

# Bird Beaks and Feet

Introduction: A bird's beak and feet can tell us much about their habitat and lifestyle. Most birds are even classified according to structural similarities between their beaks and feet. In this exercise, you will look at pictures of birds and make inferences about their lifestyles.

Description	Function
<b>Beaks</b>	
short & rounded	multipurpose, eating insects and seeds
spear shaped	spearing fish
chisel shaped, flat & pointed	drilling for insects
flat and square-shaped	straining algae
long and fat, like a scoop	scooping up fish
hooked	catching and tearing prey
long and tubular	sucking nectar from flowers
<b>Feet</b>	
long muscular legs	running
long skinny legs	wading
short legs with blunt claws	scratching, ground walking
three toes in front, one behind	perching
webbed	swimming
large hooklike claws (talons)	grasping prey
tiny short legs	hovering
two toes in front, two behind	climbing

Examine the images of birds and write your inference about what the bird eats, and where it lives

**Bluebird**



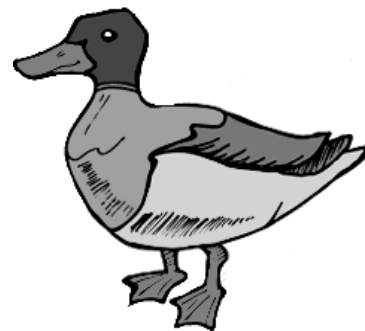
**Eagle**

**Chicken**



**Sparrow**

**Duck**



**Flamingo**



**Heron**



**Kingfisher**

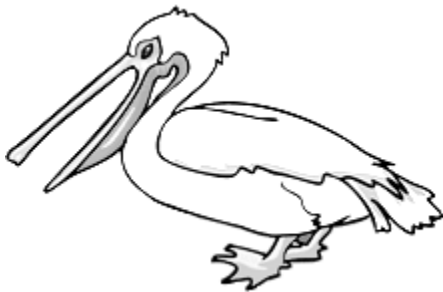


**Owl**



**Woodpecker**

**Pelican**



**Hummingbird**



### Data Table

Fill in the data table using the descriptions and pictures on the previous pages and try to figure out what the bird eats and where it likely lives.

Bird	Type of Feet	Type of Beak	Probable Diet	Probable Habitat
Bluebird				
Chicken				
Duck				
Eagle				
Sparrow				
Flamingo				
Heron				
Kingfisher				
Owl				
Pelican				
Hummingbird				
Woodpecker				

### Analysis

1. What features of a hummingbird make it adapted for its style of feeding?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Imagine an ideal flying predator. What type of beak and feet would it have?

3. Different birds may have similar beaks and diets. Loons, herons, and kingfishers, for instance, all have long sharp pointed beaks for spearing fish. Their feet, however, are quite different. Describe how the loon, heron, and kingfisher differ in the method by which they hunt for fish (using their feet to help you answer)

4. Owls have large eyes that enable it to see well at night. Both the hawk and the owl hunt similar things: small rodents or snakes. How do the hawk and the owl avoid competing with each other?

5. Birds that live on the prairie have short but muscular legs (like the pheasant). Prairies are large grasslands that have few numbers of trees. What do you think the legs of a pheasant are adapted for?