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## **Bird features**

All birds have feathers, and most can fly. Flight enables birds to travel swiftly over land or water. They can nest and feed in places that other animals cannot reach.

Birds have sharp eyes for hunting food and watching out for predators. Their skeletons are very strong and light.

Like dinosaurs, birds reproduce by laying eggs. The chicks are protected by a hard shell until they are ready to hatch.

# Hummingbirds and swifts

Order: Apodiformes

This order includes the swifts and the hummingbirds. Both can perch but have legs that are too weak for walking. However, their manoeuvrability on the wing compensates for this weakness.

## 1 - White-chested emerald

Family: Trochilidae

*Amazilia brevirostris*

Brazil

## 2 - Andean emerald

Family: Trochilidae

*Amazilia franciae*

Colombia

## 3 - White-bellied woodstar

Family: Trochilidae

*Chaetocercus mulsanti*

Ecuador

## 4 - White-chinned sapphire

Family: Trochilidae

*Hylocharis cyaneus*

Brazil

## **5 - Golden-tailed sapphire**

Family: Trochilidae

*Chrysuronia oenone longirostris*

Colombia

## **6 - Bee hummingbird**

Family: Trochilidae

*Mellisuga helenae*

Cuba

## **7 - Tufted coquette**

Family: Trochilidae

*Lophornis ornatus*

West Indies

## **8 - Frilled coquette**

Family: Trochilidae

*Lophornis magnificus*

Brazil

## **9 - Speckled hummingbird**

Family: Trochilidae

*Adelomyia melanogenys*

Colombia

## **10 - White-vented violetear**

Family: Trochilidae

*Colibri serrirostris*

Brazil

## **11 - Green-tailed trainbearer**

Family: Trochilidae

*Lesbia nuna gouldii*

Colombia

## **12 - Horned sungem**

Family: Trochilidae

*Heliactin bilophus*

Brazil

## **13 - Black-eared fairy**

Family: Trochilidae

*Heliathryx auritus*

Ecuador

## **14 - Common swift**

Family: Apodidae

*Apus apus*

England

## **Cranes and rails**

Order: Gruiformes

Cranes and rails feed and nest on the ground. Almost all have three forward pointing toes. Due to their ground-dwelling habits, the hind toe may be reduced or absent as they do not need to grip branches and perch. Those that live near water, such as the coot, have lobed feet which make it possible for them to walk across the floating leaves of aquatic vegetation.

### **15 - Corncrake**

Family: Rallidae

*Crex crex*

Exeter, Devon

### **16 - East African crowned-crane**

Family: Gruidae

*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*

The Uplands, Kenya

### **17 - Stanley crane**

Family: Gruidae

*Anthropoides paradisea*

Former resident of Kew Botanic Gardens, London

### **18 - Great bustard**

Family: Otididae

*Otis tarda*

Andalucia, Spain

### **19 - Macqueen's bustard**

Family: Otididae

*Chlamydotis macqueenii*

India

### **20 - Purple swamphen**

Family: Rallidae

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

Africa

## **Banana-eaters**

Order: Musophagiformes

The banana-eaters, such as the turaco, may be distantly related to the cuckoo and hoatzin. They have a similar toe arrangement to the Cuculiformes, but the fourth toe is able to swivel and point forward or backwards.

Banana-eaters are poor fliers but are agile when climbing trees.

### **21 - Great blue turaco**

Family: Musophagidae

*Corythaeola cristata*

Ivory Coast

# Owls and nightjars

Order: Strigiformes

Owls are mostly nocturnal, solitary birds. Their large forward-facing eyes give them the ability to judge distances well, even in dark conditions. They have excellent hearing which is aided by a facial disc of feathers that directs sound towards their ears. Most owls require stealth when hunting. They rely on their colouring for camouflage and their specially adapted feathers to be almost silent in flight. Owls are equipped with hooked beaks and strong talons for capturing prey.

Nightjars are believed by some to be closely related to owls. Like owls, they hunt small prey by night and they are excellently camouflaged.

## 22 - Asian barred owlet

Family: Strigidae

*Glaucidium cuculoides*

Sri Lanka

## 23 - Eurasian eagle-owl

Family: Strigidae

*Bubo bubo*

Morchard Bishop, Devon



## **24 - Long-eared owl**

Family: Strigidae

*Asio otus*

Hastings, East Sussex

## **25 - Barn owl**

Family: Tytonidae

*Tyto alba*

Tiverton, Devon

## **26 - European nightjar**

Family: Caprimulgidae

*Caprimulgus europaeus*

Near Torquay, Devon

## Hoatzins

Order: Opisthocomiformes

Hoatzins, the only species within this order, are extremely unusual birds. Unfledged birds have two finger claws on each wing which help them scramble around in the mangrove trees where the birds nest. Hoatzins are also able to swim.

### 27 - Hoatzin

Family: Opisthocomidae

*Opisthocomus hoazin*

Brazil

## Parrots and cockatoos

Order: Psittaciformes

The beaks of parrots and cockatoos are one of their most recognisable features. They use them for crushing seeds and nuts, and also for gripping when moving through the trees. Unlike other birds, both parts of the beak articulate with the skull, meaning that they can both move up and down. The feet of parrots and cockatoos have two toes pointing forwards, and two backwards.

### 28 - Kakapo

Family: Strigopidae

*Strigops habroptila*

South Island, New Zealand

### 29 - Eclectus parrot

Family: Psittacidae

*Eclectus roratus polychloros*

New Guinea

### 30 - Rose-ringed parakeet

Family: Psittacidae

*Psittacula krameri*

India

### **31 - Blue-and-yellow macaw**

Family: Psittacidae

*Ara ararauna*

South America

### **32 - Coconut lorikeet**

Family: Psittacidae

*Trichoglossus haematodus*

Australia

### **33 - Sulphur-crested cockatoo**

Family: Psittacidae

*Cacatua galerita*

Australia

### **34 - Superb parrot**

Family: Psittacidae

*Polytelis swainsonii*

Australia

### **35 - Red-headed lovebird**

Family: Psittacidae

*Agapornis pullarius*

West Africa

### **36 - Dusky lory**

Family: Psittacidae

*Pseudeos fuscata*

New Guinea

### **37 - Violet lorikeet**

Family: Psittacidae

*Vini peruviana*

Society Islands, Pacific Ocean

# Trogons

Order: Trogoniformes

Trogons are found in the tropical forests of America, Africa and Asia. The arrangement of a trogon's toes is seen in no other order of birds: the first and second toes face backwards and the third and fourth toes face forwards. Yet their feet and legs are so weak that they can only shuffle.

## **38 - Resplendent quetzal**

Family: Trogonidae

*Pharomacrus mocinno*

Central America

# Woodpeckers and relatives

Order: Piciformes

Most birds in the order Piciformes have two toes pointing forwards (the second and third) and two pointing backwards (the first and fourth). This is known as zygodactyly and helps them cling to tree trunks and branches.

## 39 - Magellanic woodpecker

Family: Picidae

*Campephilus magellanicus*

Argentina

## 40 - Channel-billed toucan

Family: Ramphastidae

*Ramphastos vitellinus*

Brazil

## 41 - Curl-crested aracari

Family: Ramphastidae

*Pteroglossus beauharnaesii*

South America

## 42 - Bearded barbet

Family: Ramphastidae

*Lybius dubius*

Chad

### **43 - Rufous-tailed jacamar**

Family: Galbulidae

*Galbula ruficauda*

South America



## Kingfishers and relatives

Order: Coraciiformes

Kingfishers and their relatives have three forward facing toes, and one that faces backwards. The forward pointing toes are partially fused together. Many kingfishers make cavity nests in trees or muddy banks.

### 44 - Blue-crowned motmot

Family: Momotidae

*Momotus momota*

South America

### 45 - Oriental dollarbird

Family: Coraciidae

*Eurystomus orientalis*

Myanmar (Burma)

### 46 - Indian roller

Family: Coraciidae

*Coracias benghalensis affinis*

India

### 47 - Black bee-eater

Family: Meropidae

*Merops gularis australis*

Ghana

**48 - African pygmy-kingfisher**

Family: Alcedinidae

*Ceyx pictus natalensis*

South Africa

**49 - Lesser pied kingfisher**

Family: Alcedinidae

*Ceryle rudis*

South Africa

**50 - Laughing kookaburra**

Family: Alcedinidae

*Dacelo novaeguineae*

Australia

# Hoopoes

Order: Upupiformes

Hoopoes have curved bills which are used for probing the ground and tree bark for small invertebrates.

## 51 - Green wood-hoopoe

Family: Phoeniculidae

*Phoeniculus purpureus*

South Africa

# Mousebirds

Order: Coliiformes

These birds are mouse-like in many respects, including their soft, hair-like body feathers, gregarious roosts and the way they scurry along tree branches searching for fruit and buds.

## 52 - Speckled mousebird

Family: Coliidae

*Colius striatus*

South Africa

# Hornbills

Order: Bucerotiformes

Hornbills are named for the hollow horn, or 'casque', on their beaks which helps to resonate their calls.

## 53 - Rhinoceros hornbill

Family: Bucerotidae

*Buceros rhinoceros*

Borneo

# Doves and pigeons

Order: Columbiformes

Doves and pigeons have small beaks which have evolved for feeding on seeds and grain. They are unusual among birds in that they can drink without needing to tilt their head back. They are able to suck up water, rather than relying on gravity to move the liquid from one part of the mouth to another. This means that they can drink continuously. Both male and female pigeons feed their young by producing a substance called 'crop milk'.

## 54 - Common crowned-pigeon

Family: Columbidae

*Goura cristata*

New Guinea

## 55 - Little cuckoo-dove

Family: Columbidae

*Macropygia ruficeps sumatrana*

Sumatra

## 56 - Torresian imperial pigeon

Family: Columbidae

*Ducula spilorrhoa*

Australia

## **57 - Topknot pigeon**

Family: Columbidae

*Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Queensland, Australia

## Cuckoos and relatives

Order: Cuculiformes

All birds in this order have feet with two toes pointing forward (the second and third), and two backward (the first and fourth). Whilst cuckoos have a reputation for laying their eggs in the nests of other birds, relatively few of the other species in this order are brood parasites.

### 58 - Black-and-white cuckoo

Family: Cuculidae

*Clamator jacobinus serratus*

South Africa

### 59 - Common cuckoo

Family: Cuculidae

*Cuculus canorus*

Cornwall

### 60 - Channel-billed cuckoo

Family: Cuculidae

*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Australia



## **Storks, ibises and herons**

Order: Ciconiiformes

Most birds in this order have long legs for wading through shallow water and long grasses. They are all hunters and their bill shape largely determines what they feed on. Many have straight beaks with sharp tips for capturing small fish, amphibians and reptiles. Others such as the spoonbill and ibis have special beak modifications.

### **61 - Black-necked stork**

Family: Ciconiidae

*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

India

### **62 - Scarlet ibis**

Family: Threskiornithidae

*Eudocimus ruber*

South America

### **63 - Grey heron**

Family: Ardeidae

*Ardea cinerea*

Dartmouth, Devon

#### **64 - Boat-billed heron**

Family: Ardeidae

*Cochlearius cochlearius*

Guyana

#### **65 - Black-crowned night-heron**

Family: Ardeidae

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Newton St Cyres, Devon

#### **66 - Spoonbill**

Family: Threskiornithidae

*Platalea leucorodia*

Salhouse, Norfolk

## **Cormorants and shags**

Order: Phalacrocoraciformes

Usually only those species with crests of feathers on their heads are called shags, but the names cormorant and shag are used somewhat interchangeably for birds in this order. All are fish eaters. Cormorants with their wings outstretched to dry after fishing are a common sight in coastal areas. Many have bare patches of coloured skin on their faces.

### **67 - Little pied cormorant**

Family: Phalacrocoracidae

*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

New Zealand

# Penguins

Order: Sphenisciformes

Penguins are flightless birds that are supremely adapted for life in cold waters. Their webbed feet, and wings that resemble the flippers of seals, make them agile divers. A layer of fat under the skin and dense waterproofed feathers help to keep penguins warm in icy waters. All penguins have dark feathers on their backs and white ones on their fronts. This provides good camouflage against predators whilst they are in the water.

## 68 - King penguin

Family: Spheniscidae

*Aptenodytes patagonicus*

Falkland Islands

## **Pelicans and relatives**

Order: Pelecaniformes

Pelicans and their relatives have webbing between all four of their forward-facing toes to help propel them through the water. They capture prey by skimming the water using their large flexible throat pouch. Birds in this order have reduced nostrils which is particularly important for those that are excellent divers.

### **69 - Northern gannet**

Family: Sulidae

*Morus bassanus*

Torquay, Devon

### **70 - Australian pelican**

Family: Pelicanidae

*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Shellharbour, Australia

# Flamingos

Order: Phoenicopteriformes

Like doves and pigeons, flamingos are able to produce 'crop milk', which they feed to their chicks. Flamingos have a unique way of feeding. Holding their beak upside down they use their piston-like tongue to pump water through a sieve of plates, or lamellae, which line the insides of the mandibles. Aquatic invertebrates, diatoms and algae are filtered out. The carotenoid proteins found in this food gives them their pink plumage.

## 71 - Chilean flamingo

Family: Phoenicopteridae

*Phoenicopus chilensis*

Chile

## **Albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters**

Order: Procellariiformes

These birds spend almost all of their lives in the air, though they must return to land in order to breed. Their long wings enable them to soar over the surface of the water in search of food, aided by a very keen sense of smell.

### **72 - Yellow-nosed albatross**

Family: Diomedidae

*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

Australia

## **Waders, gulls and auks**

Order: Charadriiformes

Many of the birds in this order are coastal or wetland birds, though some such as the lapwings prefer drier habitats. They often have long bills which are used for probing wet mud and sand in search of invertebrate prey.

### **73 - Black-tailed godwit**

Family: Scolopacidae

*Limosa limosa*

Rye, East Sussex

### **74 - Wattled jacana**

Family: Jacanidae

*Jacana jacana*

Southern America

### **75 - Painted snipe**

Family: Rostratulidae

*Rostratula benghalensis*

South Africa

### **76 - Lapwing**

Family: Charadriidae

*Vanellus vanellus*

Exmouth, Devon



**77–78 - Ruff (male and female)**

Family: Scolopacidae

*Philomachus pugnax*

Europe

**79 - Spur-winged lapwing**

Family: Charadriidae

*Vanellus spinosus*

Egypt

**80 - Black-winged stilt**

Family: Recurvirostridae

*Himantopus himantopus*

Europe

**81 - European golden plover**

Family: Charadriidae

*Pluvialis apricaria*

Europe

**82 - Common gull**

Family: Laridae

*Larus canus*

Exmouth, Devon

### **83 - Great black-backed gull**

Family: Laridae

*Larus marinus*

Kingsbridge, Devon

### **84 - Whiskered auklet**

Family: Alcidae

*Aethia pygmaea*

Aleutian Islands

### **85 - Little auk**

Family: Alcidae

*Alle alle*

Exmouth, Devon

### **86 - Eurasian stone-curlew**

Family: Burhinidae

*Burhinus oediconemus*

Southern England

### **87 - Common tern**

Family: Laridae

*Sterna hirundo*

Rye, East Sussex

## **88 - Purple sandpiper**

Family: Scolopacidae

*Calidris maritima*

Torquay, Devon

## **Birds of prey**

Order: Falconiformes

Birds of prey have short, strong, hooked beaks. The upper part of the beak has a fleshy area called the cere, which houses the nostrils. Their feet are generally short and powerful with sharp, curved talons which are used when hunting and feeding.

### **89 - Andean condor**

Family: Cathartidae

*Vultur gryphus*

Andes, Chile

### **90 - Hen harrier**

Family: Accipitridae

*Circus cyaneus*

Morched Bishop, Devon

### **91 - Sparrowhawk**

Family: Accipitridae

*Accipiter nisus*

Exeter, Devon

### **92 - Peregrine falcon**

Family: Falconidae

*Falco peregrinus*

Scotland

### **93 - Lanner falcon**

Family: Falconidae

*Falco biarmicus*

South Africa

## Perching birds

Order: Passeriformes

This order includes over half of all bird species. Perching birds have three toes pointing forwards and one backwards, allowing them to grip onto branches. Thanks to specially adapted musculature the toes continue to grip even while the bird is asleep. Some families in this order are known as songbirds.

### 94 - Blue rock-thrush

Family: Turdidae

*Monticola solitarius*

Nagasaki, Japan

### 95 - Magnificent riflebird

Family: Paradisaeidae

*Ptiloris magnificus*

New Guinea

### 96 - Winter wren

Family: Troglodytidae

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Devon

### 97 - Gouldian finch

Family: Estrildidae

*Chloebia gouldiae*

Australia

**98 - Hose's broadbill**

Family: Eurylaimidae

*Calyptomena hosii*

Sarawak, Borneo

**99 - Sickle-billed vanga**

Family: Vangidae

*Falculea palliata*

Madagascar

**100 - Goldie's bird-of-paradise**

Family: Paradisaeidae

*Paradisaea decora*

Papua New Guinea

**101 - Bassian thrush**

Family: Turdidae

*Zoothera lunulata*

Australia

**102 - Burchell's glossy starling**

Family: Sturnidae

*Lamprotornis australis*

South Africa

**103 - Greater racquet-tailed drongo**

Family: Dicruridae

*Dicrurus paradiseus*

Phu Qui, Vietnam

**104 - Seven-coloured tanager**

Family: Thraupidae

*Tangara fastuosa*

Brazil

**105 - Long-tailed broadbill**

Family: Eurylaimidae

*Psarisomus dalhousiae*

Bac Kan Province, Vietnam

**106 - King of Saxony bird-of-paradise**

Family: Paradisaeidae

*Pteridophora alberti*

New Guinea

**107 - Yellow bishop**

Family: Ploceidae

*Euplectes capensis*

South Africa



**108 - Buff-streaked chat**

Family: Muscicapidae

*Campicoloides bifasciatus*

South Africa

**109 - Grey butcherbird**

Family: Artamidae

*Cracticus torquatus leucopterus*

Australia

**110 - Yellow-billed blue magpie**

Family: Corvidae

*Urocissa flavirostris*

India

**111 - Superb lyrebird**

Family: Menuridae

*Menura novaehollandiae*

New South Wales, Australia

**112 - Blue tit**

Family: Paridae

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

Devon

### **113 - Eastern striped manikin**

Family: Pipridae

*Machaeropterus regulus*

South America

### **114 - House sparrow**

Family: Passeridae

*Passer domesticus*

Bloxworth, Dorset

### **115 - Red-billed chough**

Family: Corvidae

*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

County Mayo, Ireland

## Game birds

Order: Galliformes

Most game birds feed and nest on the ground. It is common for male game birds to have bright plumage which they use in courtship rituals to attract females. The females often have drab or mottled colouring so that they are well camouflaged when nesting. Due to the ease with which these birds can be kept in captivity, many have been domesticated.

### 116 - Grey partridge

Family: Phasianidae

*Perdix perdix*

Exeter, Devon

### 117 - Red junglefowl

Family: Phasianidae

*Gallus gallus jabouillei*

Vietnam

### 118 - West African crested guineafowl

Family: Numididae

*Guttera pucherani verreauxi*

Ghana

**119 - Greater prairie-chicken**

Family: Phasianidae

*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*

Mississippi, U.S.A.

**120 - Maleo fowl**

Family: Megapodiidae

*Macrocephalon maleo*

Sulawesi

**121 - Himalayan monal**

Family: Phasianidae

*Lophophorus impejanus*

India

**122 - Blue-billed or Prince Albert's Colombian curassow**

Family: Cracidae

*Crax alberti*

Colombia

# Ratites

Order: Struthioniformes

Ratites are unable to fly because they all lack a keel bone. The keel is a bony ridge on the breastbone to which flight muscles would normally attach. Ratites often have a reduced number of toes. The ostrich, for example, has only two on each foot.

## 123 - Southern cassowary

Family: Casuariidae

*Casuarius casuarius*

Australia

## 124 - Greater rhea

Family: Rheidae

*Rhea americana*

Argentina

## 125 - Brown kiwi

Family: Apterygidae

*Apteryx australis*

South Island, New Zealand

# **Tinamous**

Order: Tinamiformes

The tinamous are related to the flightless ratites. Unlike the ratites they have a keeled sternum and are able to fly.

## **126 - Elegant crested tinamou**

Family: Tinamidae

*Eudromia elegans*

Argentina

## **Bustard quails**

Order: Turniciformes

Despite looking very much like true quails, they do not seem to be closely related to these members of the pheasant family. They differ in having only three forward facing toes, similar to bustards.

### **127 - Barred buttonquail**

Family: Turnicidae

*Turnix suscitator taigoor*

Telok, Sumatra

# Waterfowl

Order: Anseriformes

Members of this web-footed order of birds are adapted for life on the water and in the marshy areas surrounding it. They use their webbed feet to propel themselves through the water, while their characteristic beak shape is adapted for sifting out food particles from the liquid.

All waterfowl keep their feathers waterproof by using oil from a gland near the base of their tail.

## **128–129 - Pochard (female and male)**

Family: Anatidae

*Aythya ferina*

Europe

## **130 - Hawaiian goose**

Family: Anatidae

*Branta sandvicensis*

Europe (Captive bred)

## **131 - Goldeneye**

Family: Anatidae

*Bucephala clangula*

Exeter, Devon



### **132 - Black swan**

Family: Anatidae

*Cygnus atratus*

Bow, Devon (Captive bred)

### **133 - Dark-bellied brent goose**

Family: Anatidae

*Branta bernicla bernicla*

Devon

### **134 - Long-tailed duck**

Family: Anatidae

*Clangula hyemalis*

Stromness, Orkney Islands

### **135 - Egyptian goose**

Family: Anatidae

*Alopochen aegyptiacus*

England

### **136 - Red-breasted merganser**

Family: Anatidae

*Mergus serrator*

Europe

## **137 - Muscovy duck**

Family: Anatidae

*Cairina moschata*

Brazil