



Avian Evidence

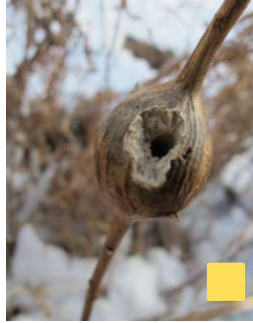


Keep track of what you discover by placing a check mark in the yellow boxes.



White-breasted nuthatch

White-breasted nuthatches are known for hopping up and down the sides of trees and perching face-down with their heads craned upward. These crafty creatures often store seeds and nuts for later by wedging them into furrows in the bark of nearby trees.



Predated gall

A predated gall is a small, round formation on the stem of a golden rod plant that houses the small larvae of the goldenrod gall fly. Look for downy woodpeckers and chickadees clutching to dead plant stems as they peck at the gall to retrieve the yummy larvae morsel inside.



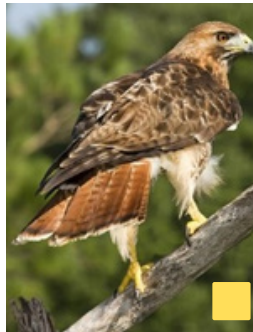
Bird poop

The white substance found within the fluid feces of birds from the elimination of uric acid (form of urine). Bird poop is easy to find, but difficult to identify who left it behind. The greenish-white tubes from Canada Geese are easily recognizable though.



American goldfinch nest

An American goldfinch nest is a deep woven cup of grasses and weed stems lined with cattail fluff. They sit nestled in the crooks of branches and may easily be spotted in fields, yards and meadows once the leaves have fallen.



Red-tailed hawk

Red-tailed hawks are commonly seen perched on telephone poles, light poles, or trees. These large birds hunt for small mammals in open fields by soaring above with eyes fixed on the ground below. Their cinnamon colored tail feathers help with identification.



Wood ducks

Wood ducks are colorful waterfowl that are at home in the water but can also be found sitting in trees – since they nest in tree cavities. Look for these ducks in wetlands, sluggish streams, and along heavily vegetated edges of ponds.



Blue jay

Blue jays are easily recognizable by both sight and sound. They are distant relatives to the crow and can mimic the sounds of other birds. Blue jays have a fondness for acorns, so they can be found wherever there are oak trees.



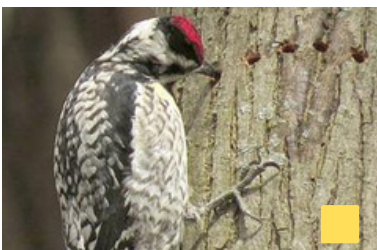
Owl pellets

Owl pellets are often confused for feces. These globs of fur and bones are expelled through the mouths of owls and are the indigestible parts of the animals they eat.



Shredded bark

Pileated woodpeckers are the largest woodpeckers in our area. They will often shred the bark on soft trees to get to the tasty, plump larvae underneath.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker holes

Yellow-bellied sapsucker holes are shallow horizontal rows of round holes in tree bark that are tell-tale signs of a migratory woodpecker. Instead of drilling holes to find insects like other woodpeckers, sapsuckers drill holes in living trees to feed on sap and phloem tissues.

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