

# Beak Clues

*An activity of "The Wonderful World of Waterbirds".*

Read "The Wonderful World of Waterbirds". (page 22, What's Up July 2025). Birds have special beak shapes that match their diets and feeding habits. This is a wonderful example of how animals are adapted to their natural environment. See if you can guess the food the birds eat based on the shape of their beaks.

**Match the bird species to the types of food they eat by studying their beaks.**

BIRD SPECIES		&		FOOD EATEN	
1.  DUCK	Ducks have long flat bills that are fringed to strain plants, seeds and small animals from mud and water.		▶	 Seeds	◀
2.  PELICAN	Pelicans have long, pouch-like beaks that can expand. They are meant to scoop fish up out of the water.		▶	 Flowers	◀
3.  HERON	Birds like herons and kingfishers have spear-like bills adapted for fishing.		▶	 Insects	◀
4.  EAGLE	Birds of prey, like eagles, have sharp, hooked beaks to catch prey and tear meat into pieces small enough to swallow.		▶	 Fish	◀
5.  SPARROW	Seedeaters like sparrows and finches have short, thick conical bills for cracking seeds.		▶	 Plants, seeds, small animals	◀
6.  WARBLER	Insect eaters like warblers have thin, pointed bills that act like tweezers.		▶	 Fish	◀
7.  HUMMINGBIRD	Hummingbird bills are long and slender for probing flowers for nectar.		▶	 Live animals	◀