

CONSERVANCY

FOR CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

— CUYAHOGA CONNECTIONS —

JOURNAL VOL. 9

Look to the Skies: Birds in CVNP

Birds in CVNP

What birds might you see in CVNP? Draw a line connecting the bird's image to its name, and then to its habitat. Hint: some birds may be seen in more than 1 habitat! See the Blue Jay example below.



Bird Name

Blue Jay



Chickadee



Redwing blackbird



Great blue heron

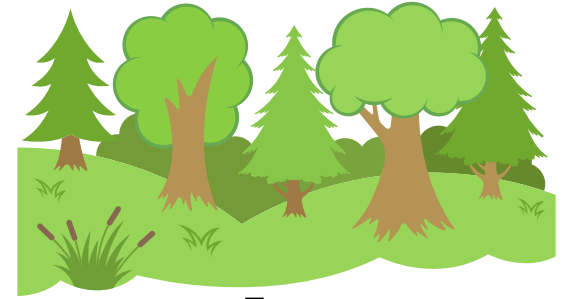


Red-tailed hawk

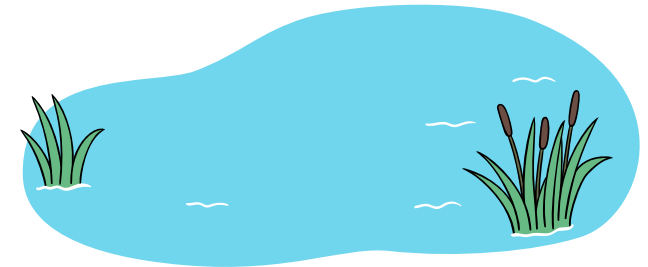


American Robin

Bird Habitat



Forest



Pond or Lake

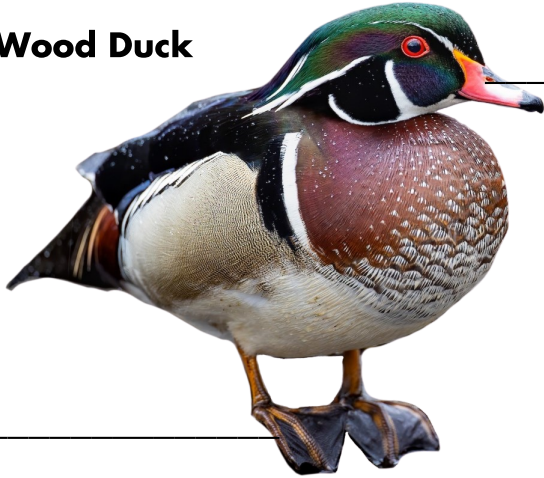


Meadow

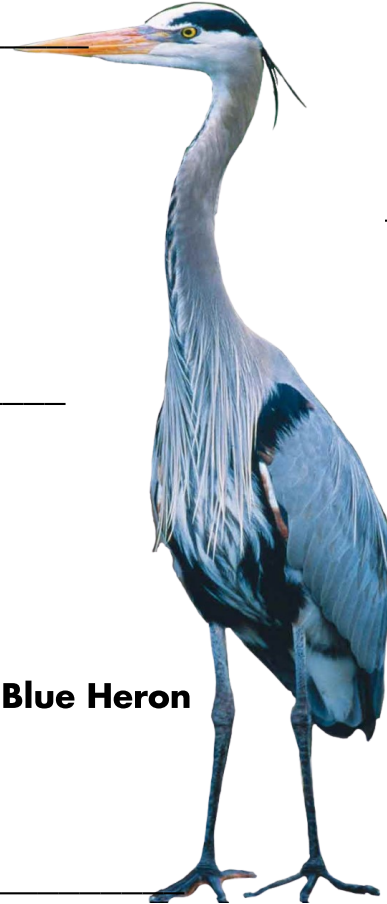
Bird Basics

Label the different physical characteristics of these birds, then complete the compare-and-contrast sentences by filling in the blanks.

Wood Duck



Great Blue Heron



Red-tailed Hawk



Barred Owl



1. The _____ and the _____
_____ are both waterfowl, but they
have very different _____.
2. The barred owl and red-tailed hawk both have
_____ beaks and _____
feathers, but their _____ look different.

Bird Beaks

Beaks are specially shaped to help birds catch and eat their favorite foods. Match the beak shape to the type of food you think they could catch the best. HINT: Some birds will be matched to more than one type of food!

- Hooked beaks are good for eating meat
- Sharp, pointy beaks are good for catching quick animals and picking berries
- Thick beaks are good for breaking open seeds and nuts
- Flat beaks are good for scooping food in water

Red-tailed Hawk



Red-winged Blackbird



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Black-capped Chickadee



American Robin



Great Blue Heron



Wood Duck



Bird Signs

Let's think like a scientist! Scientists discover new things through observing (or noticing), their surroundings. Take a look at these clues to make an educated guess about bird activity.



How do you think this robin's eggshell got on the ground?

Some kind of scuffle occurred here in the snow. What do you think happened?



What could be causing this wiggling movement of the water lily and spatterdock leaves at Beaver Marsh?

You find lots of droppings and feathers near Kendall Lake. What kind of birds do you think left them behind?



Bird Science in CVNP

Some of the Park Rangers that work in Cuyahoga Valley National Park are biologists. These park scientists study the plants and animals in CVNP to better understand how we can protect them.



Cleveland.com, 2019

This Cerulean Warbler/Northern Parula hybrid is one of the bird species studied in the park.

Birds in the park are monitored regularly to determine what bird species are nesting there, and how many of these nesting birds there are.

No advanced equipment is needed to do most of the bird monitoring in CVNP. Most of the time, park scientists set out armed only with binoculars and keen senses of sight and hearing. They must also be very skilled at identifying birds, which takes a lot of practice.

Mark and re-capture studies are also done to track individual birds over time. Birds are fitted with a band on their leg (shown above). Scientists will record things like the bird's weight, measurements, condition of its feathers and more.

You can be a bird scientist! Bird counts are held every year throughout Northeast Ohio. Keep a look out for the next one near you!



Great Blue Herons are studied in CVNP. Photo: Jim Roetzel

Build Your Own Bird

Now that we have learned more about birds in CVNP and bird features to look for, let's create our own bird! Use the questions below to inspire your creation.

- What color is your bird?
- Does your bird have a call?
- What shape is its beak?
- What does its nest look like?
- What type of feet does it have?
- Where does it live?

HELLO
my name is

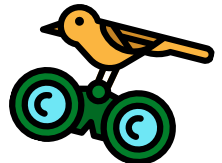


Bird Watching - Outside

Observations:

Most species of birds in this area have an obvious difference between a male and a female. Do you know what it is?

Throughout your observations, try to locate both male and females of the same species and notice the contrast of their feathers.



Bird Watching Chart

Type of Bird	Male / Female	Date / Time	Where



Bird Watching - Inside

Conduct some bird observations while inside using these online resources of live bird feeder cameras.

Click on the picture or scan the QR code to watch birds up close in your own home! What species can you identify? Use the "Bird Watching Chart" (page 9) to record what you see!

Cornell FeedWatch Cam - NY



SCAN ME

Bird Feeder Cam - Near CVNP



SCAN ME

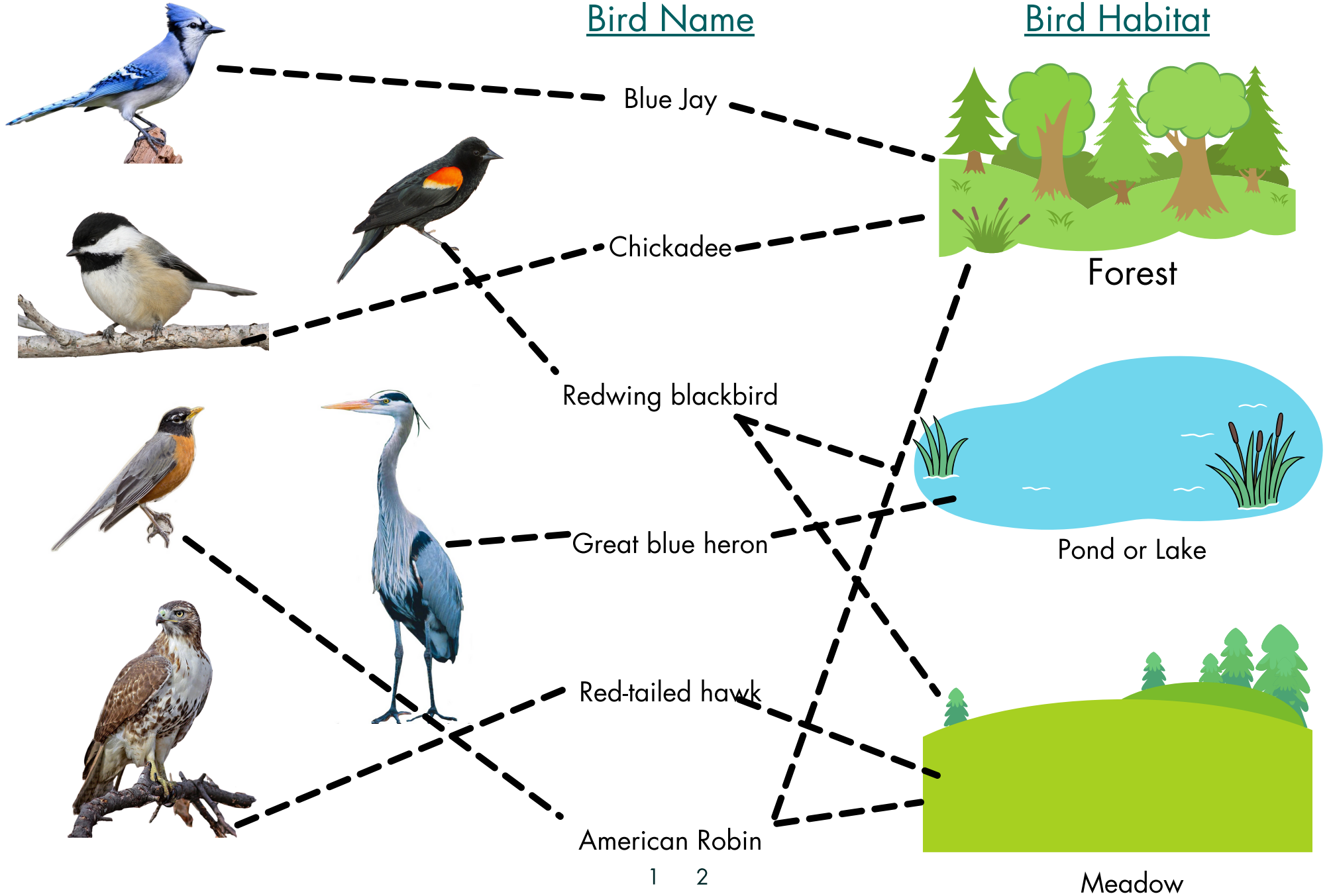
Hungry Birds

- What season is the best time to set out birdseed? Why?
- In the Spring and Summer, what do birds eat?
- Do you know what our Ohio state bird is? This bird is often found feeding at bird feeders all throughout Ohio.



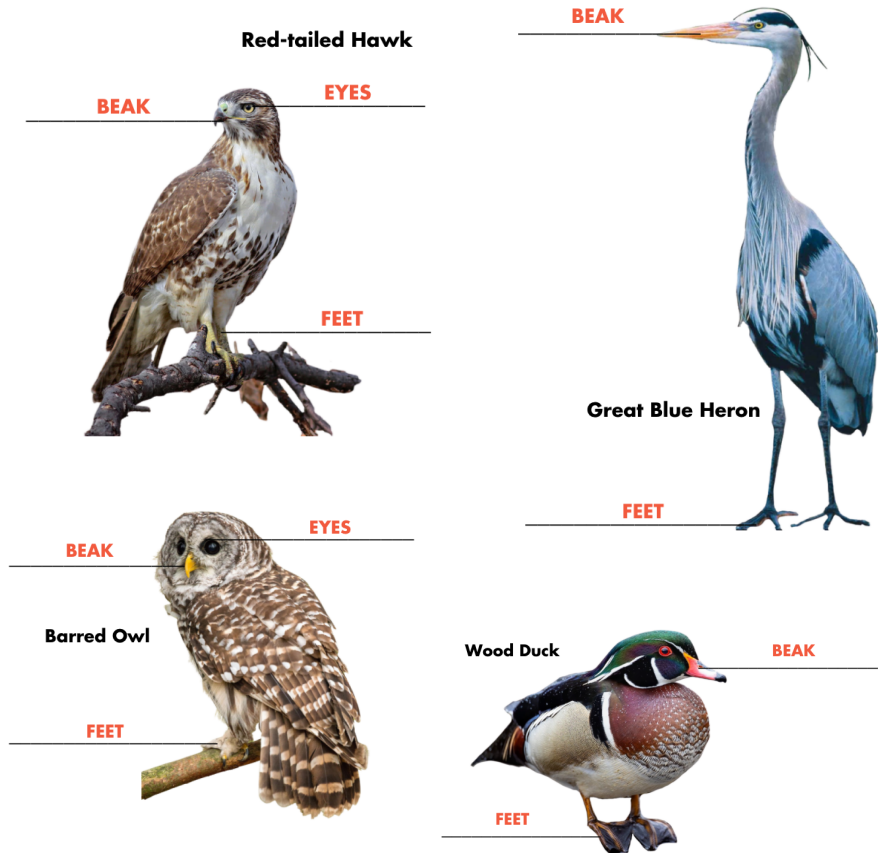
Answer Key

Birds in CVNP - Pages 1 & 2



Answer Key

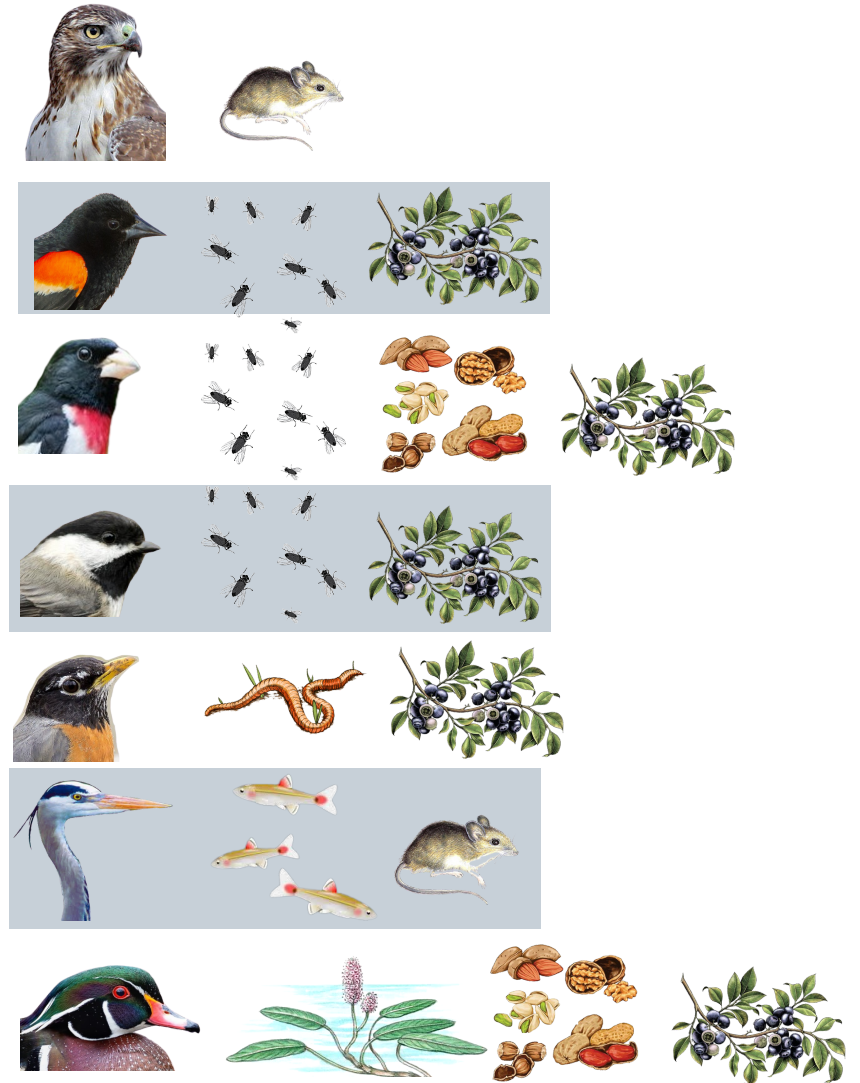
Bird Basics - Pages 3 & 4



1. The wood duck and the great blue heron are both waterfowl, but they have very different feet or beaks. [Answers may vary]
2. The barred owl and red-tailed hawk both have hooked or curved beaks and brown/white feathers, but their eyes or feet look different. [Answers may vary]

Answer Key

Bird Beaks - Page 5



Answer Key

Bird Signs - Page 6



How do you think this robin's eggshell got on the ground?

- *A baby bird hatched and knocked the shell out of the nest.*
- *A predator got the egg.*

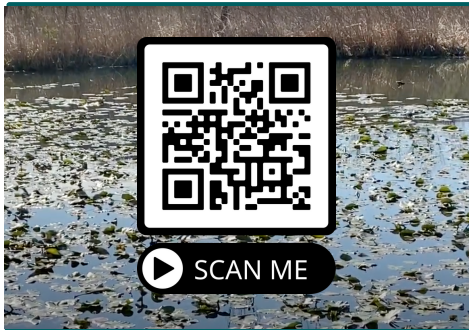
Some kind of scuffle occurred here in the snow. What do you think happened?

- *A raptor like a hawk or an owl caught a rodent that was under the snow.*



What could be causing this wiggling movement of the water lily and spatterdock leaves at Beaver Marsh?

- *A red-winged blackbird is hopping on the spatterdock and lily leaves, looking for food.*



You find lots of droppings and feathers near Kendall Lake. What kind of birds do you think left them behind?

- *The habitat hints that it's a waterfowl. Canada geese leave behind a lot of large, solid droppings and shed a lot of feathers.*



Answer Key

Bird Watching - Outside, Page 9

Most species of birds in this area have an obvious difference between a male and a female. Do you know what it is?

Answer: Males have brighter feathers due to females preferring brighter colors and the dull colored feathers protect them from predators using camouflage.

Bird Watching - Inside, Page 10

Question: What season is the best time to set out birdseed?

Answer: Winter because that is when birds need the most energy to migrate. Also, in the winter time birds have a difficult finding food.

Question: In the Spring and Summer, what do birds eat?

Answer: Insects, worms, and grubs, seeds, grasses, and plant material, nectar and pollen, nuts, fruit, and berries.

Question: Do you know what our Ohio state bird is?

Answer: Cardinal

