

Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each passage about birds. Then decide what the author's main purpose was for writing each piece. Underline any words in the passages that give you clues.

Once upon a time there was a great auk who lived in the forests of New Zealand. This great auk thought he was the strongest and wisest bird in the whole country. "I am the best," he said. "No one can ever beat me. I will live forever!"

"But you cannot fly like I can," said the duck.

"That doesn't matter," said the auk. "I can swim faster and dive deeper than you can."

"That may be true," said the duck, "but if I were you, I would worry about the strange two-legged animals that have come to our land. It would be better for you if you could fly away from them."

Author's purpose is: _____

The whooping crane once lived in the wetlands of Canada during the summer months and flew to the Gulf of Mexico for the winter. People drained the wetlands to make farms and the birds lost their nesting places. Soon, there were only about 20 whooping cranes left in the whole world.

Author's purpose is: _____

It is sad but true. There are many wonderful birds that have been destroyed because of the actions of humans. Many more birds today are endangered because humans are too greedy. We must do something to save these birds. First, we must stop shooting these poor birds. Second, we have to make safe places for them to nest. We have to act before it is too late. It is up to us to save these birds.

Author's purpose is: _____

Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the subject, or naming part, of each sentence.

1. Great auks are extinct.
2. A penguin looks like a great auk.
3. The kakapo cannot fly.
4. All kakapos have short wings.
5. Kakapos were killed by cats, rats, and dogs.
6. Scientists helped the kakapos.
7. Short-tailed albatrosses look like ducks.
8. An albatross has pretty feathers.
9. A California condor eats dead animals.
10. California condors are large birds.

Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS: In each blank space, decide whether to use the word *there* or *their* in the sentences below.

<p>there</p> <p>in that place</p> <p>or</p> <p>to begin a thought</p>	<p>their</p> <p>belonging to them</p>
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Today, great auks are extinct. There are no more living anywhere on earth. Great auks were hunted for _____ feathers and _____ eggs.

Kakapos are rare birds. They have short wings, but _____ legs are strong. They come out at night. Today, _____ are 62 kakapos.

Short-tailed albatrosses live on a volcanic island. They are protected from people who want _____ feathers.

California condors are endangered birds. They were killed by farmers, ranchers, and hunters for many years. No one knows for sure how many _____ are. Some are killed by power lines. Some are shot.