

Ornithology SSSS 2019 DIV C

KEY

By: ASK8

# Directions

- 3 minutes per station (except calls)
- Any extra time can be used to revisit stations
- 102 total points; All questions are worth 1 point unless otherwise stated (2.4,4.2, 5.4, 10.2, 10.4, 12.3, 13.2, 14.3, 14.4, 15.4, Call 2)

# Station 1

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Certhiidae, Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*

- What does this species feed on?

Spiders, pseudoscorpions, insects (stinkbugs, fruit flies, weevils)

- How does this species move while climbing?

Short, jerky motions using stiff tails for support

- What habitat do they breed in?

Mature evergreen/ evergreen-deciduous forests



# Station 2

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Paridae, Mountain Chickadee, *Poecile gambeli*

- What months do they breed in?

April-July

- What is their habitat?

Pine, mixed conifer, spruce-fir, and pinyon-juniper forests

- How do they maintain their energy during winter? (2 reasons, 2 pts: 1 for each)

Body temp drops, breathing/heart rate slow





# Station 3

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Picidae, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes aurifrons*

- When do the young leave the nest (in days)?

30 days after hatching

- Where do they generally cross the US border (all seasons)?

Southern TX

- What kinds of consumers are they?

A) Herbivore B) Omnivore C) Carnivore



# Station 4

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Anatidae, Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*

- Describe this species' sexual dimorphism/identify the gender in the picture (2 pts)

Male: Black, large, sloping orange bill; Female: Dark brown, 2 white face patches; Male (in picture)

- What size do they grow to?

18.9-23.6 in (48-60 cm)

- When do they begin courtships?

**A) After settling on wintering grounds** B) Before migration C) After male's build the nest



# Station 5

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Laridae, Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*

- At what stage in it's life is this bird in the picture?

Immature

- Do they breed in colonies?

Yes

- List physical characteristics of the adult during the nonbreeding period? (3 pts: 1 for each characteristic)

Head/underside white, wings gray, dark spot behind eye/dusky crown/nape



# Station 6

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Podicipedidae, Red-necked Grebe, Podiceps  
griseus

- Which parent(s) feeds the chicks?

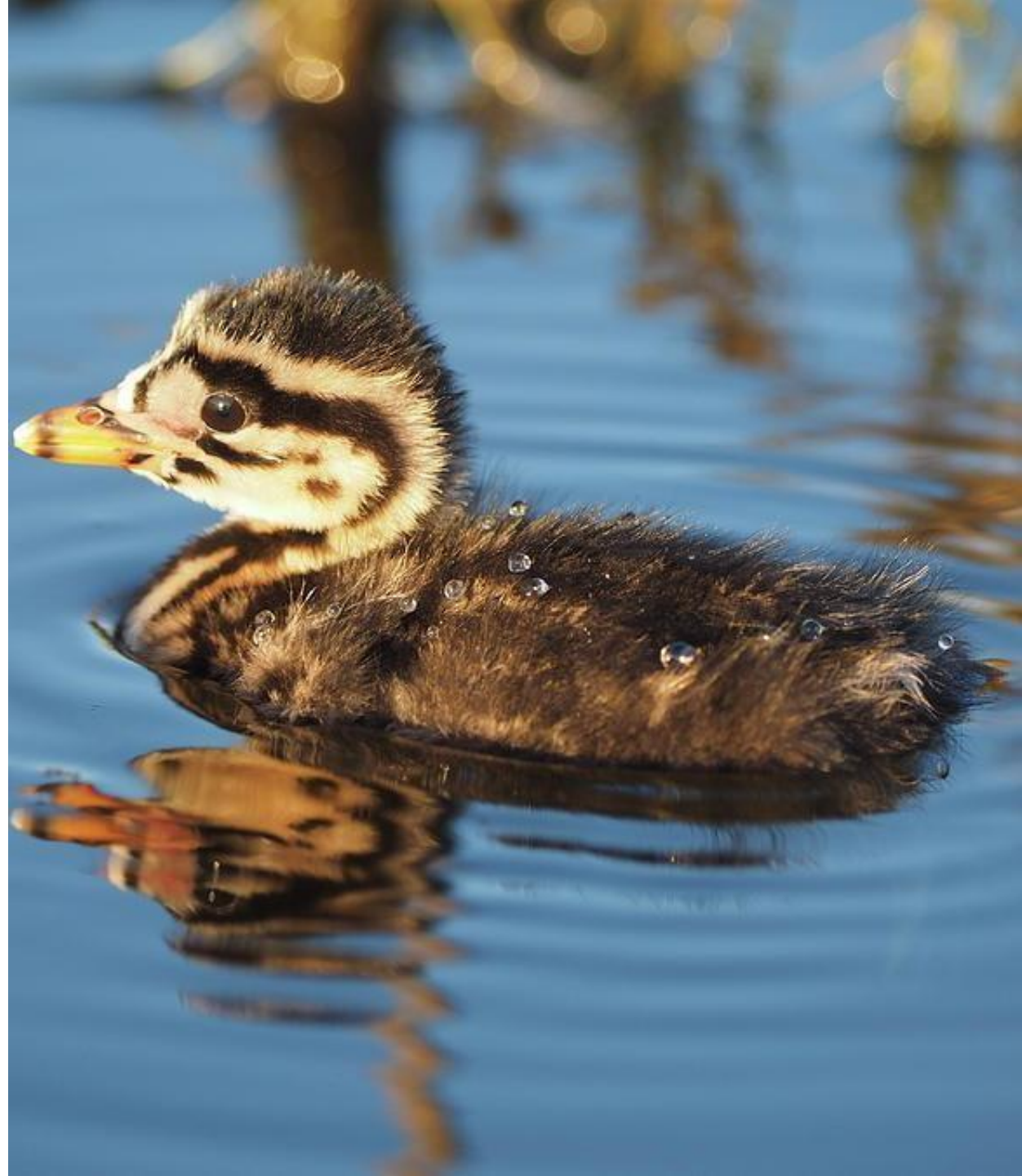
A) Mother B) Father C) Both

- Describe their physical features during the first winter vs the normal adult

Lack streaking, dull throat

- What is their clutch size?

1-9 eggs





# Station 7

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Rallidae, Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*

- Describe their adaptation to drinking sea water

Salt glands enable them to drink sea water

- How do chicks travel during periods of high water?

They're carried on the adults' back

- Which parent(s) construct the nests?

A) Mother B) Father C) Both

- How long are eggs incubated? 18-24 days



# Station 8

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Strigiformes, Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

- Are they diurnal, nocturnal, or crepuscular?

Nocturnal

- How is the prey swallowed?

A) Torn pieces    B) Whole

- How is the prey excreted? In pellets

- How are females physically different from males?

More reddish, heavily spotted chest





# Station 9

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Columbiformes, Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*

- What is a unique feature of these types of North American birds?

Long, pointed tails

- What does their diet consist of? **Seeds, grasses, weeds**
- What part of their body do they store excess food in?

Crop (esophagus)

- What is their conservation status?

Least Concern



# Station 10

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Accipitridae, American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*

- What do the males of this bird look like? Is the bird pictured male or female? (2 pts)

Slate-blue head, rusty-red back/tail; female

- Does this bird dig their nests?

No, nest in cavities (woodpecker holes, rock crevices)

- Describe what a nestling period is and what this bird's nestling period is (2 pts)

The amount of time that a chick remains in the nest; 28-31 days





# Station 11

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Cuculidae, Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus*

*erythrophthalmus*

- What is their main diet and how are they adapted to it?

Spiny caterpillars; Shed their stomach lining from spines

- What is the defense pose of this bird's young?

Neck outstretched/bill pointed skywards

- Which of these is their chick?



# Station 12

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Gruidae, Whooping Crane, *Grus americana*

- How does this species get its name?

Single-note guard call/courtship duet

- Which of these is their habitat (outside of the breeding season)?

A) Marshes B) Ponds C) Lakes

- At what age do mating pairs form?

2-3 years

- Describe the male's behavior when defending their mate/territory (3 points: ½ for each)

Running, flapping, hissing, stabbing, jumping, slashing w/feet





# Station 13

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Vireonidae, Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*

- How do these birds differ based on their distribution (6 pts: 1 for each)?

Size, bill shape, plumage coloring, molt patterns, wintering areas, vocalizations

- Do other birds utilize their nests? **Yes**
- What are some nest predators?

Jays, grackles, red/western gray squirrels

- How long is their incubation period? **12-14 days**



# Station 14

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Parulidae, Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*

- Where do they mate?

Dense stands of conifers

- What is another name for this species? (1 pt for each)

Reinita de Magnolia/Paruline à tête cendrée (French)

- What is their diet (list 3, 3 pts)?

Caterpillars, spiders, fruit

- When do males mainly sing?

Dawn/dusk





# Station 15

- List the family, common name, and scientific name of this species

Hirundinidae, Purple Martin, *Progne subis*

- When do they commonly form dense gatherings?

A) Early winter B) During breeding C) **Late summer**

- What do they consume to aid their digestion?

**Grit**

- Which of these is their correct mating behavior?

**A) Monogamous** B) Polygamous C) Only males are polygamous D) Only females are polygamous



# Station 16: Habitats

1. Freshwater/Brackish Wetlands **C**
  2. Semi-open, scrublands, grasslands **D**
  3. Tundra **A**
  4. Shorelines (rocky coast) **E**
  5. Forested mountain canyons **F**
  6. Prairies/grasslands/agricultural fields **B**
- A. Snowy Owl
  - B. Bald Eagle
  - C. Sora
  - D. Greater Roadrunner
  - E. Ruddy turnstone
  - F. Elegant trogons

# Call Identification

# Directions (1 minute per call)

- Play the call 2 times (**10 seconds each**)
- 30 seconds for recording common name and scientific name of the species

## Point Values (All calls are the same points except 1 & 2):

- Correct ID of call: 2 points
- Common/Scientific Name: 1 point



# Call 1 & 2\*

<https://bit.ly/2FHD3gy>

- Call 1: Common Raven, *Corvus corax*
- Call 2: Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*

\*Call 1 is worth normal points, 2 is worth 5 pts

\*\*Call 1 begins at 0:04 and continues throughout the clip, Call 2 begins at 0:05 and continues throughout as well

Call 3

<https://bit.ly/2FI0oif>

- Chuck-will's-widow, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

Call 4

<https://bit.ly/2J01MPz>

- Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*