

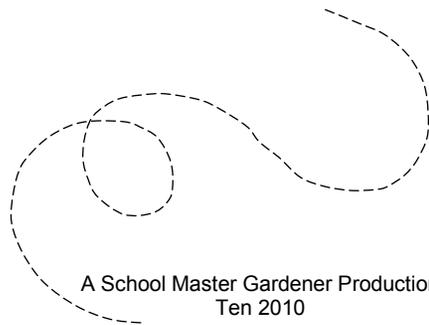
# My Bird Log - a kid's journal to record their birding experiences



Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



A School Master Gardener Production  
Ten 2010

# Getting started

A field notebook is just for you, by you. These are your **observations**. Make drawings and sketches if you can't find the words!



Wherever you go, take notes on these pages just as you would in class.

Always start by writing down:

1. where you are (name a major landmark or street intersection, then city or county and state)
2. the date
3. your notes

**1** Fernbank Science Center  
Atlanta, Ga  
June 23, 2006

**2**

**3**

Forest walk	animals I saw:
Plants I saw:	Squirrel
American Beech Tree	Chipmunks
Dogwood	Millipedes
Tulip Tree	Slugs
Wild Ginger	Spider
Redbud	Woodpecker
Ferns & moss	Earthworms
	ants

What is the bird doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does it sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a nest? Eggs? If so, describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other interesting things I noticed:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It looks like this:

# LOG

Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Bird Location:  ground  tree  air

phone wire  other \_\_\_\_\_

How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_

How big is the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Any distinctive markings? \_\_\_\_\_

What colors are on it? \_\_\_\_\_

What shape are the wings?

- long  short  pointy  round  
 straight  other \_\_\_\_\_

What does the beak look like??

- thick  pointy  short  long  hooked

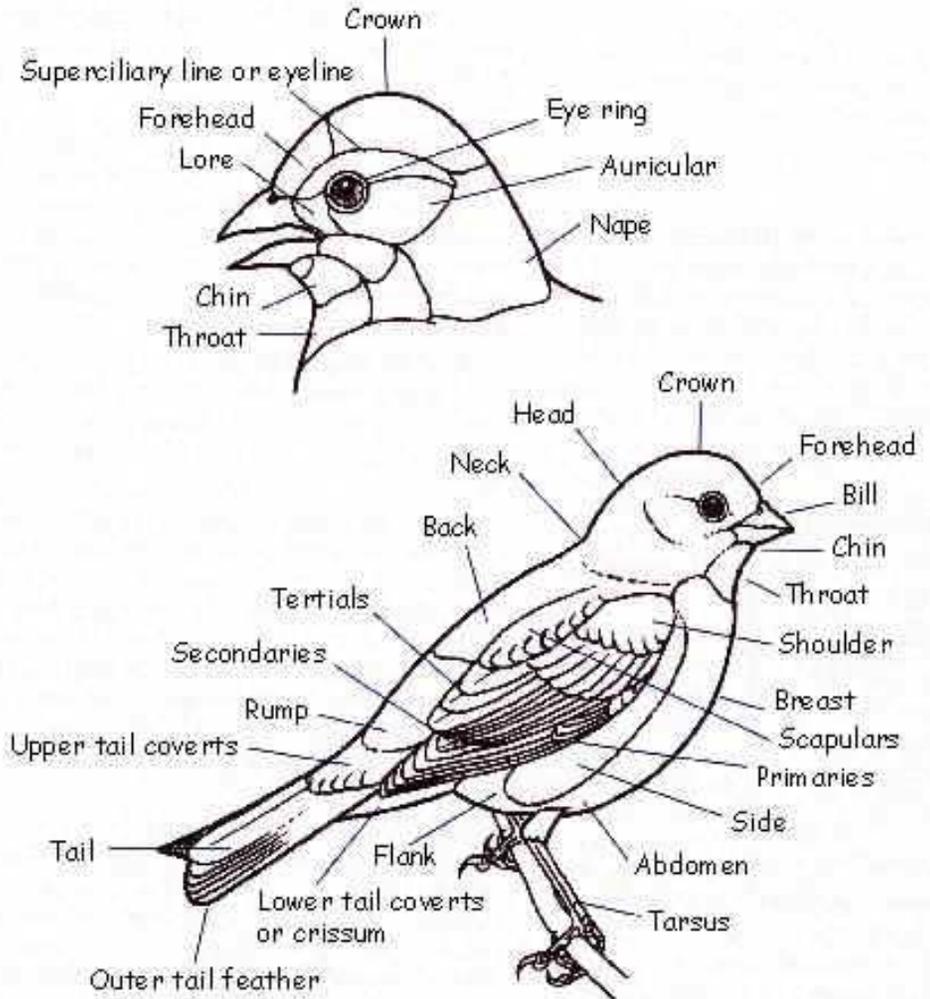
Color \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a band on it's leg?

Name of bird I saw (enter this on your life list)

## Bird Topography

If you know the different parts of a bird, it's easier to identify them. This is a combination of many birds, not a real one.



# COMMON WORDS

**Bird of Prey:** A hunting bird. Usually means the day-flying raptors, but sometimes refers to all birds that hunt prey generally larger than insects. This phrase is not usually used to describe insect-eating and fish-eating birds.

**Call:** A short sound or even a few notes usually used by a bird to tell other birds he/she is there, or that there's danger.

**Carrion:** Dead and decaying animals or their parts, eaten by birds, (or other carrion eaters) that usually have not killed them.

**Clutch:** The set of eggs laid and taken care of by one parent or pair of birds at a time.

**Color Phase:** Different feather colors that distinguish some birds from others of the same species.

**Display:** The way a bird moves or presents itself to tell other birds when it wants to mate or when it wants to fight.

**Down:** A loose-textured, soft, fluffy feather or part of a feather, that helps insulate the body and retain heat.

**Eye Ring:** A narrow and differently colored ring of feathers or skin around the eye.

**Eye Stripe:** A differently colored stripe that goes across the side of the head including the area around the eye.

**Forage:** To look for any kind of food by hunting in an area.

**Habitat:** The type of natural place where a bird typically lives for example: forest, swamp, shoreline, desert, etc.

**Immature:** A fully grown bird not old enough to breed, often with different feather colors than the adult. Another word for "Juvenile".

What is the bird doing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**Incubation:** To keep an egg warm, usually by the mother bird sitting on it, letting the chick inside grow.

**Iridescent:** The sparkling appearance of a feather. The feather structure makes it reflect light in such a way that it appears to be different colors.

**Migratory:** A type of bird that leaves an area and typically returns, either when the seasons change or to find food.

**Mimicry:** The ability of a bird to imitate sounds it hears, such as the songs and calls of other bird species, or occasionally other sounds, including the human voice.

**Mobbing:** Noisy calls and pretend attacks by a group of birds against another bird.

**Molt:** The process of shedding feathers. The feathers are usually replaced by new ones which may be of a different color or shape. This can happen before breeding, migration or when a change of season occurs.

**Nestling:** A very young bird that needs to remain in a nest and be tended by adults.

**Preening:** The action of a bird using its bill and/or claws to clean and groom its feathers.

**Range:** The area where a species of bird is typically found.

**Roost:** 1) To rest or sleep 2) A place where birds rest/sleep 3) a site where many birds roost.

**Song:** A series of sounds or recognizable melody that a bird makes usually to declare its territory or to attract a mate.

**Territory:** An area defended by one or several birds, usually used for feeding and often for nesting. The area may be small, only surrounding one bird, or as much as several square miles.

Name of bird I saw (enter this on your life list)

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What is the bird doing? \_\_\_\_\_

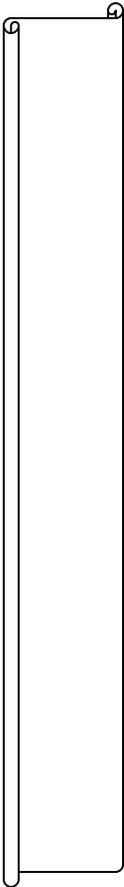
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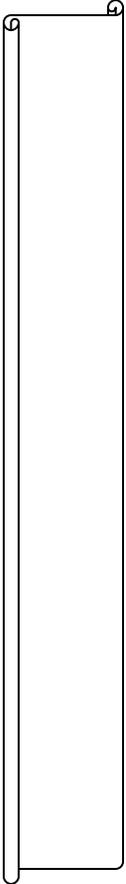
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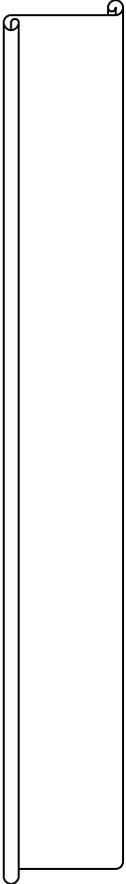
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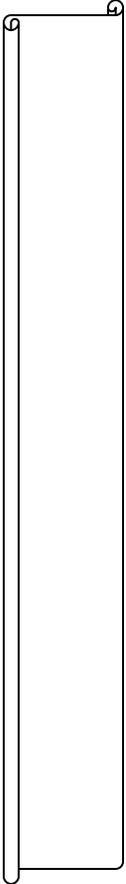
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