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Scroll to Page 3 for the answer key!

<p>A</p> <p>Great egret <i>Ardea alba</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron and similarly built; they also hunt by standing still in a pond and waiting to strike at fish, frogs, etc. • We only get to see this elegant bird while it migrates from its nonbreeding grounds in South America and marshy breeding sites in the northeastern USA. • The National Audubon Society (founded to protect birds from being killed for their feathers) still uses the great egret as their symbol! 	<p>B</p> <p>Eastern bluebird <i>Sialia sialis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern bluebirds are a common sight in open fields, often seen sitting on fences or telephone poles during the summer, but they stick around during the winter as well. • They became a conservation icon in the 1960s/70s when a project providing nest boxes began to alleviate the competition for nesting areas with aggressive invasive birds such as the European starling. • They can have 2 broods each year; the first leaves during the summer, but later ones will stay with their parents through the winter. 	<p>C</p> <p>American robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robins are an iconic bird in NJ, famous for running across lawns in search of earthworms to pull out of the ground and enjoy for breakfast! • Robin nests are heavy and sturdy, made from dead grass and twigs pressed into a cup shape and reinforced with mud before being lined with fine, dry grass. • The sad truth is that robins are highly susceptible to chemical pollution by pesticides used on lawns where they forage for worms. Think twice about what kind of pesticides you use on your land and help protect our native birds!
<p>D</p> <p>Indigo bunting <i>Passerina cyanea</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brilliantly colored male indigo buntings can be seen in NJ during the spring/summer, where they mate with more muted-colored females in scrubby vegetation at the edge of fields and forests. • Their blue color is a trick of the light; the feathers are colored by melanin which is actually brown, but they look blue because of light refraction. • They migrate south at night, using an internal compass to follow a specific star, even as the star's position moves through the sky. 	<p>E</p> <p>Northern cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardinals don't migrate nor do the males lose their brilliant plumage during the winter; this includes the females, who are tan with bright red splashes on their head and wings. • They prefer tangled shrubbery, so leave the edges of your yard wild and you may just get a pair to build a nest! • The female is one of a few female songbirds to sing her own complex songs, though she will share mutual songs with her mate. 	<p>F</p> <p>Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost completely nocturnal, barn owls hunt mice and other small animals with their incredible night vision and unprecedented hearing. • They are appropriately named; they prefer to nest in empty barns and abandoned buildings. • Female coloring is slightly richer, and researchers theorize that the brighter spots on a female's chest make her mate more willing to help her take care of their nest.
<p>G</p> <p>Blue jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blue jay is a common sight all year in NJ; they sometimes migrate south for the winter and sometimes they stay north, but no one has been able to figure out why. • Blue jays are credited with being vital to the population of oak trees due to their fondness for acorns. • You can easily notice these birds by their harsh calls, but they are also tricky and will mimic the calls of local hawks! 	<p>H</p> <p>Downy woodpecker <i>Dryobates pubescens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can find tiny downy woodpeckers all year in NJ, hiding in a giant mixed flock with other species such as nuthatches and chickadees. • Woodpeckers will <i>drum</i> (the iconic loud pecking against trees and buildings) to communicate with each other, not just to find food! • They are so small that they can eat food that other woodpeckers can't reach; they will often forage among thin weeds such as goldenrod! 	<p>I</p> <p>Scarlet tanager <i>Piranga olivacea</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After wintering in northern and western South America, these strikingly beautiful birds migrate to their breeding grounds in the forests of the northeastern USA. • It spends most of its time high in the tree canopy, so make sure to keep your eyes upward when exploring the woods this summer! • The oldest recorded individual was 11 years, 11 months old – first banded in PA in 1990 and found again in TX in 2001!



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