

Bird Quiz

Name the bird from its classic painting. Circle one name for each.

NAME _____

SCORE _____ out of 12

1.



- a) Brown Thrasher
- b) Purple Finch
- c) Northern Cardinal
- d) Baltimore Oriole

2.



- a) Eastern Bluebird
- b) Steller's Jay
- c) Florida Scrub-Jay
- d) Blue Jay

3.



- a) American Robin
- b) Wood Thrush
- c) Baltimore Oriole
- d) Eastern Bluebird

4.



- a) Hermit Thrush
- b) Purple Finch
- c) Carolina Wren
- d) Black-capped Chickadee

5.



- a) Baltimore Oriole
- b) Western Meadowlark
- c) American Goldfinch
- d) Lark Bunting

6.



- a) Mourning Dove
- b) White-winged Dove
- c) Rock Pigeon
- d) Eurasian Collared-Dove

7.



- a) Hairy Woodpecker
- b) Nuttall's Woodpecker
- c) Ladder-backed Woodpecker
- d) Downy Woodpecker

8.



- a) Black-crested Titmouse
- b) Tufted Titmouse
- c) Oak Titmouse
- d) Carolina Chickadee

9.



- a) Mountain Bluebird
- b) Eastern Bluebird
- c) American Robin
- d) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

10.



- a) Brewer's Blackbird
- b) Red-winged Blackbird
- c) Common Grackle
- d) Tricolored Blackbird

11.



- a) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- b) Northern Cardinal
- c) American Goldfinch
- d) Baltimore Oriole

12.



- a) Common Raven
- b) Fish Crow
- c) American Crow
- d) Common Grackle

The answers, and a story for each bird

1. **c) Northern Cardinal** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1840–44)
Not every Northern Cardinal is red. A rare genetic mutation turns a few of them yellow, and Audubon magazine puts the odds at about one bird in a million.
2. **d) Blue Jay** Louis Agassiz Fuertes, *Elon H. Eaton's Birds of New York* (1910–14)
Blue Jays bury acorns for winter but find only about 1 in 4 again, Audubon magazine reports. The rest can sprout, so the jays plant thousands of oak trees a year.
3. **a) American Robin** John and Elizabeth Gould, *The Birds of Europe* (1832–37)
The American Robin isn't a robin. Colonial settlers named it after the European Robin it reminded them of, but the two aren't related: ours is a thrush.
4. **d) Black-capped Chickadee** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1827–38)
A chickadee's alarm call is a code. A 2005 study in *Science* found the call changes with the size of the predator, and other chickadees adjust how hard they mob it.
5. **c) American Goldfinch** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1840–44)
Goldfinch nests are a trap for cowbirds, which lay their eggs in other birds' nests. Goldfinches feed their chicks seeds, and cowbird chicks can't survive on seeds alone.
6. **a) Mourning Dove** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1840–44)
Both Mourning Dove parents feed their chicks "crop milk," a food with the texture of cottage cheese. Only a handful of other birds, flamingos and penguins among them, feed their young a kind of milk.
7. **d) Downy Woodpecker** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1827–38)
Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers look almost identical but aren't close relatives. One new theory, reported by Audubon: the small Downy passes for its bigger look-alike to scare off rivals.
8. **b) Tufted Titmouse** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1827–38)
Titmice pull hair from living animals to line their nests. A University of Illinois study of online videos caught them plucking it from 47 humans, 45 dogs, three cats, three raccoons and a porcupine.
9. **b) Eastern Bluebird** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1827–38)
Thoreau wrote that the bluebird carries the sky on its back. In 1998 University of Kansas scientists found its feathers look blue for the same reason an oil slick shows colors.
10. **b) Red-winged Blackbird** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1840–44)
Red-winged Blackbirds learn what not to eat by watching. In experiments, birds that saw a companion get sick from a food avoided it without ever tasting it.
11. **d) Baltimore Oriole** Louis Agassiz Fuertes, *Bird-Lore* (1922)
From 1973 to 1995 the Baltimore Oriole officially didn't exist. Ornithologists had merged it with the western Bullock's Oriole as the "Northern Oriole," then split the two again 22 years later.
12. **c) American Crow** John James Audubon, *The Birds of America* (1827–38)
In 2006 University of Washington researchers trapped seven crows while wearing a scary mask. More than ten years later, over half the crows on campus still raised the alarm at the sight of it.