

Birds in Art

Using the artwork *Demoiselle Cranes* by Jessie Arms Botke practice your observation skills to describe what you see in the painting.

LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's field marks.

Field marks are the physical characteristics of a bird like its color, markings, size and shape that help scientists and bird watchers with identification.

Fun fact: Jessie Arms Botke has painted a Demoiselle Crane which is known for the black plumage that goes down its neck and past its chest with a distinct stripe of white plumes that extend out behind the eyes.

LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's behavior.

Describing the bird's behavior is one way to help identify the type of bird you are looking at.

LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's environment.

Fun fact: Demoiselle Cranes are native to Eurasia and live in the dry grasslands. The artist likely observed this bird in the zoo.

If we were in nature, you might be able to listen for the bird's call. Check out <https://ebird.org/species/demcra1> to hear this bird's call and learn more.



Jessie Arms Botke (American, 1883–1971), *Demoiselle Cranes*, ca. 1930. Oil and gold leaf on board, 40 1/2 x 32 in. Crocker Art Museum purchase with funds from Louise and Victor Graf, 2012.16.

Fun fact: If you visit this painting in person, you'll notice that the artist has incorporated patterned gold-leaf into the background a technique that later became her "signature".

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Birds in Nature

Spend some time watching birds in your backyard, at a park, or even out your window. Pick one of the birds you see to complete the activity below.

LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's field marks.

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LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's behavior.

LOOK and DESCRIBE the bird's environment.

DRAW the bird that you described. Can you add some details that tell us about the environment it lives in?

