

Bird Fact Sheet

- Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates (they have a backbone), are covered in feathers and lay eggs.
- All birds have feathers, wings and a beak and stand on two legs.
- The way birds get around varies more than you would think. While most fly, some birds cannot fly but can run very well, some swim, and some do combinations of these. About sixty species of bird can't fly at all.
- Flying birds have strong, hollow bones and powerful flight muscles. Being able to fly makes them efficient hunters, lets them escape from hungry predators, and allows them to travel great distances to avoid harsh weather (migration).
- Diets are different for all birds; the shape of their beak tells us what they eat. Some birds eat only seeds and berries. Some eat both insects and seeds. Birds of prey may eat mammals, other birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians or carrion.
- Male birds are often more brightly colored than females. Females and fledglings usually have better camouflage, which helps protect the nest and the young ones when they first leave the nest.
- The Ostrich is the largest bird in the world. It also lays the largest eggs. The Bee Hummingbird is the smallest living bird in the world, with a length of just 2 inches.
- Of the approximately 800 bird species that are resident in or visit the US, 90 are listed on the Endangered Species list. Hawaii has some of the most critically threatened birds and is home to more bird species under threat of extinction than anywhere else on earth.
- The Arctic tern has the longest migration of any bird in the world. These black-capped, red-billed birds fly on average 44,000 miles in a year, making a round trip from pole to pole between their breeding grounds in the Arctic and the Antarctic, where they spend their winters. They get to see two summers a year and as they often live for 30 years or more, the flights can add up to the equivalent of three trips to the moon and back.

Name _____

Date _____

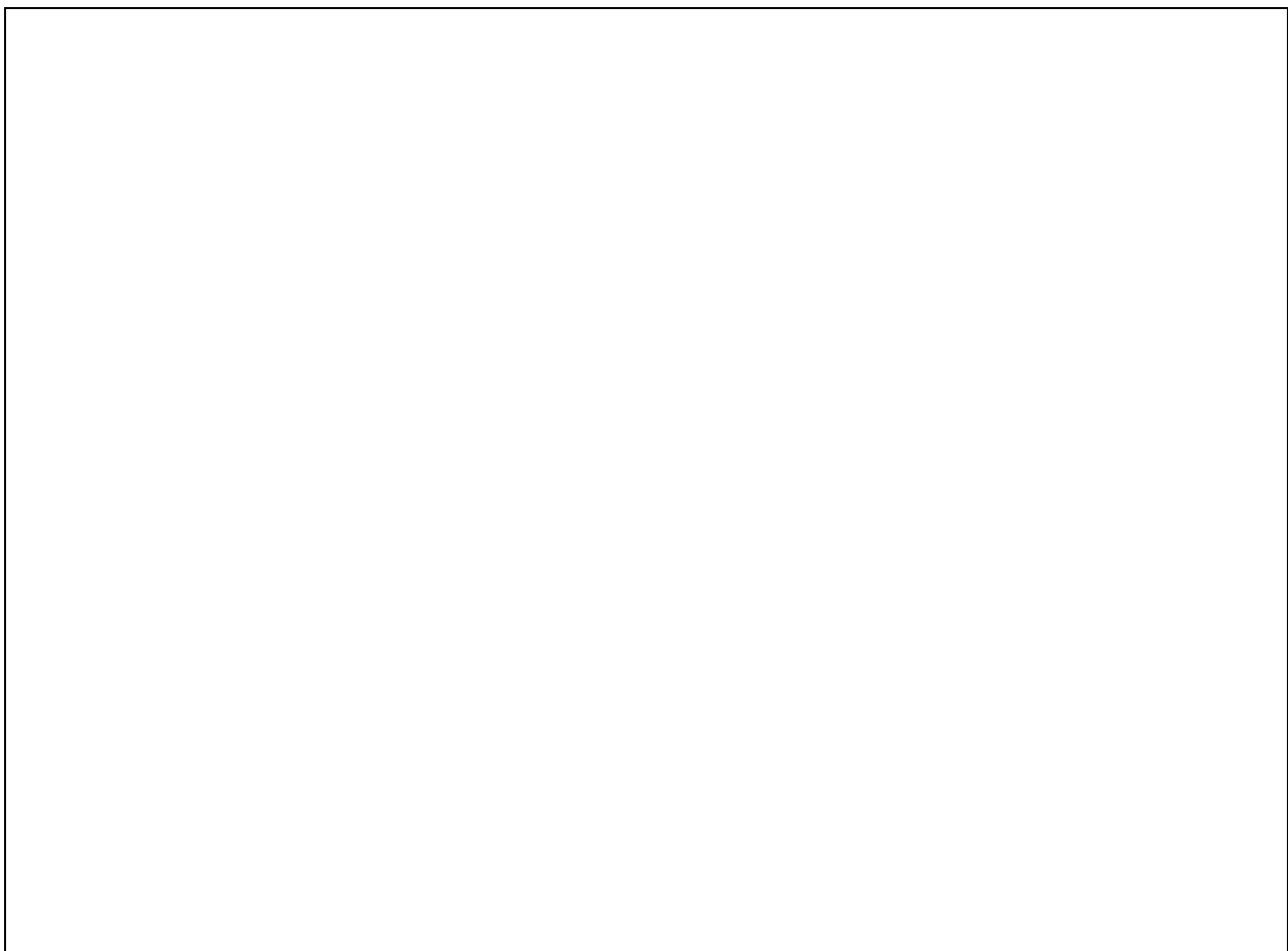
My Favorite Bird

My favorite bird is _____ .

These are the colors of its feathers: _____ .

Its nest is made of _____ .

Its favorite thing to eat is _____ .



Here is a drawing of my favorite bird.