

Birds Will Be Birds

Do the following lab activity based on what you know about birds. Research what you don't know in the school library or on the internet! **Each student or group will need a copy of the Chart of Characteristics and bird pictures (last 2 pages).**

I. HABITAT Looking at each of the birds on the picture page, determine, as closely as possible, the type of area (habitat) in which they live. Choose from the following habitats: **Wetland, Forest, Desert, Grassland, Other**. List these habitats in the Chart of Characteristics under **Habitat**.

II. BEAK TYPE What are some of the foods the birds in the pictures might eat?

Woodpecker _____

Quail _____

Thrush _____

Hawk _____

Owl _____

Loon _____

Pelican _____

Hummingbird _____

Heron _____

Dove _____

Kingfisher _____

Duck _____

II. (A) Ask Yourself...

1. Birds living near lakes, ponds or rivers are most likely to eat the following organisms (living things).

2. If you see birds walking or flying in front of your house, what types of things could serve as a food supply for these birds?

3. Explain why dead or diseased trees can serve as a food source for some birds.

II (B) Chart It! The shape of a bird's beak determines its function. Look at the pictures of the birds. Examine the beak of each bird and determine the type of beak based on its shape and function. Some beak types may be used more than once. Place your choices on the chart in the column marked **Beak type**: (some of the same beak types may be found on different birds).

Beak types:

- a). cracking type --- eats small seeds.
- b). spear shape --- spearing fish
- c). chisel shape --- drilling for insects
- d). hooked --- catch prey
- e). tubular --- to suck nectar
- f). long and stout --- to scoop fish
- g). short multipurpose --- can do many things.
- h). flat and somewhat hooked. --- straining algae and small organisms.

III. FOOT TYPES

Examine the pictures of each bird and determine the type of feet each bird has. Write the name of the bird on the line that best describes their type of feet.

1). 2 toes in front and 2 behind used for climbing.

2). 3 toes in front and 1 behind, long and used to walk in water.

3). 3 toes in front and 1 in back, webbed and used for swimming and walking.

4). 3 in front and 1 in back, long curved claws (talons) for catching prey.

5). 3 in front and 1 in back, used to grasp branches.

6). 3 in front and 1 in the back, for strong swimming, weak walking legs.

Place the foot type for each bird on the chart in the column titled **Feet for**. Some foot types may be found on more than one bird.

Chart of Characteristics

Name of Bird	Habitat	Beak for	Feet for
Woodpecker			
Quail			
Thrush			
Hawk			
Owl			
Loon			
Pelican			
Dove			
Duck			
Kingfisher			
Hummingbird			
Heron			

IV. Summary:

1. Based on the talons found on a hawk, what type of beak would it have? Why?
2. Which bird has the longest legs? What type of food do you think it eats? Why?
3. If you found a bird with climbing feet, where would you expect it to live?
4. How many of these birds live near water? How can you tell?

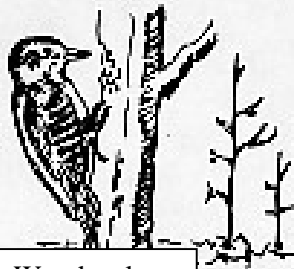
V. BONUS RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How many chambers does a bird heart contain? _____.

What does this tell you about birds as compared to mammals, reptiles and amphibians?



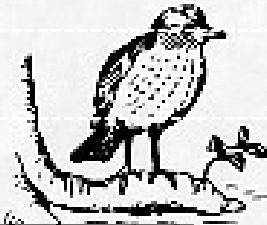
Quail



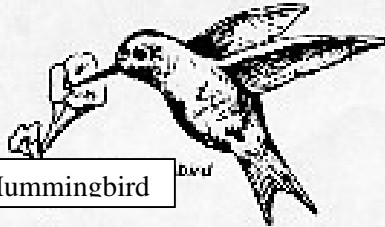
Woodpecker



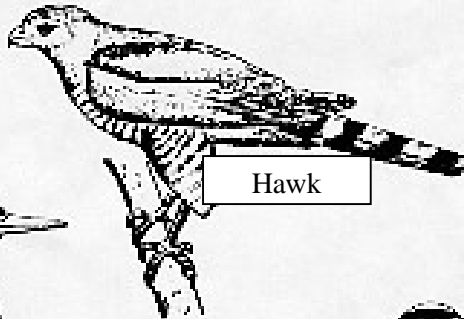
Owl



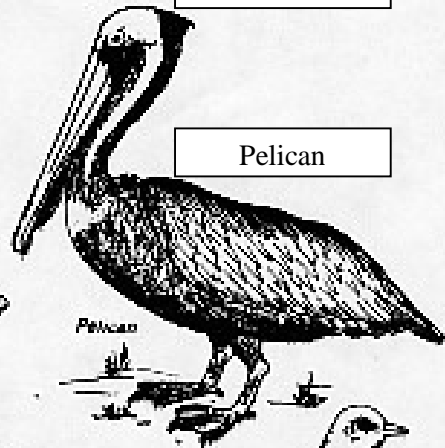
Thrush



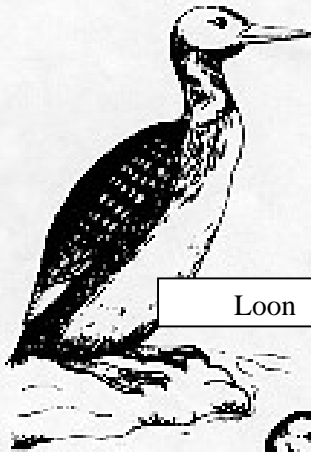
Hummingbird



Hawk



Pelican



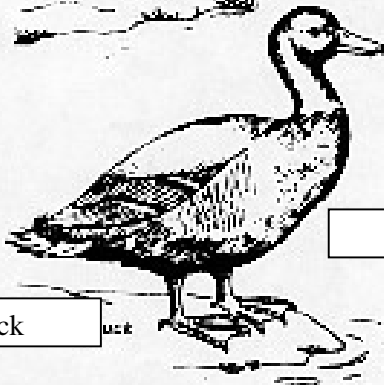
Loon



Dove



Heron



Duck



Kingfisher