Illinois Common



Words in **bold** can be found in the Glossary.

What are Birds?

Birds are warm-blooded animals with feathers, hard-shelled eggs and lightweight bones.

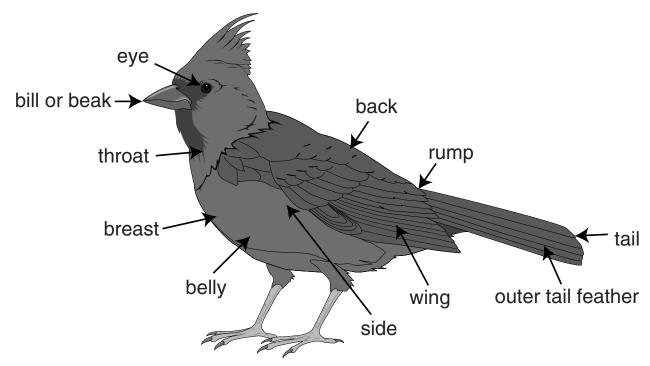
Because they are warm-blooded, birds can maintain a constant internal body temperature and be active when their natural environment has extremes of very warm or very cold conditions.

Feathers are used for flight, protection and attraction of a mate. They also aid in controlling body temperature and in helping birds to identify other birds.

Birds lay hard-shelled eggs. The hard shell, made mostly of **calcium carbonate**, keeps the egg from drying out and allows parents to sit on the eggs during **incubation**.

Lightweight bones are necessary for flight. Bird bones are strong and have internal braces. Many bird bones are filled with air and are connected to the respiratory system. Other bones are fused together, increasing their strength.

Parts of a Bird



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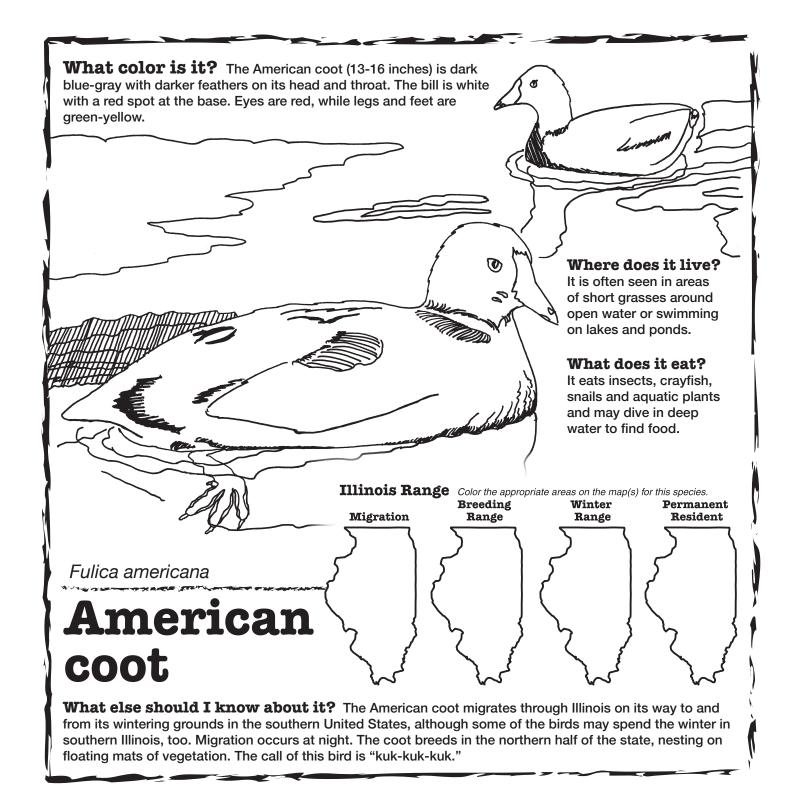
Bird Banter

- Birds have a high metabolic rate and must eat great quantities of food. For example, hummingbirds must eat twice their weight in food daily. Most birds must continually search for food.
- Birds don't have teeth. They use the thick walls of their gizzard to break food into smaller pieces. Small stones and grit picked up while feeding remain in the gizzard and help to grind food, too.
- Beaks, or bills, are amazing tools. They are used for capturing and eating food, defense, feeding young, gathering nesting materials, building nests, preening, scratching, courting and attacking.
- Birds don't have vocal cords. To produce sounds, vibrations are sent across the syrinx (voice box) of a bird. The more muscles a bird has attached to the syrinx, the more sounds it can make. For instance, the northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) has many muscles and can produce a variety of sounds, while the rock pigeon's (*Columba livia*) single pair of muscles results in only a single "coo" sound.
- More than one-third of the world's birds migrate. Migration is an adaptation to changes in the environment, usually seasonal (weather, lack of food, need for nesting space). Migrating birds move from the area where they raise young to their winter home and back again. Some birds are daytime migrants. They fly along routes marked by landmarks such as rivers, coastlines, mountains and lakes. Other birds are nocturnal migrants. They use the position of the stars and moon and the earth's magnetic field to help them find their way.
- More than 400 bird species have been recorded as living in or migrating through Illinois!
 On the following pages you can learn about 18 of these species. How many of them have you seen in the wild?

Using this Activity Book -

For the Educator

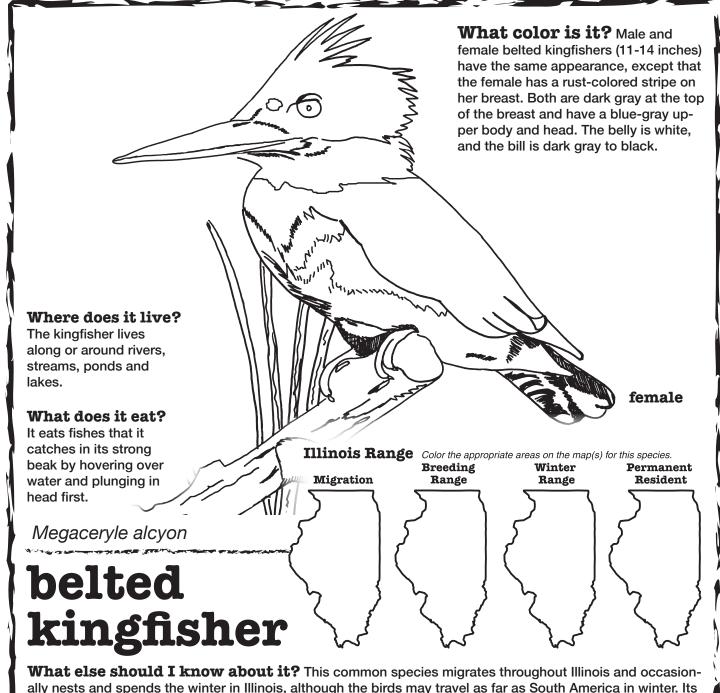
When using this book from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education, students will become familiar with the traits and appearance of 18 bird species commonly seen in our state. Although targeted to **grades three through six**, this resource may be adapted for other grades as well. The *Illinois Birds* unit, resources trunk, video podcasts and publications from the IDNR can help you teach about birds, too. You will find these and other supplemental items through the Web pages at https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/default.aspx and https://dnr2.illinois.gov/teachkids/. Contact the IDNR Division of Education at 217-524-4126 or dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov for more information.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! A m_g_a_ory bird is one that lives part of the year in one location, usually where it nests and raises its young, and part of the year in another location, usually where it can find ample food and cover in the non-breeding season.



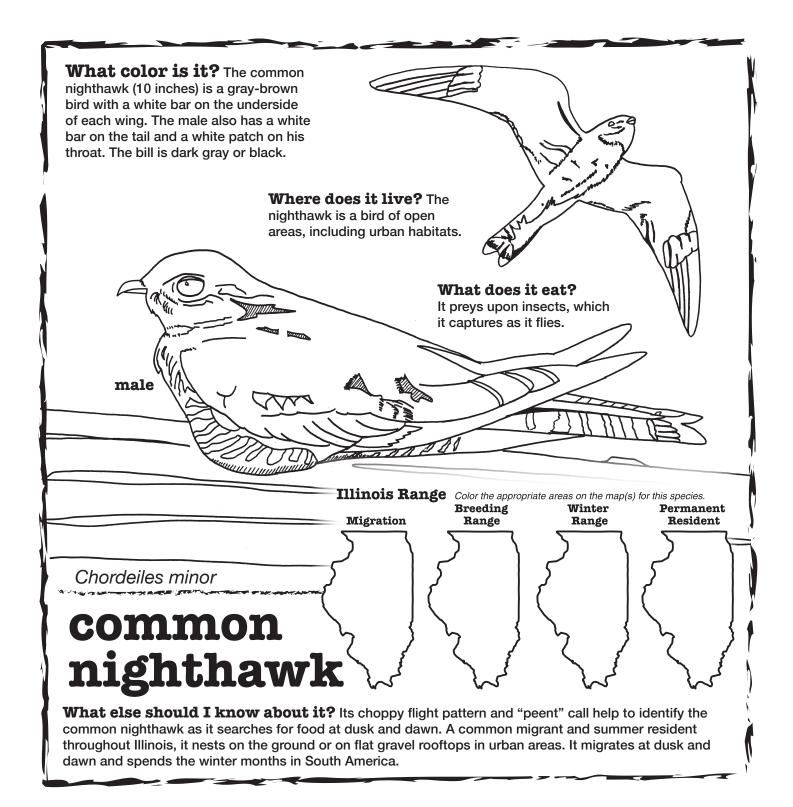
ally nests and spends the winter in Illinois, although the birds may travel as far as South America in winter. Its rattling call is a familiar sound around water bodies in spring and summer. The kingfisher nests in dirt banks near water and can burrow into the bank as deep as 15 feet.

In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! The belted kingfisher catches fishes by di__i_g into the water head first.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

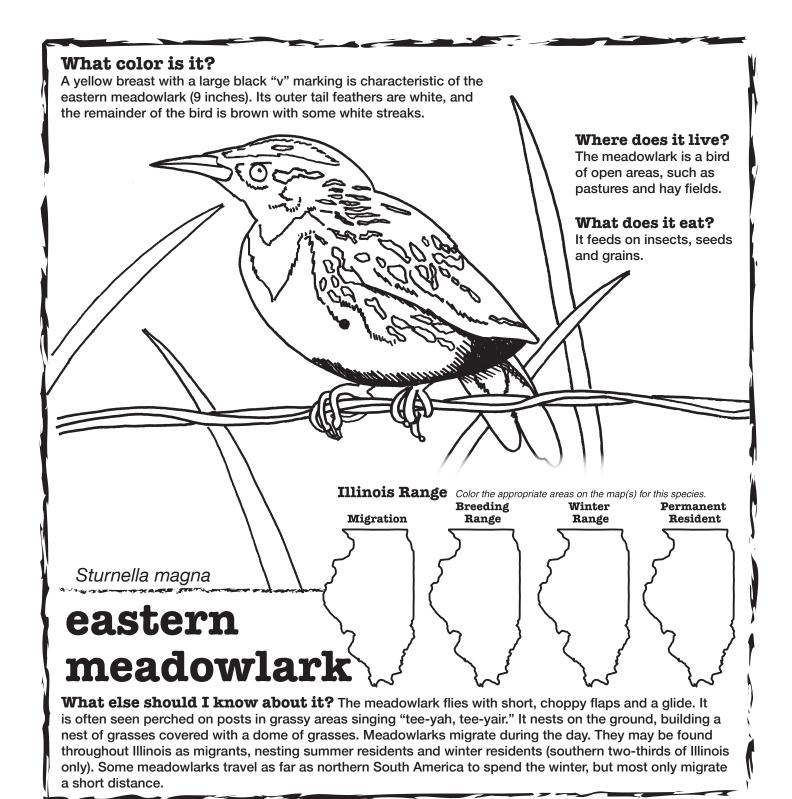
Fill Me In! The common nighthawk often lives in cities, or __r_an areas.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

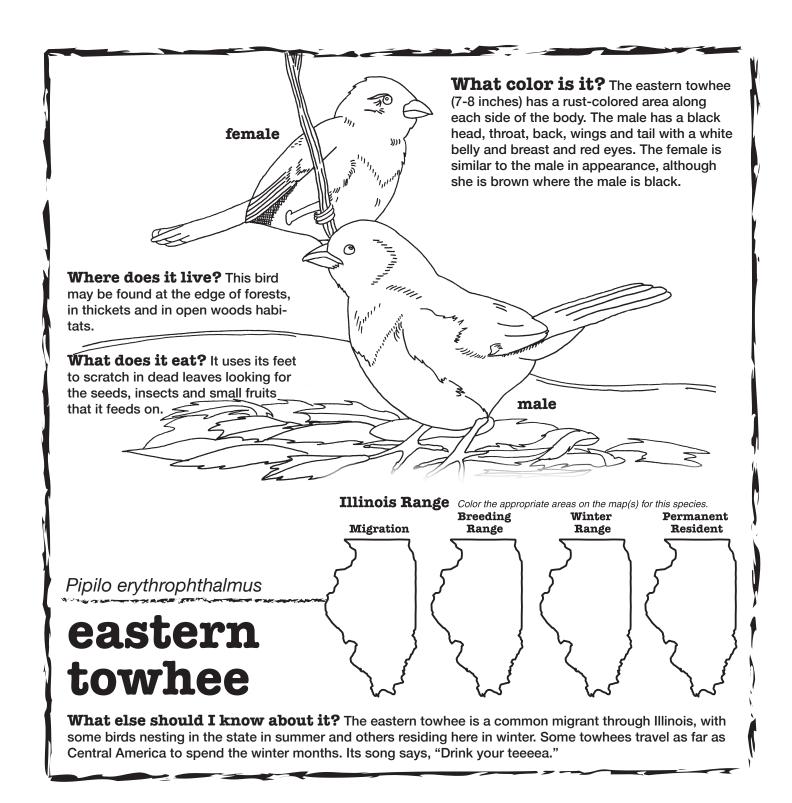
Fill Me In! The eastern kingbird's __hi__e tail tip can be seen as it flies to catch insects.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

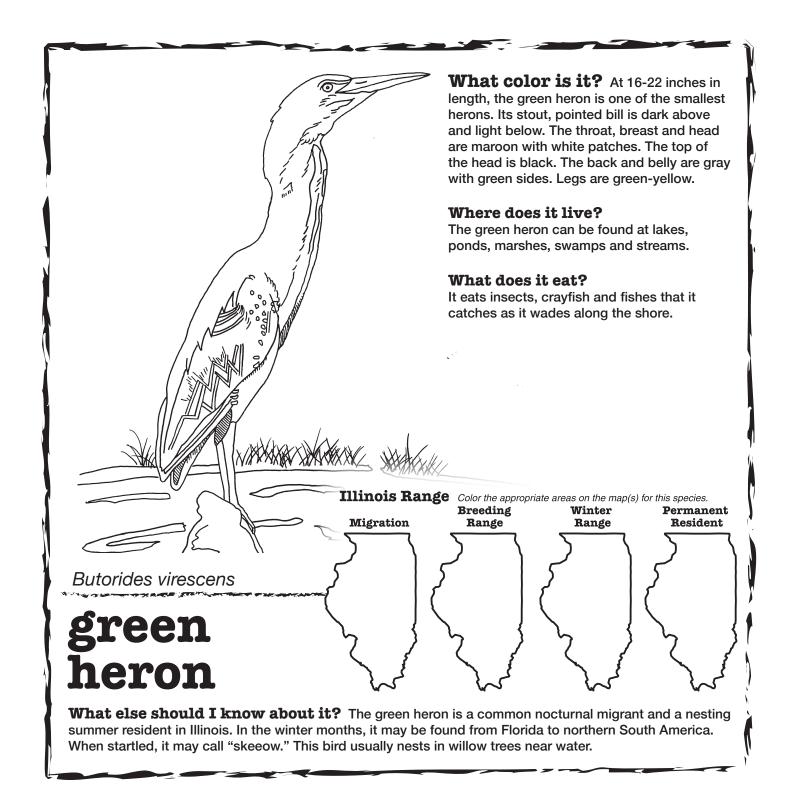
Fill Me In! The eastern meadowlark's nest is covered with a dome of g__a_se__ to help it remain hidden from predators.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

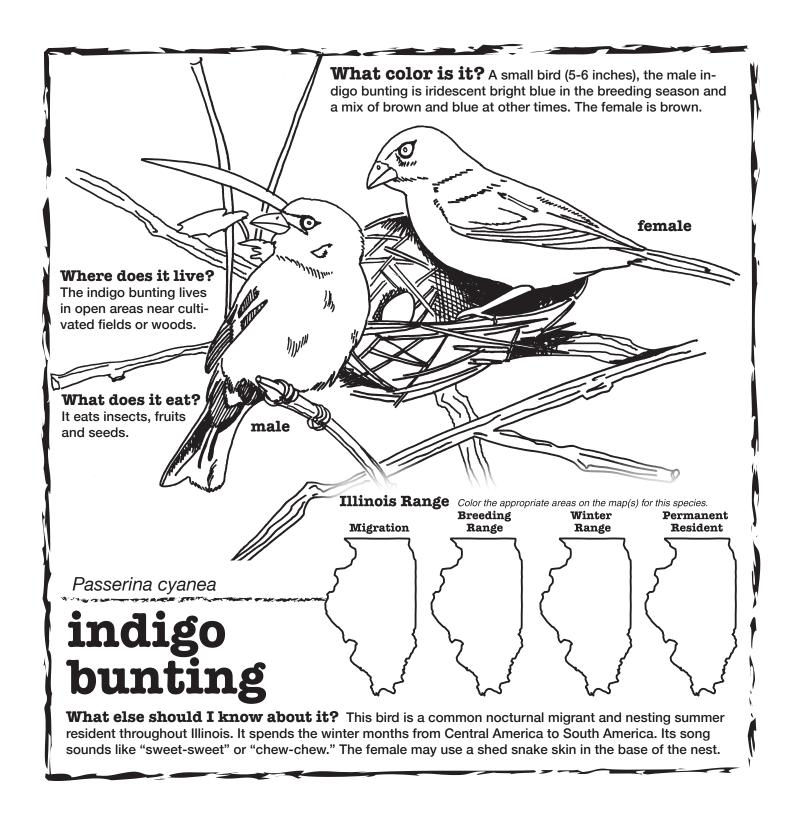
Fill Me In! The eastern towhee feeds on the ground, using its feet to sc__a_c_ among dead leaves for food.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

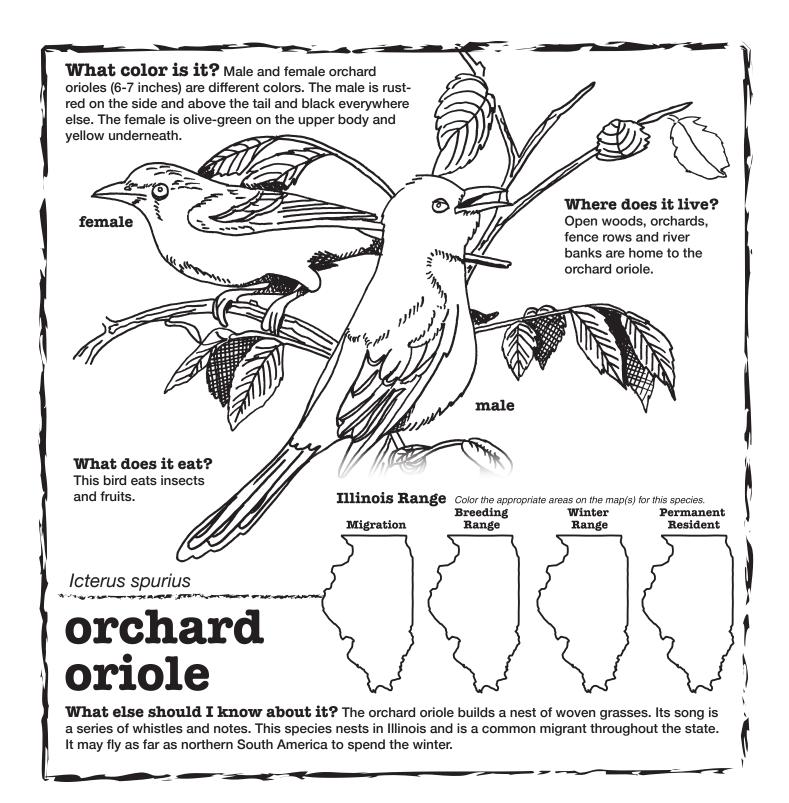
Fill Me In! The green heron is a w__d__n__ bird, feeding on animals it finds at the edge of water bodies.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! The male and female indigo bunting are different __o__o__s.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

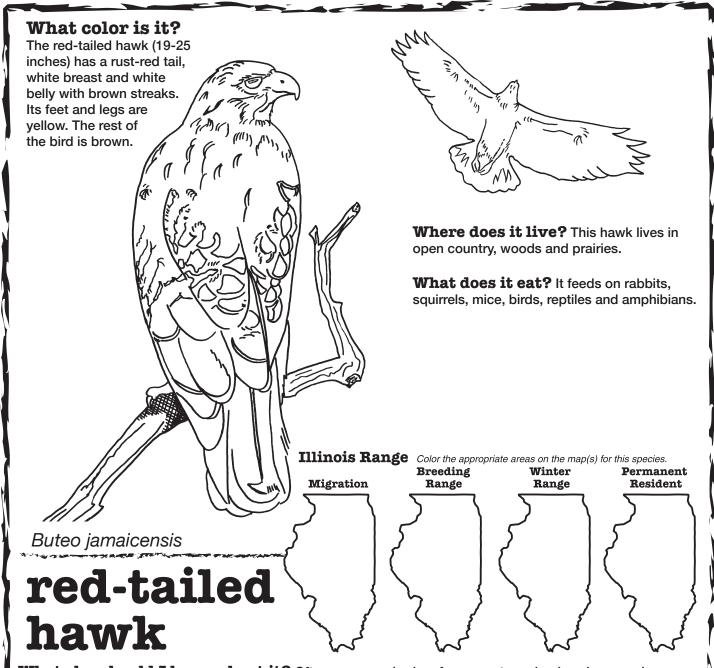
Fill Me In! The orchard oriole uses its beak to make a hanging n__ _ t of woven grasses.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! The red-bellied woodpecker is a p__ _ m__n_ _ t resident of Illinois, meaning that it does not migrate.



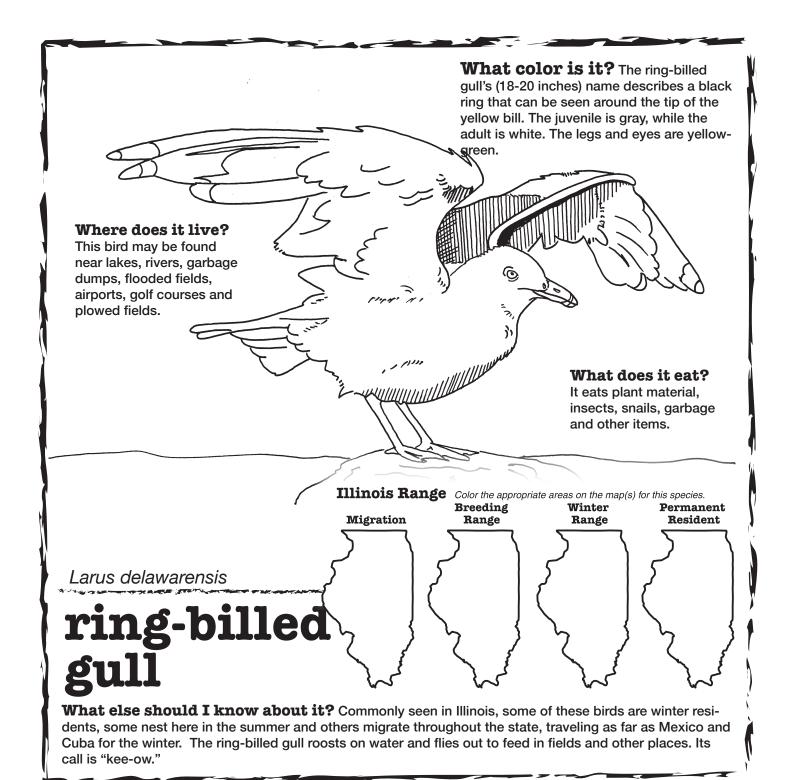
What else should I know about it? Often seen perched on fence posts and poles along roadways, the red-tailed hawk hunts from these and other locations for its prey. Some of these birds live year-round in the state, while others migrate through or only live in Illinois during the winter or to nest in summer. Migration occurs during the day. Some of the birds spend the winter as far south as Central America. The red-tailed hawk builds its nest at least 35-90 feet above ground in a tree. The female does all of the incubating over the 28- to 32-day incubation period. The male brings food to her during this time. The call of this hawk sounds like "keeerrr."

In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

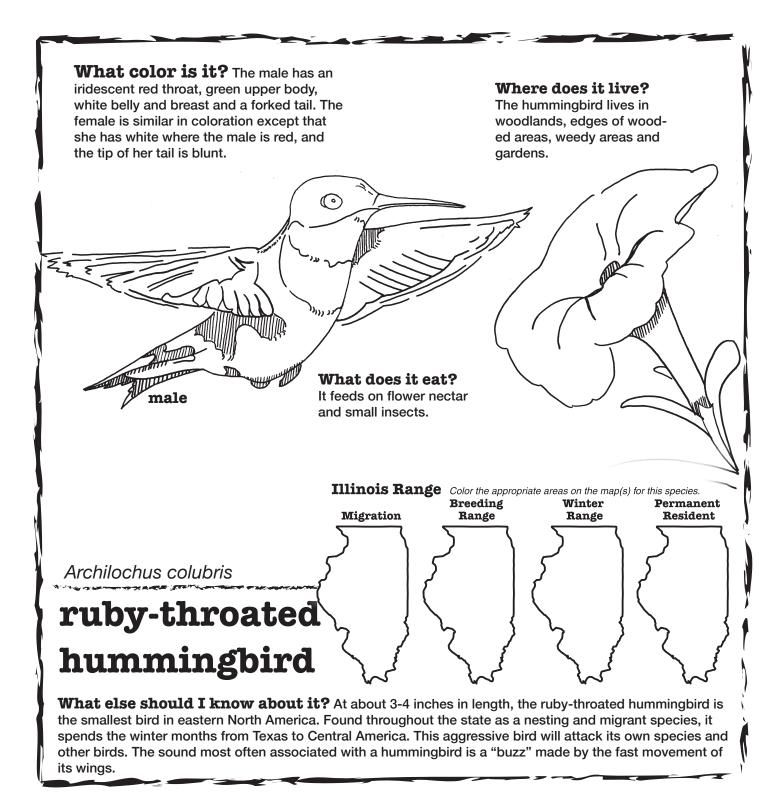
Fill Me In! The red-tailed hawk is commonly seen sitting on posts along __oa___.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

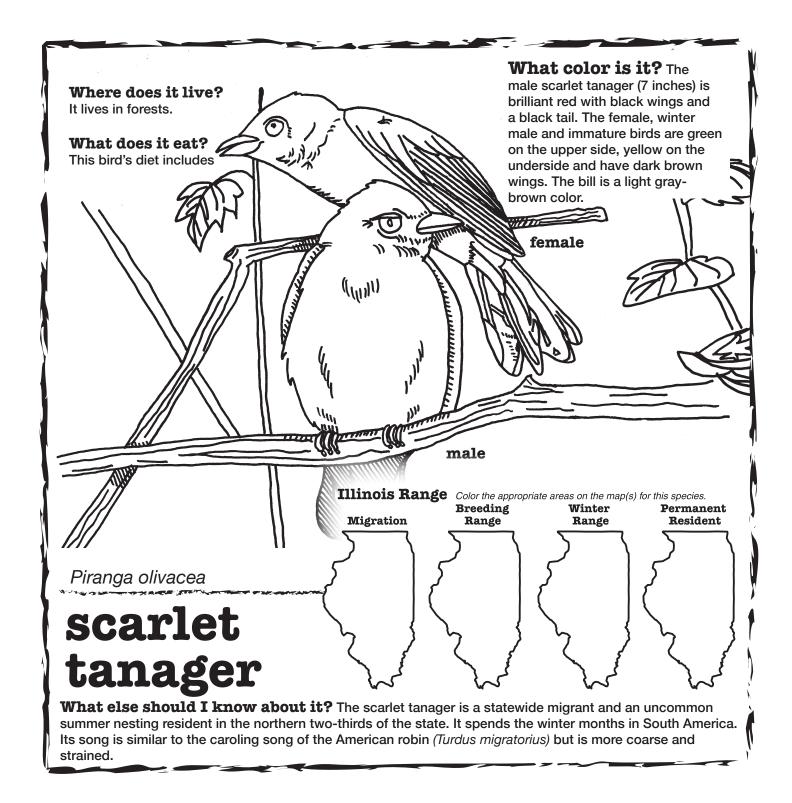
Fill Me In! The ring-billed gull frequents __ar__a_e __um__s in its search for food.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

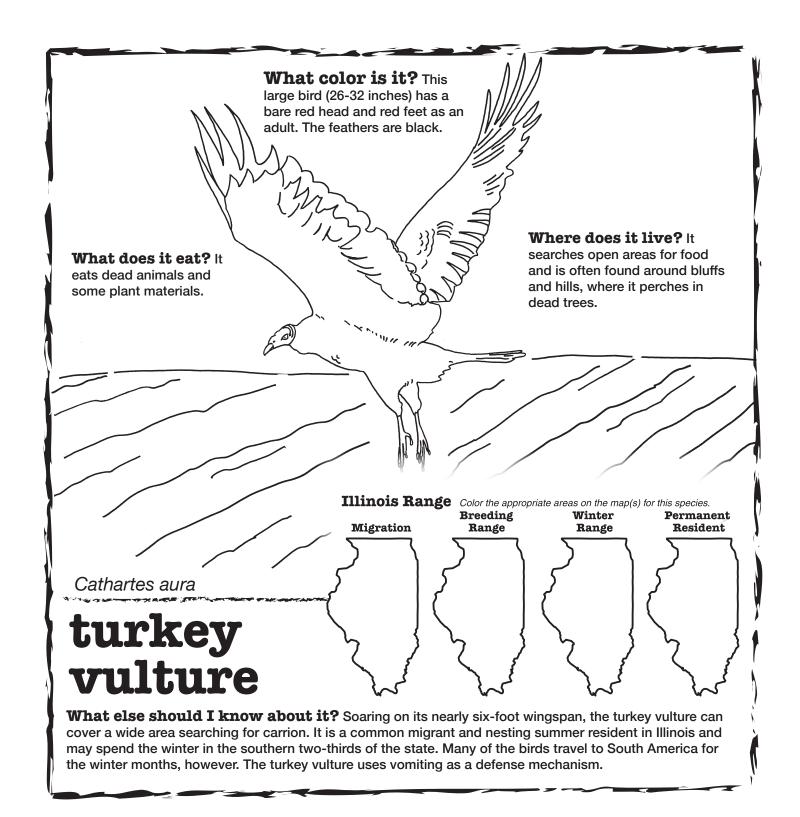
Fill Me In! Ruby-throated hummingbirds are very __g__re__ i__e and will fight other birds.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

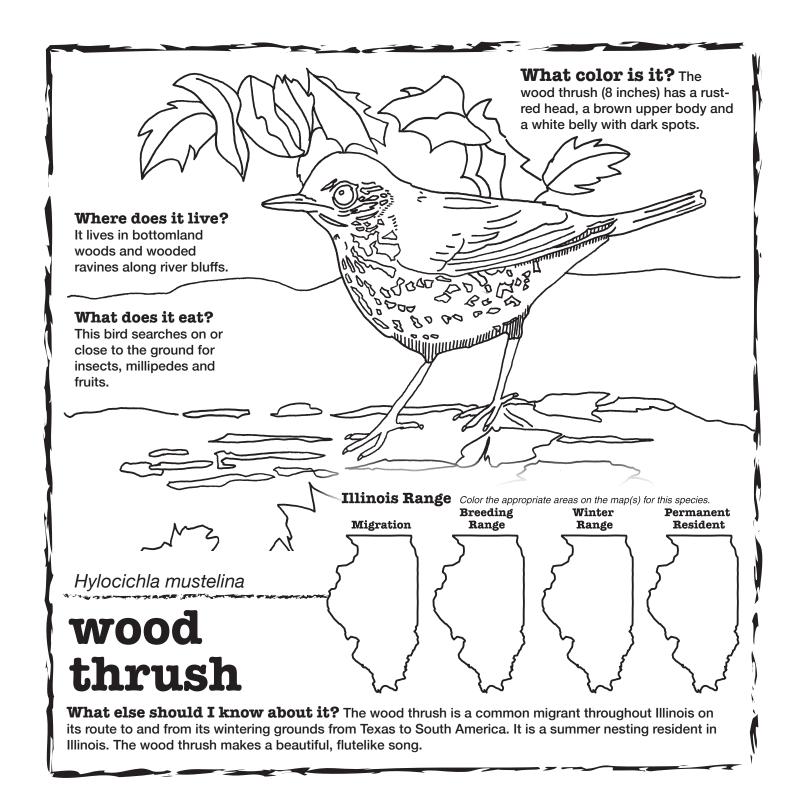
Fill Me In! The scarlet tanager may be seen in __or_s __ as it migrates through Illinois.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

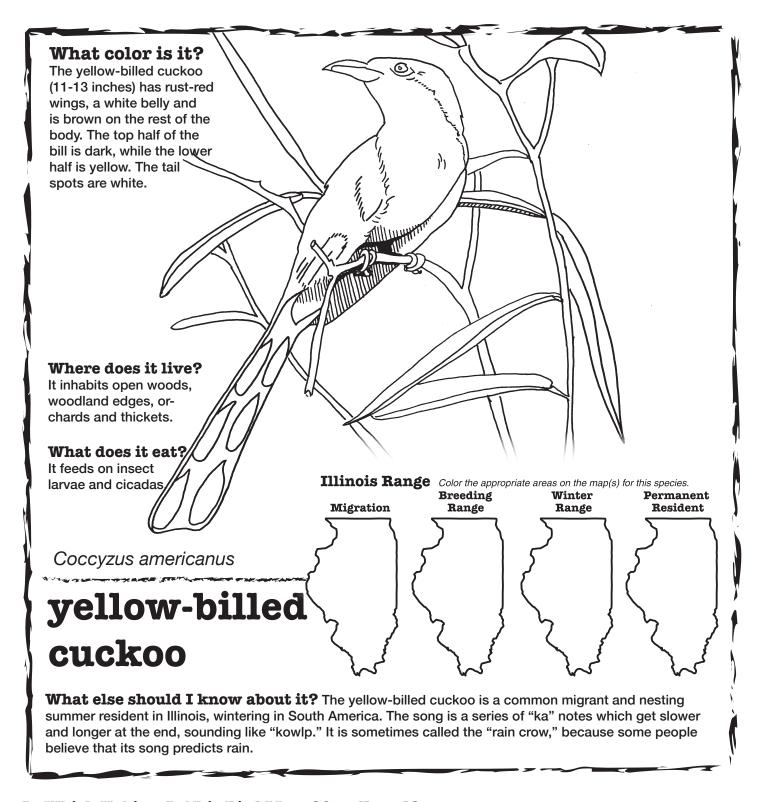
Fill Me In! The turkey vulture feeds mainly on dead animals, or __a_ri__n.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

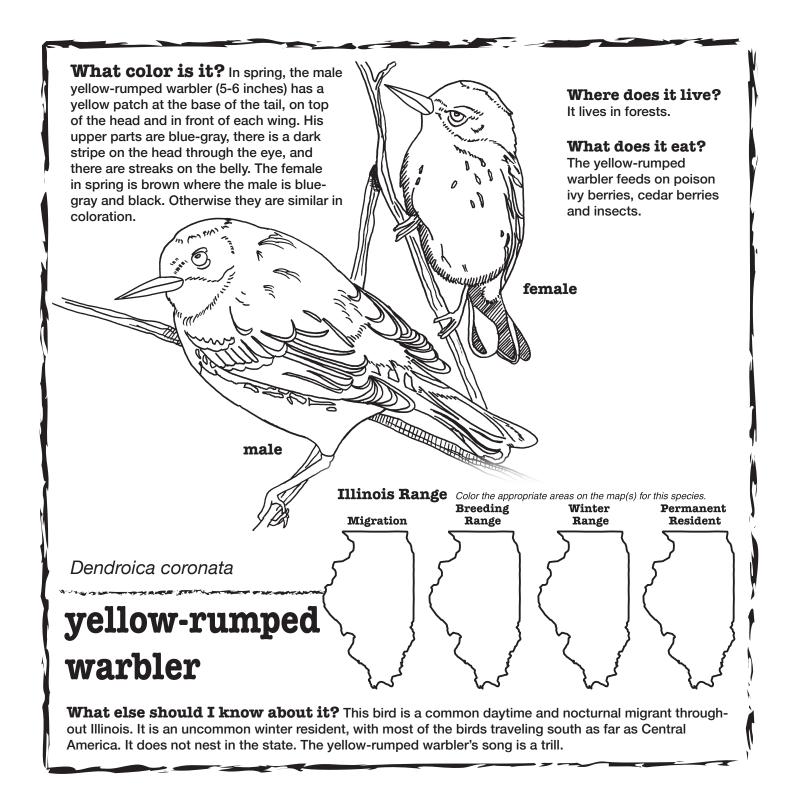
Fill Me In! The beautiful song of the wood thrush sounds like a f__ _ t__ playing in the forest.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! The yellow-billed cuckoo flies to __ou__h __me__ _ c__ to spend the months when it is fall and winter in Illinois.



Circle the best answer or answers.

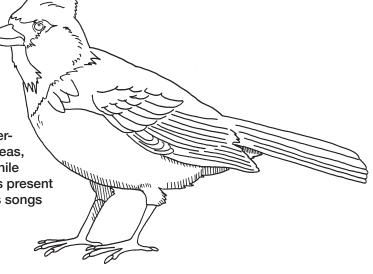
Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill Me In! One of the foods of the yellow-rumped warbler is __oi__o__ i__y berries.

Our State Bird

In 1928, Illinois schoolchildren selected the northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis) as the State Bird of Illinois. The General Assembly made that designation official in 1929. The northern cardinal is also the state bird of Indiana. Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

The northern cardinal (7-9 inches) is a common, permanent resident of woodlands, thickets, brushy areas, residential areas and parks. The male is scarlet, while the female is buff-brown and red. A feather crest is present on the head, and these birds have a thick beak. Its songs sound like "what-cheer cheer," "birdy, birdy, birdy" or "whoit, whoit," The cardinal feeds on insects, grains, fruits and seeds.



Cardinal Clues

Find and circle these cardinal-related words in the puzzle below.

bird nois		bea	ık	cardinal			crest		IIIi-		
permaner land	nt	scarlet		s	ymbol		thicket			wood-	
	Р	L	Α	Ν	I	D	R	Α	C		
	Т	Ε	L	R	Α	C	S	W	Ε		
	Α	Т	R	D	Ε	Н	J	0	Т		
	В	S	Υ	M	В	0	L	0	Ε		
	В	Ε	Α	K	Α	I	L	D	K		
	C	R	M	Ν	K	Ν	M	L	C		
	F	C	Р	I	0	S	Ε	A	-		
	0	Α	Т	U	В	W	Y	Ν	Н		
	R	V	X	Z	В	I	R	D	Т		
	S	ı	O	Ν	ı	L	L	1	Q		

Glossary

calcium carbonate a white compound (CaCO₃) found in bones, teeth and shells gizzard a muscular portion of the digestive tract in birds, it has thick walls and is used to grind food incubation to sit on eggs, keeping them warm until they hatch

metabolism (metabolic rate) chemical changes that provide the energy required for life; amount of food consumed, heat produced or oxygen used; speed at which these changes occur is the metabolic rate preening to clean, straighten and fluff feathers

Now that you've studied the information in this booklet, let's see what you've learned. Can you identify the

warm-blooded maintaining a constant internal body temperature regardless of external conditions

Who Am I?

bird that goes with the description?					
	_ 1. rust-red head, white belly with dark spots and flutelike song				
	_ 2. an aggressive, very small bird with a green upper body and white belly				
	_ 3. black or brown upper body, white lower body, rust-red sides				
	_ 4. black and white stripes on the back and wings and a red head patch				
	_ 5. mainly maroon, gray and green with yellow-green legs				
	_ 6. bright blue or plain brown with a song of "sweet sweet"				
	7. rust-red tail and call of "keeerrr"				

Answers

In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

page 4 - aquatic; page 5 - aquatic; page 6 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 7 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 9 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 10 - aquatic; page 11 - grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 12 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 13 - woodland edge/open areas; page 14 - woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - aquatic and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - aquatic and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - woodland edge/open areas; page 17 - woodland edge/open areas; page 27 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 27 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 27 - woodland

Fill Me In!

boison ivy

page 4 - migratory; page 5 - diving; page 6 - urban; page 7 - white; page 8 - grasses; page 9 - scratch; page 10 - wading; page 11 - colors; page 12 - nest; page 13 - permanent; page 14 - roads; page 15 - garbage dumps; page 16 - aggressive; page 17 - forests; page 18 - carrion; page 19 - flute; page 20 - South America; page 21 -

Who Am I?

heron; 6 - indigo bunting; 7 - red-tailed hawk

1 - wood thrush; 2 - ruby-throated hummingbird; 3 - eastern towhee; 4 - red-bellied woodpecker; 5 - green



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/default.aspx dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov