U.S. State Birds

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which quail is California’s official state bird?
   - A. California Quail
   - B. Gambel’s Quail
   - C. Mountain Quail
   - D. Northern Bobwhite

   Correct answer: A. California Quail
   California’s state bird is the California Quail. A California Gull, despite its name, is the state bird of Utah.

2. Which native goose represents Hawaii as its state bird?
   - A. Snow Goose
   - B. Canada Goose
   - C. Nēnē
   - D. Ross’s Goose

   Correct answer: C. Nēnē
   Hawaii’s state bird is the nēnē, also called the Hawaiian Goose.

3. Which oriole is Maryland’s official state bird?
   - A. Bullock’s Oriole
   - B. Baltimore Oriole
   - C. Orchard Oriole
   - D. Hooded Oriole

   Correct answer: B. Baltimore Oriole
   Maryland’s state bird is the Baltimore Oriole. Its name also identifies the city of Baltimore.

4. Arizona selected a wren as its state bird. Which one?
   - A. Canyon Wren
   - B. Carolina Wren
   - C. Rock Wren
   - D. Cactus Wren

   Correct answer: D. Cactus Wren
   The Cactus Wren represents Arizona. South Carolina selected the Carolina Wren.

5. Which chicken breed is the official state bird of Rhode Island?
   A. Plymouth Rock
   B. Rhode Island Red
   C. New Hampshire Red
   D. Delaware Blue Hen
   Correct answer: B. Rhode Island Red
   Rhode Island selected the Rhode Island Red. The Blue Hen chicken represents Delaware.

6. The state bird of Nevada is a bluebird. Which species is it?
   A. Mountain Bluebird
   B. Western Bluebird
   C. Eastern Bluebird
   D. Indigo Bunting
   Correct answer: A. Mountain Bluebird
   Nevada shares the Mountain Bluebird with Idaho. The Eastern Bluebird represents New York and Missouri.

7. Which bluebird appears as the state bird in a New York state symbols guide?
   A. Violet-green Swallow
   B. Mountain Bluebird
   C. Western Bluebird
   D. Eastern Bluebird
   Correct answer: D. Eastern Bluebird
   New York’s state bird is the Eastern Bluebird. Nevada and Idaho use the Mountain Bluebird.

8. Which species of loon did Minnesota choose as its state bird?
   A. Red-throated Loon
   B. Pacific Loon
   C. Common Loon
   D. Yellow-billed Loon
   Correct answer: C. Common Loon
   The Common Loon is the state bird of Minnesota. Several other loon species are found in North America.

9. Which finch serves as New Hampshire’s state bird?
   A. Purple Finch
   B. House Finch
   C. American Goldfinch
   D. Pine Grosbeak
   Correct answer: A. Purple Finch
   New Hampshire selected the Purple Finch. Nearby Massachusetts uses a chickadee.

10. Which pelican represents Louisiana as its state bird?

A. Pink-backed Pelican
B. American White Pelican
C. Australian Pelican
D. Brown Pelican

Correct answer: D. Brown Pelican
Louisiana chose the Brown Pelican. The American White Pelican is a different species.

11. A study card says that Utah’s state bird is a gull with another state’s name in its common name. Which bird completes the card?

A. Western Gull
B. Ring-billed Gull
C. California Gull
D. American Herring Gull

Correct answer: C. California Gull
The California Gull is Utah’s state bird. California itself recognizes the California Quail.

12. A state symbols card for Alabama uses the name Yellowhammer. Which bird does that name identify in this context?

A. The Yellow Warbler
B. The yellow-shafted Northern Flicker
C. The Western Meadowlark
D. The American Goldfinch

Correct answer: B. The yellow-shafted Northern Flicker
In Alabama’s designation, Yellowhammer refers to the yellow-shafted form of the Northern Flicker.

13. A species guide calls Washington’s state bird an American Goldfinch. What name appears in Washington’s state-bird law?

A. Lawrence’s Goldfinch
B. Eastern Bluebird
C. Lesser Goldfinch
D. Willow Goldfinch

Correct answer: D. Willow Goldfinch
Washington’s law uses Willow Goldfinch for its state bird. The federal guide lists it as American Goldfinch.

14. A guide to Maine says that the law gives a precise species name for its state bird. Which revision matches the law’s wording?

A. It designates the chickadee and leaves the species unspecified.
B. It designates only the Black-capped Chickadee.
C. It designates only the Boreal Chickadee.
D. It designates the Carolina Wren and leaves the species unspecified.

Correct answer: A. It designates the chickadee and leaves the species unspecified.
Maine’s statute names the chickadee. It gives no species for that designation.

15. Pennsylvania’s Game Commission calls one of the following birds the official state bird. Which game bird is it?

A. Willow Ptarmigan
B. Ring-necked Pheasant
C. Ruffed Grouse
D. Northern Bobwhite

Correct answer: C. Ruffed Grouse
Pennsylvania’s Game Commission identifies the Ruffed Grouse as the state bird. South Dakota and Alaska each chose a different game bird.