

Illinois Common Pirdo



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.

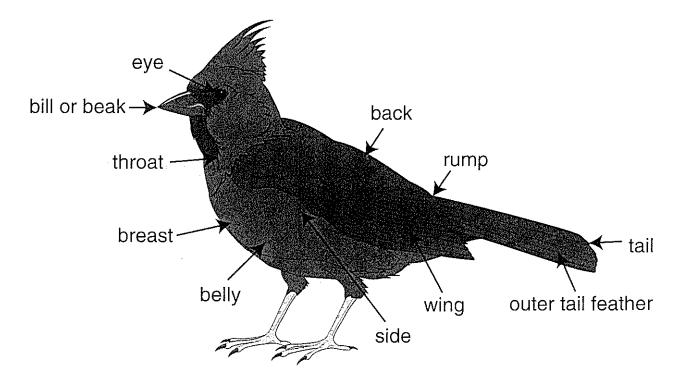
Because they are warm-blooded, birds can maintain a constant internal body temperature and be active when their natural environment has extremes of very warm or very cold conditions.

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



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance. Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois PRT 3386103 - 20M - 12/05

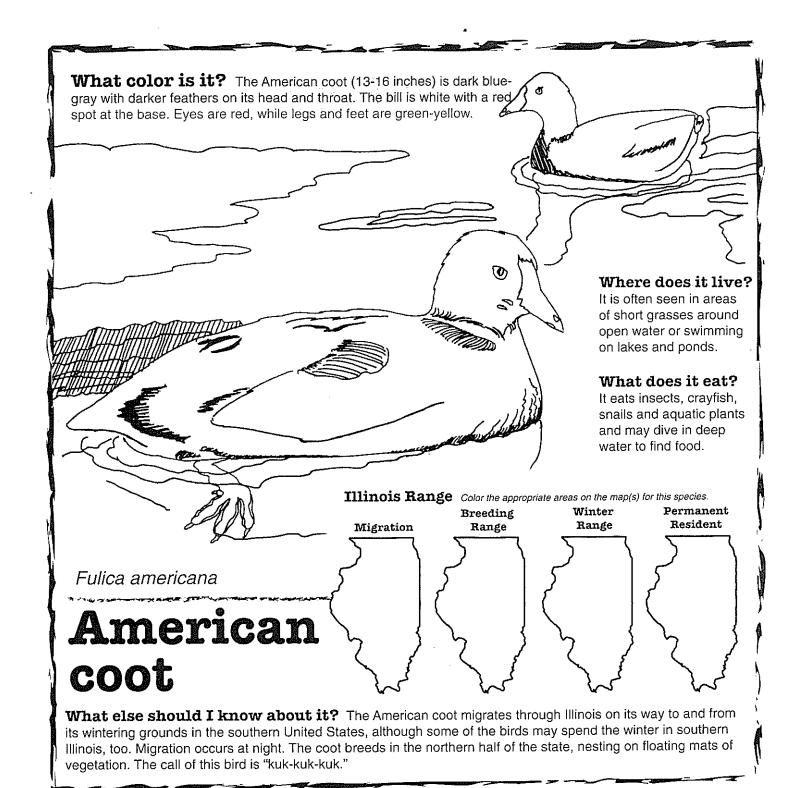
Bird Banter

- 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

This activity book is designed to supplement the information provided in the *Illinois Common Birds* poster from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). When using this book, students will become familiar with the traits and appearance of 18 bird species commonly seen in Illinois. The information and activities can help you to meet the following Illinois Learning Standards: 12.B.2a; 12.B.2b. You will find that the *Biodiversity of Illinois* series of CD-ROMs from the IDNR supplements this booklet by providing sounds, photographs and other information about the species. The *Illinois Birds* CD-ROM from the IDNR contains lessons, videos and more items to help you teach about birds. For more information about obtaining the CD-ROMs, contact the IDNR Division of Education (217/524-4126; teachkids@dnrmail.state.il.us). Although it is not necessary to have a copy of the *Illinois Common Birds* poster to complete this activity book, if you are a teacher, and would like a copy for your classroom, you may obtain one from the IDNR Division of Education (see contact information above). The IDNR also has available for teachers a free DVD, *Exploring Illinois' Natural Resources*, which includes the *Illinois Birds* video (see contact information above).

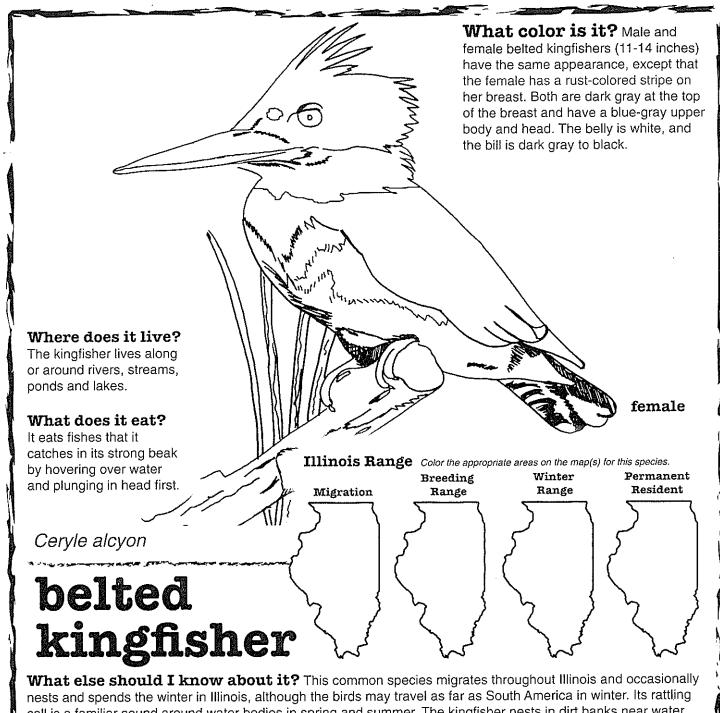


Circle the best answer or answers.

Woodland Aquatic

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.



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.

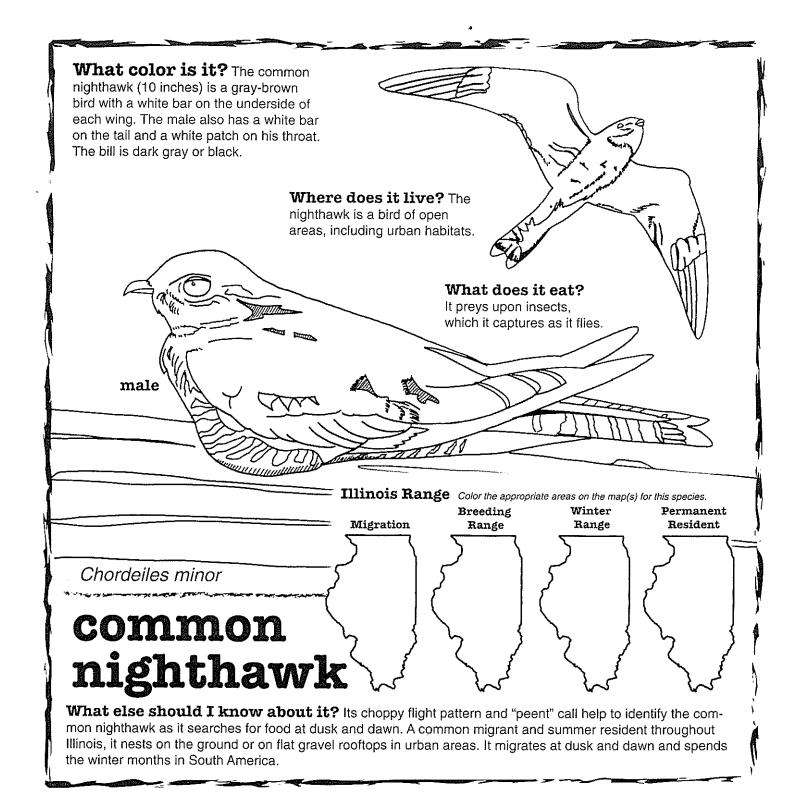
In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas Aquatic Woodland

Fill We 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 We In! The common nighthawk often lives in cities, or ___r_an areas.

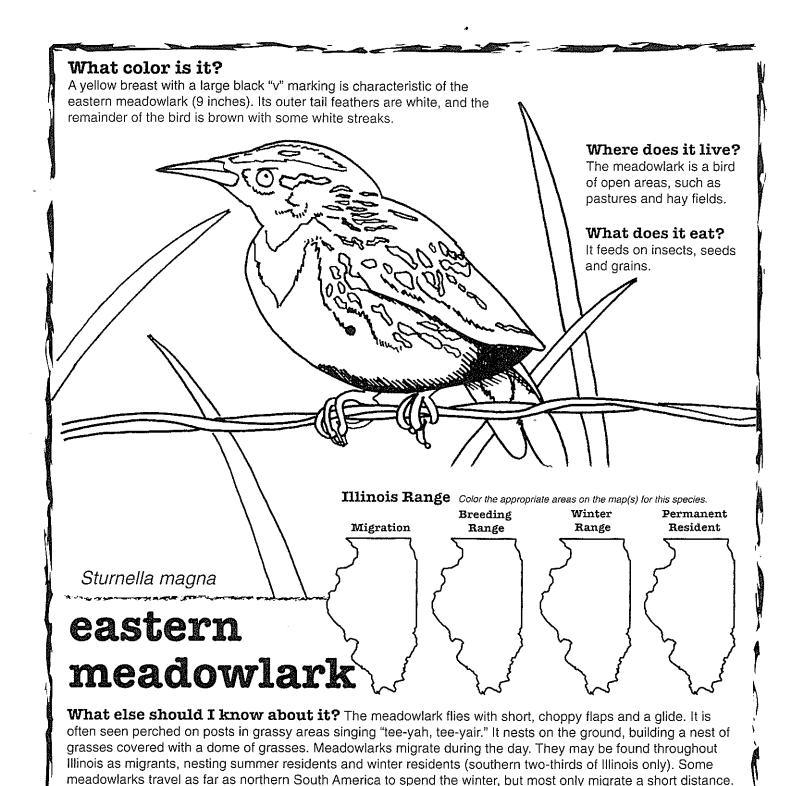


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

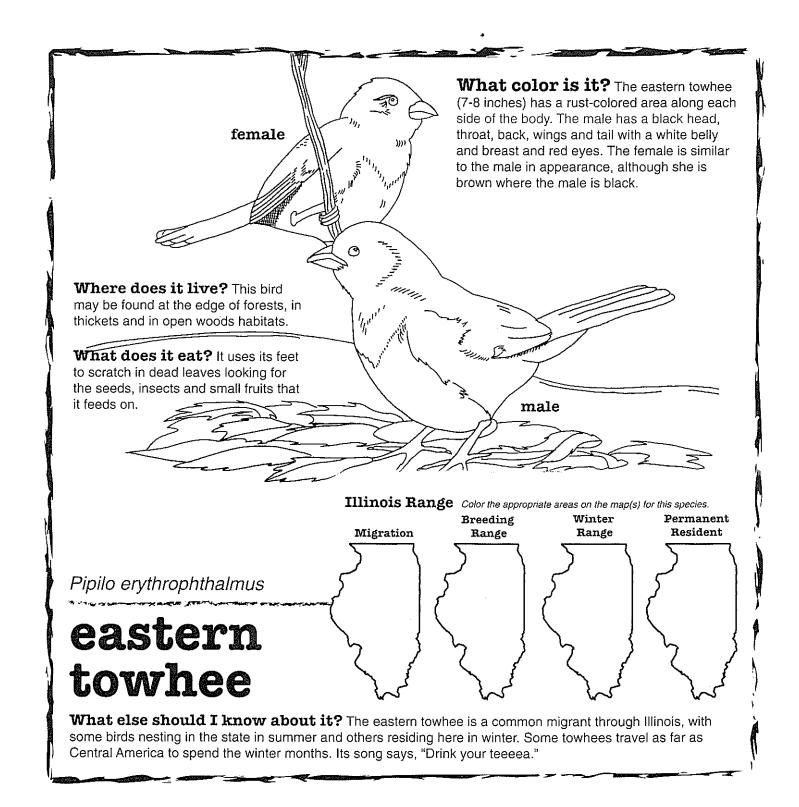
Fill Me In! The eastern kingbird's __hi__e tail tip can be seen as it flies to catch insects.



Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

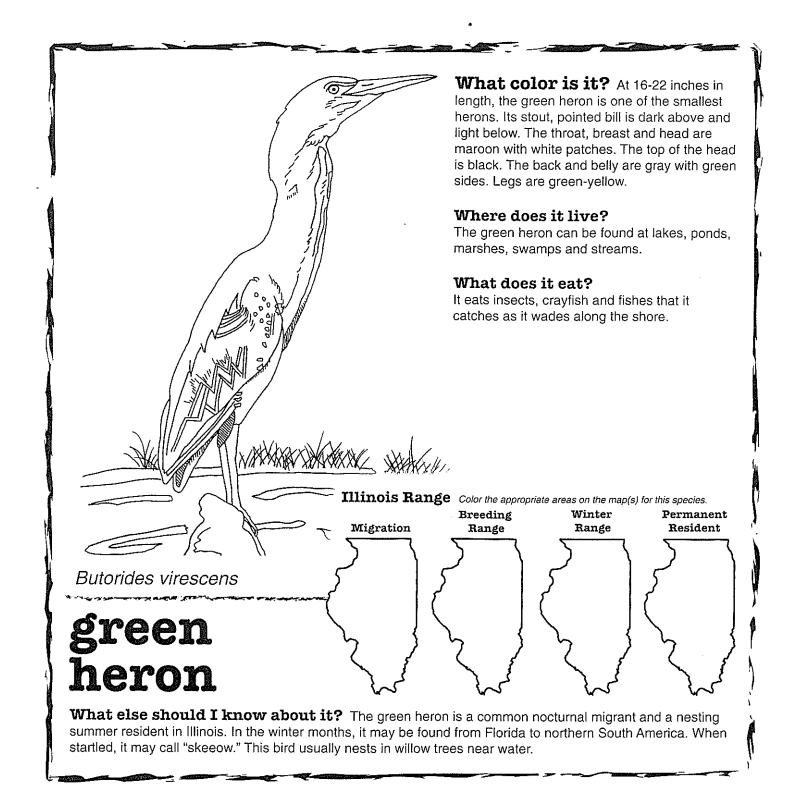
Fill Me In! The eastern meadowlark's nest is covered with a dome of g__a_se__ to help it remain hidden from predators.



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.

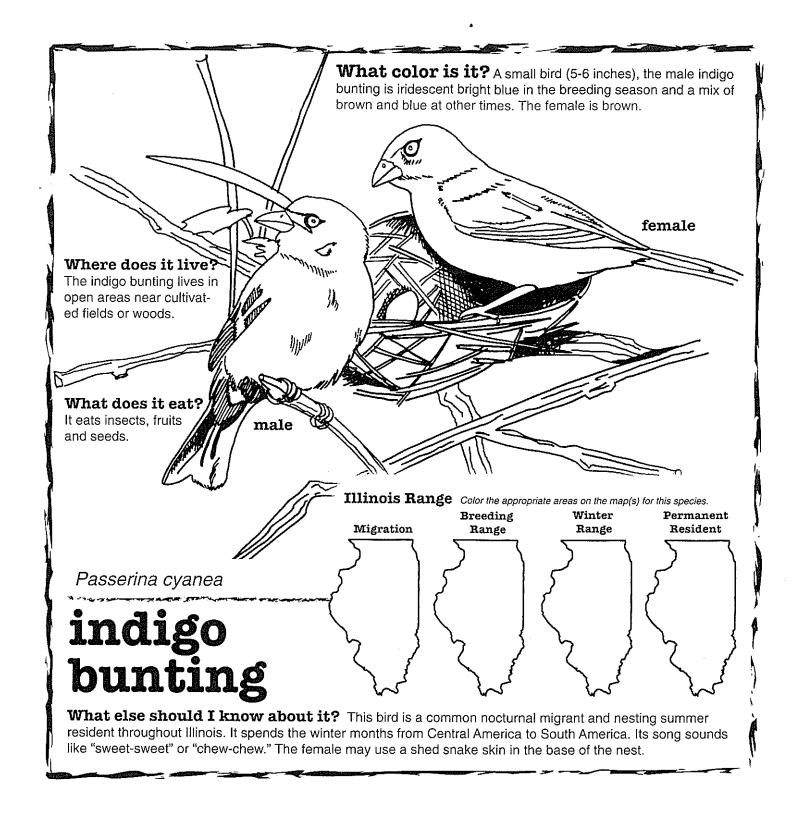


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

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



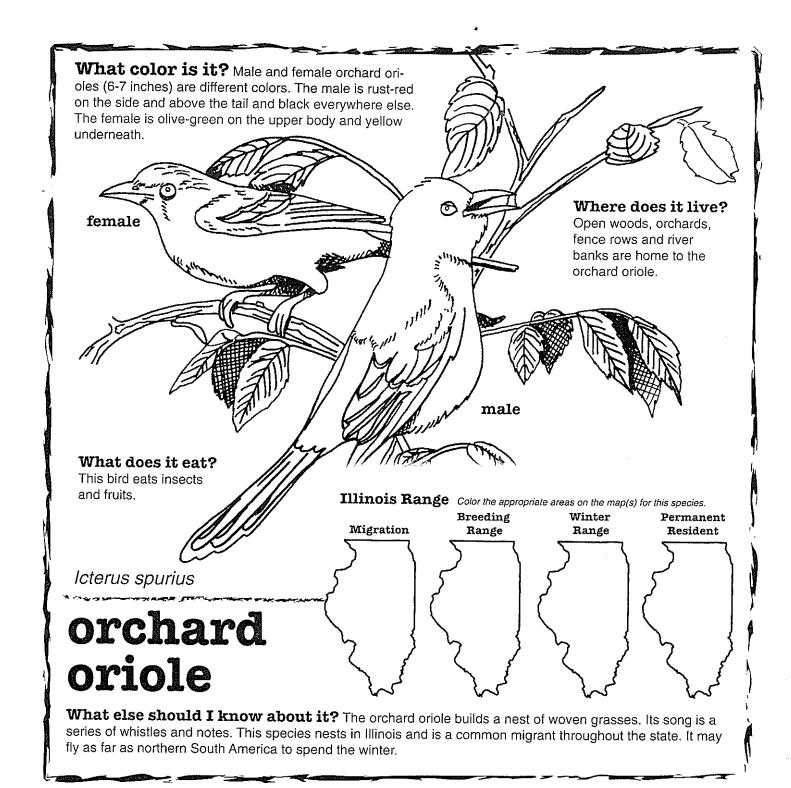
Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic

Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill We In! The male and female indigo bunting are different __o_o_s.

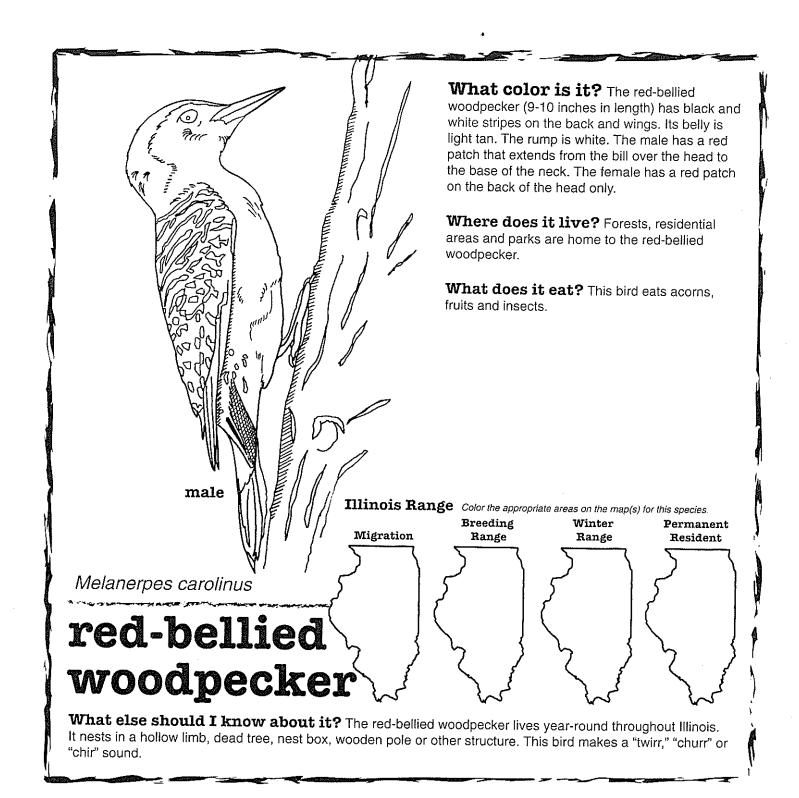


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill IVE In! The orchard oriole uses its beak to make a hanging n____ t of woven grasses.



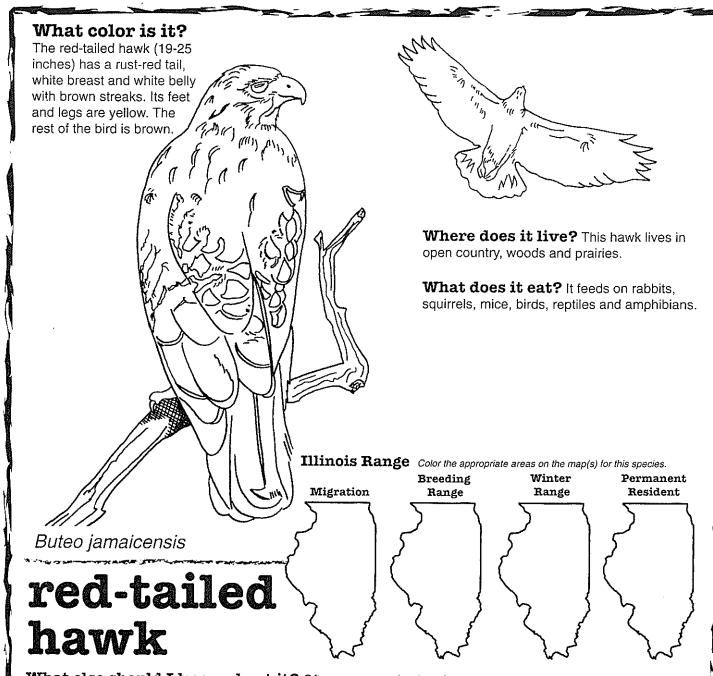
Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic

Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill We 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."

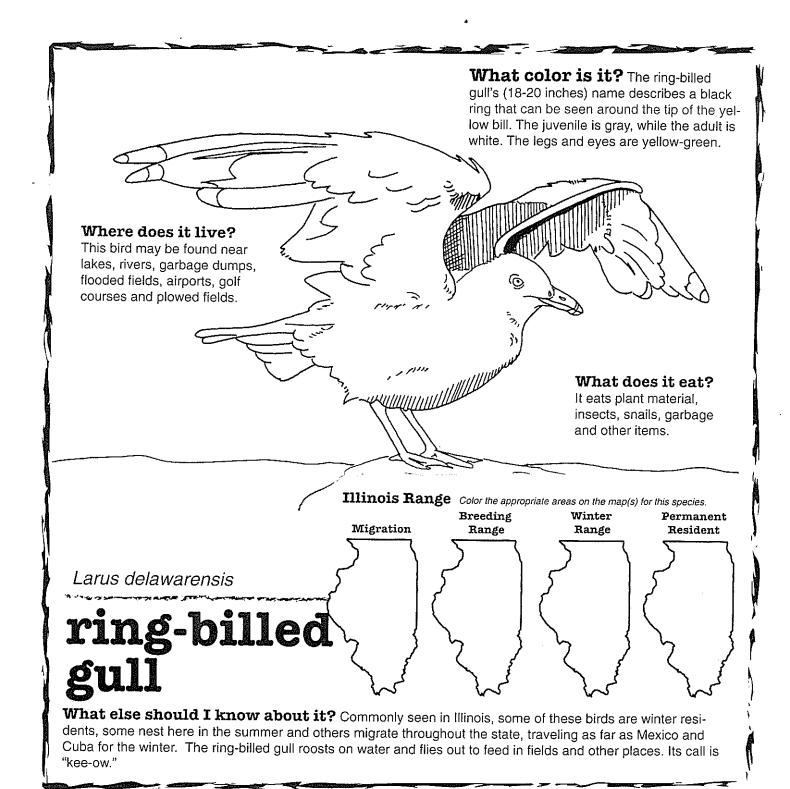
In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill We In! The red-tailed hawk is commonly seen sitting on posts along __oa____



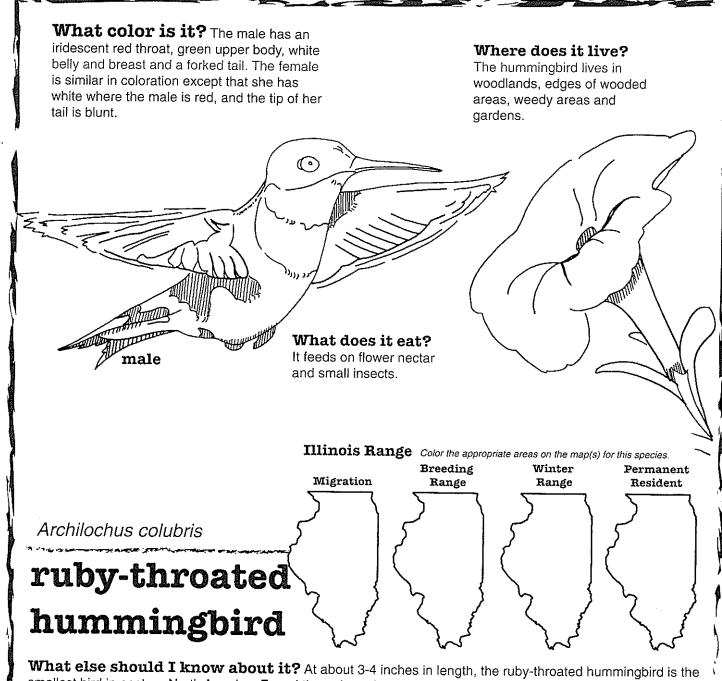
Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic

Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

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



What else should I know about it? At about 3-4 inches in length, the ruby-throated hummingbird is the smallest bird in eastern North America. Found throughout the state as a nesting and migrant species, it spends the winter months from Texas to Central America. This aggressive bird will attack its own species and other birds. The sound most often associated with a hummingbird is a "buzz" made by the fast movement of its wings.

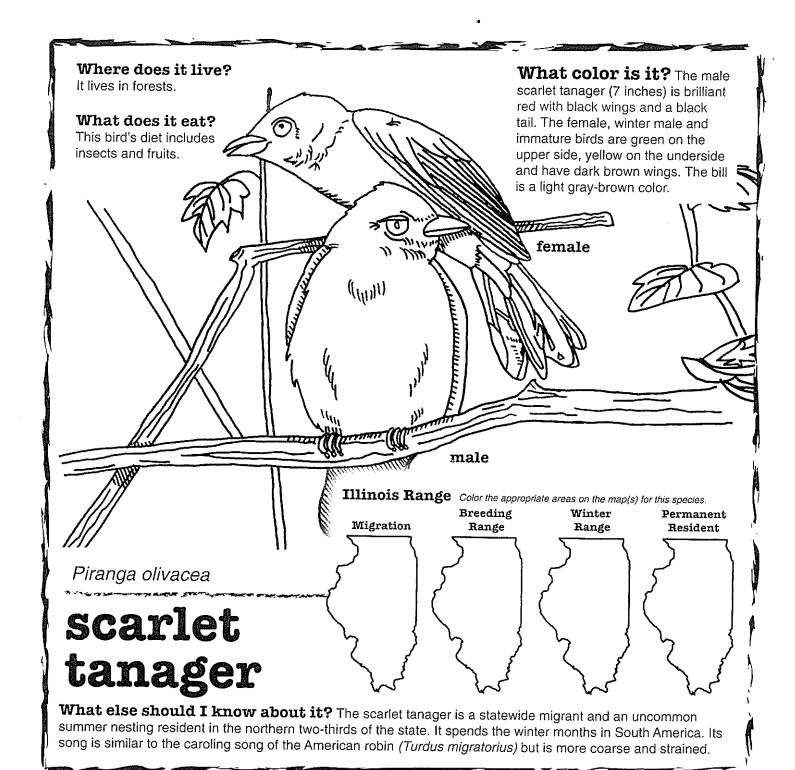
In Which Habitat Is This Bird Most Often Found?

Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

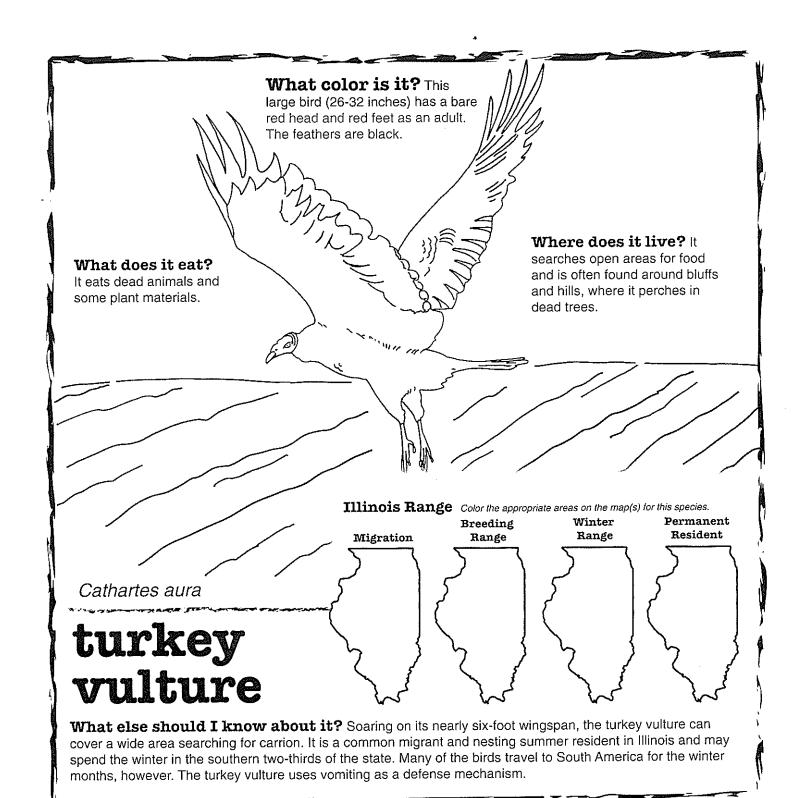
Fill Me In! Ruby-throated hummingbirds are very __g_re__ i_e and will fight other birds.



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.

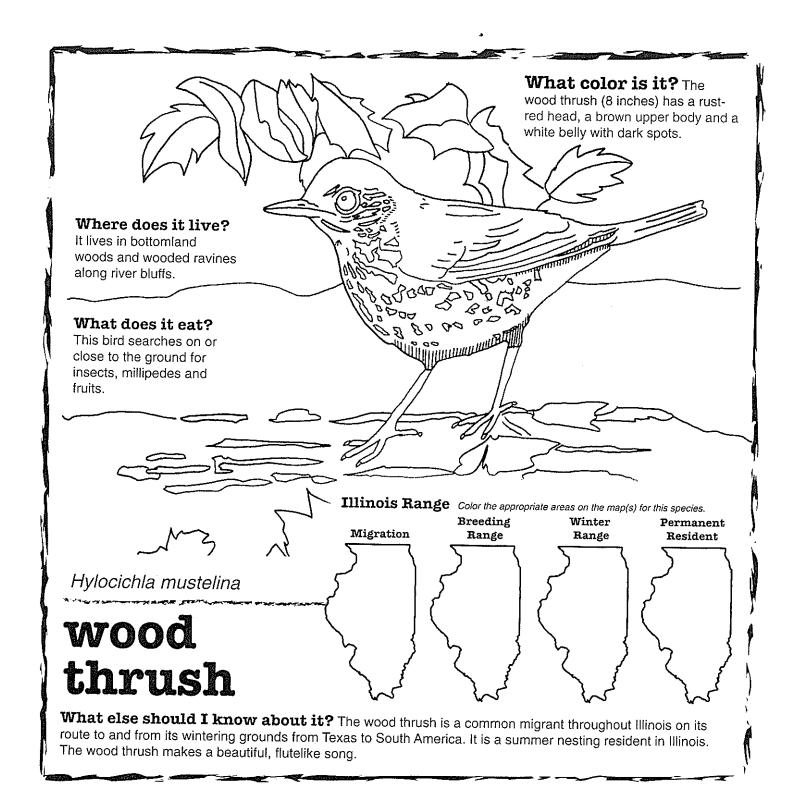


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

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

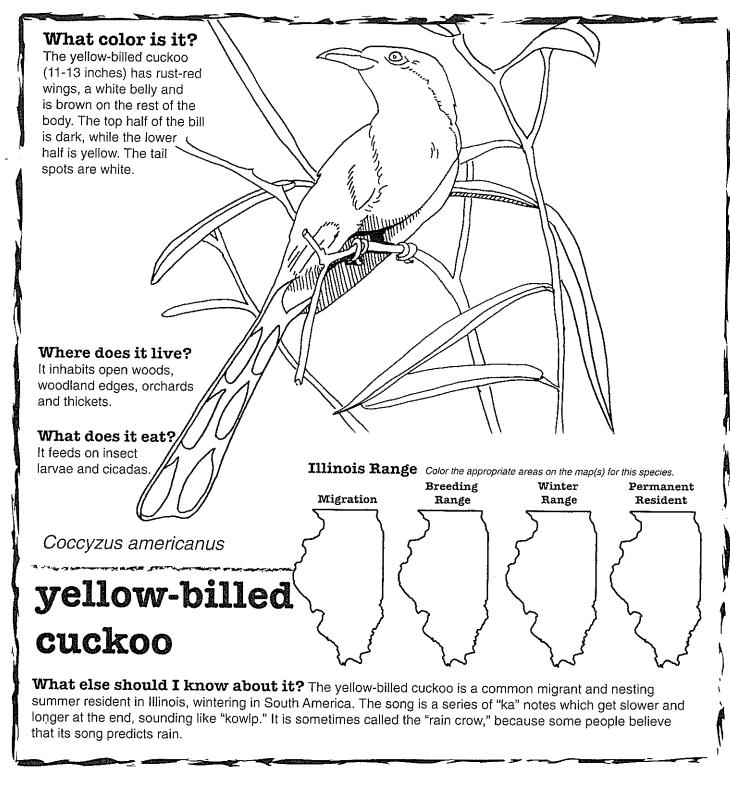


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

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

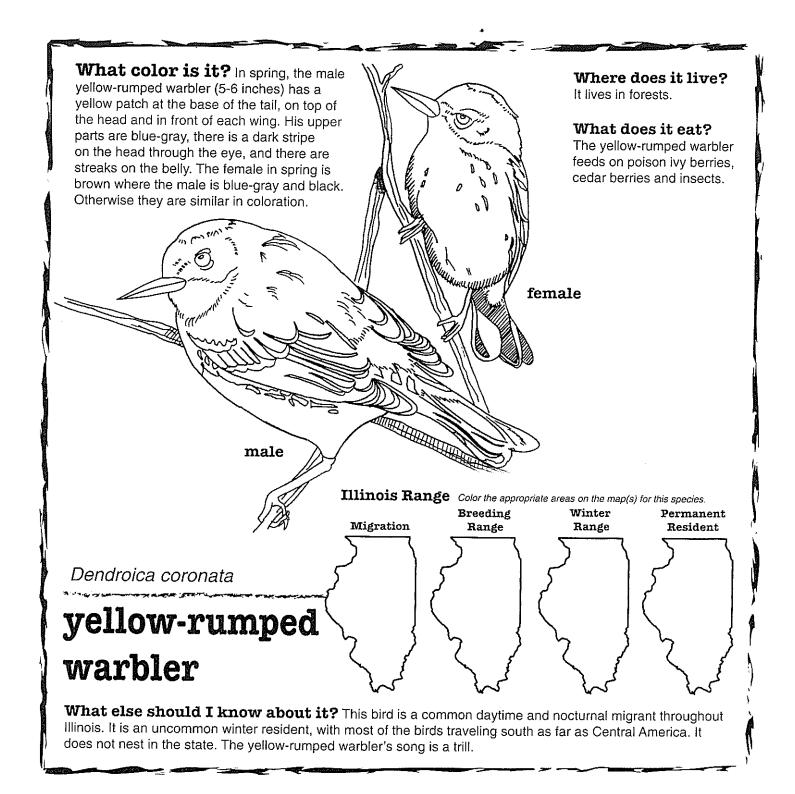


Circle the best answer or answers.

Aquatic Woodland

Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill We 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

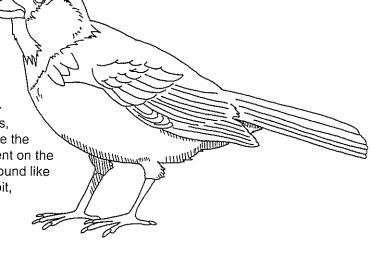
Grassland/Woodland Edge/Open Areas

Fill **We 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 cheer," "birdy, birdy, birdy" or "whoit, 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	bea	ık	d	ardinal		cre	est		Illinois
permanent	sca	rlet	. 8	symbol		thic	cket		woodland
Р	L	Α	Ν	1	D	R	Α	С	
T	E	L	R	Α	С	S	W	Ε	
Α	T	R	D		H	J	0	T	
В	S	Υ	M	В	0	L	0		
В	E	Α	K	Α		L	D	K	
С	R	M	Ν	K	Ν	M	L	С	
F	С	Р		Ο	S	E	Α	l	
0	Α	T	U	В	W	Υ	Ν	Н	
R	V	X	Z	В	l	R	D	T	
S	1	O	Ν			L	l	C	

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

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

Who Am I?

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

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 15 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - woodland edge/open areas; page 21 - woodland

Fill Me In!

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 - poison ivy

Who Am I?

1 - wood thrush; S - ruby-throated hummingbird; 3 - eastern towhee; 4 - red-bellied woodpecker; 5 - green heron; 6 - indigo bunting; 7 - red-tailed hawk

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 (metabolism (metabolism to she one grow required for life) changes that provide the operary required for life and she one grow required for life.

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

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

Who Am I?

Now that you've studied the information in this booklet, let's see what you've learned. Can you identify the b that goes with the description?	ird
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 edge/open areas; page 13 - woodland and grassland/woodland edge/open areas; page 15 - woodland edge/open areas; page 21 - woodland

Fill Me In!

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 - poison ivy

Who Am I?

1 - wood thrush; 2 - ruby-throated hummingbird; 3 - eastern towhee; 4 - red-bellied woodpecker; 5 - green heron; 6 - indigo bunting; 7 - red-tailed hawk