

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sky Stalkers: Unraveling the Predators of Birds

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Birds have evolved camouflage plumage to blend into their surroundings, making it harder for predators to spot them. This adaptation helps birds remain hidden from predators, increasing their chances of survival.
2. One example of a bird exhibiting predatory behavior towards its own species is the bald eagle. During times of food scarcity, bald eagles may prey on weaker or injured members of their own species, especially during the winter months when resources are limited.
3. The presence of predators can influence the behavior and nesting habits of birds by causing them to be more cautious and vigilant. Birds may choose nesting sites that offer better protection from predators or alter their foraging behavior to minimize the risk of encountering predators.
4. The interaction between predators and prey contributes to the balance of ecosystems by regulating population sizes and maintaining biodiversity. Predators help control prey populations, preventing them from becoming too abundant and disrupting the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

