



Seattle is --



FOR
THE
BIRDS

How to Identify Common Seattle Birds

Seattle  Audubon Society
for birds and nature
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Seattle  Audubon Society
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*Official Bird of Seattle -
The Great Blue Heron*

We hope you will use this book to learn how to look at the birds all around us in a new light. Over a hundred different bird species share our great city. This book features some of the ones you are most likely to see. Can you find them all in your neighborhood and nearby parks?

Brought to you by:
The Seattle Audubon Society
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Seattle Parks and Recreation

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Check the box beside each bird you have seen

The Featured Flock...

American Crow



Habitat:
everywhere

Barn Swallow



Habitat: open
areas, fields

American Robin



Habitat:
lawns,
parks,
woods

Steller's Jay



Habitat:
forests,
wooded
parks

Belted Kingfisher (♀)



Habitat:
near
water

Red-breasted Nuthatch



Habitat:
parks,
gardens,
woods

Glaucous-winged Gull



Habitat:
beaches,
lakes, open
areas, parking
lots

Bushtit



Habitat:
parks,
gardens,
woods

Mallard (♂)



Habitat:
wetlands,
open water

How many of these have you seen?

Northern Flicker (♂)



Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens

Anna's Hummingbird (♂)



Habitat:
woods, parks,
gardens

Bewick's Wren



Habitat:
woods, parks,
gardens

Spotted Towhee



Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens

European Starling



Habitat:
everywhere

American Coot



Habitat:
water

Killdeer



Habitat: near
water, gravel
parking lots

Great Blue Heron



Habitat:
wetlands,
open water

Bald Eagle



Habitat:
near
water,
flying
overhead

Create Your Own Bird

Now make up your own bird and draw it below. Be sure to describe its size, shape, field marks, habitat, behavior and song. What does it eat?

 your bird's name

 size and shape

 field marks

 habitat

 song

 behavior

 bill type / food

Test Your Memory

Can you describe the size and shape of one bird?

bird name: _____

size and shape: _____

Can you describe the field marks of one bird?

bird name: _____

field marks: _____

Can you describe one bird's bill and what it eats?

bird name: _____

kind of bill: _____

food: _____

Can you describe one behavior and a bird that does it?

bird name: _____

behavior: _____

Can you name one habitat and a bird that lives there?

bird name: _____

habitat: _____

Can you describe one bird's voice?

bird name: _____

voice: _____

Song Sparrow



Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens

Downy Woodpecker

Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens



House Sparrow (♂)



Habitat:
cities,
parking
lots

White-crowned Sparrow

Habitat:
parks,
gardens,
parking
lots



American Goldfinch (♂)



Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens

Black-capped Chickadee

Habitat:
woods,
parks,
gardens



Red-winged Blackbird (♂)



Habitat:
near water

House Finch (♀)



Habitat:
parks,
gardens

Double-crested Cormorant

Habitat: water



Bird Identification Clues

Use these important clues to identify a bird...

Clue 1: Body Type (Size & Shape)

Often the first thing you notice. Things to look at: Overall shape of the bird (fat, thin, tall, short); length of neck, legs, tail, bill; shape of tail, wings, bill, head



The **Great Blue Heron** is tall and thin. It has long legs, a long neck and a short tail.



The **Glaucous-winged Gull** has a wedge-shaped body and a round head.



The **Bushtit** is tiny with a round body, long tail and small, thin bill.

Can you think of the sizes and shapes of any other birds?

Bird Name: _____

Size and shape: _____

Draw a Bird

Choose a bird from this book or another one you've seen, then draw it and fill out the information for it at the bottom of the page.

bird's name

size and shape

field marks

habitat

sound

behavior

bill type / food

Where Are They Seen?

Draw a line from the bird to the kind of **HABITAT** where you'd expect to see it.



at a bird feeder



Red-winged Blackbird (♂)



in an urban area



American Robin



in a park or lawn



Double-crested Cormorant



in the water



House Sparrow (♂)



in a wetland



American Goldfinch (♂)

Can you think of any other kinds of birds and their habitats?

Bird _____ Bird _____

Habitat _____ Habitat _____

Clue 2: Colors & Patterns (Field Marks)

Very important for identifying birds that are a similar size and shape. Things to look at: Overall colors, colors of the head, bill, wings, tail, back, breast, belly, legs, feet; patterns on the head, wings, tail, upper and under-parts.

The **White-crowned Sparrow**

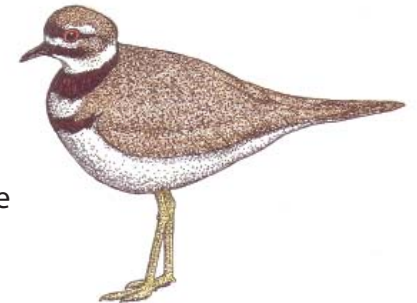
has a distinctive striped pattern on its head. Its undersides are clear gray with no streaks or spots.



The **American Goldfinch**

(♂) is bright yellow with black wings and tail and a black forehead. Its wings have white bars.

The **Killdeer** has a brown back, white belly, and two distinctive black bands around its neck and breast. It also has a dark moustache stripe on its cheek.



Can you think of some field marks for other birds?

Bird Name: _____

Field Marks: _____

Clue 3: Bill Types, Also Called Beaks

Bills help us identify birds and know something about what they eat.



The **Great Blue Heron's** bill is long and pointed like a spear. It is good for catching fish.

The **Song Sparrow's** bill is short, thick and pointed. It is good for cracking and eating seeds.



The **Bewick's Wren's** bill is small and thin. It is good for eating insects.

The **Bald Eagle's** bill is large and sharply hooked. It is good for tearing meat.



Can you think of any other kinds of bills and their uses?

Bird Name: _____

Bill description _____

Uses: _____

How Do They Act?

Draw a line from the description of the **BEHAVIOR** to the drawing of the bird that does it, then to the bird's name.



swimming & diving from the water

Northern Flicker (♂)



gathering in large, noisy groups

American Coot



pecking on the side of a tree

Glaucous-winged Gull



Diving into the water from the air

Bald Eagle



flying without flapping (soaring)

Belted Kingfisher (♀)

Can You Describe Them?

FACIAL FEATURES: Draw a line from the drawing of the bird's head to its description, then to the bird's name.



yellow with
black forehead

American
Goldfinch
(♂)



white chin, thick
black eyestripe,
white line over
eye, & black cap

Red-breasted
Nuthatch



gray cheek with
black stripe,
then white
stripe, then
black, then
white crown

Anna's
Hummingbird
(♂)



Shiny red scales
on entire head
with white eye-
stripe

Downy
Woodpecker
(♂)



Black stripe,
then white
stripe on cheek,
black eye-stripe,
white stripe
over eye, black
cap, & small red
patch at back of
head

White-crowned
Sparrow



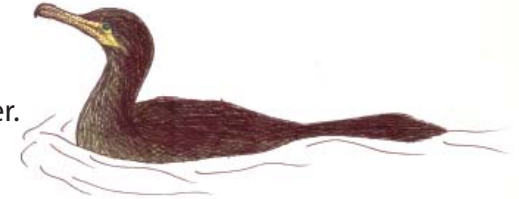
Glossy blue-
black back of
head, reddish-
brown face

Barn
Swallow

Clue 4: How do they act?

Does the bird walk or hop? Does it stand in the water, on a branch, or hold onto the side of a tree? Does it flap its wings a lot, a little, or almost never? Does it move its head, wings or tail in an unusual way? How does it get its food? Is it found in a group, a pair, or alone?

The **Double-crested Cormorant** often swims low in the water. It also sits in the sun with its wings spread.



The **Anna's Hummingbird** (♀) hovers in front of flowers and sips nectar.

The **Spotted Towhee** hides in low bushes and underbrush. It looks for insects under leaves by kicking backwards with both feet at once.



Can you think of another kind of behavior and why a bird acts this way?

Bird name: _____ Behavior: _____

Why do you think the bird does this? _____

Clue 5: Where is it seen?

A habitat is where an animal is usually found. Did you see the bird in the woods, in a park, in the city or on the water?

Parks, Lawns and Gardens



American Robin



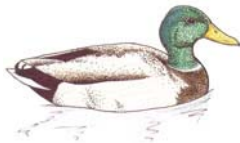
House Finch (♀)

Wetlands



Red-winged Blackbird (♂)

Open Water - lakes, ponds, Puget Sound



Mallard (♂)



House Sparrow (♂)

Urban Areas

Many Habitats



Glaucous-winged Gull



American Crow



European Starling

Can you think of another habitat and some birds that live there?

Habitat: _____

Birds: _____

DISTINCTIVE MARKS: Match the bird with the best description of its **FIELD MARKS**. You can use the index to look up birds you don't know.

Song Sparrow

dark brown body, white head and tail

Killdeer

plain brown with white eyebrow

European Starling

two black rings around neck and breast

Black-capped Chickadee

blue with black head and breast

Steller's Jay

glossy black with light spots and yellow bill

Bald Eagle

black crown and throat, white cheeks

Bewick's Wren

streaky brown

Which Clues Fit These Birds?

BODY TYPE: Draw a line from the drawing of the bird to its description, and then draw a line from the description to its name.



large body,
round head
with short
curled tail

Downy
Woodpecker
(♂)



very short
neck, stiff
tail, short
legs

American
Crow



tiny, narrow
wings and
long thin
bill

Mallard
(♂)



large
and solid,
upright
posture
with heavy
bill

Anna's
Hummingbird
(♂)

Clue 6: What kind of voice does it have?

Birds can make many different sounds. Some birds sound a little bit like they are saying something in English.

The **Black-capped Chickadee** calls its name.

chick - a -
dee - dee -
dee



The **Killdeer** usually says 'k'dee' but sometimes it whistles its name, 'kill-deer.'



k'deeeee k'deeeee
k'deeeee k'deeeee

The **White-crowned Sparrow** says 'See me pretty pretty me.'



If these translations don't make sense to you, make up your own to help you remember what a bird sounds like. No matter what birds say, be sure to listen to them. You'll soon find that you can recognize them just by their sounds.

Clue 7: Dressed like a Boy or Girl?

Male and female birds sometimes look different. The symbol ♀ is used for females and ♂ for males. Can you find a male and female of the same kind of bird somewhere in this book (there are two) and describe the differences?

Bird Name: _____ Bird Name: _____

Differences: _____ Differences: _____

Let's Review the Clues

Look through the first part of this book to help you with these games.

BODY TYPE: Circle the word or words under the bird that best describes its size and shape

Barn Swallow



tall
long tail
long legs

Belted Kingfisher (♀)



long neck
large head
long legs

American Coot



medium-length neck
short tail
upright posture

FIELD MARKS: Cross out the word or words under the bird that ARE NOT good field marks.

Northern Flicker (♂)



moustache stripe
short bill
plain underside

Red-breasted Nuthatch



spotted belly
streaked back
black eyestripe

Steller's Jay



crest on head
black head
white chin

What do they eat? What kind of food do you think a bird with a **BILL** like this would eat? Circle your answer.

Bushtit



meat
insects
flower nectar

Anna's Hummingbird (♀)



fish
flower nectar
seeds

Belted Kingfisher (♀)



what do you think? _____

How do they act? Circle the best description of each bird's **BEHAVIOR**.

Downy Woodpecker (♀)



swimming
standing on one leg
holding onto the side of a tree

Great Blue Heron



standing in water
diving
hopping on ground

American Coot



what do you think? _____

Where are they seen? Cross out the name of the bird that does not belong in each **HABITAT**.

Urban



European Starling
House Sparrow
Spotted Towhee

Lawn



American Crow
Bald Eagle
American Robin

Open Water



American Coot
Double-crested Cormorant
Song Sparrow