

ATLANTIC PUFFIN



Source: flickr.com/wanderflechten

HABITAT: The north Atlantic Ocean. In breeding seasons, they form colonies in the cliffs of northern regions like Iceland, Norway, Newfoundland and Maine.

FOOD: They spend much of their time hunting for fish, but they also have been known to eat shrimp.

REPRODUCTION: These puffins usually find their mating partner from the previous mating season and then mate in the ocean. Parenting tasks are divided: males must guard the burrow from predators and parasites. Females must fly dozens of miles to obtain food. Puffins tend to have one “puffling” at a time. Often the development of the puffling is slowed due to food scarcity.

WHITE-FRONTED AMAZON



Source: flickr.com/EdmondSham

HABITAT: They are indigenous to Central America and Mexico, with an expansive habitat that ranges from the rainforests of Guatemala to the cactus savannahs of southern California.

FOOD: Fruits, seeds, flowers, and bark.

REPRODUCTION: White-fronted amazons have an extensive courtship that includes inspecting one another’s feathers and pressing their tongues together. Near the end of the ritual, the male will vomit into the mouth of the female as a food gift. These parrots are thought to mate for life. They usually lay about 3-4 eggs a year.

CANADA GOOSE



Source: flickr.com/robin1966

HABITAT: Almost all of the U.S. and Canada. Large permanent residences exist in British Columbia and North Carolina.

FOOD: Seaweed, insects, and microorganisms found in silt and grasses.

REPRODUCTION: Courtship is simple and can be extremely short if the female chooses. Normally a female will lay about 5 or 6 eggs per mating season. Canada geese mate for life and share parenting responsibilities.

BOWER BIRD



Source: flickr.com/rileyfive

HABITAT: The tropics of Northern Australia and nearby islands like those New Guinea.

FOOD: Sugary fruits and berries, as well as insects and plant leaves.

REPRODUCTION: Courtship is extensive. The male builds a complex “bower” out of twigs to impress potential mates. They decorate with colorful and rare objects and sing complex songs. Males have to work constantly to maintain their bower and protect from sabotage – attracting new mates consumes their lives. The females make nests and feed the young.