

Test your bird knowledge!

Match each bird below to the fact that best describes it.

1. ____ Common Merganser

2. ____ Chimney Swift

3. ____ Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

4. ____ Piping Plover

5. ____ American Redstart

6. ____ Bald Eagle

7. ____ Brown-headed Cowbird

8. ____ Cedar Waxwing

9. ____ American Goldfinch

10. ____ Rock Pigeon

A. This bird has a less-than-perfect reputation since females never build nests of their own, instead laying their eggs in the nests of other species.

B. Researchers recently discovered that more than one third of the birds of this species, which breeds along the Atlantic coast, spend the winter in the Bahamas.

C. This bird flashes the bright patches in its tail and wings to startle insect prey and give it an opportunity to catch them.

D. Sometimes called the "wild canary" of the Americas, the song of this bird has a distinctive four-note flight call given as they "bounce" through the air: *po-ta-to chip, po-ta-to chip*

E. The name of this species comes from Latin and translates to "plunging goose".

F. The extremely short legs of this bird prevent it from walking or hopping. It is only able to shuffle along a perch.

G. Considered the emblem of the United States, the average wingspan of an adult specimen of this bird is 6-7 feet.

H. This bird has been domesticated for thousands of years and has served as both message carrier and pet.

I. This bird's favorite foods are fruit and berries.

J. This bird is among the most aerial of birds, flying almost constantly except when roosting overnight and nesting.



Sources:

◆ The Cornell Lab. 2020. All About Birds. Cornell University: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

◆ Mass Audubon Birds in Massachusetts: <https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds>