

Albuquerque is a great place to find birds in many different habitats.

Some birds stay here all year, such as Robins, House Finches, Flickers, Roadrunners, Mallards, Wood Ducks and even Canada Geese.

Others return here each Spring to raise a family. Some birds nest in the mountains. Some nest in the Bosque. Some may nest in your backyard!

One of the best ways to enjoy birds is to bring them to you.

Creating a little wildlife refuge in your backyard is a wonderful family project.

In our dry climate, water is harder to find than food, so keeping a reliable water source available will attract the greatest variety of birds.

Planting native plants can provide both food and cover for birds and improve your backyard habitat!

### Identifying Birds

Size - how big is it?

Canada Goose  
Mallard

Flicker  
Sparrow

Shape - Is it round, fat, slender, stubby, skinny?

COOT <sup>Nkthatch</sup> ROADRUNNER

Color - What colors do you see?

Behavior - What's it doing?

- swimming
- diving
- pecking trees
- hopping
- climbing upside-down
- running

Habitat - Where does it live?

- Pond
- Desert
- Bosque
- Pine forest
- Meadow

### Good Birding Books

National Audubon Society First Field Guide: Birds. Scholastic Press, 1998.

Birdwatching for Kids: A family birdwatching guide. By Steven A. and Elizabeth May Griffen. Northward Press, 1995.

Western Birds: Peterson Field Guide Series. By Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Press. Third Edition, 1990.

A Field Guide to the Plants and Animals of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque. UNM Press, 2008.

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

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

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

# of birds checked: \_\_\_\_\_

Other birds and wildlife we saw:

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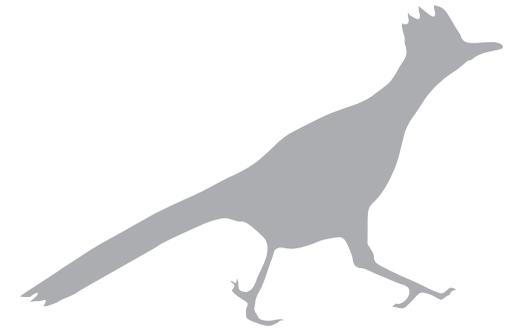


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# Birding for Kids



**Rio Grande Nature Center State Park**  
2901 Candelaria NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
505-344-7240

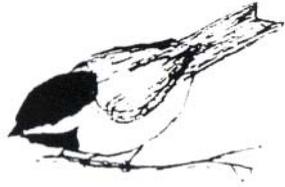
**Know Before You Go**  
visit  
NMPARKS.COM



# Check off the birds you see!

## Black-capped Chickadee

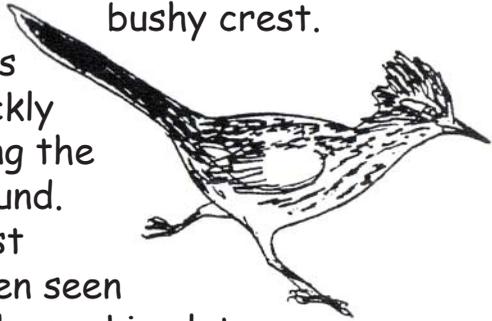
Tiny and energetic. Best seen around bird feeders. Hops around quickly in tree branches. Call is a quick "DEE DEE DEE."



## Greater Roadrunner

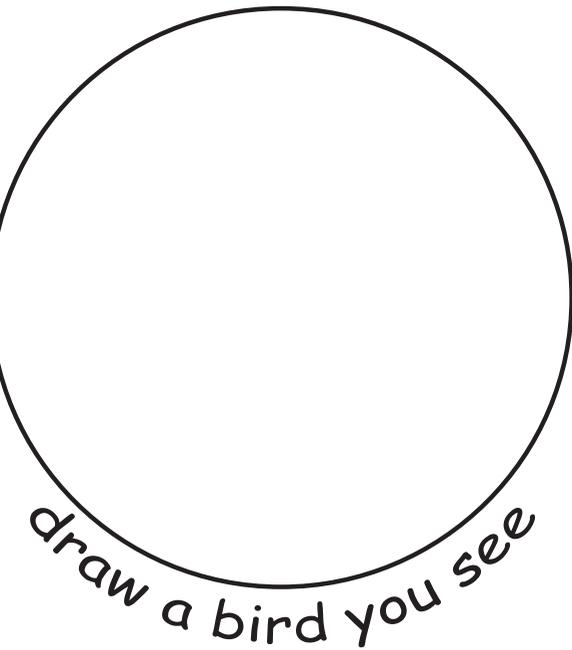
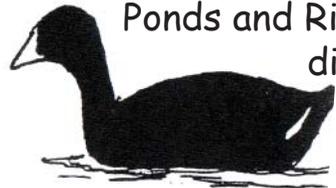
Our state bird. Long tail and bushy crest.

Runs quickly along the ground. Most often seen in the parking lot.



## American Coot

Very dark gray to black with a white bill. Swims around on Ponds and Rio. Can also dive. NOT A DUCK!



Notes:

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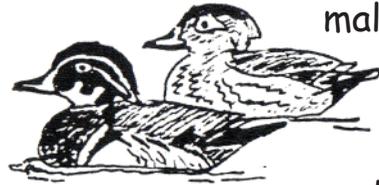
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## Wood Duck

Male has a green head with white stripes and a red bill. Female is brown and has a white tear-drop around her eye.



## Northern Flicker



Our largest woodpecker. Grey and brown head, spotted chest and striped back. Salmon color seen under wings in flight.

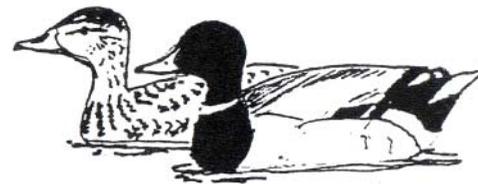
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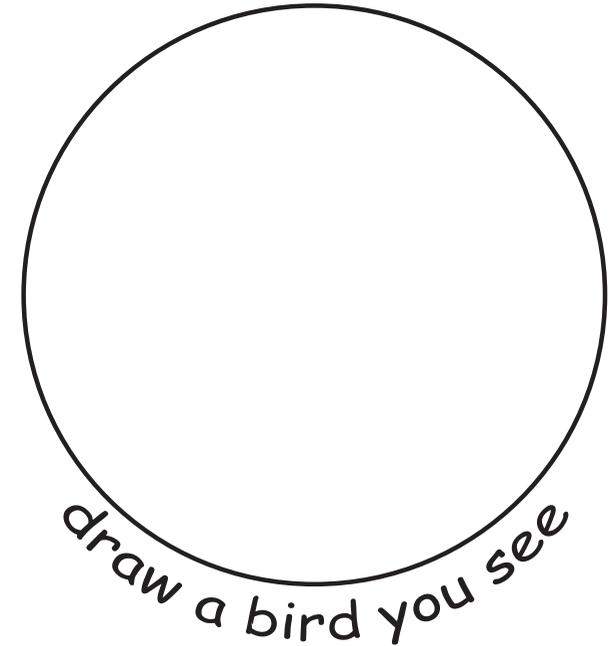
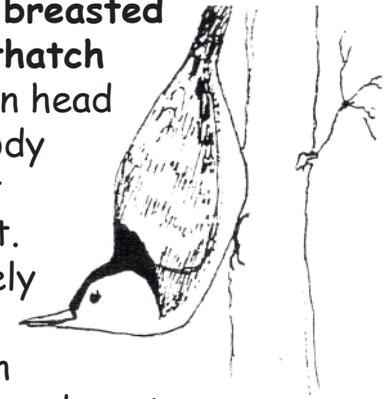
## Mallard

Male has a green head and white neck collar. Female is speckled and brown.



## White-breasted Nuthatch

Black cap on head and blue body with bright white chest. Clings closely to bark of tree. Often seen climbing down trees. Look around feeders.



## Canada Goose

Year-round resident on Pond and Rio. Large bird with black neck, brown body and white patch on face.

