

Birding Bonanza

Scavenger hunt answers



Many organisms contribute to the earth's biodiversity. Using birds as your museum tour guide, explore the museum to discover more about the biodiversity of birds and how they are connected with other organisms around them.

Hint: Not all of the answers can be found in the exhibits!

Tetrapods:

Explore this area, searching for birds. What characteristics do birds share? **Feathers, wings, vertebrates, beaks, bipedal, lay eggs, etc.**

Birds come in all shapes and sizes. What is the largest bird on display? **May vary, emperor penguin or black-crowned crane**
What is the smallest? **Calliope hummingbird (cabinet 09.20)**

Which strange animal from Australia resembles a bird?
What group does it belong to? **Duck-billed platypus, monotremes**
Sketch it below



Evolutionary Timeline:

When did birds first appear on earth?
150 million years ago

What characteristic(s) of dinosaurs do some birds and reptiles retain? **Feathers and some skeletal similarities.**

Herbarium:

Insects are not the only animals that can pollinate plants. Which bird pollinates a honeysuckle plant?
Hummingbirds (cabinet 33.12)

What are some other ways that birds and plants interact?
Food, shelter (lots of other answers)

Entomology:

Like birds, insects have incredibly diverse wings! Which insect on display has the largest wings?
Atlas moth (cabinet 38.07)

What do you think a wing can be used for besides flying?
Protection, warning colouration, other types of movement, etc.

Are the wings of an insect similar to those of a bird? _____
Why or why not? **Yes - they have similar functions**
No - they are not modified limbs like birds, have no feathers

Fish:

Compare and contrast the characteristics of fish and birds.

