

GLOSSARY

For Wings Over Sabino Kit

Air Pressure – air presses on everything it touches. This is called air pressure. Faster moving air on top of a bird’s wing pushes down on the wing with low pressure, and the slower-moving air on the bottom of the wing pushes up with higher pressure.

Bird call – sounds that a bird makes to establish territory or sound an alarm.

Bird song – a series of notes that have a pattern. It is done to attract a mate.

Birds of prey – birds that hunt other animals for food, such as hawks.

Camouflage – colors or marks on the bird that help hide it from enemies.

Clutch – all the eggs in a nest. A clutch can be one egg or many eggs.

Contour feathers – flight feathers on the bird’s wing and tail. These feathers give the bird its shape and form.

Down feathers – feathers under the contour feathers, close to the skin. Down feathers keep the bird warm.

Drag – a force that tends to slow a moving object. Because the bird’s body is aerodynamic it can travel through the air without much drag.

Echolocation – the ability to use echoes to locate where everything is. A bat makes sounds (which humans can’t hear) and that create waves that move away from the bat. If the waves hit something an echo bounces back to the bat. If nothing bounces back, the bat knows there is nothing in front of it and will keep flying forward. This allows bats to fly in deep dark caves and on moonless nights. They use their hearing to help them “see”.

Field marks – little differences that separate one bird from another. These differences are color, shape and features of the bird.

Fledglings – a name given to birds when they begin to make short and often clumsy flights from the nest.

Flight muscles – strong muscles in the chest that help birds flap their wings and get the force needed to fly.

Flock – a large number of birds that fly together.

Gliding – The act of the bird holding its wings out and floating with the wind.

Guano – bat waste, which can be harvested for fertilizer because it is filled with nutrients that plants need.

Habitat – the natural place where birds and other wildlife are found.

Hatchling – baby bird that has just hatched.

Hibernate – a long winter nap that some bats take when no food is available to them in that location. When an animal hibernates its breathing slows down and its body temperature becomes almost the same temperature as the air around it. The heartbeat also slows down to conserve energy.

Homing instinct – the ability of a bird to reach its destination when migrating without getting lost. This ability is not taught.

Incubation – the transfer of a bird's body heat to the egg to keep it warm. This is done by sitting on the egg and is necessary to get the egg ready to hatch.

Lift – the difference in air pressure on a wing, which causes the bird to rise.

Metamorphosis – a series of changes that an insect goes through to become an adult. Complete metamorphosis has four distinct stages in its development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. A butterfly goes through these four stages.

Migrate – the movement from one place to another in order to be where their food is available. Some birds fly long distances. The same migration route is followed each year for each species of bird.

Molt – the shedding of old feathers and the growth of new ones.

Ornithologists – scientists who study birds and bird behavior.

Pollination – the process when pollen travels from one flower to another flower. Pollen is a powdery substance that flowers make for reproduction. When a bird, bat or insect comes to a flower to eat the nectar or pollen, some of the pollen gets on the animal, and when the animal goes to the next flower some of that pollen may wipe off onto the next flower.

Pup – baby bat.

Shaft – thick hard pole in the middle of a feather. It usually is hollow and easily bent.

Tarsus – the foot of a bird.

Thermals – heat waves that rise up from the ground. When a bird is on a thermal, this rising air will lift the bird higher and higher. When a bird exits a thermal, they glide down to lower heights.

Thrust – the force that happens when a bird flaps its wings and makes the bird go faster. The more thrust that the wings give the bird, the faster the bird goes, and the greater the lift on its wings.

Vane – the soft part of a feather.

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