

Bird Adaptation Wordsearch

Birds have adaptations that help them survive and thrive in their habitat. Many birds share adaptations, while others have adaptations of their own. For example, penguins cannot fly, but can swim and dive significantly deeper than other birds.

Each of the following adaptations can be found among some or all of the Asian birds who call the aquarium home. On the following page there is a word search highlighting these adaptations!

- Powder down: these are specialized feathers that will disintegrate into a greasy powder to help clean and water-proof the other feathers. Asian birds that will have this adaptation include Grey-capped Emerald Doves, Lace-neck Doves, and Luzon Bleeding-heart Doves.
- Third eyelid: all birds have this eyelid, also called a nictitating membrane, which moves across the eye and helps keep the eye clean.
- Crop milk: crop milk is a secretion from a bird's 'crop'. A crop is a pouch located between the esophagus and stomach of a bird, and helps to moisten food. In the case of pigeons and doves (as well as a few other birds), crop milk is produced to feed the baby birds. Asian birds featured at the aquarium that produce crop milk are Grey-capped Emerald Doves, Lace-neck Doves, Luzon Bleeding-heart Doves, and Nicobar Pigeons.
- Gizzard: a gizzard is a second stomach with muscular walls used to grind particularly hard food items. All birds have gizzards.
- Beak: each species of bird has a beak of a different shape to help them collect the food they need to survive.
- Hollow bones: many birds, including all Asian birds living at the aquarium, have bones unlike ours. Most birds' bones have spaces of air within them to help the bird retain more oxygen as they fly.
- Vocal mimicry: some birds, including the Asian Indian Hill Myna, are able to repeat sounds they hear in their environment.
- Feathers: feathers allow birds to fly and regulate their temperature
- Flight: flight is an extraordinary adaptation that allows most birds to do what other animals cannot: fly!



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F H H G P R M O E I O D E O
L L D I L E Y E D R I H T Z
I V R Z N W O D R E D W O P
G O A Z H I F I R F I Z L H
H C F A E T R V D C S N L O
T A D R R L I R F R K R M L
L L D D R E Y O M O K D O L
A M C K A E B M R P A I C O
A I H O T E R C I M H Y R W
L M L E Y L W L D I C F N B
F I D S S R M C Z L R I E O
F C R L R L I T R K H T P N
Z R E B A S D F G G T G T E
Z Y D F E A T H E R S I H S

POWDER DOWN
THIRD EYELID
CROP MILK

GIZZARD
BEAK
HOLLOW BONES

VOCAL MIMICRY
FEATHERS
FLIGHT



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