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TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

B3 CLASS 2025

FLYCATCHER
OVERVIEW

ADD A CLASS ?

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

FLYCATCHERS WORLD-WIDE

Major flycatcher families [\[edit \]](#)

- [Old World flycatchers](#), Muscicapidae
- [Tyrant flycatchers](#), Tyrannidae 

Minor flycatcher families [\[edit \]](#)

- [Fairy flycatchers](#), Stenostiridae
- [Monarch flycatchers](#), Monarchidae
- [Silky-flycatchers](#), Ptiliogonatidae
- [Yellow flycatchers](#), Erythrocercidae

Other birds known as flycatchers [\[edit \]](#)

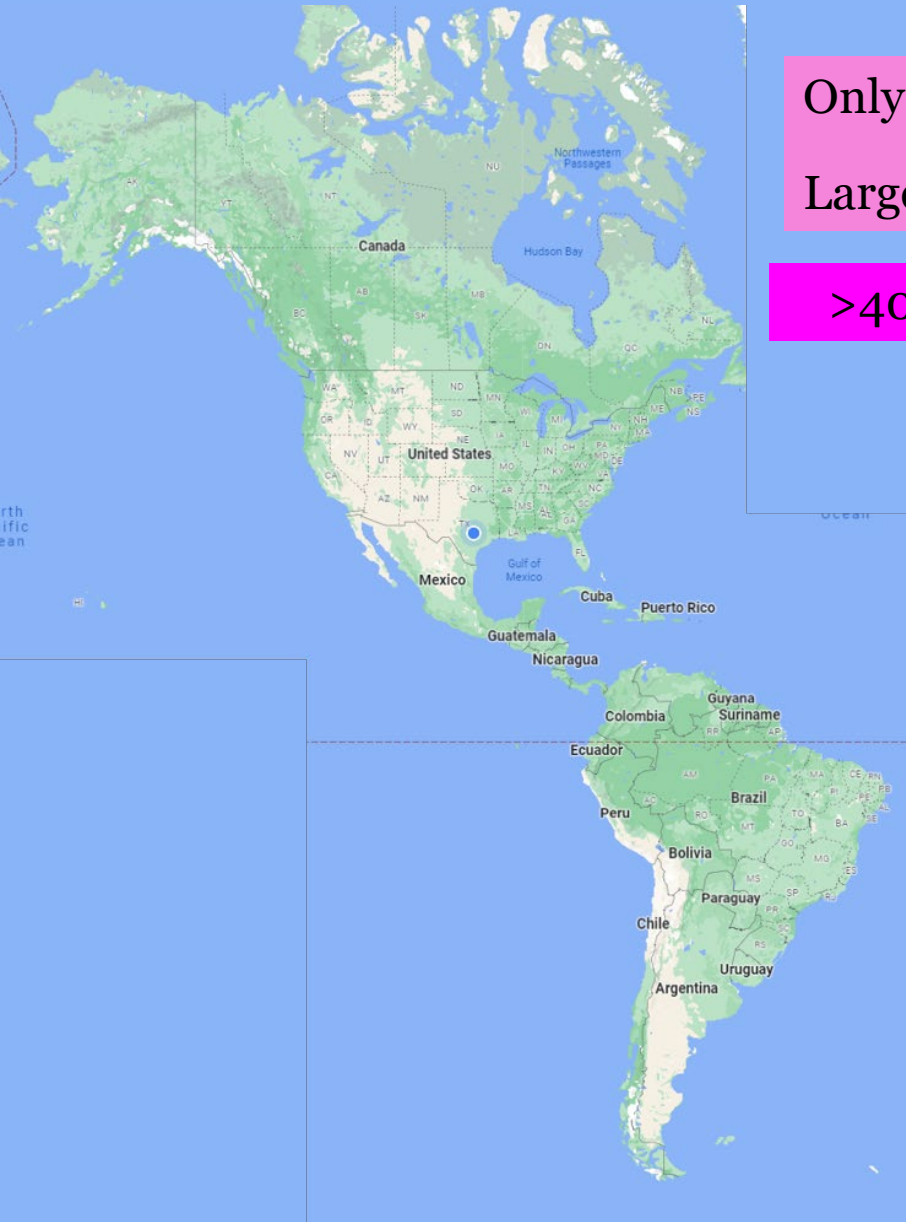
- Flycatcher thrushes or [Rufous thrushes](#), in the thrush family Turdidae
- Flycatchers or [flyrobins](#), in the Australasian robin family Petroicidae
- Bearded flycatchers or [Myiobius](#), in the passerine family Tityridae
- Dohrn's flycatcher or [Dohrn's thrush-babbler](#), in the warbler genus *Sylvia*

FAMILY: *TYRANNIDAE*: NEW WORLD FLYCATCHERS

Only in the New World

Largest family of birds

>400 SPECIES



Piprites (3 species)
 Phyllomyias (14 species)
 Tyrannulus (monotypic)
 Myiopagis (7 species)
 Elaenia (22 species)
 Ornithion (3 species)
Camptostoma (Tyrannulet) (2 species)
 Suiriri (monotypic)
 Mecocerculus (6 species)
 Anairetes (6 species)
 Uromyias (2 species)
 Serpophaga (6 species)
 Phaeomyias (2 species)
 Capsiempis (monotypic)
 Polystictus (2 species)
 Nesotriccus (monotypic)
 Pseudocolopteryx (5 species)
 Pseudotriccus (3 species)
 Corythopsis (2 species)
 Euscarthmus (2 species)
 Pseudelaenia (monotypic)
 Stigmatura (2 species)
 Zimmerius (15 species)
 Pogonotriccus (7 species)
 Phylloscartes (16 species)
 Mionectes (5 species)
 Leptopogon (4 species)
 Guyramemua (monotypic)
 Sublegatus (3 species)
 Inezia (4 species)
 Myiophobus (6 species)
 Nephelomyias (3 species)
 Myiotriccus (monotypic)
 Tachuris (monotypic)
 Culicivora (monotypic)
 Hemitriccus (22 species)
 Myiornis (4 species)
 Oncostoma (2 species)
 Lophotriccus (4 species)
 Atalotriccus (monotypic)

Poecilotriccus (12 species)
 Taeniotriccus (monotypic)
 Todirostrum (7 species)
 Cnipodectes (2 species)
 Rhynchocyclus (4 species)
 Tolmomyias (7 species)
 Calyptura (monotypic)
 Platyrinchus (7 species)
 Neopipo (monotypic)
 Pyrrhomyias (monotypic)
 Hirundinea (monotypic)
 Lathrotriccus (2 species)
 Aphanotriccus (2 species)
 Cnemotriccus (monotypic)
 Xenotriccus (2 species)
Sayornis (phoebes) (3 species)
 Mitrephanes (2 species)
Contopus (pewees) (15 species)
Empidonax (15 species)
Pyrocephalus (Vermillion) (4 species)
 Lessonia (2 species)
 Knipolegus (12 species)
 Hymenops (monotypic)
 Ochthornis (monotypic)
 Satrapa (monotypic)
 Muscisaxicola (13 species)
 Agriornis (5 species)
 Xolmis (7 species)
 Heteroxolmis (monotypic)
 Myiotheretes (4 species)
 Cnemarchus (monotypic)
 Polioxolmis (monotypic)
 Neoxolmis (monotypic)
 Gubernetes (monotypic)
 Muscipipra (monotypic)
 Fluvicola (3 species)
 Arundinicola (monotypic)
 Alectrurus (2 species)
 Tumbezia (monotypic)
 Silvicoltrix (5 species)

104 GENERA
437 SPECIES

ORDER: *Passeriforms*

FAMILY: *Tyrannidae* (tyrant flycatchers)

Ochthoeca (8 species)
 Colorhamphus (monotypic)
 Colonia (monotypic)
 Muscigralla (monotypic)
 Machetornis (monotypic)
 Legatus (monotypic)
 Phelpsia (monotypic)
 Myiozetetes (4 species)
Pitangus (Great Kiskadee) (monotypic)
 Philohydor (monotypic)
 Conopias (4 species)
Myiodynastes (Sulphur-bellied)(5 species)
 Megarynchus (monotypic)
 Tyrannopsis (monotypic)
 Empidonomus (monotypic)
 Griseotyrannus (monotypic)
Tyrannus (kingbirds) (13 species)
 Rhytipterna (3 species)
 Sirystes (4 species)
 Casiornis (2 species)
Myiarchus (22 species)

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TOS)

TEXAS BIRDS RECORDS COMMITTEE

(TBRC)

TOS: Texas Birds Records Committee (TBRC) TEXAS STATE LIST

FAMILY: Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>BINOMIAL</u>	REVIEW LIST
Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	
Greenish Elaenia	<i>Myiopagis viridicata</i>	yes
White-crested Elaenia	<i>Elaenia albiceps</i>	yes
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>	until 2010
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	
Nutting's Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus nuttingi</i>	yes
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>	
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	
Social Flycatcher	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>	yes
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Myiodynastes luteiventris</i>	yes
Piratic Flycatcher	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>	yes
Variegated Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax varius</i>	yes
Tropical Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	until 1998
Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>	
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	
Thick-billed Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus crassirostris</i>	yes
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	
Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	yes
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	yes
Tufted Flycatcher	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>	yes

Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	
Greater Pewee	<i>Contopus pertinax</i>	yes
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virens</i>	
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	
Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	
Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	yes
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	
Buff-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax fulvifrons</i>	yes
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	

Texas List

Texas Review List

Formerly
Texas Review List

Do Kings Play Chess
On Fine Green Silk

Order, Family, Genus, Spesies

Domain: **Eukarya**

Kingdom: **Anamalia**

Phylum: **Chordata**

Class: **Aves**

Order: **Passeriformes**

Family: **Tyrannidae**

Contopus
(4)

Myiarchus
(6)

Tyrannus
(9)

Sayornis
(3)

Empidonax
(10)

8 other genera
(~1 species each)

“Flycatchers”

Genus

Species

HABIT o: WHO?
TAXONOMY
(THE TREE OF LIFE)

**Family: Tyrannidae
(43 in ABA Area)**

Contopus

(4)

**Olive-sided
Greater Pewee
Western Wood-pewee
Eastern Wood-pewee**

Tyrannus

(9)

**Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Couch's Kingbird
Tropical Kingbird
Cassin's Kingbird
Scissor-tailed
Fork-tailed
Gray Kingbird
Thick-billed Kingbird**

Myiarchus

(6)

**Great-crested
Ash-throated
Brown-crested
Dusky-capped
Nutting's
La Sagra's**

Sayornis

(3)

**Eastern Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Black Phoebe**

Empidonax

(10)

**Least
Yellow-bellied
Acadian
Willow
Alder**

Other genera

Vermillion

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet
Great Kiskadee
Tufted Flycatcher
Piratic
Sulphur-bellied
Social
Variegated
Greenish Elaenia
White-crested Elaenia**

Gray

**Western
Hammond's
Dusky
Buff-breasted**

**Family: Tyrannidae
(42 in Texas)**

Contopus

(4)

Olive-sided

Greater Pewee

Western Wood-pewee

Eastern Wood-pewee

Tyrannus

(9)

Western Kingbird

Eastern Kingbird

Couch's Kingbird

Tropical Kingbird

Cassin's Kingbird

Scissor-tailed

Fork-tailed

Gray Kingbird

Thick-billed Kingbird

Myiarchus

(5)

Great-crested

Ash-throated

Brown-crested

Dusky-capped

Nutting's

~~**La Sagra's**~~

Empidonax

(10)

Least

Yellow-bellied

Acadian

Willow

Alder

Gray

Western

Hammond's

Dusky

Buff-breasted

Sayornis

(3)

Eastern Phoebe

Say's Phoebe

Black Phoebe

Other genera

Vermillion

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet

Great Kiskadee

Tufted Flycatcher

Piratic

Sulphur-bellied

Social

Variegated

Greenish Elaenia

White-crested Elaenia

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WITH FLYCATCHERS ?

USE THE 7 HABITS !!!

Seven Habits of Highly Effective Birders

- 1) Where are we? – County, sub-county...
- 2) When are we? – Season, month, 1/2 month...
- 3) Where is he? – Habitat, micro-habitat...
- 4) GISS & Structure – posture, behavior, primary extension ...
- 5) Bill & Head – length, shape, thickness, use...
- 6) Field Marks – plumage, pattern, behavior..
- 7) Diagnostic Field Marks –

Distribution !!

Identity !!

RESULTS IN A DIAGNOSIS !!!

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WITH FLYCATCHERS ? ADDITIONAL

- ▶ 1st – Vocalizations !!!!
- ▶ 2nd – Get pix if possible.
- ▶ 3rd – Depends on genus – Figure out genus.

FLYCATCHER VOCALIZATIONS

NAMESAYERS

Great Kiskadee (*kis-ka-dee*)
Eastern Phoebe (*fee-bee*)
Eastern Wood-pewee (Pee ooo weeee)

HIGH-PITCHERS

Eastern Kingbird
Tropical Kingbird
Black Phoebe

WHISTLERS

Great Crested Flycatcher (*weep*)
Greater Pewee (*Jo-se, Jo-se, Jo-se-ma-ri-a*)
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*quick-three-beers*)
Say's Phoebe (*pretty dear*)
Vermilion Flycatcher (*pit, pit, pit-a-dirrp*)
Western Wood-Pewee (*Know what I mean, I pee you, pee-o-weeeew*)

KIP-ERS

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*little-bit, fitz-bew*)
Brown-crested Flycatcher (*WHIT, WHIT burrrzzz*)
Cassin's Kingbird
Couch's Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Western Kingbird

Family: Tyrannidae

Contopus
(4)



Tyrannus
(6)



Myiarchus
(4)



Sayornis
(3)



3 other genera
(1 species each)

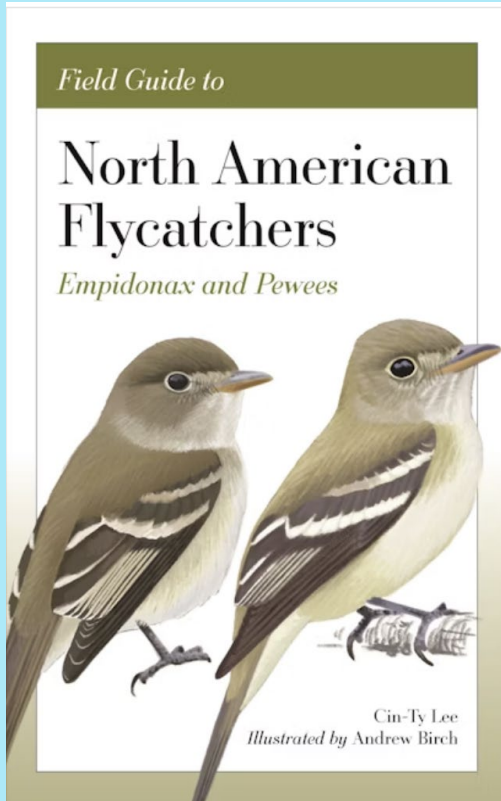
Photos by Jeffrey E. Patterson

Empidonax
(10)

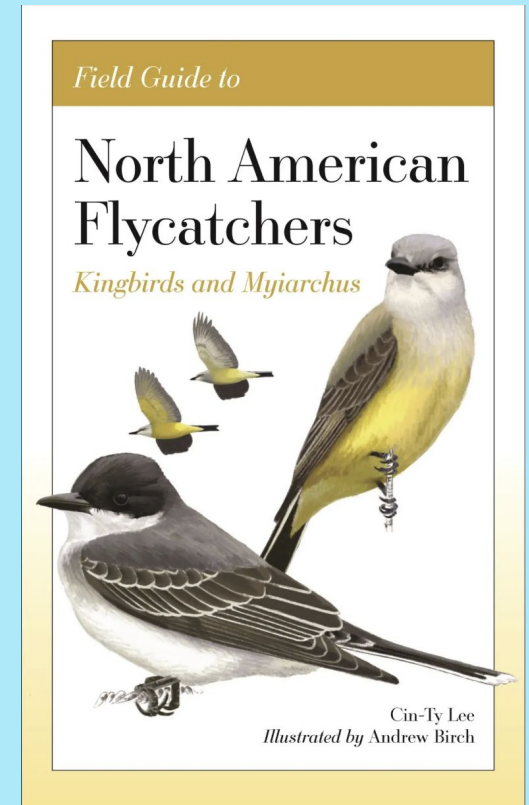


BOOKS & TALKS

BY CIN-TY LEE & ANDREW BIRCH



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9_bqVZaYqw

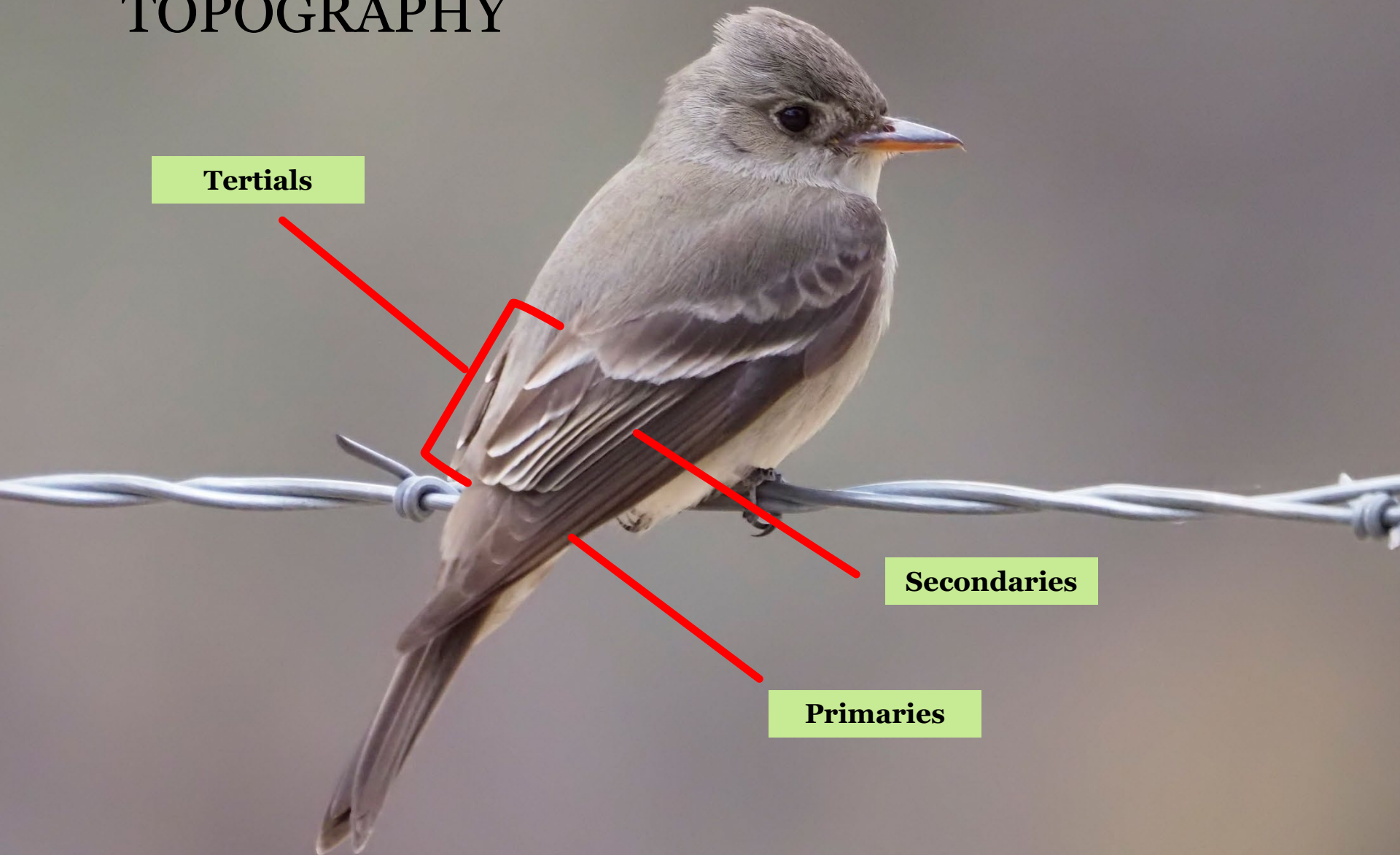


Texas Empids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gSSEx8zhqQ>

Western Empids

FLYCATCHER TOPOGRAPHY

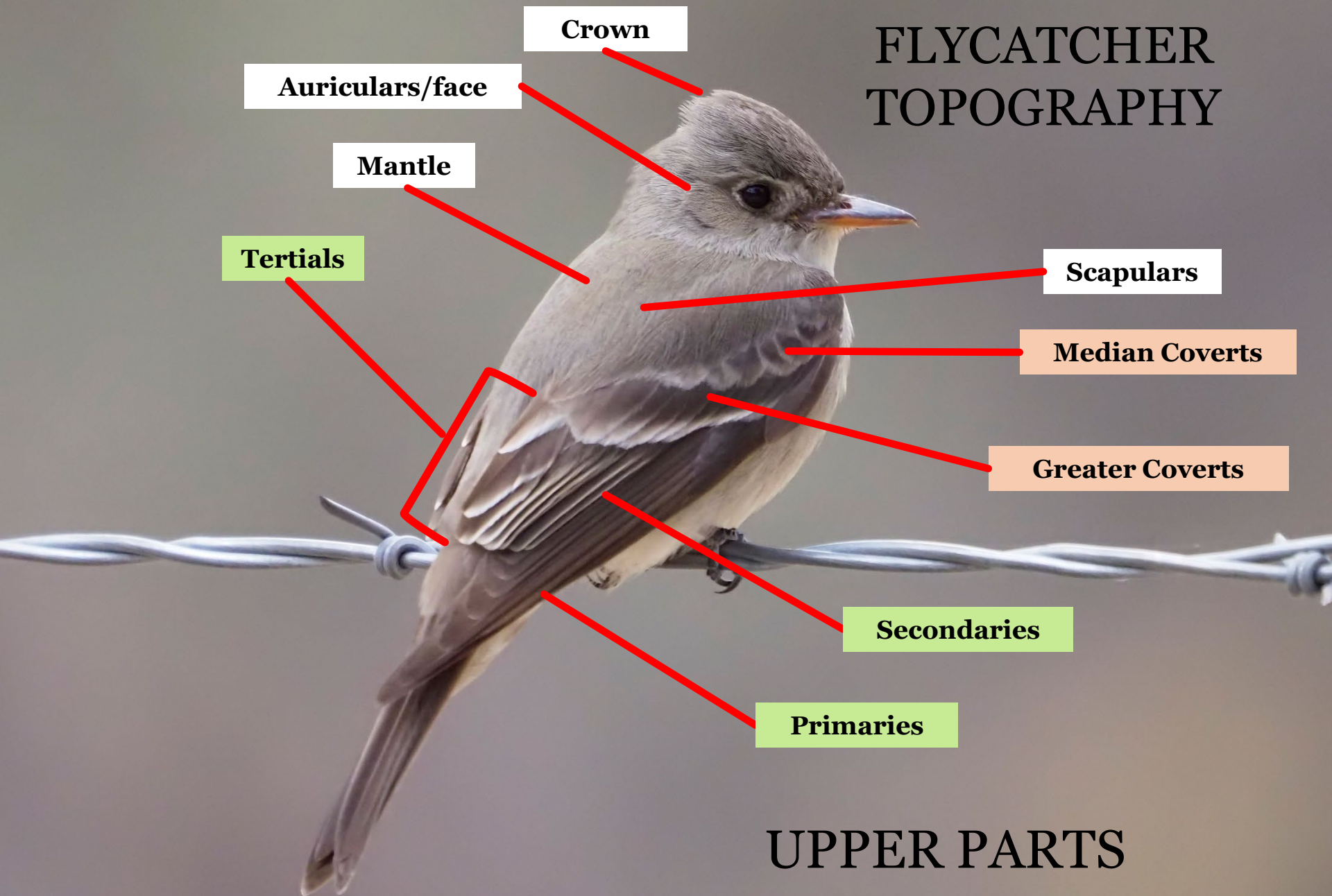


Tertials

Secondaries

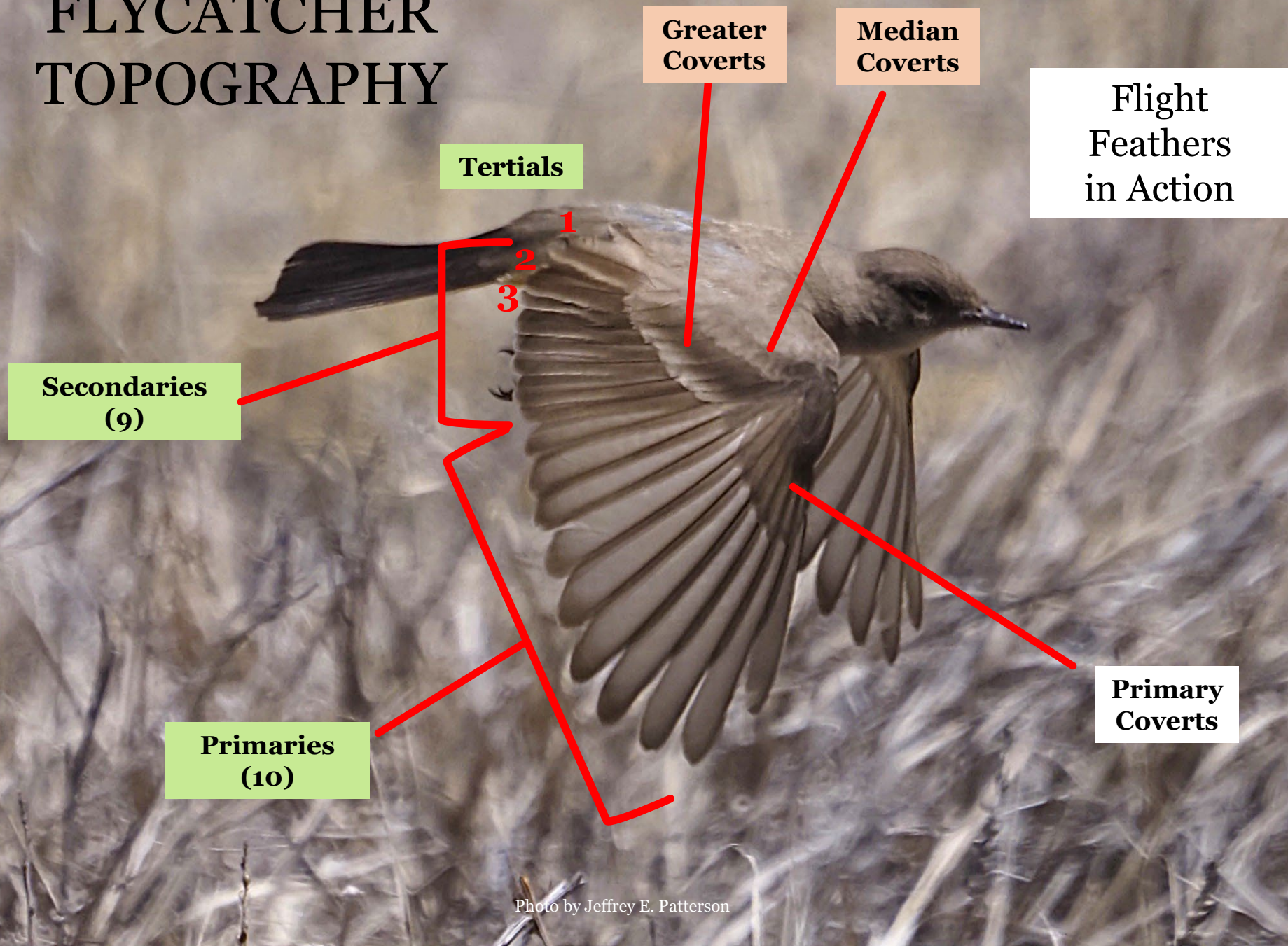
Primaries

FLYCATCHER TOPOGRAPHY

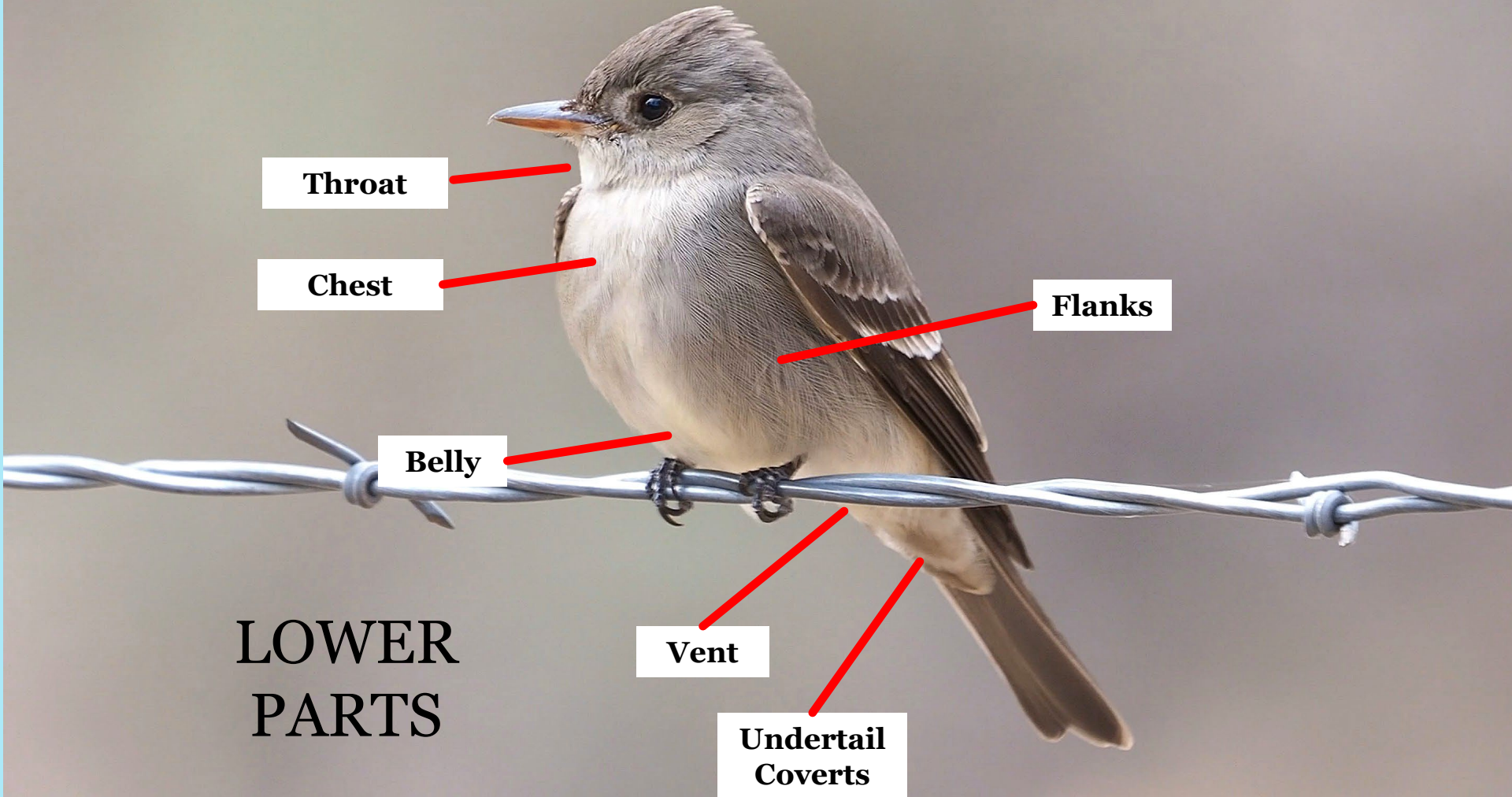


UPPER PARTS

FLYCATCHER TOPOGRAPHY



FLYCATCHER TOPOGRAPHY

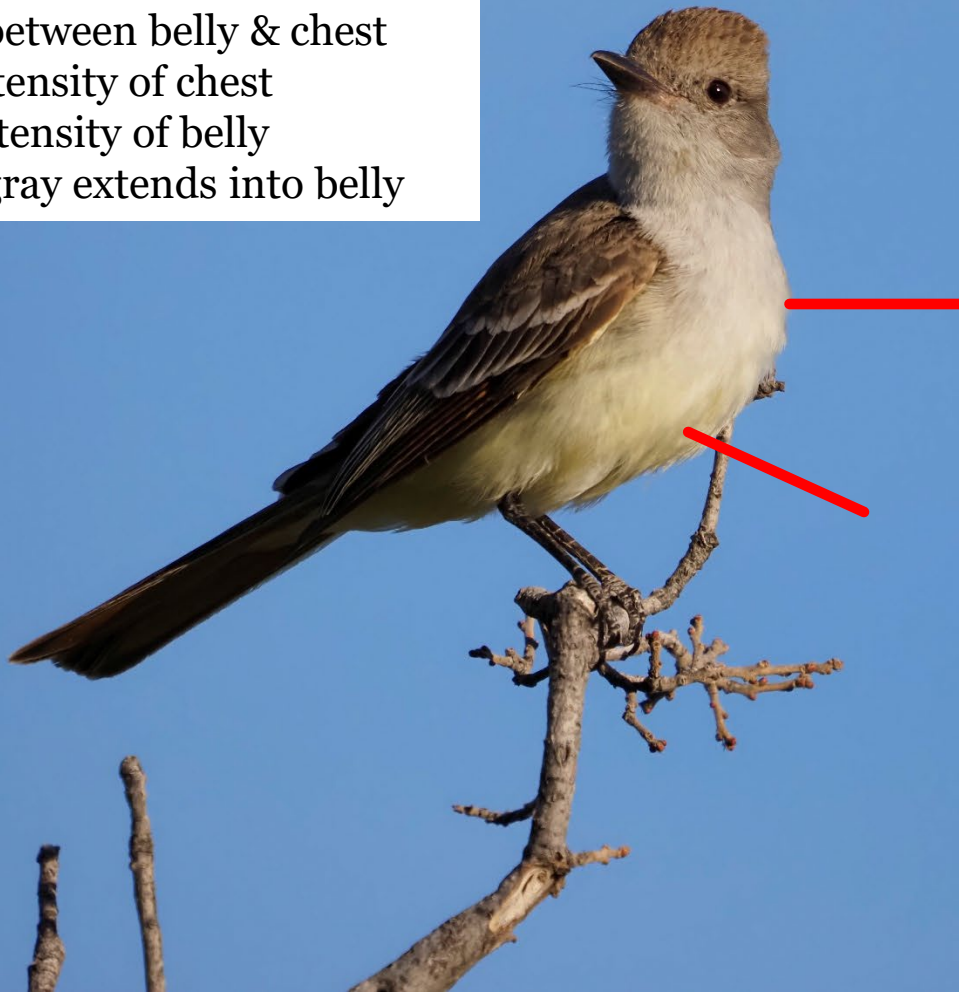


OVERALL COLORS AND CONTRAST

Note

- 1 contrast between belly & chest
2. Intensity of chest
3. Intensity of belly
4. How far gray extends into belly

All *myiarchus*
have
yellow bellies
&
gray chests



CONTRASTS

CONTRAST

to
color of mantle

Compare boldness
of wingbars

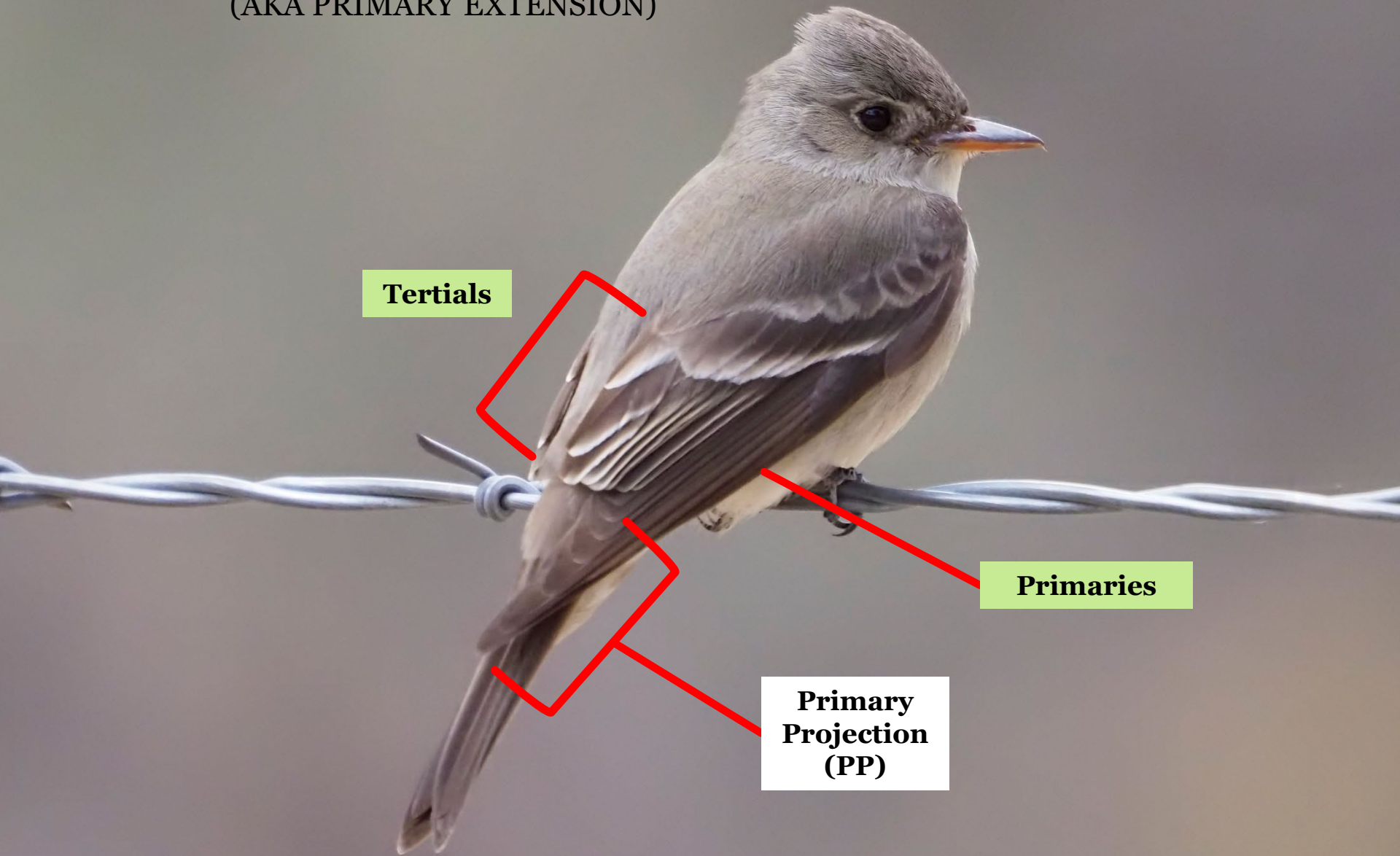
Median Coverts

Greater Coverts

Wing-bars = tips of the
**Median & Greater
Coverts**

PRIMARY PROJECTION

(AKA PRIMARY EXTENSION)



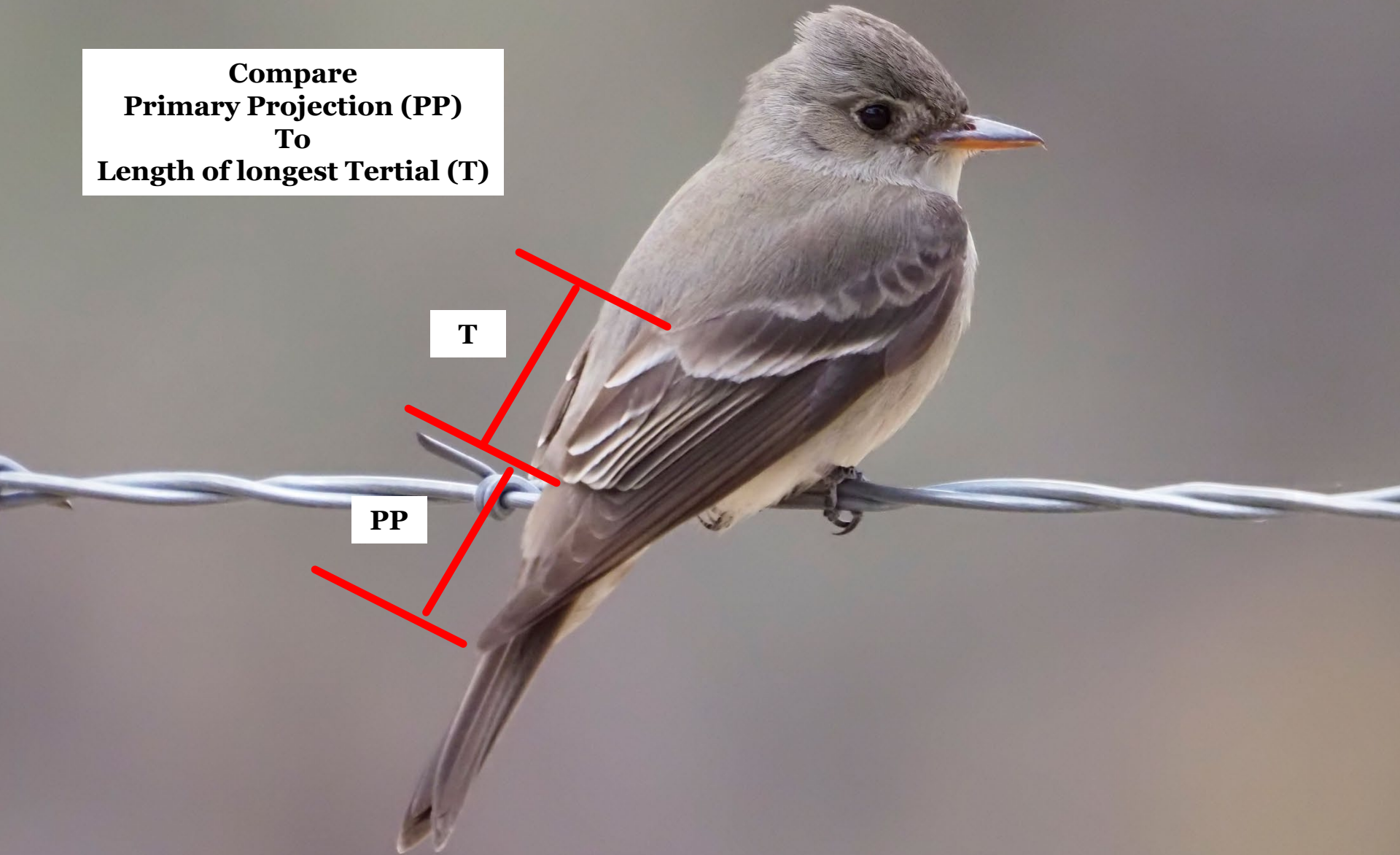
Tertials

Primaries

**Primary
Projection
(PP)**

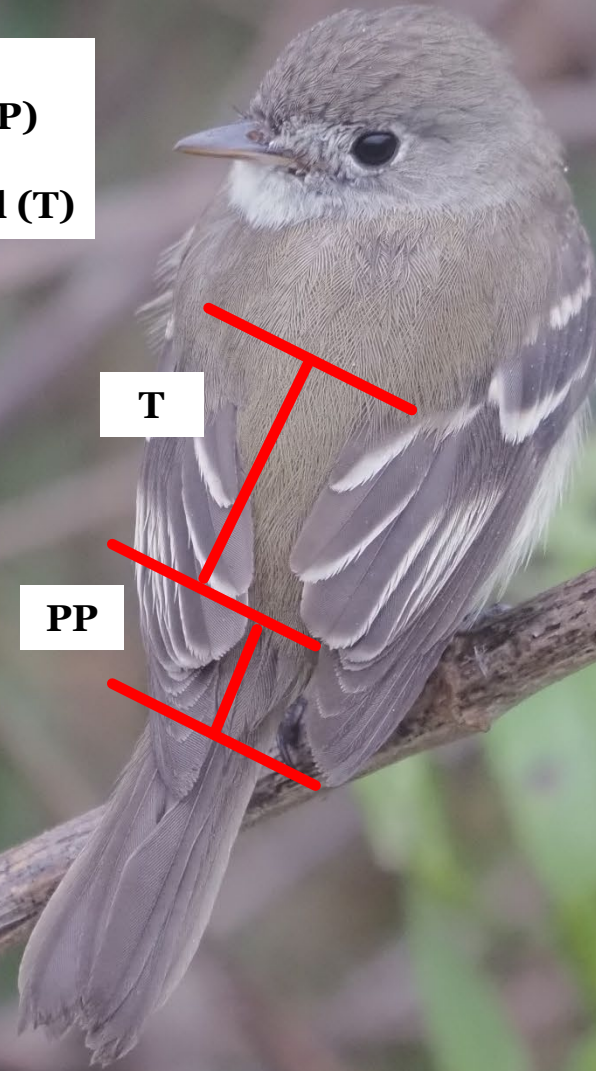
ASSESSING PRIMARY PROJECTION

**Compare
Primary Projection (PP)
To
Length of longest Tertial (T)**



ASSESSING PRIMARY PROJECTION

**Compare
Primary Projection (PP)
To
Length of longest Tertial (T)**

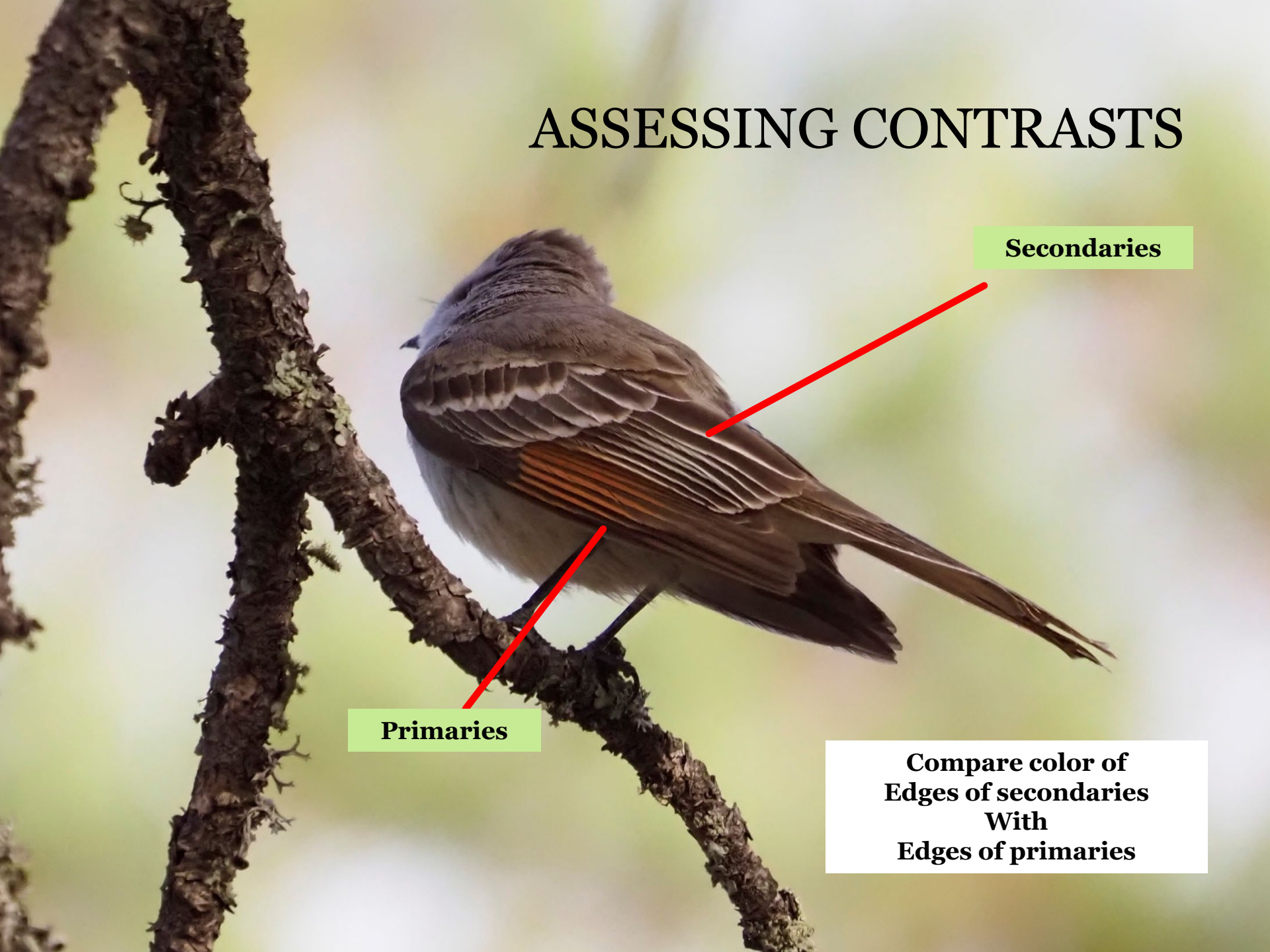


ASSESSING CONTRASTS

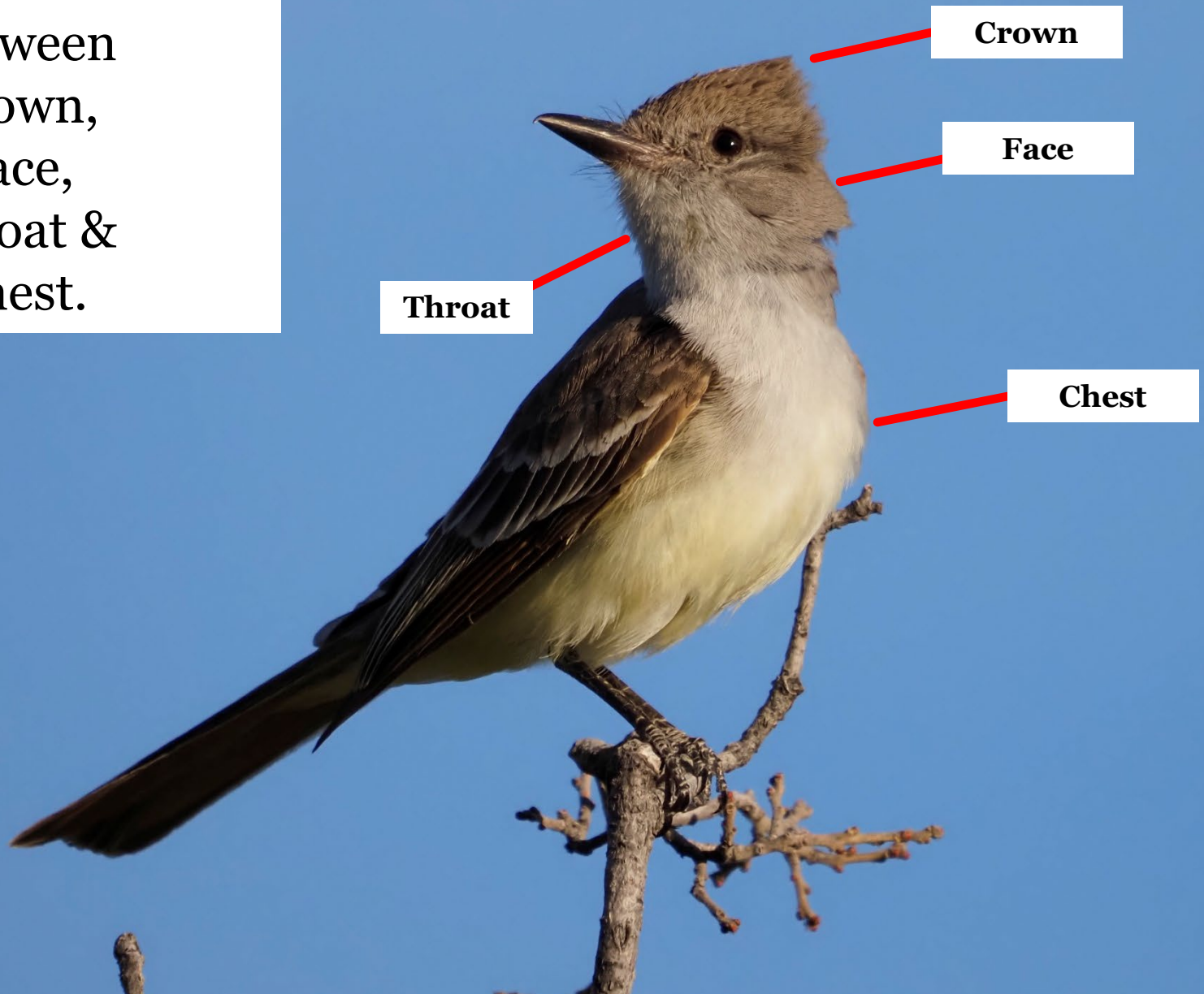
Secondaries

Primaries

**Compare color of
Edges of secondaries
With
Edges of primaries**



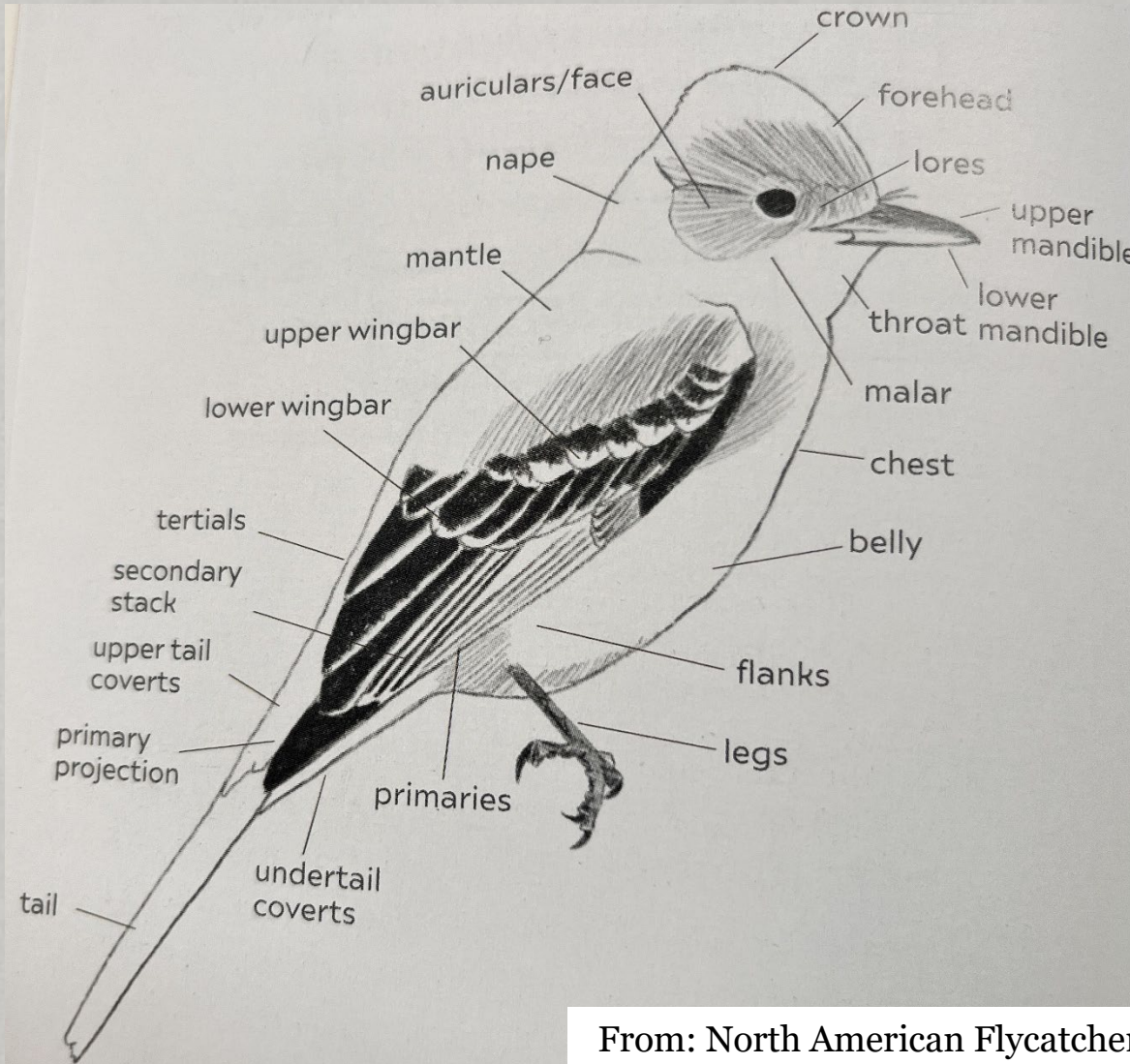
Compare contrast
between
crown,
face,
throat &
chest.



EDGES OF TERTIALS



TOPOLOGY OF A FLYCATCHER



From: North American Flycatchers, Kingbirds
and Myiarchus, Cin-Ty Lee and Adrew Birch

WING & TAIL FEATHERS

