

Birds & Their Adaptations: Hummingbirds

Name: _____ Date: _____

Explore your outdoor classroom to look for a hummingbird.

Did you find a hummingbird? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, where did you find it? _____



Use the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Wonders of Wildlife Webpages to research and answer the following questions about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

1. Draw a picture of the hummingbird.

2. Describe the colors of its feathers:

Head: _____

Neck: _____

Chest: _____

Belly: _____

Back: _____

Wings: _____

Tail: _____

3. How do the colors of their feathers help them survive and reproduce?

4. Describe how birds' bones help them survive:

5. Which of these describes its beak?

short & thin thick & pointed cone-shaped long & thin wide & flat large & hooked



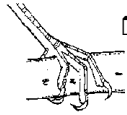
6. How does its beak help it survive?

7. What is a gizzard? Describe how birds' gizzards help them survive:

8. Which of the following describes its feet?



two toes forward & two toes back (woodpecker)



three toes forward & one toe back (songbird)



large toes with claws (raptor)



webbed feet (duck)

9. How do its feet help it survive?

10. Describe its habitat:

11. List this species' other adaptations (other than its feather colors, bones, beaks, gizzards, feet) and provide evidence how these adaptations help it survive and reproduce in its habitat:





Birds & Their Adaptations

Adaptations are those features that help an organism survive in a specific ecosystem. Using the chart below, study birds' adaptations and then identify these same features in the bird species found in your school's outdoor classroom and schoolyard wildlife habitat.

| Example Adaptations of Common Backyard Birds | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Adaptation | Type of Bird | Advantage |
| Feathers | | |
| Bright plumage | Some male birds | Attracts females during courtship and mating |
| Dull plumage | Some female birds | Aids in camouflage while nesting |
| Change of plumage with seasons | Goldfinch | Dull plumage provides camouflage in winter and bright yellow plumage attracts mate in spring & summer |
| Beaks | | |
| Thick & Pointed | Woodpecker | Breaks and probes the bark of trees looking for insects |
| Large & Hooked | Hawk / Owl | Tears flesh of prey that it eats |
| Short & Cone-shaped | Finch | Cracks seeds and nuts for food |
| Long & Slender | Hummingbird | Probes flowers for nectar it eats |
| Short & Pointed | Nuthatch | Works like tweezers to grab insects hiding in bark |
| Flat & Wide | Flycatcher | Helps catch insects in air during flight |
| Wings | | |
| Fringed at tips | Owl | Silent flight |
| Large & Broad | Hawk | Aids in soaring while hunting & flying with caught prey |
| Tapered | Flycatcher/Swallow | Fast flight to catch insects and to escape predators |
| Short, blunt | Chick-a-dee | Erratic flight, quick maneuver to escape by zig-zagging |
| Feet | | |
| Webbed | Duck | Aids in swimming |
| Claws | Hawk / Owl | Grasping when hunting prey |
| Three toes forward & one behind | Cardinal | Perching on branches |
| Two toes forward & two behind | Woodpecker | Holding on to side of trees and climbing side of trees |

