

**Chapter
31****Reptiles and Birds, *continued*****Reinforcement and Study Guide****Section 31.2 Birds**

In your textbook, read about what is a bird.

Answer the following questions.

1. From what type of animal are birds thought to have evolved?

2. List three physical features of birds that link them to reptilian ancestors.

3. Besides making flight possible, what other functions do feathers serve?

4. By what process are old feathers replaced?

In your textbook, read about how birds are adapted for flight.

Determine if the statement is true. If it is not, rewrite the italicized part to make it true.

5. A bird's sternum is *the point of attachment for its flight muscles*.

6. Being endothermic, birds have a body temperature that *fluctuates with environmental temperature*.

7. Because of its energy requirements, you might expect a bird to eat *less* than a reptile of comparable size.

8. Hollow bones, horny beaks, and a lack of teeth are all adaptations that make birds *more efficient predators*.

9. Birds grind up their food in a muscular *gizzard*.

10. The air inside a bird's lungs always has a fairly high *carbon dioxide* content, which makes for efficient gas exchange.

11. For a bird such as a goose or a duck, down feathers are the key to its superior *waterproofing*.

Chapter
31
Reptiles and Birds, continued
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**Section 31.2 Birds,
continued**

In your textbook, read about the diversity of birds.

For each item in Column A, write the letter of the matching item in Column B.

Column A
Column B

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| _____ 12. long beak that is used for dipping into flowers to obtain nectar | a. owl |
| _____ 13. wings and feet modified for swimming; body surrounded with a thick layer of insulating fat | b. pelican |
| _____ 14. short, stout beak that is adapted to cracking seeds | c. hummingbird |
| _____ 15. feathered legs and feet that make it easier to walk in the snow | d. penguin |
| _____ 16. huge beak with a pouch that is used as a net for capturing fish | e. ptarmigan |
| _____ 17. large eyes, an acute sense of hearing, and sharp claws; adapted for nocturnal predation | f. goldfinch |

In your textbook, read about the origins of birds.

Complete each statement.

- 18.** The fossil record of birds is incomplete because bird skeletons are _____ and _____ .
- 19.** Unlike modern birds, _____ had _____ , a long _____ , and _____ .
- 20.** Scientists hypothesize that _____ used its feathers for _____ , _____ , or _____ , rather than for flight.