












## Beaks and Feet

A bird's beak or bill has the primary function of gathering and eating food. A bird's beak is designed to help it eat the foods it needs including tearing, crushing, picking, probing and breaking the shells of food items. Birds also use their beaks to preen or clean and oil their feathers. Preening keeps their feathers healthy and in the right position. Birds use their beaks like humans use their hands when they are building their nests and feeding their young. By looking at a bird's beak we get clues about the bird's lifestyle, where it lives and what it eats.

TYPES OF BEAKS		
	<b>Cone shaped beaks</b>	Strong, short beaks that are used for cracking seeds
	<b>Chisel or drilling beak</b>	Long tapered bill used for drilling holes in trees
	<b>Tubular shaped beak</b>	A long bill used for sipping nectar from flowers
	<b>Sharp hooked beak</b>	A bill used for ripping and tearing meat
	<b>Straining beak</b>	A flat-shaped bill with fringed edges to filter plants and small animals from water
	<b>Probing beak</b>	A long, slender beak used for probing the ground

## Beaks and Feet

Bird's feet come in different sizes and shapes. A bird's foot is designed to help it navigate its environment and find the food it needs.

TYPES OF FEET	
	Hawks, eagles and owls have strong feet with long claws or talons to help them capture, grasp and kill their prey.
	Woodpeckers have four toes, two pointed forward and two pointed backward. This arrangement helps them grasp tree bark and climb.
	Song birds use their feet for perching and walking or hopping. Three toes pointing forward with one opposing toe helps them grasp their perch.
	Wading birds such as cranes and herons have long toes to help them walk through soft bottoms in wetlands in search of food.
	Swimming birds, such as ducks and geese, have webbing between their toes to help them paddle in water.

# Beaks and Feet

Match the bird's beak with the kind of feet it has by placing the right letter in the blank.



Two of the birds listed are birds of prey. Can you name them? Which one hunts at night?

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answer key: 1. C, 2. D, 3. B, 4. F, 5. A, 6. E  
 bald eagle or eagle; screech owl or owl; the owl hunts at night