

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Sheet: What Makes a Bird a Bird? Nestlings Fledglings

Comparing Feathers

After examining the two feathers with the hand lens, draw them in the provided space and fill in the following information.

Contour Feather

Where are the contour feathers on the bird's body?

Wing, tail, and body.

What is the function of this feather?

Aid in bird flight and attracting mates.

Down Feather

Where are the down feathers on the bird's body?

Located under contour feathers along the body.

What is the function of this feather?

Help to insulate a bird and keep it warm.

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Bird Feather Observations

What are the different colors of feathers do you see? Which colors do you see the most?

I saw seven different colored feathers. A blue bird with gray on its belly, a little yellow bird with a black cap, and a larger black bird and a large flock of smaller black birds. There was also a tiny hummingbird with brightly green colored wings and red throat feathers. I about 20 large and small black birds total.

Describe the plumage of one or two birds you observed (Example: One bird had a bright blue back and gray belly. I noticed white outer tail feathers while the bird was flying).

Write 2-3 sentences.

The hummingbird had a bright red throat with a green back and wings. As it moved the colors on its feathers seemed to change. There were also some black streaks along the side of its belly.

How do birds use their plumage or feathers?

I saw a lot of birds using their feathers to fly. The hummingbird seemed to use its plumage to attract others.

Draw or sketch one bird you saw: