

# Bird Calls

## INTERPRETIVE CHEAT SHEET

### **OBJECTIVE**

To become more familiar with local birds and become more aware of their different calls.

### **MATERIALS**

See Birds bin. We have a *Birdsong Identifier* machine which plays recordings of birds that correspond to the pictures you see on the screen. We also have various bird nests and we have four related posters – 2 of songbirds, one of raptors and one of bird nests. You can also use reference books with pictures and info on birds, such as John Muir Laws 'Sierra Nevada Guide'.

### **ACTIVITY**

Display pictures of local birds on picture cards, posters and/or in books such as the John Muir Laws Sierra Nevada Guide. Ask visitors if they have seen any of these birds. Also ask them if they know any of the bird calls. Use the *Birdsong Identifier* machine to play different bird songs. To make the activity more fun, make it a guessing game and have your guests tell you which bird they think goes with each call. You can get a wider variety of bird calls by using a smartphone and accessing different websites. A good one is run by the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology – <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>. You can look up specific birds and hear their calls. On that site you could also watch videos, webcams and access lots of additional information. Challenge your visitors to listen for some of these calls and look for the birds as they are out in the canyons.

### **COMMON BIRDS IN OUR AREA**

Goldfinch	Red shouldered hawk
Scrub jay (lower elevation)	Red tailed hawk
Stellar jay (higher elevation)	Sharp shinned hawk
Dark-eyed junco (here in winter)	Turkey vulture
White crowned sparrow	Bald eagle
Acorn woodpecker	Peregrine falcon
Nuttall's woodpecker	American dipper (by water)
Red breasted sapsucker	Mallard duck (by water)
Northern flicker	Merganser duck (by water)
Black headed grosbeak	Great blue heron (by water)
Red breasted nuthatch	Great egret (by water)
Cliff swallow	Northern mockingbird
Oak titmouse	Mourning dove
Yellow rumped warbler	Western tanager
Bullock's oriole	American robin