

Ornithology Vocabulary

- Adaptation:** special behavioral or physical characteristics of an animal that help it survive
- Bioaccumulation:** the build-up of toxins within a food chain often leading to negative effects for the top predators
- Habitat:** the environment which an organism lives
- Indicator Species:** a species extremely sensitive to environmental changes; humans use these species to detect if environmental problems are occurring
- Molting:** the process of replacing feathers
- Nictitating Membrane:** a clear third eyelid used by some raptors for extra eye protection
- Ornithology:** the study of birds
- Raptors:** birds of prey that have sharp talons, a shredding beak, and usually hunt their prey