

Prairie Ecozone

FOLD ACROSS

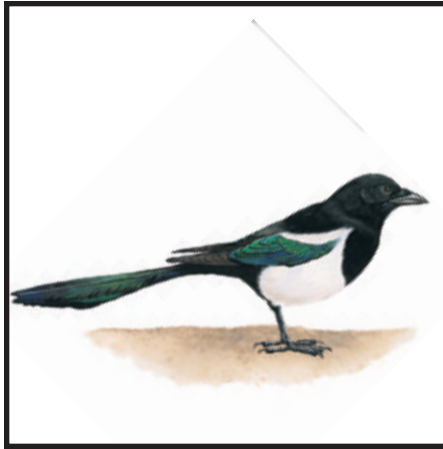
Burrowing Owl

(*Athene cunicularia*)

CLUES:

- 5) I nest in an abandoned mammal burrow.
- 4) I eat grasshoppers and other insects.
- 3) I often perch on a fence post or on the ground.
- 2) I am considered endangered and could disappear altogether from Canada.
- 1) I prefer dry, open, short-grass Prairie country.

DID YOU KNOW THAT I am active both night and day?



Yellow-headed Blackbird

(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

CLUES:

- 5) My nest is a woven basket of vegetation over water and deep in a marsh.
- 4) I eat seeds and many kinds of insects.
- 3) Sometimes, both males and females help to raise young.
- 2) Adult males have a bright yellow head.
- 1) I like sloughs, marshes, and lake edges with lots of vegetation.

DID YOU KNOW THAT the young leave the nest around 10 days of age, but can't fly until they are about 21 days old?



Black-billed Magpie (*Pica hudsonia*)

CLUES:

- 5) My nest is a dome of thorny sticks with an inside cup of mud lined with grass and hair.
- 4) My strong beak is used to eat small rodents and insects.
- 3) I often perch on the backs of livestock to pick off ticks and maggots.
- 2) I'm only found in Western Canada.
- 1) I like scattered trees, brushy country, and streamside thickets.

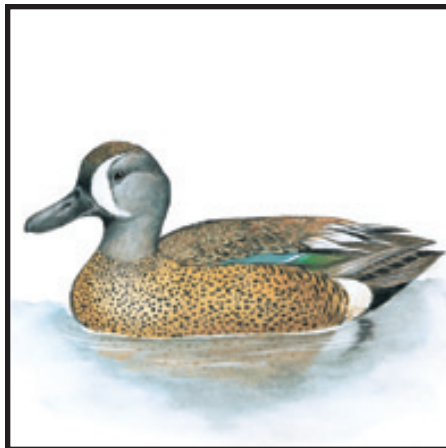
DID YOU KNOW that my glossy green tail makes up more than half my total length?

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

CLUES:

- 5) I lay 9 to 10 eggs on the ground, hidden in grass near water.
- 4) My flattish bill is good for nibbling at watery plants and invertebrates.
- 3) I have webbed feet for swimming.
- 2) I prefer shallow freshwater to salt water.
- 1) I range from coast to coast.

DID YOU KNOW THAT I'm usually the first duck south in the fall and the last north in the spring?



Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

CLUES:

- 5) I build my nest on the ground, then make a waterproof roof by pulling and weaving grass over it.
- 4) My song is a cheerful bubbly one and easy to recognize.
- 3) I fly with short, rapid wing beats followed by brief periods of sailing.
- 2) I love open grasslands such as Prairies and meadows.
- 1) I winter mostly in the United States.

DID YOU KNOW THAT I am not a lark but a member of the American blackbird family?



Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)

CLUES:

- 5) I 'steal' some other raptor's nest, rather than make my own.
- 4) I will eat anything from shrews and songbirds to skunks and geese!
- 3) I regurgitate small indigestible 'pellets' of fur, teeth and bones after I eat my prey.
- 2) I live in forests across North, Central and South America.
- 1) I defend my nest very aggressively.

DID YOU KNOW THAT I build my nest and start laying eggs long before the snow disappears?

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