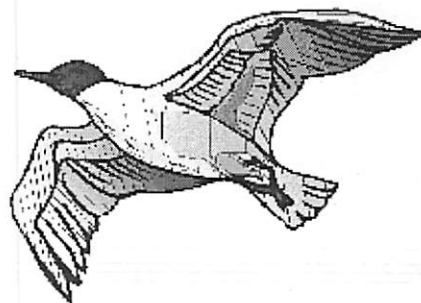


## Birds



<sup>1</sup> Birds are the only type of animals with feathers. Birds are warm-blooded, and most of them can fly. All birds have two wings even for the species that cannot fly, such as ostriches, kiwis, and penguins. Birds do not have teeth. Instead, they have beaks. Birds lay eggs. Most birds build nests for their eggs, and they sit on their eggs during incubation. Emperor penguins, however, do not. A mother emperor penguin lays only one egg. Her husband is in charge of incubation by holding the single egg on top of his feet under a fold of skin. There are more than 9000 different kinds of birds. Many people mistakenly think bats are birds. They are not! Bats are mammals. Eagles, puffins, and flamingos all belong to the family of birds.



<sup>2</sup> Do birds fly simply because they have wings and feathers? No! Unique bone structure, feathers, and wings are what make birds fly. Birds have hollow, lightweight bones, and they have strong chest muscles to pull their wings up and down. Feathers are important in flight. There are three types of feathers: down feathers, body feathers, and flight feathers.

<sup>3</sup> Down feathers are next to a bird's skin. They are small, fluffy and keep birds warm. Check your sleeping bags! A lot of them have down feathers inside to keep us warm at night. Body feathers are on top of down feathers. They are sometimes called contour feathers. Body feathers give a bird a streamlined shape. Flight feathers are strong, stiff and are on a bird's wings and tail. They help a bird fly.

<sup>4</sup> Wings are the third factor that makes a bird fly. Shapes of wings affect a bird's flight style. Seabirds, such as albatrosses, have long, narrow pointed wings. Their wings permit them to glide long distances over the ocean and soar effortlessly over windswept ocean surfaces. Many forest birds like pheasants have short rounded wings. Such wings give them good flight control for quick, sharp turns among trees, and also allow them rapid takeoffs and short glides. Eagles and vultures have long, broad wings that provide excellent lift on rising air currents.

<sup>5</sup> Some birds fly back and forth across the world each year. This is called migration. There are three main reasons for birds to migrate: to find food, to breed, or to avoid weather too hot or too cold for them. For example, Atlantic puffins live on the open ocean and return to their colonies on seacoasts and rocky islands from April to mid-August to breed. How do migrating birds find their way? Scientists think that migrating birds use the positions of the sun during the day and the stars at night to find their way. Migrating birds may also rely on earth's magnetic field or follow familiar

landmarks so they can be on the same routes every year. The Arctic tern travels the longest distance among all migrating birds. In the late summer, Arctic terns leave the Arctic Ocean and fly to Antarctica. They will fly back to the Arctic Ocean in the spring. Each year, they accomplish a remarkable roundtrip journey of over 20,000 miles!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Birds

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. What do birds have that other animals don't?<br><input type="radio"/> (A) Feathers<br><input type="radio"/> (B) Eyes<br><input type="radio"/> (C) Wings<br><input type="radio"/> (D) Two legs  | 2. Which of the following statements about birds is true?<br><input type="radio"/> (A) Emperor penguins build nests and put their eggs there.<br><input type="radio"/> (B) Eagles have short rounded wings.<br><input type="radio"/> (C) The Arctic tern travels the longest distance among all migrating birds.<br><input type="radio"/> (D) Bats are birds. |
| 3. Feathers and wings are the only two things that make a bird fly.<br><input type="radio"/> (A) True<br><input type="radio"/> (B) False  | 4. Ostriches cannot fly even though they have wings.<br><input type="radio"/> (A) True<br><input type="radio"/> (B) False   |
| 5. Which of the following statements about feathers is true?<br><input type="radio"/> (A) Flight feathers are found on a bird's wings only.<br><input type="radio"/> (B) Down feathers are sometimes called contour feathers.<br><input type="radio"/> (C) Body feathers give a bird a streamlined shape.<br><input type="radio"/> (D) Body feathers are next to a bird's skin. | 6. Which of the following statements about birds is true?<br><input type="radio"/> (A) Birds are cold-blooded animals.<br><input type="radio"/> (B) Birds lay eggs surrounded by a jelly-like substance.<br><input type="radio"/> (C) Eagles have long, broad wings.<br><input type="radio"/> (D) Pheasants have long, narrow wings.                          |
| 7. Which of the following animals are <b><u>not</u></b> birds?<br><input type="radio"/> (A) Eagles<br><input type="radio"/> (B) Bats<br><input type="radio"/> (C) Chicken<br><input type="radio"/> (D) Atlantic puffin  |   |

### Birds - Answer Key

- 1 ☐ C Feathers
- 2 ☐ C The Arctic tern travels the longest distance among all migrating birds.
- 3 ☐ B False
- 4 ☐ A True
- 5 ☐ A Body feathers give a bird a streamlined shape.
- 6 ☐ B Eagles have long, broad wings.
- 7 ☐ B Bats