

The Flamingo that Flew to the Snow

A. Answer in brief.

From whom did Kathy receive a call and why was she surprised on hearing the news?

Ans: Kathy Nihei, a bird lover, received a call from a bird watcher that a flamingo had been found among a gaggle of geese along an inlet of the Ottawa River. Kathy was surprised and amused to get the news as flamingos are not found in Canada.

B. Answer in detail.

How many people were involved in the rescue operation of the flamingo? What was each one's contribution?

Ans: The news about the lost flamingo spread everywhere and many were eager to help. A message on the internet was sent and then the Ottawa paper ran a front page story about the bird. Said Sheikh, a part time volunteer, joined the growing number of rescue volunteers. Another volunteer was Alan Walsh, who on the insistence of his daughters, called Kathy and wanted to know how he could be of help. The bird's desperate situation made the general public pitch in and three nets were donated when an appeal went out. Each one of them was involved in the rescue operation with sincerity and some of them had to even risk their lives, in the severe cold, to save the bird.

C. Choose the correct answer.

"It is time to admit failure". Why was it time to give up rescue of the flamingo?

- The flamingo must have succumbed from exposure to severe cold.
- The flamingo escaped from the rescuers and was sighted for almost a month.
- The flamingo flew away with the geese into colder lands.

Ans: b

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

'This is crazy. Why am I doing this?' Walsh kept asking himself, as he waited in the frigid pre-dawn darkness.

- a. Who was Walsh?
- b. Why did he remark so?
- c. Why had he joined the rescue team?

Ans: a. Alan Walsh, father of two young daughters Shannon and Lauren, was one of the volunteers who came to rescue the flamingo.

- b. The volunteers were working in pairs to trap the flamingo. Despite a twenty-four hour vigil, the bird was nowhere to be seen. This frustrated Walsh.
- c. When Walsh's daughters heard about the plight of the flamingo they wanted their father to save the flamingo and join the team of rescuers.

E. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

Why did the whole city rejoice over the rescue of the bird?

Ans: The flamingo was special after all. A flamingo in Canada was unheard of. Many volunteered to be part of the rescue operation. The public followed the news about the flamingo very keenly. Wading through freezing water, keeping twenty-four hour vigils in freezing cold weather paid off, to the volunteers, in the end. The bird was rescued. This definitely called for celebration in the whole city.

F. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

Kathy Nihei and the other volunteers were true examples of the deep love humans can develop for birds. Narrate any similar experience of yours or of any of your friends with birds, animals or insects.

Free response