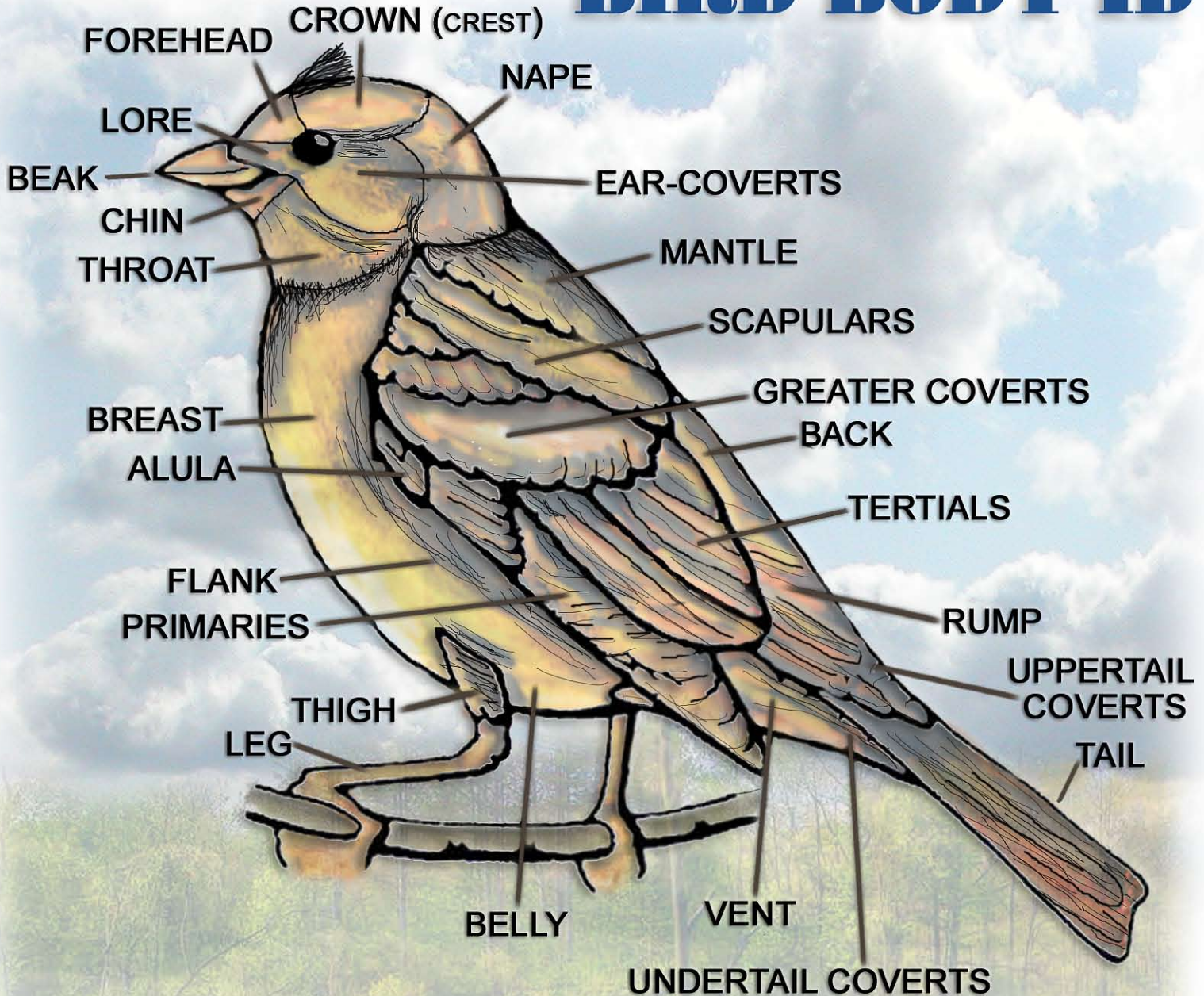


# BIRD BODY ID



## BETTER BIRD ID - WHERE to START

There are many ways to help ID what Bird you may have spotted. From Cornell University, here is a great way to begin:

### **SIZE & SHAPE**

Tiny bird with large head, plump body, narrow tail, and short bill

### **COLOR PATTERN**

Striking shiny black cap and throat against white cheeks. Buffy sides; wings and back soft gray

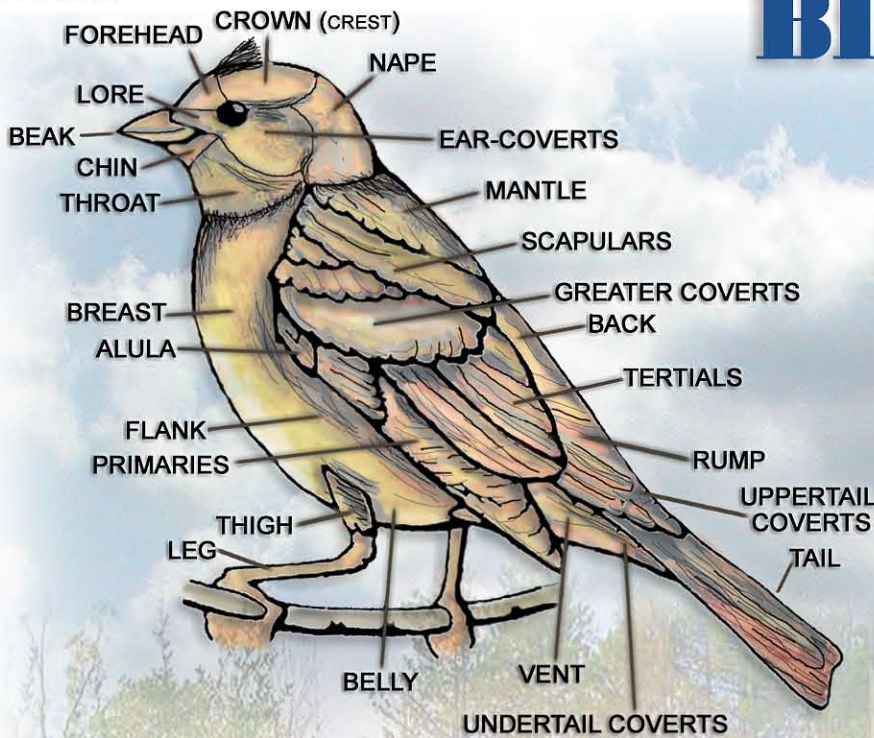
### **BEHAVIOR**

Busy, acrobatic, and often in feeding flocks of several species

### **HABITAT**

Forests, woodlots, backyards, & shrubby areas.

# BIRD BODY ID



1. **SIZE & SHAPE**
2. **COLOR PATTERN**
3. **BEHAVIOR**
4. **HABITAT**

*AFTER YOU HAVE QUICKLY IDIED THE 4 MAIN AREAS TO BEST START A NEW BIRD ID WITH, YOU CAN MOVE ON TO THE MAIN DIVISIONS.*

*THE MAIN DIVISIONS ARE: BEAK (OR BILL), HEAD, BACK, THROAT, BREAST, WINGS, TAIL, AND LEGS*

## BETTER BIRD ID

While you are out on a Bird venture you will want to start to train yourself to identify a Bird in a usual and predictable pattern. HABITAT is where you will begin and end your ID. The Habitat in which you find a Bird is mostly a predictable place. Experienced Birders will actually head for specific habitats to find specific Birds. During different seasons that habitat can be broken down even more to be able to better find and/or identify a Bird.

Once the Habitat has been determined the next step will be the Size & Shape of the Bird. Many times this step can be combined with Color Patterns or "Field Markings". As you become more proficient at identifying different Habitats, and then the Size, Shape and the Bird's Color Patterns, those Field Markings will be the quick way to be very sure of just what Bird you are looking at. That head stripe can very well tell you the specific Bird you are looking at from many others that are very similar. That's why, as you are going through the Four point ID List, and you have IDied the HABITAT, SIZE & SHAPE, and COLOR PATTERNS, those very specific "FIELD MARKINGS" will eventually be one of your main keys in the specifics of identifying a particular Bird. This will come with experience and familiarity, as well as alot of fun practice.

The Bird's BEHAVIOR and Song are another great indicator of it's ID. These can be very specific Bird ID indicators, but they are longtime learned practices, and usually only the very experienced Birder can specifically identify a Bird by it's behavior or Song.