

Bird Workbook



NAME

GRADE

FRIENDS OF VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK



BIRDS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Around 144 species of birds have been seen in the Virgin Islands National Park. About 35 of these species are year-round residents, while the others are neotropical migrants and summer residents.

GREAT BLUE HERON

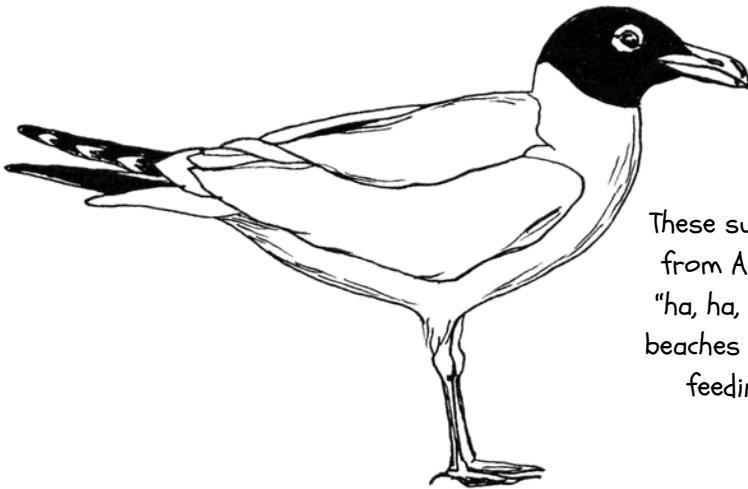
These neotropical migrants can be seen from November to April.

Standing on stilts like a moko jumbie, they are the largest heron in the VI growing 3 feet tall with a 7 foot wingspan!



LAUGHING GULL

These summer residents are hard to miss from April to November. Their namesake "ha, ha, ha" call is commonly heard on the beaches as they beg for food. Refrain from feeding them, as human food is very unhealthy for them.



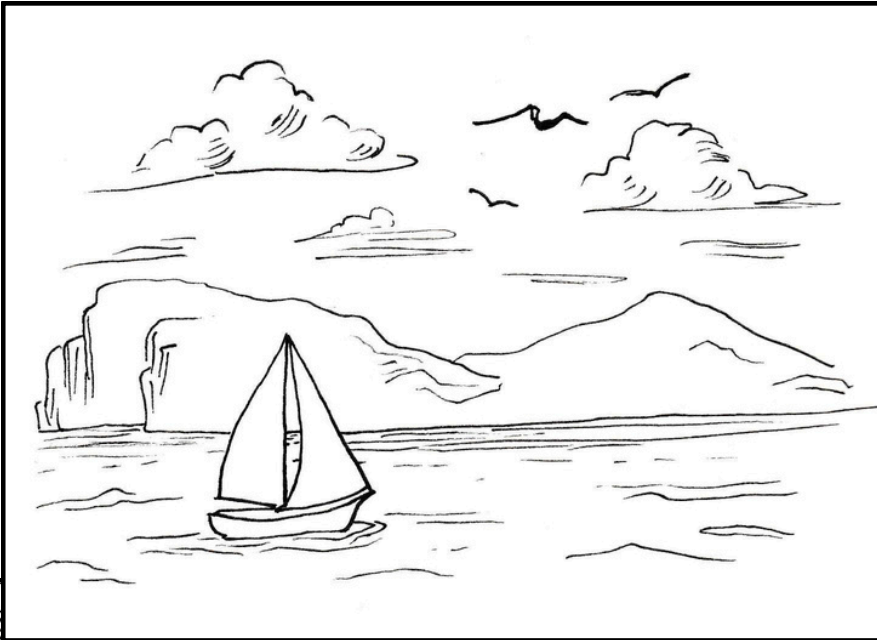
WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL DUCK

These are the only ducks that live on St. John year-round. They can be found floating in salt ponds and are easy to distinguish with their white cheeks.

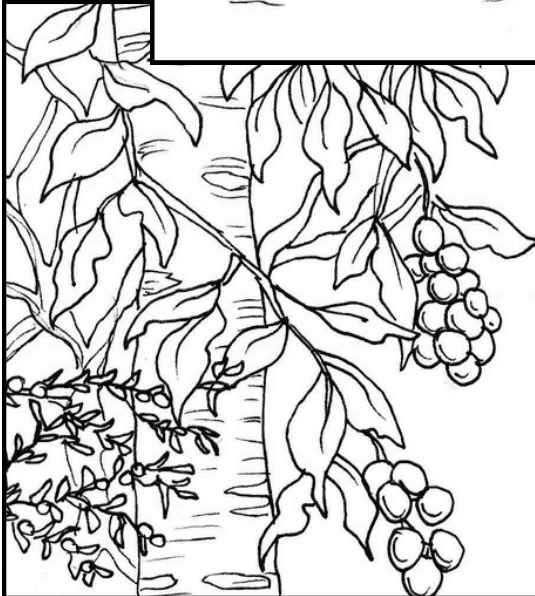


HABITATS OF ST. JOHN

There are three habitats on St. John where birds can be found with special adaptations to their environments: the sea and shoreline, salt ponds, and the dry forest. Can you think about what types of birds you may find in each of these habitats?

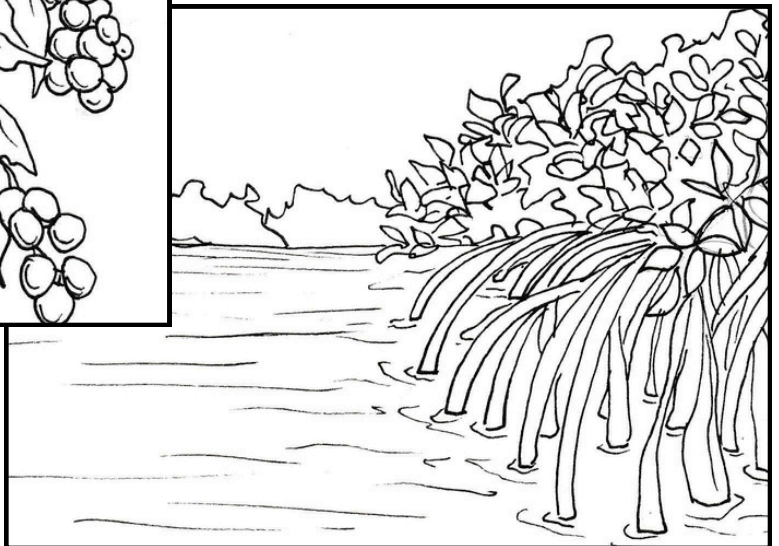


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FOREST
(AKA BUSH)

SALT PONDS



WORD SEARCH

J F W U I W M G T F U Z H W N
H E A K Z Q I P P X X V U H E
B A T I Q Z G H T U I G M H S
P T E Y F J R A Z O M N M T T
R H R U R A A B I N N U I D M
P E F G G V T I S E U G N D R
B R O M Y S I T H O G F G C D
K S W W P F O A E T E Q B P H
H J L O L K N T R R B D I H F
W I H A U K X E O O P A R O A
P O A F M G D G N P M Y D N L
M C K S A F U G L I B X N M C
Y E G J G A V I J C P H Y M O
N S N E E W I N G A P L B R N
P E L I C A N G B L P B R X P

WORD BANK

Plumage
Migration
Neotropical

Feathers
Hummingbird
Wing

Habitat
Falcon
Nest

Waterfowl
Heron
Pelican

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BANANAQUIT

IS THE OFFICIAL BIRD
OF THE US VIRGIN
ISLANDS



FUN FACT

Also known as the "sugarbird", they are commonly found eating sugar from bird feeders around the Virgin Islands.

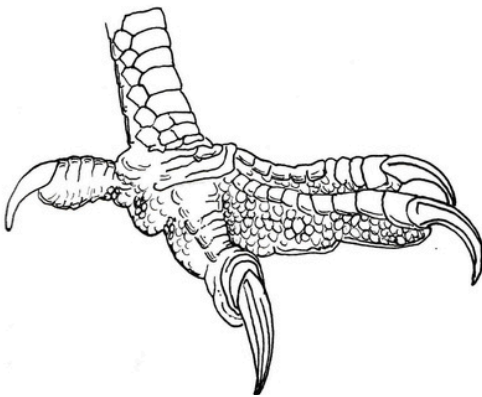


Photo by Gail Karlsson

FOOT ADAPTATIONS

Not every bird has the same type of feet, nor does every bird live in the same habitat, eat the same type of food, or move around in the same way. Over time, birds have adapted different types of feet to be better suited to their environments and diets. Some types of feet make birds good swimmers while others may make them good hunters. Can you match each bird foot to its uses?

DRAW A LINE CONNECTING EACH FOOT TO ITS USE



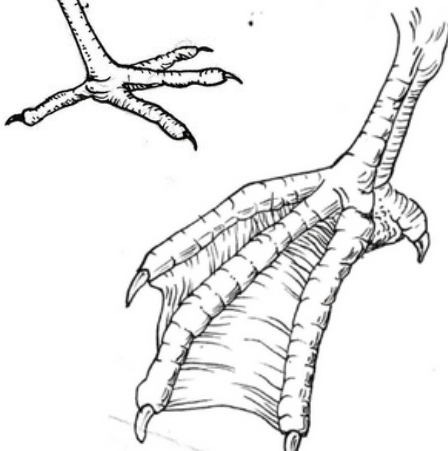
SWIMMING



WADING



PERCHING &
CLIMBING



CATCHING
PREY

FEEDING ADAPTATIONS

Bird beaks come in many shapes and sizes, depending on what they eat and how they eat it.

Can you match each beak to its food source?

DRAW A LINE CONNECTING EACH BEAK TO THE FOOD TYPE



LIZARDS &
MICE



NUTS &
SEEDS

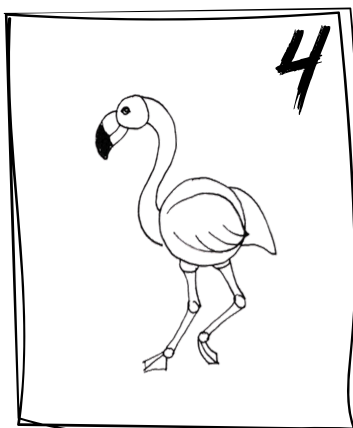
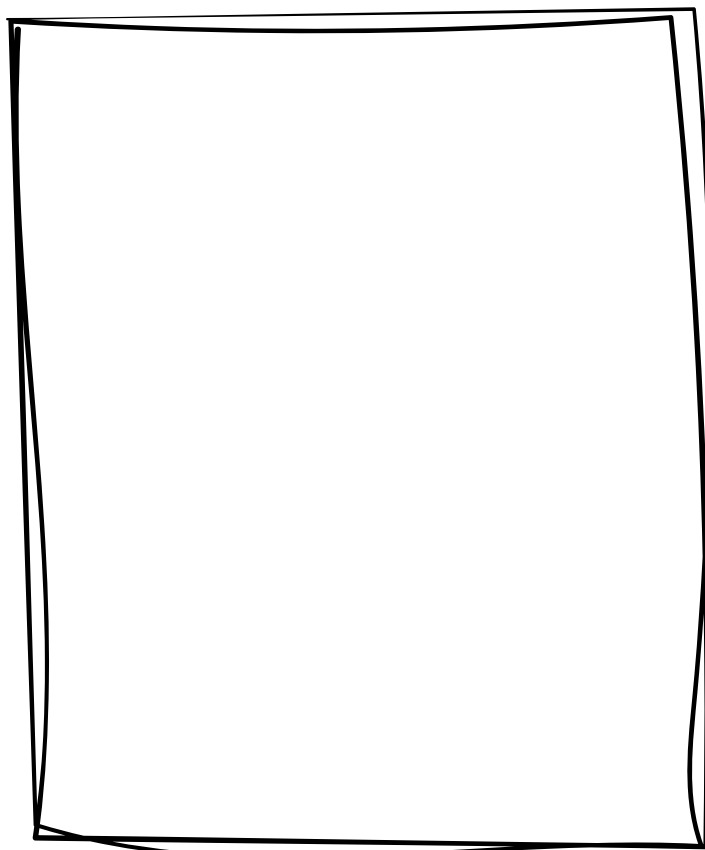
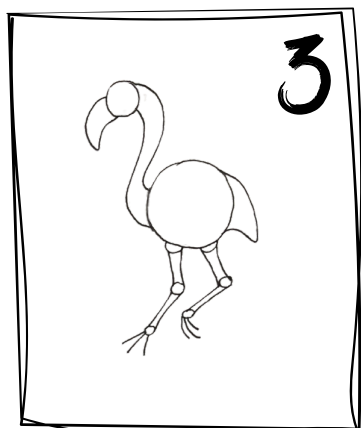
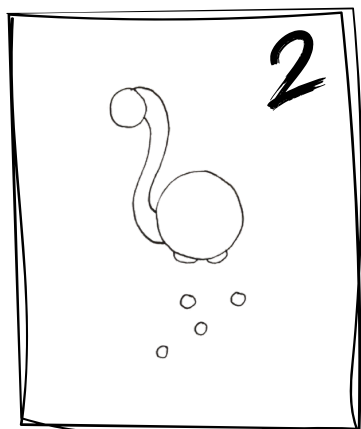
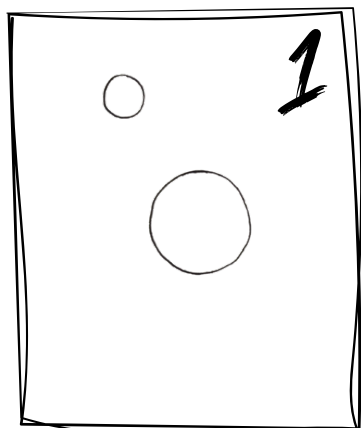


SCHOOL
FISH



FLOWER
NECTAR

DRAW A FLAMINGO

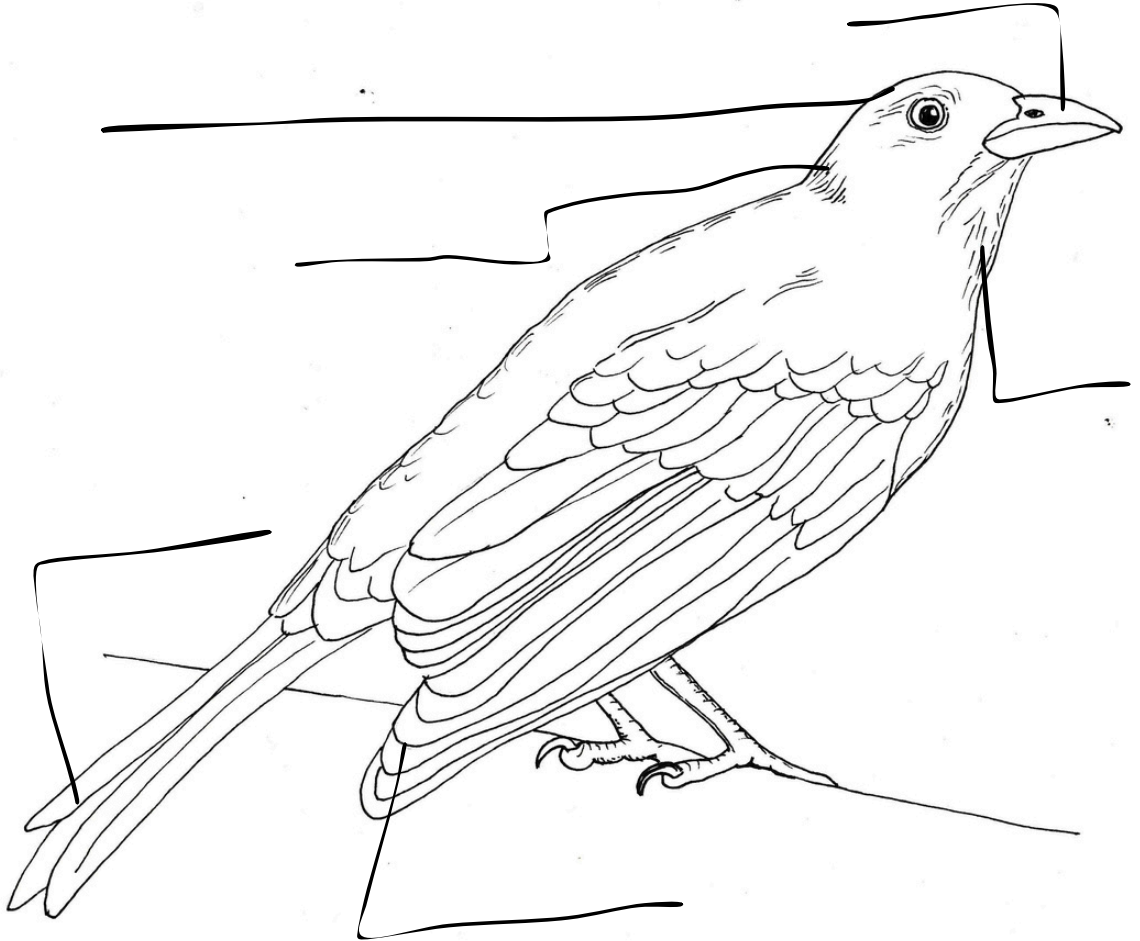


YOU
TRY



BIRD DIAGRAM

Use the word bank to label the parts of the pearly-eyed thrasher, also known as "thrushie".



WORD BANK

Nape
Beak

Primary feathers
Tail feathers

Crown
Throat

DID YOU KNOW?

THE MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE BIRD

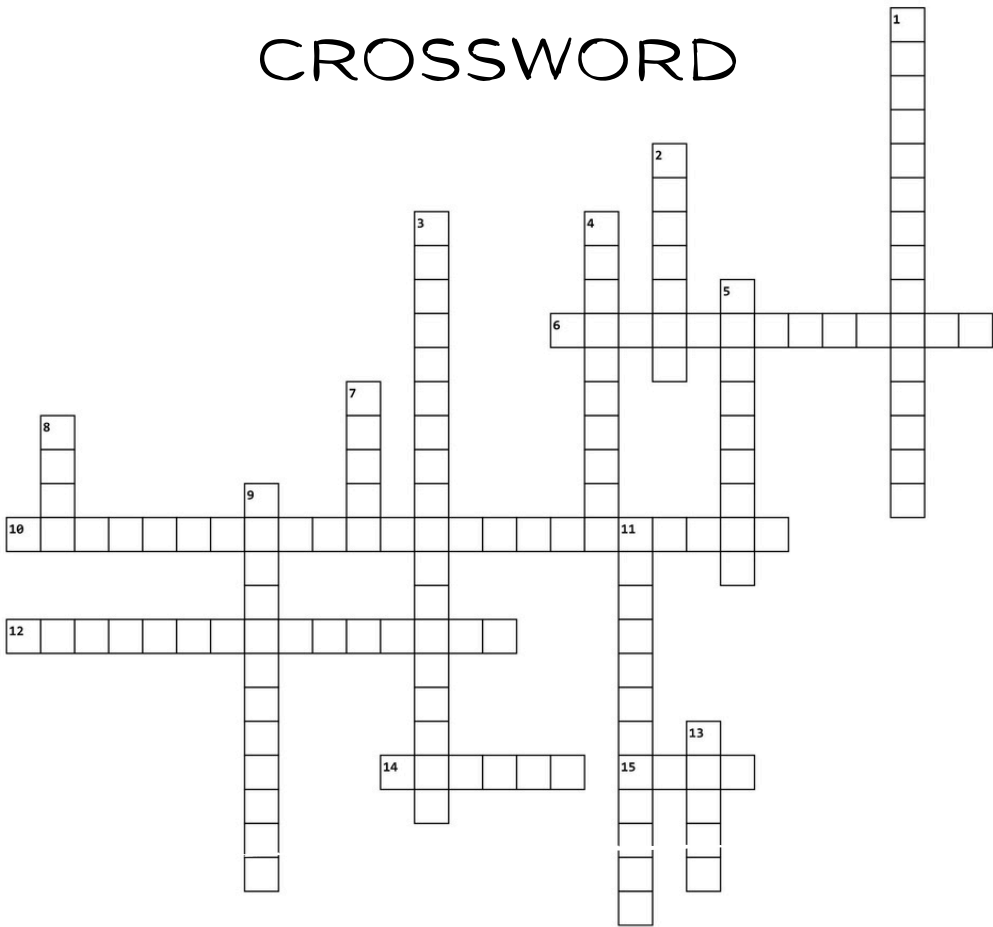
is named after a warship or a pirate ship due to their feeding behaviors. Despite being seabirds, frigates can't float so they steal food from other sea birds or pluck it from the surface of the ocean.



FUN FACT

Frigates weigh less than 3 pounds and have a 7 foot wingspan! Males have a red pouch on their throat that they inflate like a balloon to attract females.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6. These birds say "ha, ha, ha"
 10. These birds hunt at night for crabs and hatchling sea turtles
 12. America's smallest falcon
 14. Having the toes connected by a membrane
 15. A warm-blooded, egg laying vertebrate with wings and feathers

WORD BANK

American Kestrel	Plumage
Smooth Billed Ani	Crest
Laughing Gull	Nape
Brown Pelican	Talon
Yellow Crowned Night Heron	Migration
Pearly Eyed Thrasher	Bananaquit
Hummingbird	Bird
	Webbed

DOWN

1. A member of the cuckoo family, locally known as the "black witch"
 2. The collective feathers covering a bird
 3. Extremely bold mockingbird relatives also known as "thrushies"
 4. The official bird of the US Virgin Islands
 5. A seasonal movement of animals from one place to another
 7. A sharp claw on a bird's foot
 8. The back of a bird's neck
 9. Once on the Endangered Species list, but now recovered
 11. They flap their wings so fast they make a humming sound
 13. A group of feathers on the top of a bird's head

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Each bird has a set of distinguishing characteristics, or markings, that allow you to identify them. Color the green-throated carib hummingbird below using the characteristics given.

MARKINGS:

- Bright green back, head and throat
- Blue border on chest (males only)
- Black wings, beak and belly
- Dark blue tail



LETTER CODING AND SCRAMBLE

All known species are given scientific names in Latin as well as common names. Several birds have more than one common name. Use the key below to find the common names for the scientific names listed below.

Crotophaga ani: Smooth billed ani 2 12 1 3 11 23 9 20 3 8
— — — — — — — — — —

Margarops fuscatus: Pearly eyed thrasher 20 8 18 21 19 8 9 5
— — — — — — — — — —

Coereba flaveola: Bananaquit 19 21 7 1 18 2 9 18 4
— — — — — — — — — —

KEY: Each number corresponds to the letter below it

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Un-scramble the letters to reveal the hidden message:

ON DIBR RSOSA
OTO GHIH FI
EH SROAS
THWI SHI NWO
NIGWS

— — — — —
— — — — —
— — — — —
— — — — —
— — — — —

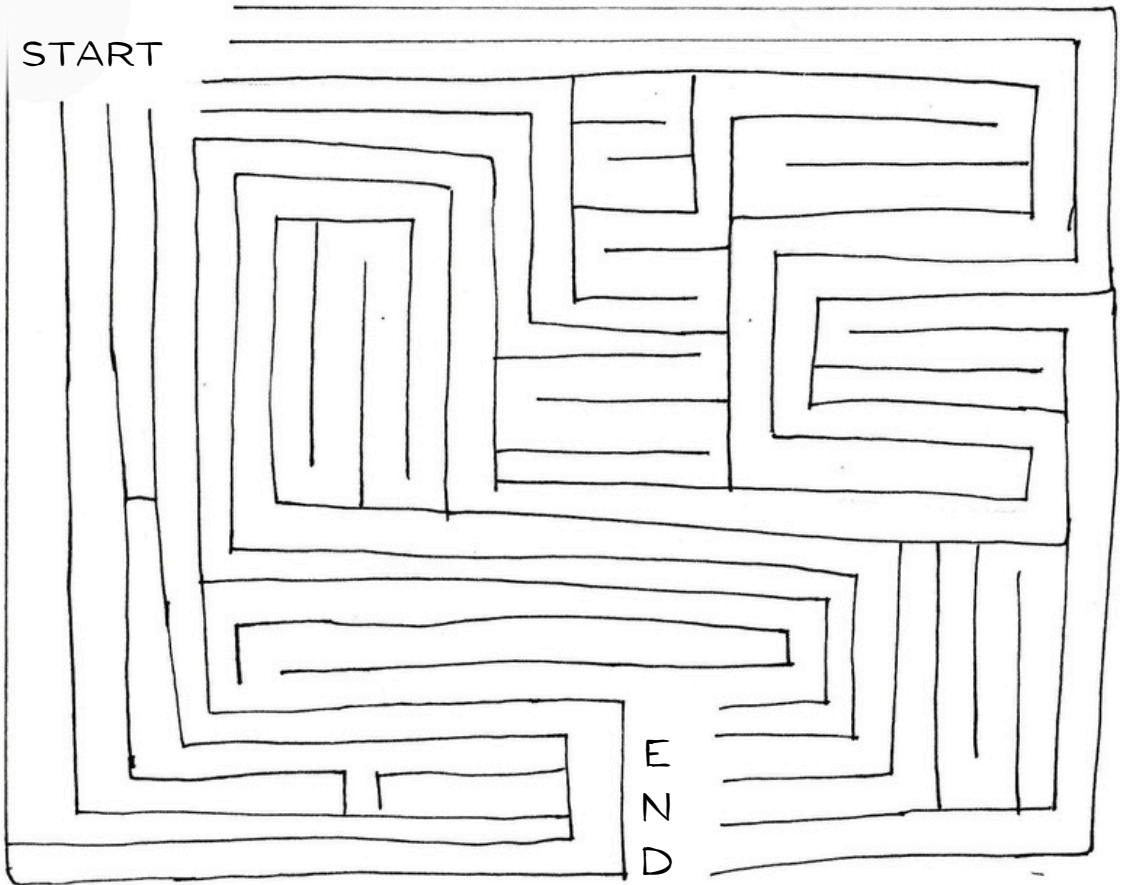


MAZE OF MIGRATION

Some birds undergo vast migrations throughout the year to avoid harsh conditions, find food, and return to breeding grounds. Can you help this bird find it's way to St. John?



START



E
N
D

GLOSSARY

Adaptation: the process of changing to suit different conditions, or a characteristic of an animal that helps it survive in a particular environment

Bird: a warm-blooded, egg laying vertebrate with wings and feathers

Crest: a group of feathers on top of a bird's head

Habitat: the natural environment where an animal lives that contains everything necessary for survival

Migration: the seasonal movement of animals from one place to another

Nape: the back of a bird's neck

Neotropical migrants: Birds that migrate great distances to the tropics for the winter

Plumage: the collective feathers covering a bird

Residents: the animals living in a particular place

Talon: a sharp claw on a bird's foot

Vertebrate: an animal with a backbone

NOT ALL CLASSROOMS HAVE FOUR WALLS

**To learn more about Friends of Virgin Islands
National Park youth programs including
School Kids In the Park (SKIP), please visit
www.friendsVINP.org**



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