

St Aiden's Homeschool



*A Child's Book
Of
Water Birds
Activity Book*

Compiled by Donnette E Davis



THE SWAN

THE Swan is a very beautiful bird. It is generally white, though a black swan has been discovered in Australia. It is not very often seen in America. It was brought from Asia and Eastern Europe into England—from whence, most probably, a few specimens have been introduced into America. The Swan is very graceful in the water, but on land it is an awkward waddler.

Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. Discuss the relationship between the male and female swan.

2. How does a mother swan transport her cygnets?

3. What foods do swans eat?

4. Do some research regarding the wing span of an adult swan and write your notes here.



THE COOT.

THE Coot is generally found in large sheets of water, particularly if shaded by trees. The nest is a mass of flags, reeds, and grass, usually at the water's edge, but sometimes actually in the water. The Coot's eggs are generally seven in number. They are of a greenish-white, spotted.

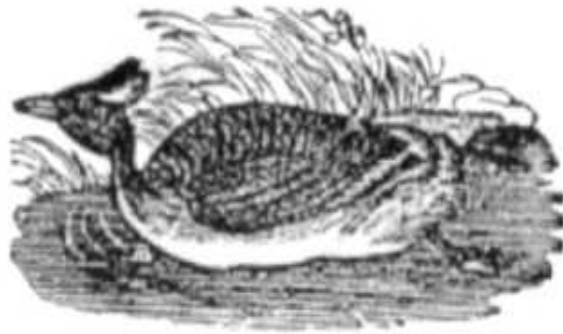
Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. Discuss the relationship between the male and female coot.

5. In which areas of the world will you see large populations of coots?

6. Can you think of a well-known proverb using the word "coot" and give its meaning below?

7. Study the coot's legs and body. How would it most likely obtain its food?



THE DABCHICK.

THE Dabchick is a very timid bird, and when alarmed instantly dives, after which it is useless to look after the bird. It is easily domesticated, and is often seen placed as an ornament to ponds, where it swims about very merrily, and seems to enjoy a game of hide and seek with any one who is attempting to watch its movements.

Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. Why are dabchicks popular as “ornamental” birds?.

8. Describe the difference between the male and female dabchick.

9. What does it mean by the dabchick being “timid”?

10. Do some research and find out where there are large populations of dabchicks in the world.



THE TEAL

THE teal is the smallest of the ducks. The green-winged teal is the American. It feeds on fresh-water insects, seeds, and aquatic plants. When fat it is considered a great luxury. It is almost always seen on well furnished tables. It generally feeds at night. It flies very swiftly, and utters a whistling cry.

Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. How many other species of ducks can you identify and why would they be different?

11. Why do teals fly at night?

12. Do some research regarding teals and their nesting habits and write your notes below.



THE GOOSE

THE Goose is a very common bird. In Lincolnshire, England, enormous flocks are bred, containing from two to ten thousand each. They are subjected to the plucking of their wing-feathers periodically, in order to supply the demand for quills.

Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. Discuss the relationship between the male and female goose and what is the correct name for a male goose, a baby goose and a female goose?

13. What would quills be used for, and can you think of a use or uses for goose down?

14. Are goose eggs edible?

15. How would a goose build its nest?.



THE OYSTER CATCHER.

THE Oyster Catcher feeds generally on shell-fish, oysters, limpets, etc. He detaches them from the rocks to which they are fastened, and opens them with his long, stout bill. The head, neck, and body are black. It lays two olive-brown eggs, spotted with black.

Q & A – Write your answers on the lines below:

1. Which bands of water would you most likely find the oyster catcher?.

16. Describe the differences between the male and female.

17. Do oyster catchers migrate? Please give details.

18. Do research regarding where in the world these birds might be found in large colonies.

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