

Captains Tryouts
duPont Manual High School
Division C – Ornithology Key

Test Instructions: There are 12 stations in this exam. Arrange these stations so that each pair of students only can see one station at a time (or display on a projector). Each team should receive 4 minutes at each station, with 2 minutes remaining after all 12 stations are completed. Do not let students return to stations they have already been to.

Points Key: If there is only one number in the parenthesis such as (2) or (1), the entire answer must be correct to receive the amount of points inside the parenthesis. If there are two numbers such as (1-3) or (2-4), the first number represents how many points each section of the answer is worth, and the second number is the total number of points possible for that question.

Station 1:

1. Family: Ardeidae, Genus: *Ardea*, Species: *A. Herodias* (1-3)
2. C (1)
3. 1 (2)
4. American Crocodile and American Alligator (1-2)
5. Great White Heron or *A. h. occidentalis* (1)

___/9 points

Station 2:

1. Family: Passerellidae, Genus: *Zonotrichia*, Common Name: Harris's Sparrow (1-3)
2. Near Threatened (1)
3. Named after ornithologist Edward Harris (2)
4. 12 years (1)
5. They are Canada's only endemic breeder (2)

___/9 points

Station 3:

1. Family: Icteridae, Genus: *Dolichonyx*, Species: *D. oryzivorus* (1-3)
2. *oryzivorus* is derived from Latin words *oryza* (rice) and *vorare* (to devour), naming the bird "rice bird" (2)
3. Chain (1)
4. C (1)
5. The earth's magnetic field through iron bristles in the oral cavity and stars in the night sky (1-2)

___/9 points

Station 4:

1. Family: Anatidae, Genus: *Aix*, Species: *A. sponsa* (1-3)
2. E (1)

3. 30 days (1)
4. Seeds (2)
5. twice, year (1-2)

___/9 points

Station 5:

1. Family: Tyrannidae, Genus: *Tyrannus*, Species: *T. forficatus* (1-3)
2. Human products such as string, cloth, paper, carpet fuzz, and cigarette filters (2)
3. Insects (1)
4. 3-6 (1)
5. *Tyrannus* or “tyrant-like” is indicated by the species aggressiveness regarding breeding territories (2)

___/9 points

Station 6:

1. Family: Laridae, Genus: *Leucophaeus*, common name: Laughing Gull (1-3)
2. In the summer, birds are white apart from dark grey wings and a black head. In the winter, the black hood is lost. (2)
3. D (1)
4. 3 years (1)
5. During breeding season, birds look for food along beaches at night but are typically only active during the day otherwise (2)

___/9 points

Station 7:

1. Family: Sittidae, Genus: *Sitta*, Species: *S. canadensis* (1-3)
2. Females have duller heads and paler underparts (2)
3. It uses resin from coniferous trees and plasters them around the entrance to keep out predators. (2)
4. Early July (1)
5. Conifer seeds (1)

___/9 points

Station 8:

1. Family: Caprimulgidae, Genus: *Antrostomus*, Species: *A. carolinensis* (1-3)
2. It comes from a continuous repetitive song heard at night by the bird. (2)
3. West Indies, Central America, or NW South America (1-2)
4. Insects (1)
5. Pesticide killing insects which are food or sensitive to disturbance of nests (1)

___/9 points

Station 9:

1. Family: Vireonidae, Genus: *Vireo*, Species: *V. gilvus* (1-3)
2. Mexico and Central America (1-2)
3. There are 6 subspecies with different characteristics (1)
4. The song is partially learned, not hard-wired (2)
5. Deciduous Treetops (1)

___/9 points

Station 10:

1. Moves sideways across the eye, cleanses and lubricate eyes like goggles (2)
2. An animal looks into a chamber with two dishes, one has food and the other is empty. The dishes are moved behind two doors so the animal can no longer see either dish. Crows will go to the full dish, pigeons won't. (1-3) based on detail of answer
3. Between the trachea and the bronchi of birds (1)
4. They have reached full adult song (2)
5. Rear of the tongue and floor of the pharynx (1)

___/9 points

Station 11:

1. Family: Strigidae, Genus: *Strix*, Species: *S. nebulosa* (1-3)
2. North America and Eurasia (1-2)
3. They don't make their own nests, they use previously built ones (2)
4. Manitoba (1)
5. The harvest of timber from their habitat (1)

___/9 points

Station 12:

1. Family: Corvidae, Genus: *Nucifraga*, Species: *N. columbiana* (1-3)
2. 16-18 days (2)
3. Conifers (2)
4. They have a pouch under their tongue (1)
5. This species tests a seed for soundness by moving seeds up and down its bill while quickly opening and closing (1)