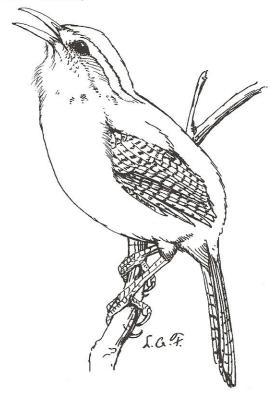
Carolina Wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus)



What color is it?

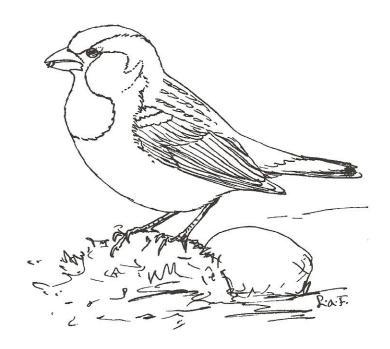
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)



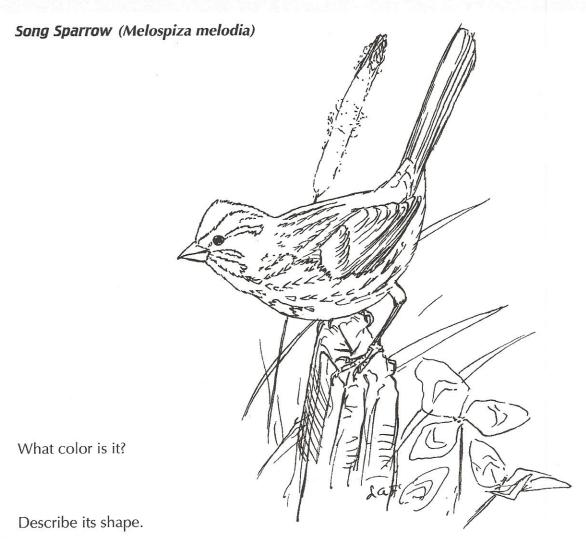
What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

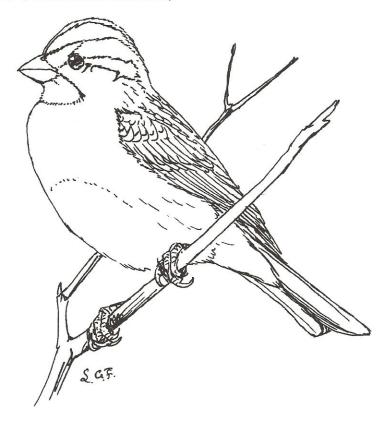


What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



Fox Sparrow (Passerella iliaca)



Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

American Tree Sparrow (Spizella arborea)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

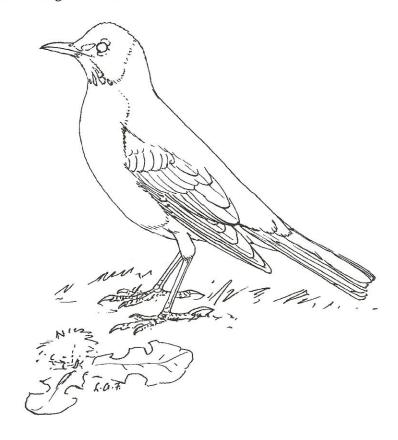
How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



BLUEBIRD

American Robin (Turdus migratorius)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

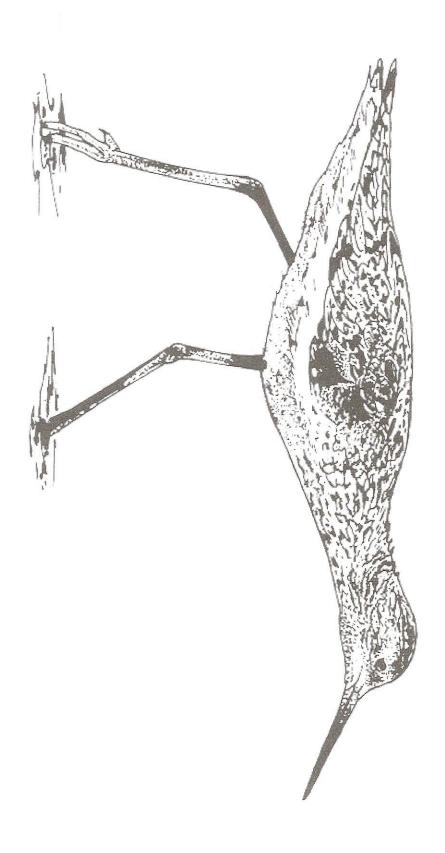
What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

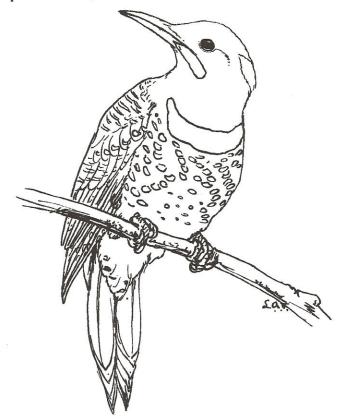
Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



PHŒBE



Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)



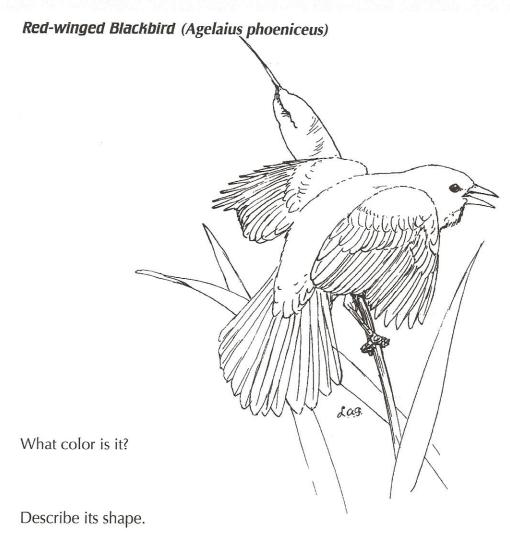
What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Downy Woodpecker (Picoides pubescens)



What color is it?

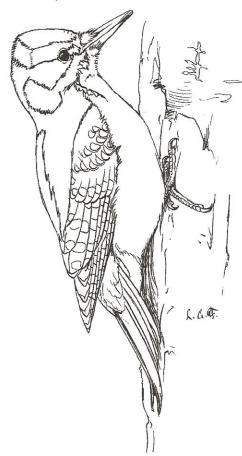
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Hairy Woodpecker (Picoides villosus)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

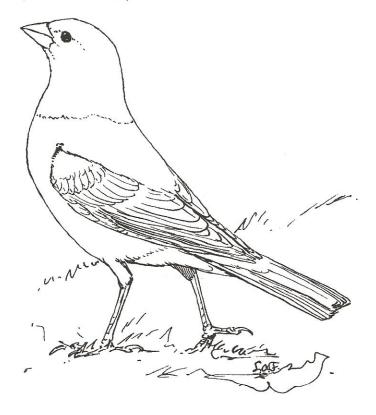
How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater)



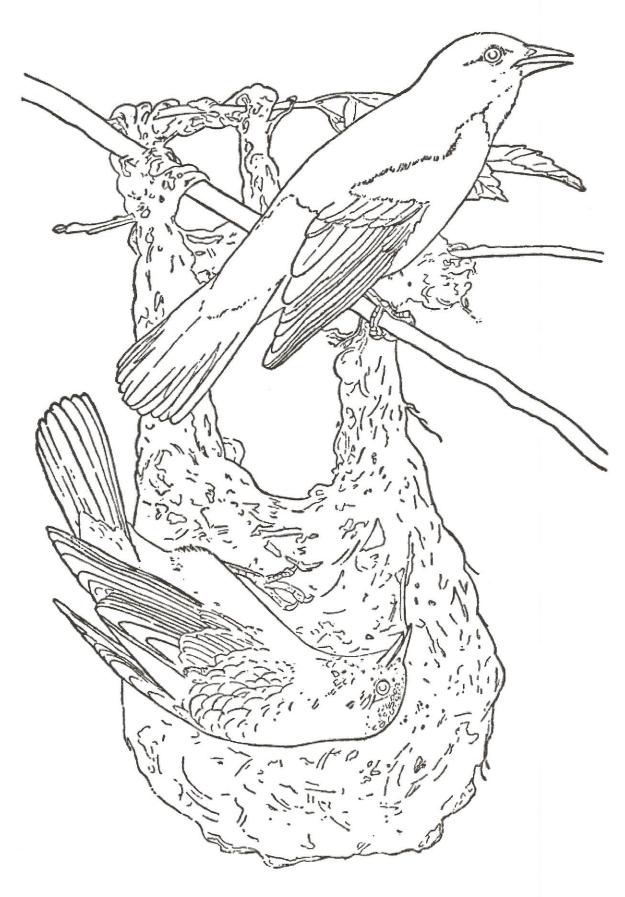
What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

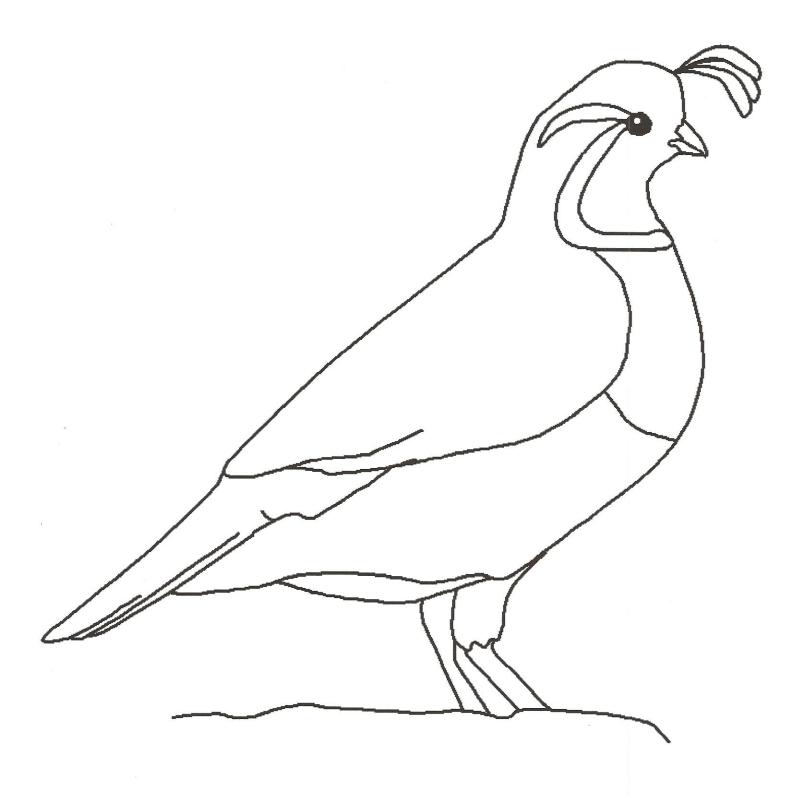
How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

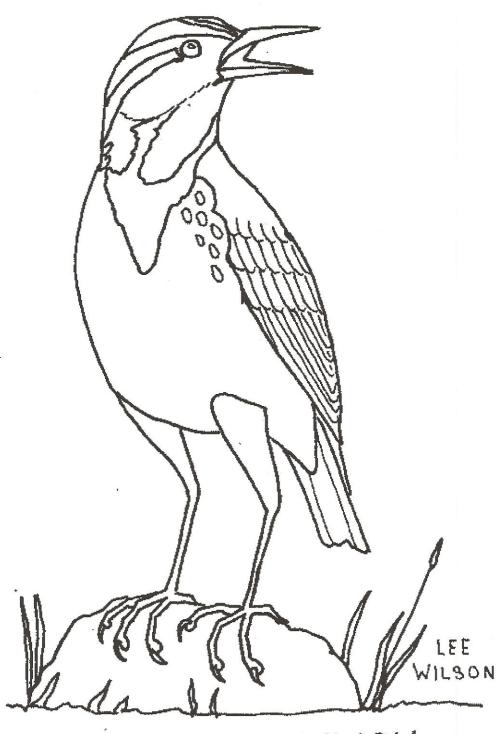


BALTIMORE ORIOLE

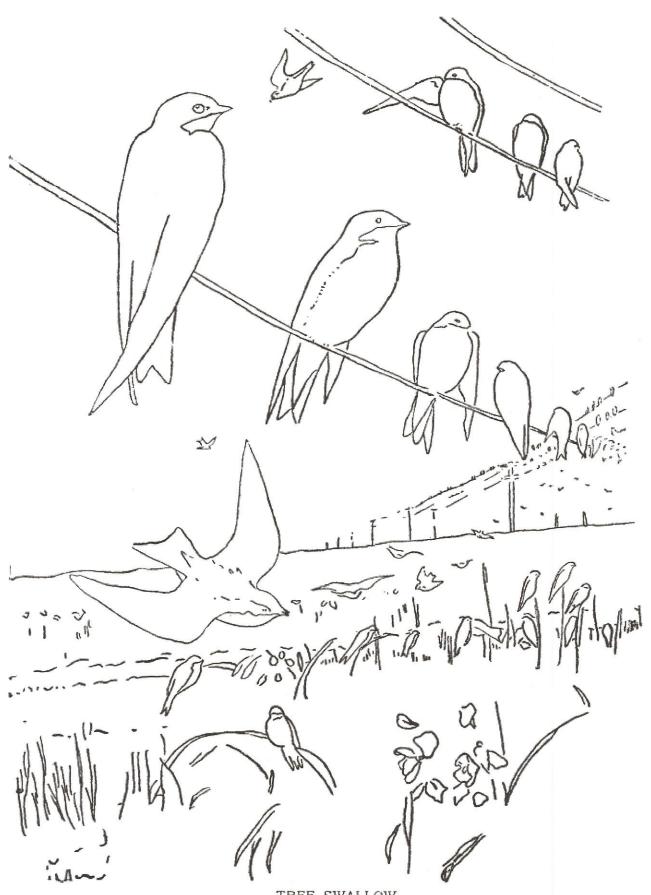




California Quail



WESTERN MEADOWLARK

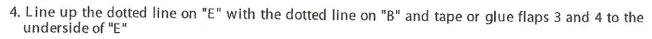


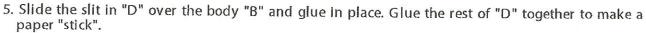
TREE SWALLOW

Nature Kids: Make a Flying Chimney Swift!

Chimney Swifts fly all day long, catching insects as they go. At night they like to roost inside old hollow trees or inside (you guessed it!) chimneys. Use this pattern to make your own flying Chimney Swift.

- 1. Copy the pattern onto card stock or other heavy weight paper.
- 2. Cut out each piece carefully along the solid lines. Fold along the dotted lines. Fold flaps 1 & 2 in opposite directions. Fold flaps 3 & 4 in opposite directions.
- 3. Line up the dotted line on "A" with the edge of B and tape flaps 1 and 2 to the underside.





6. Slide the hole in "C" over the "stick" until the flaps touch the wings ("A"). Tape or glue each flap about ½ inch from the body ("B")

Slide "C" up and down along the "stick"(C") to make your swift fly.

See the **Teacher's Corner** for more information about these aerial acrobats.

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Teacher's Corner: The Swifts of Summer

Spring Into Summer with Swifts

skies, it is chimney swift season again in Houston! Birders and non-birders alike can easily recognize these amazing aerialists as they fly through the skies. Chimney swifts are nicknamed "the flying cigar" for their 5 ½ inch long cigar shaped body and dark, sooty brown color. Despite their clumsy sounding nickname, chimney swifts have curved wings

that form a boomerang shape, giving these birds an elegance and agility in flight. Chimney Swifts flight is characterized by quick wing flicks and long, graceful sweeping motions over the trees.

Swifts fly all day long! They cannot perch like other birds and only come to rest at night. Chimney Swifts, and their relatives the hummingbirds, belong to the order Apodiformes, from the Greek "apodos" meaning "without feet". Though they really do have feet, their feet are weak and inconspicuous. These birds are specialized to spend their time in flight. A chimney swift may fly as many as 1,000 miles in just one day, and over its lifetime it may fly well over one million miles! As you might guess from the distance they can cover, these birds are migratory.



Chimney Swift Spring-Summer Range

Chimney Swifts spend their springs and summers in the United States from Texas to Florida and up into Canada. But they spend their winters in the Amazon in Peru and Brazil. Migrating Chimney Swifts arrive in Houston in March and head south for the winter from late September to early October. While they

are here, they feed and make nests, and they reproduce at least once between May and July.

Chimney Swifts feed on flying insects that they catch in mid air. They play an important role in controlling insect populations, including the populations of pest species such as mosquitoes, biting flies, wasps, flying ants, and termites. Each Chimney Swift can eat as much as 1/3 of it's body weight, which is approximately 0.7 oz. (21 g), in insects every day. A single swift can eat 17,500 mosquitoes or 280 termites a day!

When they are not breeding Chimney Swifts may gather in large flocks and roost together in the same place. Migrating Chimney Swifts travel in groups of several hundred individuals! However, when they are ready to breed, each pair of breeding Chimney Swifts needs its own nest site.

Historically Chimney Swifts built their nests in hollow, old-growth trees. As humans moved into their habitats and removed these trees, Chimney Swifts adapted to using man made structures like chimneys for homes. However, with the loss of their favored breeding sites, Chimney Swift populations have declined. Chimney Swifts are now protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Act, and special towers are being built to provide nest sites in hopes of boosting Chimney Swift population sizes.

When breeding pairs do find a nest site in a hollow tree, chimney or tower, they build a saucer shaped nest on a vertical surface usually deep down within the hollow shaft. Nesting Chimney Swifts collect dead twigs from trees with their beaks and claws while flying and then cement the twigs together and to the wall of their roost site with their sticky, glue-like saliva!

Chimney Swifts lay 3-7 eggs that must be incubated for 21 days before hatching. The young hatch at very small sizes (some as little as an adult human thumbnail!) and are blind for their first two weeks. Nestlings are completely dependent upon their parents for food for about 30 days, and both parents share the responsibility of feeding the young. Young Chimney Swifts are adventuresome and will climb on and around (and even under) their nests using their claws and their bristly tails to cling to the nest as they move. When they are ready to fly away, they must "walk" all the way up to the top of the chimney or tower!

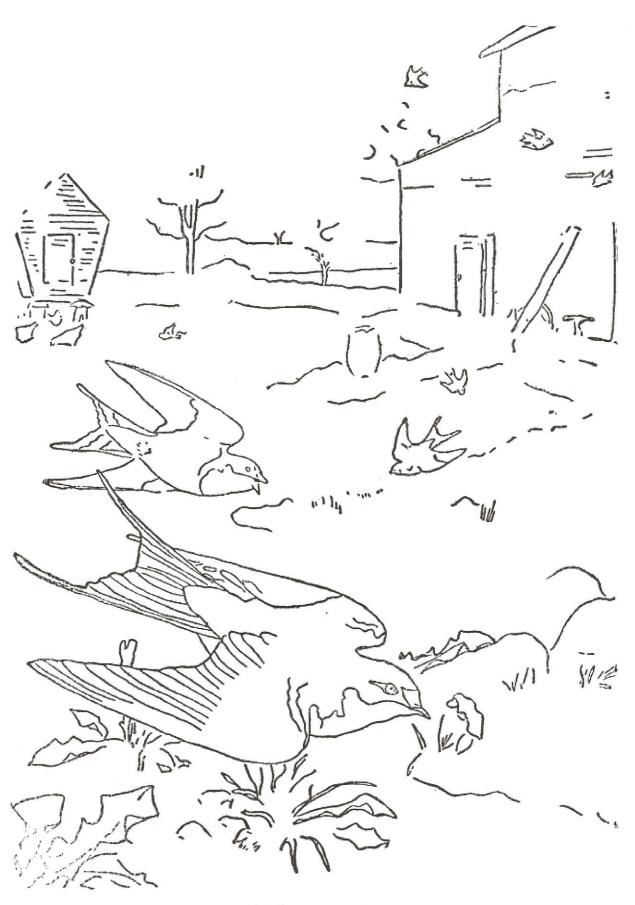
Spying on Chimney Swifts in Houston

From March through October, keep an eye out for swifts coming and going from their roosts at dusk and dawn. The Whole Foods parking lot in Bellaire is a great place to view large flocks. Also listen for adults chattering back and forth as they fly using rapid and repeated "chip" calls. If you listen carefully at a chimney swift roost, like the Nature Discovery Center's Chimney Swift tower, you might hear chimney swift wings fluttering in the early morning and late evening.

See the "Nature Kids" page for instructions to make your own flying chimney swift!

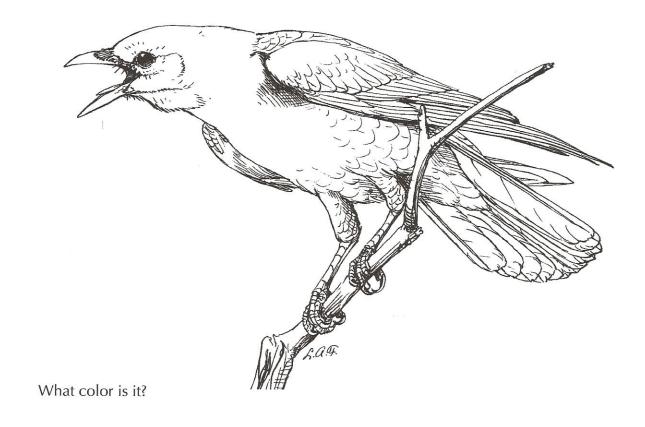
© 2007 Nature Discovery Center, Inc.

For more information about Chimney Swifts and their conservation, contact Paul and Georgean Kyle with Driftwood Wildlife Association, 1206 W 38th, Ste. 1105, Austin, TX78705, dwa@concentric.net See also: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/chimneyswift/chimneyswift-index.htm.



BARN SWALLOW

American Crow (Corvus brachrynchos)

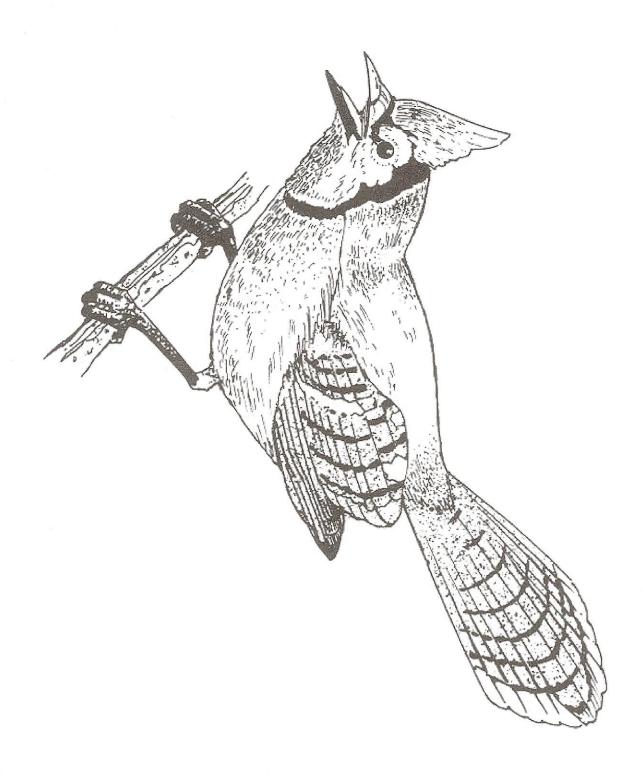


Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

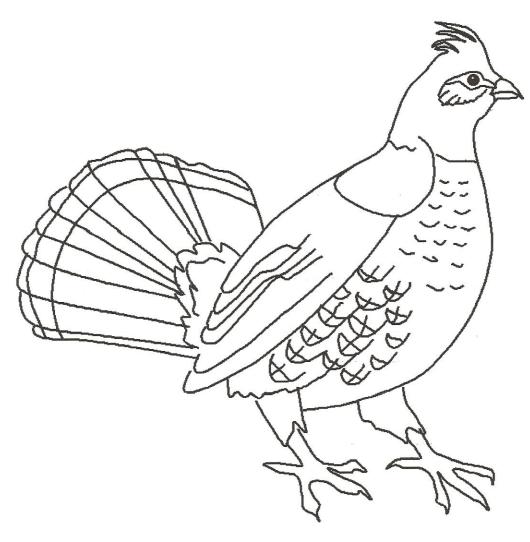
Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



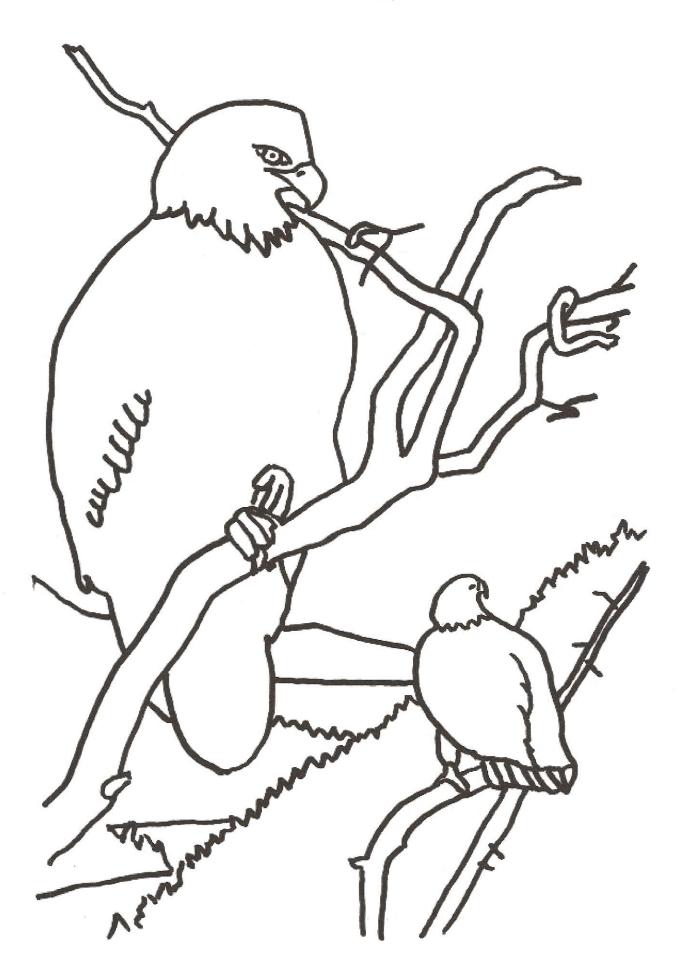


RED TAILED HAWK

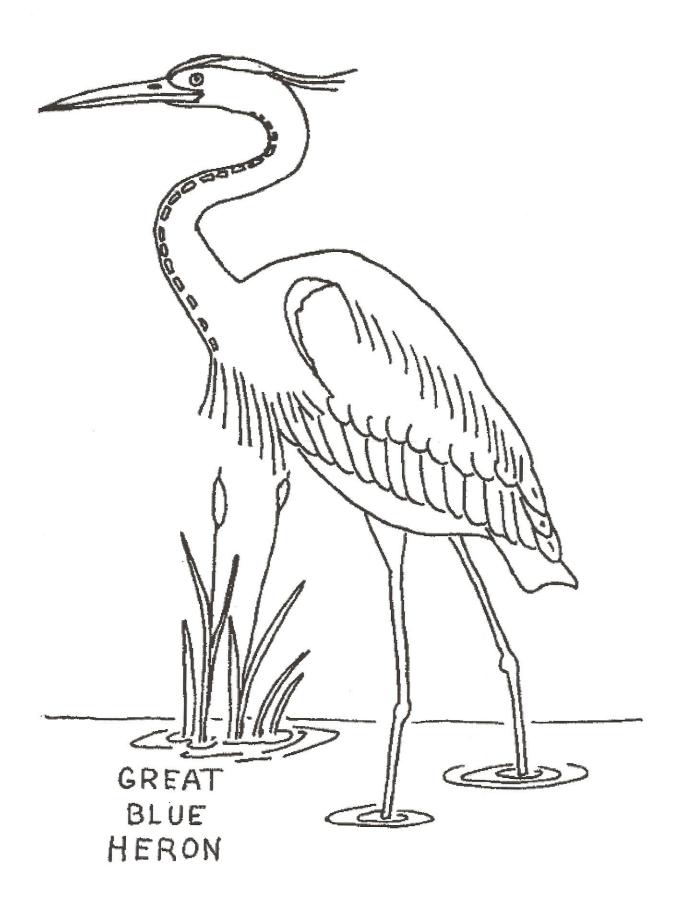




- the most notable characteristic of the Ruffed Grouse isn't how they look -- it's how they sound. In the spring the male ruffed grouse beats the air with his wings to make a very loud drumming sound.
 the female lays 9 to 12 buff colored eggs each year.
 adopted as Pennsylvania's state bird on June 22, 1931.

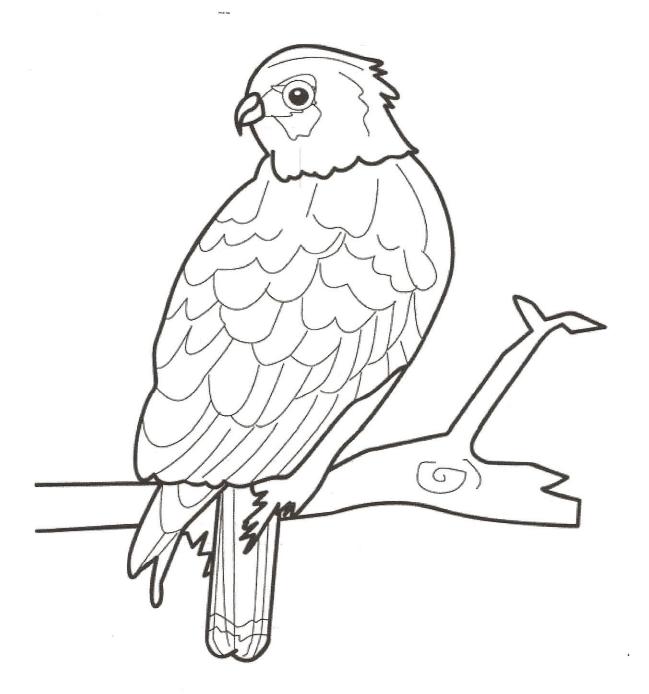


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COMMON KINGFISHER

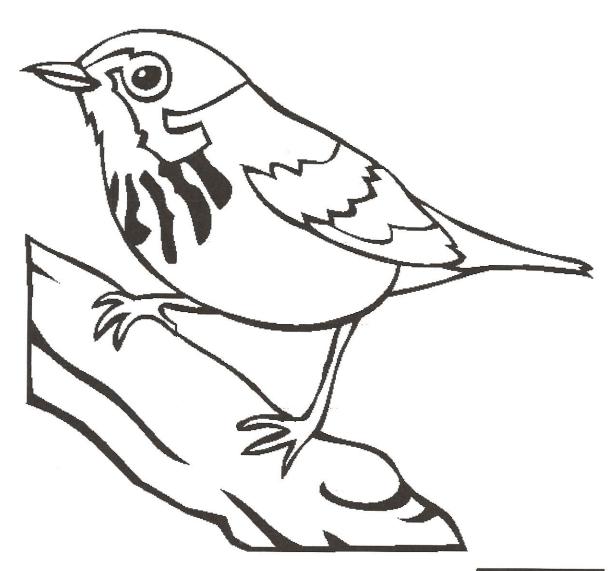


Nighthawk



Yellow Warber



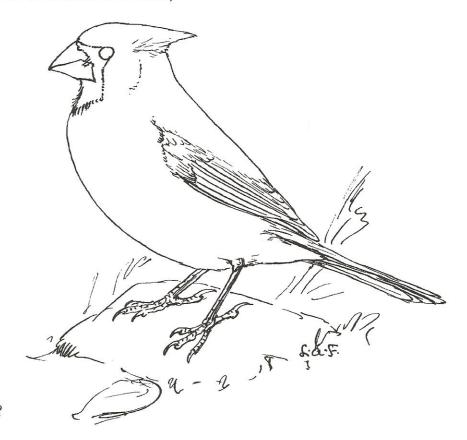


www.THECOLOR.com

Warbler

mentioner, constitut of party of a fundamental post the foremental

Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis)



What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?





Gray Catbird

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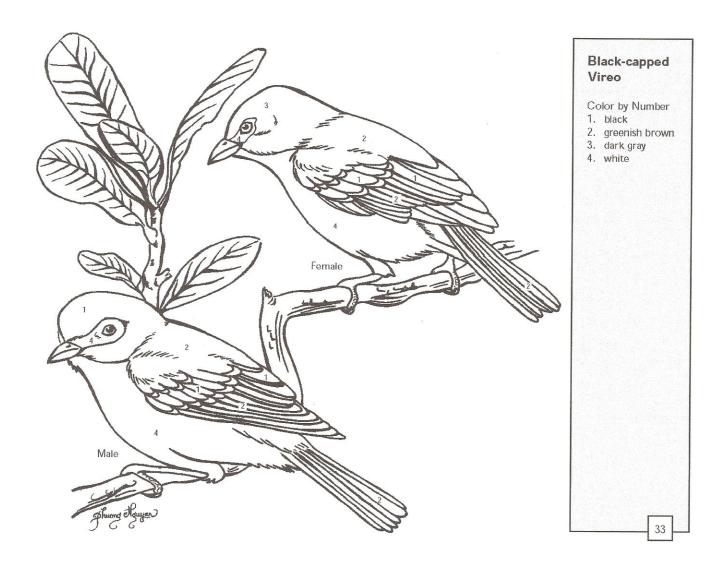


Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

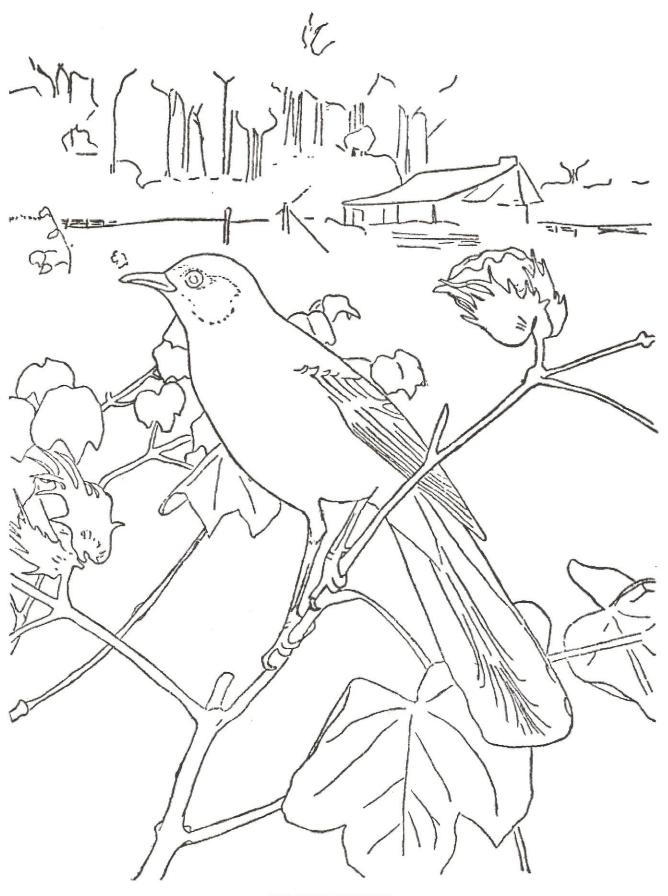
Goldencheeked Warbler Color by Number 1. yellow or gold 2. black

- 3. white
- 4. grayish green







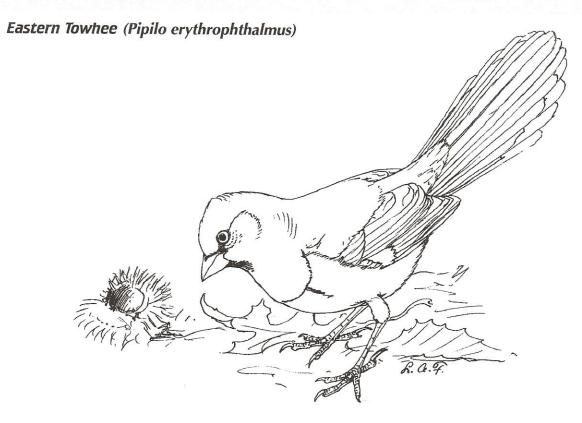


MOCKINGBIRD



WOOD THRUSH





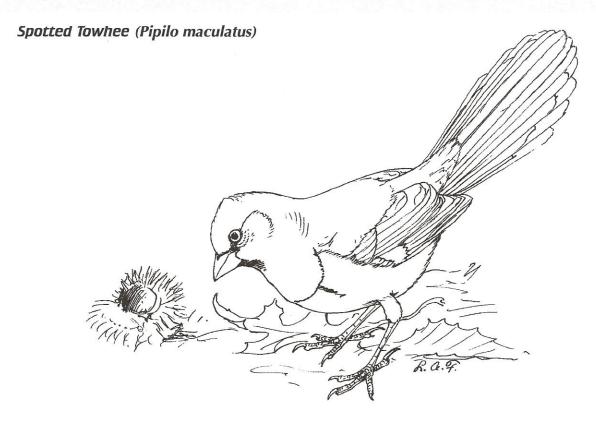
What color is it?

Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



What color is it?

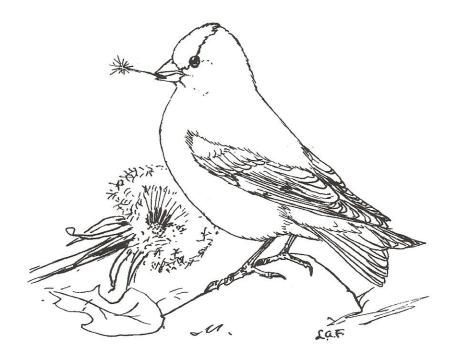
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

American Goldfinch (Carduelis tristis)



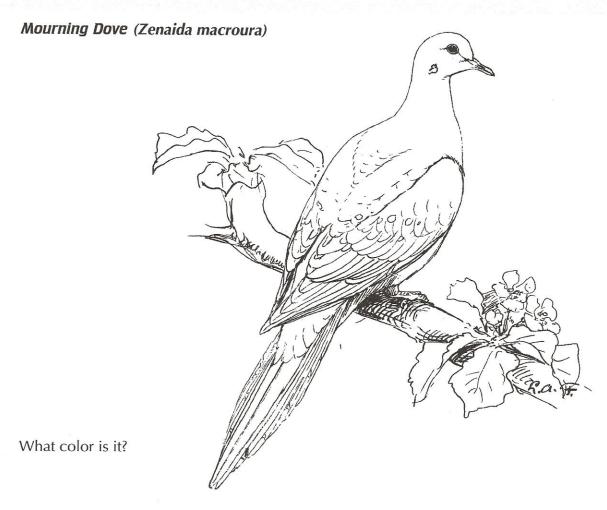
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Describe its shape.

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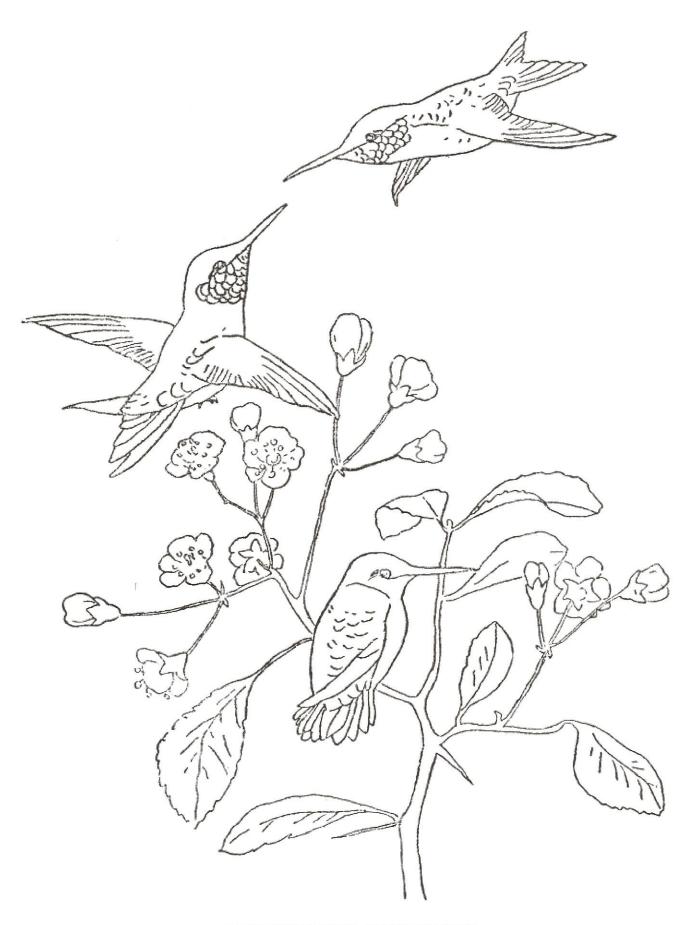


Describe its shape.

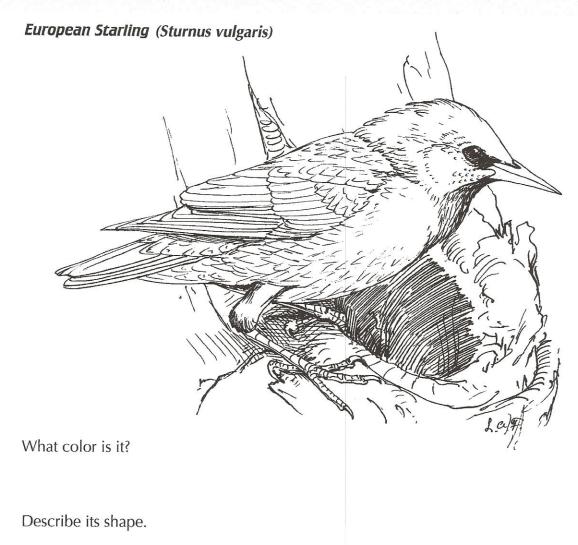
What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

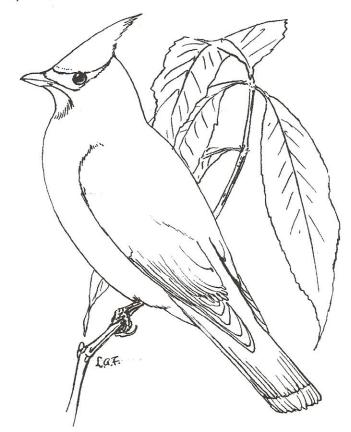


What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorurm)



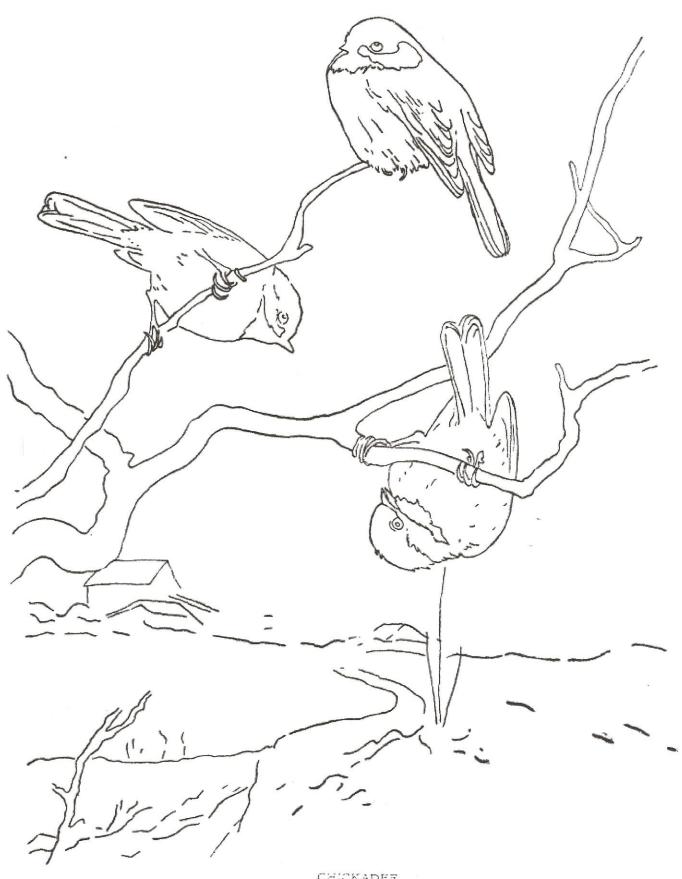
What color is it?

Describe its shape.

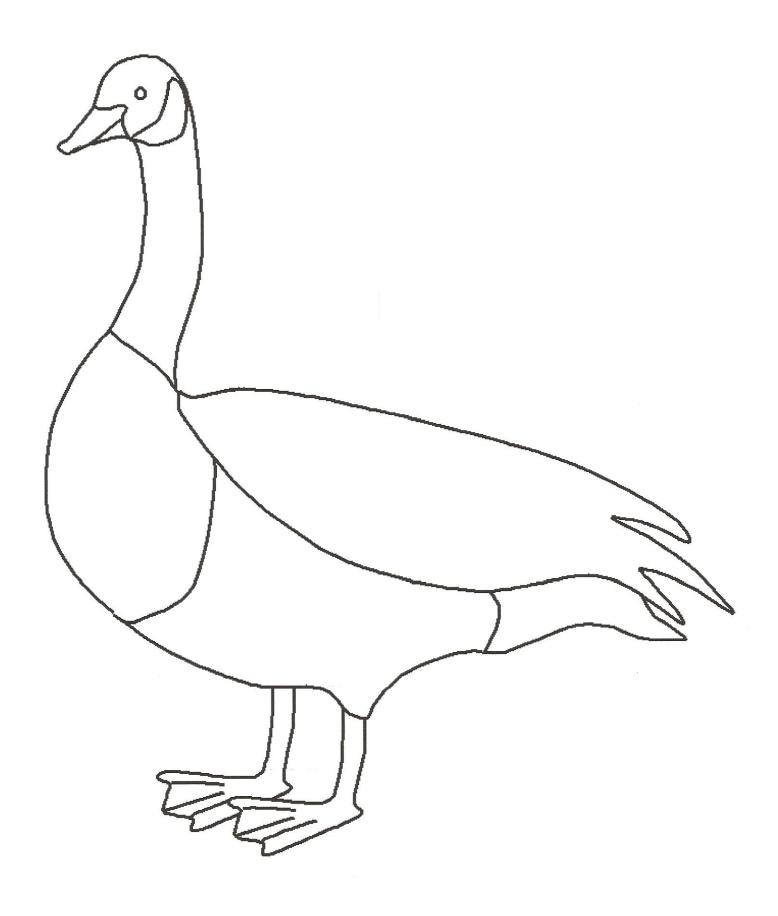
What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



CHICKADEE



Canada Goose

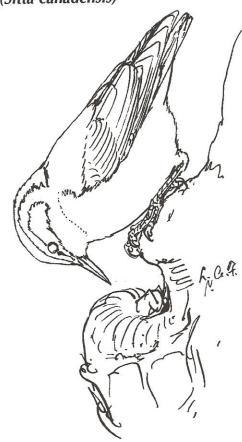


LOON



WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis)



What color is it?

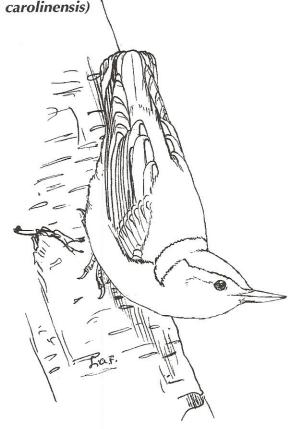
Describe its shape.

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How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

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What color is it?

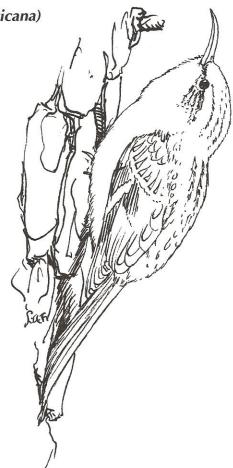
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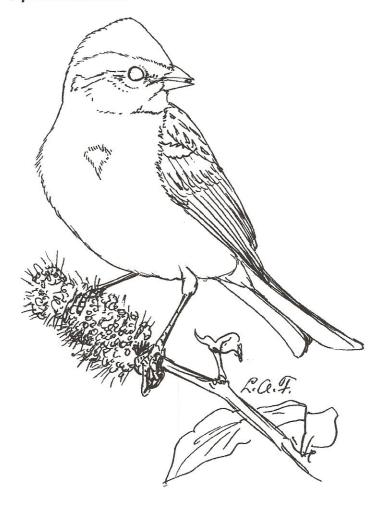
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

American Tree Sparrow (Spizella arborea)



What color is it?

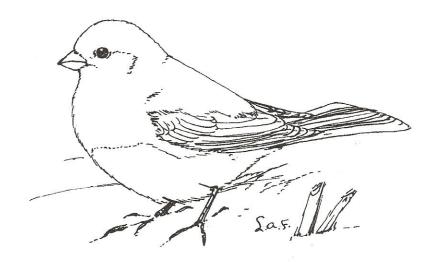
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)



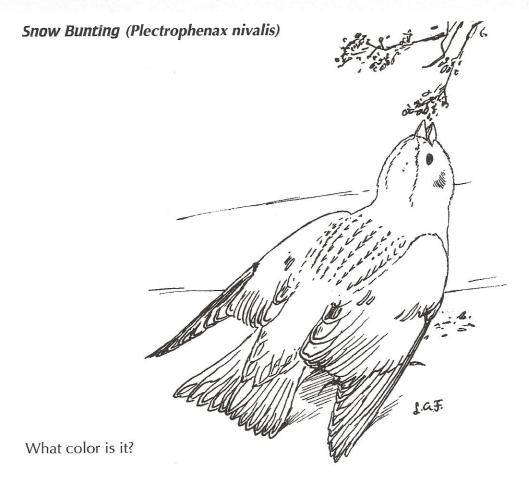
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Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

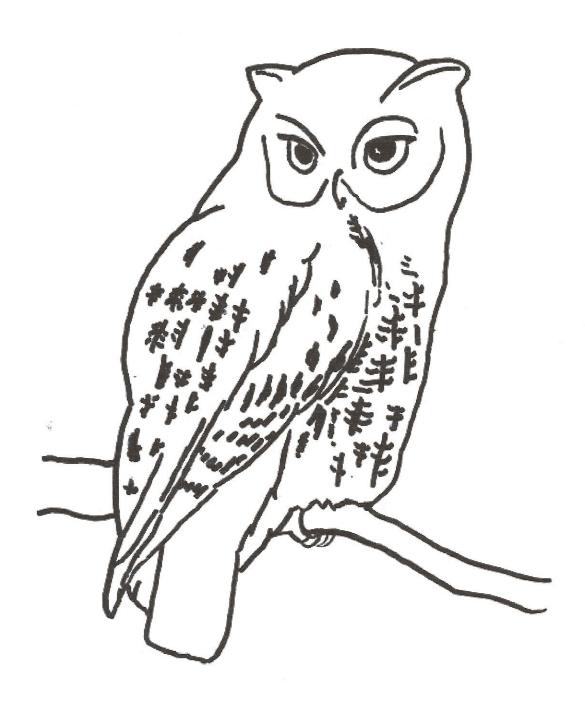


Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?



SCREECH OWL

Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra) or White-winged Crossbill (Loxia leucoptera)



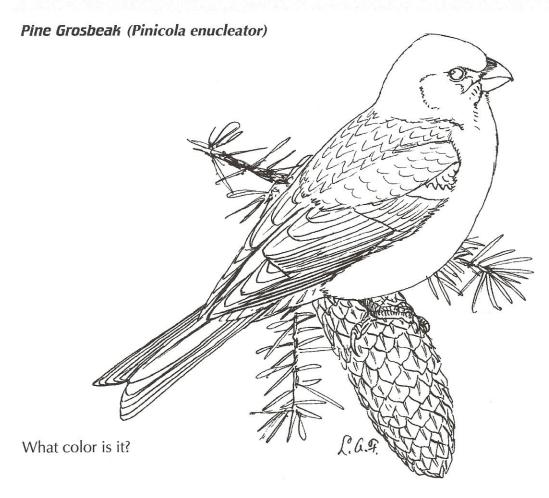
What color is it?

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Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

Common Redpoll (Carduelis flammea)



What color is it?

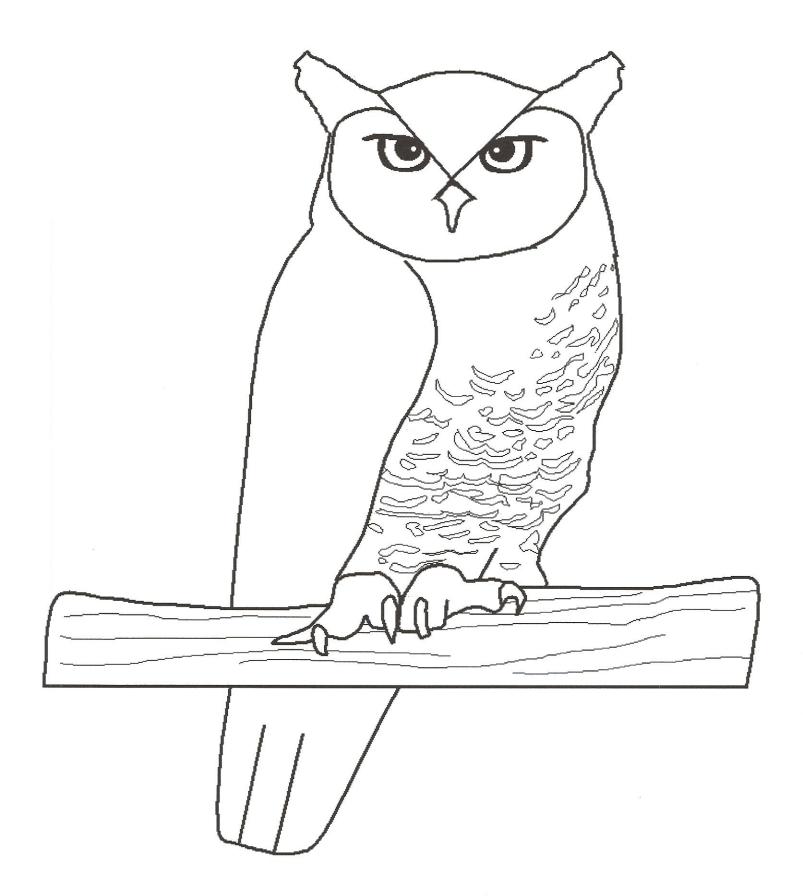
Describe its shape.

What are its field marks?

How big is it? (Compare its size to that of a crow, a robin, or a sparrow.)

Do males and females look different? If so, how are they different?

12/28/12



Great Horned Owl