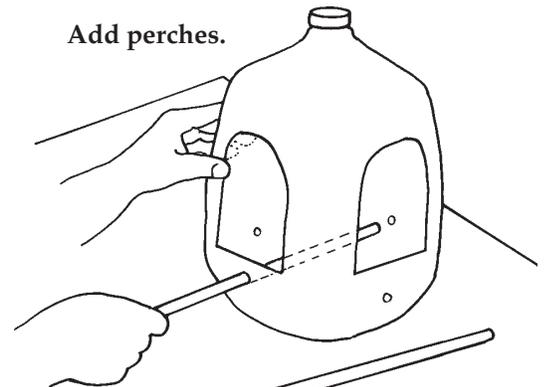
Mark the jug.



Cut the openings.



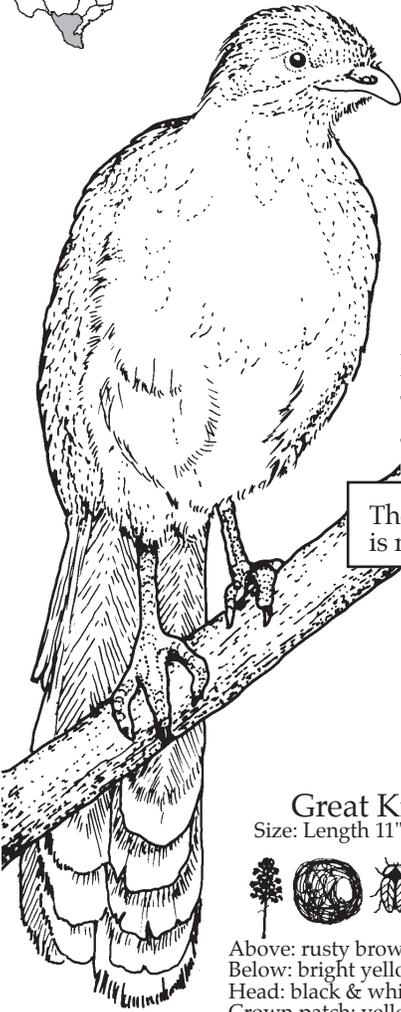
Add perches.



Completed bird feeder
with wild bird seed.



Regional Birds of the South Texas Plains

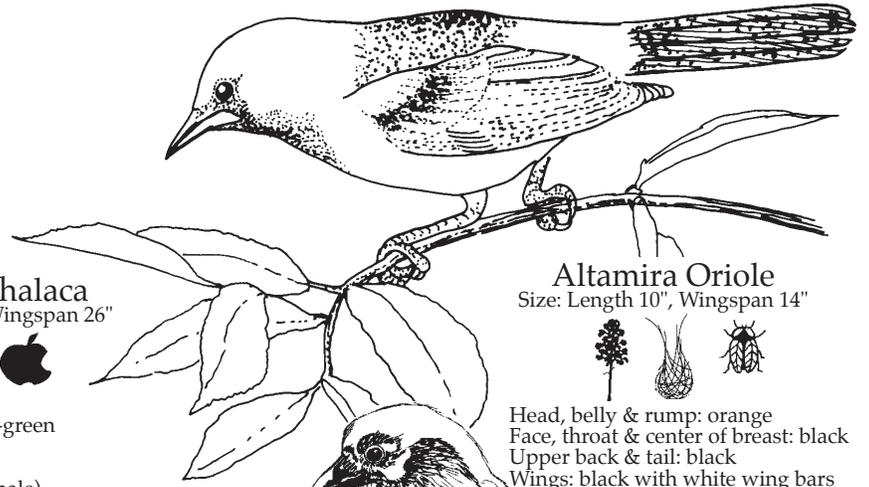


Plain Chachalaca
Size: Length 18", Wingspan 26"



Body & head: olive-green
Below: buff
Throat: naked skin
(red in breeding male)
Tail: dark green tipped with white

Did You Know That . . .
The Chachalaca, like many birds,
is named for the sound it makes.



Altamira Oriole
Size: Length 10", Wingspan 14"



Head, belly & rump: orange
Face, throat & center of breast: black
Upper back & tail: black
Wings: black with white wing bars



Green Jay
Size: Length 13", Wingspan 15"



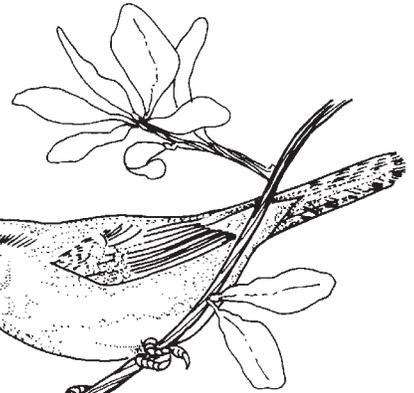
Above: bright green
Below: yellow
Throat: black
Head: blue
Outer tail feathers: yellow
Inner tail feathers: blue



Great Kiskadee
Size: Length 11", Wingspan 17"



Above: rusty brown
Below: bright yellow
Head: black & white
Crown patch: yellow



Olive Sparrow
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



Above: olive
Below: buff
Crown: reddish brown striping
Shoulder area: touch of yellow



Long-billed Thrasher
Size: Length 11", Wingspan 13"



Above: tawny brown
Below: whitish with dark streaking
Wing bars: whitish
Face & neck: grayish
Eyes: orange-red

South Texas Plains

A number of Mexican and Central American birds reach the northern limit of their range in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. This part of Texas has a subtropical climate, meaning that it's close to being tropical. Thousands of people make trips to this part of Texas to see these special birds found nowhere else in the United States.



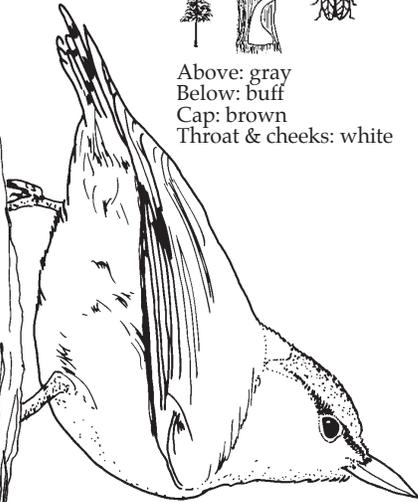
Regional Birds of the East Texas Pineywoods

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Above: gray
Below: buff
Cap: brown
Throat & cheeks: white



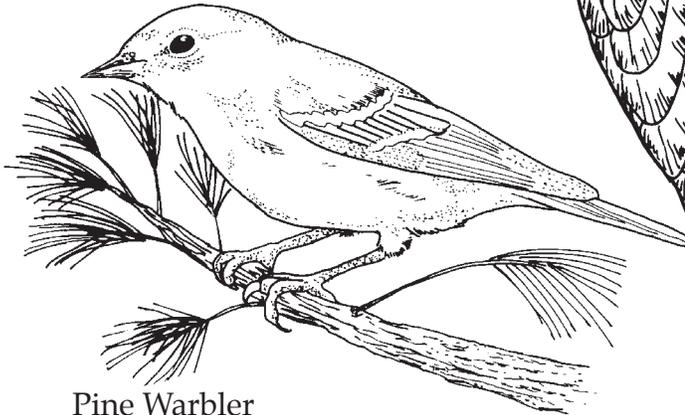
Did You Know That . . .
Feathers are marvelous and intricate devices, but they take a lot of care. The tidying, cleaning and oiling of its feathers, called preening, keep a bird busy for several hours each day.

Pileated Woodpecker

Size: Length 17", Wingspan 27"



Body: black
Facial pattern: black & white
Mustache: red
Crest: red
Wing lining: white



Pine Warbler

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



Above: olive
Below: yellow
Belly: whitish
Eye stripe: yellow
Wing bars: white



Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 15"



Above: barred black & red
Below: white flecked with black along sides
Cheeks: white bordered by black stripe
Red spot behind eye



Bachman's Sparrow

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 8"



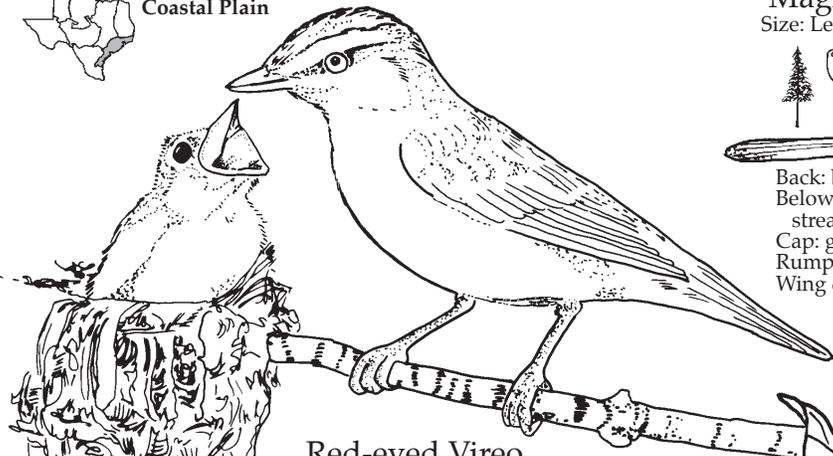
Above: grayish streaked with brown
Below: pale gray
Center crown strip: bordered by brown
Cheeks: gray

East Texas Pineywoods

The pine forests of East Texas provide habitat for a group of birds found nowhere else in Texas. Many of these species are endemic to the southeastern United States. When a species is called endemic to an area, it means that it is found only in that place. (The Pileated Woodpecker can be found in other habitats and can be seen away from the pineywoods of East Texas.)



Regional Birds of the Coastal Plain



Red-eyed Vireo
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 10"

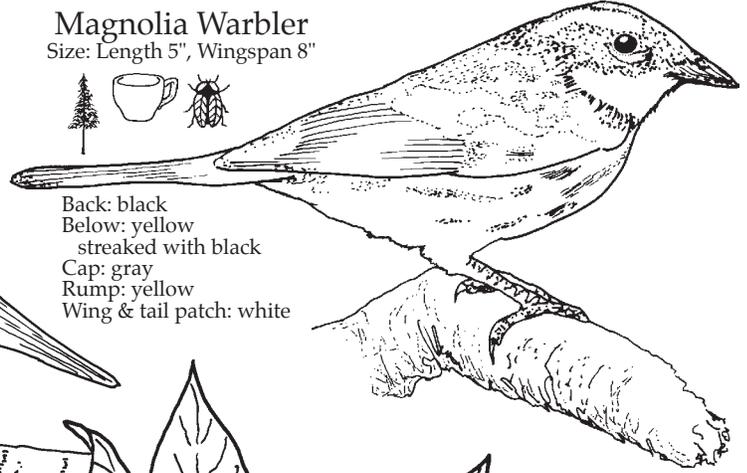


Above: olive
Below: whitish
Cap: gray
Eyeline: white
Eyes: red

Magnolia Warbler
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



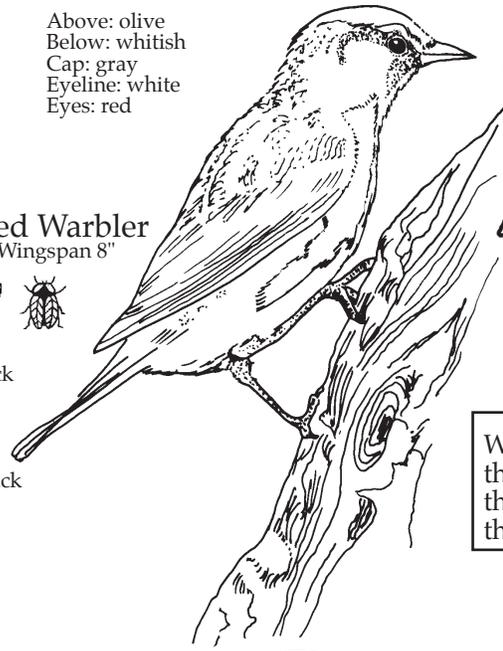
Back: black
Below: yellow
streaked with black
Cap: gray
Rump: yellow
Wing & tail patch: white



Chestnut-sided Warbler
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Above: greenish
streaked with black
Below: white
Sides: chestnut
Cap: yellow
Cheeks: white
Facial markings: black
Wing bars: white



Ovenbird
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 10"



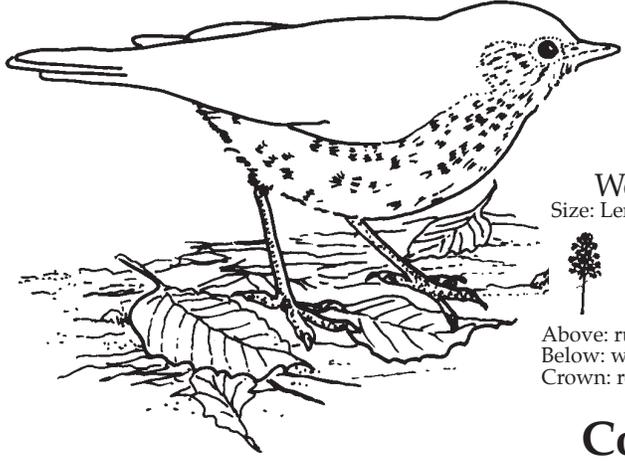
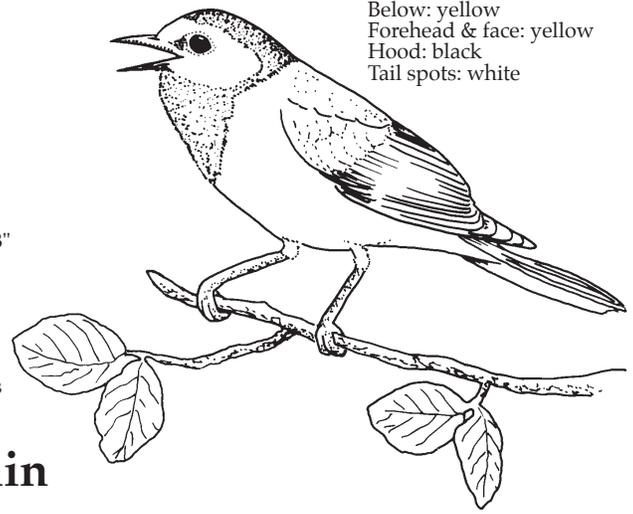
Above: olive
Below: white with
heavy dark streaks
Crown: orange stripe
bordered in black
Eye ring: white

Did You Know That . . .
When birds bathe in water or
throw dust all over themselves
they are busy taking care of
their all-important feather coat.

Hooded Warbler
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Above: olive
Below: yellow
Forehead & face: yellow
Hood: black
Tail spots: white



Wood Thrush
Size: Length 8", Wingspan 13"

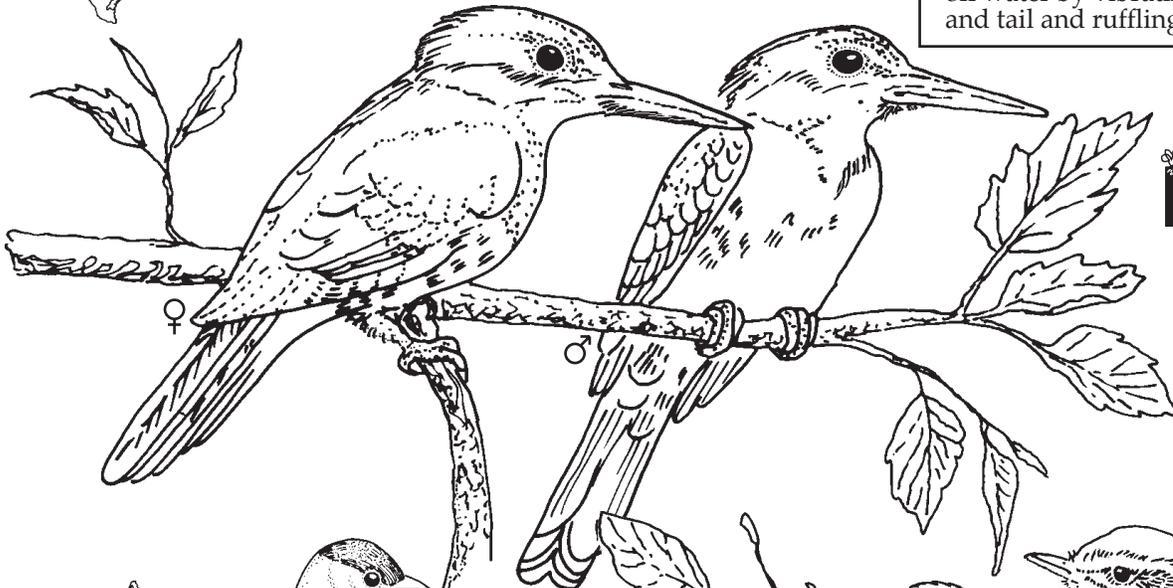


Above: russet
Below: white with black spots
Crown: reddish brown

Coastal Plain

Spring migration on the Texas coast, and the upper coast in particular, is a place to find many species of neotropical migrants. Neotropical means "new tropics" and neotropical migrants are birds that migrate to Central or South America from North America each fall. These birds then fly north again in the spring.

Did You Know That . . .
Songbirds shake themselves to throw
off water by vibrating their wings
and tail and ruffling their feathers.



Green Kingfisher
Size: Length 9", Wingspan 12"



Male ♂:
Above: green
Collar & belly: white
Breast band: chestnut

Female ♀:
Above: green
Collar & belly: white
Breast band: greenish



Lesser Goldfinch
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Above: black
Below: yellow
Primaries patches: white

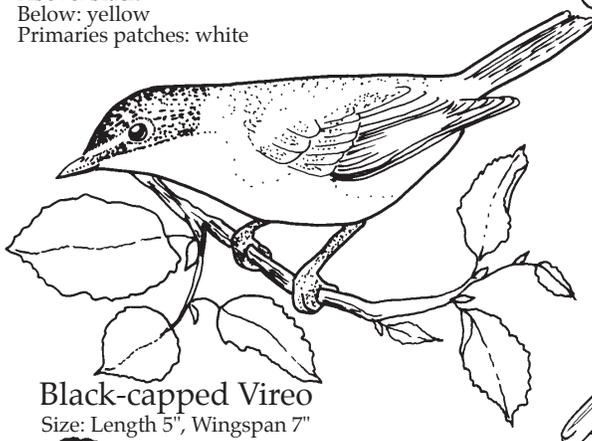


Vermilion Flycatcher
Size: Length 8", Wingspan 15"

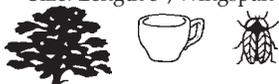


Male ♂:
Above: black
Below: scarlet
Cap: scarlet

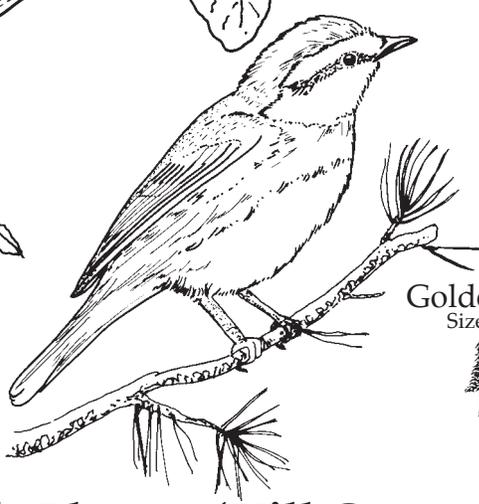
Female ♀:
Above: brownish
Eyebrow: white
Breast: white faintly
streaked with brown
Throat: white
Belly: orangish or yellowish



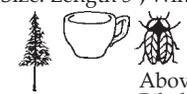
Black-capped Vireo
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 7"



Above: grayish-green
Below: white
Head: black with white spectacles



Golden-cheeked Warbler
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Above: black
Bib: black
Belly: white
Cheeks: golden
Eye line: black

Edwards Plateau (Hill Country)

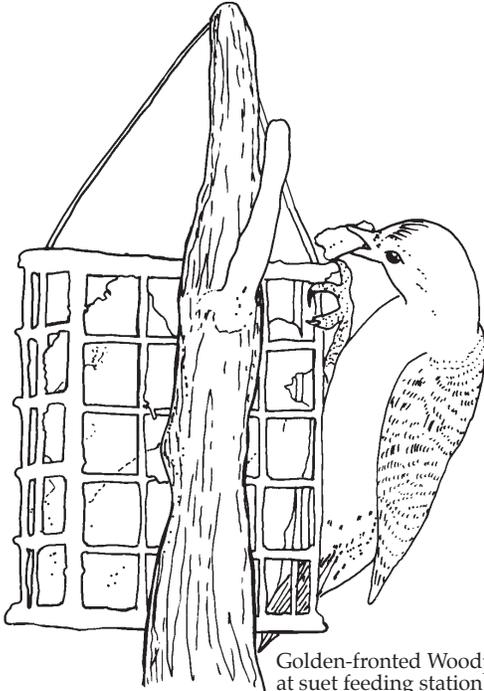
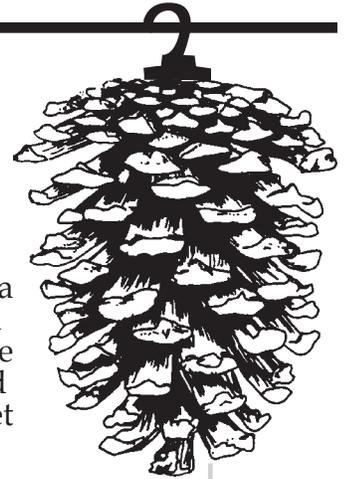
The Edwards Plateau or Hill Country is in the center of the state. As a result, its birdlife is a mixture of eastern and western species. The oak-juniper woodlands of the plateau provide habitat for one of its most distinctive species, the Golden-cheeked Warbler. This warbler is the only bird whose nesting range is entirely in Texas. It spends the winter in Central America.

Winter Feeding Station

A well-equipped winter-feeding station should have a feeder of some type for seeds, a container for suet or bird-seed cake mixtures and a water source.

Make a Pine-Cone Feeder.

Select a large pine cone. Screw an eye-screw into the stem of the pine cone. Cover the pine cone with peanut butter and roll it in bird seed. Tie one end of a piece of string to the eye-screw and the other end to a branch. Don't feed wild birds the bird seed sold for cage birds because that mixture does not contain the right kinds of seeds. You can purchase "Wild Bird Seed" or "Chick Scratch" and be sure that it contains grit. Among the seeds that birds like are sunflower, millet and hemp seeds as well as cracked corn.



Golden-fronted Woodpecker at suet feeding station.

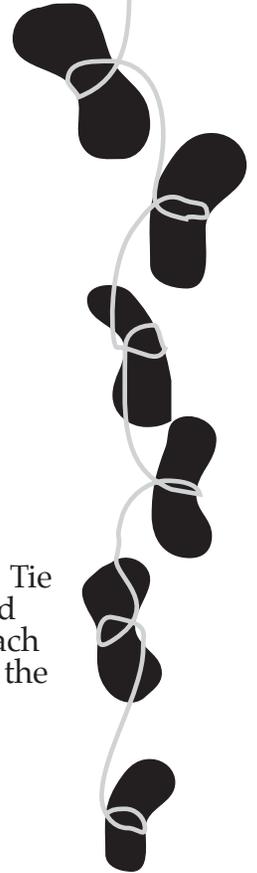
Make a Suet Cake.

Melt 2 ounces of lard in a pan. Ask an adult to help. Stir in 2 ounces of wild bird seed. Pour the mixture into a plastic container. Leave the cake to cool and harden. Place the cooled cake in a plastic strawberry container. Tie the cake to a branch.

Suet is primarily a cold-weather food. In warm weather it can melt and stick to a bird's feathers, causing loss of insulation and ability to fly and possibly even loss of feathers.

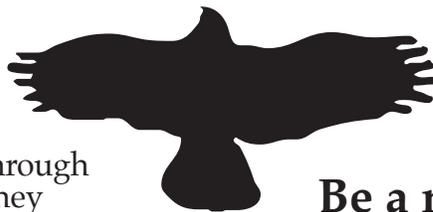
Make Peanut Chains.

Purchase some raw peanuts in their shells. Tie the peanuts into a row with a string around their middles. Tie about 10 to 12 nuts on each string and hang them up from a branch or the edge of a feeding station.



Be Bird Friendly! Make a Bird Warning for your Window.

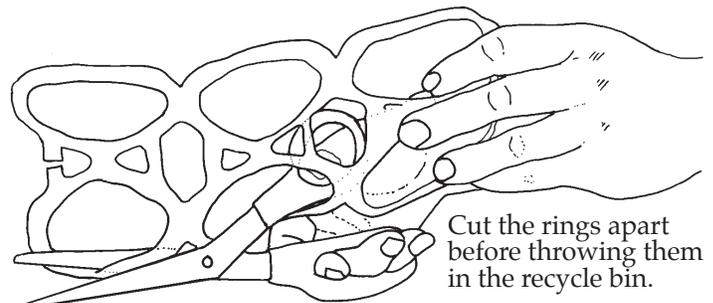
Migrating birds that are just passing through can be confused by large windows. They may try to fly through them and stun themselves. You can help by hanging a warning in your window. A hawk shape works well because most birds will keep away from hawks.



Enlarge the hawk shape given here onto a piece of black poster board. Carefully cut out around the edges. Wrap in plastic to protect it from the rain. Attach a string to the head of the hawk cutout, and thumbtack the other end of the string to the top of your window frame. It will move about in the wind and look more realistic.

Be a real Cut-up!

Innocent-looking plastic six-pack yokes can be death traps for birds that become tangled in them.



Cut the rings apart before throwing them in the recycle bin.

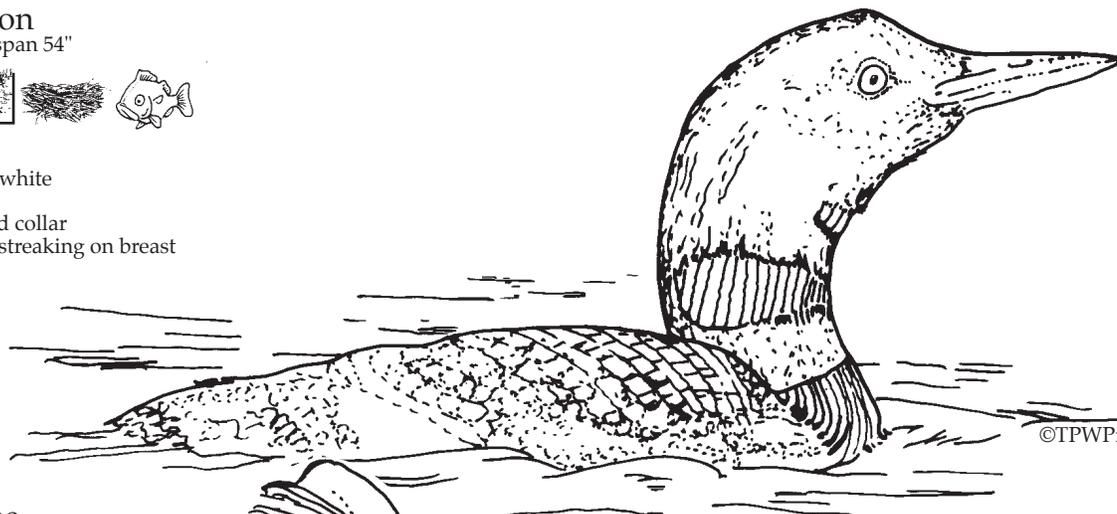
Common Loon

Size: Length 31", Wingspan 54"



Winter range

Back: checkered black & white
 Head: black
 Neck: black with streaked collar
 Below: white with black streaking on breast
 Bill: thick, heavy, dark



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Eared Grebe

Size: Length 12", Wingspan 22"



All year

Body: dark
 Head: black with buff
 orange ear tufts
 Neck: black
 Sides: rust
 Breast: whitish
 Eyes: red



True or False?

Female birds can lay fertilized or unfertilized eggs, but only the fertilized eggs will develop into young.



Pied-billed Grebe

Size: Length 13", Wingspan 22"



All year

Body: grayish-brown
 Bill: pale with black ring
 Throat: black
 Eyes: dark brown with white eye ring

Did You Know That . . .

The loon certainly makes a loony, crazy sound. But that's not why it's called a "loon." The word actually means "lame" in the language of the Shetland Islands where many of these birds breed in the summer. Loons are called lame there because they are so awkward on land.

Loons and Grebes

The Common Loon is the only loon that is common in Texas. Loons feed on fish and they are tremendous divers. Unlike most other birds, loons have solid, not hollow, bones. This permits them to go underwater easily. The Pied-billed and Eared Grebes are the only grebes that regularly nest in Texas, occurring in greater numbers in the state during the winter. Unlike loons, grebes feed primarily on aquatic insects.

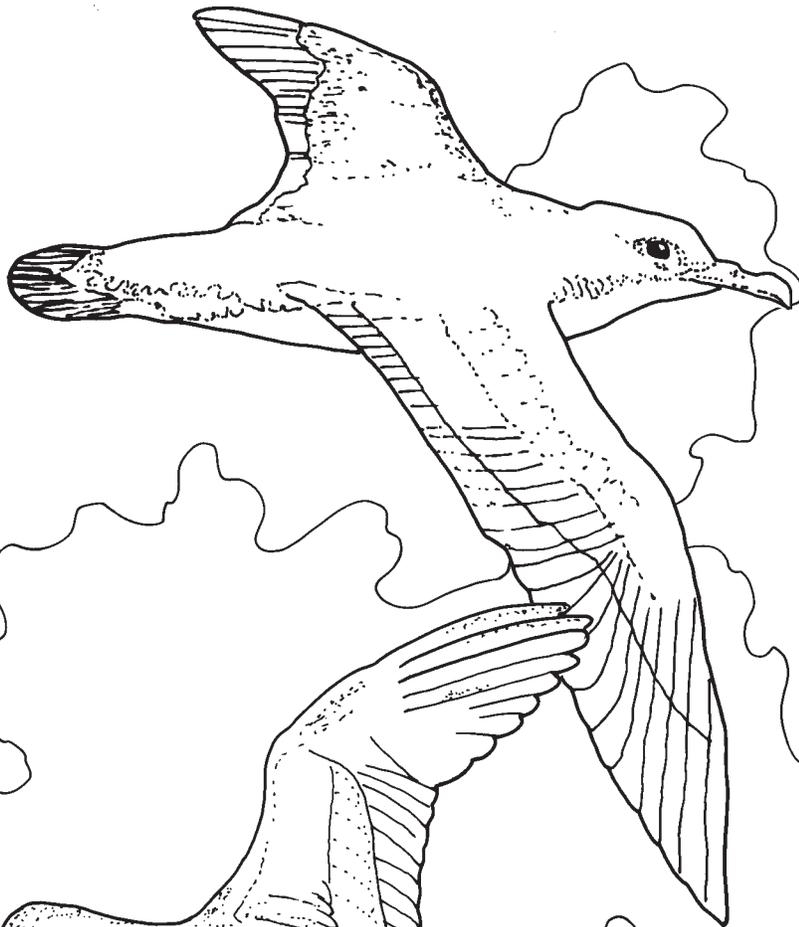
Corys Shearwater

Size: Length 19", Wingspan 44"



Off coast

Above: gray-brown
 Below: white
 Head: brownish
 Throat: pale
 Wing lining: white with dark tips
 Bill: pale



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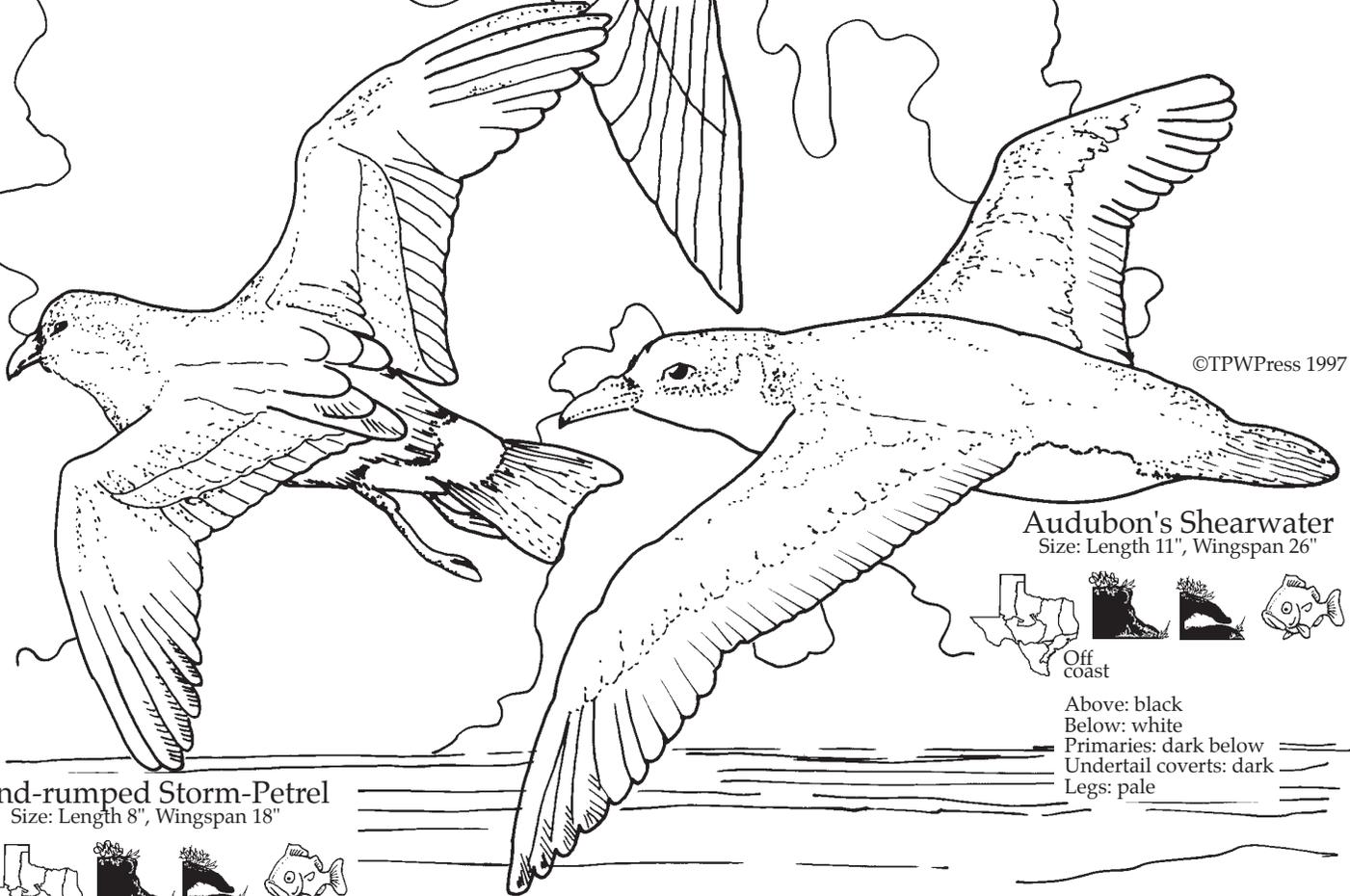
Audubon's Shearwater

Size: Length 11", Wingspan 26"



Off coast

Above: black
 Below: white
 Primaries: dark below
 Undertail coverts: dark
 Legs: pale



Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 18"



Off coast

Above & below: dark gray
 Rump: white
 Square tail: dark gray

Shearwaters and Storm Petrels

True or False?

Only one-third of all North American birds migrate.

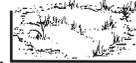
Many species of birds only come to land to nest. These birds are referred to as pelagics, which means living on the open ocean. They have many adaptations that allow them to survive. They have long narrow wings that permit them to glide for long periods. Their nostrils are encased in tubes on top of the bill. Special glands near the nostrils help get rid of excess salt in these seabirds' bloodstream. The glands work like kidneys and pump out salt through the tubes. Only a few pelagic species can be found in Texas waters.



Snow Goose
 Size: Length 28", Wingspan 57"



Winter range



Body: white
 Primaries: black
 Bill: red
 Legs: red

Canada Goose

Size: Length 26 to 48", Wingspan 54 to 84"



Winter range



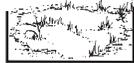
Body: grayish-brown above, grayish below
 Head: black with white chin strap
 Neck: black
 Belly, rump & undertail: white
 Tail: black

Greater White-fronted Goose

Size: Length 28", Wingspan 57"



Winter range



Body: brown barred with buff on back
 Breast & upper belly: speckled with black
 Lowerbelly & undertail: white
 Bill: pinkish with white feathers at base, edged in black
 Legs: orange

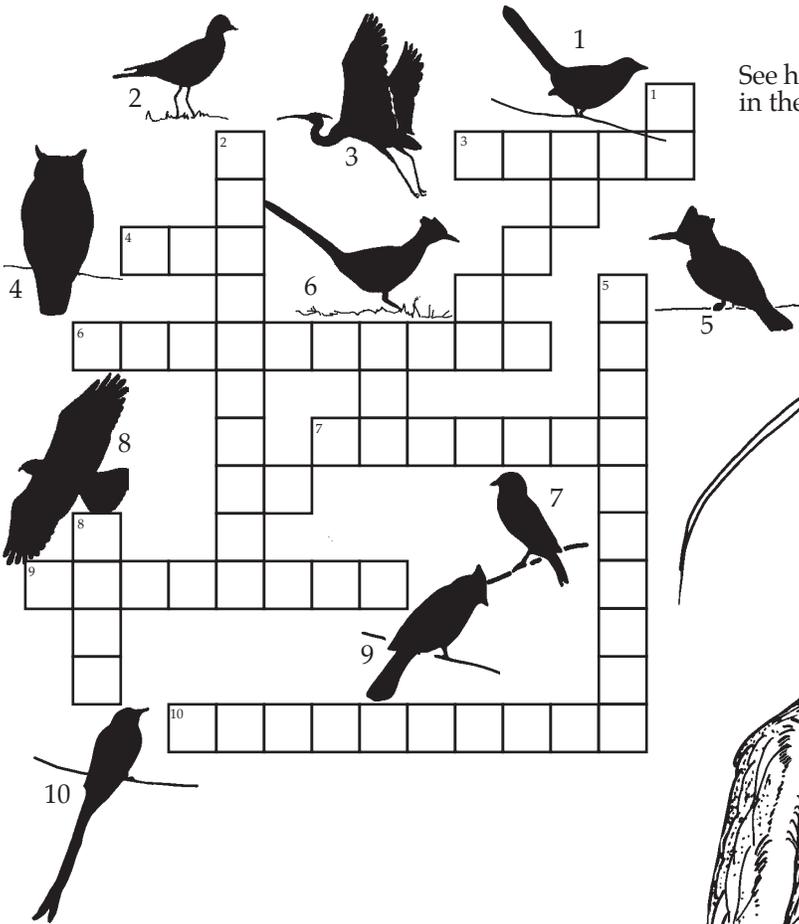
Geese

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Thousands of Canada, Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese migrate from their summer breeding grounds in Canada to the Texas coast. Snow Geese have two color phases or forms: white and gray. The gray phase is commonly called Blue Goose. Almost all of the world's population of Blue Geese winter in Texas.

Bird Scrabble

See how many bird names you can put in the proper squares in the puzzle.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Size: Length 24", Wingspan 42"



Body: gray streaked with black above on wings
Head: black with white cheek patch
Crown plumes: creamy
Eyes: red
Bill: dark
Legs: pale



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Night-Herons

As the name suggests, night-herons are mainly nocturnal. There are two species in Texas: the Black-crowned Night-Heron and the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Like other herons, the Black-crowned Night-Heron feeds mainly on fish and frogs, but the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seems to prefer catfish and crabs.

Harris's Hawk

Size: Length 21", Wingspan 45"



All year

Body: dark brown
Shoulders & thighs: chestnut
Legs: yellow
Tail: dark with broad white band at base & narrow white terminal strip
Eyes: brown
Wing lining: chestnut

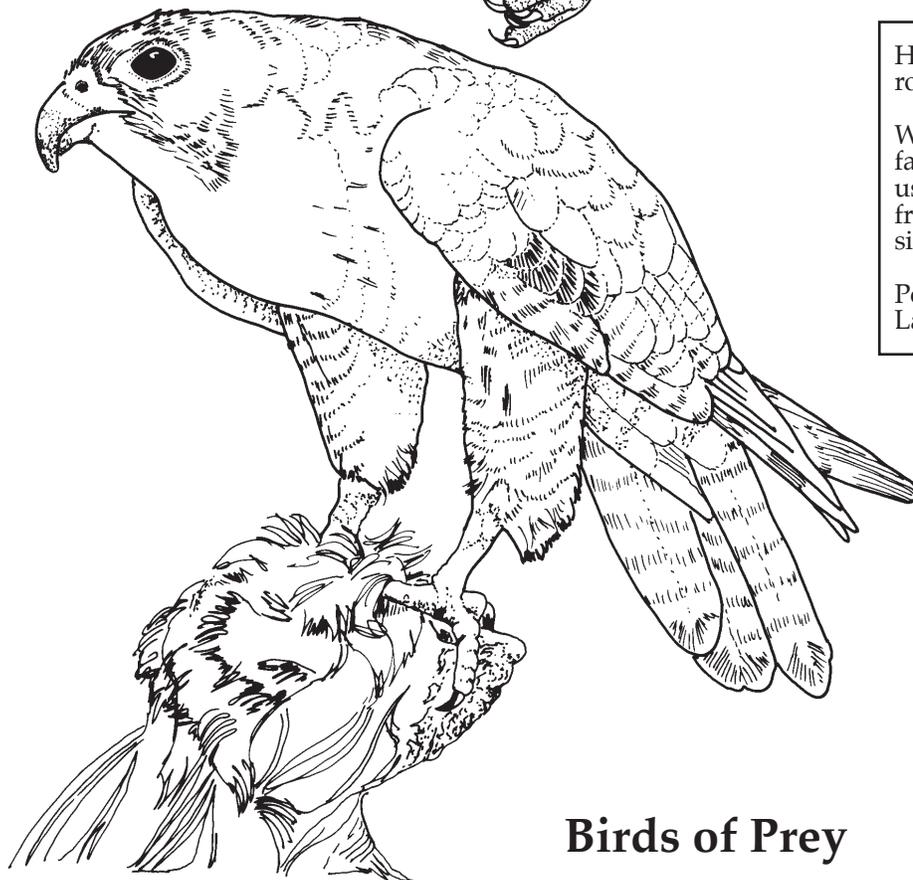


Did You Know That . . .

Hawk comes from the same Anglo-Saxon root as "have" (in the sense of "grasp").

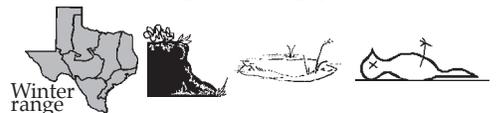
When falconry, the sport of hunting with falcons, was popular, "merlin" was the name used for a female falcon. Falcon itself comes from the Latin *falx* ("sickle"), for the bird's sickle-like talons and beak.

Peregrine means "wanderer" from the same Latin root as "peregrinate" and pilgrim.



Peregrine Falcon

Size: Length 18", Wingspan 40"



Winter range

Above: dark gray
Below: white with spotting & barring on belly & thighs
Crown: black
Cheeks: black with white neck patch
Eyes: brown
Eye ring: yellow
Legs: yellow

Birds of Prey

Among Texas' birds of prey are the Harris's Hawk and the Peregrine Falcon. The Harris's Hawk is a very social bird, its young of the year remaining with the parents throughout the winter. Family groups of four or five birds are not uncommon. Peregrine Falcons often catch their prey in the air by diving at them from above. These dives have been estimated at up to 180 miles per hour.

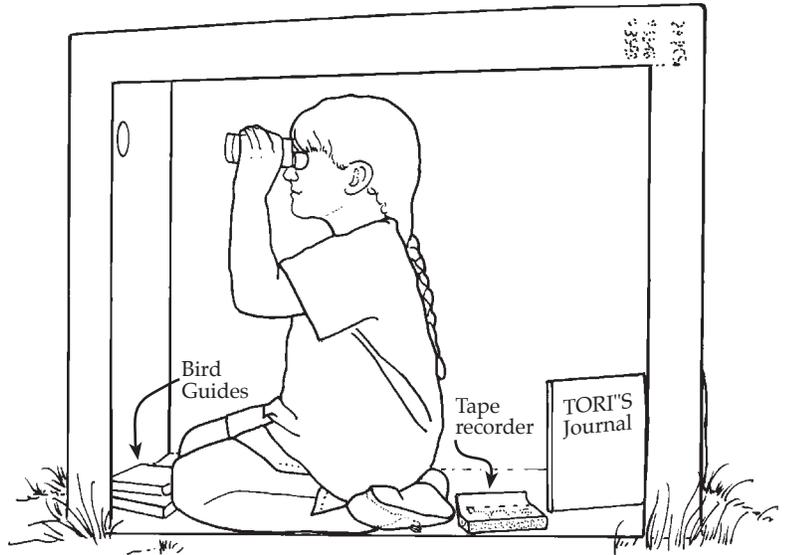
Keep Your Eye On The Birdie!

Make A Bird Blind.

Now that you have installed your bird feeding station, you find that every time you try to watch a bird, if you move even a little to get a better view, the bird flies away when it sees you. What you need now is a bird blind. That way, you can get a better look at the birds that live in or pass through your own back-yard. Be sure to keep notes about what you see. If you have a tape recorder, you might even want to record some of the sounds the birds make.

Items you will need:

- Large box, with holes to look through
- Books to help identify the birds you see
- Binoculars
- Your bird journal or a notebook
- Tape recorder



Keep A Journal.

Use a pencil – it's easier to sketch, and won't run if your journal gets wet.

The most important things you need for birdwatching are patience and quiet. Your own eyes and ears are your most important equipment.

Stay quietly in one place and you will see more birds than if you move around noisily. Birds can be found almost anywhere there is food, water and shelter. You'll see different birds at different times of the year. Birds' activities change with the seasons, too.

Birds are most active in the early morning and early evening. They eat a lot then, before and after their night's rest.

Birds choose their nesting places very carefully.

Please watch nesting birds only from a distance. Don't scare them by moving tree branches or grass for a better view. Never touch nests, eggs or birds on a nest.

Use binoculars if you want to get a better and closer view of the birds.

Study each bird you see. Notice its feathers. Watch how it moves. Listen to its call and songs.

Field guides can help you identify birds. Keep a field guide with you in the blind.

May 3, 1997 *The field behind Melissa's house*
 10:19 a.m.
 Blue Jay
 -have been observing & trying to photograph for approx. 45 minutes.
 -has been singing very frequently during entire

May 10, 1997 *McKinney Falls State Park*
 8:30 a.m.
 I saw a painted bunting while we were at the park

May 12, 1997 *School ball field, near the back fence*
 12:00 a.m.
 -Most of the birds are brown but I saw one Cardinal and a Blue jay squawking at each other

June 20, 1997 *The Zoo*
 10:30 a.m.
 Greater Flamingo
 -have been observing for approx. 5 minutes.
 -no singing or noise was made during entire observation.
 -It was taller than I thought it would be.
 -swished bill through the water to get drink or food

-Pink bird with heavy, right-angled bill, pink, with black on the edge
 -long legs with webbed toes
 -long neck
 -black primaries

Black 



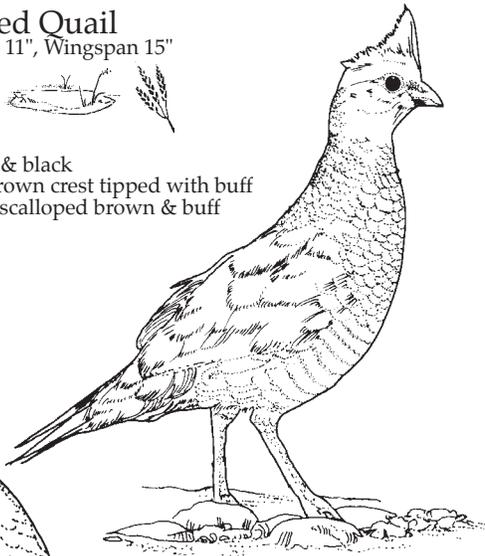
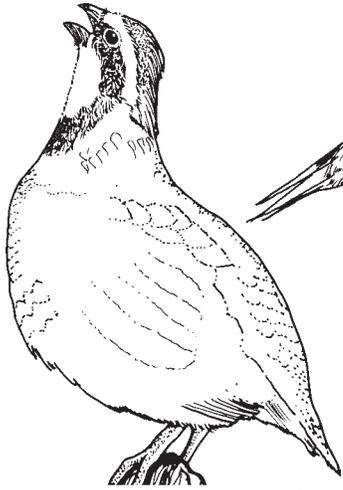
Remember, birds like it quiet.



Scaled Quail

Size: Length 11", Wingspan 15"

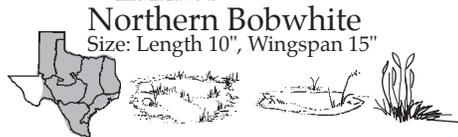
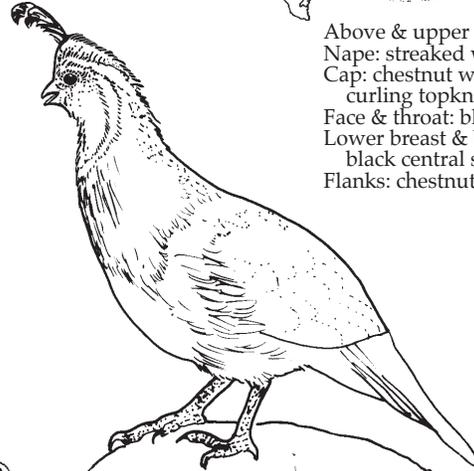
Above: grayish-brown
 Neck & nape: scaled gray & black
 Head: brown with erect brown crest tipped with buff
 Flanks & belly: spotted & scalloped brown & buff



Gambel's Quail

Size: Length 11", Wingspan 15"

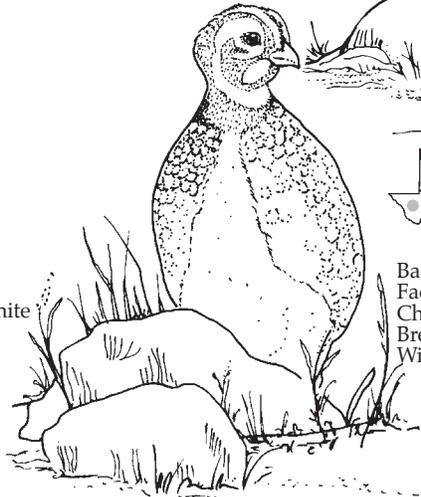
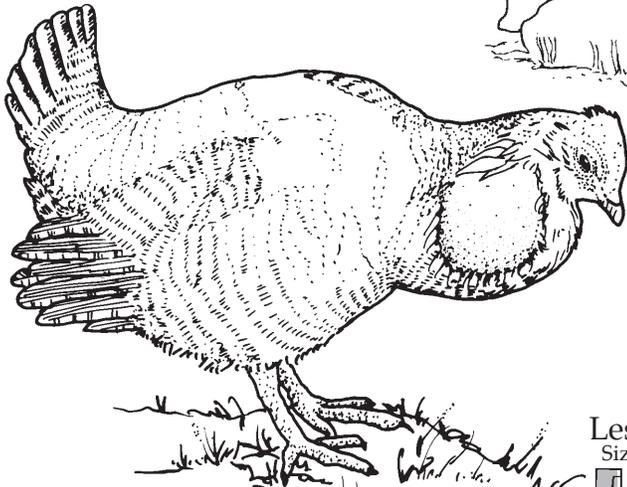
Above & upper breast: pale gray
 Nape: streaked with black
 Cap: chestnut with long, black, curling topknot
 Face & throat: black
 Lower breast & belly: beige with black central spot
 Flanks: chestnut spotted with white



Northern Bobwhite

Size: Length 10", Wingspan 15"

Above: brown & gray mottled with dark brown & white
 Sides: chestnut spotted with white
 Breast & belly: white scalloped with black
 Crown: chestnut with short ragged crest
 Eyebrow & throat: white

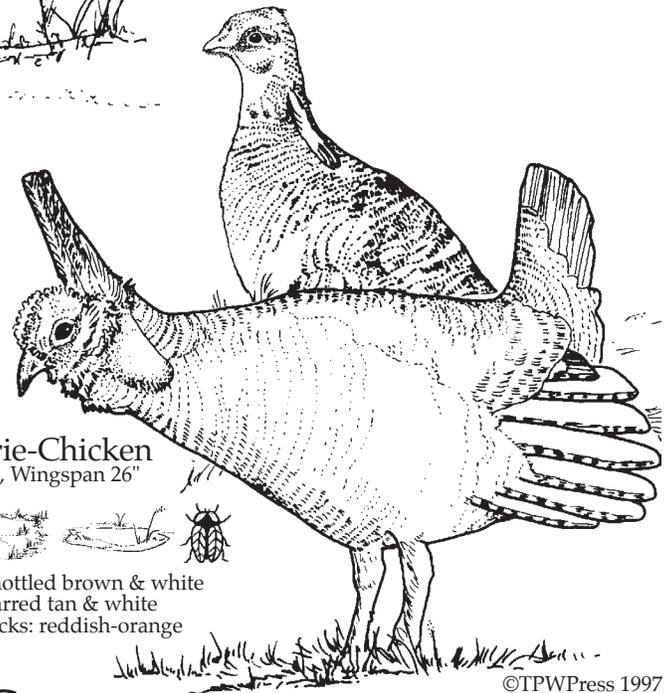


Montezuma Quail

Size: Length 9", Wingspan 17"

Bulbs

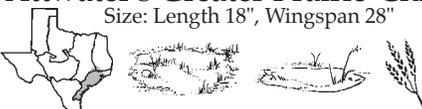
Back: chestnut & brown with white streaking
 Facial pattern: black & white (like a hockey goalie mask)
 Chest: chestnut
 Breast & belly: chestnut, spotted with white on both sides
 Wings: brown, spotted with dark brown



Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chicken

Size: Length 18", Wingspan 28"

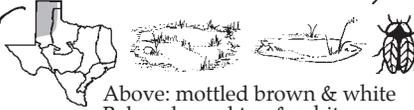
Above: mottled brown & white
 Below: barred tan & white
 Throat sacks: golden
 Tail: dark



Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Size: Length 16", Wingspan 26"

Above: mottled brown & white
 Below: barred tan & white
 Throat sacks: reddish-orange
 Tail: dark



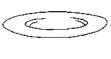
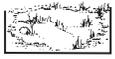
Quail and Grouse

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Texas is home to four species of quail and two species of grouse. The grouse are the Greater and Lesser Prairie-Chickens and they are very similar. The Texas subspecies of the Greater Prairie-Chicken is called the Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chicken. It is very rare and found in only a few places along the coastal prairies. The four kinds of quail are the Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, the Northern Bobwhite and the Montezuma Quail. The Northern Bobwhite gets its name from its call.

Whooping Crane

Size: Length 51", Wingspan 87"



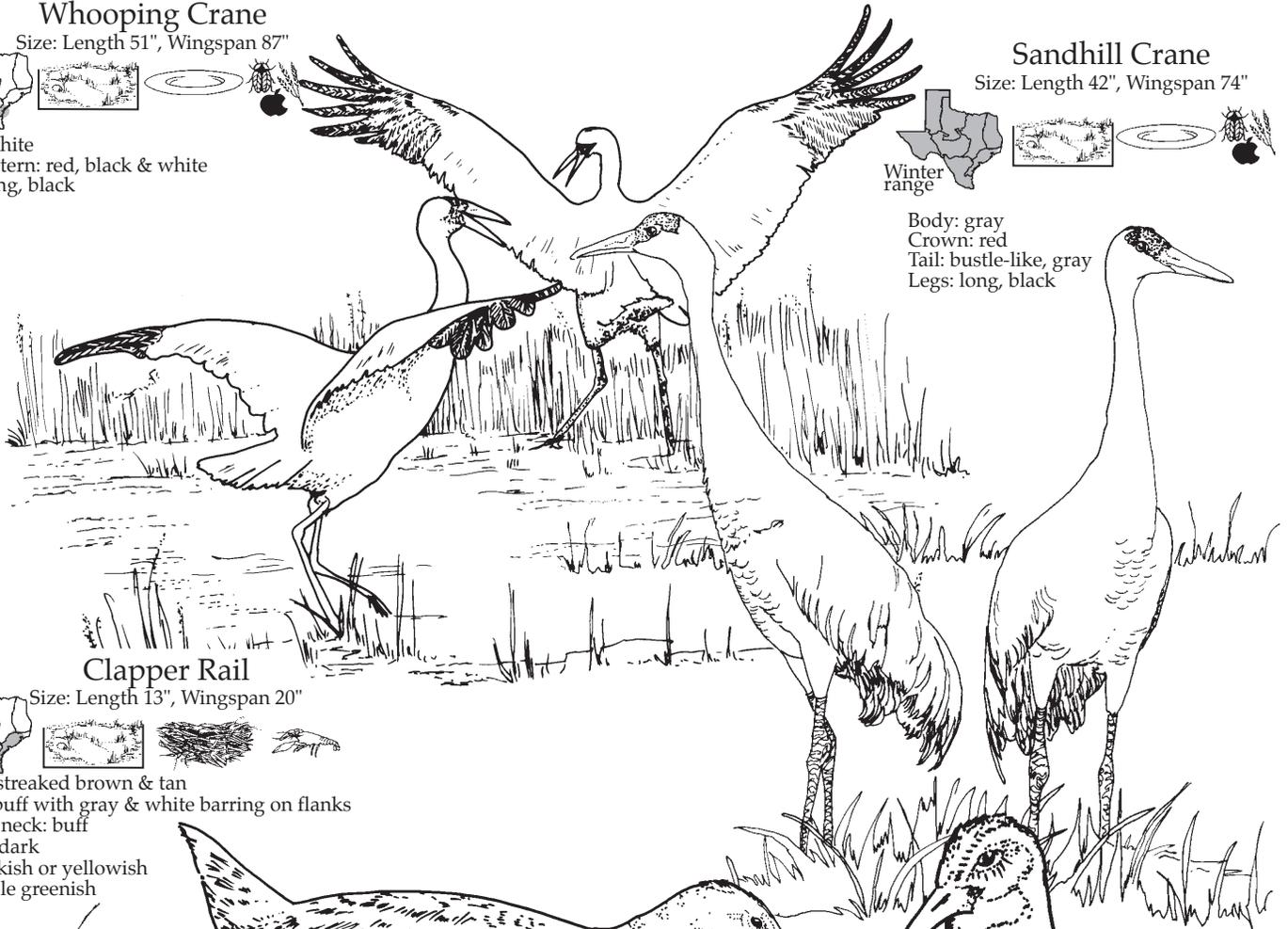
Body: white
Face pattern: red, black & white
Legs: long, black

Sandhill Crane

Size: Length 42", Wingspan 74"

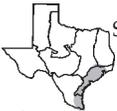


Body: gray
Crown: red
Tail: bustle-like, gray
Legs: long, black



Clapper Rail

Size: Length 13", Wingspan 20"



Above: streaked brown & tan
Below: buff with gray & white barring on flanks
Head & neck: buff
Crown: dark
Bill: pinkish or yellowish
Legs: pale greenish

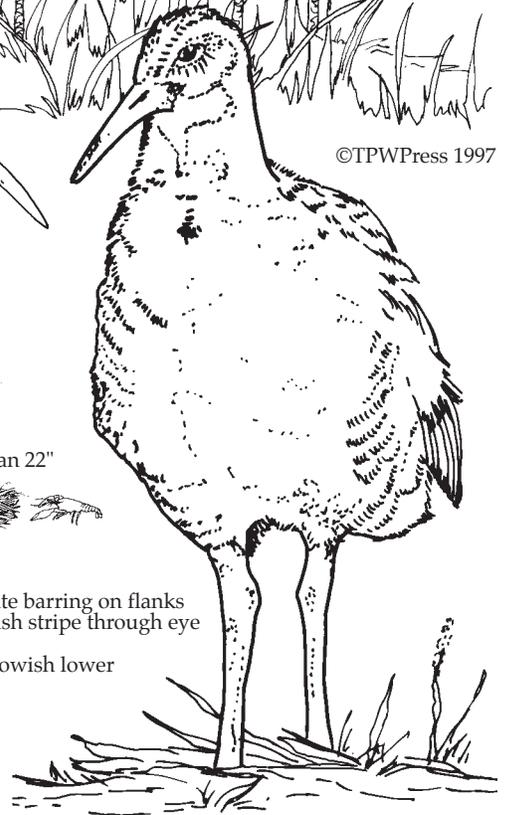


King Rail

Size: Length 15", Wingspan 22"



Above: streaked brown & rust
Below: tawny with black & white barring on flanks
Head & neck: tawny with darkish stripe through eye
Crown: dark
Bill: dark upper, pinkish or yellowish lower
Legs: pale reddish

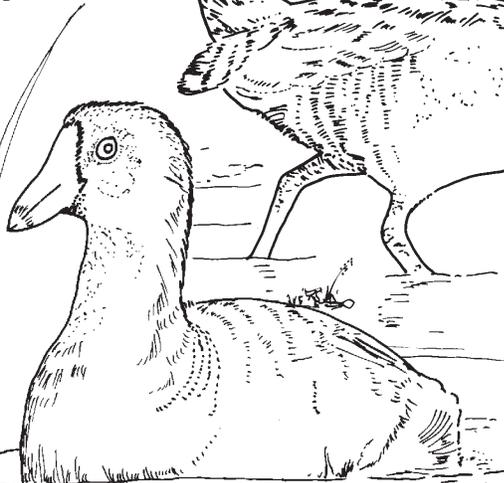


American Coot

Size: Length 16", Wingspan 26"



Winter range
Body: black
Bill: white with dark tip
Eyes: red
Legs: greenish



Cranes and Rails

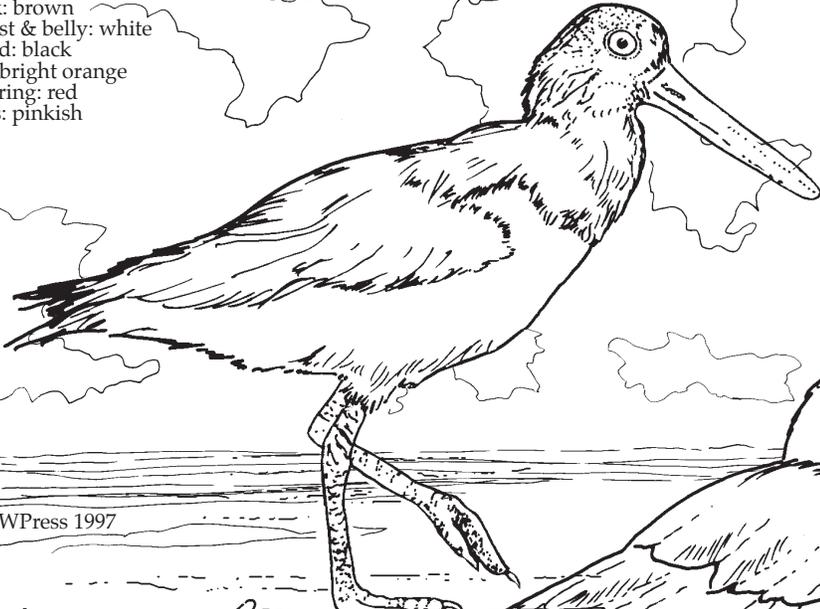
Cranes and rails are very closely related even though they look very different. Texas is the winter home to both of North America's cranes, the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes. The Whooping Crane is one of the world's rarest birds. Most rails are very shy and stay hidden in marshes. The Clapper and King Rails are almost identical, but Clappers are normally found in salt marshes while King Rails are usually in freshwater marshes. The American Coot is actually a rail and is very common throughout Texas.

American Oystercatcher

Size: Length 19", Wingspan 35"

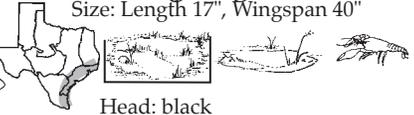


Back: brown
 Breast & belly: white
 Hood: black
 Bill: bright orange
 Eye ring: red
 Legs: pinkish

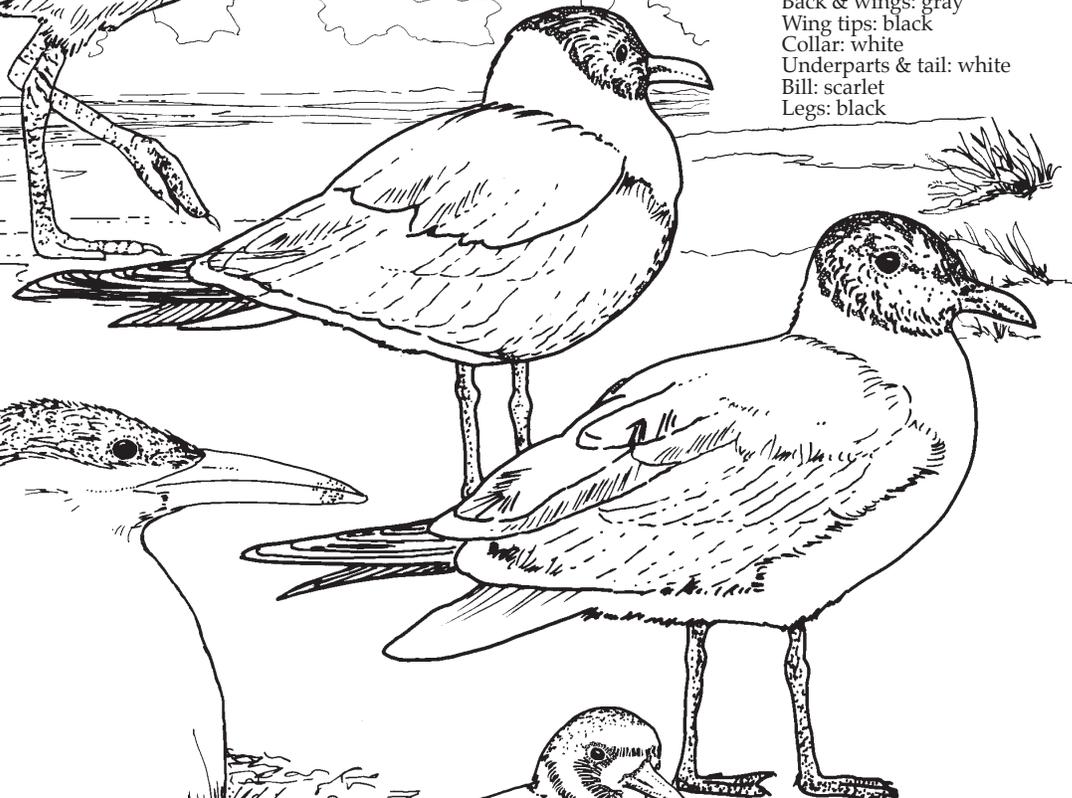


Laughing Gull

Size: Length 17", Wingspan 40"



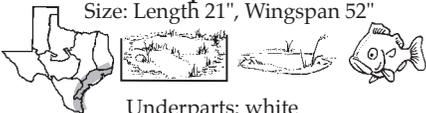
Head: black
 Back & wings: gray
 Wing tips: black
 Collar: white
 Underparts & tail: white
 Bill: scarlet
 Legs: black



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Caspian Tern

Size: Length 21", Wingspan 52"

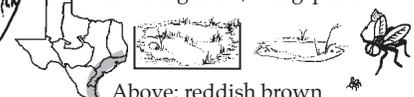


Underparts: white
 Back & wings: light gray
 Large bill: blood-orange
 Cap: black
 Face & neck: white

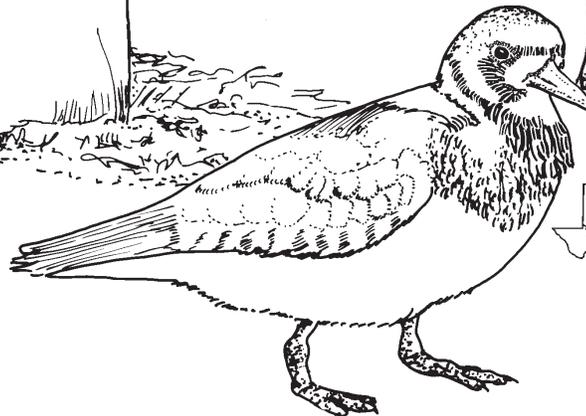


Ruddy Turnstone

Size: Length 10", Wingspan 19"



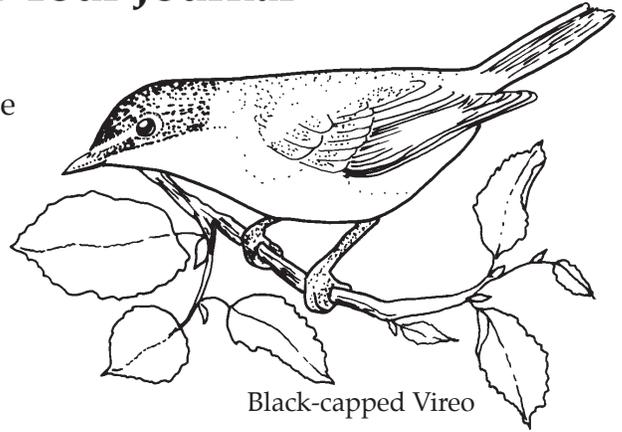
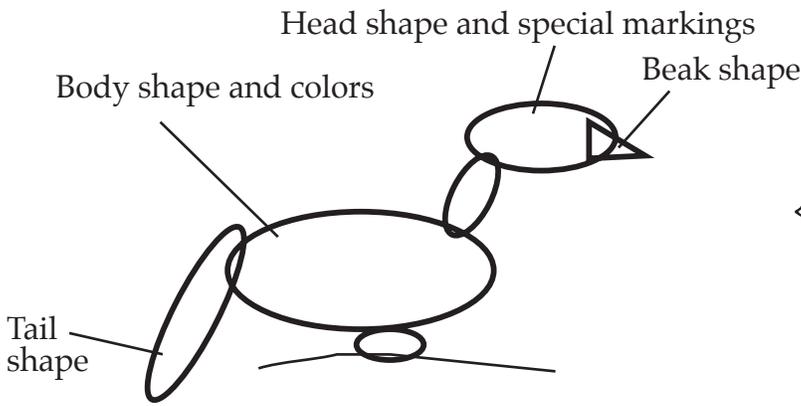
Above: reddish brown
 Below: white
 Breast: black
 Face pattern: black & white
 Wing stripes: white
 Tail band: white
 Legs: orange



Birds of Gulf Beaches

Texas' coastal beaches and marshes are home to an amazing variety of birds. This is particularly true of shallow marshes and bays. However, there are many birds that are found primarily on beaches. Such birds often feed on fish and other animals that wash up on the beach. Gulls in particular are scavengers that will eat almost anything.

Field Sketches For Your Journal



Can you see the Eye Markings?

The pattern of the eyebrow or eye ring often distinguishes a species. For example, the Black-capped Vireo has "spectacles," the Great Kiskadee has an "eye stripe," and the Montezuma Quail has face markings like a hockey goalie mask.



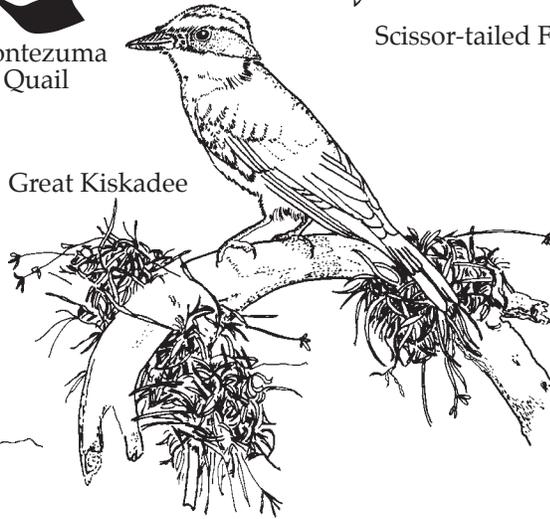
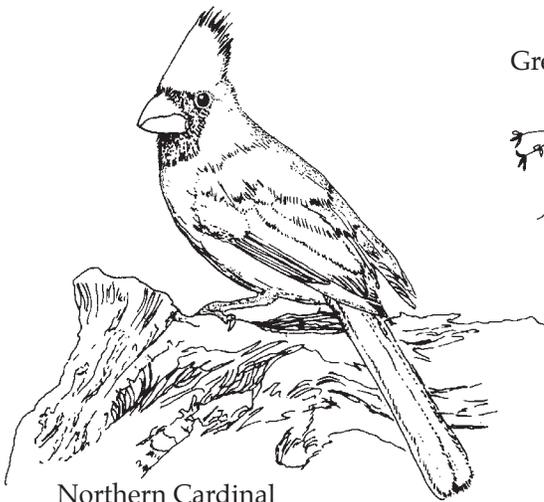
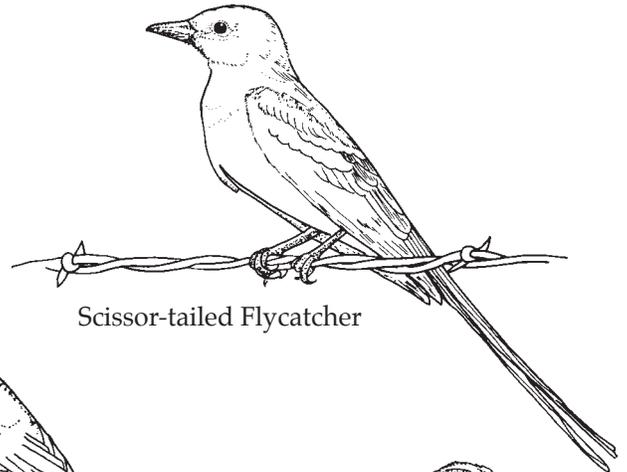
Black-capped Vireo



Great Kiskadee



Montezuma Quail



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When you see a bird you don't recognize, don't try to look it up in your bird guide right away. The bird will most likely fly off before you can find it in the guide. Instead, make a quick sketch in your journal with a pencil. You can make a good drawing of the main features by outlining the simple shapes shown above. Then add the most important details.

Where are the main patches of color?

What shape is the tail?

Can you see the shape of the beak?

Make a note of what the bird was doing and any information that will help you identify it. Now you can look it up in the bird guide. For each bird you see, write down the date you saw it and what kind of habitat it was in.

A car makes a very good blind. Be prepared to wait a while, the birds need to get used to the car; keep quiet and still inside.

Common Nighthawk

Size: Length 9", Wingspan 23"



no nest



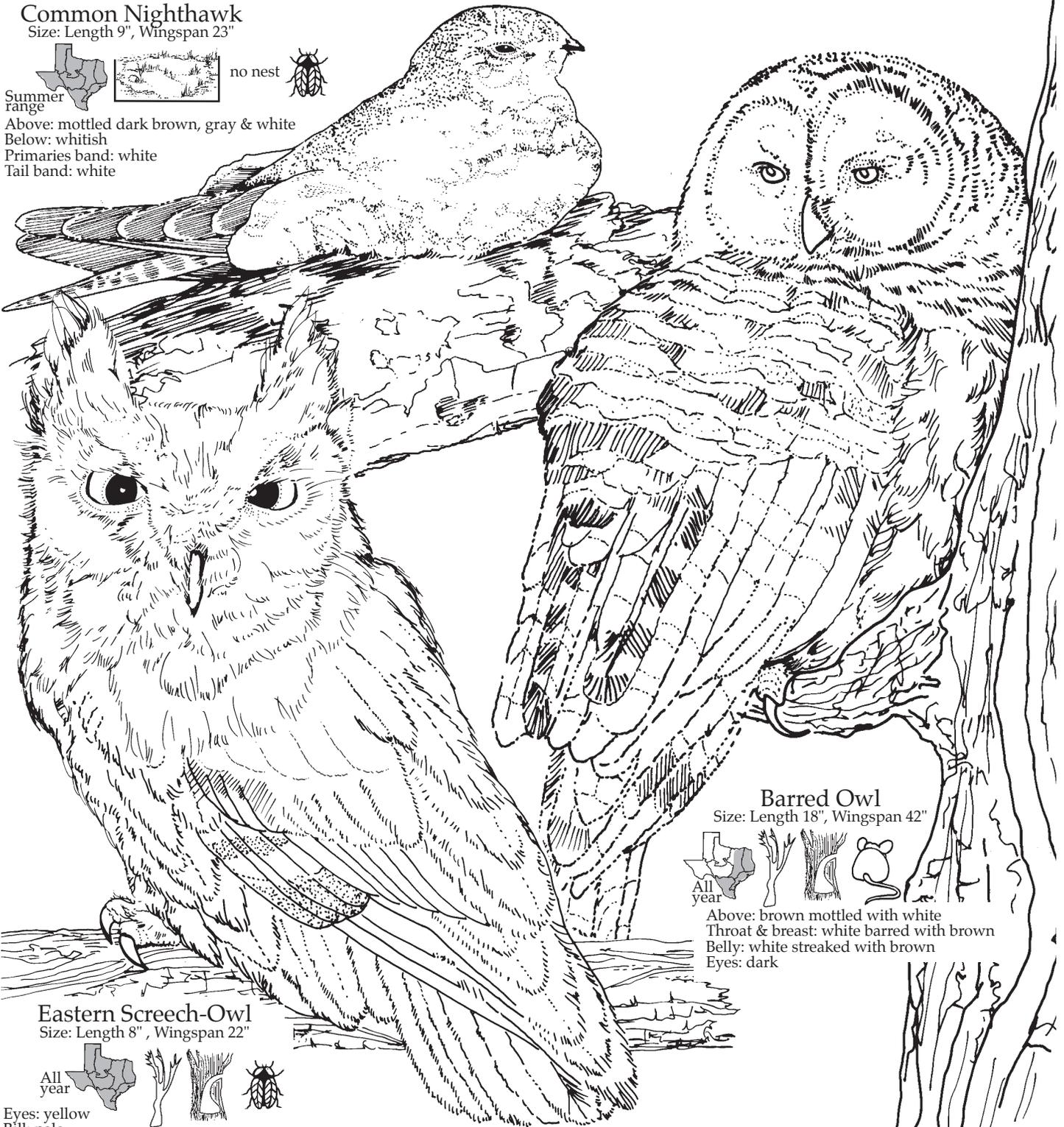
Summer range

Above: mottled dark brown, gray & white

Below: whitish

Primaries band: white

Tail band: white



Barred Owl

Size: Length 18", Wingspan 42"



All year

Above: brown mottled with white
Throat & breast: white barred with brown
Belly: white streaked with brown
Eyes: dark

Eastern Screech-Owl

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 22"



All year

Eyes: yellow

Bill: pale

Red phase: Above reddish brown, streaked with rust

Below: brown & white

Facial disc: rust with white eyebrows

Gray phase: similar to red phase but gray rather than rust

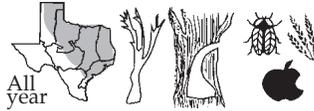
Owls and Nightjars

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Owls and nightjars are both primarily night-time or nocturnal groups of birds. Most people readily recognize owls, but they are not as familiar with nightjars (which include the Whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow, nighthawks and others). These birds feed on insects as they fly, so they have very large mouths to help them catch their food. They also have distinctive voices. Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows are named after the song they sing. Most nightjars are nocturnal, with the exception of the nighthawks, which can be seen on summer evenings at dusk catching insects.



Red-headed Woodpecker
Size: Length 10", Wingspan 18"



All year
Above: black
Below: white
Head: scarlet



Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Size: Length 10", Wingspan 17"



All year
Back: barred black & white
Crown: red
Below: dirty white
Nape: yellow
Rump: white
Belly: dirty white with golden tinge
Tail: black



Red-bellied Woodpecker
Size: Length 10", Wingspan 16"



All year
Back & tail: barred black & white
Crown & nape: red
Below: dirty white
Belly: dirty white with red tinge



Acorn Woodpecker
Size: Length 9", Wingspan 17"



All year
Back, wings, breast & tail: black
Crown: red
Throat: tinged with yellow
Face pattern: black & white
Rump & belly: white

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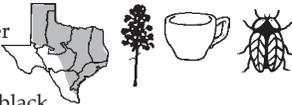
Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have special adaptations that allow them to feed on wood-boring insects. They have powerful sharp bills with which they chisel out insect food and nest holes. Their extremely long, barbed tongues are used to extract insects from holes. All have sharp curved claws on their four toes, two of which point forward and two back, making for a strong grip while climbing. In addition, stiff tail feathers serve as props while moving along trees.

Eastern Kingbird

Size: Length 9", Wingspan 15"

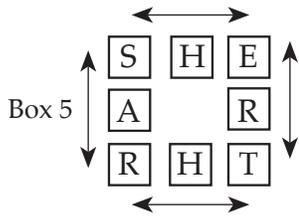
Summer range



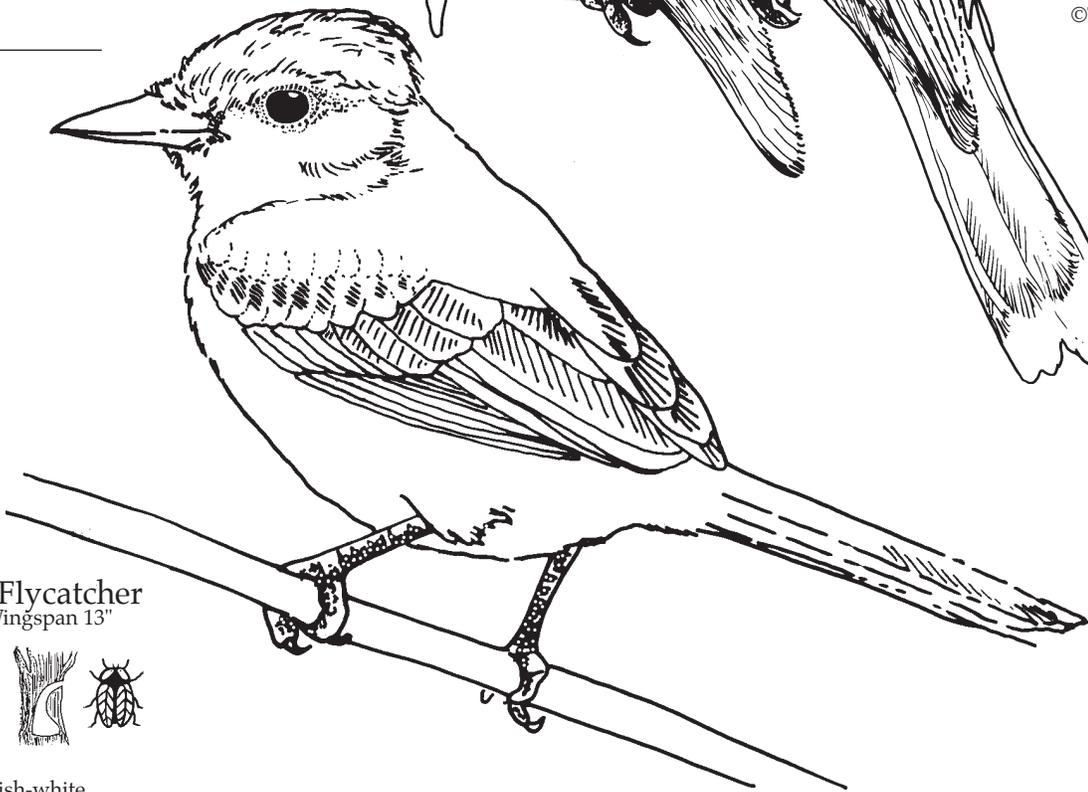
Above: black
 Below: white
 Wings: gray
 Tail band: white at the tip
 Red crest is usually not visible.



Did You Know That . . .
 Kingbirds are probably named for their aggressive behavior, considered typical of kings and other rulers.



Name the bird in box 5.



Ash-throated Flycatcher

Size: Length 9", Wingspan 13"



Above: brown
 Throat & breast: grayish-white
 Belly: pale yellow

Tyrant Flycatchers

Most of the group of birds called tyrant flycatchers have a large head and bristle-like feathers in the face area. Kingbirds, phoebes and most species of flycatchers belong in this group.

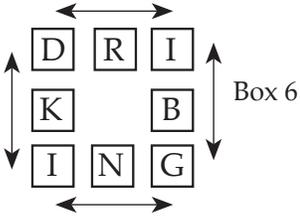
The Eastern Kingbird is common to many different habitats in the eastern half of the state. The Ash-throated Flycatcher is a common bird of scrub habitats in the western half of the state. It is part of a group of flycatchers that are very similar and hard to distinguish from one another.

White-throated Swift

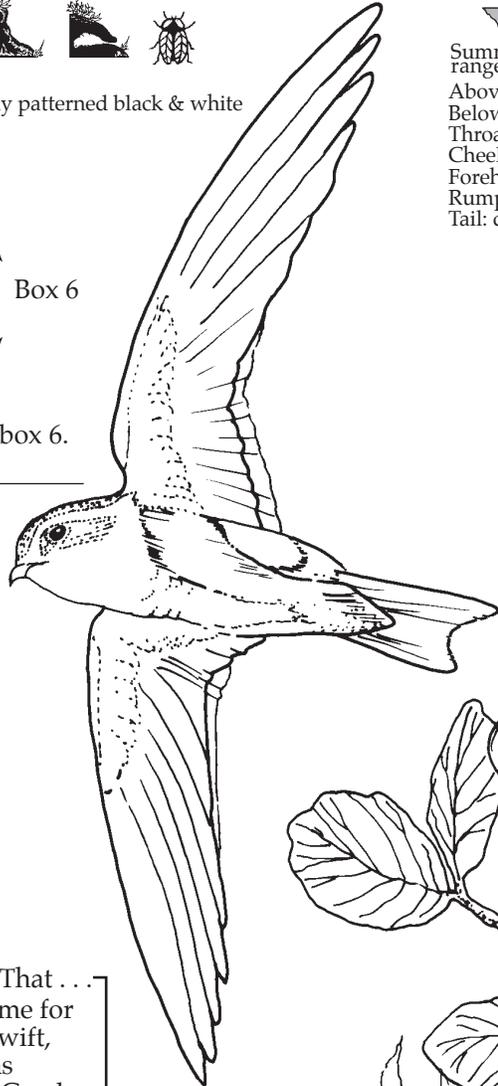
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 13"



Above & below: boldly patterned black & white
Wings: long, narrow
Tail: notched



Name the bird in box 6.

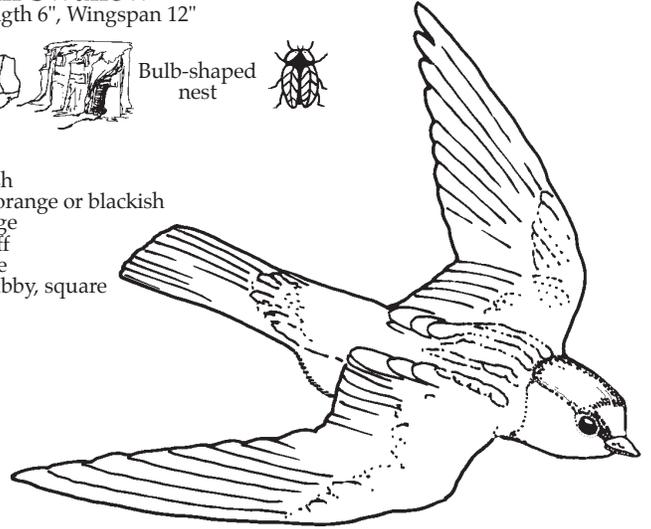


Cliff Swallow

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 12"

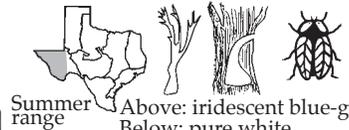


Above: dark
Below: whitish
Throat: dark orange or blackish
Cheeks: orange
Forehead: buff
Rump: orange
Tail: dark, stubby, square

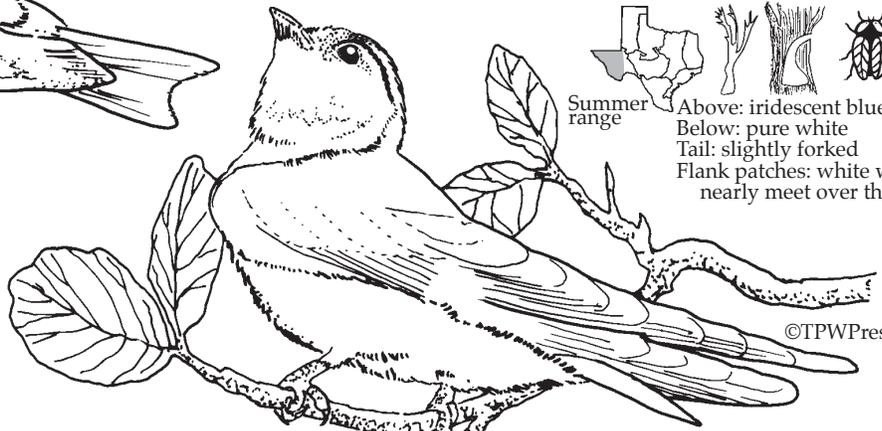


Violet-green Swallow

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 13"

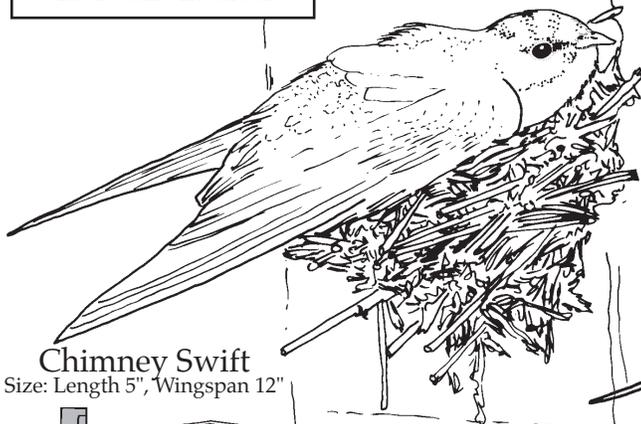


Above: iridescent blue-green
Below: pure white
Tail: slightly forked
Flank patches: white which nearly meet over the tail



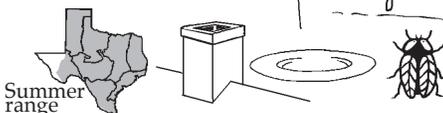
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Did You Know That . . .
The generic name for the Chimney Swift, *Chaetura*, means "bristle-tail" in Greek.



Chimney Swift

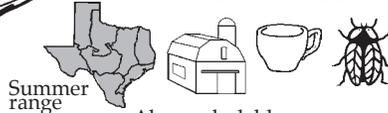
Size: Length 5", Wingspan 12"



Body: dark throughout
Tail: dark, stubby, square

Barn Swallow

Size: Length 7", Wingspan 13"



Above: dark blue
Below: orange
Tail: dark, deeply forked



Swallows and Swifts

Although swallows and swifts look similar and both spend all of their time feeding on insects in mid-air, they are not very closely related. Swifts are actually more closely related to hummingbirds. Swallows belong with the songbird group and are more closely allied to flycatchers.

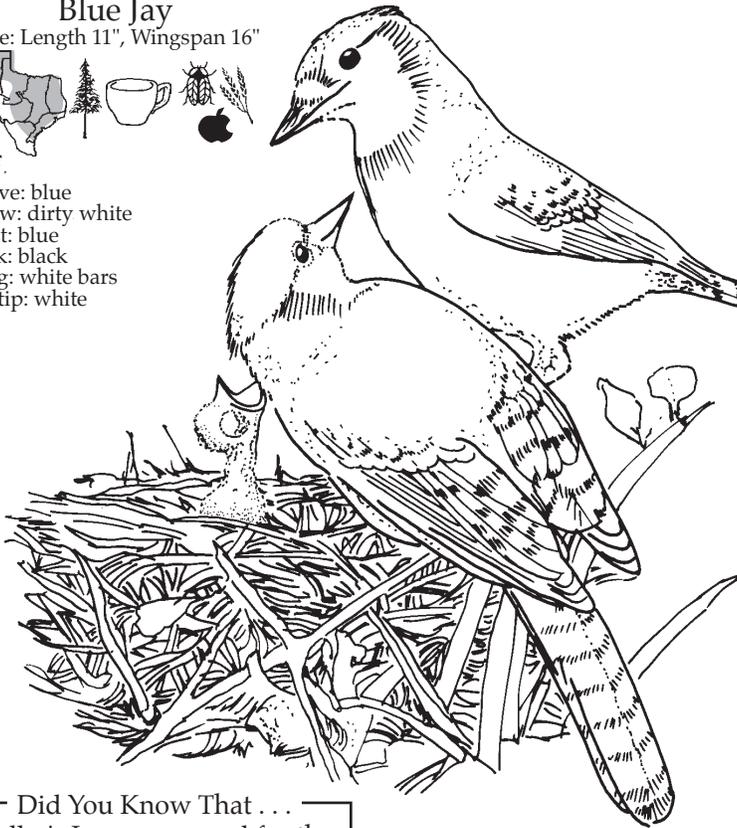
Blue Jay

Size: Length 11", Wingspan 16"



All year

Above: blue
Below: dirty white
Crest: blue
Neck: black
Wing: white bars
Tail tip: white



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Steller's Jay

Size: Length 12", Wingspan 18"



All year

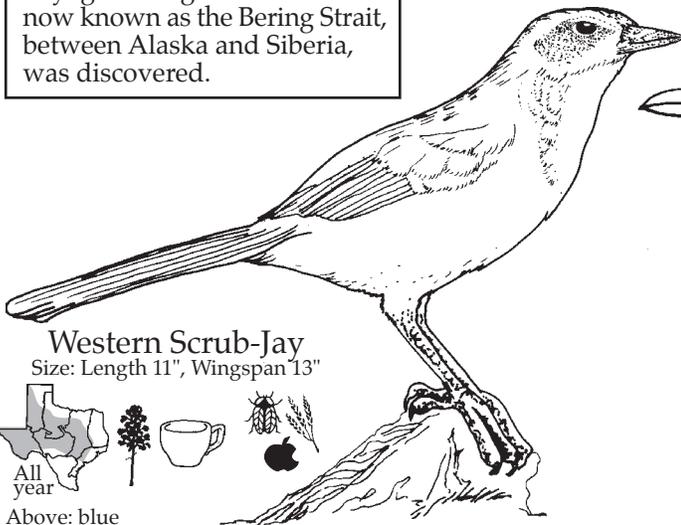
Head, chest & back: blackish
Throat, forehead & above the eye: streaked with white
Belly: bluish
Wings & tail: blue barred with black

Did You Know That . . .

Steller's Jay was named for the German naturalist Georg Steller, who accompanied the explorer Vitus Bering on the voyage during which what is now known as the Bering Strait, between Alaska and Siberia, was discovered.

True or False?

A person who studies birds is an ornithologist.



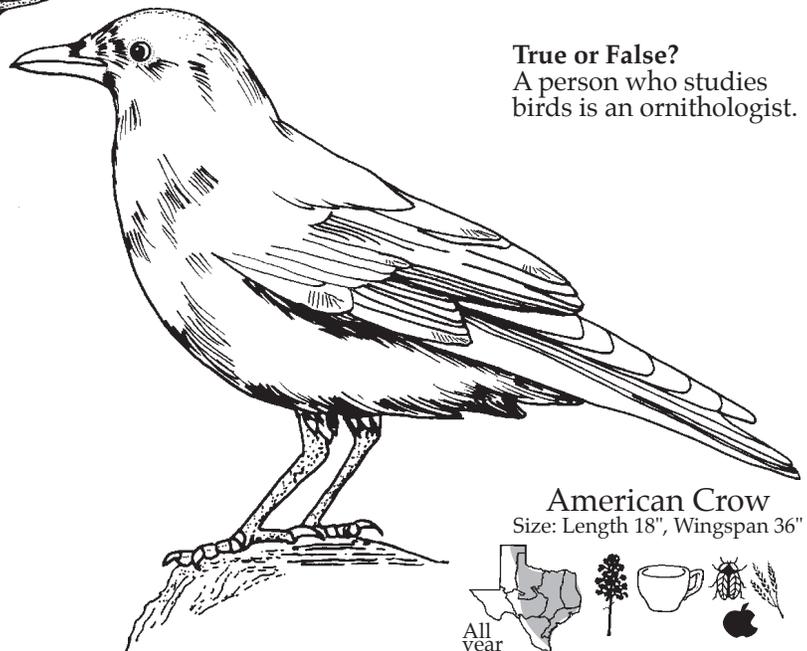
Western Scrub-Jay

Size: Length 11", Wingspan 13"



All year

Above: blue
Back: grayish
Throat: white with dark streaks
Breast: gray with dark streaks
Belly: gray
Cheeks & eyes: black with white border above



American Crow

Size: Length 18", Wingspan 36"



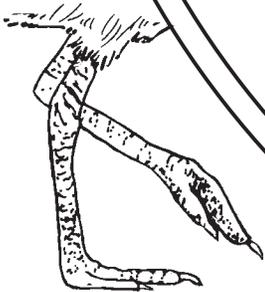
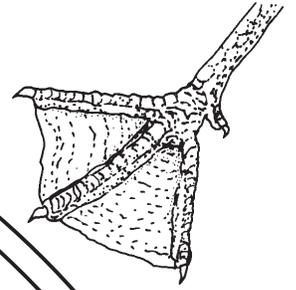
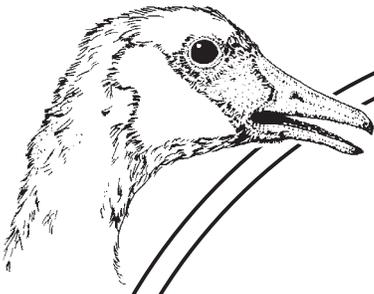
All year

Body: black throughout

Jays and Crows

Jays and crows are closely related. They are found all over the world, and Texas has 12 different species of these birds. In the eastern two-thirds of the state, the common jay is the Blue Jay. It is replaced in the west by the Western Scrub-Jay. Jays are very noisy, active birds that are easily attracted to bird feeders. Ravens and crows look much alike, but ravens have a heavier bill and a wedge-shaped tail.

If you were a bird, what would you look like?



Would you be big or small?

What kind of legs would you have?

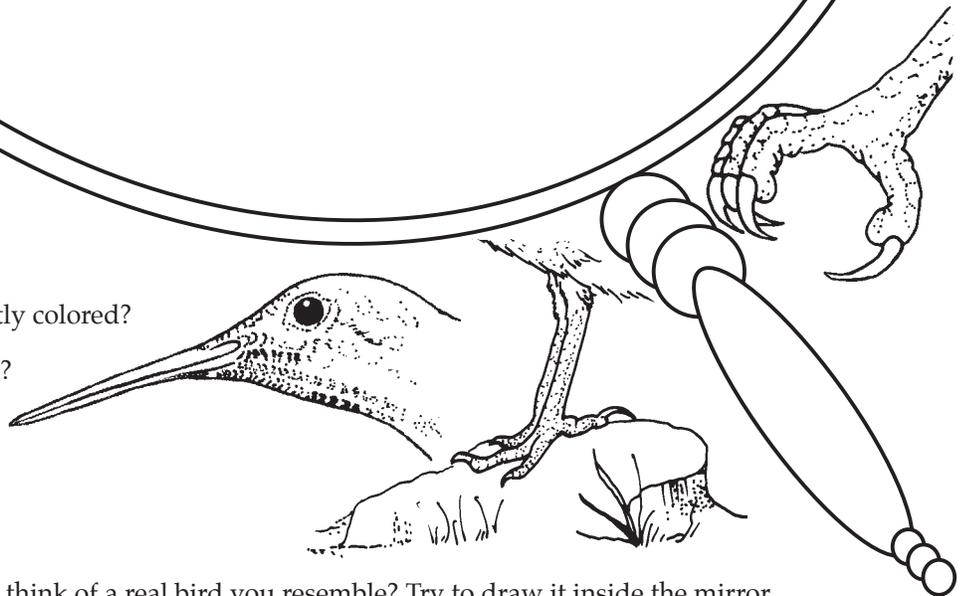
- long and skinny
- short with webbed feet.

What color would you be, plain or brightly colored?

Would you have a long tail or a short tail?

What kind of beak would you have?

- a short, pointed beak
- a shovel-shaped beak
- a rip-and-tear beak
- a long, skinny, probing beak.



When you've made your choice, can you think of a real bird you resemble? Try to draw it inside the mirror.

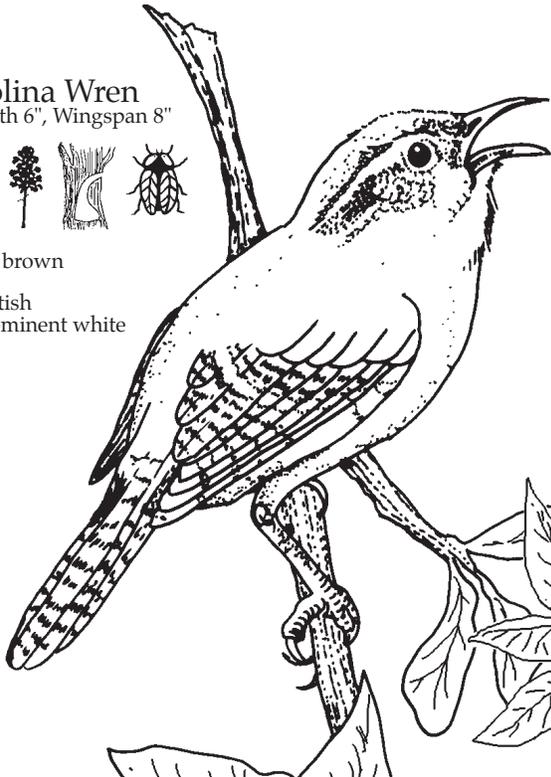
Carolina Wren

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 8"



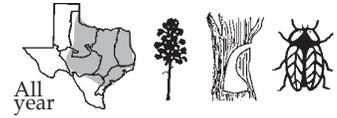
All year

Above: rich brown
Below: buff
Throat: whitish
Eyeline: prominent white



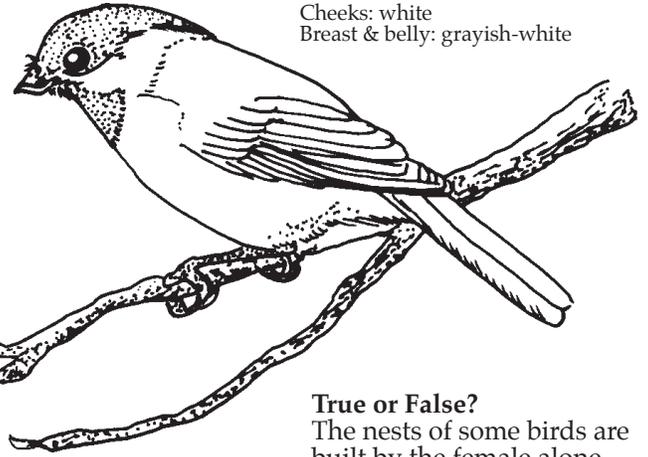
Carolina Chickadee

Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



All year

Back: dark gray
Cap: black
Throat: black
Cheeks: white
Breast & belly: grayish-white



True or False?
The nests of some birds are built by the female alone.

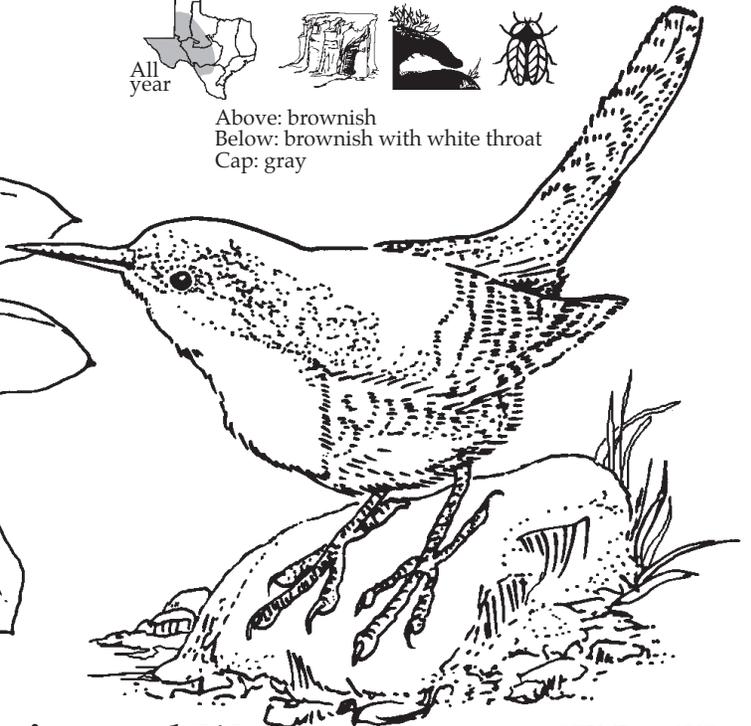
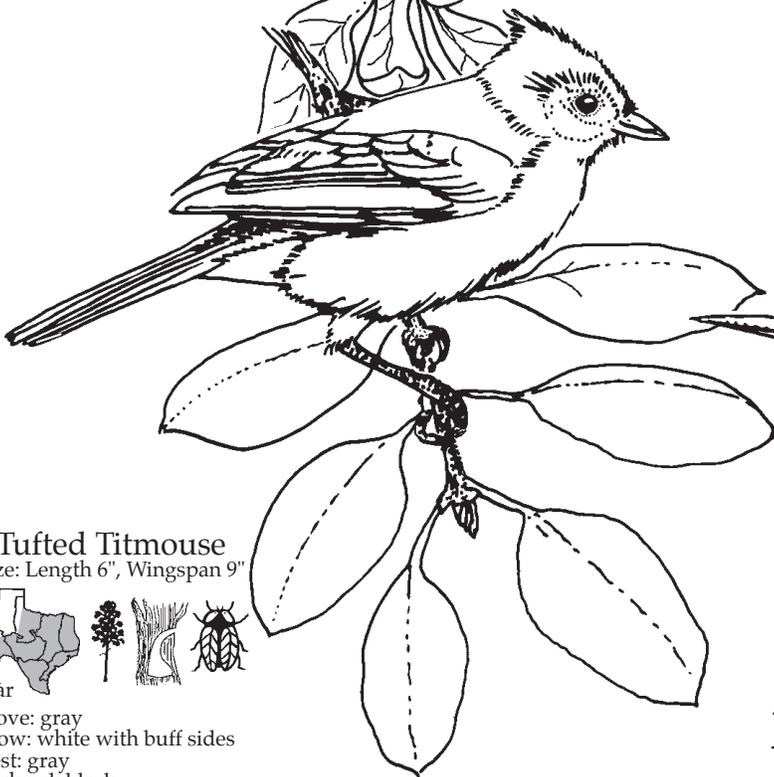
Canyon Wren

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 8"



All year

Above: brownish
Below: brownish with white throat
Cap: gray



Tufted Titmouse

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



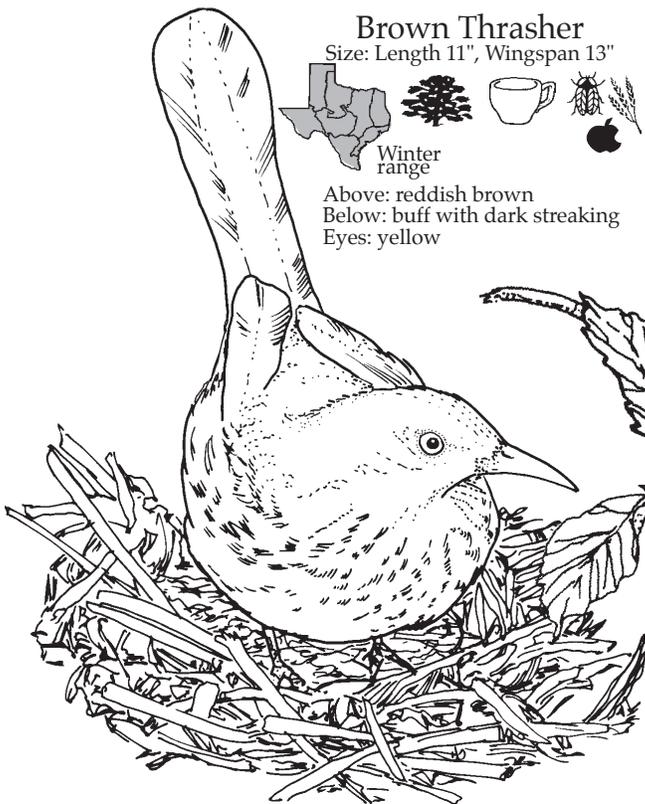
All year

Above: gray
Below: white with buff sides
Crest: gray
Forehead: black

Chickadees, Titmice and Wrens

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Chickadees, titmice and wrens are small, active birds found in woodlands throughout the state. Tufted Titmice can be divided into two groups depending on the color of their crests; one group has black crests and the other has gray. The black-crested birds are found in the central and western parts of the state and the gray-crested birds are in the east. These two groups are sometimes considered separate species.

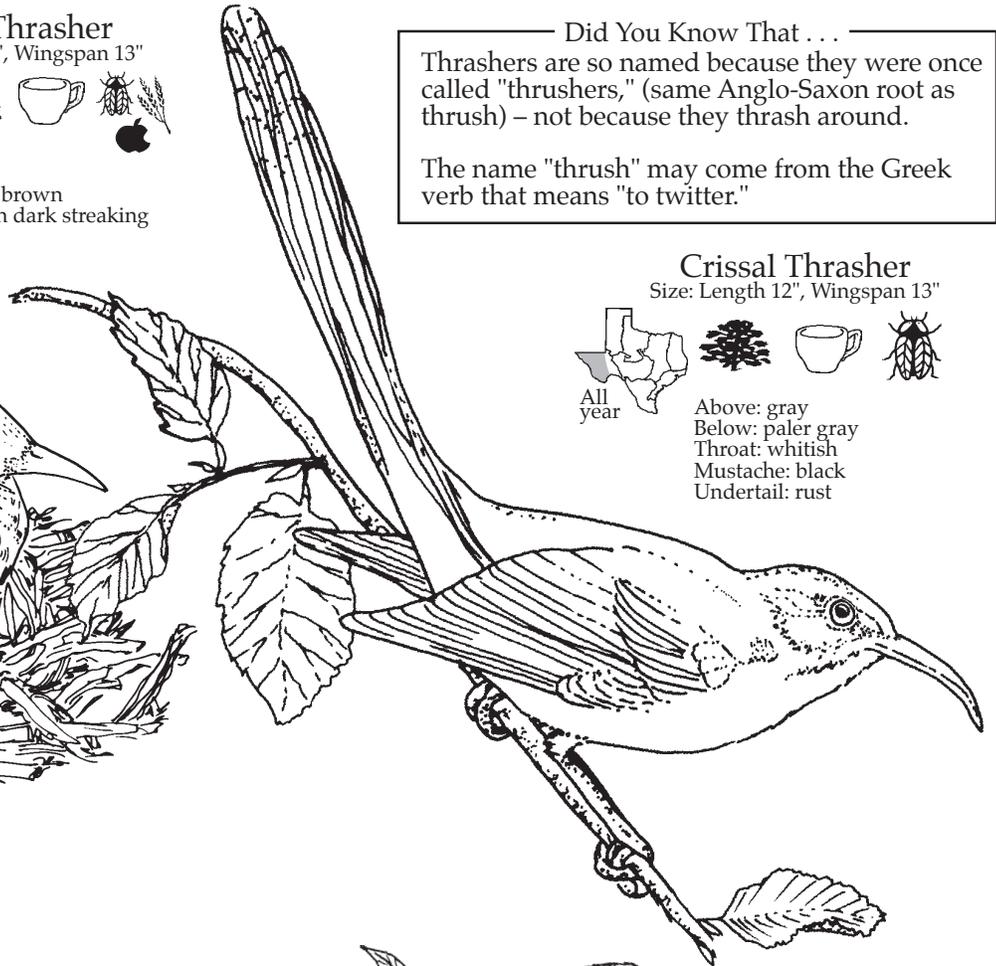


Brown Thrasher
Size: Length 11", Wingspan 13"



Winter range
Above: reddish brown
Below: buff with dark streaking
Eyes: yellow

— Did You Know That . . . —
Thrashers are so named because they were once called "thrushers," (same Anglo-Saxon root as thrush) – not because they thrash around.
The name "thrush" may come from the Greek verb that means "to twitter."



Crissal Thrasher
Size: Length 12", Wingspan 13"



All year
Above: gray
Below: paler gray
Throat: whitish
Mustache: black
Undertail: rust

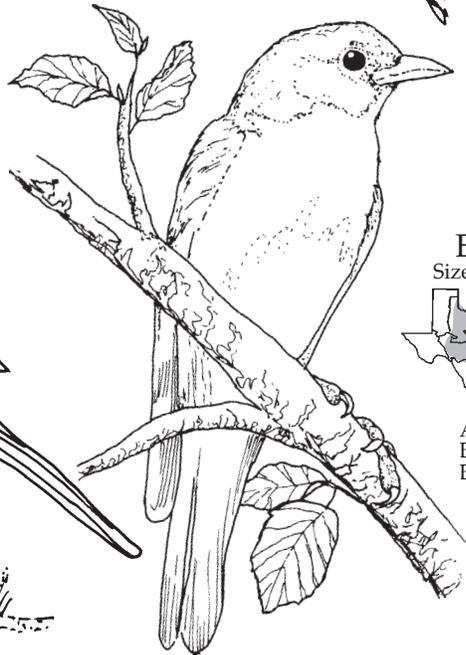


American Robin

Size: Length 10", Wingspan 17"



Winter range
Above: dark gray
Below: orange-brown
Lower belly: white
Throat: white with dark streaks
Eye ring: white



Eastern Bluebird

Size: Length 7", Wingspan 12"



Winter range
Above: blue
Below: red
Belly: white

Thrushes and Thrashers

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Thrushes, like the American Robin and the Eastern Bluebird, are members of a very large family of birds. Most are wonderful songsters. All have relatively short narrow bills used for feeding on insects and fruit. Thrashers, which are also called mimic thrushes, belong to an entirely different bird family. Most have fairly long and thin curved bills. While thrushes are migratory, with many species spending their winter in Texas, mostly tropical thrashers do not migrate. Many, like the Northern Mockingbird (see page 15), mimic the song of other birds. Only a few species of thrashers are found in Texas.

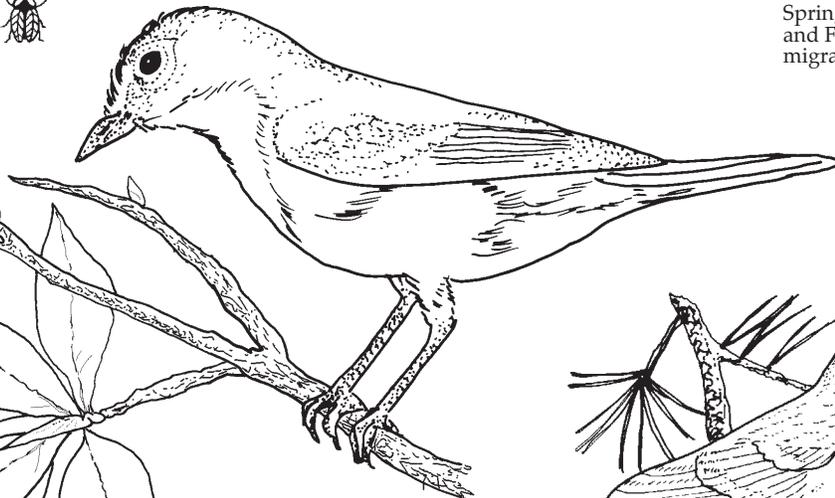
Blue-headed (Solitary)Vireo

Size: Length 6", Wingspan 10"



Winter range

Back: greenish
Below: whitish with yellow flanks
Head: gray and white spectacles (lores, forehead & eye ring)
Rump: gray
Wing bars: white



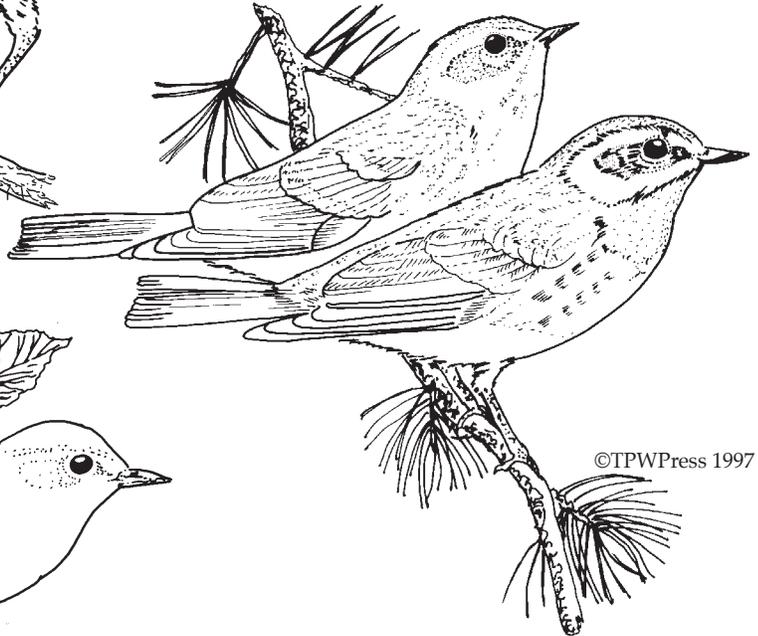
Townsend's Warbler

Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Spring and Fall migration

Above: greenish
Breast: yellow
Belly: white
Crown: black
Eye stripe: yellow
Ear stripe: black
Chin stripe: yellow
Throat: black
Wing bars: white

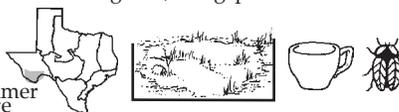


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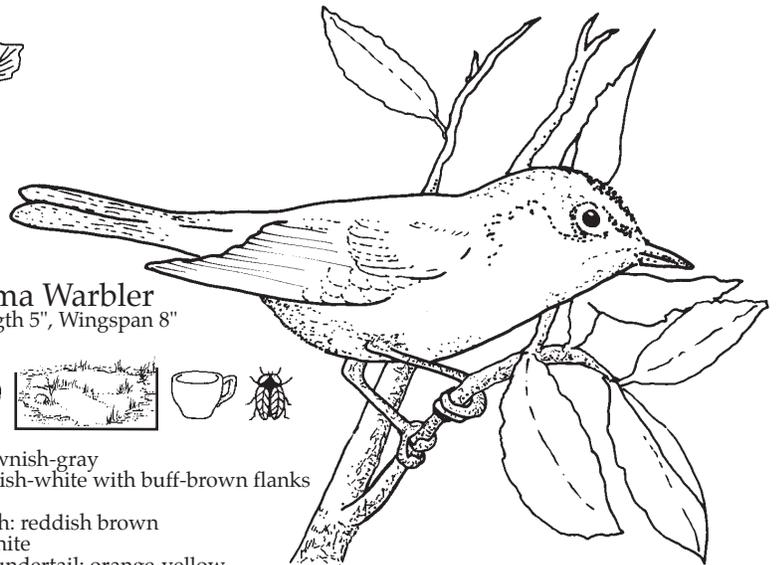
Colima Warbler

Size: Length 5", Wingspan 8"



Summer range

Above: brownish-gray
Below: grayish-white with buff-brown flanks
Head: gray
Crown patch: reddish brown
Eye ring: white
Rump and undertail: orange-yellow



Wilson's Warbler

Size: Length 5", Wingspan 7"



Spring and Fall migration

Above: olive-yellow
Below: yellow
Cap: black (male)

Vireos and Warblers

Most vireos and warblers are neotropical migrants. Some of these small birds travel all the way to South America during the winter, but some only come as far south as Texas. Warblers are usually brightly colored and very active, while vireos are dull in color and are more deliberate in their actions. The Colima Warbler is a Texas specialty. Even though most of its range is in Mexico, it is best known from Big Bend National Park in West Texas.

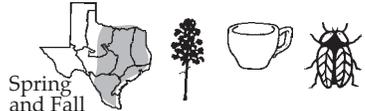


Pyrrhuloxia
Size: Length 9", Wingspan 12"



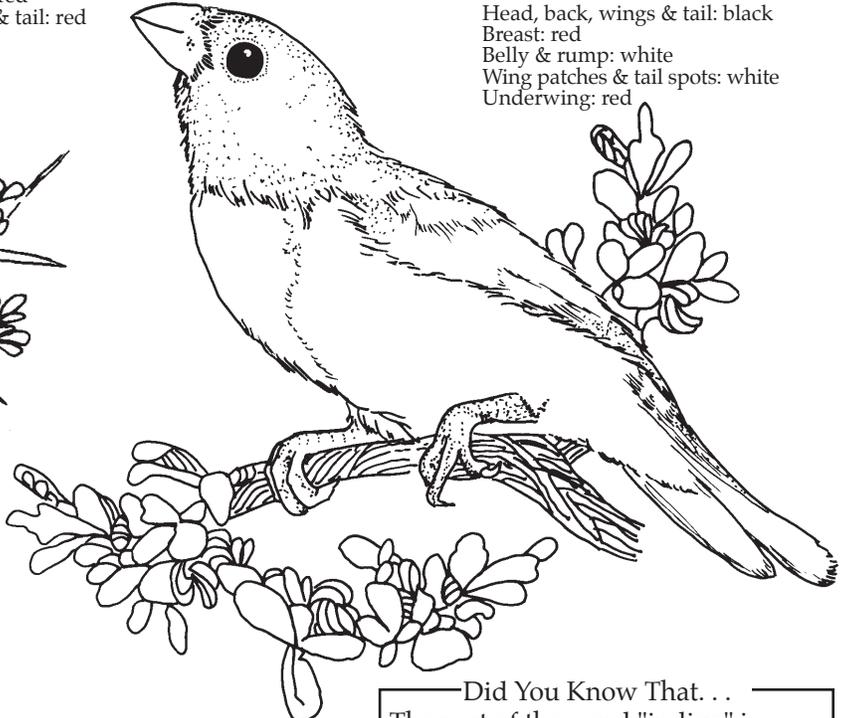
All year
Body: dusty gray
Crest & face: red
Belly, wings & tail: red

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Size: Length 8", Wingspan 13"

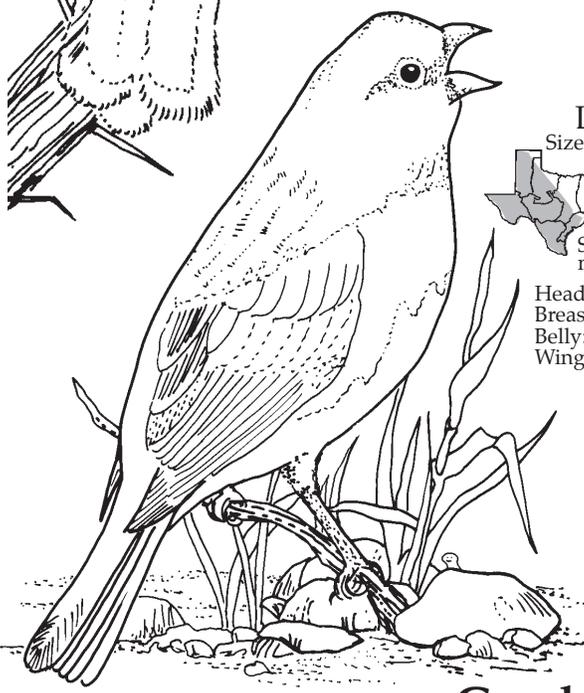


Spring and Fall migration

Head, back, wings & tail: black
Breast: red
Belly & rump: white
Wing patches & tail spots: white
Underwing: red



—Did You Know That...
The root of the word "indigo" in Indigo Bunting is the same as "Indian." Both words refer to India, the subcontinent that is the source of the bluish plant dye called indigo.



Lazuli Bunting
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"

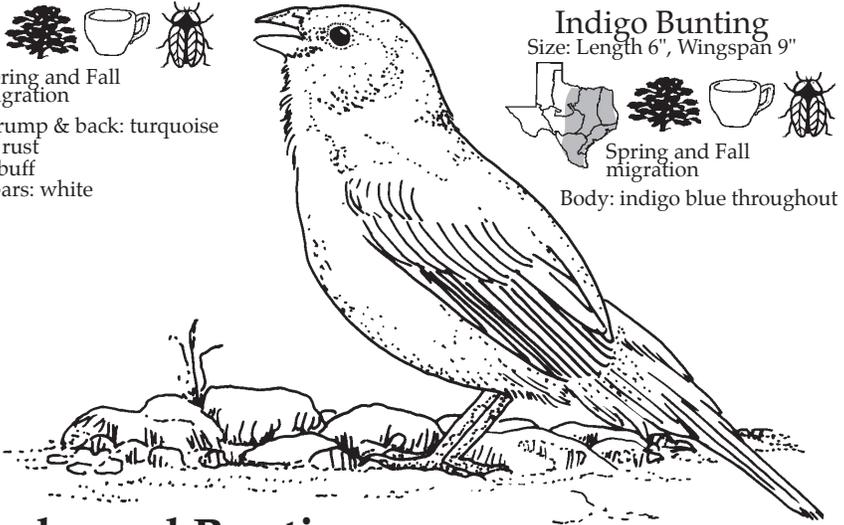


Spring and Fall migration
Head, rump & back: turquoise
Breast: rust
Belly: buff
Wing bars: white

Indigo Bunting
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



Spring and Fall migration
Body: indigo blue throughout



Grosbeaks and Buntings

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Grosbeaks and tropical buntings are a small group of brightly-colored seed-eating birds. Most of the birds in this group form species pairs that are separated by the Great Plains. That is to say, one species is found west of the Great Plains and the other, east of the Great Plains. Such birds once probably belonged to a single species that became separated into two populations when the plains first formed after the Ice Ages. The two groups then changed to form distinct species. The Indigo and Lazuli Buntings form one of these species pairs.



Black-throated Sparrow
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 9"



All year

Above: dark gray
Below: whitish
Throat & breast: black
Face pattern: gray & white
Outer tail feathers: white

Dark-eyed Junco
Size: Length 6", Wingspan 10"



This species consists of three well-marked groups: Slate-colored, Gray-headed & Oregon.



Winter range

Slate-colored group:
Body (except belly):
Male: dark gray ;
Female: gray-tan
Belly & outer tail
feathers: white
Bill: pinkish



Winter range

Gray-headed group:
Head and underparts:
gray
Outer tail feathers:
white
Back: brown

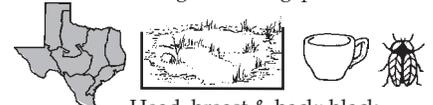


Winter range

Oregon group:
Head: black
Rump: gray
Back & sides: brown
Belly & outer tail
feathers: white



Eastern and Spotted Towhees
("Rufous-sided" Towhee)
Size: Length 8", Wingspan 11"



Spring, Fall
and Winter
migration

Head, breast & back: black
Eyes: red
Side: reddish brown (rufous)
Belly: white
Tail: black, rounded white corners

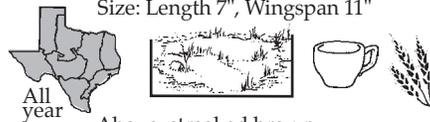
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Did You Know That . . .
The name "sparrow" is based on the Anglo-Saxon word meaning "flutterer."



Lark Sparrow

Size: Length 7", Wingspan 11"



All year

Above: streaked brown
Below: dingy
Face pattern: distinctive chestnut, white & black
Throat: white
Breast spots: black
Tail: white corners on dark, rounded tail

Sparrows, Juncos and Towhees

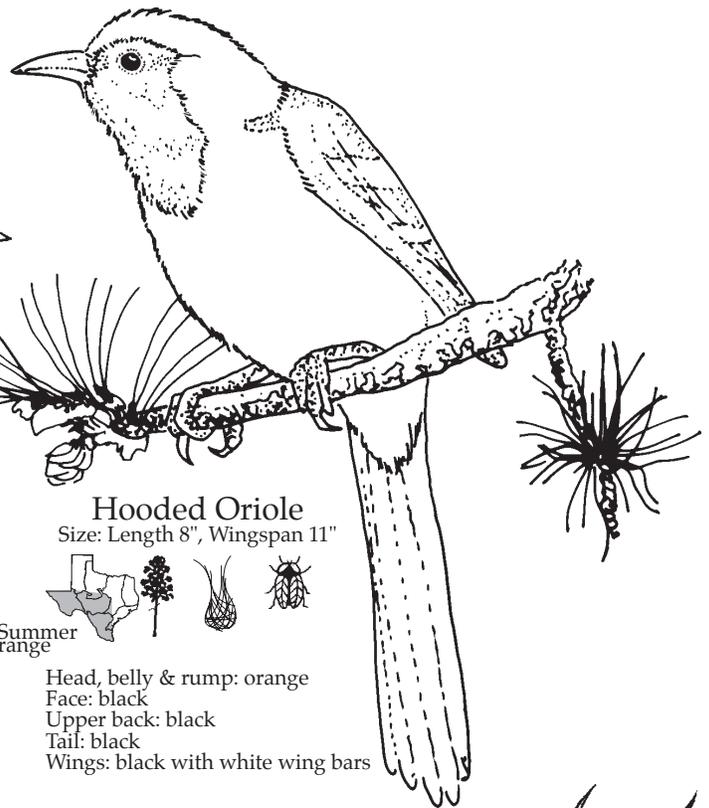
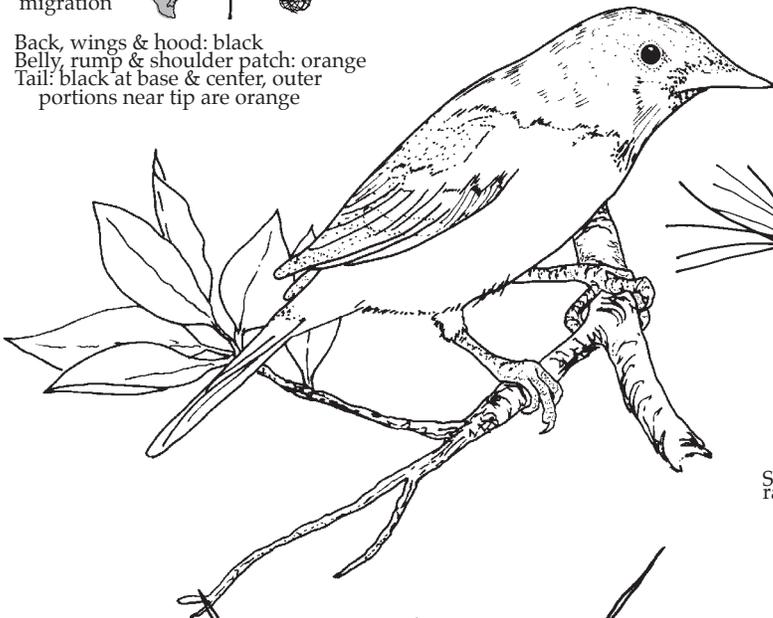
Many different kinds of sparrows and the related Dark-eyed Junco and "Rufous-sided" Towhee are common throughout the United States, and Texas is the wintering ground for many of them. Most sparrows are brown, but on close inspection have very intricate and beautiful plumages. The common House Sparrow is not actually related to these birds, it is an Old World Sparrow that has been introduced from Europe.

Baltimore Oriole

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 12"



Back, wings & hood: black
 Belly, rump & shoulder patch: orange
 Tail: black at base & center, outer portions near tip are orange



Hooded Oriole

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 11"



Head, belly & rump: orange
 Face: black
 Upper back: black
 Tail: black
 Wings: black with white wing bars



Red-winged Blackbird

Size: Length 8", Wingspan 14"

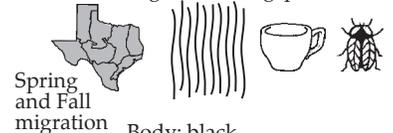


Body & head: black
 Shoulder epaulets: red bordered in orange



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Size: Length 10", Wingspan 16"



Body: black
 Head & breast: yellow
 Wing patch: white

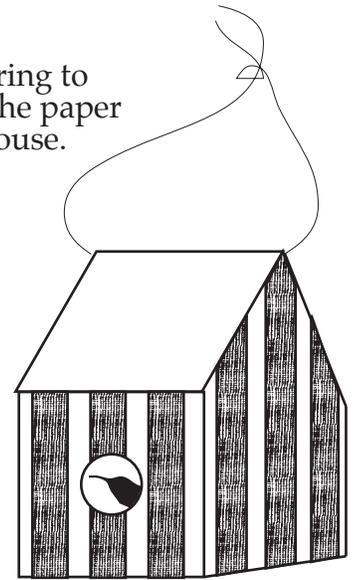
Blackbirds and Orioles

Blackbirds and orioles are closely related. This entire group of birds is found only in the Western Hemisphere or New World. True blackbirds are found nowhere else. Some of the birds in this group, the cowbirds, are brood parasites. They lay their eggs in other birds' nests and let those birds raise the young cowbirds. This is a threat to some rare birds because they end up raising too many cowbirds and not enough of their own young.

Build A Paper Birdhouse



Use string to hang the paper bird house.



Roof

Fold on roof line

Roof

- Copy onto colored paper.
- Carefully cut out bird house on heavy lines.
- Fold all tabs on thin lines to the inside of the bird house.
- Fold on the other thin lines.
- Tape or glue the tabs securely.

Wren Front View

Wren

Wren Side View

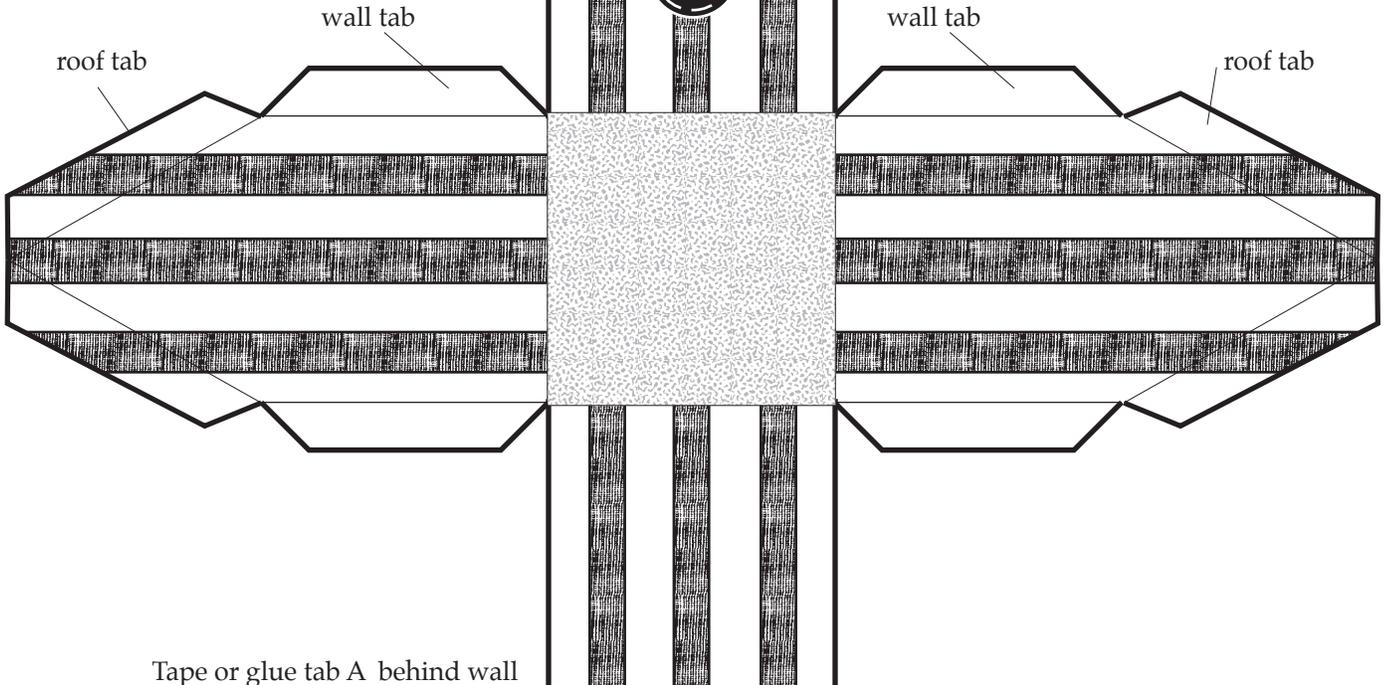
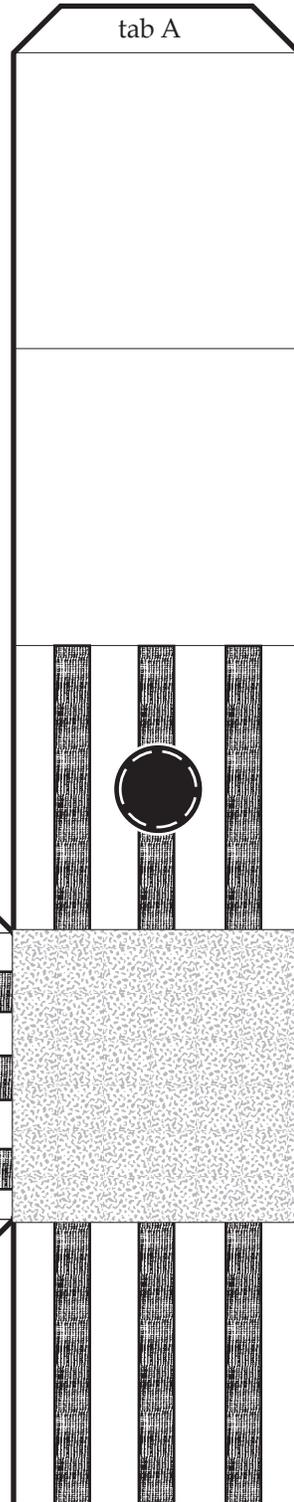
glue tab to back of Wren cutout

add a drop of glue to the bottom of bird (over "Wren"), to attach it to the floor of the paper birdhouse.

fold

glue tab

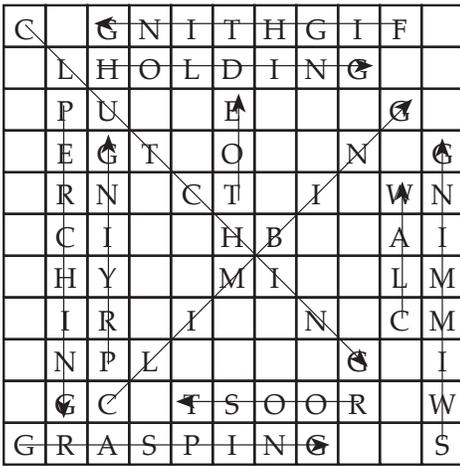
For those with nimble fingers, try to put the Wren in your birdhouse.



Tape or glue tab A behind wall

True or False
 Pages 5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 25, 26, 39, 41.
 All answers are TRUE.

Actions of the Feet, page 13

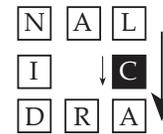


SWIMMING
 PRYING
 FIGHTING
 PERCHING
 CLIMBING
 CLUTCHING
 HOLDING
 GRASPING
 ROOSTING
 CLAWING

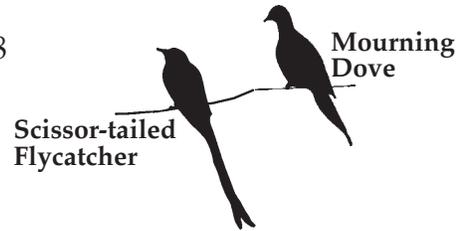
Box 3, page 16
 WARBLERS



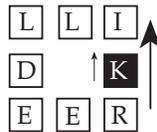
Box 4, page 17
 CARDINAL



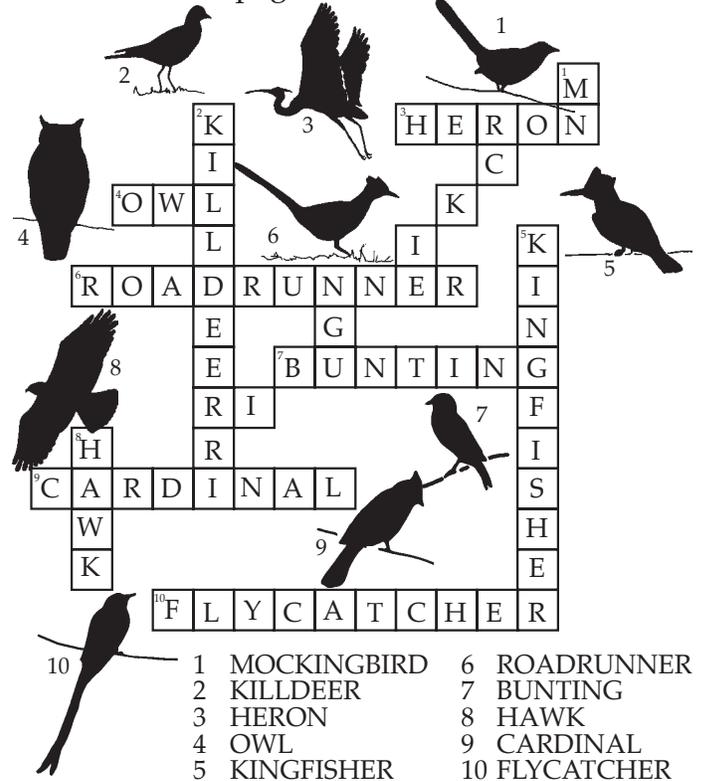
Page 18



Box 1, page 13
 KILLDEER



Bird Scrabble, page 28

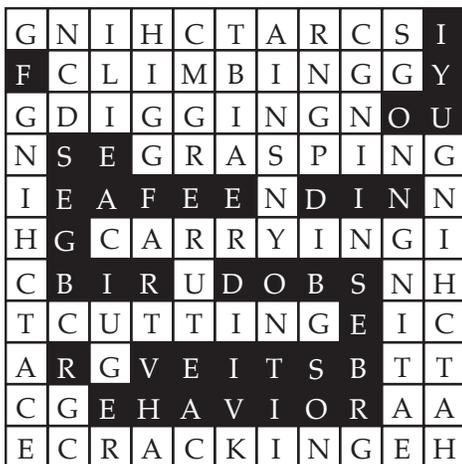
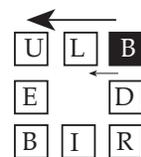


The Actions of the Bill, page 15



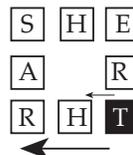
GRASPING
 CARRYING
 SCRATCHING
 DIGGING
 CRACKING
 CATCHING
 EATING
 CUTTING
 HATCHING
 CLIMBING
 EGG TURNING

Box 2, page 15
 BLUEBIRD

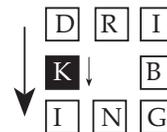


IF YOU SEE A FEEDING BIRD OBSERVE ITS BEHAVIOR.

Box 5, page 37
 THRASHER



Box 6, page 38
 KINGBIRD



Texas Birds

The following is a list of bird species either accepted for Texas by the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Texas Ornithological Society or those species recently documented that are expected to be accepted. This list totals 612 species as of August 1997 and includes taxonomic and nomenclatural changes outlined in the 41st supplement (Aug, July 1997) to the AOU Check-list of North American Birds.

- I = Introduced (6)
- E = Extinct (3)
- u = uncertain origin (stable to increasing populations of introduced/native origin) (2)
- * = birds expected to be accepted by the TBRC (8)

LOONS (Order Gaviiformes, Family Gaviidae)
 Red-throated Loon
 Pacific Loon
 Common Loon
 Yellow-billed Loon

GREBES (Order Podicipediformes, Family Podicipedidae)
 Least Grebe
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Horned Grebe
 Red-necked Grebe
 Eared Grebe
 Western Grebe
 Clark's Grebe

ALBATROSS (Order Procellariiformes, Family Diomedidae)
 Yellow-nosed Albatross

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS (Order Procellariiformes, Family Procellariidae)
 White-chinned Petrel
 Black-capped Petrel *
 Cory's Shearwater
 Greater Shearwater
 Sooty Shearwater
 Manx Shearwater
 Audubon's Shearwater

STORM-PETRELS (Order Procellariiformes, Family Hydrobatidae)
 Wilson's Storm-Petrel
 Leach's Storm-Petrel
 Band-rumped Storm-Petrel

TROPICBIRDS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Phaethontidae)
 Red-billed Tropicbird

BOOBIES AND GANNETS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Sulidae)
 Masked Booby
 Blue-footed Booby
 Brown Booby
 Red-footed Booby
 Northern Gannet

PELICANS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Pelicanidae)
 American White Pelican
 Brown Pelican

CORMORANTS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Phalacrocoracidae)
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Neotropical Cormorant

DARTERS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Anhingidae)
 Anhinga

FRIGATEBIRDS (Order Pelecaniformes, Family Fregatidae)
 Magnificent Frigatebird

BITTERNS AND HERONS (Order Ciconiiformes, Family Ardeidae)
 American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret
 Little Blue Heron
 Tricolored Heron
 Reddish Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS (Order Ciconiiformes, Family Threskiornithidae)
 White Ibis
 Glossy Ibis
 White-faced Ibis
 Roseate Spoonbill

STORKS (Order Ciconiiformes, Family Ciconiidae)
 Jabiru
 Wood Stork

AMERICAN VULTURES (Order Ciconiiformes, Family Cathartidae)
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture

FLAMINGOES (Order Phoenicopteriformes, Family Phoenicopteridae)
 Greater Flamingo

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS (Order Anseriformes, Family Anatidae)
 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
 Fulvous Whistling-Duck
 Greater White-fronted Goose
 Snow Goose
 Ross's Goose
 Canada Goose
 Brant
 Trumpeter Swan
 Tundra Swan
 Muscovy Duck
 Wood Duck
 Gadwall

Eurasian Wigeon
 American Wigeon
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Mottled Duck
 Blue-winged Teal
 Cinnamon Teal
 Northern Shoveler
 White-cheeked Pintail
 Northern Pintail
 Garganey
 Green-winged Teal
 Canvasback
 Redhead
 Ring-necked Duck
 Greater Scaup
 Lesser Scaup
 Harlequin Duck
 Surf Scoter
 White-winged Scoter
 Black Scoter
 Oldsquaw
 Bufflehead
 Common Goldeneye
 Barrow's Goldeneye
 Hooded Merganser
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Common Merganser
 Masked Duck
 Ruddy Duck

KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES AND ALLIES (Order Falconiformes, Family Accipitridae)

Osprey
 Hook-billed Kite
 Swallow-tailed Kite
 White-tailed Kite
 Snail Kite
 Mississippi Kite
 Bald Eagle
 Northern Harrier
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Crane Hawk
 Gray Hawk
 Common Black-Hawk
 Harris's Hawk
 Roadside Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Short-tailed Hawk
 Swainson's Hawk
 White-tailed Hawk
 Zone-tailed Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Ferruginous Hawk
 Rough-legged Hawk
 Golden Eagle

CARACARAS AND FALCONS (Order Falconiformes, Family Falconidae)
 Crested Caracara
 Collared Forest-Falcon
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Aplomado Falcon
 Prairie Falcon
 Peregrine Falcon

GUANS (Order Galliformes, Family Cracidae)
 Plain Chachalaca

PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND TURKEYS (Order Galliformes, Family Phasianidae)
 Ring-necked Pheasant (I)
 Greater Prairie-Chicken
 Lesser Prairie-Chicken
 Wild Turkey

NEW WORLD QUAIL (Order Galliformes, Family Odontophoridae)
 Montezuma Quail
 Northern Bobwhite
 Scaled Quail
 Gambel's Quail

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS (Order Gruiformes, Family Rallidae)
 Yellow Rail
 Black Rail
 Clapper Rail
 King Rail
 Virginia Rail
 Sora
 Paint-billed Crake
 Spotted Rail
 Purple Gallinule
 Common Moorhen
 American Coot

CRANES (Order Gruiformes, Family Gruidae)
 Sandhill Crane
 Whooping Crane

THICK-KNEES (Order Charadriiformes, Family Burhinidae)
 Double-striped Thick-knee

PLOVERS (Order Charadriiformes, Family Charadriidae)
 Black-bellied Plover
 American Golden-Plover
 Collared Plover
 Snowy Plover
 Wilson's Plover
 Semipalmated Plover
 Piping Plover
 Killdeer
 Mountain Plover

OYSTERCATCHERS (Order Charadriiformes, Family Haematopodidae)
 American Oystercatcher

STILTS AND AVOCETS (Order Charadriiformes, Family Recurvirostridae)
 Black-necked Stilt
 American Avocet

JACANAS (Order Charadriiformes, Family Jacanidae)
 Northern Jacana

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES (Order Charadriiformes, Family Scolopacidae)

Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Wandering Tattler
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Upland Sandpiper
 Eskimo Curlew
 Whimbrel
 Long-billed Curlew
 Hudsonian Godwit
 Marbled Godwit
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Surf-bird
 Red Knot
 Sanderling
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Red-necked Stint
 Least Sandpiper
 White-rumped Sandpiper
 Baird's Sandpiper
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
 Purple Sandpiper
 Dunlin
 Curlew Sandpiper
 Stilt Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Ruff
 Short-billed Dowitcher
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Common Snipe
 American Woodcock
 Wilson's Phalarope
 Red-necked Phalarope
 Red Phalarope

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS (Order Charadriiformes, Family Laridae)

- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Laughing Gull
- Franklin's Gull
- Little Gull
- Black-headed Gull
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Heermann's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- California Gull
- Herring Gull
- Thayer's Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull
- Western Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Kelp Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Sabine's Gull
- Gull-billed Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Royal Tern
- Elegant Tern
- Sandwich Tern
- Roseate Tern *
- Common Tern
- Arctic Tern *
- Forster's Tern
- Least Tern
- Bridled Tern
- Sooty Tern
- Black Tern
- Brown Noddy
- Black Noddy
- Black Skimmer



PIGEONS AND DOVES (Order Columbiformes, Family Columbidae)

- Rock Dove (I)
- Red-billed Pigeon
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (I)*
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Passenger Pigeon (E)
- Inca Dove
- Common Ground-Dove
- Ruddy Ground-Dove
- Ruddy Quail-Dove
- White-tipped Dove



PARAKEETS AND PARROTS (Order Psittaciformes, Family Psittacidae)

- Monk Parakeet (I)
- Carolina Parakeet (E)
- Green Parakeet (u)
- Red-crowned Parrot (u)



CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS AND ANIS (Order Cuculiformes, Family Cuculidae)

- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Mangrove Cuckoo
- Greater Roadrunner
- Groove-billed Ani



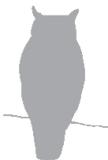
BARN OWLS (Order Strigiformes, Family Tytonidae)

- Barn Owl



TYPICAL OWLS (Order Strigiformes, Family Strigidae)

- Flammulated Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Western Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl
- Elf Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Mottled Owl
- Spotted Owl
- Barred Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Stygian Owl *
- Short-eared Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl



NIGHTJARS (Order Caprimulgiformes, Family Caprimulgidae)

- Lesser Nighthawk
- Common Nighthawk
- Pauraque
- Common Poorwill
- Chuck-will's-widow
- Whip-poor-will



SWIFTS (Order Apodiformes, Family Apodidae)

- White-collared Swift
- Chimney Swift
- White-throated Swift



HUMMINGBIRDS (Order Apodiformes, Family Trochilidae)

- Green Violet-ear
- Green-breasted Mango
- Broad-billed Hummingbird
- White-eared Hummingbird
- Berylline Hummingbird *
- Buff-bellied Hummingbird
- Violet-crowned Hummingbird
- Blue-throated Hummingbird
- Magnificent Hummingbird
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Costa's Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Allen's Hummingbird



TROGONS (Order Trogoniformes, Family Trogonidae)

- Elegant Trogon

KINGFISHERS (Order Coraciiformes, Family Alcedinidae)

- Ringed Kingfisher
- Belted Kingfisher
- Green Kingfisher

WOODPECKERS AND ALLIES (Order Piciformes, Family Picidae)

- Lewis's Woodpecker
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Golden-fronted Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Red-breasted Sapsucker *
- Williamson's Sapsucker
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Ivory-billed Woodpecker (E)



TYRANT FLYCATCHERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Tyrannidae)

- Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
- Greenish Elaenia
- Tufted Flycatcher
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Greater Pewee
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Hammond's Flycatcher
- Dusky Flycatcher
- Gray Flycatcher
- Cordilleran Flycatcher
- Black Phoebe
- Eastern Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Brown-crested Flycatcher
- Great Kiskadee
- Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
- Tropical Kingbird
- Couch's Kingbird
- Cassin's Kingbird
- Thick-billed Kingbird
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird
- Gray Kingbird
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher
- Rose-throated Becard
- Masked Tityra



SHRIKES (Order Passeriformes, Family Laniidae)

- Northern Shrike
- Loggerhead Shrike



VIREOS (Order Passeriformes, Family Vireonidae)

- White-eyed Vireo
- Bell's Vireo
- Black-capped Vireo
- Gray Vireo
- Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo
- Cassin's (Solitary) Vireo
- Plumbeous (Solitary) Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Hutton's Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-green Vireo
- Black-whiskered Vireo
- Yucatan Vireo



JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS (Order Passeriformes, Family Corvidae)

- Steller's Jay
- Blue Jay
- Green Jay
- Brown Jay
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Mexican Jay
- Pinyon Jay
- Clark's Nutcracker
- Black-billed Magpie
- American Crow
- Tamaulipas Crow
- Fish Crow
- Chihuahuan Raven
- Common Raven



LARKS (Order Passeriformes, Family Alaudidae)

- Horned Lark



SWALLOWS (Order Passeriformes, Family Hirundinidae)

- Purple Martin
- Gray-breasted Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Violet-green Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Cave Swallow



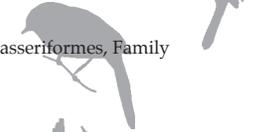
TITMICE (Order Passeriformes, Family Paridae)

- Carolina Chickadee
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Mountain Chickadee
- Juniper (Plain) Titmouse
- Tufted Titmouse



VERDINS (Order Passeriformes, Family Remizidae)

- Verdin



BUSHTITS (Order Passeriformes, Family Aegithalidae)

- Bushtit

NUTHATCHES (Order Passeriformes, Family Sittidae)

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Pygmy Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch



CREEPERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Certhiidae)

- Brown Creeper

WRENS (Order Passeriformes, Family Troglodytidae)

- Cactus Wren
- Rock Wren
- Canyon Wren
- Carolina Wren
- Bewick's Wren
- House Wren
- Winter Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren



DIPPERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Cinclidae)

- American Dipper



KINGLETS (Order Passeriformes, Family Regulidae)

- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet



GNATCATCHERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Sylviidae)
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Black-tailed Gnatcatcher



THRUSHES AND ALLIES (Order Passeriformes, Family Turdidae)
 Northern Wheatear
 Eastern Bluebird
 Western Bluebird
 Mountain Bluebird
 Townsend's Solitaire
 Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 Clay-colored Robin
 White-throated Robin
 Rufous-backed Robin
 American Robin
 Varied Thrush
 Aztec Thrush



THRASHERS AND ALLIES (Order Passeriformes, Family Mimidae)
 Gray Catbird
 Black Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 Sage Thrasher
 Brown Thrasher
 Long-billed Thrasher
 Curve-billed Thrasher
 Crissal Thrasher



STARLINGS (Order Passeriformes, Family Sturnidae)
 European Starling (I)



PIPITS (Order Passeriformes, Family Motacillidae)
 American Pipit
 Sprague's Pipit



WAXWINGS (Order Passeriformes, Family Bombycillidae)
 Bohemian Waxwing
 Cedar Waxwing



SILKY-FLYCATCHERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Phylloscopidae)
 Gray Silky-flycatcher
 Phainopepla



OLIVE WARBLER (Order Passeriformes, Family Peucedramidae)
 Olive Warbler



WOOD-WARBLERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Parulidae)
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Virginia's Warbler
 Colima Warbler
 Lucy's Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Tropical Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Gray Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 Hermit Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Golden-cheeked Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Grace's Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler



WOOD-WARBLERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Parulidae) (continued)
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Swainson's Warbler
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler
 Connecticut Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Gray-crowned Yellowthroat
 Hooded Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 Red-faced Warbler
 Painted Redstart
 Slate-throated Redstart *
 Golden-crowned Warbler
 Rufous-capped Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Chat



TANAGERS (Order Passeriformes, Family Tropaupidae)
 Hepatic Tanager
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Western Tanager
 Flame-colored Tanager



SPARROWS, BUNTINGS AND ALLIES (Order Passeriformes, Family Emberizidae)
 White-collared Seedeater
 Yellow-faced Grassquit
 Olive Sparrow
 Green-tailed Towhee
 Eastern Towhee
 Spotted Towhee
 Canyon Towhee
 Bachman's Sparrow
 Botteri's Sparrow
 Cassin's Sparrow
 Rufous-crowned Sparrow
 American Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Black-chinned Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Black-throated Sparrow
 Sage Sparrow
 Lark Bunting
 Savannah Sparrow
 Baird's Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Henslow's Sparrow
 Le Conte's Sparrow
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Harris's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Yellow-eyed Junco
 McCown's Longspur
 Lapland Longspur
 Smith's Longspur
 Chestnut-collared Longspur
 Snow Bunting



GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES (Order Passeriformes, Family Cardinalidae)
 Crimson-collared Grosbeak
 Northern Cardinal
 Pyrrhuloxia
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Black-headed Grosbeak
 Blue Bunting
 Blue Grosbeak
 Lazuli Bunting
 Indigo Bunting
 Varied Bunting
 Painted Bunting
 Dickcissel



BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES (Order Passeriformes, Family Icteridae)
 Bobolink
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Rusty Blackbird
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Shiny Cowbird
 Bronzed Cowbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Black-vented Oriole
 Orchard Oriole
 Hooded Oriole
 Altamira Oriole
 Audubon's Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 Bullock's Oriole
 Scott's Oriole



FINCHES AND ALLIES (Order Passeriformes, Family Fringillidae)
 Pine Grosbeak
 Purple Finch
 Cassin's Finch
 House Finch
 Red Crossbill
 White-winged Crossbill
 Common Redpoll
 Pine Siskin
 Lesser Goldfinch
 Lawrence's Goldfinch
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak



OLD WORLD SPARROWS (Order Passeriformes, Family Passeridae)
 House Sparrow (I)



Presumptive Species List

The following is the official TBRC list of species for which written descriptions of sight records have been accepted by the TBRC but the species has not yet met the requirements for full acceptance on the Texas List (specimen, photo, video, or audio recording).

Murre species
 White-crowned Pigeon
 Social Flycatcher
 Crescent-chested Warbler

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 Distributed to the Trade by:

University of Texas Press
PO Box 7819
Austin, Tx 78713-7819

ISBN 1-885696-17-5



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