

# Birds of a Feather



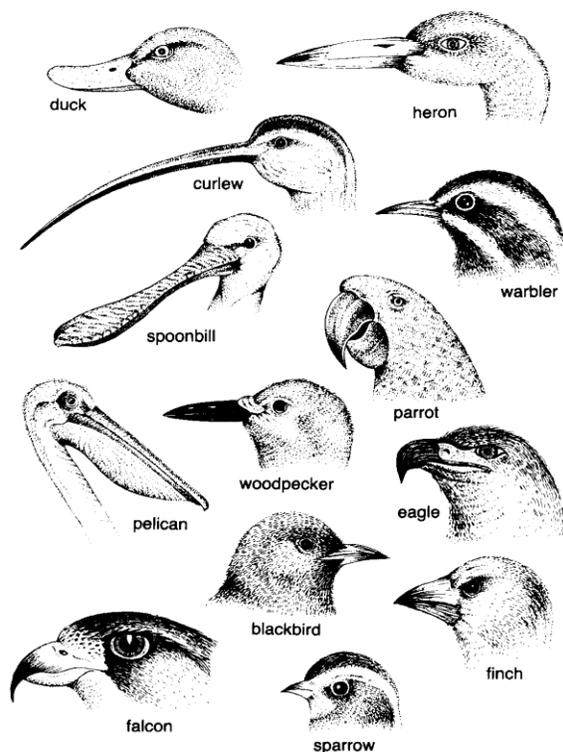
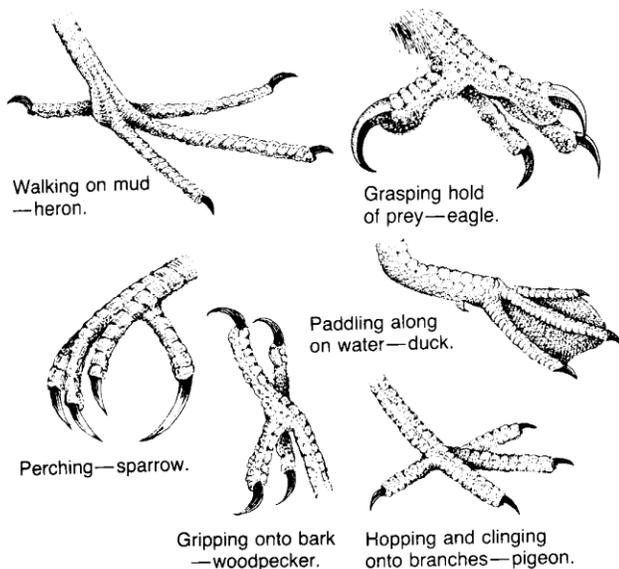
## Nature Van Activity

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 something an animal has on or in its body, or is a special behavior that they can do with their body, that helps it live 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 will it live-- out at sea, near ponds, top of the redwood forests, in burrows underground or somewhere completely different?
- What does it eat-- seeds, insects, acorns, fish, small mammals?
- Does it use its feathers for camouflage or is it brightly colored?
- Will it live in here California, or does it need to travel greater distances?



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## A New Species

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Drawing of Bird:

### 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!



76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901  
415-453-1000 [www.discoverwildcare.org](http://www.discoverwildcare.org)