

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



**Yash Goyal**  
(Georgia Tech)



Ziyuan Wu  
(Siemens)



Jan Ernst  
(Siemens)



Dhruv Batra  
(Georgia Tech)



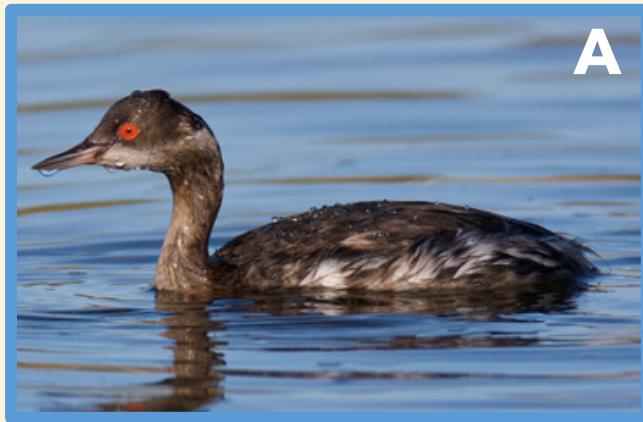
Devi Parikh  
(Georgia Tech)



Stefan Lee  
(Georgia Tech)



# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



A

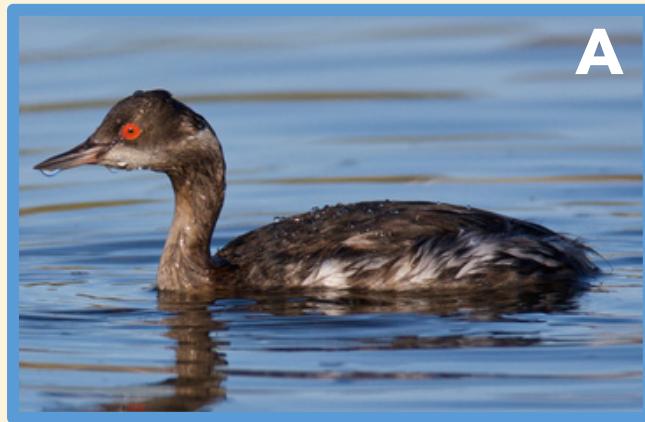


Bird Classification  
Deep Network

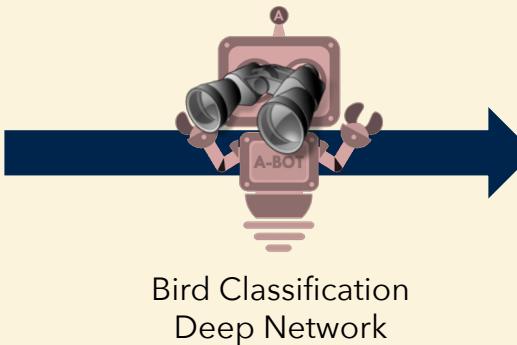


**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



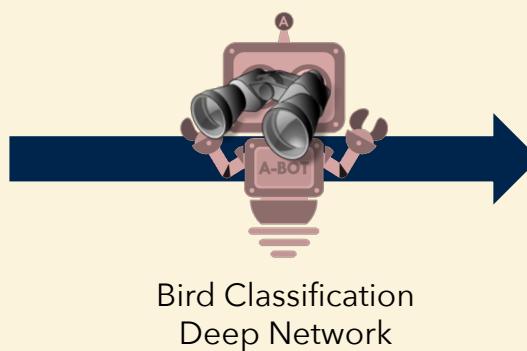
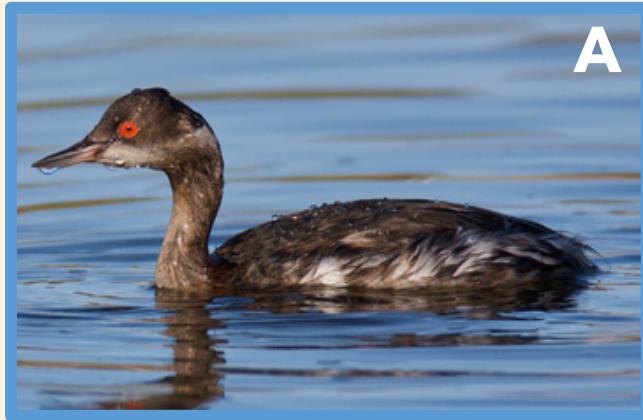
A



**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?**

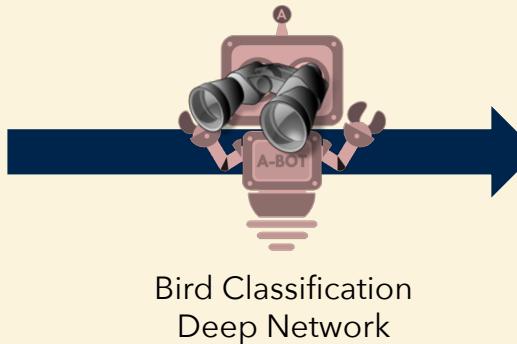
**Explanation through Counterfactual:**

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

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



A

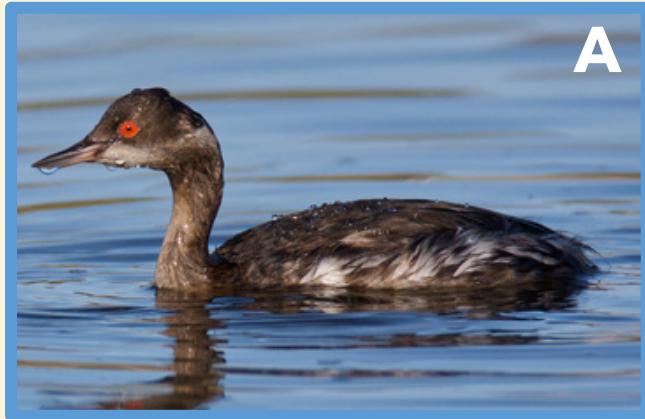


**An XAI Question:** Why did the model predict **Eared Grebe** instead of **Horned Grebe**?

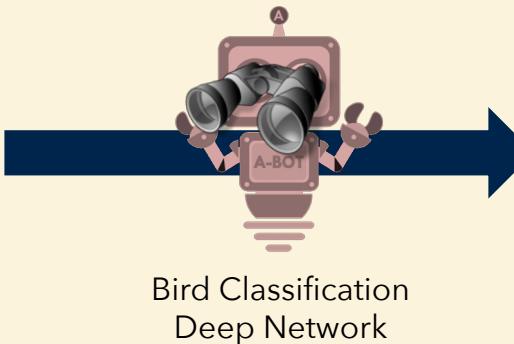
## Explanation through Counterfactual:

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

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



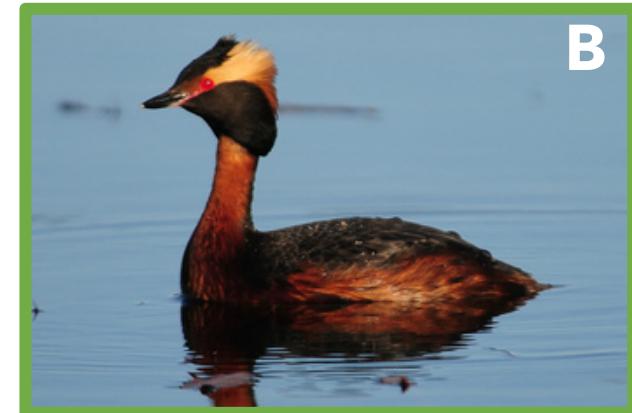
A



**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**?

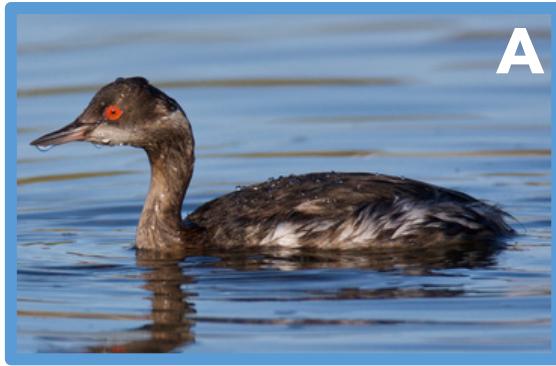


B

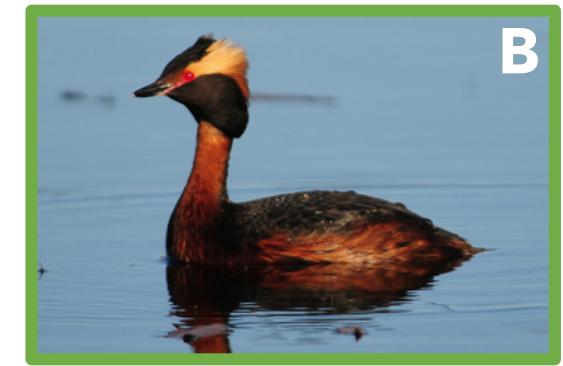
An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

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



A

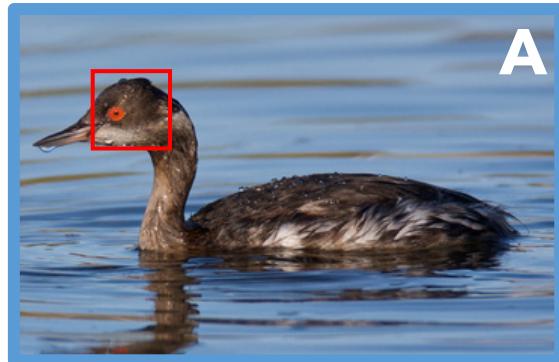


B

An image where the network  
predicts Horned Grebe.

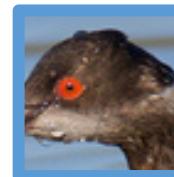
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

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



**A**

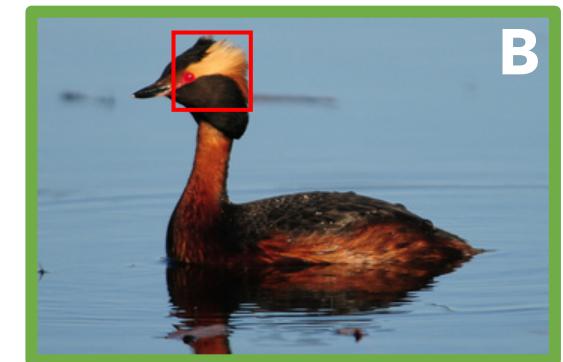
If



looked more like



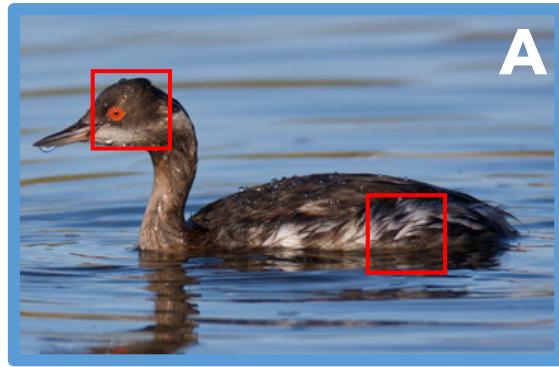
**B**



An image where the network  
predicts Horned Grebe.

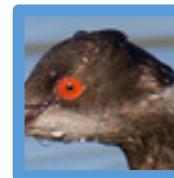
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

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



**A**

If



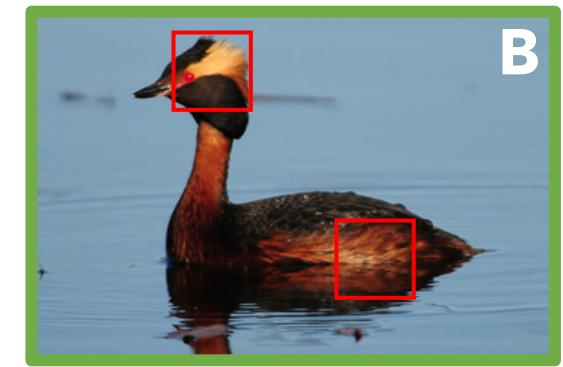
looked more like



If



looked more like

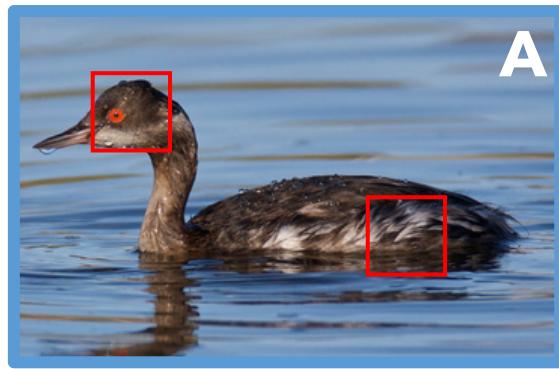


**B**

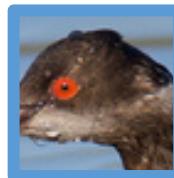
An image where the network  
predicts Horned Grebe.

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

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



If



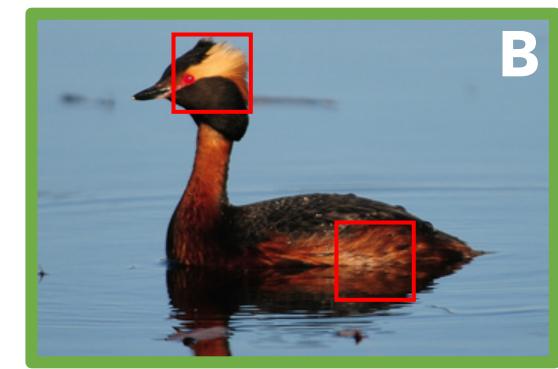
looked more like



If



looked more like

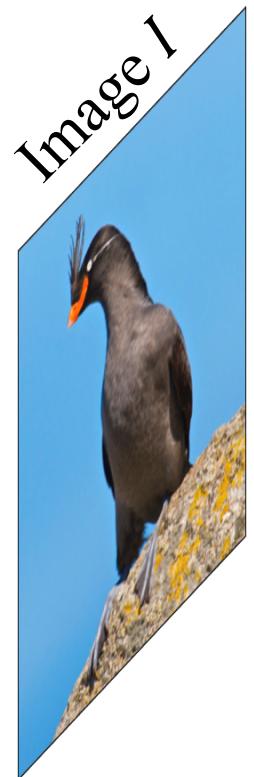


An image where the network predicts Horned Grebe.

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

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

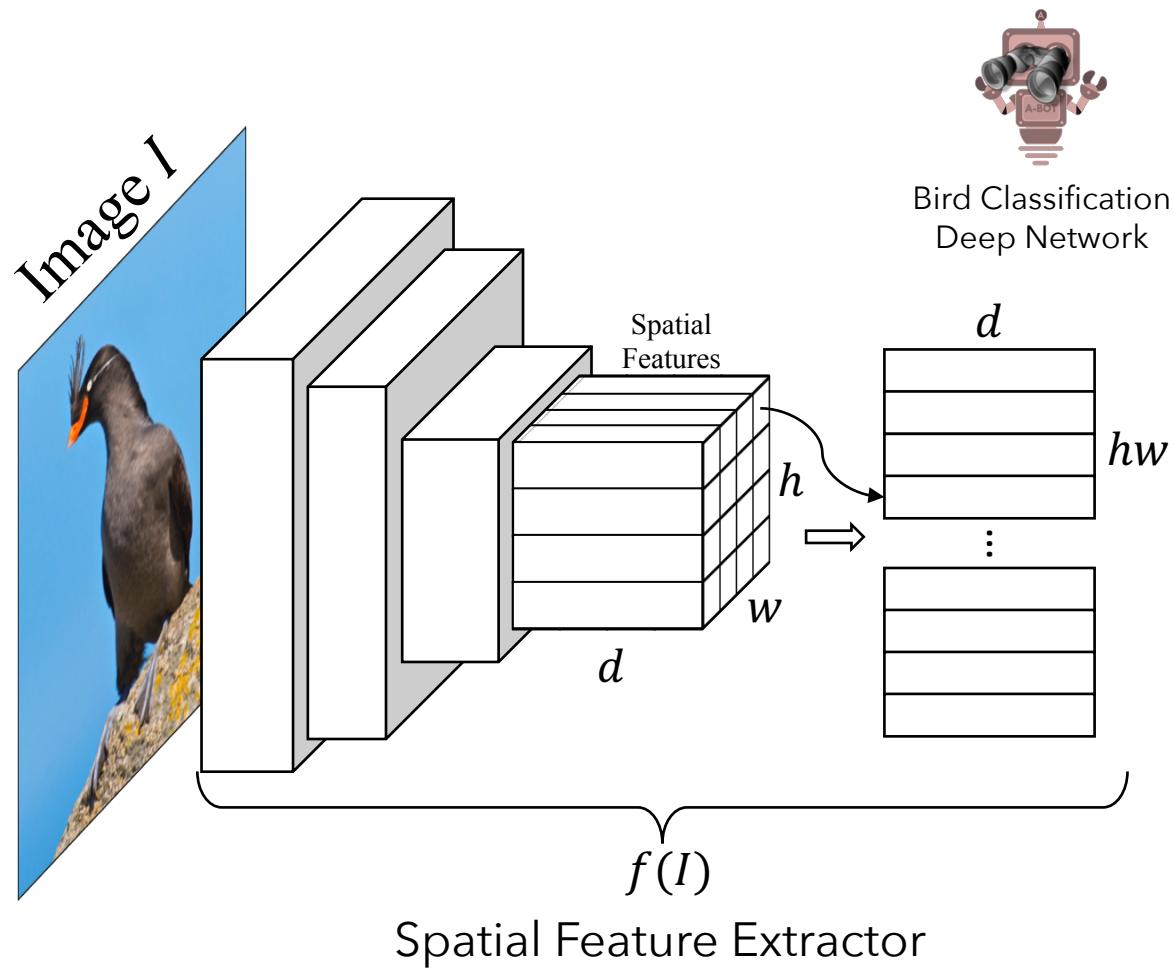
**How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?**



Bird Classification  
Deep Network

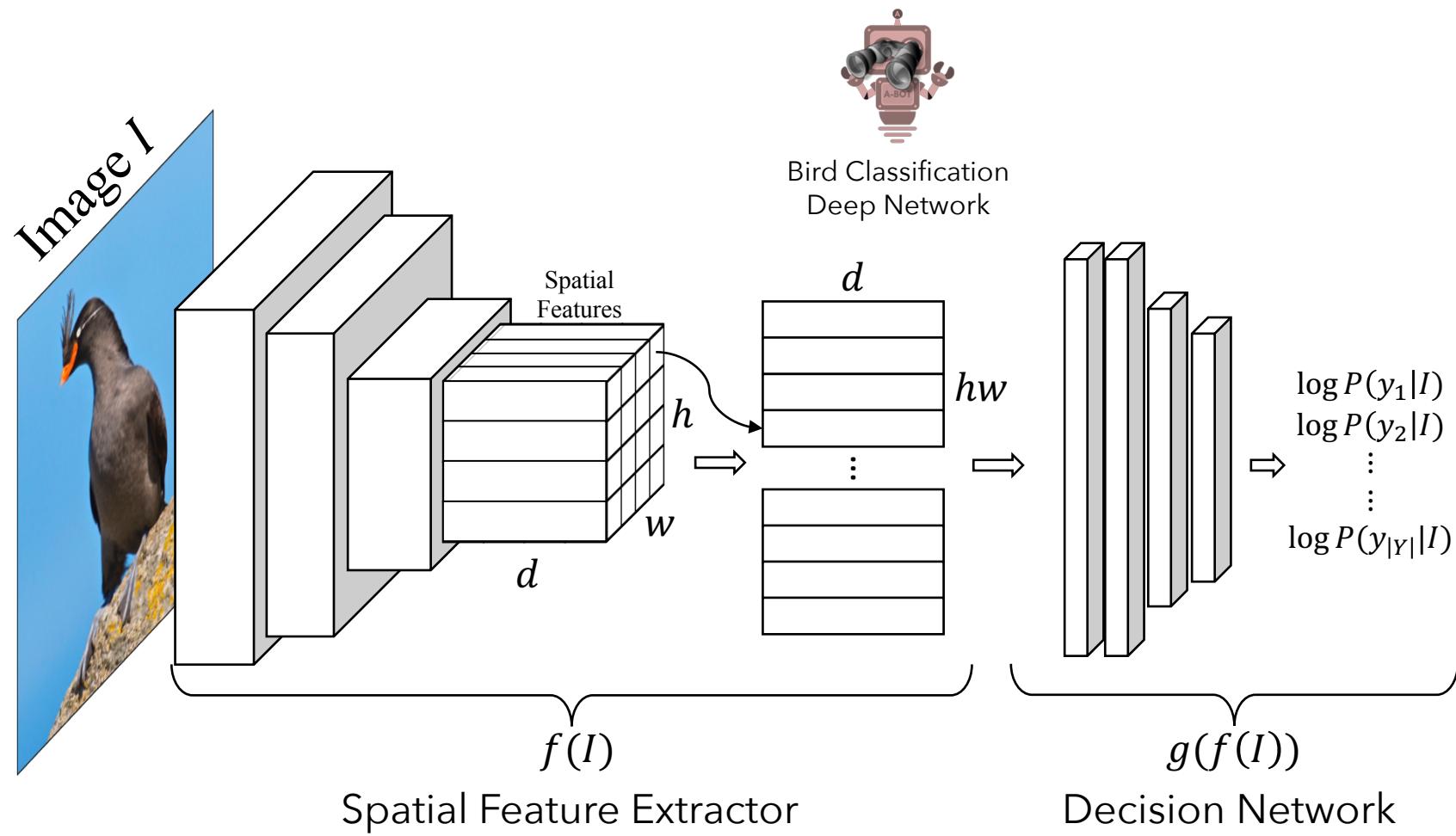
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

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

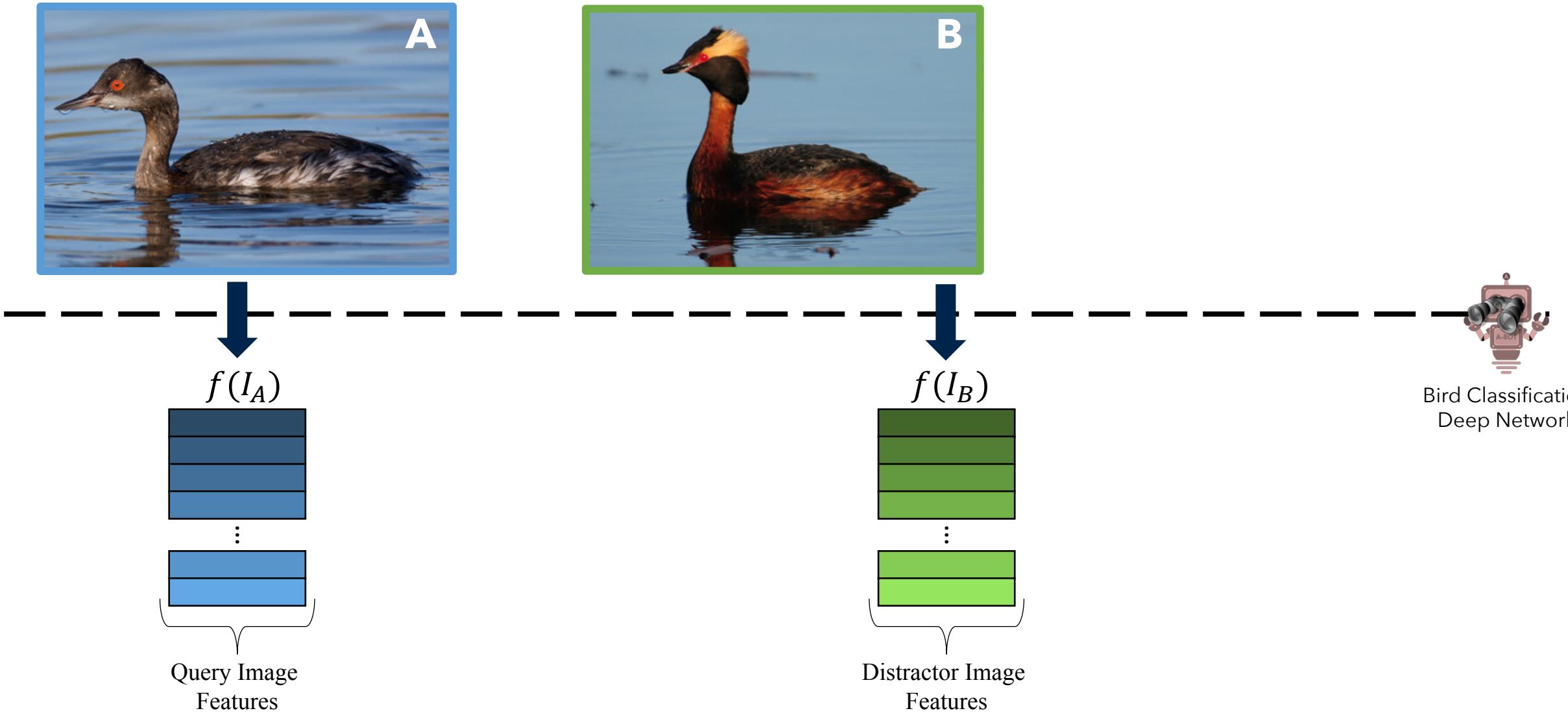


# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

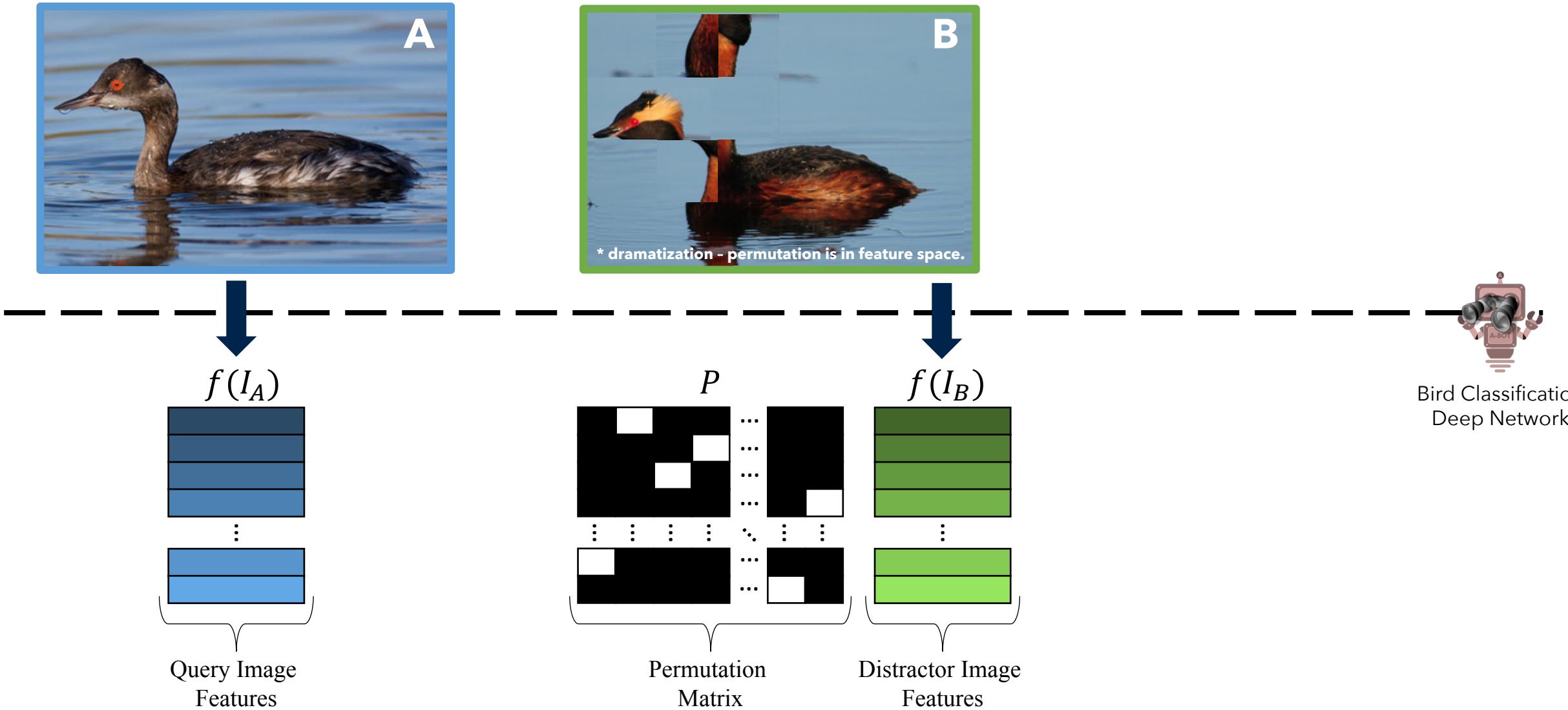
How can we identify these region pairs important to the model?



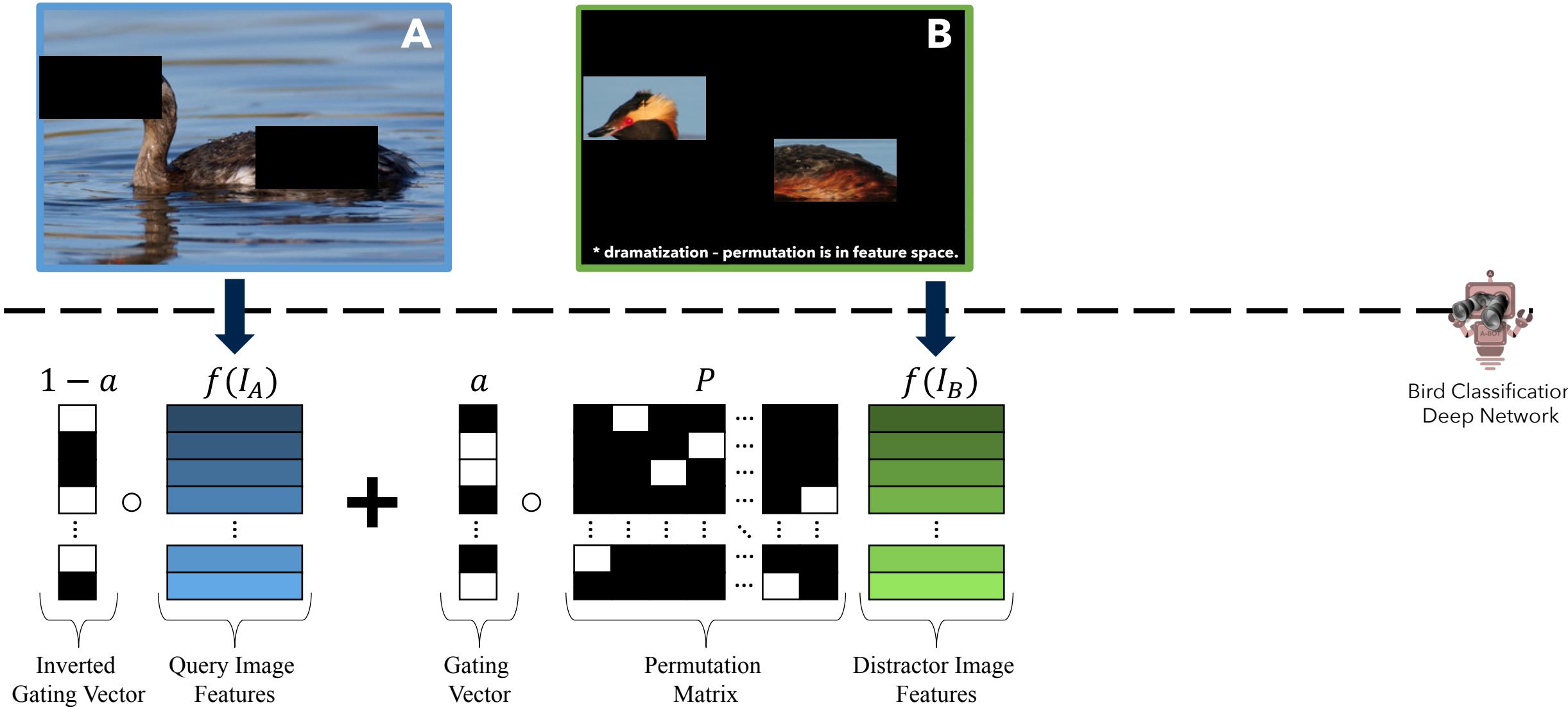
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



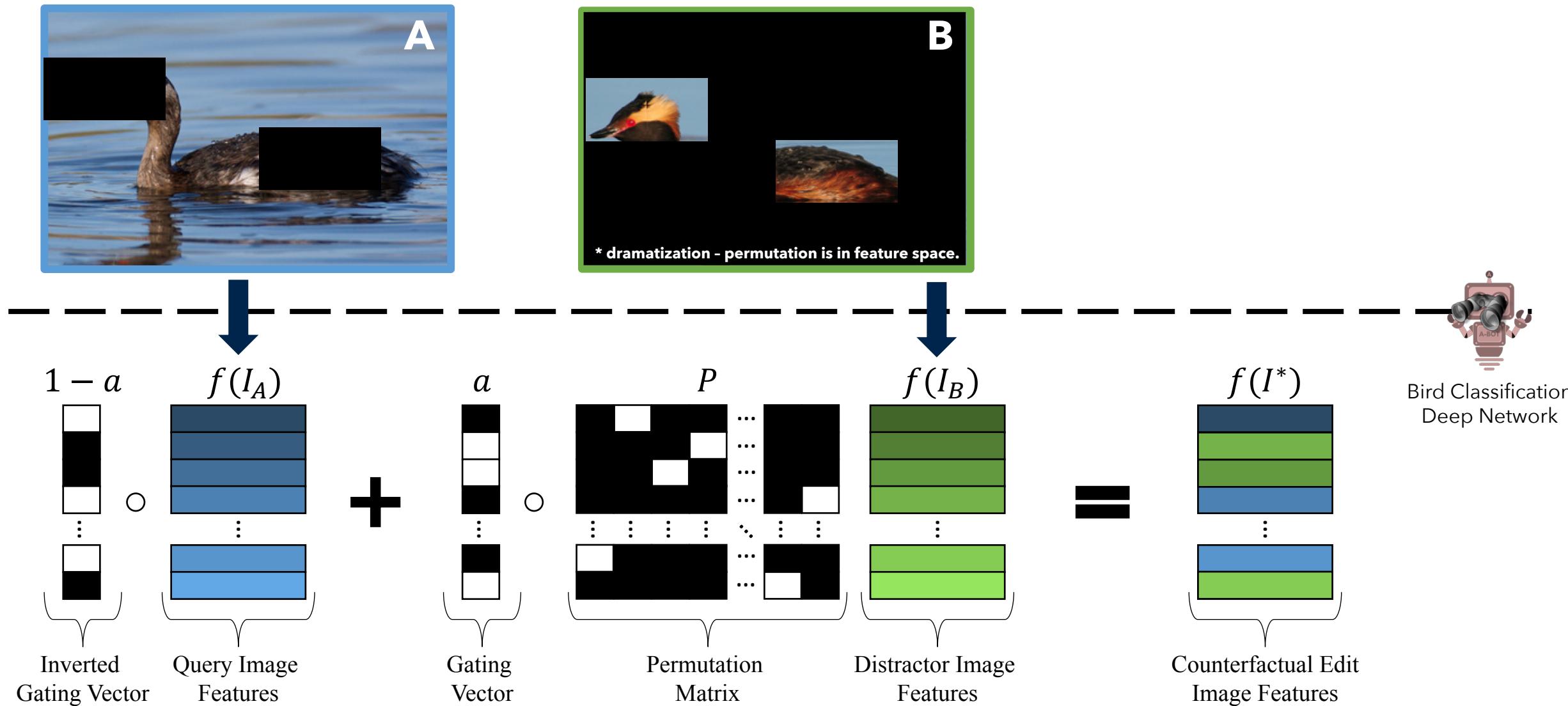
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



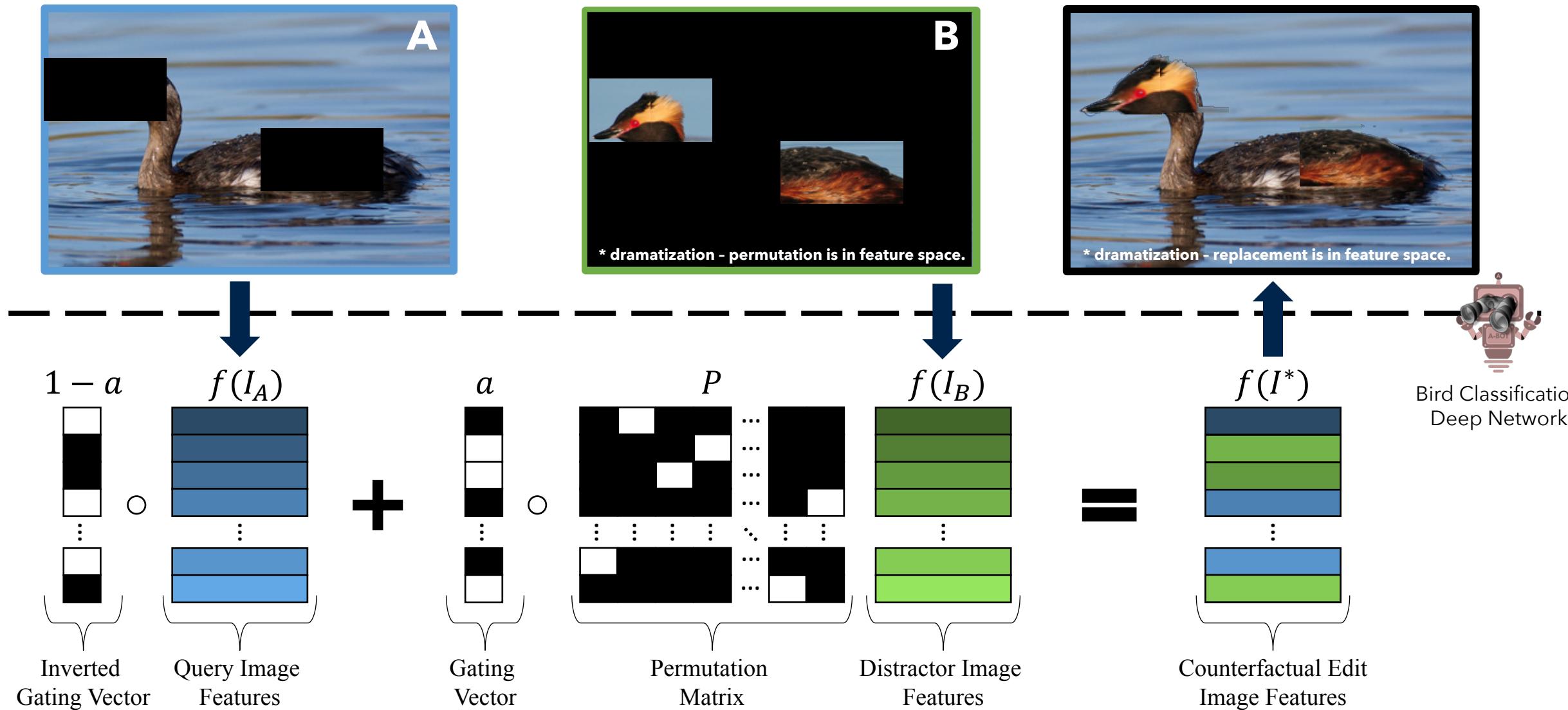
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



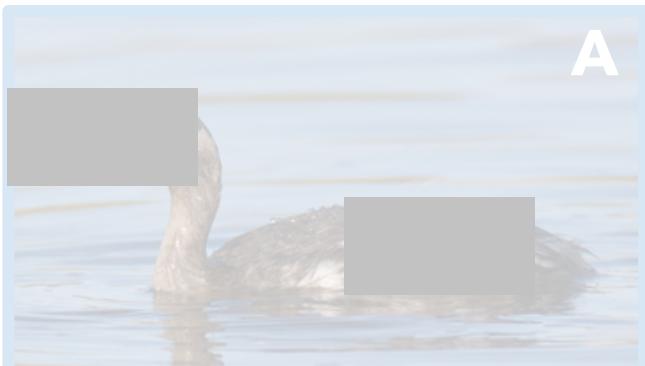
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



A

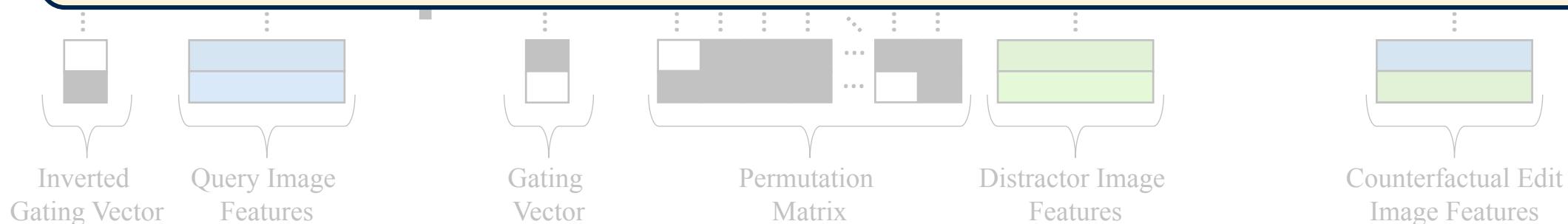


B



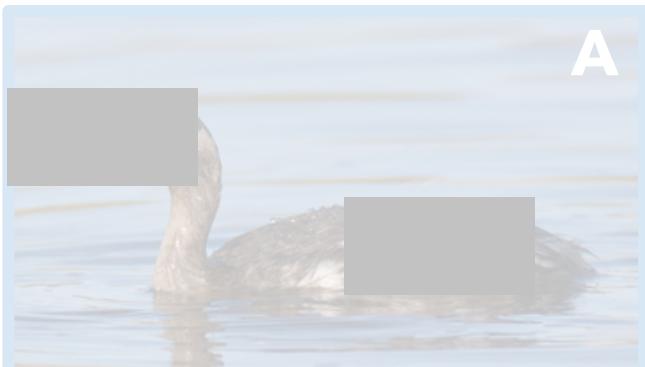
## Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation: Find

- 1) binary gating vector  $a$ , and
- 2) a permutation matrix  $P$

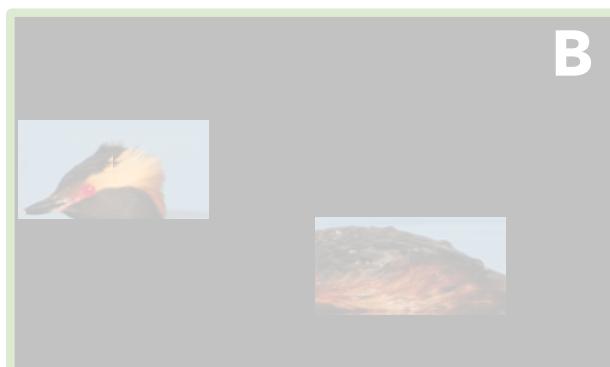


Classification  
Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



A

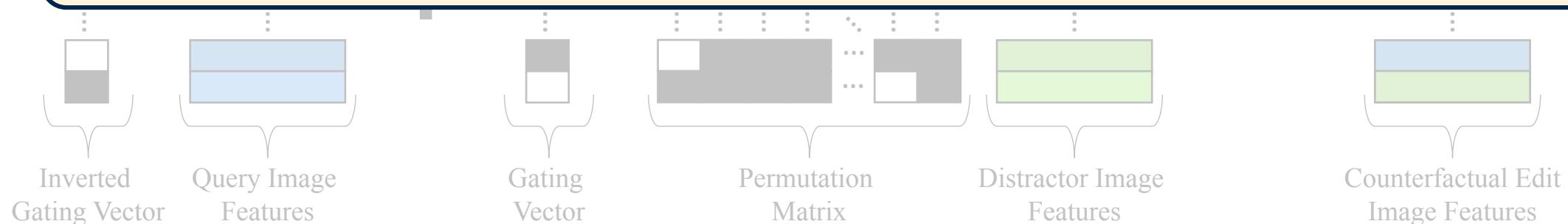


B



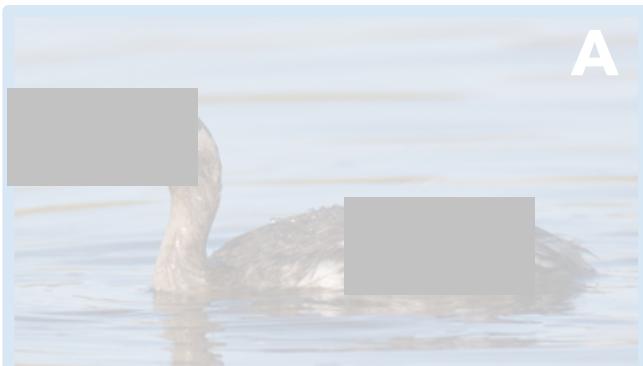
## Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation:

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



Classification  
Network

# Counterfactual Visual Explanations



A



B

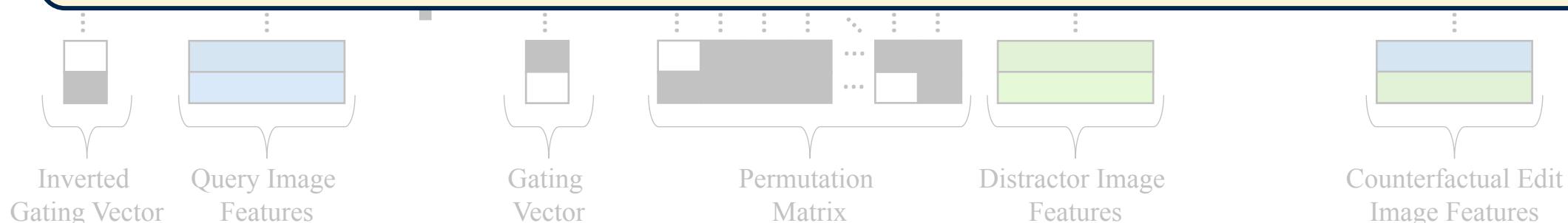


**Counterfactual Visual Explanation Generation:** Find

- 1) binary gating vector  $a$ , and
- 2) a permutation matrix  $P$

such that the model changes its decision to the distractor class

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

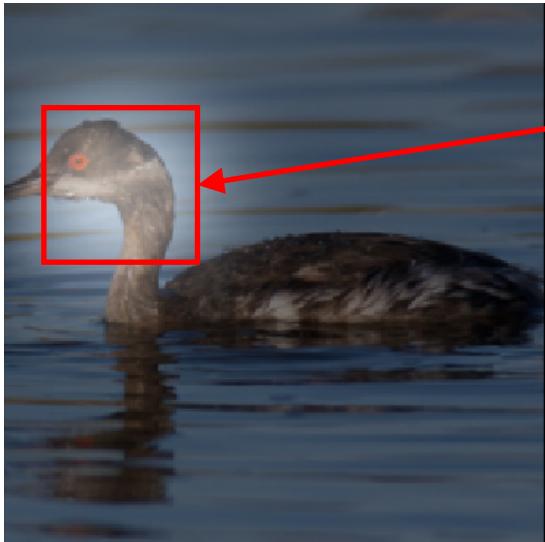


Classification  
Network

## Results - Single Edit

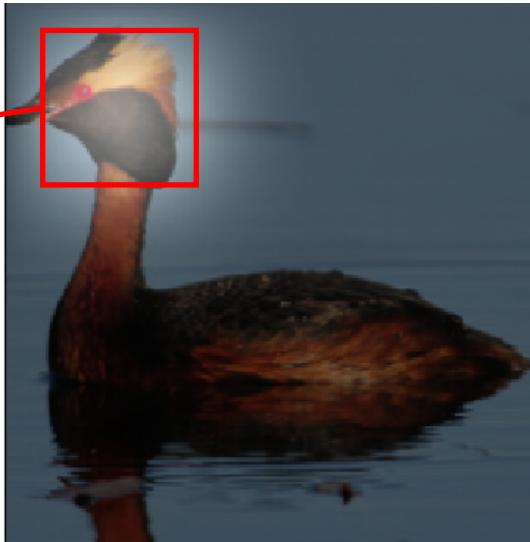
If the highlighted region in **image A** looked like the highlighted region in **image B**, then *image A is more likely to be classified as **class B**.*

Query Image A



Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B

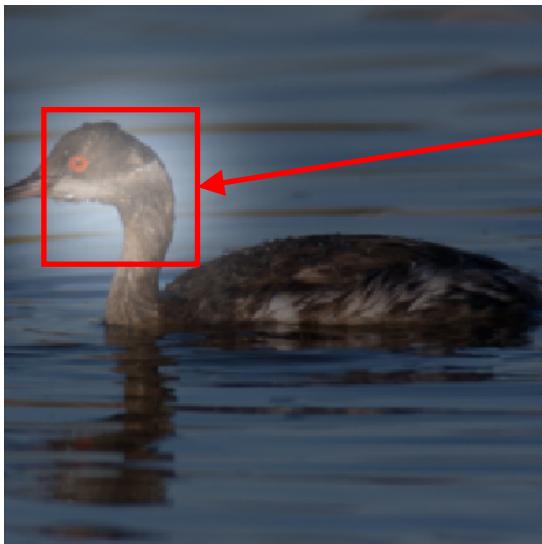


Horned Grebe

# Results - Single Edit

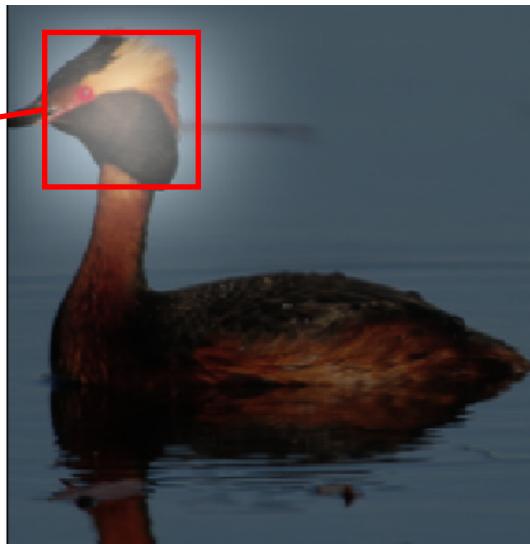
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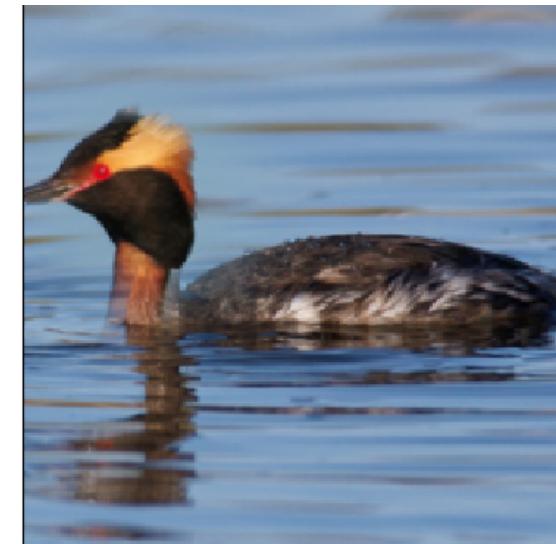
Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B

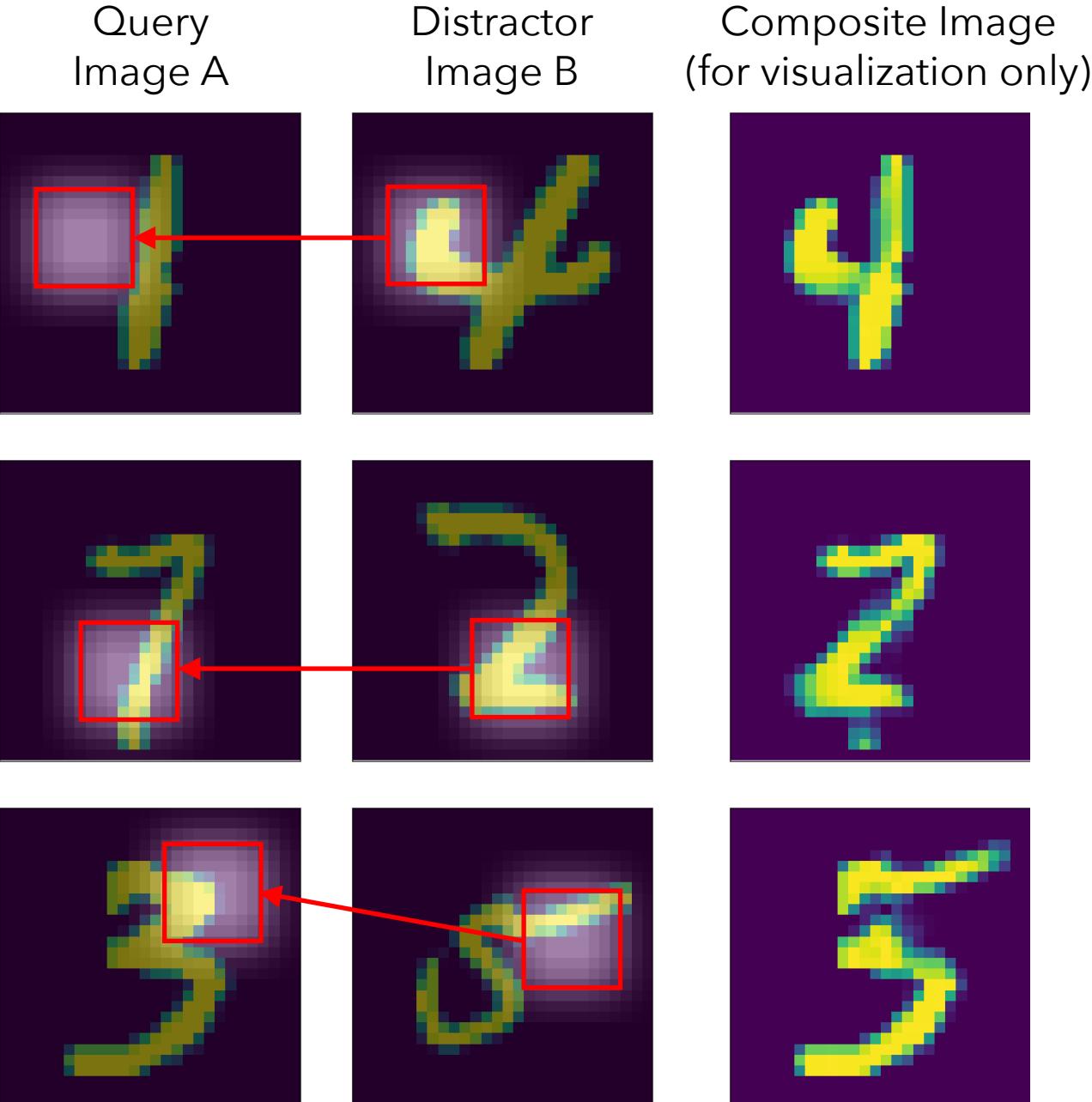


Horned Grebe

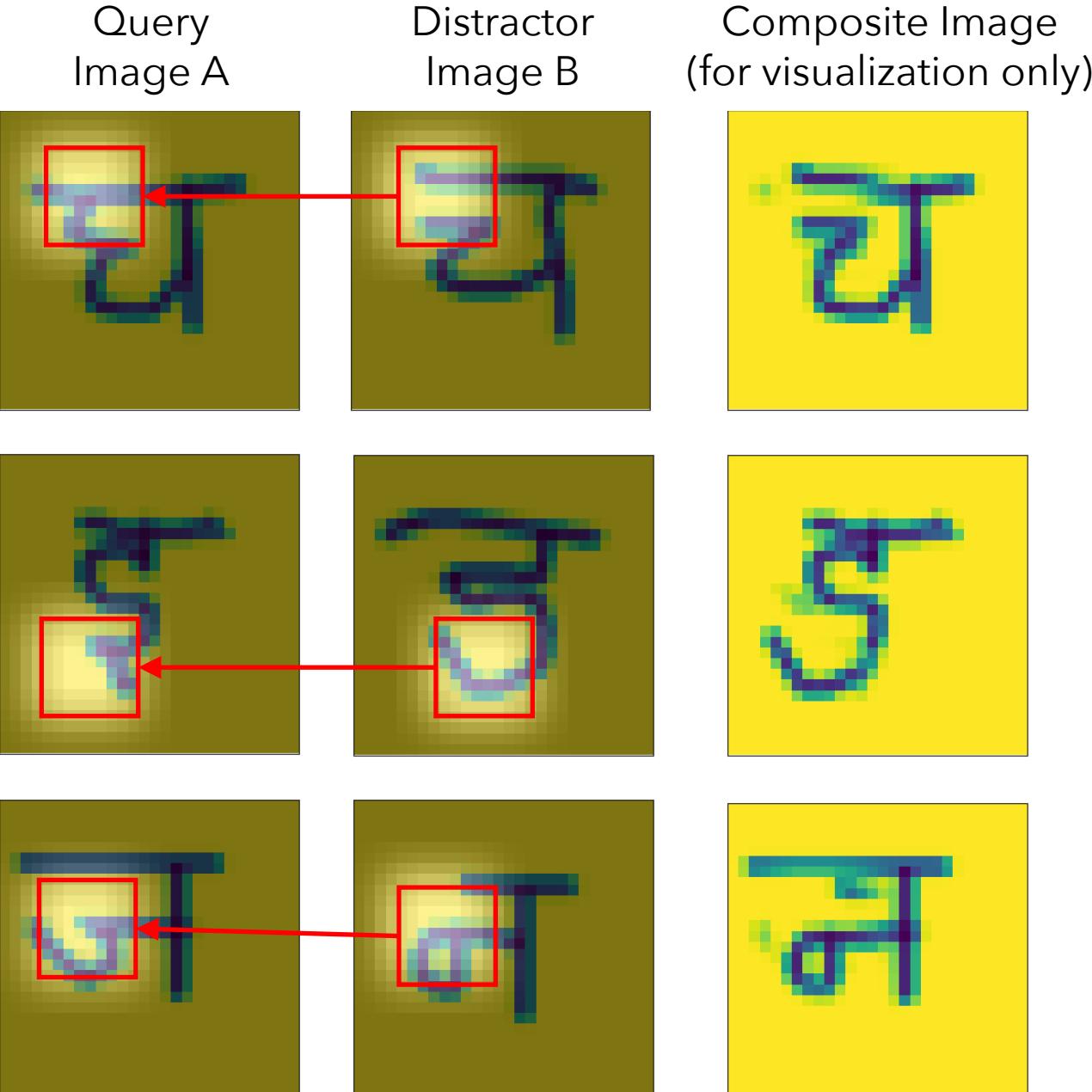
Composite Image  
(for visualization only)



# Results - Single Edit



# Results - Single Edit



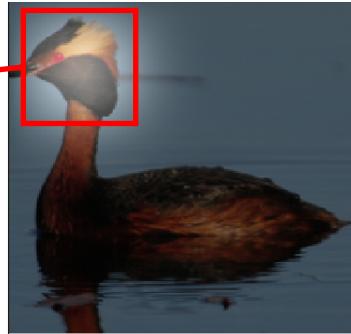
# Results - Single Edit

Query  
Image A



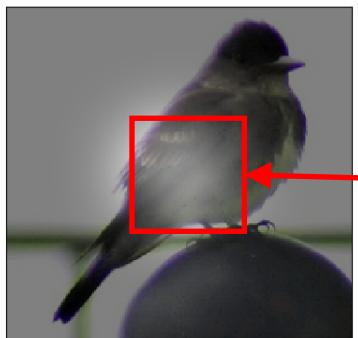
Eared Grebe

Distractor  
Image B

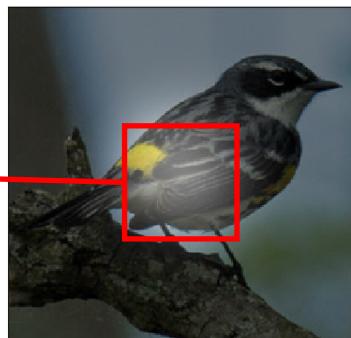


Horned Grebe

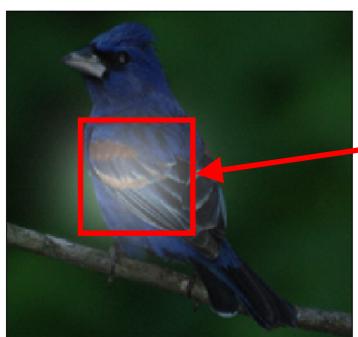
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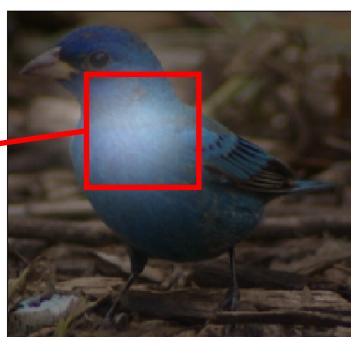
Olive sided Flycatcher



Myrtle Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Indigo Bunting

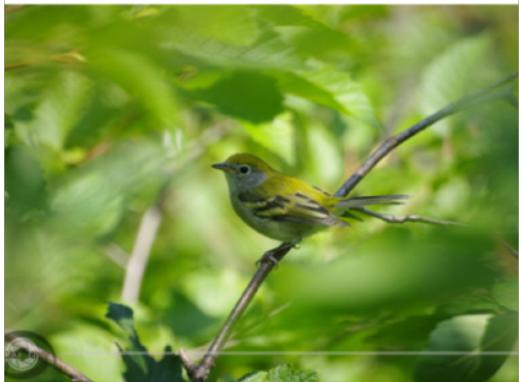
# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

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

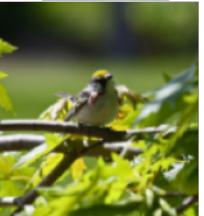
# Machine Teaching - Bird Classification

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## Training



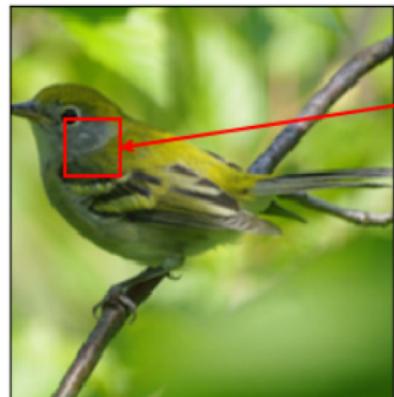
Which category does the bird above belong to?

<input type="radio"/> Alpha	<input type="radio"/> 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



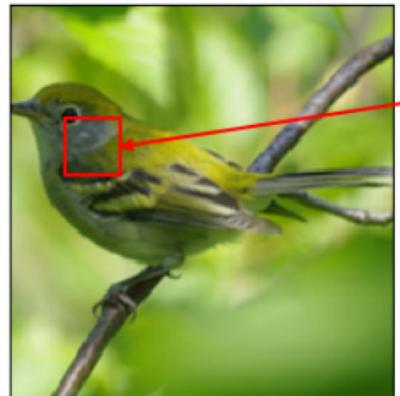
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## Testing

Testing phase: Image 1/5

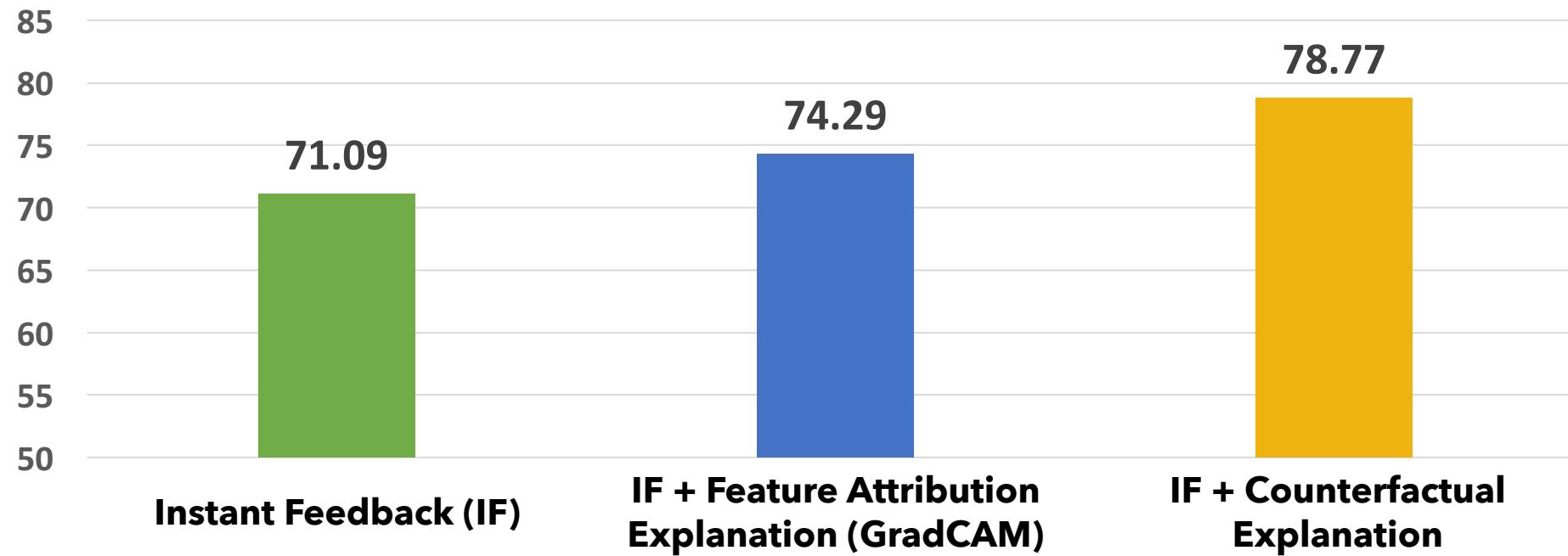


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<input type="radio"/> Alpha	<input type="radio"/> Bravo
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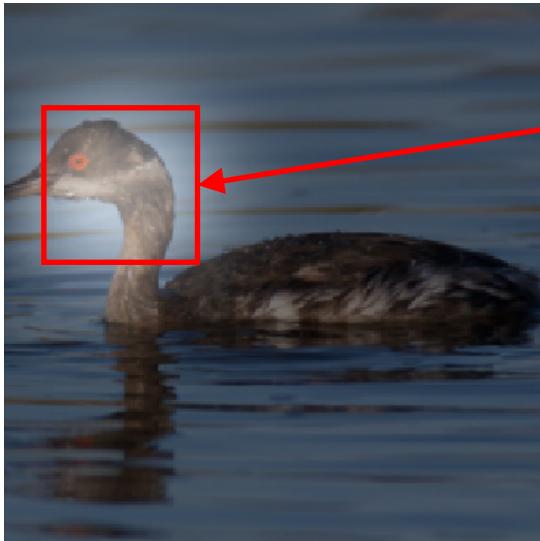
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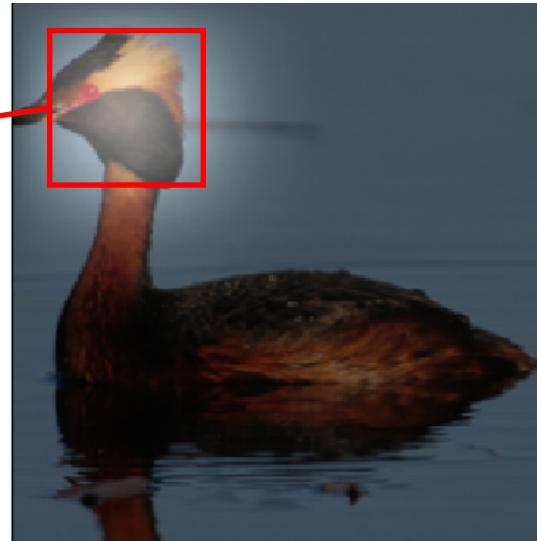
# Counterfactual Visual Explanations

Query Image A



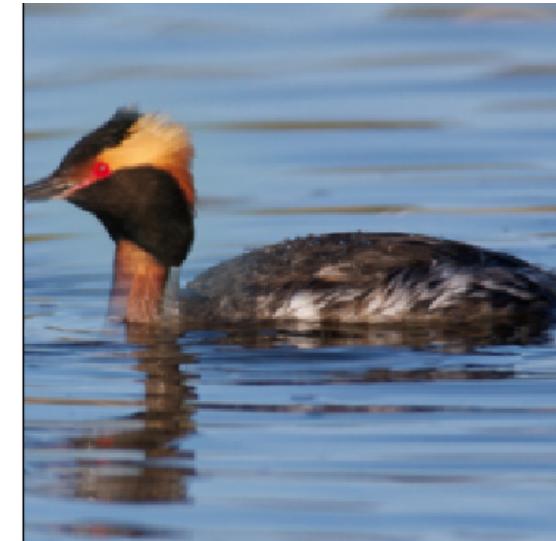
Eared Grebe

Distractor Image B



Horned Grebe

Composite Image  
(for visualization only)



# Questions?

Stop by our poster at #149 in Pacific Ballroom!