

## What kind of bird is that...

When trying to identify a bird, the first things to look for are location and behavior. Is the bird up high making noise, or on the ground digging in leaves? Next, think about size and shape. Is it big like a raven, or small like a finch? Does it have pointy wings, or a long tail? Finally, you can use field marks to identify birds – flip to the back panel to discover how.

**Circle the birds you find on your hike today!**

### in the trees?

Almost all the birds of Lake Morena use trees and shrubs for food, shelter, or nesting. Woodpeckers make their nests in the cavities of trees and pick insects from the bark. Trees can provide seeds and berries for birds such as Western Bluebirds and House Finches to eat. **Look into the trees. How many different birds can you find? \_\_\_\_\_ What parts of the tree are the birds using? \_\_\_\_\_**



Acorn Woodpecker  
*Melanerpes formicivorus*



White-Breasted Nuthatch  
*Sitta carolinensis*



Western Bluebird  
*Sialia mexicana*



House Finch  
*Haemorhous mexicanus*

### on the ground?

Birds that feed on the ground usually specialize in catching bugs or finding seeds. American Robins use their beaks to pull earthworms from the ground. Juncos scratch through leaves to uncover fallen seeds and berries. California Quails peck insects and seeds from gravelly areas. **Check the ground near trail, stream and field edges. How many different birds can you find? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you tell what they are eating? \_\_\_\_\_**



American Robin  
*Turdus migratorius*



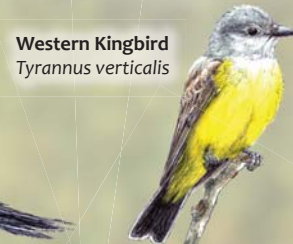
Dark-eyed Junco  
*Junco hyemalis*



California Quail  
*Callipepla californica*



Greater Roadrunner  
*Geococcyx californianus*



Western Kingbird  
*Tyrannus verticalis*



Great Blue Heron  
*Ardea herodias*

### in the air?

Birds that spend a lot of time in the air use their strong eyesight to find food. Hawks, Ravens and vultures can usually be found perched or circling up high as they search for their next meal. **Scan the sky over fields and through openings in the trees. Are there any large birds flying overhead? \_\_\_\_\_ Are they flapping or gliding? \_\_\_\_\_**



Turkey Vulture  
*Cathartes aura*



Common Raven  
*Corvus corax*

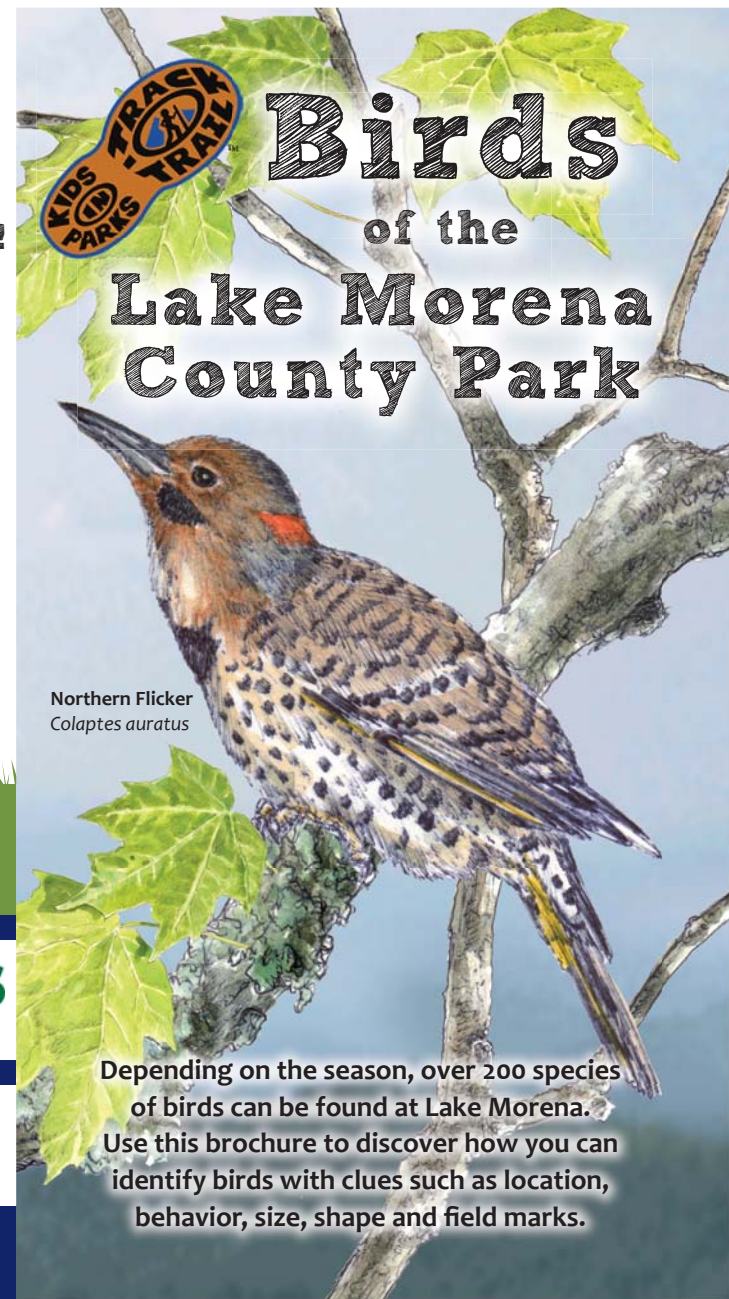


Red-tailed Hawk  
*Buteo jamaicensis*

### making noise?

Birds make all kinds of noises – some sing to attract a mate, while others will call attention to food, danger or territory. Common ravens are known for their loud and varied ‘caww’ calls. Listen for the piercing cries of Red-Tailed Hawks as they circle the sky. You may hear many different birds on your hike. **Close your eyes and listen for one minute. How many different birds can you hear around you? \_\_\_\_\_**

illustrations by David Williams,  
Wingin' It Works



# Birds of the Lake Morena County Park

Northern Flicker  
*Colaptes auratus*

Depending on the season, over 200 species of birds can be found at Lake Morena. Use this brochure to discover how you can identify birds with clues such as location, behavior, size, shape and field marks.

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## Field Marks

In addition to size, shape, location and behavior, field marks can be used to help identify birds. If you can't identify a bird in the field, remembering what certain parts of the bird looked like can help you identify it when you get home. On your birding adventure, find a bird and try to answer as many of these field mark questions as you can:

Western Scrub Jay  
*Aphelocoma californica*

- tail bars**  
Does the bird have wing bars?  
Does the bird have wing bars?
- tail markings**  
Does the bird have white edges on its tail or a different color on the tip?
- tail bars**  
Are there any stripes across the bird's tail?
- nape**  
What color is the bird's nape?
- belly**  
What color is the bird's belly?
- side**  
What color is the bird's side?
- breast**  
What color is the bird's breast?
- eyestripe**  
Does the bird have a stripe through the eye?
- eyebrow**  
Does the bird have an eyebrow? What color?
- beak or bill**  
What shape and color are the beak?
- throat**  
What color is the bird's throat?
- crown**  
What shape and color are the crown?
- breast**  
Does the bird have a stripe through the eye?