



# Christmas Bird Count for Kids

The **Christmas Bird Count for Kids** (CBC4K) is an event inspired by the traditional Christmas Bird Count, which is the longest running citizen science project in North America. In December and January every year, people all across the continent will choose a day to observe birds in their area and submit their findings online to help scientists with their research and we'd love if you participated!

## Step 1:

Take a look at the following page, "*How to Identify Birds*", download the bird identification app, *Merlin*, and check out the following website to help with *bird identification*: <https://naturecounts.ca/apps/checklist/index.jsp>

## Step 2:

Choose a location to go for a walk with your group and see how many birds you can find! Offer a challenge- "How many birds can we find today", to keep the walk engaging and make some predictions about what you might see.

## Step 3:

Record all of your findings on your data sheet (included in email) and submit them online through Nature Counts and eBird Canada using the following link: [https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count-for-kids?\\_ga=2.169701985.1998881912.1669656220-2022570562.1669318404](https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count-for-kids?_ga=2.169701985.1998881912.1669656220-2022570562.1669318404)

## Tips:

The best time to look for birds is in the morning. Remind your students that you will have a better chance of seeing and hearing birds if you are quiet!

## Materials:

- data sheet (attached to email)
- pencil or pen



# HOW TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT BIRDS



There are hundreds of species of birds that can be seen in New Brunswick, all with unique colours, behaviours, and habitats. Here's some helpful things to look for and ways to tell them apart:

## SIZE

Size can be difficult to determine exactly, but try to judge whether it is a small, medium, or large bird.



Hummingbird



Crow



Heron

## SHAPE

Different groups of birds have different shapes. You probably already know that a duck has a different shape than an eagle or a pigeon!

## COLOUR

Is the species brown, yellow, black? All species have unique colour patterns. Colour can get tricky though, since males and females as well as adults and juveniles (young) can all be different colours. Males are typically the easiest to identify as they have the brightest colours - think of a peacock or a cardinal.



## HABITAT

Think about the habitat that you are in. Waterbirds are typically found near or in water, forest birds typically are in or near forests.

## SOUNDS

Each species has its own set of calls. Some species only have one call, and some have many, and some can sound similar to insects, or even mimic other birds, animals, and man-made noises! Bird song can be a helpful way to find or identify a bird. I bet you already know which bird has the call "*chicka-dee-dee-dee*"!

## BEHAVIOUR

What is the bird doing? Some birds have specific habits that help you identify them. For instance, nuthatches are the only bird species here that can climb headfirst down a tree!



This is a White-breasted Nuthatch. It is a similar colour, shape, and size, and will often be seen together with chickadees, but only nuthatches are able to climb headfirst down trees!

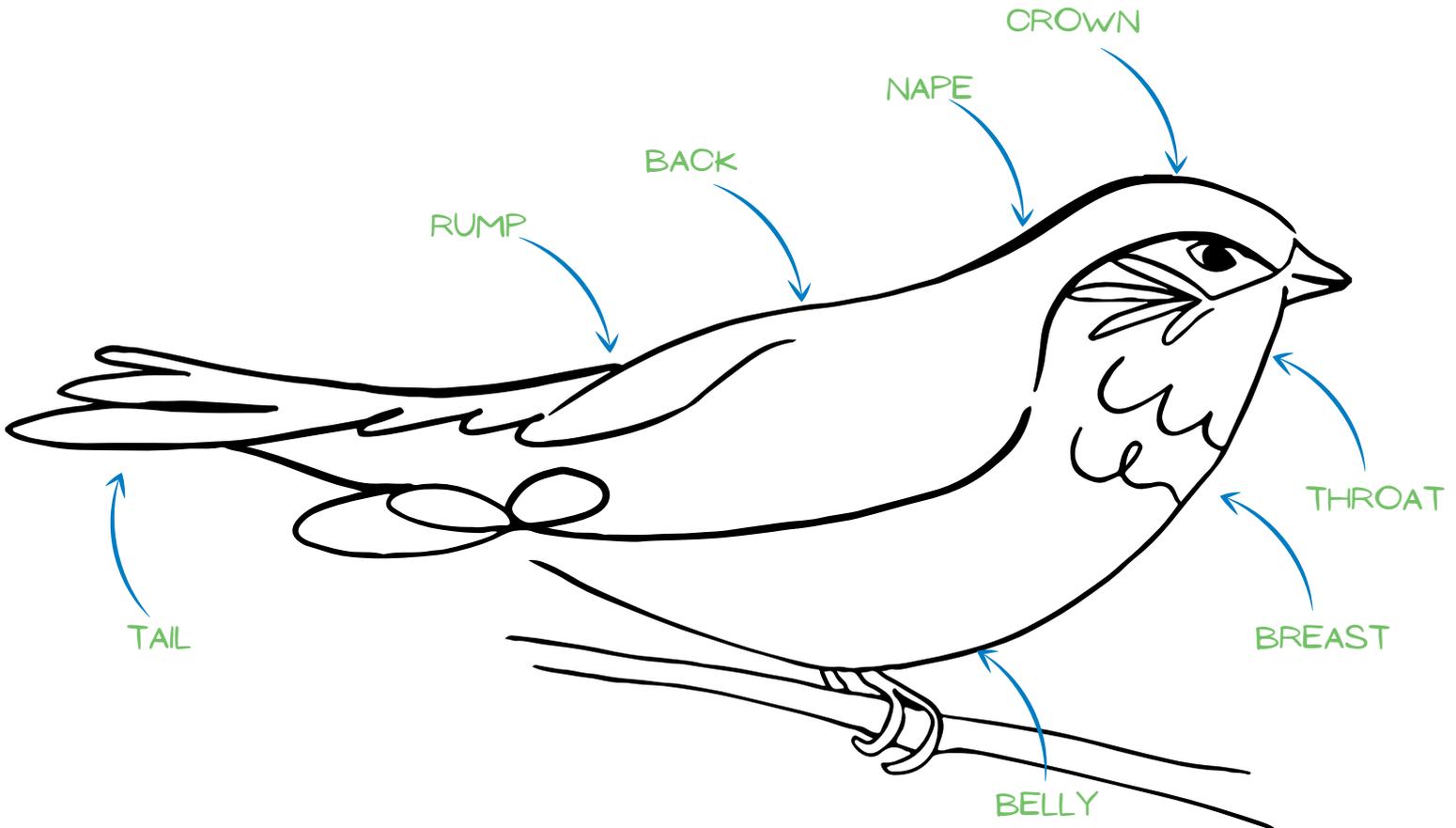


Black-capped Chickadee

# FIELD MARK FUN

Colour is an important cue we use to identify birds. Different parts of a bird's body have different names and can be different colours. Some birds are even named after these coloured areas! For instance, a White-throated Sparrow has a white throat.

These colourful clues are called field marks. Can you colour, describe, and name your own bird species based on the field marks listed?



## Species Identification Certificate

Name of species: .....

Crown colour: ..... Throat colour: .....

Nape colour: ..... Breast colour: .....

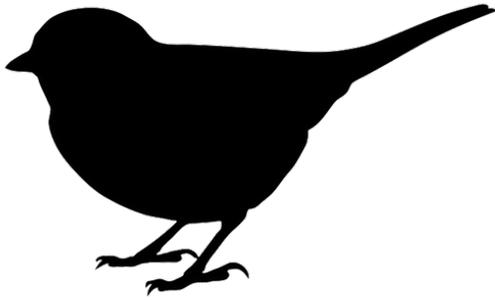
Back colour: ..... Belly colour: .....

Rump colour: ..... Tail colour: .....



Use the silhouette to guess each bird! Answers are at the bottom of the page.

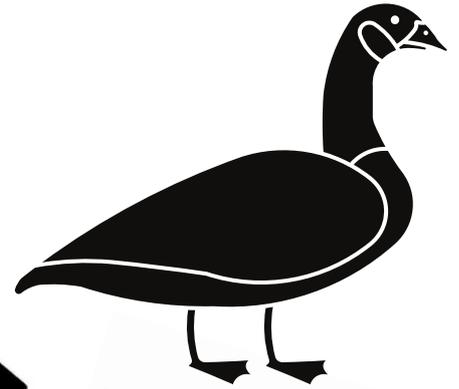
Regardez les silhouettes pour deviner chaque oiseau ! Les réponses se trouvent en bas de la page.



A.



B.



C.



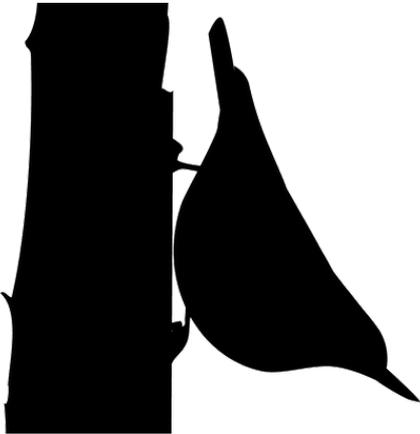
D.



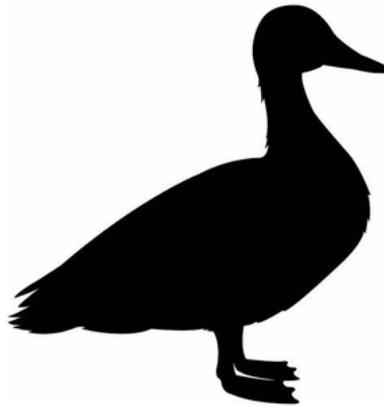
E.



F.



G.



H.



I.

Answers/Reponses:  
 a. Black-capped Chickadee / Mésange à Tête Noire  
 b. Northern Cardinal / Cardinal Rouge  
 c. Canada Goose / Bernache du Canada  
 d. Ruby-throated Hummingbird / Colibri à Gorge Rubis  
 e. Pileated Woodpecker / Grand Pic  
 f. Bald Eagle / Pygargue à Tête Blanche  
 g. White-breasted Nuthatch / Sittelle à Poitrine Blanche  
 h. Mallard Duck / Canard Colvert  
 i. American Robin / Merle d'Amérique