

► By M. Keith Hudson, Wildlife Biologist,
Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries



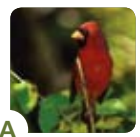
Bird Quiz

What's Your Bird IQ?

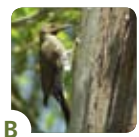
start now!

1

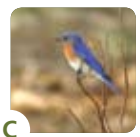
What is the state bird of Alabama?



A Cardinal



B Northern Flicker



C Eastern Bluebird



D American Robin

How knowledgeable are you about Alabama birds?

Here's a short quiz to test your knowledge. So let's have some fun. Put on your thinking cap...and away we fly!

2

How many kinds (species) of birds are found in Alabama?

A Less than 100

B 100 to 200

C 200 to 300

D 300 to 400

PHOTO CREDITS: GOLDEN EAGLE: STASVOLIK-DREAMSTIM.COM, HUMMINGBIRD: STEVE NEITZEL; 1 1 CARDINAL: USFWS; NORTHERN FLICKER: SHERRY STIMPSON FROST; BLUEBIRD: REID DUVAL; ROBIN: USFWS

3 What is Alabama's heaviest bird?



A Trumpeter Swan



B Bald Eagle



C Golden Eagle



D Great Blue Heron

4 What bird in Alabama has the largest wingspan?



A Great Blue Heron



B Bald Eagle



C White Pelican



D Wood Stork

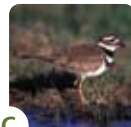
5 What is the fastest bird in Alabama?



A Ruby-throated Hummingbird



B Peregrine Falcon



C Killdeer



D Canada Goose

6 How many broods can the mourning dove potentially raise each year in Alabama?



A



B



C



D

7 Which of these birds was historically not a native Alabama bird?



A House Sparrow



B Cattle Egret



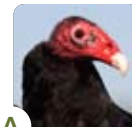
C European Starling



D House Finch

E All of These

8 What Alabama bird has the nickname "butcher bird"?



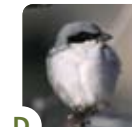
A Turkey Vulture



B Black Vulture



C Red-tailed Hawk



D Loggerhead Shrike

9 How many species of eagles are found in Alabama?



A



B



C



D



E

10 Which of the following birds may be legally hunted in Alabama?



A Mourning Dove



B King Rail



C Wood Duck



D Snipe

E All of These

PHOTO CREDITS:

3 | TRUMPETER SWAN: USFWS; BALD EAGLE: USFWS; GOLDEN EAGLE: STAS-VOLIK-DREAMSTIM.COM; HERON: STEVE NEITZEL 4 | HERON: STEVE NEITZEL; BALD EAGLE: USFWS; WHITE PELICAN: BRAIN GRANT-DREAMSTIME.COM; WOOD STORK: USFWS 5 | HUMMINGBIRD: STEVE NEITZEL; PEREGRINE FALCON: GEOFFREY KUCHERA-DREAMSTIME.COM; KILLDEER: USFWS; CANADA GOOSE: USFWS 7 | HOUSE SPARROW: MARCIN PERKOWSKI-DREAMSTIME.COM; CATTLE EGRET: ROBERT C. HICKS; EUROPEAN STARLING: USFWS; HOUSE FINCH: STEVE NEITZEL 8 | TURKEY VULTURE: THOMAS WOODRUFF-DREAMSTIME.COM; BLACK VULTURE: STEFAN EKERNAS-DREAMSTIME.COM; RED-TAILED HAWK: USFWS; LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: USFWS 10 | MOURNING DOVE: J.W. HYBART; KING RAIL: USFWS; WOOD DUCK: USFWS; SNIPE: USFWS

1 answer B

The Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), also called the yellow shafted flicker or the yellowhammer, is the state bird of Alabama.

**2 answer D**

The Alabama Bird Records Committee lists 397 bird species that have been seen in Alabama.

3 answer A

The trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) is Alabama's heaviest bird weighing 40 pounds or more.

**4 answer C**

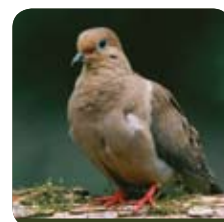
The American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) has the longest wingspan – 9 feet – of any regularly occurring Alabama bird.

**5 answer B**

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is considered Alabama's fastest bird. It regularly attains speeds of 40-60 mph and has been clocked in steep dives at 175 mph.

**6 answer C**

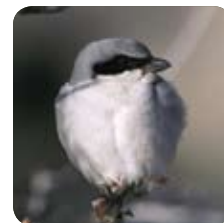
The mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) may raise up to six broods per year, more than any other Alabama bird.

**7 answer E**

All of These. All are introduced birds and were not found historically in Alabama.

8 answer D

The loggerhead shrike's (*Lanius ludovicianus*) habit of storing uneaten prey impaled on thorns or barbed wire has given it the nickname "butcherbird."

**9 answer B**

Two. The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are the two species of eagles found in Alabama.

10 answer E

All of These. Mourning doves, king rails (*Rallus elegans*), wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) are all game birds with seasons and bag limits and may be legally hunted in Alabama. And yes, there is a real bird called a snipe!

Count up your correct answers.

- **For 9-10 correct answers,** give yourself an A. Congratulations! You are pretty well informed about Alabama birds – we might need you working for Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries!
- **Get 6-8 correct?** That's a B. Still pretty good. I bet you know your way around a pair of binoculars.
- **Get 3-5 correct?** Let's say a C. You may need to read up on Alabama birds by visiting the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Web site: www.outdooralabama.com/watchable-wildlife/what/Birds/
- **Two correct answers or less?** Uh-oh, can you say "bird-brain"?

PHOTO CREDITS:

1 | NORTHERN FLICKER: SHERRY STIMPSON FROST; 3 | TRUMPETER SWAN: USFWS; 4 | WHITE PELICAN: BRAIN GRANT-DREAMSTIME.COM; 5 | PEREGRINE FALCON: GEOFFREY KUCHERA-DREAMSTIME.COM; 6 | MOURNING DOVE: J.W. HYBART; 8 | LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: USFWS

For More Information

Bird watching in Alabama is one of the fastest growing forms of outdoor recreation. Several trails offer quality outdoor birding experiences to this expanding segment of outdoor enthusiasts. For more information on these trails and birding in Alabama try these links at:

www.northalabamabirdingtrail.com

www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com