



Ornithology Examination IAC Nationals 2023

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question on the back of your scantron.

1. Which of these is the primary prey source of Peregrine Falcons?

- A. Bees
- B. Smaller birds
- C. Eagles
- D. Dogs and cats

2. What are the only kinds of birds that are able to fly backwards?

- A. Sparrows
- B. Crows
- C. Owls
- D. Hummingbirds

3. Humans and birds are alike in that we both have four-chamber hearts and ____

- A. Lay eggs
- B. Have hair
- C. Are warm-blooded
- D. Belong to the class Aves

4. The nene, a bird that lives on the slopes of volcanoes, is the state bird of which state?

- A. New Mexico
- B. New Jersey
- C. Colorado
- D. Hawaii

5. Charles Darwin used studies of which birds in the Galapagos islands to support his theory of evolution?

- A. Finches
- B. Ostriches
- C. Emus
- D. Cuckoos

6. Which of these birds is likely extinct, and formerly bred in the Carolinas and migrated to the Caribbean?

- A. Great-Horned Owl
- B. Blue Jay
- C. Bachman's Warbler
- D. American Kestrel

7. Appy's species, the Green-cheeked Parakeet, is native to which of the following countries?

- A. USA
- B. Vatican City
- C. Iceland
- D. Brazil

8. Which of these bird species is a thought to have the intelligence capabilities of a four-year old child?

- A. Northern Cardinal
- B. Herring Gull
- C. Mourning Dove
- D. African Grey Parrot

9. The Bermuda Petrel was thought to be extinct for hundreds of years before its rediscovery in the mid-twentieth century. This makes it an example of what type of animal?

- A. A Noah species
- B. A Lazarus species
- C. A Jeremiah species
- D. A Doubting Thomas species

10. Which type of bird most resembles a gull in body shape and habitat?

- A. Tern
- B. Woodpecker
- C. Toucan
- D. Vireo

11. Tertiaries and secondaries are types of feathers found where on a bird?

- A. On the feet
- B. On the wings
- C. On the face
- D. On the tail

12. Which flightless birds went extinct due to the discovery of New Zealand by the Maori?

- A. Emus
- B. Ostriches
- C. Rheas
- D. Moas

13. Which of these birds is considered a type of woodpecker?

- A. Bird in Picture A
- B. Bird in Picture B
- C. Bird in Picture C
- D. Bird in Picture D

14. What is the name of the bird shown in Picture G, which was once extinct in the wild, but has now been successfully reintroduced to Western North America?

- A. Bald eagle
- B. Golden eagle
- C. California Condor
- D. Osprey

15. Which of these habitats has the highest rate of breeding bird biodiversity?

- A. Sahara Desert
- B. Taiga
- C. Tundra
- D. Eastern US deciduous forest

16. Oxpeckers are most likely to be found perched on the back of which of these mammals?

- A. White-tailed deer
- B. Virginia opossum
- C. Narwhal
- D. Rhinoceros

17. Which book by Rachel Carson helped to spark the modern environmental movement by detailing the negative impact that pesticides were having on bird populations?

- A. Silent Spring
- B. Civil Disobedience
- C. Tuesdays with Morrie
- D. Paradise Lost

18. Your question writer spent a delightful weekend this spring at a birding festival in which location, often considered the best place on the US East Coast for bird watching?

- A. Rikers island
- B. Olympic Peninsula
- C. Upper Peninsula
- D. Cape May

19. Dodo birds, which went extinct soon after their habitat was discovered, lived on an island in which body of water?

- A. Mediterranean Sea
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Caribbean Sea
- D. Lake Victoria

20. The "black oil" type of which seed is one of the most common types of birdfeeder food in the USA, which attracts Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays and many other species?

- A. Apple
- B. Pumpkin
- C. Sunflower
- D. Tulip

21. Which of these bird species was introduced to the USA from Europe?

- A. Bird in Picture A
- B. Bird in Picture E
- C. Bird in Picture I
- D. Bird in Picture N

22. Sandhill and Whooping are the only two types of which bird to live in the United States?

- A. Crane
- B. Egret
- C. Heron
- D. Stork

23. Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds fly non-stop across which body of water during spring migration?

- A. Gulf of California
- B. Gulf of Mexico
- C. Hudson Bay
- D. San Francisco Bay

24. Kagus are endangered semi-flightless birds. They live only on which South Pacific island?

- A. Oahu
- B. New Caledonia
- C. Easter Island
- D. Cuba

25. Which of these birds spends much of its time under water, looking for food?

- A. Red-tailed Hawk
- B. Pied-Billed Grebe
- C. Black-Capped Chickadee
- D. Common Raven

26. Approximately how many species of birds have been seen in the wild in the USA?

- A. 90
- B. 900
- C. 9,000
- D. 90,000

27. Unlike most birds, penguins' body shape evolved to help facilitate which action?

- A. Flight
- B. Dancing
- C. Swimming
- D. Hibernating

28. Which of the following birds is in the same family as the American Crow?
- A. Common Raven
 - B. Ruffed Grouse
 - C. Woodpigeon
 - D. Black-billed Cuckoo
29. Identify the type of bird shown in Picture D.
- A. Stork
 - B. Cormorant
 - C. Trogon
 - D. Kingfisher
30. Identify the type of bird shown in Picture J.
- A. Duck
 - B. Goose
 - C. Swan
 - D. Pelican
31. Identify the species of bird shown in Picture K.
- A. Tufted Titmouse
 - B. Verdin
 - C. Mountain Chickadee
 - D. Black and White Warbler
32. Identify the type of bird shown in Picture L.
- A. Crane
 - B. Heron
 - C. Flamingo
 - D. Ibis
33. The bird in Picture M, known as the Resplendent Quetzal, is the national bird of which country, on whose flag it appears?
- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. Cuba
 - D. Guatemala
34. Which bird is shown in Picture N?
- A. Blue Grosbeak
 - B. Indigo Bunting
 - C. Eastern Bluebird
 - D. Blue Jay
35. Which bird builds a simple nest in a depression of sand on the beach, thereby leaving it vulnerable to people who do not keep their dogs on leashes?
- A. Bird in Picture B
 - B. Bird in Picture F
 - C. Bird in Picture J
 - D. Bird in Picture O
36. Which bird is shown in Picture I?
- A. House Wren
 - B. House Finch
 - C. House Martin
 - D. House Sparrow
37. Which type of bird is capable of going down tree trunks head-first?
- A. Nuthatch
 - B. Mallard
 - C. Chimney Swift
 - D. American Oystercatcher
38. Which character from the TV show Friends shared their name with a type of flycatcher?
- A. Rachel
 - B. Monica
 - C. Phoebe
 - D. Joey
39. Which of these birds typically performs the role of a scavenger in a food web?
- A. Baltimore Oriole
 - B. Common Loon
 - C. Turkey Vulture
 - D. King Penguin
40. What is the typical toe structure for birds in the order Passeriformes, also known as songbirds, who constitute roughly 50% of all bird species?
- A. 1 toe in front, 3 toes in back
 - B. 2 toes in front, 2 toes in back
 - C. 3 toes in front, 1 toe in back
 - D. 5 toes in front, 2 toes in back
41. Which of these birds can be described as fructivorous?
- A. Sandpipers
 - B. Toucans
 - C. Falcons
 - D. Penguins
42. Which type of bird is most likely to use a hole in a tree for its nesting spot?
- A. Greater Flamingo
 - B. Downy Woodpecker
 - C. American Robin
 - D. Bald Eagle
43. Which organ is used by birds for vocalizations and is roughly analogous to the larynx in humans?
- A. Pancreas
 - B. Cloaca
 - C. Syrinx
 - D. Quills
44. Earlier this year, your question writer saw which heaviest flying bird of North America in Wyoming?
- A. Elf Owl
 - B. Tufted Titmouse
 - C. Northern Goshawk
 - D. Trumpeter Swan

45. Which of these birds would be considered a raptor?
A. Song Sparrow
B. Wood Duck
C. Harpy Eagle
D. Cockatiel
46. Identify the type of bird shown in Picture F.
A. Conure
B. Cassowary
C. Plover
D. Wren
47. Which of these birds is best known for mimicking the songs of other birds?
A. House Sparrow
B. Northern Mockingbird
C. Common Grackle
D. Red-winged
48. What is the name of the type of bird in Picture O?
A. Tinamou
B. Ani
C. Wallcreeper
D. Roadrunner
49. What is a common food source for the bird in Picture O?
A. Fish
B. Wolverines
C. Snakes
D. Kestrels
50. Which of these birds is famous for laying its eggs in the nests of other birds?
A. Burrowing Owl
B. Common Cuckoo
C. American Robin
D. Golden Eagle
51. Which type of bird most commonly feeds on brine shrimp?
A. Scarlet Tanager
B. Greater Flamingo
C. House Finch
D. Greater Prairie-Chicken
52. Why do more American birds mistakenly end up in Europe than the other way around?
A. Europe has better food sources for birds
B. Climate change is worse in North America than Europe
C. Prevailing winds blow from west to east in the mid-latitudes of the Northern hemisphere
D. They are protesting American hunting laws
53. The genus *Aquila* includes birds of which type?
A. Swans
B. Geese
C. Eagles
D. Doves
54. In what continent could you see the bird in Picture E in its native habitat?
A. South America
B. Australia
C. Europe
D. Antarctica
55. After a young bird leaves the nest, it is referred to by which of these terms?
A. Hatchling
B. Nestling
C. Fledgling
D. Sanderling
56. A birding trip list of hummingbirds, toucans, and antwrens would be compiled in which of the following habitats?
A. Cold desert
B. Amazon rainforest
C. Arctic tundra
D. African savannah
57. Birds that primarily eat insects in eastern Canada during breeding season are most likely to do what, when it gets colder?
A. Hibernate
B. Switch to eating fruit
C. Migrate south
D. Practice cannibalism
58. Which of the following birds is most likely to be seen stealing food at a ski area at 11,000 feet in Colorado?
A. Brown Jay
B. Gray Jay
C. Green Jay
D. Jay Wickliff
59. Which of the following is an example of a neotropical migratory songbird?
A. American Robin
B. Barn Owl
C. Song Sparrow
D. Warbling Vireo
60. Where would you find the talons on a bird of prey?
A. On its tail
B. On its head
C. On its wings
D. On its feet
61. Which of these birds is native to Australia and often sounds like it is laughing?
A. Kiskadee
B. Kookaburra
C. Chickadee
D. Grackle

62. Which of the following is a genus of flycatchers that is notoriously difficult to separate in the field?

- A. Calidris
- B. Anser
- C. Branta
- D. Empidonax

63. Sunbirds and hummingbirds are not closely related genetically speaking and live in different parts of the world. However, they look somewhat similar and fill comparable ecological niches by drinking nectar from flowers. This is thus an example of which process?

- A. Divergent Evolution
- B. Post-breeding dispersal
- C. Convergent Evolution
- D. Hybridization

64. Which of the following events had the greatest impact on bird evolution?

- A. The 79 AD eruption of Mount Vesuvius
- B. The asteroid impact that created the Chicxulub crater
- C. The first appearance of Halley's comet
- D. The creation of the San Andreas Fault

65. Which of the following birds has been widely introduced as a game bird around the world?

- A. Black Vulture
- B. Brown Pelican
- C. Barn Owl
- D. Ring-necked pheasant

66. What is a major reason for why, prior to human settlement, New Zealand had birds fill more ecological niches than most other regions?

- A. Birds are better adapted to its predominantly harsh climate
- B. Because it is far from continental landmasses, fewer mammal and reptile species could populate it
- C. It lacks mountains which provide suitable habitat for other types of animals
- D. Its location close to the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica gives birds an evolutionary advantage

67. What is the name for the process by which a bird keeps its feathers clean and in order?

- A. Ovulating
- B. Preening
- C. Migrating
- D. Displaying

68. Most birds are diurnal, meaning they are primarily active during what time?

- A. The day
- B. The night
- C. The summer
- D. In breeding season

69. Pigeons are most renowned for which of the following behaviors?

- A. Their ability to imitate the human voice and say certain words
- B. Their ability to stay awake for years at a time
- C. Their ability to return to a starting location, even when released from hundreds of miles away
- D. Their ability to catch avian prey midflight

70. Hornbills (birds) and mongooses (mammals) sometimes purposefully spend time together and warn each other of predators in an example of what practice?

- A. Roosting
- B. Mutualism
- C. Parasitism
- D. Estivation

71. Which of the following birds spends most of its time at sea?

- A. Turkey
- B. Quail
- C. Albatross
- D. Bittern

72. Which of the following can you do to help birds in your yard or apartment balcony?

- A. Turn off outside lights during migration periods
- B. Plant native trees, bushes, and flowers to provide food and cover for backyard birds
- C. Keep bird feeders clean with a non-toxic cleanser like vinegar
- D. All of the above

73. Which picture shows a toucan?

- A. Picture B
- B. Picture C
- C. Picture H
- D. Picture P

74. Which picture shows the state bird of New Jersey and Iowa?

- A. Picture A
- B. Picture B
- C. Picture I
- D. Picture P

75. Why is Appy nibbling my ear in Picture Q?

- A. She's trying to eat me for her lunch as her species is known to be carnivorous
- B. She's letting me know that it's time to migrate
- C. She's looking for water sources
- D. She's being affectionate as she counts me as a member of her flock

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. There is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question. Write your answer legibly on the back of your scantron.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, how many bird species are there in the United States?