

Migratory Birds (Solution)

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The main content of this puzzle consists of a grid of images, each depicting a type of bird with some other stuff. The grid is arranged in alphabetical order by bird name to help you identify the birds. The key insight is that these depictions are for common two-word phrases involving birds, except that—as the title suggests—the birds have migrated. For example, the first image depicts BOOBY SCRATCH, which is a reference to CHICKEN SCRATCH, but with the CHICKEN replaced by a BOOBY. The CHICKEN has moved elsewhere in the grid, and the BOOBY came from BOOBY TRAP (and you will find the TRAP elsewhere with a different bird).

BOOBY SCRATCH	BUDGIE WALKING	CARDINAL CAKE	CHICKEN HOOD
CRANE HOLE	CROW TRAP	DUCK DIRECTIONS	EAGLE KONUNDRUM
FALCON CITY	GOOSE SMUGGLERS	HUMMINGBIRD GAME	JAY BAR
OWL SCOUT	PIGEON BUMPS	RAVEN PUNCH	ROBIN PARADOX

Every bird appears once, and the movement of the birds forms a single chain.

For the final extraction step, a column of 16 pairs of underlined items is given to the right of the grid. The key ideas here are:

- The first row is annotated with an orange dashed box and the last row with a blue dashed box. These match the outlines of two cells in the grid, and they tell you how to align the chain—the extraction will start with PIGEON BUMPS and end with CRANE HOLE (where the PIGEON had come from).
- The underlines are presented like blanks. The first item is a bird emoji, and the second item is a number. This structure matches the structure of the phrases, and it indicates that you should use the number to index into the non-bird (second) word of each phrase.

Following this extraction procedure yields the clue phrase **SRIRACHA NICKNAME** for the final answer, another two-word bird phrase: **ROOSTER SAUCE**.

The full chain mapped to the list is provided below for completeness:

PIGEON BUMPS	S
GOOSE SMUGGLERS	R
BUDGIE WALKING	I
JAY BAR	R
CROW TRAP	A
BOOBY SCRATCH	C
CHICKEN HOOD	H
ROBIN PARADOX	A
RAVEN PUNCH	N
FALCON CITY	I
OWL SCOUT	C
EAGLE KONUNDRUM	K
DUCK DIRECTIONS	N
CARDINAL CAKE	A
HUMMINGBIRD GAME	M
CRANE HOLE	E

Construction notes

You may notice that this puzzle has a rather large author list! We wrote this puzzle together, in person, at our writing retreat in July. The bird-idiom wordplay was inspired by our answer, ROOSTER SAUCE. Once the concept of mangled idioms emerged, we had a ton of fun putting together these clipart depictions. The images in the puzzle are more or less identical to those in the initial draft.