

Toss-ups

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TU 1

Pairs of this bird species build aeries, large nests that can get as big as 10 feet wide and 20 feet deep. These birds were one of the largest to be highly affected by (*) DDT, which thinned the shells of their eggs. These birds attain their most notable feature when they're around 4 or 5 years old. For 10 points, name this national bird of America that has a distinctive white head.

ANSWER: **Bald Eagle** [accept Haliaeetus leucocephalus]

TU 2

This bird was harmed by the planting of Chinese Tallow trees to establish a soap making industry. It was put on the endangered species list in 1967. A 2021 study estimated that there are 178 of this grassland bird left in the wild, and they are bred at a facility owned by (*) NASA. For 10 Points, name this “chicken” that the Houston Zoo breeds and releases back into the wild.

ANSWER: **Attwater’s Prairie Chicken** [accept Tympanuchus cupido attwateri] [prompt on Prairie Chicken]

TU 3

To conserve energy when food is scarce, and nightly when not foraging, this general subset of birds can go into torpor, similar to hibernation. This kind of bird is extremely small, with the smallest clocking in at (*) 2 grams. Including a Ruby Throated variety, for 10 points, name this kind of bird named for the sound its wings make.

ANSWER: **Hummingbird** [accept specific species of Hummingbird such as “Ruby Throated”]

TU 4

While hunting, this species can remain submerged for around 20 minutes, diving to a depth of 1700 ft, and some individuals can live 50 years. The female lays a (*) single egg, which is incubated for just over two months by the male while the female returns to the sea to feed. For 10 points, name this largest species of penguin.

ANSWER: **Emperor Penguin** [accept Aptenodytes forsteri] [prompt on Penguin or Aptenodytes]

TU 5

Some other kinds of birds have learned how to identify the eggs of this species, and as a result, push them out of the nest, smashing this species’s eggs. In retaliation, females of this species have been seen smashing the eggs of the species this one had (*) parasited on. For 10 points, name this species, named for cattle, that lays its eggs in the nests of other birds.

ANSWER: **Cowbird** [accept Molothrus]

TU 6

Though not hummingbirds, the wings of this species make an unusual whistling sound upon take-off and landing, a form of sonation. These birds are light gray and (*) brown, and generally muted in color. These birds are the most common on Zoo grounds. Often considered a symbol of peace, for 10 points, name these birds that come in the mourning and white-winged varieties.

ANSWER: **Dove** [accept specific species such as “White Winged”] [accept Columbidae]

TU 7

This owl is one of the earliest nesting, laying its eggs weeks or even months before fellow raptors. This owl is the heaviest true owl in South America, and the second largest in North America, behind only the (*) snowy owl. These owls popular across North America have been known to prey on threatened and endangered species, harming their numbers. For 10 points, name these owls named for the tufts of feathers near their ears.

ANSWER: **Great-Horned Owl** [accept Tiger Owl or Bubo virginianus]

TU 8

The underparts of this species are cream-white and the tail is barred with rufous and black. This bird travels in packs that include a mating pair, and unmated adults. It has been introduced to parts of (*) New Zealand, Tasmania, and parts of Western Australia, where it is often seen as a pest. For 10 points, name this Australian bird known for its distinctive call.

ANSWER: Laughing Kookaburra [accept Dacelo novaeguineae]

TU 9

This bird is the national bird of Saint Martin, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. This waterbird is a piscivore, primarily diving to feed on fish, and Menhaden account for around 90% of its diet. It catches those fish in its (*) throat pouch. For 10 points, name this state bird of Louisiana.

ANSWER: Brown Pelican [prompt on Pelican] [accept Pelecanus occidentalis]

TU 10

The feathers of these African birds are used as decoration and feather dusters. The skins of these birds are used for leather products, and they produce the (*) biggest eggs of all birds. The heaviest birds in the world, for 10 points, name these flightless birds, the fastest birds on land.

ANSWER: Ostrich [accept Struthio]

TU 11

These birds are surprisingly good swimmers, and have partially webbed feet. This bird has spurs on its wings they use for fighting and they make a distinctive call that gives them their name. Though they may look similar to Ostriches, Rheas, and Emus these birds can fly. For 10 points, name this bird that shares the Houston Zoo's mixed-species exhibit with the Coscoroba Swans. (*)

ANSWER: Southern (Crested) Screamer [accept Chauna torquata]

TU 12

According to the Partners in Flight database, this bird is the most abundant bird in North America, numbering over 370 million. This bird is one of the first to sing in the morning and its return migration to (*) New England is often considered as heralding the arrival of Spring. For 10 points, name this bird notable for its reddish belly feathers.

ANSWER: American Robin [accept Chauna torquata]

TU 13

Every year, the US President officially pardons one of these birds. This animal is "a little vain and silly" according to (*) Ben Franklin, who supported it as the national bird over the bald eagle. For 10 points, name this domestic poultry species commonly eaten on Thanksgiving.

ANSWER: Wild Turkey [accept Meleagris gallopavo]

Writer's note: Franklin also said that turkeys "would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards"

TU 14

The oldest recorded example of this bird was over 19 years old, and found in Minnesota. These birds are sometimes called "Duck Hawks" because they follow migrating geese flocks, and they have traditionally been used as (*) hunters. The average speed of these birds is around 30 miles an hour, but they get much faster when they stoop. For 10 points, name the fastest animal on the planet.

ANSWER: Peregrine Falcon [accept Falco peregrinus] [prompt on Falcon]

TU 15

These birds stamp their webbed feet in the mud to stir up food from the bottom and build nests out of mud. Astro and Orbit are examples of this species at the Houston Zoo and they filter-feed on (*) brine shrimp that give them their color. The Houston Zoo has 53 of, for 10 points, what pink birds

ANSWER: Chilean **Flamingo** [accept **Phoenicopterus chilensis**]

TU 16

In 1987 all remaining wild individuals of this species were captured, but it has since been reintroduced to northern Arizona and southern Utah, including near the Grand Canyon. Through breeding programs in their namesake, (*) west-coast, state, these scavengers now number over 500. For 10 Points, name these birds that have the largest wingspan of any *North American* bird.

ANSWER: **California Condor** [accept **Gymnogyps californianus** [prompt on **Condor**]

TU 17

This bird is only found in the heavily forested mountains of the Caribbean island in the Lesser Antilles that lends it its name. The Houston Zoo helps save this animal that is harmed by trappers seeking young birds for trade, and natural events such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions. For 10 points, name this green and yellow parrot with a (*) rainforest's name in its name.

ANSWER: St. Vincent **Amazon** [accept **Amazona guildingii**]

TU 18

This species has the longest wingspans of any currently living bird, reaching up to 12 feet. Those wings help these waterbirds fly 1000 miles without flapping their wings and they often migrate from (*) pole to pole. For 10 points, name this bird killed by the Ancient Mariner in a Samuel Taylor Coleridge poem.

ANSWER: **Albatross** [accept **Diomedidae**]

TU 19

The trachea of this species goes back into its sternum, allowing for it to make the loud call that gives it its name. From their breeding grounds, these birds migrate down to places on the Texas gulf coast, most notably Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The (*) tallest birds in North America, for 10 points, name these birds that include Heiden and Angel.

ANSWER: **Whooping Crane** [accept **Grus americana**]

TU 20

After mating, the brown colored female of this species makes a nest under a rocky overhang, incubates the eggs, and rears the young by herself. This omnivore lives across the cloud forests of the Andes mountains, and while that habitat is threatened, this national bird of Peru is still listed as being of Least Concern. For 10 points, name this Pantanal bird whose males have a distinctive orange cap on their head. (*)

ANSWER: Andean **Cock of the Rock** [accept **Rupicola peruvianus**]