



World of  
**BIRDS**

**EXPLORER'S HANDBOOK**

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# 1

## WHAT MAKES A BIRD A BIRD?

*Step into the world of birds, where every chirp and flutter tells a story! From their remarkable feathers and powerful wings to their unique roles in nature, birds are fascinating creatures. Join us as we uncover what makes birds special and explore the amazing ways they shape the world around us!*

### VOCABULARY

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Class Aves



Ectotherm



Endotherm



Invertebrates



Taxonomy



Tetrapod



Vertebrates

# OUTLINE & NOTES

## LESSON 1: WHAT MAKES A BIRD A BIRD?

### I. Classification of Living Things

**A.** Carl Linneaus developed a system of \_\_\_\_\_, a system for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ living things based on their traits

**B.** The seven levels in order from least to most specific:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** Kingdoms

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** Bird classification

1. Kingdom: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Phylum: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subphylum: \_\_\_\_\_ — animals with a \_\_\_\_\_
4. Endothermic vs. ectothermic animals
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ : cold-blooded, depend on \_\_\_\_\_ for temperature regulation
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Warm-blooded, generate their own \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Birds are \_\_\_\_\_ — can maintain \_\_\_\_\_ body temperatures

5. \_\_\_\_\_ : four-limbed vertebrates

a. Front limbs = \_\_\_\_\_

b. Back limbs = \_\_\_\_\_

6. Class: \_\_\_\_\_

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ birds have wings

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ birds fly

c. Hard-shell \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ are what set birds apart

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ with feathers

## II. Birds' Role in the Ecosystem

**A.** Eat \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_ flowers

**C.** Spread \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** Clean up dead animals and \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTES

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# EXPLORATION ACTIVITY

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BIRDWATCHING & JOURNALING

*Get ready to become a birdwatcher and nature observer! In this activity, you'll learn how to use a field guide and start your very own birdwatching journal—no artistic skills required. You'll be making your very first entry in your birdwatching journal by observing a common bird in your area—or through a webcam if no birds are visible near you. You'll practice observing, sketching, and recording details about a common backyard bird to sharpen your identification skills.*

### Supplies:

-  Bird field guide or bird identification book for your region
-  Notebook with blank paper to be used as a birdwatching journal
-  Pencil
-  Binoculars (optional)

### Instructions

1. Head outside to your backyard, a local park, or even just look out your window and find a bird to observe. If you don't see any birds around you, try one of the live bird webcams listed in the online classroom.
2. Watch the bird for as long as it will let you. Just focus on what the bird is doing and what it looks like. If possible, take photos of the bird with a digital camera or phone.
3. Start your journal entry.
  - On a fresh, blank page, write today's date and location where you observed the bird.
  - Sketch the bird—just a simple outline is fine!
  - List key features you noticed:



## Sample Journal Page



Size - medium 9-10"

Shape - round body long tail

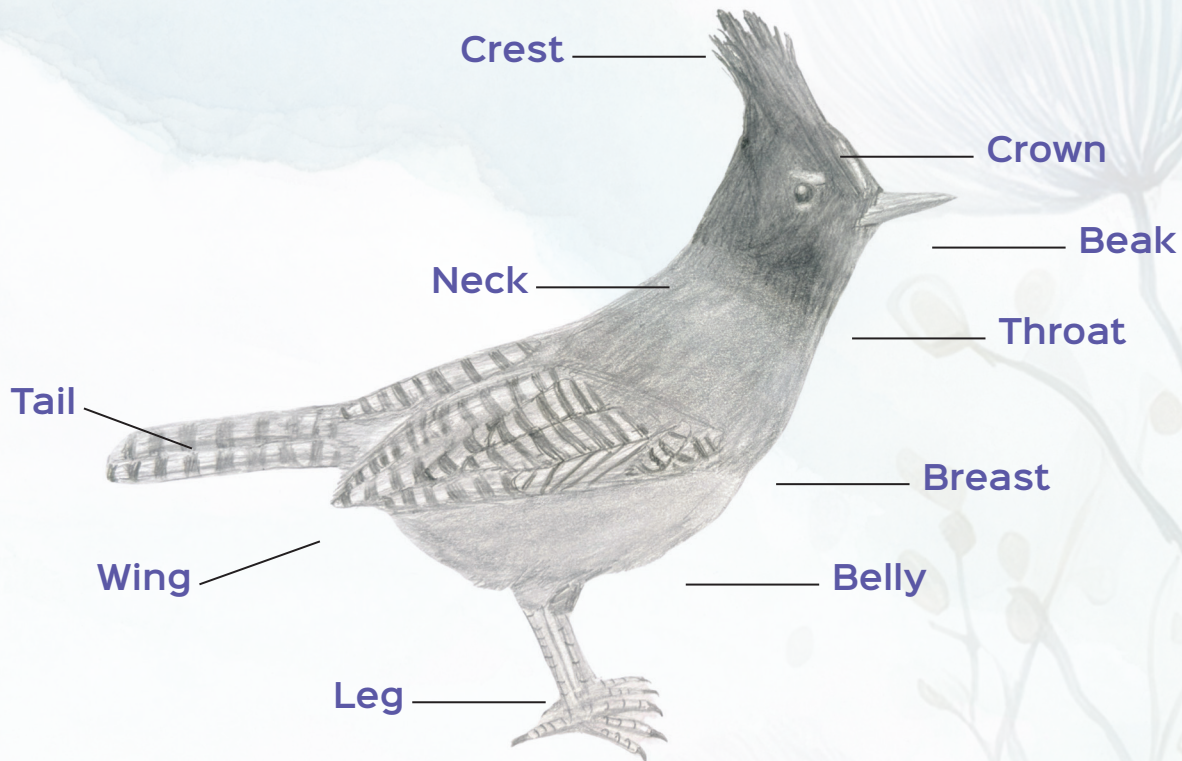
Color - red-orange breast and  
gray back

Beak - small with slight curve

Behavior - hopping and pecking  
at the ground

# BIRD BODY BASICS

*Every bird, from the tiniest hummingbird to the tallest heron, shares a common set of body parts. Knowing these helps you describe, identify, and admire God's amazing winged creations! Learning these parts helps you notice more, describe birds, as well as understand exactly what we're talking about in your lessons. As you watch videos, read field guides, or observe birds in the wild, you'll hear these terms used again and again—and now you'll know just what they mean!*



**Back:** The upper part of the body, between the wings on the upper side of the bird

**Beak:** The hard, pointed part at the front of the face, above the throat

**Belly:** The lower part of the body, beneath the breast and above the legs

**Breast:** The front part of the body, just below the neck

**Crest:** A tuft of feathers on the top of the head, sometimes raised or lowered

**Crown:** The very top of the bird's head

**Leg:** The lower limbs of the bird

**Neck:** The part between the head and the body that supports the head

**Tail:** The feathers at the rear end of the bird's body

**Throat:** The area just below the beak, at the front of the neck

**Wing:** The upper limbs of the bird



