

## Question 14

Whether you are helping birds in the wild or keeping them as pets, they require special attention and care. Write a multi-paragraph response that explains why birds are different from other animals, and describe the most important things to keep in mind when caring for them. Use information from the sources to support your response.

As you write your response, be sure to:

- Review the sources
- Create clear, organized paragraphs
- Draw information from both sources
- Use evidence from the sources to support your points
- Pay attention to the grammar, structure, and mechanics of your sentences

Be sure to include:

- An introduction
- Information from the sources to support your explanation
- A conclusion

Write your multi-paragraph response in the space provided.

**Points Possible:** 10

**Topic:** Writing

**Content Standard:** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.



## Sample Response: 10 points

Helping our bird friends is an important job! People should know how to care for them and how they are different from other animals. One thing everyone should know before they take care of a bird is whether it is wild or a pet. Wild birds need different kinds of care than pet birds. There are special people called veterinarians and rehabilitators who know how to take care of birds.

First, to take care of a wild bird, ask what its situation is. If it is hurt, call a professional rehabilitator to help. Source 1 suggests putting the bird in a box with a towel in it while you wait for help. Make sure the box has holes for the bird to breathe. If the bird is not hurt, make sure it is in a safe place. After the bird is moved to a safe place like a tree branch, people and other animals need to stay away.

Taking care of pet birds takes many steps too. One thing pet bird owners need to do is to take the birds to a special veterinarian. They should take their pet birds once every year. A bird veterinarian, like Elizabeth Hall, looks at all the bird's parts. She listens to its heart and lungs. She also knows about the kinds of sicknesses birds get. In paragraph 16, she cared for a pigeon's sore feet. Another kind of doctor might not know how to treat birds.

Another thing people can do to care for pet birds is to feed them the right food. Elizabeth Hall says that some people give their birds birdseed. Even though it is called birdseed, it doesn't mean it is the best food. People should feed their birds special pellets or green vegetables like lettuce. Paragraph 11 says a good diet for birds also has fruit, cheese, and cooked meat.

Finally, birds are different than other animals in many ways. They can be a lot of different sizes. They can be as small as  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an ounce and as big as an 11 pound Turkey. They have amazing abilities. Paragraph 13 says birds have excellent vision and super strong hearing. Some birds like parrots and parakeets can talk, sometimes they have a vocabulary of 2000 words. This makes them special and people should take good care of them.

This is why taking care of birds should be left to the people who know what to do.

Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4-point Rubric)	Evidence and Elaboration (4-point Rubric)	Conventions of Standard English (2-point Rubric begins at score point 2)
4	4	2

## Notes on Scoring

This response receives full credit (10 points).

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – There is a clearly stated main idea, "Wild birds need different kinds of care than pet birds". There is a clear progression of ideas that are directly linked to the points made in the introductory paragraph. The response effectively uses transitional words (first, another, finally) to lead the reader through a well-crafted organizational pattern. The conclusion of the response, while brief, clearly sums up the major points of the piece.

**Evidence and Elaboration** – The response effectively includes specific evidence that supports the primary idea. The evidence and elaboration is well integrated throughout the piece. Sentence structure varies from simple to complex. The response includes the use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary. The language used shows a clear understanding of the passages.

**Conventions** – The response shows a sophisticated use of conventions. Examples can be seen in the correct use of commas to separate transitional words and to set apart dependent clauses ("First, to take care of a wild bird," and "If the bird is not hurt, make sure it is in a safe place"). Capitalization and punctuation are accurate with very few minor errors ("...as big as an 11 pound **T**urkey").

## Sample Response: 8 points

People have to be responsible with birds. They should be careful to do the right thing to help the birds. Some birds need different kind of help than other birds.

Sometimes, you may find a wild bird and wonder if it needs help. You should call a special person who knows how to fix birds. If the bird is hurt, they can help. First, put the bird in a cardboard box with something soft in it like a towel. Other times, wild birds are just learning to fly. Passage 1 says to move these birds to a safe branch and don't let your dog or your brother near it.

Pet birds are fun to have, but you have to care about them all the time. You have to take them to a bird doctor. She can examine your birds feathers, beaks, heart and lungs. She can tell you what to feed your bird. Don't feed your bird fatty food like birdseed. Birds like leafy greens and cooked meat and that's the food that is good for them. A bird doctor treats other animals like rabbits and hamsters, and snakes. It seems like they would eat each other. But she is the best for pet birds.

Birds can live a long time, too. Source 2 says some parrots live to be 60 years old, and that's pretty old. Dogs only live to be 15 maximum. Also, there are a lot of birds that can talk. It would be really amazing to have a talking bird. They say that some birds can learn 2,000 words. That's a lot.

Birds are hard to take care of, but you can learn to do it if you follow directions. People should remember what kind of bird they have and take it to the doctor when it is sick.

Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4-point Rubric)	Evidence and Elaboration (4-point Rubric)	Conventions of Standard English (2-point Rubric begins at score point 2)
3	3	2

## Notes on Scoring

This response receives partial credit (8 points).

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization** – The response is given three points for purpose, focus and organization. Two clear main points are stated ("People have to be responsible with birds." and "Some birds need different kinds of help than other birds."). The response includes a clear introductory paragraph, however, the conclusion is not directly related to the stated main points. There is evidence of the adequate use of transitional words and phrases ("sometimes" at the beginning of paragraph 2, "too" at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 4). The response includes a progression of ideas, but includes some extraneous information ("...don't let your dog or your brother near it") as well as some incorrect information ("A bird doctor treats other animals like rabbits and hamsters, and snakes. It seems like they would eat each other").

**Evidence and Elaboration** – The response is given three points for evidence and elaboration. It includes referents to evidence in the text ("... can exsamin your birds feathers, beaks, heart and lungs"). Often the evidence is combined with personal opinion, which should not be a part of an explanatory response ("Also, there are a lot of birds that can talk. It would be really amazing to have a talking bird"). There is some evidence of academic vocabulary as well as some variability in sentence structure.

**Conventions** – This response receives two points for conventions of standard English. It includes some minor errors in usage of conventions, such as pronoun agreement ("call a special person who knows how to fix birds/they") and spelling (responsable, leefy, exsamin).