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TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BE A BETTER BIRDER (B3)

CLASS

2025

TV & BV EXERCISE

(5 MINUTES)

- ▶ I came up with **14 different** comparative field marks between TV & BV
- ▶ How many can you come up with?



Photo by Urban Ecology Center

COMPARATIVE FIELD MARKS

TV

&

BV

1. White-ish primaries and secondaries (under-side)
2. Red head
3. Slightly browner
4. Slightly larger
5. Longer, rectangular wings
6. Longer, slimmer tail
7. Dihedral flight profile
8. Wings held fairly straight
9. Feet tucked to body
10. More aerodynamic-looking tuck on downwind
11. Pointy wingtips in high speed turns
12. Floppy wing flap
13. Slightly slower wing flap
14. Wings point to ground at max downward flap

1. White patch on last 6 primaries (under-side)
2. Black head
3. Generally blacker
4. Slightly smaller
5. Shorter, broader wings
6. Shorter broader tail
7. Flat flight profile
8. Wings often canted forward
9. Feet often hanging down
10. Less aerodynamic-looking tuck on downwind
11. Round-ish wingtips in high speed turns
12. Stiff wing flap
13. Faster wing flap
14. Wings point to horizon at max downward flap

TV VS BV PLUMAGE (1,2,3)



Photo by Oliver Komar



Photo by Suzanne O'Rourke

TV VS BV

STRUCTURE (GISS) (4,5,6)



Photo by Urban Ecology Center

TV VS BV

FLIGHT GISS (7,9)



Photo by Matt Davis



Photo by Evangelina Indelicato

TV VS BV

FLIGHT GISS (8)



Photo by Oliver Komar



Photo by Darfo Jung

TV VS BV

FLIGHT GISS (10)



Photo by Stephen Mann



Photo by Ted Keyel

TV VS BV

FLIGHT GISS (11)



Photo by Amed Hernandez



Photo by Dave Bowman

TV VS BV

FLIGHT GISS (12,13,14)



Photo by David Badke



Photo by Chris Monaco

FIELD CRAFT

- ▶ Alone or small group vs field trips
- ▶ Move quietly, slowly
- ▶ Watch for movement
- ▶ Follow sounds
- ▶ Try not to point or raise bins quickly
- ▶ Look for odd bird on edges of groups
- ▶ Know your Texas Bio-Regions
- ▶ Be aware of habitat, especially edge-habitat
- ▶ Watch behavior. Watch flock behavior (predator?)
- ▶ Pishing
- ▶ Listen for vocalizations
- ▶ Listen for movement (e.g. feet on leaves) (“Feet quiet please”)
- ▶ Time of day – not always crack of dawn
- ▶ Keep records

SUMMARY

- **BIRDING IS OBSERVING**

- Practice observing
- See details

- **Look at the bird**, not the book

- Keep watching after ID

- Use the 7 Habits

- Learn

- Distribution
- Structure/GISS
- Anatomy (feather topology)
- Vocalizations
- Habitats & Micro-habitats
- Behavior

- Get a patch of your own

- Bird alone

- Make a diagnosis

“Eschew Field Mark Cronyism”

- Be prepared for mistakes

- Mistake = chance to learn!!!

- Best thing that can happen?

- You see something unknown !!
- You are about to learn

OR

- You found a rare bird

- The best advice?

- Go Bird.....
- GO BIRD.....
- REPEAT !!!