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Across

- 7 Silly or slightly mad person (6)
- 8 Complain(6)
- **9** Coastal region at the southeastern corner of the Mediterranean bordering Israel and Egypt (4)
- 10 Large pink to scarlet web-footed wading bird with down-bent bill; inhabits brackish lakes (8)
- 11 A singer; usually a singer who adds embellishments to the song (7)
- **13** An international organization for people with high IQ (5)
- 15 Any of various usually white herons having long plumes during breeding season (5)
- 17 Loosely woven fabric used for flags, etc.(7)
- 20 Gregarious birds native to the Old World (8)
- 21 Fool or hoax (4)
- **22** Mostly tropical songbird; the male is usually bright orange and black (6)
- 23 Large wading bird that resembles a curlew; has a long slightly upturned bill (6)

Down

- 1 The capital and largest city of Zambia (6)
- 2 Gull-like jaeger of northern seas (4)
- **3** Sweets made of caramelized sugar (7)
- 4 A particular kind of writing practised by the ancient Irish, and found in inscriptions on stones, metals, etc (5)
- 5 Small bird of the lory family found chiefly in New Guinea (8)
- 6 Members of the Siouan people formerly living in Missouri (6)
- 12 Round red root vegetable (8)
- 14 Cases used to carry belongings when travelling (7)
- 16 Either of two amphibious reptiles related to crocodiles but with shorter broader snouts (6)
- 18 A small piece of table linen that is used to wipe the mouth and to cover the lap in order to protect clothing (6)
- 19 Honeyeater of the genus Manorina (5)
- 21 An old-fashioned or stupid person (4)