



BIRDS & THEIR ADAPTATIONS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Take a birding hike in your outdoor classroom. When you spot a bird, record your observations below. Use the Bird Adaptations chart on page 3 to help you identify the **adaptations** that it has to help it survive and provide **evidence** (facts that prove the truth) to explain the adaptations. Don't forget your binoculars if you have some!



1. Draw a picture of the bird.

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?

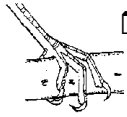


7. What is a gizzard? Describe how birds' gizzards help them survive:

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. Common Name of Bird Species: _____

11. Latin Name of Bird Species: _____

12. Describe its habitat:

13. 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:



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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

