

Bird Beak Adaptation Match



Great blue heron. Photo by Jerry McFarland, CC BY-NC 2.0.

These “birds of prey” have sharp, hooked beaks. This adaptation allows them to tear flesh from the animals they catch, which may include small mammals, fish, reptiles, or even other birds.



American goldfinch. Photo by Mick Thompson, CC BY-NC 2.0.

If you had x-ray vision, you could see that the thick, sturdy bill of this bird is supported by an equally sturdy skull that protects the bird’s brain when it hammers into trees to find insects. The bill is also long enough to reach inside the hole and catch the insects.



Golden-fronted woodpecker. Photo by sfitzgerald86, CC BY-NC 2.0.

This bird has a bill long enough to reach below the surface of the water, but sturdy enough to keep hold of slippery fish.



Cooper's hawk. Photo by Doug Greenberg, CC BY-NC 2.0.

The thick, heavy bill of this bird is useful for cracking into the shells of nuts and seeds.