

Dhem Birds Dhem Birds

By Linda Palmer & Maggie Hunter

This lesson plan may be used as a precursor to the “Illustrating Birds of the Grant- Korhs Ranch, NHS”.

Grades 5-8
Science

Time: 5 Thirty-minute periods

Objectives: The students will learn the field marks used to identify birds, and how to distinguish between the different markings. They will use these field markings to identify birds, found at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS. In order to describe a bird, ornithologists divide its body into regions: beak (or bill), head, wings, tail, and legs. To help with identification, many of these regions are divided still further. This diagram of regions of the bird's body shows some of the commonly used descriptive terms.

Summary: Students will be given illustrations of twenty-five birds, commonly found in riparian habit of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS.

Materials needed:

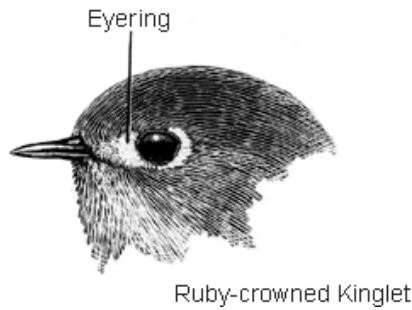
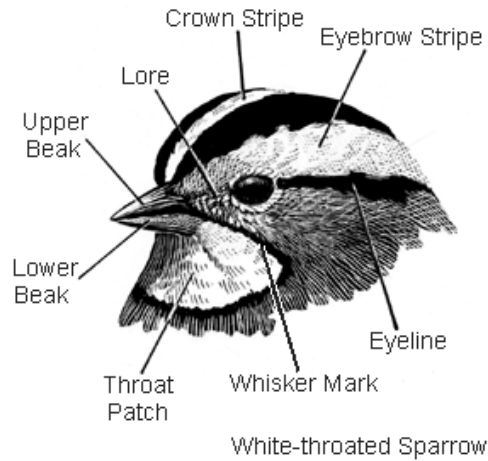
1. A Field Guide to the Common Birds by Habitat Type and Basic Color, (Swant & Kohler)
2. Data sheet (see attached)
3. Teacher prepared bird picture worksheets (see attached)

Teacher:

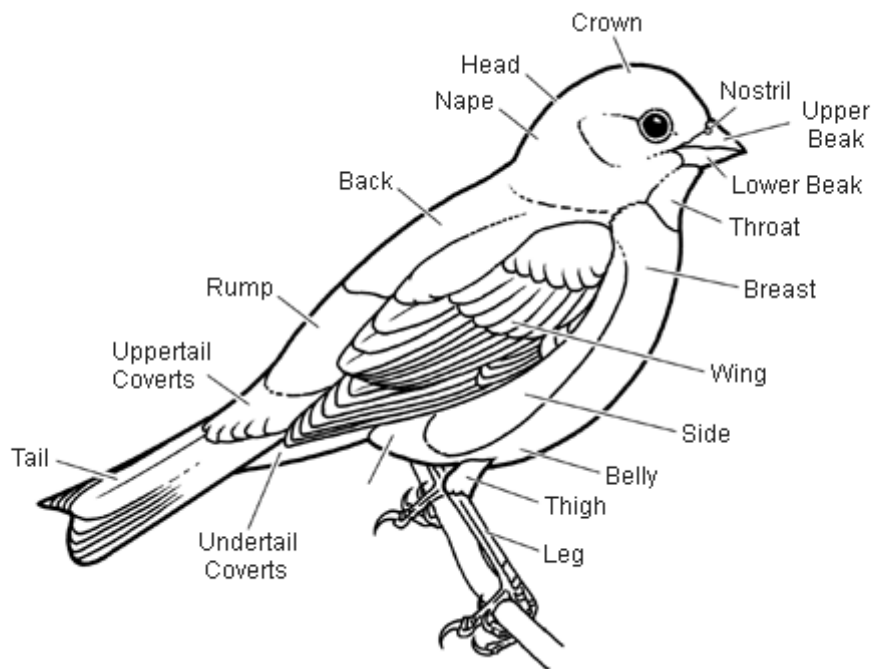
1. Review the different field marks used to identify songbirds. Including but not limited to the head, beaks, breast, bird color, wing bars, tail, legs, and feet.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the shape of the beak?
2. What is the color of the beak?
3. Does it have an eye ring?
4. Are there any distinguishing colors on the head?



5. What is the color of the breast?
6. Is it streaked, clear or have a central dot?
7. What is the overall color of the bird?
8. Does it hop, flick its tail, scratch, or hang upside down?
9. Is it on the ground, in a bush or high in the tree?

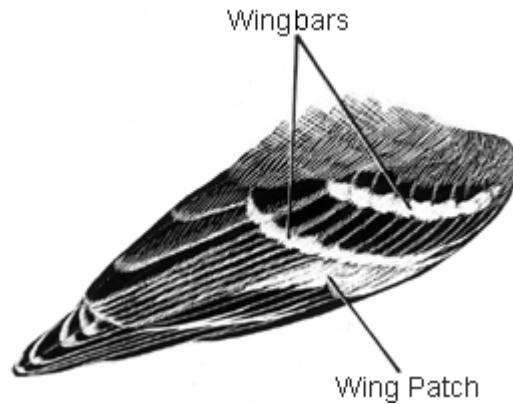


10. Are the wings different than the body?

11. Do the wings have bars?

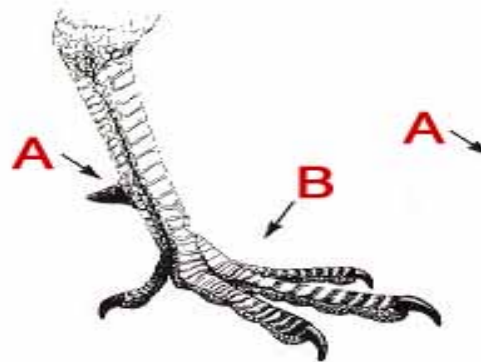
12. Is the tail blunt, the same length as the tail or shorter than the tail?

13. Do the wings extend beyond the tail, the same length as the tail or shorter than the tail?



14. What color are the legs and feet?

15. What behavioral traits do the birds show?



Activity:

The teacher will use an illustration of the different field markings to locate and define the specific body parts. The students will be given photographs of riparian birds found at the Grant Kohrs Ranch, NHS, to identify using these field marks (or your own park's birds).

Optional Activity:

1. Plan a walking field trip to Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS, (or your park) to find and identify the riparian songbirds.
2. Discuss and review park etiquette, reminding students proper birding techniques.
3. To set up a bird-banding workshop, contact the Avian Science Center at the University of Montana:
http://avianscience.dbs.umt.edu/about_staff.htm.
4. Prepare a songbird PowerPoint presentation.

Science Content Standards: #3
Benchmark 5

Riparian Songbird Worksheet

Description of bird



1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird:

E
X
A
M
P
L
E

1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird:

E
X
A
M
P
L
E

1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird

Student Worksheet

Name:

1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird:

1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird

1. Head
2. Breast
3. Wings
4. Tail
5. Legs

Name of bird: