

CARD SORT: CATEGORY CARDS

Before Chernobyl	After Chernobyl
Healthy Forest Habitat: Birds lived in thriving forests with plenty of food and nesting sites.	Populations: Bird species showed typical population sizes and diversity.
Feather Colors: Bright colors. Many birds displayed strong feather pigmentation due to normal melanin production.	DNA (Genetics): Minimal mutations occurred because radiation levels were low.
Regular Migration Patterns: Birds followed consistent seasonal migration routes.	Altered Migration: Some bird populations avoided the exclusion zone or changed their migration timing.
Populations: Reduced reproduction. Fewer chicks hatched and survival rates dropped in contaminated zones.	Feather Colors: Loss of pigmentation. Birds showed duller feather colors as melanin production decreased due to radiation stress.
DNA (Genetics): Damaged cells and increased mutations. Some birds developed deformities, such as irregular feathers, tumors, or albinism.	Low/Unviable Vegetation: Birds lived in areas with highly contaminated, sparsely populated vegetation. Food sources were stunted.