

Science Olympiad Ornithology Event – Kenston Invitational

1. What is the common name of this bird? **common loon** 1 POINT
- A. What skeletal characteristic does this bird have in common with flightless birds such as penguins and ostriches? **Solid bones** Is this order of birds flightless? **No** 2 POINTS
- B. This bird is incorrectly mounted. This kind bird has legs too far back on its body to maintain such a sitting position. Which of the following statements are true? 2 POINTS
- a. **Legs located at the extreme posterior of the body help provide excellent swimming abilities.**
- b. This bird spins its webbed feet like propellers to propel the bird boat-like through the water.
- d. **Legs positioned at the very rear of the body leave the bird front-heavy and unable to walk.**
- e. All of the above.
- C. Why do these birds dive and swim underwater? [Circle correct reason(s)] 2 POINTS
- a. to impress potential mates
- b. **to catch fish to eat**
- c. **to escape danger**
2. What is the common name of this bird? **great blue heron** 1 POINT
- A. This bird's long legs are an adaptation for: 1 POINT
- a. digging
- b. running
- c. reaching food high in bushes
- d. **wading**
- B. What would be the most correct aquatic AND terrestrial "menu" for this bird? [Circle two answers] 2 POINTS
- a. fish, frogs, water lilies, snails, pondweed
- b. **mice, voles, chipmunks, snakes, frogs**
- c. berries, flowers, caterpillars, toads, carrion
- d. **fish, frogs, snakes, tadpoles, ducklings**
- C. This bird gathers with members of its own kind to nest as a group. This is called: 1 POINT
- a. group nesting
- b. solitary nesting
- c. **colonial nesting**
- d. cluster nesting
- e. social nesting
3. What is the common name of this bird? **red-breasted merganser** 1 POINT
- A. This bird belongs to what order of birds? [Circle]
- a. gulls, jaegers, terns
- b. **ducks, geese, swans**
- c. grebes, loons, cormorants
- B. What is this bird's primary food? **fish** How does it catch its food? **Diving and grabbing prey**
How is its "saw bill" an advantage for feeding? **Holding slippery prey such as fish and frogs.** 3 POINTS

4. What are the names of these two closely-related hawks? **Coopers hawk** and **sharp-shinned hawk**
Which is which? **Coopers hawk is the larger one OR sharp-shinned is the smaller one** **3 POINTS**
- A. What family of hawks do they belong to? **1 POINT**
- accipiters**
 - buteos
 - falcons
 - harriers
- B. These hawks have relatively short, stubby wings and long tails. How is this an advantage for hunting in dense woodlands? [Circle best answer] **1 POINT**
- Sneak attack: flapping of short wings is not as easily noticed by prey among foliage.
 - Surprise attack: easier to dodge branches with short wings with a long tail that provides greater maneuverability when launching an ambush.**
 - Fast attack: long tail compensates for short wings for adding speed to attack flights.
- C. The main prey of this type of hawks is: **1 POINT**
- small mammals
 - birds**
 - reptiles and amphibians
 - fish
- D. What kind of sexual dimorphism do both of these kinds of hawks exhibit? [Circle one] **1 POINT**
- male is larger than female; plumages similar
 - female is larger than male; plumages similar**
 - size similar; males are more brightly colored than females
 - female is larger; male and female plumages different
5. What is the common name of this bird: **Northern Cardinal** **1 POINT**
- A. This bird is in the same order of (related to) which group of birds?
- cardinals and grosbeaks**
 - sparrows
 - finches
- B. This bird's heavy bill is adapted for: **seed cracking** **1 POINT**
6. What is the common name of this bird: **ruffed grouse** **1 POINT**
- A. What do males do to attract females? **1 POINT**
- Sing and "dance" with an elaborate feather display
 - Strut and prance; make sound by releasing air from inflated neck sacs (booming)
 - Perch atop a fallen log and beat wings rapidly to produce a roaring sound (drumming)**
 - Build an elaborate nest; best "architect" gets the female
 - Performs an spectacular aerial courtship flight
- B. This bird's chicks hatch out covered with down, eyes open and ready to scamper about.
The term for this type of young is known as: **precocial** **1 POINT**
- C. This bird is a game bird, that is, there is a regulated hunting season on it. **True or False?** **1 POINT**

7. What is the common name of this bird: **great horned owl** 1 POINT
- A. Using the Identi-flyer, which call is given by this bird? Call A Call B **Call C** 1 POINT
- B. Referring to the wing, provide the feather names for the labeled wing sections:
1. primaries 2. Secondaries 3. Underwing coverts (coverts is sufficient) 3 POINTS
- C. What habitat(s) is this bird likely to be found in:
a. meadow/grassland
b. swamp 1 POINT
c. mature forest
d. desert
e. all of the above
- D. This bird has a wide range of prey including small to medium-sized mammals, medium to large-sized birds as well as snakes and frogs. Considering the range of habitats and food items utilized by this bird, would it be considered be a **generalist** or a **specialist** species? [Circle] 1 POINT
- E. Name **three** adaptations this bird (and its relatives) have as successful nocturnal predators:
soft feathers/silent flight excellent night vision superior hearing
Also: powerful beak & talons 3 POINTS
8. What is this bird's common name: **belted kingfisher** 1 POINT
- A. What is this bird's primary food? **fish** 2 POINTS
How does it catch its prey? **dives into water, grabs with bill**
- B. To nest, this bird: [Circle] 1 POINT
a. excavates a tree cavity
b. excavates a bank burrow
c. makes a shallow depression in sand or gravel
d. uses an old crow or jay nest
- C. Which bird has the rusty-colored "belt" on its belly? Male or **Female**? [Circle] 2 POINTS
What is this exceptional about this? **Female birds are seldom more colorful than males.**
9. What is this bird's common name? **pileated woodpecker** 1 POINT
- A. After excavating a hole in a tree, how does this bird extract insects to eat? 1 POINT
a. uses its bill like a straw to suck them out
b. releases acidic saliva to force insects out of tunnels
c. probes insect tunnels and draws them out with a long barbed tongue
d. grabs insects with its long bill and pulls them out
- B. What foot and tail adaptations does this bird (and members of its order) have for clinging to vertical surfaces and being able to lean its body back to give be able to rear its head back to deliver powerful whacks (like swinging a hammer)? 1 POINT
a. extra long tail feathers and all 4 toes facing forward
b. stiff tail feathers with 2 toes facing forward; 2 toes backward
c. soft "clingy" tail feathers with all toes facing backward

- C. Does this bird exhibit sexual dimorphism in its plumage? **Yes** or No? [Circle] **2 POINTS**
Is this specimen a male or female? [Circle]
10. What is this bird's common name? **barn swallow** **1 POINT**
- A. What does this bird eat? **flying insects** **2 POINTS**
How does it get its food? **Pursues and catches prey in flight.**
- B. What nesting habitat earns this bird its name? **adhering nest to barn beams or under barn eave**
What is its nest made of? sticks feathers leaves **mud straw** [Circle 2] **2 POINTS**
- C. What is the term used to describe the shiny quality of this bird's plumage? **iridescence** **1 POINT**
11. What is this bird's common name? **gray catbird** **1 POINT**
- A. This bird's short stubby wings and long tail are an adaptation for flight maneuvers in what kind of habitat? **dense thickets** open woodland tall grass [Circle] **1 POINT**
- B. This bird's song is a "medley" of sound bytes from other bird species' songs. It belongs to the order Mimidae. The ability to "copy cat" other birds' songs is called: **mimickry** **1 POINT**
- C. Look at this bird's underside. What's the name of the rust-colored feathers? **undertail coverts**
What part of this bird is the darkest color? **crown** **2 POINTS**
- 12: What is this bird's common name? **yellow warbler** **1 POINT**
- A. The term used for birds of the Americas that migrate between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres is: trans-tropical **neotropical** pan-American trans-American [Circle] **1 POINT**
- B. This bird has a small, thin bill for plucking insects off of vegetation. This type of feeding behavior is called: **gleaning** probing hawking stalking [Circle] **1 POINT**
- C. To find this bird in Ohio, you would look in a ... **1 POINT**
- a. forest in winter
b. shrubby wetland thicket in summer
c. grassy meadow in early spring
d. tree top in autumn
13. What is this bird's common name? **wood thrush** **1 POINT**
- A. This bird is known for its flute-like song. What is the function of bird song? **2 POINTS**
To attract a mate and to define & defend territory
- B. This bird is in the same family as which birds: **1 POINT**
- a. catbirds and thrashers
b. sparrows and finches
c. robins and bluebirds
- C. Note the odd speckled egg in this bird's clutch. **2 POINTS**
What kind of bird's egg is this likely to be? **brown-headed cowbird**

What is the term used to describe reproduction by laying eggs in the nests of other bird species, leaving parental care to a host bird? **nest parasitism OR brood parasitism**

14. What is this bird's common name? **scarlet tanager** **1 POINT**
- A. The best place/season to look for this bird would be: **2 POINTS**
- a. dense shrub thicket in autumn
 - b. tropical rain forest in winter
 - c. meadow in spring
 - d. mature temperate forest canopy in summer
 - e. **b & d**
- B. What is the advantage of bright male plumages in many bird species? **2 POINTS**
Visibility: to potential mates and rival males when defending territory
- C. This bird's song sounds like a "robin with laryngitis". However, its call sounds like "chip-burr".
What is a major function of bird calls?
Communication: keeping track of location of mates, young and flock members **2 POINTS**
15. What is this bird's common name? **indigo bunting** **1 POINT**
- A. What is the term for birds that hatch out featherless, eyes closed and unable to walk or hop about?
Altricial **1 POINT**
- B. What is the main advantage of drab female plumages in many bird species? **1 POINT**
- a. ability to sneak up on prey
 - b. **appear invisible to nest predators while incubating or brooding**
 - c. "neutral" color to avoid territorial disputes with females of same species.
- C. The blue color of this bird, as well as jays and bluebirds, is due to pigment or reflected light?
[Circle] **1 POINT**

TIE-BREAKER: Using the Identi-Flyer device, identify as many of the bird songs as you can.

1-10 POINTS