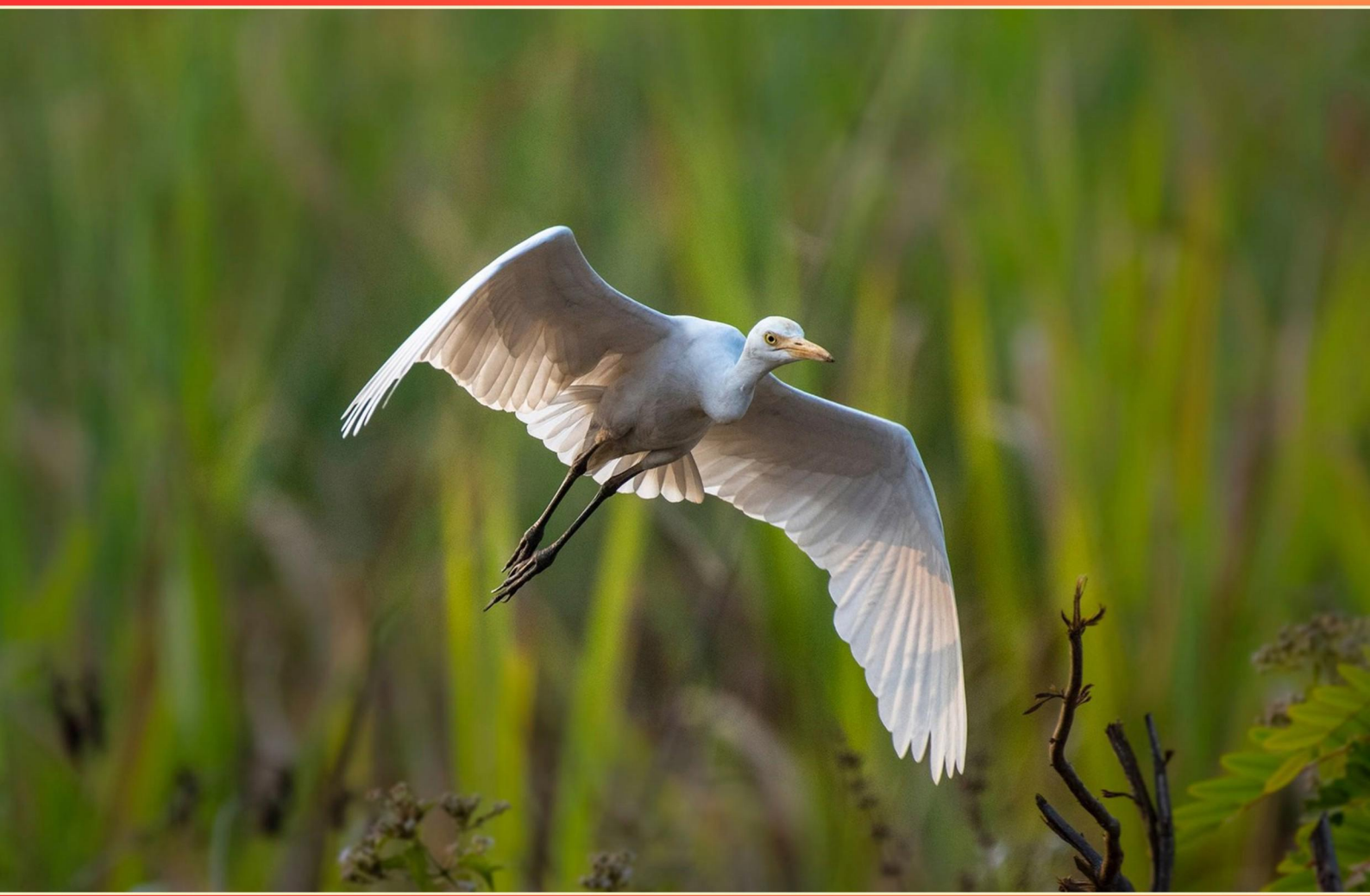
GAC ORNITHOLOGY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. The Long-eared Owl has which scientific name?

A. Asio otus
B. Aegolius acadicus
C. Strix varia
D. Megascops asio

2. Baltimore Oriole scientific name?

A. Icterus galbula
B. Agelaius phoeniceus
C. Pipilo erythrophthalmus
D. Junco hyemalis

3. Swallows belong to which family?

A. Paridae
B. Alaudidae
C. Hirundinidae
D. Regulidae

4. The term landfowl refers to which order?

A. Galliformes
B. Podicipediformes
C. Columbiformes
D. Passeriformes

5. Which common name corresponds to Buteo jamaicensis?

A. Red-tailed Hawk
B. Osprey
C. Broad-winged Hawk
D. Sharp-shinned Hawk

6. Black-capped Chickadee belongs to which family?

A. Paridae
B. Alaudidae
C. Hirundinidae
D. Regulidae

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7. European Starling's scientific name?

A. Bombycilla cedrorum
B. Catharus guttatus
C. Sturnus vulgaris
D. Dumetella carolinensis

8. Yellow-headed Blackbird scientific name?

A. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
B. Sturnella magna
C. Icterus galbula
D. Agelaius phoeniceus

9. The Indigo Bunting belongs to which genus?

A. Passerina
B. Cyanocitta
C. Cardinalis
D. Spinus

10. Which of the following birds belongs to the order Galliformes?

A. Wild Turkey
B. Pied-billed Grebe
C. Mourning Dove
D. Podilymbus podiceps

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Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. The Long-eared Owl has which scientific name?

A. Asio otus

B. Aegolius acadicus

C. Strix varia

D. Megascops asio

The Long-eared Owl's scientific name follows binomial nomenclature: a two-part name with the genus first and the species second. This owl belongs to the genus Asio, and its species designation is otus, giving Asio otus. That combination uniquely identifies this species among owls. Other names listed correspond to different owls, not the Long-eared Owl. Aegolius acadicus is the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Strix varia is the Barred Owl, and Megascops asio is the Eastern Screech-Owl. Each is in a different genus, reflecting distinct lineages.

2. Baltimore Oriole scientific name?

A. Icterus galbula

B. Agelaius phoeniceus

C. Pipilo erythrophthalmus

D. Junco hyemalis

In birds, scientific names use a two-part format that links the common name to its genus and species. The Baltimore Oriole belongs to the genus Icterus and the species galbula, giving the scientific name Icterus galbula. The other names listed map to different species: Red-winged Blackbird is Agelaius phoeniceus, Eastern Towhee is Pipilo erythrophthalmus, and Dark-eyed Junco is Junco hyemalis. So Icterus galbula is the correct match for the Baltimore Oriole.

3. Swallows belong to which family?

A. Paridae

B. Alaudidae

C. Hirundinidae

D. Regulidae

Swallows are classified in the family Hirundinidae. This group is defined by birds that are specialized for catching insects in flight, often with slender bodies, long pointed wings, short legs, and sometimes a deeply forked tail. These features and their aerial lifestyle distinguish them from the other families: Paridae are tits, Alaudidae are larks, and Regulidae are kinglets. So swallows and martins, like the barn swallow and tree swallow, belong to Hirundinidae.

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4. The term landfowl refers to which order?

A. Galliformes

B. Podicipediformes

C. Columbiformes

D. Passeriformes

Landfowl refers to Galliformes, a group of birds that are mostly terrestrial and ground-foraging. Members include chickens, turkeys, quail, pheasants, and grouse. Their bodies are typically stout with short wings and strong legs, adaptations that favor life on the ground and quick bursts of flight rather than long-distance flying. This lifestyle and body plan set them apart from grebes (Podicipediformes), which are aquatic divers; pigeons and doves (Columbiformes), which have a different build and feeding style; and songbirds and many others (Passeriformes), a very diverse order with perching habits. So the term landfowl is tied to the Galliformes due to their shared terrestrial, ground-oriented way of life.

5. Which common name corresponds to Buteo jamaicensis?

A. Red-tailed Hawk

B. Osprey

C. Broad-winged Hawk

D. Sharp-shinned Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis is the Red-tailed Hawk. This is the classic North American hawk, part of the broad-winged group known as Buteo. Adults typically show a distinctive brick-red tail, which is the giveaway that earned the common name. The Osprey, a separate raptor that specializes in fishing, is Pandion haliaetus. The Broad-winged Hawk is a different species (Buteo platypterus), and the Sharp-shinned Hawk belongs to a different genus (Accipiter) and is much smaller. So the best match for Buteo jamaicensis is the Red-tailed Hawk.

6. Black-capped Chickadee belongs to which family?

A. Paridae

B. Alaudidae

C. Hirundinidae

D. Regulidae

Paridae is the family that includes tits and chickadees, so the Black-capped Chickadee is placed with them. These small, stout songbirds have short, conical bills suited for eating seeds and insects, and they're grouped with other chickadees and tits in Paridae. In current classification, the Black-capped Chickadee sits in genus Poecile within this family (previously listed under Parus in older classifications). The other families listed are different groups: Alaudidae are larks, Hirundinidae are swallows, and Regulidae are kinglets. They have distinct lifestyles and characteristics, so they're not part of the same family as the chickadee.

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7. European Starling's scientific name?

A. Bombycilla cedrorum

B. Catharus guttatus

C. Sturnus vulgaris

D. Dumetella carolinensis

Understanding binomial nomenclature and how scientific names map to species. The European Starling is classified in the genus Sturnus and the species epithet vulgaris, forming the two-part name Sturnus vulgaris. This universal naming system uniquely identifies the species across languages and regions, with the genus capitalized and the species in lowercase (usually italicized in text). The other Latin names refer to different birds: Bombycilla cedrorum is the Cedar Waxwing, Catharus guttatus is the Hermit Thrush, and Dumetella carolinensis is the Gray Catbird. Therefore, the European Starling's scientific name is Sturnus vulgaris.

8. Yellow-headed Blackbird scientific name?

A. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus

B. Sturnella magna

C. Icterus galbula

D. Agelaius phoeniceus

Understanding how common bird names map to scientific names helps you recognize species by both familiar and formal terms. The Yellow-headed Blackbird's scientific name is Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. The genus Xanthocephalus comes from Greek roots meaning yellow head, and the species epithet repeats the yellow-head idea, giving a name that mirrors the distinctive feature of the bird. The other options correspond to different species: the Eastern Meadowlark, the Baltimore Oriole, and the Red-winged Blackbird, respectively. So the name that matches Yellow-headed Blackbird is Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.

9. The Indigo Bunting belongs to which genus?

A. Passerina

B. Cyanocitta

C. Cardinalis

D. Spinus

In binomial nomenclature, the first part of a species' two-part name is the genus, which groups closely related species. The Indigo Bunting's scientific name is Passerina cyanea, so its genus is Passerina. This genus includes other buntings, showing its closer relationships to similar buntings rather than to jays, cardinals, or goldfinches. The options that correspond to those other birds—Cyanocitta for blue jays, Cardinalis for cardinals, and Spinus for goldfinches—fit their respective groups, not the bunting group.

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10. Which of the following birds belongs to the order Galliformes?

A. Wild Turkey

B. Pied-billed Grebe

C. Mourning Dove

D. Podilymbus podiceps

Galliformes are large, ground-dwelling birds with stout bodies, short wings, and strong legs for scratching the forest floor. The wild turkey fits this pattern perfectly as a robust, terrestrial game bird that forages on the ground rather than relying on sustained flight. The Pied-billed Grebe, scientifically named Podilymbus podiceps, is an aquatic diving bird in a different order, with lobed feet and a body adapted for swimming. Mourning Doves belong to a third order, the Columbiformes, and are slender seed-eaters with the typical pigeon-dove shape. So, among these, the wild turkey is the one that belongs to Galliformes.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://gacornithology.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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