Whip-poor-will
**WHIP-POOR-WILL**  
*Caprimulgus vociferus*

**ORDER:** Caprimulgiformes

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**IDENTIFICATION CLUES**

- 10 inches long, a “plump” bird with a relatively large head
- Coloration is a mottled brown and gray which provides good daytime camouflage for this nocturnal bird
- Tips of tail feathers are white and they have a white neckband
- White neckband and whiskered cheeks

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**Where to Look**

During the day, the nocturnal Whip-poor-will roosts quietly on the ground or low branches. In the evening they can be located by their distinct call.

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**What It Eats.**

The Whip-poor-will feeds primarily on moths which they hunt at night and swoop to catch on the wing.

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**Nesting**

Whip-poor-wills lay 2-3 eggs on the ground. The eggs are splotched and spotted with browns and grays to blend in with the leaf litter.

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**Call or Song**

The Whip-poor-will has a loud and distinct call, a repeated chant that sounds like its name, “whip-prrr-WEEL” with an emphasis on the last note.

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**Migration?**

Whip-poor-wills spend the winter months from the Gulf Coast to the Honduras in Central America.

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**Did You Know**

Very little is known about whip-poor-wills because they are so secretive and difficult to study.