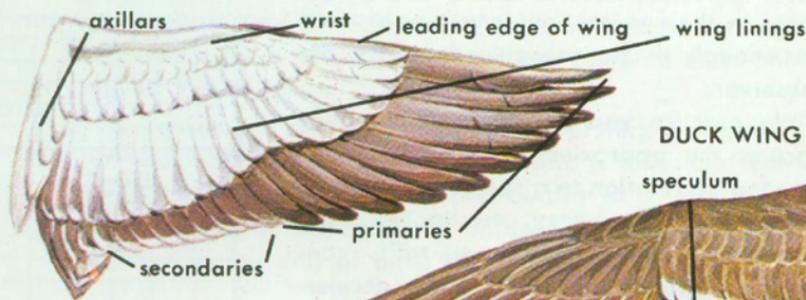


DESCRIBING BIRDS is hardly necessary if you identify a species at sight with the help of a friend or a guidebook. However, the use of the correct descriptive terms becomes important with birds that you cannot immediately identify. Then you will want to make detailed notes on appearance and behavior. The accuracy of such notes will be augmented by the use of the terms illustrated above and below. Your description and notes submitted to an expert or used in checking other references may solve your identification problem.

The use of correct terminology will also aid you in making comparisons and in checking variations in color and pattern of local birds. Knowing the terminology helps focus your attention on specific parts of a bird as you observe it. Sometimes such details as an incomplete eye-ring or the color of the undertail covers will clinch an identification.

PARTS OF WING

DUCK WING from below



DUCK WING from above

