

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



**Yash Goyal**  
(Georgia Tech)



Ziyang Wu  
(Siemens)



Jan Ernst  
(Siemens)



Dhruv Batra  
(Georgia Tech)



Devi Parikh  
(Georgia Tech)



Stefan Lee  
(Georgia Tech)



# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

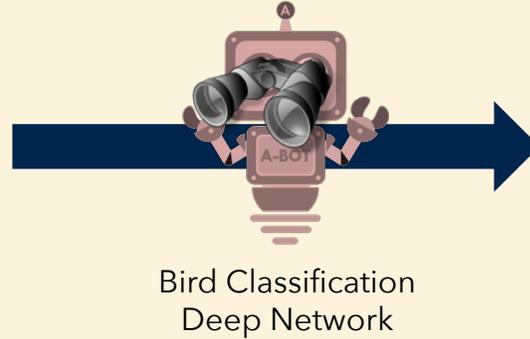


Bird Classification  
Deep Network



**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

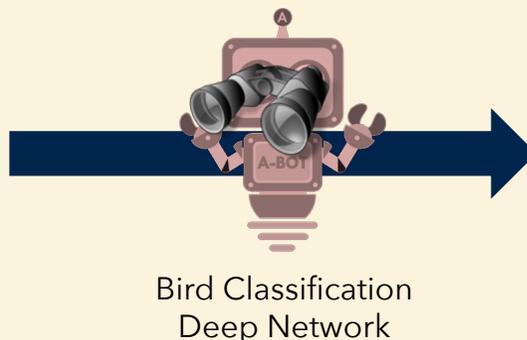
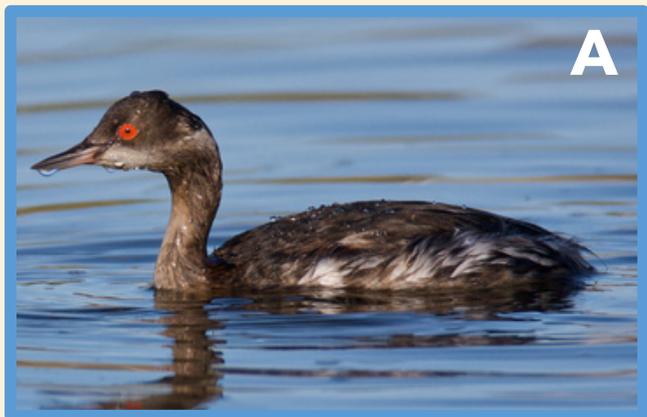
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

For input  $X$ , why did the model predict  $Y$  instead of  $Z$ ?

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



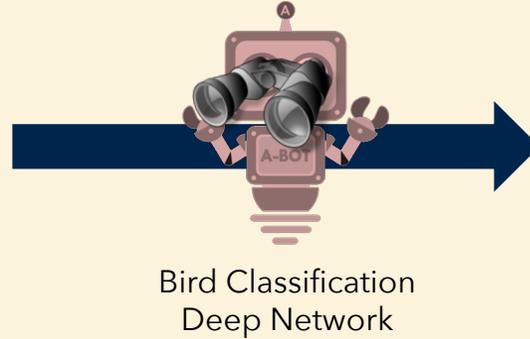
**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

For input  $X$ , why did the model predict  $Y$  instead of  $Z$ ?

**Explanation through Counterfactual:**

If  $X$  was  $X^*$ , then the outcome would have been  $Z$  rather than  $Y$ .

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

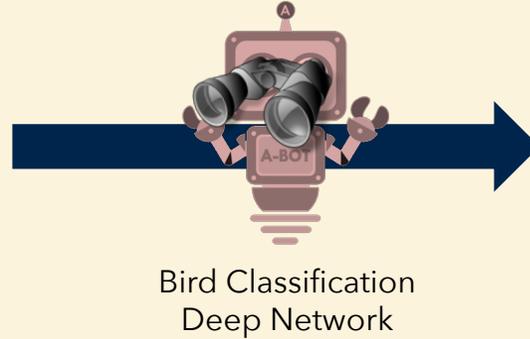


**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

## Explanation through Counterfactual:

What would have to change in **image A** to make the model predict **Horned Grebe**?

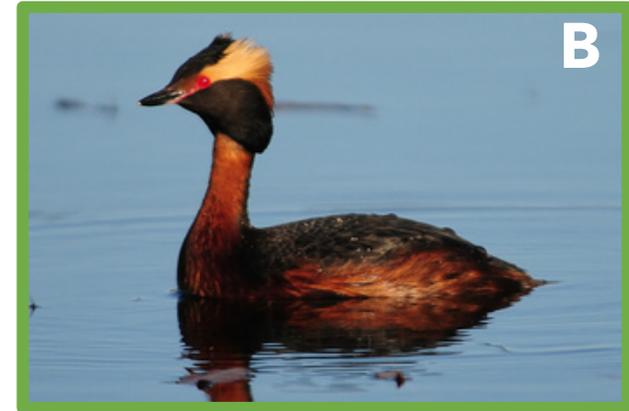
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**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

## Explanation through Counterfactual:

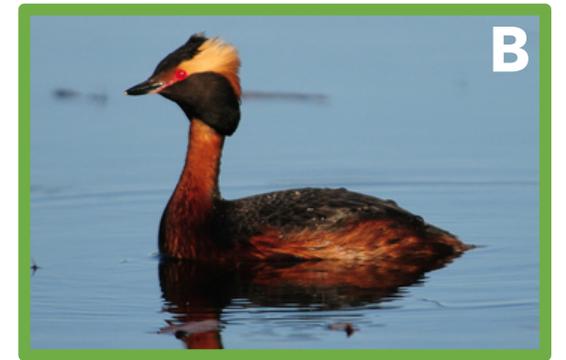
What would have to change in **image A** to make the model predict **Horned Grebe**?



An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

What would have to change in **image A** to make the model predict **Horned Grebe**?



An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

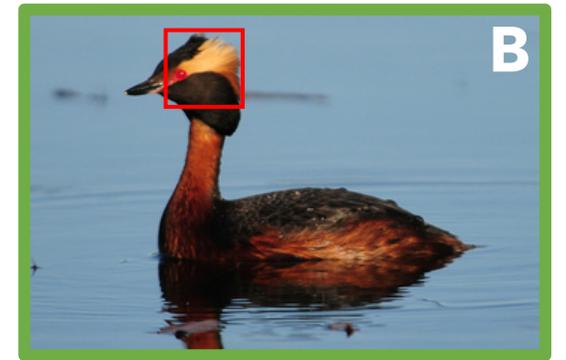
What would have to change in **image A** to make the model predict **Horned Grebe**?



If



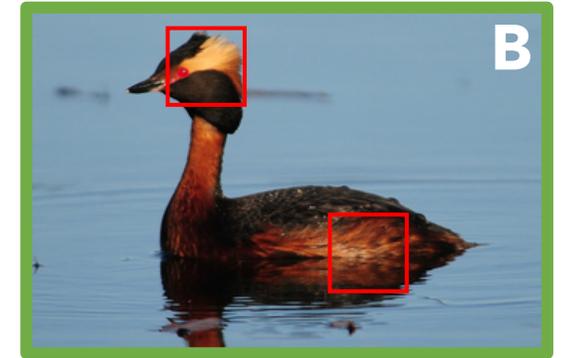
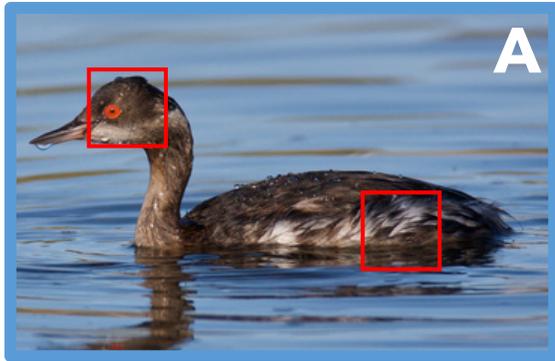
looked more like



An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

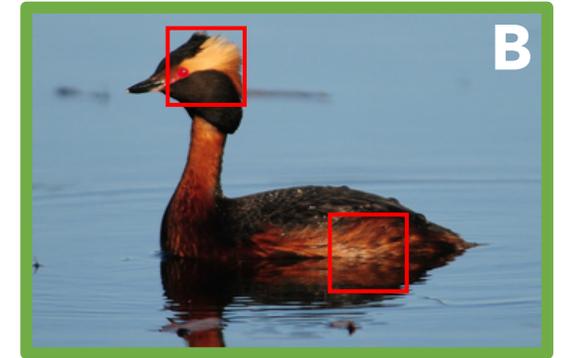
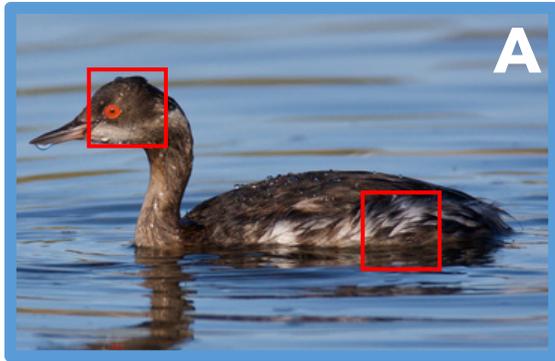
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An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

What would have to change in **image A** to make the model predict **Horned Grebe**?



An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

**How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?**

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

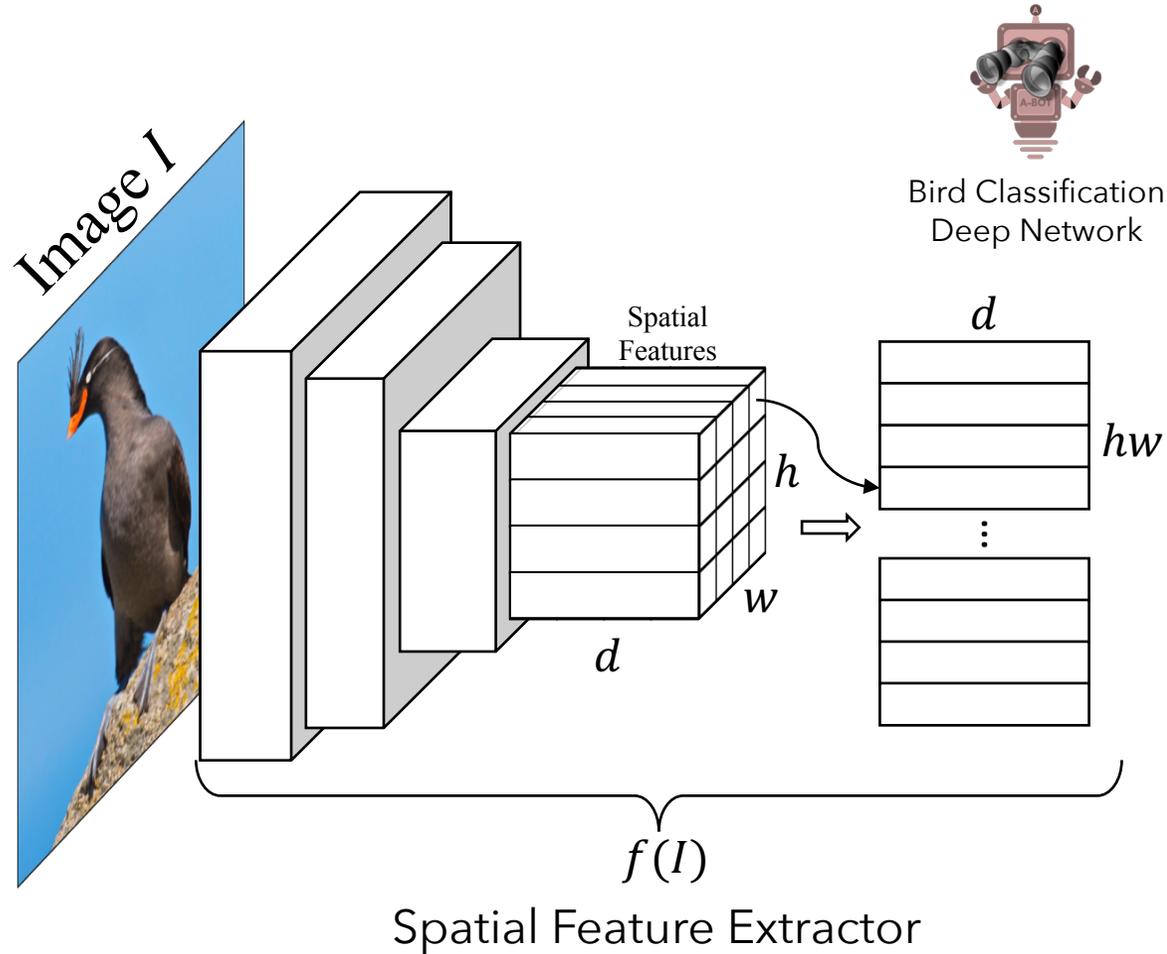
How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?



Bird Classification  
Deep Network

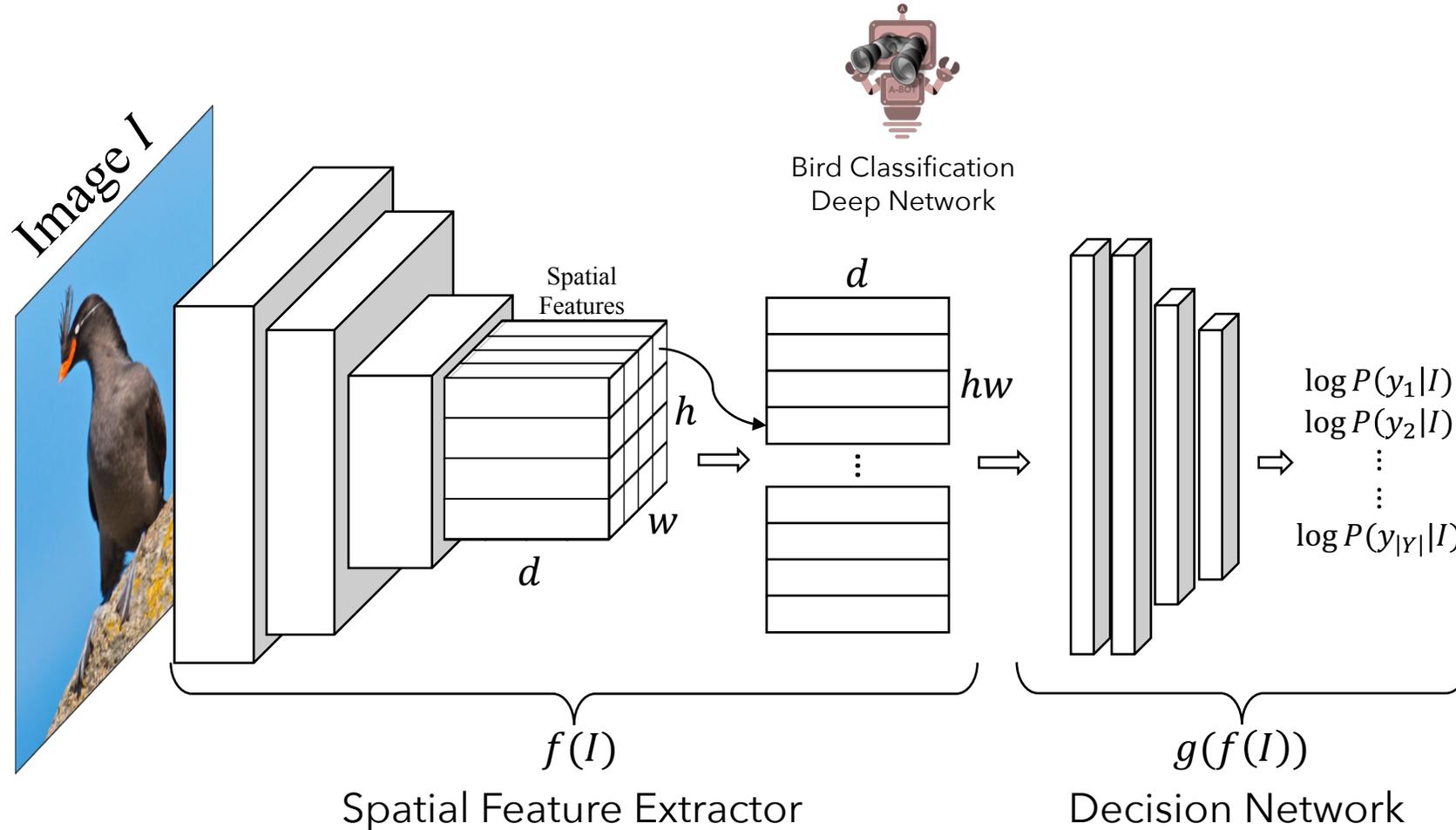
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?

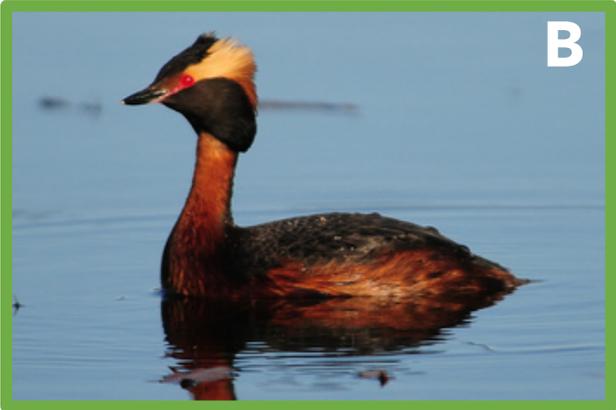


# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

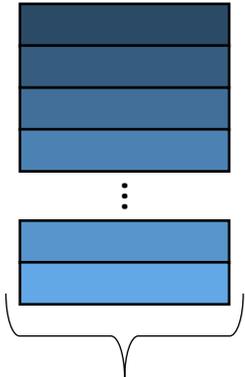
How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?



# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



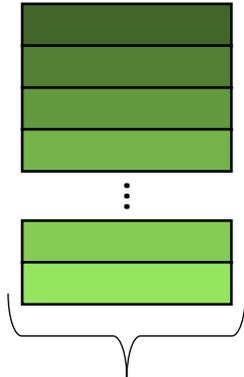
$$f(I_A)$$



Query Image Features



$$f(I_B)$$

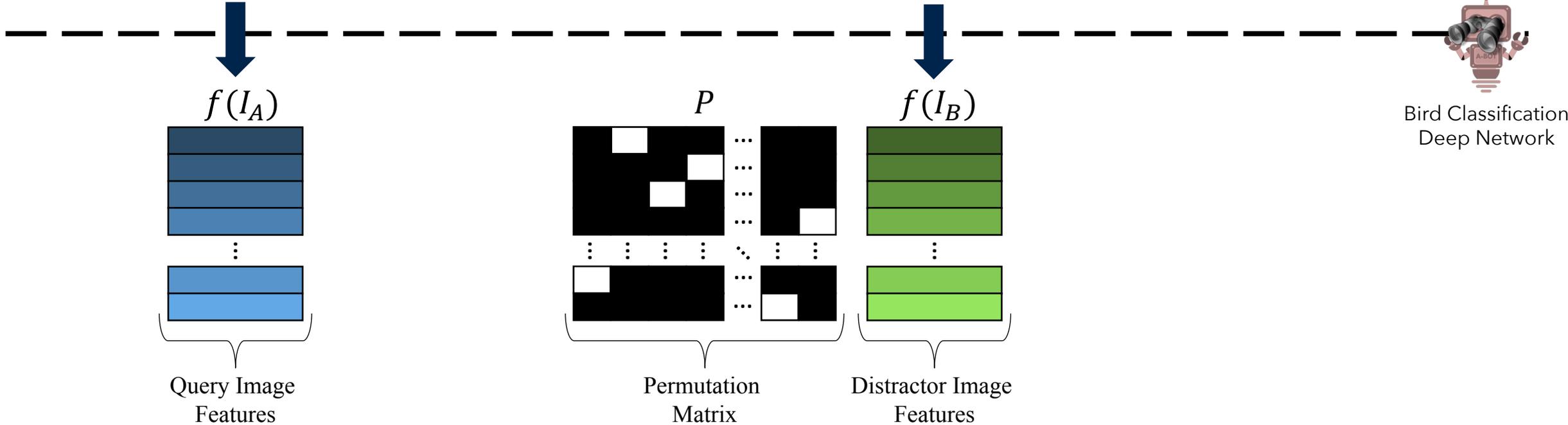


Distractor Image Features

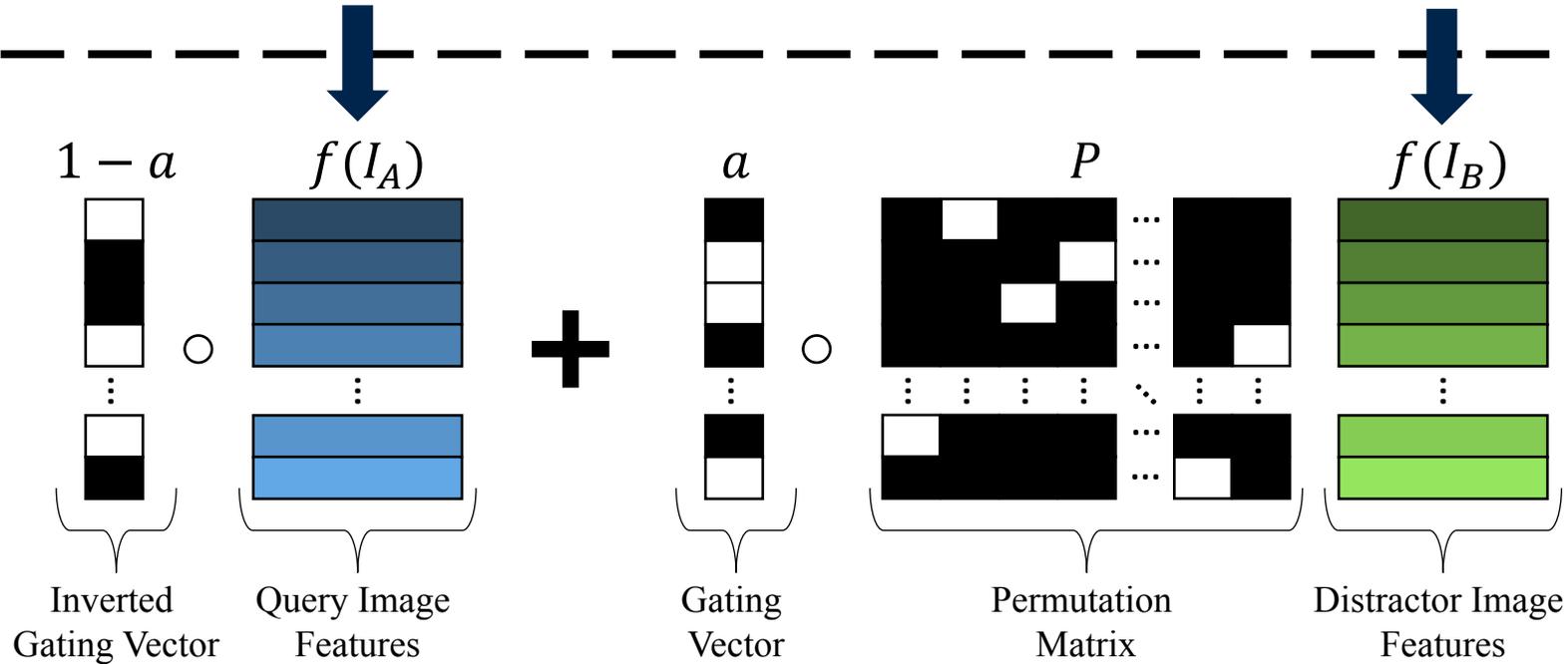
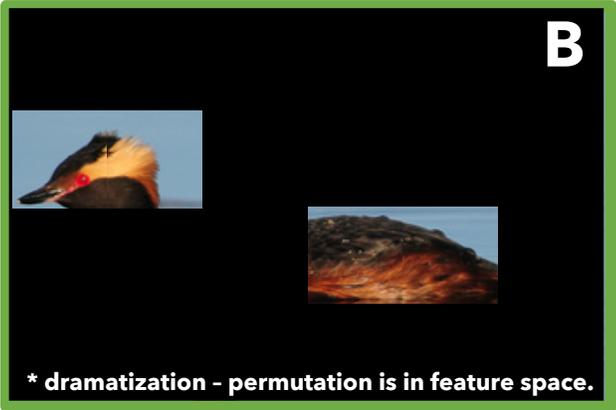
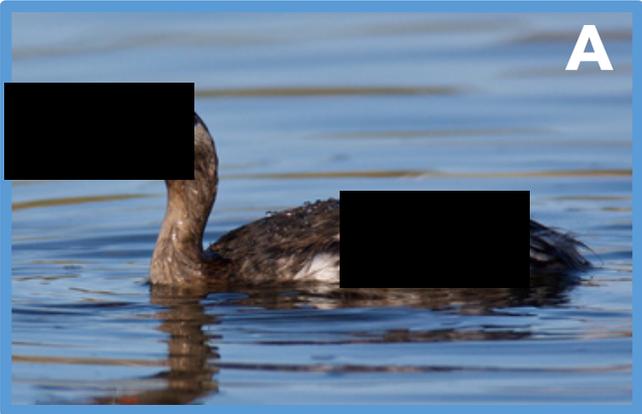


Bird Classification Deep Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

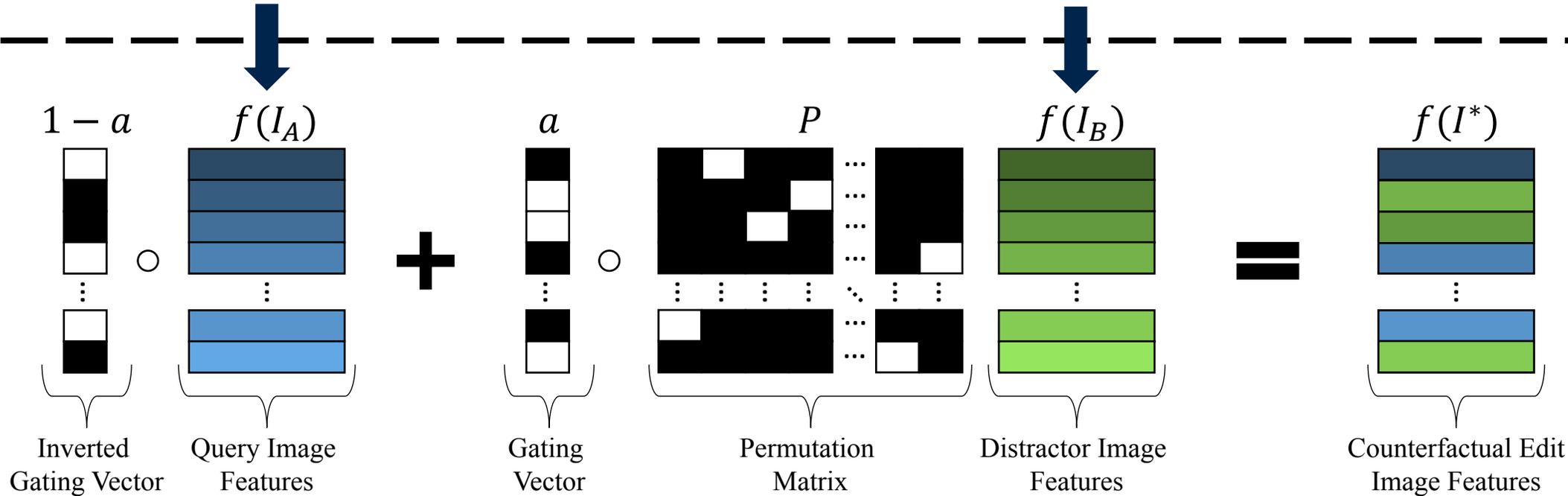
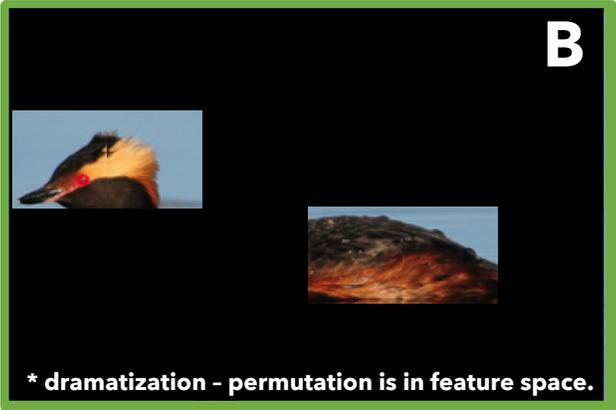
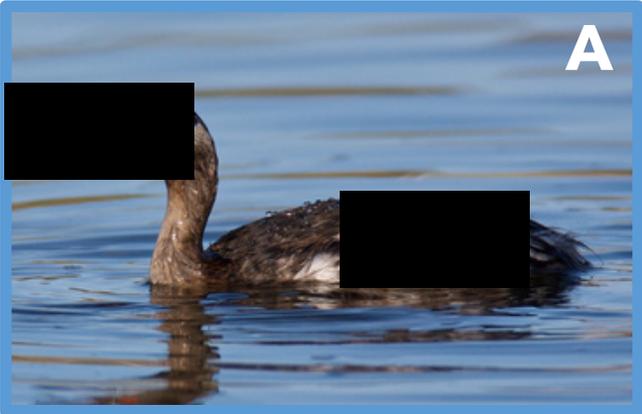


# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



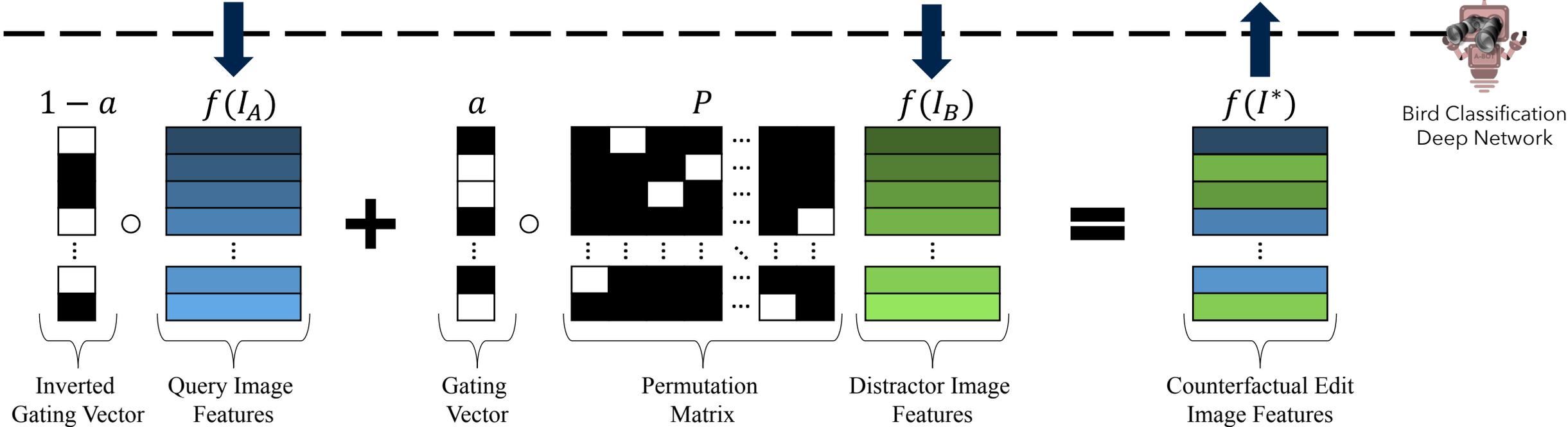
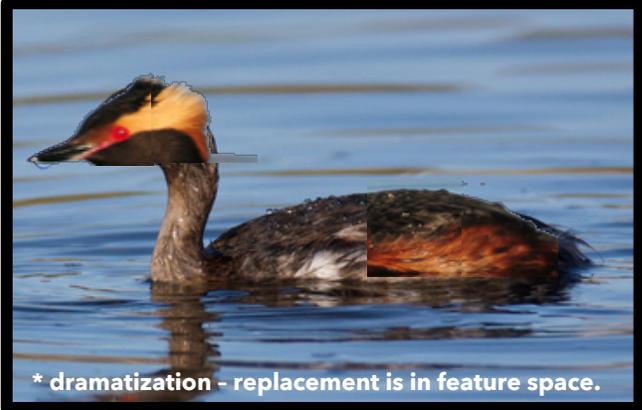
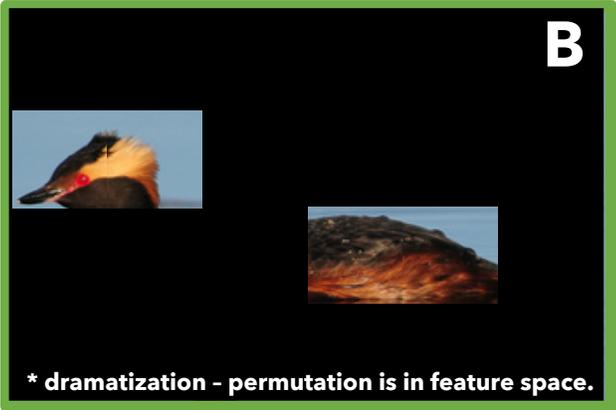
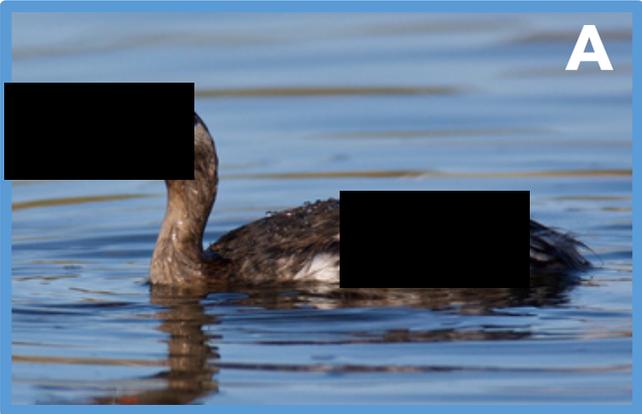
Bird Classification Deep Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

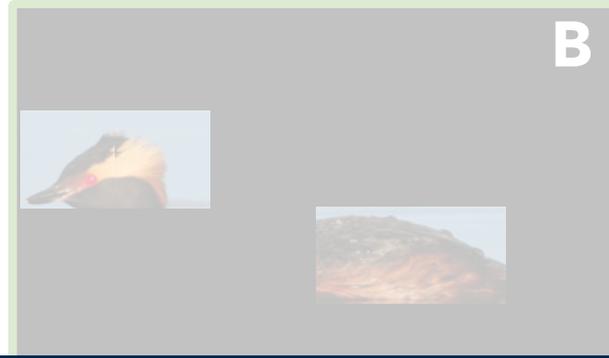
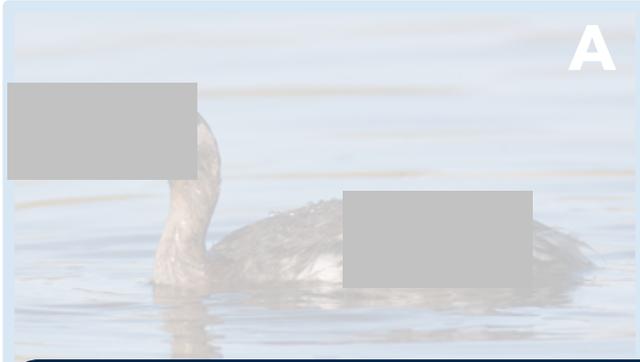


Bird Classification Deep Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

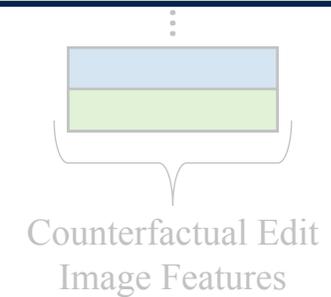
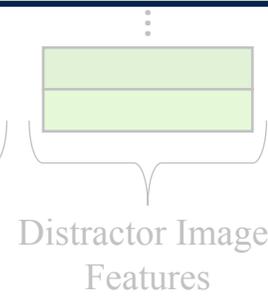
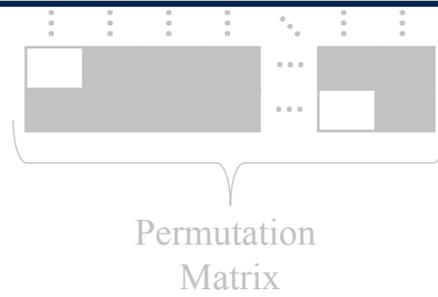
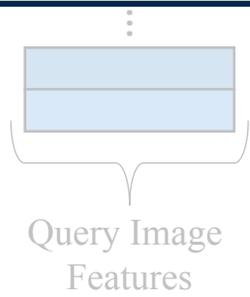
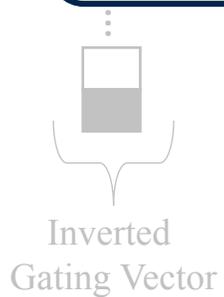


# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



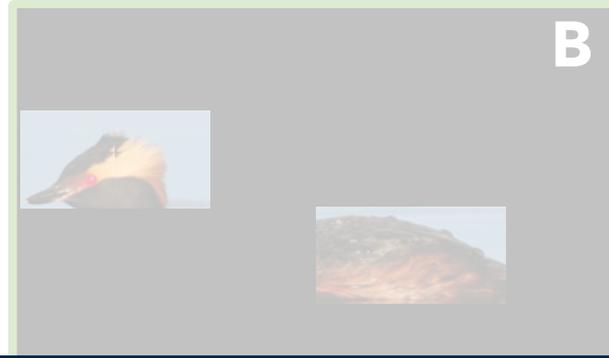
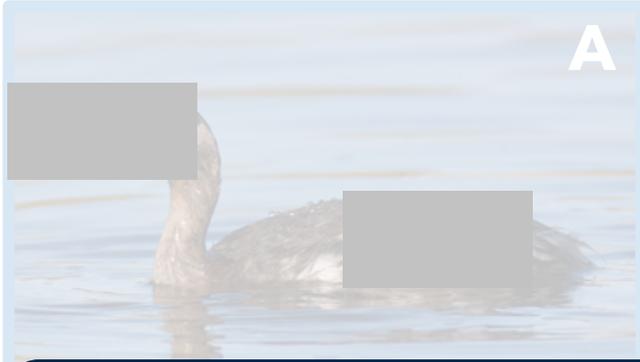
## Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation: Find

- 1) binary gating vector  $\mathbf{a}$ , and
- 2) a permutation matrix  $P$



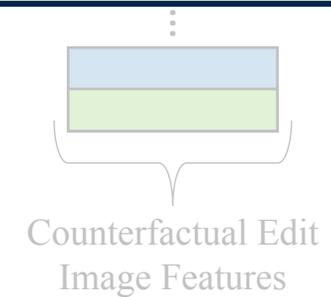
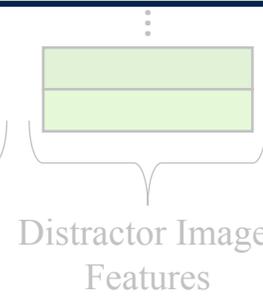
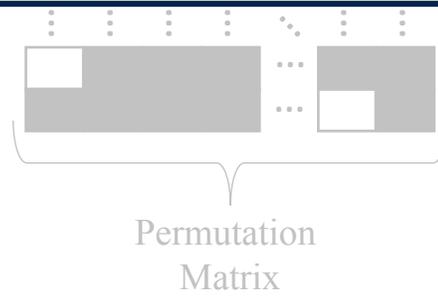
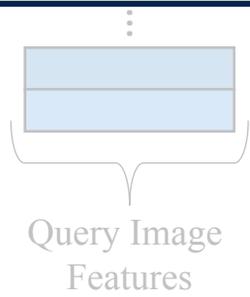
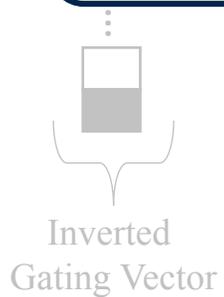
Classification Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



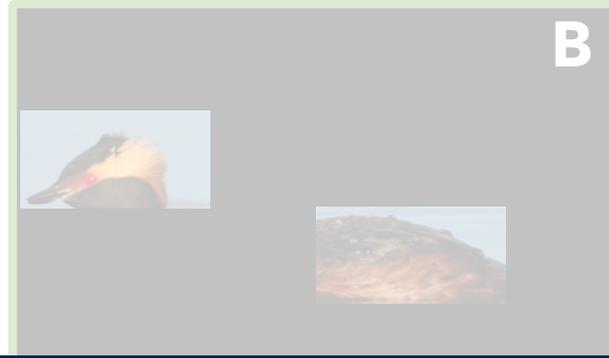
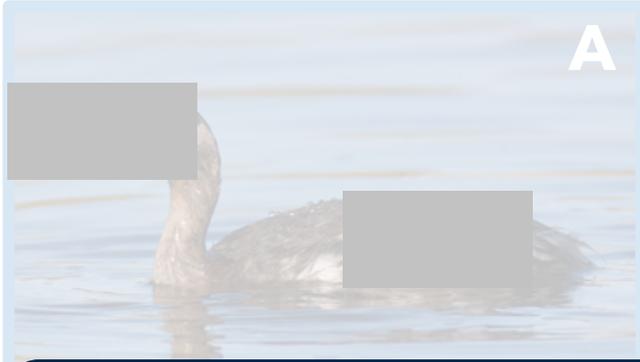
## Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation: Find

- 1) binary gating vector  $\mathbf{a}$ , and
  - 2) a permutation matrix  $P$
- such that the model changes its decision to the distractor class



Classification  
Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



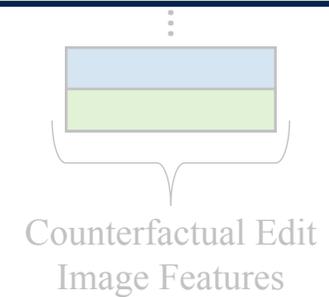
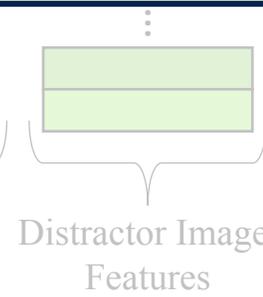
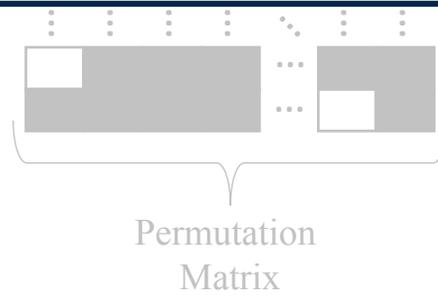
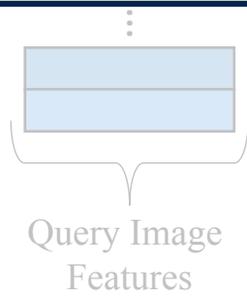
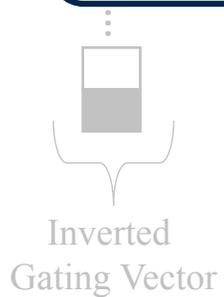
**Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation:** Find

1) binary gating vector  $\mathbf{a}$ , and

2) a permutation matrix  $P$

such that the model changes its decision to the distractor class

**with the fewest edits (i.e.  $\min \|\mathbf{a}\|_1$ )**

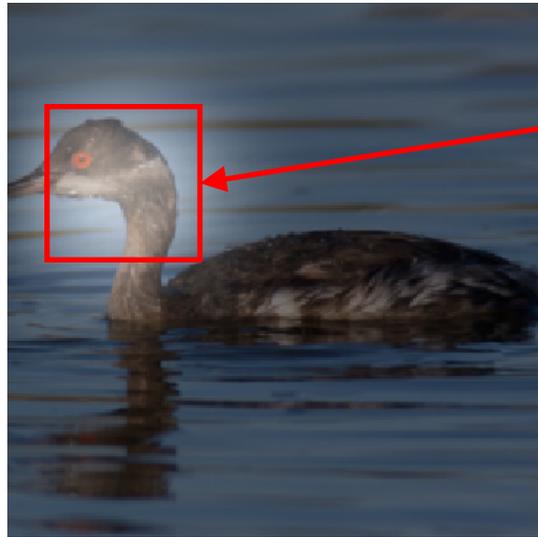


Classification  
Network

# Results - Single Edit

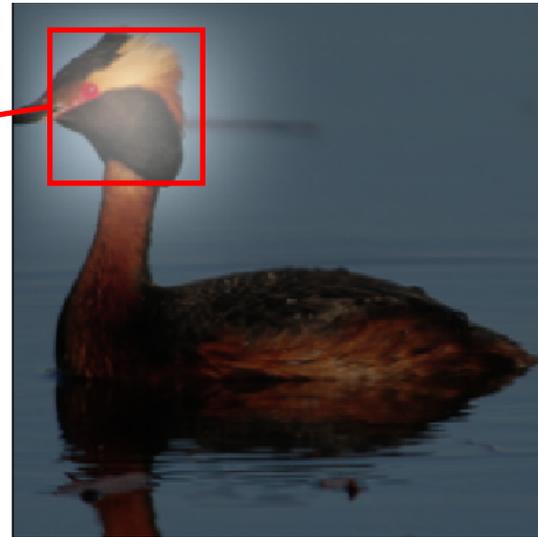
If the highlighted region in **image A** looked like the highlighted region in **image B**, then *image A* is more likely to be classified as **class B**.

Query Image A



Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B

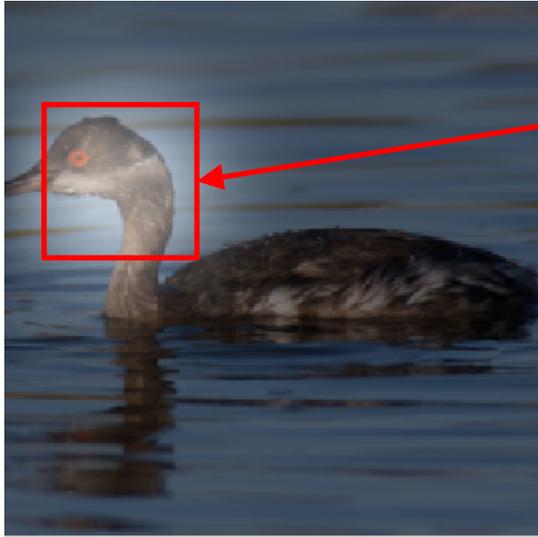


Horned Grebe

# Results - Single Edit

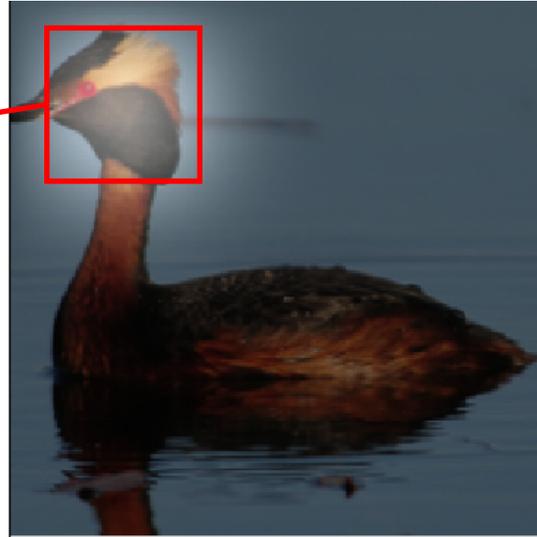
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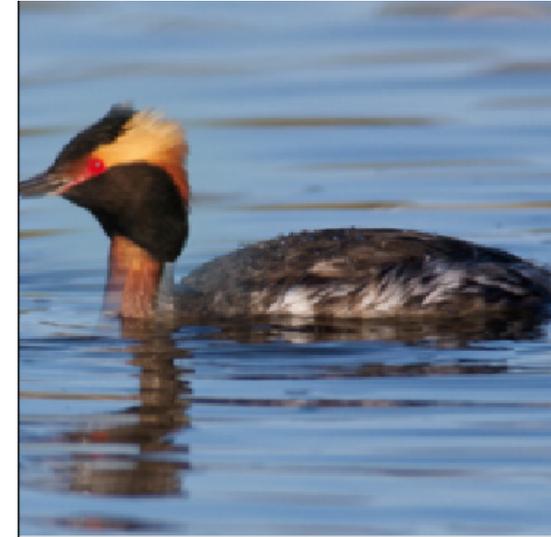
Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B



Horned Grebe

Composite Image  
(for visualization only)

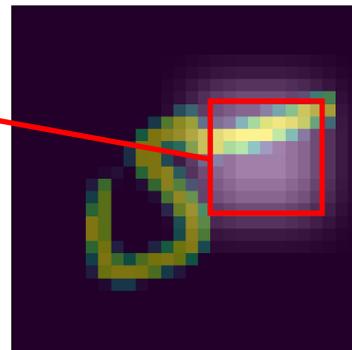
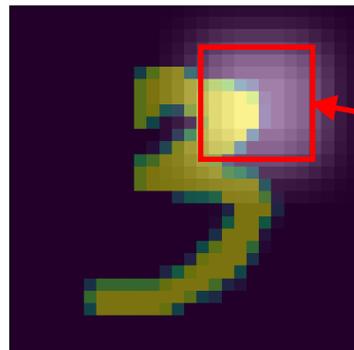
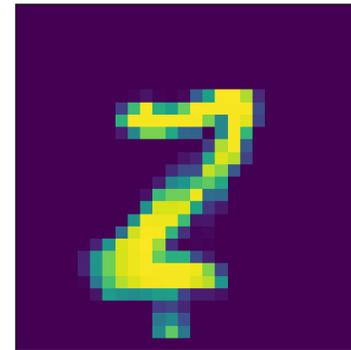
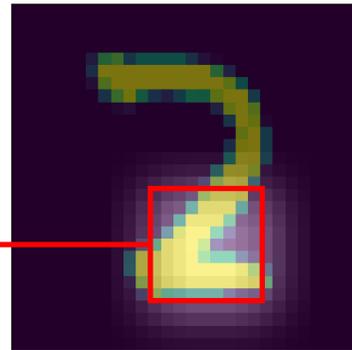
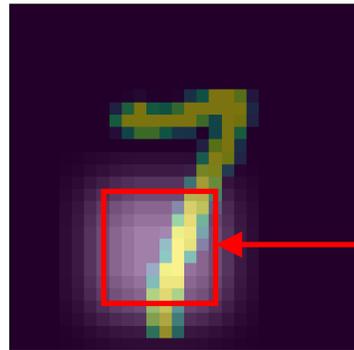
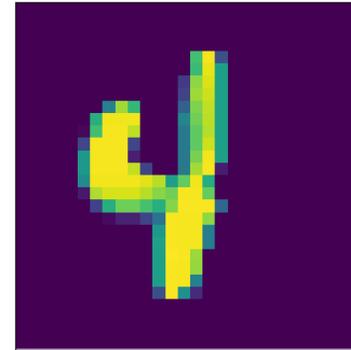
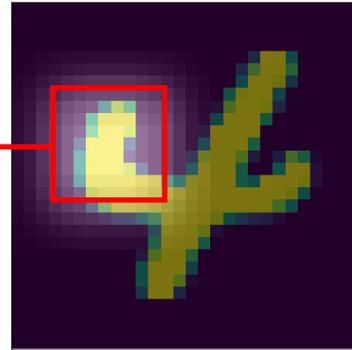
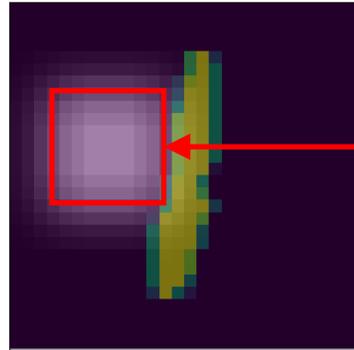


# Results - Single Edit

Query  
Image A

Distractor  
Image B

Composite Image  
(for visualization only)

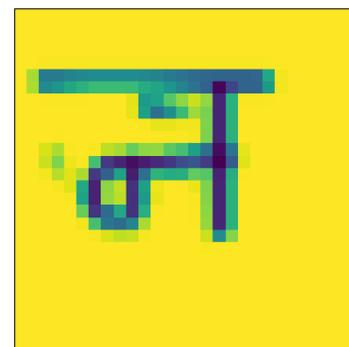
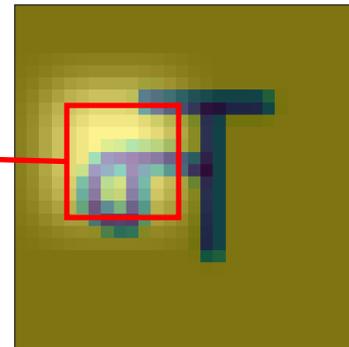
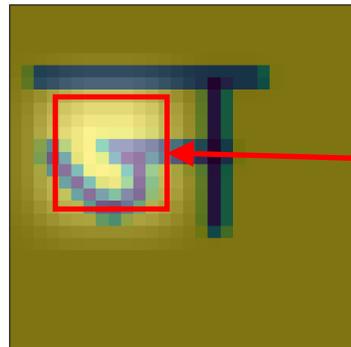
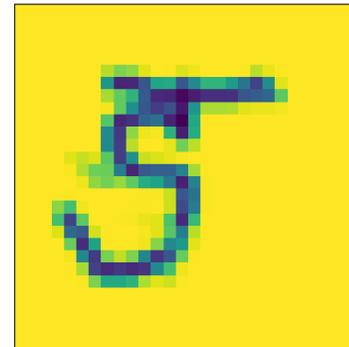
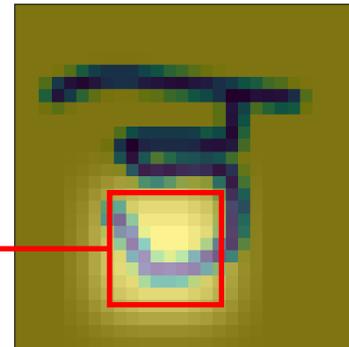
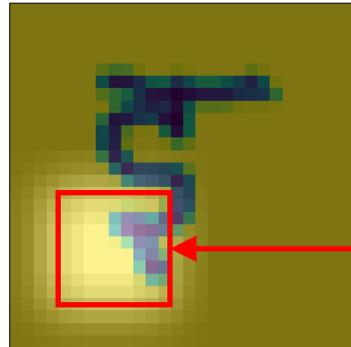
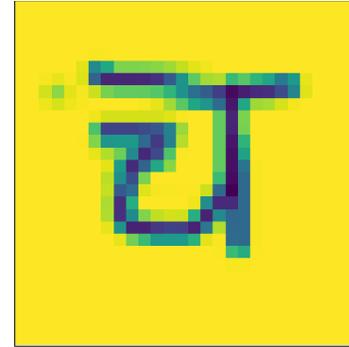
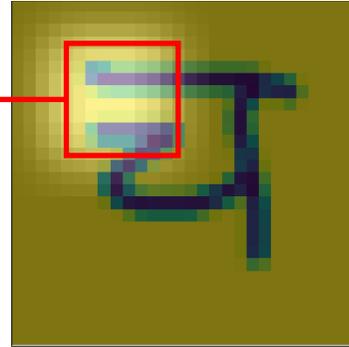
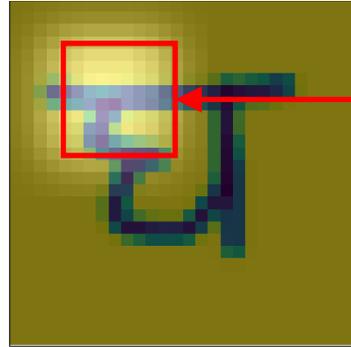


# Results - Single Edit

Query  
Image A

Distractor  
Image B

Composite Image  
(for visualization only)



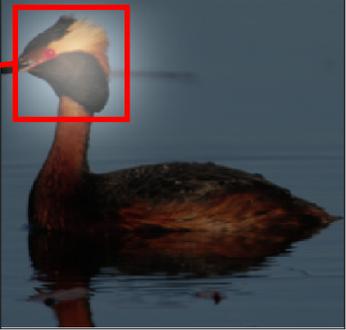
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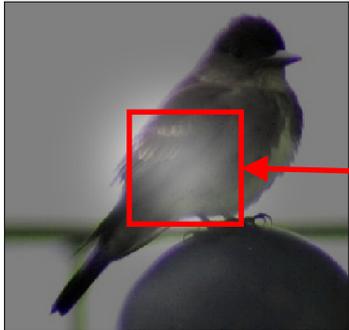
Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B

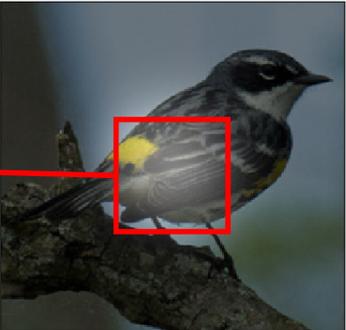


Horned Grebe

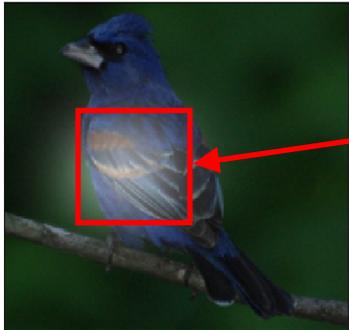
Composite Image (for visualization only)



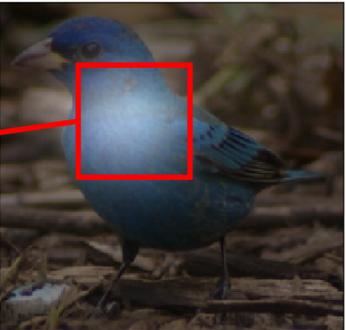
Olive sided Flycatcher



Myrtle Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Indigo Bunting



# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

Do our **counterfactual explanations** help untrained participants learn to identify fine-grained classes?

# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

Do our **counterfactual explanations** help untrained participants learn to identify fine-grained classes?

## Training



Which category does the bird above belong to?

Alpha

Bravo

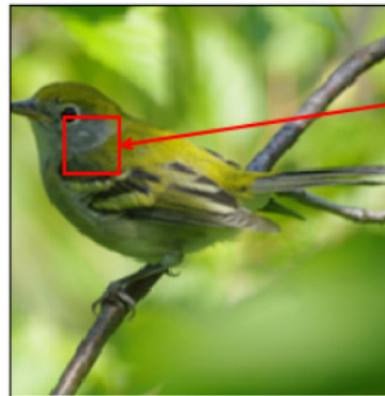


**Feedback: Sorry, its not a Bravo. It is actually an Alpha.**

We understand why you might be confused. Here is a hint that might help you make this distinction better next time:

Alpha

Bravo



If the highlighted region in the left image (an Alpha) looked like the highlighted region in the right image, it would look more like a Bravo.

# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

Do our **counterfactual explanations** help untrained participants learn to identify fine-grained classes?

## Training



Which category does the bird above belong to?

Alpha

Bravo

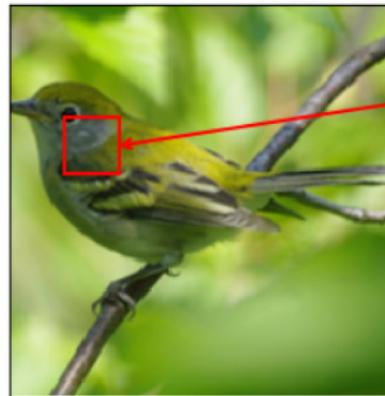


**Feedback: Sorry, its not a Bravo. It is actually an Alpha.**

We understand why you might be confused. Here is a hint that might help you make this distinction better next time:

Alpha

Bravo



If the highlighted region in the left image (an Alpha) looked like the highlighted region in the right image, it would look more like a Bravo.

## Testing

Testing phase: Image 1/5



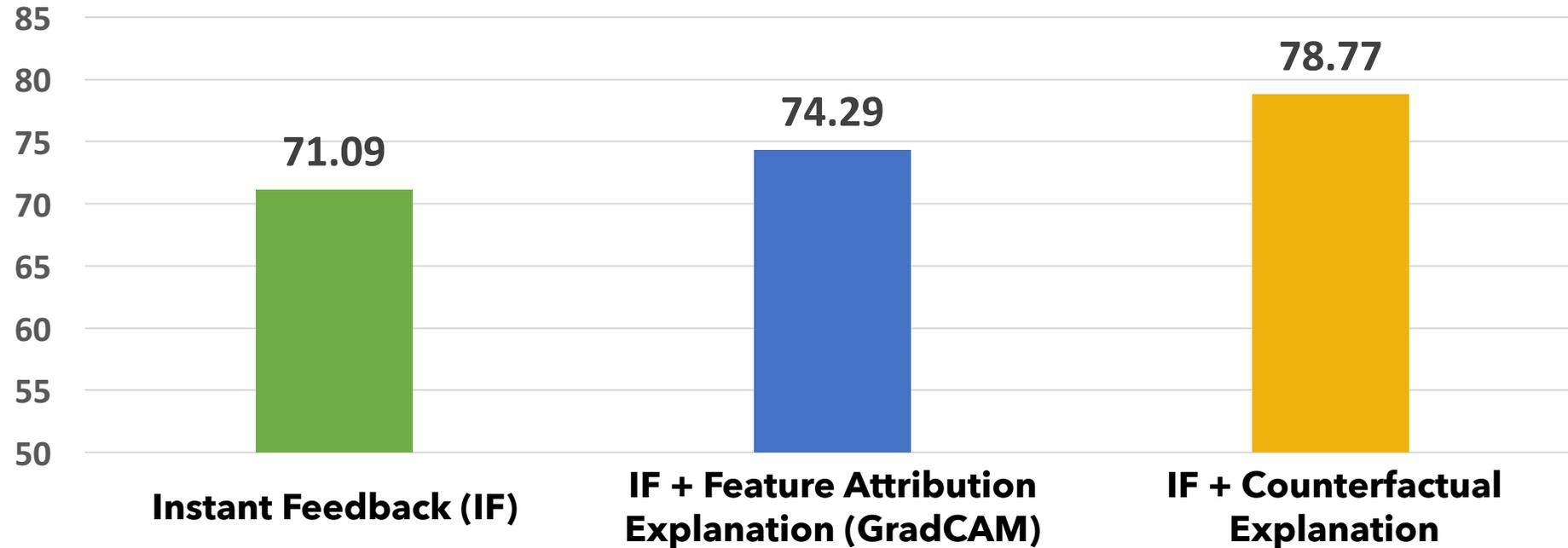
Which category does the bird above belong to?

Alpha

Bravo

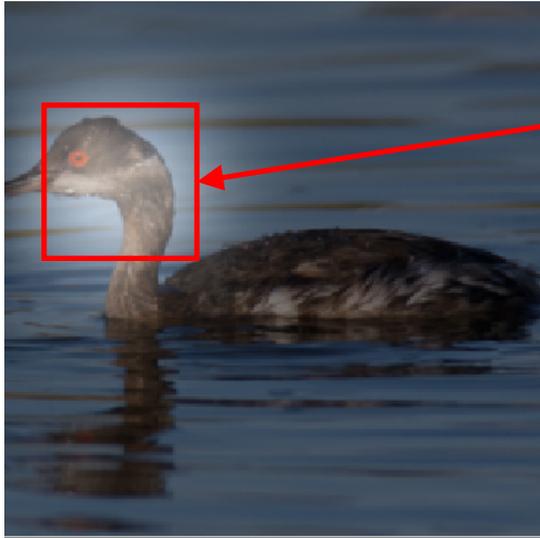
# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

Do our **counterfactual explanations** help untrained participants learn to identify fine-grained classes?



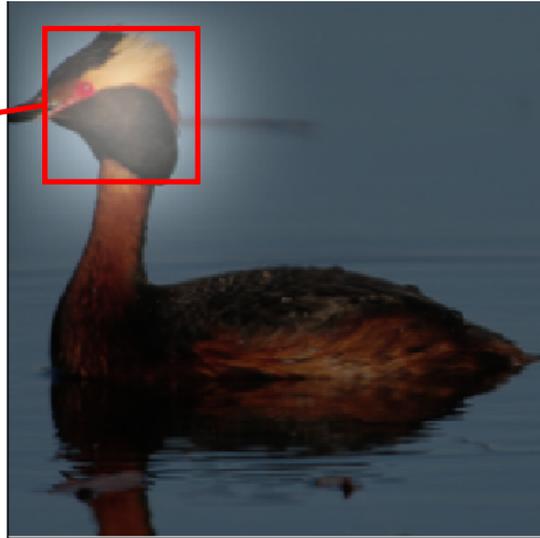
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

Query Image A



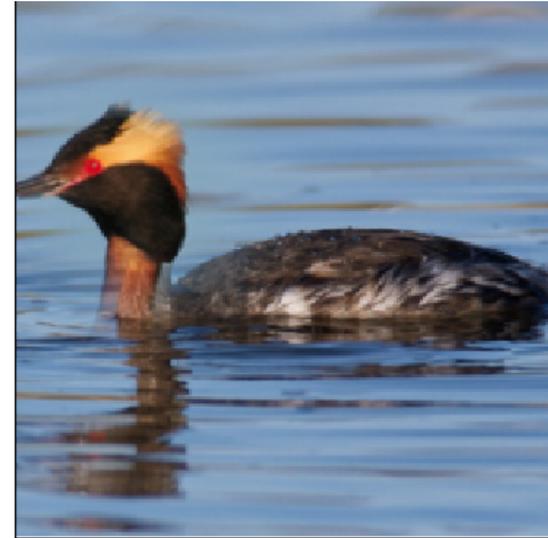
Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B



Horned Grebe

Composite Image  
(for visualization only)



## Questions?

Stop by our poster at #149 in Pacific Ballroom!