

Australian Waterbirds and Conservation Status

Ornithology · Answer Key · 26 Questions

1. What feature of the Royal Spoonbill's bill helps it detect prey in murky water?

- A) Sharp edges
- B) Vibration detectors**
- C) A suction mechanism
- D) A bioluminescent tip

2. How does the Royal Spoonbill typically catch its prey?

- A) By diving from great heights
- B) By scooping it with its bill**
- C) By using its talons
- D) By ambushing from underwater

3. What do male Royal Spoonbills do during mating displays?

- A) Sing complex songs
- B) Erect their crests**
- C) Perform aerial acrobatics
- D) Build elaborate nests

4. What is the primary reason for the Glossy Ibis's name?

- A) Its glossy plumage
- B) Its metallic calls
- C) Its iridescent sheen**
- D) Its glossy beak

5. After breeding, how do Glossy Ibises typically move?

- A) They remain in their nesting colonies
- B) Adults and young disperse, often into separate flocks**
- C) They migrate to different continents
- D) They form single large flocks

6. What is a characteristic physical feature of the Little Egret?

- A) A black bill and yellow legs
- B) A yellow face and white plumage**
- C) A long, curved neck
- D) A bright blue crest

7. What behavior do young Little Egrets exhibit before fledging?

- A) They leave the nest to forage independently
- B) They are able to climb around the nest**
- C) They practice flying short distances
- D) They stay in the nest until fully feathered

8. Where are Little Pied Cormorants commonly found?

- A) In open grasslands
- B) Along the margins of water bodies**
- C) In dense forests
- D) On rocky mountain peaks

9. What material do Little Pied Cormorants use to build their nests?

- A) Mud and clay
- B) Sticks and debris**
- C) Seaweed and shells
- D) Feathers and down

10. How do Little Pied Cormorants dry their wings?

- A) By basking in the sun
- B) By shaking them vigorously
- C) By spreading them open**
- D) By flying through the wind

11. What is a distinguishing feature between male and female Black-necked Storks?

- A) Males have a black neck, females have a white one
- B) Males are larger than females
- C) Females have yellow eyes, males have dark brown eyes**
- D) Males have a longer bill than females

12. How are Black-necked Storks usually observed?

- A) In large flocks
- B) Singly or in pairs**
- C) Only during the breeding season
- D) In dense family groups

13. What is the bonding behavior of Black-necked Stork pairs during breeding?

- A) They form new pairs each year
- B) They bond for several years and remain together**
- C) They only interact during mating
- D) They share nesting duties with multiple pairs

14. How do Black-necked Storks catch and swallow their prey?

- A) They stab prey with their bill and swallow
- B) They seize prey with their bill and swallow with a head jerk**
- C) They use their feet to hold prey while swallowing
- D) They dig prey out of the ground and swallow

15. Which region has seen a rapid decline in Black-necked Stork populations?

- A) Australia
- B) Southeast Asia**
- C) New Zealand
- D) Papua New Guinea

16. What are the main threats to Black-necked Storks in Southeast Asia?

- A) Overfishing of prey species
- B) Loss of wetland habitats and nesting trees**
- C) Introduction of invasive predators
- D) Climate change causing extreme weather

17. What organization maintains the Red List of Threatened Species?

- A) The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- B) The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- C) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- D) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

18. What does the 'Endangered' status on the Red List indicate?

- A) The species is no longer found in the wild
- B) The species is at a very high risk of extinction in the wild**
- C) The species population is stable
- D) The species is only found in captivity

19. The text mentions birds flying in formation to their feeding grounds. Which bird is described as doing this?

- A) Glossy Ibis
- B) Little Egret
- C) Royal Spoonbill**
- D) Black-necked Stork

20. The text describes a bird with a 'spoon-shaped bill'. Which bird is this?

- A) Little Pied Cormorant
- B) Glossy Ibis
- C) Royal Spoonbill**
- D) Little Egret

21. Which of these bird species is also found in New Zealand, according to the text?

- A) Royal Spoonbill
- B) Black-necked Stork

C) Little Egret

- D) Glossy Ibis

22. The text states that some birds gather in loose family groups when not breeding. Which bird is mentioned in this context?

- A) Little Egret
- B) Royal Spoonbill

C) Black-necked Stork

- D) Little Pied Cormorant

23. What is the primary diet of the Royal Spoonbill, as implied by the text?

- A) Fish
- B) Insects

C) Shrimp

- D) Seeds

24. When a Royal Spoonbill catches a shrimp, what does it do before swallowing?

- A) It shakes it vigorously

B) It bashes it against the water

- C) It cuts it into pieces
- D) It tosses it in the air

25. The text mentions that the IUCN Red List provides information about the global conservation status of species. What kind of species are included?

- A) Only mammals
- B) Only birds

C) Animal, plant, and fungal species

- D) Only endangered species

26. Which bird is described as the only species of stork in Australia?

A) Black-necked Stork

- B) Royal Spoonbill
- C) Glossy Ibis
- D) Little Egret