



# Birds & Their Adaptations

## Habitat lab Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

**Online Lesson Plans & Resources:** <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-activity-birds-adaptations/>

Students will observe the external structures of birds and learn how these adaptations help with their survival, growth, behavior and reproduction. Then the students will observe, identify and research a bird found in the habitat lab to provide evidence for its adaptations.

The background information below can be used to help introduce the topic, engage the students, and build a foundation to discuss the topic:

### **Background Information** (online as a PDF)

Over time, all living things evolve and adapt to their environment, enabling them to survive and maintain their populations or they become extirpated (still exist but not found in that region) from that region or in a worst-case scenario, become extinct.

Adaptation takes place over many generations in a species (not individuals) through a process called natural selection within a population.

Birds have a variety of adaptations that affect their physical external structures such as beaks, talons, wings, coloration, feet, and legs.

Through these adaptations, each species is particularly suited for a specific environment and specific food sources.

For example, hawks have large, curved, sharp talons (claws) for grasping prey to eat.

Hummingbirds have long, thin, hollow beaks that they use to probe flowers for nectar, and the beak protects the tongue which slurps up the nectar.