

## Who Are You?<sup>1 2</sup>

**Purpose:** To get to know more about some common urban birds (of the Northeastern U.S. area)

**Advance Prep:** Print out this document. (If doing multiple times, you may want to print pics in color and laminate pics and bios.)

### Directions:

Tell the group:

*-You will get a card with either a picture or a “biography” on it.*

*If you have a picture, find a person with the bio to match.*

*If you have a bio, find the person with the matching picture.*

*- Once you have found your match please:*

*Figure out the species you have. (If you aren’t sure, use a field guide!)*

*Read the bird bio together.*

**IF** your group is made up of people who do not yet know each other, you can also do this activity as a get-to-know-you by having people introduce themselves. Add...

*Share your own “bios”*

*Where you’re from.*

*What you do.*

*Why you’re interested in learning about birds (or not!).*

Give out the cards (pictures and bios) and give group several minutes to complete the task.

When everyone seems done, tell the group:

*- Now please find another pair and introduce your partner (and your partner –if this is being used as a get-to-know-you activity!) to the other pair.*

To wrap up the activity:

*-Ask everyone to find a seat (in these bigger groups). They should still hold on to their cards.*

*-Tell the group that one side of the room (or outside area) represents TRUE and the other side represents FALSE.*

*-Tell them that you will be reading statements about the birds. If the statement applies to their bird, they should move to the TRUE side of the room/area. If it does not, they should move to the FALSE side of the room/area.*

*-Read the follow-up questions/statements (See next page.)*

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<sup>1</sup> Developed by Regan Brooks for use at Codman Academy Charter Public School, suggestions/ideas also contributed by Marcel W. (student) and Brian Lawlor, Mass Audubon

<sup>2</sup> Information for the bird biographies was found mostly at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/>. Visit this wonderful site for even more information.

**Answer key for “Who are you?”:**

Bird Letter:	Bio #:	Species name:
A	9	Rock Pigeon
B	8	House Sparrow
C	7	American Crow
D	6	Mocking Bird
E	4	Herring Gull
F	5	Red-tailed Hawk
G	1	Blue Jay

Bird Letter:	Bio #:	Species name:
H	2	European Starling
I	3	American Robin
J	12	Black-capped Chickadee
K	13	Northern Cardinal
L	11	Red-winged Blackbird
M	10	American Goldfinch

**Follow-up Statements/Questions:**

<b>Statements:</b>	<b>True for...</b>
My bird can make “milk” in the back of its throat.	Rock Pigeon (A)
My bird will steal (and eat!) other birds’ eggs and babies.	American Crow (C) (Also applies to Blue Jay (G))
In my bird species, males and females look different (from each other).	House Sparrow (B), Northern Cardinal (K), Red-winged Blackbird (L), American Goldfinch (M)
My bird can copy human speech (i.e. be taught to talk).	European Starling (H) and American Crow (C)
My bird <u>only</u> eats meat.	Red-tailed Hawk (F)
My bird can sing up to 200 different songs.	Mockingbird (D)
Males of my species can have many different mates.	Red-winged Blackbird (L)
My bird can raise up to 12 babies in just one summer.	American Robin (I)
My bird can remember up to 1,000 places where it hid seeds for the winter.	Black-capped Chickadee (J)
Many people think that my bird needs to live near the sea . (But it doesn’t!)	Herring Gull (E) (someone may also thin this about other species too.)
<i>You can also add other statements or encourage students to make some.</i>	

Bird A



Photo credit: Alan Wilson

**Bird B**



Ivan Tortuga

Photo credit: Ivan Tortuga/Cdy Hough

Bird C



Photo credit: Alexis Bywater

Bird D



Photo credit: Regan Brooks

Bird E



Photo credit: Creatiev Commons

Bird F

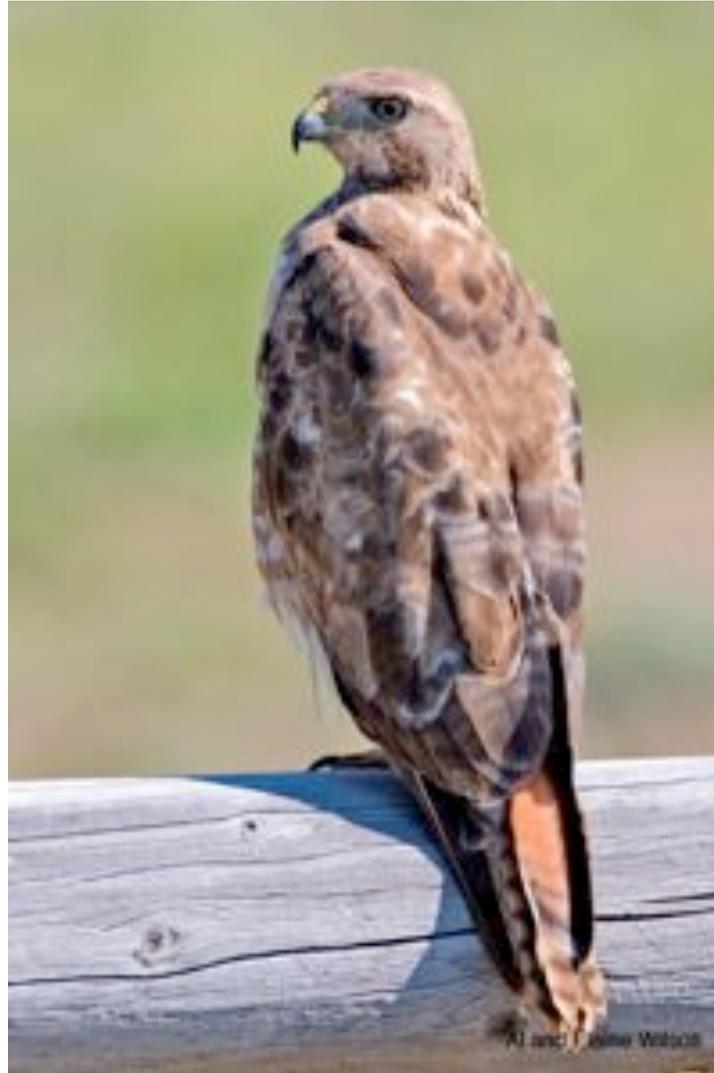


Photo credit: Alan Wilson

Bird G



Photo credit: Kn thomas

Bird H



Photo credit: Alexis Bywater

Bird I



Photo credit: Ken Thomas

Bird J



Photo credit: Dan Cooper, dacooper.com

Bird K



Photo credit: Ken Thomas

Bird L



Photo credit: Alan Wilson

Bird M



Photo credit: Ken Thomas

## Biography #9

### **Feathers:**

Usually grey but can be other colors too!

**Feet and legs:** Pink!

**Nest:** On buildings (air conditioners, windowsills, roofs, etc.) or cliffs

**Food:** Almost anything!

**Interesting Info:** I can make “milk” for my babies. It comes out of the back of my throat.

## **Biography #6**

**Feathers:** Grey with some white. (Breast and belly are light grey)

**Feet and legs:** Black

**Song:** Copies other birds' songs!

**Food:** Insects and fruit

**Interesting Info:** I can sing up to 200 different songs!

## Biography #8

**Feathers:** Wings and head are brown.

Males and females look different! Males have a black throat (and a black breast –in spring/summer).

**Bill:** Short and brown/black

**Food:** Mostly seeds (eats insects when babies are young)

**Interesting Info:** I only like to live near people!

## **Biography #4**

**Feathers:** Throat, breast, and belly are white.

Wings are grey.

Tail is black and white.

**Feet and legs:** Light pink.

**Food:** Almost anything!

**Interesting Info:** People often call me a seagull but I can live thousands of miles from the sea!

## **Biography #7**

**Feathers:** All black.

**Feet and legs:** Black

**Call:** “Caw! Caw!”

**Food:** Almost anything!

**Interesting Info:** I can be taught to talk!

## Biography #5

**Feathers:** Head, wings, nape, and back are brown.  
Breast is white. Belly is white and brown.

**Feet and legs:** Yellow

**Bill:** Hooked and sharp

**Food:** Meat (mice, birds, rats, rabbits, etc.)

**Interesting Info:** I have very good vision... much better than yours!

## Biography #2

**Feathers:** Black (with brown/gold tips when they are new).

**Bill:** Yellow

**Tail:** Very short!

**Food:** Almost anything (especially insects)!

**Interesting Info:** I can learn to copy many sounds, including human voices!

## Biography #3

**Feathers:** Breast and belly are red.  
The rest of my body is mostly brownish grey.

**Food:** Mostly insects and berries.

**Interesting Info:** I can raise up to 12 babies in just one summer!

## **Biography #1**

**Feathers:** Crest, nape, back, wings, and tail are blue.  
Throat and belly are white. Breast is grey.

**Feet and legs:** Black

**Food:** Almost anything!

**Interesting Info:** I often copy the call of the Red-tailed Hawk!  
(I can really confuse people this way.)

## Biography #11

**Feathers:** Males: All black with red scapulars. (Some yellow too.)

Females: Brown.

**Feet and legs:** Black

**Food:** Seeds, insects, and grain.

**Interesting Info:** Males of my species can be polygamous. (That means they might mate with more than one female. The current record is 15!)

## Biography #12

**Feathers:** Black throat and crown. White cheek and belly. Grey back and tail. Tan sides.

**Feet and legs:** Black

**Food:** Insects (all year) and seeds (in winter)

**Interesting Info:** I like to hide seeds for later. I can remember up to 1,000 different hiding places!

## **Biography #10**

**Feathers:** Males: Black forehead/ crown. Black and white wings and tail. Most other parts: yellow.

**Feet and legs:** Pink

**Food:** Seeds (and occasionally insects).

**Interesting Info:** I completely replace all my feathers **TWICE** a year!

## Biography #13

**Feathers:** Males: Black face mask. All other parts are red.  
Females: Reddish brown.

**Feet and legs:** Pinkish tan

**Food:** Fruits, buds, insects, and seeds.

**Interesting Info:** Sometimes, females of my species sing –while they are sitting on a nest!