

Grab 'N Go Kit Bird Silhouette Scavenger Hunt

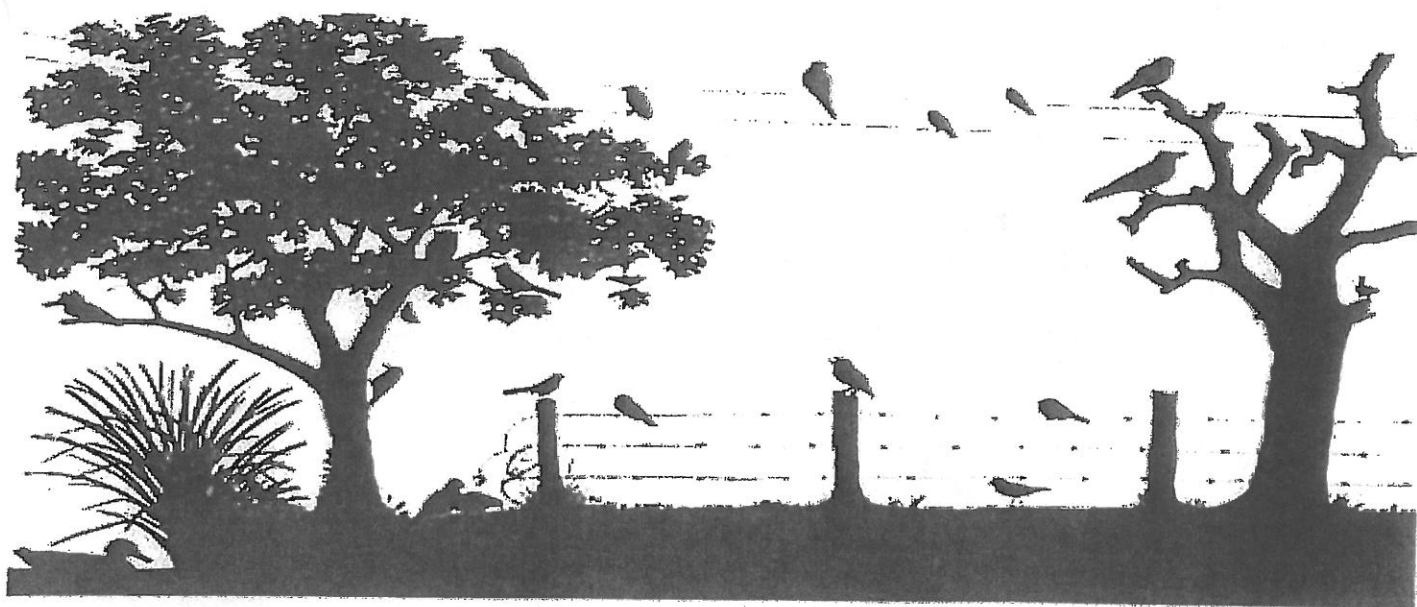
Bird Silhouette Scavenger Hunt Overview:

Students will learn the silhouettes of several local bird species, and then participate in a guided hike to try to find and identify silhouettes that have been hidden along the trail.

Items in kit:

- Directions
- 23 laminated bird silhouettes
- 6 sets of laminated bird descriptions

Silhouette Scavenger Hunt



Time: 20 minutes

Birds in the same general group often have the same body shape and proportions, although they may vary in size. Silhouette alone gives many clues to a bird's identity, allowing birders to assign a bird to the correct group or even the exact species.

In the above illustration are 23 different birds. How many can you recognize just by their silhouettes? Look carefully - don't miss the ones hiding in the leafy tree!

Pay attention to the following:

- Body shape
- Proportions of the head, legs, wings
- Tail shape
- Length of the bill

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Reasons it's useful to learn silhouettes:

- Foliage/limbs block view
- Light glare on bird
- Low light
- Camouflage

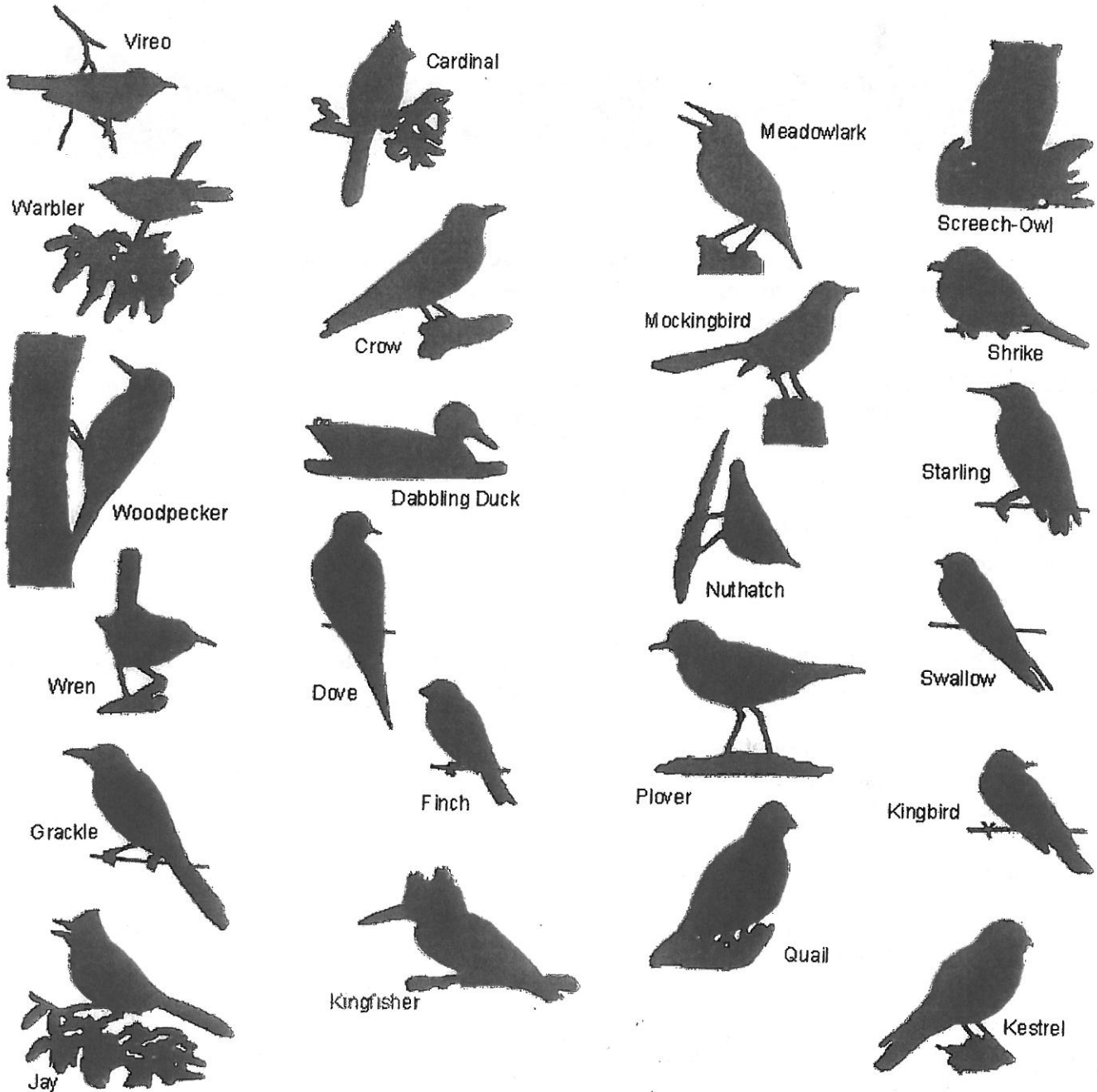
Similarities/differences in bird silhouettes:

- Cardinal vs. Jay-beaks
- Dove-looks like has shoulders
- Finch-notched tail
- Crow vs. Grackle body and bill shape-crow thicker
- Starling-short tail
- Duck and owl distinctive body shapes
- Kingbird vs. Kingfisher head size, crest

- Swallow-long wings
- Nuthatch vs. Wren vs. Warbler- very small, Warbler perches horizontally, Wren-upturned tail, Nuthatch faces downward
- Meadowlark vs. Mockingbird-chunky body vs. slender body short vs. long tail
- Quail-round lives on ground
- Woodpecker-clings to tree trunks

Activity:

- Tape or hang the bird silhouettes along a trail you plan to hike.
- Give every 2-4 students a description card.
- The students should use the descriptions on the cards to identify the hidden birds.
- You can do this as a group or let them go in pairs at different time intervals.
- Take hike!



Cardinal

- Medium-sized finch-like songbird with long tail
- Strongly conical, seed-eating bill
- Crested head

Crow

- Large size
- Stout body, medium-length tail
- Heavy, strong bill

Dabbling Duck

- Typical duck shape, with heavy body
- Short tail, held above water's surface
- Horizontally flattened bill

Dove

- Plump body, with short legs and neck
- Small head
- Pointed wings
- Slight swelling at base of upper bill

Finch

- Small to medium size
- Conical, seed-eating bill
- Notched tail

Grackle

- Slender body, long tail
- Strong, slightly curved bill

Jay

- Mid-sized crow-relative with long tail
- Some have crest on head

Kestrel

- Small bird of prey
- Typical streamlined falcon shape, with long pointed wings and long tail
- Short raptorial (sharply hooked) bill, feet with sharp talons

Kingbird

- Medium-sized perching bird with relatively large head
- Broadly-flattened, typical flycatcher bill

Kingfisher

- Large head, often with shaggy crest
- Very short legs and tail
- Long, strong, pointed bill

Meadowlark

- Chunky body, short tail
- Strong legs
- Straight, strong, pointed bill

Mockingbird

- Long, slender body, long legs and tail
- Small, slender bill

Nuthatch

- Small size, chunky body, short tail
- Straight, slightly upturned bill
- Strong legs and feet
- Clings to tree trunks, usually head downwards

Plover

- Small to medium-sized shorebird
- Relatively large head, short neck
- Short, rather thick bill, sometimes slightly swollen at tip
- Ground dwelling

Quail

- Chunky, rounded body, with short tail
- Small head, very short neck
- Ground dwelling

Screech-Owl

- Small nocturnal bird of prey
- Chunky body, large head
- Feathered tufts on head resemble ears
- Upright stance

Shrike

- Medium-sized predatory songbird
- Relatively large head
- Perches horizontally
- Bill with strong hook at tip

Starling

- Chunky body, short tail
- Strong legs and feet
- Straight bill

Swallow

- Small size
- Very slender body, short legs, and long, pointed wings
- Small bill with wide gape
- Small size
- Very slender body, short legs, and long, pointed wings
- Small bill with wide gape

Vireo

- Small, tree-dwelling bird
- Small, cylindrical bill (slight hook at tip, visible only at close range)
- Perches horizontally, often leans forward while foraging

Warbler

- Very small, tree-dwelling bird
- Perches horizontally
- Slender insect-eating bill

Woodpecker

- Clings to tree trunks, head upwards
- Uses tail as prop as it hitches its way up tree trunks
- Strong but short legs and strong feet
- Straight, strong bill for excavating wood

Wren

- Very small size
- Compact body, with relatively long legs
- Thin, slightly curved bill
- Holds tail upright
- Skulking habit