

-Wear neutral-colored clothing.

with a pair of binoculars.

-Bring a bird ID guide, such as a book or phone app, to help with identification, along

to avoid scaring birds while bird watching.

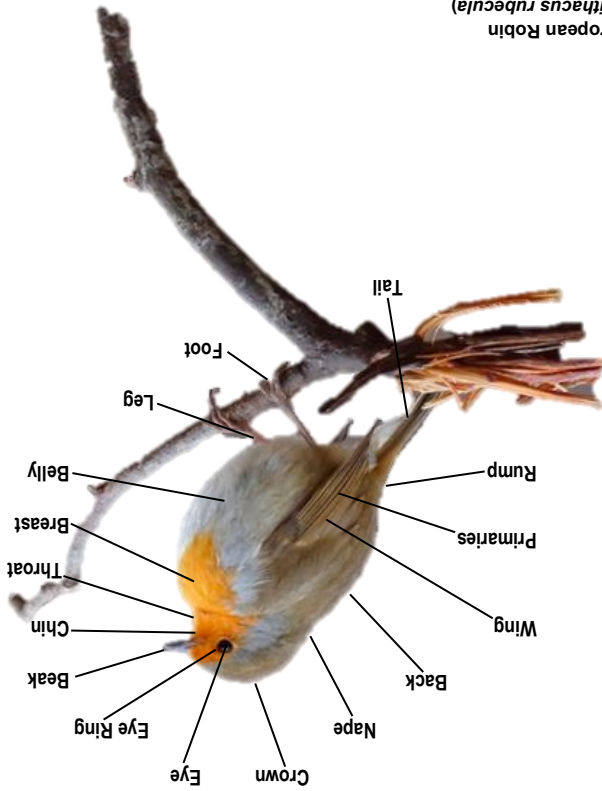
-Remember to speak quietly and walk slowly

- Sound
- Habitat
- Behavior
- Color Pattern
- Size and Shape

Recognizing the different features of a bird can aid in narrowing down identification.

How to ID Birds

European Robin
(*Eirithacus rubecula*)



Parts of a Bird

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ALL ABOUT BIRDS

Bird Watching and

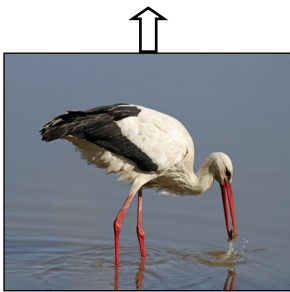
Identification Techniques



Blue Tit
(*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Size and Shape

- Birds come in all **shapes and sizes**.
- Some have long legs, while others have short legs. Some are small-bodied with small beaks, while others are large with large beaks.
- **Beaks are designed to aid in eating habits.** Long, pointy beaks might spear food such as fish or grubs. Short, thick beaks can help with eating hard-shelled seeds and nuts.
- *Tip: Look at the size of the bird relative to an object of known size, such as your hand.*



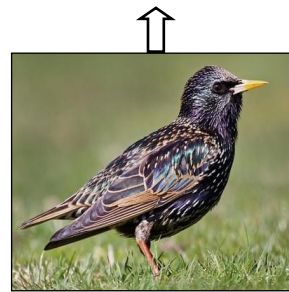
White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)



White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Color Pattern

- Consider how **colors** are distributed on a bird's body, such as its throat, head, back, wings, and breast.
- Does the bird have **stripes or spots**? Where? Are the feathers shimmering, or iridescent?
- *Dimorphism* is the difference in color and shape between males and females, a characteristic that occurs in some birds.
- Young birds may also look slightly different from their adult counterparts.



Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)



Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)

Behavior

- Watching birds can provide great insight for their **natural ecology**, such as what, where, and how they eat, specific body movements, where they nest, and more.
- Some birds have behaviors specific to their family group. For example, Wagtails wag, or bob, their tail up and down while they walk.

Sound

- Every bird has a **unique song and call**, and it is typically possible to identify a bird solely by the sound it makes.
- Some birds "**mimic**" others, while others might say their own name, such as the Cuckoo.
- **Practice is key!**

Habitat

- Considering **where a bird is found** can aid in identification. Some birds are only likely to be found near coastal areas, while others prefer being in the middle of a forest.
- Geographic location is also important, as some birds are only found in certain parts of the world. For example, birds in North America might not be found in Europe.



Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)