

# EXPLORE WITH THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

## Bird-ology!



This engraving is by French naturalist François Nicolas Martinet. Martinet was particularly interested in ornithology, and traveled the world on behalf of the French crown to catalogue the world's avifauna. His works, including this one, illustrated some of the most comprehensive ornithological studies of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Ornithology is the scientific study of birds.

Can you identify the species shown here? This engraving depicts a Belted Kingfisher. The species' most identifiable characteristic is the broad blue band or "belt" that runs across its chest. Females have an additional broad rust-colored band on their bellies. Martinet associated the Belted Kingfisher with Louisiana – the "Louisiane" of the title.

Use the space below to write a detailed description of the Belted Kingfisher. Look closely at identification marks such as bill shape and plumage color. What might these characteristics tell you about the birds' habitat and behavior?

Interested in learning more? Click [here](#) to explore the Audubon's *Guide to North American Birds*.

Fun Fact: In French, this artist's last name, Martinet, is also the name of a bird!

François Nicolas Martinet, *Martin-pêcheur hupé, de la Louisiane* (Belted Kingfisher), 1770-1786, 19" x 13.63", Collection of The Columbus Museum

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# EXPLORE WITH THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

## Bird-ology! (Continued)



John James Audubon  
*Ferruginous Thrush*  
1834  
39" x 26.63"  
Collection of The Columbus Museum

Now look closely at this hand-colored etching by American woodsman, John James Audubon (1795-1851). It is one of 435 life-size prints made by the artist in an attempt to describe and depict all of North America's known avifauna or birds. Audubon would create these lively vignettes by using wire to naturally pose the specimens after their death. How might you identify the species shown here?

Brown Thrashers belong to the family Mimidae or mimics, and are cousins to the Mockingbird. They have over 1000 song types! In addition to being talented vocalists, Brown Thrashers are also very territorial and will fearlessly defend their nests against any threat. Take a moment to imagine what the birds in the image above might be thinking or saying.

Fun Fact: Brown Thrashers are the state bird of Georgia! Keep your eyes out in underbrush, where they like to skulk.

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