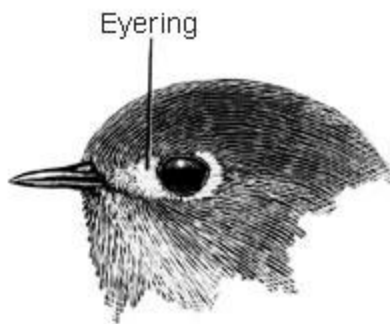
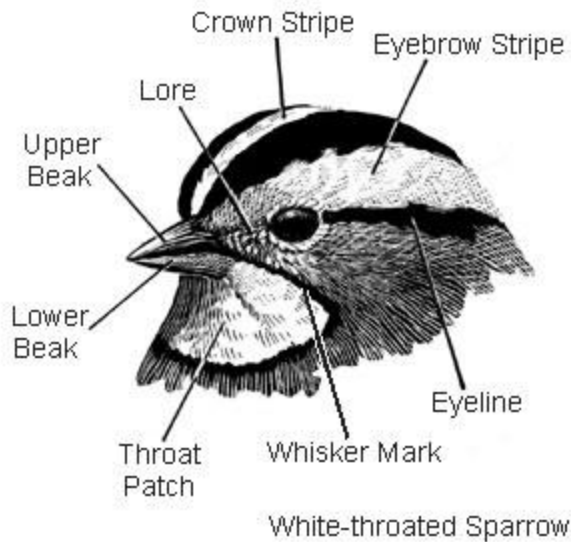


Field Marks Of The Head



Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Image by John Schmitt/Cornell Lab.*

Eyebrow stripe (or **superciliary**, line over the eye)

Eyeline (line *through* the eye)

Whisker mark (also called mustache or **malar stripe**)

Throat patch

Color of upper and lower beak

Color of the **lore** (area between base of beak and eye)

Crown stripe (stripe in the midline of the head)

Eyering (ring of color around eye)

Presence or absence of crest

The color of the eye itself (**iris**) can also be very useful

Field Marks Of The Wing

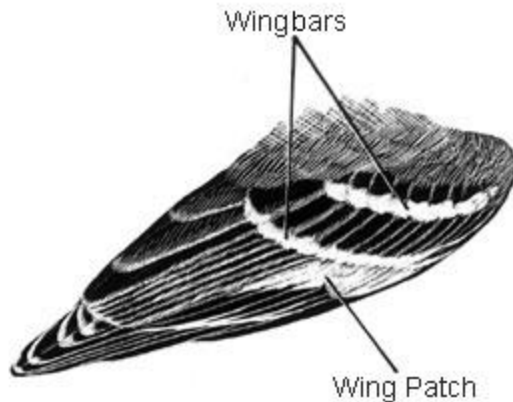


Image by John Schmitt/Cornell Lab.

Birds' wings are another great place to pick up clues to a bird's identity. In a few groups, including warblers and vireos, wing markings can give you a positive identification even if the bird has molted out of its colorful breeding plumage. In other groups, such as flycatchers and sparrows, the absence of wing markings may be important. Ducks, shorebirds, raptors, among others, often show distinctive markings in flight, when their wings are spread and new feathers are exposed. Keep an eye out for these field marks:

Wingbars (stripes across the folded wing)

Wing patches (blocks of color on the wing)

Wing lining (the feathers covering the underside of the wing)

Primaries (the long flight feathers on the outer half of the wing)

Secondaries (the flight feathers on the inner half of the wing)

Speculum (the patch of colored secondaries that helps identify many ducks)

Wing tips

<http://k2gw.tripod.com/onlinebirdstudy/index.html> - On line Bird Study Merit Badge with resources

<http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Bird-Study.pdf> - Bird Study Merit Badge Workbook