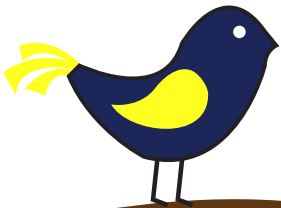


FEATHERED FRIENDS



Field marks are the unique combination of shape, stripes, spots, patterns, and colors that separate each species. When combined with behavior observations, body features, and songs/calls, people use field marks as visual clues to help them identify a bird.



WATCH the short lesson with Miss Christine and Miss Kate

CREATE a bird with field markings that reflect your unique interests - there are no rules or restrictions, the possibilities are endless! (printable template is on page 2)

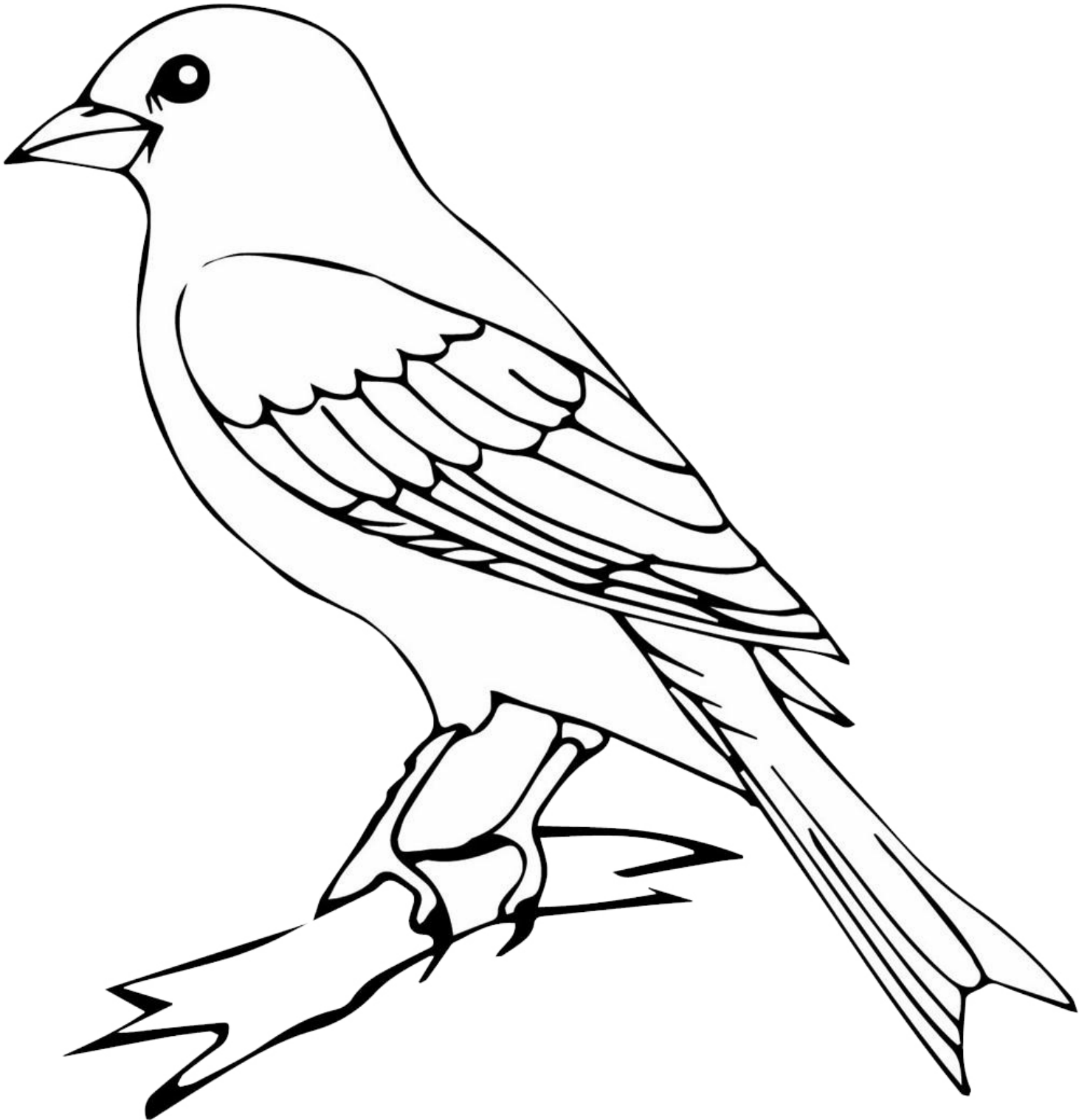
PLAY a fun game of twig-tac-toe (page 3)

DISCOVER the birds that visit your backyard and neighborhood with a scavenger hunt. See if you can identify the birds by their field markings! (pages 5 through 7)

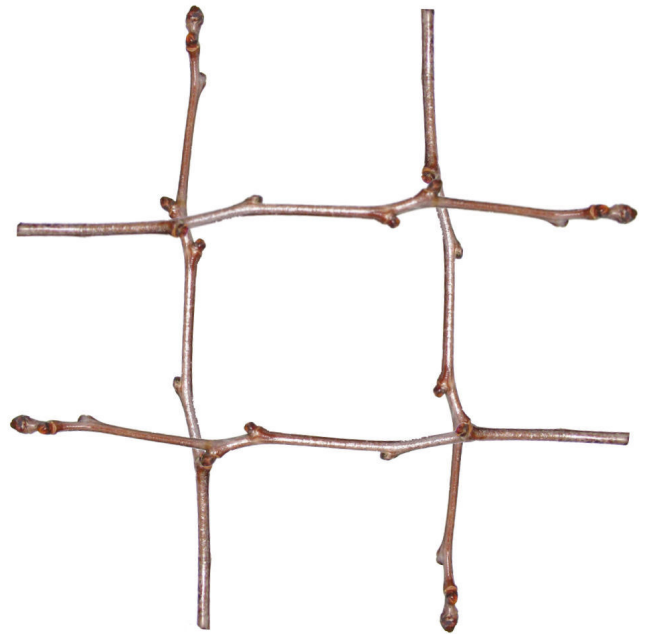
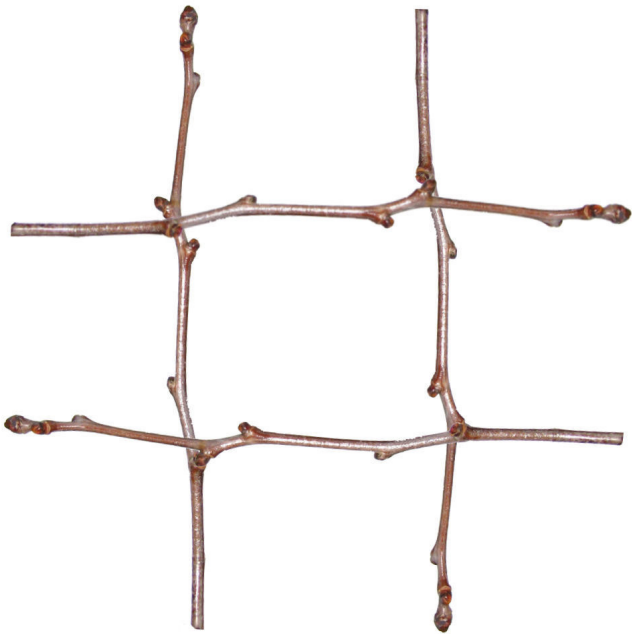
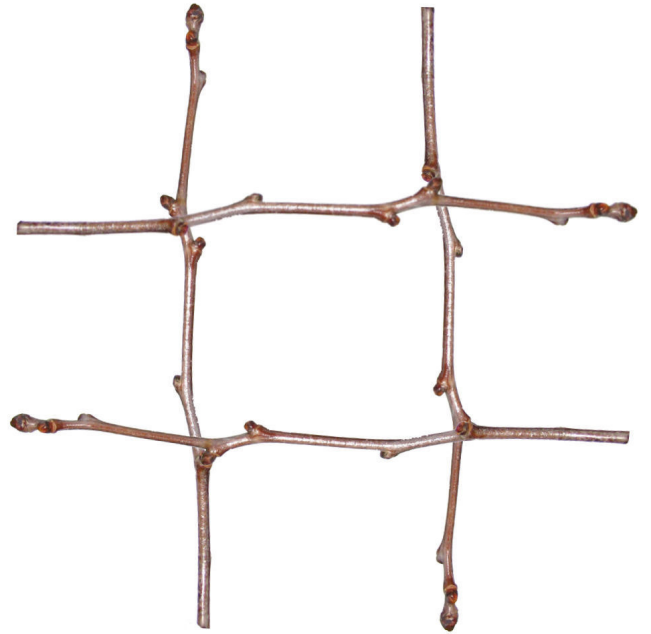


CREATE A BIRD

My bird is a: _____

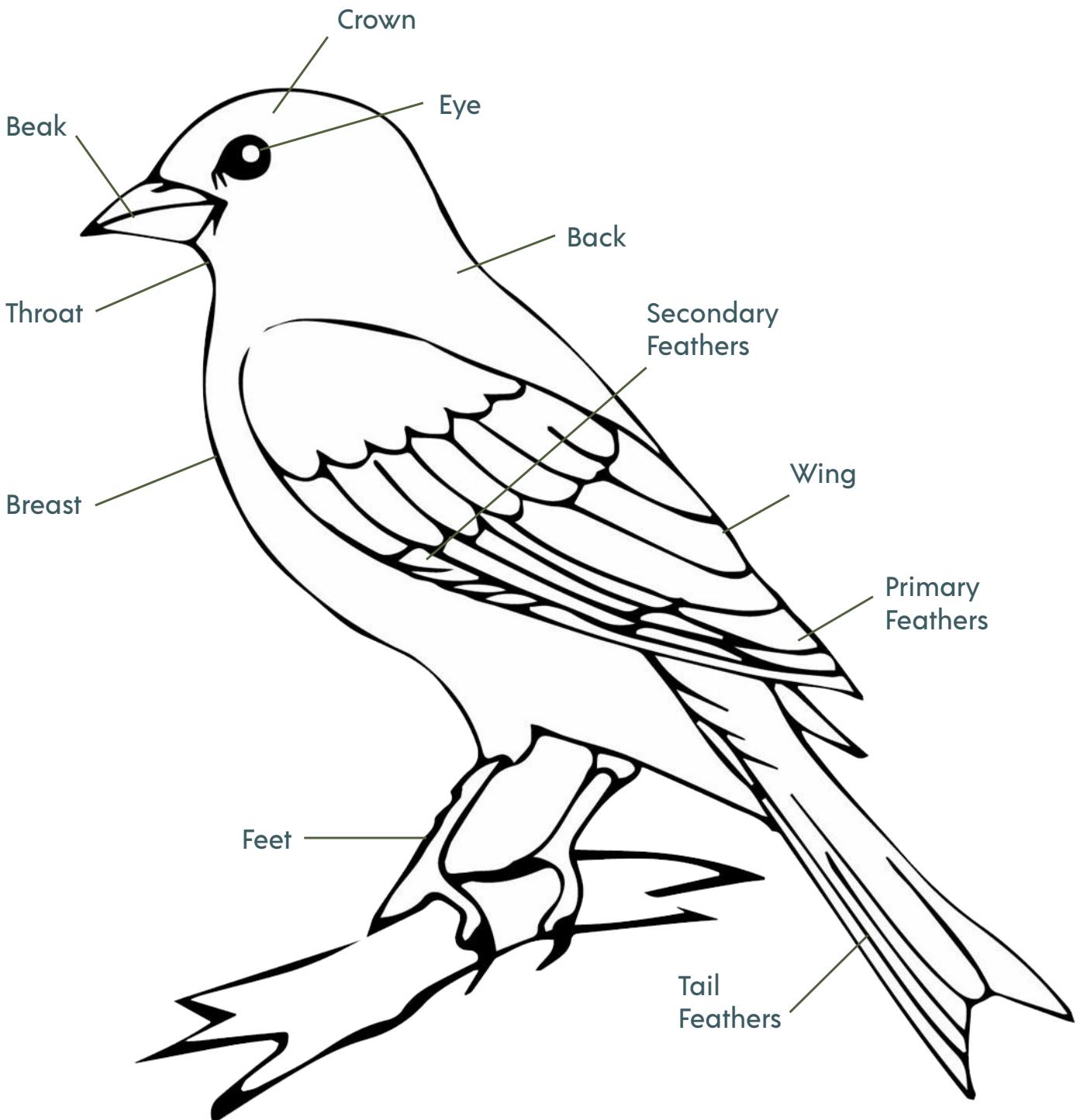


TWIG-TAC-TOE



PARTS OF A BIRD

By learning basic bird anatomy, you can learn to check those parts for field markings, unique colors and other distinguishing characteristics that can lead to an accurate identification of each species you see.



BIRD SCAVENGER HUNT



I FOUND IT!

AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Large, all black bird with a slight gloss to the feathers



I FOUND IT!

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Spinus tristis

Males are a brilliant yellow, with a black forehead and wings



I FOUND IT!

AMERICAN ROBIN

Turdus migratorius

Dark head, yellow bill, round, rust-colored belly



I FOUND IT!

BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Icterus galbula

Thick neck, pointed bill. Males have a black head with an orange underbelly and outer tail feathers



I FOUND IT!

BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

Adult male has a blue back, wings, and tail, light brown underbelly. Rusty throat and forehead.



I FOUND IT!

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Poecile atricapillus

Oversized round head, black cap and bib, white cheeks

BIRD SCAVENGER HUNT



I FOUND IT!

CAROLINA WREN

Thryothorus ludovicianus

Reddish brown upper body, buff underbelly, white throat and white eyebrow. Bill is long and thin.



I FOUND IT!

CHIPPING SPARROW

Spizella passerina

Rusty crown with a dark eyeline, and a gray belly, wings have tan and black streaks. Short beak.



I FOUND IT!

COMMON GRACKLE

Quiscalus quiscula

Large, lanky black birds with long legs and iridescent blue head and bronze body



I FOUND IT!

DOWNY WOODPECKER

Picoides pubescens

White chest and back, black wings with white spots, Males have a red patch on the back of their heads.



I FOUND IT!

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

Chunky, full-breasted, round head, short bill. Backs are noticeably striped with brown and black. Males have gray crowns and black bibs, females are buff.



I FOUND IT!

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Females are mottled brown and tan with white tails and orange bills. Males have green heads with a white ring at the bottom of the neck.

BIRD SCAVENGER HUNT



I FOUND IT!

MOURNING DOVE

Zenaida macroura

Gray with dark spots on wings, distinctive long, pointed tail and small, pink legs



I FOUND IT!

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinalis cardinalis

Male is vibrant red, female is pale brown with reddish tinges



I FOUND IT!

NORTHERN FLICKER

Colaptes auratus

Large, slim bird with a long, flared tail. Brownish plumage is patterned with spots and bars.



I FOUND IT!

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Agelaius phoeniceus

Stocky with conical bill, males have a red shoulder patch with a yellow border



I FOUND IT!

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus colubris

Tiny birds with long wings and bill. Males have an emerald green back and a bright red throat.



I FOUND IT!

WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH

Sitta carolinensis

Compact with a short tail, long, pointed bill, white cheeks, blue-grey body, rusty spot near its rear

NEBRASKA'S STATE BIRD

WESTERN MEADOWLARK | STURNELLA NEGLECTA

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:

Adults have a chunky body and a short tail; black and white striped head; long, sharp, pointed bill; a bright yellow throat; a bright yellow breast with a distinctive black "V" shaped breast band; primary feathers that are streaked tan and white; and long, pink legs;

- Lives in fields, open grasslands, meadows, and pastures
- Forage on the ground and beneath the soil for insects, worms, grain, and seeds
- Their primary song begins with whistles and ends with flute-like warbles. Males can have a repertoire of up to a dozen songs.
- Male and female birds work together to build their nest
- Nests are built in a hole in the ground, made from dried grasses, bark, and pine needles woven into surrounding vegetation. Nests sometimes have a partial or full grass roof, and/or an entry tunnel that is several feet long.

