

Interpretive Birding Trails

Signage Series

Size and Shape

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Great Blue Heron



Barn Swallow



Blue Jay



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Size and shape are helpful clues when IDing birds. Birds are designed for their daily deeds and each casts a unique silhouette. Is it tiny like a hummingbird, sleek like a heron, or stout like a Blue Jay? Spotting their unique outlines is your first clue to uncovering their identities.

Color Pattern

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Northern Cardinal



Red-winged Blackbird



Grackle



Barred Owl

Colors are clues. Pay attention to where the color is and how it's patterned. Is it bright red like a cardinal, or just a hint, like on the red-winged blackbird? Is it striped like the barred owl or solid like a grackle? Colors attract mates and help birds hide from predators.

Bird Behaviors

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Carolina Chickadee



Red-tailed Hawk



American Robin

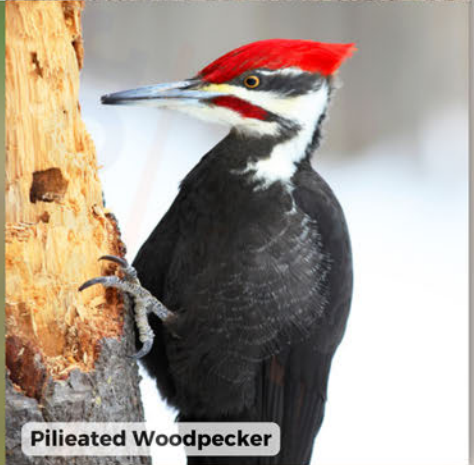


Red-bellied Woodpecker

Be a detective – watch how birds behave. Do they dart quickly from branch to branch like chickadees, or soar high above like hawks? Perhaps they're hunting for food on the ground, like robins, or pecking at a tree trunk, like woodpeckers. Each behavior offers a hint about who they are and what they want.

Habitat

The Four Keys to Bird IDs



Notice where you are – each habitat is home to various feathered friends. Ducks love water, canyon wrens favor cliffs, and woodpeckers (you guessed it) prefer the woods. Observing the habitat and considering a bird's range help you guess who might appear, transforming the scenery into a living puzzle of bird life.

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias



How still could you be if your life depended on it? Great Blue Herons motionlessly watch and wait for a fish to get too close. Quick reflexes, long necks, and sharp beaks are their fishing tools. Can you spot these majestic anglers waiting for their next meal?

Who are you rooting for?

Vultures

Nature's Recyclers



Vultures in this park are hard at work. When an animal dies, these feathered cleaners swoop in to feast on the remains, leaving hardly a trace. This is yucky work, but by eating what's left, vultures keep our parks healthy. When they're flying above, a turkey vulture's wings are half black, half white, while the wings of black vultures are mostly black.

Wild Turkeys

Meleagris gallopavo



"The turkey is a bird of dignity and heft, a symbol of the wild that challenges the observer to appreciate the complexity and beauty of the natural world. Its presence in the landscape is a reminder of the wilderness that once covered these lands, a call to wonder and reflection."

-Henry David Thoreau

Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis



In an ecosystem painted with earthy greens and browns, why would the male cardinal want to stand out? Its vibrant red feathers and mohawk are bold badges of health. This fashionable flare signals strength, helping to defend territory and attract mates. The cardinal reminds us it's cool to wear your colors boldly.

What's in a Name?



Native Americans have had names for the birds, flowers, and trees around you for a very long time. Look around you and pick your favorite nature item. If you were the first person to spot it through a telescope, what would you name it?

Trust Your Wings



Birds sit on tree branches not because they trust the branch, but because they can fly.

Which of your skills do you most trust?

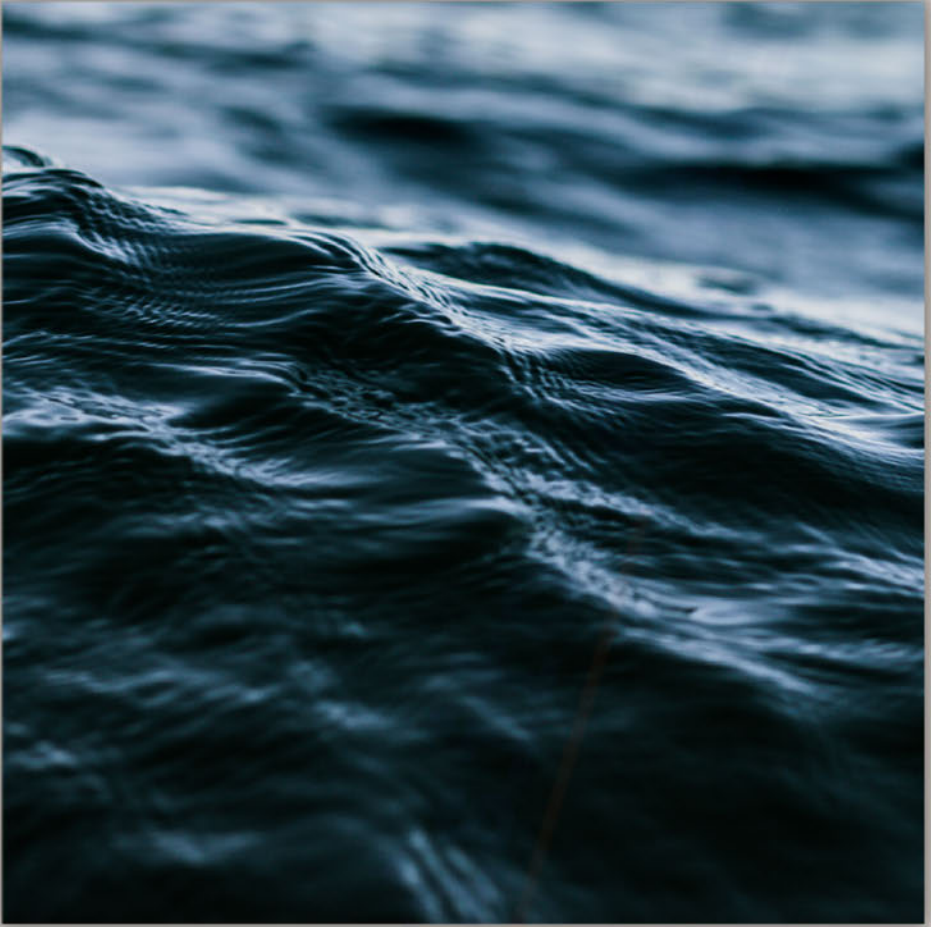
Life Without Fear



“Have wings that feared
ever touched the Sun?
I was born when all I once
feared – I could love.”

-Rabia al Basri

I Go Down to the Shore



“I go down to the shore in the morning and depending on the hour the waves are rolling in or moving out, and I say, oh, I am miserable, what shall— what should I do? And the sea says in its lovely voice: Excuse me, I have work to do.”

-Mary Oliver

The beautiful words of Mary Oliver can be available for additional licensing costs.

Your Place in the Family of Things



"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting – over and over announcing your place in the family of things."

–Mary Oliver

The beautiful words of Mary Oliver can be available for additional licensing costs.

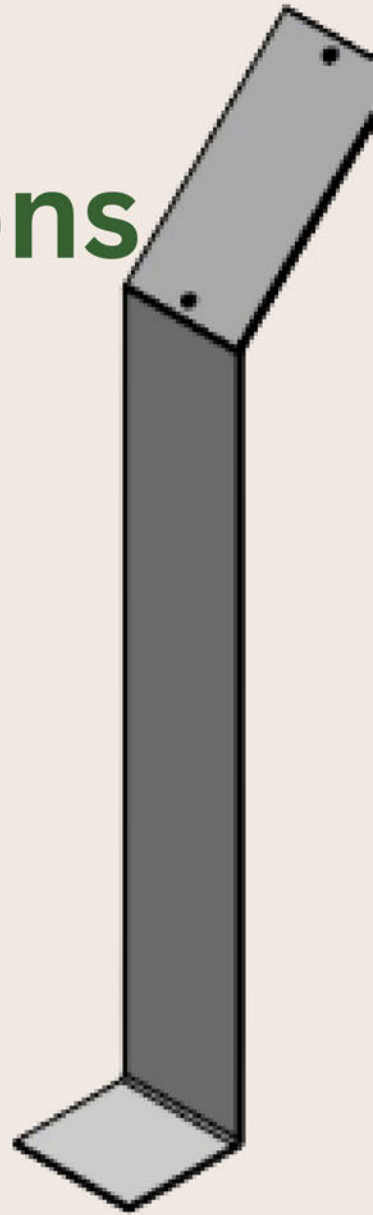
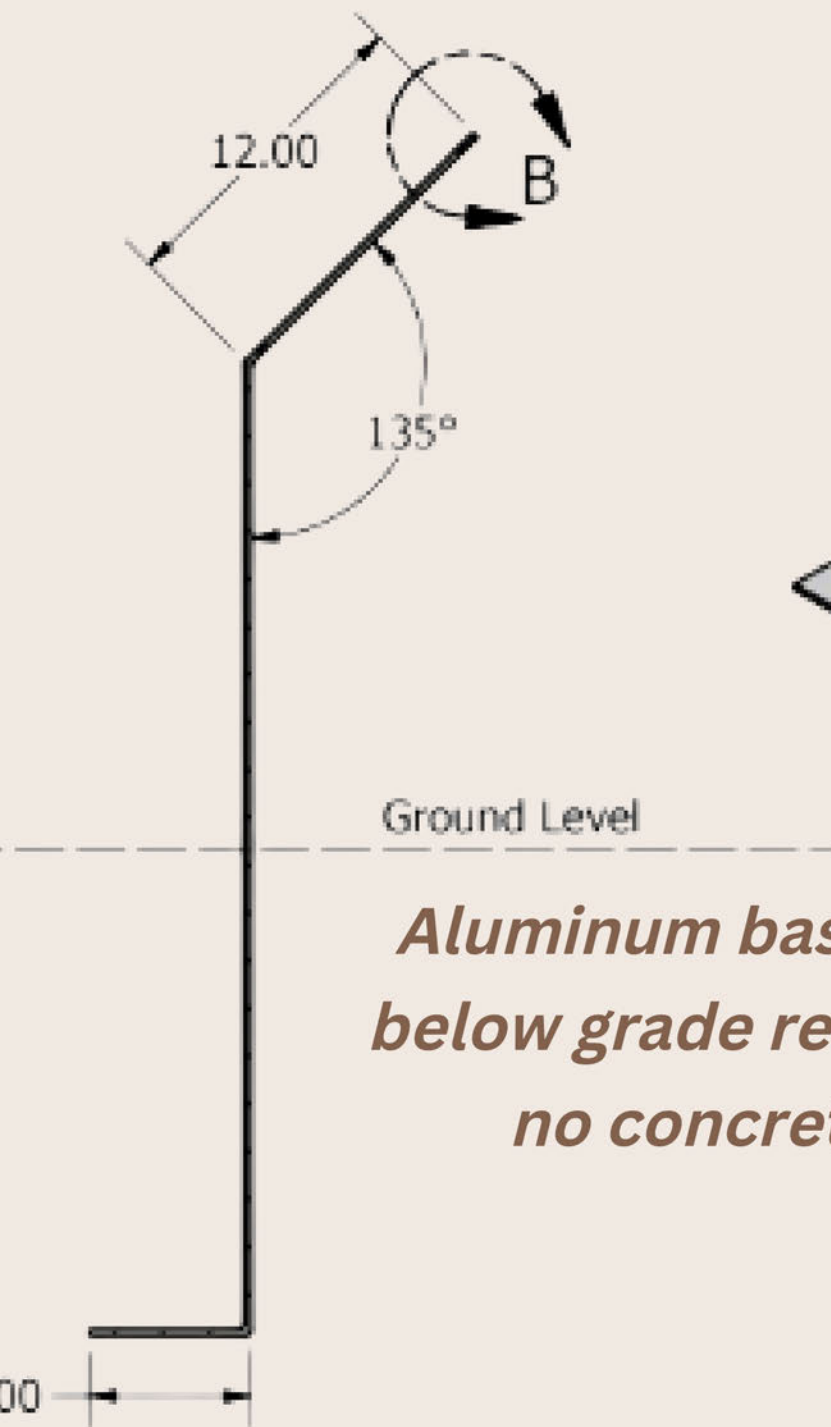
Trailside ID Signs

Simple, Scalable Interpretation



Trailside ID signs answer visitor questions when you're not there. Don't reinvent the wheel - each sign can work for 1 or 100 parks. Our durable metal bases don't require concrete, so expect quick installs and relocations. Choose from our signage library or we'll write for your needs.

Base Dimensions



*Aluminum base 18"
below grade requires
no concrete*

Base Dimensions

