



# Bird Topography

## Objectives

Participants will identify the basic parts of a bird.

## Overview

Use a puzzle to teach participants the basic parts of a bird.

## Recommended Ages

> Children 5-17

## Activity Time

Approximately 10 minutes

## Items

- > Copy of bird pattern parts
- > Copy of bird pattern
- > Heavy stock paper
- > Copies of bird pictures & keys
- > Prizes
- > **Optional:** Magnet board
- > **Optional:** Bird picture labeling arrows

## Make-N-Take Activity

- > Copies of bird pattern parts
- > Copies of bird pattern key
- > 11x17 (or larger) color construction paper
- > Stick glue, crayons, and scissors

## Activity in Action

Send your comments and pictures on this activity to [bday@birdday.org](mailto:bday@birdday.org)

Topography is the description of the physical features and their arrangement of a place or object. Bird topography refers to the parts of a bird and their location. Knowing the parts of a bird is important to improving observational and identification skills. This activity shares basic bird topography with beginner and/or young birders. See your field guide for a detailed bird topography diagram.

## Activity Directions

- 1. Choose your medium.** This activity is a puzzle. You may choose to make your bird topography puzzle with heavy stock paper to be used on a magnet board or you may lay it out on a table.
- 2. Choose your pattern.** Decide how challenging you want to make the activity. Two patterns are provided, one of which includes labels for each of the bird parts.
- 3. Copy bird pattern pieces.** You may make your bird topography puzzle as large as you want by increasing the copy size. Laminate the pieces if using construction paper.
- 4. Copy the bird pattern** (bird with numbers on it) on paper and laminate. This will be the answer key.
- 5. Cut out the bird pictures.** Glue the corresponding answer key on the back of each picture and laminate.

**Get Involved!** Discover easy, fun ways to learn and connect with others while spreading bird conservation awareness—[join the EFTA Flock at BirdDay.org](https://www.birdday.org)

Find free educational materials (and much more) at [BirdDay.org](https://www.birdday.org)

Have you registered your IMBD event? It's quick, easy, free, and one way we measure IMBD success. To register, go to [birdday.org](https://www.birdday.org) or send your event information to [bday@birdday.org](mailto:bday@birdday.org).

## Activity Directions Continued

- 6. Set-up your station.** Post the bird pattern key onto your magnet board leaving enough room for participants to build the bird next to it. Lay the pieces on the table in front. Or, you can have participants assemble the bird on the table, like you would a puzzle, with the answer key to the side of the puzzle parts.
- 7. Explain to participants the importance of knowing the parts of the bird.** Knowing the parts of a bird makes it easier to identify the bird and to communicate to others what you see. When explaining this to participants you could also make a correlation to the human body. For example, when you are hurt or sick the doctor can more readily help you if you can use the correct body terms to describe your symptoms. Or, if you are learning dance moves or sports, it is helpful to know the parts of your body.
- 8. Ask participants to complete their bird puzzle.** Participants may use the answer key to help guide them, especially if they are younger. Older audiences may not need the bird pattern. If you have time, challenge participants to build the bird without using the pattern.
- 9. Finish the activity by asking participants to describe the parts in the bird photos.** For example, ask participants to describe the flank or the belly.
- 11. Don't forget to reward participants with prizes and/or stamping their IMBD journals on the bird topography page.**

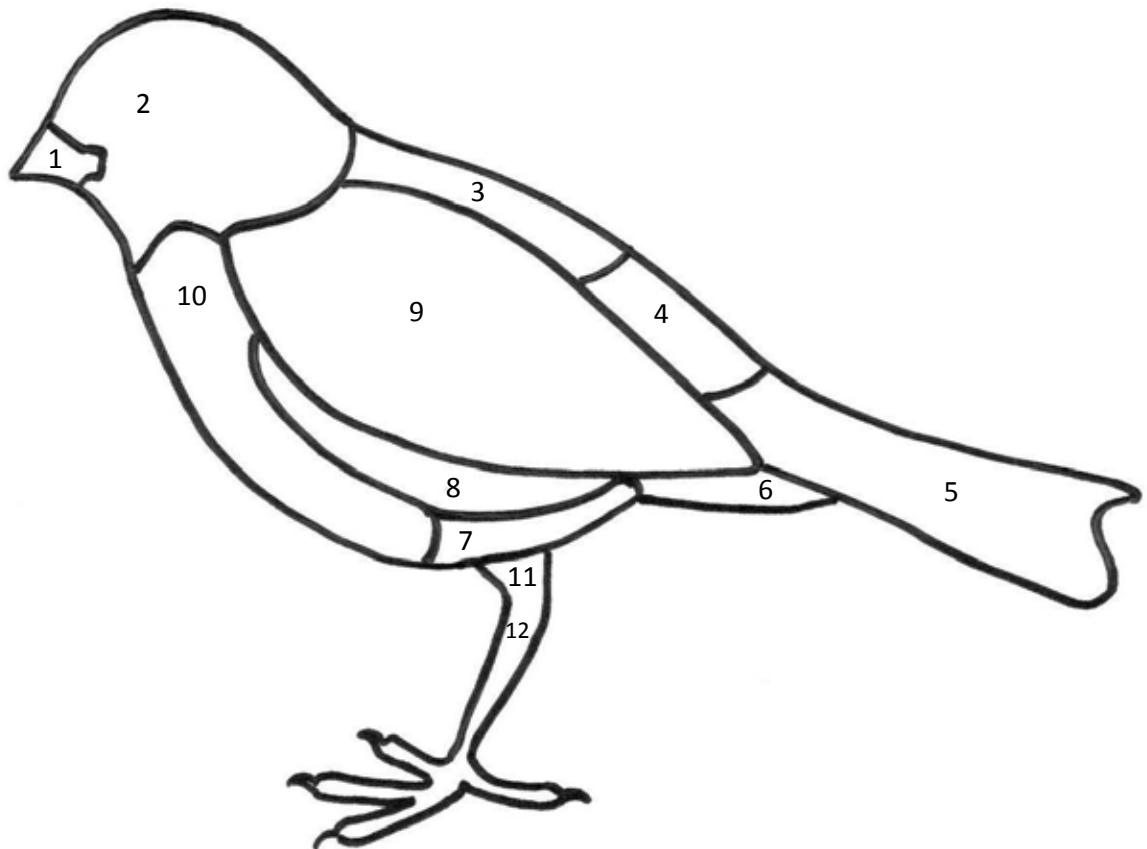
## Make-n-Take Activity

- 1. Make lots of copies of the bird pattern parts.** Provide scissors, glue, one sheet of large colored construction paper (11x17) and a set of bird pattern parts for each participant.
- 2. Make copies of the bird pattern key.** Plan to provide one key per participant. The key will be their reference when building their bird.
- 3. Kids cut out pattern parts and assemble.** Explain that they can use the key to help them assemble the bird, and glue the pieces in place.
- 4. Kids color their bird.** Provide a selection of bird photos common to your area. We've provided a few examples in this activity. Ask each child to pick out a bird to use as their model. Explain that they are to use the photo to color the bird parts correctly. Have each child to write the full name of the bird on their paper, for example American goldfinch, not goldfinch.

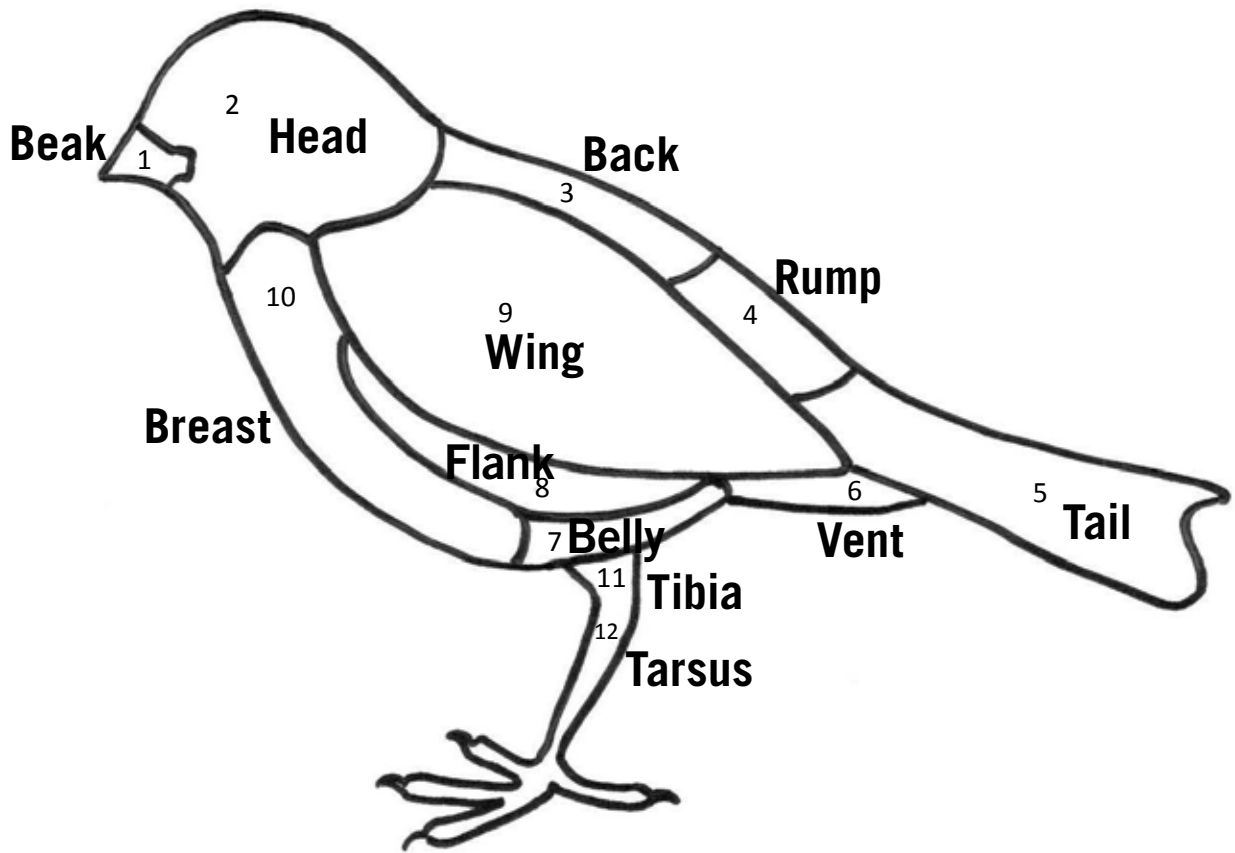
## Activity in Action

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## Bird Pattern Key 1



## Bird Pattern Key 2 and for *Make-n-Take* Activity



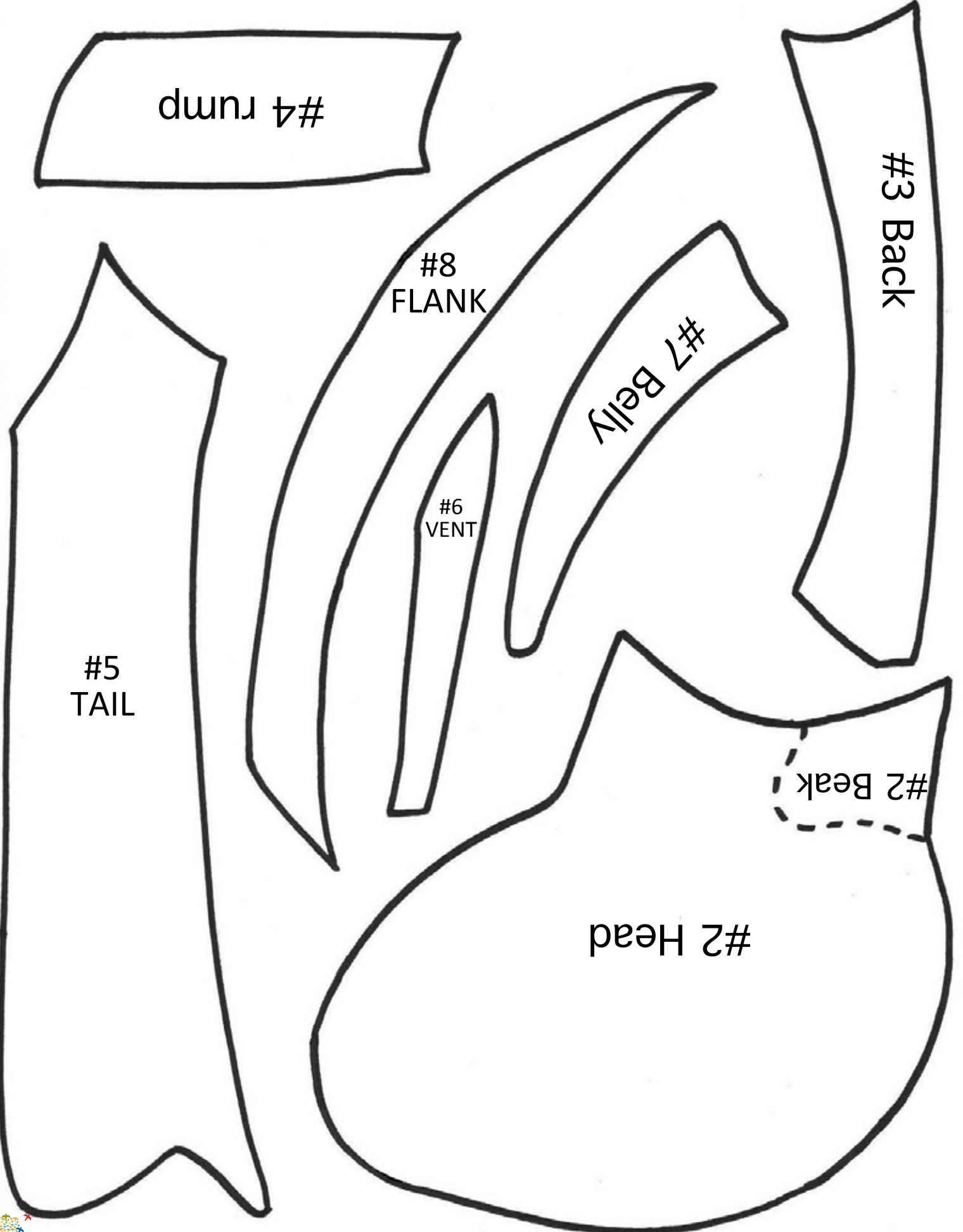
#9 Wing

#10 Breast

#11  
TIBIA

#12 Tarsus





#4 rump

#3 Back

#8 FLANK

#7 Belly

#6 VENT

#5 TAIL

#2 Beak

#2 Head





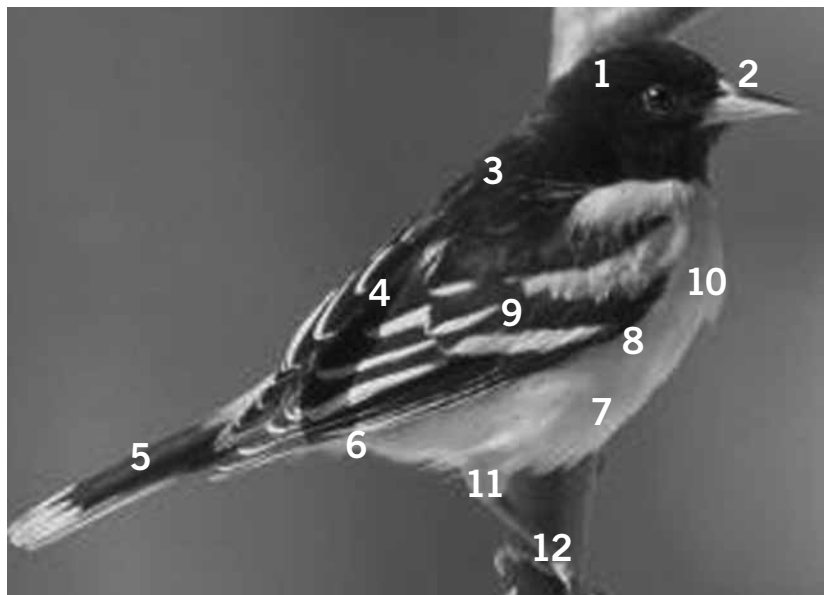
trim on dashed rule



Photo by D.Brezinski, USFWS

## Baltimore Oriole

1. Head: black
2. Beak: gray
3. Back: black
4. Rump: orangy/yellow
5. Tail: yellow and black
6. Vent: yellow/orange
7. Belly: yellow/orange
8. Flank: yellow/orange
9. Wing: black and white
10. Breast: yellow/orange
11. Tibia: yellow
12. Tarsus: gray





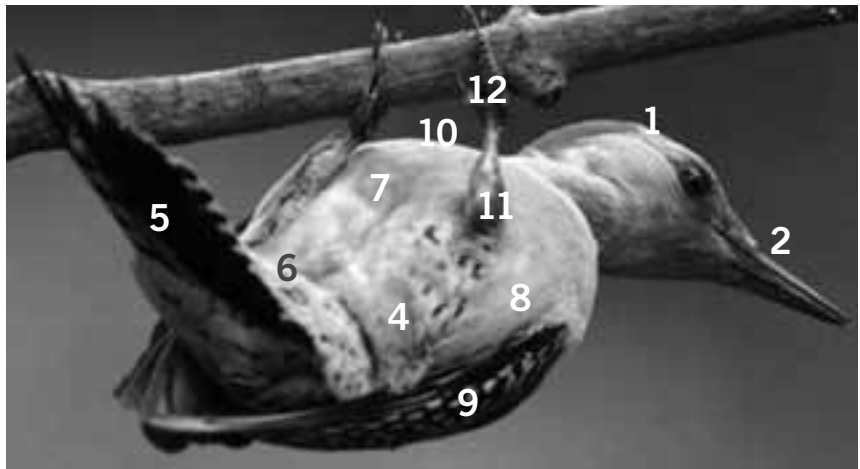
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Photo by USFWS

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

1. Head: grayish with red
2. Beak: black
3. Back: not viewable
4. Rump:white
5. Tail: black & white
6. Vent: buff
7. Belly:buff with little red
8. Flank: buff
9. Wing:black with white
10. Breast:buff
11. Tibia:grayish
12. Tarsus:gray







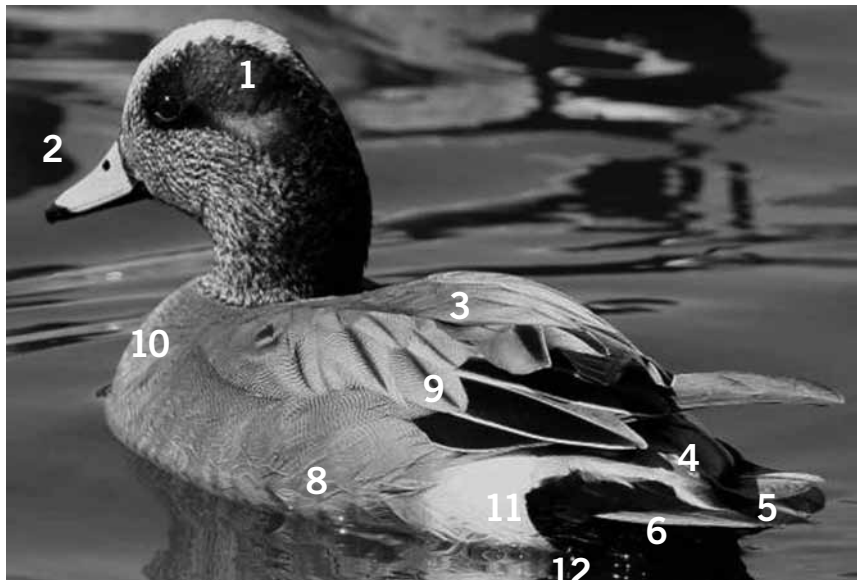
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Photo by USFWS

## American Widgeon

1. Head: streaky brown, green, white
2. Beak: bluish white
3. Back: buffy brown
4. Rump: black
5. Tail: black and white
6. Vent: black
7. Belly: not viewable
8. Flank: pinkish brown
9. Wing: white/brown/black
10. Breast: pinkish brown
11. Tibia: not viewable
12. Tarsus: not viewable



## Bird Picture Labels

trim on dashed rule 



Use arrows to label color pictures.

## Bird Picture Labels



trim on dashed rule



Head



Tail



Beak



Vent



Back



Belly



Rump



Flank



Wing



Breast



Tibia



Tarsus

Use arrows to label color pictures.

## Make-n-Take Pictures



trim on dashed rule



American goldfinch



Eastern bluebird

## Make-n-Take Pictures



trim on dashed rule



Western tanager



Northern flicker