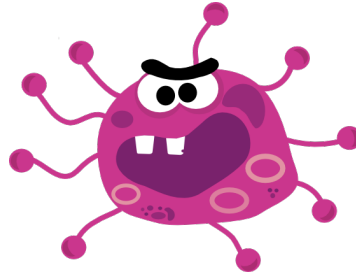


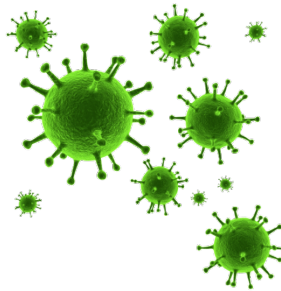
1		2		3
	■		■	
4				
	■		■	
5				



Penta Puzzles

63 brain-teasing bird-themed crosswords

with bonus 7-letter crossword puzzle



1	P	I	2	T	T	3	A
	O	■		O	■		P
4	T	A	P	E	R		
	O	■		A	■		I
5	O	U	Z	E	L		

**Developed as time-fillers for birdwatchers
during Australia's 2020 Coronavirus lockdown**

Penta Puzzles

The world began hearing about a new coronavirus in late 2019, one that caused potentially fatal Covid-19 disease in infected humans. By early 2020, some parts of China were in the grip of a serious Covid-19 outbreak. The disease soon became a pandemic, spreading rapidly to most other parts of the world. By mid-March in Australia, things had begun to be serious, with several Covid-19 outbreaks reported and deaths starting to occur. Not long afterwards, activity in Australia essentially ground to a halt.

Australians were told to stay at home from 22 March 2020, except if conducting essential business. A lockdown had begun. Although a ban on going out birdwatching was not specifically mentioned, most birdwatchers thought they'd better stay at home. But, what could they do instead? In the Hunter Region of New South Wales, several hundred birdwatchers already were part of an internet-based chat group called Hunterbirding. Some of them were aware that I produce a quarterly cryptic bird-themed crossword for the magazine Australian Birdlife. Cryptic crosswords are not to everyone's taste as they require lateral thinking. A few days after the lockdown had begun, there was a perhaps tongue-in-cheek request for a non-cryptic bird crossword from me.

Jokingly, I quickly dashed out a three-by-three puzzle (Answers: owl, egg, one, leg) and thought that was the end of that. However, the response on Hunterbirding to that puzzle was remarkable, which led me to a re-think. The options for bird-related answers in three-by-three puzzles were very limited but I realised that there were plenty of four- and five-letter bird names and that a five-by-five puzzle might be sustainable. In fact, they turned out to be very easy for me to produce especially after I had done some groundwork to make a list of all the possible bird name options.

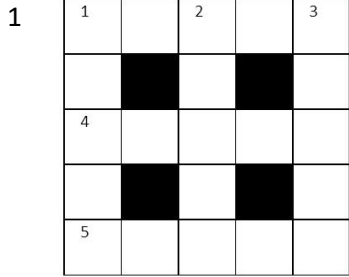
On Sunday 29 March I sent my first one of them to Hunterbirding. Once again, there was a wonderful response. Consequently, I sent a new Penta Puzzle (as I soon came to call them) to the Hunterbirding community every day for the next nine weeks. By then, the lockdown restrictions were easing and people were able to get out and about a lot more.

A few weeks into the lockdown, news of the Penta Puzzles was spreading and they started to appear elsewhere. A birdwatching group in Queensland latched onto them and then BirdLife Australia started putting the puzzles onto their website.

I'm delighted that for a time I was able to provide a brief daily distraction for birdwatchers. Some of the answers involved rather obscure or little-known species from around the world and so I also think that I introduced people to a considerable number of foreign birds while they did their research. There were several species that I didn't know about either, until I had done my own research.

Alan Stuart
30 May 2020

Penta Puzzles

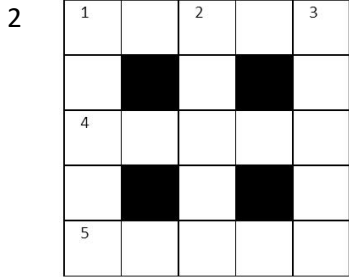


Across

1. A seabird 4. Birds sit on these 5. Birds sit in these

Down

1. A passerine 2. Edition 3. Birds sit on these

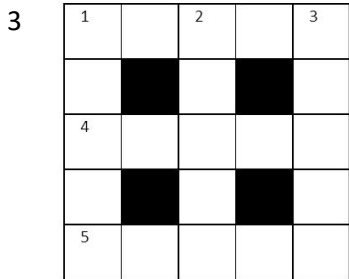


Across

1. Waterbird 4. Why we are isolated 5. How we feel about that

Down

1. Waterbird (plural) 2. Cancelled Sydney festival 3. Type of duck

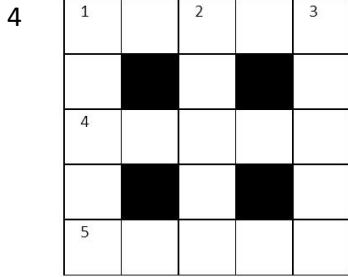


Across

1. A raptor 4. A corvid 5. We sing these

Down

1. Waterbird 2. Not taken 3. European raptor (plural)

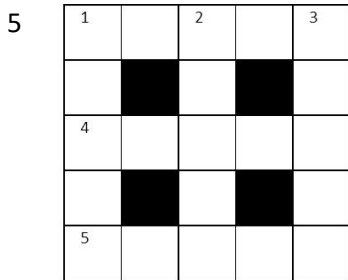


Across

1. A parrot 4. A parrot 5. Less polite

Down

1. A honeyeater 2. Wild birds aren't 3. Important for wetlands

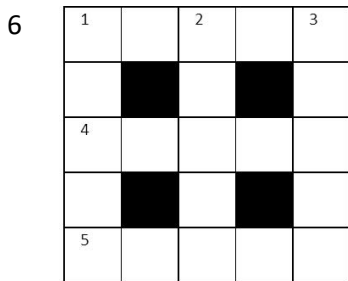


Across

1. Insectivore 4. Bright thoughts 5. Official name

Down

1. Waterbird 2. Incompetent 3. Discernment

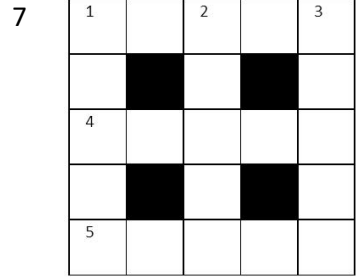


Across

1. Domesticated bird 4. Shoelace tip 5. Way in

Down

1. Large waterbird 2. Young night bird 3. Pool

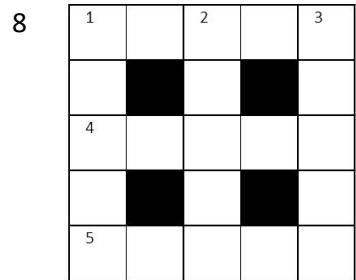


Across

1. Coastal bird (plural) 4. Dostoevsky character 5. Betting term

Down

1. European finch 2. Elevate 3. Where to do bird surveys

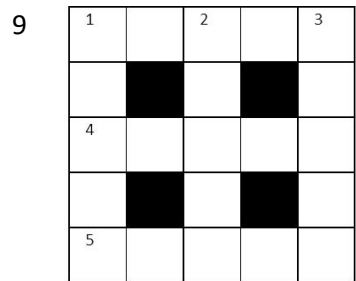


Across

1. Waterbird 4. Deadly snake 5. Folklore creature

Down

1. Northern hemisphere duck 2. Alphabetical list 3. Eagle's nest



Across

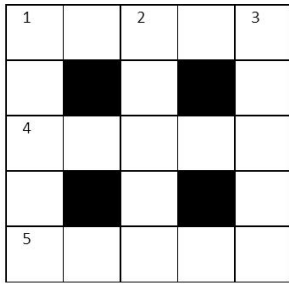
1. Seed-eating bird 4. A corvid 5. Found in eggs

Down

1. Covered in fur 2. Maritime 3. Seeks prey

Penta Puzzles

10



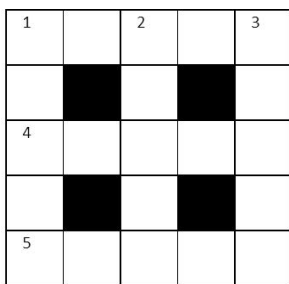
Across

1. Waterbird 4. Egg-shaped
5. Glacier deposit

Down

1. Domesticated bird 2. Digital publication 3. Arctic duck

11



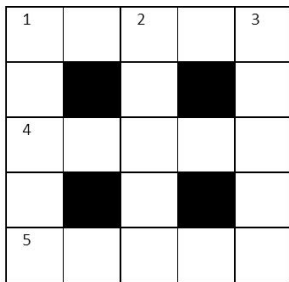
Across

1. Waterbird (plural) 4. Small Scottish farm 5. European finch

Down

1. Male birds 2. Foul smell
3. Flycatcher

12



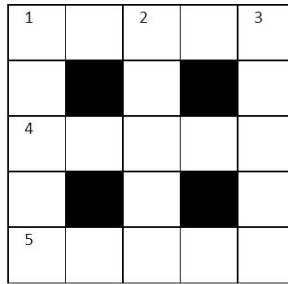
Across

1. A gerygone 4. That's all folks! 5. North American waterbird (plural)

Down

1. Deadly 2. Musical beginning (colloq.) 3. Stilt-like noises

13



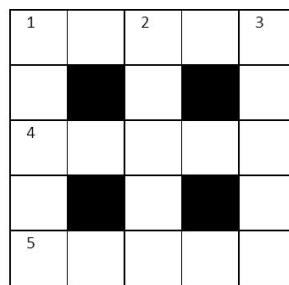
Across

1. Robin 4. Less common
5. Vessel

Down

1. Sally 2. Of gold 3. Waterbird

14



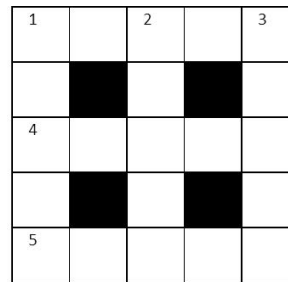
Across

1. Where some owls shelter 4. In the midst of 5. See 1D

Down

- 1D, 5A. Raptor (plural) 2. Shorebird site 3. Wise people

15



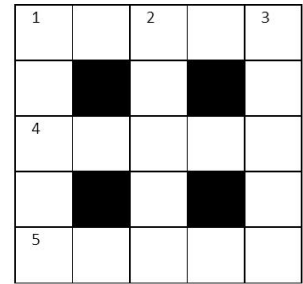
Across

- 1A, 5A. Seabird 4. Not urban
5. See 1A

Down

1. Ibis neck feature 2. Waterbird 3. Monarch

16



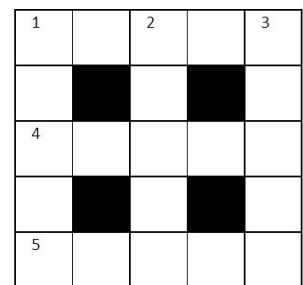
Across

1. Rainforest bird 4. Candle
5. European bird

Down

1. South American night bird 2. Small hummingbird 3. Month

17



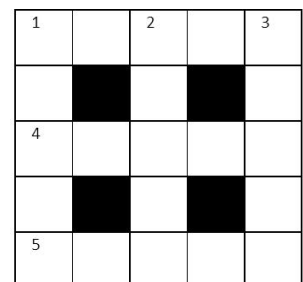
Across

1. Flightless bird (plural)
4. Musical entertainment
5. Seabird study group

Down

1. Shorebird (plural) 2. Small passerine (plural) 3. Asian magpie-robin

18



Across

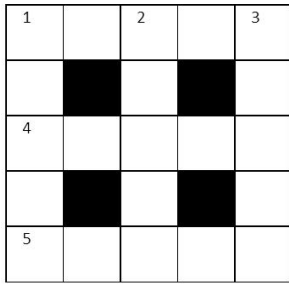
1. Seabird 4. Nothing (colloq.)
5. Very softly (musical)

Down

1. Cuckoo-hawk (plural) 2. Nightjar 3. Unpleasant person

Penta Puzzles

19



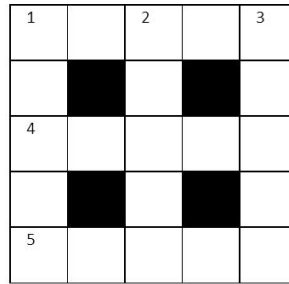
Across

1. Peacock-like pheasant 4. Rice dish 5. Abates

Down

1. Crunchy fruit 2. Coastal bird (plural) 3. Aggressive seabird (plural)

22



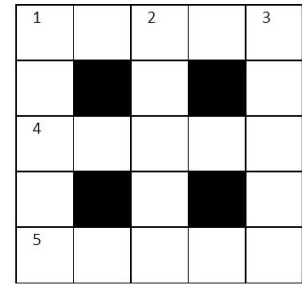
Across

1. Cracid (plural) 4. Milky drink 5. American waterbird (plural)

Down

1. Coastal bird (plural) 2. Sacrificial bench 3. European duck (plural)

25



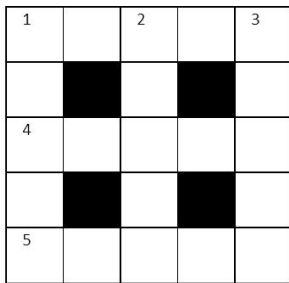
Across

1. Interesting topic! 4. Babbler eyebrow 5. A spoonbill

Down

1. Courtship area 2. Inclement 3. Egg component

20



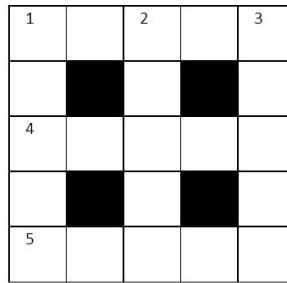
Across

1. Parrot 4. Weapon 5. Evicts

Down

1. A bird product 2. Parrot (plural) 3. Bird of prey (plural)

23



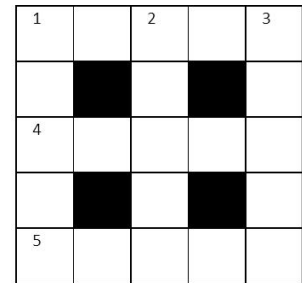
Across

1. A ground bird 4. Raptor 5. Fishing bird (plural)

Down

1. Idealistic mission 2. Strong emotion 3. Ogles menacingly

26



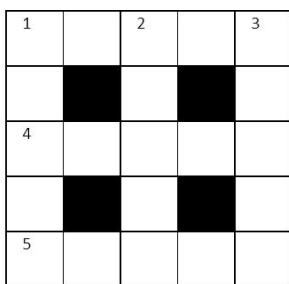
Across

1. Small waterbird 4. Asian passerine (plural) 5. Flightless bird (plural)

Down

1. Young bird 2. The sparrow's weapon 3. Abates

21



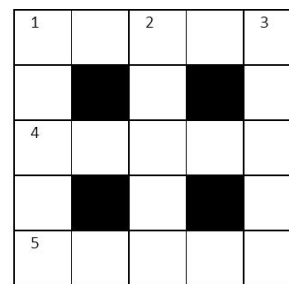
Across

1. Flightless bird (plural) 4. American hawk 5. Hawaiian goose (plural)

Down

1. Woodland/rainforest passerine 2. Scoffed 3. Type of owl

24



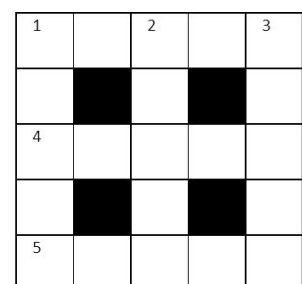
Across

1. Asian sparrowhawk 4. Common bird colour 5. Superman tool

Down

1. A Laughing-thrush 2. European car 3. Relative (plural)

27



Across

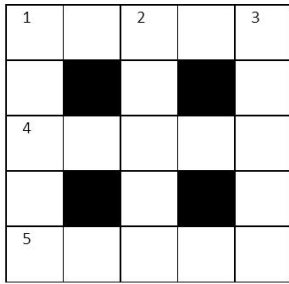
1, 1D. Tropical seabird 4. Hawaiian thrush (plural) 5. Time periods

Down

1. See 1A 2. Ex-leader 3. Places for young

Penta Puzzles

28



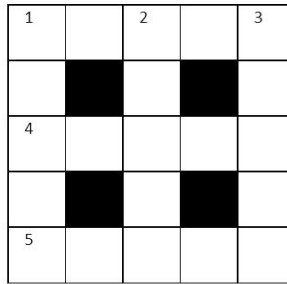
Across

1. Seabird (plural) 4. Artiodactyl mammal 5. Bent the knees

Down

1. Large waterbird 2. Edict
3. AWSG journal

31



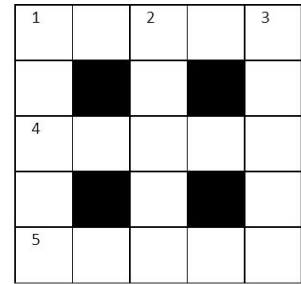
Across

1. Poe's bird 4. Aerial singer (plural) 5. Corvid (plural)

Down

1. Leftover 2. Asian/American passerine 3. Egg store (plural)

34



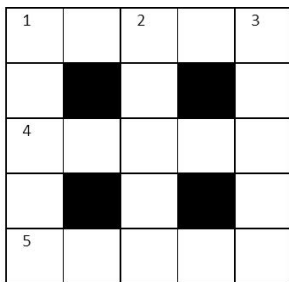
Across

1. Shorebird 4. Thinner
5. Aerial feeder

Down

1. Mate of 1A (plural) 2. Covid-related symptom 3. Waterbird

29



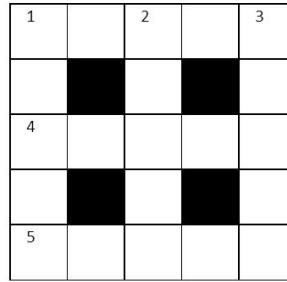
Across

1. African shrike 4. Raptor
5. Tibetan snowmen

Down

1. North American thrush 2. A parrot 3. Regions

32



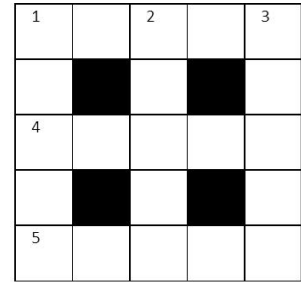
Across

1. Waterbird 4. Tibetan passerine 5. Tugs

Down

1. Small raptor 2. Woodland/rainforest passerine 3. Link

35



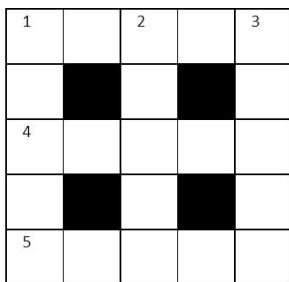
Across

1. Asian passerine (plural) 4. One-off occasion 5. Haven

Down

1. Large hummingbird 2. Hawaiian bird (plural) 3. European duck (plural)

30



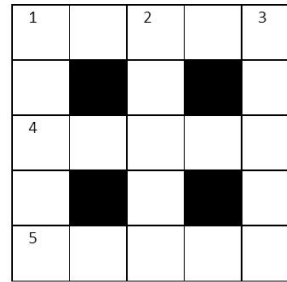
Across

1A, 5A. European thrush (plural)
4. Tashkent resident 5. See 1A

Down

1. Book marketing tool
2. Fossilised resin 3. NZ parrot (plural)

33



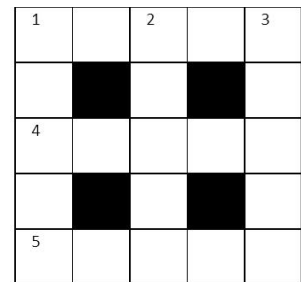
Across

1. Flightless bird (plural) 4. A corvid 5. Clenched hands

Down

1. Wine grape 2. *Columbidae*
3. Feature of most birds

36



Across

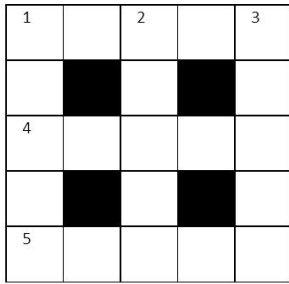
1. Pigeon (plural) 4. Biting
5. Wear down

Down

1. Male duck 2. Asian/American passerine 3. Carex

Penta Puzzles

37



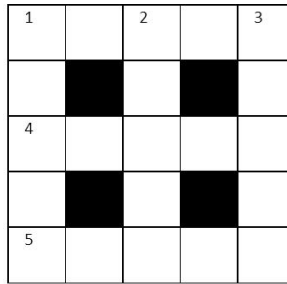
Across

1. Insectivore (plural) 4. Normal
5. Popular with Galahs

Down

1. Madagascan cuckoo (plural) 2.
Kingfisher 3. Popular with Galahs

40



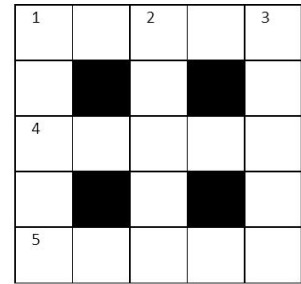
Across

1. Wattle-eye 4. Type of dog
5. Sandpiper genus

Down

1. A Laughing-thrush 2. Bio-
type 3. US waterbird (plural)

43



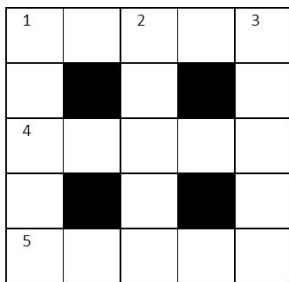
Across

1. Domestic bird (plural) 4. Ore
veins 5. Waterbird

Down

1. Large parrot 2. Northern
duck 3. Red dye

38



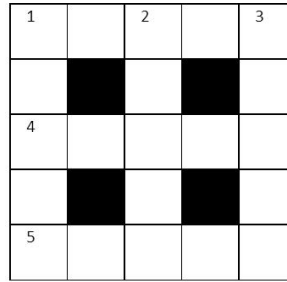
Across

1. Tyrant flycatcher 4. Fijian
honeyeater 5. Follow

Down

1. Tea 2. Flightless bird (plural)
3. Musical piece

41



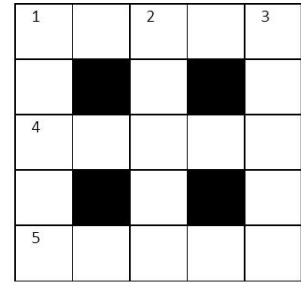
Across

1. Waterbird (plural) 4. Musical
drama 5. Badger's home (plural)

Down

1. European corvid (plural)
2. Neutral 3. Waterbird (plural)

44



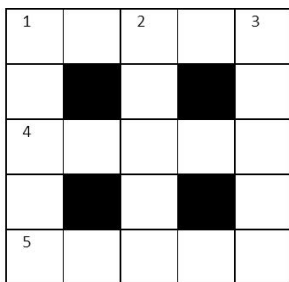
Across

1. Estrildid finch 4. Aerial
singer (plural) 5. Not this

Down

1. Indonesian megapode
2. Direction 3. Holarctic goose
genus

39



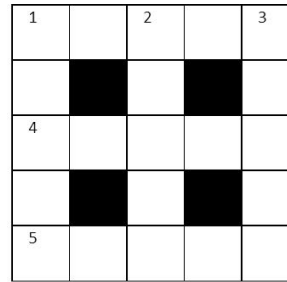
Across

1. American passerine 4.
Hummingbird 5. Cephalopod

Down

1. Leaps 2. Rhea 3. Egg-like

42



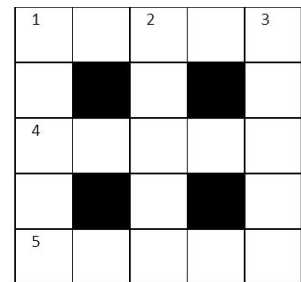
Across

1. Hawaiian bird 4. Snow
leopard 5. Airborne

Down

1. Extinct Hawaiian bird
2. South American
hummingbird 3. Unhidden

45



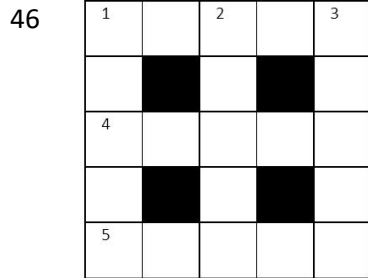
Across

1. A sandpiper 4. Irish town
5. Asian pheasant

Down

1. Short-tailed Asian warbler
2. Regretful 3. Shorebird
(plural)

Penta Puzzles

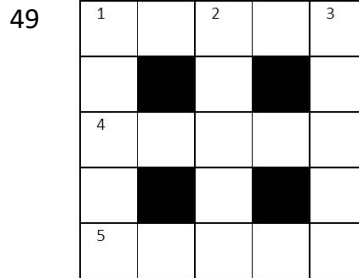


Across

1. European Loon 4. Red wine
5. Sites/sights

Down

1. Extinct bird (plural) 2. American passerine 3. Shorebird (plural)

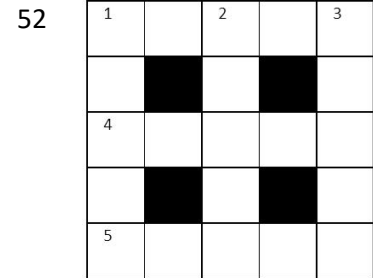


Across

1. Raptor 4. Songs 5. Feather stem

Down

1. Abodes 2. SE Asian raptor
3. Sailboat

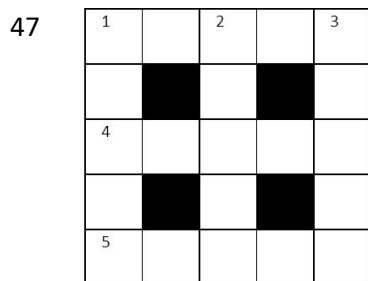


Across

1. Small shorebird 4. Not married 5. Sunbathes

Down

1. Young pigeon 2. Hawaiian honeycreeper (plural)
3. Important for 1A

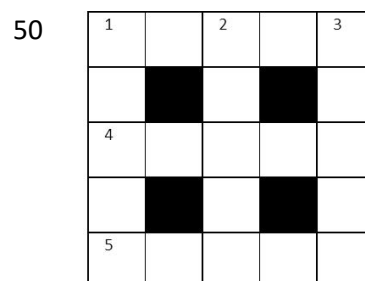


Across

1. Large parrot 4. North American diver (plural) 5. Analyse

Down

1. Indonesian endemic bird
2. Corvid (plural) 3. Thin, gauzy

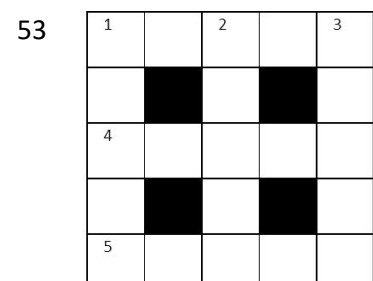


Across

1. Waterbird 4. Large nest
5. Waterbird

Down

1. Waterbird (plural) 2. Mistake 3. Special occasion

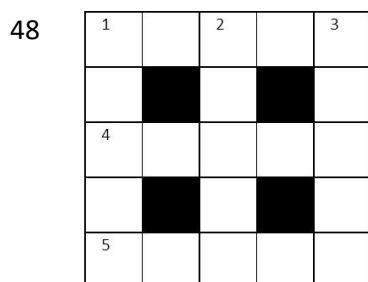


Across

1. Hummingbird 4. Old Irish writing 5. Asian warbler

Down

1. Game fish 2. Amazonian screamer (plural) 3. Exercise technique

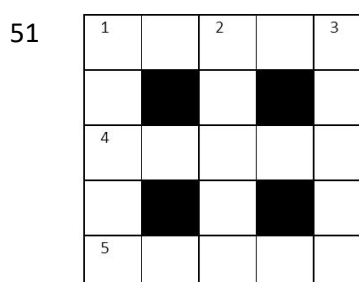


Across

1. African understorey bird
4. Waterbird (plural) 5. Territorial calls

Down

1. Raptor (plural) 2. Compare
3. Burro (plural)

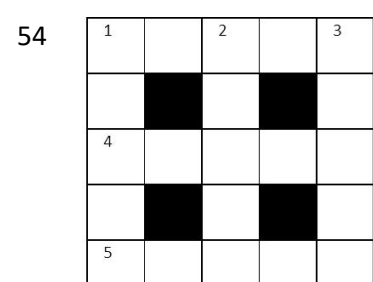


Across

1. Cuckoo (plural) 4. Absent character 5. European finch

Down

1. New Caledonian bird (plural)
2. Colourful duck 3. A bowerbird



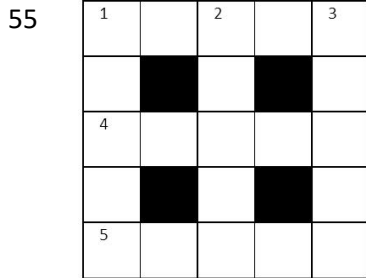
Across

1. Small waterbird 4. In the midst of 5. Nest of 3D

Down

1. Large waterbird 2. Secret romance 3. Raptor

Penta Puzzles

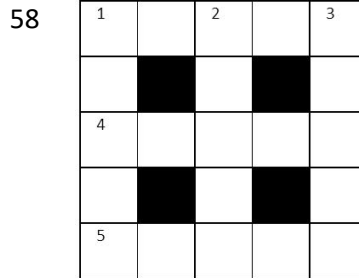


Across

1. Corvid (plural) 4. Honeyeater / monk 5. Parrot

Down

1. Shorebird (plural) 2. Antelope
3. Fish

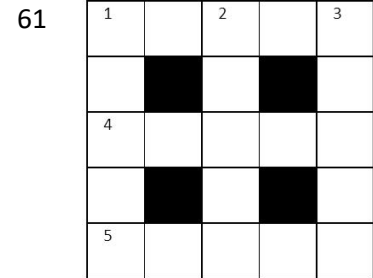


Across

1. Seed-eater 4. Shorebird
5. Synthetic material

Down

1. Less 2. Seabird 3. Waterbird

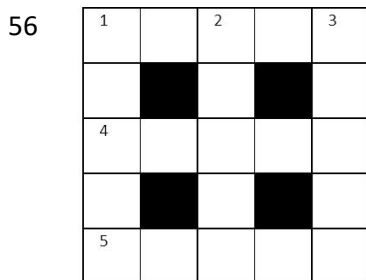


Across

1. Indian passerine 4. Scrub-bird 5. Flightless bird (plural)

Down

1. Honeyeater 2. Unworldly
3. Chasm

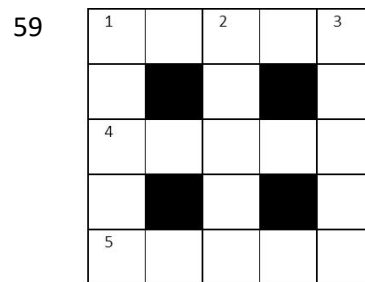


Across

1. Forest passerine 4. Urged
5. Gateway

Down

1. Shorebird 2. Large bay
3. Seabird

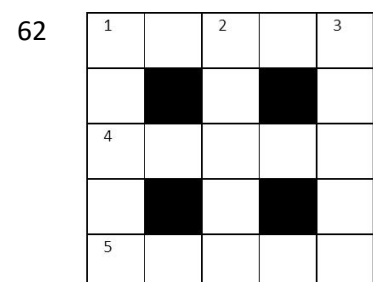


Across

1. African shrike 4. Waterbird (plural) 5. Victorian town

Down

1. Asian / American passerine
2. Friarbird 3. Crime

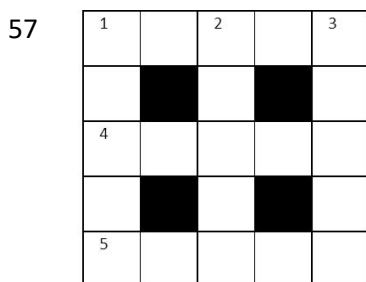


Across

1. American passerine
4. Swimming stroke 5. Wine-maker

Down

1. Winter bird! 2. African lake
3. Nightjar

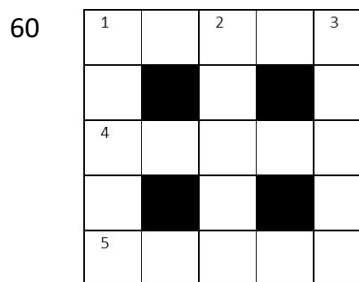


Across

1. Rainforest bird 4. South American nightbird 5. Asian short-tailed warbler

Down

1. Ground-foraging bird
2. Brazilian monkey (plural)
3. Pleasant smell

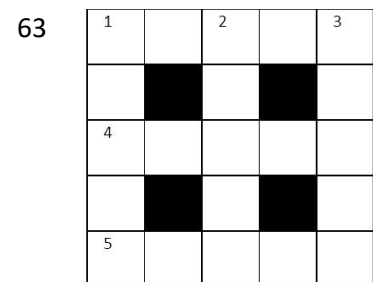


Across

1. Small shorebird 4. Quite large 5. Larger shorebird

Down

1. An owl 2. Boudicca's tribe
3. A bird sound



Across

1. Petrel type 4. Songbird (plural) 5. Asian magpie-robin

Down

1. Coastal bird (plural)
2. Artery 3. Asian warbler

Penta Puzzles

Bonus Hepta Puzzle

As a reward for sticking it out through all the preceding Penta Puzzles, here is a slightly more complicated puzzle for your finale.

Puzzle # 64

1		2		3		4
	■		■		■	
5						
	■		■		■	
6						
	■		■		■	
7						

Across

1. Old World finch 5. African passerine 6. First 7. Male artiste

Down

1. African passerine 2. Sales method 3. Tail feather 4 Songbird

Penta Puzzle Answers

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. 1A. Prion 4A. Posts 5A. Trees
1D. Pipit 2D. Issue 3D. Nests | 22. 1A. Guans 4A. Latte 5A. Soras
1D. Gulls 2D. Altar 3D. Smews | 43. 1A. Geese 4A. Lodes 5A. Heron
1D. Galah 2D. Eider 3D. Eosin |
| 2. 1A. Diver 4A. Covid 5A. Sadly
1D. Ducks 2D. Vivid 3D. Ruddy | 23. 1A. Quail 4A. Eagle 5A. Terns
1D. Quest 2D. Anger 3D. Leers | 44. 1A. Munia 4A. Larks 5A. Other
1D. Maleo 2D. North 3D. Anser |
| 3. 1A. Eagle 4A. Raven 5A. Tunes
1D. Egret 2D. Given 3D. Ernes | 24. 1A. Besra 4A. Brown 5A. XRays
1D. Babax 2D. Skoda 3D. Aunts | 45. 1A. Terek 4A. Sligo 5A. Argus
1D. Tesia 2D. Ruing 3D. Knots |
| 4. 1A. Macaw 4A. Night 5A. Ruder
1D. Miner 2D. Caged 3D. Water | 25. 1A. Birds 4A. White 5A. Royal
1D. Bower 2D. Rainy 3D. Shell | 46. 1A. Diver 4A. Durif 5A. Spots
1D. Dodos 2D. Vireo 3D. Ruffs |
| 5. 1A. Swift 4A. Ideas 5A. Title
1D. Stilt 2D. Inept 3D. Taste | 26. 1A. Crake 4A. Ioras 5A. Kiwis
1D. Chick 2D. Arrow 3D. Eases | 47. 1A. Macaw 4A. Loons 5A. Assay
1D. Malia 2D. Crows 3D. Wispy |
| 6. 1A. Chook 4A. Aglet 5A. Entry
1D. Crane 2D. Owllet 3D. Kitty | 27. 1A. Brown 4A. Omas 5A. Years
1D. Booby 2D. Obama 3D. Nests | 48. 1A. Hylia 4A. Wekas 5A. Songs
1D. Hawks 2D. Liken 3D. Asses |
| 7. 1A. Terns 4A. Idiot 5A. Evens
1D. Twite 2D. Raise 3D. Sites | 28. 1A. Skuas 4A. Okapi 5A. Knelt
1D. Stork 2D. Ukase 3D. Stilt | 49. 1A. Hobby 4A. Music 5A. Shaft
1D. Homes 2D. Besra 3D. Yacht |
| 8. 1A. Snipe 4A. Adder 5A. Pixie
1D. Scaup 2D. Index 3D. Eyrie | 29. 1A. Vanga 4A. Eagle 5A. Yetis
1D. Veery 2D. Night 3D. Areas | 50. 1A. Grebe 4A. Eyrie 5A. Egret
1D. Geese 2D. Error 3D. Event |
| 9. 1A. Finch 4A. Raven 5A. Yolks
1D. Furry 2D. Naval 3D. Hunts | 30. 1A. Black 4A. Uzbek 5A. Birds
1D. Blurb 2D. Amber 3D. Kakas | 51. 1A. Koels 4A. Godot 5A. Serin
1D. Kagus 2D. Eider 3D. Satin |
| 10. 1A. Grebe 4A. Ovoid 5A. Esker
1D. Goose 2D. eBook 3D. Eider | 31. 1A. Raven 4A. Larks 5A. Crows
1D. Relic 2D. Vireo 3D. Nests | 52. 11A. Stint 4A. Unwed 5A. Basks
1D. Squab 2D. Iiwis 3D. Tides |
| 11. 1A. Coots 4A. Croft 5A. Serin
1D. Cocks 2D. Odour 3D. Satin | 32. 1A. Heron 4A. Babax 5A. Yanks
1D. Hobby 2D. Robin 3D. Nexus | 53. 1A. Topaz 4A. Ogham 5A. Tesia
1D. Trout 2D. Pihis 3D. Zumba |
| 12. 1A. Fairy 4A. Total 5A. Loons
1D. Fatal 2D. Intro 3D. Yelps | 33. 1A. Dodos 4A. Raven 5A. Fists
1D. Durif 2D. Doves 3D. Songs | 54. 1A. Crake 4A. Among 5A. Eyrie
1D. Crane 2D. Amour 3D. Eagle |
| 13. 1A. Flame 4A. Rarer 5A. Yacht
1D. Foray 2D. Auric 3D. Egret | 34. 1A. Reeve 4A. Finer 5A. Swift
1D. Ruffs 2D. Ennui 3D. Egret | 55. 1A. Rooks 4A. Friar 5A. Swift
1D. Ruffs 2D. Oribi 3D. Sprat |
| 14. 1A. Barns 4A. Among 5A. Kites
1D. Black 2D. Roost 3D. Sages | 35. 1A. Mynas 4A. Nonce 5A. Oasis
1D. Mango 2D. Nenes 3D. Smews | 56. 1A. Robin 4A. Egged 5A. Entry
1D. Reeve 2D. Bight 3D. Noddy |
| 15. 1A. Shear 4A. Rural 5A. Water
1D. Straw 2D. Egret 3D. Ruler | 36. 1A. Doves 4A. Acrid 5A. Erode
1D. Drake 2D. Vireo 3D. Sedge | 57. 1A. Pitta 4A. Potoo 5A. Tesia
1D. Pipit 2D. Titis 3D. Aroma |
| 16. 1A. Pitta 4A. Taper 5A. Ouzel
1D. Potoo 2D. Topaz 3D. April | 37. 1A. Chats 4A. Usual 5A. Seeds
1D. Couas 2D. Azure 3D. Silos | 58. 1A. Finch 4A. Wader 5A. Rayon
1D. Fewer 2D. Noddy 3D. Heron |
| 17. 1A. Kiwis 4A. Opera 5A. SOSSA
1D. Knots 2D. Wrens 3D. Shama | 38. 1A. Pewee 4A. Kikau 5A. Ensue
1D. Pekoe 2D. Wekas 3D. Etude | 59. 1A. Vanga 4A. Rails 5A. Ouyen
1D. Vireo 2D. Noisy 3D. Arson |
| 18. 1A. Booby 4A. Zilch 5A. Sotto
1D. Bazas 2D. Owllet 3D. Yahoo | 39. 1A. Junco 4A. Mango 5A. Squid
1D. Jumps 2D. Nandu 3D. Ovoid | 60. 1A. Stint 4A. Obese 5A. Stilt
1D. Scops 2D. Icenis 3D. Tweet |
| 19. 1A. Argus 4A. Pilau 5A. Eases
1D. Apple 2D. Gulls 3D. Skuas | 40. 1A. Batis 4A. Boxer 5A. Xenus
1D. Babax 2D. Taxon 3D. Soras | 61. 1A. Minla 4A. Noisy 5A. Rheas
1D. Miner 2D. Naive 3D. Chasm |
| 20. 1A. Galah 4A. Arrow 5A. Ousts
1D. Guano 2D. Lorys 3D. Hawks | 41. 1A. Rails 4A. Opera 5A. Setts
1D. Rooks 2D. Inert 3D. Shags | 62. 1A. Junco 4A. Crawl 5A. Yeast
1D. Jacky 2D. Nyasa 3D. Owllet |
| 21. 1A. Rheas 4A. Buteo 5A. Nenes
1D. Robin 2D. Eaten 3D. Scops | 42. 1A. Kamao 4A. Ounce 5A. Aloft
1D. Kioea 2D. Mango 3D. Overt | 63. 1A. Giant 4A. Larks 5A. Shama
1D. Gulls 2D. Aorta 3D. Tesia |

Bonus Hepta Puzzle (#64)

Across 1A Sparrow 5A Nicator 6A Initial 7A Danseur **Down** 1D Sunbird 2D Auction 3D Retrice 4D Warbler

