Waterfowl have *webbed feet*. This means that they have skin in between their toes that is connected.

All birds, cats, and dogs have a special smaller toe on their feet called *dewclaws*. Dewclaws work like a thumb for these animals. Helping them with grip generally. Some birds have really large declaws depending on what they are being used for.

Having these large floppy feet allows them to be able to pull and push the water really easily, like their own built in flippers!

The 3 different birds that are considered waterfowl are:

- Ducks
- Geese
- Swans

Written by Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator, California Waterfowl. All pictures used in this issue come from Publisher Creative Commons.
Waterfowl have *spoon-shaped bills*. We call it a bill and not a beak because they get their food out of the water. The bill is round at the end so that they can easily scoop up water, small invertebrates, and vegetation.

Waterfowl have small tooth-like structures on the inside of their bills that help them sift through the water called **lamellae**. Lamellae help waterfowl keep the food they want in their mouths, and push out the excess water.

Waterfowl also have *long necks* to help them reach down into the water to collect food.

Which one does not belong?

Waterfowl have webbed feet, spoon-shaped bills, and long necks. Which of the birds below are NOT considered waterfowl? Circle them.

Answers: 1, 4, 7, 8
Do you think you know your waterfowl? Draw a line from the picture of the waterfowl to its name. When you are done, check your answer below.


How did you do? Add up your score to see what kind of expert you are!

0-3 Right = Waterfowl Wannabe—You are just starting to get to know your waterfowl.
4-6 Right = Waterfowl Wingman—You know quite a few species! Keep working on it!
7-9 Right = Waterfowl Wizard—You are practically an expert! Keep up the good work!
10 Right = Waterfowl Whisperer—You really know your stuff! You are a true expert!
What are baby swans called?

Solve the cryptogram below to reveal the answer.

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Answer: Cygnets