



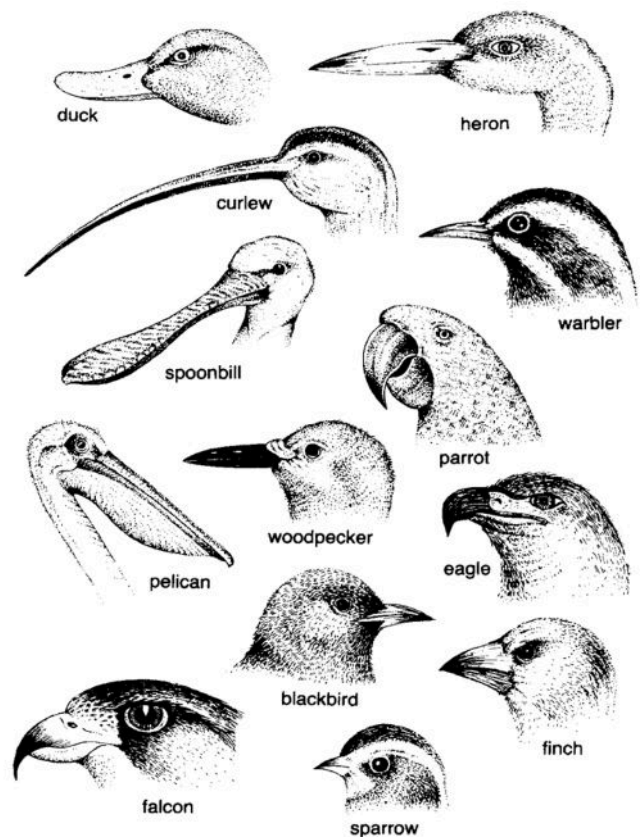
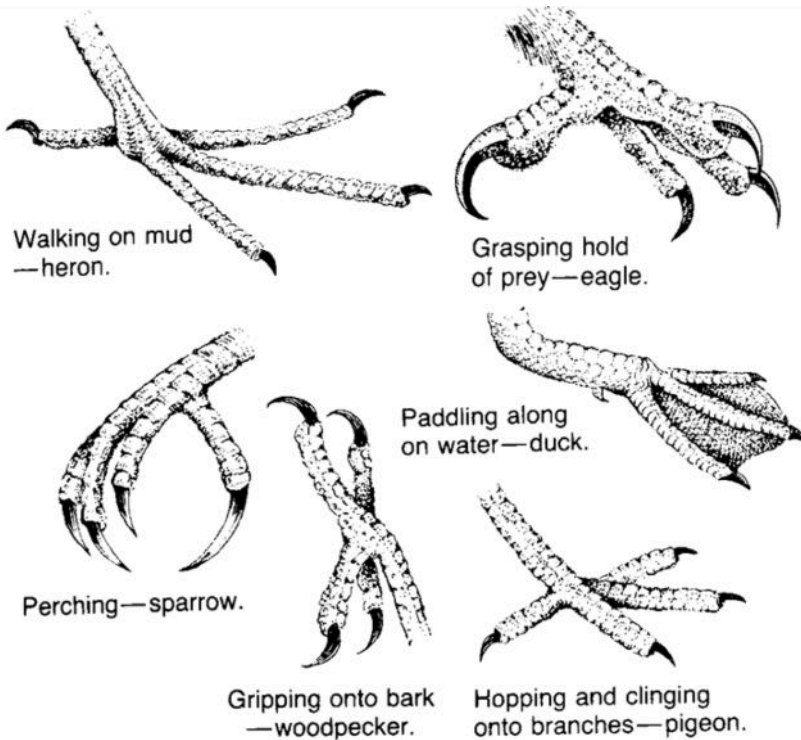
# Create a Bird!



Scientists sort all living things into groups based on shared characteristics. One of the most fascinating and diverse group of animals is a special group of vertebrates called **BIRDS**. All birds have feathers, wings, beaks, and lay eggs, but can live in very different areas in the world.

An **adaptation** is a special body part or special behavior that helps an animal find food, defend itself, move around, and survive in a certain environment. Beaks, feathers, and feet are all types of adaptations that birds have in order to survive. You can learn a lot about a bird's diet and habitat by examining their feet, wings, beaks, feathers, and body shape.

**For this activity, you will create a brand new species of bird!** On the following page you will need to give it a common and scientific name, list its habitat, diet, and any unusual behaviors, and draw a picture of it. Below are examples of different bird adaptations, as well as questions to think about before creating this new bird species.



## Questions to think about:

- **Where does it live?** Out at sea, near ponds, top of the redwood forests, in trees, underground, or somewhere completely different?
- How does the **shape of its feet** help it live in its habitat?
- **What does it eat?** Seeds, insects, acorns, fruit, fish, small mammals, carrion, other birds?
- How does the **shape of its beak** help it eat certain types of food?
- Does it use its **feathers** for camouflage, or is it brightly colored to attract a mate?
- Will it live in here California year-round, or does it need to travel greater distances?



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# Now Share Your New Bird With The World!

Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Diet: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Adaptation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## EXAMPLE

Common Name: Peregrine Falcon

Scientific Name: *Falco peregrines*

Habitat: Found in all types

Range: All continents, except Antarctica

Diet: Birds, bats, small mammals, insects

Special Adaptation: Has bony growths in the nostrils that help him breathe while flying at extreme speeds!



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