

Can You Draw what Lewis Saw?

Meriweather Lewis and William Clark kept journals during their voyage west to the Pacific Ocean, starting in 1803. They identified many new animals and plants. Here is a description of a bird Lewis saw. Try sketching the bird in the space provided using Lewis' description. Then look in a bird book to see if you can find which bird he discovered!

Note: Can you provide a description that is good enough for someone to draw a picture that matches? Think about your favorite wild animal or plant. Write a description and see if your friends can draw a picture using your words!

June 10, 1805

(Near the mouth of the Marias River)

"I saw a small bird today which I do not recollect ever having seen before, it is about the size of the blue thrush or catbird, and its contour not unlike that bird. The beak is convex, moderately curved, black, smooth, and large in proportion to its size. The legs were black, it had four toes of the same colour on each foot, and the nails appeared long and somewhat in form like the talons of the hawk, the eye black and proportionately large. A bluish brown colour occupied the head, neck, and back, the belly was white; the tail was rather long in proportion and appeared to be composed of feathers of equal length of which a part of those in the center were white the others black, the wings were long and were also variegated with white and black, on each side of the head from the beak back to the neck a small black stripe extended imbracing the eye. It appeared to be very busy in catching insects which I presume is it's usual food; I found a nest of this little bird, the female which differed but little in size or plumage from the male was sitting on four eggs of a pale blue colour with small black freckles or dots." - Meriweather Lewis

Thanks to Warren Gartner,
Indiana Project WILD Coordinator
for this activity!

DNR

For more information, contact
Interpretive Services
State Parks and Reservoirs
402 W. Washington Room W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4143

State Parks
& Reservoirs
Discovery
Team

Earn your own

EXpedition
Discovery
Kit

Use this space to draw what Lewis saw.....

Answer: White-rumped Shrike;
Today called the Loggerhead Shrike