

Body features of birds

All birds have a bill (beak), a pair of wings and a pair of feet. If you observe in details, you will find that these structures are varied in shape. Birds with webbed feet and a flattened bill facilitate them to swim and feed on aquatic organisms. Some birds have a pair of long wings, they keep gliding in the sky and attack their prey spontaneously, with the aid of their strong claws. By observing the bill, wings and feet of a bird, we might have a rough idea of its feeding habit and living place.

1.



Long and flattened bill that strain plants and tiny animals in water.

Habitats included:

Pond, River, Lake, Swamp, *Gei Wai* and Mudflat.

Large

pouched bill resemble a fish net, which is capable of collecting more than one fish each time.

Habitats included: Lake and Mudflat.

3.



Bill (Beak)

2.



Sharp and curved bill help them to kill the prey and tear the flesh into pieces.

Habitats included: Could be found in various types of habitat.

Short,

thick and conical bill, which is capable to crack nuts and seeds.

Habitats included: Cropland, brush and woodland.

5.



4.



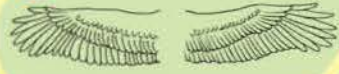
The spoon-like bill is very sensitive, which is capable to detect the movement of prey in water with high turbidity.

Habitats included: Lake and mudflat.



Wings

I.



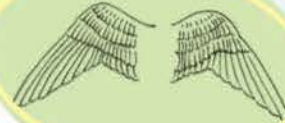
Lengthy and broad wings are capable for soaring and gliding. This is the typical features of hawks.

III.



Round and short wings are capable of taking off promptly if needed. It is also capable of gliding in short distance among the twigs in woodlands.

II.



Long and pointed wings are resemble a jet plane, which are capable of flapping with lowest resistance.

A.



There are three forward toes and one backward toe, which are almost the same length. These features allow the bird to hold firmly on branches and jump among the branches easily.

Habitats included: cropland, grassland, bushes and woodlands.

The toes are widely spread which bear a curved claw on each toe. This help them to hold their prey firmly.

Habitats included: Various types of habitat.

Feet

B.



Webbed toes facilitate the bird to swim in water, and act as a break when landing.

Habitats included: Pond, Lake and river.

C.



The toes are long and slender, which help to spread the body weight on mud and wade in swamp.

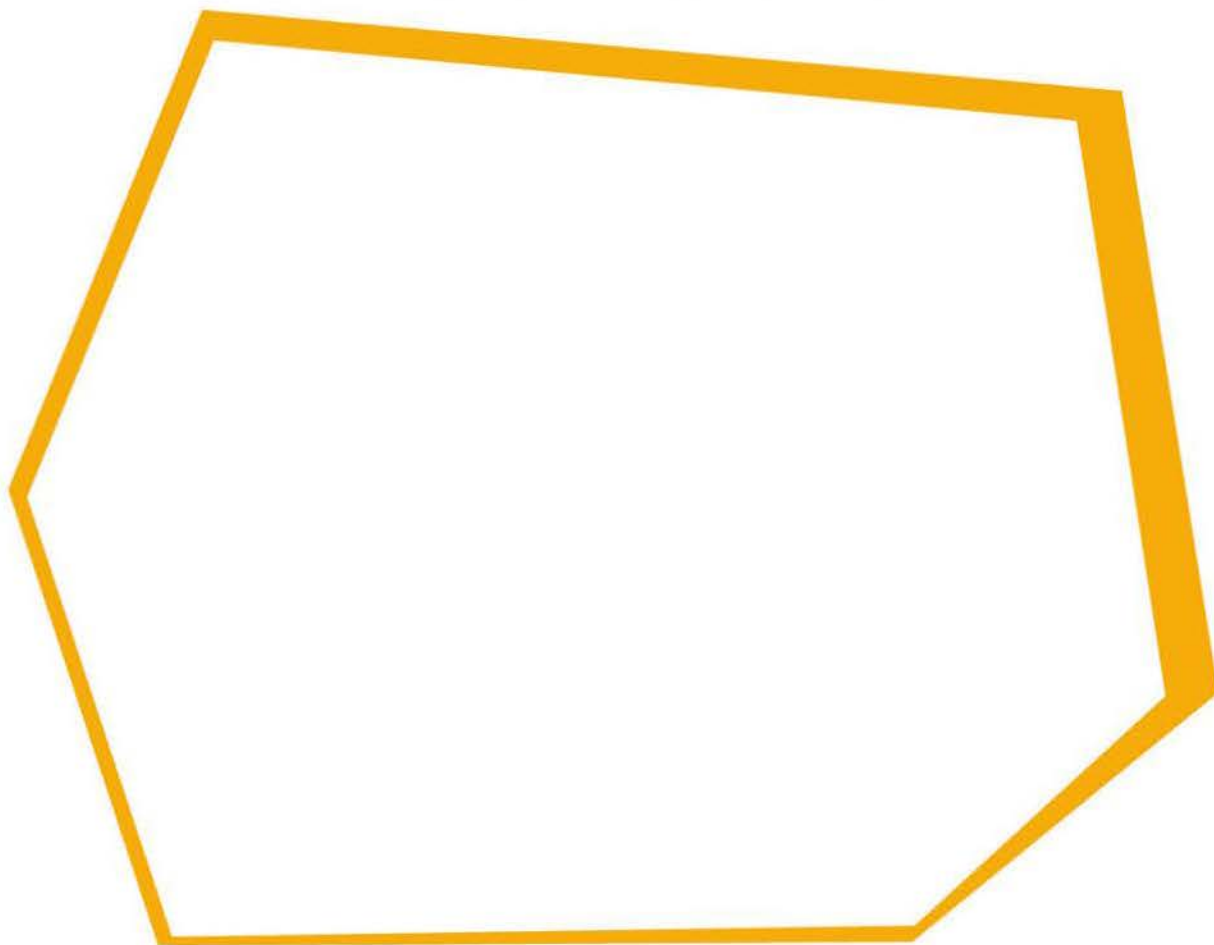
Habitats included: Pond, Lake, Mudflat and Swamp.

D.



Imagine that you are a bird which is going to be hatched, and you are allowed to choose a specific type of bill, feet and wings. What is the combination you preferred?

21.2.1 Sketch the “bird” created by you in the space provided.



21.2.2 Sketch an appropriate habitat for the “bird”.

21.2.3 Check on the bird record in Hong Kong, see if the “bird” resembles a living bird found in Hong Kong.

