



_____ 's
Island
Bird Book

Tips for



Bird Watching:

- ❑ **LISTEN!** Birds can be hard to spot right away, but you can easily hear them. Make sure you stay quiet and don't scare them!
- ❑ **BINOCULARS!** Some birds might try and hide far away or up high. Don't worry, your trusty binoculars can help you spot them!
- ❑ **GO OUTSIDE!** But you don't have to go far. You will be surprised what you can find in your backyard!
- ❑ **BE CAREFUL!** It's not just birds out there, especially in wooded areas. Wear long sleeves and pants and use bug spray and sunscreen! When you come home, check yourself for ticks (or ask someone to help)!

want to learn more?

Ask an adult to help you
check out the following websites!

<https://biodiversityworksmv.org/>

BiodiversityWorks is an organization focused on environmental conservation on Martha's Vineyard. Check out their Wildlife Projects to learn about their Bird Count project and how you can contribute!

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide/>

The National Audubon Society's website has an online field guide that is packed with tons of information on birds! They also have pronunciation guides and audio clips of bird sounds that you can listen to. You can also use interactive maps that predict how climate change will affect bird populations.



This book was created by the Education Department of the
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus



A very large shorebird of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast. They live **solitarily** (alone) or in family groups in summer.

Oystercatchers may gather in large flocks in winter. They make a sharp, high-pitched *kleep!* sound or a two-toned *cle-ar* sound.

They often **forage** (find food) by walking in shallow water and search for food by sight. They eat mostly mussels, clams, and oysters, but have been known to also eat marine worms, sand crabs, sea urchins, and jellyfish. When they find a shellfish with its shell slightly open, the oystercatcher quickly jabs its bill into the opening and eats up the meat inside.

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula



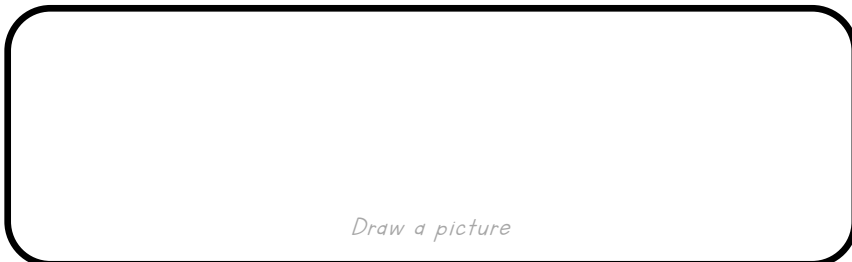
One of the most brilliantly colored songbirds, they are found widespread east of the Great Plains. Baltimore Orioles are often very common in open woods and groves in summer. Their bag-shaped hanging nests, artfully woven of plant fibers, are familiar

sights in the shade trees in towns. They **forage** (find food) for insects, berries, nectar among the **foliage** (leaves) of trees and shrubs. In summer feeds mostly on insects, especially caterpillars. They make a clear, flute-like sounds of varying pitches, which are then strung together to form songs or calls. These songs can greatly vary from bird to bird. Males use these songs to defend their territory.

.....

I FOUND IT!

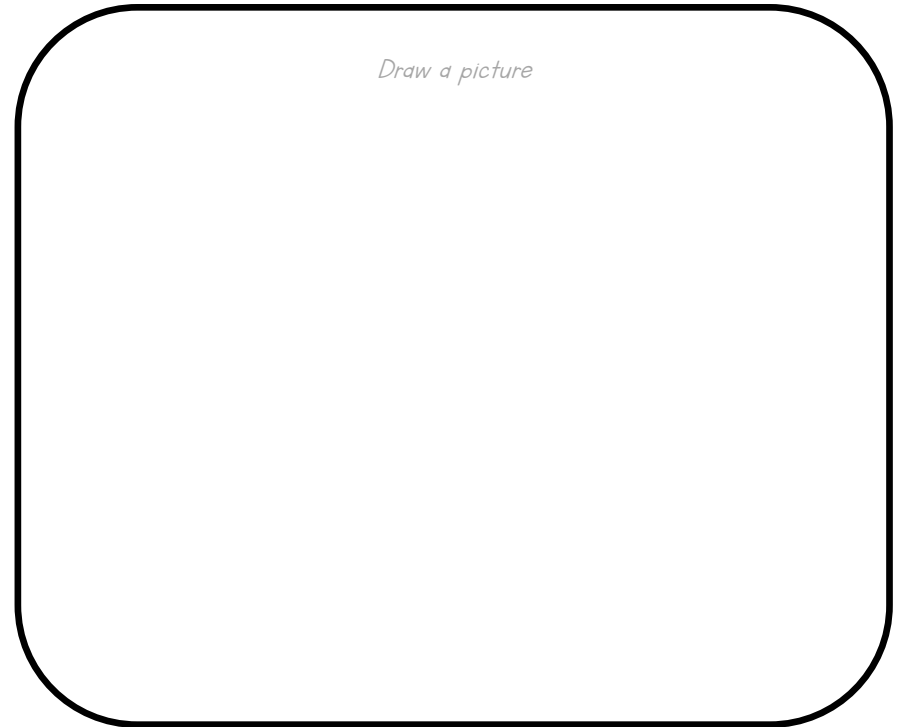
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

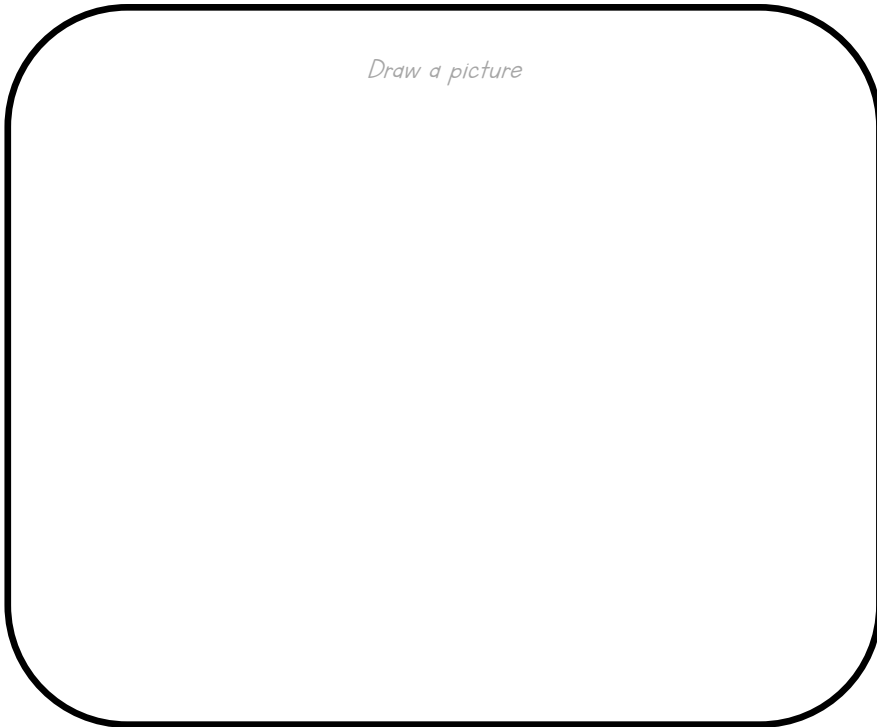
Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Black-capped Chickadee

Poecile atricapillus

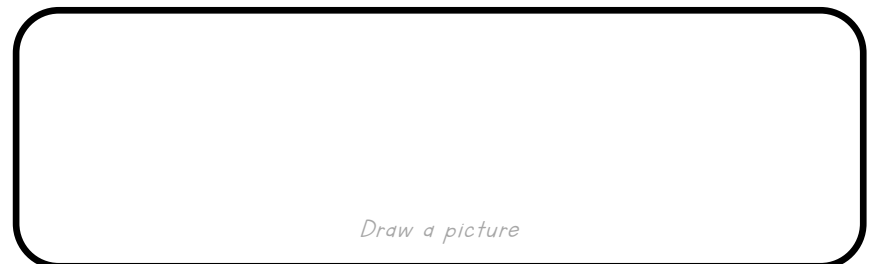


Little flocks of Black-capped Chickadees enliven the woods with their active behavior and their cheery-sounding music as they fly from tree to tree. They make the typical buzzy *chick-a-dee-dee-dee* sound but can whistle a clear *fee-fee*

sound, with the second note being lower. They eat mostly seeds, berries, and insects. In the summer, the chickadees may even eat small spiders and snails. They eat mostly by hopping from branch to branch, sometimes hanging upside down to check for food. They also love bird feeders. Their nests are typically in small holes in trees, usually formed by rotting wood or an old woodpecker hole. They line the nest with moss or animal hair.

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata



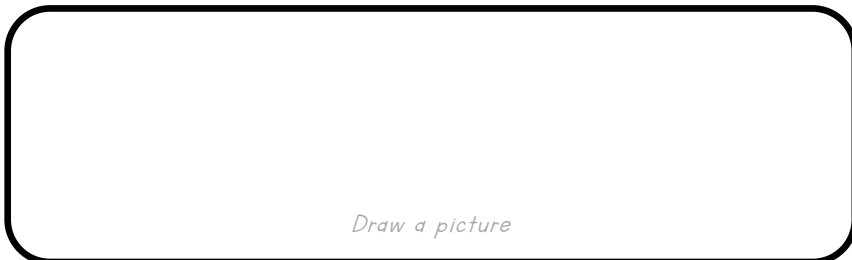
One of the loudest and most colorful birds of eastern back yards and woodlots, the Blue Jay is unmistakable. Intelligent and adaptable, it may feed on almost anything, and will use their bills to crack open hard nuts and seeds. They are quick to take advantage of

bird feeders. Besides their **raucous** (loud) *jay! jay!* calls, Blue Jays make a variety of musical sounds, and they can do a remarkable imitation of a Red-shouldered Hawk's scream. They can also be quiet when slipping through the trees to tend their own nest or to rob the nest of another bird. When they do build their own nests, they look like a bulky open cup made of twigs, plants, and moss.

.....

I FOUND IT!

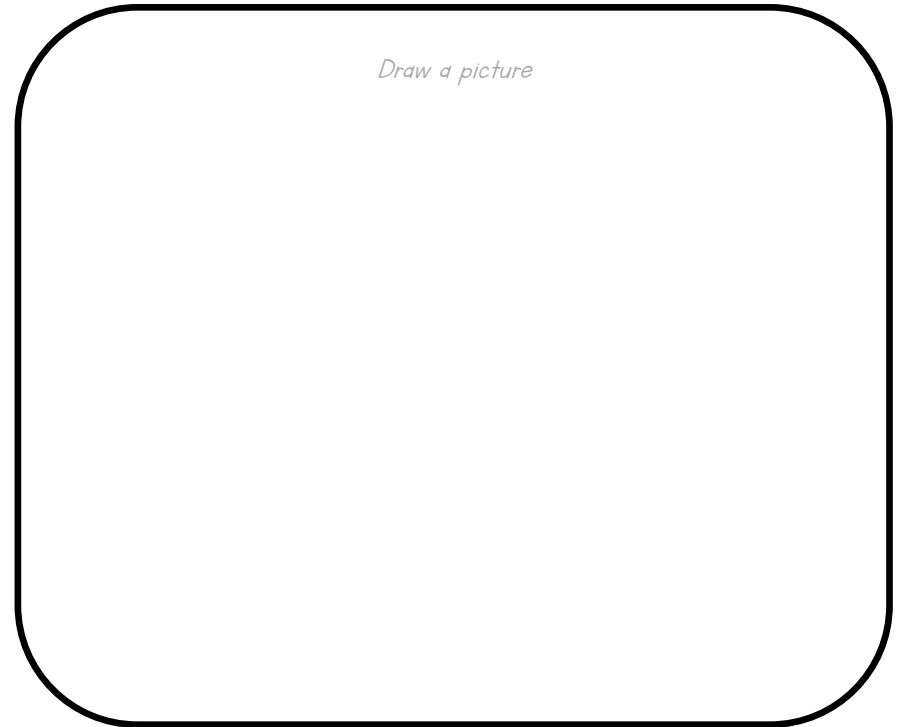
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

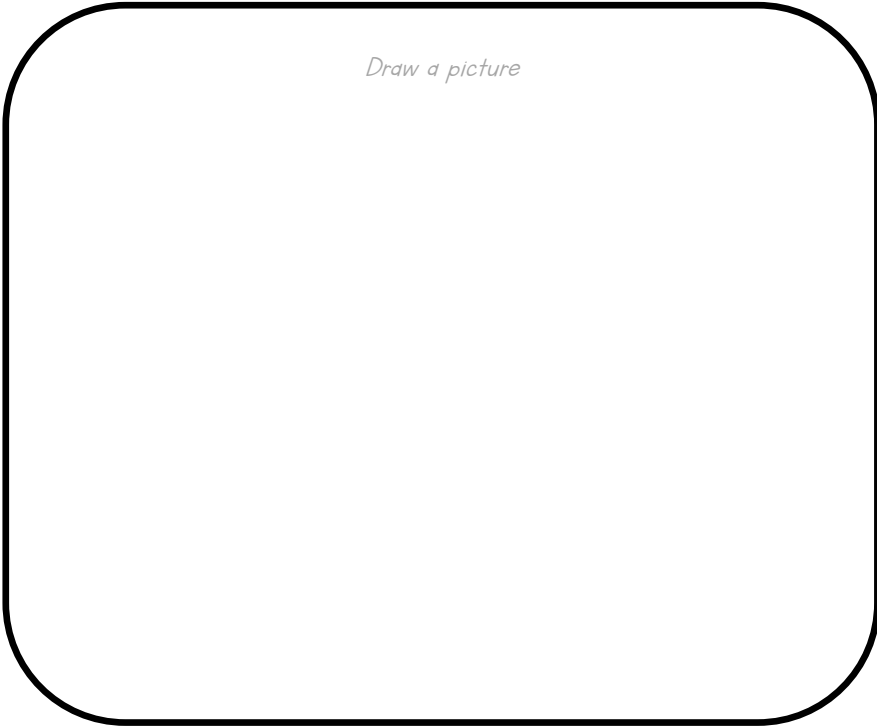
Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Cedar Waxwing

Bombycilla cedrorum

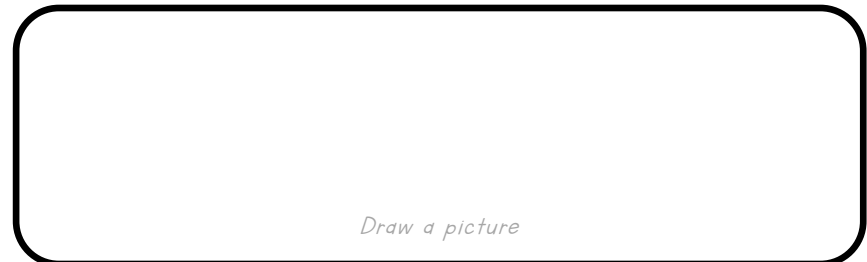


Cedar Waxwings love berry-laden trees and hedges, and will flutter between the branches as they feast. These birds are sociable at all seasons, and it is rare to see just one waxwing. Occasionally a line of waxwings perched on a branch

will pass a berry back and forth, from bill to bill, until one of them swallows it. They tend to make a high-pitched *tsee*/call but will also trill in between the calls. They usually do not build their nests until mid-summer, and they look like loose, open cups of twigs and plant fibers perched on a branch, especially in a fork. Because they usually travel as a flock, nests tend to be placed in a nearby, in the same territory.....

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____



American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

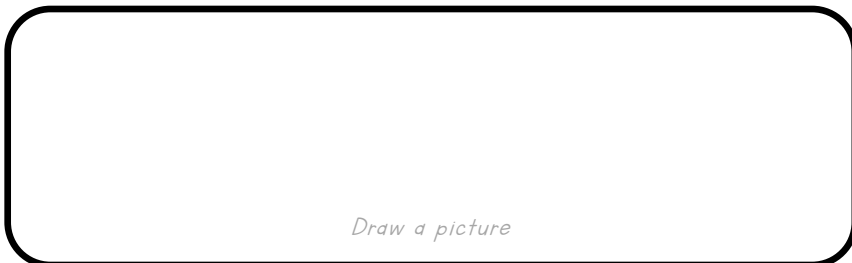


Crows are thought to be among our most intelligent birds in North America. In fact, rather than working hard to break open hard-shelled foods, they will drop them from high up or even onto fast-moving cars to break the food for them. Crows have also

been shown to remember human faces and if a human has wronged them, they will even share this information with other crows. Their most common call is the *caw-caw* that you have likely heard, but they also make sounds like *crack-oh* and a hollow bell-like noise. When they are trying to mate, males will make a rattling song to impress the female. They build their nests at the base of a branch.....

I FOUND IT!

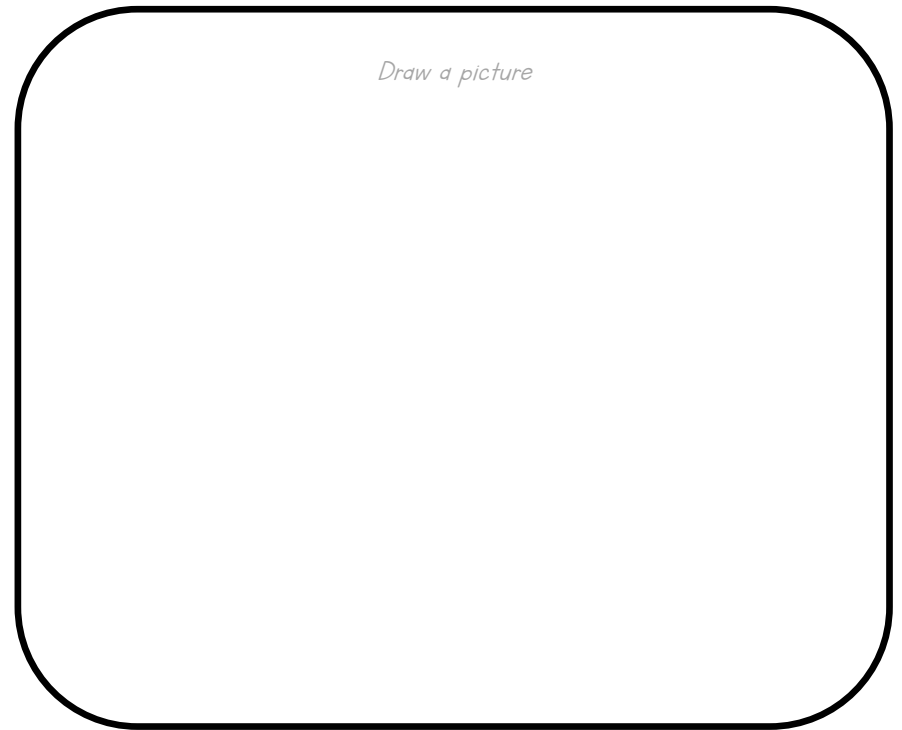
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

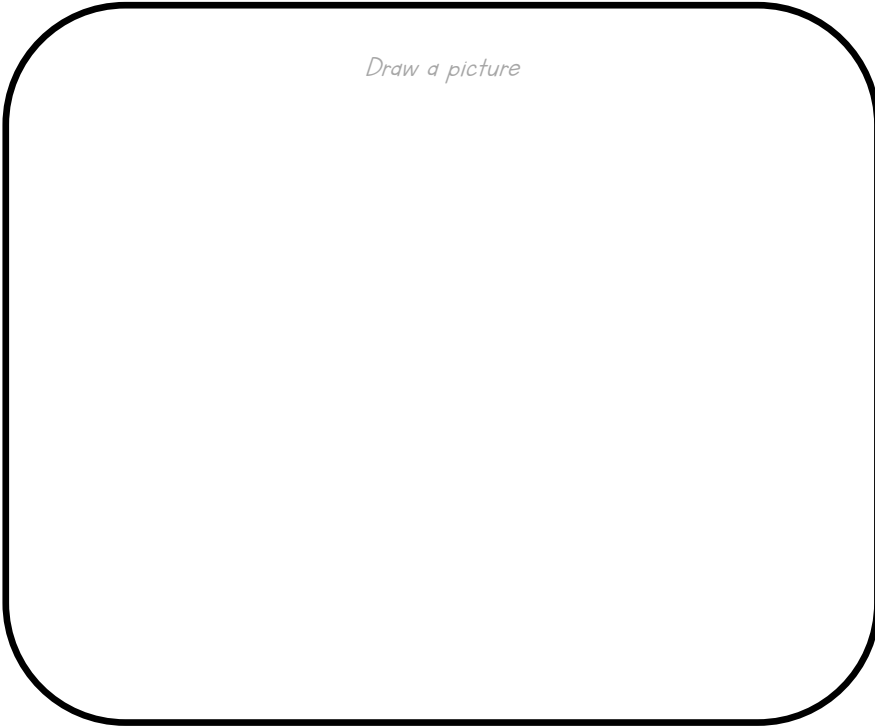
Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus



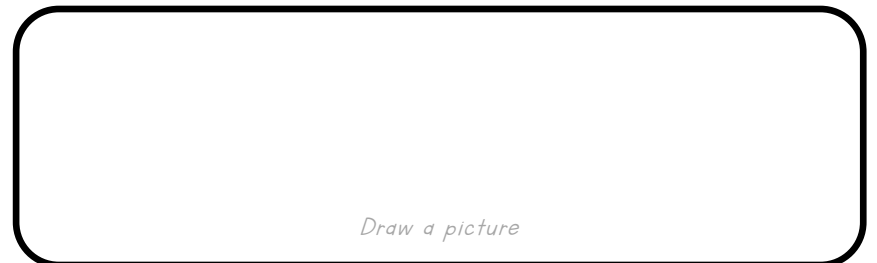
Large, abundant, and widespread, the Herring Gull is among the most familiar members of the gull family. They are opportunistic foragers and will get their food when walking, swimming, or flying from both water and land. At sea, they may

feed on schools of fish driven to the surface by whales. They make a variety of loud, recognizable calls like *keeyer* or *kuk-kuk-kuk*. When threatened, they will signal to the rest of the flock with a *gagaga* alarm call. They tend to nest on the ground, next to a shrub or rocks to protect the nest from wind. Their nests tend to be near one another as they live in colonies.

.....

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____



Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus



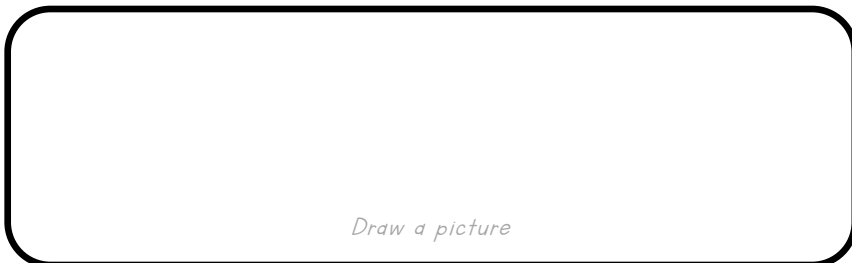
Widespread, common, and conspicuous, the Killdeer are cousins of the plover and are often found near the edge of water, but may live in pastures far from it. They eat mostly insects and worms found in both dirt and sand. You can spot them running a

few steps before pausing to look and peck at the ground. They make a shrill call that sounds like their name, *kill-deee* or *deet-deet-deet*. When their nest is threatened, they tend to make a sputtering sound and will act injured to lure predators away from its nest. Humans have also unknowingly fallen for the “broken wing” act and followed the killdeer away before the bird takes off.

.....

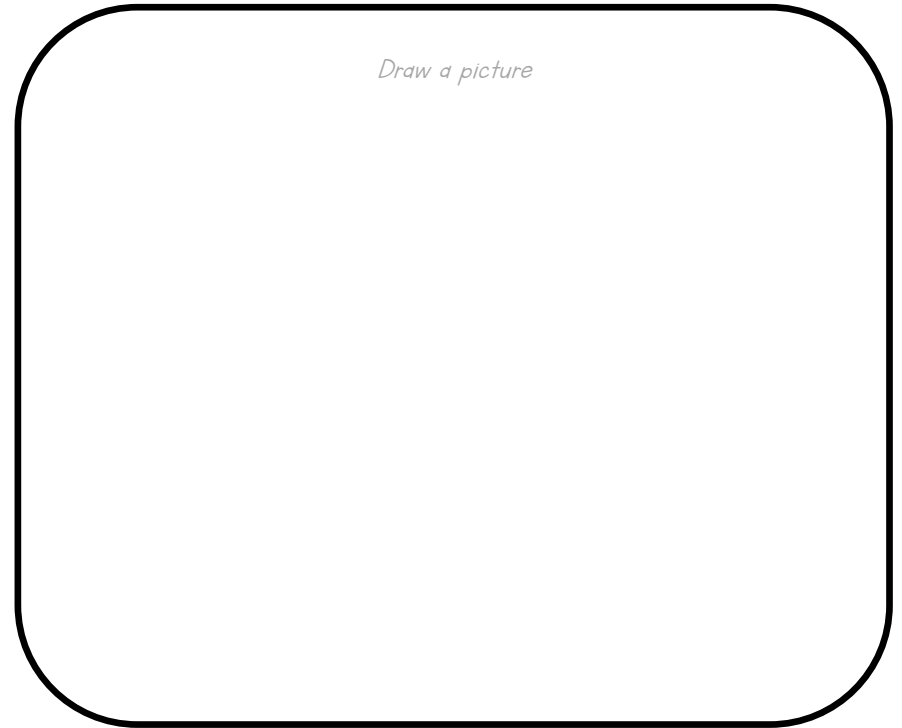
I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____



I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Least Tern

Sternula antillarum



It is not the last, but most definitely the “least” due to it being the smallest tern. Often seen flying low over the water, with quick deep wingbeats and shrill cries that say *killick* or *kip-kip-kip-kiddeek*. They usually hover before plunging into water for tiny prey

like fish or **crustaceans** (shrimp or crabs). Least Terns may also catch insects mid-flight. They tend to hover in the air more than most other terns. During the winter, they leave North America and will travel to tropical areas as far as Brazil. They nest in colonies and close to the ground or on a rocky perch. If they or their nest is threatened, they will call out a *chit-chit* sound to alert others.

.....
I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Piping Plover

Charadrius melodus



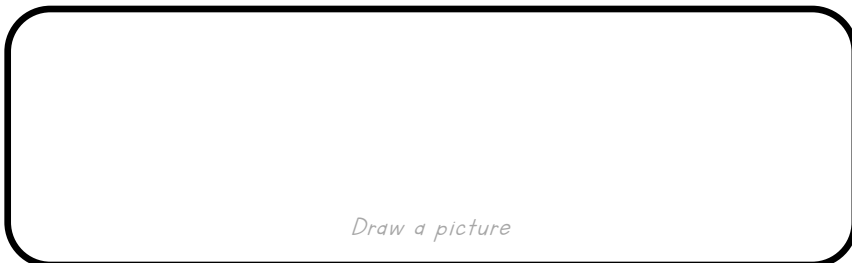
These small, endangered birds live along the Atlantic Coast. They nest inland, but not far from the coast where they go to **forage** (find food) for insects, marine worms, and small **crustaceans** (shrimps or crabs). Their method of foraging looks like

other plovers: run a few steps, poke at the ground, and repeat. They usually make clear *peep-lo* sounds when they stand near the shore. When mating, the male makes a long, deep whistle to attract a female. When there is a threat, they chip high and loud to warn others. Unfortunately, their shallow nests in the sand are easy for predator to find or for humans to accidentally step on.

.....

I FOUND IT!

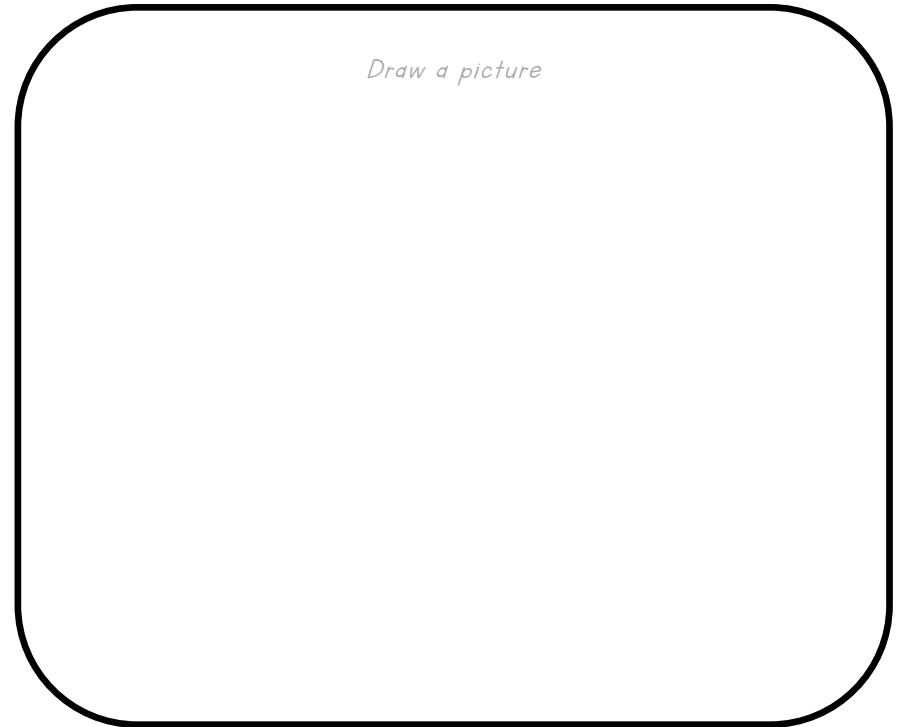
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

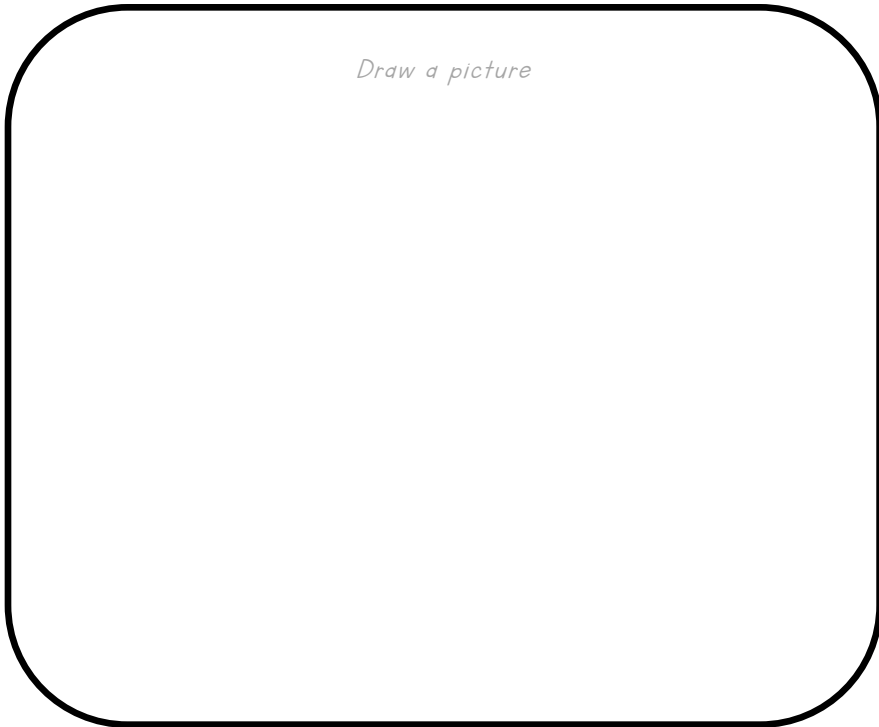
Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Prairie Warbler

Setophaga discolor

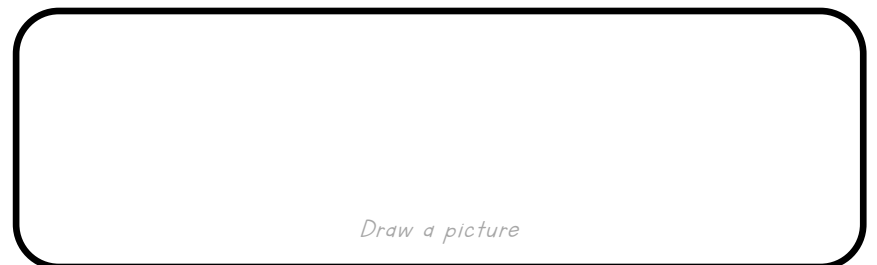


Despite their name, Prairie Warblers do not actually prefer the open **prairies** (open grassland), and instead nest in densely overgrown fields. These birds tend to stay low and fly between the brush, flicking their tails. They eat mostly bugs and insects, including caterpillars, moths, tree crickets, beetles, ants, flies, and even spiders and millipedes. Although they prefer to fly low, they build their nests in trees and can build them up to 45 feet high in the tree! Prairie Warblers tend to nest in pine, cedar, and oak trees, and it looks like an open cup made of plants and lined with animal hair. Their call is a *zee-zee-zee* that gets faster and higher pitched.

.....

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____



American Robin

Turdus migratorius



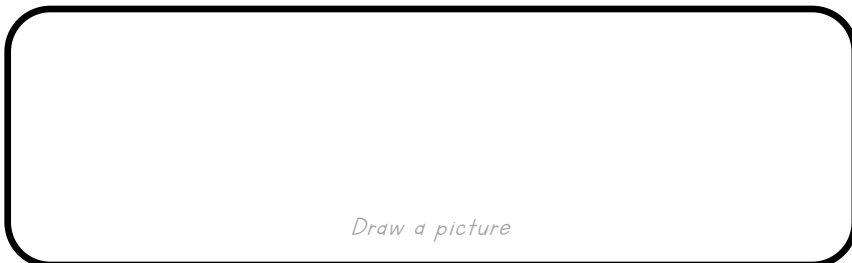
A very familiar bird over most of North America, running and hopping on lawns with upright stance, often nesting on porches and windowsills. If you are lucky, you will spot their "Robin blue" eggs in a nest! Their rich caroling of *cheer-up cheerily* is among the earliest bird songs

heard at dawn in spring and summer, beginning just before first light. In fall and winter, robins may gather by the hundreds in flocks. They eat mostly insects, earthworms and berries. They forage in flocks, and you can spot them running around and pausing on lawns. Males will defend their territory by singing to warn others to stay away. When they spot a hawk, they warn the flock with a shrill *seee!*

.....

I FOUND IT!

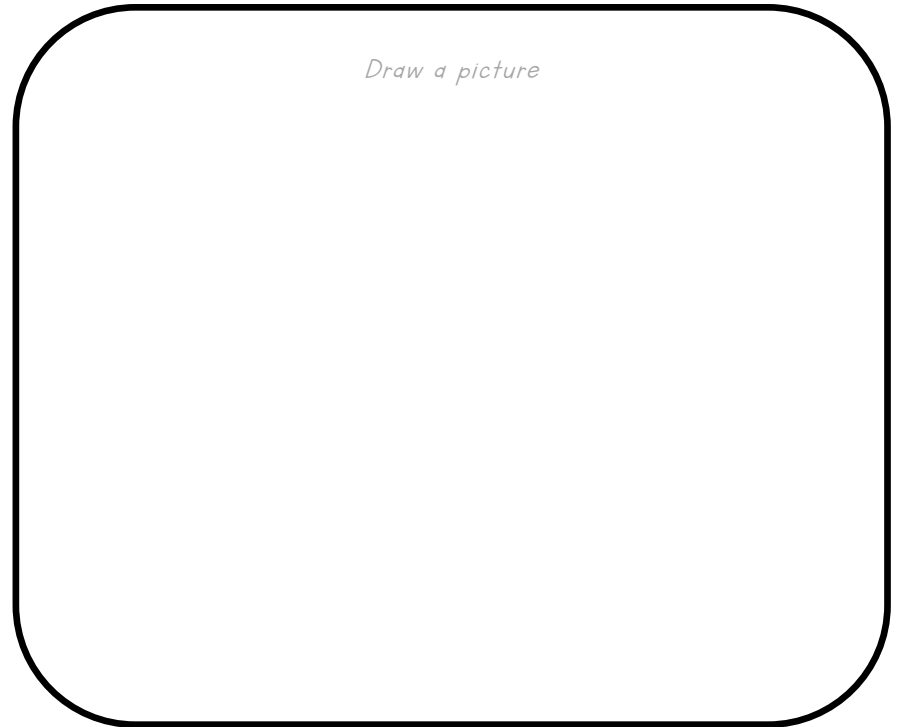
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres



A chunky, short-legged sandpiper, wearing a bright harlequin pattern in summer, and dark brown in winter. In the summertime, they nest in the Arctic Tundra of North America and Eurasia. In the winter, they spend their time along the coast of all six conti-

nents. They eat insects, berries, seeds, and crustaceans. If you are lucky, when they winter along our coast you may spot some of their eggs, which are a camouflaged olive green color blotched with dark brown, on the ground between rocks or plants and lined with leaves. When the Ruddy Turnstone is nesting, they make a *kek-kek* call or a musical *netticut*.

.....
I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor



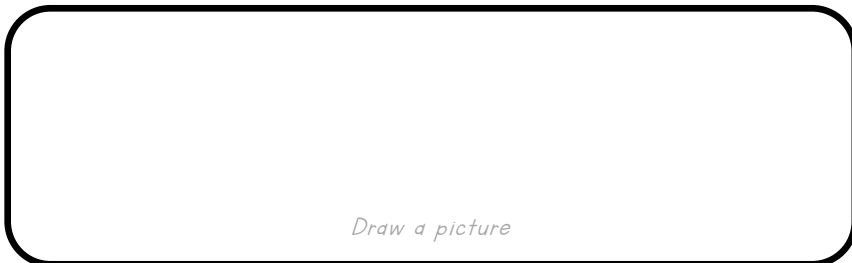
These swans were originally brought from Europe but have since established themselves in the Atlantic North-east. They are not really “mute” (unable to make noise) but their voices are lower and hoarser than native swans. They tend to make a hissing

or growling sound when they feel threatened. They have strong wings and a flock’s wingbeats can be heard up to a mile away. Mute Swans eat mostly aquatic plants, algae, and pondweeds, but will eat snails, tadpoles, and small fish if found. They nest near shorelines, and if they feel threatened they will fluff out their wings and pull their heads back over their bodies before swimming at the threat.

.....

I FOUND IT!

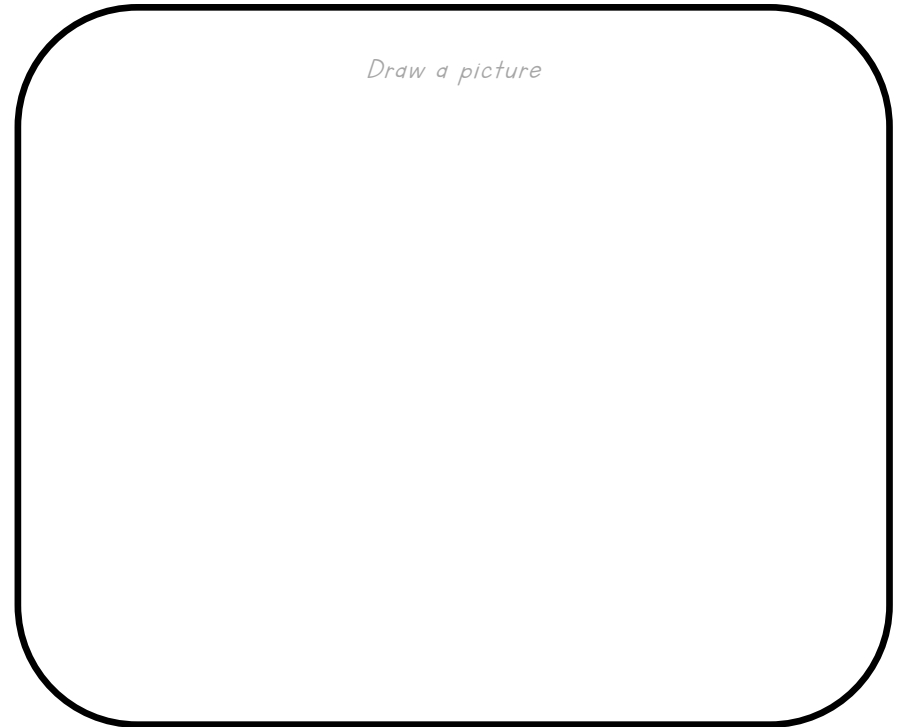
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

Wild Turkey

Meleagris gallopavo



An easy-to-spot large bird on the Island, these birds roam in flocks from field to field searching for food. They are **omnivorous**, meaning they eat both animals and plants. You might see turkeys scratch at the ground to help them reveal seeds,

roots, spiders, or snails. You may recognize their typical *gobble-gobble* call, which is often used by males to attract females. When females are excited or threatened, they will sound off rapid *cutt-cutt* sound. Turkeys tend to **roost** (rest together) rather than return to a nest every night. When they do nest, they are built at the base of a tree and hidden under a shrub or between tall grass.

I FOUND IT!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura



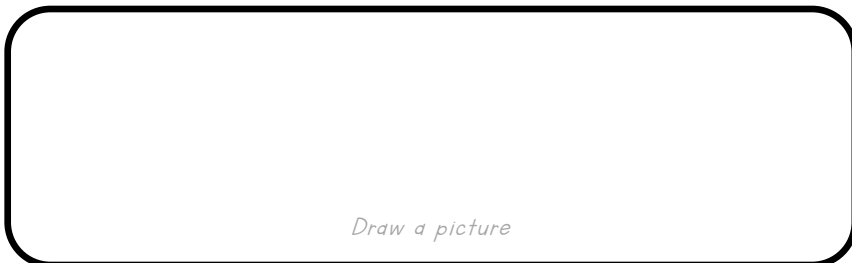
A familiar sight in the sky over much of North America is the dark, long-winged form of the Turkey Vulture, soaring high over the landscape. You can easily identify it in the air by the V-shaped wings and how it rocks left to right as it flies. The Turkey Vulture is a

scavenger, meaning it feeds on plants and animals that have already died. This bird has a very good sense of smell and can smell something rotting from far away. They also rarely build nests, as they are moving from place to place to scavenge. They tend to rest in the hollow trees or in small caves. Their eggs are laid on open ground, usually on a pile of **debris** (junk or broken pieces of natural material).

.....

I FOUND IT!

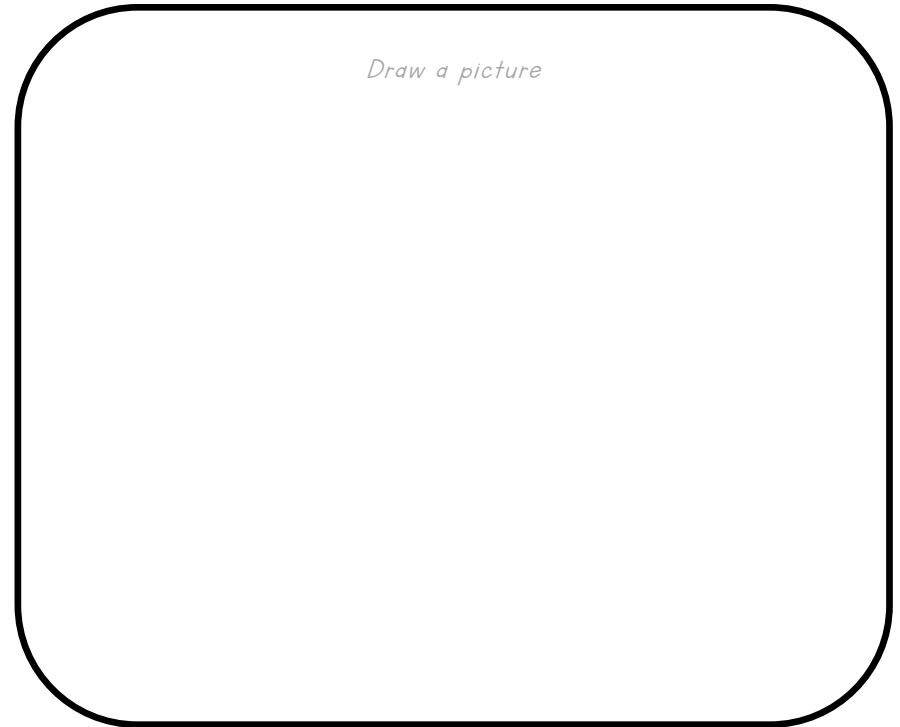
When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____



Draw a picture

Colors? _____

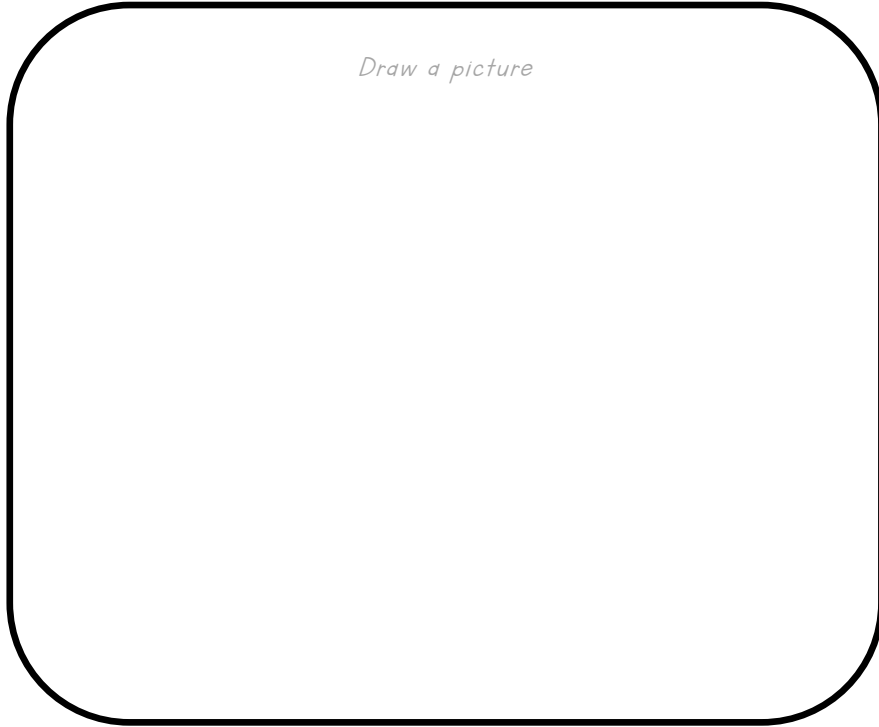
Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture



Colors? _____

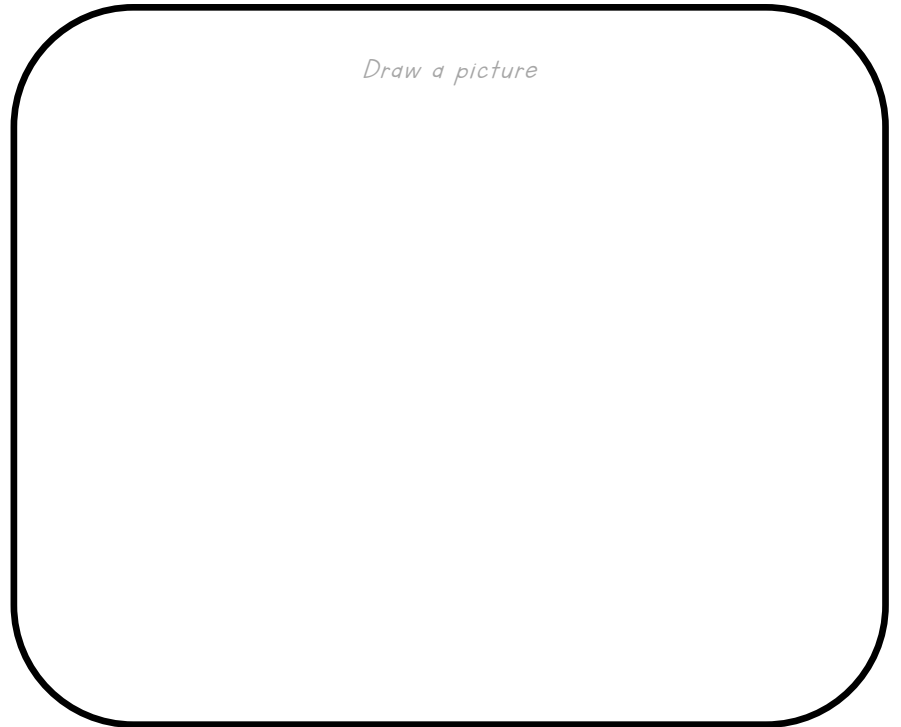
Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture



Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____

I found a bird!

When? _____ Where? _____

Draw a picture

Colors? _____

Size? SMALL MEDIUM BIG

I think it is a _____