Bird Beaks and Their Diet

Carnivorous Birds







Meat eating birds have beaks with a long, sharp upper tip that points downward like a hook so that they can tear apart their prey. These beaks are thick and strong.

Pescatarian Birds



Fish eating bird beaks are typically longer with a sharp tip, like a fishing spear. Some of them also have serrated edges along their beaks so that fish have a harder time escaping.

Insect Eating Birds







Birds that eat insects have tweezer-like beaks that help them pluck tiny, fast-moving insects from plant leaves and tree bark with precision. If they eat flying insects, their beaks will be wider to help them catch the insects in the air.

Nectar Drinking Birds



Birds that feed on nectar need beaks that can fit into a flower and store their long tongue that they use to drink. Their beaks are typically very long and thin.

Seed Eating Birds





Birds that eat seeds have thick, cone-shaped beaks that have a groove in them. This makes it easier for them to pick up seeds, hold them in their beaks, and crack the seed open with their wide jaws.

Fairview Park Birds Guess Their Diet!



Blue Grosbeak

- Carnivorous
- Pescatarian
- ___ Insect eating
- ___ Nectar Drinking
- ___ Seed eating



- ___ Carnivorous
- ___ Pescatarian
- Insect eating
- ___ Nectar Drinking
- ___ Seed eating



- Carnivorous
- ___ Pescatarian
- ___ Insect eating
- ___ Nectar Drinking
- ___ Seed eating



California Gnatcatcher



American Kestrel

- Carnivorous
- Pescatarian
- Insect eating
- Nectar Drinking
- ___ Seed eating

 Carnivorous
Pescatarian
 Insect eating
Nectar Drinking
Seed eating

Bird Feet Adaptations

Grasping





Meat eating birds have feet with large, curved talons in order to catch their prey. The claws can be used to catch and hold onto fish or small mammals. For example, the talons of a Red-Tailed Hawk.

Swimming



Birds that primarily spend their time swimming will have webbed, paddle-like feet which helps them efficiently move in the water. For example, Mallards.

Perching

Birds that spend their time perched on branches, wires, or other things while they search for food will have a long back toe. This allows them to grasp the branch or perch tightly. For example, the Yellow-Rumped Warbler.

Climbing



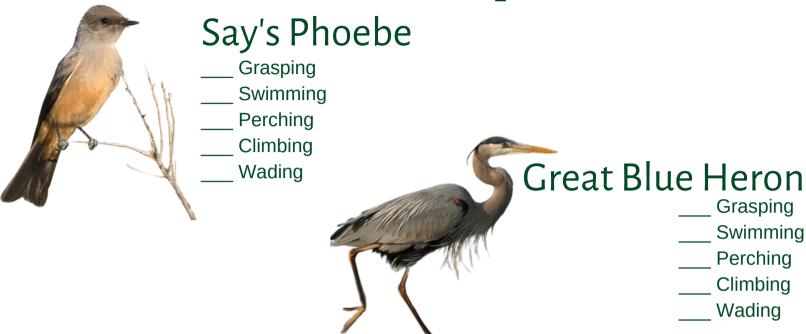
Birds that climb on the trunk of a tree will have long hind toes and long toenails that allow them to climb without falling backwards. For example, the Downy Woodpecker.

Wading



Birds that wade in water to look for food have long, thin toes and legs. This makes them easier to pick up and put down when wading. The toes will also be spread out which helps prevent sinking into the mud. For example, the Snowy Egret.

Fairview Park Birds Guess Their Adaptation!





Nuttall's Woodpecker

- ___ Grasping
- Swimming
- Perching
- ___ Climbing
- ___ Wading





Ruddy Duck

- ___ Grasping
- Swimming
- Perching
- __ Climbing
- ___ Wading

Osprey

- __ Grasping
- ___ Swimming
- ____ Perching Climbing
- ---- Wading