Worksheet: Characteristics of Birds

Part 1 – Habitats
The place in which a bird lives supplies the animal with food. Using each of the birds mentioned, determine, as closely as possible, the type of area in which they live. List the places where they live in the table at the end of the worksheet in the column marked “habitat.”

Answer the following questions completely based on what you know about birds.

1. What are some of the foods the birds in the pictures might eat?

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____________________________________________________________________________

2. Birds living near lakes, ponds, or the ocean are most likely to eat the following organisms.

____________________________________________________________________________

3. If you see birds walking around a lawn in front of your house, what types of things could serve as a food supply for these birds?

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

4. Explain why dead or diseased trees can serve as a food source for some birds.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Part 2 – Beaks
The beaks of birds have their job or function based on their shape. Look at the pictures of the birds. Examine the beak of each bird and determine the type of each beak based on its shape and function. Some beak types may be used more than once. Place your choices on the table at the end of this worksheet in the column marked “beak for.”

Beak Types:
  a) cracking type ---------- eats small seeds.
  b) spear shape --------------- spearing fish
  c) chisel shape --------------- drilling for insects
  d) hooked --------------------- catch prey
  e) tubular --------------------- to suck nectar
  f) long and stout ---------------- to scoop fish
  g) short multipurpose -------- can do many things
  h) crossed --------------------- for chopping nuts
Part 3 – Foot Adaptations
Examine the pictures of each bird and determine the type of feet each bird has. Place the name of the bird on the line that best describes their type of feet.

Also, place the foot type on the table at the end of this worksheet in the column marked “feet for.” Some foot types may contain more than one bird.

a) Two toes in front and two in back, used for climbing.

___________________________________________________________________________

b) Three toes in front and one behind, long, and used to walk in water.

___________________________________________________________________________

c) Three toes in front and one in back, used for swimming.

___________________________________________________________________________

d) Three toes in front and one in back, contains long claws (talons).

___________________________________________________________________________

e) Three toes in front and one in back, used to sit on a branch

___________________________________________________________________________

f) Three toes in front and one in back, used for walking on water.

___________________________________________________________________________

g) Two toes in the front, used for running

___________________________________________________________________________

Summary:
1. Based on the talons found on an eagle, what type of beak would it have?

2. A falcon looks like it has perching feet. What type of claws does it have based on the hooked beak?
3. Which bird has the longest legs? What type of food do you think it eats?

4. If you found a bird with climbing feet, what type of food would you expect it to eat?

5. How many of the birds live near water? How can we tell?

**Chart of Characteristics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Bird</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Beak for</th>
<th>Feet For</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crossbill</td>
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<td>Eagle</td>
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<td>Heron</td>
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<td>Hummingbird</td>
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<td>Woodpecker</td>
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**Bird Images**