



## THE AMAZING WORLD OF BIRDS IN LOUISIANA! WHAT ARE THE BASICS TO RECOGNIZE THEM?

Link to our exhibit: "The Hall of Birds"

### BIRDS

All birds have feathers, scaly feet and wings. None have teeth; they have beaks instead. The first thing to do when you are interested in birds is to learn how to identify them. To help you get started, ask yourself the following questions:

#### How do they fly?

If the birds are far away, the manner in which the bird is flying can be a helpful clue.

#### What is their color?

Color is very useful, and there are a lot of books about birds with wonderful color illustrations. You can also look at the mounted specimens in our museum. Ask yourself what colors are the wing feathers? Are there colored spots or bars on the body, the head, the wings or the tails?

#### What is the bird's general shape.

**Outline:** Are they stout, round, long, slender, or small. Do they have long or short legs?

**Feet:** Do they have webbed feet or very small feet? Are their toes long or short? Do they have claws?

**Tail:** What is the shape of the tail? Is it forked or square? Short, long, curved?

**Wings:** Are they round or angular? Do they have feather bars?

**Beak or bill:** Do the upper and lower parts of the beak have the same dimensions or are they different? Is the beak used to crack seeds, catch fish, get nectar from flowers, make holes in trees to reach insects, or scoop up plants and animals? The shape of the beak will separate birds of different families.

#### What kind of sound does the bird make?

Do you know that the Museum has one of the largest collections of bird sound recordings in the world?

#### What is its behavior?

Does it live in group or by itself? Does it jump when on the ground? Does it nest in a hole or on a branch in a tree?

#### What are their feeding habits?

Do they feed on fields or in water or on tree trunks or while in flight?



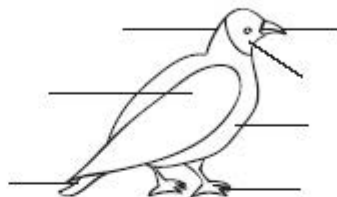


**GAME 1** Now that you know what to look for, here is an information sheet that you can reproduce and use to note your observation.



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Modify this drawing and record your observations



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of environment: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Observations/Descriptions: \_\_\_\_\_

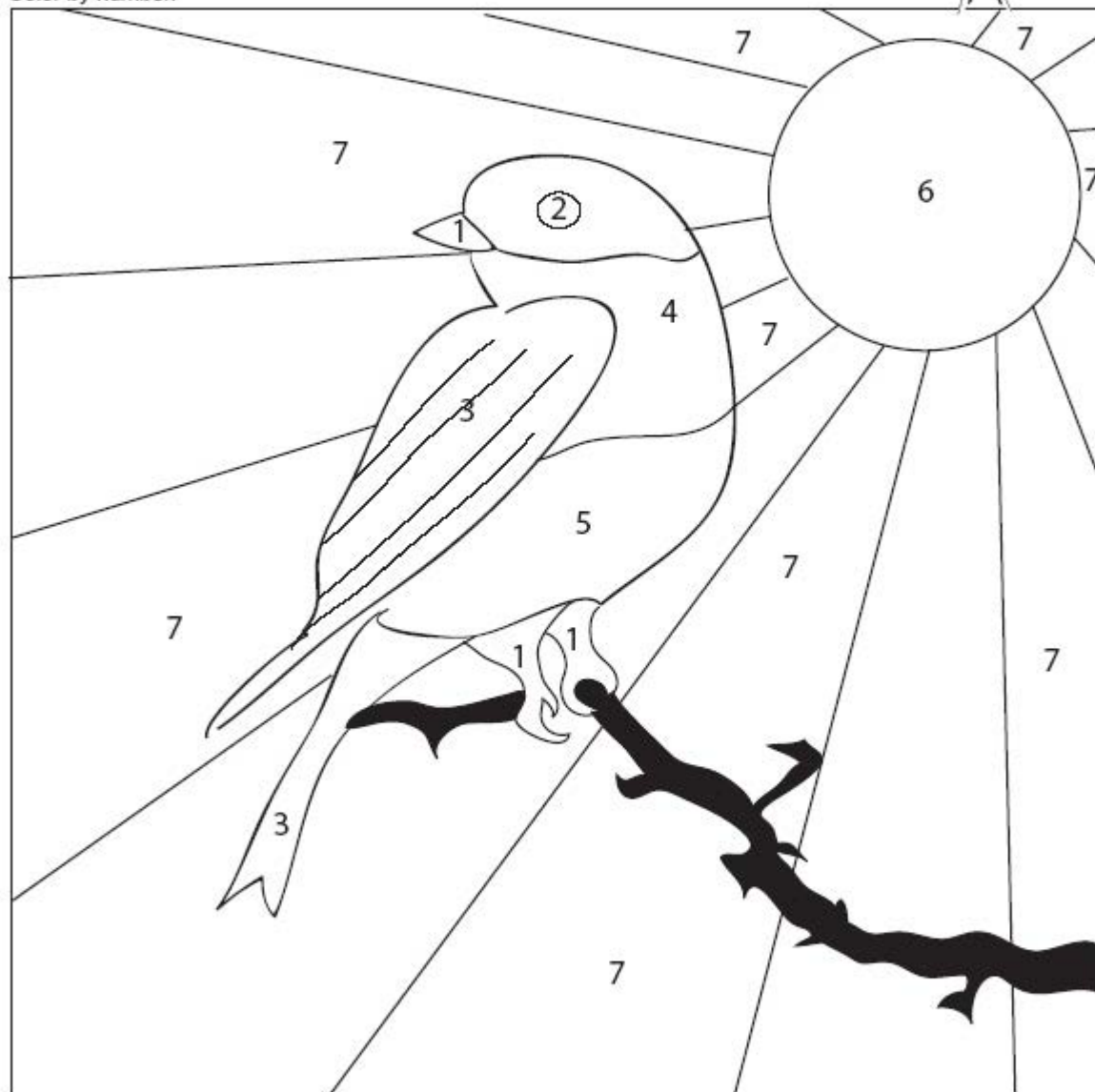
If you want to start learning how to take observations while in the Museum, here is a short description of our Hall of Birds. The birds are taxonomically arranged, meaning they are arranged based on how related they are to one another. The first group is the gulls and terns. The next one is the doves and passenger pigeons. Next are the owls. Then come the waterfowl or ducks. Beyond are the woodpeckers and then the passerines, followed by the herons, egrets and the Louisiana State bird, the brown pelican. At the end come the shorebirds, the prairie birds and the raptors or birds of prey.





## GAME 2: CAN YOU GIVE THIS BIRD ITS COLOR BACK?

Color by number.



Color this bird, a male specimen of Eastern Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*, using the numbered color code below:

1—Brown  
6—Yellow

2—Black  
7—Orange

3—Blue

4—Red

5—White

