

WINGS IN THE SPRING

TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE



ANSWER SHEET

1. This diving duck is often seen on the Bow River in the spring. The female has a cinnamon coloured crest on the back of her head. Both the male and females have a straight and narrow slender bills with sharp serrations that are reddish in colour. They usually nest in a tree cavity near a fresh water source.

What bird is this?

Common Merganser

2. This very small diving duck, has a proportionately large head. Females are grey brown with a white patch on the cheek. Males have a dark head with a large white patch that wraps around the back of their heads. To attract a mate the male swims in front of a female and bobs his heads up and down. They nest in old woodpecker holes, in particular those previously belonging to Northern Flickers.

What bird is this?

- A. Common Goldeneye
- B. Pied Pilled Grebe
- C. **Bufflehead**
- D. Lesser Scaup



3. Upon spotting this large song bird it may be confused with an American Robin, as they have similar colours. This bird is found mainly in conifer forests on the ground or up in tree branches. The male has a haunting trilling song that sounds out of tune.

What bird is this?

Varied Thrush

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4. This tiny passeriform seems to have boundless energy as it forages for food while flicking its wings. It has a loud song for such a small bird and uses it to establish its territory. Its colour is plain olive green with white eye ring and wing bar, however when the male is excited he displays his bright red crown.

What bird is this?

Ruby Crowned Kinglet

5. In the spring and summer this diving bird has a striking black and white pattern and red eye. It mainly lives on water and moves awkwardly on land because its legs are set far back on its body. It requires a roughly 30-metre water runway to take flight and does so by running across the water and flapping its wings. Its distinctive call is heard on Canadian lakes in the spring and summer.

Which bird is this?

Western Grebe



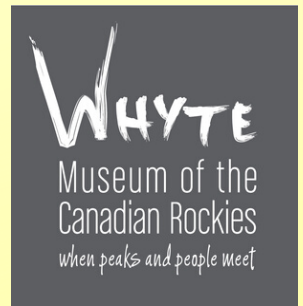
Common Loon



Common Loon

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6. This bird dives with feet outstretched into the water to catch prey. It is a unique hawk that eats almost exclusively fish. Its head is white with a broad brown stripe across the eye. This bird nests in large stick nests on top of man made poles or dead trees, often over water. Nests are as large as 3-6 feet in diameter and 10-13 feet deep have been measured.

What bird is this?

Osprey

7. This type of woodpecker prefers to forage on the ground to look for food, mainly ants, digging in the dirt to find them. When flying they rise and fall with interspersed periods of gliding and flapping. Unlike other woodpeckers this bird prefers to perch upright on branches as opposed to leaning against their tails on a trunk.

What bird is this?

Northern Flicker

Thank you for playing!

Sources

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

