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The Sprig Tales Newsletter is created through a college internship overseen by Education Coordinator, Sabreena Britt, sbritt@calwaterfowl.org/ 916-648-1406

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There are many bird species in the world. Even a group of birds, such as “ducks,” can be split into many different species of ducks. Each species has its own unique adaptation to survive, besides the ones it shares with its bird cousins.

Fun Facts!



Some ducks have serrated edges like a knife on their bills to help them catch fish.

Not all birds can fly!
To name one, penguins! Can you name another?



Wood Ducks are one of North America's most colorful birds!



Our Feathered Friends

A bird has two wings, feathers, a beak, lays eggs, and is warm-blooded, but are all birds the same? Do all birds fly? Everywhere around the world you can find different kinds of



Penguins swimming with their wings

birds, each with their own unique characteristics that make them special and worth protecting. For example, flamingos have tall legs to stand in the shallow water, and sandpipers have really long beaks to pick their lunch hidden beneath the beach sands.

Birds can look different in a wide variety of ways. They can have different feathers, feet, beaks and so forth. For example, talons are better for gripping

branches and prey, whereas webbed feet are good for swimming through water. Furthermore these adaptations are not limited to purpose and body type. Penguins don't swim through the water by moving their feet. Instead, they use their wings to “flap” through the ocean, which gives them the appearance of flying underwater. In this way, penguins can chase fish just as fast as any other sea dwelling animal.

Wood ducks have both curved toe nails for gripping branches and webbed feet for swimming. Their beaks have become bills to help them feed in the water. They have lamellae or comb-like structures in their mouth for filtering bugs. Beaks of birds vary in size, structure, shape and more. Small beaks might be good for insects, while larger beaks might be good for breaking open seeds.



Every species of finch has a slightly different beak for eating different seeds.



Have You Seen A Wood Duck?

Can you describe what a Wood Duck looks like and how its beak, feathers, and feet play a role in the duck's day to day activities?

What colors are the feathers of a Wood Duck?



What kind of beak does a Wood Duck have? Can you draw it in?

What do the feet of a Wood Duck look like? Draw it in!



Fill the Bill

As you have learned, many birds have adapted to their environment. While no adaptation is perfect, each bird has their own specialty when it comes to eating! You can simulate this with the following materials and you're friends and family can join in too!

Materials: Bowls and a timer.

"Bills" "Food"

Chopsticks

Rice

Spoon

Marbles

Hair Clamp Coins

Tweezers

Shredded Papers

+Creativity

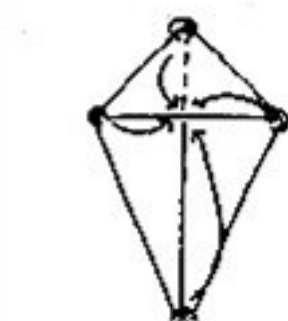
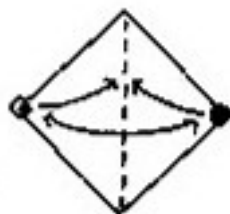
Directions: Set down the food items on a flat surface such as on the carpet or on a tablecloth. Set the timer for one minute. Have everyone choose a "Bill" and when you're ready, try and grab as much "Food" as possible and put them in your bowl. You can only grab one "Food" at a time, so be quick!



Bird Crafts: Duck

Materials:
1 square
piece of paper

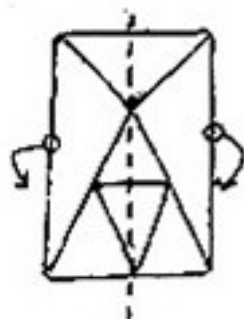
1. Make a crease down the center and fold the corners towards the point above.



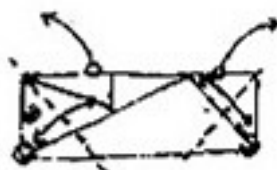
2. Again fold the corners of the paper towards the center.



3. Grab the bottom flap and fold down. This will be the head.



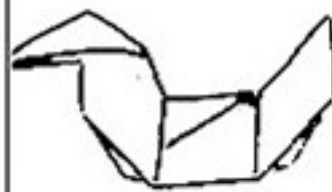
4. Fold down the center so that the opening is facing down.



5. Make the following creases and then pull the triangles upwards.



6. Grab the triangle and pull upwards, making the head.



7. Now you have a paper duck!