



Nicolae Sfetcu

THE

BIRDS

WORLD

The Birds World

Nicolae Sfetcu

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High-level taxonomy

Birds are categorised as a biological class, Aves. The earliest known species of this class is *Archaeopteryx lithographica*, from the Late Jurassic period. According to the most recent consensus, Aves and a sister group, the order Crocodilia, together form a group of unnamed rank, the Archosauria.

Phylogenetically, Aves is usually defined as all descendants of the most recent common ancestor of modern birds (or of a specific modern bird species like *Passer domesticus*), and *Archaeopteryx*. Modern phylogenies place birds in the dinosaur clade Theropoda.

Modern birds are divided into two superorders, the Paleognathae (mostly flightless birds like ostriches), and the wildly diverse Neognathae, containing all other birds.

Bird orders

This is a list of the taxonomic orders in the class Aves. The [list of birds](#) gives a more detailed summary, including families.

Paleognathae:

- Struthioniformes, Ostrich, emus, kiwis, and allies
- Tinamiformes, tinamous

Neognathae:

- Anseriformes, waterfowl
- Galliformes, fowl
- Gaviiformes, loons
- Podicipediformes, grebes
- Procellariiformes, albatrosses, petrels, and allies
- Sphenisciformes, penguins
- Pelecaniformes, pelicans and allies

Ciconiiformes, storks and allies
Phoenicopteriformes, flamingos
Accipitriformes, eagles, hawks and allies
Falconiformes, falcons
Turniciformes, button-quail
Gruiformes, cranes and allies
Charadriiformes, gulls, plovers and allies
Pteroclidiformes, sandgrouse
Columbiformes, doves and pigeons
Psittaciformes, parrots and allies
Cuculiformes, cuckoos, turacos, hoatzin
Strigiformes, owls
Caprimulgiformes, nightjars and allies
Apodiformes, swifts
Trochiliformes, hummingbirds
Coraciiformes, kingfishers
Piciformes, woodpeckers and allies
Trogoniformes, trogons
Coliiformes, mousebirds
Passeriformes, passerines

Note: This is the traditional classification (the so-called Clements order). A more recent, radically different classification based on molecular data has been developed (the so-called Sibley-Monroe classification or Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy). This has influenced taxonomical thinking considerably, with the Galloanserae proving well-supported by recent molecular, fossil and anatomical evidence[citation needed]. With increasingly good evidence, it has become possible by 2006 to test the major proposals of the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy. The results are often nothing short of astounding, see e.g. Charadriiformes or Caprimulgiformes.

Extinct bird orders

A wide variety of bird groups became extinct during the Mesozoic era and left no modern descendants. These include the Order Archaeopterygiformes, Order Confuciusornithiformes, toothed seabirds like the Hesperornithiformes and Ichthyornithes, and the diverse Subclass Enantiornithes ("opposite birds").

For a complete listing of prehistoric bird groups, see [Fossil birds](#).

Evolution

There is significant evidence that birds evolved from theropod dinosaurs, specifically, that birds are members of Maniraptora, a group of theropods which includes dromaeosaurs and oviraptorids, among others.[1] As more non-avian theropods that are closely related to birds are discovered, the formerly clear distinction between non-birds and birds becomes

less so. Recent discoveries in northeast China (Liaoning Province) demonstrating that many small theropod dinosaurs had feathers contribute to this ambiguity.

The basal bird *Archaeopteryx*, from the Jurassic, is well-known as one of the first "missing links" to be found in support of evolution in the late 19th century, though it is not considered a direct ancestor of modern birds. *Confuciusornis* is another early bird; it lived in the Early Cretaceous. Both may be predated by *Protoavis texensis*, though the fragmentary nature of this fossil leaves it open to considerable doubt if this was a bird ancestor. Other Mesozoic birds include the *Enantiornithes*, *Yanornis*, *Ichthyornis*, *Gansus* and the *Hesperornithiformes*, a group of flightless divers resembling [grebes](#) and loons.

The recently discovered dromaeosaur *Cryptovolans* was capable of powered flight, possessed a sternal keel and had ribs with uncinat processes. In fact, *Cryptovolans* makes a better "bird" than *Archaeopteryx* which is missing some of these modern bird features. Because of this, some paleontologists have suggested that dromaeosaurs are actually basal birds whose larger members are secondarily flightless, i.e. that dromaeosaurs evolved from birds and not the other way around. Evidence for this theory is currently inconclusive, but digs continue to unearth fossils (especially in China) of the strange feathered dromaeosaurs. At any rate, it is fairly certain that avian flight existed in the mid-Jurassic and was "tried out" in several lineages and variants by the mid-Cretaceous.

Although ornithischian (bird-hipped) dinosaurs share the same hip structure as birds, birds actually originated from the saurischian (lizard-hipped) dinosaurs (if the dinosaurian origin theory is correct), and thus arrived at their hip structure condition independently. In fact, the bird-like hip structure also developed a third time among a peculiar group of theropods, the *Therizinosauridae*.

An alternate theory to the dinosaurian origin of birds, espoused by a few scientists (most notably Larry Martin and Alan Feduccia), states that birds (including maniraptoran "dinosaurs") evolved from early archosaurs like *Longisquama*, a theory which is contested by most other scientists in paleontology, and by experts in feather development and evolution such as R.O. Prum. See the *Longisquama* article for more on this alternative.

Modern birds are classified in *Neornithes*, which are now known to have evolved into some basic lineages by the end of the Cretaceous. The *Neornithes* are split into the *Paleognathae* and *Neognathae*. The paleognaths include the tinamous (found only in Central and South America) and the ratites. The ratites are large flightless birds, and include ostriches, cassowaries, kiwis and emus (though some scientists suspect that the ratites represent an artificial grouping of birds which have independently lost the ability to fly in a number of unrelated lineages). The basal divergence from the remaining *Neognathes* was that of the *Galloanseri*, the superorder containing the *Anseriformes* ([ducks](#), [geese](#) and [swans](#)), and the *Galliformes* (the [pheasants](#), [grouse](#), and their allies). See the chart for more information.

The classification of birds is a contentious issue. Sibley & Ahlquist's *Phylogeny and Classification of Birds* (1990) is a landmark work on the classification of birds (although frequently debated and constantly revised). A preponderance of evidence seems to suggest that the modern bird orders constitute accurate taxa. However, scientists are not in agreement as to the relationships between the orders; evidence from modern bird anatomy, fossils and DNA have all been brought to bear on the problem but no strong consensus has

emerged. More recently, new fossil and molecular evidence is providing an increasingly clear picture of the evolution of modern bird orders.

Bird anatomy

Main article: [bird anatomy](#)

Birds have a body plan that shows so many unusual adaptations (mostly aiding [flight](#)) that birds have earned their own unique class in the vertebrate phylum.

Nesting

Eggs

All birds lay amniotic eggs[2] with hard shells made mostly of calcium carbonate. Non-passerines typically have white eggs, except in some ground-nesting groups such as the Charadriiformes, sandgrouse and nightjars, where camouflage is necessary, and some parasitic cuckoos which have to match the passerine host's egg. Most passerines, in contrast, lay coloured eggs, even if, like the tits they are hole-nesters.

The brown or red protoporphyrin markings on passerine eggs reduce brittleness and are a substitute for calcium when that element is in short supply. The colour of individual eggs is genetically influenced, and appears to be inherited through the mother only, suggesting that the gene responsible for pigmentation is on the sex determining W chromosome (female birds are WZ, males ZZ).

The eggs are laid in a nest, which may be anything from a bare cliff ledge or ground scrape to elaborate decorated structures such as those of the oropendolas.

Social systems and parental care

The three mating systems that predominate among birds are polyandry, polygyny, and monogamy. Monogamy is seen in approximately 91% of all bird species. Polygyny constitutes 2% of all birds and polyandry is seen in less than 1%. Monogamous species of males and females pair for the breeding season. In some cases, the individuals may pair for life.

One reason for the high rate of monogamy among birds is the fact that male birds are just as adept at parental care as females. In most groups of animals, male parental care is rare, but in birds it is quite common; in fact, it is more extensive in birds than in any other vertebrate class. In birds, male care can be seen as important or essential to female fitness. "In one form of monogamy such as with obligate monogamy a female cannot rear a litter without the aid of a male" [3].

These Redwing hatchlings are completely dependent on parental care.

The parental behavior most closely associated with monogamy is male incubation. Interestingly, male incubation is the most confining male parental behavior. It takes time and also may require physiological changes that interfere with continued mating. This extreme loss of mating opportunities leads to a reduction in reproductive success among incubating males. "This information then suggests that sexual selection may be less intense in taxa where males incubate, hypothetically because males allocate more effort to parental care and less to mating" [4]. In other words, in bird species in which male incubation is common, females tend to select mates on the basis of parental behaviors rather than physical appearance.

Birds and humans

Birds are an important food source for humans. The most commonly eaten species is the domestic [chicken](#) and its [eggs](#), although [geese](#), [pheasants](#), turkeys, and [ducks](#) are also widely eaten. Other birds that have been utilized for food include [emus](#), [ostriches](#), [pigeons](#), [grouse](#), quails, [doves](#), woodcocks, [songbirds](#), and others, including small [passerines](#) such as [finches](#). Birds grown for human consumption are referred to as [poultry](#).

At one time [swans](#) and flamingos were delicacies of the rich and powerful, although these are generally protected now.

Besides meat and eggs, birds provide other items useful to humans, including [feathers](#) for bedding and decoration, guano-derived phosphorus and nitrogen used in fertilizer and gunpowder, and the central ingredient of bird's nest soup.

Many species have become extinct through over-hunting, such as the Passenger Pigeon, and many others have become endangered or extinct through habitat destruction, deforestation and intensive agriculture being common causes for declines.

Numerous species have come to depend on human activities for food and are widespread to the point of being pests. For example, the common pigeon or [Rock Pigeon](#) (*Columba livia*) thrives in urban areas around the world. In North America, introduced House Sparrows, European Starlings, and House Finches are similarly widespread.

Other birds have long been used by humans to perform tasks. For example, [homing pigeons](#) were used to carry messages before the advent of modern instant communications methods (many are still kept for sport). [Falcons](#) are still used for hunting, while [cormorants](#) are employed by fishermen. [Chickens](#) and [pigeons](#) are popular as experimental subjects, and are often used in biology and comparative psychology research. As birds are very sensitive to toxins, the [Canary](#) was used in coal mines to indicate the presence of poisonous gases, allowing miners sufficient time to escape without injury.

Colorful, particularly tropical, birds (e.g. parrots, and mynas) are often kept as pets although this practice has led to the illegal trafficking of some endangered species; CITES, an international agreement adopted in 1963, has considerably reduced trafficking in the bird species it protects.

Bird diseases that can be contracted by humans include psittacosis, salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, Newcastle's disease, mycobacteriosis (avian tuberculosis), avian influenza, giardiasis, and cryptosporidiosis.

Threats to birds

According to Worldwatch Institute, bird populations are declining worldwide, with 1,200 species facing extinction in the next century. ^[5] Among the biggest cited reasons are habitat loss,^[6] predation by nonnative species,^[7] oil spills and pesticide use, hunting and fishing, and climate change.

Trivia

- To preen or groom their feathers, birds use their bills to brush away foreign particles.
- The birds of a region are called the **avifauna**.
- Few birds use chemical defences against predators. Tubenoses can eject an unpleasant oil against an aggressor, and some species of pitohui, found in New Guinea, secrete a powerful neurotoxin in their skin and feathers.
- The Latin word for bird is **avis**.
 - [Bird feeder](#)
 - [Bird flight](#)
 - [Bird intelligence](#)
 - [Bird migration](#)
 - [Bird skeleton](#)
 - [Birdfeeding](#)
 - [Birdwatching](#)
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 - [Extinct birds](#)
 - [Language of the birds](#)
 - [List of birds](#)
 - [Oology](#)
 - [Ornithology](#)
 - [Prehistoric birds](#)

Bird families and taxonomic discussion are given in [list of birds](#) and Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy.

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5. ^ [Worldwatch Paper #165: Winged Messengers: The Decline of Birds](#). Retrieved on 2006-07-21.
6. ^ [Help Migratory Birds Reach Their Destinations](#). Retrieved on 2006-07-21.
7. ^ [Protect Backyard Birds and Wildlife: Keep Pet Cats Indoors](#). Retrieved on 2006-07-21.

Alektorophobia

Alektorophobia is the abnormal fear of [chickens](#). The suffix Phobia referring to a strong fear. Those that suffer from Alektorophobia often fear either the eggs of [chickens](#), their feathers, contamination, or being attacked by [chickens](#).

A few reasons for these irrational fears include being pecked, swooned upon, that [chickens](#) roost above eye level, or fear of the fact that [chickens](#) eat their food off the ground or in manure (invoking a fear of contamination). These fears only occasionally apply to cooked [chickens](#), but rather uncooked or live [chickens](#).

Symptoms of Alektorophobia include breathlessness, dizziness, dry mouth, excessive sweating, nausea, shaking, heart palpitations, inability to speak or think clearly, a fear of dying, becoming mad or losing control, a sensation of detachment from reality or even a full blown anxiety attack.

Alektorophobia is surprisingly common, and is a fear that many have either consciously or subconsciously. Most simply begin to sweat when around [chickens](#) and may not even notice, while some may think [chickens](#) are aggressive and conspiratorial and coordinate their attacks.

Notable alektorophobes

Werner Herzog

Avian incubation

The word **incubate** in the context of [birds](#) refers to the development of the chick (embryo) within the [egg](#) and the constant temperature required for the development of it over a specific period. This in most species of bird is produced by body heat from the brooding parent, though several groups, notably the Megapodes, instead use geothermal heat or the heat generated from rotting vegetable material, effectively a giant compost heap. The Namaqua Sandgrouse of the deserts of southern Africa, needing to keep its eggs cool during the heat of the day, stands over them drooping its wings to shade them.

In the species that incubate, the work is divided differently between the sexes. Possibly the most common pattern is that the female does all the incubation, as in the Coscoroba Swan and the Indian Robin, or most of it, as is typical of falcons. In some species, such as the Whooping Crane, the male and the female take turns incubating the egg. In others, such as the cassowaries, only the male incubates. The male Mountain Plover incubates the female's first clutch, but if she lays a second, she incubates it herself. In Hoatzins, some birds (mostly males) help their parents incubate later broods.

Incubation times range from 11 days (some small [passerines](#) and the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos) to 85 days (the Wandering Albatross and the Brown Kiwi). In these latter, the incubation is interrupted; the longest uninterrupted period is 64 to 67 days in the Emperor Penguin.^[1]

Some species begin incubation with the first egg, causing the young to hatch at different times; others begin after laying the last egg of the clutch, causing the young to hatch simultaneously.

Derived meanings

Climate-controlled incubators are used in industrial agricultural settings and in neonatal care, especially of human infants. The life expectancy for premature infants has increased dramatically thanks to incubation.

In economics, a business incubator is an organization providing physical space, communications tools, investments or human resources intended to support the development of a new firm. Approximate egg-development time, post-hatch of a regular, avian creature is six days for full flight capability in males; twelve in females.

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Bird abatement

The risks that birds create in certain circumstances have brought the need for **bird abatement**. Amongst those risks are loss of investments in farming and [aviculture](#), aircraft crashes, and bacteriological and viral contamination. With more recent outbreaks of Newcastle's disease and the [Avian Flu](#), it is reasonable to expect that bird abatement will become a larger industry.

- [1 Problems](#)
 - [1.1 Damage to farming](#)
 - [1.2 Aircraft crashes](#)
 - [1.3 Health hazards](#)
- [2 Solutions](#)
 - [2.1 Scarecrow](#)
 - [2.2 Poison](#)
 - [2.3 Falconry](#)

Problems

Damage to farming

When a flock of birds descends upon a farmer's field, they can eat up the seed and produce, damaging a farmer's crop. [Canadian Geese](#), once a fully protected species of [migratory bird](#), have become so comfortable at some farms as to abandon their migrations and take up residency. [Crows](#), [starlings](#), [bluejays](#) and many other species also pose a threat to crops.

Raptors and other predators are an age-old concern for those who raise gamebirds and [pigeons](#) as livestock.

Aircraft crashes

Birds tend to see the open grasslands of an airport as an oasis. They quickly become desensitized to the planes, and set up residency. Unfortunately, birds flying near an airport have been responsible for many aircraft crashes resulting in loss of life and property. Whether by merely distracting the pilot, breaking a windscreen, striking the prop, or causing a jet to crash when a bird is sucked into the aircraft's turbines, airborne birds are a dangerous thing at an airport.

Health hazards

Concentrations of seagulls frequenting landfills in search of discarded food in coastal areas have been shown to cause significant [health](#) hazard by drop feces in nearby waters.

Solutions

Scarecrow

One of the earliest methods of bird abatement is the scarecrow that farmers used to erect in their fields to keep the birds from eating planted seeds and crops. Fashioned of a stick frame covered in human clothing stuffed with straw, and often garnished with tin cans on strings and pie tins, the image of a scarecrow in a farmer's field has become classic.

Unfortunately, it proves ineffective, as the birds quickly become comfortable with the statue. In more recent times, netting has been placed over berry crops, poisons have been put out in the fields, and falconers' services employed, all of which are far more successful. The proverbial scarecrow, which often ended up serving as a perch for the birds they were expected to frighten away, are now largely a romantic relic of agriculture.

Poison

In some places, poison has been set out to kill off the offending birds. This environmentally unsound practice still occurs, but is on the decline owing to the fact that other creatures also consume the poisons. Secondary kills of desirable predators, as well as roaming dogs, cats, have demonstrated the dangers. Poisons are not discriminating. There is also concern that a child may inadvertently eat the poison bait. In recent times, more evolved and ecologically friendly methods have been used.

Falconry

One of the more common and popular modern methods of bird abatement is employing falconers to fly trained raptors over the fields, landfills and airports. When the raptor appears and chases the offending birds, the prey quickly scatters. Without regular flights several times a day, they will return, but so long as the raptor's presence is maintained, the problem is largely solved. Falconers' services are employed all across the country, with considerable success. Thus falconry, which has long been an antiquated pastime since its medieval origins, has resurfaced as a profession.

Bird anatomy

Bird anatomy shows so many unusual adaptations (mostly aiding [flight](#)) that birds have earned their own unique class in the vertebrate phylum.

- [1 Respiratory system](#)
- [2 Circulatory system](#)
- [3 Digestive system](#)
- [4 Skeletal system](#)
- [5 Muscular system](#)
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- [8 References](#)

Respiratory system

Due to having the high metabolic rate required for flying, birds have a high oxygen demand. They meet this by having a respiratory system more efficient than that of a mammal or a reptile. Birds ventilate their lungs by means of posterior and anterior air sacs (typically nine) which act like bellows, but do not play a direct role in gas exchange. The lungs have a fixed volume and are the site of gas exchange, the air passing through on its way to the air sacs and on its way back from the air sacs.

There are three distinct sets of organs involved in respiration—the anterior air sacs (interclavicular, cervicals, and anterior thoracics), the lungs, and the posterior air sacs (posterior thoracics and abdominals).

The posterior and anterior air sacs expand during inhalation. Air enters the bird via the trachea. Half of the inhaled air enters the posterior air sacs, the other half passes through the lungs and into the anterior air sacs. The sacs contract during exhalation. The anterior air sacs empty directly into the trachea, the posterior air sacs empty via the lungs, the lungs expel this air via the trachea.

Since during inhalation and exhalation fresh air flows through the lungs in only one direction, there is no mixing of oxygen rich air and carbon dioxide rich air within the lungs as in mammals. Thus the partial pressure of oxygen in a bird's lungs is the same as the environment, and so birds have more efficient gas-exchange of both oxygen and carbon dioxide than do mammals.

Avian lungs do not have alveoli, as mammalian lungs do, but instead contain millions of tiny passages known as parabronchi, connected at either ends by the dorsobronchi and ventrobronchi. Air flows through the honeycombed walls of the parabronchi and into air capillaries, where oxygen and carbon dioxide are traded with cross-flowing blood capillaries by diffusion.

A diaphragm is absent in birds; the entire body cavity acts as a bellows to move air through the lungs. The active phase of respiration in birds is exhalation, requiring effort of the musculature.

Circulatory system

Birds have four chambered hearts, in common with humans, most mammals and some reptiles. This adaptation allows for efficient nutrient dispersion and oxygen transportation, throughout the body, which provides birds with the energy they need to fly and to lead highly active lives. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird's heart beats up to a rate of 1200 beats per minute (about 20 beats per second).[u](#)

Digestive system

Birds possess a *ventriculus*, or gizzard, that is composed of four muscular bands that act to rotate and crush food by shifting the food from one area to the next within the gizzard. Depending on the species, the gizzard may contain small pieces of grit or stone that the bird has swallowed to aid in the grinding process of digestion. For birds in captivity, only certain species of birds require grit in their diet for digestion. The use of gizzard stones is a similarity between birds and dinosaurs, which left gizzard stones called gastroliths as trace fossils.

Skeletal system

The bird skeleton is highly adapted to the capacity for flight. It is extremely lightweight but strong enough to withstand the stresses that a bird experiences, when taking off, flying or landing. One of the adaptations that make this possible is the fusing of bones that are separate in mammals, into single ossifications, such as the pygostyle. Because of this, birds usually have a smaller number of bones than mammals or [reptiles](#).

Birds have a jaw that has adapted into a beak, on which baby birds have an egg tooth.

Birds have many bones that are hollow, with criss-crossing struts or trusses (cross walls) for structural strength. (Some flightless birds like [penguins](#) have only solid bones, however). The number of hollow bones varies from species to species, though large gliding and soaring birds tend to have the most. Most bones contain oxygen which also makes them lighter. Birds also have more cervical (neck) vertebrae than many other animals; most have a highly flexible neck that consists of 13-25 vertebrae. Birds are the only vertebrate animals to have a fused collarbone (the furcula or wishbone) or a keeled breastbone.

Muscular system

There are about 175 different muscles in the bird. They mainly control the wings, the skin and the legs, but also many other parts of the bird. The largest muscles in the bird are the muscles that control the wings. They are called the pectorals, or the breast muscles, and make up about 15 - 25% of a bird's full body weight. They make the birds' wing stroke very powerful so that they can fly, and provide most of the movements the bird needs for its down stroke. The muscle below the pectorals is the supracoracoideus. It raises the wing when a bird is flying. The supracoracoideus and the pectorals together make up about 25 - 35% of the birds' full body weight.

The skin muscles help a bird in its flight by making the feathers, which are attached to the skin muscle, go up, down, or move sideways. This helps the bird in its flight maneuvers.

There are only a few muscles in the trunk and the tail, but they are very strong and are essential for the bird. The pygostyle controls all the movement in the tail and controls the feathers in the tail. This gives the tail a larger surface area which helps keep the bird in the air.

Head

Birds have acute eyesight, with raptors having vision eight times sharper than humans. This is because of many photoreceptors in the retina (up to 1,000,000 per square mm in Buteos, against 200,000 for humans), a very high number of nerves connecting the receptors to the brain, a second set of eye muscles not found in other animals, and, in birds of prey, an indented fovea which magnifies the central part of the visual field. Many species, including [hummingbirds](#) and [albatrosses](#), have two foveas in each eye, and the ability to detect polarised light is also common.

Birds have a large brain to body mass ratio. This is reflected in the surprisingly advanced and complex [bird intelligence](#).

The region between the eye and bill on the side of a bird's head is called the lores. This region is sometimes featherless, and the skin may be tinted (as in many species of the [cormorant](#) family).

Reproduction

Fledgling

Although most male birds have no external sex organs, the male does have two testes which become hundreds of times larger during the breeding season to produce sperm. The female's ovaries also become larger, although only the left ovary actually functions.

In the males of species without a phallus (see below), sperm is stored in the seminal glomera within the cloacal protuberance prior to copulation. During copulation, the female moves her tail to the side and the male either mounts the female from behind or in front (in the stitchbird), or moves very close to her. The cloacae then touch, so that the sperm can

enter the female's reproductive tract. This can happen very fast, sometimes in less than one second.

The sperm is stored in the female's sperm storage tubules for anywhere from a week to a year, depending on the species of bird. Then, one by one, eggs will be fertilised as they come out of the ovaries, before being laid by the female. The eggs will then continue their development outside the female body.

A juvenile Laughing Gull

Many waterfowl and some other birds, such as the ostrich and turkey, do possess a phallus. When not copulating, it is hidden within the proctodeum compartment within the cloaca, just inside the vent.

After the eggs hatch, parent birds provide varying degrees of care in terms of food and protection. Precocial birds can care for themselves independently within minutes of hatching; altricial hatchlings are helpless, blind, and naked, and require extended parental care. The chicks of many ground-nesting birds such as [partridges](#) and [waders](#) are often able to run virtually immediately after hatching; such birds are referred to as nidifugous. The young of hole-nesters, on the other hand, are often totally incapable of unassisted survival. The process whereby a chick acquires feathers until it can fly is called "fledging".

Some birds, such as pigeons, geese, and Red-crowned Cranes, remain with their mates for life (or for a long period) and may produce offspring on a regular basis.

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Bird skeleton

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- [1 Skull](#)
- [2 Neck, back, and tail](#)
- [3 Chest](#)
- [4 Wings](#)
- [5 Hips](#)
- [6 Legs](#)
- [7 See also](#)

Skull

The skull consists of five major bones:

- Frontal (top of head).
- Parietal (back of head).
- Premaxillary and Nasal (top beak).
- Mandible (bottom beak).

The skull of a normal bird usually weighs about 1% of the birds total bodyweight.

Neck, back, and tail

The vertebral column consists of vertebrae, and is divided into three sections:

- Cervical (13-16) (neck).
- Synsacrum (fused vertebrae of the back, also fused to the hips (pelvis)).
- Pygostyle (tail).

Chest

The chest consists of the furcula (wishbone) and coracoid (collar bone), which two bones, together with the scapula (see below), form the pectoral girdle. The side of the chest is formed by the ribs, which meet at the sternum (mid-line of the chest).

Wings

The shoulder consists of the scapula (shoulder blade), coracoid (see The Chest), and humerus (upper arm). The humerus joins the radius and ulna (forearm) to form the elbow. The carpus and metacarpus form the "wrist" and "hand" of the bird, and the digits (fingers) are fused together. The bones in the wing are extremely light so that the bird can fly more easily.

Hips

The hips consist of the pelvis which includes three major bones:

- Ilium (top of the hip).
- Ischium (sides of hip).
- Pubis (front of the hip).

These are fused into one (the innominate bone). They meet at the acetabulum (the hip socket) and articulate with the femur, which is the first bone of the hind limb.

Legs

The upper leg consists of the femur. At the knee joint, the femur connects to the tibiotarsus (shin) and fibula (side of lower leg). The tarsometatarsus forms the upper part of the foot, digits make up the toes. The leg bones of birds are the heaviest, contributing to a low center of gravity. This aids in flight.

See also

- [Bird anatomy](#)

Bird bath

A **bird bath** is essentially a *man-made puddle* on a pedestal with a shallow basin filled with water for bathing and drinking. Used in combination with [bird feeders](#) and species-appropriate shrubs and trees, a bird bath is a powerful attraction for birds, especially during droughts.

- [1 Design and construction](#)
 - [1.1 A place to stand](#)
 - [1.2 A safe feeling](#)
- [2 Maintenance](#)
- [3 Welcoming larger birds](#)
- [4 See also](#)

Design and construction

The typical and traditional bird bath is made of molded concrete formed in two pieces, the bowl and the pedestal. The bowl has an indentation or socket in the base which allows it to fit over the pedestal. The pedestal is typically about one meter tall. Both bowl and pedestal are decorated with reliefs. The bowl may have a shell type of motif or a woodland rocky spring motif. The pedestal usually has a motif of vines or tree trunks. However, birds are also attracted to simpler designs, even a shallow plate or pie tin placed beneath a slowly dripping water faucet will welcome birds to your garden.

Bird baths can be made with other types of materials including glass, metal, plastics, mosaic tile, or any other material that can weather well and hold water. In addition to the standard shallow container of standing water, there are also bird baths which use a recirculating pump with filters possibly coupled to a water supply with an automatic valve which will keep the bird bath water cleaner and requires less day-to-day care. Some use a solar powered pump to recirculate the water.

A place to stand

An important feature of a bird bath that should be considered in designing one, is a place to perch, to avoid the risk of birds drowning. This requirement may be fulfilled simply by

making the bowl or container part shallow enough to allow birds to perch *in* the water. Another way is to add a number of clean stones inside the bowl, to create places on which a bird might stand.

A safe feeling

Consideration should also be made to the issue of housecats or other predators, by placing the birdbath in a location where the birds can see the area around it, and where there are no hiding places for predators to lurk. This is one of the reasons birdbaths are customarily placed on pedestals.

Maintenance

A bird bath requires maintenance. Maintenance may be as simple as a daily quick wash and refill but it will depend on the bird bath materials. This is important because of the possible adverse health effects of birds drinking dirty water or water which may have become fouled with excrement. Fresh water is important. Concrete bird baths tend to become mossy and require an occasional scrubbing out.

Welcoming larger birds

Larger birds, such as the [Canada goose](#), also enjoy baths. They may be accommodated well by large agricultural sprinklers in a field of stubble. The sight of several hundred or thousand large geese "playing in the sprinklers" can be a moving experience. Providing such a place for [migratory birds](#), especially in urban and suburban areas devoid of wetlands is an excellent way of encouraging them to frequent an area. As wetlands become more scarce, steps such as these can be important conservation practices.

See also

- [Bird feeder](#)
- [Bird watching](#)

Bird feeding

Bird feeding is the activity of feeding wild [birds](#).

While [birdwatchers](#) seek out birds by species, bird feeders attempt to attract birds to suburban and domestic locations. This requires setting up a feeding station and supplying [bird food](#). The food might include seeds, peanuts, bought food mixes, fat and suet. Additionally, a birdbath and grit (sand) that birds store in their crops to help grind food as an aid to digestion, can be provided.

Certain foods tend to attract certain birds. [Finches](#) love niger thistle seed. Jays love corn. [Hummingbirds](#) love nectar. Mixed seed attracts many birds. Black oil sunflower seed is favored by many seed-eating species.

Feeding stations should be located near natural cover. Birds prefer not to be exposed. Therefore, putting a bird feeding station by a window will attract only especially gregarious birds (such as [sparrows](#) and [starlings](#)). While the viewer will want to have a clear line of sight to the feeding station, it is important for the station to be near shrubbery or a tree. If the station is *too close* to a tree or shrub, pests such as squirrels may find access to the station easy. Locating feeders near low cover gives predators such as cats a hiding place from which to launch an ambush. Birds are messy eaters. If the feeding station is over dirt or a lawn, whole cereals and unshelled sunflower seeds will germinate beneath the station, while shelled nuts and degermed cereals will not.

After the station is established, it can take some weeks for birds to discover and start using it. This is particularly true if the feeding station is the first one in an area or (in cold-winter areas) if the station is being established in spring when natural sources of food are plentiful. Therefore, beginners should not completely fill a feeder at first. The food will get old and spoil if it is left uneaten for too long. This is particularly true of unshelled foods, such as thistle seed and suet. Once the birds begin taking food, the feeder should be kept full. Additionally, people feeding birds should be sure that there is a source of water nearby. A bird bath can attract as many birds as a feeding station.

Generally, bird feeding is environmentally neutral or helpful. However, birds can become dependent on artificial food supplies, and feeding can upset the natural balance between different species. This is especially true of invasive species, such as, in the US, European starlings and Eurasian tree sparrows, which can increase in numbers due to feeding and displace native populations. Some bird feeders therefore attempt to select foods and feeding stations that can discriminate between desired and invasive species. Some species are considered "trash" birds because they are sighted so often. If there is concern about fostering invasive species, it is best to feed during winter, when birds most need food, to taper feeding activity in spring, and to increase again in fall, when fledging will have taken place and local populations will be higher.

Different feeders can be purchased specialized for different species. Persons living on migration routes should especially feed during the migration times (which may be year-round), as feeding will not be likely to artificially promote local populations. During spring feeders make up less than 25% of a birds diet but during winter months the birds will turn to the feeder which they have come to know as a dependable food source.

When bird feeding, be sure to take hygiene and safety precautions, as the unnatural situation of having large numbers of birds congregating in one area can lead to transmission of infectious diseases. Clean all feeding stations regularly and wash away all droppings. Wear rubber gloves when undertaking these tasks to avoid contact with bacteria and viruses that may be present in bird droppings. Other safety precautions involve not feeding whole peanuts or unsoaked dried fruit during the breeding season as this can be dangerous to nestlings, and never using net bags to feed birds, as birds may die as a result of their feet or tongues getting trapped.

Large sums of money are spent by ardent bird feeders, who indulge their wild birds with a variety of wild bird seeds, suets, nectars (for hummingbirds), and special flower plantings. Bird feeding is regarded as the first or second most popular pastime in the USA. Some fifty-five million Americans are involved in bird feeding. The activity has spawned an industry that sells birdseed, birdfeeders, birdhouses (nesting boxes), mounting poles, squirrel baffles, binoculars, etc.

The ten commonest birds reported in U.S. gardens are, in descending order:

- Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove
Dark-eyed Junco
American Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker
[Blue Jay](#)
- House Finch
Tufted Titmouse
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee

(from the 2005 [Great Backyard Bird Count](#))

The ten commonest birds in British gardens are, in descending order:

- House Sparrow
Common Starling
Blackbird
Blue Tit
Chaffinch
Greenfinch
Collared Dove
Wood Pigeon
Great Tit
Robin

(from the 2006 RSPB Garden Birdwatch. See also the RSPB's list of the twenty commonest garden birds[\[1\]](#))

In some cities or parts of cities (e.g. Trafalgar Square in London) feeding certain birds is forbidden, either because they compete with vulnerable native species, or because they abound and cause pollution and/or noise.

Bird food

Bird food is food (often varieties of seeds) eaten by [birds](#). Humans generally make or buy bird food to feed to pet birds or use in [birdfeeders](#). The choice of what to use as birdfood depends on the species of bird being fed.

- [1 Bird seeds](#)
- [2 Non-seed birdfood](#)
- [3 Commercial bird food](#)
- [5 References](#)

Bird seeds

Black sunflower seeds are highly recommended for use in bird feeders because they attract a wide variety of birds, have a high ratio of meat to shell, and are high in fat content.[1][2] Other common birdseeds include niger, a favorite of goldfinches, millet for [sparrows](#) and [juncos](#), and safflower for [cardinals](#), among others.[1][2]

Non-seed birdfood

Not all birds eat seeds. Suet (beef or mutton fat) is recommended for insect-eating birds like nuthatches and woodpeckers.[1] Nectar (essentially sugar water) attracts [hummingbirds](#).^[1]

Commercial bird food

A wide variety of commercial bird food is available to bird owners. However, bags of mixed birdseed often combine attractive bird food like sunflower seeds with "filler" materials that birds enjoy less. Birds tend to pick out their favorite seeds and simply leave the rest uneaten.[2][3]

References

1. [^] [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [What to Feed Birds](#) and [Seeds and Grains for Birds](#). *Project FeederWatch*. Retrieved on August 23, 2006
2. [^] [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Porter, Diane. [Winter Bird Feeder: Keep Them Coming Back](#). Retrieved on August 23, 2006.
3. [^] [Choosing Bird Food](#). *All About Birds*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Retrieved on August 23, 2006.

Bird feeder

A **birdfeeder**, **bird feeder**, or **bird table** is a device placed out-of-doors to supply [bird food](#) to [birds](#). The success of a birdfeeder in attracting birds depends on its placement and the kinds of seeds offered, as different species have different preferences.

The most familiar feeders supply seeds such as millet, sunflower, safflower, thistle (niger or nyjer), and rapeseed or canola seed, to seed-eating birds.

Hummingbird feeders, rather than dispensing seed, supply liquid nourishment to [hummingbirds](#), in the form of a solution of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. This mixture is often coloured red to attract the [birds](#), but this is unnecessary and the food coloring may actually be detrimental to the birds' health [\[1\]](#).

Oriole feeders, which are traditionally colored orange, also supply such artificial nectar and are designed to serve New World orioles, which have a differently shaped [beak](#) and tongue. These orioles and some other birds will also come to fruit foods, such as grape jelly or half an orange on a peg.

A **suet feeder** is typically a metal cage-like construction with a plastic coating which contains a cake or block of suet to feed woodpeckers, flickers, [nuthatches](#) and many other species of insect eaters.

Bird feeders are a must for home [birdwatching](#), and many people keep webcams trained on feeders where birds often congregate.

Squirrels may also help themselves to the contents of bird feeders, often not merely feeding, but carrying away the food to their hoard. There are various anti-squirrel devices available to thwart squirrels' attempts to raid bird feeders. Several manufacturers produce feeders with perches that collapse under the weight of anything heavier than a bird, or that use battery power to lightly shock an intruder or spin the perching area to fling it off.

Sometimes the placement of a squirrel feeder is the best way to keep squirrels away from bird feeders. Squirrel feeders typically offer a whole dried cob of corn, often at the top of a rotating stick to add a bit of amusement to the antics. The American talk-show host, Rosie O'Donnell had a well-known and longstanding 'feud' with what was apparently a band of "genius squirrels". No matter what she tried, the squirrels seemed to quickly figure out how to get around it.

While bird feeders are thought of by some as winter projects, urban and suburban areas can benefit from bird feeders year-round. The absence of plentiful food sources, as well as the increasingly toxic environment created by the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, can make the process of finding safe and plentiful food difficult for birds which find themselves in these areas.

See also

- [Bird Bath](#)
- [Bird Feeding](#)
- [Bird Watching](#)

Bird flight

Flight is the mode of locomotion used by most of the world's **bird** species. It is important to [birds](#) for feeding, breeding and avoiding predators.

- [1 Evolution and purpose of bird flight](#)
- [2 Basic mechanics of bird flight](#)
- [3 The wing](#)
- [4 Wing shape and flight](#)
 - [4.1 Elliptical wings](#)
 - [4.2 High speed wings](#)
 - [4.3 Soaring wings with deep slots](#)
- [5 Hovering](#)
- [6 Take-off and landing](#)
- [7 Adaptations for flight](#)
- [8 References](#)

Evolution and purpose of bird flight

The origin of bird flight is still somewhat unclear, even though most paleontologists agree that birds evolved from small theropod dinosaurs. It seems likely that they evolved from ground living species, with flight developing after the evolution of [feathers](#). It seems likely in this case that flight evolved as a result of benefits in the pursuit of small airborne prey items (such as insects), possibly subsequently becoming useful as a predator avoiding behavior.

Flight is more energetically expensive in larger birds, and many of the largest species fly by soaring (gliding without flapping their wings) most of the time. Many physiological adaptations have evolved that make flight more efficient.

Today birds use flight for many purposes. It is still used by some species to obtain prey on the wing, as well as foraging, to commute to feeding grounds, and [migrate](#) between the seasons. Flight's importance in avoiding predators can be shown in the frequency with which it is lost when birds reach isolated oceanic islands that lack ground-based predators. It is also used by some species to display during the breeding season and to reach safe isolated places for nesting.

Basic mechanics of bird flight

The fundamentals of bird flight are similar to those of aircraft. Lift force is produced by the action of air-flow on the wing, which is an airfoil/aerofoil. The lift-force is because the air has a lower air pressure just above the wing and higher pressure below.

When gliding, both birds and gliders obtain both a vertical and a forward force from their wings. This is possible because the lift force is generated at right angles to the air-flow, which in level flight comes from slightly below the wing. The lift force therefore has a forward component. (Weight always acts vertically downwards and so cannot provide a forward force. Without a forward component a gliding bird would merely descend vertically.)

When a bird flaps, as opposed to gliding, its wings continue to develop lift as before but they also create an additional forward and upward force, thrust, to counteract its weight and drag. Flapping involves two stages, the down-stroke, which provides the majority of the thrust, and the up-stroke, which can also (depending on the bird's wings) provide some upward force. At each up-stroke the wing is slightly folded inwards to reduce upward resistance. Birds change the angle of attack between the up-strokes and the down-strokes of their wings. During the down-stroke the angle of attack is increased and is decreased during the up-stroke.

There are three major forces that impede a bird's aerial flight: frictional drag (caused by the friction of air and body surfaces), form drag (due to frontal area of the bird, also known as pressure drag) and lift-induced drag (caused by the wingtip vortices).

The wing

The bird's forelimbs, the wings, are the key to bird flight. Each wing has a central vane to hit the wind, composed of three limb bones, the humerus, ulna and radius. The hand, or manus, which ancestrally was composed of five digits, is reduced to three digits (digit II, III and IV), the purpose of which is to serve as an anchor for the primaries (or metacarpodigitals), one of two groups of feathers responsible for the airfoil shape. The other set of flight feathers that are behind the carpal joint on the ulna, are called the secondaries or cubitals. The remaining feathers on the wing are known as coverts, of which there are three sets. The wing sometimes has vestigial claws, in most species these are lost by the time the bird is adult (such as the Hoatzin), but claws are retained into adulthood by the Secretary Bird, the screamers and finfoot.

Wing shape and flight

The shape of the wing is important in determining the type of flight of which the bird is capable, planform. This restricts the bird in some ways and enhances the bird in others. Wing shape can be described in terms of two parameters, aspect ratio and wing loading. Aspect ratio is the ratio of wing breadth to the mean of its Chord, or mean wingspan divided by wing area. Wing loading is the ratio of weight to wing area.

Amongst the birds there are four main kinds of wing that the majority of birds use, although in some cases wings may fall between two of the categories. These types of wings are elliptical wings, high speed wings, high aspect ratio wings and soaring wings with slots.

Elliptical wings

Elliptical wings are short and rounded, having a low aspect ratio, allowing for tight maneuvering in confined spaces such as might be found in dense vegetation. As such they are common in forest raptors (such as *Accipiter* hawks), and many [passerines](#), particularly non-migratory ones (migratory species have longer wings). They are also common in species that use a rapid take off to evade predators, such as [pheasants](#) and [partridges](#).

High speed wings

High speed wings are short, pointed wings that when combined with a heavy wing loading and rapid wingbeats provide an energetically expensive high speed. This type of flight is used by the bird with the fastest wing speed, the Peregrine Falcon, as well as by most of the [ducks](#). The same wing shape is used by the [auks](#) for a different purpose; auks use their wings to "fly" underwater.

Soaring wings with deep slots

These are the wings favored by the larger species of inland birds, such as [eagles](#), [vultures](#), [pelicans](#), and [storks](#). The slots at the end of the wings, between the primaries, reduce the turbulence at the tips, whilst the shorter size of the wings aids in takeoff (High aspect ratio wings require a long taxi in order to get airborne).

Hovering

Hovering is a demanding but useful ability used by several species of birds (and specialized in by one family). Hovering, literally generating lift through flapping alone rather than as a product of thrust, demands a lot of energy. This means that it is confined to smaller birds; the largest bird able to truly hover is the Pied Kingfisher, although larger birds can hover for small periods of time. Larger birds that hover do so by flying into a headwind, allowing them to utilize thrust to fly slowly but remain stationary to the ground (or water). Kestrels, terns and even hawks use this windhovering.

Most birds that hover have high aspect ratio wings that are suited to low speed flying. One major exception to this are the [hummingbirds](#), which are among the most accomplished hoverers of all the birds. Hummingbird flight is different to other bird flight in that the wing is extended throughout the whole stroke, the stroke being a symmetrical figure of eight, with the wing being an airfoil in both the up- and down-stroke. Some hummingbirds can beat their wings 52 times a second, others do so less frequently.

Take-off and landing

Take-off can be one of the most energetically demanding aspects of flight, as the bird needs to generate enough airflow under the wing to create lift. In small birds a jump up will suffice, while for larger birds this is simply not possible. In this situation, birds need to take a run up in order to generate the airflow to take off. Large birds often simplify take off by facing into the wind, and, if they can, perching on a branch or cliff so that all they need to do is drop off into the air.

Landing is also a problem for many large birds with high airspeeds. This problem is dealt with in some species by aiming for a point below the intended landing area (such as a nest on a cliff) then pulling up beforehand. If timed correctly then the airspeed once the target is reached is virtually nil. Landing on water is simpler, and the larger waterfowl species prefer to do so whenever possible.

Adaptations for flight

The most obvious adaptation to flight is the wing, but because flight is so energetically demanding birds have evolved several other adaptations to improve efficiency when flying. The [bird skeleton](#) is hollow to reduce weight, and many unnecessary bones have been lost (such as the bony tail of the early bird *Archaeopteryx*), along with the toothed jaw of early birds, which has been replaced with a lightweight [beak](#). The vanes of the [feathers](#) have hooklets called barbules that zip them together, giving the feathers the strength needed to hold the airfoil (these are often lost in [flightless birds](#)).

The large amounts of energy required for flight have led to the evolution of a unidirectional pulmonary system to provide the large quantities of oxygen required for their high respiration rates. This high metabolic rate produces large quantities of radicals in the cells that can damage DNA and lead to tumours. Birds, however, do not suffer from an otherwise expected shortened lifespan as their cells have evolved a more efficient antioxidant system than those found in other animals.

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Wing clipping

Wing clipping is the process of trimming a [bird's](#) primary flight feathers (or primaries) so that he or she is no longer fully-flighted.

As the clip only trims feathers and not the wings themselves, it does not cause the bird major physical harm.

Since the feathers do not have nerve endings, the bird does not feel pain. Therefore, wing clipping is similar to a person having their nails clipped or their hair cut.

An appropriate wing clip will allow a bird to glide across the room without gaining altitude. If too few primaries are taken, the bird will be able to gain altitude; if too many primaries are taken, the bird will plummet like a rock. Those experienced with wing clipping will only take one or two feathers from each side at a time and see how well the bird can fly before taking more feathers, to avoid causing the bird to plummet and potentially be injured in doing so.

Many people who keep birds as pets prefer to clip their wings so that their birds will not crash into mirrors, walls, or windows, all of which are serious hazards to flighted birds: A hard crash can result in instant death.

Other people clip their birds' wings to minimize the chances of them flying away if they accidentally get outdoors. However, in the right conditions -- particularly windy days -- birds whose wings are clipped can still gain altitude and fly out of their owner's reach.

Another reason for clipping wings is to keep pet birds that are social in nature (such as parrots) more tame. When birds are unclipped, they typically have a greater sense of independence and can be less likely to socialize with their owners.

When a bird's wings are clipped, an equal number of feathers are taken from each wing. In ducks and chickens often just one wing is clipped (i.e. 10 primary feathers of one wing), they are not good fliers and to clip one wing is enough to unbalance their flight and keep them grounded. To keep a bird from being fully-flighted, wing clipping must be done after every moult, but it is important to only clip the wings when the feathers have finished growing and there is no blood in them. If the shaft resembles the ink tube of a ball point pen clipping can result in the death of the bird. Many people clip their birds' wings themselves, although it is a good idea to have an avian veterinarian, pet store employee, or breeder demonstrate the process first.

Bird intelligence

The level of **intelligence in birds**, as a scientific inquiry, has not been as thoroughly researched as similar questions regarding primates and other mammals. However, there is a general belief that they are more intelligent, as a class, than the [reptiles](#), and that many species are just as intelligent as mammals of comparable size. Because [birds](#) lack forelimbs with which to modify their surroundings, it is often difficult to test for intelligence as we would define it for mammals. Traditionally, biological science has maintained that most actions performed by birds that may indicate intelligence are merely ingrained instinctual behaviours and that birds are unable to learn. One argument against the supposed intelligent capabilities of bird species is that birds have a relatively small cerebral cortex, which is the part of the brain considered to be the main area of intelligence in other animals [\[1\]](#). However, it seems that birds use a different part of their brain, the medio-rostral neostriatum/hyperstriatum ventrale, as the seat of their intelligence, and the brain-to body size ratio of psitticines and corvines is actually comparable to that of higher primates. [\[2\]](#)

Studies with captive birds have given us insight into which birds are the most intelligent. While parrots have the distinction of being able to mimic human speech, studies with the [African Grey Parrot](#) have shown that some are able to associate words with their meanings and form simple sentences. Along with parrots, the crows, ravens, and jays (family [Corvidae](#)) are perhaps the most intelligent of birds. Not surprisingly, research has shown that these species tend to have the largest hyperstriata. Dr. Harvey J. Karten, a neuroscientist at UCSD who has studied the physiology of birds, discovered that the lower part of avian brains are similar to ours.

- [1 Indications of intelligence in bird species](#)
 - [1.1 Vision](#)
 - [1.2 Social behaviour](#)
 - [1.3 Use of tools](#)
 - [1.4 Language](#)
 - [1.5 Migration](#)
 - [1.6 Conceptual skills](#)
 - [1.7 Other interesting behaviors showing higher intelligence](#)
- [2 References](#)

Indications of intelligence in bird species

Vision

Birds rely heavily on their eyes for flying and navigation. The brains of many birds must be able to handle tasks differently from other animals. All flying birds must possess a fine level of motor control for in-flight maneuvering and landing.

Most small birds are prey animals. Detecting the movement of predators in their environment is critical. Their eyes are positioned on the sides of their heads to make this easier. They have monocular vision.

Other predatory species like [owls](#) are built differently. Their eyes are positioned in the front of their heads so that they can calculate and maneuver a successful strike on a moving target. Owls eyes are so large proportionally, they cannot move them independently. They are stationary inside the skull. That's why they can rotate their heads nearly 360 degrees.

A [bird of prey](#) searching for a small rodent from high above the ground must be able to process a huge amount of complex visual information. It helps that they can see in a different color spectrum than humans. According to a video series distributed by PBS.org called "The Life Of Birds" by David Attenborough, new research shows that hawks, for example, can easily see the urine in the grass found around mouse habitats because it glows fluorescently for them. Seeing in a different color spectrum also helps individual birds determine the sex of other members of their species. Light reflects differently off the feathers of males and females. Perceiving this from a distance is obviously an advantage for a bird who is defending his territory.

Social behaviour

Some scientists argue that the more social animals are, the more intelligent they seem to be. The human race itself is an example of evidence that would support this conjecture. Both parrots and corvids have shown tendencies towards organized social behaviour. Many corvid species separate into small family groups or "clans" for activities like nesting and territorial defense. The birds will then congregate in massive flocks made up of several different species for migratory purposes. When the migration period is over, they will return to their original family groups. Scientists report that such behaviours indicate intelligence, as they would require the birds to not only recognize and remember their former companions, but also to interpret subtle changes in temperament and appearance.

Some birds use teamwork while hunting. Predatory birds hunting in pairs have been observed using a "bait and switch" technique, whereby one bird will distract the prey while the other swoops in for the kill.

Use of tools

Like primates, many bird species have taught themselves to use tools.

- New Caledonian Crows have been observed in the wild to use stick tools with their beaks to extract insects from logs. While young birds in the wild normally learn this technique from elders, a laboratory crow named "Betty" improvised a hooked tool from a wire with no prior experience [\[3\]](#). The woodpecker finch also uses simple stick tools to assist it in obtaining food.
- In captivity, a young cactus finch learned to imitate this behaviour by watching a woodpecker finch in an adjacent cage.
- British documentarian David Attenborough, in his mini-series *The Life of Birds*, captured an innovation the crows in urban Japan had developed. They dropped hard-shelled nuts onto crosswalks. Once they were cracked by cars that ran over them, they were retrieved while the cars were stopped at a red light.
- Striated Herons (*Butorides striatus*) use bait to catch fish.

Language

While birds have no form of spoken language, they do communicate with their flockmates through song, calls, and body language. Studies have shown that the intricate territorial songs of some birds must be learned at an early age, and that the memory of the song will serve the bird for the rest of its life. Some bird species are able to communicate in a variety of dialects. For example, the New Zealand saddleback will learn the different song "dialects" of clans of its own species, much as human beings might learn diverse regional dialects. When a territory-owning male of the species dies, a young male will immediately take his place, singing to prospective mates in the dialect appropriate to the territory he is in.

Recent studies indicate that they may also have an ability to understand grammatical structures.

A controversial study conducted by Ryan B. Reynolds has suggested budgerigars are able to form simple, meaningful sentences. The evidence consists so far of only audio files, but they have yet to be either proven or disproven. [\[4\]](#).

Migration

Scientists who have studied the mechanisms of [bird migration](#) over long distances have shown that while a bird may be instinctively able, and biologically equipped, to make a first flight on its own, adults are less prone to wander off-course than first-year fledglings. The birds were able to learn from experience or remember landmarks for the benefit of future flights.

When a group of birds fly together, they often form a V shape. This creates a slipstream between the birds, making an area of reduced pressure in the middle of the formation. This

reduces air-resistance, enabling the flock to travel up to 75% faster than they would individually. The first bird encounters the majority of the air-resistance; as a consequence, the lead bird changes repeatedly as the flock travels. If a bird falls out of formation, two other birds generally leave with that bird to help it return to the flock with a similar formation.

Moreover, birds observe and integrate subtle visual clues to aid in their navigation, including the movement of the sun, visual landmarks, cloud movements, wind direction, and the earth's own magnetic field. Individual birds use different sources of information to navigate and may switch from one source to another while in flight.

Conceptual skills

Some birds, notably pigeons, have demonstrated the ability to conceptualize. In one study, conducted at Harvard in 1964, it was shown that pigeons have a general concept of "human," which includes male humans and female humans, individual body parts, and the human body from the back, from below, and from above. When shown photographs of all of the above, the pigeons recognized the photos as "human." They also recognized photographs of human beings in "disguise" (i.e, a human in the nude, wearing strange clothes, or shown out of proportion).

Another study conducted with pigeons showed that the birds were able to distinguish between the artworks of different artists. For example, they could tell the difference between a Picasso and a Monet.

Other interesting behaviors showing higher intelligence

In an article published in 1995 by the National Geographic magazine, the macaw project at Tambopata Research Center in the rain forest of Peru studied what the wild birds eat. Since most food items are available only seasonally, researchers discovered that during the dry season, birds are forced to eat seeds that are poisonous. To medicate themselves, hundreds of birds of many species of parrots and macaws congregate at a nearby riverbank at the world's largest known avian clay lick. The clay that they consume helps bind the toxins and prevent sickness in the birds. [\[4\]](#)

Cormorants used by Chinese fisherman are often rewarded with fish on every seventh fish that they catch. The cormorants learn this pattern and are able to keep count and predict their reward and will wait for it if the fisherman fails to keep count.

Hummingbirds feeding on bushes with flowers are able to remember the spatial distribution of flowers that have nectar and ones that do not and will not revisit bad ones.

Many frugivorous birds have seasonal foraging patterns based on the flowering and fruiting seasons and the locations of fruiting trees in a forest.

References

1. [^](#) Elvira Cordileone (2006). [Are Birds Trying to Tell Us Things?](#) (article). Toronto Star. Retrieved on 7 May 2006. publication date: 23 Mar. 2006

Language of the birds

A **language of the birds**, a mystical, perfect or divine language, or a mythical or magical language used by birds to communicate with the initiated, is postulated in mythology, medieval literature and occultism.

- [1 History](#)
 - [1.1 Mythology](#)
 - [1.2 Folklore](#)
 - [1.3 Religion](#)
 - [1.4 Alchemy](#)
 - [1.5 Culture](#)
- [2 References](#)

History

Birds played an important role in Indo-European religion, used for divination by augurs, and according to a suggestion by Walter Burkert, these customs may have their roots in the Paleolithic when during the Ice Age, early humans used to look for carrion by observing birds.

From the Renaissance, it was the inspiration for some magical a priori languages, in particular musical languages. Whistled languages based or constructed on or articulated natural languages used in some cultures are sometimes also referred to, and compared with, the language of the birds.

Mythology

According to Apollonius Rhodius, the figurehead of Jason's ship, the Argo, was built of oak from the sacred grove at Dodona and could speak the language of birds. The language of birds in Greek mythology may be attained by magical means. Democritus, Anaximander, Apollonius of Tyana, Tiresias, Melampus and Aesopus were all said to have understood the birds.

According to several Norse sagas, dragons' blood gives its drinker the power to understand the speech of birds.

In Celtic mythology, birds usually represent prophetic knowledge or bloodshed (especially [crows](#)). Morrigan adopted the shape of a bird to warn the Brown Bull. Echoing stories of the Edda and the Mabinogion, Richard Wagner's Siegfried understands the birds after he tasted Fafner's blood.

Folklore

The concept is also known from many folk tales (including Welsh, Russian, German, Estonian, Greek), where usually the protagonist is granted the gift of understanding the language of the birds either by some magical transformation, or as a reward for some good deed by the king of birds. The birds then inform or warn the hero about some danger or hidden treasure.

Religion

In Sufism, the language of birds is a mystical language of angels. The Conference of the Birds (*mantiq at-tair*) is a mystical poem of 4647 verses by the 12th century Persian poet Farid ud-Din Attar [\[1\]](#).

Francis of Assisi is said to have preached to the birds.

In the Talmud (Louis Ginzberg, *Legends of the Bible*, 1909), Solomon's proverbial wisdom was due to his being granted understanding of the language of birds by God.

Alchemy

In Kabbalah, Renaissance magic, and alchemy, the language of the birds was considered a secret and perfect language and the key to perfect knowledge, sometimes also called the *langue verte*, or green language (Jean Julien Fulcanelli, Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa *de occulta philosophia*).

Culture

In medieval France, the language of the birds (*la langue des oiseaux*) was a secret language of the Troubadours, connected with the Tarot, allegedly based on puns and symbolism drawn from homophony, e. g. an inn called *au lion d'or* "the Golden Lion" is allegedly "code" for *au lit on dort* "in the bed one sleeps" [\[2\]](#) (note that this particular pun cannot be medieval, since final *t* was pronounced until Middle French, c.f. e.g. the 14th century loanword *bonnet*).

Compare also the rather comical and satirical *Birds* of Aristophanes and *Parliament of Fowls* by Chaucer.

"The language of the birds" (*Die Sprache der Vögel*) is a 1991 German movie. Jean Sibelius composed a wedding march titled "The language of the birds" in 1911. The children's book author Rafe Martin has written "The Language of Birds" as an adaptation of a Russian folk tale; it was made into a children's opera by composer John Kennedy.

In Egyptian Arabic, hieroglyphic writing is called "the alphabet of the birds". In Ancient Egyptian itself, the hieroglyphic form of writing was given the name *medu-netjer* ("words of the gods" or "divine language").

References

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Nidification

Nidification is the process of making a nest. Nidification is with most [birds](#) the beginning of the breeding season, but with many it is a labor that is scamped if not shirked. Some of the [auk](#) tribe place their single [egg](#) on a bare ledge of rock, where its peculiar conical shape is but a precarious safeguard when rocked by the wind or stirred by the thronging crowd of its parents' fellows. The stone-curlew and the goatsucker deposit their eggs without the slightest preparation of the soil on which they rest; yet this is done at haphazard, for no birds can be more constant in selecting, almost to an inch, the very same spot which year after year they choose for their procreant cradle. In marked contrast to such artless care stand the wonderful structures, which others such as the [tailorbird](#), the bottle [titmouse](#) or the fantail warbler, build for the comfort or safety of their young. But every variety of disposition may be found in the class. The apteryx seems to entrust its abnormally big egg to an excavation among the roots of a tree fern; while a band of female [ostriches](#) scrape holes in the desert-sand and therein promiscuously drop their eggs and leave the task of incubation to the male. Some megapodes bury their eggs in sand, leaving them to come to maturity by the mere warmth of the ground, while others raise a huge hotbed of dead leaves wherein they deposit theirs, and the young are hatched without further care on the part of either parent. Some of the grebes and rails seem to avail themselves in a less degree of the heat generated by vegetable decay and, dragging from the bottom or sides of the waters they frequent fragments of aquatic plants, form of them a rude half-floating mass which is piled on some growing water-weed but these birds do not spurn the duties of maternity.

Many of the [gulls](#), sandpipers and plovers lay their eggs in a shallow pit which they hollow out in the soil, and then as incubation proceeds add thereto a low breastwork of stems. The ringed plover commonly places its eggs on shingle, which they so much resemble in color, but when breeding on grassy uplands it paves the nest-hole with small stones. [Pigeons](#) mostly make an artless platform of sticks so loosely laid together that their pearly treasures may be perceived from beneath by the inquisitive observer.

The magpie, as though self-conscious that its own thieving habits may be imitated by its neighbors, surrounds its nest with a hedge of thorns. Very many birds of almost every group bore holes in some sandy cliff, and at the end of their tunnel deposit their eggs with or without [bedding. Such bedding, too, is very various in character; thus, while the shelduck and the sand martin supply the softest of materials the one of down from her own body, the other of feathers collected by dint of diligent search, the kingfisher forms a couch of the undigested spiny fish bones which she ejects in pellets from her own stomach. Other birds, such as the woodpeckers, hew holes in living trees, even when the timber is of considerable hardness, and therein establish their nursery. Some of the swifts secrete from their salivary glands a fluid which rapidly hardens as it dries on exposure to the air into a substance resembling isinglass, and thus furnish the "edible birds' nests" that are the delight of Chinese epicures. In the architecture of nearly all the passerine birds, too, some salivary secretion seems to play an important part. By its aid they are enabled to moisten and bend the otherwise refractory twigs and straws, and glue them to their place. Spider webs also are employed with great advantage for the purpose last mentioned, but perhaps chiefly to attach fragments of moss and lichen so as to render the whole structure less obvious to the eye of

the spoiler. The tailorbird deliberately spins a thread of cotton and therewith stitches together the edges of a pair of leaves to make a receptacle for its nest. Beautiful, too, is the felt fabricated of fur or hairs by the various species of titmouse, while many birds ingeniously weave into a compact mass both animal and vegetable fibers, forming an admirable insulating medium which guards the eggs from the extremes of temperature outside. Such a structure may be open and cup-shaped, supported from below as that of the chaffinch and goldfinch, domed like that of the wren and bottle-titmouse, slung hammock wise as in the case of the golden-crested wren and the orioles, or suspended by a single cord as with certain grosbeaks and hummingbirds. Certain warblers (*Aedon* and *Thamnobia*) invariably lay a piece of shedded snake skin in their nests-to repel, it has been suggested, marauding lizards who may thereby fear the neighborhood of a deadly enemy.

The clay-built edifices of the swallow and martin are known to everybody, and the nuthatch plasters up the gaping mouth of its nest-hole till only a postern large enough for entrance and exit, but easy of defense, is left. In South America the ovenbirds (*Furnariidae*) construct on the branches of trees globular ovens, so to speak, of mud, wherein the eggs are laid and the young hatched. The flamingo erects in the marshes it frequents a mound of earth sometimes 2 feet in height, with a cavity atop. The females of the hornbills submit to incarceration during this interesting period, the males immuring them by a barrier of mud, leaving only a small window to admit air and food. But though in a general way the dictates of hereditary instinct are rigidly observed by birds, in many species a remarkable degree of elasticity is exhibited, or the rule of habit is rudely broken. Thus the falcon, whose ordinary eyry is on the beetling cliff, will for the convenience of procuring prey condescend to lay its eggs on the ground in a marsh, or appropriate the nest of some other bird in a tree. The golden eagle, too, remarkably adapts itself to circumstances, now rearing its young on a precipitous ledge, now on the arm of an ancient monarch of the forest and again on a treeless plain, making a humble home amid grass and herbage. Herons will breed according to circumstances, in an open fen, on banks or, as is most usual, on lofty trees. Such changes are easy to understand. The instinct of finding food for the family is predominant, and where most food is there will the feeders be gathered together. This explains, in all likelihood, the associated bands of ospreys or fish hawks, which in North America breed, or used to breed, in large companies where sustenance is plentiful, though in the Old World the same species brooks not the society of aught but its mate. Birds there are of eminently social predilections.

In Europe, apart from sea birds, whose congregations are universal and known to all, only the heron, the fieldfare and the rook habitually flock during the breeding season; but in other parts of the world many birds unite in company at that time, and in none possibly is this habit so strongly developed as in the anis of the neotropical region, the republican swallow of North America and the sociable grosbeak of South Africa, which last joins nest to nest until the tree is said to break down under the accumulated weight of the common edifice. In the strongest contrast to these amiable qualities is the parasitic nature of the cuckoos of the Old World and the cowbirds of the New. The egg of the parasite is introduced into the nest of the dupe, and after the necessary incubation by the fond fool of a foster mother the interloper successfully counterfeits the heirs, who perish miserably, victims of his superior strength. The whole process has been often watched, but the reflective naturalist will pause to ask how such a state of things came about, and there is not much to satisfy his inquiry. Certain it is that some birds whether by mistake or stupidity do not infrequently lay their eggs in the

nests of others. It is within the knowledge of many that pheasant and partridge eggs are often laid in the same nest, and gull eggs have been found in the nests of eider ducks and vice versa; a redstart and a pied flycatcher will lay their eggs in the same convenient hole, the forest being rather deficient in such accommodation; an owl and a duck will resort to the same nest box, set up by a scheming woodsman for his own advantage; and the starling, which constantly dispossesses the green woodpecker, sometimes discovers that the rightful heir of the domicile has to be brought up by the intruding tenant. In all such cases it is not possible to say which species is so constituted as to obtain the mastery, but it is not difficult to conceive that in the course of ages that which was driven from its home might thrive through the fostering of its young by the invader, and thus the abandonment of domestic habits and duties might become a direct gain to the evicted householder.

The correlation between nests and the coloration of the birds has been investigated by A. R. Wallace. Accordingly he divides birds into two main groups, first those in which the sexes are alike and of conspicuous or showy colors, and which nidificate in a covered site; secondly, those in which the males are showy and the females somber, and which use open sites for their nests.

The many exceptions to these generalizations caused J. A. Allen to write an adverse criticism. C. Dixon has reviewed the question from Wallace's point of view. He established the following categories.

1. Birds in which the [plumage](#) of the male is bright and conspicuous in color, and that of the female dull and somber, and which nidificate in open sites. In these very common cases, the female alone incubates, and obviously derives protection from its inconspicuous plumage.

2. Birds in which the plumage of both sexes is showy or brilliant in color, and which nidificate in open nests. This group forms one of those exceptions, which at first sight appear seriously to affect the validity of Wallace's theory. In most of the cases, however, the birds, as, for instance, [crows](#), [gulls](#), herons, are either well able to defend themselves and their nests or, as, for instance, the sandpipers, they seek safety for themselves in flight, relying upon the protective tints of their eggs or young.

3. Birds in which the male is less brilliant than the female, and which nidificate in open nests. Such birds are exceedingly few, e.g. the Phalaropes, the common cassowary, the emu, a carrion hawk (*Milvago leucurus*) from the Falkland Islands, an Australian treecreeper (*Climacteris erythrops*) and an Australian goatsucker (*Eurystopodus albigularis*). In all these cases the male performs the duty of incubation. The male tinamous do the same, although they do not differ from their mates, but the conspicuously colored male [ostrich](#) takes this duty upon himself during the night.

4. Birds in which both sexes are brightly colored, and which rear their young in holes or covered nests. For instance, the gaudy colored rollers, bee-eaters, kingfishers, the hoopoe, hornbills, toucans, parrots, tits, the sheldrake and many others.

5. Birds in which both sexes are dull in color, and which build covered nests from motives of safety other than concealment. For example, the [swifts](#) (*Cypselus*), the sand martin (*Cotyle riparia*), [wrens](#), [dippers](#) and [owls](#).

6. Birds in which the female is duller in color than the male, and which nidificate in covered nests. For example, the redstart (*Ruticilla phoenicurus*), the pied flycatcher (*Muscicapa atricapilla*), [rock thrushes](#) (*Monticola*), [chats](#) (*Saxicola*) and [robin-chats](#)

(Thamnobia), and birds of the [genus](#) *Malurus*. In some of these cases the showy male bird assists in incubation, the kind of nest allowing him to do so with safety. Similar difficulties beset the generalizations concerning the correlation of the color of the eggs and the exposed or hidden condition of the nest. The eggs of most birds which breed in holes, or even in covered nests, are white, but the number of exceptions is so great that no general rule can be laid down to this effect. Conversely the number of birds that lay purely white eggs in open nests, such as [pigeons](#), is also large.

The eggs of [owls](#) are always white, whether they are deposited in holes on the bare ground or in open nests in a tree. The eggs of the goshawk are white, but those of its small relation, the sparrow hawk, are always blotched, the nest of both being built precisely in the same kind of position. In regard to the almost countless cases of spotted eggs in holes or covered nests, of which so many groups of birds furnish examples either wholly or in part, it has been suggested that the [species](#) in question has taken to hiding its eggs in times comparatively recent, and has not yet, got rid of the ancestral habit of secreting and depositing pigment.

Most of the smaller Passeres seem to hatch their young in from 13-15 days. The shortest period, only 10 days, is recorded of the small *Zosterops coerulescens*; the largest, amounting to about 8 weeks, is that of some of the larger Ratitae, penguins and the condor. The best list, comprising birds of most groups, is that by W. Evans. Speaking broadly, the largest birds lay the largest eggs and require the longest time for incubation, but there are very many exceptions, and only birds of the same group can be compared with each other. The domestic chicken takes 21 days, but the pheasant, though so very nearly allied, takes 2 or 3 days longer, and even the small partridge requires 24 days. The mallard takes 26, the domestic duck 27, the musk duck 35 days, like most of the [swans](#).

The cuckoo, with 13 to 14 days, seems to have adapted itself to the short period of its foster parents. The whole question still affords ample opportunities of experimental investigation and comparison. The condition of the newly hatched birds also varies extremely. The Nidifugae are born with their eyes open, are thinly clothed with neossoptiles of simple structure, leave the nest on the first day and feed themselves. The Nidicolae are born blind, remain a long time in the nest and have to be fed by their parents. Taken as a whole, the Nidifugae comprise most of the phylogenetically older groups; but many of these may include some closely allied members which have reached the developmental level of the Nidicolae: for instance, some Alcidae, the pigeons, Sphenisci, Tubinares, Ciconiae. While in the first category the sense, tegumentary and locomotory organs are far advanced, these are retarded in the Nidicolae, the development of these structures being shifted onto the post-embryonic period. Yet the length of the incubation is by no means always longer in the Nidifugae, when compared with equal-sized Nidicolae.

References

- *This article incorporates text from the Encyclopædia Britannica Eleventh Edition, a publication now in the public domain.*

Aviculture

Aviculture is the practice of keeping and often breeding pet [birds](#), generally [companion parrots](#), and the culture that forms around it. Aviculture is generally focused not just on the raising and breeding of birds, but also on preserving avian habitat, and public awareness campaigns.

- [1 Types of aviculture](#)
- [2 Avicultural societies](#)
- [3 Avicultural publications](#)

Types of aviculture

There are various reasons that people get involved in aviculture. Some people breed birds to preserve a [species](#), some breed parrots as companion birds, and some breed birds to make a profit.

The truest meaning of aviculture is that described by Dr. Jean Delacour, the most influential individual aviculture has ever seen-

"Aviculture- The worldwide hobby of keeping and breeding numerous species of wild birds in captivity to maintain their numerical status in nature with a view of forestalling their extinction by supplying aviary raised stock"

Avicultural societies

There are avicultural societies throughout the world, but generally in Europe and the United States, where people tend to be more prosperous and have more leisure time to invest in such an expensive and time-consuming hobby.

Avicultural publications

Like many hobbies, there are many publications catering to aviculture, books on species as pets, books on breeding, and introductory books for parrots and softbills. There are also numerous periodicals, both generalized and specific to types of birds, although they are rarely more specific than "parrot." These periodicals contain articles on breeding, care, companionship, choosing a bird, health effects, and usually several on an individual [species](#) or [genus](#).

Domesticated birds

Australian Spotted

The name **Australian Spotted** is something of a misnomer, as the **Australian Spotted duck** is one of the few breeds of [domesticated ducks](#) that originated in the United States. John C. Kriner and Stanley Mason of Pennsylvania developed this breed by allowing Calls, Mallards, Pintails, and various Australian wild ducks to crossbreed for several years before selecting the desired specimens. The first exhibit of the Australian Spotted began in 1928.

Many duck enthusiasts don't believe that Pintails contributed to the acculturation, because a Mallard derivative X Pintail renders a sterile duck due to chromosomal differences. However, it is possible for a rare mutant Mallard-Pintail cross to pass on its genes to generations to come, leaving it possible that the Pintail did indeed contribute to the specimens. David Holderread, one of the top waterfowl breeders in the United States, has said that he has observed various traits in the Australian Spotted that are distinct to Pintails.

Barbary Dove

Ringneck Dove

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae

Genus: *Streptopelia*

Species: *S. risoria*

Binomial name: *Streptopelia risoria*, Linnaeus, 1758

The **Ringneck Dove**, **Ring Dove**, or **Barbary Dove**, *Streptopelia risoria*, is a small domestic [dove](#).

Although the Ringneck Dove is normally assigned its own systematic name, as *Streptopelia risoria*, considerable doubt exists as to its appropriate classification. Some sources confidently assert that it is a domestic form of the Eurasian Collared Dove, *S. decaocto*, but the majority of evidence points to it being a domesticated form of the African Collared Dove, *S. roseogrisea*. It appears that it can hybridise freely with either species, and its status as a species must therefore be regarded as doubtful. However because of the wide use of both the common and systematic names, it is best to consider it separately from either of the putative parent species.

Ringneck Doves have been domesticated for 2000 to 3000 years. They are easily kept, and long-lived, in captivity, living for up to 12 years, and are noted for their gentle nature. In recent years they have been used extensively in biological research, particularly into the hormonal bases of reproductive behaviour, because their sequences of courtship, mating and parental behaviour have been accurately described and are highly consistent in form. Dove fanciers have bred them in a great variety of colours; the number of colours available has increased dramatically in the latter half of the twentieth century, and it is thought that this has been achieved by interbreeding with *S. roseogrisea*.

The *coo* of the ringneck dove is created by muscles that vibrate air sent up from the dove's lungs. These muscles belong to the fastest known class of vertebrate muscles, contracting as much as ten times faster than muscles vertebrates use for running. This class of muscles is usually found in high speed tissue such as a rattlesnake's tail. Ringneck doves are the first bird species to have been found to have this class of muscle. (Elemans, *et al.*, 2004)

Feral populations of Ringneck Doves establish themselves readily as a result of escapes from captivity, but they will merge with local populations of Collared Doves if they exist. There is a small feral population in Los Angeles, California, where neither *S. decaocto* nor *S. roseogrisea* is currently found.

References

- *Elemans CP, Spierts IL, Muller UK, Van Leeuwen JL, Goller F (2004). "Bird song: superfast muscles control dove's trill". Nature **431** (7005): 146.*

Budgerigar

Conservation status Least concern^[1]

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Subfamily: Psittacinae

Tribe: Platycercini

Genus: ***Melopsittacus***, Gould, 1840 Species: ***M. undulatus*** Binomial name: ***Melopsittacus undulatus*** (Shaw, 1805)

The **Budgerigar** (*Melopsittacus undulatus*, nicknamed ***budgie***), the only species in the Australian genus ***Melopsittacus***, is a small parrot belonging to the tribe of the [broad-tailed parrots](#) (Platycercini); these are sometimes considered a subfamily (Platycercinae), which may be correct, in which the budgerigar is then placed as a separate tribe (**Melopsittini**), which is almost certainly erroneous. Though budgerigars are often called *parakeets*, especially in American English, this term refers to any of a number of small parrots with long flat tails. The budgerigar is found throughout the drier parts of Australia and has survived in the inlands of that continent for over 5 million years.

- [1 Etymology](#)
- [2 Characteristics](#)
 - [2.1 Colour Mutations](#)
- [3 Habitat and behaviour](#)
- [4 Budgerigars in captivity](#)
- 5 "Context speaking" budgerigars
 - [6 References](#)

Etymology

At least two possible origins for the English name *budgerigar* have been proposed:

- A compound of *budgery*, "good" and *gar* "cockatoo" in some Australian Aboriginal languages.^[2] This is supported by the Oxford English Dictionary. The word *budgery* itself, also spelt *boojery*, was formerly in use in Australian English slang meaning "good".
- An alteration of Gamilaraay gidjirrigaa (IPA: /ai_iriɪaɐ̯/)^[3], possibly influenced by the slang word *budgery* mentioned above. This is supported by the American Heritage Dictionary.

The genus name *Melopsittacus* comes from Greek and means "melodius parrot". The species name *undulatus* is Latin for "undulated" or "wave-patterned".

Characteristics

Budgerigars are about 18 cm long and weigh 30-40 grams. Wild budgerigars have green underparts and rumps, while the upperparts are barred with black and yellow. The forehead and face is yellow in adults, and barred black with yellow in young till they change into their adult plumage at 3-4 months of age. Each cheek has a small dark purple patch and a series of black spots across the throat. The tail is greenish blue or purple; outside tail feathers have a central yellow band. Their wings have greenish-black flight feathers and black coverts with yellow fringes. Bill olive grey and legs greyish blue, with zygodactyl toes.^[4] Wild budgerigars are noticeably smaller than those in captivity. These parrots have been bred in many other colours in captivity, such as white, blue, and even purple, although they are mostly found in pet stores in blue, green and seldomly white.

The colour of the cere (the area containing the nostrils) differs between the sexes; royal blue in males, pale-brown to white(non-breeding) or brown (breeding) in females and pink in immatures of both genders (usually of a more even purplish-pink colour in young males). Young females can often be identified by a subtle chalky whiteness that starts around the cere nostril holes. Males that are albinos, lutinos or recessive peds usually retain the immature purplish-pink cere color their entire life. ^{[5][4]}

Colour Mutations

There are presently at least 32 primary mutations in the Budgerigar Parakeet enabling hundreds of possible secondary mutations (stable combined primary mutations) & colour varieties (unstable combined mutations)

Of which the australian-recessive-grey-factor, the BrownWings, the DarkWings, the english-recessive-grey-factor, the Faded the english-recessive-grey-factor, the NSL-Ino & the SaddleBack mutations are either highly uncommon, extremelly rare &/or presumed 'extinct' of visual specimens.

Each of those 32 primary mutations belonging to either one of the 4 basic groups of mutations classified in Parrot species genetics. Namely ;

Albinism : where eumelanin is reduced in ALL body tissues & structures deviding into 2 sub-groups ; Complete-Albinism & Incomplete aka Partial Albinism,

Dilutism : where eumelanin is always +/- incompletely (never completely) reduced virtually only in feathering,

Leucism : where eumelanin is reduced virtually only in feathering and devides into 2 sub-groups ; Total-Leucism & Local-Leucism,

Melanism : where eumelanin is +/- increased virtually only in feathering.

Each of those 32 primary mutations inherit either ;

autosomal-Co-Dominant (A-Co-D), autosomal-Complete-Dominant (A-C-D), autosomal-Incomplete-Dominant (A-I-D), autosomal-recessive (A-R), autosomal-Poly-Genic (A-P-G) Sex-Linked-recessive (S-L)

It must be noted that : the word autosomal is often replaced as a synonym by the NSL acronym standing for Non-Sex-Linked.

Here's a listing of the Budgerigar aka Budgie Parakeet's 32 primary mutations genetic identities, followed by their common names in parenthesis, followed by their according allele &/or Locus symbols & ending with their genetic inheritance ;

Blue Loci (plural of Locus) :

Dark-Factor : *D*-Locus : A-Co-D with regards to only other Blue Loci alleles &/or always otherwise A-I-D

Blue : *bl*bl* : A-Co-D with regards to only other Blue Loci alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

BlueII : *blII*-Locus : A-Co-D with regards to only other Blue Loci alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

YellowFacedBlue : *blII*yf* : A-Co-D with regards to only other Blue Loci alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

GoldenFacedBlue : *blII*gf* : A-Co-D with regards to only other Blue Loci alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

Structural mutations :

Crest-Factor : *Cr*-Locus : A-P-G

Dark-Factor : *D*-Locus : A-I-D

Grey-Factor (Dominant-Grey-Factor) : *G*-Locus : A-C-D

grey-factor (english-recessive-Grey-Factor) : *g*-Locus : A-R

grey-factor (australian-recessive-Grey-Factor) : *ag*-Locus : A-R

Violet-Factor : *V*-Locus : A-I-D

Dilutistic mutations :

dil-Locus (Dilute Locus) multiple-allelic-series :

Suffused (Dilute) : *dil*dil* : A-Co-D with regards to only other *dil*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

ClearWings : *dil*cw* : A-Co-D with regards to only other *dil*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

GreyWings : *dil*gw* : A-Co-D with regards to only other *dil*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise A-R

Local-Leucistic (Pied) mutations :

ADM (Anti-DiMorphic) Pied (danish-pied, recessive-pied, harlequin) : *s*-Locus : A-R

Piebald (Australian-Pied) : *Pb*-Locus : A-C-D

Pied (Continental_Dutch-Pied & Clear-Flighted_Dutch-Pied) : *Pi*-Locus : A-C-D

Total-Leucistic (Clear) mutations :

Spangle-Factor : *Sp*-Locus : I-D

Dark-Eyed-Clear : *dil*^{cw}* / *dil*^{gw}* : is not a genuine primary mutation but a mutation variety produced by the visual combination of ADM-Pied & either Dutch-Pied varieties : A-Co-D

Albinistic mutations :

NSL-Albinism (recessive-albinism) : *a*-Locus : multiple-allelic-series :

NSL-Ino (recessive-Ino) : *a*^a* : A-R

Bronze_Fallow (german_Fallow) : *a*^{bz}* : A-Co-D with regards to only other *a*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise A-R *This mutation more precisely belongs in the Incomplete-Albinistic mutations but it was necessary to display it's relationship with the *a*-Locus*

Brown or BrownWings (sepia) : *b*-Locus : presumed A-Co-D with regards to only other *a*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise A-R *This mutation more precisely belongs in the Incomplete-Albinistic mutations but it was necessary to display it's relationship with the *a*-Locus*

Cinnamon (CinnamonWings) : *cin*-Locus : S-L-R

Dun_Fallow aka Grey-Brown_Fallow (english_Fallow) : *df*-Locus : A-R

Faded : *fd*-Locus : A-R

possible Beige_Fallow aka Pale-Brown_Fallow (australian_Fallow) : *pf*-Locus : A-R

possible Plum-Eyed_Fallow (scotish_Fallow) : *pl*-Locus : A-R

SL-Albinism : *ino*-Locus : multiple-allelic-series :

SL-Ino : *ino*-Locus : S-L-R

SL-ClearBody : *ino*^{cl}* : SL-Co-D with regards to only other *ino*-Locus alleles &/or always otherwise S-L-R

Melanism :

BlackFace : *bf*-Locus : A-R

Other mutations :

DarkWings : *dw*-Locus : A-I-D

Dominant-ClearBody : *Cl*-Locus : A-C-D

Opaline : *op*-Locus : S-L-R

SaddleBack : *sb*-Locus : A-R

Slate : *sl*-Locus : S-L-R

Habitat and behaviour

Budgerigars are nomadic birds found in open habitats, primarily in Australian scrubland, open woodland and grassland. The birds are normally found in small flocks, but can form very large flocks under favourable conditions. The species is extremely nomadic and the movement of the flocks is tied to the availability of food and water.[4] Drought can drive flocks into more wooded habitat or coastal areas. They feed on the seeds of spinifex, grass weeds, and sometimes ripening wheat. [\[6\]\[4\]](#).

Feral birds are found in the St Petersburg, Florida area in the United States, but are much less common than they were back in the early 1980's. Colder than normal winter temperatures in some years and increased competition from European Starlings are the main reasons for the declining population.

Breeding takes generally place between June and September in the North and between August and January in the South but they are opportunistic breeders responding to the rains when grass seeds become most abundant.^[4] Populations in some areas have increased as a result of increased water availability at farms. The nest is in a hole in a tree, fence post or even a log laying on the ground; the 4-6 eggs are incubated for 17-19 days, with the young fledging about 30 days after hatching.^{[6][4]}

Both male and female budgerigars sing and can learn to mimic sounds, although both singing and mimicry are more pronounced in males.

Budgerigars in captivity

The budgerigar is one of the few parrots to be domesticated as a pet. Believed to be the most common pet parrot in the world, it has been bred in captivity since the 1850s. Breeders have worked over the decades to produce a wide range of colour and feather mutations, such as yellow, blue, white, violet, olive, albino and lutino (yellow), clearwing and spangled. Feather mutations can produce crests or overly long shaggy feathers known as "feather dusters".

Modern *show budgerigars*, also called *English budgerigars*, are larger than their wild cousins, with puffy head feathers, giving them an exaggerated look. The eyes and beak can be almost totally obscured by feathers. Such birds are reported to be more prone to genetic mutations because of inbreeding. Most budgerigars in the pet trade are not of the show variety and are similar in size and body conformation to wild budgerigars.

Budgerigars can be taught to speak, whistle tunes, and play with humans. They are intelligent and social animals and enjoy the stimulation of toys and interaction with humans as well as with other budgerigars. A common behaviour is the chewing of material such as wood, especially for female budgerigars.

In captivity, budgerigars live an average of five to eight years, but are reported to occasionally live to 15 if well cared for ^[7]. The life span depends on the budgerigar's breed (show budgerigars typically do not live as long as the common budgerigars) and the individual bird's health, which is influenced by exercise and diet.

Although wild budgerigars eat grass seeds almost exclusively, avian veterinarians recommend supplementation with foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, sprouted seeds, pasta, whole wheat bread and other healthy human foods, as well as pellets formulated for small parrots. Adding these foods provides additional nutrients and can prevent obesity and lipomas, as can substituting millet, which is relatively low in fat, for seeds mixes. Budgerigars do not always adapt readily to dietary additions, however. Chocolate and avocado are recognized as potential toxins.^[8] Plums, lemons, limes, and members of the cabbage family

are bad for them as well. Recommended fruits and vegetables are apples, oranges, bananas, strawberries, carrots, unsprayed lettuces, parsley, peaches and spinach.

"Context speaking" budgerigars

In 2001, budgie owner Ryan B. Reynolds of Ontario, Canada received much publicity due to his release to the press of certain recordings of his talking budgie, *Victor*. In these recordings, *Victor* performed what appeared to be "speaking in context". To the layperson, the recordings appeared to audibly demonstrate that Victor was able to use his 1000+ word vocabulary to express coherent lines of thought, meaning and reasoning. Despite the widespread TV, newspaper and radio publicity the recordings received in 2001, the recordings have yet to be scientifically analysed, proven, (or disproven)^[9].

A budgerigar named Puck holds the world record for the largest vocabulary of any bird, at 1,728 words. ^[1]

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Cayuga Duck

A **Cayuga Duck** is a breed of [domesticated duck](#) used for egg and meat production as well as an ornamental bird. The Cayuga name is taken from Lake Cayuga in New York State where the breed was popularized. The traditional story for the development of this breed is that a miller in Dutchess County captured two wild black ducks and used pinioning to keep them at his pond. The offspring of this pair was prized for flavorfull meat and breeding efficiency.^[1]

Adult Cayuga ducks weigh approximately 6 pounds, and are characterized by a black bill and black [plumage](#) which is an iridescent beetle green in the correct light. The Cayuga duck has black shanks and toes. Ducklings have black plumage.

For those who wish to keep ducks, but live close to others that would make keeping the Pekin breed impractical because of the loud quack, The Cayuga duck may be an alternative as its quack is not as loud or frequent as the Pekin. The temperament of the Cayuga is docile.

The Cayuga duck will more often sit on and hatch her eggs than other domestic breeds of duck. Incubation for the eggs is 28 days. When using an incubator the temperature should be 99.5 °F at 86% humidity for days 1-25, and 98.5 °F at 94% humidity for days 26-28.

This breed of duck is listed as threatened by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.^[2]

References

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Chicken

Conservation status: Domesticated

A Bantam rooster

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: [Phasianidae](#)

Genus: *Gallus*

Species: *G. gallus*

Subspecies: ***G. g. domesticus***

Trinomial name: ***Gallus gallus domesticus***

A **chicken** (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) is a type of domesticated [bird](#) which is often raised as a type of [poultry](#). It is believed to be descended from the wild Indian and south-east Asian Red Junglefowl.

With a population of more than 24 billion in 2003 (according to the *Firefly Encyclopedia of Birds*), there are more chickens in the world than any other bird. They provide two sources of food frequently consumed by humans: their meat, also known as chicken, and eggs.

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General biology and habitat

Male chickens are known as roosters (in the U.S., Canada and Australia), cocks, or cockerels if they are young. Female chickens are known as hens, or 'chooks' in Australasian English. Young females are known as pullets. Roosters can usually be differentiated from hens by their striking plumage, marked by long flowing tails and bright pointed feathers on their necks.

However, in some breeds, such as the Sebright, the cock only has slightly pointed neck feathers, and the identification must be made by looking at the comb. Chickens have a fleshy crest on their heads called a comb, and a fleshy piece of hanging skin under their beak called a wattle. These organs help to cool the bird by redirecting bloodflow to the skin. Both the male and female have distinctive wattles and combs. In males, the combs are often more prominent, though this is not the case in all varieties.

Domestic chickens are typically fed commercially prepared feed that includes a protein source as well as grains. Chickens often scratch at the soil to get at adult insects and larvae or seed. Incidents of cannibalism can occur when a curious bird pecks at a pre-existing wound or during fighting (even among female birds). This is exacerbated in close quarters. In commercial egg production this is controlled by trimming the beak (removal of T of the top half and occasionally S of the lower half of the beak).

Domestic chickens are not capable of flying for long distances, although they are generally capable of flying for short distances such as over fences. Chickens will sometimes fly simply in order to explore their surroundings, but will especially fly in an attempt to flee when they perceive danger. Because of the risk of flight, chickens raised in the open air generally have one of their wings clipped by the breeder — the tips of the longest feathers on one of the wings are cut, resulting in unbalanced flight which the bird cannot sustain for more than a few meters ([more on wing clipping](#)).

Chickens are gregarious birds and live together as a flock. They have a communal approach to the incubation of eggs and raising of young. Individual chickens in a flock will dominate others, establishing a "pecking order", with dominant individuals having priority for access to food and nesting locations. Removing hens or roosters from a flock causes a temporary disruption to this social order until a new pecking order is established.

Chickens will try to lay in nests that already contain eggs, and have been known to move eggs from neighbouring nests into their own. Some farmers use fake eggs made from plastic or stone to encourage hens to lay in a particular location. The result of this behavior is that a flock will use only a few preferred locations, rather than having a different nest for every bird.

Hens can also be extremely stubborn about always laying in the same location. It is not unknown for two (or more) hens to try to share the same nest at the same time. If the nest is small, or one of the hens is particularly determined, this may result in chickens trying to lay on top of each other.

Contrary to popular belief, roosters may crow at any time of the day or night. Their crowing - a loud and sometimes shrill call - is a territorial signal to other roosters. However, crowing may also result from sudden disturbances within their surroundings.

Chickens are domesticated descendants of the red junglefowl, which is biologically classified as the same species.

Recent studies [\[1\]](#) have shown that chickens (and possibly other bird species) still retain the genetic blueprints to produce teeth in the jaws, although these are dormant in living animals. These are a holdover from primitive birds such as Archaeopteryx, which were descended from theropod dinosaurs.

Courting

When a rooster finds food he may call the other chickens to eat it first. He does this by clucking in a high pitch as well as picking up and dropping the food. This behavior can also be observed in mother hens, calling their chicks. In some cases the rooster will drag the wing opposite the hen on the ground, while circling her. This is part of chicken courting ritual. When a hen is used to coming to his "call" the rooster may mount the hen and proceed with the fertilization.

Going broody

Sometimes a hen will stop laying and instead will focus on the incubation of eggs, a state that is commonly known as *going broody*. A broody chicken will sit fast on the nest, and protest or peck in defense if disturbed or removed, and will rarely leave the nest to eat, drink, or dust bathe. While broody, the hen keeps the eggs at a constant temperature and humidity, as well as turning the eggs regularly.

At the end of the incubation period, which is an average of 21 days, the eggs (if fertilized) will hatch, and the broody hen will take care of her young. Since individual eggs do not all hatch at exactly the same time (the chicken can only lay one egg approximately every 25 hours), the hen will usually stay on the nest for about two days after the first egg hatches. During this time, the newly-hatched chicks live off the egg yolk they absorb just before hatching. The hen can hear the chicks peeping inside the eggs, and will gently cluck to encourage them to break out of their shells. If the eggs are not fertilized and do not hatch, the hen will eventually grow tired of being broody and leave the nest.

Modern egg-laying breeds rarely go broody, and those that do often stop part-way through the incubation cycle. Some breeds, such as the Cochin, Cornish and Silkie, regularly go broody and make excellent mothers.

Artificial incubation

Chicken egg incubation can successfully occur artificially as well. Nearly all chicken eggs will hatch after 21 days of good conditions - 99.5° fahrenheit (37.5°C) and around 55% relative humidity (increase to 70% in the last three days of incubation to help soften egg

shell). Many commercial incubators are industrial-sized with shelves holding tens of thousands of eggs at a time, with rotation of the eggs a fully automated process.

Home incubators are usually small boxes (styrofoam incubators are popular) and hold a few to 50 eggs. Eggs must be turned three to five times each day, rotating at least 90 degrees. If eggs aren't turned, the embryo inside will stick to the shell and likely will be hatched with physical defects. This process is natural; hens will stand up three to five times a day and shift the eggs around with their [beak](#).

Chickens as pets

Chickens can make loving and gentle companion animals, but sometimes can turn nasty. It is not suggested you keep a chicken as a pet if you have young children, as they can be very territorial and violent. In Asia, chickens with striking plumage have long been kept for ornamental purposes, including feather-footed varieties such as the Cochin and Silkie from China and the extremely long-tailed Phoenix from Japan. Asian ornamental varieties were imported into the United States and Great Britain in the late 1800s. Poultry fanciers then began keeping these ornamental birds for exhibition, a practice that continues today. From these Asian breeds, distinctive American varieties of chickens have been developed.

Today, some cities in the United States still allow residents to keep chickens as pets, although the practice is quickly disappearing. Individuals in rural communities commonly keep chickens for both ornamental and practical value. Some communities ban only roosters, allowing the quieter hens. Many zoos use chickens instead of insecticides to control insect populations.

Keeping a few chickens as backyard pets is surprisingly easy to do. The major challenge is protecting the birds from predators, both domestic predators such as dogs and wild predators such as racoons in North America and foxes in Europe. The birds will need a secure place to sleep at night. This can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. For only a few birds which are allowed to free roam during the day, a large dog house type structure with a locking door will serve just fine. Some kind of bedding such as straw or wood shaving should be provided on the floor. Nest boxes will make egg collection easier. If the birds are left in the structure during the day, a larger more elaborate structure would be necessary.

Chicken naturally return to the same spot to roost everynight. That means on most occasions they will put themselves to bed and your only job is to make sure the door is shut and locked before nightfall. It is best to count the birds each night as sometimes a bird will not find her way back into the coop. A bird left out at night is likely to be taken by a racoon or other nocturnal predator.

Most chickens cannot fly well and are easily contained with 3-4' fencing. Birds which are allowed to roam the yard during the day are quite effective at controlling insects of all types. The birds will pick at plants and grass and may cause some damage to ground-covers with their scratching. Areas of bare dirt will benefit from the weed control and soil cultivation provided by the birds in their never ending search for food. Also chickens will eat most any kind of food scraps. It can be quite satisfying to see unusable food items turned into eggs by these able recyclers.

The eggs themselves can be quite different from the store purchased variety. Fresh yolks are quite "perky" and stand tall above the white. The yolk color is frequently a deeper color than the pale yellow of commercially raised eggs and can at time be almost a dark orange. The pleasure of picking up a freshly laid egg still warm to the touch is not to be overlooked.

Growing chickens can easily be tamed by feeding them a special treat such as mealworms in the palm of one's hand, and by being with them for at least ten minutes daily when they are young. However even older birds can be tamed considerably by hand feeding leftover table scraps to the birds. It can be fun to help the birds forage by turning rocks over and watching them grab worms and bugs that typically can be found in these dark, moist areas. The chickens quickly associate you with a source of food and will become your constant companion when you are both in the yard.

A former recurring skit on the weekly comedy show *Saturday Night Live* featured a chicken [pet store](#) with the Chinese owner (as played by Dana Carvey) not wishing to sell to customers on the basis that "Chickens make lousy house pets

Chickens in agriculture

In the United States, chickens were once raised primarily on family farms. Prior to about 1930, chicken was served primarily on special occasions or on Sunday, as the birds were typically more valued for their eggs than meat. Excess roosters or non-productive hens would be culled from the flock first for butchering. As cities developed and markets sprung up across the nation, live chickens from local farms could often be seen for sale in crates outside the market to be butchered and cleaned onsite by the butcher.

With the advent of vertical integration and selective breeding of efficient meat-type birds, poultry production changed dramatically. Large farms and packing plants emerged that could grow birds by the thousands. Chickens could be sent to slaughterhouses for butchering and processing into pre-packaged commercial products to be frozen or shipped fresh to markets or wholesalers. Meat-type chickens currently grow to market weight in 6-7 weeks whereas only fifty years ago it took three times as long (reference: Havenstein, G.B., P.R. Ferket, and M.A. Qureshi, 2003a. Growth, livability, and feed conversion of 1957 versus 2001 broilers when feed representative 1957 and 2001 broiler diets. *Poult. Sci.* 82:1500-1508). This is due exclusively to genetic selection and nutritional advances (and not to use of growth hormones, which are illegal for use in poultry in the US and many other countries). Once a meat consumed only occasionally, the common availability and lower cost has made chicken a common and significant meat product within developed nations. Growing concerns over the cholesterol content of red meat in the 1980s and 1990s further resulted in increased consumption of chicken.

Another breed of chicken, the Leghorn, was further developed to be efficient layers of eggs. Egg production and consumption changed with the development of automation and refrigeration. Large farms were devoted solely to egg production and packaging. Today, eggs are produced on large egg ranches on which environmental parameters are well controlled. Chickens are exposed to artificial light cycles to stimulate egg production year-round. In

addition, it is a common practice to induce molt through careful manipulation of light and the amount of food they receive in order to further increase egg size and production.

Often, people in developing countries keep chickens for their eggs and meat.

Issues with mass production

Many animal rights advocates object to killing chickens for food or to the "factory farm conditions" under which they are raised. They contend that commercial chicken production often involves raising the birds in large, crowded rearing sheds that prevent the chickens from engaging in many of their natural behaviors. Contrary to popular belief, however, meat-type chickens are not raised in cages and are instead raised on the floor on litter such as rice hulls. They are slaughtered prior to sexual maturity, and thus many of the aggressive behaviors seen in adult chickens (fighting, cannibalism) are seldom seen in meat-type chickens. In 2004, 8.9 billion chickens were slaughtered in the United States[2].

Although many would argue that the birds are not intelligent and thus not a high priority for humane treatment on farms, a woman once brought a chicken on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* where it played "Mary Had A Little Lamb" on a toy piano and bowled 3 strikes. Animal rights groups such as PETA see this and other "amazing" trained chickens as evidence that they are intelligent and sentient and should not be killed or eaten [3].

Another animal welfare issue is the use of selective breeding to create heavy, large-breasted birds, which can lead to crippling leg disorders and heart failure for some of the birds. In addition, many scientists have raised concerns that companies growing one variety of bird for eggs or meat are causing them to become much more susceptible to disease. For this reason, many scientists are promoting the conservation of heritage breeds to retain genetic diversity in the species.

Chicken diseases

- Aspergillosis
 - Avian influenza (bird flu) - most well-known chicken-related disease
 - Blackhead disease
 - Botulism
 - Cage Layer Fatigue
 - Coccidiosis
 - Colds
 - Crop bound
 - Egg bound
 - Erysipelas
 - Fatty Liver Hemorrhagic Syndrome
 - Fowl Cholera
 - Fowl pox

Fowl Typhoid

Gallid herpesvirus 1 Also known as Infectious Laryngotracheitis or LT

Gapeworms

Infectious Bronchitis

Infectious Bursal Disease (Gumboro)

Infectious Coryza

Lymphoid Leucosis

Marek's disease

Moniliasis

Mycoplasmas

Newcastle disease

Necrotic Enteritis

Omphalitis (Mushy chick disease)

Prolapse (in egg layers)

Psittacosis

Pullorum (Salmonella)

Scaly leg

Squamous cell carcinoma

Tibial dyschondroplasia

Toxoplasmosis

Ulcerative Enteritis

Chickens are also susceptible to parasites, including lice, mites, ticks, fleas, and intestinal Worms.

Chickenpox is a disease of humans, not chickens.

Chickens in religion

In Indonesia the chicken has great significance during the Hindu cremation ceremony. A chicken is a channel for evil spirits which may be present during the ceremony. A chicken is tethered by the leg and kept present at the ceremony for the duration to ensure that any evil spirits present during the ceremony go into the chicken and not the family members present. The chicken is then taken home and returns to its normal life. It is not treated in any special way or slaughtered after the ceremony.

In ancient Greece, the chicken was not normally used for sacrifices, perhaps because it was still considered an exotic animal. Because of its valour, cocks are found as attributes of Ares, Heracles and Athena. The Greeks believed that even lions were afraid of cocks. Several of Aesop's Fables reference this belief.

In the cult of Mithras, the cock was a symbol of the divine light and a guardian against evil.

In the Bible, Jesus prophesied the betrayal by Peter: "And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me." (Luke 22:43) Thus it happened (Luke 22:61), and Peter cried bitterly. This made the cock a symbol for both vigilance and betrayal.

Earlier, Jesus compares himself to a mother hen, when talking about Jerusalem: "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37; also Luke 13:34).

In many Central European folk tales, the devil is believed to flee at the first crowing of a cock.

In some sects of Orthodox Judaism a chicken is slaughtered on the afternoon before Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) in a ritual called kapparos. Although not actually a sacrifice in the biblical sense, the death of the chicken reminds the penitent sinner that his or her life is in God's hands. A woman brings a hen to be slaughtered, a man brings a rooster. The meat is donated to the poor.

The Talmud speaks of learning "courtesy toward one's mate" from the rooster. This might refer to the fact that, when a rooster finds something good to eat, he calls his hens to eat first.

The chicken is one of the Zodiac symbols of the Chinese calendar. Also in Chinese religion, a cooked chicken as a religious offering is usually limited to ancestor veneration and worship of village deities. Vegetarian deities such as Buddha are not one of the recipients of such offerings. Under some observations, an offering of chicken is present with "serious" prayer (while roasted pork is offered during a joyous celebration). In some old Confucian Chinese Wedding a chicken can be used as a substitute of that person if they are seriously ill or not available (e.g sudden death) to attend during the ceremony. They will put a red silk scarf on the chickens head and a close relative of the absent bride/groom will be holding the chicken to continue with the ceremony. However this occurrence happens rarely in modern time and usually better to avoid.

History

The first pictures of chickens in Europe are found on Corinthian pottery of the 7th century BC. The poet Cratinus (mid-5th century BC, according to the later Greek author Athenaeus) calls the chicken "the Persian alarm". In Aristophanes's comedy *The Birds* (414 BC) a chicken is called "the Median bird", which points to an introduction from the East. Pictures of chickens are found on Greek red figure and black-figure pottery.

In ancient Greece, chickens were still rare and were a rather prestigious food for symposia. Delos seems to have been a centre of chicken breeding.

An early domestication of chickens in Southeast Asia is probable, since the word for domestic chicken (*manuk) is part of the reconstructed Proto-Austronesian language (see Austronesian languages). Chickens, together with [dogs](#) and pigs, were the domestic animals of the Lapita culture, the first Neolithic culture of Oceania.

Chickens were spread by Polynesian seafarers and reached Easter Island in the 12th century AD, where they were the only domestic animal, with the possible exception of the Polynesian Rat (*Rattus exulans*). They were housed in extremely solid chicken coops built from stone. Traveling as cargo on trading boats, they reached the Asian continent via the islands of Indonesia and from there spread west to Europe and western Asia.

Chickens in ancient Rome

The Romans used chickens for oracles, both when flying ("ex avibus") and when feeding ("auspiciu ex tripudiis"). The hen ("gallina") gave a favourable omen ("auspiciu ratu"), when appearing from the left (Cic., de Div. ii.26), like the crow and the owl.

For the oracle "ex tripudiis" according to Cicero (Cic. de Div. ii.34), any bird could be used, but normally only chickens ("pulli") were consulted. The chickens were cared for by the pullarius, who opened their cage and fed them pulses or a special kind of soft cake when an augury was needed. If the chickens stayed in their cage, made noises ("occinerent"), beat their wings or flew away, the omen was bad; if they ate greedily, the omen was good.

In 249 BC, the Roman general Publius Claudius Pulcher had his chickens thrown overboard when they refused to feed before the battle of Drepana, saying "If they won't eat, perhaps they will drink." He promptly lost the battle against the Carthaginians and 93 Roman ships were sunk. Back in Rome, he was tried for impiety and heavily fined. In 161 BC a law was passed in Rome that forbade the consumption of fattened chickens. It was renewed a number of times, but does not seem to have been successful. Fattening chickens with bread soaked in milk was thought to give especially delicious results. The Roman gourmet Apicius offers 17 recipes for chicken, mainly boiled chicken with a sauce. All parts of the animal are used: the recipes include the stomach, liver, testicles and even the pygostyle

(the fatty "tail" of the chicken where the tail feathers attach).

The Roman author Columella gives advice on chicken breeding in his eighth book of his treatise on agriculture. He identifies Tanagrian, Rhodic, Chalkidic and Median (commonly misidentified as Melian) breeds, which have an impressive appearance, a quarrelsome nature and were used for cockfighting by the Greeks. For farming, native (Roman) chickens are to be preferred, or a cross between native hens and Greek cocks. Dwarf chickens are nice to watch because of their size but have no other advantages.

Per Columella, the ideal flock consists of 200 birds, which can be supervised by one person if someone is watching for stray animals. White chickens should be avoided as they are not very fertile and are easily caught by eagles or goshawks. One cock should be kept for five hens. In the case of Rhodian and Median cocks that are very heavy and therefore not much inclined to sex, only three hens are kept per cock. The hens of heavy fowls are not much inclined to brood; therefore their eggs are best hatched by normal hens. A hen can hatch no more than 15-23 eggs, depending on the time of year, and supervise no more than 30 hatchlings. Eggs that are long and pointed give more male, rounded eggs mainly female hatchlings.

Per Columella, Chicken coops should face southeast and lie adjacent to the kitchen, as smoke is beneficial for the animals. Coops should consist of three rooms and possess a hearth. Dry dust or ash should be provided for dust-baths.

According to Columella, chicken should be fed on barley groats, small chick-peas, millet and wheat bran, if they are cheap. Wheat itself should be avoided as it is harmful to the birds. Boiled ryegrass (*Lolium* sp.) and the leaves and seeds of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) can be used as well. Grape marc can be used, but only when the hens stop laying eggs, that is, about the middle of November; otherwise eggs are small and few. When feeding grape marc, it

should be supplemented with some bran. Hens start to lay eggs after the winter solstice, in warm places around the first of January, in colder areas in the middle of February. Parboiled barley increases their fertility; this should be mixed with alfalfa leaves and seeds, or vetches or millet if alfalfa is not at hand. Free-ranging chickens should receive two cups of barley daily.

Columella advises farmers to slaughter hens that are older than three years, because they no longer produce sufficient eggs. Capons were produced by burning out their spurs with a hot iron. The wound was treated with potter's chalk.

A selection of chicken breeds

- Araucana
Australorp
Barnevelder
Brahma (chicken)
Orpington
Plymouth Rock
Rhode Island Red
Sussex
Wyandotte

Famous chickens

Real chickens

- Mike the Headless Chicken
Henrietta the four-legged chicken

Fictional chickens

- Alecto and Galina, in Clemens Brentano's "The Tale of Gockel, Hinkel, and Gackeleia"
Billina the talking hen, from L. Frank Baum's Ozma of Oz
Burn Rooster, a Maverick with fire-elemental powers from the video game Mega Man X8 (made by Capcom)
Camilla the Chicken, the object of Gonzo (Muppet)'s affections.
Chanticleer, the rooster from Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales ("The Nun's Priest's Tale")
Chanticleer, the Elvis Presley-like rooster in the Don Bluth film Rock-a-Doodle;

presumably named for the Chaucer rooster.

Chicken, from the Cow and Chicken cartoon series

Chicken Boo, from Animaniacs

Chicken Little, the chicken that thought the sky was falling when an acorn landed on its head

Chicken Man, from Chicken Man (radio series)

Cuccos (also Hylian Cuccos) are a breed of chickens or chicken-like birds which feature prominently in latter installments of the Legend of Zelda series.

Fission Chicken, the Chicken of Wrath, grouchy superhero

Foghorn Leghorn, the rooster and Looney Tunes character

Le coq d'or (The Golden Cockerel) opera by Rimsky-Korsakov, with a magical cock that is supposed to crow to warn the king of advancing enemies

Le galline penseuse of Luigi Malerba (Einaudi, 1980)

Ginger, the protagonist of the movie Chicken Run

The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg was originally a chicken in some older versions

Jonathan Segal Chicken, a 1973 book written by Sol Weinstein and Howard Albrecht, parodying Jonathan Livingston Seagull

The Little Red Hen, who asked everyone in the barnyard to help bake bread

The vicious Chicken of Bristol, who was nearly stood up to by Brave Sir Robin, in Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Little Jerry Seinfeld, a fighting cock appearing in "The Little Jerry" (episode 145) of Seinfeld

Joey and Chandler's chicken from Friends, who eventually became a rooster, died some time later and was succeeded by Chick, Jr.

The Rooster Prince is a parable written by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, in which a prince goes insane and believes himself to be a rooster (in some English translations of the tale, the species of bird is a turkey)

The San Diego Chicken

Sweetie the Chick, an animated character with a ringtone

The Subservient Chicken, part of a viral marketing promotion

Lord Chicken the Great; see Leongatha

Ultra Mega Chicken is a legendary chicken raised from the dead by Billy Witch Doctor in Aqua Teen Hunger Force

Roy, Booker and Sheldon from U.S. Acres

King Chicken, from Duckman

Little John, Bubble, Bubble Junior, Pop, Araucana 1, Araucana II, Buffy Araucana, Mary and Sheepy are the chickens of a popular ABC television show set in Turramurra, Sydney, Australia called The chickens of Warragal Road; the series ran from 1983 to 1985.

The 'Yellow Chicken' that violently and restlessly fights Peter in Family Guy has become one of the most beloved character on the cult show

Robot Chicken, a television series that appears on Adult Swim, features a mad scientist in the opening theme bringing a roadkill chicken to life in cyborg form. The show itself is a stop-motion sketch comedy, featuring segments which

generally have nothing to do with chicken(s).

Charles the Rooster in Walter R. Brooks' "Freddy the Pig" Series

Henerietta the Hen in Walter R. Brooks' "Freddy the Pig" Series

Super Chicken, an animated television cartoon character

Alan-a-Dale, the Rooster in Disney's Robin Hood

Gamecocks, chickens used by Masa Tom Lea and others in the book, Roots: The Saga of an American Family, and in the tv miniseries Roots

The Chickens in DreamWorks' Chicken Run

The two chickens in the Foster Farms commercials

The Rooster logo for Dickhouse Productions company for the tv show Jackass

Mythical creatures with chicken-like anatomy

- The hut of the Russian witch Baba Yaga moves on chicken feet
The demon Abraxas, often depicted on "Gnostic gems" has a cock's head, the upper body of a man, while his lower part is formed by a snake. He often holds a whip.
The Basilisk, a giant snake who kills with a single glance and poisons wells, was hatched by a toad from a hen's egg. The Basilisk will die if it hears a rooster crowing.
The cockatrice

Chicken as symbol

- The cock is a national symbol of France and is used as an (unofficial) national mascot, in particular for sports teams. See also: Gallic rooster.
The Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) independent party ZANU party used a chicken as a symbol, since a majority of Rhodesian citizens (mostly native african black) were analphabetic due to lack of school funding for the poor, so they use symbol or mascot to identify their political party.
The mascot of the English Premiership team Tottenham Hotspur is a cockerel.
The standard of Sir Robin from Monty Python and the Holy Grail is a chicken.
The town of Denizli in Republic of Turkey is symbolized by a cock.
Sydney Roosters Australian rugby league team
The Rhode Island Red is the state bird of Rhode Island.
Pathé corporate logo
The athletic teams of the University of South Carolina "The USC" (the original USC) use the Gamecock (the fighting cock) as mascot and use the "Gamecocks" as their moniker.
Fighting Cock brand of Bourbon uses a mean rooster as their trademark.
The State Bird of Delaware is the Blue Hen, as well being the Mascot for the University of Delaware sports teams.

Published Sources

P. Smith, *The Chicken Book* (University of Georgia Press, 2000), passim.

Cockatiel

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae

Subfamily: Calyptorhynchinae

Genus: ***Nymphicus***, Wagler, 1832 Species: ***N. hollandicus***

Binomial name: ***Nymphicus hollandicus***, (Kerr, 1792) Synonyms: *Psittacus hollandicus* Kerr, 1792, *Leptolophus hollandicus*

The **Cockatiel** (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) is a diminutive [cockatoo endemic](#) to Australia and prized as a household pet.

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Biology](#)
- [3 Cockatiels as Pets](#)
- [4 References](#)

Description

The cockatiel is a small parrot of the Cacatuidae family. Like some other cockatoos, as for example the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, the cockatiel has an erectible crest. Cockatiels and cockatoos in general also share other features, such as the facial feathers covering the sides of the beak, which are rarely - if ever - found outside the Cacatuidae family. In contrast to most cockatoos, the cockatiel has long tail feathers, roughly making up half of its total length. The cockatiel's distinctive pointed yellow crest is held erect when startled or excited, while a crest slightly tilted indicates a relaxed state of mind.

The [plumage](#) is generally mid-grey, lighter underneath, with an almost perfectly round orange patch of feathers covering the ear opening (usually referred to as a "cheek patch") and a prominent white blaze on the wings. A row of yellowish spots can be found underneath the wings of female cockatiels, but not on the males. Some other mutations exist, such as the Lutino, which lacks black and grey color, being a light yellow colour overall. Female Lutinos also have barred tail feathers. Both the cock and the hen have yellow facial feathers: the female has a yellow wash around the beak and eye, in the male, yellow covers most of the head and the fore part of the crest. Male cockatiels are very protective and nurturing of their offspring and are known to be very capable of raising their newborns if the mother is unable to.

Cockatiel lifespans in captivity are generally given as 15-20 years [\[1\]](#), though it is sometimes given as short as 12-15 years [\[2\]](#) and there are anecdotes of cockatiels living as long as 30 years [\[3\]](#).

Biology

This is the only species in its genus *Nymphicus*. Its relationships were long disputed; it was usually placed into a monotypic subfamily **Nymphicinae** or even allied with the [broad-tailed parrots](#). But while most other cockatoos are 500 mm to 600 mm in length, cockatiels are normally 300 mm to 330 mm. There are several significant characteristics that ally cockatiels with cockatoos though, including an erectile crest, a gallbladder, and powder down patches.

Mitochondrial 12S rRNA sequence data (Brown & Toft, 1999) has finally resolved the question of its affinities by placing it in the "dark cockatoo" subfamily closest to the genus *Calyptorhynchus*. The unusual, parakeet-like appearance is a consequence of the decrease in size and accompanying change of ecological niche. In spite of all its unique adaptations, features such as the dark plumage, the barred feathers of the female and the orange cheek patch are clear morphological indications of its affinities.

The cockatiel's scientific name *Nymphicus hollandicus* reflects the experience of one of the earliest groups of Europeans to see cockatiels in their native habitat. Travellers thought they were so beautiful that they named them after the mythical creatures, the nymphs (*Nymphicus* means literally "little nymph"). The species name refers to New Holland, an old name for Australia.

Cockatiels are native only to Australia where they are found largely in arid or semi-arid country, but always near water. Sometimes hundreds will flock around a single such body of water. They are absent from the most fertile southwest and southeast corners of the country, the deepest Western Australian deserts, and Cape York Peninsula. They are the only cockatoo [species](#) that can breed in their first year.

Cockatiels as Pets

Cockatiels are popular household pets in many parts of the world. Today all pet cockatiels are bred in captivity, as Australia no longer permits the export of native wildlife, whether endangered or not. Pet cockatiels have been bred to have many different colorations (called mutations). Mutations include lutino, pearl, cinnamon, pied, fallow, recessive and dominant silver, whiteface, pastelface, yellowcheek, and olive or 'spangled.'

Mutations can appear both individually or in a wide variety of combinations such as lutino pearl, whiteface pied, and whiteface lutino (which is often called albino, but is not a true form of albinism). Still fairly hard to find is the rather new 'olive' mutation. An olive cockatiel does not actually have green pigment to its plumage, but rather an overlapping pattern of yellow and grey that create the illusion of a greenish cast.

Many mutations retain the black eyes, beak, nails and grey feet of the normal grey cockatiels, however the lutino, cinnamon and fallow mutations have pink to deep plum red eyes, pink toenails and feet, and a horn colored beak. While most mutations persist into

adulthood for all cockatiels, certain mutations like pearl are molted out in the males and retained in the adult females. Sex-linked mutations such as lutino and cinnamon have a higher ratio of female offspring to male due to the mode of inheritance from parents to offspring.

If hand-fed as chicks, cockatiels can form strong bonds with their owners. Otherwise quiet birds will frequently make contact calls with their owners, calls that sometimes can be quite loud if the person is out of sight. Their popularity as pets is in part because of their calm and timid temperament, to the point that they can even be bullied by smaller but more confident birds such as [Budgerigars](#). Great care and supervision should be provided when mixing cockatiels with other birds. It is not uncommon at all for a larger or smaller bird to maim the cockatiel, creating life-long disabilities and potentially life threatening injuries. However, some cockatiels can "scrap."

Although cockatiels are part of the parrot order, they are better at imitating whistles than speech. Some do learn to repeat phrases, and the males are generally better at mimicry than the females. Cockatiels can mimic many sounds, for example the bleep of a car alarm, a ringing telephone, or the calls of other bird species such as [blue jays](#) or [chickadees](#).

References

- **BirdLife International** (2004). [Nymphicus hollandicus](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 06 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- **Brown, D.M. & Toft, C.A.** (1999): Molecular systematics and biogeography of the cockatoos (Psittaciformes: Cacatuidae). *Auk* **116**(1): 141-157.

Cockatoo

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Psittaciformes

Family: **Cacatuidae**, GR Gray, 1840 Subfamily: Microglossinae, Calyptorhynchinae, [Cacatuinae](#)

A **cockatoo** is any of the 21 [bird species](#) belonging to the [family](#) **Cacatuidae**. Along with the *Psittacidae* family (the [true parrots](#)), they make up the [order](#) *Psittaciformes*. The name *cockatoo* originated from the Malay name for these birds, ***kakaktua***, which translates literally as *older sister* (from *kakak*, "sister," and *tua*, "old").

Cockatoos share many features with other parrots including the characteristic curved beak shape and a zygodactyl foot, with two forward toes and two backwards toes. They differ, however in a number of characteristics, including the often spectacular movable headcrest, the presence of a gall bladder and some other anatomical details, and their lack of the Dyck texture feather composition which causes the bright blues and greens seen in true parrots. Cockatoo species are also, on average, larger than the true parrots (however, the cockatiel is a small cockatoo and the very large parrots include the Hyacinth Macaw by length and the Kakapo by weight.)

Cockatoos have a much more restricted range than the true parrots, occurring naturally only in Australia and nearby islands. Eleven of the 21 species exist in the wild only in Australia, while seven species occur in Indonesia, New Guinea, and other south Pacific islands. Three species occur in both New Guinea and Australia.

- [1 Cockatoos as endangered or vulnerable species](#)
- [2 Systematics](#)
- [3 References](#)

Cockatoos as endangered or vulnerable species

All of the species of cockatoo are protected by the CITES international agreement, which makes the trade of wild-caught specimens of endangered or vulnerable species illegal.

The following cockatoo species are classified as endangered species (on CITES appendix 1 list).

- Goffin's cockatoo, *Cacatua goffini*
 Red-vented Cockatoo, *Cacatua haematuropygia*
 Moluccan Cockatoo, *Cacatua moluccensis*
 Yellow-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua sulphurea*
 Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus*

All of the other cockatoo species are classified at vulnerable (on CITES appendix 2 list).

Systematics

Brown & Toft (1999) reviewed the existing evidence and additional mitochondrial 12S rRNA sequence data to arrive at a well-supported phylogeny of the cockatoos. They could distinguish 3 [subfamilies](#):

1. The all-black Palm Cockatoo represents an early divergence; it was previously sometimes grouped with the other black species but this is incorrect.
2. The dark cockatoos; sexually dichromatic species which have ample melanin in their plumage and some red, yellow or orange on wing, tail and face, barred feathers on wing, tail and/or body as well as contrasting ear area spotting in females, while males have the corresponding feathers unbarred and may lack the ear spotting. This group includes the remaining black cockatoos, the Gang-gang Cockatoo and, interestingly, the cockatiel which had previously been placed in a subfamily of its own (**Nymphicinae**) or even as a [broad-tailed parrot](#).
3. The remaining species, which are all hypomelanistic and not sexually dimorphic.

The genera *Calyptorhynchus* and *Cacatua* can be further resolved into two subgenera each, and in the latter case as a distinct third lineage the white-and-pink Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, which is intermediate in coloration between the grey-and-pink Galah and the white *Cacatua*. It is best recognized as a monotypic genus *Lophocroa*. Indeed, pending further research, all subgenera could conceivably be raised to species rank.

FAMILY CACATUIDAE

- **Subfamily Microglossinae**
 - Genus *Probosciger*
 - Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus*
- **Subfamily Calyptorhynchinae** - dark cockatoos
 - Genus *Callocephalon*
 - Gang-gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum*
 - Genus *Nymphicus*
 - Cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus*
 - Genus *Calyptorhynchus*
 - Subgenus *Calyptorhynchus* - black-and-red cockatoos
 - Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus (Calyptorhynchus) banksii*
 - Glossy Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus (Calyptorhynchus) lathami*
 - Subgenus *Zanda* - black-and-yellow/white cockatoos
 - Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus (Zanda) funereus*
 - Short-billed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus (Zanda) latirostris*
 - Long-billed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus (Zanda) baudinii*
- **Subfamily [Cacatuinae](#)** - white cockatoos
 - Genus *Eolophus*
 - Galah, *Eolophus roseicapilla*
 - Genus *Lophocroa*

- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, *Lophocroa leadbeateri*
- Genus *Cacatua*
 - Subgenus *Licmetis* - corellas
 - Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua (Licmetis) tenuirostris*
 - Western Corella, *Cacatua (Licmetis) pastinator*
 - Little Corella, *Cacatua (Licmetis) sanguinea*
 - Red-vented Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Licmetis) haematuropygia*
 - Goffin's Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Licmetis) goffini*
 - Ducorps' Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Licmetis) ducorpsii*
 - Subgenus *Cacatua* - true white cockatoos
 - Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Cacatua) galerita*
 - Yellow-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Cacatua) sulphurea*
 - [Citron-crested Cockatoo](#), *Cacatua (Cacatua) sulphurea citrinocristata*
 - Blue-eyed Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Cacatua) ophthalmica*
 - Moluccan Cockatoo or Salmon-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua (Cacatua) moluccensis*
 - [Umbrella Cockatoo](#), *Cacatua (Cacatua) alba*

References

- **Brown, D.M. & Toft, C.A.** (1999): Molecular systematics and biogeography of the cockatoos (Psittaciformes: Cacatuidae). *Auk* **116**(1): 141-157.

Common Pheasant

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: [Phasianidae](#)

Genus: *Phasianus*

Species: ***P. colchicus***

Binomial name: ***Phasianus colchicus***, Linnaeus, 1758

The **Common Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*) is a gamebird in the [pheasant](#) family Phasianidae of the order Galliformes, gallinaceous birds.

The adult pheasant is 50-90 cm in length with a long tail, often accounting for half the total length. The male (*cock* or *rooster*) has barred bright brown [plumage](#) and green, purple and white markings, often including a white ring around the neck, and the head is green with distinctive red patches. This bird is also called the Common or English Pheasant, or just Pheasant. The males are polygamous, mating with more than one female; they are often accompanied by a harem of several females.

The nominate race *P. c. colchicus* lacks a white neck ring. This is however shown by the race **Ring-necked Pheasant**, *P. c. torquatus* which after several failed attempts was successfully introduced to the United States in 1881.

The female (*hen*) is much less showy, with a duller mottled brown plumage all over, similar to that of the [partridge](#). The birds are found on wooded land and scrub. They feed on the ground on grain, leaves and invertebrates, but roost in trees at night. They nest on the ground, producing a clutch of around ten [eggs](#) over a two-three week period in April to June. The incubation period is about 23-26 days. The chicks stay near the hen for several weeks after hatching but grow quickly, resembling adults by only 15 weeks of age.

While pheasants are able short-distance fliers, they prefer to run: but if startled they can suddenly burst upwards at great speed, with a distinctive "whirring" wing sound. Their flight speed is only 27 to 38 mph when cruising but when chased they can fly up to 60 mph.

They are native to Asia but have been widely introduced elsewhere, where they are bred to be hunted and are shot in great numbers. The doggerel "up flies a guinea, bang goes sixpence and down comes half-a-crown" reflects that they are often shot for sport rather than as food. If eaten the meat is somewhat tough and dry, so the carcasses were often hung for a time to improve the meat by slight decomposition, as with most other game. Modern cookery generally uses moist roasting or farm-raised female birds.

Pheasant farming is a common practice, and is sometimes done intensively. Birds are supplied both to hunting preserves/estates and restaurants, with smaller numbers being available for home cooks. Pheasant farms have some 10 million birds in the U.S. and 35 million in the United Kingdom. The Common Pheasant is also one of the prime target of small game poachers. The Roald Dahl novel "Danny the Champion of the World" dealt with a poacher (and his son) who lived in the United Kingdom and illegally hunted common pheasants.

The bird was brought to Britain around the 10th century but became extinct in the early 17th century; it was reintroduced in the 1830s and is now widespread. Repeated reintroduction has made the pheasant a very variable species in regard to size and plumage. Pheasants have probably been present in North America from the 18th century but became common in the wild in the late 1800s. They are most common in the Great Plains, where they are often seen in hay, grass wheat, and CRP fields. A preferred nesting site for them is along fence rows, wheat, and under old machinery.

The term pheasant can also be used for other gallinaceous birds such as the quail or [partridge](#), and in North America it is occasionally used to refer to the ruffed [grouse](#).

The Green Pheasant of Japan is very similar to Common Pheasant, but the males have greenish plumage. The Ring-Necked Pheasant is the state bird of South Dakota, the only US state bird that is not a species native to the United States.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Phasianus colchicus](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 09 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Crested Guineafowl

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: Numididae

Genus: ***Guttera***

Species: ***G. pucherani***

Binomial name: ***Guttera pucherani***, Hartlaub, 1860

The **Crested Guineafowl** (*Guttera pucherani*) is a member of the guineafowl [bird](#) family. It breeds in Southern Africa.

Crested guineafowls can be distinguished from other guinea fowls by their black headplumes. Adults measure up to 50 cm.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Guttera pucherani](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 10 August 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Domestic Canary

The **Canary** is a domesticated form of the [Wild Canary](#), (*Serinus canaria*) a small [songbird](#) in the [finch](#) family originating from Madeira and the Canary Islands.

- [1 History](#)
- [2 Varieties](#)
- [3 Keeping Canaries](#)
- [4 Trivia](#)
- [5 See also](#)
- [6 References](#)

History

Canaries were first bred in captivity in the 1600s. They were brought over by Spanish sailors to Europe. Monks started breeding them and only sold the males (which sing). This kept the birds in short supply and drove the price up. Eventually Italians obtained hens and were able to breed the birds themselves. This made them very popular and resulted in many breeds arising and the birds being bred all over Europe.

The same occurred in England. First the birds were only owned by the rich but eventually the local citizens started to breed them and, again, they became very popular. Many breeds arose through selective breeding.

Miner's canaries were early forms of carbon monoxide detection in mines. Three or more canaries (or other small birds with high metabolism) were taken down new shafts, and if one or more exhibited abnormal behavior, the parties determined that the shaft was unsafe.

Varieties

Canaries are generally divided into three main groups: Colorbred Canaries (bred for their many color mutations - Ino, Eumo, Satinette, Bronze, Ivory, Onyx, Mosaic, Brown, etc.), Type Canaries (bred for their shape and conformation - Border, Fife, Gloster, Gibber Italicus, Raza Española, Berner, Lancashire, Yorkshire, etc.), and Song Canaries (bred for their unique and specific song patterns - Spanish Timbrado, Roller, Waterslager (also known as "Malinois"), American Singer, Russian Singer, Persian Singer).

Canaries are judged in competitions every fall. Shows generally begin in October and November after the breeding season ends. Birds can only be shown by the person who raised them. They all have unique bands on their legs that indicate the year of birth, the unique band number, the club to which the breeder belongs. Song Canaries are judged later in the year (January).

There are many canary bird shows all over the world. The world show (C.O.M.) is held in Europe each year and attracts thousands of breeders. As many as 20,000 birds are brought for competition.

Keeping Canaries

The keeping of Canaries for their appearance and song is a tradition that dates back centuries.

Most bird veterinarians today recommend a diet of 80% canary pellets. Many breeders still use the canary seed mix available in pet shops. All canaries benefit from a supply of green food such as lettuce, dandelion leaves and nasturtium leaves. They can eat any produce you do, with the exception of avocado. Care should be taken to ensure leaves supplied are clean and have not been sprayed with any chemicals. Canaries also enjoy little bits of fruit, but be careful to offer only what the bird can eat in one sitting, or you may wind up attracting ants, or hornets.

During the moulting period it is advisable to supplement their diet with egg food or nestling food (can be bought as a dry mix to which water is added until a crumbly but not soggy consistency is achieved. Some nestling or egg foods can be served dry, others are best served with a soak seed mix; this is a special mixture of seeds meant to be soaked, rinsed, and sometimes sprouted a little, before being served).

To ensure caged birds are happy, toys should be provided and swapped regularly to avoid boredom (which can lead to aggression and feather plucking). Most people keep males and females in separate cages, except during breeding season. When buying pet canaries, great care must be taken to ensure the right mix of sexes in a cage. A mistake could lead to the birds attacking each other, even to the extent that one may kill another.

In general, pet canaries do not require companionship; the canary species is territorial, not social, and does not generally appreciate company in the same cage. It will be seen as an intruder, not as a companion, and although it might take up to two years or so, if they remain in a single cage all year round, usually one or the other will eventually die. A male and a female stand a better chance of getting along amicably, but all too often the less dominant bird will eventually die, although it may take some time.

This is because the dominant bird will feel the need to constantly 'oversee' the less dominant bird of the two. It will never be able to eat, sleep, or drink its fill in peace, and eventually the stress will take its toll.

If a bird is present in the home and a companion is bought, it must be kept in a separate cage for at least couple of weeks, both for quarantine, and to ensure the birds get used to each other; the new bird can then gradually be introduced to ensure that no fighting ensues. A male and female will often get along reasonably well if introduced in this way, but should not be allowed to remain together all year round; each should have some privacy, during the period from midwinter until the start of breeding season in early spring, at the very least.

Two males will very rarely be happy together, although keeping them permanently in separate cages will prompt them each to sing more than they probably would on their own - however a good recording of canary song will work equally well. A cage with a number of males may work as long as no female is present, but again, they should not be expected to

live in peace all year round, and each should be separated into an individual cage during the spring/early summer breeding season at the very least.

Male canaries can mimic sounds such as telephone ring tones and door bell chimes but only if they hear these sounds while young. Canaries can be taught tricks over time but great patience is required as they are fairly timid birds. To get the birds to play with toys, toys must be safely constructed (no sharp edges or parts the bird's feet could become entangled upon).

If pet canaries become ill they will rapidly lose weight and this is why it is essential to treat disease as quickly as possible. It is wise to have glucose powder and an eye dropper in store to administer drops of diluted solution via the beak if a canary stops eating. When a bird is sick, it puffs up its feathers to stay warm; give it gentle heat. You can often drape a heating pad over or under the cage, but be sure the bird can also get OUT of the heat if it wants.

Common household hazards include fumes from the kitchen (cooking fumes and especially fumes from non-stick pans) - canaries should never be kept in a kitchen for this reason. They are also sensitive to smoke from cigarettes, aerosol sprays such as deodorant, air freshener and polish.

Plug in air fresheners/ stand-alone fan fresheners are very toxic, as are some candles, especially scented ones (except unscented beeswax candles).

Avoid placing a canary's cage where it is in a draft, or be in full glare of sunlight without any shade available. If you let your canary out to fly about for exercise, always cover mirrors and windows, as they may fly into them and break their neck.

A number of houseplants/cut flowers are very poisonous to canaries (as are some herbs), so never let them nibble leaves of houseplants. Be very wary, as canaries love to eat greens of all kinds! Safe plants include spider plants, African violets and boston ferns. Clean water must be available for drinking and separate water should be made available for bathing.

Canaries love bathing and should be allowed to bathe often. Offer cold water for them to bathe in, as it improves their feather condition. Warm water, on the other hand, will help to strip essential oils from the feathers, and will encourage itching and picking, rather than preening. Plentiful time to bathe is especially important to a canary during the moult.

Food dishes/cage parts can be safely sterilised in a hot dishwasher or in baby-bottle fluid such as diluted Milton. When it comes to disease, prevention is better than cure. Canaries should be examined for mites and, if mites are found (especially easy to spot around the neck and rump) they can be treated with over-the-counter medication (canary mites don't bite humans). Abnormalities of the skin and feet may be caused by mites and this can also be treated with over-the-counter pet medication. Be aware that dietary problems can cause skin, foot, and feather problems that may look as if they are due to mite damage, so before treating with any drug, get an experienced opinion from a good avian vet on the actual cause of the condition.

Trivia

- Canaries were once regularly used in coal mining as an early warning system. Toxic gases such as carbon monoxide and methane in the mine would kill the bird before affecting the miners. Because canaries tend to sing much of the time, they provided both a visual and audible cue in this respect. The use of Canaries in British mines was phased out as recently as 1986.
- However, Canaries were also used by the first Mercedes-Benz airbag designers. They were often placed in passenger compartments to check for leaks from the airbag.
- Canaries have been depicted in [cartoons](#) from the middle 20th century as being harassed by domestic [cats](#); the most famous cartoon canary is Warner Brothers' "Tweety Bird".
- Norwich City, an English football team is nicknamed 'The Canaries' due to the city once being a famous centre for breeding and export of the birds. The club adopted the colours of yellow and green in homage.

See also

- [Wild Canary](#)
- [British finches](#)

References

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Domesticated duck

- [1 Breeds](#)
- [2 Gender differences](#)
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Domesticated ducks are kept for meat, eggs and down. Many ducks are also kept for show, as pets or for their ornamental value. Most domesticated ducks originated from the Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Breeds

There are many existing breeds with more being created today. Most domesticated breeds are descendants from the wild Mallard with exception of the Muscovy. Breeds are sorted into size classes. Below are breeds accepted by the American Poultry Association.

Bantam

- Call
- East Indie
- Mallard
 - [Australian Spotted](#)

Lightweight

- Bali
 - [Indian Runner](#)
 - [Khaki Campbell](#)
- Welsh Harlequin
- Magpie

Mediumweight

- Ancona
 - [Cayuga Duck](#)
- Crested
- Buff Orpington
- Swedish

Heavyweight

- Appleyard
- Aylesbury
- Muscovy
 - [Pekin](#)
- Rouen
- Saxony
- Gressingham (Wild Mallard crossed with Pekin)

Gender differences

There are several ways to tell if a duck is a female or a drake. They can be sexed by voice when their voice changes at 4 to 5 weeks old. Females have a loud quack which ducks are known for. Drakes, however, have a raspy quiet quack. Depending on the breed and variety, drakes have different plumage than females. Day-old ducklings can be sexed by looking inside their vents, but if this is done incorrectly it can hurt or possibly kill the duckling.

Sometimes drakes have curly tail feathers and female ducks have straight tail feathers.

Farming

Ducks have been farmed for hundreds of years. They are not as popular as the [chicken](#), because chickens have much more white lean meat and are easier to keep confined. Nevertheless, the duck is a popular and well known farm bird.

Ducks are farmed for their meat, eggs, and down. Their eggs are bluey green to white depending on the breed.

Ducks can be kept free range, in cages, or in batteries. To be healthy, ducks should be allowed access to water, though battery ducks are often denied this. They should be fed a grain and insect diet. Its a popular misconception that ducks should be fed bread; bread is no nutritional value and can be deadly when fed to developing ducklings.

The females of most breeds of domestic duck are very unreliable at sitting their eggs and raising their young, and it has been the custom on farms for centuries to put duck eggs under a [broody hen](#) for hatching; nowadays incubators are usually used. However, young ducklings rely on their mother for a supply of preen oil to make them waterproof, and a hen does not make as much preen oil as a duck; and an incubator makes none.

As pets and ornamentals

Ducks can be kept as pets. They can be kept in a garden or backyard and will often eat insects and slugs. A pond or water dish is recommended although they will probably dredge out and eat any wildlife and frogspawn in a pond, and even swallow adult frogs and toads, as

they have been bred to much bigger than wild ducks with a "hull length" (base of neck to base of tail) up to a foot or more. A coop should be provided for shelter, and for safety at night from predators such as foxes, as their size makes them unable to fly properly.

Ducks are also kept for their ornamental value. Breeds have been developed with crests and tufts or striking plumage. Shows are held in which ducks can be displayed.

See also

- [Peking Duck](#)
- [Poultry](#)

Domesticated goose

Domesticated geese are descendants of wild [geese](#) now kept as [poultry](#), used for meat or for their down feathers.

In Europe and North America, most are derived from the Greylag Goose. The domestication of this species, as Charles Darwin remarks (*Animals and Plants under Domestication*, i. 287), is of very ancient date.

Few other animals have been bred so largely in captivity over such a long period, yet has varied so little. The domesticated goose has changed very little as compared to say the domesticated turkey.

It has increased greatly in size and fecundity, but almost the only change in plumage is that tame geese are commonly bred to lose the browner and darker tints of the wild bird, and are more or less marked with white — being often wholly of that colour.

From the time of the Romans, white geese have been held in great esteem. Perhaps white geese are preferred because they look better plucked and dressed.

The most generally recognized breeds of domestic geese are those to which the distinctive names of Emden and Toulouse are applied; but a singular breed, said to have come from Sevastopol, was introduced into western Europe about the year 1856. In this the upper plumage is elongated, curled and spirally twisted, having their shaft transparent, and so thin that it often splits into fine filaments, which, remaining free for an inch or more, often coalesce again; while the quills are aborted, so that the birds cannot fly.

In eastern Asia, the Swan Goose has been domesticated for centuries, and is familiarly known as the **Chinese Goose**.

Geese have proved remarkably resistant to intensive rearing methods, and they therefore remain an expensive luxury compared to other poultry, such as the [chicken](#) and [domesticated turkey](#).

Geese in cooking

Geese can be roasted as a whole bird, though their size precludes this preparation except for banquets and other festive meals (such as on [Christmas](#)). Geese contain much more fat than [turkeys](#) or [chickens](#) do - at least 500 ml (two cups) of fat may be rendered from an average-sized goose during cooking. The Cantonese barbecue also features prominently roasted goose over a charcoal spit with a "tuned" crispy skin.

Geese are used for the production of *foie gras*.

Geese produce large edible [eggs](#), approximately four inches (100mm) from top to bottom. They can be used in cooking just as ordinary chicken's eggs, though they have proportionally more yolk, and this cooks to a slightly denser consistency. Taste is more or less the same as a chicken's egg.

Geese in fiction and myth

When Aphrodite first came ashore she was welcomed by the Charites (Roman "Graces"), whose chariot was drawn by geese.

There are Mother Goose tales, such as a farmwife might have told; there is the proverbial goose that laid the golden eggs, warning about the perils of greed. And there is the goose as a veiled reference to the penis in the verses

Goosy Goosy Gander, where dost thou wander?

Upstairs, downstairs, in my lady's chamber.

The geese in the temple of Juno on the Capitoline Hill were said by Livy to have saved Rome from the Gauls around 390 BC when they were disturbed in a night attack. The story may be an attempt to explain the origin of the sacred flock of geese at Rome.

There is a tale of Trickster and the geese in the North American Trickster cycle [\[1\]](#).

Liliane Bodson and Daniel Marcolungo, *L'oie de bon aloi: Aspects de l'histoire ancienne de l'oie domestique* [The goose in ancient life and folklore]. Vise (Musée Regional d'Archeologie et d'Histoire de Vise), 1994, discusses the image and lore of domestic geese in classical antiquity, with a separate chapter on the goose in folklore.

There is a Christian reference (Father Augustine) to the goose that relates to the coming of the winter solstice or as it is called "The Great Freezing". One of the reasons for harsh winter seasons was to scare or cull the goose population (a creation of the devil). This cyclical process is supposed to be symbolic of the struggle between evil (Satan) and God. Evil may never be completely put down, but God shall always triumph.

One of Aesop's Fables relates the story of The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs, the phrase itself passing into the language.

Domesticated turkey

Conservation status: Domesticated

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: Meleagrididae

Genus: ***Meleagris***

Species: *Meleagris gallopavo* (modern), *Meleagris ocellata* (historical)

The **domesticated turkey** is a large [poultry bird](#) raised for food. The modern domesticated turkey descends from the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), one of the two species of turkey (genus *Meleagris*); however, in the past the ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) was also domesticated. Despite the name, turkeys have no relation to the country of Turkey and are instead native to North America.

The turkey is reared throughout temperate parts of the World, and is a popular form of poultry, partially because industrialised farming has made it very cheap for the amount of meat it produces. The female domesticated turkey is referred to as a *hen* and the chick as a *poult*. In the United States, the male is referred to as a tom, whilst in Europe, the male is a *stag*.

The great majority of domesticated turkeys have white feathers, although brown or bronze-feathered varieties are also raised.

- [1 History](#)
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- [5 Turkeys as food](#)
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History

Turkeys were brought back to Europe shortly after their discovery in the New World. For this reason, many distinct turkey breeds were developed in Europe due to cross breeding. (e.g. Spanish Black, Royal Palm). Turkey was one of the many game species hunted by early American colonists and is traditionally (though not in actuality) thought to have been served

at the first Thanksgiving. Turkeys have been a staple on farms since their discovery in colonial times. In the midwestern United States in the mid to late 1800s, domestic turkeys were actually herded across the range in a manner similar to herding cattle. In the early 20th century, many advances were made in the breeding of turkeys resulting in varieties such as the Beltsville Small White.

Suggestions have been made that the Mexican Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) might also be involved, but the plumage of domestic turkeys does not support this theory; in particular, the chest tuft of domestic turkeys is a clear indicator of descent from the Wild Turkey (the Ocellated Turkey does not have this tuft)

Availability and Commercial Production

Prior to World War II, turkey was something of a luxury in Britain, with goose or beef a more common Christmas dinner [1] (In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Bob Cratchit had a goose before Scrooge bought him a turkey). Intensive farming of turkeys from the late 1940s, however, dramatically cut the price and it became far and away the most common Christmas dinner meat. With the availability of refrigeration, whole turkeys could be shipped frozen to distant markets. Later advances in control of disease increased production even more. Advances in shipping, changing consumer preferences and the proliferation of commercial poultry plants for butchering animals has made fresh turkey available to the consumer.

Approximately two to four billion pounds of poultry feathers are produced every year by the poultry producing industry. Most of the feathers are usually ground up and used as filler for animal feed. Researchers at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have patented a method of removing the stiff quill from the fibers which make up the feather. As this a potential untapped supply of natural fibers, research has been conducted at Philadelphia University to determine textile applications for feather fibers. To date, turkey feather fibers have been blended with nylon and spun into yarn which was then used for knitting. The yarns were tested for strength while the fabrics were evaluated as potential insulation materials. In the case of the yarns, as the percentage of turkey feather fibers increased the strength decreased. In fabric form, as the percentage of turkey feather fibers increased the heat retention capability of the fabric increased.

Breeding

Modern animal husbandry has resulted in significant differences between wild turkeys and commercial farm animals. Broad-breasted varieties are prized for their white meat, fast growth, and excellent feed-conversion ratios. Broad-breasted varieties are typically produced by artificial insemination to avoid injury of the hens by the much larger toms and because the physical changes resulting in broad (double) breasts have also rendered most males incapable of natural mating. Modern commercial varieties have also lost much of their natural ability to forage for food, fly, walk normally, and to escape predators. For this reason,

many non-commercial hobbyists as well as organic farmers grow "heritage" breeds such as the Royal Palm or Naragansett -- varieties traditionally grown on farms prior to the advent of large-scale agriculture. Heritage breeds do not grow as quickly as commercial breeds and are single-breasted and thus have less white meat. Their meat has a much stronger turkey taste and does not require flavor additives or brining. Heritage turkeys are disease resistant, strong flyers and foragers, and can mate naturally and raise their young successfully.

Male turkeys strut and demonstrate, usually in groups, to attract hens. They fan out their tail, puff up the feathers on their backs, and drag their primary flight feathers on the ground to produce a "scraping" sound. Part of the demonstration includes gobbling and producing a "puff" sound followed by a very low resonating "boing" that sounds like a rubber band in an echo chamber. The low resonating sound is low enough that it cannot be captured with traditional audio equipment. The hen in turn makes a "yelp" or call that attracts the males. Hens select their mate and crouch on the ground with neck extended to signal their willingness to mate. Hens continue to lay fertile eggs for three to four weeks from just one mating. However, when given the opportunity hens will mate everyday.

Some commercial turkey hens occasionally produce young from unfertilized eggs in a process called parthenogenesis.

Most Domesticated turkeys are grain fed.

Butchering

To kill a live turkey, withhold food for a day to help ensure the digestive system is empty. (Some recommend also feeding the turkey hard liquor before slaughter, both to sedate it and perhaps as a way of flavoring the meat.) Putting the turkey in a bag, with one corner cut out for the head, helps keep the turkey from thrashing and damaging itself or the people involved in preparing it. One method is to hammer two nails into a stump and bend them, then put the turkey's head on the stump and turn the nails to hold the turkey's head still, then remove the turkey's head with an axe. The turkey will thrash for a few moments. More commonly, a turkey is placed upside down inside a metal cone manufactured for this purpose, its neck is cut, and the blood is allowed to drain out. At this point, a process known as debraining may be applied, where the brain stem is severed by pushing a sharp knife or screwdriver in to the mouth and through the back of the throat towards the base of the skull and applying a twisting motion. Successful debraining will generally result in a bird that is easier to pluck.

Hang the carcass upside down to bleed for a half hour or so. When bleeding is complete, the bird can be manually plucked, which gives a good quality carcass. Smaller feathers can be pulled off in a bunch; larger feathers need to be removed one at a time so as not to tear the skin. Stubborn feathers can be pulled with pliers or a forceps. The alternative is to scald the carcass in hot water for 1-3 minutes at a temperature of 60-80°C before manual plucking. This greatly reduces the amount of labor required to remove the feathers, but care must be taken to avoid accidentally "cooking" the skin. When all the feathers are removed, rinse the turkey's anus to remove any residue, then insert a sharp knife just below the hip bone, but not so deep as to puncture any of the internal organs. Cut down and around on either side of the anus, making sure it's angled up to keep any excretion off the meat. Carefully pull out and

discard. Then reach inside the turkey and remove all organs, as well as large globs of fat. If desired, the heart, liver (slice away from other innards, being careful not to puncture the green gall), and gizzard can be saved for giblets. If the gizzard is saved, slice it in half until the gravel inside grates against the knife, then slice around and open up, peeling away the inner layer and discarding the contents. After all the organs have been removed, turn the turkey around and cut around the circumference of the neck and peel down, exposing the esophagus and windpipe. For each, separate them from their attachment points and pull them out, including the crop in the case of the esophagus. Rinse the turkey out with cold water and, if desired, hang and chill for a day or so before freezing.

Turkeys as food

Turkeys are traditionally eaten as the main course of large feasts at [Christmas](#) in Europe and North America, as well as Thanksgiving in the United States and Canada, in both cases having displaced the traditional [goose](#). While eating turkey was once mainly restricted to special occasions such as these, turkey is now eaten year round and forms a regular part of many diets.

In countries where turkey is popular, it is available commonly in supermarkets. Turkeys are sold sliced and ground, as well as "whole" in a manner similar to [chicken](#) with the head, feet, and feathers removed. Frozen whole turkeys remain popular. Sliced turkey is frequently used as a sandwich meat or served as cold cuts. Ground turkey is sold just as ground beef, and is frequently marketed as a healthy beef substitute. Without proper preparation, turkey is usually considered to end up less moist than, say, [chicken](#) or [duck](#). Leftovers from roast turkey are generally served as cold cuts on [Boxing Day](#).

Wild turkeys, while technically the same species as domesticated turkeys, have a very different taste from farm-raised turkeys. Almost all of the meat is "dark" (even the breasts) with a more intense turkey flavor. Older heritage breeds also differ in flavor.

Turkey is often found as a processed meat. It can be smoked and as such is sometimes sold as turkey ham. Twisted helices of turkey meat sold as turkey twizzlers came to prominence in the UK in 2004 when chef Jamie Oliver campaigned to have them and similar foods removed from school dinners.

Cooking

Both fresh and frozen turkeys are used for cooking; as with most foods, fresh turkeys are generally preferred, although they cost more. Around [holiday](#) seasons, high demand for fresh turkeys often makes them difficult to purchase without ordering in advance. However, the large size of the turkeys typically used for consumption makes defrosting them a major endeavor: a typically-sized turkey will take several days to properly defrost.

Turkeys are usually baked or roasted in an oven for several hours, often while the cook prepares the rest of the meal. Sometimes, a turkey is brined before baking to enhance flavor

and moisture content. In some areas, particularly the American South, they may also be deep fried in hot oil (often peanut oil) for 30 to 45 minutes by using a turkey fryer. Deep frying turkey has become something of a fad, with hazardous consequences for those unprepared to safely handle the large quantities of hot oil required. [\[2\]](#)

Accompaniments

For [Christmas](#) in Britain, turkey is traditionally served with winter vegetables including roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and parsnips. Cranberry sauce is the traditional condiment in the northern rural areas of Britain where wild cranberries grow. In the south and in urban areas, where cranberries until recently were difficult to obtain, bread sauce was used in its place, but the availability of commercial cranberry sauce has seen a rise in its popularity in these areas too. Sometimes sausagemeat, cocktail sausages or liver wrapped in bacon is also served (known as bacon rolls or "pigs in blankets").

Especially during holiday seasons, stuffing is traditionally served with turkey. There are many varieties: oatmeal, chestnut, sage and onion (flavoured bread), and sausage (possibly with mashed potato) are the most traditional. Stuffing may either be used to stuff the turkey (as the name implies), or may be cooked separately and served as a side dish.

For Thanksgiving in the United States and Canada, turkey is traditionally served with cranberry sauce and gravy. Other items vary, but common complementary dishes include mashed potatoes, dinner rolls, various vegetables (such as corn, green beans, squash, and sweet potatoes), and various types of pie for dessert (such as pumpkin, apple and pecan). One humorous decades-old Thanksgiving tradition in the United States is the annual Presidential "pardon" of a selected turkey, which meets with the President and then is taken to a petting zoo instead of a slaughterhouse.

Health concerns

Turkey is generally considered healthier and less fattening than red meat. Turkey is high in tryptophan, and is commonly credited with causing sleepiness after a meal, however this is largely a misconception. Turkey dinners are commonly large meals served with carbohydrates, fats, and alcohol in a relaxed atmosphere, all of which are bigger contributors to post-meal sleepiness than the tryptophan in turkey. [\[1\]](#)

Turkeys in culture

Norman Rockwell featured a roast turkey as a symbol of prosperity in his painting "Freedom from Want", one of his Four Freedom Series.

Turkey dung for fuel

Turkey droppings are planned to fuel an electric power plant in western Minnesota. The plant will provide 55 megawatts of power using 700,000 tons of dung per year. Plant will begin operating in 2007. Three such plants are in operation in England.[\[3\]](#)

References

1. [^ Does eating turkey make you sleepy?](#) *About.com*. Retrieved on May 11, 2005.
 - [Ocellated turkey](#)
 - [All about Turkeys for kids](#)(Link may not work)

Homing pigeon

The **homing pigeon** is a variety of domesticated [Rock Pigeon](#) (*Columba livia*) that has been selectively bred to be able to find its way home over extremely long distances. Because any [pigeon](#) generally returns to its own nest and its own mate, it was relatively easy to selectively breed the birds that repeatedly found their way home over long distances. Flights as long as 1689 miles have been recorded by exceptional birds in competition pigeon racing. Their average flying speed over moderate distances is around 30 miles per hour, but they can achieve bursts of speed up to 60 mph. Homing pigeons have been used to carry messages written on thin light paper (such as cigarette paper) in a small tube attached to one leg; this is called pigeon post.

This bird is to be distinguished from the [carrier pigeon](#), an entirely different breed.

- [1 Navigation](#)
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Navigation

Some research has been performed with the intention of discovering how birds can find their way back from distant places they have never visited before. Some researchers believe that pigeons navigate by Earth's magnetic field. Near their home lofts, in areas they have previously visited, pigeons probably are guided by natural and artificial landmarks. Research by Floriano Papi (Italy, early 1970s) and newer research published in the February, 2004 issue of *Animal Behaviour* suggest that pigeons also orient themselves by odors and/or combinations of odors. (See the August 20, 2005 issue of *Science News*.)

Various experiments suggest that different breeds of homing pigeons rely on different cues to different extents. Charles Walcott at Cornell was able to demonstrate that one strain of pigeons was confused by a magnetic anomaly in the Earth that had no effect on another strain of birds. Other experiments have shown that altering the perceived time of day with artificial lighting or using air conditioning to eliminate odors in the pigeons' home roost affected the pigeons' ability to return home.

Some research also indicates that homing pigeons navigate by following roads and other man-made features, making 90 degree turns and following habitual routes, much the same way that humans navigate [\[1\]](#).

History

Messenger pigeons were used as early as 1150 in Baghdad [\[2\]](#) and also later by Genghis Khan.

In 1850, Paul Reuter, who later founded Reuters press agency, used a fleet of over 45 pigeons to deliver news and stock prices between Brussels and Aachen. The outcome of the Battle of Waterloo was also first delivered by a pigeon to England.

Possibly the first regular air mail service in the world was Mr Howie's Pigeon-Post service from the Auckland New Zealand suburb of Newton to Great Barrier Island, starting in 1896. Certainly the world's first 'airmail' stamps were issued for the Great Barrier Pigeon-Gram Service from 1898 to 1908. [\[3\]](#)

They were used extensively during World War I, and one homing pigeon, Cher Ami, was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for his heroic service in delivering 12 important messages, despite being shot once.

Eighty-two homing pigeons were dropped into Holland with the First Airborne Division Signals as part of Operation Market-Garden in World War II. The pigeons' loft was located in London which would have required them to fly 240 miles to deliver their messages.¹

Homing pigeons were still employed in the 21st century by certain remote police departments in Orissa state in eastern India to provide emergency communication services following natural disasters. In March 2002, it was announced that India's Police Pigeon Service messenger system in Orissa was to be retired.

The humorous IP over Avian Carriers (RFC 1149) is an Internet protocol for the transmission of messages via homing pigeon. This protocol has been used, once, to transmit a message in Bergen, Norway.

Notable pigeon enthusiasts in the United Kingdom include Gerry Francis (football manager) and Duncan Ferguson (Everton and Scotland footballer).

In Chinese martial art (wushu) films and dramas, homing pigeons are often used for "Pigeon Mail" (鴿子信). People often labor under the misapprehension that the pigeons know where to deliver the mail. The fact is that they can only go back to one "mentally marked" point that they have identified as their home. So "pigeon mail" can only work when the sender is actually holding the receiver's pigeons.

The Taliban banned homing pigeons (or probably more realistically the keeping of homing pigeons and/or the use for sport) in Afghanistan.

References

¹ 'A Bridge too Far' by Cornelius Ryan

Indian Runner Duck

The **Indian Runner Duck** is a favorite among [poultry](#) lovers. Although their name suggests otherwise, they are native to Malaysia. They are a light weight [duck](#) with a upright pose and are bred in many colors, including, white, black, grey, penciled, tan and blue. They are quiet and known for their very good egg laying production (up to roughly 365 per year, or one per day), but don't take care of their eggs. These ducks stand upright like humans and stand up to 14" tall. They are also bred throughout farms for natural pest control, being released by the thousands. Their waste makes good fertilizer. They are often kept as pets.

Khaki Campbell

A **Khaki Campbell** (or just **Campbell**) is a breed of [domesticated duck](#) kept for its high level of egg production. The breed was developed by Adele Campbell of England at the end of the 19th century.^[1] The "Khaki" portion of the name refers to the duck's typical color.

Adult Campbell ducks weigh approximately 4 pounds. Campbells can come in three color varieties: khaki, dark and white. The Khaki Campbell duck is mostly khaki colored with a darker head. They have Mallard, Rouen and [Runner](#) duck blood in them.

The egg production of the Campbell breed can exceed even the most efficient of egg laying domestic [chickens](#), with the breed laying an average of 300 eggs a year.^[2]

This breed of duck is listed as watch by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.^[3]

History

In the late 1800s Adele Campbell purchased a Fawn and White [Indian Runner Duck](#) which was an exceptional layer (195 eggs in 197 days) and crossed it with a Rouen in an attempt to create a strain that would lay well and have bigger bodies.^[4] The offspring were crossed with Mallards to increase their hardiness.^[5] The resulting birds were prolific layers. The "Campbell" breed was introduced to the public in 1898. In an attempt to create a more attractive buff-colored duck Mrs. Campbell crossed her original Campbells with Penciled Runner ducks. The resulting color reminded Mrs. Campbell of British army uniforms, so she named these new ducks "Khaki Campbell".^[1]

References

1. [^] ^a ^b [The Campbell Duck](#). The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. Retrieved on 2006-08-08.
2. [^] [Poultry Breeds - Khaki Campbell Duck](#) (1997-10-24). Retrieved on 2006-07-12.
3. [^] [American Livestock Breeds Conservancy Watchlist](#) (2006-06-04). Retrieved on 2006-07-12.
4. [^] *Dave Holderread. Storey's guide to raising ducks. Storey, 37-41. ISBN 1-58017-258-X.*
5. [^] [Khaki Campbell Ducks](#). Ashton Waterfowl. Retrieved on 2006-08-08.

Ostrich

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Struthioniformes

Family: **Struthionidae**, Vigors, 1825 Genus: **Struthio**

Species: ***S. camelus*** Binomial name: ***Struthio camelus***, Linnaeus, 1758

The **ostrich** (*Struthio camelus*) is a [flightless bird](#) native to Africa. It is the only living species of its [family](#), **Struthionidae**, and its [genus](#), **Struthio**. They are distinct in their appearance, with a long neck and legs and the ability to run at speeds of about 65 km/h (40 mph). Ostriches are the largest living species of [bird](#) and are farmed in many areas all over the world. The scientific name for the ostrich is from the Greek for "camel [sparrow](#)" in allusion to their long necks^[1].

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Description

Ostriches usually weigh from 90 to 130 kg (200 to 285 pounds), although some male ostriches have been recorded with weights of up to 155 kg (340 pounds). The feathers of adult males are mostly black, with some white on the wings and tail. Females and young males are grayish-brown, with a bit of white. The small vestigial wings are used by males in mating displays. They can also provide shade for chicks. The [feathers](#) are soft and serve as insulation, and are quite different from the stiff airfoil feathers of flying birds. There are claws on two of the wings' fingers. The strong legs of the ostrich lack feathers. The bird stands on two toes, with the bigger one resembling a hoof. This is an adaptation unique to ostriches that appears to aid in running.

At sexual maturity (two to four years old), male ostriches can be between 1.8 m and 2.7 m (6 feet and 9 feet) in height, while female ostriches range from 1.7 m to 2 m (5.5 ft to 6.5 ft). During the first year of life, chicks grow about 25 cm (10 inches) per month. At one year, ostriches weigh around 45 kg (100 pounds). An ostrich can live up to 75 years.

Systematics and distribution

The ostrich belong to the Struthioniformes order (ratites). Other members of this group include rheas, emus, cassowaries and the largest bird ever, the now-extinct *Aepyornis*. However, the classification of the ratites as a single order has always being questioned, with the alternative classification restricting the Struthioniformes to the ostrich lineage and elevating the other groups to order status also. Presently, molecular evidence is equivocal while paleobiogeographical and paleontological considerations are slightly in favor of the multi-order arrangement.

Ostriches occur naturally in the savannas and the Sahel of Africa, both north and south of the equatorial forest zone. Five subspecies are recognized:

- *S. c. australis* in Southern Africa
- S. c. camelus* in North Africa, sometimes called the North African ostrich or red-necked ostrich.
- S. c. massaicus* in East Africa, sometimes called the Masai ostrich. During the mating season, the male's neck and thighs turn pink-orange. Their range is from Ethiopia and Kenya in the east to Senegal in the west, and from eastern Mauritania in the north to southern Morocco in the south.
- S. c. syriacus* in the Middle East, sometimes called the Arabian ostrich or Middle Eastern ostrich, was a subspecies formerly very common in the Arabian Peninsula, Syria, and Iraq; it became extinct around 1966.
- S. c. molybdophanes* in Somalia, Ethiopia, and northern Kenya, is called the Somali ostrich. During the mating season, the male's neck and thighs turn blue. Its range overlaps with *S.c. massaicus* in northeastern Kenya.

Analyses indicate that the Somali ostrich may be better considered a full species. mtDNA haplotype comparisons suggest that it diverged from the other ostriches not quite 4 mya due to formation of the Great Rift Valley. Subsequently, hybridization with the subspecies that evolved southwestwards of its range, *S. c. massaicus*, has apparently been prevented to occur on a significant scale by ecological separation, the Somali ostrich preferring bushland where it browses middle-height vegetation for food while the Masai ostrich is, like the other subspecies, a grazing bird of the open savanna and miombo habitat (Freitag & Robinson, 1993).

The population from Río de Oro was once separated as *Struthio camelus spatzi* because its eggshell pores were shaped like a teardrop and not round, but as there is considerable variation of this character and there were no other differences between these birds and adjacent populations of *S. c. camelus*, it is not anymore considered valid. This population has disappeared in the later half of the 20th century. In addition, there have been 19th century reports of the existence of small ostriches in North Africa; these have been referred to as Levaillant's Ostrich (*Struthio bidactylus*) but remain a hypothetical form not supported by material evidence (Fuller, 2000). Given the persistence of savanna wildlife in a few mountaineous regions of the Sahara (such as the Tagant Plateau and the Ennedi Plateau), it is not at all unlikely that ostriches too were able to persist in some numbers until recent times after the drying-up of the Sahara.

Evolution

The earliest fossil of ostrich-like birds is the Central European Palaeotis from the Middle Eocene, a middle-sized flightless bird that was originally believed to be a bustard. Its distribution indicates that its ancestors must have flown across the ocean which at that time separated the continents from each other, and this indicates that theories about evolution and dispersal of the ratites need much more research before a consensus can be reached. Apart from this enigmatic bird, the fossil record of the ostriches continues with several species of the modern genus *Struthio* which are known from the Early Miocene onwards. While the relationship of the African species is comparatively straightforward, a large number of Asian species of ostrich have been described from very fragmentary remains, and their interrelationships and how they relate to the African ostriches is very confusing. In China, ostriches are known to have become extinct only around or even after the end of the last ice age; images of ostriches have been found there on prehistoric pottery and as petroglyphs.

- *Struthio coppensi* (Early Miocene of Elizabethfeld, Namibia)
- *Struthio linxiaensis* (Liushu Late Miocene of Yangwapuzijifang, China)
- *Struthio orlovi* (Late Miocene of Moldavia)
- *Struthio karingarabensis* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of SW and CE Africa)
- *Struthio kakesiensis* (Laetoli Early Pliocene of Laetoli, Tanzania)
- *Struthio wimani* (Early Pliocene of China and Mongolia)
- *Struthio daberasensis* (Early - Middle Pliocene of Namibia)
- Asian Ostrich, *Struthio asiaticus* (Early Pliocene - Late Pleistocene of Central Asia to China)
- *Struthio oldawayi* (Early Pleistocene of Tanzania) - probably subspecies of *S. camelus*
- *Struthio anderssoni*
- *Struthio brachydactylus* (Pliocene of Ukraine)
- *Struthio chersonensis* (Pliocene of SE Europe to WC Asia)
- *Struthio oshanai*

In addition, apparently ratite eggshell fragments were found on the Canary Islands. The fragments apparently date to the Middle or Late Miocene, and no satisfying theory has been proposed as to how they got there due to uncertainties about whether these islands were ever connected to the mainland.

Behavior

Ostriches live in nomadic groups of 5 to 50 birds that often travel together with other grazing animals, such as zebras or antelopes. They mainly feed on seeds and other plant matter; occasionally they also eat insects such as locusts. Lacking teeth, they swallow pebbles that help to grind the swallowed foods in the gizzard. They can go without water for a long time, exclusively living off the moisture in the ingested plants. However, they enjoy water and frequently take baths.

With their acute eyesight and hearing, they can sense predators such as lions from far away.

In popular mythology, the ostrich is famous for hiding its head in the sand at the first sign of danger. The Roman writer Pliny the Elder is noted for his descriptions of the ostrich in his *Naturalis Historia*, where he describes the ostrich and the fact that it hides its head in a bush. There have been no recorded observations of this behavior. A common counter-argument is that a species that displayed this behavior would not likely survive very long. The myth may have resulted from the fact that, from a distance, when ostriches feed they appear to be burying their head in the sand because they deliberately swallow sand and pebbles to help grind up their food. Burying their heads in sand will in fact suffocate the ostrich. When lying down and hiding from predators, the birds are known to lay their head and neck flat on the ground, making them appear as a mound of earth from a distance. This even works for the males, as they hold their wings and tail low so that the heat haze of the hot, dry air that often occurs in their habitat aids in making them appear as a nondescript dark lump. When threatened, ostriches run away, but they can also seriously injure with kicks from their powerful legs.

The ostrich's behavior is also mentioned in what is thought to be the most ancient book of the Bible in God's discourse to Job (Job 39.13-18). It is described as joyfully proud of its small wings, unmindful of the safety of its nest, treats its offspring harshly, lacks in wisdom, yet can put a horse to shame with its speed. Elsewhere, ostriches are mentioned as proverbial examples of bad parenting; see Arabian Ostrich for details.

Ostriches are known to eat almost anything (dietary indiscretion), particularly in captivity where opportunity is increased.

Ostriches can tolerate a wide range of temperatures. In much of its habitat temperature differences of 40°C between night- and daytime can be encountered. Their temperature control mechanism is more complex than in other birds and mammals, utilizing the naked skin of the upper legs and flanks (see the photo of the "dancing" female ostrich below) which can be covered by the wing feathers or bared according to whether the bird wants to retain or lose body heat.

Reproduction

Ostriches become sexually mature when 2 to 4 years old; females mature about six months earlier than males. The species is iteroparous, with the mating season beginning in March or April and ending sometime before September. The mating process differs in different geographical regions. Territorial males will typically use hisses and other sounds to fight for a harem of 2 to 5 females (which are called hens). The winner of these fights will breed with all the females in an area but only form a pair bond with one, the dominant female. The female crouches on the ground and is mounted from behind by the male.

Ostriches are [oviparous](#). The females will lay their fertilized [eggs](#) in a single communal nest, a simple pit scraped in the ground and 30 to 60 cm deep. Ostrich eggs can weigh 1.3 kg and are the largest of all eggs (and the largest single cells), though they are actually the smallest eggs relative to the size of the bird. The nest may contain 15 to 60 eggs, with an

average egg being 6 inches (15 cm) long, 5 inches (13 cm) wide, and weigh 3 pounds (1.4 kg). They are shiny and whitish in color. The eggs are incubated by the females by day and by the male by night, making use of the different colors of the two sexes to escape detection. The gestation period is 35 to 45 days. Typically, the male will tend to the hatchlings.

The life span of an ostrich can extend from 30 to 70 years, with 50 being typical.

Ostriches and humans

In the past, ostriches were mostly hunted and farmed for their feathers, which used to be very popular as ornaments in ladies' hats and such. Their skins were also valued to make a fine leather. In the 18th century, they were almost hunted to extinction; farming for feathers began in the 19th century. The market for feathers collapsed after World War I, but commercial farming for feathers and later for skins, took off during the 1970s.

The Arabian Ostriches in the Near and Middle East were hunted to extinction by the middle of the 20th century.

Today, ostriches are bred all over the world, including climates as cold as that of Sweden. They will prosper in climates between 30 and 30 °C, and are farmed in over 50 countries around the world, but the majority are still found in Southern Africa. Since they also have the best feed to weight ratio gain of any land animal in the world (3.5:1 whereas that of cattle is 6:1), they are bound to appear attractive to farmers. Although they are farmed primarily for leather and secondarily for meat, additional useful byproducts are the eggs, offal, and feathers. It is traditional to place seven of the large eggs on the roof of an Ethiopian Orthodox church, to symbolise the Heavenly and Earthly Angels.

It is claimed that ostriches produce the strongest commercially available leather¹. Ostrich meat tastes similar to lean beef and is low in fat and cholesterol, as well as high in calcium, protein and iron. [\[1\]](#)

Ostriches are large enough for a small human to ride them; typically, the human will hold on to the wings while riding. They have been trained in some areas of northern Africa and Arabia as racing mounts. Ostrich races in the United States have been criticized by animal rights organizations, however there is little possibility of this becoming a widespread practice due to the fact that the animals are difficult to saddle (and ostriches are known to have a rather irascible temper).

Ostriches are classified as dangerous animals in Australia, the US and the UK. There are a number of recorded incidents of people being attacked and killed. Big males can be very territorial and aggressive and can attack and kick very powerfully with their legs. An ostrich will easily outrun any human athlete. Their legs are powerful enough to eviscerate large animals.

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- [Kruger Park page on Ostriches](#)
- [South African Ostrich Business Chamber](#)

Pekin duck

A **Pekin duck** is a breed of [domesticated duck](#) used primarily for egg and meat production. Bred from the Mallard in China, it was brought to the United States about 1873, where it is the most popular commercial duck breed.

Adult Pekin ducks weigh approximately 8 pounds, and are characterized by a yellow bill and creamy white [plumage](#), with orange shanks and toes. Ducklings have bright yellow plumage. The ducks have an upright carriage and a peculiarly upturned rump.

When young it is difficult to determine the gender of the duck; when older the male ducks acquire a curled tail feather, called a drake feather.

Trivia

- It is widely believed that Donald Duck is modeled after a Pekin duck.
- The mascot of the insurance company Aflac is a Pekin duck.

References

- [Pekin duck](#)
- [Pekin duck breed](#)

Quail

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Galliformes
 Family: [Phasianidae](#)†

Genera: *Coturnix*, *Anurophasis*, *Perdica*, *Ophrysia*† See also [Pheasant](#), [Partridge](#), [Grouse](#)

Quail is a collective name for several genera of mid-sized [birds](#) in the [pheasant](#) family [Phasianidae](#), or in the family Odontophoridae. This article deals with the Old World species in the former family. The New World quails are not closely related, but are named for their similar appearance and behaviour.

The Old World buttonquails are also in a different family Turnicidae, and are not true quails.

The quails are small, plump terrestrial birds. They are seed eaters, but will also take insects and similar small prey. They nest on the ground.

Some quail are farmed in large numbers. These include Japanese quail, also commonly known as coturnix quail, which are mostly kept to produce eggs that are sold worldwide.

Species list

- Genus *Coturnix*
 - *Coturnix coturnix*, Common Quail
 - Coturnix japonica*, Japanese Quail
 - Coturnix pectoralis*, Stubble Quail
 - Coturnix novaezelandiae*, New Zealand Quail Extinct
 - Coturnix coromandelica*, Rain Quail
 - Coturnix delegorguei*, Harlequin Quail
 - Coturnix ypsilophora*, Brown Quail
 - Coturnix adansonii*, Blue Quail
 - Coturnix chinensis*, Blue-breasted Quail
- Genus *Anurophasis*
 - *Anurophasis monorthonyx*, Snow Mountain Quail
- Genus *Perdica*
 - *Perdica asiatica*, Jungle Bush-quail
 - Perdica argoondah*, Rock Bush-quail
 - Perdica erythrorhyncha*, Painted Bush-quail
 - Perdica manipurensis*, Manipur Bush-quail
- Genus *Ophrysia*
 - *Ophrysia superciliosa*, Himalayan Quail Critically Endangered/Extinct

References

- [Commercial coturnix quail farming](#)

Rock Pigeon

Conservation status Least concern

Rock Pigeon near the shore in Connecticut

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: [Columbidae](#)

Genus: *Columba*

Species: *C. livia*

Binomial name *Columba livia*, Gmelin, 1789

The **Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*), is a member of the [bird](#) family [Columbidae](#), doves and pigeons. The bird is also known by the names of **feral pigeon** or **domestic pigeon**. In common usage, this bird is often simply referred to as the "pigeon". The species was commonly known as **Rock Dove** until the British Ornithologists' Union and the American Ornithologists' Union changed the official English name of the bird in their regions to Rock Pigeon.

The Rock Pigeon has a restricted natural resident range in western and southern Europe, North Africa, and into southwest Asia. Its habitat is natural cliffs, usually on coasts. Its domesticated form, the feral pigeon, has been widely introduced elsewhere, and is common, especially in cities, over much of the world. In Britain, Ireland, and much of its former range, the Rock Pigeon probably only occurs pure in the most remote areas. A Rock Pigeon's life span is anywhere from 3–5 years in the wild to 15 years in captivity, though longer-lived specimens have been reported.

The species was first introduced to North America in 1606 at Port Royal, Acadia (now Nova Scotia).

The Rock Pigeon is 30–35 cm long with a 62–68 cm wingspan. The white lower back of the pure Rock Pigeon is its best identification character, but the two black bars on its pale grey wings are also distinctive. The tail is margined with white. It is strong and quick on the wing, dashing out from sea caves, flying low over the water, its white rump showing well from above.

The head and neck of the mature bird are a darker blue-grey than the back and wings; the lower back is white. The green and lilac or purple patch on the side of the neck is larger than that of the Stock Dove, and the tail is more distinctly banded. Young birds show little lustre and are duller. Eye colour of the pigeon is generally an orange colour but a few pigeons may have white-grey eyes. The eyelids are orange in colour and are encapsulated in a grey-white eye ring.

When circling overhead, the white under wing of the bird becomes conspicuous. In its flight, behaviour, and voice, which is more of a dovecot *coo* than the phrase of the Wood Pigeon, it is a typical pigeon. Although it is a relatively strong flier, it also glides frequently, holding its wings in a very pronounced V shape as it does. Though fields are visited for grain and green food, it is nowhere so plentiful as to be a pest.

The bowing courtship, when the metallic lustre of the neck is fully displayed, often takes place on ledges where Guillemots and Razorbills sit.

A small prehistoric subspecies of the Rock Dove that lived during the last ice age in Italy has been described as *Columba livia minuta*.

- [1 Nest and Nestling](#)
- [2 Domestication](#)
- [3 Feral pigeons in cities](#)
- [4 See also](#)
- [5 References](#)

Nest and Nestling

The nest is usually on a ledge in a cave; it is a slight structure of grass, heather, or seaweed. Like most pigeons it lays two white eggs. The eggs are incubated by both parents for about 18 days.

The nestling has pale yellow down and a flesh-coloured bill with a dark band. It is tended and fed on "crop milk" like other doves. The fledging period is 30 days.

Domestication

Rock Pigeons have been domesticated for several thousand years, giving rise to the **domestic pigeon**. Trained domestic pigeons are able to return to the home loft if released at a location that they have never visited before and that may be up to 1000 km away. A special breed, called [homing pigeons](#) has been developed through selective breeding to carry messages and members of this variety of pigeon are still being used in pigeon racing.

Pigeons are also bred for meat and by fanciers to develop many exotic forms. Among those forms are the [carrier pigeons](#), a variety of pigeon with wattles and a unique, almost vertical, stance ([pictures](#)). Young pigeon meat is often sold under the name *squab*.

Pigeons' extraordinary navigation abilities have been attributed to the theory that they are able to sense the Earth's magnetic field with tiny magnetic tissues in their head. This is all the more surprising as they are not a [migratory](#) species, which is a fact used by some ornithologists to dispute the "compass pigeon" theory.

Many domestic birds have escaped or been released over the years, and have given rise to the **feral pigeon**. These show a variety of plumages, although some look very like the pure Rock Pigeons. The scarcity of the pure wild species is due to interbreeding with feral birds.

Many people consider pigeons to be pests but they have made contributions of considerable importance to humanity, especially in times of war. In war the homing ability of pigeons has been put to use by making them messengers. So-called war pigeons have

carried many vital messages and some have been decorated for their service. Medals such as the Croix de guerre, awarded to Cher Ami, and the Dickin Medal awarded to G.I. Joe have been given to pigeons for their service.

Domestic pigeons are also commonly used in laboratory experiments in biology, medicine and cognitive science. They have been trained to distinguish between cubist and impressionist paintings, for instance. In another project, pigeons were shown to be more effective than humans in spotting shipwreck victims at sea. Current (2004) research in pigeons is widespread, encompassing shape and texture perception, exemplar and prototype memory, category-based and associative concepts, and many more unlisted here.

Feral pigeons in cities

Feral pigeons, also called **city doves** or **city pigeons**, find the ledges of high buildings a perfect substitute for sea cliffs, and have become abundant in cities all over the world. However, they are often considered a pest or even vermin, owing to concerns that they spread disease, damage property, cause pollution with their excrement, and drive out other bird species. Alternative, pejorative, nicknames for pigeons are **sky rats**, **rats with wings**, or **gutter birds**. In Montreal, Quebec, Canada, they are also commonly referred to as **flying ashtrays**.

Many city squares are famous for their large pigeon populations, including:

- Trafalgar Square — London
- Dam Square — Amsterdam
- Martin Place — Sydney
- Piazza San Marco — Venice
- Misir Carshisi — Istanbul
- Rynek GBówny — Cracow
- Richard J. Daley Center — Chicago
- Piccadilly Gardens — Manchester

In the mid 20th century, the pigeons in Trafalgar Square were considered a tourist attraction, with street vendors selling packets of seeds for visitors to feed the pigeons. The feeding of the Trafalgar Square pigeons was controversially forbidden[1] in 2003 by London mayor Ken Livingstone. However, activist groups such as Save the Trafalgar Square Pigeons[2] flouted the ban, feeding the pigeons from a small part of the square that is under the control of Westminster City Council, not the mayor. The organisation has since come to an agreement to feed the pigeons only once a day, at 7.30am^[3].

Although pest exterminators using poison, a [hawk](#) or nets have been employed at ground level to control urban pigeon populations, the effect is limited and very short term. Pigeons breed when the food supply is good — for wild rock doves this might be on a seasonal basis so they usually breed once a year. In the urban environment, because of their year-round food supply, feral pigeons will breed continuously, laying eggs up to six times a year.

Feral pigeons can be seen eating grass seeds and berries in urban parks and gardens in the spring, but there are plentiful sources throughout the year from scavenging (e.g. dropped

fast-food cartons). Further food is also usually available from the disposing of stale bread in parks by restaurants and supermarkets, from tourists buying and distributing birdseed, etc. Pigeons tend to congregate in large, often thick flocks when going for discarded food, and many have been observed flying skillfully around trees, buildings, telephone poles and cables, and even moving traffic just to reach it.

Long term reduction of feral pigeon populations can only be achieved by restricting food supply, which in turn will involve legislation and litter (garbage) control.

As a result of the continuous food supply, pigeon courtship rituals can be observed in urban parks at any time of the year. Males on the ground initially puff up feathers at the nape of the neck to increase their apparent size and thereby impress or attract attention, then they single out a female in the vicinity and approach at a rapid walk, often bowing as they approach. Females invariably initially walk away or fly short distances, the males follow them at each stage. Persistence by the male will usually eventually cause the female to tolerate his proximity, at which point he will continue the bowing motion and very often turn full- or half-pirouettes in front of the female. Subsequent mating when observed is very brief with the male flapping his wings to maintain balance on the female. Sometimes the male and female beaks are locked together.

Nests are rudimentary as for the wild doves and pigeons. Favourite nesting areas are in damaged property. Mass nesting is common with dozens of birds sharing a building. Loose tiles and broken windows give pigeons access — they are remarkably good at spotting when new access points become available for example after strong winds cause property damage. Nests and droppings will quickly make a mess of any nesting area. Pigeons are particularly fond of roof spaces containing water tanks, though they frequently seem to fall into the tanks and drown. Any water tank or cistern in a roof space needs to have a secure lid for this reason. The popularity of a nesting area seems little affected if pigeons die or are killed there — corpses are seen among live birds, who seem unconcerned.

On undamaged property the gutters, chimney pots and external ledges will be used as nesting sites. Many building owners attempt to limit roosting by using bird control spikes and netting to cover ledges and resting places on the facades of buildings. These probably have little effect on the size of pigeon populations, but can help to reduce the accumulation of droppings on and around an individual building.

Only the larger and more wary Wood Pigeon (which often shares the same territory and food supply) will build a tree nest; for some reason it prefers trees close to roads.

The coo-ing of the feral pigeon is almost continuous when birds are on a nest; it is rarely heard at other times except courtship. Males are at least as likely to be on the nest as females, though a pair of birds will attend the nest.

Peregrine Falcons which are also originally cliff dwellers have also adapted to the big cities, living on the window ledges of skyscrapers and often feeding exclusively on Rock Pigeons.

See also

- [Birdfeeding](#)

- [Homing pigeons](#)

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Zebra Finch

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Estrildidae](#)

Genus: *Taeniopygia*

Species: ***T. guttata***

Binomial name: ***Taeniopygia guttata***, Vieillot, 1817

The **Zebra Finch**, *Taeniopygia guttata* is the most common and familiar [estrildid finch](#) of Central Australia and ranges over most of the continent, avoiding only the cool moist south and the tropical far north. Zebra Finches inhabit open steppes with scattered bushes and trees, but have adapted to human disturbances, taking advantage of human-made watering holes and large patches of deforested land.

There are two distinct sub-species. *Taeniopygia guttata guttata*, the Timor Zebra Finch, extends from Lombok in the Lesser Sunda Islands or Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia to Sermata in addition to coastal areas around the continent of Australia. The other sub-species is *Taeniopygia guttata castanotis*. This species is found over the wide range of continental Australia.

The morphological differences between the sub-species include differences in size. *Taeniopygia guttata guttata* is smaller than *Taeniopygia guttata castanotis*. In addition, the *T.g. guttata* males do not have the fine barring found on the throat and upper breast of *T.g. castanotis* as well as having small breast bands.

The Zebra Finch breeds after substantial rains in its native habitat, which can occur at any time of the year. Birds in captivity are ready to breed year-round. Wild birds are adaptable and varied in their nesting habits, with nests being found in cavities, scrub, low trees, bushes, on the ground, in termite hills, rabbit burrows, nests of other birds, and the in cracks, crevices, and ledges of human structures. Outside of the breeding time, brood nests are constructed for sleeping in.

"Zebra Finches are extremely gregarious birds that are never met singly in their native habitat but are always found in groups of several pairs. The closest bond is between the cock and the hen... these two do things separately only while the eggs and nestlings have to be kept warm. However, despite the close contact with their mates, adult females indulge in bodily contact only rarely. Males in full coloration never do" - Hans-Jürgen Martain, 'Zebra Finches'.

Zebra Finches are sometimes used as avian model organisms. They are commonly used to study the auditory processing capabilities of the brain, due to their ability to recognize and process other Zebra Finches' songs. Their popularity as model organisms is also related to their prolific breeding, an adaptation to their usually dry environment. This ability also makes them popular as pet songbirds, and they are usually found at relatively inexpensive prices.

- [1 Song and other vocalizations](#)
- [2 Food and care](#)
- [3 Zebra Finch breeding](#)
- [4 Domestication](#)
- [5 References](#)

Song and other vocalizations

Zebra Finches are loud and boisterous singers. Their call is a loud "beep", sounding something like a toy trumpet. Their song is a few small beeps, leading up to a rhythmic song of varying complexity. Each bird's song is different, although birds of the same bloodline will exhibit similarities, and all finches will overlay their own uniqueness onto a common rhythmic framework, which becomes obvious after a few minutes of listening to finch song.

Females, as a rule, do not sing.

Male Zebra Finches begin to sing at puberty. Their song begins as a few disjointed sounds, but as they experiment and grow it rapidly matures into a full-fledged song. During these formative times, they will incorporate sounds from their surroundings into their song, also using the song of their father and other nearby males for inspiration.

Male finches use their song, in part, as a mating call. The mating act is usually accompanied by a high pitched whining sound. They will also exhibit a hissing sound when they are protecting their territory.

Food and care

Zebra Finches, being weaverbirds, are primarily seedeating birds, as their [beaks](#) are adapted for dehusking small seeds. They prefer millet, but will eat many other kinds of fruit seeds as well. While they prefer seed, Zebra Finches will also eat fruits, vegetables, egg food, and live food, enjoying a meal of mealworms and other small insects. They are particularly fond of spray millet, and one or two of these small birds will decimate a spray millet stalk within a few days. Zebra Finches are messy and voracious eaters, typically dropping seed everywhere.

Zebra Finches also need a lot of calcium, especially when breeding, so a cuttlebone (the bone of a cuttlefish) should be provided. This is especially important when the female is laying eggs, as a calcium deficiency could cause egg binding, an exhausting and potentially fatal condition.

When setting up a cage for captive Zebra Finches, care should be provided to ensure that they have enough room to fly (a large cage is much better than a small cage), and that they have perches of several sizes. All perches being the same size will lead to a serious foot condition.

While Zebra Finches can survive with very little to no water, fresh water should always be provided for them - and a dish to bathe in is always greatly appreciated. They should

always be provided with food. Being small and active birds, Zebra Finches have a very high metabolism and cannot survive for any length of time without food.

Zebra Finch breeding

A pair of finches show signs of wanting to nest by sudden bursts of gathering behaviors. They will pull strings or plant leaves that they can reach. If they have nothing at all to gather, they will use feathers and bits of seed husks. Any item they can use to build a nest will be deposited in a corner of the cage floor, or in their food dish. When these behaviors are noticed a mating pair should be provided with a sturdy nest shell about the size of a large apple or orange. This shell should always be placed in the highest possible corner of the cage, opposite the food dish but near the normal night perch. Nesting finches will abandon a perch if it is across the cage with the male showing that he prefers to sit atop the nest while the female lays. During the nest building, however, both will spend the night cuddling inside the nest. When they accept the nest shell and begin using it each night, they should be provided with an ample supply of very soft bits of string and leaves. They prefer items that are only a couple of inches long and will use nearly any type and color of soft material. The nest shell will be packed with everything they can reach for at least a week before laying begins. The egg clutch (amount of eggs) ranges from 3-12 eggs per egg laying period.

Males and females are very similar in size, but easily distinguished from one another as the males usually have bright orange cheek feathers. Offspring from a similarly colored nesting pair may sometimes vary from the parents coloration, with nestlings from plain grey to completely white. These variations are usually due to mixed breeding between finch types somewhere down the family line especially in pet store birds. However, the orange cheeks are a stubborn indication that a young Zebra Finch is indeed a male and the cheeks begin to appear when the young are about two months old.

A nesting pair of parents may produce as many as 5 to 12 eggs over a few days of active laying. The chicks will hatch according to the laying time of each egg. It is common to have one or two eggs remaining unhatched as the parents begin the task of feeding the nestlings. Nests should be left completely alone after the egg laying begins, and until the young begin to venture out on their own. The time from laying until a fledgling adventures outside will vary with each clutch, but it is a good rule of thumb that good eggs will hatch within two weeks of laying and young will begin to venture out within about three or four weeks of hatching. Be prepared for all the eggs to hatch, and the nest to be a very busy, crowded house for the entire nesting time. Chicks that do hatch very often thrive, even in a very crowded nest. Zebra Finch are usually excellent parents and will readily take turns sitting on the nest and bringing food to the young.

Do not remove the nest from the cage until all the young adventure out freely and join the parents in perching for the night. But owners should not leave the nest for more than a very few weeks after the family moves out, as the mother finch will begin to nest for a new clutch very quickly. While the female is laying, only her mate will be allowed in the nest. Allowing the pair to start a new family while the first clutch is still in the cage will overly

stress all the birds in the family. The father bird will not allow any other birds near the nest while eggs are being laid, so the fussing and shoving will be noisy and tiring for all the birds.

Domestication

Zebra Finches are generally decorative birds, and prefer to be left to their own devices. It is, however, possible to hand-tame a Zebra Finch. In order to do so successfully the finch should be very young, and it should not be provided with a mate. Keep in mind when doing so that finches are social creatures and that the tamer will have to take up the slack caused by the lack of a companion. With a lot of time and patience, however, a finch can be tamed almost as well as a parakeet. For guaranteed tameness the bird should be hand fed from a young age, and well socialized with humans. The bird is hand fed similar to a parrot, it will be just as tame and loving as a larger parrot, however because of its high soc

References

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African Grey Parrot

Conservation status: Least concern

Psittacus erithacus erithacus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Genus: ***Psittacus***

Species: ***P. erithacus***

Binomial name ***Psittacus erithacus***, Linnaeus, 1758 Subspecies: *P. e. erithacus*, *P. e. timneh*

The **African Grey Parrot** is a medium-sized parrot of the genus *Psittacus*, native to Africa. As the name implies, they are predominantly grey, with accents of white. Some of their feathers are very dark grey and others are a lighter grey colour. They have red or maroon tails depending on the subspecies. They feed primarily on nuts and fruits, supplemented by leafy matter.

- [1 Subspecies](#)
- 2 Mimicry and intelligence
 - [3 African Grey Parrots as Pets](#)
 - [4 References](#)

Subspecies

There are two subspecies:

- Congo African Grey parrot, *Psittacus erithacus erithacus* - these are larger birds (about 12 inches/30cm long) with light grey feathers, deep red tails and black beaks.
- Timneh African Grey parrot, *Psittacus erithacus timneh* - these are smaller in size, have a darker charcoal gray coloring, a darker maroon tail, and a light, horn colored upper mandible.

Some avian enthusiasts (incorrectly) recognize a third subspecies, Ghana African Grey (*Psittacus erithacus princeps*). This bird is described to be similar to the Congo African greys, but darker and slightly smaller; however, scientifically this subspecies has not been found. Among breeders, there is said to be a fourth subspecies, the Cameroon African Grey, most often referred to as *the big silvers*.

Mimicry and intelligence

While comparative judgements of animal intelligence are always very difficult to make objectively, Psittaciformes are generally regarded as being the most intelligent of [birds](#).

African grey parrots are particularly noted for their cognitive abilities, which are believed to have evolved as a consequence of their history of cooperative feeding on the ground in central Africa.

Irene Pepperberg's extensively published research with captive African greys, including Alex, has shown that these parrots are capable of associating human words with their meanings, at least to some extent. Ambitious claims of language use have also been made for another African grey N'kisi, who has a vocabulary of over a thousand words and speaks in sentences. However, there is little doubt that Greys and other parrots (especially [macaws](#) and [cockatoos](#)), along with corvines ([Crows](#), [Ravens](#), and Jays), are highly intelligent in comparison with other birds.

African Grey Parrots as Pets

The history of African Grey parrots kept as pets dates back over 4,000 years. Some Egyptian hieroglyphics clearly depict pet parrots. The ancient Greeks also valued parrots as pets, and this custom was later adopted by the Wealthy Roman families often kept parrots in ornate cages, and parrots were prized for their ability to talk. King Henry VIII of England also had an African Grey parrot. The Portuguese sailors kept them as companions on their long sea voyages.

Today, many African Grey parrots are hand reared by breeders for the pet trade and they make wonderful and very affectionate [companion parrots](#); however, because they can be unpredictable at times, they may not be compatible with small children. African Grey parrots are very strong and they can bite with their strong pointed beak and scratch with their claws. African Grey parrots have a high intelligence and they are generally thought to be the best mimics of all parrots. Pet owners often refer to their relationship with their hand reared pet African Greys as being "like having a five-year-old child". On the other hand, wild-caught African Grey parrots captured from the wild need time and effort to adapt to human presence, and have a tendency to growl and bite when they are approached. The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has made the sale of all wild caught parrot species illegal.

African Grey parrots, like any pet parrot, can require a large commitment as they require a lot of attention. While numbers vary with each source, most agree that three hours out of cage daily and 45 minutes of physical interaction is the minimum attention required for good mental health. African Greys – particularly Congo African Greys – are known to be shy amongst strangers. African Greys have the tendency to bond to only one person if they do not interact with different people regularly. While inter-species friendships with other parrots are uncommon with African Greys, they require socialization with other parrots of any species.

African Greys require a lot of stimulating toys due to their high intelligence and to avoid boredom. Three to five toys at a time are typically enough to satisfy African Greys, but too many toys can crowd the cage. Toys should be rotated and switched regularly to keep the stimulation constant and diverse. For an African Grey spending most of its day in the cage, 36"W x 24"D is a good cage size. The height of a cage is typically not important, except in the case of playtop cages that are taller than the owner, in which case the bird can become

territorial. An African Grey who spends most of its time on a playstand and uses the cage solely for sleeping only needs a cage large enough so that the bird's wingspan doesn't touch the cage's sides and its head and tail do not touch the cage's top and bottom respectively. The bar-spacing should from be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 1 inch. A companion African Grey should be kept in a [bird-safe](#) environment and placed in a busy part of the home, such as the living room, where the bird can occupy himself (or herself) in watching the household activities.

African Greys have special dietary requirements and should be fed with calcium and Vitamin A rich foods such as leafy greens like mustard greens, broccoli etc., almonds or little amount of cheese. It is usual to give African grey parrots carefully calculated quantities of calcium and vitamin supplements. An excess of these added vitamins and minerals in an African Grey's diet can lead to health problems. Only a few feathers should be clipped from the wings of an African Grey since they are heavy birds. Clipping too many feathers can severely impair flight and may lead to injuries as they may have a tendency to crash to the ground. If very young birds are wing clipped they may never gain full coordination and agility in flight. African Grey parrots' lifespans are upto about 50 years (or more) in captivity.

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Bird-safe

Bird-safe (or less popularly **bird-proof**) is a term used to describe objects that are safe for captive birds and it is most commonly associated with pet birds. Birds are smaller than humans and other pets and therefore are considerably more vulnerable to dangers.

- [1 Household dangers](#)
- [2 Cage Safety](#)
- [3 Toxic foods for birds](#)
- [4 Toxic plants for birds](#)
- [5 Toxicity of overheated non-stick surfaces](#)
- [6 Introducing your bird to strangers](#)

Household dangers

Household dangers can lurk almost everywhere, from a lead-painted wall to a burning stove. Many forgetful and/or unaware bird owners lose their birds just because of ignoring household dangers. One of the biggest household dangers is an open window: a bird may try to fly out of it and a flighted bird can possibly be successful in doing so, therefore it is recommended to wing-clip a pet bird.

Always supervise your bird outside its cage and make sure it isn't eating anything from surfaces outside the cage, especially the floor. Sometimes pet birds can crash into a fan and injure themselves. Therefore turn fans off before letting your bird outside its cage and keep its wings clipped. Don't let your bird access any surface with lead, this especially includes metals. Very hot or cold surfaces can also injure a bird and therefore also keep them away from your bird. Even some polishes may contain toxic materials. Alcohol, pesticides and other chemicals must also be avoided. More information can be found here [here](#).

Cage Safety

Before buying a cage make sure it does not contain lead (lead is potentially toxic to birds). Excess of zinc can also be harmful. Lead and zinc are two main factors one should consider before buying a cage for a pet bird. Rectangular cages are preferred over round cages because a round cage does not give a bird a safe corner when it is frightened or alarmed. The round bar positioning in round cages may also affect a bird's feathers, particularly the tailfeathers. Another point to consider in bird cages are the toys that the bird will play with.

The toys should be constructed of material non-toxic to birds (marketed as "bird-safe"). The toys should not contain lead and/or zinc. If a toy contains colored leather and/or wood, it must be vegetable tanned or colored with food coloring. If a toy contains rope, it should not get tangled in a bird's toe (though sometimes even the best bird-safe ropes get tangled in bird's toes). The best bird-safe ropes are the Supreme Cotton Rope - which dispenses fluff

when its strands are plucked from the rope - or the Paulie Rope. However, Paulie Ropes designed for industrial purposes are not suitable for birds.

The same applies for playgyms, food bowls, perches and all other accessories a pet bird will interact with. More information on pet bird safety can be found [here](#).

Toxic foods for birds

Toxic foods are foods that can cause allergies and/or health problems in birds. Avocados, chocolate, milk, foods high in salt and/or sugar and fatty foods should be avoided. Any food considered junk food for humans should also be considered junk food for pet birds.

Toxic plants for birds

There are many plants that can be harmful to pet birds. In some cases an entire plant can be harmful to a bird and in some cases only some parts of certain plants can be dangerous to birds. Click [here](#) to see a comprehensive list of plants that can be harmful to pet birds.

Toxicity of overheated non-stick surfaces

Many reports from bird owners claim that their pet birds died after the owners used non-stick cookware around the birds. The cause of this phenomenon is PTFE, a fume that is released by non-stick coatings when they are overheated. The most common source of these non-stick coatings is DuPont's Teflon, which is now very common in stock, but there are many other brands that use non-stick coatings. Make sure to buy cookware that is PTFE-free or use non-stick surfaces very carefully.

PTFE usually burns when the surface is heated over 500 degrees Celsius, and disposing non-stick cookware is the best thing to do, however, there are alternate options. Non-stick cookware is not the only source of PTFE, other sources include wafflemakers, some irons, some self-cleaning ovens among other things. If you are using PTFE-coated surfaces in a household that has birds, make sure that:

- You don't heat the stove more than the conventional heat level, which is, 500 degrees Celsius
- The area where the bird is kept and the non-stick is located should both be well-ventilated.

Introducing your bird to strangers

Strangers to a bird include new people and animals. It is recommended that a stranger bird be quarantined before being kept in a cage with another bird. Some people don't know the sensitivity of a bird and handle it recklessly, this is especially with younger children who may be too excited to handle a bird, therefore first tell a stranger that a bird is frail and

sensitive and that it needs to be handled in the gentlest way. Sometimes even house pets ([dogs](#) and [cats](#)) are prone to eat birds, therefore it is recommended to keep them away from the bird. Some new bird owners trust their house pets too much and are very confident that they won't eat the bird, but this is not always the case. Even the tamest dog may eat a bird when it is very hungry and has nothing else to eat, cats are even more prone to such incidents.

British finches

The **British finches** are made up of several species of [Finch](#) which were formerly very popular as cage birds in Great Britain. Nowadays they are not commonplace, but are still kept by a few dedicated fanciers. British finches are often associated with **Mules** - a term used by cagebird breeders to refer to hybrids of finch species bred in captivity, such as that of a Goldfinch and Canary. There are now strict ringing regulations on British finches in places such as the UK, but they are still kept by aviculturists who care for them in much the same way as applies for canaries. The seed mixture in the UK known as *British Finch & Mule* is their basic diet.

- [1 History](#)
- [2 Species](#)
- [3 Mules and Hybrids](#)
- [4 Other British birds](#)
- [5 See also](#)

History

In Victorian times British finches were hugely popular as cage birds throughout the British Isles, often replacing Canaries. Due to a lack of protection, thousands of birds were captured for pets every year.

Their popularity is reflected in the well known British rhyme, Don't Dilly Dally on the Way, in the line, "I walked behind wiv me old cock linnet..." referring to the Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina*.

Since the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it has been illegal to capture, attempt to capture or sell any British bird, and only those on Schedule 3 Part 1, may be sold if they are closed ringed and proof can be given that it was bred in captivity. Unfortunately, some people do still capture wild birds using cruel methods such as illegal bird lime.

Species

British finches are quite simply birds in the [Finch family](#) which to this day live wild in the British Isles.

The species most popular include:

- Genus [Fringilla](#) - Bramblings and chaffinches
 - Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
 - Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) (Note: this species is often known in aviculture as the Bramble finch)
- Genus [Carduelis](#) - Linnets, redpolls, goldfinches, greenfinches, some siskins.

- Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)
- Redpoll (*Carduelis* sp.)
- Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
- Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)
- Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)
- Genus *Loxia* - [Crossbills](#)
 - Common Crossbill (*Loxia* sp.) (**Note:** In Victorian times the Scottish Crossbill had not been identified)
- Genus *Pyrrhula* - Bullfinches
 - Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Mules and Hybrids

During the Victorian era, it was found that if a British finch, e.g. a Goldfinch, was crossed with a Canary, the result was an attractive looking, good singing bird. The resulting birds were sterile, but continue to be bred to this day under the name of **Mules**. Many clubs specialise in Mules. [\[1\]](#)

Also around this time a few people began to experiment crossing British finches. The resulting birds, including Siskin x Goldfinch and even such beauties as Bullfinch x Crossbill also remain to this day, often winning prizes at prestigious shows. The breeding of such hybrids can, however be notoriously difficult. [\[2\]](#)

Other British birds

Not just finches were/are popular in British aviculture, and the following have had a following of fanicers for many years. They are all protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as are finches.

[Buntings](#)

- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) (Note: This species is often known in aviculture as the Yellow Bunting)

[Thrushes](#)

- Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

[Crows](#)

- Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)
- Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
- Magpie (*Pica pica*)

Others

- Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Birds such as Jackdaws were often kept by children who marvelled at their ability to talk in the days before parrots were readily available

Other more unusual birds, including Redstarts and Flycatchers, are sometimes bred by specialised owners.

See also

- [Finch](#)

Caique

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: ***Pionites***, Heine

A **Caique** is one of two species of small, brightly colored parrot of the genus *Pionites*.

Caiques originate from the area of the Amazon Rainforest of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela, and the Guiana highlands.

In the wild, caiques generally prefer forested areas and subsist on fruit and seeds. Caiques are generally canopy dwellers, spending most of their time in the tops of trees, foraging and playing.

Caiques are also occasionally known as the "Seven-Color Parrot" because black, green, yellow, orange, white and blue feathers have all been observed. They have also been historically known as "The Dancing Parrot" for their habit of hopping and dancing, especially when encouraged by rhythmic clapping.

- [1 Species](#)
 - [1.1 The White-Bellied Caique](#)
 - [1.2 The Black-Headed Caique](#)
- [2 Aviculture](#)
- [3 Sexing](#)

Species

There are only two species of caique: the White-bellied Parrot or White-bellied Caique and the Black-headed Parrot or Black-headed Caique.

The White-Bellied Caique

The White-Bellied Caique, *Pionites leucogaster*, has an orange-yellow head, a white belly, green wings and back, bluish primary feathers, a horn-colored beak, and pink or grey feet. The white-belly tends to flock in pairs.

The Black-Headed Caique

The Black-Headed Caique, *Pionites melanocephala*, has a black crown, yellow to orange head, white belly, yellow leg feathers and underside of tail, green back and wings, bluish primaries, greyish bill, and black feet. Minor variations in this coloration exist. The black-head tends to flock in groups of about three dozen.

Aviculture

Caiques are growing in popularity in [aviculture](#), the more commonly found species being the black-head. Caiques bond well with humans and have a reputation as playful birds, and enjoy playing with toys while laying on their backs. They are not particularly good flyers, instead preferring to walk, jump, or hop as a mode of transportation. Their behavior has been said to be most comparable to Lories and Lorikeets.

Caiques can be quiet (compared with the maximum volume of larger parrots) if trained properly. They have a peculiar call which has been compared to a smoke alarm, used for warning and for making contact with flock members who are out of visual range. This call is high, piercing, and loud enough to alert flock members across the jungle or neighboring apartment dwellers. They are extremely active, prefer lots of physical interaction and playtime, and are prolific chewers. They can be distrustful of or aggressive toward other species of parrot, so prospective buyers should be careful if they have or plan to have other types of parrots. They can also be highly demanding of human attention, and stubborn, not easily distracted from stealing eyeglasses or chewing unapproved items even when tempted with favorite treats and toys.

Caiques are poor imitators of human speech, and their appeal as a pet lies in their playfulness, not their speaking ability. They can learn to mimic words, and will speak in a soft and gravelly voice. They can also learn to whistle and some birds enjoy developing a large repertoire which they creatively recombine to come up with new calls and short tunes. They also enjoy learning environmental sounds such as telephone rings and microwave beeps.

Caiques have a particular odor. Some birds smell more strongly than others, and the scent can be described as a dry, cardboardlike smell. Prospective buyers should interact with a bird before buying it (as all pet buyers should) to see whether they find the smell unpleasant.

Sexing

As with most parrots, males and females of either species of caique look exactly the same. The only ways to determine sex are surgical sexing and DNA sexing.

Carrier pigeon

A **carrier pigeon** is a breed of [pigeon](#) (specifically a domesticated [Rock Pigeon](#), *Columba livia*) that has wattles, a nearly vertical stature, and that may once have been used to carry messages. The carrier pigeons of today are not good flyers; they are instead kept as an ornamental or fancy breed, valued for their unusual appearance. They are about 33 cm (about 13 in) in length, with the male generally larger than the female.

Carrier pigeons should not be confused with homing pigeons, another variety of *Columba livia*. Homing pigeons, not carrier pigeons, were used to carry messages in World War I and World War II and are nowadays used for pigeon racing.

The Egyptians and the Persians first used carrier pigeons 3,000 years ago. They also were used to proclaim the winner of the Olympics.

Citron-crested Cockatoo

Conservation status: Critical

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae

Subfamily: [Cacatuinae](#)

Genus: *Cacatua*

Subgenus: *Cacatua*

Species: *C. sulphurea*

Subspecies: *C. s. citrinocristata*

Trinomial name *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata*, Fraser, 1844

The **Citron-crested Cockatoo**, *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata* is a medium-sized [cockatoo](#) with an orange crest, dark grey [beak](#), pale orange ear patches, and strong feet and claws. The underside of the larger wing and tail [feathers](#) have a pale yellow colour. The eye colour ranges from brown through very dark brown to black. Both sexes are similar.

The smallest of the Yellow-crested Cockatoo subspecies, it is distributed and endemic to Sumba and Lesser Sunda Islands in Indonesia. The diet consists mainly of seeds, buds, fruits, nuts and herbaceous plants.

The Citron-crested Cockatoo as an endangered bird

The Citron-crested Cockatoo is classified as critically endangered. Its numbers in the wild have declined due to habitat loss and illegal trapping for the cage-bird trade. It is listed in appendix II of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) list of protected species. CITES protects endangered species like the cockatoo, by making the trade of wild-caught birds illegal. However, trade of the cockatoos bred in captivity is permitted. Each bird bred in captivity is given a CITES certificate to prove that it is not a wild caught bird. The CITES certificate must accompany its sale or resale.

The Citron-crested Cockatoo as pets

As hand-reared birds Citron-crested Cockatoos can make good pets, as they are friendly and sociable. They are not as noisy as most [cockatoos](#), but are curious and like to chew. Generally they are quiet, but they can make a moderately loud honking or screeching sound. They can also make a repetitive quieter whistling or squeaking noise. They are not good at imitating human speech as some members of the parrot family, having a vocabulary of up to only 15 words or phrases. They readily learn tricks and they can be trained. They often raise the coloured crest feathers in display or when surprised. Their droppings are semi-solid and can be messy. As with many cockatoo species, Citron-crested Cockatoos taken as pets need much greater care and attention than other companion parrots.

They are not common in pet stores, but are becoming more popular with breeders. Each bird must be sold with an official CITES certificate to prove that it was bred in captivity.

Companion parrot

Companion parrot is a general term used for any parrot kept as a pet that interacts with its human a great deal, while **companion parrots** is the collective designation for any [species](#) of parrot that is considered by practitioners of [aviculture](#) to make an affectionate pet parrot.

Generally, almost all species of parrots are considered to make good companion parrots. All larger varieties of parrots, such as Amazons, African Greys, Cockatoos, Eclectus, Hawk-Heads, Keas and Macaws; most mid-sized birds such as Caiques, Conures, Pionus, Poicephalus, Rose-ringed parakeets, and Rosellas, and quite a few of the smaller types including Brotogeris, Budgies, Cockatiels, Grass parakeets, Lovebirds, and some Parrotlets are often considered companion parrots.

Species of pet parrots that are not generally considered companion parrots include Lories and Lorikeets, Hanging parrots, and Fig parrots, fruit and nectar eating birds which are generally kept in colonies. Such species as Pygmy parrots and Kakapos, Night Parrots, and about half of the species of parrotlet, are not considered companion parrots due to the apparent impossibility of keeping them alive in captivity for extended periods of time.

Generally, depending on one's definition of a good pet though, the definition of a companion parrot can vary considerably, and there are some in aviculture who go by the individual parrot rather than the species.

Conure

Conures are a diverse, loosely-defined group of medium-sized to small New World parrots. Essentially they are large parakeets native to Central and South America. For parrots, conures are lightly built, with long tails (Conure literally means 'cone tail') and small, strong beaks. They have a diverse range of colors.

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Conure Species](#)
 - [2.1 Aratinga](#)
 - [2.2 Pyrrhura](#)
 - [2.3 Nanday Conure](#)
 - [2.4 Golden Conure](#)
 - [2.5 Patagonian Conure](#)
 - [2.6 Enicognathus](#)
 - [2.7 Golden-Plumed Conure](#)
 - [2.8 Yellow-Eared Conure](#)
 - [2.9 Carolina Parakeet](#)
- [3 Scientific Classification](#)

Description

Conures are either large parakeets or small parrots that are found in the western hemisphere. They are analogous in size and way of life to the Old World's [Rose-ringed Parakeets](#) or the Australian parakeets. All living conure species are found in Central and South America; the extinct *Conuropsis carolinensis* or Carolina Parakeet was an exception.

Despite being large for parakeets, conures are lightly built with long tails and small (but strong) beaks. Conure beaks always have a small cere and are usually horn-colored or black. Most conure species live in flocks of 20 or more birds. Conures often eat grain, which causes them to be treated as agricultural pests in some places.

Conures are as diverse a group as African Parrots, so trying to characterize them all is difficult and inaccurate. The category *conure* is loosely-defined because they do not currently constitute a natural, scientific grouping. The [macaws](#) are so closely related to conures that strictly by descent, [macaws](#) could also be called "conures". The term *conure* is now used mostly in [aviculture](#). Scientists and laypeople alike tend to refer to these birds as "parrots" or "parakeets." (See below under [Scientific Classification](#) for more details.)

Conure Species

Conures, as the term is used by aviculturists, include only the genera *Aratinga* and *Pyrrhura*, as well as several single-species genera and one double-species genus*. These other genera are listed below:

- *Conuropsis*: Carolina Parakeet (extinct)
- *Cyanoliseus*: Patagonian Conure
- *Enicognathus*: Austral and Slender-Billed Conures
- *Guarouba*: Golden or Queen Of Bavaria Conure
- *Leptosittaca*: Golden-Plumed Conure
- *Nandayus*: Nanday Conure
- *Ognorhynchus*: Yellow-Eared Conure

Aratinga

Latin for "little macaw," (ara - macaw, tinga - diminutive) the Aratinga conures generally seem to have a more mischievous personality than the real little macaws or mini macaws. The Aratinga conures are generally larger with brighter plumage and are generally the noisier, more outgoing, more demanding of the two primary conure genera. The Sun Conure and Jenday Conure are among the species of conures more commonly kept as pets.

Pyrrhura

Pyrrhura is the other large genus of conures. These generally greenish conures including the very common Green-cheeked Conure. Usually smaller, duller-colored, and quieter than the Aratinga conures, the Pyrrhura conures contain almost every conure species with a hyphen in the name, and the majority of *Pyrrhura* species names are hyphenated.

Nanday Conure

The **Nanday conure**, *Nandayus nenday* is the most commonly kept pet conure species outside of the two main genera. Some experts believe that Nandays should actually be grouped with the Aratinga genus, since they are cross-fertile with such species as Jendays and Suns. Nanday conures have a distinctive black head, and wings and tails tipped with dark blue feathers. They have a light-blue scarf and bright orange feathers on their legs and around their vents. The maturity of a Nanday can be told by the edges of its black hood: if the hood has a ragged edge of brown, then the bird is over a year old. Although Nandays are often said to be extremely noisy, it might be more accurate to say that they are a heavily flock-oriented species, used to making their demands known, calling out warnings for the group, and making inquiries about other members of the group who are out of sight. They are also extremely intelligent birds, capable of learning tricks, mimicking sounds, and learning a small vocabulary. At least one report suggests that they are highly adaptable to human encroachment on their territories, but the exact status of the species in the wild is unknown.

Golden Conure

The **Golden conure** or **Queen of Bavaria Conure**, *Guarouba guarouba* (recently reclassified from *Aratinga guarouba*) is, as the name implies, covered all over with bright yellow feathers, except for the green wing-tip feathers and the greyish-horn-colored beak. Golden conures are among the most expensive conures both to purchase and to care for, although many owners feel that the benefits outweigh the cost. It is one of the rarest Conures in the wild in addition to the pet trade. Many experts believe that these birds should not be kept in captivity unless in a breeding program.

Patagonian Conure

The **Patagonian conure**, *Cyanoliseus patagonus*, is a large conure found in the Patagonia region of south-central Argentina and Chile. Drab on the top, brightly colored underneath, the Patagonian conure has exploded in popularity since the 1990s, leading to an increase in illegal importation which threatens the wild populations. It is also known as the "burrowing parrot," due to its habit of nesting in holes in the ground. Unsurprisingly, Patagonians in captivity are great chewers, and have been known to munch through furniture and even walls.

Enicognathus

The dusky red-tailed and green **Austral conure** and the descriptively named **Slender-billed conure** make up the genus *Enicognathus*. Although both birds in the genus are available in aviculture, neither is especially common in captivity.

Golden-Plumed Conure

The **Golden-plumed conure**, *Leptosittaca branickii*, is a small Andean conure not found in aviculture and endangered in its own habitat.

Yellow-Eared Conure

The exceedingly rare **Yellow-eared conure** or *Ognorhynchus icterotis* of Colombia and Ecuador was never common in aviculture and has not successfully bred in captivity.

Carolina Parakeet

Conuropsis carolinensis, the **Carolina Parakeet**, was the only parrot species indigenous to the United States. The Carolina parakeet was a remarkably social bird, living in vast flocks. American bird hunters reported that Carolina Parakeets would return to mourn dead members of the flock, making themselves easy targets. Considered a pest, popular in the pet trade, and bearing plumes feathers valued for hats, this species was hunted to extinction around the beginning of the 1900's.

Scientific Classification

The word *conure* is an old term and was originally used as a descriptive name for the members of the no longer-used genus *Conurus*, which included the members of *Aratinga* and *Pyrrhura*.

The parrot order Psittaciformes is a rather confusing tangle of genera, many containing only one species. Parrots or Psittacines (order Psittaciformes) includes about 353 species of bird which are generally grouped into two families: the *Cacatuidae* or cockatoos, and the *Psittacidae* or true parrots. The term parrot is generally used for both the entire order as well as for the *Psittacidae* alone.

All members of the Psittaciformes order have a characteristic curved beak shape with the upper mandible having slight mobility in the joint with the skull and a generally erect stance. All parrots are zygodactyl, having the four toes on each foot placed two at the front and two back.

The conures and all other New World parrots are often placed in a subfamily or tribe Arinae. Internal relationships of conures are poorly understood though it seems evident that, to make them a natural grouping, the Quaker parakeet¹, the thick-billed parrot, and Brotogeris² should be included, and often are. Neotropical parakeets, macaws, and other are also candidates potential for inclusion. In this scheme, "conure" would comprise members of the genera:

- *Aratinga*
- *Pyrrhura*
- *Nandayus*
- *Guarouba*
- *Cyanoliseus*
- *Enicognathus*
- *Leptosittaca*
- *Ognorhynchus*
- *Conuropsis*
- *Rhynchopsitta*: Thick-billed parrot
- *Myopsitta*: Quaker parakeet

Macaws:

- *Ara*
- *Anodorhynchus*

- *Cyanopsitta*
- *Diopsittaca*
- *Orthopsittaca*
- *Primolius*

In addition the [caiques](#) and the hawk-headed parakeets have also been proposed for inclusion. Both the caiques and the Hawk-headed parakeets have a heavier build and different tail structure from traditional conures.

¹The Quaker or Monk parakeet is technically a conure by almost anybody's definition, but due to its popularity in aviculture and its uniqueness, it is generally considered in a category of its own. ²*Brotogeris* are not only often counted as conures, but as [parrotlets](#) as well, and it is not clear precisely which one, or both, or neither, they belong to. Certainly the tail structure is different from that of the parrotlets, although the basic body structure seems to be analogous with both groups.

Cyanoramphus

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Psittaciformes
 Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: **Cyanoramphus**, Bonaparte, 1854 Species: *Cyanoramphus auriceps*, *Cyanoramphus erythrotis*, *Cyanoramphus malherbi*, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*, *Cyanoramphus saisseti*, *Cyanoramphus ulietanus* (extinct), *Cyanoramphus unicolor*, *Cyanoramphus zealandicus* (extinct), *Cyanoramphus cooki*

Cyanoramphus is a genus of parakeets native to New Zealand and islands of the southern Pacific Ocean.

The list currently accepted of *Cyanoramphus* taxa, following Boon *et al.* (2001) is:

- Yellow-crowned Parakeet *C. auriceps* (Kuhl, 1820)
 Orange-fronted Parakeet *C. malherbi* Souancé, 1857 Conservation status: Critical
- Red-crowned Parakeet *C. novaezelandiae* (Sparrman, 1787)
 - New Zealand Red-crowned Parakeet *C. novaezelandiae novaezelandiae*
 Chatham Island Red-crowned Parakeet *C. novaezelandiae chathamensis*
- Forbes' Parakeet *C. forbesi* (formerly considered a subspecies of *C. auriceps*).
 Antipodes Island Parakeet *C. unicolor*
 Black-fronted Parakeet *C. zealandicus* (extinct)
 Subantarctic Red-crowned Parakeet *C. erythrotis*
 - Macquarie Island Red-crowned Parakeet *C. erythrotis erythrotis* (extinct; formerly considered a subspecies of *C. novaezelandiae*).
 Reischek's Parakeet *C. erythrotis hochstetteri* (formerly considered a subspecies of *C. novaezelandiae*).
- New Caledonia Red-crowned Parakeet *C. saisseti* (formerly considered a subspecies of *C. novaezelandiae*).
 Norfolk Island Parakeet *C. cooki* (formerly considered a subspecies of *C. novaezelandiae*).
 Society Parakeet *C. ulietanus* (extinct)

The two forms of *C. erythrotis* may be distinct species: the single specimen believed to be from Macquarie Island (Canterbury Museum specimen AV2099, O'Connor catalog 369) in Boon *et al.*'s analysis has turned out to be from the Antipodes Islands population (*hochstetteri*) instead (Scofield, 2005).

References

- Boon, W.M.; Kearvell, J.; Daugherty, C. H.; Chambers, G. K. (2001): Molecular systematics and conservation of kakariki (*Cyanoramphus* spp.). *Science for Conservation* **176** [PDF fulltext](#)

- Scofield, R. Paul (2005): The supposed Macquarie Island parakeet in the collection of Canterbury Museum. *Notornis* **52**(2): 117-120. [PDF fulltext](#)

Hawaiian Goose

Conservation status: Vulnerable

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: [Anatidae](#)

Genus: ***Branta***

Species: ***B. sandvicensis***

Binomial name: ***Branta sandvicensis***, (Vigors, 1833)

The **Hawaiian Goose** or **Nn**, *Branta sandvicensis*, is a [species](#) of [goose endemic](#) to the Hawaiian Islands. It shares a recent common ancestor with *Branta canadensis*, the [Canada Goose](#). The official bird of the State of Hawai»i, the Nn is exclusively found in the wild of the islands of Mau»i, Kaua»i and Hawai»i. A larger, extinct and possibly flightless species, the Nn-nui (*Branta hylobadistes*) was present in prehistoric times on Maui; related, but hitherto undescribed forms also occurred on Kaua»i and O»ahu, and there was a gigantic, flightless relative on the island of Hawai»i.

The Nn gets its Hawaiian name from its soft call.

The species has a black head, buff cheeks and heavily furrowed neck. Bill, legs and feet are black. The young birds are as the male but duller brown and with less demarcation between the colours of the head and neck, and striping and barring effects are much reduced. Bill, legs and feet as for the adult.

The female Hawaiian Goose is similar to the male in colouring but slightly smaller.

Its strong toes have much reduced webbing, an adaptation to the lava flows on which it breeds. It mates on land unlike most other wildfowl.

This is the world's rarest goose. Once common, hunting and introduced predators such as mongooses, pigs, and [cats](#) reduced the population to 30 birds by 1952. However, this species breeds well in captivity, and has been successfully re-introduced so in 2004 it was estimated that there were 500 birds in the wild (and good numbers in wildfowl collections).

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Branta sandvicensis](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is vulnerable

Hill Myna

Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Southern Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa indica*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sturnidae](#)

Genus: [Gracula](#)

Species: ***G. religiosa***

Binomial name ***Gracula religiosa***, Linnaeus, 1758

The **Hill Myna**, *Gracula religiosa*, is a member of the [starling](#) family.

This myna is a resident breeder in tropical southern Asia from India and Sri Lanka east to Indonesia and has been introduced to the USA.

The races found in the Western Ghats of India and in Sri Lanka, *G. r. indica* and *G. r. ptilogenys*, have recently been split off as a separate species, the **Southern Hill Myna** (*Gracula indica*) and the **Ceylon Hill Myna** (*Gracula ptilogenys*).

This [passerine](#) is typically found in forest and cultivation. The Hill Myna builds a nest in hole. The normal clutch is 2-3 [eggs](#).

These 25-29 cm long birds have green-glossed black [plumage](#), purple-tinged on the head and neck. There are large white wing patches which are obvious in flight. The bill and strong legs are bright yellow, and there are yellow wattles on the nape and under the eye, which are separate in the Southern Hill Myna, but joined in other forms. The sexes are similar, but juveniles have a duller bill. They are often detected by their loud shrill descending whistles followed by other calls. They are most vocal at dawn and dusk and they are found in forest clearings high on the canopy in small groups.

Like most starlings, the Hill Myna is fairly omnivorous, eating fruit, nectar and insects.

The Hill Myna is a popular cage bird, renowned for its ability to imitate speech. Demand in the West outstrips breeding capacity so they are rarely found in pet stores. They are becoming increasingly rare in their native countries due to capture for the illegal pet trade.

References

- *Birds of India* by Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp, ISBN 0-691-04910-6

Kkriki

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: [Cyanoramphus](#)

Species: *C. auriceps*, *C. malherbi*, *C. novaezelandiae*

Binomial name: *Cyanoramphus auriceps* (Kuhl, 1820), *Cyanoramphus malherbi* Souancé, 1857, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae* (Sparrman, 1787)

The three species of **Kkriki** or **New Zealand parakeets** are the most common [species](#) of parakeet in the [genus](#) *Cyanoramphus*, [family](#) Psittacidae. The birds' Mori name, which is the most commonly used, means "small parrot", and is also used as the term for the colour green.

The three species on mainland New Zealand are the **Yellow-crowned Parakeet** *Cyanoramphus auriceps*, the **Orange-fronted Parakeet** *C. malherbi* and the **Red-crowned Parakeet** or **Red-fronted Parakeet**, *C. novaezelandiae*. All are native to New Zealand, and have become endangered as a result of habitat destruction following European settlement and nest predation by introduced species of mammal. Scarce on the mainland, they have survived well on outlying islands, and also through breeding in captivity since they make good pets. A licence from the New Zealand Department of Conservation is now required to breed them in captivity.

In October 2004, according to the Porirua City News (17 November, page 8), two pairs of Red-crowned Parakeets were seen in the Porirua Scenic Reserve, probably having flown from Kapiti Island.

Mitochondrial DNA analysis has indicated that the Orange-fronted Parakeet is a separate species and not just a colour variation of the Yellow-crowned Parakeet. The Orange-fronted Parakeet is highly endangered, with less than 200 individuals remaining in the North Canterbury region of the South Island. Furthermore, Chatham Island's Yellow-crowned Parakeet and the red-crowned populations of New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and the subantarctic islands have been determined to be distinct species (Boon *et al.*, 2001).

There is one remaining subspecies of the Red-crowned Parakeet, the **Chatham Island Red-crowned Parakeet**, *C. n. chathamensis*, all other forms having been split off (see also Scofield, 2005).

Aviculture

The red-crowned parakeets are common in aviculture and they are relatively easy to breed. They lay about 3 to 5 white eggs in a nesting box. A cinnamon colour variety and a pied variety are available.

References

- Boon, W.M.; Kearvell, J.; Daugherty, C. H.; Chambers, G. K. (2001): Molecular systematics and conservation of kakariki (*Cyanoramphus* spp.). *Science for Conservation* **176** [PDF fulltext](#)
- Scofield, R. Paul (2005): The supposed Macquarie Island parakeet in the collection of Canterbury Museum. *Notornis* **52**(2): 117-120. [PDF fulltext](#)

Lilian's Lovebird

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: *Agapornis*

Species: ***A. lilianae***

Binomial name: ***Agapornis lilianae*** (Selby, 1836)

The **Lilian's Lovebird** also known as **Nyasa Lovebird** (*Agapornis lilianae*) is rare and endemic to Malawi. Nyasa species is one of the least studied of all lovebird species. There have not been any previous ecological and field studies of this species but there is a new Research Project conducted by Research Centre for Parrot Conservation (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa). This study represents a very important step towards defining Nyasa Lovebird ecology and conservation.

The Nyasa Lovebird currently inhabits Liwonde National Park (LNP) and a few cluster groups occur in the surrounding forests outside LNP. Its distribution is rapidly becoming restricted to LNP because their feeding and breeding habitats are being exploited over for agricultural purposes. The extent of habitat loss outside LNP has not been determined scientifically although remaining habitat outside the LNP are fragmented Miombo Forest Reserves. Liwonde National Park is located in the southern region of Malawi, which has the highest human population density in the country approximating 100-115 inhabitants per km² (FAO, 1997). LNP is greatly impacted by population growth and agricultural activities than any other national park in the country. Recently, cases of Nyasa Lovebird poisoning have intensified although it is not known why poachers are poisoning the birds. Nyasa Lovebird Researchers assume poachers mean to poison larger mammals and Lovebirds fall victims.

Nyasa Lovebirds have proved to be a difficult species to rear in captivity. Many breeders worldwide struggle to breed the species.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Agapornis lilianae](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes a brief justification of why this species is near threatened

Long-billed Vulture

Conservation status: Critical

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: [Accipitridae](#)

Genus: *Gyps*

Species: *G. indicus*

Binomial name: *Gyps indicus* (Scopoli, 1786)

The **Long-billed Vulture**, *Gyps indicus*, is an [Old World vulture](#) in the family [Accipitridae](#), which also includes [eagles](#), [kites](#), buzzards and [hawks](#). It is closely related to the European Griffon Vulture, *G. fulvus*. Some sources treat the birds in the eastern part of its range as a separate species, the **Slender-billed Vulture** *Gyps tenuirostris*.

It breeds on crags or in trees in mountains in India and South-east Asia, laying one egg. Birds may form loose colonies. The population is mostly resident.

Like other [vultures](#) it is a scavenger, feeding mostly from carcasses of dead animals which it finds by soaring over savannah and around human habitation. It often moves in flocks.

The Long-billed Vulture is a typical vulture, with a bald head, very broad wings and short tail. It is smaller and less heavily-built than European Griffon. It is distinguished from that species by its less buff body and wing coverts. It also lacks the whitish median covert bar shown by Griffon.

This and the Indian White-rumped Vulture, *G. bengalensis* species have suffered a 99% - 97% decrease in India and the cause of this has been identified as poisoning caused by a veterinary drug Diclofenac. Diclofenac is a non-steroidal antiinflammatory drug (NSAID) and it is given to working animals to help prevent joint pain and so keep them working. The drug is believed to be swallowed by vultures with the flesh of dead cattle which have been given diclofenac in the last days of life. Diclofenac causes kidney failure in the birds. [\[1\]](#). In March 2005 the Indian Government announced its support for a ban on the veterinary use of diclofenac. Meloxicam (another NSAID) has been found to be harmless to vultures and should prove to be an acceptable substitute. In March 2006 diclofenac was still being used for animals throughout India and the changes in Indian legislation are awaited. When meloxicam production is increased it is hoped that it will be as cheap as diclofenac.

Captive breeding programmes

Captive breeding programmes for several species of Indian vulture have been started. The vultures are long lived and slow in breeding, so the programmes are expected to take decades. Vultures reach breeding age at about 5 years old. It is hoped that captive breed birds will be released back to the wild when the environment is clear of diclofenac.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Gyps indicus*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 09 May 2006. Database entry includes a range map and justification for why this species is critically endangered

Moluccan Cockatoo

Conservation status: Vulnerable

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae

Subfamily: [Cacatuinae](#)

Genus: *Cacatua*

Subgenus: *Cacatua*

Species: *C. moluccensis*

Binomial name: *Cacatua moluccensis* Gmelin, 1788

The **Moluccan Cockatoo**, *Cacatua moluccensis* also known as **Salmon-crested Cockatoo** is a [cockatoo endemic](#) to south Moluccas in eastern Indonesia. At 50 cm, it is the largest of the white [cockatoos](#). The female is larger than the males on average. It has white-pink feathers with a definite peachy glow, a slight yellow on the underwing and a large retractable recumbent crest which it raises when threatened to frighten potential attackers. It also has a loud voice and in captivity is a capable mimic.

In the wild the Moluccan Cockatoo inhabits lowland forests below 1000m. The diet consists mainly of seeds, nuts and fruit, as well as coconuts.

- [1 Endangered status in the wild](#)
- 2 Aviculture
- [3 References](#)

Endangered status in the wild

The Moluccan Cockatoo is an endangered species, and has been listed on appendix I of CITES since 1989, which makes trade in wild-caught birds illegal. Trade in captive bred birds is legal only with appropriate CITES certification. Numbers have declined due to illegal trapping for the cage-bird trade and habitat loss. During the height of the trapping of this species over 6,000 birds were being removed from the wild per year. It has a stronghold in Manusela National Park on Seram, although even today some illegal trapping continues.

Aviculture

The Moluccan Cockatoo can no longer be imported into the United States because of its being listed on the Wild Bird Conservation Act. However they are being bred in captivity. The potential owner should be aware of the bird's needs, and know how loud these birds can be.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Cacatua moluccensis*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is vulnerable

Parrotlet

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: [Psittacidae](#)
Genera: *Forpus*, *Touit*, *Nannopsittaca*

Parrotlets are a species of the smallest, New World parrots, comprised of three genera. One of these genera: *Forpus* is growing in popularity within the world of [aviculture](#), raising interest in the group as a whole.

- [1 General](#)
- [2 Speech/Learning](#)
- [3 Aviculture](#)
- [4 Genera](#)
 - [4.1 Forpus](#)
 - [4.2 Touit](#)
 - [4.3 Nannopsittaca](#)

General

Parrotlets are distinguished from parakeets in that despite their small size, they have a thick build and a broad tail, much like the [lovebird](#) species of East Africa and fig parrot and pygmy parrot species of Australasia. At 4½–5 inches long, they are the second smallest kind of parrot in the world.

These miniature parrots in the wild travel in flocks which, depending on the species can range from as low as four to over 100 birds. Most either species travel in flocks of about 5–12 or of about 10–40.

Speech/Learning

They can learn more than 10–15 words and can "whistle" songs well. They have about the same speaking and whistling capabilities of a cockatiel. They are also very good learners for commands such as "step up", "kiss-kiss", "step down", and other small commands. Some parrotlets can learn advanced tricks, but not advanced as a macaw or an african grey.

Aviculture

The most commonly kept parrotlet in [aviculture](#) is by far the **Pacific Parrotlet**, which now has several color mutations. The Mexican, Spectacled, and Yellow-Faced are also fairly common pets. Their popularity as pets has grown due to their small size and large

personalities. Parrotlets are commonly known as playful birds that enjoy the chewing as much as their larger Amazon Parrot counterparts. However, their largest quirk lies in the fact that they don't grow as bored as other species of parrots. Parrotlets keep themselves more than occupied when left alone for several hours, so long as they are provided with an array of chewable and destructable toys to play with. However, when their keepers get home, they often greet them with lovely chirps and whistles to let them know they want attention....

Genera

Forpus

Forpus, the most well known genus of parrotlet, includes all species of parrotlet commonly kept as pets including the **Pacific Parrotlet**, **Mexican Parrotlet**, and the **Spectacled Parrotlet**.

Touit

The *Touit Parrotlets* are a genus of parrotlets found in The Venezuela-Guyana area, Northern Andes, and Bahia. Only three of the seven species have ever been brought into aviculture, with all three failing to keep them alive, or breed them.

Nannopsittaca

There are only two species in the Genus *Nannopsittaca*, of which only one—*Nannopsittaca panychlora*, the Tepui Parrot—has been successfully kept in captivity.

Pigeon racing

Pigeon racing is a sport in which [pigeons](#) are removed by an agreed distance from their home coops and then released at a predetermined time. The arrival of each bird at its home coop is carefully recorded. For each bird, a velocity, usually in meters per minute or yards per minute, is calculated from the recorded time and the distance the coop is from the release point (distance/time). The velocities for each of the [birds](#) in the race are then compared to determine the order in which they reached their homes, and a winner is declared on that basis.

During the 1920s and 1930s successful racing pigeons would often have their portraits painted. Notable among pigeon artists at the time was E H Windred.

[Homing pigeons](#), selectively bred to be able to navigate back to their homes from places they have never visited, are used in these races. (Homing pigeons should be clearly distinguished from the ornamental breed called [carrier pigeons](#). Carrier pigeons, as they exist today, are poor fliers.)

As with many other sports, the gaming behavior involved is not only exciting for participants and spectators, but it also serves a very real purpose. Homing pigeons were originally bred to carry messages at high speeds over long distances. Since the birds can only carry the weight of a few sheets of cigarette paper, and since preparation for sending messages involves transporting the messenger pigeons overland from their home loft to wherever the messages will originate from, the messages generally had to be short and important. Emergency messages pertaining to catastrophes and to warfare were therefore the primary use to which pigeon flight was devoted.

In order to breed messenger pigeons that were both fast and dependable, it was necessary to carry them long distances from home, release them at a recorded time, and calculate the speed with which they returned. Some pigeons would fail to return, and they would automatically be eliminated from the breeding program.

The procedures necessary for improving the breed of homing pigeons are almost identical to the procedures needed for a race. All that need be added is a collection of competitors and a prize. The homing pigeon gets improved at the same time the pigeon racers and observers are entertained. Some care is needed to assure that birds are released at the same time, and that arrival times are properly verified.

Pigeons are banded both for ease in recording and maintaining genealogies and also so that homing pigeons that become lost during a race and are found by helpful people can be returned to their owners.

On Race days a rubber ring is placed on the birds foot and the number noted by a club official. When the birds are released and fly home the rubber ring is taken off and "clocked into" a specially made sealed Pigeon Racing Clock. This records the time of arrival of the bird and a average speed, normally in yards per minute is calculated.

Like all sports, pigeon racing also has drug problems, although they are minor. The main drug is a steroid called Cortisone. It works like amphetamines on young birds, and is administered with eyedrops. After a while, it slows down the muscles of the bird, making it useless for flying anyway.

Famous pigeon flyers include:

- The Janssen Brothers

Pink Pigeon

Conservation status: Endangered

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: [Columbidae](#)

Genus: *Streptopelia*

Species: *S. mayeri*

Binomial name: *Columba mayeri* Prevost, 1843, *Nesoenas mayeri* Salvadori, 1893, *Streptopelia mayeri* Johnson et al, 2001

The **Pink Pigeon** is a species of [Columbidae](#) (doves and pigeons) endemic to Mauritius, and now very rare. It has been conserved through the efforts of Gerald Durrell and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in the 1960s. The book Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons by Gerald Durrell refers to the conservation efforts. The IUCN has recently downlisted the species from critically endangered to endangered. Mauritius has brought out a series of stamps depicting the endemic Pink Pigeon.

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Phylogeny](#)
- [3 Range](#)
- [4 Habitat](#)
- [5 Habits](#)
 - [5.1 Feeding Habits](#)
 - [5.2 Social Habits](#)
 - [5.3 Breeding Habits](#)
 - [5.4 Rearing Young](#)
- [6 Demography and Longevity](#)
- [7 References](#)

Description

An adult pigeon is about 32 cm from beak to tail and 350 gram in weight. Pink pigeons have pale pink plumage on their head, shoulders and underside, along with pink feet and beak. They have dark brown wings, and a broad, reddish-brown tail. They have dark brown eyes surrounded by a ring of red skin.

Newly hatched pigeons have sparse, downy-white feathers and closed eyes.

Phylogeny

Initially classified as a true pigeon, it was re-classified in a monotypic genus by Tommaso Salvadori. Recent DNA analyses suggests its nearest neighbour on the phylogenetic tree is the geographically close Madagascar Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia picturata*), and has thus been placed in the *Streptopelia* genus, which mostly contains turtle doves. However, the two species form a distinct group that cannot unequivocally be assigned to either *Streptopelia* or *Columba*, and indeed, placing the *two* species in *Nesoenas* may best reflect the fact that they seem to belong to a distinct evolutionary lineage (Johnson *et al.*, 2001).

Range

It is only found in the Mascarene island of Mauritius, a related form having become extinct in the neighbouring larger Reunion Island.

On Mauritius, it is found in patches of forest in the Southwest.

Habitat

It prefers upland evergreen forests. Destruction of these forests have been a major reason for its decline.

Habits

Feeding Habits

It feeds on native plants - by consuming buds, flowers, leaves, shoots, fruits and seeds. Non-native species like Guava pose a threat to it by preventing growth of native trees. It does supplement its diet at feeding stations manned by conservation officials.

Social Habits

They feed and roost in small flocks.

Breeding Habits

The breeding season starts in August-September. The male courts the female with a "step and bow" display. Mating is monogamous, with the pair making a flimsy platform nest and

defending a small area around it (even though the pigeons initially had no natural predators). The female usually lays 2 white eggs, and incubation duration is 2 weeks. The male incubates during the day, and the female during night and early day.

Males remain fertile till 17 - 18 years of age, females till 10 - 11 years of age.

Rearing Young

1 - 7 days: Chicks eyes closed, fed entirely on crop milk.

7 - 10 days: Chicks undergo a dietary transformation to solid food.

2 - 4 weeks: Chicks fledge, but are parent-fed.

4 - 6/7 weeks: Chicks remain in the nest. After this the chicks leave the nest.

Demography and Longevity

Due to habitat destruction, and non-native predators, the population had dropped to 10 in 1991. The captive breeding and reintroduction program initiated and supported by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and largely carried out by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation has resulted in a stable population of about 350 in the wild in 2001, as well as a healthy captive population as backup. There are more males than females in a population due to greater life expectancy of the male (about 5 years more). The average life expectancy upper bound is estimated at 17 - 18 years.

References

- Johnson, Kevin P.; de Kort, Selvino; Dinwoodey, Karen; Mateman, A. C.; ten Cate, Carel; Lessells, C. M. & Clayton, Dale H. (2001): A molecular phylogeny of the dove genera *Streptopelia* and *Columba*. *Auk* **118**(4): 874-887. [PDF fulltext](#)
- *The Mauritius Pink Pigeon Report*. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, 2001.

Red-and-green Macaw

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Genus: [Ara](#)

Species: ***A. chloroptera***

Binomial name: ***Ara chloroptera*** (Gray, 1859)

The **Red-and-green Macaw** or **Green-winged Macaw** (*Ara chloroptera*) is often mistaken for the Scarlet Macaw because of its predominantly red feathering. The breast of the Red-and-green Macaw is bright red, but the lower feathers of the wing are green. In addition, the Red-and-green Macaw has characteristic red lines around the eyes formed by rows of tiny feathers on the otherwise bare skin. This is the commonest of the large macaws and the largest of the "Ara" genus, widespread in the forests of Northern South America. However, in common with other macaws, in recent years there has been a marked decline in its numbers due to habitat loss and illegal capture for the pet trade.

The superficially similar Scarlet Macaw has no eye lines and a yellow bar on each wing. Some macaw owners and experts call the Green-winged Macaw the "gentle giant", as it is larger in size than the Scarlet Macaw and Blue-and-yellow Macaw, but has a more docile nature which often makes it a more desirable pet than the other two popular species. It is second only in size to the Hyacinth Macaw, the largest bird of the macaw family.

Red-and-green Macaws as pets

[Bird](#) experts often advise those interested in obtaining a macaw as a pet to educate themselves extensively about these birds prior to obtaining one, as they require more attention than a [dog](#) or [cat](#).

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: *Psittacula*

Species: ***P. krameri***

Binomial name: ***Psittacula krameri*** (Scopoli, 1769)

The **Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*Psittacula krameri*), also known as the **Ring-necked Parakeet**, is a gregarious tropical parakeet species that is popular as a pet. Its scientific name commemorates the Austrian naturalist Wilhelm Heinrich Kramer.

This [non-migrating](#) species is one of few parrot species that have successfully adapted to living in 'disturbed habitats', and in that way withstood the onslaught of urbanisation and deforestation. In the wild, this is a noisy species with an unmistakable squawking call. Rose-ringed Parakeets are sexually dimorphic, and adult males sport black markings under their beaks and a dark band of colors around their necks.

- [1 Phylogeny and distribution](#)
- [2 Diet](#)
- [3 Size](#)
- [4 Feral Rose-ringed Parakeets](#)
- [5 Rose-ringed Parakeets as pets](#)
- [6 References](#)

Phylogeny and distribution

Four subspecies are recognized, though they do not differ much:

- African subspecies:
- **African Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*P. krameri krameri*): West Africa in Guinea, Senegal and southern Mauretania, east to Western Uganda and Southern Sudan.
- **Abyssinian Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*P. krameri parvirostris*): Northwest Somalia, west across northern Ethiopia to Sennar district, Sudan.
- Asian subspecies:
- **Indian Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*P. krameri manillensis*): Originated from the southern Indian subcontinent; introduced populations worldwide.
- **Neumann's Rose-ringed Parakeet** (*P. krameri borealis*): east Pakistan, northern India and Nepal to central Burma; introduced populations worldwide in localities.

A phylogenetic analysis using DNA (see *Psittacula*) showed that the Mauritius Parakeet (*Psittacula echo*) is closely related to this species, and probably needs to be placed between the African and Asian subspecies. Consequently, this species is paraphyletic.

Diet

In the wild, Rose-ringed Parakeets usually feed on buds, fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries and seeds.

Size

The Rose-ringed Parakeet is on average 40 cm (16 inches) long including the tail feathers. Its average single wing length is about 15–17.5 cm (6-7 inches). The tail accounts for a large portion of the length. The Indian Rose-ringed Parakeet, African Rose-ringed Parakeet, Abyssinian Rose-ringed Parakeet and Neumann's Rose-ringed Parakeet measure 42 cm, 40 cm, 40 cm and 43 cm long, respectively.

Feral Rose-ringed Parakeets

The Rose-ringed Parakeet has established feral populations in India and a number of European cities. There are also apparently stable populations in the USA in Florida and California. There also a small but sizeable population of Rose-ringed Parakeets in Tehran, Iran mostly concentrated in the northern parts of city.

The Indian subspecies established itself in Britain during the mid to late 20th Century from introduced and escaped birds. There are two main population centres: the largest is based around south London, Surrey and Berkshire, and by 2005 consisted of many thousands of birds. A smaller population occurs around Margate and Ramsgate, Kent. Elsewhere in Britain, smaller feral populations have established from time to time (e.g., at Studland, Dorset).

However, in some parts of South Asia - from where the Rose-ringed Parakeets originated, populations of these birds are decreasing due to trapping for the pet trade. Despite some people's attempts to revive their population by freeing these birds from local markets, the Rose-ringed Parakeet's population has dropped drastically in many areas of the Indian subcontinent.

Rose-ringed Parakeets as pets

These birds were first bred by the people of India at least 3,000 years ago, and color mutations of Rose-ringed parakeets were also bred. The royals prized them as pets and for their ability to speak. It was a popular status symbol in Indian culture to have a Rose-ringed

parakeet. They were the first parrots brought to Europe and the Greeks were the first Europeans to breed them. Socrates is reported to have praised its beauty and ability to speak. The Romans then bred them for pets, and their beauty in their aviaries. In the 1920's [aviculturists](#) the popularity of the breed began to increase greatly. Now widely available in the pet trade, Rose-ringed Parakeets continue to gain popularity. Hand-fed Rose-ringed Parakeets are regarded as excellent pets if provided with daily attention, though even parent-raised Rose-ringed Parakeets make good pets when provided with regular handling and attention. They are generally family birds and are less likely to bond to only one person. With adequate attention, handling, and love, a Rose-ringed Parakeet can quickly become a beloved companion.

Rose-ringed Parakeets are known to be hardy birds requiring less interaction than most other parakeets of their size. This makes them ideal for a bird owner who cannot spend as much time with his/her bird as other species need. Rose-ringed Parakeets can cope with as little as half an hour of interaction a day. However, they can become untame if not provided with daily interaction, especially during their early months.

They require a relatively tall cage because of their long tails. A Rose-ringed Parakeet who will be spending most of his/her day inside the cage should be kept in a cage about 60 cm (24") wide x 45 cm (18") deep x 90 cm (36") high, though the larger the better, and the bar spacing should be between 1.25 cm (1/2 inch) and 1.875 cm (3/4 inch). Rose-ringed Parakeets are avid chewers and climbers and should therefore be provided with chewing toys in their cages. The cages should be in a place out of direct sunlight and free of drafts. A pet or captive Rose-ringed Parakeet should be kept in a [bird-safe](#) environment.

Captive Rose-ringed Parakeets should be fed a nutritionally balanced diet of pellets and seeds, and the appreciated fruit, vegetable or nut treat should also be offered often. They should always have access to fresh water in their cages.

The Rose-ringed Parakeet is considered one of the best talking parakeets and can learn a vocabulary of up to 250 words. Now these birds come in many mutations, including the common green, blue, grey and lutino among many other colors.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Psittacula krameri](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 05 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Rosy-faced Lovebird

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Genus: *Agapornis*

Species: *A. roseicollis*

Binomial name: *Agapornis roseicollis* (Vieillot, 1818)

The **Rosy-faced Lovebird** (*Agapornis roseicollis*), also known as the **Peach-faced Lovebird**, is a species of [lovebird](#) native to arid regions in southwestern Africa such as the Namib Desert. A loud and constant chirper, these birds are very social animals and often congregate in small groups in the wild. They eat throughout the day and take frequent baths. Coloration can vary widely among populations but females are generally darker and greener, whilst males are smaller and brighter. Lovebirds are renowned for their sleep position in which they sit side-by-side and turn their faces in towards each other. Also, females are well noted to tear raw materials into long strips, "twisty-tie" them onto their backs, and fly distances back to make a nest.

- [1 Peach-faced Lovebirds as Pets](#)
 - [1.1 Housing](#)
 - [1.2 Feeding](#)
- [2 References](#)

Peach-faced Lovebirds as Pets

Adorable

Housing

Lovebirds, being an active bunch, need some room to move in their cage. A cage approximately 24" W x 14" D x 30" H is a good size, but if you can afford it, the bigger the better. Make sure the bars are spaced no wider than 3/8" apart, otherwise your bird will be able to stick its head through the bars. Add a variety of perches, so your lovebird can exercise its feet to prevent arthritis. The perches should be at least 4" long and 1/2" in diameter. Also, a variety of different toys should be placed in the cage to prevent your bird from boredom and loneliness. Do not get your lovebird parakeet toys, because they can tear them apart easily. Try getting cockatiel toys that are more durable. Do not get toys with small bells,

because your lovebird can get them stuck in its throat. Also, please, PLEASE don't put the food and water dishes under the perches, because droppings will contaminate them.

Feeding

Peachfaced lovebirds thrive when fed the proper diet. They should be fed a wide variety of active food, including vegetables, whole grains, and fruits. They are not to be fed dairy products, like chocolate and cheese. Carrots, beans, squash, and corn are excellent foods that provide healthy proteins. Grains should include millet, quinoa, winterwheat, and others. Except strawberries (which contain trace amounts of carcinogenic pesticides) feed lovebirds a rare treat of fresh fruit. Many are attuned to the taste of grapes. These birds also eat various seeds, pellets, and pastas. While seeds and pellets are easy to give to birds, they are not part of their natural diet and should be used in conjunction with vegetables. Good seed and pellet mixes include a large array of different seed types. Be sure to change any perishable food within a few hours of placing it in their housing or at the maximum within one day.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Agapornis roseicollis*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Senegal Parrot

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Psittacidae
Tribe: Psittacini
Genus: *Poicephalus*
Species: *P. senegalus*
Binomial name: *Poicephalus senegalus* Linnaeus, 1766

The **Senegal Parrot** (*Poicephalus senegalus*) is a parrot which is a resident breeder in west Africa. It undergoes local movements, driven mainly by the availability of the fruit and blossoms which make up its diet. It is considered a farm pest, often feeding on crops.

The Senegal Parrot is a bird of open woodland and savannah. It nests in holes in trees, often Oil Palms, laying 2-3 white eggs. The eggs are about 3cm long x 2.5cm wide. It is a gregarious species, continuously chattering with a range of whistling and squawking calls. Senegal Parrots live an average of approximately 25-30 years in the wild, but have been known to live for 50 years in captivity.

The Senegal Parrot is about 23 cm long, plump-looking, and weighs about 125 to 170 gm. Males are generally larger and heavier than female birds. Adults have a charcoal grey head, yellow eyes, green back and throat, and yellow underparts and rump. The yellow and green areas on a Senegal Parrot's front form a V-shape and resemble a yellow vest worn over green. Immature birds are duller, with a lighter grey head and grey eyes. Senegals are not sexually dimorphic, but there are some hypotheses on how to tell the genders apart; it is thought that a female's beak and head are smaller and narrower than the male's and also, the V-shape of the vest is usually longer in females, so that the green area extends down over the chest to between the legs whereas in males it ends midway down the chest.

There are three generally recognized subspecies. They do not differ in behaviour, but only in the color of the "vest". In the pet trade, the nominate subspecies is the most common though all three are raised and sold as pets.

- *Poicephalus senegalus senegalus* (the nominate subspecies): The vest is yellow. Its native range includes southern Mauritania, southern Mali to Guinea and the Island of Los.
- *P. s. mesotypus*: This subspecies has an orange vest. It comes from eastern and northeastern Nigeria and Cameroon into southwest Chad.
- *P. s. versteri*: The vest of this subspecies is red. Its native range is the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana east to western Nigeria.

Senegal Parrots as pets

The Senegal Parrot has recently begun to be bred in captivity and is the most popular *Poicephalus* parrot in aviculture, with the Meyers Parrot being the second most popular. They can live up to 40 or 50 years in a safe clean home. They eat seeds, most fruits and vegetables.

Hand reared Senegal Parrots make excellent pets, and, like all *Poicephalus* parrots, they are curious, fun-loving animals that are much "mellower" compared with many other parrots. They are acrobatic, amusing, and generally sweet. They are able to speak in a limited fashion, often with a high squeaky voice, and can learn to mimic many sounds such as whistling, kisses, microwave beeps, and smoke alarms. They do not make very loud noises, like some parrots do. They are known for their jealousy of other family members and pets. They can develop a bond with only one human and refuse to interact with other people, even attacking them in some cases. Although a Senegal is a small bird it does not seem to believe so, and will attack larger birds and even dogs if it feels it or its human is threatened. Owners should be cautious in multiple-pet homes. Continuing to socialize the hand reared pet bird from a young age and letting many people handle and interact with it can prevent single-person bonding and allow it to become an excellent family pet.

Wild-caught Senegal Parrots do not make good pets, because they do not become tame and they will always be frightened of humans. The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has made the trade of wild caught parrots illegal.

References

- BirdLife International (2006). [*Poicephalus senegalus*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 09 May 2006.
- *Birds of The Gambia* by Barlow, Wachter and Disley, ISBN 1-873403-32-1
- [SENEGAL Parrot](#). Retrieved on September 20, 2005.

Softbill

The following description has been taken, with permission, from Softbills.org-

The term softbill is not a scientific one and has been used, and more often misused, in aviculture for numerous years. It is a very misleading title, as many species that fall into the category do not have a soft bill at all; anyone who has ever been attacked by a hornbill can attest to this.

The proper use of the term is in reference to the 'soft food' diets which basically fall into the following six categories:

- Carnivorous – those who feed on small mammals, birds or other vertebrates (eg. Kingfishers, Rollers)
- Insectivorous – those who feed on insects and other invertebrates (eg. Bee-eaters, Fly-catchers)
- Omnivorous – those who feed on both animal and plant material (eg. Corvids, Hornbills)
- Frugivorous – those who feed on fruit (eg. Turacos, Fruit Doves)
- Nectarivorous – those who feed on flower nectar (eg. Hummingbirds, Sunbirds)
- Folivorous – those who feed on leaves, petals and other plant material (Turacos, Mousebirds)

This sixth diet type is usually in association with one of the above, as very few birds are solely folivorous, a few species of Galliforme come to mind, however they are not considered to be Softbills.

A more recent definition by Clive Roots is, "Cage and aviary birds with relatively soft bills, which feed upon insects* and soft plant material and whose young are helpless at birth".

- including other larger animal prey

This latter definition does discriminate against a few species, however as can be seen, the definition is very subjective and can encompass numerous species not generally included in the group.

References-

- The New Softbill Handbook Werner & Steinigeweg
- The Bird Keepers Guide to Softbills David Alderton
- Softbills: their care, breeding & conservation Martin Vince
- Encyclopedia of Softbilled birds Dr. Matthew Vriends
- Softbilled Birds Clive Roots
- The Encyclopedia of Aviculture IN PRESS
 - Softbills.org

Spix's Macaw

Conservation status: Critical^[1]

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Subfamily: Arinae

Genus: *Cyanopsitta* Bonaparte, 1854 Species: *C. spixii*

Binomial name: *Cyanopsitta spixii* (Wagler, 1832)

The **Spix's Macaw** (*Cyanopsitta spixii*) is the only member of the parrot genus *Cyanopsitta*. This [macaw](#) was found in Brazil, in the north part of the state Bahia. The species went extinct in the wild around 2000, when the last male bird died [2], however, there is a captive population of some 68 individuals [2][3][4]. Most of these individuals are bred in captivity. Of these individuals, only 9 are found in breeding programs of zoos; two birds are in Loro Parque, Tenerife, Spain and seven birds are in the Sao Paulo Zoo, Brazil. The pair at the Loro Parque produced two young in 2004. The aim of the breeding program is to eventually reintroduce this species back to the wild.^[2] Some 47 animals belong to Sheikh Saoud Bin Mohammed Bin Ali Al Thani in Doha, Qatar, who acquired them from private keepers in the Philippines and Switzerland and founded the Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation Center. It runs its own breeding program which has produced 12 young so far, 7 of them in 2006.^{[4][5]}

This bird is a delicate, blue-grey [macaw](#) with long tail and wings. It has a pale ashy-blue head, distinctively square shaped, and pale blue underparts. Its upperparts, wings and long tail are a more vivid blue.

The decline of the species is attributed to hunting and trapping of the birds, destruction of its habitat, and the introduction of the Africanized bee, which competes for nesting sites and killed breeding individuals at the nest. The three last birds were captured for trade in 1987 and 1988. A single male, paired with a female Blue-winged Macaw, was discovered at the site in 1990. A female Spix's Macaw released from captivity at the site in 1995 disappeared after seven weeks. The last wild male died probably at the site in October 2000.^[2]

This bird is named for the German naturalist Johann Baptist von Spix.

References

1. [^] BirdLife International (2004). *Cyanopsitta spixii*. 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is critically endangered
2. ^{^ a b c d} [BirdLife Species Factsheet](#)
3. [^] [University of Michigan](#) The Spix's Macaw

4. ^a ^b Al Wabra Annual Report 2005
5. ^a Al Wabra Newsletter 6-2006

Further reading

- Juniper, Tony (2003) *Spix's Macaw : The Race to Save the World's Rarest Bird* ISBN 0-7434-7550-X

Sun Parakeet

Conservation status Least concern^[1]

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Genus: *Aratinga*

Species: ***A. solstitialis***

Binomial name: ***Aratinga solstitialis*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Sun Parakeet**,^{[2][3]} previously and in aviculture called **Sun Conure**,^[4] (*Aratinga solstitialis*) is a member of the parrot family (Psittacidae). It is native to the north-eastern coastal forests of South America. The average weight for a Sun Conure is approximately 110g. Their length is approximately 305mm from head to tail^[5]. They are monomorphic and reach sexual maturity around two years of age. It is noted for its loud squawking compared to its relatively small size. The bird is capable of mimicking humans but not as well as some larger parrots.

They are especially popular as pets because of their bright coloration. Due to their inquisitive temperament, they demand a great deal of attention from their owners, and can sometimes be loud. Like many parrots, they are high-grade chewers and require toys and treats to chew on. They can live for 25 to 30 years.^[6]

References

1. [^] BirdLife International (2004). *Aratinga solstitialis*. 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006.
2. [^] [A classification of the bird species of South America](#) South American Classification Committee, American Ornithologists' Union
3. [^] World Institute for Conservation & Environment, WICE: [Nature World Wide: Nature in Brazil](#)
4. [^] Forshaw, Joseph M., Cooper, William T. [1973, 1978] (1981). *Parrots of the World, corrected second edition*, David & Charles, Newton Abbot, London. ISBN 0-7153-7698-5.
5. [^] [Alternate image \(PBase\)](#)
6. [^] <http://sunconure.com/>

Umbrella Cockatoo

Conservation status: **Vulnerable**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae

Subfamily: [Cacatuinae](#)

Genus: *Cacatua*

Subgenus: *Cacatua*

Species: ***C. alba***

Binomial name: ***Cacatua alba*** Muller, 1776

The **Umbrella Cockatoo**, *Cacatua alba* also known as **White Cockatoo** is a medium-sized [cockatoo](#) endemic to the islands of Halmahera, Bacan, Ternate, Tidore, Kasiruta and Mandiole in North Maluku, Indonesia. At first sight it appears to be a white parrot with brown or black eyes and a dark grey beak. If it is surprised, it extends a large and striking crest, which has a semicircular shape (similar to an umbrella, hence the name). The crest is normally recumbent. The underside of the wings and tail have pale yellow or lemon colour, which flash when they fly.

The Umbrella Cockatoo can live up to, and perhaps beyond, 80 years in age. They are very social, needing a lot of interaction. They can be very loud and their calls (a very loud screeching noise) can be heard up to three miles away.

The Umbrella Cockatoo weighs about 600gm (based on weights of two male pet birds aged about 1 and 3 years).

- [1 Feathers](#)
- [2 Umbrella Cockatoo as a vulnerable species](#)
- [3 Umbrella Cockatoo as pet birds](#)
- [4 References](#)

Feathers

The feathers of the Umbrella Cockatoo are mostly white. However, both upper and lower surfaces of the inner half of the trailing edge of the large wing feathers are a yellow colour. The yellow colour is most notable on the underside of the wings because the yellow portion of the upper surface of the feather is covered by the white of the feather immediately medial (nearer to the body) and above. Similarly, areas of larger tail feathers that are covered by other tail feathers, and the innermost covered areas of the larger crest feathers are yellow. Short white feathers grow from and closely cover the upper legs.

Umbrella Cockatoo as a vulnerable species

Although the Umbrella Cockatoo is not classified as an endangered species it is classified as vulnerable. Its numbers in the wild have declined owing to habitat loss and illegal trapping for the cage-bird trade. It is listed in appendix II of the CITES list of protected species. This gives it protection by making the trade of wild caught birds illegal.

Umbrella Cockatoo as pet birds

Hand reared Umbrella Cockatoos can make good pets, as they are sociable, intelligent and they can learn tricks and be trained. They require a large cage (at least 3ft x 3ft x 5ft) and they need to exercise outside of their cage often. They can imitate basic human speech, but they are not considered the most able speakers among parrots. They are not an easy pet to keep and require a lot of time, devotion and understanding from their caregivers. They can destroy furniture with their powerful beaks and even the sweetest cockatoo may inflict a serious bite without provocation. Additionally, they can make a lot of loud noise and their large droppings are quite messy. Umbrella cockatoos as pets need so much care and attention, and can be so destructive and expensive to keep, that they are often passed from one owner to the next.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Cacatua alba*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is vulnerable

Bird migration flyways

Many species of birds undertake seasonal journeys of various lengths, a phenomenon known as **Bird migration**. The different strategies followed by bird groups are detailed below.

- [1 Long-distance land bird migration](#)
- [2 Broad-winged long distance migrants](#)
- [3 Short-distance land bird migration](#)
- [4 Wildfowl and waders](#)
- [5 Seabirds](#)
- [6 The tropics](#)
- [7 Australasia](#)
- [8 Study techniques](#)
- [9 Migration conditioning](#)
- [10 References](#)

Long-distance land bird migration

Many species of land migratory birds migrate very long distances, the most common pattern being for birds to breed in the temperate or arctic northern hemisphere and winter in warmer regions, often in the tropics or the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere.

There is a strong genetic component to migration in terms of timing and route, but this may be modified by environmental influences. An interesting example where a change of migration route has occurred because of such a geographical barrier is the trend for some Blackcaps in central Europe to migrate west and winter in Britain rather than cross the Alps. Theoretical analyses, summarised by Alerstam (2001), show that detours that increase flight distance by up to 20% will often be adaptive on aerodynamic grounds - a bird that loads itself with food in order to cross a long barrier flies less efficiently. However some species show circuitous migratory routes that reflect historical range expansions and are far from optimal in ecological terms. An example is the migration of continental populations of Swainson's Thrush, which fly far east across North America before turning south via Florida to reach northern South America; this route is believed to be the consequence of a range expansion that occurred about 10,000 years ago. Detours may also be caused by differential wind conditions, predation risk, or other factors.

The advantage of the migration strategy is that, in the long days of the northern summer, breeding birds have more hours to feed their young on often abundant food supplies, particularly insects. As the days shorten in autumn and food supplies become scarce, the birds can return to warmer regions where the length of the day varies less and there is an all year round food supply. Most of the passerine migrants fly by night in small flocks. During dusk prior to migration, they show a restlessness which is termed *zugunruhe*. They may also sing at night during this period of pre-migration restlessness.

The downside of migration is the hazards of the journey, especially when difficult habitats such as deserts and oceans must be crossed, and weather conditions may be adverse.

The risks of predation are also high. The Eleonora's Falcon which breeds on Mediterranean islands has a very late breeding season, timed so that autumn [passerine](#) migrants can be hunted to feed its young.

Whether a particular species migrates depends on a number of factors. The climate of the breeding area is important, and few species can cope with the harsh winters of inland Canada or northern Eurasia. Thus the Blackbird *Turdus merula* is migratory in Scandinavia, but not in the milder climate of southern Europe.

The nature of the staple food is also important. Most specialist insect eaters are long-distance migrants, and have little choice but to head south in winter.

Sometimes the factors are finely balanced. The Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* of Europe and the Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura* of Asia are a long-distance migrants wintering in the tropics, whereas their close relative, the European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* is a resident bird in most of its range, and moves only short distances from the colder north and east.

Certain areas, because of their location, have become famous as watchpoints for migrating birds. Examples are the Point Pelee National Park in Canada, and Spurn in England. Drift migration of birds blown off course by the wind can result in "falls" of large numbers of migrants at coastal sites.

Another cause of birds occurring outside their normal ranges is the "spring overshoot" in which birds returning to their breeding areas overshoot and end up further north than intended.

A mechanism which can lead to great rarities turning up as vagrants thousands of kilometres out of range is reverse migration, where the genetic programming of young birds fails to work properly.

Recent research suggests that long-distance passerine migrants are of South American and African, rather than northern hemisphere, evolutionary origins. They are effectively southern species coming north to breed rather than northern species going south to winter.

Broad-winged long distance migrants

Some large broad-winged birds rely on thermal columns of rising hot air to enable them to soar. These include many [birds of prey](#) such as [vultures](#), [eagles](#) and buzzards, but also [storks](#).

Migratory species in these groups have great difficulty crossing large bodies of water, since thermals can only form over land, and these birds cannot maintain active flight for long distances.

The Mediterranean and other seas therefore present a major obstacle to soaring birds, which are forced to cross at the narrowest points. This means that massive numbers of large raptors and storks pass through areas such as Gibraltar, Falsterbo and the Bosphorus at migration times. Commoner species, such as the Honey Buzzard, can be counted in hundreds of thousands in autumn.

Other barriers, such as mountain ranges, can also cause funnelling, particularly of large diurnal migrants.

Short-distance land bird migration

The long-distance migrants in the previous section are effectively genetically programmed to respond to changing lengths of days. However many species move shorter distances, but may do so only in response to harsh weather conditions.

Thus mountain and moorland breeders, such as Wallcreeper and White-throated Dipper, may move only altitudinally to escape the cold higher ground. Other species such as Merlin and Skylark will move further to the coast or to a more southerly region.

Species like the Chaffinch are not migratory in Britain, but will move south or to Ireland in very cold weather. Interestingly, in Scandinavia, the female of this species migrates, but not the male, giving rise to the specific name *coelebs*, a bachelor.

Short-distance passerine migrants have two evolutionary origins. Those which have long-distance migrants in the same family, such as the Chiffchaff, are species of southern hemisphere origins which have progressively shortened their return migration so that they stay in the northern hemisphere.

Those species which have no long-distance migratory relatives, such as the [waxwings](#), are effectively moving in response to winter weather, rather than enhanced breeding opportunities.

Wildfowl and waders

The typical image of migration is of northern landbirds such as [swallows](#) and birds of prey making long flights to the tropics. Many northern-breeding [ducks](#), [geese](#) and [swans](#) are also long-distance migrants, but need only to move from their arctic breeding grounds far enough south to escape frozen waters.

This means that most wildfowl remain in the Northern hemisphere, but in milder countries. For example, the Pink-footed Goose migrates from Iceland to Britain and neighbouring countries. Usually wintering grounds are traditional and learned by the young when they migrate with their parents.

Some ducks, such as the Garganey, do move completely or partially into the tropics.

A similar situation occurs with [waders](#) (called "shorebirds" in North America). Many species, such as Dunlin and Western Sandpiper, undertake long movements from their arctic breeding grounds to warmer locations in the same hemisphere, but others such as Semipalmated Sandpiper travel huge distances to the tropics.

Most of the wildfowl are large and powerful, and even the waders are strong fliers. This means that birds wintering in temperate regions have the capacity to make further shorter movements in the event of particularly inclement weather.

The same considerations about barriers and detours that apply to long-distance land-bird migration apply to water birds, but in reverse: a large area of land without bodies of water that offer feeding sites is a barrier to a water bird. Open sea may also be a barrier to a

bird that feeds in coastal waters. Detours avoiding such barriers are observed: for example, Brent Geese migrating from the Taymyr Peninsula to the Wadden Sea travel via the White Sea coast and the Baltic Sea rather than directly across the Arctic Ocean and northern Scandinavia.

For some species of waders, migration success depends on the availability of certain key food resources at stopover points along the migration route. This gives the migrants an opportunity to "refuel" for the next leg of the voyage. Some examples of important stopover locations are the Bay of Fundy and Delaware Bay.

Some Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwits have the longest non-stop flight of any migrant, flying 11,000 km to their New Zealand wintering grounds (*BTO News* 258: 3, 2005). Prior to migration, 55% of their bodyweight is stored fat to fuel this uninterrupted journey.

Seabirds

Much of what has been said in the previous section applies to many [seabirds](#). Some, such as the Black Guillemot and some [gulls](#), are quite sedentary; others, such as most of the [terns](#) and [auks](#) breeding in the temperate northern hemisphere, move south varying distances in winter. The Arctic Tern has the longest-distance migration of any bird, and sees more daylight than any other, moving from its arctic breeding grounds to the antarctic wintering areas. One Arctic Tern, ringed (banded) as a chick on the Farne Islands off the British east coast, reached Melbourne, Australia in just three months from fledging, a sea journey of over 22,000 km (14,000 miles). Seabirds, of course, have the advantage that they can feed on migration.

The most pelagic species, mainly in the 'tubenose' order Procellariiformes, are great wanderers, and the [albatrosses](#) of the southern oceans may circle the globe as they ride the "roaring forties" outside the breeding season. The tubenoses in general spread thinly over large areas of open ocean, but congregate when food becomes available. Many of them are also among the longest-distance migrants; Sooty Shearwaters nesting on the Falkland Islands migrate 14,000 km (9,000 miles) between the breeding colony and the North Atlantic Ocean off Norway, and some Manx Shearwaters do the same journey in reverse. As they are long-lived birds, they may cover enormous distances during their lives; one record-breaking Manx Shearwater is calculated to have flown 8 million km (5 million miles) during its over-50 year lifespan.

Pelagic birding trips attract petrels and other procellariids by tipping "chum", a mixture of fish oil and offal, into the sea. Within minutes, a previously apparently empty ocean is full of petrels, fulmars and shearwaters attracted by the food.

A few seabirds, such as Wilson's Petrel and Great Shearwater, breed in the southern hemisphere and migrate north in the southern winter.

The tropics

In the tropics there is little variation in the length of day throughout the year, and it is always warm enough for an adequate food supply. Apart from the seasonal movements of northern hemisphere wintering species, most species are in the broadest sense resident. However many species undergo movements of varying distances depending on the rainfall.

Many tropical regions have wet and dry seasons, the monsoons of India being perhaps the best known example. An example of a bird whose distribution is rain associated is the Woodland Kingfisher of west Africa.

There are a few species, notably cuckoos, which are genuine long-distance migrants within the tropics. An example is the Lesser Cuckoo, which breeds in India and winters in Africa.

In the high mountains, such as the Himalayas and the Andes, there are also seasonal altitudinal movements in many species.

Australasia

Bird migration is primarily, but not entirely, a Northern-Hemisphere phenomenon. In the Southern Hemisphere, seasonal migration tends to be much less marked. There are several reasons for this.

First, the largely uninterrupted expanses of land mass or ocean tend not to funnel migrations into narrow and obvious pathways, making them less obvious to the human observer. Second, at least for terrestrial birds, climatic regions tend to fade into one another over a long distance rather than be entirely separate: this means that rather than make long trips over unsuitable habitat to reach particular destinations, migrant species can usually travel at a relaxed pace, feeding as they go. Short of banding studies it is often not obvious that the birds seen in any particular locality as the seasons change are in fact different members of the same species passing through, gradually working their way north or south.

Relatively few Australasian birds migrate in the way that so many European and North American species do. This is largely a matter of geography: the Australasian climate has seasonal extremes no less compelling than those of Europe; however, they are far less predictable and tend to take place over periods both shorter and longer. A couple of weeks of heavy rain in one part or another of the usually dry centre of Australia, for example, produces dramatic plant and invertebrate growth, attracting birds from all directions. This can happen at any time of year, summer or winter and, in any given area, may not happen again for a decade or more.

Broader climatic extremes are highly unpredictable also: expected seasonal heat or rain arrives or does not arrive, depending on the vagaries of El Niño. It is commonplace to have stretches of five or ten years at a time when winter rains do not eventuate during the El Niño cycle, and equally common to have La Niña periods which turn arid zones into areas of lush grass and shallow lakes. Long distance migration requires a heavy investment in time and body mass—and, given the random nature of El Niño, an investment with an uncertain return.

In broad terms, Australasian birds tend to be sedentary or nomadic, moving on whenever conditions become unfavourable to whichever area happens to be more suitable at the time.

There are many exceptions, however. Some species make the long haul to breed in far distant northern climes every year, notably [swifts](#), and a great many wading birds that breed in the Arctic Circle during the southern winter.

Many others arrive for the southern spring and summer to breed, then fly to tropical northern Australia, New Guinea, or the islands of South East Asia for the Southern winter. Examples include cuckoos, the Satin Flycatcher, the Dollarbird, and the Rainbow Bee-eater.

Others again are altitudinal migrants, moving to higher country during summer, returning to warmer areas in winter such as several robins, or travel north and south with the seasons but within a relatively restricted range. The tiny 10 cm Silvereye is an example: most of the southernmost Tasmanian race crosses the 200 miles of Bass Strait after breeding to disperse into Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and even southern Queensland, replacing the normal residents who fly still further north, following the band of fertile country along the coast, feeding through the day and travelling mostly at night. The northernmost populations, however, are nomadic rather than migratory, as are the Silvereyes of southern Western Australia, which is bounded by thousands of miles of desert to the north and east, and sea to the south and west.

Study techniques

Bird migration has been studied by a variety of techniques of which ringing is the oldest. Color marking, use of radar, satellite tracking and stable hydrogen isotopes are some of the other techniques being used to study the migration of birds.

Migration conditioning

It has been possible to teach a new migration route to a flock of birds, for example in re-introduction schmes. After a trial with [Canada Geese](#), microlites were used in the US to teach safe migration routes to reintroduced Whooping Cranes [\[1\]](#).

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Flyway

Flyway is also a 90's rock/alternative band from Southeastern Wisconsin. The link to their website is down below.

See also

- [bird migration](#)
- [Atlantic Flyway](#)
- [Central Flyway](#)
- [East Asian - Australasian Flyway](#)
- [Pacific Flyway](#)

Atlantic Flyway

The **Atlantic Flyway** is a [bird migration](#) route that generally follows the Mississippi River in the United States and the Mackenzie River in Canada. The main endpoints of the flyway include the Canadian Maritimes and the region surrounding the Gulf of Mexico; the migration route tends to narrow considerably in the southern United States in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia (U.S. state), and Florida. which account for the high number of bird species found in those areas. Once in Florida, the flyway diverges into a path over eastern Mexico and a longer path across the Caribbean Sea via Cuba and Jamaica.

This route is used by birds typically because no mountains or even ridges of hills block this path over its entire extent. Good sources of water, food, and cover exist over its entire length.

The other primary migration routes for North American birds includes the Mississippi, Central and [Pacific Flyways](#).

Central Flyway

The **Central Flyway** is a [bird migration](#) route that generally follows the Great Plains in the United States and Canada. This main endpoints of the flyway include central Canada and the region surrounding the Gulf of Mexico; the migration route tends to narrow considerably in the Platte River and Missouri River valleys of central and eastern Nebraska, which accounts for the high number of bird species found there. Some birds even use this flyway to migrate from the Arctic Ocean to Patagonia. Routes used by birds are typically established because no mountains or large hills block the flyway over its entire extent. Good sources of water, food, and cover exist over its entire length.

The other primary migration routes for North American birds includes the [Atlantic](#), [Mississippi](#) and [Pacific Flyways](#). The Central Flyway merges with the Mississippi Flyway between Missouri and the Gulf of Mexico.

The **Central Flyway Council** is comprised of representatives from agencies responsible for migratory bird management in 10 states, two Canadian provinces and the Northwest Territories. Member states and provinces in the council are: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

East Asian - Australasian Flyway

The **East Asian - Australasian Flyway** is one of the world's great flyways. At its northernmost it stretches eastwards from the Taimyr Peninsula in Russia to Alaska. Its southern end encompasses Australia and New Zealand. Between these extremes the Flyway covers much of eastern Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, South-East Asia and the western Pacific. It is especially important for the millions of migratory [waders](#) or shorebirds that breed in northern Asia and Alaska and spend the non-breeding season in South-East Asia and Australasia.

Mississippi Flyway

The **Mississippi Flyway** is a [bird migration](#) route that generally follows the Mississippi River in the United States and the Mackenzie River in Canada. This main endpoints of the flyway include central Canada and the region surrounding the Gulf of Mexico; the migration route tends to narrow considerably in the lower Mississippi River valley in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana, which account for the high number of [bird](#) species found in those areas. Some birds even use this flyway to migrate from the Arctic Ocean to Patagonia.

This route is used by birds typically because no mountains or even ridges of hills block this path over its entire extent. Good sources of water, food, and cover exist over its entire length. About 40% of all North American migrating waterfowl and shorebirds use this route.

The other primary migration routes for North American birds includes the [Atlantic Central](#) and [Pacific Flyways](#). The Central Flyway merges with the Mississippi Flyway between Missouri and the Gulf of Mexico.

Pacific Flyway

The **Pacific Flyway** is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds in the Americas, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all of this distance both in spring and in fall, following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or travelling to over-wintering sites.

Any given bird species travels roughly the same route every year, at almost the same time. Ornithologists and bird-lovers can often predict to the day when a particular species will show-up in their area.

Along the Pacific Flyway, there are many key rest-stops where birds of many species gather, sometimes in the millions to feed, and regain their strength before continuing. Some species may remain in these rest-stops for the entire season, but most stay a few days before moving on. One of these rest-stops, Boundary Bay, Canada, has been listed as an Important Bird Area by the Canadian government in recognition of its value to migratory birds.

Bird topography

Beak

The **beak**—otherwise known as the **bill** or **rostrum**—is an external anatomical structure which serves as the mouth in some animals. It is a distinctive feature of [birds](#) and, in addition to eating, is used by them for grooming, manipulating objects, killing prey, probing for food, courtship, and feeding their young.

- [1 Anatomy](#)
- [2 Billing](#)
- [3 See also](#)
- [4 References](#)

Anatomy

Beaks can vary significantly in size and shape from species to species. The beak is composed of an upper jaw called the maxilla, and a lower jaw called the mandible. The jaw is made of bone, typically hollow or porous to conserve weight for flying. The outside surface of the beak is covered by a thin horny sheath of keratin called the **rhamphotheca**. Between the hard outer layer and the bone is a vascular layer containing blood vessels and nerve endings. The rhamphotheca also includes the **knob** which is found above the beak of some swans, such as the Mute Swan and some Swan Geese (*pictured*).

The beak has two holes called **nares** which connect to the hollow inner beak and thence to the respiratory system. In some birds, these are located in a fleshy, often waxy structure at the base of the beak called the **cere** (from Latin cera. Hawks, parrots, [doves](#), and skuas are among the birds that have ceres. Budgerigars are dimorphic because the males' ceres turn bright blue upon maturity, while the females' ceres turn tan. The female budgies' ceres also appear wrinkled, to a greater extent during periods of fertility. Immature budgies have pale pinkish ceres which are smooth and shiny.

Nares are bird nostrils. The nares of birds are usually located directly above the **beak**. On some birds, such as the budgerigar, the nares are situated within the cere.

Beak

Gray's [subject #223 994](#)

Dorlands/Elsevier [n 01/12558781](#)

Nares can also refer to nostrils on other animals, such as sharks, rays, and sawfishes. Nares is a medical term from Latin that describes human nostrils.

On some birds, the tip of the beak is hard, dead tissue used for heavy-duty tasks such as cracking nuts or killing prey. On other birds, such as ducks, the tip of the bill is sensitive and contains nerves, for locating things by touch. The beak is worn down by use, so it grows continuously throughout the bird's life.

Unlike jaws with teeth, beaks are not used for chewing. Birds swallow their food whole, which is broken up in the gizzard.

Examples of birds with unusual beaks include the [hummingbird](#), the toucan and the spoonbill.

Billing

During courtship, mated pairs of a variety of bird species touch and clasp each other's bills. This is called **billing**, and appears to strengthen the pair bond (Terres, 1980). [Gannets](#) raise their bills high and repeatedly clatter them (*pictured*); the male [puffin](#) nibbles at the female's beak; the male [waxwing](#) puts his bill in the female's mouth; and [ravens](#) hold each other's beaks in a prolonged "kiss".

See also

- [Bird anatomy](#)

References

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Supercilium

The term **supercilium** is a name for a plumage feature present on the heads of many bird species. It is a stripe which starts above the bird's loreal area, continuing above the eye, and finishing somewhere towards the rear of the bird's head. It is distinct from the eyestripe which is a line which runs across the lores, and continues behind the eye. Informally, the supercilium is often known as the "eyebrow". Where a stripe is present only above the lores, and does not continue behind the eye, it is called a **supraloral stripe** or simply **supraloral**.

On most species which display a supercilium, it is paler than the adjacent feather tracts.

The colour, shape or other features of the supercilium can be useful in bird identification. For example, one way to tell Dusky and Radde's Warblers apart is to look at their supercilium. On Dusky it is sharply demarcated in front of the eye, a bright cream colour here, but becoming duller to the rear, whereas on Radde's, it is loosely-demarcated in front of the eye, buff-orange here and bright to the rear.

A **split supercilium** is a feature present on some shorebirds (e.g. Broad-billed Sandpiper). This term is used to describe a plumage pattern where the supercilium has an extra stripe branching off of it above the lores, and extending up into the crown.

A **supercilium drop** is a feature found on some pipits; it is a pale spot on the rear of the ear-coverts which, although separated from the supercilium by an eyestripe, can appear at some angles to be a downward continuation of the supercilium.

Birds by classification

This page lists living orders and families of [birds](#), class [Aves](#) (for extinct birds, please see [Extinct birds](#) and Prehistoric birds). The links below should then lead to family accounts and hence to individual species.

Taxonomy is very fluid in the age of DNA analysis, so comments are made where appropriate, and all numbers are approximate. In particular see Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy for a very different classification.

This article and the descendant family articles follow the taxonomy of the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* (HANZAB) for families largely endemic to that region, and otherwise the *Handbook of Birds of the World* (HBW).

Paleognathae

The flightless and mostly giant Struthioniformes lack a keeled sternum and are collectively known as [ratites](#). Together with the Tinamiformes, they form the *Paleognathae* (or 'old jaws'), one of the two evolutionary "super orders".

- **Struthioniformes**: mainly southern hemisphere; 12 species, 2 extinct
 - Struthionidae: Ostrich
 - Casuariidae: emus and cassowaries
 - Apterygidae: kiwis
 - Rheidae: rheas
- **Tinamiformes**: South America; 45 species
 - Tinamidae: tinamous

Neognathae

Nearly all living birds belong to the super order of *Neognathae*— or 'new jaws'. With their keels, unlike the ratites, they are known as carinates. The [passerines](#) alone account for well over 5000 species.

- **Anseriformes**: worldwide; 150 species
 - Anhimidae: screamers
 - Anseranatidae: Magpie-goose
 - [Anatidae](#): swans, geese and ducks
- **Galliformes**: worldwide except northern Eurasia; 256 species.
 - Megapodidae: mound-builders
 - Cracidae: chachalacas, guans and curassows
 - Tetraonidae: grouse
 - Phasianidae: partridges, pheasants, quail and allies
 - Odontophoridae: New World quails
 - Numididae: guineafowl
 - Meleagrididae: turkeys
 - Mesitornithidae: mesites
- **Sphenisciformes**: Antarctic and southern waters; 16 species

- Spheniscidae: penguins
- **Gaviiformes:** North America, Eurasia; 5 species
 - Gaviidae loons or divers
- **Podicipediformes:** worldwide; 20 species
 - Podicipedidae: grebes
- **Procellariiformes:** pan-oceanic; 93 species
 - Diomedidae: albatrosses
 - Procellariidae: fulmars, prions, shearwaters, gadfly and other petrels
 - Pelecanoididae: diving petrels
 - Hydrobatidae: storm petrels
- **Pelecaniformes:** worldwide; 57 species
 - Pelecanidae: pelicans
 - Sulidae: gannets and boobies
 - Phalacrocoracidae: cormorants
 - Fregatidae: frigatebirds
 - Anhingidae: Anhinga and darters
 - Phaethontidae: tropicbirds
- **Ciconiiformes:** all continents; 115 species.
 - Ardeidae: herons and bitterns
 - Cochlearidae: Boatbill
 - Balaenicipitidae: Shoebill
 - Scopidae: Hammerkop
 - Ciconiidae: storks
 - Threskiornithidae: ibises and spoonbills
 - Phoenicopteridae: flamingos
- **Accipitriformes:** worldwide; about 226 species. Some classifications also include the Falconidae.
 - Cathartidae: New World vultures and Condors
 - Pandionidae: Osprey
 - Accipitridae: hawks, eagles, buzzards and Old World vultures, harriers, kites, and allies
 - Sagittaridae: Secretary Bird
- **Falconiformes:** worldwide; 60 species. Sometimes included in the Accipitriformes.
 - [Falconidae](#): falcons
- **Turniciformes:** Old World, 15 species
 - Turnicidae: buttonquail
- **Gruiformes:** worldwide; 196 species
 - Gruidae: cranes
 - Aramidae: Limpkin
 - Psophiidae: trumpeters
 - Rallidae: rails, crakes, coots and allies
 - Heliornithidae: finfoots and Sungrebe
 - Rhynochetidae: Kagu

- Eurypigidae: Sunbittern
- Cariamidae: seriemas
- Otididae: bustards
- **Charadriiformes:** worldwide; 305 species
 - Jacanidae: jacanas
 - Rostratulidae: painted snipe
 - Haematopodidae: oystercatchers
 - Charadriidae: plovers
 - Pluvianellidae: Magellanic Plover
 - Ibidorhynchidae: Ibisbill
 - Recurvirostridae: avocets and stilts
 - Scolopacidae: typical waders or shorebirds
 - Dromadidae: Crab Plover
 - Burhinidae: thick-knees
 - Glareolidae: coursers and pratincoles
 - Thinocoridae: seedsnipe
 - Pedionomidae: Plains Wanderer
 - Chionididae: sheathbill
 - Stercorariidae: skuas
 - Laridae: gulls
 - Sternidae: terns
 - Rhynchopidae: skimmers
 - Alcidae: auks
- **Pterocliiformes:** Africa, Europe, Asia; 16 species
 - Pteroclididae: sandgrouse
- **Columbiformes:** worldwide; 300 species
 - Raphidae: dodos
 - Columbidae: pigeons and doves
- **Psittaciformes:** pan-tropical, southern temperate zones; 330 species
 - Cacatuidae: cockatoos
 - Psittacidae: parrots
- **Cuculiformes:** worldwide; 151 species
 - Musophagidae: turacos and allies
 - Cuculidae: cuckoos
 - Opisthocomidae: Hoatzin
- **Strigiformes:** worldwide; 134 species
 - Tytonidae: barn owls
 - Strigidae: typical owls
- **Caprimulgiformes:** worldwide; 96 species
 - Steatornithidae: Oilbird
 - Podargidae: frogmouths
 - Nyctibiidae: potoos
 - Aegothelidae: owllet-nightjars
 - Caprimulgidae: nightjars

- **Apodiformes:** worldwide; 403 species
 - Apodidae: swifts
 - Hemiprocnidae: tree swifts
 - **Trochiliformes**
 - Trochilidae: hummingbirds
- **Coliiformes:** Sub-Saharan Africa; 6 species
 - Coliidae: mousebirds
- **Trogoniformes:** Sub-Saharan Africa, Americas, Asia; 35 species
 - Trogonidae: trogons and quetzals
- **Coraciiformes:** worldwide; 192 species
 - Alcedinidae: river kingfishers
 - Halcyonidae: tree kingfishers
 - Cerylidae: water or belted kingfishers
 - Todidae: todies
 - Momotidae: motmots
 - Meropidae: bee-eaters
 - Leptosomatidae: Cuckoo Roller
 - Brachypteraciidae: ground rollers
 - Coraciidae: rollers
 - Upupidae: Hoopoe
 - Phoeniculidae: woodhoopoes
 - Bucerotidae: hornbills
- **Piciformes:** worldwide except Australasia; 376 species
 - Galbulidae: jacamars
 - Bucconidae: puffbirds
 - Capitonidae: barbets
 - Indicatoridae: honeyguides
 - Ramphastidae: toucans
 - Picidae: woodpeckers
- **Passeriformes:** worldwide; about 5200 species
 - **Suborder Tyranni** ("suboscines")
 - Tyrannidae: tyrant flycatchers
 - Acanthisittidae: New Zealand wrens
 - Pittidae: pittas
 - Eurylaimidae: broadbills
 - Dendrocolaptidae: woodcreepers
 - Furnariidae: ovenbirds
 - Thamnophilidae: antbirds
 - Formicariidae: antpittas and antthrushes
 - Conopophagidae: gnateaters
 - Rhinocryptidae: tapaculos
 - Cotingidae: cotingas
 - Pipridae: manakins
 - Philepittidae: asities

- **Suborder Passeri** ("oscines")
- Atrichornithidae: scrub-birds
- Menuridae: lyrebirds
- Turnagridae: Piopio
- Alaudidae: larks
- Hirundinidae: swallows
- Motacillidae: wagtails and pipits
- Campephagidae: cuckoo-shrikes
- Pycnonotidae: bulbuls
- Regulidae: kinglets
- Chloropseidae: leafbirds
- Aegithinidae: ioras
- Ptilonotidae: silky-flycatchers
- Bombycillidae: waxwings
- Hypocoliidae: hypocolius
- Dulidae: Palmchat
- Cinclidae: dippers
- Troglodytidae: wrens
- Mimidae: mockingbirds, thrashers and Gray Catbird
- Prunellidae: accentors
- Turdidae: thrushes and allies
- Cisticolidae: cisticolas and allies
- Sylviidae: Old World warblers
- Poliotilidae: gnatcatchers
- Muscicapidae: Old World flycatchers
- Platysteiridae: wattle-eyes
- Petroicidae: Australasian robins
- Pachycephalidae: whistlers and allies
- Picathartidae: rockfowl
- Timaliidae: babblers
- Pomatostomidae: pseudo-babblers
- Paradoxornithidae: parrotbills
- Orthonychidae: logrunner and chowchilla
- Cinclosomatidae: whipbirds and quail-thrushes
- Aegithalidae: long-tailed tits
- Maluridae: fairy-wrens, emu-wrens and grasswrens
- Neosittidae: sittellas
- Climacteridae: Australasian treecreepers
- Paridae: chickadees and tits
- Sittidae: nuthatches
- Tichodromidae: Wallcreeper
- Certhiidae: treecreepers
- Rhabdornithidae: Philippine creepers
- Remizidae: penduline tits
- Nectariniidae: sunbirds and spiderhunters

Melanocharitidae: berrypeckers and longbills
Paramythiidae: tit berrypecker and crested berrypeckers
Dicaeidae: flowerpeckers
Pardalotidae: pardalotes, thornbills and allies
Zosteropidae: white-eyes
Promeropidae: sugarbirds
Meliphagidae: honeyeaters and chats
Oriolidae: Old World orioles
Irenidae: fairy-bluebirds
Laniidae: shrikes
Malaconotidae: bushshrikes and allies
Prionopidae: helmetshrikes
Vangidae: vangas
Dicruridae: drongos
Callaeidae: wattlebirds
Corcoracidae: White-winged Chough and Apostlebird
Artamidae: currawongs, woodswallows, butcherbirds & allies
Pityriaseidae: bristlehead
Paradisaeidae: birds-of-paradise
Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbirds
Corvidae: crows, jays and magpies
Sturnidae: starlings
Passeridae: Old World sparrows
Ploceidae: weavers and allies
Estrildidae: waxbills and allies
Viduidae: indigobirds
Vireonidae: vireos and allies
Fringillidae: finches, crossbills and allies
Drepanididae: Hawaiian honeycreepers
Peucedramidae: Olive Warbler
Parulidae: New World warblers
Coerebidae: Bananaquit
Thraupidae: tanagers and allies
Emberizidae: buntings, seedeaters and allies
Cardinalidae: saltators, cardinals and allies
Icteridae: troupials and allies

See also

- [List of African birds](#)
- [List of Asian birds](#)
- [List of Australian birds](#)
- [List of European birds](#)
- [Extinct birds](#)

Extinct birds

Since 1500, over 100 species of [birds](#) have become **extinct**, and this rate of extinction seems to be increasing. The situation is exemplified by Hawai'i, where 30% of all known recently extinct species originally lived. Other areas, such as Guam, have also been hard hit; Guam has lost over 60% of its native species in the last 30 years, many of them to the introduced Brown Tree Snake.

There are today about 10,000 species of birds, with roughly 1200 considered to be under threat of extinction. Except for a dozen or so species the threat is man-made.

Island species in general, and flightless island species in particular are most at risk. The disproportionate number of rails in the list reflects the tendency of that family to lose the ability to fly when geographically isolated. Even more rails became extinct before they could be described by scientists; these taxa are listed in [Later Quaternary Prehistoric Birds](#).

The **extinction dates** given below are usually approximations of the actual date of extinction. In some cases, more exact dates are given as it is sometimes possible to pinpoint the date of extinction to a specific year or even day (the San Benedicto Rock Wren is possibly the most extreme example - its extinction could be timed with an accuracy of maybe half an hour). Extinction dates in the literature are usually the dates of the last verified record (credible observation or specimen taken); in many Pacific birds which became extinct shortly after European contact, however, this leaves an uncertainty period of over a century because the islands on which they used to occur were only rarely visited by scientists.

- [1 Extinct bird species](#)
 - [1.1 Struthioniformes](#)
 - [1.2 Tinamiformes](#)
 - [1.3 Anseriformes](#)
 - [1.4 Galliformes](#)
 - [1.5 Charadriiformes](#)
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 - [1.13 Psittaciformes](#)
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 - [1.15 Falconiformes](#)
 - [1.16 Strigiformes](#)
 - [1.17 Caprimulgiformes](#)
 - [1.18 Apodiformes](#)
 - [1.19 Coraciiformes](#)
 - [1.20 Piciformes](#)
 - [1.21 Passeriformes](#)

- [2 \(Probably\) Extinct subspecies of birds](#)
 - [2.1 Struthioniformes](#)
 - [2.2 Tinamiformes](#)
 - [2.3 Anseriformes](#)
 - [2.4 Galliformes](#)
 - [2.5 Charadriiformes](#)
 - [2.6 Gruiformes](#)
 - [2.7 Ciconiiformes](#)
 - [2.8 Pelecaniformes](#)
 - [2.9 Pteroclidiformes](#)
 - [2.10 Columbiformes](#)
 - [2.11 Psittaciformes](#)
 - [2.12 Cuculiformes](#)
 - [2.13 Falconiformes](#)
 - [2.14 Strigiformes](#)
 - [2.15 Caprimulgiformes](#)
 - [2.16 Apodiformes](#)
 - [2.17 Coraciiformes](#)
 - [2.18 Piciformes](#)
 - [2.19 Passeriformes](#)
- [3 See also](#)

Extinct bird species

Struthioniformes

The [Ostrich](#) and related ratites.

- [Elephant bird](#), *Aepyornis maximus* (Madagascar, 16th century?)

The taxonomy of the elephant birds is not fully resolved; it is almost certain that at least one taxon survived until Recent times, but it is not clear which species the reports refer to, if there were indeed more than one.

- Lesser Megalapteryx, *Megalapteryx didinus* (South Island, New Zealand, late 15th century?)

Generally believed to have been extinct by 1500, this is the only [moa](#) species that according to current knowledge might have survived until later times, possibly as late as the 1830s.

- King Island Emu, *Dromaius ater* (King Island, Australia, 1822)

Extinct in the wild c.1805, the last captive specimen died in 1822 in the Jardin des Plantes.

- Kangaroo Island Emu, *Dromaius baudinianus* (Kangaroo Island, Australia, 1827)
- West Coast Spotted Kiwi, *Apteryx occidentalis* (South Island, New Zealand, c.1900)

A doubtful form known from a single bird; may be a Little Spotted Kiwi subspecies or a hybrid between that species and the rowi.

Tinamiformes

Tinamous

- Magdalena Tinamou, *Crypturellus saltuarius* (Colombia, late 20th century?)

Sometimes considered a Red-legged Tinamou subspecies, this bird is only known from the 1943 type specimen. Recent research suggest it is still extant.

Anseriformes

[Ducks](#), [geese](#) and [swans](#).

- Korean Crested Shelduck, *Tadorna cristata* (Northeast Asia, late 20th century?)

A relict species from Northeast Asia. Officially critically endangered due to recent unconfirmed reports.

- Réunion Shelduck, *Alopochen kervazoi* (Réunion, Mascarenes, c.1690s)
Mauritian Shelduck, *Alopochen mauritianus* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, late 1690s)
Amsterdam Island Duck, *Anas marecula* (Amsterdam Island, South Indian Ocean, 1800)
Mauritian Duck, *Anas theodori* (Mauritius and Réunion, Mascarenes, late 1690s)
Mariana Mallard, *Anas oustaleti* (Marianas, West Pacific, 1981)
Finsch's Duck, *Chenonetta finschi* from New Zealand possibly survived to 1870
Pink-headed Duck, *Netta caryophyllacea* (East India, Bangladesh, North Myanmar, 1945?)

Officially critically endangered; recent surveys have failed to rediscover it.

- Madagascar Pochard, *Aythya innotata* (Madagascar, 1992?)

Officially **critically endangered, possibly extinct**.

- Réunion Pochard, *Aythya cf. innotata* (Réunion, Mascarenes, c.1690s)

A bone of a pochard found on Réunion seems to resolve the reports of *canards* other than the Mauritian Duck having occurred on the island. The taxonomic status of this form cannot be resolved until more material is found, however.

- Labrador Duck, *Camptorhynchus labradorius* (Northeast North America, c.1880)
Auckland Islands Merganser, *Mergus australis* (Auckland Islands, Southwest Pacific, c.1902)

Galliformes

Quails and relatives.

- The Giant Scrubfowl, *Megapodius molistructor*, may have survived on New Caledonia to the late 18th century as evidenced by descriptions of the bird named "*Tetrao australis*" and later "*Megapodius andersoni*".
- The Viti Levu Scrubfowl, *Megapodius amissus* of Viti Levu and possibly Kadavu, Fiji, may have survived to the early 19th or even the 20th century as suggested by circumstantial evidence.
- Raoul Island Scrubfowl, *Megapodius* sp. (Raoul, Kermadec Islands, 1876)

A megapode is said to have inhabited Raoul Island until the population was wiped out in a volcanic eruption. It is not clear whether the birds represent a distinct taxon or derive from a prehistoric introduction by Polynesian seafarers.

- New Zealand Quail, *Coturnix novaezelandiae* (New Zealand, 1875)
- Himalayan Quail, *Ophrysia superciliosa* (North India, late 19th century?)

Officially critically endangered. Not recorded with certainty since 1876, but thorough surveys are still required, and there is a recent set of possible (though unlikely) sightings around Naini Tal in 2003. A little-known native name from Western Nepal probably refers to this bird, but for various reasons, no survey for *Ophrysia* has ever been conducted in that country, nor is it generally assumed to occur there (due to the native name being overlooked).

Charadriiformes

Shorebirds, [gulls](#) and [auks](#).

- Javanese Lapwing, *Vanellus macropterus* (Java, Indonesia, mid-20th century)

Officially classified as critically endangered, but as this conspicuous bird has not been recorded since 1940, it is almost certainly extinct.

- Tahitian Sandpiper, *Prosobonia leucoptera* (Tahiti, Society Islands, 19th century)
- White-winged Sandpiper, *Prosobonia ellisi* (Moorea, Society Islands, 19th century)

Doubtfully distinct from *P. leucoptera*.

- Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis* (Northern North America, late 20th century?)

May still exist; officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct.

- Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris* (Western Siberia, early 2000s?)

May still exist; officially classified as critically endangered. Last seen in 1999 following several decades of increasing rarity.

- Great Auk, *Pinguinus impennis* (North Atlantic, c.1844)
- Canarian Black Oystercatcher, *Haematopus meadewaldoi* (Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, Canary Islands, early 20th century)

Gruiformes

[Rails](#) and allies.

- Antillean Cave-Rail, *Nesotrochis debooyi* from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands possibly survived into the Modern Era.
Hawkins' Rail, *Diaphorapteryx hawkinsi* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific, 19th century)
Red Rail, *Aphanapteryx bonasia* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, c.1700)
Rodrigues Rail, *Aphanapteryx leguati* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, mid-18th century)
Bar-winged Rail, *Nesoclopeus poecilopterus* (Fiji, Polynesia, c.1980)
New Caledonian Rail, *Gallirallus lafresnayanus* (New Caledonia, Melanesia, c.1990?)

Officially classified as critically endangered, the last records were in 1984 and it seems that all available habitat is overrun by feral pigs and dogs which prey on this bird.

- Wake Island Rail, *Gallirallus wakensis* (Wake Island, Micronesia, 1945)
Tahitian Red-billed Rail, *Gallirallus pacificus* (Tahiti, Society Islands, late 18th - 19th century)
Dieffenbach's Rail, *Gallirallus dieffenbachii* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific, mid-19th century)
Sharpe's Rail, *Gallirallus sharpei* (Indonesia?, 20th century?)

A bird known from a single skin of unknown origin. A research project has been proposed to shed light on its relationships and possible place of origin.

- Vava'u Rail, *Gallirallus* cf. *vekamatolu* (Vava'u, Tonga, early 19th century?)

This bird is known only from a drawing by the 1793 Malaspina expedition, apparently depicting a species of *Gallirallus*. The 'Eua Rail, *Gallirallus vekamatolu*, is known from prehistoric bones found on 'Eua, but this species cannot have been the bird depicted, as it was flightless. However, it probably was a close relative.

- The Norfolk Island Rail, *Gallirallus* sp. may be the bird shown on a bad watercolor illustration made around 1800
Chatham Rail, *Cabalus modestus* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific, c.1900)
Réunion Rail, *Dryolimnas augusti* (Réunion, Mascarenes, late 17th century)
Red-throated Wood-rail, *Aramides gutturalis* (Peru, 20th century?)

Usually considered a badly prepared specimen of the Grey-necked Wood Rail, the single known individual of this bird may prove a distinct species though.

- Ascension Island Rail, *Mundia elpenor* (Ascension, Island, Atlantic, late 17th century) - formerly *Atlantisia*
Saint Helena Crake, *Porzana astrictocarpus* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, early 16th century)
Laysan Rail, *Porzana palmeri* (Laysan Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1944)
Hawaiian Rail, *Porzana sandwichensis* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, c.1890)

- Kosrae Island Crake, *Porzana monasa* (Kosrae, Carolines, c. mid-late 19th century)
Miller's Crake, *Porzana nigra* (Tahiti, Society Islands, c.1800)

Known only from paintings and descriptions; taxonomic status uncertain as the material is often believed to refer to the extant Spotless Crake.

- Saint Helena Swamphen, *Aphanocrex podarces* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, 16th century) - formerly *Atlantisia*
Réunion Swamphen or Oiseau bleu, *Porphyrio coerulescens* (Réunion, Mascarenes, 18th century)

Known only from descriptions. Former existence of a *Porphyrio* on Réunion is fairly certain, but not proven to date.

- New Caledonian Swamphen, *Porphyrio kukwiedei* from New Caledonia, Melanesia, may have survived into historic times. The native name n'dino is thought to refer to this bird.
Lord Howe Swamphen, *Porphyrio albus* (Lord Howe Island, SW Pacific, early 19th century)

Marquesan Swamphen, *Porphyrio paepae* (Hiva Oa and Tahuata, Marquesas) May have survived into the 19th century. In the lower right corner of Paul Gauguin's 1902 painting *Le Sorcier d'Hiva Oa ou le Marquisien à la cape rouge* there is a bird which reminds of native descriptions of *P. paepae*.

- The North Island Takah, *Porphyrio mantelli* known from subfossil bones found on North Island, New Zealand, may have survived to 1894 or later.
Samoa Wood Rail, *Gallinula pacifica* (Savai'i, Samoa, 1907?)

Probably better placed in the genus *Pareudiastes*, unconfirmed reports from the late 20th century suggest it still survives in small numbers, and therefore it is officially classified as critically endangered.

- Makira Wood Rail, *Gallinula silvestris* (Makira, Solomon Islands, mid-20th century?)

Only known from a single specimen, this rail is probably better placed in its own genus, *Edithornis*. There are some unconfirmed recent records that suggest it still survives, thus, it is officially classified as critically endangered.

- Tristan Moorhen, *Gallinula nesiotis* (Tristan da Cunha, Atlantic, late 19th century)
Mascarene Coot, *Fulica newtoni* (Mauritius and Réunion, Mascarenes, c.1700)
Rallidae gen. et sp. indet.

Unknown rail from Amsterdam Island, one specimen found but not recovered. Extinct by 1800 or may have been straggler of extant species.

- Fernando de Noronha Rail, Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Fernando de Noronha, W Atlantic, 16th century)

A distinct species of rail inhabited Fernando de Noronha island, but it has not been formally described yet. Probably was extant at Western contact.

- Tahitian "Goose", ?Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Tahiti, late 18th century?)

Early travellers to Tahiti reported a "goose" that was found in the mountains. Altogether, a species of the rail genus *Porphyrio* seems the most likely choice.

- "Leguat's Giant" or géant, a hypothetical giant rail from the Mascarenes, is based on his descriptions of flamingos, as Leguat was not familiar with their French name flamand or thought that it referred to other birds (it was in his time sometimes used for spoonbills, for example).

Podicipediformes

Grebes.

- Colombian Grebe, *Podiceps andinus* (Bogotá area, Colombia, 1977)
Alaotra Grebe, *Tachybaptus rufolavatus* (Lake Alaotra, Madagascar, late 1980s?)

Officially critically endangered, possibly extinct, this species almost certainly became extinct through habitat destruction and hybridization with the Little Grebe.

- Atitlán Grebe, *Podilymbus gigas* (Lake Atitlán, Guatemala, 1989)

Ciconiiformes

Hérons and related birds.

- Bermuda Night Neron, *Nycticorax carinocatactes* (Bermuda, West Atlantic, 16th century)

Sometimes assigned to the genus *Nyctanassa*

- Réunion Night Heron, *Nycticorax duboisi* (Réunion, Mascarenes, late 17th century)
Mauritius Night Heron, *Nycticorax mauritianus* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, c.1700)
Rodrigues Night Heron, *Nycticorax megacephalus* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, mid-18th century)
Ascension Night Heron, *Nycticorax olsoni* (Ascension Island, Atlantic, late 16th century?)

Known only from subfossil bones, but the description of a flightless Ascension bird by F. André Thevet cannot be identified with anything other than this species.

- New Zealand Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus novaezelandiae* (New Zealand, late 19th century)

Long considered to be vagrant individuals of the Australian Little Bittern, bones recovered from Holocene deposits indicate that this was indeed a distinct taxon, but it might not be a separate species.

- Réunion Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis solitarius* (Réunion, Mascarenes, early 18th century)

This species was the base for the supposed "Réunion Solitaire", a supposed relative of the Dodo and the Rodrigues Solitaire. Given the fact that ibis, but no dodo-like bones were found on Réunion and that old descriptions match a flightless Sacred Ibis quite well, the "Réunion Solitaire" hypothesis has been refuted.

- The "Painted Vulture" (*Sarcorhamphus sacra*), a Floridan bird supposedly similar to the King Vulture, is based on a misidentification of the Crested Caracara.

Pelecaniformes

Cormorants and related birds.

- Spectacled Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus* (Komandorski Islands, North Pacific, c.1850)

Procellariiformes

Petrels and storm-petrels.

- Guadalupe Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma macrodactyla* (Guadalupe, East Pacific, 1910s)

Officially critically endangered, possibly extinct, but a thorough survey in 2000 concluded the species was certainly extinct.

- St Helena Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bifax* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, early 16th century)

Jamaica Petrel, *Pterodroma caribbaea* (Jamaica, West Indies)

Possibly a subspecies of the Black-capped Petrel; unconfirmed reports suggest it might survive. Officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct.

- *Pterodroma* cf. *leucoptera* (Mangareva, Gambier Islands, 20th century?)

A wing of a carcass similar to Gould's Petrel was recovered on Mangareva in 1922, where it possibly bred. No such birds are known to exist there today.

- St Helena Petrel, *Pseudobulweria rupinarum* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, early 16th century)

Sphenisciformes

[Penguins](#)

- The Chatham Islands Penguin, *Eudyptes* sp. (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific), is only known from subfossil bones, but a bird kept captive at some time between 1867 and 1872 might refer to this taxon.

Columbiformes

[Pigeons](#), doves and dodos.

- St Helena Flightless Pigeon, *Dysmoropelia dekarchiskos*, possibly survived into the Modern Era.

Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius* (Eastern North America, 1914)

The passenger pigeon was once probably the most common bird in the world, a single swarm numbering up to several billion birds. It was hunted close to extinction for food and sport in the late 19th century. The last individual died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

- The Silvery Pigeon, *Columba argentina*, has not been reliably observed since 1931 and may be extinct. It is difficult to distinguish from the common Pied Imperial Pigeon, however.

Bonin Wood-pigeon, *Columba versicolor* (Nakodo-jima and Chichi-jima,

Ogasawara Islands, c.1890)

Ryukyu Wood-pigeon, *Columba jouyi* (Okinawa and Daito Islands, Northwest Pacific, late 1930s)

Réunion Pink Pigeon, *Streptopelia duboisi* (Réunion, Mascarenes, c.1700)

Its generic allocation is not fully resolved. There seems to have been at least another species of pigeon on Réunion (probably an *Alectroenas*), but bones have not yet been found. It disappeared at the same time.

- Rodrigues Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia rodericana* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, before 1690?)

Its generic allocation is not fully resolved. A possible subspecies of the Madagascar Turtle Dove, this seems not to be the bird observed by Leguat. Introduced rats might have killed it off in the late 17th century.

- Liverpool Pigeon, "*Caloenas*" *maculata*

Also known as the Spotted Green Pigeon, the only specimen has been in Liverpool Museum since 1851, and was probably collected on a Pacific island for Edward Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby. It has been suggested that this bird came from Tahiti based on native lore about a somewhat similar extinct bird called *titi*, but this has not been verified.

- Sulu Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba menagei* (Tawitawi, Philippines, late 1990s?)

Officially listed as critically endangered. Only known from 2 specimens taken in 1891, there have been a number of unconfirmed reports from all over the Sulu Archipelago in 1995. However, these reports stated that the bird had suddenly undergone a massive decline, and by now, habitat destruction is almost complete. If not extinct, this species is very rare, but the ongoing civil war prevents comprehensive surveys.

- Norfolk Island Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba norfolciensis* (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1800)
- Tanna Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba ferruginea* (Tanna, Vanuatu, late 18th-19th century)

Only known from descriptions of 2 now-lost specimens.

- Thick-billed Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba salamonis* (Makira and Ramos, Solomon Islands, mid-20th century?)

Last recorded in 1927, only 2 specimens exist. Declared extinct in 2005.

- Choiseul Crested Pigeon, *Microgoura meeki* (Choiseul, Solomon Islands, early 20th century)
- Marquesas Fruit Pigeon, *Ptilinopus mercierii* (Nuku Hiva and Hiva Oa, Marquesas, mid-20th century)

Two subspecies, the little-known *P. m. mercierii* of Nuku Hiva (extinct mid-late 19th century) and *P. m. tristrami* of Hiva Oa.

- Negros Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus arcanus* (Negros, Philippines, late 20th century?)

Known only from one specimen taken at the only documented sighting in 1953, the validity of this species has been questioned, but no good alternative to distinct species status has been proposed. Officially critically endangered, it might occur on Panay, but no survey has located it. One possible record in 2002 seems not to have been followed up.

- Mauritius Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas nitidissima* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, c.1830s)
- Farquhar Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas* sp. (Farquhar Group, Seychelles, 19th century)

Only known from early reports; possibly a subspecies of the Comoro or Seychelles Blue Pigeon.

- Rodrigues Grey Pigeon, "*Alectroenas*" *rodericana* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, mid-18th century)

A mysterious bird of unknown affinities, known from a few bones and, as it seems, two historical reports.

- Dodo, *Raphus cucullatus* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, late 17th century)

Called *Didus ineptus* by Linnaeus. A meter-high flightless bird found on Mauritius. Its forest habitat was lost when Dutch settlers moved to the island and the dodo's nests were destroyed by the monkeys, pigs, and cats the Dutch brought with them. The last specimen was killed in 1681, only 80 years after the arrival of the new predators.

- Rodrigues Solitaire, *Pezophaps solitaria* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, c.1730)
- For the "Réunion Solitaire"

Psittaciformes

Parrots.

- New Caledonian Lorikeet, *Charmosyna diadema* (New Caledonia, Melanesia, mid-20th century?)

Officially critically endangered, there have been no reliable reports of this bird since the early 20th century. It is, however, small and inconspicuous.

- Norfolk Island Kk, *Nestor productus* (Norfolk and Philip Islands, SW Pacific, 1851?)

Society Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus ulietanus* (Raiatea, Society Islands, late 18th century)

Black-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus zealandicus* (Tahiti, Society Islands, c.1850)

Paradise Parrot, *Psephotus pulcherrimus* (Rockhampton area, Australia, late 1920s)

The Night Parrot, (*Pezoporus occidentalis*), officially critically endangered, is a mysterious species which might be extinct. It was only reliably recoded twice in the late 20th century, the last time in 1991. More probably, it still persists in small numbers.

The Pacific Eclectus Parrot, *Eclectus infectus*, known from subfossil bones found on Tonga, Vanuatu, and possibly Fiji, may have survived until the 18th century: a bird which seems to be a male Eclectus parrot was drawn in a report on the Tongan island of Vava'u by the Malaspina expedition.

Seychelles Parakeet, *Psittacula wardi* (Seychelles, W Indian Ocean, 1883)

Newton's Parakeet, *Psittacula exsul* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, c.1875)

Mascarene Parrot, *Mascarinus mascarinus* (Réunion and possibly Mauritius, Mascarenes, 1834?)

Last known individual was a captive bird which was alive before 1834.

- Broad-billed Parrot, *Lophopsittacus mauritianus* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, 1680?) May have survived to the late 18th century. A smaller related form described as Mauritius Grey Parrot (*Lophopsittacus bensoni*) may be the female of *L. mauritianus*.

- Rodrigues Parrot, *Necropsittacus rodericanus* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, late 18th century)

The species *N. francicus* is fictional, *N. borbonicus* most likely so.

- Glaucous Macaw, *Anodorhynchus glaucus* (N Argentina, early 20th century)

Officially critically endangered due to persistent rumours of wild birds, but probably extinct.

- Cuban Red Macaw, *Ara tricolor* (Cuba, West Indies, late 19th century)

A number of related species have been described from the West Indies, but are not based on good evidence. Several prehistoric forms are now known to have existed in the region, however.

- Carolina Parakeet, *Conuropsis carolinensis* (SE North America, c.1930?)

Although the date of the last captive bird's death in the Cincinnati Zoo, 1918, is generally given as extinction date, there are convincing reports of some wild populations persisting until later. 2 subspecies, *C. c. carolinensis* (east and south of the Appalachian range - extinct 1918 or c.1930) and *C. c. ludovicianus* (Louisiana Parakeet, west of the Appalachian range - extinct early 1910s).

- Guadeloupe Parakeet, *Aratinga labati* (Guadeloupe, West Indies, late 18th century)

Only known from descriptions, the former existence of this bird is likely for biogeographic reasons and because details as described cannot be referred to known species.

- Sinú Parakeet, *Pyrrhura subandina* (Colombia, mid-20th century?)

Recently recognized as a distinct species, this bird has a very restricted distribution and was last reliably recorded in 1940. It was not found in 2004 and seems to be extinct.

- Martinique Amazon, *Amazona martinica* (Martinique, West Indies, mid-18th century)

Guadeloupe Amazon, *Amazona violacea* (Guadeloupe, West Indies, mid-18th century)

The extinct amazon parrots were originally described after travelers' descriptions. Both are nowadays considered valid extinct species closely related to the Imperial Parrot.

Cuculiformes

Cuckoos.

- Delalande's Coua, *Coua delalandei* (Madagascar, late 19th century?)
- St Helena Cuckoo, *Nannococcyx psix* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, 16th century)

Falconiformes

[Birds of prey.](#)

- Guadalupe Caracara, *Polyborus lutosus* (Guadelupe, E Pacific, 1900 or 1903)
Réunion Kestrel, *Falco duboisi* (Réunion, Mascarenes, c.1700)

Strigiformes

[Owls.](#)

- Réunion Owl, *Mascarenotus grucheti* (Réunion, Mascarenes, late 17th century?)
Mauritius Owl, *Mascarenotus sauzieri* (Mauritius, Mascarenes, c.1850)
Rodrigues Owl, *Mascarenotus murivorus* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, mid-18th century)
New Caledonian Boobook, *Ninox cf. novaeseelandiae* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)

Known only from prehistoric bones, but might still survive.

- Laughing Owl, *Sceloglaux albifacies* (New Zealand, 1914?)

Two subspecies, *S. a. albifacies* (South Island and Stewart Island, extinct 1914?) and *S. a. rufifacies* (North Island, extinct c.1870s?) - circumstantial evidence suggests small remnants survived until the early/mid-20th century.

- The Puerto Rican Barn Owl, *Tyto cavatica*, known from prehistoric remains found in caves of Puerto Rico, West Indies, may still have existed in 1912 given reports of the presence of cave-roosting owls.

Caprimulgiformes

[Nightjars](#) and allies.

- Jamaican Parauque, *Siphonorhis americana* (Jamaica, West Indies, late 19th century)

Reports of unidentifiable nightjars in habitat appropriate for *S. americanus* suggest that this cryptic species may still exist. Research into this possibility is currently underway; pending further information, it is classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct.

- Cuban Parauque, *Siphonorhis daiquiri* (Cuba, West Indies)

Described from subfossil bones in 1985. There are persistent rumors that this bird, which was never seen alive by scientists, may still survive. Compare Puerto Rican Nightjar.

- Vaurie's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus centralasicus*

Only known from a single 1929 specimen from Xinjiang, China. It has never been found again, and it is quite possibly invalid as it has not yet been compared to the similar subspecies of the European Nightjar, *C. europaeus plumipes*, which occurs at the locality where *C. centralasicus* was found.

Apodiformes

[Swifts](#) and [hummingbirds](#).

- Coppery Thorntail, *Discosura letitiae* (Bolivia?)

Known only from 3 trade specimens of unknown origin. Might still exist.

- Brace's Emerald, *Chlorostilbon bracei* (New Providence, Bahamas, late 19th century)
Gould's Emerald, *Chlorostilbon elegans* (Jamaica or northern Bahamas, West Indies, late 19th century)
Alfaro's Hummingbird, *Saucerottia alfaroana* (Costa Rica, c.1900)
Bogota Sunangel, *Heliangelus zusii* (Colombia?)

A mysterious bird known only from a single specimen of unknown origin. Might be a hybrid (although the specimen is very distinct) or might still exist.

- Turquoise-throated Puffleg, *Eriocnemis godini* (Ecuador, 20th century?)

Officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct. Known only from 6 pre-1900 specimens, the habitat at the only known site where it occurred has been destroyed. However, the bird's distribution remains unresolved.

Coraciiformes

[Kingfishers](#) and related birds.

- Ryukyu Kingfisher, *Todiramphus miyakoensis* (Miyako-jima, Ryukyu Islands, late 19th century)

This was probably a sub-species of the Micronesian Kingfisher *Todiramphus cinnamomina*. Only seen once by scientists, in 1887; the specimen taken is somewhat damaged, making identification by other than molecular analysis difficult.

- Giant Hoopoe, *Upupa antaois* (Saint Helena, Atlantic, early 16th century)

Piciformes

Woodpeckers and related birds.

- Caatinga Woodpecker, *Celeus obrieni* (Western Piauí, Brazil, mid-20th century)

This bird is known from a single specimen taken in 1926 and was long believed to be a subspecies of the Rufous-headed Woodpecker. As it was confined to caatinga habitat, which has been largely destroyed where the bird was once found, it is most likely extinct.

- Imperial Woodpecker, *Campephilus imperialis* (Mexico, late 20th century)

This 60-centimeter-long woodpecker is officially listed as critically endangered, possibly extinct. Occasional unconfirmed reports come up, the most recent in late 2005.

- There is currently a major debate on whether the North American Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis principalis*) was indeed rediscovered in the White River National Wildlife Refuge of Arkansas in 2004. The Cuban Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis bairdii*) was last seen in 1987 and is

generally considered extinct, but there are a few patches of habitat not yet surveyed.

Passeriformes

Perching birds.

Formicariidae - Antpittas and antthrushes

- Táchira Antpitta, *Grallaria chthonia* (Venezuela, late 20th century?)

Officially critically endangered, this species has not been recorded since 1956 and although some habitat still exists, it was not found in dedicated searches in the 1990s.

Acanthisittidae - New Zealand "wrens"

- Stephens Island Wren, *Xenicus lyalli* (New Zealand, 1895?)

The species famously (but erroneously) claimed to have been made extinct by a single cat named "Tibbles".

- Bush Wren, *Xenicus longipes* (New Zealand, 1972)

3 subspecies: *X. l. stokesi* - North Island, extinct 1955; *X. l. longipes* - South Island, extinct 1968; *X. l. variabilis* - Stewart Island, extinct 1972.

Meliphagidae - Honeyeaters and Australian chats

- Kioea, *Chaetoptila angustipluma* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1860s)
- Hawai'i 'O'o, *Moho nobilis* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1930s)
- O'ahu 'O'o, *Moho apicalis* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, mid-19th century)
- Moloka'i 'O'o, *Moho bishopi* (Moloka'i and probably Maui, Hawaiian Islands, c.1910 or 1980s)
- Kaua'i 'O'o, *Moho braccatus* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1987)
- Chatham Island Bellbird, *Anthornis melanocephala* (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific, c.1910)

Unconfirmed records exist from the early-mid 1950s

Pardalotidae - Pardalotes, scrubwrens, thornbills, and gerygones

- Lord Howe Gerygone, *Gerygone insularis* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1930)

Pachycephalidae - Whistlers, shrike-thrushes, pitohuis and allies

- Mangarevan Whistler, ?*Pachycephala gambierana* (Mangareva, Gambier Islands, late 19th century?)

A mysterious bird of which no specimen exists today. It was initially described as a shrike, then classified as an *Eopsalteria* "robin", and may actually be an *Acrocephalus* flycatcher.

Dicruridae - Monarch flycatchers and allies

- Maupiti Monarch, *Pomarea pomarea* (Maupiti, Society Islands, mid-19th century)
- Eiao Monarch, *Pomarea fluxa* (Eiao, Marquesas, late 1970s)

Previously considered a subspecies of the Iphis Monarch, this is an early offspring of the Marquesan stock.

- Nuku Hiva Monarch, *Pomarea nukuhivae* (Nuku Hiva, Marquesas, mid-late 20th century)

Previously considered a subspecies of the Marquesas Monarch, this is another early offspring of the Marquesan stock.

- Ua Pou Monarch, *Pomarea mira* (Ua Pou, Marquesas, c.1986)

Previously considered another subspecies of the Marquesas Monarch, this was a distinct species most closely related to that bird and the Fatuhiva Monarch.

- Guam Flycatcher, *Myiagra freycineti* (Guam, Marianas, 1983)

Corvidae - Crows, ravens, magpies and jays

- Banggai Crow, *Corvus unicolor* (Banggai or Peleng Island, Indonesia, 20th century?)

Officially critically endangered, it is known only from two specimens taken on an unspecified island at some date in the late 19th century, probably in 1884 or 1885. Possible sightings in 1981 and 1991, but no unequivocal recent records and amount of habitat destruction suggest this species is extinct.

Malaconotidae - Bushshrikes

- Bulu Burti Boubou, *Laniarius liberatus* (Somalia, early 1990s?)

Only found once, in 1988, this bird is officially critically endangered, as it may still exist. However, it was never found again despite being looked for, and there seems to be much habitat degradation. Owing to the political situation in Somalia, further research has not been possible.

Vangidae - Vangas

- Short-toed Nuthatch Vanga, *Hypositta perditia* (Madagascar, mid-20th century?)

An enigmatic bird known only from 2 recently fledged juveniles collected in 1931, it was not found during a thorough search in 1996.

†**Turnagridae** - Piopio

- North Island Piopio, *Turnagra tanagra* (North Island, New Zealand, c.1970?)

Not reliably recoded anymore since about 1900.

- South Island Piopio, *Turnagra capensis* (South Island, New Zealand, 1960s?)

Two subspecies, *T. c. minor* from Stephens Island (extinct c.1897) and the nominate *T. c. capensis* from the South Island mainland (last specimen taken in 1902, last unconfirmed record in 1963)

Callaeidae - New Zealand wattlebirds

- Huia, *Heteralocha acutirostris* (North Island, New Zealand, early 20th century)

Estrildidae - Estrildid finches (waxbills, munias, etc)

- Black-lored Waxbill, *Estrilda nigriloris* (D.R. Congo, Africa, late 20th century?)

An enigmatic waxbill not seen since 1950; since part of its habitat is in Upemba National Park it may survive.

Parulidae - New World warblers

- Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii* (Southern USA, c.1990?)

Officially critically endangered, possibly extinct

- Semper's Warbler, *Leucopeza semperi* (Saint Lucia, Caribbean, 1970s)

Icteridae - Grackles

- Slender-billed Grackle, *Quiscalus palustris* (Mexico, 1910)

Fringillidae - True finches

- Tawny-headed Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte sillemi* (Xinjiang, mid-/late 20th century?)

An enigmatic bird known from just 2 specimens collected in 1929. As no threats are known, probably still extant, but the lack of recent records is puzzling.

- Bonin Grosbeak, *Chaunoproctus ferreorostris* (Chichi-jima, Bonin Islands, 1830s)

[Drepanididae](#) - Hawaiian honeycreepers

- 'O'u, *Psittirostra psittacea* (Hawaiian Islands, c.2000?)

Officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct, this was once the most widespread species of Hawaiian honeycreeper. It has not been reliably recorded since 1987 or 1989.

- Lana'i Hookbill, *Dysmorodrepanis munroi* (Lana'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1918)
The Kaua'i Palila, *Loxioides kikuichi* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands), possibly survived to the early 18th century.
Lesser Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthus flaviceps* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1891)
Greater Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthus palmeri* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1896)
Kona Grosbeak Finch, *Psittirostra kona* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1894)
Greater 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus sagittirostris* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1901)
Hawai'i 'Akialoa, *Akialoa obscura* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1940)
Maui Nui 'Akialoa, *Akialoa lanaiensis* (Lana'i and prehistorically probably Maui and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands 1892)
O'ahu 'Akialoa, *Akialoa ellisiana* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, 1940)
Kaua'i 'Akialoa, *Akialoa stejnegeri* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1969)
Nukupu'u, *Hemignathus lucidus* (Hawaiian Islands, c.2000?)

The subspecies from O'ahu (*H. l. lucidus*) is extinct since the late 19th century, that of Kaua'i (*H. l. hanapepe*) most probably since the late 1990s and that of Maui (*H. l. affinis*) has not been reliably seen since 1995. It is currently classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct.

- Kakawahie, *Paroreomyza flammea* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1963)
O'ahu 'Alauahio, *Paroreomyza maculata* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, early 1990s?)

Officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct. Last reliable record was in 1985, with an unconfirmed sighting in 1990.

- 'Ula-'ai-hawane, *Ciridops anna* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1892 or 1937)
Black Mamo, *Drepanis funerea* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1907)
Hawai'i Mamo, *Drepanis pacifica* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1898)
Po'o-uli, *Melamprosops phaeosoma* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands, 2004?)

The most recent extinction on this list. What was most likely the last known bird has died in captivity on 28 November 2004.

[Emberizidae](#) - Buntings and American sparrow

- Hooded Seedeater, *Sporophila melanops* (Brazil, 20th century?)

Officially classified as critically endangered, possibly extinct. It is known only from a single male collected in 1823, and has variously been considered an aberrant Yellow-bellied Seedeater or a hybrid.

[Hirundinidae](#) - Swallows and martins

- White-eyed River Martin, *Pseudochelidon sirintarae* (Thailand, late 1980s?)

Officially critically endangered, this enigmatic species is only known from migrating birds and it was last seen in 1986 at its former roost site. Recent unconfirmed reports suggest it may occur in Cambodia.

- Red Sea Swallow, *Petrochelidon perdita* (Red Sea area, late 20th century?)

Known from a single specimen, this enigmatic swallow probably still exists, but the lack of recent records is puzzling.

Sylviidae - Old World warblers

- Aldabra Brush Warbler, *Nesillas aldabranus* (Aldabra, Indian Ocean, c.1984)
- Large-billed Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orinus* (India, 20th century?)

A mysterious bird known only from a 1867 specimen that was long considered invalid, but has recently been determined to be a very distinct species. It may still exist and simply have been overlooked due to the former fact.

- Chatham Islands Fernbird, *Bowdleria rufescens* (Chatham Islands, New Zealand, c.1900)

Often placed in genus *Megalurus*, but this is based on an incomplete review of the evidence.

Cisticolidae - Cisticolas and allies

- Tana River Cisticola, *Cisticola restrictus* (Kenya, 1970s?)

A mysterious bird, found in the Tana River basin in small numbers at various dates, but not anymore since 1972. Probably invalid, based on aberrant or hybrid specimens.

Zosteropidae - White-eyes

- Seychelles White-eye, *Zosterops semiflava* (Marianne, Seychelles, early 20th century)

Sometimes considered a subspecies of the Mayotte White-eye. Possibly occurred on other islands in the Seychelles as well.

- Lord Howe White-eye, *Zosterops strenua* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1918)

Timaliidae - Old World babblers

- Black-browed Babbler, *Malacocincla perspicillata* (Borneo?, Indonesia, 20th century?)

Known from a single mid-19th century specimen, this bird may be extinct or could still exist. If the specimen label, usually considered erroneous in claiming "Java" as the bird's origin, is correct, it may have gone extinct earlier.

Muscicapidae - Old World Flycatchers and chats

- Rueck's Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis ruckii* (Malaysia or Indochina, 20th century?)

An enigmatic bird known from 2 or 4 possibly migrant specimens, last recorded in 1918. Might exist in NE Indochina and might be a subspecies of the Hainan Blue Flycatcher.

Turdidae - Thrushes and allies

- Grand Cayman Thrush, *Turdus ravidus* (Grand Cayman, West Indies, late 1940s)
- Bonin Thrush, *Zoothera terrestris* (Chichi-jima, Bonin Islands, c.1830s)
- 'maui, *Myadestes woahensis* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, mid-19th century)
- Kma'o, *Myadestes myadestinus* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1990s)
- Oloma'o, *Myadestes lanaiensis* (Hawaiian Islands, 1980s?)

Officially critically endangered, possibly extinct because a possible location on Moloka'i remains unsurveyed. Two subspecies are known from Lana'i (*M. l. lanaiensis*, extinct early 1930s), Moloka'i (*M. l. rutha*, extinct 1980s?) and a possible third subspecies from Maui (extinct before late 19th century).

Sturnidae - Starlings

- Kosrae Island Starling, *Aplonis corvina* (Kosrae, Carolines, mid-19th century)
- Mysterious Starling, *Aplonis mavornata* (Mauke, Cook Islands, mid-19th century)
- Tasman Starling, *Aplonis fusca* (Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1923)

Two subspecies, *A. f. fusca* - Norfolk Island Starling (extinct c.1923); *A. fuscus hulliana* - Lord Howe Starling (extinct c.1919).

- Pohnpei Starling, *Aplonis pelzelni* (Pohnpei, Micronesia, c.2000)

Only once reliable record since 1956, in 1995, leaves the species' survival seriously in doubt.

- Bay Starling, *Aplonis ulietensis* (Raiatea, Society Islands, between 1774 and 1850)

Usually called "Bay Thrush"; a completely mysterious bird from Raiatea, now only known from a painting and some descriptions of a (now lost) specimen. Its taxonomic position is thus unresolvable at present, although for biogeographic reasons and because of the surviving description, it has been suggested to have been a honeyeater. However, with the discovery of fossils of the prehistorically extinct starling *Aplonis diluvialis* on neighboring Huahine, it seems likely that this bird also belonged into this genus.

- Bourbon Crested Starling, *Fregilupus varius* (Réunion, Mascarenes, 1850s)
- Rodrigues Starling, *Necropsar rodericanus* (Rodrigues, Mascarenes, late 18th century?)

The bird variously described as *Testudophaga bicolor*, *Necropsar leguati* or *Orphanopsar leguati* which was considered to be identical with *N. rodericanus* (which is only known from fossils) was finally resolved to be based on a misidentified partially albinistic specimen of the Martinique Trembler (*Cinclocerthia gutturalis*) (Olson *et al.*, Bull. B.O.C. 125:31).

See also

- [Bird](#)
- [Late Quaternary prehistoric birds](#)
- [Fossil birds](#)
- [Flightless birds](#)

List adapted, expanded and updated from that in *Extinct Birds*, Fuller, ISBN 0-19-850837-9 (Extinct Birds is an absorbing study of the world's recently extinct bird species, the first complete survey since Walter Rothschild's classic work of 1907)

(Probably) Extinct birds

Extinction of subspecies is a subject very dependent on guesswork. National and international conservation projects and research publications such as redlists usually focus on species as a whole. Reliable information on the status of threatened subspecies usually has to be assembled piecemeal from published observations such as regional checklists. Therefore, the following listing contains a high proportion of taxa that may just as well still exist, but are listed here due to any combination of absence of recent records, a known threat such as habitat destruction, or an observed decline.

- 1 (Probably) Extinct subspecies of birds
 - [2.1 Struthioniformes](#)
 - [2.2 Tinamiformes](#)
 - [2.3 Anseriformes](#)
 - [2.4 Galliformes](#)
 - [2.5 Charadriiformes](#)
 - [2.6 Gruiformes](#)
 - [2.7 Ciconiiformes](#)
 - [2.8 Pelecaniformes](#)
 - [2.9 Pteroclidiformes](#)
 - [2.10 Columbiformes](#)
 - [2.11 Psittaciformes](#)
 - [2.12 Cuculiformes](#)
 - [2.13 Falconiformes](#)
 - [2.14 Strigiformes](#)
 - [2.15 Caprimulgiformes](#)
 - [2.16 Apodiformes](#)
 - [2.17 Coraciiformes](#)
 - [2.18 Piciformes](#)
 - [2.19 Passeriformes](#)
- [2 See also](#)

Struthioniformes

The [Ostrich](#) and related ratites.

- Arabian Ostrich, *Struthio camelus syriacus* (Arabia, 1966) - Ostrich subspecies
- Tasmanian Emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae diemenensis* (Tasmania, mid-19th century) - Emu subspecies
- North Island Little Spotted Kiwi, *Apteryx owenii iredalei* (North Island, New Zealand, late 19th century) - Little Spotted Kiwi subspecies

Tinamiformes

Tinamous

- Pernambuco Solitary Tinamou, *Tinamus solitarius pernambucensis* (E Brazil, c.1970s)

A subspecies of the Solitary Tinamou which may not be valid but probably is.

- Huila Black Tinamou, *Tinamus osgoodi hershkovitzi* (Colombia, 1980s?)

A Black Tinamou subspecies or possibly a distinct species; not seen since 1976 but might persist in Cueva de los Guácharos National Park.

Anseriformes

[Ducks](#), [geese](#) and [swans](#).

- Bering Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii asiatica* (Komandorskie and Kurile Islands, N Pacific, c.1914 or 1929)

A subspecies of the Cackling Goose (formerly "Lesser Canada Geese") which is doubtfully distinct from the Aleutian one.

- Washington Island Gadwall, *Anas strepera couesi* (Teraina, Kiribati, late 19th century) - Gadwall subspecies. Controversial species, as many scientists think that it just might be a immature of the Common Gadwall *Anas strepera strepera* which was drifted to Teraina.
- Rennell Island Teal, *Anas gibberifrons remissa* (Rennell, Solomon Islands, c.1959)

A subspecies of the Sunda Teal which disappeared due to predation on young birds by the introduced tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus*.

- Niceforo's Pintail, *Anas georgica niceforoi* (Colombia, 1950s) - Yellow-billed Pintail subspecies
- Borrero's Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera borroeroi* (Colombia, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Cinnamon Teal known only from a restricted area in the Cordillera Occidental of Colombia. It is either very rare or already extinct.

Galliformes

Quails and relatives.

- Italian Grey Partridge, *Perdix perdix italica* (Italy, c.1990)

A subspecies of the Grey Partridge whose validity has been questioned; the last purebred individuals disappeared during the late 1980s due to hybridization with introduced birds.

- Amik Gölü Black Francolin, *Francolinus francolinus billypayni* (S Turkey, possibly Lebanon, 1960s)

A doubtfully distinct subspecies of the Black Francolin.

- Sicilian Black Francolin, *Francolinus francolinus* ssp. (Sicily, Mediterranean, c.1869)

Another doubtfully distinct Black Francolin subspecies.

- Heath Hen, *Tympanuchus cupido cupido*, (New England, North America, 1932)

A subspecies of the Greater Prairie-Chicken or possibly a distinct species.

- New Mexico Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus hueyi* (New Mexico, North America, 1954) - Sharp-tailed Grouse subspecies
- Moroccan Guinea fowl, *Numida meleagris sabyi* (Morocco, mid-20th century or early 1980s)

A subspecies of the Helmeted Guinea fowl. Reportedly still kept in captivity in Morocco in late 1990s. Possibly extinct by 1950, the 3 1970s records may refer to feral domestic hybrids.

Charadriiformes

Shorebirds, [gulls](#) and [auks](#).

- North Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha aucklandica barrierensis* (North Island, New Zealand, 1870s) - New Zealand Snipe subspecies
South Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha aucklandica iredalei* (South and Stewart Islands, New Zealand, 1964) - New Zealand Snipe subspecies
Tawitawi Small Buttonquail, *Turnix sylvatica suluensis* (Tawitawi, Philippines, mid-20th century) - Small Buttonquail subspecies
New Caledonia Painted Buttonquail, *Turnix varia novaecaledoniae* (New Caledonia, Melanesia, early 20th century)

A subspecies of the Painted Buttonquail of somewhat unclear status, it is variously considered anything between a hybrid between introduced species to a full species. Plentiful subfossil bones indicate that it was indeed a good endemic form.

- Kiritimati Sandpiper, *Prosobonia cancellata cancellata* (Kiritimati, Kiribati, 19th century?)

The doubtfully distinct nominate subspecies of the Tuamotu Sandpiper, sometimes considered a distinct species, but only known from a painting.

Gruiformes

Rails and allies.

- Goldman's Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis goldmani* (Mexico, late 1960s) - Yellow Rail subspecies
Macquarie Island Buff-banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis macquariensis* (Macquarie Islands, SW Pacific, 1880s) - Buff-banded Rail subspecies
Raoul Island Banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis* ssp. (Raoul, Kermadec Islands, SW Pacific, late 19th century?)

Reports of the former occurrence of the species on Raoul seem plausible enough, but they may relate to vagrant individuals of another Buff-banded Rail subspecies.

- Peruvian Rail, *Rallus semiplumbeus peruvianus* (Peru, 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Bogota Rail which is known from a single specimen collected in the 1880s. It may still be extant.

- Western Australian Lewin's Rail, *Lewinia pectoralis cleleandi* (SW Australia, late 1930s) - Lewin's Rail subspecies
- Flores Lewin's Rail, *Lewinia pectoralis exsul* (Flores, Indonesia, late 19th century?)

A Lewin's Rail subspecies known only from 4 specimens. Not seen since 1959 despite attempts to find it, it is apparently extinct.

- Assumption White-throated Rail, *Dryolimnas cuvieri abbotti* (Assumption, Astove and Cosmoledo, Aldabra Islands, early 20th century) - White-throated Rail subspecies.
- Jamaican Uniform Crake, *Amaurolimnas concolor concolor* (Jamaica, West Indies, 1890) - Uniform Crake nominate subspecies
- Intact Rail, *Gymnocrex plumbeiventris intactus* (Melanesia, 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Bare-eyed Rail which is known from a single specimen, c. mid-19th century, from the Solomon Islands or New Ireland. The taxon may be extant.

- Bornean Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla mira* (Borneo, 20th century?)

A subspecies of Baillon's Crake known from a single 1912 specimen and not found since; may be extinct, but species is hard to find.

- Iwo Jima White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea brevipes* (Iwo Jima and Minami Iojima, Ogasawara Islands, early 20th century).

A subspecies of the White-browed Crake that is often considered synonymous with the nominate.

- Moroccan Bustard, *Ardeotis arabs lynesi* (Morocco, 1990s)

A subspecies of the Arabian Bustard. Last observed in 1993 at Lac Merzouga/Lac Tamezguidat.

- Luzon Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone luzonica* (Luzon, Philippines, late 1960s)

A subspecies of the Sarus Crane which is not always accepted as valid, probably mainly because the specimens have never been thoroughly studied since the subspecies' description.

Ciconiiformes

Hérons and related birds.

- Bonin Nankeen Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus crassirostris* (Nakoudo-jima and Chichi-jima, Ogasawara Islands, c.1890) - Nankeen Night Heron subspecies
- Principe Olive Ibis, *Bostrychia olivacea rothschildi* (Principe, Gulf of Guinea, 1900s) - Olive Ibis subspecies

Pelecaniformes

[Cormorants](#) and related birds.

- Tasman Booby, *Sula dactylatra tasmani* fide van Tets *et al.*, 1988 (Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, SW Pacific, c.1790?)

This is often regarded as a distinct species, but at best it is a subspecies of the Masked Booby. Probably identical to the extant Lord Howe Island population described as *S. d. fullagari*, which would in this case be named *S. d. tasmani* fide Holdaway & Anderson, 2001.

- Levant Darter, *Anhinga rufa chantrei* (Middle East, early 1990s?)

A questionable subspecies of the African Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster chantrei* if all Old World darters are considered one species) which ultimately seems to have become a victim of war and habitat destruction in Iraq.

Pteroclidiformes

[Sandgrouse](#).

- Fayyum Sandgrouse, *Pterocles exustus floweri* (Egypt, c.1940)

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse subspecies, may have survived until early 1980s.

Columbiformes

[Pigeons](#), doves and dodos.

- Madeiran Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus maderensis* (Madeira, East Atlantic, early 20th century) - Wood Pigeon subspecies
- Ogasawara Japanese Wood-pigeon, *Columba janthina nitens* (Ogasawara Islands, Northwest Pacific, 1980s) - Japanese Wood-pigeon subspecies
- Lord Howe Metallic Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis godmanae* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, 1853) - Metallic Pigeon subspecies
- Tongan Metallic Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis* ssp. (Vava'u, Tonga, late 18th century?)

This subspecies of the **Metallic Pigeon is only known from a footnote in John Latham's "General History of Birds"**, and seems to have died out some time before 1800; possibly, the location is erroneous and the note really refers to the extant population of Fiji.

- Catanduanes Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba luzonica rubiventris* (Catanduanes, Philippines, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Luzon Bleeding-heart known from a single specimen collected in 1971. It is either near extinction or already extinct.

- Basilan Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba crinigera bartletti* (Basilan, Philippines, mid-20th century?)

A subspecies of the Mindanao Bleeding-heart, it was last reported in 1925 and given the massive habitat destruction is likely extinct.

- Vella Lavella Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba jobiensis chalconota* (Vella Lavella, Makira and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the White-bibbed Ground Dove or possibly a distinct species. Known from only 4 specimens, there are no recent records and the local population report it has disappeared.

- White-headed Polynesian Ground-dove, *Gallicolumba erythroptera albicollis* (Central Tuamotu Islands, 20th century)

The Central Tuamotu subspecies of the Polynesian Ground-dove, often referred to as *G. e. pectoralis*, disappeared at an undetermined date, but might still exist on some unsurveyed atolls. The identity of Northern Tuamotu populations, possibly still extant, is undetermined.

- Ebon Purple-capped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus porphyraceus marshallianus* (Ebon, Marshall Islands?, late 19th century?)

Known from a single specimen collected in 1859, it is not certain whether this bird actually occurred on Ebon. All that can be said is that this subspecies is no longer found anywhere.

- Mauke Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus rarotongensis "byronensis"* (Mauke, Cook Islands, mid-/late 19th century)

A subspecies of the Rarotonga Fruit Dove, known only from the description of a now-lost specimen. the prehistorically extinct population on Mangaia is likely to belong to another distinct subspecies too.

- Negros Grey-necked Imperial-pigeon, *Ducula carola nigrorum* (Negros and probably Siquijor, late 20th century) - Grey-necked Imperial Pigeon subspecies
- Norfolk Island Kererk, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae spadicea* (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific, mid-19th century)

A subspecies of the Kererk or New Zealand Pigeon. Similar birds were reported from Lord Howe Island; these seem to represent another extinct subspecies but are undescribed to date.

- Raoul Island Kererk, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* ssp. nov. (Raoul, Kermadec Islands, 19th century)

Another undescribed subspecies (or possibly species) of the Kererk, known from bones and a brief report.

Psittaciformes

Parrots.

- Sangir Red and Blue Lory, *Eos histrio histrio* (Sangir Archipelago, Indonesia, c.1997)

The nominate subspecies of the Red and Blue Lory was hybridized out of existence by escaped trade individuals of the subspecies *talautensis*, the last purebred individuals disappearing in the 1990s or even much earlier.

- Challenger's Lory, *Eos histrio challengeri* (Nenusa Islands, Talaud Archipelago, early 20th century?)

A supposed subspecies of the Red and Blue Lory, but probably invalid.

- Macquarie Island Red-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus erythrotis erythrotis* (Macquarie Islands, SW Pacific, c.1891) - Subantarctic Red-crowned Parakeet nominate subspecies
 Lord Howe Island Red-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae subflavescens* (Lord Howe Island, SW Pacific, c.1870) - Red-crowned Parakeet subspecies
 Westerman's Eclectus Parrot, *Eclectus roratus westermani* (Indonesia, 20th century?)

Known only from 16 captive birds specimens and last recorded in 1899, this enigmatic subspecies of the Eclectus Parrot is often considered an aviary hybrid. However, it may have well have occurred on islands at the northern or eastern end of the Banda Sea, becoming extinct some time in the 20th century - or might even still exist in a little-surveyed location.

- Réunion Parakeet, *Psittacula eques eques* (Réunion, Mascarenes, mid-18th century)

Known only from a painting and descriptions; if it is accepted as valid, it would become the nominate subspecies of the Echo Parakeet, extant on Mauritius, which would then have to be called *P. eques echo*.

- Siquijor Colasisi, *Loriculus philippensis siquijorensis* (Siquijor, Philippines, 1990s)

A subspecies of the Colasisi or Philippine Hanging Parrot, either very rare or already extinct.

- Puerto Rican Parakeet, *Aratinga chloroptera maugei* (Mona and possibly Puerto Rico, West Indies, 1890s)

A weakly differentiated subspecies of the Hispaniolan Parakeet.

- Sinú Brown-throated Parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax griseipecta* (Colombia, mid-/late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Brown-throated Parakeet known from only 2 specimens collected in 1949 and of unclear taxonomical and conservation status.

- Culebra Island Parrot, *Amazona vittata gracilipes* (Culebra, West Indies, 1900s)

A weakly differentiated subspecies of the Puerto Rican Parrot which is itself highly endangered.

Cuculiformes

Cuckoos.

- Greater Crested Coua, *Coua cristata maxima* (SE Madagascar, late 20th century)

Crested Coua subspecies, known only from a single specimen taken in 1950

- Timor Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus mui* (Timor, Indonesia, late 20th century?)

A very distinctive Pheasant Coucal subspecies or possibly a distinct species which is mysteriously only known from one specimen.

- Assumption Island Coucal, *Centropus toulou assumptionis* (Assumption Island, Seychelles, c.1920s)

A Madagascar Coucal subspecies often considered synonymous with the Aldabra form *insularis*, which has recolonized Assumption Island at a later date.

- Cabo San Lucas Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris pallidula* (Mexico, c.1940)

A weakly differentiated and probably invalid subspecies of the Groove-billed Ani

- Bahía Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, *Neomorphus geoffroyi maximiliani* (E Brazil, mid-20th century) - Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo subspecies

Falconiformes

Birds of prey.

- Cape Verde Kite, *Milvus milvus fasciicauda* (Cape Verde Islands, E Atlantic, 2000)

Considered either a subspecies of the Red Kite, a distinct species, the validity of this taxon has recently being questioned based on molecular analysis. However, hybridization and a confusing molecular phylogeny of Red Kite populations coupled with the distinct phenotype of the Cape Verde birds suggest that the taxonomic status of this form is far from resolved.

- Anjouan Island Sparrow Hawk, *Accipiter francesii pusillus*

This subspecies of Frances' Goshawk from Ndzouani (Anjouan), Comoros, was last seen in 1978; given that few habitat remains, it is probably extinct.

- Car Nicobar Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter butleri butleri* (Car Nicobar, Nicobar Islands, 20th century?)

The nominate subspecies of the **Nicobar Sparrowhawk - which is currently listed as Vulnerable** - is possibly extinct. It was last reliably recorded in 1901 and despite searches, has not been sighted after an unconfirmed record in 1977.

- Korean Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus pelagicus niger* (Korea, 1950s) - Steller's Sea Eagle subspecies

Strigiformes

Owls.

- Sulu Reddish Scops Owl, *Otus rufescens burbridgei* (Sulu, Philippines, mid-20th century)

A subspecies of the Reddish Scops Owl. Known from a single questionable specimen and may not be valid.

- Virgin Islands Screech Owl, *Otus nudipes newtoni*

A subspecies of the Puerto Rican Screech Owl of somewhat doubtful validity which occurred on several of the Virgin Islands, West Indies. The last reliable records are in 1860; it was not found in thorough surveys in 1995.

- Socorro Elf Owl, *Micrathene whitneyi graysoni* (Socorro, Revillagigedo Islands, c.1970)

A subspecies of the Elf Owl; the last specimen was taken in 1932, but there apparently still was a large population in 1958.

- Antiguan Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia amaura* (Antigua, St Kitts and Nevis, West Indies, c.1905) - Burrowing Owl subspecies
- Bahaman Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia guadeloupensis* (Guadeloupe and Marie-Galante, West Indies, c.1890) - Burrowing Owl subspecies
- Lord Howe Island Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae albaria* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, 1950s) - Southern Boobook subspecies
- Norfolk Island Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata* (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific, 1996)

Individuals of the nominate subspecies were introduced in a last-ditch effort to save the local owl population. There now exists a hybrid population of a few dozen birds; the last individual of *N. n. undulata*, a female named *Miamiti* died in 1996.

- Cave-nesting Masked Owl, *Tyto novaehollandiae troughtoni* (Nullarbor Plain, Australia, 1960s)

Doubtfully distinct from nominate subspecies, but differed behaviorally.

- Buru Masked Owl, *Tyto sororcula cayelii* (Buru, Indonesia, mid-20th century)

Subspecies of Lesser Masked Owl. Last seen in 1921; the identity of a similar bird found on Seram remains to be determined.

- Peleng Masked Owl, *Tyto rosenbergii pelengensis* (Peleng, Banggai Islands, mid-20th century)

Subspecies of Sulawesi Owl or separate species. Possibly extant, but only specimen known taken in 1938 and no further records.

- Samar Bay Owl, *Phodilus badius riverae* (Samar, Philippines, mid-20th century)

Subspecies of Oriental Bay Owl or possibly distinct species. Taxonomy doubtful but only specimen lost in 1945 bombing raid so validity cannot be verified; no population exists on Samar today.

Caprimulgiformes

[Nightjars](#) and allies.

- New Caledonian White-throated Eared-Nightjar, *Eurostopodus mystacalis exsul* (New Caledonia, Melanesia, mid-20th century)

This distinct subspecies of the White-throated Eared-Nightjar is possibly a separate species. It was found only once; due to its cryptic habits, it possibly still exists, but this is now considered unlikely.

Apodiformes

[Swifts](#) and [hummingbirds](#).

- Alejandro Selkirk Firecrown, *Sephanoides fernandensis leyboldi* (Alejandro Selkirk Island, Juan Fernandez Islands, Southeast Pacific, 1908) - Juan Fernandez Firecrown subspecies
- Luzon Whitehead's Swiftlet, *Collocalia whiteheadi whiteheadi* (Luzon, Philippines, 20th century?)

The nominate subspecies of Whitehead's Swiftlet is only known from four specimens collected at Mount Data in 1895 and from the lack of further records and the massive habitat destruction, it is usually considered extinct. Given the size of the island, it might still exist though.

Coraciiformes

[Kingfishers](#) and related birds.

- Sangihe Dwarf-kingfisher, *Ceyx fallax sangirensis* (Sangihe, Indonesia, 1998?)

This subspecies of the Sulawesi Kingfisher was last seen in 1997 but not during a thorough survey one year later; it is either close to extinction or already extinct. Sometimes it is said to occur on Talaud Islands also, but this is erroneous.

- Rarotonga Kingfisher, *Todiramphus cf. tuta* (Rarotonga, Cook Islands, mid-1980s?)

There exist reports of locals that kingfishers - probably a subspecies of the Chattering Kingfisher which is found on neighboring islands, but possibly vagrants from there - were found until around 1979, and there is a last record from 1984. Presently, no kingfishers are known to exist on Rarotonga.

- Mangareva Kingfisher, *Todiramphus gambieri gambieri* (Mangareva, Gambier Islands, late 19th century)

Only known from a single 1844 specimen, the nominate subspecies of the Tuamotu Kingfisher was not found anymore when it was next searched for in 1922.

- Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher, *Alcedo euryzona euryzona* (Java, Indonesia, mid-20th century)

The nominate subspecies of the Blue-banded Kingfisher; the last specimen was taken in 1937 and the last unconfirmed records are from the 1950s.

- Guadalcanal Little Kingfisher, *Alcedo pusilla aolae* (Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands) - Little Kingfisher subspecies
- Malaita Variable Kingfisher, *Ceyx lepidus malaitae* (Malaita, Solomon Islands) - Variable Kingfisher subspecies
- Sakarha Pygmy Kingfisher, *Ispidina madagascariensis dilutus* (Southwest Madagascar, late 20th century?)

This subspecies of the Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher is only known from one specimen taken in 1974 in an area where most habitat had already been lost.

- Ticao Tarictic Hornbill, *Penelopides panini ticaensis* (Ticao, Philippines, 1970s)

A subspecies of the Tarric Hornbill of somewhat uncertain status - possibly a distinct species, possibly a color morph -; the last confirmed report was in 1971 and it became extinct shortly thereafter.

Piciformes

Woodpeckers and related birds.

- Guadalupe Flicker, *Colaptes cafer rufipileus* (Guadalupe, East Pacific, c.1910)

A subspecies of the Red-shafted Flicker (or the Northern Flicker, as *C. auratus rufipileus*), it was last recorded in 1906 and not found anymore in 1911 and 1922. Recently, vagrant birds of a mainland subspecies have begun recolonizing the island as the habitat improves after the removal of feral goats.

- Javan Buff-rumped Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tristis tristis* (Java, Indonesia, c.1920)

The nominate subspecies of the Buff-rumped Woodpecker became rare during the 19th century due to destruction of habitat. The last confirmed record was in 1880, and it obviously became extinct in the early 20th century.

- Northern White-mantled Barbet, *Capito hypoleucus hypoleucus* (Colombia, mid-20th century)

The nominate subspecies of the White-mantled Barbet has not been seen since the late 1940s and its habitat has been almost completely destroyed.

- Botero White-mantled Barbet, *Capito hypoleucus carrikeri* (Colombia, mid-20th century)

Another subspecies of the White-mantled Barbet, last seen in 1950.

- Todd's Jacamar, *Brachygalba lugubris phaeonota* (Brazil, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Brown Jacamar, or possibly a hybrid, color morph or full species. Might survive as it is only known from a remote and seldom visited area.

Passeriformes

[Perching birds.](#)

Tyrannidae - Tyrant flycatchers

- Bogotá Bearded Tachuri, *Polystictus pectoralis bogotensis* (C Colombia, late 20th century?)

A Bearded Tachuri subspecies or possibly a distinct species that has not been recorded for some time and is probably extinct.

- Grenadan Euler's Flycatcher - *Lathrotriccus euleri flaviventris* (Grenada, West Indies, early 1950s)

A subspecies of Euler's Flycatcher, formerly known as *Empidonax euleri johnstonei*.

Pittidae - Pittas

- Bougainville Black-faced Pitta, *Pitta anerythra pallida* (Bougainville, Solomon Islands, mid-20th century)

A subspecies of the Black-faced Pitta. Once common on Bougainville, but not recorded since 1938.

- Choiseul Black-faced Pitta, *Pitta anerythra nigrifrons* (Choiseul, Solomon Islands, late 20th century?)

Another subspecies of the Black-faced Pitta. Not found anymore during recent searches; doubtful records from nearby islands.

Furnariidae - Ovenbirds

- Peruvian Scale-throated Earthcreeper, *Upucerthia dumetaria peruana* (Peru, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Scale-throated Earthcreeper, it is only known from 2 specimens taken in the early 1950s at Puno, Peru, and has never been found since. It might still exist, or have become extinct due to habitat destruction in the meantime.

- Northern Stripe-crowned Spinetail, *Cranioleuca pyrrhophia rufipennis* (N Bolivia, late 20th century?)

A Stripe-crowned Spinetail subspecies known from a few specimens and not recorded since the 1950s; may be endangered or even extinct.

Formicariidae - Antpittas and antthrushes

- Northern Giant Antpitta, *Grallaria gigantea lehmanni* (Colombia, late 20th century?)

A Giant Antpitta (or possibly Great Antpitta) subspecies apparently not recorded since the 1940s. Might still survive in Puracé National Park.

- Nariño Giant Antpitta, *Grallaria gigantea hylodroma* (Colombia, c.1990?)

Another Giant Antpitta subspecies, or possibly a distinct species, probably last recorded in 1989, but not anymore some years later. might still persist in La Planada Nature Reserve, but searches were unsuccessful.

Pardalotidae - Pardalotes, scrubwrens, thornbills, and gerygones

- Western Rufous Bristlebird, *Dasyornis broadbenti littoralis* (Australia, 20th century) - Rufous Bristlebird subspecies
- King Island Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla archibaldi* (King Island, Australia, early 1970s) - Brown Thornbill subspecies

Cinclosomatidae - Whipbirds and allies

- Mount Lofty Spotted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma punctatum anachoreta* (Australia, mid-1980s)

A subspecies of the Spotted Quail-thrush, last recorded in 1984.

Dicruridae - Monarch flycatchers and allies

- Negros Celestial Monarch, *Hypothymis coelestis rabori* (Negros and possibly Sibuyan, Philippines, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Celestial Monarch, not uncommon on Negros in 1959, but never recorded afterwards. A single Sibuyan specimen from a unspecified locality taken in the 19th century is the only record for this island.

- Hiva Oa Monarch, *Pomarea mendozae mendozae* (Hiva Oa and Tahuata, Marquesas, late 1970s) - Marquesas Monarch nominate subspecies
- Manu'a Shrikebill, *Clytorhynchus vitiensis powelli* (Manu'a Islands, Samoa, 1990s?)

Usually treated as a subspecies of the Fiji Shrikebill but probably a distinct species, the American Samoan population declined due to habitat destruction and may have become extinct following the cyclones Ofa and Val.

- Nendo Shrikebill, *Clytorhynchus nigrogularis sanctaecrucis* (Nendo, Santa Cruz Islands, mid-20th century?)

A subspecies of the Black-throated Shrikebill or more probably a distinct species that was only once found, in 1927. Due to lack of research it is not known whether this bird still exists; it was not found during the single thorough survey in recent times and it can be presumed to be affected by habitat destruction and typhoons.

- Lord Howe Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa cervina* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1925) - Grey Fantail subspecies
- Guam Rufous Fantail, *Rhipidura rufifrons uraniae* (Guam, Marianas, 1984) - Rufous Fantail subspecies

Campephagidae - Cuckoo-shrikes and trillers

- Cebu Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina striata cebuensis* (Cebu, Philippines, early 20th century) - Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike subspecies
- Maros Cicadabird, *Coracina tenuirostris edithae* (Sulawesi, mid-20th century)

A subspecies of the Cicadabird known from a single specimen collected in 1931; quite possibly just a vagrant individual.

- Cebu Blackish Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina coerulescens altera* (Cebu, Philippines, early 20th century)

A Blackish Cuckoo-shrike subspecies; possibly extant as the birds are rather unmistakable and a 1999 record therefore likely to be valid.

- Marinduque Blackish Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina coerulescens deschauenseei* (Marinduque, Philippines, late 20th century?)

Another Blackish Cuckoo-shrike subspecies, described from specimens collected in 1971, but apparently not seen since.

- Norfolk Island Long-tailed Triller, *Lalage leucopyga leucopyga* (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific, 1942)

A subspecies of the Long-tailed Triller, possibly a distinct species.

Oriolidae - Orioles and Figbird

- Cebu Dark-throated Oriole, *Oriolus xanthonotus assimilis* (Cebu, Philippines, early 20th century) - Dark-throated Oriole subspecies

Corvidae - Crows, ravens, magpies and jays

- Pied Raven, *Corvus corax varius morpha leucophaeus* (Faroe Islands, 1948)

A distinct local variety of the Icelandic subspecies of the Common Raven.

Callaeidae - New Zealand wattlebirds

- South Island KMkako, *Callaeas cinerea cinerea* (South Island, New Zealand, 1960s?)

The nominate subspecies of the KMkako is usually considered extinct, as it has not been reliably recorded for decades. However, there are recent reports from Fiordland suggesting a population still exists.

Cinclidae - Dippers

- Cyprus Dipper, *Cinclus cinclus olympicus* (Cyprus, Northeast Mediterranean, 1950s)

A subspecies of the White-throated Dipper of questionable validity.

Ploceidae - Weavers

- Ruwet's Masked-Weaver, *Ploceus reichardi ruweti* (D.R. Congo, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Tanzania Masked-weaver, formerly considered a distinct species. No recent information on its status, and it may be a hybrid.

Estrildidae - Estrildid finches (waxbills, munias, etc)

- Southern Star Finch, *Neochmia ruficauda ruficauda* (Australia, c.2000)

A subspecies of the Star Finch; officially critically endangered but probably recently extinct. Not known to survive in captivity.

Thraupidae - Tanagers

- Gonâve Western Chat-tanager, *Calyptophilus tertius abbotti* (Gonâve, West Indies, c.1980?)

A Western Chat-tanager subspecies last recorded in 1977 and probably extinct.

- Samaná Eastern Chat-tanager, *Calyptophilus frugivorus frugivorus* (E Hispaniola, West Indies, 1980s?)

An Eastern Chat-tanager; the last (unconfirmed?) record was in 1982.

Icteridae - Grackles

- Grand Cayman Oriole, *Icterus leucopteryx bairdi* (Grand Cayman, West Indies, mid-20th century)

A subspecies of the Jamaican Oriole, last reliably recorded in 1938.

Fringillidae - True finches

- San Benito House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus mcgregori* (San Benito, East Pacific, c.1940s) - House Finch subspecies

Drepanididae - Hawaiian honeycreepers

- Lana'i 'Alauahio, *Paroreomyza montana montana* (Lana'i, Hawaiian Islands, 1937)

A subspecies of the Maui 'Alauahio (or properly Maui Nui 'Alauahio).

- Maui Akepa, *Loxops coccineus ochraceus* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands, 1988) - Akepa subspecies
- O'ahu Akepa, *Loxops coccineus wolstenholmei* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands, 1990s) - Akepa subspecies
- Laysan 'Apapane, *Himatione sanguinea freethi* (Laysan Island, Hawaiian Islands, 1923)

The last individuals of this subspecies of the 'Apapane, possibly a distinct species, disappeared in a sandstorm, probably on the night of April 23/April 24, 1923.

Emberizidae - Buntings and American sparrows

- Saint Kitts Bullfinch, *Loxigilla portoricensis grandis* (Saint Kitts and prehistorically Barbuda, West Indies, 1930) - Puerto Rican Bullfinch subspecies
- Todos Santos Rufous-crowned Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps sanctorum* (Islas Todos Santos, E Pacific, 1970s) - Rufous-crowned Sparrow subspecies

Dusky Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens* (Florida, 1987) - Seaside Sparrow subspecies

Guadalupe Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus consobrinus* (Guadalupe Island, East Pacific, c.1900) - Spotted Towhee subspecies

Darwin's Large Ground Finch, *Geospiza magnirostris magnirostris* (Floreana?, Galapagos Islands, 1957?)

The subspecies of the Large Ground Finch collected by Charles Darwin in 1835; he gave no precise locality. A similar bird was found in 1957, but no others have ever been seen.

Mimidae - Mockingbirds and thrashers

- Barbados Scaly-breasted Thrasher, *Alenia fusca atlantica* (Barbados, West Indies, c.1990) - Scaly-breasted Thrasher subspecies

Troglodytidae - Wrens

- San Benedicto Rock Wren, *Salpinctes obsoletus exsul* (San Benedicto, Revillagigedo Islands, 1952)

A subspecies of the Rock Wren which became extinct around 9 AM, August 1, 1952, when its island habitat was devastated by a massive volcanic eruption.

- Guadalupe Bewick's Wren, *Thyromanes bewickii brevicauda* (Guadalupe, East Pacific, 1900s) - Bewick's Wren subspecies
San Clemente Bewick's Wren, *Thyromanes bewickii leucophrys* (San Clemente, East Pacific, 1940s) - Bewick's Wren subspecies
Daito Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes orii* (Daito Islands, Northwest Pacific, c.1940)

A disputed Winter Wren subspecies; as it is known from a single specimen that may have been a vagrant individual, it is possibly invalid.

- Guadeloupe House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon guadeloupensis* (Guadeloupe, Caribbean, after 1914)

A subspecies of the House Wren (or, if that species is split, the Southern House Wren, as *T. musculus guadeloupensis*).

- Martinique House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon martinicensis* (Martinique, Caribbean, c.1890)

Another subspecies of the (Southern, as *T. musculus martinicensis*) House Wren.

Paridae - Tits, chickadees and titmice

- Daito Varied Tit, *Sittiparus varius orii* (Daito Islands, Northwest Pacific, c.1940) - Varied Tit subspecies

Hirundinidae - Swallows and martins

- Jamaican Golden Swallow, *Tachycineta euchrysea euchrysea* (Jamaica, West Indies, c.1990?)

The nominate subspecies of the Golden Swallow, endemic to Jamaica. The last major roost-site was destroyed in 1987, and the last confirmed sighting was in 1989. May still exist in the Cockpit Country, but probably extinct.

Regulidae - Kinglets

- Guadalupe Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula obscurus* (Guadalupe, East Pacific, 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet that has not been found in recent times.

Pycnonotidae - Bulbuls

- Sumatra Blue-wattled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus nieuwenhuisii inexpectatus* (Sumatra, Indonesia, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Blue-wattled Bulbul known from a single 1937 specimen. The entire "species" may be a hybrid.

- Cebu Streak-breasted Bulbul, *Ixos siquijorensis monticola* (Cebu, Philippines, early 20th century) - Streak-breasted Bulbul subspecies

Sylviidae - Old World warblers

- Babar Stubtail, *Urosphena subulata advena* (Babar, Indonesia, mid-20th century) - Timor Stubtail subspecies
- Aguiguan Nightingale Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus luscinioides nijoi* (Aguiguan, Marianas, c.1997)

A subspecies of the Nightingale Reed Warbler of uncertain validity.

- Astrolabe Nightingale Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus luscinioides astrolabii* (Marianas?, mid-19th century?)

A valid taxon, probably a subspecies of the Nightingale Reed Warbler, known from just 2 specimens found at an unknown location in the western Pacific.

- Pagan Nightingale Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus luscinioides yamashinae* (Pagan, Marianas, 1970s)

Another doubtful subspecies of the Nightingale Reed Warbler.

- Laysan Millerbird, *Acrocephalus familiaris familiaris* (Laysan Island, Hawaiian Islands, late 1910s) - Millerbird subspecies
- Huahine Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus caffer garretti* (Huahine, Society Islands, 19th century?)

A poorly known subspecies of the Tahiti Reed Warbler.

- Raiatea Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus caffer musae* (Raiatea, Society Islands, 19th century?)

Another subspecies of the Tahiti Reed Warbler, known only from a drawing.

- Western Turner's Eremomela, *Eremomela turneri kalindei* (Congo Basin, early 1980s)

The West African subspecies of Turner's Eremomela has not been recorded since the end of the 1970s and habitat at the locations where it was once found is much reduced or destroyed.

- Vanua Levu Long-legged Warbler, *Trichocichla rufa clunei* (Vanua Levu, Fiji, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Long-legged Warbler; it was only found once, but there was an unconfirmed sighting in 1990.

- Eastern Canary Islands Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus canariensis exsul* (Lanzarote and possibly Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, 1986) - Canary Islands Chiffchaff subspecies
- Fayyum Warbler, *Sylvia melanocephala norissae* (Egypt, c.1940) - Sardinian Warbler subspecies

Cisticolidae - Cisticolas and allies

- Northern White-winged Apalis, *Apalis chariessa chariessa* (Kenya, 1960s?)

The nominate subspecies of the White-winged Apalis remains known only from the Tana River, a center of endemism. It was last recorded in 1961.

Zosteropidae - White-eyes

- Guam Bridled White-eye, *Zosterops conspicillatus conspicillatus* (Guam, Marianas, 1983) - Bridled White-eye nominate subspecies or possibly monotypic species.
Mukojima White-eye, *Apalopteron familiare familiare* (Mukojima Group, Bonin Islands, 1930s) - Bonin White-eye ("Bonin Honeyeater") subspecies

Paradoxornithidae - Parrotbills

- Amik Gölü Bearded Tit, *Panurus biarmicus kosswigi* (S Turkey, 1970s) - Bearded Tit subspecies

Timaliidae - Old World babblers

- Vanderbilt's Babbler, *Malacocincla sepiarium vanderbilti* (Sumatra, Indonesia, late 20th century?)

An enigmatic subspecies of the Horsfield's Babbler, known from a single specimen. Not seen since the 1940s at least.

- Javan Large Wren-babbler, *Napothera macrodactyla lepidopleura* (Java, Indonesia, mid-20th century?)

A Large Wren-babbler subspecies that is either very rare or already extinct.

- Burmese Jerdon's Babbler, *Chrysomma altirostre altirostre* (Myanmar, 1940s)

The nominate subspecies of Jerdon's Babbler was last seen in 1941, but due to the lack of recent fieldwork, it might still exist.

Muscicapidae - Old World Flycatchers and chats

- Tonkean Henna-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias colonus subsolanus* (Sulawesi, Indonesia, late 20th century?)

A Henna-tailed Jungle Flycatcher subspecies that is known from a single specimen; it may not be valid.

- Chinijo Chat, *Saxicola dacotiae murielae* (Chinijo Archipelago, Canary Islands, early 20th century) - Fuerteventura Chat subspecies

Turdidae - Thrushes and allies

- Norfolk Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus poliocephalus* (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific, c.1975) - Island Thrush subspecies
- Maré Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus mareensis* (Maré, Melanesia, early 20th century)

A subspecies of the Island Thrush, last collected in 1911 or 1912 and not found anymore in 1939.

- Lord Howe Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus vinitinctus* (Lord Howe Island, Southwest Pacific, 1920s) - Island Thrush subspecies
- Lifou Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus pritzbueri* (Lifou, Melanesia, early 20th century)

Yet another subspecies of the Island Thrush. Similar birds still exist on Tanna, New Hebrides, but given the fact that the species readily differentiates into subspecies and

that the distance between Tanna and Lifou is considerable, it is far from certain that the Tanna birds belong to this subspecies.

- Cauca Black-hooded Thrush, *Turdus olivater cauae* (Colombia, late 20th century?)

A subspecies of the Black-hooded Thrush or possibly a distinct species. Not recorded for decades and at least highly threatened by deforestation.

- Peleng Red-and-black Thrush, *Zoothera mendeni mendeni* (Peleng, Indonesia, mid-20th century) - Red-and-black Thrush nominate subspecies
- Kibale Black-eared Ground Thrush, *Zoothera cameronensis kibalensis* (SW Uganda, late 20th century?)

A Black-eared Ground Thrush subspecies known only from 2 1966 specimens. Rare or possibly already extinct.

- Choiseul Russet-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera heinei choiseuli* (Choiseul, Solomon Islands, mid-20th century?)

A subspecies of the Russet-tailed Thrush known from a single specimen found in 1924 and probably killed off by introduced cats, most likely in the 1940s.

- St Lucia Forest Thrush, *Cichlherminia lherminieri sanctaeluciae* (St Lucia, West Indies, 1980s)

A subspecies of the Forest Thrush, last seen in 1980.

- Pines Solitaire, *Myadestes elisabeth retrusus* (Isla de la Juventud, West Indies, late 1930s?)

A subspecies of the Cuban Solitaire. Unconfirmed records suggest it did still exist in the early 1970s.

See also

- [Bird](#)
- [Late Quaternary prehistoric birds](#)
- [Fossil birds](#)
- [Flightless birds](#)

List adapted, expanded and updated from that in *Extinct Birds*, Fuller, ISBN 0-19-850837-9 (Extinct Birds is an absorbing study of the world's recently extinct bird species, the first complete survey since Walter Rothschild's classic work of 1907)

Late Quaternary prehistoric birds

Prehistoric birds are various taxa of [birds](#) that became [extinct](#) before recorded history, or more precisely, before they could be studied alive by bird scientists. They are known from subfossil remains and sometimes folk memory, as in the case of New Zealand's Haast Eagle.

Birds ([Aves](#)) are generally believed to have evolved from feathered dinosaurs, and there is no real dividing line between birds and dinosaurs except of course that the former survived the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event and the latter did not. For the purposes of this article, a "bird" is considered to be any member of the clade Neornithes, that is the bird lineage as exists today. The other lineages of the Aves also became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous.

Taxon extinctions taking place before the Late Quaternary happened in the absence of significant human interference. Rather, reasons for extinction are stochastic abiotic events such as bolide impacts, climate changes, mass volcanic eruptions etc. Alternatively, species may have gone extinct due to evolutionary displacement by successor or competitor taxa - it is notable for example that in the early Neogene, seabird biodiversity was much higher than today; this is probably due to competition by the radiation of marine mammals after that time. The relationships of these ancient birds are often hard to determine, as many are known only from very fragmentary remains and due to the complete fossilization precludes analysis of information from DNA, RNA or protein sequencing.

For further discussion, see main article [Fossil birds](#)

- [1 Late Quaternary avian extinctions](#)
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Late Quaternary avian extinctions

This page lists bird taxa that have been become extinct before they could be researched by science, but nonetheless survived into (geologically) recent times. Their remains are not or not completely fossilized and therefore may yield organic material for molecular analyses to provide additional clues for resolving their taxonomic affiliations. As these species' extinction coincided with the expansion of *Homo sapiens* across the globe, in most (but not necessary all) cases, anthropogenic factors have played a crucial part in their extinction, be it through hunting, introduced predators or habitat alteration. It is notable that a large proportion of the species are from oceanic islands, especially in Polynesia. Bird taxa that evolved on oceanic islands are usually very vulnerable to hunting or predation by rats, cats, dogs or pigs - animals commonly introduced by humans -, as there evolved in the absence of mammalian predators and therefore only have rudimentary predator avoidance behavior. Many, especially rails, have additionally become flightless for the same reason and thus presented even easier prey.

The taxa in this list became extinct during the Late Quaternary - the Holocene or Late Pleistocene -, but before the period of global scientific exploration that started in the late 15th century. More precisely, their extinction was coincident with the expansion of *Homo sapiens* beyond Africa and Eurasia, i.e. this list basically deals with extinctions between 40000 BC and 1500 AD. They should be classified with the [Wikipedia conservation status category](#) "Prehistoric" in their individual accounts.

Taxonomic list of Late Quaternary prehistoric birds

All of these are [Neornithes](#).

Struthioniformes

The [Ostrich](#) and related [ratites](#).

- †**Aepyornithidae** - Elephant Birds
 - *Aepyornis*
 - *Aepyornis hildebrandti* (Madagascar)
 - *Aepyornis maximus* (Madagascar)
 - *Aepyornis medius* (Madagascar)
 - *Aepyornis gracilis* (Madagascar)
 - *Aepyornis titan* - may be a synonym of *A. maximus* (Madagascar)

Up to 4 more undescribed species are known, but taxonomy is not fully resolved. At least one species survived until historic times.

- †**Dinornithidae** - Moa
 - *Anomalopteryx*
 - Bush Moa, *Anomalopteryx didiformis* (South Island, New Zealand)

- *Euryapteryx*
 - North Island Broad-billed Moa, *Euryapteryx curtus* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - South Island Broad-billed Moa, *Euryapteryx geranoides* (South Island, New Zealand)
- *Pachyornis*
 - Crested Moa, *Pachyornis australis* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Heavy-footed Moa, *Pachyornis elephantopus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - *Pachyornis* cf. *elephantopus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Mappin's Moa, *Pachyornis mappini* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - *Pachyornis* cf. *mappini* (North Island, New Zealand)
- *Dinornis*
 - North Island Giant Moa, *Dinornis novaezealandiae* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - *Dinornis robustus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - *Dinornis* cf. *robustus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - *Dinornis* cf. *robustus* (South Island, New Zealand)
- *Emeus*
 - Eastern Moa, *Emeus crassus* (South Island, New Zealand)
- *Megalapteryx*
 - Benham's Megalapteryx, *Megalapteryx benhami* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Lesser Megalapteryx, *Megalapteryx didinus* (South Island, New Zealand) - may have survived until historic times
- **Struthionidae** - Ostriches
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Asian Ostrich, *Struthio asiaticus* (Central Asia to China)
 - **Apterygidae** - Kiwi
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Eastern Tokoeka, *Apteryx* sp. (South Island, New Zealand) - possibly the same as the Okarito, Haast or South Island tokoeka.

Anseriformes

Artist's rendition of a moa-nalo, flightless ducks which had evolved to become larger than a swan and possessed massive beaks shaped much like a turtle's bill. Moa-nalo were the dominant herbivores on the larger Hawaiian Islands and were hunted to extinction during the second half of the 1st millennium AD.

The group that includes modern [ducks](#) and geese.

- †**Dromornithidae** - The Australian *mihirungs* or "demon ducks"
 - †*Genyornis*
 - *Genyornis newtoni* (Australia)
- [Anatidae](#) - Ducks, geese and swans

- †*Geochen*
 - Wetmore's Goose, *Geochen rhuax* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands)
- †*Cnemiornis*
 - South Island Goose, *Cnemiornis calcitrans* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - North Island Goose, *Cnemiornis gracilis* (North Island, New Zealand)
- †*Pachyanas*
 - Chatham Island Duck, *Pachyanas chathamica* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific)
- †*Centrornis*
 - Malagasy Sheldgoose, *Centrornis majori* (Madagascar)
- †*Chelychelynechen*
 - Turtle-jawed Moa-nalo, *Chelychelynechen quassus* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- †*Ptaiochen*
 - Small-billed Moa-nalo, *Ptaiochen pau* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- †*Thambetochen*
 - Maui Nui Large-billed Moa-nalo, *Thambetochen chauliodous* (Maui and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - O'ahu Large-billed Moa-nalo, *Thambetochen xanion* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- †*Chendytes*
 - Law's Diving-goose, *Chendytes lawi* (California and Southern Oregon Coasts and Channel Islands, E Pacific)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Nn-nui, *Branta hylobadistes* (Maui, possibly Kaua'i and O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Chatham Islands Shelduck, *Tadorna cf. variegata* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific)
 - Malagasy Shelduck, *Alopochen sirabensis* (Madagascar; may be subspecies of the Mauritian Shelduck)
 - Scarlett's Duck, *Malacorhynchus scarletti* (New Zealand)
 - Finsch's Duck, *Chenonetta finschi* (New Zealand; possibly survived to 1870)
 - Macquarie Islands Teal, *Anas cf. chlorotis* (Macquarie Islands, SW Pacific)
 - Chatham Islands Merganser, *Mergus cf. australis* (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific)
 - New Zealand Stiff-tailed Duck, *Oxyura vantetsi* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - De Lautour's Duck, *Biziura delautouri* (New Zealand)
 - **Extinct subspecies of extant species**
 - New Zealand Swan, *Cygnus atratus sumnerensis* (New Zealand, possibly Chatham Islands)
 - Chatham Islands Teal, *Anas chlorotis* ssp. nov. (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific)
 - **Placement unresolved**

- Giant Hawaii Goose, ?*Branta* sp. (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands)
- Giant O'ahu Goose, Anatidae sp. et gen. indet. (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- Long-legged "Shelduck", Anatidae sp. et gen. indet. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- Rota Flightless Duck, Anatidae sp. et gen. indet. (Rota, Marianas)
- Small-eyed Duck, Anatidae sp. et gen. indet. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)

Galliformes

The group that includes modern [chickens](#) and quails.

- †**Sylviornithidae** - The Sylviornis or New Caledonian Giant Megapode
 - *Sylviornis*
 - Sylviornis, *Sylviornis neocaledoniae* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)
- **Megapodidae** - Megapodes
 - †*Megavitiornis*
 - Noble Megapode, *Megavitiornis altirostris* (Viti Levu, Fiji)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Consumed Scrubfowl, *Megapodius alimentum* (Tonga and Fiji)
 - Viti Levu Scrubfowl, *Megapodius amissus* (Viti Levu and possibly Kadavu, Fiji) - may have survived to the early 19th or the 20th century.
 - Giant Scrubfowl, *Megapodius molistructor* (New Caledonia and Tonga) - may have survived to the late 18th century
 - 'Eua Scrubfowl, *Megapodius* sp. ('Eua, Tonga)
 - Lifuka Scrobowl, *Megapodius* sp. (Lifuka, Tonga)
 - New Ireland Scrubfowl, *Megapodius* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)
 - **Phasianidae** - Pheasants and allies
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Canary Islands Quail, *Coturnix gomeræ* (Canary Islands, East Atlantic)

Charadriiformes

[Gulls](#), [auks](#), shorebirds

- **Laridae** - Gulls
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Huahine Gull, *Larus utunui* (Huahine, Society Islands)
 - Kaua'i Gull, *Larus* sp. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - *Larus* sp. (Saint Helena, Atlantic) - may be extant form
- **Charadriidae** - Lapwings and plovers
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Malagasy Lapwing, *Vanellus madagascariensis* (Madagascar)
- **Alcidae** - Auks
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**

- Dow's Puffin, *Fratercula dowi* (Channel Islands, E Pacific)
- **Scolopacidae** - Waders and snipes
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Henderson Island Sandpiper, *Prosobonia* sp. (Henderson Island, S Pacific)
 - Mangaian Sandpiper, *Prosobonia* sp. (Mangaia, Cook Islands)
 - Ua Huka Sandpiper, *Prosobonia* sp. (Ua Huka, Marquesas)
 - Giant Chatham Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha chathamensis* (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific)
 - Viti Levu Snipe, *Coenocorypha miratropica* (Viti Levu, Fiji)
 - New Caledonia Snipe, *Coenocorypha* sp. (New Caledonia, Melanesia)
 - Norfolk Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha* sp. (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific)
 - *Gallinago* sp. (Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands) - may be the same as
 - *Gallinago* sp. (Cuba, West Indies) - may be the same as
 - *Gallinago* sp. (Bahamas, West Indies)
 - Puerto Rican Woodcock, *Scolopax anthonyi*

Gruiformes

The group that includes modern [rails](#) and cranes.

- **Rallidae** - Rails
 - †*Capellirallus*
 - Snipe-rail, *Capellirallus karamu* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - †*Vitirallus*
 - Viti Levu Rail, *Vitirallus watlingi* (Viti Levu, Fiji)
 - †*Hovacrex*
 - Hova Gallinule, *Hovacrex roberti* (Madagascar)
 - †*Nesotrochis*
 - Antillean Cave-Rail, *Nesotrochis debooyi* (Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, West Indies) - may have survived until historic times
 - Haitian Cave-Rail, *Nesotrochis steganinos* (Haiti, West Indies)
 - Cuban Cave-Rail, *Nesotrochis picapicensis* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - New Caledonian Swamphen, *Porphyrio kukwiedei* (New Caledonia, Melanesia) - may have survived into historic times
 - North Island Takah, *Porphyrio mantelli* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - Huahine Swamphen, *Porphyrio mcnabi* (Huahine, Society Islands)
 - Marquesan Swamphen, *Porphyrio paepae* (Hiva Oa and Tahuata, Marquesas) - may have survived to the late 19th century
 - Buka Swamphen, *Porphyrio* sp. (Buka, Solomon Islands)
 - Giant Swamphen, *Porphyrio* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)
 - Mangaia Swamphen, ?*Porphyrio* sp. (Mangaia, Cook Islands)
 - New Ireland Swamphen, *Porphyrio* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)

- Norfolk Island Swamphen, *Porphyrio* sp. (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific)
- Rota Swamphen, *Porphyrio* sp. (Rota, Marianas)
- Ibiza Rail, *Rallus eivissensis* (Ibiza, Mediterranean)
- Lifuka Rail, *Nesoclopeus* sp. (Lifuka, Tonga)
- Niue Rail, *Gallirallus huiatua* (Niue, Cook Islands)
- Mangaian Rail, *Gallirallus ripleyi* (Mangaia, Cook Islands)
- Huahine Rail, *Gallirallus storrisoni* (Huahine, Society Islands)
- 'Eua Rail, *Gallirallus vekamatolu* ('Eua, Tonga)
- Marianas Rail, *Gallirallus* cf. *owstoni* (Marianas, West Pacific)
- Marquesan Rail, *Gallirallus* sp. (Marquesas)
- New Ireland Rail, *Gallirallus* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)
- Norfolk Island Rail, *Gallirallus* sp. (Norfolk Island, Southwest Pacific) - may have survived to the 19th century
- Great O'ahu Crake, *Porzana ralphorum* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- Great Maui Crake, *Porzana severnsi* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- Mangaian Crake, *Porzana rua* (Mangaia, Cook Islands)
- Liliput Crake, *Porzana menehune* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- Small O'ahu Crake, *Porzana zieglerei* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- Small Maui Crake, *Porzana keplerorum* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- Easter Island Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Easter Island, Southeast Pacific)
- Great Big Island Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands)
- Great Kaua'i Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- Huahine Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Huahine, Society Islands)
- Mangaian Crake #2, *Porzana* sp. (Mangaia, Cook Islands)
- Marquesan Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Ua Huka, Marquesas)
- Marianas Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Marianas, West Pacific) - possibly 2 species
- Medium Kaua'i Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- Medium Maui Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- Small Big Island Crake, *Porzana* sp. (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands)
- Hodgen's Waterhen, *Gallinula hodgenorum* (New Zealand)
- 'Eua Gallinule, *Gallinula* sp. ('Eua, Tonga) - if genus *Pareudiastes* is accepted this species belongs there
- Viti Levu Gallinule, ?*Gallinula* sp. (Viti Levu, Fiji) - would also be separated in *Pareudiastes* if that genus is considered valid, or may be new genus.
- Chatham Island Coot, *Fulica chathamensis* (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific)
- New Zealand Coot, *Fulica prisca* (New Zealand)
 - **Placement unresolved**
- Barbados Rail, Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Barbados, West Indies) - formerly *Fulica podagrica* (*partim*)
- Easter Island Rail, Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Easter Island)
- Fernando de Noronha Rail, Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Fernando de Noronha, Atlantic) - may have survived until historic times

- †**Aptornithidae** - Adzebills
 - *Aptornis*
 - North Island Adzebill, *Aptornis otidiformis* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - South Island Adzebill, *Aptornis defossor* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - **Rhynochetidae** - Kagus
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Lowland Kagu, *Rhynochetos orarius* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)

Ciconiiformes

The diverse group that includes [storks](#), herons and [New World vultures](#).

- **Ardeidae** - Herons
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Bennu Heron, *Ardea bennuides* (United Arab Emirates)
 - 'Eua Night Heron, *Nycticorax* sp. ('Eua, Tonga)
 - Lifuka Night Heron, *Nycticorax* sp. (Lifuka, Tonga) - may be same as 'Eua species
 - Niue Night Heron, *Nycticorax kalavikai* (Niue, Cook Islands)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Ardeidae gen. et sp. indet. (Easter Island, E Pacific)
- **Threskiornithidae** - Ibises
 - †*Apteribis*
 - Maui Upland Apteribis, *Apteribis brevis* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Moloka'i Apteribis, *Apteribis glenos* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Maui Lowland Apteribis, *Apteribis* sp. (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - †*Xenicibis*
 - Club-winged Ibis, *Xenicibis xympithecus* (Jamaica, West Indies)
 - †**Teratornithidae** - Teratorns
 - *Teratornis*
 - Merriam's Teratorn, *Teratornis merriami* (SW and S USA)
- **Cathartidae** - New World Vultures
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Pleistocene Black Vulture, *Coragyps occidentalis* (SW and W USA)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - ?*Cathartes* sp. (Cuba, West Indies)

Pelecaniformes

The group that includes modern [pelicans](#) and [cormorants](#).

- [Sulidae](#) - Gannets and boobies
 - **Extinct subspecies of extant species**
 - Ua Huka Booby, *Papasula abbotti costelloi* (Ua Huka, Marquesas)

Procellariiformes

The group that includes modern [albatrosses](#), petrels and storm-petrels.

- **Procellariidae** - Petrels
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Hole's Shearwater, *Puffinus holeae* (Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, and Atlantic coast of Iberian peninsula)
 - Olson's Shearwater, *Puffinus olsoni* (Canary Islands, E Atlantic)
 - Scarlett's Shearwater, *Puffinus spelaesus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - O'ahu Petrel, *Pterodroma jugabilis* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Canary Islands Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (El Hierro, Canary Islands) - possibly extirpated population of extant species
 - Chatham Extinct Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (Chatham Islands, SW Pacific)
 - Henderson Island Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (Henderson Island, S Pacific)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Procellariidae sp. (Easter Island, East Pacific)

Sphenisciformes

- **Spheniscidae** - Penguins
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Chatham Islands Penguin, *Eudyptes* sp. (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific) - possibly still extant in 1867

Columbiformes

- **Columbidae** - Doves and pigeons
 - †*Dysmoropelia*
 - Saint Helena Flightless Pigeon, *Dysmoropelia dekarhiskos* (Saint Helena, Atlantic) - may have survived to the 16th century
 - †*Natunaornis*
 - Viti Levu Giant Pigeon, *Natunaornis gigoura* (Viti Levu, Fiji)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Society Islands Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia arevarevauupa* (Huahine, Society Islands)
 - Marquesan Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia heana* (Marquesas, Pacific)
 - Puerto Rican Quail-dove, *Geotrygon larva* (Puerto Rico, West Indies)
 - Tongan Tooth-billed Pigeon, *Didunculus placopedetes* (Tonga, Pacific)
 - Greater Maned Pigeon, *Caloenas canacorum* (New Caledonia, Tonga)
 - Henderson Island Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula harrisoni* (Henderson Island, S Pacific)

- Lakeba Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula lakeba* (Lakeba, Fiji)
- Steadman's Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula david* ('Eua, Tonga, and Wallis Island)
- Tongan Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula* sp. ('Eua, Foa and Lifuka, Tonga) - may be *D. david*, *D. lakeba* or new species
- *Ducula* cf. *galeata* (Cook Islands) - possibly new species
- *Ducula* cf. *galeata* (Society Islands) - possibly new species
- *Ducula* sp. (Viti Levu, Fiji) - may be *D. lakeba*
- Great Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba nui* (Marquesas and Cook Islands)
- Henderson Island Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba leonpascoi* (Henderson Island, S Pacific)
- New Caledonian Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba longitarsus* (New Caledonia)
- Huahine Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba* sp. (Huahine, Society Islands) - *G. nui*?
- Mangaia Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba* sp. (Mangaia, Cook Islands) - *G. nui*?
- Rota Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba* sp. (Rota, Marianas)
 - **Placement unresolved**
- Henderson Island Archaic Pigeon, Columbidae gen. et sp. indet. (Henderson Island, S Pacific)

Psittaciformes

- **Cacatuidae** - Cockatoos
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - New Caledonian cockatoo, *Cacatua* sp. (New Caledonia)
 - New Ireland cockatoo, *Cacatua* sp. (New Ireland)
- **Psittacidae** - Parrots, parakeets and lorikeets
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Sinoto's Lorikeet, *Vini sinotoi* (Marquesas, Pacific)
 - Conquered Lorikeet, *Vini vidivici* (Mangaia, Cook Islands, and Marquesas)
 - Chatham Islands Kaka, *Nestor* sp. (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific)
 - Pacific Eclectus Parrot, *Eclectus infectus* (Tonga, Vanuatu, possibly Fiji) - may have survived to the 18th century.
 - Saint Croix Macaw, *Ara autocthonos* (Saint Croix, West Indies) [\[1\]](#)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Psittacidae gen. et sp. indet. 1 (Easter Island)
 - Psittacidae gen. et sp. indet. 2 (Easter Island)
 - Psittacidae gen. et sp. indet. (Rota, Marianas)

Cuculiformes

- **Cuculidae** - Cuckoos
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Henderson Island Koel, *Eudynamis* cf. *taitensis*
 - Ancient Coua, *Coua primaeva* (Madagascar)

- Bertha's Coua, *Coua berthae* (Madagascar)
- **Extinct subspecies of extant species**
 - Conkling's Roadrunner, *Geococcyx californianus conklingi* (Inland SW North America)

Falconiformes

Birds of prey

- **Accipitridae** - Hawks and eagles
 - †*Gigantohierax*
 - Cuban Giant-Hawk, *Gigantohierax suarezi* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - †*Titanohierax*
 - Bahaman Titan-Hawk, *Titanohierax gloveralleni* (Bahamas, West Indies)
 - Hispaniolan Titan-Hawk, *Titanohierax* sp. (Hispaniola, West Indies)
 - †*Harpagornis*
 - Haast's Eagle, *Harpagornis moorei* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Powerful Goshawk, *Accipiter efficax* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)
 - Gracile Goshawk, *Accipiter quartus* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)
 - *Accipiter* sp. 1 (New Ireland, Melanesia)
 - *Accipiter* sp. 2 (New Ireland, Melanesia) - one of the two New Ireland species may be Meyer's Goshawk
 - Malagasy Crowned Hawk-eagle, *Stephanoaetus mahery* (Madagascar)
 - Malagasy Eagle, *Aquila* sp. (Madagascar)
 - Mime Harrier, *Circus dossenus* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Eyles' Harrier, *Circus eylesi* (New Zealand)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Accipitridae gen. et sp. indet. (Cuba, West Indies) - formerly *Aquila/Titanohierax borraasi*
- **Falconidae** - Falcons
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Cuban Kestrel, *Falco kurochkini* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - Bahaman Caracara, *Polyborus creightoni* (Bahamas and Cuba, West Indies)
 - may be same as *P. latebrosus*
 - Puerto Rican Caracara, *Polyborus latebrosus* (Puerto Rico, West Indies)

Caprimulgiformes

Nightjars, potoos and allies.

- **Aegothelidae** - Owlet-nightjars
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - New Zealand Owlet-Nightjar, *Aegotheles novaezealandiae* (New Zealand)

- **Caprimulgidae** - Nightjars
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Cuban Parauque, *Siphonorhis daiquiri* (Cuba, West Indies) - possibly extant

Apodiformes

Swifts and [hummingbirds](#).

- **Apodidae** - Swifts
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Mangaia Swiftlet, *Aerodramus manuoi* (Mangaia, Cook Islands) - formerly *Collocalia*

Strigiformes

Owls and barn owls.

- **Strigidae** - Owls
 - †*Grallistrix*
 - Kaua'i Stilt Owl, *Grallistrix auceps* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Maui Stilt Owl, *Grallistrix erdmani* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Moloka'i Stilt Owl, *Grallistrix geleches* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - O'ahu Stilt Owl, *Grallistrix orion* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - †*Ornimegalonyx*
 - Cuban Giant Owl, *Ornimegalonyx oteroi* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - *Ornimegalonyx* sp.
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Cretan Little Owl, *Athene cretensis* (Crete, Mediterranean)
 - New Caledonian Boobook, *Ninox cf. novaeseelandiae* (New Caledonia, Melanesia) - possibly extant
- [Tytonidae](#) - Barn Owls
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Puerto Rican Barn Owl, *Tyto cavatica* (Puerto Rico, West Indies) - may still have existed in 1912
 - New Caledonian Barn Owl, ?*Tyto letocarti* (New Caledonia, Melanesia)
 - Malta Barn Owl, *Tyto melitensis* (Malta, Mediterranean)
 - Noel's Barn Owl, *Tyto noeli* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - Hispaniolan Barn Owl, *Tyto ostologa* (Hispaniola, West Indies)
 - Bahaman Barn Owl, *Tyto pollens* (Andros, Bahamas)
 - Rivero's Barn Owl, *Tyto riveroi* (Cuba, West Indies)
 - Mussau Barn Owl, *Tyto cf. novaehollandiae* (Mussau, Melanesia)
 - New Ireland Greater Barn Owl, *Tyto cf. novaehollandiae* (New Ireland, Melanesia)

- New Ireland Lesser Barn Owl, *Tyto* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)
- Cuban Barn Owl, *Tyto* sp. (Cuba, West Indies)
 - **Placement unresolved**
- Easter Island Barn Owl, *Tytonidae* sp. (Easter Island, Southeast Pacific)

Passeriformes

- **Placement unresolved**
 - Slender-billed Kaua'i passerine, Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Tiny Kaua'i passerine, Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- [Acanthisittidae](#) - New Zealand "Wrens"
 - †*Pachyplichas*
 - Yaldwyn's Wren, *Pachyplichas yaldwyni* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - Grant-Mackie's Wren, *Pachyplichas jagmi* (South Island, New Zealand) - may be subspecies of *P. yaldwyni*
 - †*Dendroscansor*
 - Long-billed Wren, *Dendroscansor decurvirostris* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - **Extinct subspecies of extant species**
 - North Island Piwauwau, *Xenicus gilviventris* ssp. nov. (North Island, New Zealand)
- [Meliphagidae](#) - Honeyeaters
 - **Prehistorically extinct species of Recently extinct genera**
 - O'ahu Kioea, *Chaetoptila* cf. *angustipluma* (O'ahu and Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Narrow-billed Kioea, ?*Chaetoptila* sp. (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- [Dicruridae](#) - Drongos, fantails and monarch flycatchers
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Ua Huka Flycatcher, cf. *Myiagra* sp. (Ua Huka, Marquesas)
- [Corvidae](#) - Crows, Ravens, Jays and Magpies
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Chatham Islands Raven, *Corvus moriorum* (Chatham Islands, Southwest Pacific)
 - High-billed Crow, *Corvus impluviatus* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - New Zealand Raven, *Corvus antipodum* (New Zealand)
 - North Island Raven, *Corvus antipodum antipodum* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - South Island Raven, *Corvus antipodum pycrafti* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Robust Crow, *Corvus viriosus* (O'ahu and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - New Ireland Crow, *Corvus* sp. (New Ireland, Melanesia)

- Puerto Rican Crow, *Corvus pumilis* (Puerto Rico and St Croix, West Indies)
- probably a subspecies of *C. nasicus* or *C. palmarum*
- **Sturnidae** - Starlings
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Huahine Starling, *Aplonis diluvialis* (Huahine, Society Islands)
- **Sylviidae** - Old World warblers
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - 'Eua Bush Warbler, *Cettia* sp. ('Eua, Tonga)
- **Zosteropidae** - White-eyes
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Tongan White-Eye, Zosteropidae gen. et sp. indet. ('Eua, Tonga)
- **Turdidae** - Thrushes
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Maui Oloma'o, *Myadestes* cf. *lanaiensis* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands) - may have survived until the 19th century
- **Fringillidae** - Finches
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Trías Greenfinch, *Carduelis triasi* (La Palma, Canary Islands)
- **Drepanididae** - Hawaiian Honeycreepers
 - †*Orthospiza*
 - Highland Finch, *Orthospiza howarthi* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - †*Xestospiza*
 - Cone-billed Finch, *Xestospiza conica* (Kaua'i and O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Ridge-billed Finch, *Xestospiza fastigialis* (O'ahu, Maui and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - †*Vangulifer*
 - Strange-billed Finch, *Vangulifer mirandus* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Thin-billed Finch, *Vangulifer neophasis* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - †*Aidemia*
 - O'ahu Icterid-like Gaper, *Aidemia chascax* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Sickie-billed Gaper, *Aidemia zanclops* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Maui Nui Icterid-like Gaper, *Aidemia lutetiae* (Maui and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - **Prehistorically extinct species of extant and Recently extinct genera**
 - Kaua'i Finch, *Telespiza persecutrix* (Kaua'i and O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Maui Nui Finch, *Telespiza ypsilon* (Maui and Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Maui Finch, *Telespiza* cf. *ypsilon* (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
 - Kaua'i Palila, *Loxioides kikuichi* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands) - possibly survived until early 18th century
 - Scissor-billed Koa-Finch, *Rhodacanthis forfex* (Kaua'i and Maui, Hawaiian Islands)

- Primitive Koa-Finch, *Rhodacanthis litotes* (O'ahu and Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- O'ahu Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops wahi* (O'ahu and Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- Giant ("King Kong") Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops regiskongi* (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- Kaua'i Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops* sp. (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands) - may be same as *Chloridops wahi*
- Maui Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops* sp. (Maui, Hawaiian Islands)
- Giant Amakihi, *Hemignathus vorpalis* (Big Island, Hawaiian Islands)
- Hoopoe-billed 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus upupirostris* - sometimes in genus *Akialoa* (Kaua'i and O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- Stout-legged Finch, *Ciridops tenax* (Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- Moloka'i Ula-ai-Hawane, *Ciridops* cf. *anna* (Moloka'i, Hawaiian Islands)
- O'ahu Ula-ai-Hawane, *Ciridops* sp. (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
 - **Placement unresolved**
- Drepanididae gen. et sp. indet. (Maui, Hawaiian Islands) - at least 3 species
- Drepanididae gen. et sp. indet. (O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands)
- [Emberizidae](#) - Buntings
 - †*Pedinornis*
 - Puerto Rican Obscure Bunting, *Pedinornis stirpsarcana* (Puerto Rico, West Indies)
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Long-legged Bunting, *Emberiza alcoveri* (Tenerife, Canary Islands)
- [Hirundinidae](#) - Swallows and martins
 - **Extinct subspecies of extant species**
 - Henderson Island Pacific Swallow, *Hirundo tahitensis* ssp. nov. (Henderson Island, S Pacific)
- [Estrildidae](#) - Waxbills
 - **Extinct species of extant genera**
 - Rota Parrotfinch, *Erythrura* sp. (Rota, Marianas)

References

1. [^] Wetmore, A. (1918). "Bones of birds collected by Theodoor de Booy from kitchen midden deposits in the islands of St Thomas and St Croix". *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* **54**: 513-522.

See also

- [Bird](#)
- [Extinct birds](#)

- [Fossil birds](#)
- [Flightless birds](#)

Paleornithology

Paleornithology is the scientific study of bird evolution and fossil birds. It is a mix of [ornithology](#) and paleontology. Paleornithology began with the discovery of *Archaeopteryx*. The reptilian relationship of birds and their ancestors, the theropod dinosaurs, are important aspects of paleornithological research. Other areas of interest to paleornithologists are the early sea-birds Ichthyornis , Hesperornis, and others.

See also

- [Birds](#)
- [Fossil birds](#)
- [Late Quaternary prehistoric birds](#)
- [Ornithology](#)

Fossil birds

Birds evolved from feathered dinosaurs and there is no real dividing line between birds and dinosaurs, except of course that the former survived the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event and the latter did not. For the purposes of this article, a 'bird' is considered to be any member of the clade [Aves](#). Some dinosaur groups which may or may not be true birds are listed below under 'Proto-birds'.

This page contains a listing of prehistoric bird taxa only known from completely fossilized specimens. These extinctions took place before the Late Quaternary and thus took place in the absence of human interference. Rather, reasons for extinction are stochastic abiotic events such as bolide impacts, climate change due to orbital shifts, mass volcanic eruptions etc. Alternatively, species may have gone extinct due to evolutionary displacement by successor or competitor taxa - it is notable that an extremely large number of seabirds have gone extinct during the mid-Tertiary; this is probably due to competition by the contemporary radiation of marine mammals. The relationships of these taxa are often hard to determine, as many are known only from very fragmentary remains and due to the complete fossilization precluding analysis of information from DNA, RNA or protein sequencing. The taxa listed in this article should be classified with the Wikipedia conservation status category "Fossil".

- [1 Taxonomic List of Fossil Prehistoric Birds](#)
 - 1.1 †"Proto-birds"
 - 1.2 †Basal Aves
 - [1.2.1 Omnivoropterygiformes](#)
 - 1.3 †Basal Pygostylia
 - 1.4 †Enantiornithes
 - [1.4.1 Iberomesornithiformes](#)
 - [1.4.2 Cathyornithiformes](#)
 - [1.4.3 Gobipterygiformes](#)
 - [1.4.4 Enantiornithiformes](#)
 - 1.5 †Basal Ornithurae
 - [1.5.1 Yanornithiformes](#)
 - 1.6 †Hesperornithes
 - 1.7 †Ichthyornithes
 - [1.8 Neornithes](#)
 - [1.8.1 Struthioniformes](#)
 - 1.8.2 †Lithornithiformes
 - [1.8.3 Tinamiformes](#)
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 - [1.8.5 Galliformes](#)
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- [1.8.9 Podicipediformes](#)
- [1.8.10 Ciconiiformes](#)
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- [1.8.14 Sphenisciformes](#)
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- [1.8.24 Trogoniformes](#)
- [1.8.25 Piciformes](#)
- [1.8.26 Passeriformes](#)
- [1.9 Aves incertae sedis](#)
 - 1.9.1 †Liaoningornithiformes
 - 1.9.2 †Eurolimnornithiformes
 - 1.9.3 †Palaeocursornithiformes
- [1.10 Ichnotaxa](#)
- [2 References](#)
- [3 See also](#)

Taxonomic List of Fossil Prehistoric Birds

Extinct genera are presented in ascending chronological order. Extinct forms of extant [genera](#) are sorted alphabetically by genus first, then chronologically.

The higher-level groups of non-Neornithes are arranged after Chiappe (2001, 2002), updated and expanded to incorporate recent research. These categories are inclusive in ascending order: e.g., every basal pygostylian is a member of the Aves (but more advanced than "basal Aves"), etc.

Please be aware that taxonomic assignments, especially in the pygostylian to early neornithine genera, are still very provisional and subject to quite frequent change.

†"Proto-birds"

This category contains very early fossils that some consider the earliest evidence of birds and others which are generally agreed to be theropods but the placement of which in regard to birds is controversial, with most scientists consider them closely related to birds and others avian enough to include in the latter. In any case, these forms demonstrate that

feathered wings were not limited to true birds, but evolved independently in several related lineages of theropods

- Protoavis (Late Triassic) - a nomen dubium
- Palaeopteryx (Late Jurassic) - a nomen dubium
- Alvarezsauridae
 - *Shuvuuia* (Late Cretaceous)
- Oviraptorosauria
 - *Caudipteryx* (Early Cretaceous)
- Scansoriopterygidae
 - *Epidendrosaurus* (Early Cretaceous)
- Troodontidae
 - *Mei* (Early Cretaceous)
- Dromaeosauridae
 - *Rahonavis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Yandangornis*

†Basal [Aves](#)

The most primitive birds, usually still possessing a long bony tail with generally unfused vertebrae.

- **Unresolved forms**
 - Dalianraptor (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Liaoning, China)
 - Hebeiornis (Yixian? Early Cretaceous? of Hebei, China)
 - Jixiangornis (Early Cretaceous)
 - Shenzhouraptor (Early Cretaceous)
 - Hulsanpes (Late Cretaceous)
- **Archaeopterygidae**
 - Archaeopteryx (Late Jurassic)
 - Wellnhoferia (Late Jurassic) - may be synonym of Archaeopteryx

Omnivoropterygiformes

- **Omnivoropterygidae**
 - *Omnivoropteryx* (Early Cretaceous)
 - *Sapeornis* (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Chaoyang City, China)

†Basal Pygostylia

The earliest birds with a modern pygostyle: a reduction and fusion of the tail vertebrae.

- **Placement unresolved**
 - *Abavornis* (Late Cretaceous) - enantiornithine?

- *Catenoleimus*
- *Explorornis*
- *Incolornis*
- **Confuciusornithidae**
- *Proornis* (Sinniju Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous of Sinnuiju City, North Korea)
- *Changchengornis* (Early Cretaceous of Chaomidianzi, China)
- *Confuciusornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Jinzhouornis*

†Enantiornithes

"Opposite Birds" due to the way their foot bones are fused; an extinct Mesozoic sub-class.

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
- *Concornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Cuspirostrisornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Eoenantiornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Jibeinia* (Early Cretaceous) - a *nomen dubium*
- *Largirostrornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Liaoxiornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Longchengornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Longipteryx* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Longirostravis* (Early Cretaceous)
- *Vescornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- Enantiornithes gen. et sp. indet. CAGSIG020901 (Early Cretaceous)
- Enantiornithes gen. et sp. indet. CAGSIG04CM007 (Early Cretaceous)
- *Eoalulavis* (Middle Cretaceous)
- *Halimornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Kizylkumavis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Lenesornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Sazavis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Gurilynia* (Late Cretaceous) - enantiornithiform?
- *Yungavolucris* (Late Cretaceous) - enantiornithiform (avisaurid)?
- Enantiornithes gen. et sp. indet. MCSNM V3882a (Late Cretaceous)
- Enantiornithes gen. et sp. indet. RBCM.EH2005.003.0002 (Late Cretaceous)
- *Aberratiodontus*
- *Alexornis*
- *Dapingfangornis*
- **Kuszholiidae**
- *Kuszholia* (Late Cretaceous)

Iberomesornithiformes

- **Iberomesornithidae**
 - *Iberomesornis* (Early Cretaceous)
 - *Noguerornis* (Early Cretaceous)

Cathayornithiformes

- **Cathayornithidae**
 - *Boluochia* (Early Cretaceous)
 - *Cathayornis* (Early Cretaceous) - includes *Sinornis*
 - *Eocathayornis*

Gobipterygiformes

- **Gobipterygidae**
 - *Gobipteryx* (Late Cretaceous)

Enantiornithiformes

- **Placement unresolved**
 - *Lectavis* (Late Cretaceous) - avisaurid?
- **Enantiornithidae**
 - *Enantiornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- **Zhyraornithidae**
 - *Zhyraornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- **Avisauridae**
 - *Avisaurus* (Late Cretaceous)
 - *Neuquenornis* (Late Cretaceous)
 - *Soroavisaurus* (Late Cretaceous)

†Basal Ornithurae

Essentially modern birds, except many still possess a few primitive features such as teeth or wing claws.

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
 - *Gansus* (Early Cretaceous) - basal
 - *Apsaravis* (Djadokhta Late Cretaceous of Ukhaa Tolgod, Mongolia)
 - *Archaeorhynchus* (Early Cretaceous of Liaoning, China)
 - *Limenavis* (Allen Late Cretaceous of Salitral Moreno, Argentina)

- "cf. *Parahesperornis*" (Nemegt Late Cretaceous of Tsagaan Kushu, Mongolia) - hesperornithiform?
- *Carinatae* gen. et sp. indet. NHMM/RD 271 (Maastricht Late Cretaceous, CBR-Romontbos Quarry, Belgium) - ichthyornithine?
- *Ornithurae* gen. et sp. indet. RBCM.EH2005.003.0001 (Northumberland Late Cretaceous of Hornby Island, Canada)
- *Ornithurae* gen. et sp. indet. TMP 98.68.145 (Dinosaur Park Late Cretaceous of Iddesleigh, Canada) - hesperornithiform?
 - **Ambiortidae**
- *Ambiortus* (Early Cretaceous of Mongolia)

Yanornithiformes

- **Songlingornithidae**
- *Songlingornis* (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Liaoning, China)
- *Yanornis* (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Chaoyang City, China)
- *Yixianornis* (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Chaoyang City, China)

†Hesperornithes

Large, toothed, loon-like diving birds.

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
- *Hesperornithiformes* gen. et sp. indet. (Late Cretaceous)
- *Hesperornithiformes* gen. et sp. indet. TMP 89.81.12 (Late Cretaceous)
- *Judinornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Potamornis* (Late Cretaceous) - hesperornithid?
- *Pasquiaornis*
- **Enaliornithidae**
- *Enaliornis* (Early Cretaceous)
- **Baptornithidae**
- *Baptornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- **Hesperornithidae**
- *Hesperornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Parahesperornis* (Late Cretaceous)
- *Canadaga*
- *Coniornis*

†Ichthyornithes

Toothed birds similar to modern gulls.

- **Ichthyornidae**
- *Ichthyornis* (Late Cretaceous)

Neornithes

- 1.8 Neornithes
 - [1.8.1 Struthioniformes](#)
 - 1.8.2 †Lithornithiformes
 - [1.8.3 Tinamiformes](#)
 - [1.8.4 Anseriformes](#)
 - [1.8.5 Galliformes](#)
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 - [1.8.24 Trogoniformes](#)
 - [1.8.25 Piciformes](#)
 - [1.8.26 Passeriformes](#)

Neornithes

The sub-class that contains all modern birds.

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
 - †*Apatornis* (Smoky Hill Chalk Late Cretaceous of Twin Butte Creek, USA) - anseriform?
 - †*Ceramornis* (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous) - charadriiform?
 - †"*Cimolopteryx*" (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous) - charadriiform?
 - †*Gallornis* (Late Cretaceous of Hăceș Basin, Romania) - phoenicopteriform or galliform
 - †*Lonchodytes* (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous of Wyoming, USA) - gaviiform?/procellariiform, pelecaniform?
 - †Neornithes incerta sedis AMNH 25272 (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous of Converse County, USA) - phalacrocoracid?

- †*Palintropus* (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous) - quercymegapodiid or charadriiform
- †*Teviornis* (Nemegt Late Cretaceous of S Mongolia) - presbyornithid?
- †*Torotix* (Late Cretaceous) - pelecaniform, charadriiform, procellariiform or phoenicopteriform
- †UCMP 117598 (Hell Creek Late Cretaceous of Bug Creek West, USA)
- †UCMP 117599 (Hell Creek Late Cretaceous of Bug Creek West, USA) - anseriform?
- †UCMP 143274 (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous of Niobrara County, USA) - psittaciform?
- †*Laornis* (Late Cretaceous?)
- †*Volgavis* (Early Palaeocene of Volgograd, Russia) - charadriiform?
- †*Argillipes* (London Clay Early Eocene of England) - galliform?
- †*Coturnipes* (Early Eocene of England, and Virginia, USA?) - galliform, falconiform?
- †*Neanis* (Early Eocene) - primobucconid, piciform?
- †*Neptuniavis* (London Clay Early Eocene of England) - pelagornithid or procellariid
- †*Onychopteryx* (Early Eocene of Argentina)
- †*Paracathartes* (Early Eocene of WC USA) - lithornithiform?
- †*Percolinus* (London Clay Early Eocene of England) - galliform?
- †"Green River Palaeognath" USNM 336103 (Green River Early/Middle Eocene)
- †*Palaeopsittacus* (Early - Middle Eocene of NW Europe) - caprimulgiform (podargid?)
- †*Amitabha* (Bridger Middle Eocene of Forbidden City, USA)
- †*Hassiavis* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany) - archaeotrogonid, piciform?
- †*Protocypselomorphus* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany) - caprimulgiform, apodiform or ancestral to both
- †*Eocathartes* (Middle Eocene of Germany) - cathartid?
- †*Ludiortyx* (Montmartre Late Eocene of Montmartre, France) - rallid, quercymegapodid?
- †*Petropluvialis* (Late Eocene of England) - may be same as *Palaeopapua*; anseriform?
- †"*Phasianus*" *alfhildae* (Washakie B Late Eocene of Haystack Butte, USA) - gruiform, ciconiiform, phoenicopteriform?
- †*Talantatos* (Late Eocene of Paris Basin, France) - gruiform?
- †*Telecrex* (Irdin Manha Late Eocene of Shara Murun, Mongolia) - meleagrid or gruiform (rallid?)
- †"*Colymboides*" *anglicus* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of Hordwell, England) - gaviiform? previously included in *Palaeopapua eous*
- †*Agnopterus* (Late Eocene - Late Oligocene of Europe) - phoenicopteriform or anseriform, includes *Cygnopterus lambrechtii*
- †*Plesiocathartes* (Late Eocene -? Early Miocene of SW Europe) - cathartid, leptosomid?

- †*Botauroides* (Eocene of Wyoming, USA)- coliiform?
- †*Aminornis* (Deseado Early Oligocene of Rio Deseado, Argentina) - gruiform?
- †*Ciconiopsis* (Deseado Early Oligocene of Patagonia, Argentina) - ciconiid?
- †*Cruschedula* (Deseado Early Oligocene of Golfo San Jorge, Argentina) - accipitrid?
- †"*Headonornis hantoniensis*" BMNH PAL 4989 (Hampstead Early Oligocene of Isle of Wight, England) - formerly "*Ptenornis*"; anseriform?
- †*Loncornis* (Deseado Early Oligocene of Rio Deseado, Argentina) - gruiform?
- †*Manu* (Early Oligocene of New Zealand) - diomedeid?
- †*Palaeocrex* (Early Oligocene of Trigonias Quarry, USA) - rallid?
- †*Palaeopapia* (Hampstead Early Oligocene of Isle of Wight, England) - anseriform?
- †*Paracygnopterus* (Early Oligocene of Belgium and England) - anatid?
- †"*Pararallus*" *hassenkampi* (Sieblos Dysodil Early Oligocene of Sieblos, Germany)
- †*Teracus* (Early Oligocene of France)
- †"*Anas*" *creccoides* (Early/Middle Oligocene of Belgium) - anseriform?
- †*Limicorallus* (Indricotherium Middle Oligocene of Chelkar-Teniz, Kazakhstan) - anatid?
- †*Megagallinula* (Indricotherium Middle Oligocene of Chelkar-Teniz, Kazakhstan)
- †"*Palaeorallus*" *alienus* (Middle Oligocene of Tatal-Gol, Mongolia) - galliform?
- †*Gnotornis* (Brule Late Oligocene of Shannon County, USA)
- †*Tiliornis* (Late Oligocene of South America) - *lapsus* for *Teleornis*?
- †*Gaviella* (Oligocene? of Wyoming, USA) - gaviiform? plotopterid?
- †*Neculus* (Patagonia Early Miocene of Patagonia, Argentina) - sphenisciform?
- †"*Propelargus*" *olseni* (Hawthorne Early Miocene of Tallahassee, USA) - ciconiiform?
- †MNHN SA 1259-1263 (Early/Middle Miocene of Sansan, France) - passeriform?
- †*Anisolornis* (Santa Cruz Middle Miocene of Karaihen, Argentina) - gruiform, galliform, tinamiform?
- †"*Ardea*" *perplexa* (Middle Miocene of Sansan, France) - ardeid? strigiform?'
- †"*Cygnus herrenthalsi*" (Middle Miocene of Belgium)
- †*Diamantornis* (Middle Miocene of Namibia) - ratite?
- †*Namornis* (Middle Miocene of Namibia and Kenya - Baynunah Late Miocene of Abu Dhabi) - ratite?
- †"*Limnatornis*" *paludicola* (Miocene of France) - coliid? phoeniculid?
- †"*Picus*" *gaudryi* (Miocene of France) - piciform?
- †*Bathoceleus* (Pliocene of New Providence, Bahamas) - picid?
- †*Climacarthrus*
- †*Cunampaia*
- †*Eoneornis*
- †*Eutelornis*
- †*Foro*

- †*Halcyornis*
- †*Homalopus* - piciform?
- †*Juncitarsus* - phoenicopteriform?
- †*Kashinia* - phoenicopteriform?
- †*Liptornis*
- †*Loxornis*
- †*Procuculus*
- †*Protibis*
- †*Psammornis* - may be same as *Eremopezus*
- †*Pseudocrypturus* - lithornithiform?
- †*Pseudolarus*
- †*Pumiliornis*
- †*Qinornis*
- †*Riacama*
- †*Smiliornis*
- †*Teleornis*
- †**Archaeotrogonidae** - ancestral to caprimulgiforms and apodiforms?
 - *Archaeotrogon*
- †**Cladornithidae** - pelecaniform?
 - *Cladornis* (Deseado Early Oligocene of Patagonia, Argentina)
 - †**Eleutherornithidae**
 - *Eleutherornis*
 - *Proceriavis*
- †**Eocypselidae** - apodiform (hemiprocnid?)? caprimulgiform? basal to both?
 - *Eocypselus* (Late Paleocene ?- Early Eocene of NC Europe)
- †**Eremopezidae** - ratites?
 - *Eremopezus* (Late Eocene of North Africa) - includes *Stromeria*
 - †**Fluvioviridavidae**
 - *Fluvioviridavis* (Green River Early Eocene of N America)
 - *Eurofluvioviridavis* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
 - †**Gracilitarsidae**
 - *Eutreptodactylus* (Late Paleocene of Brazil)
 - *Gracilitarsus* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
- †**Messelasturidae** - accipitrid? basal to Strigiformes?
 - *Tynskya* (Early Eocene of N America and England)
 - *Messelastur* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
- †**Parvicuculidae** - cypselomorph, cuculiform, Primobucconidae?
 - *Parvicuculus* (Early Eocene of NW Europe)
- †**Remiornithidae** - palaeognath?
 - *Remiornis*
 - †**Sylphornithidae**
 - *Oligosylphe* (Borgloon Early Oligocene of Hoogbutsel, Belgium)
 - *Sylphornis*
- †**Tytthostonygidae** - procellariiform, pelecaniform?

- *Tyttthostonyx* (Hornerstown Late Cretaceous/Early Palaeocene)
- †**Zygodactylidae** - piciform?
 - *Zygodactylus*
- †**"Graculavidae"** - a paraphyletic group, the "transitional shorebirds"
 - *Graculavus* (Lance Creek Late Cretaceous - Hornerstown Late Cretaceous/Early Palaeocene) - charadriiform?
 - *Palaeotringa* (Hornerstown Late Cretaceous?) - charadriiform?
 - *Telmatornis* (Navesink Late Cretaceous?) - charadriiform?
 - *Scaniornis* - phoenicopteriform?
 - *Zhylgaia*
 - *Dakotornis*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - "Graculavidae" gen. et sp. indet. (Gloucester County, USA)

Struthioniformes

[Ostrich](#) and related [ratites](#).

- **Placement unresolved**
 - †*Diogenornis* - rheid?
 - †*Opisthodactylus* - rheid?
- **Casuariidae** - Emus and cassowaries
 - †*Emuarius* (Late Oligocene - Late Miocene) - formerly *Dromaius*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Dromaius* (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - *Casuaris*
- **Rheidae** - Rheas
 - †*Heterorhea*
 - †*Hinasuri*
- †**Aepyornithidae** - Elephant Birds
 - *Mullerornis*
- **Struthionidae** - Ostriches
 - †*Palaeotis* (Middle Eocene) - includes *Palaeogrus geiseltalensis*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Struthio* (Early Miocene - Recent)

†Lithornithiformes

- **Lithornithidae** - Primitive ratites
 - *Promusophaga*
 - *Lithornis*

Tinamiformes

- **Tinamidae** - Tinamous
 - †*Querandiornis*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Tinamidae gen. et sp. indet. MACN-SC Fleagle Collection (Early - Middle Miocene of S Argentina) - at least 2 species
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Eudromia* sp. (Late Miocene of La Pampa Province, Argentina)
 - *Eudromia olsoni* (Late Pliocene of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina)
 - *Nothura parvula* (Late Pliocene of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina) - formerly *Cayeornis*
 - *Eudromia intermedia* - formerly *Tinamisornis*
 - *Nothura paludosa* (Pleistocene of Argentina)

Anseriformes

The group that includes modern [ducks](#) and geese.

- **Basal and unresolved forms**
 - †*Anatalavis* (Hornerstown Late Cretaceous/Early Paleocene of New Jersey, USA - London Clay Early Eocene of Walton-on-the-Naze, England) - anseranatid or basal
 - †*Proherodius* (London Clay Early Eocene of London, England) - presbyornithid?
 - †*Paranyroca* (Rosebud Early Miocene of Bennett County, USA) - Anatidae or own family?
- **Anhimidae** - Screamers
 - †*Chaunoides*
- †[Dromornithidae](#) - The Australian *mihirungs* or "demon ducks".

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------|---------|---|-----------|
| ○ Dromornis | (Late | Miocene | - | Pliocene) |
| Bullockornis | | (Middle | | Miocene) |
| Barawertornis | | | | |
| Ilbandornis | | | | |
- †[Presbyornithidae](#)
 - Presbyornithidae gen. et sp. indet. (Barun Goyot Late Cretaceous of Mongolia)
 - *Vegavis* (Late Cretaceous)
 - *Presbyornis* (Paleocene of Maryland, USA - Bembridge Marls Early Oligocene of Burnt Wood, England)
 - *Headonornis* - only BMNH PAL 30325 belongs to this species, may belong to *Presbyornis*.

- *Telmabates*
- **Anatidae** - Ducks, geese and swans
 - †*Eonessa* (Eocene of Utah, USA)
 - †*Cygnavus* (Early Oligocene of Kazakhstan - Early Miocene of Germany)
 - †*Romainvillia* (Early Oligocene of Belgium ?- Late Eocene of France)
 - †*Cygnopterus* (Middle Oligocene of Belgium - Early Miocene of France)
 - †*Guguschia* (Oligocene of Azerbaijan)
 - †*Megalodytes* (Middle Miocene of California, USA)
 - †*Afrocygnus* (Late Miocene ?- Early Pliocene of C Sahara, Africa)
 - †*Presbychen* (Temblor Late Miocene of Sharktooth Hill, USA)
 - †*Paracygnus* (Kimball Late Pliocene of Nebraska, USA)
 - †*Anabernicula* (Late Pliocene ?- Late Pleistocene of SW and W North America)
 - †*Archaeocygnus* (Pleistocene of Australia)
 - †*Aldabranas*
 - †*Brantadorna*
 - †*Dendrochen*
 - †*Eremochen*
 - †*Mionetta*
 - †*Sinanas*
 - †*Wasonaka*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - "*cf. Megalodytes*" (Haraichi Middle Miocene of Annaka, Japan)
 - "*Chenopsis*" *nanus* - at least 2 taxa (Pleistocene of Australia)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species**
 - *Somateria* (Middle Oligocene? - Recent)
 - *Cygnus* (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - *Histrionicus* (Middle Miocene - Recent) - includes *Ocyplonessa*
 - *Anas* (Late Miocene - Recent) - includes *Heterochen*
 - *Oxyura* (Middle Pleistocene - Recent)
 - **Additional prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Anser arenosus* (Big Sandy Late Miocene of Wickieup, USA)
 - *Anser arizonae* (Big Sandy Late Miocene of Wickieup, USA)
 - *Anser cygniformis* (Miocene)
 - *Anser condoni* (Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, USA)
 - *Anser azerbaijdzhanicus*
 - *Anser oeningensis*
 - *Anser thompsoni*
 - *Branta woolfendeni* (Big Sandy Late Miocene of Wickieup, USA)
 - *Branta dickeyi* (Late Pliocene - Late Pleistocene of W USA)
 - *Branta esmeralda* (Pliocene)
 - *Branta howardae* (Pliocene)
 - *Branta propinqua* (Middle Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, USA)
 - *Branta hypsibata* (Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, USA)

- *Bucephala ossivalis* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Bone Valley, USA) - may be subspecies of extant *Bucephala clangula*
- *Bucephala fossilis* (Late Pliocene of California, USA)
- *Bucephala angustipes*
- *Bucephala cereti*
- *Chen pressa* (Glenns Ferry Late Pliocene of Hagerman, USA)
- *Lophodytes floridana* - formerly *Anas/Querquedula*
- *Mergus connectens*
- *Mergus miscellus*
- *Neochen debilis*
- *Neochen pugil*

Galliformes

The group that includes modern [chickens](#) and quails.

- **Placement unresolved**
 - †*Austinornis* (Austin Chalk Late Cretaceous of Fort McKinney, USA) - formerly *Graculavus/Ichthyornis lentus*
 - †*Procrax* (Middle Eocene - Early Oligocene) - cracid? gallinuloidid?
 - †*Palaeortyx* (Middle Eocene -? Late Oligocene) - phasianid or odontophorid
 - †*Palaeonossax* (Brule Late Oligocene of South Dakota, USA) - cracid?
 - †*Taoperdix* (Late Oligocene)
 - †*Archaeophasianus* (Oligocene ?- Late Miocene) - tetraonid or phasianid
 - †*Palaelectoris* (Agate Fossil Beds Early Miocene of Sioux County, USA) - tetraonid?
 - †"*Cyrtonyx tedfordi* (Barstow Late Miocene of Barstow, USA)
 - †*Archaeoelectornis*
 - †*Paleophasianus* - tetraonid or cracid
- **†Gallinuloididae**
 - *Gallinuloides* (Green River Early/Middle Eocene of Wyoming, USA)
 - *Paraortygoides* (London Clay Early Eocene of Walton-on-the-Naze, England - Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
- **†Paraortygidae**
 - *Pirortyx*
 - *Paraortyx*
- **†Quercymegapodiidae**
 - *Quercymegapodius* (Middle Eocene - Early Oligocene)
 - *Taubacrex* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of Brazil)
 - *Ameripodius* (Late Oligocene - Early Miocene of Brazil and France)
- **Megapodidae** - Megapodes
 - †*Ngawupodius*
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Leipoa gallinacea* - formerly *Progura*

- **Cracidae** - Guans and Curassows
 - †*Boreortalis* (Early Miocene) - may be same as *Ortalis*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Ortalis* (Early Miocene - Recent)
 - **Tetraonidae** - Grouse
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - "*Tympanuchus*" *stirtoni* (Early Miocene)
 - "*Tympanuchus*" *lulli* (Pleistocene? of New Jersey)
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Lagopus atavus* (Late Pliocene)
 - *Lagopus balcanicus*
 - *Tetrao partium* (Early Pleistocene)
 - *Tetrao praeurogallus* (Early Pleistocene)
 - *Tetrao conjugens*
 - *Tetrao macropus*
 - *Tetrao rhodopensis*
 - *Dendragapus gilli* (Late Pleistocene of WC and W USA) - formerly *Palaeotetrix*
 - *Dendragapus lucasi* (Late Pleistocene of Fossil Lake, USA)
 - *Bonasa praebonasia*
 - **Prehistoric subspecies of extant species**
 - *Lagopus lagopus noaillensis*
 - *Lagopus mutus correzensis*
- **Phasianidae** - Pheasants, quails and partridges
 - †*Schaubortyx* (Middle Eocene - Early Oligocene)
 - †*Chauvireria*
 - †*Miogallus*
 - †*Miophasianus*
 - †*Palaeocryptonyx*
 - †*Palaeoperdix*
 - †*Pliogallus*
 - †*Plioperdix*
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Coturnix gallica* (Late Oligocene - Late Miocene of SW to EC Europe)
 - *Coturnix longipes*
 - *Gallus aesculapii* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Greece) - possibly belongs into *Pavo*
 - *Gallus moldavicus* (Late Pliocene of Moldavia)
 - *Gallus beremendensis* (Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene of E Europe)
 - *Gallus karabachensis* (Early Pleistocene of Nagorno-Karabakh)
 - *Gallus europaeus* (Middle Pleistocene of Italy)
 - *Pavo bravardi* (Early - Late Pliocene)
 - *Francolinus capeki* (Late Pliocene of Hungary)
 - *Perdix palaeoperdix*

- ***Prehistoric subspecies of extant species***
 - *Alectoris graeca martelensis*
- **Odontophoridae** - New World Quails
 - †*Nanortyx* (Cypress Hills Early Oligocene of North Calf Creek, Canada)
 - †*Miortyx* (Rosebud Early Miocene of Flint Hill, USA)
 - †*Neortyx* (Early Pleistocene of Reddick, USA)
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - †Odontophoridae gen. et sp. indet. KUV 9393 (White River Early/Middle Oligocene of Logan County, USA)
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Cyrtonyx cooki* (Late Miocene? of Upper Sheep Creek, USA)
 - *Callipepla*? *shotwelli* (Middle Pliocene of McKay Reservoir, USA) - formerly *Lophortyx*
 - *Colinus hibbardi* (Rexroad Late Pliocene of Rexroad, USA)
 - *Colinus* sp. (Late Pliocene of Benson, USA)
 - *Colinus suillum* (Early Pleistocene of SE USA)
 - *Dendrortyx*? sp. (Late Pleistocene of San Josecito Cavern, Mexico)
 - **Meleagrididae** - Turkeys
 - †*Rhegminornis* (Early Miocene of Bell, USA)
 - †*Proagriocharis* (Kimball Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lime Creek, USA)
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - Meleagridae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene of Westmoreland County, USA)
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Meleagris* sp. (Early Pliocene of Bone Valley, USA)
 - *Meleagris leopoldi* (Late Pliocene of Cita Canyon, USA) - formerly *Agriochares*
 - *Meleagris progenes* (Rexroad Late Pliocene, Meade County, USA) - formerly *Agriochares*
 - *Meleagris* sp. (Late Pliocene of Macasphalt Shell Pit, USA)
 - *Meleagris anza* (Early Pleistocene of San Diego County, USA)
 - *Meleagris californica* (Late Pleistocene of SW USA) - formerly *Parapavo/Pavo*
 - *Meleagris crassipes* (Late Pleistocene of SW North America)

Charadriiformes

[Gulls, auks](#), shorebirds

- **Basal and unresolved taxa**
 - †Charadriidae gen. et sp. indet. VI 9901 (Lopez de Bertodano Late Cretaceous of Vega Island, Antarctica) - burhinid? basal?
 - †*Boutersemia* (Early Oligocene of Boutersem, Belgium) - glareolid?
- [Scolopacidae](#) - Waders and snipes

- †*Paractitis*
- †*Erolia*
- **Placement unresolved**
 - Scolopacidae gen. et sp. indet. (Middle Miocene of Františkovy Lázn, Czechia - Late Miocene of Kohfidisch, Austria)
- **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Limosa? gypsorum* (Montmartre Late Eocene of France) - may belong to *Numenius*
 - *Limosa vanrossemi* (Monterey Late Miocene of Lompoc, USA)
 - *Tringa edwardsi* (Quercy Upper Eocene/Lower Oligocene of Mouillac, France)
 - *Tringa* sp. 1 (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Tringa* sp. 2 (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Tringa antiqua* (Late Pliocene of Meade County, USA)
 - *Tringa ameghini* (Late Pleistocene of Talara Tar Seeps, Peru)
 - *Gallinago* cf. *media* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Scolopax carmesinae* (Early/Middle Pliocene? of Menorca, Mediterranean)
 - "*Scolopax baranensis* (Early Pliocene of Hungary) - a *nomen nudum*
 - *Scolopax hutchensi* (Late Pliocene - Early Pleistocene of Florida, USA)
 - *Phalaropus elenora* (Middle Pliocene)
- **Jacanidae - Jacanas**
 - †*Nupharanassa* (Early Oligocene)
 - †*Janipes*
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - †*Jacana farrandi*
- **Laridae - Gulls**
 - †Laridae gen. et sp. indet. (Early Oligocene)
 - †*Gaviota* (Late Miocene of Cherry County, USA)
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Larus elegans* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of St-Gérard-le-Puy, France)
 - *Larus totanoides* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of SE France)
 - *Larus? desnoyersii* (Early Miocene of SE France)
 - *Larus pristinus* (John Day Early Miocene of Willow Creek, USA)
 - *Larus* sp. (Grund Middle Miocene of Austria)
 - *Larus elmorei* (Bone Valley Early/Middle Pliocene of SE USA)
 - *Larus lacus* (Pinecrest Late Pliocene of SE USA)
 - *Larus perpetuus* (Pinecrest Late Pliocene of SE USA)
 - *Larus* sp. (San Diego Late Pliocene of SW USA)
 - *Larus oregonus* (Late Pliocene - Late Pleistocene of WC USA)
 - *Larus robustus* (Late Pliocene - Late Pleistocene of WC USA)
 - *Larus* sp. (Lake Manix Late Pleistocene of W USA)
- **Alcidae - Auks**
 - †*Hydrotherikornis* (Late Eocene of Oregon, USA)
 - †*Petralca* (Early ?- Late Oligocene of Austria)

- †*Miocepphus* (Middle Miocene of CE USA)
- †*Alcodes* (Late Miocene of Orange County, USA)
- †*Praemancalla* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of Orange County, USA)
- †*Mancalla* (Late Miocene - Early Pleistocene of W North America)
- ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***
 - *Cepphus* (Late Miocene - Recent)
 - *Cerorhinca* (Late Miocene - Recent)
 - *Uria* (Late Miocene - Recent)
 - *Alca* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene - Recent)
 - *Fratercula* (Early Pliocene - Recent)
 - *Pinguinus* (Early Pliocene - Recent)
 - *Ptychoramphus* (Late Pliocene - Recent)
- ***Additional prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Aethia rossmoori* (Monterrey Late Miocene of Orange County, USA)
 - *Aethia?* sp. (Late Miocene of SW North America)
 - *Brachyramphus dunkeli* (San Diego Late Pliocene, SW USA)
 - *Brachyramphus pliocenium* (San Diego Late Pliocene of California, USA)
 - *Synthliboramphus* sp. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Cedros Island, Mexico)
 - *Synthliboramphus rineyi* (San Diego Late Pliocene, SW USA)
- **Stercorariidae** - Skuas and jaegers
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Stercorarius* sp. (Middle Miocene)
 - *Stercorarius shufeldti* (Fossil Lake Middle Pleistocene of WC USA)
 - ***Prehistoric subspecies of extant species***
 - *Stercorarius pomarinus philippi*
- **Glareolidae** - Pratincoles
 - †*Paractiornis* (Agate Fossil Beds Early Miocene of Sioux County, USA)
 - †*Mioglareola*
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Glareola neogena*
- **Burhinidae** - Thick-knees
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Burhinus lucorum* (Early Miocene)
 - *Burhinus aquilonaris*
 - *Burhinus* sp. (Cuba, West Indies)
 - ***Prehistoric subspecies of extant species***
 - *Burhinus bistriatus nanus* (Bahamas, West Indies)
- **Charadriidae** - Plovers
 - †*Jiliniornis* (Huadian Middle Eocene of Huadian, China)
 - †*Viator*
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Belanopteryx edmundi* - formerly *Vanellus*

- *Belanopteryx downsi* - formerly *Vanellus*
- *Oreopholus orcesi*
- **Recurvirostridae** - Avocets
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Himantopus olsoni* (Big Sandy Late Miocene of Wickieup, USA)
 - *Recurvirostra sanctaeneboulae*

Gruiformes

The group that includes modern [rails](#) and cranes.

- **Placement unresolved**
 - †*Propelargus* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of Quercy, France) - cariamid or idornithid
 - †*Rupelrallus* (Early Oligocene of Germany) - rallid?
 - †*Badistornis* (Brule Middle Oligocene of Shannon County, USA)
 - †"*Probalearica*" (Late Oligocene? - Middle Pliocene of Florida, USA, France?, Moldavia and Mongolia) - gruid?
 - †*Aramornis* (Sheep Creek Middle Miocene of Snake Creek Quarries, USA) - gruid?
 - †*Euryonotus* - rallid?
 - †*Occitaniavis* - cariamid or idiornithid, includes *Geranopsis elatus*
- †**Parvigruidae**
 - *Parvigrus* (Early Oligocene of Pichovet, France)
- †**Songziidae**
 - *Songzia*
- †**Gastornithidae** - Diatrymas
 - *Gastornis* (Late Paleocene - Eocene of North America and W Europe) - includes *Diatryma*
 - Gastornithidae gen. et sp. indet. PU 13258 (Early Eocene of Parly County, USA)
 - "*Diatryma*" *corei* (Middle Eocene of Lissieu, France)
 - *Omorhamphus*
 - *Zhongyuanus*
 - *Placement unresolved*
- **Rallidae** - Rails
 - †*Eocrex* (Wasatch Early Eocene of Steamboat Springs, USA)
 - †*Palaeorallus* (Wasatch Early Eocene of Wyoming, USA)
 - †*Aletornis* (Bridger Middle Eocene of Uinta County, USA)
 - †*Fulicaletornis* (Bridger Middle Eocene of Henry's Fork, USA)
 - †*Ibidopsis* (Hordwell Late Eocene of Hordwell, UK)

- †*Quercyrallus* (Late Eocene -? Late Oligocene of France)
- †*Belgirallus* (Early Oligocene of WC Europe)
- †*Rallicrex* (Corbula Middle/Late Oligocene of Kolzsvár, Romania)
- †*Palaeoaramides* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene - Late Miocene of France)
- †*Paraortygometra* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of France)
- †*Pararallus* (Late Oligocene? - Late Miocene of C Europe)
- †*Miofulica* (Anversian Black Sand Middle Miocene of Antwerp, Belgium)
- †*Miorallus* (Middle Miocene of Sansan, France)
- †*Creccoides*
- †*Microrallus*
- †*Montirallus*
- †*Parvirallus*
- †*Youngornis*
- **Placement unresolved**
 - Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene of Lemoyne Quarry, USA)
 - Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. UMMP V55013/-14; UMMP V55012/V45750/V45746(Rexroad Late Pliocene of Saw Rock Canyon, USA)
 - Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. UMMP V29080 (Rexroad Late Pliocene of Fox Canyon, USA)
 - Rallidae gen. et sp. indet. (Bermuda, West Atlantic)
- **Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species**
 - *Fulica* (Early Pliocene - Recent)
 - *Gallinula* (Late Pliocene - Recent)
- **Additional prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Coturnicops avita* (Glenns Ferry Late Pliocene of Hagerman, USA)
 - *Laterallus insignis* (Rexroad Late Pliocene of Rexroad, USA)
 - *Laterallus* sp. (Late Pliocene of Macasphalt Shell Pit, USA)
 - *Rallus lacustris* (Late Pliocene of C North America)
 - *Rallus phillipsi* (Late Pliocene of Wickieup, USA)
 - *Rallus prenticei* (Late Pliocene of C North America) - formerly *Gallinuloides*
 - *Rallus* sp. (Rexroad Late Pliocene of Saw Rock Canyon, USA)
 - *Rallus auffenbergi* (Middle Pleistocene of SE North America) - formerly *Porzana*
 - *Rallus ibycus* (Shore Hills Late Pleistocene of Bermuda, W Atlantic)
 - *Rallus recessus* (St Georges Soil Late Pleistocene of Bermuda, W Atlantic)
 - *Rallus natator* (Pleistocene of San Josecito Cavern, Mexico) - formerly *Epirallus*
 - *Rallus richondi* - includes *R. dubius*
 - *Porzana piercei* (Shore Hills Late Pleistocene of Bermuda, W Atlantic)
 - *Porzana estramosi*
 - *Porzana* cf. *flaviventer* (Bermuda, West Atlantic)
 - †**Geranoididae**
- *Eogeranoides* (Willwood Early Eocene of Foster Gulch, USA)

- *Geranoides* (Willwood Early Eocene of South Elk Creek, USA)
- *Palaeophasianus* (Willwood Early Eocene of Bighorn County, USA)
- *Paragrus* (Early Eocene of WC USA)
- *Geranodornis* (Bridger Middle Eocene of Church Buttes, USA)
 - †**Eogruidae**
- *Eogrus* (Irdin Manha Middle/Late Eocene - Tung Gur Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Mongolia)
- *Sonogrus* (Ergilin Dzo Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of Khor Dzan, Mongolia)
 - †**Ergilornithidae**
- *Ergilornis* (Early/Middle Oligocene of Ergil-Obo, Mongolia)
- *Proergilornis* (Early/Middle Oligocene of Ergil-Obo, Mongolia)
- *Amhipelargus* - includes *Urmiornis*
- **Gruidae** - Cranes
 - †*Palaeogrus* (Middle Eocene of Germany and Italy - Middle Miocene of France)
 - †*Eobalearica* (Ferghana Late? Eocene of Ferghana, Uzbekistan)
 - †*Geranopsis* (Hordwell Late Eocene - Early Oligocene of England)
 - †*Camusia* (Late Miocene of Menorca, Mediterranean)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Gruidae gen. et sp. indet. - formerly *Grus conferta* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Contra Costa County, USA)
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Balearica rummeli* (Early Miocene of Germany) - formerly *Basityto*
 - *Balearica exigua*
 - *Grus miocaenicus* (Middle Miocene of Credinca, Romania) - may be synonym of *Palaelodus ambiguus*
 - *Grus afghana* (Late Miocene of Molayan, Afghanistan)
 - *Grus* sp. 1 (Late Miocene of Love Bone Bed, USA)
 - *Grus* sp. 2 (Late Miocene of Love Bone Bed, USA)
 - *Grus* cf. *antigone* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Grus nannodes* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene -? Middle Pliocene of Sherman County, USA)
 - *Grus* sp. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Grus haydeni* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene - Pleistocene? of WC USA)
 - *Grus penteleci* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of C and SE Europe) - formerly *Pliogrus*
 - *Grus latipes* (Shore Hills Late Pleistocene of Bermuda, W Atlantic) - formerly *Baeopteryx*
 - *Grus pagei* (Late Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea)
 - *Grus melitensis* (Pleistocene of Malta)
 - *Grus bogatshevi*
 - *Grus cubensis*
 - *Grus primigenia*
- †**Messelornithidae** - Messel-birds

- *Itardiornis*
- *Messelornis*
- **Cariamidae** - Seriemas
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Chunga incerta*
 - †**Salmilidae**
 - *Salmila*
 - †**Bathornithidae**
 - *Eutreptornis* (Uinta Late Eocene of Ouray Agency, USA)
 - *Neocathartes* (Late Eocene)
 - *Palaeogyps* (Early Oligocene of WC North America)
 - Bathornithidae gen. nov. (Early - Middle Oligocene of C USA) - formerly *Bathornis celeripes* and *B. cursor*
 - *Paracrax* (Early/Middle Oligocene of Gerry's Ranch, USA - Brule Late Oligocene of South Dakota, USA)
 - *Bathornis* (Early Oligocene - Early Miocene of C USA)
 - †**Idiornithidae**
 - *Idiornis* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany ?- Quercy Middle Oligocene of Quercy, France)
 - *Gypsornis* (Montmartre Late Eocene of Montmartre, France)
 - *Elaphrocnemus* (Quercy Late Eocene ?-Middle Oligocene of Quercy, France)
 - *Oblitavis*
- †**[Phorusrhacidae](#)** - Terror birds
 - *Paleopsilopterus* (Middle Paleocene of Itaboraí, Brazil)
 - *Andrewsornis* (Middle - Late Oligocene of S Argentina)
 - *Physornis* (Middle - Late Oligocene of Santa Cruz Province, Argentina)
 - *Psilopterus* (Deseado Middle Oligocene - Arroyo Chasicó Late Miocene of S and E Argentina)
 - *Paraphysornis* (Tremembé Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of São Paulo State, Brazil)
 - *Brontornis* (Early - Middle Miocene)
 - *Patagornis* (Santa Cruz Early - Middle Miocene of Santa Cruz Province, Argentina)
 - *Phorusrhacos* (Early - Middle Miocene)
 - *Andalgalornis* (Andalgalá Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of N Argentina)
 - *Devincenzia* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of NE Argentina and Arroyo Roman, Uruguay)
 - *Procarium* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of Catamarca Province, Argentina)
 - *Mesembriornis* (Late Miocene - Late Pliocene of E and NW Argentina)
 - *Titanis* (Late Pliocene - Early Pleistocene)
- **Otididae** - Bustards
 - †*Gryzaja*
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***

- *Chlamydotis affinis*

Phoenicopteriformes

- **Placement unresolved**
 - *Phoeniconotius* (Etadunna Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of Lake Pitikanta, Australia)
- †**Palaelodidae** - Swimming-flamingos
 - *Adelalopus* (Borgloon Early Oligocene of Hoogbutsel, Belgium)
 - *Palaelodus* (Middle Oligocene -? Middle Pleistocene)
 - *Megapaloelodus* (Late Oligocene - Early Pliocene)
 - **Phoenicopteridae** - Flamingos
 - †*Elornis* (Late Eocene - Early Oligocene)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Phoenicopus* (Middle Oligocene - Recent)

Podicipediformes

- **Podicipedidae** - Grebes
 - †*Pliolymbus* (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - †*Miobaptus*
 - †*Thiornis*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Podicipedidae gen. et sp. indet. (San Diego Late Pliocene of California) - formerly included in *Podiceps parvus*
 - Podicipedidae gen. et sp. indet. UMMP 49592, 52261, 51848, 52276, KUV 4484 (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - Podicipedidae gen. et sp. indet. (Glenns Ferry Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene of Idaho, USA)
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Podiceps* cf. *auritus* (Early Pliocene of Florida, USA) - formerly *P. pisanus*, *P. howardae* and *Pliodytes lanquisti*
 - *Podiceps subparvus* (Middle Pliocene of California, USA)
 - *Podiceps discors* (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - *Podiceps?* sp. (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - *Podiceps parvus* (Late Pleistocene of W North America)
 - *Podilymbus majusculus* (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - *Podilymbus wetmorei* (Late Pleistocene of Florida, USA)
 - *Podiceps dixi*
 - *Podiceps oligocaenus*
 - *Aechmophorus elasson* (Late Pliocene of W USA)
 - **Prehistoric subspecies of extant species**

- *Aechmophorus occidentalis lucasi* (Late Pleistocene of SW North America)
- *Podilymbus podiceps magnus* - may be same as nominate subspecies

Ciconiiformes

The diverse group that includes [storks](#), herons and [New World vultures](#).

- **Placement unresolved**
 - *"Teratornis" olsoni*
- **Ardeidae** - Herons
 - †*Xenerodiops* (Early Oligocene of Fayyum, Egypt)
 - †*Zeltornis* (Early Miocene)
 - †*Ardeagradis*
 - †*Calcardea*
 - †*Proardea*
 - †*Proardeola* - possibly same as *Proardea*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Nycticorax* (Early Oligocene - Recent)
 - *Ardea* (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - *Egretta* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene - Recent)
 - *Butorides* (Early Pleistocene - Recent)
 - *Botaurus*
- **Scopidae** - Hammerkop
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Scopus xenopus*
 - **Threskiornithidae** - Ibises
 - †*Rhynchaetes*
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Plegadis paganus* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of France) - formerly *Eudocimus*
 - *Plegadis gracilis* (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - *Plegadis pharangites* (Late Pliocene of WC USA)
 - *Theristicus wetmorei*
 - *Eudocimus leiseyi*
 - *Eudocimus ?peruvianus*
 - *Eudocimus* sp. (Florida)
 - †**Teratornithidae** - Teratorns
 - *Argentavis* (Late Miocene)
 - *Aiolornis* (Early Pliocene - Late Pleistocene)
 - *Cathartornis*
- **Cathartidae** - New World vultures
 - †*Diatropornis* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene -? Middle Oligocene)
 - †*Phasmagyps* (Early Oligocene)

- †*Brasilogyys* (Late Oligocene - Early Miocene)
- †*Hadrogyys* (Middle Miocene)
- †*Pliogyys* (Late Miocene - Late Pliocene)
- †*Perugyys* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene)
- †*Dryornis* (Early - Late Pliocene) - may belong to modern genus *Vultur*
- †*Aizenogyys* (Late Pliocene)
- †*Breagyys* (Late Pleistocene)
- †*Geronogyys* (Late Pleistocene)
- †*Wingegyys* (Late Pleistocene)
- †*Parasarcoramphus*
- **Placement unresolved**
 - Cathartidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Oligocene of Mongolia)
 - Cathartidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - Cathartidae gen. et sp. indet. (Middle Pliocene of Argentina)
 - Cathartidae gen. et sp. indet. (Cuba)
- **Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species**
 - Sarcoramphus (Middle Pliocene ?- Recent)
 - Gymnogyys (Early Pleistocene - Recent)
 - Vultur (Pliocene - Recent) - distinctiveness disputed
- **Balaenicipitidae** - Shoebills
 - †*Goliathia* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of Egypt)
 - †*Paludavis* (Late Miocene of Tunisia and Pakistan)
- **Ciconiidae** - Storks
 - †*Palaeoephippiorhynchus* (Early Oligocene of Fayyum, Egypt)
 - †*Grallavis* (Early Miocene of Saint-Gérard-le-Puy, France, and Djebel Zelten, Libya) - may be same as
 - †*Prociconia* (Late Pleistocene of Brazil) - may belong to modern genus *Jabiru* or *Ciconia*

Palaeoephippiorhynchus

- †*Pelargosteon* (Early Pleistocene of Romania)
- **Placement unresolved**
 - Ciconiidae gen. et sp. indet. - formerly *Cygnus bilineatus* (Early Miocene of BYešany, Czechia)
 - cf. *Leptoptilos* gen. et sp. indet. - formerly *L. siwalicensis* (Late Miocene? - Late Pliocene of Siwalik, India)
 - Ciconiidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Pleistocene of San Josecito Cavern, Mexico) - *Ciconia* or *Mycteria*
 - *Ciconia stehlini* (Early Pleistocene of Hungary)
 - *Ciconia nana* (Late Pleistocene of Australia) - formerly *Xenorhynchus*
 - *Mycteria milleri* (Valentine Middle Miocene of Cherry County, USA) - formerly *Dissourodes*
 - *Mycteria wetmorei* (Late Pleistocene of W and SE USA)
 - *Ephippiorhynchus pakistanensis* (Late Miocene of Pakistan)

- *Leptoptilos richae* (Begliia Late Miocene of Bled ed Douarah, Tunisia, and Wadi Moghara, Egypt?)
- *Leptoptilos* sp. (Ngorora Late Miocene of Baringo District, Kenya)
- *Leptoptilos falconeri* (Early - Late Pliocene of S Asia and E Africa)
- *Leptoptilos* cf. *falconeri* (Early Pliocene of Odessa, Ukraine and Urugus, Ethiopia - Late Pliocene of Koro Toro, Chad and Olduvai, Tanzania) - includes *L. pliocenicus*, may be the same as *L. falconeri*
- *Leptoptilos* sp. (Late Pliocene of Siwalik, India) - formerly *Cryptociconia indica*, may be the same as *L. falconeri*
- *Leptoptilos titan* (Notopuro Middle/Late Pleistocene of Watualang, Java)

Pelecaniformes

The group that includes modern [pelicans](#) and [cormorants](#).

- **Basal and unresolved forms**
 - †*"Sula" ronsoni* (Early Oligocene of Ronzon, France) - formerly *Mergus*
 - †*Anhinga laticeps* (Pleistocene)
- †**Prophaethontidae**
 - *Prophaethon* (Early Eocene London Clay of Isle of Sheppey, England)
 - *Lithoptila* (Late Paleocene of Ouled Abdoun Basin, Morocco)
- **Phaethontidae** - Tropicbirds
 - †*Heliadornis*
- **Fregatidae** - Frigatebirds
 - †*Limnofregata* (Early Eocene)
- [Sulidae](#) - Gannets and boobies
 - †*Masillastega* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
 - †*Eostega* (Middle/Late Eocene of Cluj-Manastur, Romania)
 - †*Empheresula* (Late Oligocene of Gannat, France - Middle Miocene of Steinheimer Becken, Germany)
 - †*Microsula* (Lower Miocene of Léognan - Grund Middle Miocene of Austria)
 - †*Sarmatosula* (Middle Miocene of Credinca, Romania)
 - †*Rhamphastosula* (Pisco Early Pliocene of SC Peru)
 - †*Miosula*
 - †*Palaeosula*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Sulidae gen. et sp. indet. (Thalberg Late Oligocene of Germany)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Morus* (Early? Miocene - Recent)
 - *Sula* (Early Miocene - Recent)
- **Phalacrocoracidae** - Cormorants and shags
 - †*Oligocorax* (Late Oligocene of WC Europe)
 - †*Nectornis* (Early Miocene of C Europe - Middle Miocene of Bes-Konak, Turkey) - includes *Oligocorax miocaenus*

- †*Valenticarbo*
- **Placement unresolved**
 - †*Oligocorax?* sp. (Late Oligocene of Enspel, Germany)
- **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Phalacrocorax marinavis* (Oligocene? of Oregon) - *Oligocorax?*
 - *Phalacrocorax littoralis* (Early Miocene of St-Gérard-le-Puy, France) - formerly *Oligocorax*
 - *Phalacrocorax intermedius* (Early - Middle Miocene of C Europe) - includes *P. praecarbo*, *Ardea/P. brunhuberi* and *Botaurites avitus*
 - *Phalacrocorax macropus* (Early Miocene ?-? Pliocene of NW USA)
 - *Phalacrocorax ibericus* (Late Miocene of Valles de Fuentiduena, Spain)
 - *Phalacrocorax lautus* (Late Miocene of Golboçica, Moldavia)
 - *Phalacrocorax serdicensis* (Late Miocene of Hrabarsko, Bulgaria)
 - *Phalacrocorax femoralis* (Modelo Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of WC North America)
 - *Phalacrocorax* sp. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
 - *Phalacrocorax longipes* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of the Ukraine) - formerly *Pliocarbo*
 - *Phalacrocorax goletensis* (Early Pliocene of Michoacán, Mexico)
 - *Phalacrocorax wetmorei* (Bone Valley Early Pliocene of Florida)
 - *Phalacrocorax* sp. (Bone Valley Early Pliocene of Polk County, USA) - may be *P. idahensis*
 - *Phalacrocorax idahensis* (Middle Pliocene ?- Pleistocene of Idaho)
 - *Phalacrocorax destefani* (Late Pliocene of Italy)
 - *Phalacrocorax filyawi* (Pinecrest Late Pliocene of Florida, USA) - may be *P. idahensis*
 - *Phalacrocorax macer* (Late Pliocene of Idaho, USA)
 - *Phalacrocorax rogersi* (Late Pliocene of Santa Barbara, USA)
 - *Phalacrocorax kennelli* (San Diego Pliocene of California)
 - *Phalacrocorax* sp. "Wildhalm" (Pliocene)
 - *Phalacrocorax pampeanus* (Pleistocene of Argentina)
 - *Phalacrocorax gregorii* (Pleistocene of Australia)
 - *Phalacrocorax vetustus* (Pleistocene of Australia)
 - *Phalacrocorax anatolicus*
 - *Phalacrocorax chapalensis*
 - *Phalacrocorax kumeyaay*
 - *Phalacrocorax leptopus*
 - *Phalacrocorax mongoliensis*
 - *Phalacrocorax reliquus*
 - *Phalacrocorax* sp. (Sarasota County, Florida) - may be *P. idahensis*
- †**Plotopteridae** - Diving-"boobies"
 - *Phocavis*
 - *Tonsala*
 - *Copepteryx*

- *Plotopterum*
 - †**Protoplotidae**
- *Protoplotus* (Middle Eocene of Sumatra)
- **Anhingidae** - Darters
 - †*Meganhinga* (Early Miocene)
 - †*Macranhinga* (Late Miocene -? Early Pliocene)
 - †*Giganhinga* (Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - [*Anhinga*](#) (Early Miocene - Recent)
- †**Pelagornithidae** - Pseudotooth Birds
 - *Gigantornis* (Middle Eocene of Nigeria)
 - *Osteodontornis* (Early Oligocene - Pliocene)
 - *Pelagornis* (Middle Miocene of France)
 - *Odontopteryx*
 - *Caspiodontornis*
 - *Cyphornis* (Eocene of Vancouver, Canada)
 - *Dasornis*
 - *Palaeochenoides*
 - *Pseudodontornis*
 - *Tympanoneisiotes*
- **Pelecanidae** - Pelicans
 - †*Protopelicanus*
 - †*Miopelecanus*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Pelecanus* (Late Pliocene - Recent)

Procellariiformes

The group that includes modern [albatrosses](#), petrels and storm-petrels.

- †**Diomedeoididae**
 - *Rupelornis* (Early Oligocene of Belgium)
 - *Diomedeoides* (Early Oligocene ?-Early Miocene of C Europe and Iran) - includes *Frigidafrons*, may be synonym of *Rupelornis*
- **Diomedeidae** - Albatrosses
 - †*Murunkus* (Middle Eocene)
 - †*Plotornis* (Middle Miocene)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Diomedeidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Oligocene of South Carolina)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Diomedea* (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - *Phoebastria* (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - *Thalassarche* (Late Miocene - Recent)
- **Hydrobatidae** - Storm-petrels

- ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Oceanodroma hubbsi* (Capistrano Middle/Late Miocene of Orange County, USA)
 - *Oceanodroma* sp.
 - *Pelagodroma* sp. 1
 - *Pelagodroma* sp. 2
 - **Procellariidae** - Petrels
- †*Argyrodypetes* (Patagonia Early Miocene of Patagonia, Argentina)
- †*Pterodromoides*
- ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***
 - Puffinus (Early Oligocene - Recent)
 - Fulmarus (Middle Miocene - Recent)
 - Calonectris
 - Pachyptila
 - Procellaria
- **Pelecanoididae** - Diving-petrels
 - ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***
 - *Pelecanoides* (Early Pliocene - Recent)

Gaviiformes

- **Gaviidae** - Loons
 - †*Colymboides* (Late Eocene - Early Miocene) - includes *Hydrornis*
 - ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***
 - *Gavia* (Early Miocene - Recent)

Sphenisciformes

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
 - †*Waimanu* (Early - Late Palaeocene)
 - Sphenisciformes gen. et sp. indet. CADIC P 21 (Leticia Middle Eocene of Punta Torcida, Argentina)
- **Spheniscidae** - Penguins
 - †*Crossvallia* (Cross Valley Late Paleocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)
 - †*Anthropornis* (Middle Eocene ?- Early Oligocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)
 - †*Archaeospheniscus* (Middle/Late Eocene - Late Oligocene)
 - †*Delphinornis* (Middle/Late Eocene ?- Early Oligocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)
 - †*Palaeodyptes* (Middle/Late Eocene - Late Oligocene)
 - †*Pachydyptes* (Late Eocene)
 - †*Marambiornis* (Late Eocene -? Early Oligocene of Seymour Island,

Antarctica)

†Mesetaornis (Late Eocene -? Early Oligocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)

†Tonniornis (Late Eocene -? Early Oligocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)

†Wimanornis (Late Eocene -? Early Oligocene of Seymour Island, Antarctica)

†Arthrodytes (San Julian Late Eocene/Early Oligocene - Patagonia Early Miocene of Patagonia, Argentina)

†Duntroonornis (Late Oligocene of Otago, New Zealand)

†Korora (Late Oligocene of S Canterbury, New Zealand)

†Platydyptes (Late Oligocene of New Zealand)

†Chubutodyptes (Early Miocene)

†Eretiscus (Patagonia Early Miocene of Patagonia, Argentina)

†Palaeospheniscus (Early Miocene)

†Paraptenodytes (Early Miocene)

†Anthropodyptes (Middle Miocene)

†Pseudaptenodytes (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene)

†Dege

†Insuza

†Marplesornis

†Nucleornis

○ ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***

▪ Pygoscelis (Middle/Late Miocene - Recent)

Spheniscus (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene - Recent)

Aptenodytes (Early Pliocene - Recent)

○ ***Placement unresolved***

▪ Spheniscidae gen. et sp. indet (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of Hakataramea, New Zealand)

▪ Spheniscidae gen. et sp. indet (Pisco Middle Miocene of SC Peru) - may be same as *Pygoscelis* small sp.

Pteroclidiformes

• **Pteroclididae** - Sandgrouse

○ †*Archaeoganga*

○ †*Leptoganga*

Columbiformes

• **Columbidae** - Doves and pigeons

○ †*Gerandia* (Early Miocene)

○ ***Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species***

- *Patagioenas* (Early Pliocene - Recent)
- *Columba*

Psittaciformes

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
 - †*Psittacopes*
 - †**Pseudasturidae**
 - *Pseudastur*
 - *Pseudasturides*
- **Psittacidae** - Parrots, parakeets and lorries
 - †*Archaeopsittacus* (Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of France)
 - †*Xenopsitta* (Early Miocene of Czechia)
 - †*Bavaripsitta* (Middle Miocene of Steinberg, Germany)
 - †"*Pararallus dispar*" (Middle Miocene of France) - includes "*Psittacus*" *lartetianus*
 - †*Precursor* (Early Eocene of England)
 - †*Serundaptus*
 - †*Quercypsitta*
 - †*Pulchrapollia*
 - **Extant and recently extinct genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Conuropsis* (Early? Miocene - Holocene) - may be subspecies of *C. carolinensis* or belong to different genus
 - *Rhynchopsitta* (Late Pleistocene - Recent)
 - **Additional prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Aratinga roosevelti*

Cuculiformes

Cuckoos, turacos and allies.

- **Opisthocomidae** - Hoatzins
 - †*Hoazinoides* (Miocene of upper Magdalena Valley, Colombia)
 - †*Hoatzi* - may be same as *Foro*
- **Musophagidae** - Turacos
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - *Musophagidae* gen. et sp. indet. (Egypt)
 - **Prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Musophaga africanus* - formerly *Apopemopsis*
 - *Musophaga meini* - formerly *Apopemopsis*
- **Cuculidae** - Cuckoos
 - †*Dynamopterus*
 - †*Cursoricoccyx*

- †*Neococcyx*
- **Placement unresolved**
 - Cuculidae gen. et sp. indet.

Falconiformes

Birds of prey

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
 - †*Masillaraptor* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany) - basal?
 - †**Horusornithidae**
 - *Horusornis*
- **Pandionidae** - Ospreys
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Pandion* (Early Oligocene - Recent)
- **Sagittariidae** - Secretary Birds
 - †*Pelargopappus* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene - Late Oligocene/Early Miocene of France) - formerly *Amphiserpentarius*/*Amynoptilon*/*Pelargopsis*
- **Accipitridae** - Hawks
 - †*Milvoides* (Late Eocene of England)
 - †*Aquilavus* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of France)
 - †*Palaeocircus* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of France)
 - †*Palaeastur* (Agate Fossil Beds Early Miocene of Sioux County, USA)
 - †*Pengana* (Early Miocene of Riversleigh, Australia)
 - †*Promilio* (Agate Fossil Beds Early Miocene of Sioux County, USA)
 - †*Proictinia* (Early - Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of C and SE USA)
 - †*Palaeoborus* (Miocene)
 - †*Neophrontops* (Early Pliocene - Late Pleistocene)
 - †*Amplibuteo* (Late Pliocene of Peru - Late Pleistocene of S North America and Cuba) - may belong to extant genus *Harpyhaliaetus*
 - †*Neogyps*
 - †*Palaeohierax*
 - †*Wetmoregyps* - formerly *Morphnus daggetti*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Accipitridae gen. et sp. indet. AMNH 7434 (Huerfano Early Eocene of Huerfano County, USA)
 - Accipitridae gen. et sp. indet. (Egypt)
 - "*Aquila*" *danana* (Miocene) - formerly *Geranoaetus* or *Buteo*
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Halieetus* (Early Oligocene - Recent)
 - *Buteo* (Middle Oligocene - Recent)
 - **Additional prehistoric species of extant genera**
 - *Aquila bivia*

- *Aquila sodalis*
- *Buteogallus enectus* (Sheep Creek Middle Miocene of Sioux County, USA)
- *Buteogallus fragilis* (Rancho La Brea Late Pleistocene of California, USA) - formerly *Geranoaetus*
- *Buteogallus milleri* (Late Pleistocene of New Mexico, USA)
- *Gyps melitensis*
- *Neophron* sp. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)
- *Neophron vetustus*
- *Neophron dakotensis*
- *Neophron slaughteri*
- *Neophron vallecitoensis*
- *Neophron ricardoensis*
- *Spizaetus grinnelli* (Rancho La Brea Late Pleistocene of California, USA) - formerly *Geranoaetus*
- *Spizaetus pliogryps*
- **Falconidae** - Falcons
 - †*Parvulivenator* (Early Eocene of England)
 - †*Stintonornis* (Early Eocene of England)
 - †*Badiostes* (Santa Cruz Early Miocene of Patagonia, Argentina)
 - †*Pediohierax* (Middle Miocene of Nebraska, USA) - formerly *Falco ramenta*
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - Falconidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene of Neuquén, Argentina)
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - ?*Falco* sp. (Late Miocene of Idaho)
 - *Falco* sp. (Early Pliocene of Kansas)
 - *Falco medius* (Late Miocene of Cherevichnyi, Ukraine)
 - *Falco antiquus*
 - *Milvago alexandri*
 - *Milvago readei*
 - ?*Milvago* sp. (Jamaica, West Indies)
 - *Milvago* sp. (Cuba, West Indies)
 - ***Prehistoric subspecies of extant species***
 - *Falco tinnunculus atavus*
 - *Polyborus plancus grinnelli* (Late Pleistocene of California)
 - *Polyborus plancus prelutosus* (Late Pleistocene of Mexico)

Caprimulgiformes

Nightjars, potoos and allies.

- **Placement unresolved**
- †*Paraprefica* - Steatornithidae or Nyctibiidae
- **Steatornithidae** - Oilbirds
- †*Prefica*

- ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Steatornis* sp.
- **Podargidae** - Frogmouths
 - †*Masillapodargus*
 - †*Quercypodargus*
 - **Nyctibiidae** - Potoos
 - †*Euronyctibius*
- **Caprimulgidae** - Nightjars
 - †*Ventivorus*

Apodiformes

Swifts, hummingbirds and owlet-nightjars.

- **Basal and unresolved forms**
 - †*Primapus* (Early Eocene) - aegialornithid or apodid
 - †*Parargornis* (Middle Eocene) - jungornithid, trochilid, basal as *Argornis*?
 - †*Argornis* (Late Eocene) - basal to Jungornithidae and Trochilidae
 - †*Cypselavus* (Late Eocene - Early Oligocene) - aegialornithid or hemiprocnid
- **Aegothelidae** - Owlet-nightjars
 - †*Quipollornis* (Early/Middle Miocene)
 - †**Aegialornithidae**
 - *Aegialornis* (Early Eocene of North America? - Late Eocene of C Europe)
 - †**Jungornithidae**
 - *Jungornis* (Early Oligocene of N Caucasus, Russia)
 - *Palescyvus*
 - *Laputavis*
- **Trochilidae** - Hummingbirds
 - †*Eurotrochilus* (Early Oligocene of Frauenweiler, Germany)
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - Trochilidae sp. et gen. indet. (Bahamas, West Indies)
 - Trochilidae sp. et gen. indet. (Brazil)
- **Apodidae** - Swifts
 - †*Scaniacypselus* (Early - Middle Eocene)
 - †*Procypseloides* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene - Early Miocene)
 - ***Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species***
 - *Apus*
 - *Tachornis*

Coliiformes

Mousebirds and relatives

- **Unresolved and basal forms**

- †*Chascacocolius* (Late Paleocene ?- Early Eocene) - basal? sandcoleid?
- †*Eocolius* (Early Eocene) - sandcoleid or coliid
- †*Selmes* (Middle Eocene ?-Late Oligocene) - coliid?, possibly synonym of *Primocolius*
- †"*Necrornis*" *palustris* (Miocene) - coliid (genus *Colius*)?
- †"*Picus*" *archiaci* (Miocene) - coliid? genus *Limnatornis*?
- †"*Picus*" *consobrinus* (Miocene) - coliid?
- †*Eobucco* - sandcoleid?
- †*Uintornis* - sandcoleid?
- †*Limnatornis*
 - †**Sandcoleidae**
 - *Sandcoleus*
 - *Anneavis*
 - *Eoglaucidium*
- **Coliidae** - Mousebirds
 - †*Primocolius* (Late Eocene/Oligocene)
 - †*Oligocolius* (Early Oligocene)
 - †*Masillacolius* (Middle Eocene)
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Colius hendeyi* (Early Pliocene)

Strigiformes

Owls and barn owls

- **Unresolved and basal forms**
- †*Ogygoptynx* (Early Paleocene of Colorado, USA) - basal
- †*Berruornis* - basal
- †Strigiformes gen. et spp. indet. (Early Oligocene of Wyoming, USA)
- †**Palaeoglaucidae**
- *Palaeoglaux*
- †**Protostrigidae**
- *Protostrix* (Middle - Late Eocene of W USA)
- *Eostrix* (Early Eocene of WC USA and England - Middle Eocene of WC USA)
- †**Sophiornithidae**
- *Sophiornis*
- *Strigogyys* - includes *Aenigmavis* and *Ameghinornis*
- **Strigidae** - Owls
- ***Placement unresolved***
 - "*Asio*" *henrici* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene of France) - previously *Otus*
 - "*Otus*" *wintershofensis* (Early/Middle Miocene of Wintershof West, Germany)
 - "*Strix*" *brevis* (Early/Middle Miocene of Wintershof West, Germany)
- ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***

- *Strix collongensis* (Early Miocene of France)
- *?Strix dakota* (Early Miocene of South Dakota, USA)
- *Strix* sp. (Late Miocene of Nebraska, USA)
- *?Strix perpasta* (Late Miocene - Early Pliocene of Gargano Peninsula, Italy)
- possibly same as *Bubo zeylonensis lamarmorae*
- *Strix brea* (Late Pleistocene of SW North America)
- *Strix* sp. (Late Pleistocene of Ladds, USA)
- *Strix intermedia*
- *Asio brevipes* (Glenns Ferry Late Pliocene of Hagerman, USA)
- *Asio priscus* (Late Pliocene of Santa Rosa Island, USA)
- *Athene megalopeza* (Rexroad Late Pliocene of WC USA)
- *Athene trinacriae*
- *Athene* cf. *cunicularia* (Barbuda, West Indies)
- *Athene* cf. *cunicularia* (Cayman Islands, West Indies)
- *Athene* cf. *cunicularia* (Jamaica, West Indies)
- *Athene* cf. *cunicularia* (Mona Island, West Indies)
- *Athene* cf. *cunicularia* (Puerto Rico, West Indies)
- *Bubo* sp. (Late Pleistocene of San Josecito Cavern, Mexico)
- †*Geranopterus* (Late Eocene) - basal
 - †**Eocoraciidae**
- *Eocoracias*
 - †**Primobucconidae**
- *Primobucco*
- **Todidae** - Todies
 - †*Palaeotodus*
- **Motmotidae** - Motmots
 - †*Protornis*
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Momotidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene of Alachua County, USA)
 - †**Messelirrisoridae**
 - *Messelirrisor* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
- **Bucerotidae** - Hornbills
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric species**
 - *Bucorvus*

Trogoniformes

- **Trogonidae** - Trogons
 - †*Septentrogon* (Fur Late Paleocene/Early Eocene of Ejerslev, Denmark)
 - †*Primotrogon* (Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany? - Early Oligocene of France)
 - †*Paratrogon* (Early Miocene of France)
 - **Placement unresolved**

- Trogonidae gen. et sp. indet. 1 (NW Europe)
- Trogonidae gen. et sp. indet. 2 (NW Europe)

Piciformes

- **Placement unresolved**
 - †Piciformes gen. et sp. indet. IRScNB Av 65 (Early Oligocene)
 - †*Rupelramphastoides* (Early Oligocene) - ramphastid?
 - †Piciformes gen. et sp. indet. SMF Av 429 (Late Oligocene)
 - †*Capitonides* (Early - Middle Miocene) - ramphastid or capitonid
 - †**Primoscenidae**
 - *Primoscens*
 - *Primozygodactylus*
 - †**Miopiconidae**
 - *Miopico*
- **Picidae - Woodpeckers**
 - †*Palaeopicus* (Late Oligocene)
 - †*Palaeonerpes* (Early Pliocene)
 - †*Pliopicus* (Early Pliocene)
 - **Placement unresolved**
 - Picidae gen. et sp. indet. (Middle Miocene)
 - Picidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene)
 - cf. *Colaptes* DMNH 1262 (Early Pliocene of Ainsworth, USA)
 - **Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species**
 - *Campephilus* (Late Pleistocene - Recent)
 - *Colaptes*
 - *Dendrocopos*
 - **Additional prehistoric subspecies of extant species**
 - *Melanerpes superciliaris* ssp. (Little Exuma, Bahamas)
 - *Melanerpes superciliaris* ssp. (New Providence, Bahamas)

Passeriformes

- **Placement unresolved**
 - †*Wieslochia* (Early Oligocene of Frauenweiler, Germany)
 - †Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. SMF Av 504 (Late Oligocene of Luberon, France)
 - †Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. (Late Oligocene of France)
 - †Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. MACN-SC-1411 (Pinturas Early/Middle Miocene of Santa Cruz Province, Argentina)
 - †Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. SMN Av 487-496 (Middle Miocene of Petersbuch, Germany)

- †Passeriformes gen. et sp. indet. SMNS 86822,86825-86826
- †"*Palaeostruthus*" *eurius* (Pliocene of Florida)
- **Eurylaimidae** - Broadbills
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - Eurylaimidae gen. et sp. indet. (Early Miocene of Wintershof, Germany)
 - †**Palaeoscinidae**
 - *Paleoscinis*
- **[Furnariidae](#)** - Ovenbirds
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Pseudoseisura cursor* (Ensenada Early/Middle Pleistocene of Anchorena, Argentina)
- **[Orthonychidae](#)** - Logrunners
 - ***Extant genera with known prehistoric species***
 - *Orthonyx* (Middle/Late Miocene - Recent)
- **[Corvidae](#)** - Crows, Ravens, Jays and Magpies
 - †*Henocitta* (Arredondo Early Pleistocene of Williston, USA)
 - †*Protocitta* (Early Pleistocene of Reddick, USA)
 - †*Miocitta*
 - †*Miocorvus*
 - ***Extant genera with known prehistoric (sub)species***
 - *Corvus* (Late Miocene - Recent)
 - *Pica*
 - *Pyrrhocorax*
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - Corvidae gen. et sp. indet. (Sicily)
- **Laniidae** - Shrikes
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Lanius miocaenus* (Early Miocene of Langy, France)
- **[Motacillidae](#)** - Wagtails
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Motacilla humata*
 - *Motacilla major*
- **[Fringillidae](#)** - Finches
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Loxia patevi*
 - *Coccothraustes balcanicus*
 - *Coccothraustes simeonovi*
- **[Cardinalidae](#)** - Cardinals
 - ***Placement unresolved***
 - ?*Passerina* sp. (Early Pliocene of Yepómera, Mexico)
- **[Emberizidae](#)** - Buntings
 - †*Palaeospiza*
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***

- *Ammodramus hatcheri* (Late Miocene of Kansas, USA) - formerly *Palaeospiza* or *Palaeostruthus*
- *Pipilo angelensis* (Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea, USA)
- **Regulidae** - Kinglets
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Regulus balcanicus*
- **Icteridae** - Grackles
 - †*Pandanaris* (Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea, USA)
 - †*Pyelorchampus* (Shelter Cave, USA)
 - ***Prehistoric species of extant genera***
 - *Euphagus magnirostris* (Late Pleistocene of Rancho La Brea, California)

Aves incertae sedis

-
- 1.9 Aves incertae sedis
 - 1.9.1 †Liaoningornithiformes
 - 1.9.2 †Eurolimnornithiformes
 - 1.9.3 †Palaeocursornithiformes
 - [1.10 Ichnotaxa](#)
 - [2 References](#)
 - [3 See also](#)

Aves incertae sedis

- †*Holbotia* (Early Cretaceous of Andaikhudag, Mongolia) - basal pygostylian?
- †*Hongshanornis* (Yixian Early Cretaceous of China) - pygostylian?
- †*Nanantius* (Early Cretaceous) - enantiornithine
- †*Otogornis* (Yijinhuluo Early Cretaceous of Yike Zhaomeng, China) - basal pygostylian? enantiornithine?
- †*Protopteryx* (Early Cretaceous of China) - enantiornithine?
- †*Wyleya* (Early Cretaceous) - enantiornithine? neornithine (paleognath)?
- †*Asiahesperornis* (Late Cretaceous of Eginsai, Kazakhstan) - hesperornithiform?
- †*Euornithes* gen. et sp. indet. (Bissekty Late Cretaceous of Kyzyl Kum, Uzbekistan)
- †*Gargantuavis* (Late Cretaceous of S France) - pygostylian (enantiornithine?)?
- †*Iaceornis* (Late Cretaceous of Gove County, USA) - neornithine or basal ornithuran
- †*Horezmavis* (Bissekty Late Cretaceous of Kyzyl Kum, Uzbekistan) - enantiornithine (gobipterygiform?), basal ornithuran or gruiform
- †*"Ichthyornis" minusculus* (Bissekty Late Cretaceous of Kyzyl Kum, Uzbekistan)
- †cf. *Nanantius* (Bissekty Late Cretaceous of Kyzyl Kum, Uzbekistan) - enantiornithine?
- †*Neogaeornis* (Quinriquina Late Cretaceous of Chile) - baptornithid or neornithine (gaviiform, procellariiform?)
- †*Patagopteryx* (Barro de la Carpa Late Cretaceous of Sierra Barrosa, Argentina) - pygostylian (enantiornithine?)?
- †*Piksi* (Two Medicine Late Cretaceous of Montana) - basal ornithuran, basal pygostylian or neornithine?
- †*Platanavis* (Bissekty Late Cretaceous of Kyzyl Kum, Uzbekistan)
- †*"Polarornis"* (Lopez de Bertodano Late Cretaceous of Seymour Island, Antarctica) - gaviiform or pygostylian, may be synonym of *Neogaeornis*
- †*"Cathayornis" aberrans*
- †*"Cathayornis" caudatus*

- †*Gobipipus*
- †*Guildavis* (Cretaceous of Wallace County, USA) - neornithine or basal ornithuran
- †"*Ichthyornis*" *maltshevskyi*
- †*Parascaniornis* (Cretaceous of Ivö, Sweden) - neornithine (phoenicopteriform), hesperornithiform?
- †*Vorona* (Late Cretaceous) - basal ornithuromorph?
- †**Chaoyangidae** - pygostylian, yanornithiform?
 - *Chaoyangia* (Jiufotang Early Cretaceous of Liaoning, China)

†Liaoningornithiformes

- **Liaoningornithidae**
 - *Liaoningornis* (Yixian Early Cretaceous of Liaoning, China)

†Eurolimnornithiformes

- **Eurolimnornithidae**
 - *Eurolimnornis* (Early Cretaceous)

†Palaeocursornithiformes

- **Palaeocursornithidae**
 - *Palaeocursornis* (Early Cretaceous)

Ichnotaxa

- †*Archaeornithipus* (Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous of Soria, Spain) - footprints
- †*Aquatilavipes* (Early Cretaceous of Canada, ?and Japan, China -? Anacleto Late Cretaceous of Sierra Barrosa, Argentina) - footprints (5-6 x 4-5 cm (h/v). Toes long, narrow, small webs; no hallux; T2-T4 100-140°; toe pads; step 6-20 cm. Avian: *Patagopteryx*? shorebird?)
- †*Fuscinapedis* (Early Cretaceous of Texas) - footprints (35 x 35 cm (h/v). Toes long, wide; no hallux; T2-T4 80-85°. Avian: giant flightless bird?)
- †*Ignotornis* (Early -? Late Cretaceous) - footprints (6 x 5 cm (h/v w/o hallux). Toes long, narrow, unwebbed, T2 smaller; hallux backwards and high; T1-T4 220°, T2-T4 130-145°; toe pads; step 9-33 cm. Avian: *Neuquenornis*? shorebird?)
- †*Koreanaornis* (Early Cretaceous of Korea) - footprints
- †*Magnoavipes* (Early Cretaceous of Texas) - footprints (25 x 20 cm (h/v). Toes long, very thin; no hallux; T2-T4 90°. Avian?)
- †*Shandongornipes* (Tianjialou Early Cretaceous of Junan County, China) - footprints (6 x 9 cm (h/v). Toes long, thin, unwebbed; hallux backwards; T1-T4 220°; T2-T4 135°; toe pads. Avian: shorebird)

- †*Barrosopus* (Anacleto Late Cretaceous of Sierra Barrosa, Argentina) - footprints (3.5 x 3 cm (h/v). Toes narrow, unwebbed, T2 separated (higher); no hallux; T2-T4 100-120°; step 10-20 cm. Avian?)
- †*Dispersituberoolithus* (Oldman Late Cretaceous of S Alberta, Canada) - egg; neornithine?
- †*Hwangsanipes* (Late Cretaceous) - footprints
- †*Sarjeantopodus* (Lance Late Cretaceous of Niobrara County, USA) - footprints
- †*Saurexallopus* (Late Cretaceous of Wyoming) - footprints (30 x 25-30 cm (h/v). Toes long, thin; hallux sideways; T1-T4 130°; T2-T4 90°; deep heel; toe pads. Avian?)
- †*Tristraguloolithus* (Oldman Late Cretaceous of S Alberta, Canada) - egg; galliform (cracid)?
- †*Uhangrichnus* (Late Cretaceous of SW Korea) - footprints
- †*Yacoraitichnus* (Late Cretaceous of Salta, Argentina) - footprints
- †*Ornithoformipes* (Puget Late Eocene of Kummer, USA) - footprints; may be from *Gastornis*
- †*Gruipeda* - footprints
- †*Iranipeda* (Paleocene of Iran) - footprints; may be same as *Gruipeda*
- †*Jindongornipes* - footprints
- †*"Patagonichnornis"* (Cretaceous, Rio Negro Province, Argentina) - footprints

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See also

- [Bird](#)
- [Extinct birds](#)
- [Late Quaternary prehistoric birds](#)

Suborders of birds

Corvida

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Suborder: Passeri
 Parvorder: **Corvida**
 Families: Many, see text

Corvida is under the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, one of two parvorders contained within the suborder Passeri. More recent research suggests that it is not a distinct clade but an evolutionary grade instead. As such the usage of this parvorder is likely to be subject to further revision.

Families

- Menuridae: lyrebirds
- Atrichornithidae: scrub birds
- Climacteridae: Australian treecreepers
- Maluridae: fairy-wrens, emu-wrens and grasswrens
- Meliphagidae: honeyeaters and chats
- Pardalotidae: pardalotes, scrubwrens, thornbills, and gerygones
- Petroicidae: Australian robins
- Orthonychidae: logrunners
- Pomatostomidae: Australasian babblers
- Cinclosomatidae: whipbirds and allies
- Neosittidae: sittellas
- Pachycephalidae: whistlers, shrike-thrushes, pitohuis and allies
- Dicruridae: monarch flycatchers and allies
- Campephagidae: cuckoo shrikes and trillers
- Oriolidae: orioles and Figbird
- Icteridae: American blackbirds and orioles, grackles and cowbirds
- Artamidae: wood swallows, butcherbirds, currawongs and Australian Magpie
- Paradisaeidae: birds of paradise
- Corvidae: crows, ravens, and jays
- Corcoracidae: White-winged Chough and Apostlebird
- Irenidae: fairy-bluebirds
- Laniidae: shrikes
- Vireonidae: vireos
- Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbirds
- Turnagridae: Piopio

See also

- [list of birds](#)

Artamidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Artamidae** Vigors, 1825 Subfamilies: [Artaminae](#), [Cracticinae](#)

The family **Artamidae** gathers together 20 species of mostly crow-like birds native to Australasia and nearby areas.

There are two subfamilies: [Artaminae](#), the woodswallows, are sombre-coloured, soft-plumaged birds that have a brush-tipped tongue but seldom use it for gathering nectar. Instead, they catch insects on the wing. They are agile flyers with large, pointed wings and are among the very few [passerine](#) birds that soar. One sedentary species aside, they are nomads, following the best conditions for flying insects, and often roosting in large flocks.

The cracticids—[currawongs](#), [Magpie](#), and [butcherbirds](#), subfamily Cracticinae—are more obviously members of the broader corvid group. They have large, straight bills and mostly black, white or grey plumage. All are omnivorous to some degree: the butcherbirds mostly eat meat, Magpies usually forage through short grass looking for worms and other small creatures, currawongs are true omnivores, taking fruit, grain, meat, insects, eggs and nestlings.

The cracticids, despite their fairly plain, utilitarian appearance, are highly intelligent and have extraordinarily beautiful songs of great subtlety. Particularly noteworthy are the Pied Butcherbird, the Pied Currawong and the [Australian Magpie](#).

Species of Artamidae

- Subfamily [Artaminae](#)
 - Ashy Woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus*
 - Fiji Woodswallow, *Artamus mentalis*
 - White-backed Woodswallow, *Artamus monachus*
 - Great Woodswallow, *Artamus maximus*
 - White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*
 - Bismarck Woodswallow, *Artamus insignis*
 - Masked Woodswallow, *Artamus personatus*
 - White-browed Woodswallow, *Artamus superciliosus*
 - Black-faced Woodswallow, *Artamus cinereus*
 - Dusky Woodswallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*
 - Little Woodswallow, *Artamus minor*
- Subfamily Cracticinae:
 - Mountain Peltops, *Peltops montanus*
 - Lowland Peltops, *Peltops blainvillii*
 - Black Butcherbird, *Cracticus quoyi*
 - Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus*
 - Hooded Butcherbird, *Cracticus cassicus*

Tagula Butcherbird, *Cracticus lousiadensis*
Black-backed Butcherbird, *Cracticus mentalis*
Pied Butcherbird, *Cracticus nigrogularis*
Pied Currawong, *Strepera graculina*
Black Currawong, *Strepera fuliginosa*
Grey Currawong, *Strepera versicolor*
Australian Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Artamus

Woodswallows

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Artamidae](#)

Subfamily: **Artaminae**

Genus: **Artamus** Vieillot, 1816 Species: Many, see text

Woodswallows are soft-plumaged, somber-coloured [passerine](#) birds found in Australia and the islands nearby. Given their moderate size—about the same as a Common Starling—and dull plumage, they are amongst the easiest of birds to observe and recognise. In flight, they look very like large, stiff-winged [swallows](#), and like swallows, they mostly eat flying insects.

Woodswallows are smooth, agile flyers with moderately large, semi-triangular wings. They are among the very few [passerines](#) birds that soar, and can often be seen feeding just above the treetops. One sedentary species aside, they are nomads, following the best conditions for flying insects, and often roosting in large flocks.

Although woodswallows have a brush-tipped tongue they seldom use it for gathering nectar.

Species of Artamus

- Ashy Woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus*
- Fiji Woodswallow, *Artamus mentalis*
- White-backed Woodswallow, *Artamus monachus*
- Great Woodswallow, *Artamus maximus*
- White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*
- Bismarck Woodswallow, *Artamus insignis*
- Masked Woodswallow, *Artamus personatus*
- White-browed Woodswallow, *Artamus superciliosus*
- Black-faced Woodswallow, *Artamus cinereus*
- Dusky Woodswallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*
- Little Woodswallow, *Artamus minor*

Cracticus

Butcherbird

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Artamidae](#)

Genus: **Cracticus** Vieillot, 1816 Species: *C. quoyi*, *C. torquatus*, *C. cassicus*, *C. lousiadensis*, *C. mentalis*, *C. nigrogularis*

Butcherbirds are magpie-like [birds](#) in the genus *Cracticus*. They are native to Australasia.

Butcherbirds are mid-sized, growing up to 35cm in length. Their colour ranges from black-and-white to mostly black, with added grey plumage, depending on the species. They have a large, straight bills with a distinctive hook at the end which is used to skewer prey. They have beautiful songs of great subtlety.

Butcherbirds are insect eaters for the most part, but will also feed on small lizards and other meat. They get their name from their habit of hanging captured prey on a thorn, tree fork, or crevice. This "larder" is used to support the victim while it is being eaten, to store prey for later consumption, or to attract mates.

Butcherbirds are the ecological counterparts of the [shrikes](#), which are unrelated but share the "larder" habit. The shrikes are also sometimes called "butcherbirds".

Female butcherbirds lay one or two eggs in a clutch. The young will remain with their mother until almost fully grown. They tend to trail behind their mother and "squeak" incessantly while she catches food for them.

Woodlands are the butcherbird's natural habitat, but like many similar species they have adapted well to urbanisation and can be found in leafy suburbs throughout Australia. They are opportunistic and intelligent, showing little fear and readily taking food offerings to the point of becoming semi-tame, although this practice should not be encouraged. They will often reward these offerings with "thank you" songs. The birds will accept most kinds of scraps, but should only be given food suitable for insectivores such as mealworms and not, for example, bread.

Species

- Black Butcherbird, *Cracticus quoyi*
 Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus*
 - Silver-Backed Butcherbird *Cracticus argenteus* (alternately a subspecies of *C. torquatus*)
- Hooded Butcherbird, *Cracticus cassicus*
 Tagula Butcherbird, *Cracticus lousiadensis*
 Black-backed Butcherbird, *Cracticus mentalis*
 Pied Butcherbird, *Cracticus nigrogularis*

Gymnorhina

Australian Magpie

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Artamidae](#)

Genus: ***Gymnorhina*** Gray, GR, 1840 Species: ***G. tibicen***

Binomial name: ***Gymnorhina tibicen*** (Latham, 1802)

The **Australian Magpie** (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) is a medium-sized black and white bird, closely related to the [butcherbirds](#) and [currawongs](#). Early European settlers named it for its black and white coloration, similar to the familiar European magpie, which is a more distant relative.

- [1 Description](#)
 - [1.1 Subspecies](#)
- [2 Behaviour](#)
 - [2.1 Swooping](#)
 - [2.2 Tameness](#)
- [3 Popular culture](#)
- [4 References](#)

Description

Adult magpies are fairly solid, well-built birds with pure black and white plumage: juveniles mix the stark blacks and whites with lighter greys and browns. Males and females are generally similar in appearance, though a few exceptions noted under individual varieties below.

Mature magpies have red eyes, in contrast to the yellow eyes of currawongs and white eyes of Australian ravens and crows. Immature birds have darker brownish eyes.

Butcherbirds are generally smaller and stockier, while magpie larks are delicate birds with white eyes.

Some magpies have lived up to 30 years.

Subspecies

There are currently thought to be eight subspecies of Australian magpie. The **black-backed magpie**, originally known as *Gymnorhina tibicen tibicen*, has been split into at least three black-backed races:

- *G. tibicen tibicen*, found in eastern New South Wales
- *G. tibicen terraereginae* found across Queensland, central and western New South Wales and into northern South Australia
- *G. tibicen eylandtensis*, found across the Northern Territory
- *G. tibicen longirostris*, found across northern Western Australia

The **White-backed Magpie**, originally *G. tibicen hypoleuca*, has similarly been split into races:

- *G. tibicen tyrannica*, a very large white backed form found across southern Victoria
- *G. tibicen telonocua*, found in southern South Australia
- The **Tasmanian Magpie** (*G. tibicen hypoleuca*), a small white-backed subspecies with a short compact bill found on King and Flinders Islands, as well as Tasmania.
- The **Western Magpie** (*G. tibicen dorsalis*) in the fertile south-west corner of Western Australia.

These three races, *tibicen*, *hypoleuca* and *dorsalis*, were for many years considered separate species; however, they were noted to hybridise readily where their territories cross, with hybrid grey or striped-backed magpies being quite common.

Behaviour

Australian magpies have a musical warbling call. Noted New Zealand poet Denis Glover wrote "quardle oodle ardle wardle doodle, the magpies say". In contrast, young magpies squawk almost continuously.

Magpies mate throughout the year, but generally in winter. Nesting takes place in winter, and chicks hatch in early spring. By late summer the babies either form their own flock or separate from their parents but remain in the same flock.

Magpies were introduced into New Zealand in the 1860s and are proving to be a pest by displacing native birds.

Swooping

Magpies tend not to be afraid of people, and they live in urban areas as often as in the bush, so magpies are a familiar sight to most Australians, and their melodic song is widely enjoyed. However, if magpies feel threatened while nesting (typically in August-September in southern Australia), even by an inadvertent intrusion into their territory, they will often swoop at the intruder and audibly "snap" their beaks in an attempt to drive them away.

Magpies generally swoop from behind, and without warning, so attacks can be somewhat terrifying, particularly to children. For this reason, local authorities sometimes post warning signs during "swooping season", particularly in urban parks. Magpie attacks sometimes cause injuries, typically minor wounds to the scalp; however, this is uncommon.

To avoid swooping attacks, the best course is to avoid the territory of nesting magpies during the relatively brief nesting season. Magpies are a protected native species in Australia, so it is illegal to kill or harm them.

If it is necessary to walk near the nest, some people prefer to wear protection. Magpies prefer to swoop at the back of the head; therefore, keeping the magpie in sight at all times can discourage the bird. Using a basic disguise to fool the magpie as to where a person is looking (such as painting eyes on a hat, or wearing sunglasses on the back of the head) can also prove effective, as can holding an object above one's head. In some cases, magpies may become extremely aggressive and attack people's faces; it may become very difficult to deter these birds from swooping. If a bird presents a serious nuisance the local authorities may arrange for that bird to be legally euthanised, or more commonly, to be caught and relocated to an unpopulated area.

Tameness

Australian Magpies are territorial, and this presents the opportunity for people to get acquainted with the local pairs and their offspring.

Popular culture

The magpie is a commonly used emblem of sporting teams in Australia, most notably the Collingwood Football Club, the Port Adelaide Magpies Football Club, the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club and the Souths-Logan Magpies Rugby League Club.

The white-backed magpie has been featured on the South Australian flag since 1904 and coats of arms since 1984 under the name Piping Shrike.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Gymnorhina tibicen*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- [Page on swooping birds](#) by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Kaplan, Gisela, *Australian Magpie: Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird*, CSIRO Publishing, 2004, ISBN 0-643-09068-1
 - [Magpies - Queensland Government](#)

- [Use Of The Piping Shrike - South Australian Government](#)
- [Magpie Alert: Learning to Live with a Wild Neighbour](#) Dr Darryl Jones.
(2002) University of NSW Press

Currawong

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Passeriformes
 Family: Artamidae
Genus: Strepera
Species: [Strepera graculina](#), [Strepera versicolor](#), [Strepera fuliginosa](#)

Currawongs are medium-sized [passerine](#) birds of the family Artamidae native to Australasia. There are either three or four species (depending on whether the Australian Magpie is counted as a currawong or not). The common name comes from the call of the familiar **Pied Currawong** of eastern Australia and is onomatopoeic.

The true currawongs are a little larger than the [Australian Magpie](#), somewhat smaller than most [ravens](#), but broadly similar in appearance. They are easily distinguished by their yellow eyes, in contrast to the red eyes of a magpie and white eyes of Australian crows and ravens. They are not as terrestrial as the Magpie and have shorter legs. They are omnivorous, foraging in foliage, on tree trunks and limbs, and on the ground, taking insects and larvae (often dug out from under the bark of trees), fruit, and the nestlings of other birds.

It is sometimes said, with at least some justice, that the home gardener can have either currawongs or small birds, but not both—although part of this perception can be traced to the failure of many gardeners to provide a sufficient number of dense, thorny shrubs as refuges.

- [1 Species](#)
- [2 Ecology](#)
- [3 Classification](#)

Species

All three currawongs are from the south or east of Australia.

The **Pied Currawong** (*Strepera graculina*) is black with white in the wing, undertail coverts, the base of the tail and (most visibly) the tip of the tail. Size is about 40 to 50 cm. Along with the [Australian Magpie](#) and the [butcherbirds](#), it has one of the most hauntingly beautiful caroling calls of any Australian songbird, and is eclipsed, perhaps, only by the Grey Shrike-thrush and the [lyrebirds](#). It is common in woodland, rural and semi-urban environments throughout eastern Australia, from Cape York to western Victoria. It seems to have adapted well to European presence, and has become more common in some urban areas such as Sydney.

- The **Black Currawong** (*Strepera fuliginosa*) is confined to Tasmania and is all black except for a small white patch in the wing and a white-tipped tail. Like all

currawongs, it builds a large cup-nest out of sticks, lined with softer material, and placed in a tall tree.

- The **Grey Currawong** (*Strepera versicolor*) has 6 different races spread right across the southern part of the continent from the Sydney area south and west around the coast and hinterland as far as the fertile south-west corner of Western Australia and the semi-arid country surrounding it. Outlying populations are found on the east coast of Tasmania and, oddly, in the arid area where the Northern Territory meets South Australia and Western Australia. The races vary a great deal: the most common mid to dark grey form (race *versicolor*) and the grey-brown form of South Australia, race *intermedia*, also known as the Brown Currawong, are readily recognised; the darkest races, mostly in Tasmania (race *arguta*, known as the Clinking Currawong) and the Black winged Currawong (race *melanoptera*) from western Victoria's mallee region, can be difficult to distinguish from the Black and Pied Currawongs at any distance. Kangaroo Island has its own race, *halmaturina*. The race *plumbea* occurs from western South Australia west through southern Western Australia. All Grey Currawongs, however, have a distinctive ringing call and a more sharply pointed, finer bill.

Ecology

Unlike many birds, the Currawongs have suffered little from European occupation of the land. Settlers and successive generations have replaced much of the natural woodland and forest with vast artificial grasslands, where Currawongs are seldom seen. Scattered patches of remaining bush appear to be sufficient for their needs and the provision of irrigated waypoints along their rambling migration routes has encouraged them to take up residence in areas where they previously only overflew. The effect of this on smaller birds that are vulnerable to nest predation is controversial: several studies have suggested that Pied Currawongs have become a serious problem, but the truth of this widely held perception remains to be established. They appear to thrive on berries of some introduced species, some of which themselves are pests, such as the Camphor Laurel.

Classification

Currawongs belong to the [subfamily Cracticinae](#), which also includes the [Australian Magpie](#) and the [Butcherbird](#): about 20 species in all. Together with the [woodswallows](#) (subfamily Artaminae), they make up the [family Artamidae](#), which, in turn, is allied to the [crows](#) and jays, [fantails](#), [drongos](#), and many others. They are Protected in Australia under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974.

Atrichornithidae

Scrub-birds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Atrichornithidae** Stejneger, 1885 Genus: ***Atrichornis*** Stejneger, 1885 Species: *Atrichornis rufescens*, *Atrichornis clamosus*

Scrub-birds are shy, secretive, ground-dwelling birds of the family **Atrichornithidae**. There are just two species, one of them rare and very restricted in its range, the other so rare that until 1961 it was thought to be extinct. Both are native to Australia.

The scrub-bird family is ancient and is understood to be most closely related to the [lyrebirds](#), and probably also the [bowerbirds](#) and [treecreepers](#). All four families originated with the great corvid radiation of the Australia-New Guinea region.

Both living species are about the same size as a Common Starling (roughly 20 cm long) and cryptically coloured in drab browns and blacks. They occupy dense undergrowth—the Rufous Scrub-bird in temperate rain forests near the Queensland-New South Wales border, the Noisy Scrub-bird in heaths and scrubby gullies in semi-arid Western Australia—and are adept at scuttling mouse-like under cover to avoid notice. They run fast but their flight is feeble.

The males' calls, however, are powerful: ringing and metallic, with a ventriloquial quality, so loud as to be heard from a long distance in heavy scrub and almost painful at close range. Females build a domed nest close to the ground and take sole responsibility for raising the young.

The entire world population of the Noisy Scrub-bird was estimated at 40 to 45 birds in 1962. Conservation efforts succeeded in increasing the population to around 400 birds by the mid-1980s, and they have subsequently been reintroduced to several sites, but remain endangered.

Species of Atrichornithidae

- Rufous Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis rufescens*
- Noisy Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis clamosus*

Callaeidae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Callaeidae** Sundevall, 1836 Genera: *Callaeas*, *Philesturnus*, *Heteralocha*

The small bird family **Callaeidae** (also named in some sources as **Callaeatidae**) is restricted to New Zealand. Only two species survive, one of them critically endangered. A third, the Huia became extinct early in the 20th century.

The Callaeidae are often known as *wattlebirds*, a term that leads to confusion, as there are other, unrelated species with this same name, notably the large Australian wattlebirds of the family [Meliphagidae](#), which are honeyeaters.

These birds seem to be remnants of an early expansion of passerines to New Zealand. They have no close relatives except the stitchbird, and their more distant relationship is likewise still unknown (Ewen *et al.*, 2006).

- **ORDER [PASSERIFORMES](#)**

- (many other families)

- **Family Callaeidae**

- Kokako, *Callaeas cinerea*
 - Tieke, *Philesturnus carunculatus* (formerly *Creadion carunculatus*)
 - Huia, *Heteralocha acutirostris* (extinct)

References

- Ewen, John G.; Flux, Ian & Ericson, Per G. P. (2006): Systematic affinities of two enigmatic New Zealand passerines of high conservation priority, the hihi or stitchbird *Notiomystis cincta* and the kokako *Callaeas cinerea*. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* **40**(1): 281–284. DOI:[10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.026](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.026)
[PDF fulltext](#)

Campephagidae

Cuckoo-shrike

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Campephagidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Pteropodocys*, *Coracina*, *Campochaera*, *Lalage*, *Lobotos*, *Campephaga*, *Pericrocotus*, *Hemipus*

The **cuckoo-shrikes**, the **Campephagidae** [family](#) are small to medium-sized [passerine bird species](#) found in the subtropical and tropical Africa, Asia and Australasia. The 84 species are found in eight (or nine) [genera](#) which comprise five distinct groups, the 'true' cuckoo-shrikes (*Campephaga*, *Coracina*, *Lobotos*, *Pteropodocys* and *Campochaera*) the trillers (*Lalage*), the minivets (*Pericrocotus*), the flycatcher-shrikes (*Hemipus*). The wood-shrikes (*Tephrodornis*) were often considered to be in this family but are probably closer to the [helmetshrikes](#) or [bushshrikes](#). Another genus, *Chlamydochaera*, which has one species, the Black-breasted Fruithunter was often placed in this family but has now been shown to be a [thrush](#) (Turdidae).

Cuckoo-shrikes are neither closely related to the cuckoos or [shrikes](#), the name probably comes from the grey colour of many of the cuckoo-shrikes. Some of the species also bear a superficial resemblance to cuckoos, and have a similar undulating flight. The grey colouration has led to one of their other names, the greybird. In some parts of the world they have also been known as caterpillar-birds, a name derived from their diet. They are in fact thought by some to be closely related to the [Old World orioles](#) (Oriolidae), although they differ strongly in some morphological characteristics (such as skull morphology and the arrangements of feathers on the wing).

Overall the cuckoo-shrikes are medium to small arboreal birds, generally long and slender. They are predominately greyish with white and black, although the minivets are brightly coloured in red, yellow and black, and the Blue Cuckoo-shrike of central Africa is all-over glossy blue. The four cuckoo-shrikes in the genus *Campephaga* exhibit sexual dimorphism, with males that have glossy black [plumage](#) and bright red or yellow wattles, the females having more subdued olive-green plumage.

Of the 84 species of cuckoo-shrike, the majority are forest birds. Some species are restricted to primary forest, like the New Caledonian Cuckoo-shrike, others are able to use more disturbed forest. Around eleven species use much more open habitat, one Australian species, the Ground Cuckoo-shrike being found in open plains and scrubland with few trees.

The 'true' cuckoo-shrikes are usually found singly, in pairs, and in small family groups, whereas the minivets, flycatcher-shrikes and wood-shrikes more frequently form small flocks. There is a considerable amount of variation within the family as a whole with regards to calls, some call very infrequently and some, principally the minivets, are extremely vocal.

These are mainly insectivorous, and will take large hairy caterpillars. They have also been recorded eating small vertebrates, and some fruit, seeds and other plant matter. About four blotchy white, green or blue [eggs](#) are laid in a cup nest in a tree. Incubation is about two weeks.

Species of Campephagidae

- Ground Cuckoo-shrike, *Pteropodocys maxima*
- Large Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina macei*
- Sunda Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina larvata*
- Javan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina javensis*
- Slaty Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina schistacea*
- Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina personata*
- Melanesian Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina caledonica*
- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae*
- Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
- Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina striata*
- Pied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina bicolor*
- Moluccan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina atriceps*
- Buru Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina fortis*
- Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina temminckii*
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina lineata*
- Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina boyeri*
- White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina leucopygia*
- White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina papuensis*
- Hooded Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina longicauda*
- Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina parvula*
- Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina abbotti*
- New Caledonian Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina analis*
- White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina pectoralis*
- Blue Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina azurea*
- Gray Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina caesia*
- Grauer's Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina graueri*
- Ashy Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina cinerea*
- Mauritius Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina typica*
- Reunion Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina newtoni*
- Cicadabird, *Coracina tenuirostris*
- Blackish Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina coerulescens*
- Sumba Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina dohertyi*
- Sula Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina sula*
- Kai Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina dispar*
- Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina mindanensis*
- Sulawesi Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina morio*
- Pale-grey Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina ceramensis*
- Papuan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina incerta*
- Gray-headed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina schisticeps*
- New Guinea Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melas*
- Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina montana*
- Solomon Islands Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina holopolia*

McGregor's Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina mcgregori*
 Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina polioptera*
 White-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina ostenta*
 Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melaschistos*
 Lesser Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina fimbriata*
 Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melanoptera*
 Golden Cuckoo-shrike, *Campochaera sloetii*
 Black-and-white Triller, *Lalage melanoleuca*
 Pied Triller, *Lalage nigra*
 White-rumped Triller, *Lalage leucopygialis*
 White-shouldered Triller, *Lalage sueurii*
 White-winged Triller, *Lalage tricolor*
 Rufous-bellied Triller, *Lalage aurea*
 White-browed Triller, *Lalage moesta*
 Varied Triller, *Lalage leucomela*
 Black-browed Triller, *Lalage atrovirens*
 Samoan Triller, *Lalage sharpei*
 Polynesian Triller, *Lalage maculosa*
 Long-tailed Triller, *Lalage leucopyga*
 Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga petiti*
 Black Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga flava*
 Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga phoenicea*
 Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga quiscalina*
 Western Wattled Cuckoo-shrike, *Lobotos lobata*
 Eastern Wattled Cuckoo-shrike, *Lobotos oriolina*
 Rosy Minivet, *Pericrocotus roseus*
 Brown-rumped Minivet, *Pericrocotus cantonensis*
 Ashy Minivet, *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
 Small Minivet, *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
 Ryukyu Minivet, *Pericrocotus tegimae*
 Fiery Minivet, *Pericrocotus igneus*
 Flores Minivet, *Pericrocotus lansbergei*
 White-bellied Minivet, *Pericrocotus erythropygius*
 Long-tailed Minivet, *Pericrocotus ethologus*
 Short-billed Minivet, *Pericrocotus brevirostris*
 Sunda Minivet, *Pericrocotus miniatus*
 Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus*
 Gray-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris*
 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus picatus*
 Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

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Cinclosomatidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Cinclosomatidae**

Genera: *Androphobus*, *Psophodes*, *Cinclosoma*, *Ptilorrhoa*, *Eupetes*, *Ifrita*

The family **Cinclosomatidae** contains 9 [species](#) of [passerine](#) bird, including the 3 whipbirds, 2 wedgebills, and the quail-thrushes. All are native to Australia or nearby areas.

Species of Cinclosomatidae

- Papuan Whipbird, *Androphobus viridis*
- [Eastern Whipbird](#), *Psophodes olivaceus*
- Western Whipbird, *Psophodes nigrogularis*
- Chiming Wedgebill, *Psophodes occidentalis*
- Chirruping Wedgebill, *Psophodes cristatus*
- Spotted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma punctatum*
- Chestnut Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castanotus*
- Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castaneothorax*
- Cinnamon Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*
- Painted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma ajax*
- Spotted Jewel-babbler, *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*
- Blue Jewel-babbler, *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
- Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, *Ptilorrhoa castanonota*
- Malaysian Rail-babbler, *Eupetes macrocerus*
- Blue-capped Ifrita, *Ifrita kowaldi*

Psophodes

Eastern Whipbird

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Cinclosomatidae](#)

Genus: *Psophodes*

Species: *P. olivaceus*

Binomial name: *Psophodes olivaceus* Latham, 1802

The **Eastern Whipbird** (*Psophodes olivaceus*) inhabits the east coast of Australia. It is olive green with a black head and a white patch on its face.

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Climacteridae

Australasian Treecreepers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Climacteridae** de Selys Longchamps, 1839 Genera: *Cormobates*, *Climacteris*

There are 7 [species](#) of **Australasian treecreeper** in the [passerine](#) bird [family](#) **Climacteridae**. They are medium-small, mostly brown-coloured birds with patterning on their underparts and all are endemic to Australia-New Guinea.

As their name implies, treecreepers forage for insects and other small creatures living on and under the bark of trees, mostly eucalypts, though several species also hunt on the ground, through leaf-litter, and on fallen timber.

Species of Climacteridae

- Papuan Treecreeper, *Cormobates placens*
White-throated Treecreeper, *Cormobates leucophaeus*
White-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris affinis*
Red-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris erythroptus*
Brown Treecreeper, *Climacteris picumnus*
Black-tailed Treecreeper, *Climacteris melanura*
Rufous Treecreeper, *Climacteris rufa*

Corcorachidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Corcoracidae**

Species: *Corcorax melanorhamphos*, *Struthidea cinerea*

The very small and rather unusual [passerine](#) family **Corcoracidae** now contains just two superficially dissimilar [species](#): the White-winged Chough and the Apostlebird. Both are endemic to Australia. There is no well-accepted common name for the family, but sometimes the terms **Australian mud-nesters** or **mud nest builders** are used.

In the field, the relationship between Choughs and Apostlebirds is immediately apparent: both species are highly social, spend much of their time foraging through leaf litter with a very distinctive gait, calling to one another almost constantly, and both species respond to a human interloper by flying heavily to a nearby tree, where they wait for the disturbance to pass, often perching close together in twos and threes and allopreening.

Apostlebirds are so named because (it is said) "there are always 12 of them"! In fact, group size typically varies from about 6 to as many as 20.

Species of Corcoracidae

- White-winged Chough, *Corcorax melanorhamphos*
Apostlebird, *Struthidea cinerea*

Corvidae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Corvidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *many, see article text*

Corvidae is a [family](#) of oscine [passerine birds](#) that contains the [crows](#), [ravens](#), rooks, jackdaws, jays, magpies, [treepies](#) and [nutcrackers](#) (Clayton and Emery 2005, [1]). Collectively its members are called corvids and there are over 120 species.

They are medium to large birds with strong feet and bills, rictal bristles and a single moult each year (most passerines moult twice).

Corvids are found worldwide except for the tip of South America and the polar ice caps (Clayton and Emery 2005). Recently the *Corvus* genus has re-entered Australia, resulting in five new species and one new subspecies (see [crows](#)). The majority of the species are found in tropical South and Central America, southern Asia and Eurasia, with fewer than 10 species each in Africa, Australasia and North America

- [1 Systematics, taxonomy and evolution](#)
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Systematics, taxonomy and evolution

The earliest corvid fossils date to the mid-Miocene (about 17 MYA) [2]. The genus *Corvus*, including the crows and ravens, makes up over a third of the entire family. The name *Corvus* was given to these birds is onomatopoeic, from their raucous “croaking” calls [3]. Corvids are derived from Australasian ancestors and from there, spread throughout the world. Other lineages derived from these ancestors evolved into ecologically diverse, but often Australasian groups. Over the years there has been much disagreement on the exact evolutionary relationships of the corvid family and their relatives. Sibley and Ahlquist have united the corvids with other taxa in the [Corvida](#), but current research favors the theory that this grouping is partly artificial.

Clarification of the interrelationships of the corvids has been researched by Ericson *et al.* (2005), based on comparison of several DNA sequences. The Crested Jay (*Platylophus galericulatus*) is traditionally included in the Corvidae, but seems not to be a member of this family. Likewise, the Hume's Ground "Jay" (*Pseudopodoces humilis*) is in fact a member of the family (Paridae) (titmice). The jays and magpies do not constitute monophyletic lineages, but rather seem to split up in a American and Old World, and a Holarctic and a Oriental lineage, respectively, which are not closely related *inter se*. The position of the [Azure-winged Magpie](#), which has always been a major enigma, is even more unclear than it was before.

- **Choughs**
 - *Pyrrhocorax*
- [Treepies](#)
 - Dendrocitta
 - Crypsirina
 - Temnurus
 - Platysmurus
 - **Oriental Magpies**
 - Urocissa
 - Cissa
 - **Old World and Ground Jays**
 - Garrulus
 - Podoces
 - Ptilostomus
 - **Stresemann's Bush Crow**, *Zavattariornis stresemanni*
 - **Nutcrackers**
 - *Nucifraga*
 - **Holarctic Magpies**
 - *Pica*
 - **Crows and [Ravens](#)**
 - *Corvus*
 - [Azure-winged Magpie](#), *Cyanopica cyana*
 - **Grey Jays**
 - *Perisoreus*
 - **New World Jays**
 - Aphelocoma
 - Calocitta
 - Cyanocitta
 - Cyanocorax
 - Cyanolyca
 - Gymnorhinus
 - Prehistoric corvid genera (probably mainly New World and Old World Jays and Holarctic Magpies)

- *Miocitta*
- *Miocorvus*
- *Henocitta* (Arredondo Early Pleistocene of Williston, USA)
- *Protocitta* (Early Pleistocene of Reddick, USA)
- Corvidae gen. et sp. indet. (Sicily) - probably belongs into extant genus.

In addition, there are numerous fossil species of extant genera (mainly European *Corvus*). See the genus accounts for more.

Typical size and appearance

Corvids have feathered rounded nostrils, strong tails and wings and similar sexes. Many corvids of temperate zones are mainly black or blue; however, some are pied black and white, some have a blue-purple iridescence and many tropical species are highly coloured. Corvids have strong, stout bills, large wingspans and are between 23 and 71 cm long. [\[4\]](#)

Members of the genus *Corvus* are the largest members of the passerine order reaching 50-71 cm (20-27 inches). Species can be identified based on size, shape and geography; however, some, especially the Australian crows, are best identified by their raucous calls. [\[5\]](#)

Social interaction

Some corvids have strong organization and community groups. Jackdaws, for example, have a strong social hierarchy, and are facultatively colonial during breeding (Verhulst and Salomons 2004). Providing mutual aid has also been recorded within many of the corvid species. [\[6\]](#)

Young corvids have been known to play and take part in elaborate social games. The games resemble “king of the mountain” and “follow the leader” along with games that manipulate, pass and balance sticks. Corvids also take part in other activities, such as sliding down smooth surfaces, and these games are understood to play a large role in the adaptive and survival value of the birds (Gill 2003).

Some corvids can be aggressive birds. [Blue Jays](#), for example, are well known to attack anything that threatens their nest. Crows have been known to attack dogs, cats, ravens, and birds of prey. Most of the time these assaults take place as a distraction long enough to allow the crow to steal food. [\[7\]](#)

Food and foraging habits

The natural diet of many corvid species is omnivorous, consisting of invertebrates, nestlings, small mammals, berries, fruits, seeds, and carrion. However, some corvids, especially the crows, have adapted well to human conditions and have come to rely on anthropogenic foods. In a US study of American Crows, Common Ravens and Steller's Jays around campgrounds and human settlements, the crows appeared to have the most diverse diet of all, taking anthropogenic foods such as bread, spaghetti, fried potatoes, dog food,

sandwiches, and livestock feed. The increase in available anthropogenic food sources is contributing to population increase in some corvid species. (Marzluff and Neatherlin 2006).

Some corvids are predators of other birds. During the wintering months, corvids typically form foraging flocks [8]. However, some crows also eat many agricultural pests including cutworms, wireworms, grasshoppers and harmful weeds [9]. Some corvid will eat carrion, and since they lack a specialized beak for tearing into flesh, they must wait until animals are opened by other predators or as roadkill.

Migration

Corvids occur in most climatic zones. Most are sedentary and do not [migrate](#) significantly. However, during a shortage of food, eruptive migration can occur [10]. When species are migratory, they will form large flocks in the fall (around August) and travel south [11].

Reproduction

Some corvids are well known communal roosters. Some groups of roosting corvids have been as large as 2,000 birds (Everding and Jones 2006). The partner bond in corvids is extremely strong and even lifelong in some species. This monogamous lifestyle, however, can still contain extra pair copulations. Males and females build large nests together in trees or on ledges. The male will also feed the female during incubation [12]. The nests are constructed of a mass of bulky twigs lined with grass and bark. Corvids can lay between 3 and 10 eggs, typically ranging between 4 and 7. The eggs are usually greenish in colour with brown blotches. Once hatched, the young remain in the nests for up to 6–10 weeks depending on the species. As expected, corvids provide biparental care.

Sexual selection is also quite complex in the Corvidae family. Young corvid members undergo a series of tests, including aerobatic feats, before being accepted as a mate by the opposite sex [13].

Unlike most other species, corvid fitness and reproduction, especially with the crows, has increased due to human development. The survival and reproductive success of crows and ravens, according to Marzluff and Neatherlin's 2006 study, was positively associated with their intimacy of human populations.

Human development provides additional resources by clearing land, creating shrublands rich in berries and insects. When the cleared land naturally replenishes, the young dense trees are used by jays and crows for nesting sites. Ravens typically use larger trees in denser forests (Marzluff and Neatherlin 2006).

One reason for the success of crows, compared to ravens, is their ability to overlap breeding territory. During breeding season, crows were shown to overlap breeding territory six times the overlap of ravens. This invasion of breeding ranges allowed a related increase in local density (Marzluff and Neatherlin 2006). In the US the American Crow population has definitely grown over the years. It is possible, that the American Crow, due to humans increasing suitable habitat, will drive out the Northwestern and Fish Crows (Marzluff and Angell 2005).

Jackdaws can breed in buildings or in rabbit warrens (Verhulst and Salomons 2004). White-throated Magpie-jays are cooperatively breeding corvids where the helpers are mostly female. Cooperative breeding takes place when additional adults help raise the nestlings. These adults are often called “helpers” and in most cooperatively breeding birds the males take on the “helper” role while females join other groups (Berg 2005).

Nest predation

Since crows do not seem to mind human development, it was suggested that the crow population increase would cause increased rates of nest predation. However, the Steller’s Jays, which were successful independent of human development, were the more frequent nest predator. Therefore, the human relationship with crows and ravens did not increase nest predation since jays accounted for the most nest predation by corvids (Marzluff and Neatherlin 2006).

Myths

Since some corvids, especially in the temperate Northern Hemisphere have black feathers and eat carrion, humans have long associated members of Corvidae with death and extreme injustice (Marzluff and Angell 2005). Throughout history, corvids have been perceived as dark messengers, bearing ill will and other demonic associations. This dark connection is reflected by the literary terms coined to describe groups of crows (a murder), ravens (unkindness, constable or conspiracy), and jays (scold). [\[14\]](#).

Despite the well-known demonic association, folklore also represents corvids as wise animals. Native Americans believed that a raven created the earth, the Norse god Odin constantly sought the advice of ravens, and even Aesop featured corvids as smart heroes in many fables (Clayton and Emery 2005). According to native cultures, despite being a trickster spirit, ravens were popular on totems, were credited with creating man and were responsible for placing the Sun in the sky. In western literature, popularized by E.A. Poe, the Common Raven was a symbol of darkness, depression and death. However, in mediaeval times the raven stood for virility. Legends report that a raven’s favourite food is dead animals, and that they sometimes hunt with wolves [\[15\]](#). For more myths and legends see [crow](#) and [raven](#) pages.

Corvid intelligence

Corvids contain the largest brain, relative to their body size, of any bird. Based on a brain-to-body ratio, the corvid brain equals the size of a chimpanzee, is almost the same as a dolphin, and is only slightly lower than a human [\[16\]](#). Their intelligence is evident due to the long developmental period of the young. By remaining with the parents, the young have more opportunities to learn necessary skills. Since most corvids are cooperative breeders, their young can learn from different members of the group (Clayton and Emery 2005). Some

naturalists argue that the Corvidae family contains intelligence superior to that of all other bird species [17]. When compared to other carnivorous mammals (specifically dogs and cats) in one laboratory test, corvid birds outshone their components, demonstrating operational abilities almost as excellent as monkeys (Krushinskii et al 1979). Dr. Louis Lefebvre's avian IQ test declared Corvidae the most intelligent bird based on the scale [18].

The corvid ingenuity is represented through their feeding skills, memorization abilities, use of tools, and group behaviour. Living in large social groups has long been connected with high cognitive ability. To live in a large group, a member must be able to recognize individuals and track the social position and foraging of other members over time. Members must also be able to distinguish between sex, age, reproductive status, dominance and be able to update the information constantly. Therefore, social complexity directly corresponds to high cognition (Bond et al 2003).

There are also specific examples of corvid cleverness. One crow was documented to crack nuts by placing them on a crosswalk, letting the passing cars crack the shell, waiting for the light to turn red, and then safely retrieving the contents. A group of crows in England took turns lifting garbage bin lids while their companions collected food. Members of the corvid family have been known to watch other birds, remember where they hide their food, then return once the owner leaves. Corvids also move their food around between hiding places to avoid thievery, but only if they have previously been thieves themselves. The ability to hide food requires highly accurate spatial memories. Corvids have been recorded to recall their food's hiding place up to nine months later. It is suggested that vertical landmarks (like trees) are used to remember locations. There has also been evidence that western scrub-jays, who store perishable foods, not only remember where they stored their food, but for how long. This is compared to human episodic memory, which was previously thought unique to humans (Clayton and Emery 2005).

Looking at the act of thievery in the corvid family, it has been suggested that birds will take their experience as a thief and use it to predict other bird actions of thievery. This explains why, if a corvid has committed thievery, they will take extra precautions (such as moving hiding places) to avoid being a future victim. Being able to predict others behaviour based on your own experiences is another trait previously thought unique to humans. Laboratory experiments have confirmed that specifically crows, can sometimes use a past experience to approach a new obstacle (Clayton and Emery 2005).

Caledonian Crows have been observed to make tools of twigs trimmed into hooks. They then use to hooks to pull insect larvae from tree holes. Caledonian crows are not the only corvids to use tools, and diversity in tool design among corvids suggest cultural variation. Again, apes are the only other animals known to use tools in such a fashion (Clayton and Emery 2005). Nutcrackers and jackdaws were compared in a 2002 study based on geometric rule learning. The corvids, along with a pigeon, had to locate a target between two landmarks, during which distances and landmarks were altered. The nutcrackers resulted in searching more accurately than the jackdaw and pigeon (Jones et al 2002).

A very popular crow scare tactic in the agricultural business is the scarecrow. However, due to the corvid's quick wit, scarecrows are soon ignored and used as perches. Despite farmers efforts to rid themselves of corvid pests, their attempts have only expanded corvid territories and strengthened their numbers [19]. Recent taxonomy places corvids, based on

their evolutionary progress, in the middle of the passerines, despite efforts to promote them to the most advanced of the birds [\[20\]](#).

Threatened species

Despite the fact that most corvids are not threatened (but are most likely secured by human interaction) a few species are in danger. For example, the destruction of the Southeast Asian rainforests is endangering mixed-species feeding flocks with members from the family Corvidae (Lee et al 2005). Also, since scrub is an endangered ecosystem, the Florida Scrub-jays are threatened with extinction (Breiniger, et al 2006).

Songs/calls:

For all corvid calls. [\[21\]](#)

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Aphelocoma

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Aphelocoma** Cabanis, 1851 Species: *Aphelocoma californica*, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, *Aphelocoma insularis*, *Aphelocoma ultramarina*, *Aphelocoma unicolor*

The [passerine birds](#) of the genus **Aphelocoma**^[1] include the three scrub jays and two other jays. They are New World jays found in Mexico, western Central America and the western United States, with an outlying population in Florida. This genus belongs to the group of New World (or "blue") jays - possibly a distinct subfamily - which are not closely related to other jays, magpies or treebies (Ericson *et al*, 2005).

- [1 Species](#)
- [2 Appearance](#)
- [3 Behavior](#)
- [4 References](#)
 - [4.1 Footnotes](#)

Species

Five species of *Aphelocoma* are now recognized, since two taxa formerly treated as races of *A. coerulescens* were recently split off as separate species (*A. californica* and *A. insularis*); the 3 now separate species differ in color and bill size. They are believed to have evolved in the Pleistocene, and the Floridan species is known to have been recognizably distinct and present in its current range for at least 2 million years (Emslie, 1996).

- Western Scrub Jay *A. californica* – western United States from Washington to west Texas and south to Baja California and central Mexico
- Florida Scrub Jay *A. coerulescens* – Florida
- Island Scrub Jay *A. insularis* – Santa Cruz Island off southern California
- Mexican Jay or Gray-breasted Jay *Aphelocoma ultramarina* – Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre Occidental mountains of Mexico, north to southeast Arizona, southwest New Mexico and westernmost Texas, US.
- Unicolored Jay *Aphelocoma unicolor* – southern Mexico east to Honduras

They live in open pine-oak forests and chaparral scrub habitats.

Appearance

Aphelocoma jays are slightly larger than the [Blue Jay](#) and differ in having a longer tail, slightly shorter, more rounded wings, and no crest on the head. The top of the head, nape,

and sides of the head are a rich deep blue. In some species have a white stripe above the eye and dark ear coverts. The breast is also white or grey-white and the back is a grey-brown contrasting with the bright blue tail and wings in most species. One species, Unicolored Jay, is blue all over, superficially similar to the Pinyon Jay from much further north. The bill, legs, and feet are black.

Behavior

Food is taken both on the ground and in trees. Acorns and pine nuts are the most important foods, making up the great bulk of the diet, with grain, berries and other fruits making up the rest of the vegetable diet. Many insects and other invertebrates are also taken, and eggs and nestlings, small frogs, mice and reptiles.

Wild *Aphelocoma* jays are frequent visitors at campsites and picnics and have frequently learned to eat from the hands of people where they have become accustomed to being fed.

The nest is in a tree or a bush, sometimes quite low down. The nests are compact and lined with hair and fine roots with an outer diameter of about 30cm to 60cm. Usually 2 to 4 eggs are laid and incubated over 14 to 16 days. There are two main variations of egg shell color: green with olive markings or a paler background of grayish-white to green with red-brown markings. The Florida Scrub Jay and the Mexican Jay both have cooperative breeding systems involving several 'helpers' at each nest, usually siblings of the main pair.

Aphelocoma jays are quite vocal and have a huge range of sounds and calls; common calls include a *cheek, cheek, cheek* and a guttural churring *krr'r'r'r'r*. *Aphelocoma* jays are also, like all other jays, oftentimes quite aggressive at feeding areas, and sometimes regarded as a nuisance.

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Footnotes

1. [△] *Aphelocoma*, from Ancient Greek *aphelo-*, "smooth" and Latin *coma* "hair", in reference to the smooth plumage of birds of this genus compared to other corvids.

Cissa

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Cissa** Boie, 1826 [Species](#): *Cissa chinensis*, *Cissa hypoleuca*, *Cissa thalassina*

Cissa is a [genus](#) of short-tailed magpies that reside in the forests of tropical and sub-tropical Asia. The following species are recognized:

- Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*)
Yellow-breasted Magpie (*Cissa hypoleuca*)
Short-tailed Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*)

Corvus

Crow

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Corvus** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: See text.

The true **crows** are in the [genus](#) Corvus. They are large [passerine birds](#). All temperate continents (except South America) and several offshore and oceanic islands (including Hawai'i) have representatives of the 40 or so members of this genus.

Crows in the genus Corvus appear to have evolved in central Asia and radiated out into North America, Africa, Europe, and Australia.

The latest evidence appears to point towards an Australasian origin for the early family (Corvidae) though the branch that would produce the modern groups such as jays, magpies and large predominantly black Corvus Crows had left Australasia and were now developing in Asia. *Corvus* has since re-entered Australia (relatively recently) and produced five species with one recognized sub-species.

They range in size from the relatively small [pigeon](#)-sized jackdaws (Eurasian and Daurian) to the Common Raven of the Holarctic region and Thick-billed Raven of the highlands of Ethiopia.

In literary and fanciful usage, the collective noun for a group of crows is a *murder*. However, in practice most people, and especially scientists, use the more generic term *flock*.

- 1 Systematics
 - 1.1 Species
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Systematics

There is no good systematic approach to the genus at present. Generally, it is assumed that the species from a geographical area are more closely related to each other than to other lineages, but this is not necessarily correct. For example, while the Carrion/Collared/House

Crow complex is certainly closely related to each other, the situation is not at all clear regarding the Australian/Melanesian species.

The Neogene fossil record of crows is rather dense in Europe, but the relationships among most prehistoric species is not clear. Jackdaw-, crow- and raven-sized forms seem to have existed since long ago and crows were regularly hunted by humans up to the Iron Age, documenting the evolution of the modern taxa. American crows are not as well-documented.

A surprisingly high number of species have gone [extinct](#) after human colonization; the loss of one prehistoric Caribbean crow could also have been related to the last ice age's climate changes.

Species

Australian and Melanesian species

- Australian Raven *C. coronoides*
- Forest Raven *C. tasmanicus*
 - Relict Raven *C. (t.) boreus*
- Little Crow *C. bennetti*
- Little Raven *C. mellori*
- Torresian Crow *C. orru*
- New Caledonian Crow *C. moneduloides*
- Long-billed Crow *C. validus*
- White-billed Crow *C. woodfordi*
- Bougainville Crow *C. meeki*
- Brown-headed Crow *C. fuscicapillus*
- Grey Crow *C. tristis*
- New Ireland Crow, *Corvus* sp. (prehistoric)

New Zealand species

- Chatham Islands Raven, *C. moriorum* (prehistoric)
- New Zealand Raven, *C. antipodum* (prehistoric)

Pacific island species

- Mariana Crow, *C. kubaryi*
- Hawaiian Crow or 'Alala *C. hawaiiensis* (extinct in the wild, formerly *C. tropicus*)
- High-billed Crow, *C. impluviatus* (prehistoric)
- Robust Crow, *C. viriosus* (prehistoric)

Tropical Asian species

- Slender-billed Crow *C. enca*
- Piping Crow *C. typicus*
- Banggai Crow *C. unicolor* (possibly extinct)
- Flores Crow *C. florensis*

- Collared Crow *C. torquatus*
- Daurian Jackdaw *C. dauricus*
- House Crow *C. splendens*
- Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos*
 - Jungle Crow *C. (m.) levaillantii*

Eurasian and North African species

- Brown-necked Raven *C. ruficollis*
- Fan-tailed Raven *C. rhipidurus*
- Jackdaw *C. monedula*
- Rook *C. frugilegus*
- Hooded Crow *C. cornix*
 - Mesopotamian Crow, *C. (c.) capellanus*
- Carrion Crow *C. corone*
 - Corvus larteti* (fossil: Late Miocene of France)
 - Corvus antecorax* (fossil: Early - Late Pleistocene of Europe; may be subspecies of *Corvus corax*)
 - Corvus betfianus* (fossil)
 - Corvus praecorax* (fossil)
 - Corvus simionescui* (fossil)
 - Corvus pliocaenus* (fossil)
 - Corvus fossilis* (fossil)
 - Corvus moravicus* (fossil)
 - Corvus hungaricus* (fossil)

Holarctic species

- Common Raven *C. corax*
 - Pied Raven, *C. c. varius* morpho *leucophaeus* (an [extinct](#) color variant)

North and Central American species

- American Crow *C. brachyrhynchos*
- Chihuahuan Raven *C. cryptoleucus*
- Fish Crow *C. ossifragus*
- Northwestern Crow *C. caurinus*
- Tamaulipas Crow *C. imparatus*
- Sinaloan Crow *C. sinaloae*
- Jamaican Crow *C. jamaicensis*
- White-necked Crow *C. leucognaphalus*
- Hispaniolan Palm Crow *C. palmarum*
- Cuban Palm Crow *C. minutus*
- Cuban Crow *C. nasicus*
- Puerto Rican Crow *C. pumilis* (prehistoric; possibly a subspecies of *C. nasicus/palmarum*)

Corvus galushai (fossil: Big Sandy Late Miocene of Wickieup, USA)

Corvus neomexicanus (fossil: Late Pleistocene of Dry Cave, USA)

Tropical African species

- Cape Crow *C. capensis*
Pied Crow *C. albus*
Somali Crow or Dwarf Raven *C. edithae*
Thick-billed Raven *C. crassirostris*
White-necked Raven *C. albicollis*

In addition to the prehistoric forms listed above, some extinct chronosubspecies have been described. These are featured under the respective species accounts.

For more information regarding relatives of the crows, such as magpies and jays, see [Corvidae](#).

Behavior

Calls

Crows make a wide variety of calls or vocalizations. Whether the crows' system of communication constitutes a language is a topic of debate and study. Crows have also been observed to respond to calls of other species; this behavior is presumably learned because it varies regionally. Crows' vocalizations are complex and poorly understood. Some of the many vocalizations that crows make are a "caw", usually echoed back and forth between birds, a series of "caws" in discrete units, counting out numbers, a long caw followed by a series of short caws (usually made when a bird takes off from a perch), an echo-like "eh-aw" sound, and more. These vocalizations vary by species, and within each species vary regionally. In many species, the pattern and number of the numerical vocalizations have been observed to change in response to events in the surroundings (i.e. arrival or departure of crows). Crows can hear sound frequencies lower than those that humans can hear, which complicates the study of their vocalizations.

Intelligence

As a group, the crows show remarkable examples of intelligence. They top the avian IQ scale[1]. Crows and ravens often score very highly on intelligence tests. Crows in the northwestern U.S. (a blend of *Corvus brachyrhynchos* and *Corvus caurinus*) show modest linguistic capabilities and the ability to relay information over great distances, live in complex, hierarchic societies involving hundreds of individuals with various "occupations", and have an intense rivalry with the area's less socially advanced ravens. One species, the

New Caledonian Crow, has recently been intensively studied because of its ability to manufacture and use its own tools in the day-to-day search for food. Wild hooded crows in Israel have learned to use bread crumbs for bait-fishing. Crows will engage in a kind of midair jousting, or air-"chicken" to establish pecking order.

Crows have shown to [use traffic to crack nuts](#) so they can collect their food.

Color and society

Extra-specific uses of color in crow societies Many crow species are all black. Most of their natural enemies, the [raptors](#) or "falconiformes", soar high above the trees, and hunt primarily on bright, sunny days when contrast between light and shadow is greatest. Crows take advantage of this by maneuvering themselves through the dappled shades of the trees, where their black color renders them effectively invisible to their enemies above, in order to set up complex ambush attacks. Thus, their black coloring is of great strategic importance to their societies. It is perhaps here where we find the greatest difference between ravens and crows; [ravens](#) tend to soar high in the air as raptors do, and like raptors, are usually the target of ambushes by crows. Crows do not appear to perceive ravens as their own kind, but instead treat them as raptors.

While hawks tend to be the primary daytime predators of crows, their most deadly predators, in many areas, are the owls that hunt by night, preying upon crows sleeping helplessly in their roosts. Presumably their dark color is particularly helpful in blending into nighttime shadows. Crows also will often mob owls much more fiercely when they find them in daylight than they do hawks and other raptors. Frequently crows appear to "play" with hawks, taking turns "counting coup" while escorting the raptor out of their territory. Their attacks on owls, on the other hand, possess a definite serious quality.

Intra-specific uses of color in crow societies

Even in species characterized by being all black, one will still occasionally find variations, most of which appear to result from varying degrees of albinism, such as:

- an otherwise all-black crow stunningly contrasted by a full set of brilliant, pure-white primary feathers.
- complete covering in varying shades of grey (generally tending toward the darker side)
- blue or red, rather than swarthy eyes (blue being more common than red).
- Some combination of the above

The treatment of these rare individuals may vary from group to group, even within the same species. For example, one such individual may receive special treatment, attention, or care from the others in its group, while another group of the same species might exile such individuals, forcing them to fend for themselves. The reason for such behaviors, and why these behaviors vary as they do, has yet to be studied.

Mythology and folklore

Crows, and especially [ravens](#), often feature in legends or mythology as portents or harbingers of doom or death, because of their dark plumage, unnerving calls, and tendency to eat carrion. They are commonly thought to circle above scenes of death such as battles. The Child ballad *The Three Ravens* depicts three ravens discussing whether they can eat a dead knight, but finds that his hawk, his hound, and his true love prevent them; in the parody version *The Twa Corbies*, these guards have already forgotten the dead man, and the ravens can eat their full. Their depiction of evil has also led to some exaggeration of their appetite. In *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, *The Omen II* and *Exorcist: The Beginning*, crows are shown tearing out people's eyes while they are still alive. This, of course, does not happen as crows can distinguish between carrion and living people.

In Native American folklore, Crow is often seen as a similar trickster to Coyote. However, Crow's tricks tend to be more out of malice and they rarely (if ever) are portrayed as a hero. One possible explanation for this is that crows are often considered a pest to crops, which the tribes who came up with the stories featuring Crow needed to survive.

In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the Chaldean myth, the character Utnapishtim releases a dove and a raven to find land, similar to what Noah does in the book of Genesis. However, in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the dove merely circles and returns. Only then does Utnapishtim send forth the raven, who does not return. Utnapishtim extrapolates from this that the raven has found land, which is why it hasn't returned. This would seem to indicate some acknowledgement of crow intelligence, which may have been apparent even in ancient times, and to some might imply that the higher intelligence of crows, when compared to other birds, is striking enough that it was known even then.

In occult circles, distinctions are sometimes made between crows and ravens. In mythology and folklore as a whole, crows tend to be symbolic more of the spiritual aspect of death, or the transition of the spirit into the afterlife, whereas ravens tend more often to be associated with the negative (physical) aspect of death. However, few if any individual mythologies or folklores make such a distinction, and there are ample exceptions. Another reason for this distinction is that while crows are typically highly social animals, ravens don't seem to congregate in large numbers anywhere but a) near carrion where they meet seemingly by chance, or b) at cemeteries, where large numbers sometimes live together, even though carrion there is no more available (and probably less attainable) than any road or field.

Amongst Neopagans, crows are often thought to be highly psychic and are associated with the element of ether or spirit, rather than the element of air as with most other birds. This may in part be due to the long-standing occult tradition of associating the color black with "the abyss" of infinite knowledge (see *akasha*), or perhaps also to the more modern occult belief that wearing the "color" black aids in psychic ability, as it absorbs more electromagnetic energy, since surfaces appear black by absorbing all frequencies in the visible spectrum, reflecting no color.

Gods and goddesses associated or identified with crows and ravens

A very incomplete list includes the eponymous Pacific Northwest Native figures Raven and Crow, the ravens Hugin and Munin, who accompany the Norse god Odin, the Celtic goddesses the Mórrígan and/or the Badb (sometimes considered separate from Mórrígan), and Shani, a Hindu god who travels astride a crow. In Greek mythology, it was believed that when the crows gave bad news to the goddess Athena, she flew into a rage, and cursed their feathers to be black.

Interesting Crow Facts

The American crow is very susceptible to the West Nile virus, a disease just recently introduced in North America. American crows usually die within one week of acquiring the disease with only very few surviving exposure. Crows are so affected by the disease that their deaths are now serving as an indicator of the West Nile Virus' activity in an area. The American crow can address problems using several solutions showing great problem solving skills. American crows can also count!

Read more [About The Crow](#)

See also

- [Corvidae](#)

References

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Raven

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Corvidae](#)
Genus: [Corvus](#)
Species: See text.

Raven is the common name given to several large black [birds](#) of the [genus](#) *Corvus*. Other birds in the same genus are the smaller [crows](#), jackdaws, and rooks.

In much of Europe and North America, raven is used as a synonym for the widespread Common Raven, and much of the literature and culture surrounding ravens refers to that species.

Raven species include:

- Common Raven (*C. corax*)
Australian Raven (*C. coronoides*)
Forest Raven (*C. tasmanicus*)
Little Raven (*C. mellori*)
Thick-billed Raven (*C. crassirostris*)
White-necked Raven (*C. albicollis*)
Brown-necked Raven (*C. ruficollis*)
Chihuahuan Raven (*C. cryptoleucos*)

Crypsirina

Treepies

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genera: *Dendrocitta*, *Crypsirina*, *Temnurus*, *Platysmurus*

The **treepies** comprise four closely related genera (*Dendrocitta*, *Crypsirina*, *Temnurus* and as of recently also *Platysmurus*) of long-tailed [passerine](#) birds in the family [Corvidae](#). They are highly arboreal and rarely come to the ground to feed.

Species

Following Ericson *et al.* (2005), the Black Magpie is placed with the treepies:

- Genus ***Dendrocitta***
 - Grey Treepie, *Dendrocitta formosae*
 - Rufous Treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 - Black-faced Treepie, or Collared Treepie, *Dendrocitta frontalis*
 - Sumatran Treepie, *Dendrocitta occipitalis*
 - Bornean Treepie, *Dendrocitta cinerascens*
 - White-bellied Treepie, *Dendrocitta leucogastra*
 - Andaman Treepie, *Dendrocitta bayleyi*
- Genus ***Crypsirina***
 - Black Racket-tailed Treepie, *Crypsirina temia* (formerly *Dendrocitta*)
 - Hooded Treepie, *Crypsirina cucullata*
- Genus ***Temnurus***
 - Ratchet-tailed Treepie, *Temnurus temnurus*
- Genus ***Platysmurus***
 - Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus*

References

- Ericson, Per G. P.; Jansén, Anna-Lee; Johansson, Ulf S. & Ekman, Jan (2005): Inter-generic relationships of the crows, jays, magpies and allied groups (Aves: Corvidae) based on nucleotide sequence data. *Journal of Avian Biology* **36**: 222-234.

Cyanocitta

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: ***Cyanocitta*** Strickland, 1845 [Species](#): *Cyanocitta cristata*, *Cyanocitta stelleri*

The genus ***Cyanocitta*** is a New World genus of jays, [passerine birds](#) of the family [Corvidae](#). *Cyanocitta* includes only two of the New World jays; they are blue, crested birds that differ in the colour of the head. Their ranges generally do not overlap.

- *C. cristata*, [Blue Jay](#)
- *C. stelleri*, Steller's Jay

Cyanocorax

Tufted jays

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Cyanocorax** Boie, 1826 Species: 17 species; see text.

The **tufted jays** are a genus, **Cyanocorax**, of New World jays, [passerine birds](#) in the [crow family Corvidae](#).

It contains several closely related species and is dominant in Central and South America.

The genus includes seventeen species:

- Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*
Purplish-backed Jay, *Cyanocorax beecheii*
Azure Jay, *Cyanocorax caeruleus*
Cayenne Jay, *Cyanocorax cayanus*
Plush-crested Jay, *Cyanocorax chrysops*
Curl-crested Jay, *Cyanocorax cristatellus*
Purplish Jay, *Cyanocorax cyanomelas*
White-naped Jay, *Cyanocorax cyanopogon*
Tufted Jay, *Cyanocorax dickeyi*
Azure-naped Jay, *Cyanocorax heilprini*
Bushy-crested Jay, *Cyanocorax melanocyaneus*
Brown Jay, *Cyanocorax morio*
White-tailed Jay, *Cyanocorax mystacalis*
San Blas Jay, *Cyanocorax sanblasianus*
Violaceous Jay, *Cyanocorax violaceus*
Green Jay, *Cyanocorax yncas*
Yucatan Jay, *Cyanocorax yucatanicus*

Cyanolyca

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Cyanolyca** Cabanis, 1851

Cyanolyca is a [genus](#) of New World jays including:

- Cyanolyca armillata Black-collared Jay
Cyanolyca turcosa Turquoise Jay
Cyanolyca viridicyana White-collared Jay
Cyanolyca cucullata Azure-hooded Jay
Cyanolyca pulchra Beautiful Jay
Cyanolyca pumilo Black-throated Jay
Cyanolyca nana Dwarf Jay
Cyanolyca mirabilis White-throated Jay
Cyanolyca argentigula Silvery-throated Jay

Cyanopica

Azure-winged Magpie

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Cyanopica** Bonaparte, 1850 Species: *Cyanopica cyana* Pallas, 1776, *Cyanopica (cyana) cooki* Bonaparte, 1850

The **Azure-winged Magpie** (*Cyanopica cyana*) is a [bird](#) in the [crow family](#). It is 31-35 cm long and similar in overall shape to the European Magpie (*Pica pica*) but is more slender with proportionately smaller legs and bill.

It has a glossy black top to the head and a white throat. The underparts and the back are a light grey-fawn in colour with the wings and the feathers of the long (16-20 cm) tail are a beautiful azure blue. It inhabits various types of coniferous (mainly pine) and broadleaf forest, including parks and gardens in the eastern populations.

It occurs in two population groups separated by a huge geographical region between. One population lives in western Europe, specifically the south western part of the Iberian Peninsula, in Spain and Portugal. The other population occurs over a much larger region of eastern Asia in most of China, Korea, Japan, and north into Mongolia. Recent genetic analysis has shown that the two populations are distinct at species level, under which the Iberian Azure-winged Magpie would take the name *Cyanopica cooki*, though this change has yet to be formally incorporated in the European bird list.

Often Azure-winged Magpies find food as a family group or several groups making flocks of up to 30 birds, and their diet consists mainly of acorns (oak seeds) and pine nuts, extensively supplemented by invertebrates and their larvae, soft fruits and berries, and also human-provided scraps in parks and towns.

This species usually nests in loose, open colonies with a single nest in each tree. There are usually between 6–8 [eggs](#) that are incubated for 15 days.

The voice is a quick fired and metallic sounding kwink-kwink-kwink usually preceded by a single "krarrah".

Garrulus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Garrulus** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Garrulus glandarius*, *Garrulus lanceolatus*, *Garrulus lidthi*

The genus **Garrulus** contains the Old World jays, [passerine birds](#) of the family [Corvidae](#), and numbers only three species.

- *Garrulus glandarius*, the Eurasian Jay
Garrulus lanceolatus, the Lanceolated Jay
G. lidthi Lidth's Jay

Nucifraga

Nutcrackers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Nucifraga** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, *Nucifraga columbiana*

The **nutcrackers** (***Nucifraga***) are a genus of two species of [passerine bird](#), in the family [Corvidae](#), related to the jays and [crows](#). One, the Spotted Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*), occurs in Europe and Asia, the other, Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), in western North America.

The most important food resources for both these species are the seeds (pine nuts) of various Pines (*Pinus* sp.), principally the cold-climate (far northern or high altitude) species of white pine (*Pinus* subgenus *Strobus*) with large seeds: *P. albicaulis*, *P. armandii*, *P. cembra*, *P. flexilis*, *P. koraiensis*, *P. parviflora*, *P. peuce*, *P. pumila*, *P. sibirica* and *P. wallichiana*, and also the pinyon and lacebark pines in subgenus *Ducampopinus*. In some regions, where none of these pines occur, the seeds of Spruce (*Picea* sp.) and Hazel nuts (*Corylus* sp.) form an important part of the diet too. The bills of these birds are specialized tools for extracting seeds from pine cones.

Surplus seed is always stored for later use and it is this species that is responsible for the re-establishment of their favoured pines over large areas either burnt in forest fires or cleared by man.

Various insects are also taken, including bee and wasp larvae, and also birds' eggs and nestlings, and carrion if it is found.

Nesting is always early in this genus, so as to make the best use of pine nuts stored the previous autumn. The nest is usually built high in a conifer. There are normally 2-4 eggs laid and incubated for 18 days. Both sexes feed the young which are usually fledged by about 23 days and stay with their parents for many months, following them to learn food storage techniques.

Neither species is [migratory](#), but they will erupt out of their ranges if a cone crop failure causes a food shortage.

Reference

- Lanner, R. M. (1996). *Made for each other: a symbiosis of birds and pines*. OUP ISBN 0-19-508903-0

Perisoreus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Perisoreus** Bonaparte, 1831 Species: *Perisoreus canadensis*, *Perisoreus infaustus*,
Perisoreus internigrans

The genus **Perisoreus** is a very small genus of Jays from the Boreal regions of North America and Eurasia from Scandinavia to the Asian seaboard. An isolated species also occurs in north-western Szechuan province of China. They belong to the [Passerine](#) order of birds in the family [Corvidae](#).

Species

- Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*)
Siberian Jay (*Perisoreus infaustus*)
Sichuan Jay (*Perisoreus internigrans*)

Pica

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Pica** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Pica pica*, *Pica (pica) sericea*, *Pica (pica) nuttalli*, *Pica (pica) hudsonia*

Pica is the [genus](#) of three [species](#) of [birds](#) in the family [Corvidae](#) in both the New World and the old. They have long tails and have predominantly black and white markings. One species ranges widely from Europe through Asia, one occurs all over North America and the third is restricted to California. They are usually considered closely related to the blue and green magpies of Asia, but recent research (Ericson et al., 2005) suggests their closest relatives are instead the Eurasian [crows](#).

Two or three species were generally recognized, the Yellow-billed and one or two black-billed ones. Recent research has cast doubt on the taxonomy of the *Pica* magpies (Lee et al., 2003). *P. hudsonia* and *P. nuttalli* are each other's closest relatives, but may not be different species. If they are, however, at least the Korean race of *P. pica* would have to be considered a separate species, too.

- European Magpie, *Pica pica*
 Korean Magpie, *Pica (pica) sericea*
 Yellow-billed Magpie, *Pica (pica) nuttalli*
 Black-billed Magpie, *Pica (pica) hudsonia*

A prehistoric species of magpie, *Pica mourerae*, is known from [fossils](#).

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Podoces

Ground jays

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Podoces** Fischer von Waldheim, 1821 [Species](#): *Podoces hendersoni*, *Podoces biddulphi*,

Podoces pleskei

Podoces panderi

The **ground jays** or **ground choughs** belong to a very distinct and interesting group of the [passerine](#) order of birds in the genus **Podoces** of the [crow](#) family [Corvidae](#) that inhabit high altitude semi-desert areas from central Asia to Mongolia.

They show excellent distinct adaptations to their ground living way of life such as long, strong legs adapted to fast running and they leap and bound onto boulders and rocks with great agility. Their long, curved thick bills are adapted for digging and probing.

They can all of course fly (which they do little and relatively weakly), but prefer running, and will readily perch on trees and bushes also.

Species list

- Henderson's Ground Jay (*Podoces hendersoni*)
Biddulph's Ground Jay (*Podoces biddulphi*)
Persian Ground Jay (*Podoces pleskei*)
Grey Ground Jay (*Podoces panderi*)

Hume's Ground Tit (*Pseudopodoces humilis*), previously Hume's Ground Jay, has changed its placement within the Passeriformes recently because of molecular and osteological testing. It has now been placed into the Paridae.

Pyrrhonorax

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: ***Pyrrhonorax*** Tunstall, 1771 Species: See text.

Pyrrhonorax is the name of a [genus](#) of black European [birds](#) in the [Corvidae](#) ([crow](#)) [family](#). They are given the name of chough because of the sound they make.

They are predominantly black in colour with brightly coloured legs, feet, and bills. They have long broad wings for soaring and are often spectacular aeronauts.

The two species are below:

- Chough or Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*)
- Alpine Chough or Yellow-billed Chough (*Pyrrhonorax graculus*)

Urocissa

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

Genus: **Urocissa**

Species: *Urocissa caerulea*, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*, *Urocissa flavirostris*, *Urocissa whiteheadi*, *Urocissa ornata*

Urocissa is a [genus](#) of birds in the huge [Passerine](#) order in the family [Corvidae](#). It consists of mainly brightly coloured magpies in Asia.

Species in the genus **Urocissa**:

- Formosan Blue Magpie, *Urocissa caerulea*
Red-billed Blue Magpie, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
Gold-billed Magpie, *Urocissa flavirostris*
White-winged Magpie, *Urocissa whiteheadi*
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, *Urocissa ornata*

Dicruridae

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: **Dicruridae**
Subfamilies: *Monarchinae*, *Rhipidurinae*, *Dicrurinae*

The family **Dicruridae** is a relatively recent grouping of a number of seemingly very different birds, mostly from the southern hemisphere, which are more closely related than they at first appear.

Many of the 139 [species](#) making up the family were previously assigned to other groups, largely on the basis of general morphology or behaviour. The Magpie-lark, for example, was assigned to the same family as the White-winged Chough: both build unusual nests from mud rather than vegetable matter. The Australasian fantails were thought to be allied with the fantails of the northern hemisphere (both groups share a similar diet and behaviour), and so on.

With the new insights generated by the DNA-DNA hybridisation studies of Sibley and his co-workers toward the end of the 20th century, however, it became clear that these apparently unrelated birds were all descended from a common ancestor: the same crow-like ancestor that gave rise to the [drongos](#).

Subfamilies of Dicruridae

- Subfamily Monarchinae: boatbills, monarch flycatchers, Magpie-lark
Subfamily Rhipidurinae: fantails
Subfamily Dicrurinae: drongos

Drongos

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Dicruridae](#)

Subfamily: **Dicrurinae**

Genera: *Chaetorhynchus*, *Dicrurus*

The **drongos** are a subfamily of small [passerine birds](#) of the Old World tropics. They were previously classed as the family Dicruridae, but that has been much enlarged to include a number of largely Australasian groups, such as the Australasian fantails, monarchs and paradise flycatchers.

These insect-eating birds are found in usually open forests or bush. Most are black or dark grey in colour, sometimes with metallic tints. They have long forked tails, and some Asian species have elaborate tail decorations. They have short legs and sit very upright whilst perched, like a [shrike](#). They flycatch or take prey from the ground.

Two to four [eggs](#) are laid in a nest high in a tree. These are aggressive and fearless birds, given their small size, and drongos will attack much larger species if their nest or young are threatened.

Species of Dicrurinae

- Papuan Drongo, *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Square-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus ludwigii*
- Shining Drongo, *Dicrurus atripennis*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Fork-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus adsimilis*
- Príncipe Drongo, *Dicrurus modestus* (Lower risk (nt))
- Aldabra Drongo, *Dicrurus aldabranus*, (Lower risk (nt))
- Comoro Drongo, *Dicrurus fuscipennis*, (Endangered)
- Crested Drongo, *Dicrurus forficatus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Mayotte Drongo, *Dicrurus waldenii*, (Endangered)
- Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus*
- Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
- White-bellied Drongo, *Dicrurus caerulescens*
- Crow-billed Drongo, *Dicrurus annectans*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus*
- Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus remifer*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Hair-crested Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Balicassiao, *Dicrurus balicassius*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Sulawesi Drongo, *Dicrurus montanus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Sumatran Drongo, *Dicrurus sumatranus*, (Lower risk (nt))
- Wallacean Drongo, *Dicrurus densus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Ribbon-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus megarhynchus*, (Lower risk (lc))

Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus bracteatus*, (Lower risk (lc))
Andaman Drongo, *Dicrurus andamanensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Trivia

In Australian slang, the word drongo is a synonym for a total loser or idiot. Like most Australian slang the meaning of the word changes with the way it's said.

In the Bush Dance sometimes called the drongo the person who misses out on a partner (musical chairs style) becomes 'the drongo' for the next time through the dance and is the butt of a gentle humorous use of the word - spill hot soup in a customer's lap and you may hear a distinctly vitriolic use!

The Drongo was a racehorse probably named after the bird. It raced in the 1920's and was deemed unlucky never to have come better than second in thirty-seven starts. The term was used in the RAAF during World War 2 to describe raw recruits.

Monarchinae

(*Chasiempis sandwichensis ridgwayi*)

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: [Dicruridae](#)
 Subfamily: **Monarchinae**

Genera: *Erythrocerus*, *Elminia*, *Trochocercus*, *Hypothymis*, *Eutrichomyias*, *Terpsiphone*, *Chasiempis*, *Pomarea*, *Mayrornis*, *Neolalage*, *Clytorhynchus*, *Metabolus*, *Monarcha*, *Arses*, *Myiagra*, *Lamprolia*, *Machaerirhynchus*, *Grallina*

The **Monarchinae** are a subfamily of the [bird](#) family **Dicruridae**, which is a relatively recent grouping of a number of seemingly very different birds, mostly from the southern hemisphere, which are more closely related than they at first appear. It includes the boatbills, monarch flycatchers and Magpie-lark.

Many of the 139 [species](#) making up the family were previously assigned to other groups, largely on the basis of general morphology or behaviour. The Magpie-lark, for example, was assigned to the same family as the White-winged Cough, since both build unusual nests from mud rather than vegetable matter. The Australasian fantails were thought to be allied with the fantails of the northern hemisphere (both groups share a similar diet and behaviour), and so on.

With the new insights generated by the DNA-DNA hybridisation studies of Sibley and his co-workers toward the end of the 20th century, however, it became clear that these apparently unrelated birds were all descended from a common ancestor: the same crow-like ancestor that gave rise to the [drongos](#).

The Monarchinae are small to medium-sized insectivorous [passerines](#), many of which hunt by flycatching.

Species of Monarchinae

- Chestnut-capped Flycatcher , *Erythrocerus mccallii*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Yellow Flycatcher , *Erythrocerus holochlorus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Livingstone's Flycatcher , *Erythrocerus livingstonei*, (Lower risk (lc))
- African Blue-Flycatcher , *Elminia longicauda*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher , *Elminia albicauda*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Dusky Crested-Flycatcher , *Elminia nigromitrata*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-bellied Crested-Flycatcher , *Elminia albiventris*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-tailed Crested-Flycatcher , *Elminia albonotata*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Blue-headed Crested-Flycatcher , *Trochocercus nitens*, (Lower risk (lc))
- African Crested-Flycatcher , *Trochocercus cyanomelas*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Short-crested Monarch , *Hypothymis helenae*, (Lower risk (nt))
- Black-naped Monarch , *Hypothymis azurea*

Pale-blue Monarch , *Hypothymis puella*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Celestial Monarch , *Hypothymis coelestis*, (Vulnerable)
 Cerulean Paradise-Flycatcher , *Eutrichomyias rowleyi*, (Critical)
 Black-headed Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone rufiventer*
 Annobón Paradise-flycatcher, *Terpsiphone smithii*, (Vulnerable)
 Bedford's Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone bedfordi*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Rufous vented Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Bates' Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone batesi*, (Lower risk (lc))
 African Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone viridis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Sao Tome Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone atrochalybeia*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone mutata*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone corvina*, (Critical)
 Mascarene Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone bourbonnensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Japanese Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone atrocaudata*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Blue Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone cyanescens*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Rufous Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Asian Paradise Flycatcher , *Terpsiphone paradisi*
 'Elepaio, *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, (Endangered)
 Rarotonga Monarch , *Pomarea dimidiata*, (Endangered)
 Tahiti Monarch , *Pomarea nigra*, (Critical)
 Maupiti Monarch, *Pomarea pomarea*, (Extinct (1823))
 Iphis Monarch , *Pomarea iphis*, (Vulnerable)
 Marquesas Monarch , *Pomarea mendozae*, (Endangered)
 Fatuhiva Monarch , *Pomarea whitneyi*, (Critical)
 Ogea Monarch , *Mayrornis versicolor*, (Vulnerable)
 Slaty Monarch , *Mayrornis lessoni*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Vanikoro Monarch , *Mayrornis schistaceus*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Buff-bellied Monarch , *Neolalage banksiana*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Southern Shrikebill , *Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Rennell Shrikebill , *Clytorhynchus hamlini*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Fiji Shrikebill , *Clytorhynchus vitiensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Black-throated Shrikebill , *Clytorhynchus nigrogularis*, (Vulnerable)
 Truk Monarch , *Metabolus rugensis*, (Endangered)
 Black Monarch , *Monarcha axillaris*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Rufous Monarch , *Monarcha rubiensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Island Monarch , *Monarcha cinerascens*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Black-winged Monarch , *Monarcha frater*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Black-faced Monarch , *Monarcha melanopsis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Bougainville Monarch , *Monarcha erythrostictus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Chestnut-bellied Monarch , *Monarcha castaneiventris*, (Lower risk (lc))
 White-capped Monarch , *Monarcha richardsii*, (Lower risk (lc))
 White-naped Monarch , *Monarcha pileatus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Loetoe Monarch , *Monarcha castus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 White-eared Monarch , *Monarcha leucotis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Spot-winged Monarch , *Monarcha guttulus*, (Lower risk (lc))

Black-bibbed Monarch , *Monarcha mundus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Spectacled Monarch , *Monarcha trivirgatus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Flores Monarch , *Monarcha sacerdotum*, (Endangered)
 White-tipped Monarch , *Monarcha everetti*, (Endangered)
 Black-tipped Monarch , *Monarcha loricatus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Black-chinned Monarch , *Monarcha boanensis*, (Critical)
 White-tailed Monarch , *Monarcha leucurus*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Black-backed Monarch , *Monarcha julianae*
 Hooded Monarch , *Monarcha manadensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Biak Monarch , *Monarcha brehmii*, (Endangered)
 Manus Monarch , *Monarcha infelix*, (Lower risk (nt))
 White-breasted Monarch , *Monarcha menckei*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Black-tailed Monarch , *Monarcha verticalis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Kulambangra Monarch , *Monarcha browni*, (Lower risk (nt))
 White-collared Monarch , *Monarcha viduus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Black-and-white Monarch , *Monarcha barbatus*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Yap Monarch , *Monarcha godeffroyi*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Tinian Monarch , *Monarcha takatsukasae*, (Vulnerable)
 Golden Monarch , *Monarcha chrysomela*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Frilled Monarch , *Arses telescopthalmus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Rufous-collared Monarch , *Arses insularis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Pied Monarch , *Arses kaupi*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Guam Flycatcher , *Myiagra freycineti*, (Extinct (1983))
 Palau Flycatcher , *Myiagra erythrops*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Pohnpei Flycatcher , *Myiagra pluto*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Oceanic Flycatcher , *Myiagra oceanica*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Biak Flycatcher , *Myiagra atra*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Moluccan Flycatcher , *Myiagra galeata*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Leaden Flycatcher , *Myiagra rubecula*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Steel-blue Flycatcher , *Myiagra ferrocyanea*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Ochre-headed Flycatcher , *Myiagra cervinicauda*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Melanesian Flycatcher , *Myiagra caledonica*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Vanikoro Flycatcher , *Myiagra vanikorensis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Samoan Flycatcher , *Myiagra albiventris*, (Vulnerable)
 Blue-crested Flycatcher , *Myiagra azureocapilla*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Broad-billed Flycatcher , *Myiagra ruficollis*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Satin Flycatcher , *Myiagra cyanoleuca*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Restless Flycatcher , *Myiagra inquieta*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Shining Flycatcher , *Myiagra alecto*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Dull Flycatcher , *Myiagra hebetior*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Silktaill , *Lamprolia victoriae*, (Vulnerable)
 Black-breasted Boatbill , *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Yellow-breasted Boatbill , *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Magpie-lark , *Grallina cyanoleuca*
 Torrent-lark , *Grallina bruijni*, (Lower risk (lc))

Lamprolia

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Monarchidae](#)

Genus: ***Lamprolia*** Finsch, 1874

The monotypic genus ***Lamprolia*** Finsch, 1874 consist of one species flycatcher endemic to two islands of Fiji.

Species

- Silktail, *Lamprolia victoriae*

Rhipidurinae

Fantails

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Dicruridae](#)

Genus: ***Rhipidura*** Horsfield and Vigors, 1827 Species: *many, see text*

Fantails are small insectivorous [birds](#) of southern Asia and Australasia all belonging to the [genus](#) *Rhipidura* and subfamily Rhipidurinae. Most of the species are about 15 to 18 cm long, specialist aerial feeders, and named as "fantails", but the Australian Willie Wagtail, is a little larger, and though still an expert hunter of insects on the wing, concentrates equally on terrestrial prey.

It may be noted that the true wagtails are part of the genus *Motacilla* and family [Motacillidae](#) and are not particularly close relatives of the fantails.

Species

- Yellow-bellied Fantail , *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
- Blue Fantail , *Rhipidura superciliaris*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Blue-headed Fantail , *Rhipidura cyaniceps*
- Rufous-tailed Fantail , *Rhipidura phoenicura*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Black-and-cinnamon Fantail , *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-throated Fantail , *Rhipidura albicollis*
- Spot-breasted Fantail , *Rhipidura albogularis*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-bellied Fantail , *Rhipidura euryura*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-browed Fantail , *Rhipidura aureola*
- Northern Fantail , *Rhipidura rufiventris*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Pied Fantail , *Rhipidura javanica*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Spotted Fantail , *Rhipidura perlata*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Willie Wagtail , *Rhipidura leucophrys*
- Brown-capped Fantail , *Rhipidura diluta*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Cinnamon-tailed Fantail , *Rhipidura fuscorufa*
- White-winged Fantail , *Rhipidura cockerelli*, (Lower risk (nt))
- Friendly Fantail , *Rhipidura albolimbata*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Chestnut-bellied Fantail , *Rhipidura hyperythra*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Sooty Thicket-Fantail , *Rhipidura threnothorax*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Black Thicket-Fantail , *Rhipidura maculipectus*, (Lower risk (lc))
- White-bellied Thicket-Fantail , *Rhipidura leucothorax*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Black Fantail , *Rhipidura atra*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Mangrove Fantail , *Rhipidura phasiana*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Brown Fantail , *Rhipidura drownei*, (Lower risk (lc))
- Dusky Fantail , *Rhipidura tenebrosa*, (Lower risk (nt))

Rennell Fantail , *Rhipidura rennelliana*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
 Streaked Fantail , *Rhipidura spilodera*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Kandavu Fantail , *Rhipidura personata*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Samoan Fantail , *Rhipidura nebulosa*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Dimorphic Fantail , *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Rusty-flanked Fantail , *Rhipidura teysmanni*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Cinnamon-backed Fantail , *Rhipidura superflua*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Streaky-breasted Fantail , *Rhipidura dedemi*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Long-tailed Fantail , *Rhipidura opistherythra*, (Lower risk (nt))
 Palau Fantail , *Rhipidura lepida*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Rufous-backed Fantail , *Rhipidura rufidorsa*, (Lower risk (lc))
 Matthias Fantail , *Rhipidura matthiae*
 Bismarck Fantail , *Rhipidura dahli*
 Malaita Fantail , *Rhipidura malaitae*
 Manus Fantail , *Rhipidura semirubra*
 Rufous Fantail , *Rhipidura rufifrons*
 Pohnpei Fantail, *Rhipidura kubaryi*

Tersiphone

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Monarchidae](#)

Genus: ***Terpsiphone*** Gloger, 1827 Species: See text.

Terpsiphone is the genus to which many different species of Paradise Flycatchers belong. Below is a list of Paradise Flycatcher species:

Species

- *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* (Eyton, 1839) - Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone atrochalybeia* (Thomson, 1842) - Sao Tome Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone batesi* Chapin, 1921 - Bate's Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone bedfordi* (Ogilvie-Grant, 1907) - Bedford's Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone bourbonensis* (Statius Müller, 1776) - Mascarene Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone cinnamomea* (Sharpe, 1877) - Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone corvina* (Newton, E, 1867) - Seychelles Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone cyanescens* (Sharpe, 1877) - Blue Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone mutata* (Linnaeus, 1766) - Madagascar Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone paradisi* (Linnaeus, 1758) - Asian Paradise Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone rufiventer* (Swainson, 1837) - Black-headed Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone rufocinerea* (Cabanis, 1875) - Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatcher
- Terpsiphone smithii* - (Fraser, 1843) - Annobón Paradise-flycatcher
- Terpsiphone viridis* (Statius Müller, 1776) - African Paradise Flycatcher

Icteridae

Tersiphone

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Monarchidae](#)

Genus: ***Terpsiphone*** Gloger, 1827 Species: See text.

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- Terpsiphone viridis* (Statius Müller, 1776) - African Paradise Flycatcher

Irenidae

Fairy-bluebirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Irenidae** Jerdon, 1863 Genus: *Irena* Horsfield, 1821 Species: See text.

The two **fairy-bluebirds** are small [passerine bird species](#) found in forests and plantations in tropical southern Asia and the Philippines. They are the sole members of the family Irenidae, but are related to the [ioras](#) and leafbirds.

These are [bulbul](#)-like birds of open forest or thorn scrub, but whereas that group tends to be drab in coloration, fairy-bluebirds are sexually dimorphic, with the males being dark blue in plumage, and the females duller green.

These species eat fruit, especially figs, and maybe some insects. They lay 2-3 eggs in a tree nest.

The call of the Asian Fairy-bluebird is a liquid two note *Glue-It*.

As one would expect, the Asian Fairy-bluebird occurs across southern Asia, and the Philippine Fairy-bluebird in that archipelago.

- **Family: Irenidae**
 - Asian Fairy-bluebird, *Irena puella*
 - Philippine Fairy-bluebird, *Irena cyanogaster*

Laniidae

Shrikes

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: **Laniidae**
 Genera: *Lanius*, *Eurocephalus*, *Corvinella*

A **shrike** is a [passerine bird](#) of the family Laniidae which is known for its habit of catching insects, small birds or mammals and impaling their bodies on thorns. This helps them to tear the flesh into smaller, more conveniently-sized fragments, and serves as a "larder" so that the shrike can return to the uneaten portions at a later time.

A typical shrike's beak is hooked, like a [bird of prey](#), reflecting its predatory nature.

Most shrike species occur in Eurasia and Africa, but two breed in North America. There are no members of this family in South America or Australia.

Some shrikes are also known as "butcher birds" because of their habit of keeping corpses. Australasian [butcherbirds](#) are not shrikes, although they occupy a similar ecological niche.

Species of Laniidae

- Tiger Shrike, *Lanius tigrinus*
- Bull-headed Shrike, *Lanius bucephalus*
- Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
- Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
- Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus*
- Burmese Shrike, *Lanius collurioides*
- Emin's Shrike, *Lanius gubernator*
- Souza's Shrike, *Lanius souzae*
- Bay-backed Shrike, *Lanius vittatus*
- Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
- Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*
- Mountain Shrike or Grey-capped Shrike, *Lanius validirostris*
- Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*
- Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*
- Great Grey Shrike or Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
- Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*
- Chinese Grey Shrike, *Lanius sphenocercus*
- Grey-backed Fiscal, *Lanius excubitoroides*
- Long-tailed Fiscal, *Lanius cabanisi*
- Taita Fiscal, *Lanius dorsalis*
- Somali Fiscal, *Lanius somalicus*
- Mackinnon's Shrike, *Lanius mackinnoni*

Common Fiscal, *Lanius collaris*

Newton's Fiscal, *Lanius newtoni*

Uhehe Shrike, *Lanius marwitsi*

Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius senator*

Masked Shrike, *Lanius nubicus*

Yellow-billed Shrike, *Corvinella corvina*

Magpie Shrike, *Corvinella melanoleuca*

White-rumped Shrike, *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

White-crowned Shrike, *Eurocephalus anguitimens*

Other species, popularly called "shrikes," are in the families:

- Prionopidae, helmetshrikes.
Malaconotidae, puffback shrikes, bush shrikes, tchagras and boubous.
Campephagidae, cuckoo-shrikes.

The Prionopidae and Malaconotidae are quite closely related to the Laniidae, and were formerly included in the shrike family. The cuckoo-shrikes are not closely related to the true shrikes.

Malaconotidae

Bushshrikes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Malaconotidae**

Genera: *Nilaus*, *Dryoscopus*, *Tchagra*, *Laniarius*, *Rhodophoneus*, *Telophorus*, *Malaconotus*

The **bushshrikes** are smallish [passerine bird species](#). They were formerly classed with the true [Shrikes](#) in the family Laniidae, but are now considered sufficiently distinctive to be separated from that group as the family Malaconotidae.

This is an African group of species which are found in scrub or open woodland. They are similar in habits to shrikes, hunting insects and other small prey from a perch on a bush. Although similar in build to the shrikes, these tend to be either colourful species or largely black; some species are quite secretive.

Some bushshrikes have flamboyant displays. The male puffbacks puff out the loose feathers on their rump and lower back, to look almost ball-like.

These are mainly insectivorous forest or scrub birds. Up to four eggs are laid in a cup nest in a tree.

List of species in taxonomic order

- Brubru, *Nilaus afer*
- Northern Puffback, *Dryoscopus gambensis*
- Pringle's Puffback, *Dryoscopus pringlii*
- Black-backed Puffback, *Dryoscopus cubla*
- Red-eyed Puffback, *Dryoscopus senegalensis*
- Pink-footed Puffback, *Dryoscopus angolensis*
- Large-billed Puffback, *Dryoscopus sabini*
- Marsh Tchagra, *Tchagra minuta*
- Black-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra senegala*
- Brown-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra australis*
- Three-streaked Tchagra, *Tchagra jamesi*
- Southern Tchagra, *Tchagra tchagra*
- Red-naped Bushshrike, *Laniarius ruficeps*
- Luehder's Bushshrike, *Laniarius luehderi*
- Bulo Burti Boubou, *Laniarius liberatus*
- Turati's Boubou, *Laniarius turatii*
- Tropical Boubou, *Laniarius aethiopicus*
- Gabon Boubou, *Laniarius bicolor*
- Southern Boubou, *Laniarius ferrugineus*
- Yellow-crowned Gonolek, *Laniarius barbarus*
- Black-headed Gonolek, *Laniarius erythrogaster*

Crimson-breasted Gonolek, *Laniarius atrococcineus*
 Papyrus Gonolek, *Laniarius mufumbiri*
 Yellow-breasted Boubou, *Laniarius atroflavus*
 Slate-colored Boubou, *Laniarius funebris*
 Sooty Boubou, *Laniarius leucorhynchus*
 Fuelleborn's Boubou, *Laniarius fuelleborni*
 Rosy-patched Bushshrike, *Rhodophoneus cruentus*
 Bokmakierie, *Telophorus zeylonus*
 Grey-green Bushshrike, *Telophorus bocagei*
 Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, *Telophorus sulfureopectus*
 Olive Bushshrike, *Telophorus olivaceus*
 Many-colored Bushshrike, *Telophorus multicolor*
 Black-fronted Bushshrike, *Telophorus nigrifrons*
 Mt. Kupe Bushshrike, *Telophorus kupeensis*
 Four-colored Bushshrike, *Telophorus viridis*
 Doherty's Bushshrike, *Telophorus dohertyi*
 Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, *Malaconotus cruentus*
 Lagden's Bushshrike, *Malaconotus lagdeni*
 Green-breasted Bushshrike, *Malaconotus gladiator*
 Grey-headed Bushshrike, *Malaconotus blanchoti*
 Monteiro's Bushshrike, *Malaconotus monteiri*
 Uluguru Bushshrike, *Malaconotus alius*

Tchagra

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: Malaconotidae

Genus: **Tchagra** Lesson, 1830 species: *T. minuta*, *T. senegala*, *T. australis*, *T. jamesi*, *T. tchagra*

The **Tchagras** are [passerine birds](#) in the [bushshrike](#) family, which are closely related to the true [shrikes](#) in the family Laniidae, and were once included in that group. These five species form the genus **Tchagra** within the bushshrike family:

- Marsh Tchagra, *Tchagra minuta*
Black-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra senegala*
Brown-crowned Tchagra or Brown-headed Tchagra, *Tchagra australis*
Three-streaked Tchagra, *Tchagra jamesi*
Southern Tchagra, *Tchagra tchagra*

The Marsh Tchagra is sometimes placed in the monotypic genus *Antichromus*, and then named as Blackcap Bushshrike. The dark Angolan subspecies of Marsh Tchagra was formerly sometimes split as Anchieta's Tchagra, *Tchagra anchietae*, named after Portuguese explorer José Alberto de Oliveira Anchieta by his zoologist compatriot José Vicente Barbosa du Bocage in 1869.

These are long-tailed birds, typically with a grey or grey-brown back, brown wings and grey and whitish underparts. The head pattern is distinctive, with a dark cap and black eyestripe separated by a white [supercilium](#). The bill is strong and hooked.

The male and female are similar in plumage in all tchagra species, but distinguishable from immature birds.

These are solitary birds which tend to skulk low down or on the ground. They have distinctive whistled calls and can be readily tempted into sight by imitating the call, presumably because the tchagra is concerned that there is an intruder in its territory.

These are species typically of scrub, open woodland, semi-desert and cultivation in sub-Saharan Africa. They hunt large insects from a low perch in a bush, and the larger species like Black-crowned Tchagra will also take vertebrate prey such as frogs and snakes.

References

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- Tony Harris and Kim Franklin, *Shrikes and Bush-Shrikes* ISBN 0-7136-3861-3

Maluridae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Maluridae**

Genera: *Malurus*, *Sipodotus*, *Clytomyias*, *Stipiturus*, *Amytornis*

The **Maluridae** are a [family](#) of small, insectivorous [passerine birds](#) endemic to Australia and New Guinea. Commonly known as **wrens**, they are unrelated to the [true wrens](#) of the Northern Hemisphere. The family includes 14 [species](#) of **fairy-wren**, 3 **emu-wrens**, and 10 **grasswrens**.

As with many other Australian creatures, and perhaps more than most, the species making up this family were comprehensively misunderstood by early researchers. They were variously classified as [Old World flycatchers](#), [Old World warblers](#), and [Old World babblers](#). In the late 1960s morphological studies began to suggest that the Australo-Papuan fairy-wrens, the grasswrens, emu-wrens and two monotypic wren-like genera from New Guinea were related and, following Charles Sibley's pioneering work on egg-white proteins in the mid-1970s, Australian researchers introduced the family name Maluridae in 1975. With further morphological work and the great strides made in DNA analysis towards the end of the 20th century, their position became clear: the Maluridae are one of the many families to have emerged from the great corvid radiation in Australasia. Their closest relatives are the Meliphagidae (honeyeaters), the Pardalotidae, and the Petroicidae (Australian robins). Their obvious similarity to the wrens of Europe and America is not genetic, but simply the consequence of convergent evolution between more-or-less unrelated species that share the same ecological niche.

Fairy-wrens are notable for several peculiar behavioral characteristics. They are socially monogamous and sexually promiscuous, meaning that although they form pairs between one male and one female, each partner will mate with other individuals and even assist in raising the young from such pairings. Males of several species pluck petals of conspicuous colors and display them to females for reasons unknown. The song of fairy-wrens is pleasant and complex, and at least two species (Superb and Splendid) possess, in addition to the alarm calls common to - and universally understood by - most small birds, another vocalization used when confronted by predators. This, termed "Type II Vocalization", is song-like and used when confronted by calling [butcherbirds](#) and sometimes other predatory birds, but its purpose is unknown; it is certainly not a warning call.

Species of Maluridae (part of the super-family Meliphagoidea)

- Subfamily Malurinae, tribe Malurini
 - Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, *Malurus coronatus*
 - Superb Fairy-wren, *Malurus cyaneus*
 - Splendid Fairy-wren, *Malurus splendens*
 - Variegated Fairy-wren, *Malurus lamberti*

Lovely Fairy-wren, *Malurus amabilis*
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, *Malurus pulcherrimus*
Red-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus elegans*
White-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus leucopterus*
Red-backed Fairy-wren, *Malurus melanocephalus*

- Subfamily Malurinae, tribe Stipiturini
 - Southern Emu-wren, *Stipiturus malachurus*
Mallee Emu-wren, *Stipiturus mallee*
Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, *Stipiturus ruficeps*
- Subfamily Amytornithinae
 - Grey Grasswren, *Amytornis barbatus*
Black Grasswren, *Amytornis housei*
White-throated Grasswren, *Amytornis woodwardi*
Carpentarian Grasswren, *Amytornis dorotheae*
Striated Grasswren, *Amytornis striatus*
Short-tailed Grasswren, *Amytornis merrotsyi*
Eyrean Grasswren, *Amytornis goyderi*
Thick-billed Grasswren, *Amytornis textilis*
Dusky Grasswren, *Amytornis purnelli*
Kalkadoon Grasswren, *Amytornis ballarae*

Meliphagoidea

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Superfamily: **Meliphagoidea**

Families: *Petroicidae* , *Pardalotidae* , *Meliphagidae* , *Maluridae*

Meliphagoidea is a superfamily of [passerine](#) birds.

Families

- Superfamily Meliphagoidea
 - Family Petroicidae: the Australasian robins
 - Family Pardalotidae: pardalotes, thornbills, and allies
 - Family Meliphagidae: honeyeaters and chats
 - Family Maluridae: fairy-wrens, emu-wrens and grasswrens

Meliphagidae

Honeyeaters

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Meliphagidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Anthochaera*, *Acanthagenys*, *Plectorhyncha*, *Philemon*, *Xanthomyzma*, *Entomyzon*, *Manorina*, *Xanthotis*, *Meliphaga*, *Lichenostomus*, *Melithreptus*, *Notiomystis*, *Glycichaera*, *Lichmera*, *Trichodere*, *Grantiella*, *Phylidonyris*, *Ramsayornis*, *Conopophila*, *Acanthorhynchus*, *Certhionyx*, *Myzomela*, *Anthornis*, *Prothemadera*, *Epthianura*, *Ashbyia*, *Moho*

The **honeyeaters** are a large and diverse family of small to medium sized birds most common in Australia and New Guinea, but also found in New Zealand, the Pacific islands as far east as Hawaii, and the islands to the north and west of New Guinea known as Wallacea. Bali, on the other side of the Wallace Line, has a single species.

Honeyeaters and the closely related Australian **chats** make up the [family Meliphagidae](#). In total there are 182 [species](#) in 42 [genera](#), roughly half of them native to Australia, many of the remainder occupying New Guinea. Like their closest relatives, the [Maluridae](#) (Australian wrens), [Pardalotidae](#) ([pardalotes](#) and thornbills), and Petroicidae (Australian robins), they originated as part of the great corvid radiation in Australia-New Guinea (which were joined in a single landmass until quite recent geological times).

Although honeyeaters look and behave very much like other nectar-feeding [passerines](#) around the world (such as the [sunbirds](#) and [flowerpeckers](#)), they are unrelated, and the similarities are the consequence of convergent evolution.

Unlike the [hummingbirds](#) of America, honeyeaters do not have extensive adaptations for hovering flight, though smaller members of the family do hover hummingbird-style to collect nectar from time to time. In general, honeyeaters prefer to flit quickly from perch to perch in the outer foliage, stretching up or sideways or hanging upside down at need. All genera have a highly developed brush-tipped tongue, longer in some species than others, frayed and fringed with bristles which soak up liquids readily. The tongue is flicked rapidly and repeatedly into a flower, the upper mandible then compressing any liquid out when the bill is closed.

The extent of the evolutionary partnership between honeyeaters and Australasian flowering plants is unknown, but probably substantial. A great many Australian plants are fertilised by honeyeaters, particularly the Proteaceae, Myrtaceae, and Epacridaceae. It is known that the honeyeaters are important in New Zealand as well, and assumed that the same applies in other areas.

In addition to nectar, all or nearly all honeyeaters take insects and other small creatures, usually by hawking, sometimes by gleaning. A few of the larger species, notably the White-eared Honeyeater, and the Strong-billed Honeyeater of Tasmania, probe under bark for insects and other morsels. Many species supplement their diets with a little fruit, and a small number eat considerable amounts of fruit, particularly in tropical rainforests and, oddly, in semi-arid scrubland. The Painted Honeyeater is a mistletoe specialist. Most, however, exist

on a diet of nectar supplemented by varying quantities of insects. In general, the honeyeaters with long, fine bills are more nectarivorous, the shorter-billed species less so, but even specialised nectar eaters like the [spinebills](#) take extra insects to add protein to their diet when they are breeding.

The movements of honeyeaters are poorly understood. Most are at least partially mobile but many movements seem to be local, possibly between favourite haunts as the conditions change. Fluctuations in local abundance are common, but the small number of definitely migratory honeyeater species aside, the reasons are yet to be discovered. Many follow the flowering of favourite food plants. Arid zone species appear to travel further and less predictably than those of the more fertile areas. It seems probable that no single explanation will emerge: the general rule for honeyeater movements is that there is no general rule.

The genus *Apalopteron* (Bonin Honeyeater), formerly treated in the Meliphagidae, has recently been transferred to the Zosteropidae on genetic evidence.

A new species of honeyeater, not yet described but previously called "Smoky Honeyeater", has been discovered in December 2005 in the Foja Mountains of Papua, Indonesia.

Species of Meliphagidae (Part of the [Meliphagoidea](#) superfamily)

- Red Wattlebird, *Anthochaera carunculata*
- Yellow Wattlebird, *Anthochaera paradoxa*
- Little Wattlebird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera*
- Western Wattlebird, *Anthochaera lunulata*
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, *Acanthagenys rufogularis*
- Striped Honeyeater, *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*
- Helmeted Friarbird, *Philemon buceroides*
- Silver-crowned Friarbird, *Philemon argenteiceps*
- Noisy Friarbird, *Philemon corniculatus*
- Little Friarbird, *Philemon citreogularis*
- Regent Honeyeater, *Xanthomyza phrygia*
- Blue-faced Honeyeater, *Entomyzon cyanotis*
- Bell Miner, *Manorina melanophrys*
- Noisy Miner, *Manorina melanocephala*
- Yellow-throated Miner, *Manorina flavigula*
- Black-eared Miner, *Manorina melanotis*
- Macleay's Honeyeater, *Xanthotis macleayana*
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, *Xanthotis flaviventer*
- Lewin's Honeyeater, *Meliphaga lewinii*
- Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, *Meliphaga notata*
- Graceful Honeyeater, *Meliphaga gracilis*
- White-lined Honeyeater, *Meliphaga albilineata*
- Bridled Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus frenatus*
- Eungella Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus hindwoodi*

Yellow-faced Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus chrysops*
 Singing Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus virescens*
 Varied Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus versicolor*
 Mangrove Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fasciularis*
 White-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus unicolor*
 Yellow Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavus*
 White-eared Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus leucotis*
 Yellow-throated Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavicollis*
 Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus melanops*
 Purple-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus cratitius*
 Grey-headed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus keartlandi*
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus ornatus*
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus plumulus*
 Fuscous Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fuscus*
 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavescens*
 White-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus penicillatus*
 Smoky Honeyeater, *Melipotes fumigatus* [1]
 Black-chinned Honeyeater, *Melithreptus gularis*
 Strong-billed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus validirostris*
 Brown-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus brevirostris*
 White-throated Honeyeater, *Melithreptus albogularis*
 White-naped Honeyeater, *Melithreptus lunatus*
 Black-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus affinis*
 Stitchbird, *Notiomystis cincta*
 Green-backed Honeyeater, *Glycichaera fallax*
 Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta*
 White-streaked Honeyeater, *Trichodere cockerelli*
 Painted Honeyeater, *Grantiella picta*
 Giant Honeyeater, *Gymnomyza viridis*
 Mao, *Gymnomyza samoensis*
 Crow Honeyeater, *Gymnomyza aubryana*
 Crescent Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*
 New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*
 White-cheeked Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris nigra*
 White-fronted Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris albifrons*
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris melanops*
 Brown-backed Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis modestus*
 Bar-breasted Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis fasciatus*
 Rufous-banded Honeyeater, *Conopophila albogularis*
 Rufous-throated Honeyeater, *Conopophila rufogularis*
 Grey Honeyeater, *Conopophila whitei*
 Eastern Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
 Western Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*
 Banded Honeyeater, *Certhionyx pectoralis*
 Black Honeyeater, *Certhionyx niger*

Pied Honeyeater, *Certhionyx variegatus*
Dusky Honeyeater, *Myzomela obscura*
Red-headed Honeyeater, *Myzomela erythrocephala*
Cardinal Honeyeater, *Myzomela cardinalis*
Scarlet Honeyeater, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
New Zealand Bellbird, *Anthornis melanura*
Tui, *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*
Crimson Chat, *Epthianura tricolor*
Orange Chat, *Epthianura aurifrons*
Yellow Chat, *Epthianura crocea*
White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*
Gibberbird, *Ashbyia lovensis*

Acanthorhynchus

Spinebill

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: ***Acanthorhynchus*** Gould, 1837 Species: *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*, *Eastern Spinebill*, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus* - *Western Spinebill*

The **Spinebill** is a member of the [Honeyeater](#) family. It is around 15 centimetres in length, is coloured black, white and chestnut, and has a long, downcurved bill. It is native to Australia.

Anthochaera

Wattlebird

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: ***Anthochaera*** Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 Species: *Anthochaera carunculata* , *Anthochaera chrysoptera* , *Anthochaera paradoxa* , *Anthochaera lunulata*

Wattlebirds are members of the [Honeyeater](#) family, and native to Australia. Species of wattlebird include the Little Wattlebird, the Red Wattlebird, the Western Wattlebird, and the Yellow Wattlebird.

Wattlebirds are characterized by their wattles. These are bare fleshy appendages, usually wrinkled and often brightly coloured, hanging from the cheeks, neck or throat, and presumably serving for display. The exception is the Little Wattlebird, which lacks wattles.

Some other birds also have wattles, although they are not known by the term "wattlebird". Examples include the entire [Callaeidae](#) family of New Zealand, comprised of the Tieke, the Kokako and the extinct Huia; the Turkey; some [vultures](#); and several species of [lapwing](#).

See also

- [List of Australian birds](#)

Manorina

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: **Manorina** Vieillot, 1818 Species: *M. flavigula* , *M. melanocephala* , *M. melanophrys* , *M. melanotis*

Manorina is a genus of Australian endemic [honeyeaters](#), containing four species: The Black-eared Miner, *M. melanotis*, the Yellow-throated Miner, *M. flavigula*, the Noisy Miner, *M. melanocephala*, and the Bell Miner, *M. melanophrys*. The genus is notable for the complex social organisation of its species, which live in colonies that can be further subdivided into coteries and nest contingents.

Species

- Yellow-throated Miner, *M. flavigula*
Noisy Miner, *M. melanocephala*
Bell Miner, *M. melanophrys*
Black-eared Miner, *M. melanotis*

Moho

'O'os

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: **Moho** (Lesson, 1830) Species: see text.

The '**O'os** (Moho) are a genus of now extinct birds originated from a group of Australian honeyeaters (Meliphagidae) which were probably drifted by tropical storms across thousands of kilometres to the Hawaiian Islands.^[1] Their plumage was general striking glossy black, some species had yellowish axillary tufts and other black outer feathers. Most of these species became extinct by habitat loss and by extensive hunting because their plumage were used for the creation of precious robes and capes for nobilities.^[1] The Kauai 'O'o was the last species of that genus which became extinct and it was probably a victim of the avian malaria.^[2]

Taxonomy

The following species belong to that genus

- Oahu 'O'o (Moho apicalis) - Extinct ca. 1837
- Molokai 'O'o or Bishop's 'O'o (Moho bishopi) - Extinct ca. 1904
- Hawaii 'O'o (Moho nobilis) - Extinct ca. 1934
- Kauai 'O'o (Moho braccatus) - Extinct ca. 1987

References

1. ^{a b} Flannery, Tim & Schouten, Peter (2001): *A Gap in Nature*
2. ^a Fuller, Errol (2000): *Extinct Birds*
- Day, David (1981): *The Doomsday Book of Animals*
- Greenway, James C. (1967): *Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World*

Philemon

Friarbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: **Philemon** Vieillot, 1816 Species: *Philemon buceroides*, *Philemon argenteiceps*, *Philemon corniculatus*, *Philemon citreogularis*

The **friarbirds** are four species of [honeyeaters](#) in the genus **Philemon**:

- Helmeted Friarbird, *Philemon buceroides*
Silver-crowned Friarbird, *Philemon argenteiceps*
Noisy Friarbird, *Philemon corniculatus*
Little Friarbird, *Philemon citreogularis*

They are found in eastern Australia and southern New Guinea. They eat nectar, insects and other invertebrates, flowers, fruit and seeds.

Phylidonyris

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Meliphagidae](#)

Genus: ***Phylidonyris*** Lesson, 1830 Species: *Phylidonyris albifrons* , *Phylidonyris melanops* , *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* , *Phylidonyris nigra* , *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*

The genus **Phylidonyris** is a member of the [Honeyeater](#) family.

Menuridae

Lyrebirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Menuridae**

Genus: **Menura** Latham, 1802 [Species](#): *Menura novaehollandiae*, *Menura alberti*

A **Lyrebird** is either of two [species](#) of ground-dwelling Australian [birds](#), most notable for their extraordinary ability to mimic natural and artificial sounds from their environment. They are the:

- **Superb Lyrebird** or **Weringerong** (*Menura novaehollandiae*) is found in areas of wet forest in Victoria and New South Wales, and in Tasmania where it was introduced in the 19th Century. Females are 74-84cm long, and the males are a larger 80-98cm long — making them the third-largest passerine bird after the Thick-billed Raven and the Common Raven. Many Superb Lyrebirds live in the Dandenong Ranges National Park and Kinglake National Park around Melbourne, and in several other parks along the east coast of Australia.
- **Albert's Lyrebird** (*Menura alberti*) is slightly smaller at a maximum of 90 cm (male) and 84 cm (female) (around 30-35 inches) and is only found in a very small area of Southern Queensland rainforest. They have smaller, less spectacular lyrate feathers than the Superb Lyrebird, but are otherwise similar. Albert's Lyrebird was named in honour of Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria.

Lyrebirds are among Australia's best-known native birds, even though they are rarely seen in their natural habitat. As well as their extraordinary mimicking ability, lyrebirds are notable because of the striking beauty of the male bird's huge tail when it is fanned out in display; and also because of their courtship display.

The lyrebird is an ancient Australian animal. The Australian Museum has fossils of lyrebirds dating back to about 15 million years ago. [u](#)

- [1 Mimicry](#)
 - [1.1 An anecdotal example](#)
- [2 Lifestyle and classification](#)
- [3 Lyrebirds as emblems](#)
- [4 Painting by John Gould](#)
- [5 References](#)

Mimicry

A lyrebird's call is a rich mixture of its own song and any number of other sounds it has heard. The lyrebird's syrinx is the most complexly-muscled of the [Passerines](#) (songbirds),

giving the lyrebird extraordinary ability, unmatched in vocal repertoire and mimicry. Lyrebirds render with great fidelity the individual songs of other birds and the chatter of flocks of birds, and also mimic other animals, human noises, machinery of all kinds, explosions and musical instruments. The lyrebird is capable of imitating almost any sound — from a mill whistle to a cross-cut saw, and, not uncommonly, sounds as diverse as chainsaws [2], car engines and alarms, rifle-shots, camera shutters, [dogs](#) barking and crying babies. Lyrebirds are shy birds and a constant stream of bird calls coming from one place is often the only way of identifying them and their presence. The female lyrebird is also an excellent mimic, but she is not heard as often as the male lyrebird [\[3\]\[4\] \[5\]](#)

One researcher, Sydney Curtis, has recorded flute-like lyrebird calls in the vicinity of the New England National Park. Similarly, in 1969, a park ranger, Neville Fenton, recorded a lyrebird song, which resembled flute sounds, in the New England National Park, near Dorrigo in northern coastal New South Wales. After much detective work by Fenton, it was discovered that in the 1930's, a flute player living on a farm adjoining the park used to play tunes near his pet lyrebird. The lyrebird adopted the tunes into his repertoire, and retained them after release into the park. Neville Fenton forwarded a tape of his recording to Norman Robinson. Because a lyrebird is able to carry two tunes at the same time, Robinson filtered out one of the tunes and put it on the phonograph for the purposes of analysis. The song represents a modified version of two popular tunes in the 1930's: "The Keel Row" and "Mosquito's Dance". Musicologist David Rothenberg has endorsed this information. [\[6\]\[7\] \[8\]](#)

An anecdotal example

A Lyrebird's tale

During the early 1930s, a male lyrebird, called "James", formed a close bond of friendship with a human being, Mrs. Wilkinson, after she had been offering food to him over a period of time. James would perform his courtship dance for her on one of his mounds which he had constructed in her backyard — and he would also put on his display for a wider audience, but only when Mrs. Wilkinson was one of those present. On one such occasion, James' performance lasted for forty-three minutes, and included steps to a courtship dance accompanied by his own tune — and also included imitating perfectly the calls of a [Magpie](#), and a young magpie being fed by a parent-bird, a [Whipbird](#), a Bellbird, a complete laughing-song of a Kookaburra, two Kookaburras laughing in unison, a Black Cockatoo, a Gang-gang Cockatoo, an Eastern Rosella, a Pied Butcherbird, a Wattle-bird, a Grey Shrike-thrush, a Thornbill, a Scrubwren, a Striated Pardalote, a Starling, a Yellow Robin, a Golden Whistler, a flock of parrots whistling in flight, the Crimson Rosella, several other birds whose notes his audience were not able to identify, and the song of honey-eaters (tiny birds with tiny voices), that gather in numbers and "cheep" and twitter in a multitudinous sweet whispering. In order to mimic the honeyeaters' singing faithfully, James was obliged to subdue his powerful voice to the faintest *pianissimo*, but he contrived, nevertheless, to make each individual note of the soft chorus audibly distinct. Also included in James' performance was his perfect mimicry of the sounds made by a rock-crusher at work, a hydraulic ram, and the tooting of motor-horns. [\[9\]](#)

Lifestyle and classification

Male lyrebirds call mostly during winter, when they construct and maintain an open arena-mound in dense bush, on which they sing and dance in courtship, to display to potential mates, of which the male lyrebird has several. Females build an untidy nest usually low to the ground in a moist gully where she lays a single egg, and she is the sole parent who incubates the egg over 50 days until it hatches, and she is also the sole carer of the lyrebird chick.

Lyrebirds feed on insects, spiders, earthworms and, occasionally, seeds. They find food by scratching with their feet through the leaf-litter. When in danger, lyrebirds run, rather than fly, being awkward in flight, and have also been seen to take refuge in wombat burrows. Another instance was when firefighters, sheltering in a mine shaft during a bushfire, were joined by several lyrebirds. [\[10\]](#)

The classification of lyrebirds has been much debated. They were briefly thought to be Galliformes like the broadly similar looking [partridge](#), junglefowl, and [pheasants](#) that Europeans were familiar with, but since then have usually been classified in a family of their own, **Menuridae**, which contains a single genus, **Menura**.

It is generally accepted that the lyrebird family is most closely related to the scrub-birds (Atrichornithidae) and some authorities combine both in a single family, but evidence that they are also related to the [bowerbirds](#) remains controversial.

Lyrebirds are not endangered in the short to medium term. Albert's Lyrebird has a very restricted habitat but appears to be secure within it so long as the habitat remains intact, while the Superb Lyrebird, once seriously threatened by habitat destruction, is now classified as common. Even so, lyrebirds are vulnerable to [cats](#) and foxes, and it remains to be seen if habitat protection schemes will stand up to increased human population pressure.

Lyrebirds as emblems

The lyrebird has been featured as a symbol and emblem many times, especially in New South Wales and Victoria (where the Superb Lyrebird has its natural habitat) – and in Queensland (where Albert's Lyrebird has its natural habitat).

- A male Superb Lyrebird is featured on the reverse of the Australian 10 cent coin. [\[1\]](#)
- A silhouette of a male Superb Lyrebird is the logo of the Australian Film Commission
- An illustration of a male Superb Lyrebird, in courtship display, is the emblem of the [New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service](#)
- The pattern on the curtains of the Victorian State Theatre is the image of a male Superb Lyrebird, in courtship display, as viewed from the front.

- A stylized illustration of a male Albert's Lyrebird is the logo of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, now part of Griffith University. In the logo, the top part of the lyrebird's tail becomes a music stave.
- A stylized illustration of part of a male Superb Lyrebird's tail is the logo for the Lyrebird Arts Council of Victoria.
- There are many other companies with the name of *Lyrebird*, and these also have lyrebird logos.

Painting by John Gould

The lyrebird is so called because the male bird has a spectacular tail (consisting of 16 highly modified [feathers](#) (two long slender *lyrates* at the centre of the plume, two broader *medians* on the outside edges and twelve *filamentaries* arrayed between them), which was originally thought to resemble a lyre. This happened when a lyrebird specimen (which had been taken from Australia to England during the early 1800's) was prepared for display at the British Museum by a taxidermist who had never seen a live lyrebird. The taxidermist mistakenly thought that the tail would resemble a lyre, and that the tail would be held in a similar way to that of a peacock during courtship display, and so he arranged the feathers in this way. Later, John Gould (who had also never seen a live lyrebird), painted the lyrebird from the British Museum specimen.

Although very beautiful, the male lyrebird's tail is not as in John Gould's painting, nor is the tail held in such a manner. Instead, the male lyrebird's tail is fanned over the lyrebird during courtship display, with the tail completely covering his head and back — as can be seen on an Australian 10 cent coin (above), where the Lyrebird's tail (in courtship display) is portrayed accurately.

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Neosittidae

Sitellas

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Neosittidae**

Genus: ***Neositta*** Hellmayr, 1901 Species: *N. miranda* , *N. chrysoptera*

The **sitellas** are a family of small [passerine birds](#) found only in Australasia. They resemble [treecreepers](#), but have soft tails. They do not [migrate](#) other than for local movements.

The sitellas are small woodland birds with thin pointed down-curved bills, which they use to extricate insects from bark. Nests are open cups in forked branches.

Species

- Black Sitella, *Neositta miranda*
- Varied Sitella, *Neositta chrysoptera*

Oriolidae

Orioles

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Oriolidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Oriolus*, *Sphecotheres*

Orioles are colourful Old World [passerine birds](#) in the family **Oriolidae**. They are not related to the New World orioles, which are [Icterids](#), family Icteridae.

The orioles are a mainly tropical Old World group, although one species breeds in more temperate regions.

Species

- Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus*
- Brown Oriole, *Oriolus szalayi*
- Halmahera Oriole, *Oriolus phaeochromus*
- Ceram Oriole, *Oriolus forsteni*
- Buru Oriole, *Oriolus bouroensis*
- Timor Oriole, *Oriolus viridifuscus*
- Olive-backed Oriole or White-bellied Oriole, *Oriolus sagittatus*
- Yellow Oriole or Green Oriole, *Oriolus flavocinctus*
- Dark-throated Oriole, *Oriolus xanthonotus*
- White-lored Oriole, *Oriolus albiloris*
- Isabela Oriole, *Oriolus isabellae*
- African Golden Oriole, *Oriolus auratus*
- Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis*
- Green-headed Oriole, *Oriolus chlorocephalus*
- Great-billed Oriole, *Oriolus crassirostris*
- Western Black-headed Oriole, *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*
- Forest Oriole, *Oriolus monacha*
- Black-headed Oriole, *Oriolus larvatus*
- Black-winged Oriole, *Oriolus nigripennis*
- Black-hooded Oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus*
- Black Oriole, *Oriolus hosii*
- Black and Crimson Oriole, *Oriolus cruentus*
- Maroon Oriole, *Oriolus trailili*
- Silver Oriole, *Oriolus mellianus*
- Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

Orthonychidae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: **Orthonychidae**

Genus: **Orthonyx** Temminck, 1820 Species: *Orthonyx temminckii*, *Orthonyx spaldingii*

The **Orthonychidae** is a [family](#) of [birds](#) with a single [genus](#), **Orthonyx**, which comprises of two species of [passerine](#) birds endemic to Australia and New Guinea, the Logrunner and the Chowchilla. Some authorities consider the Australian family [Cinclosomatidae](#) to be part of the Orthonychidae. Both species use stiffened tails to brace themselves when feeding.

The Logrunner, *Orthonyx temminckii*, is from south-eastern Australia, where it is very local in its distribution, and strictly terrestrial in its habits. The wings are, however, barred with white, and the chin, throat and breast are in the male pure white, but of a bright reddish-orange in the female. The remiges are very short, rounded and much incurved, showing a bird of weak flight. The rectrices are very broad, the shafts stiff, and towards the tip divested of barbs. The northern subspecies, found locally in New Guinea, was formerly considered its own species, *Orthonyx novaeguineae*.

The Chowchilla, *Orthonyx spaldingii* from Queensland is of much greater size than the Logrunner, and with a jet-black plumage, the throat being white in the male and orange-rufous in the female.

Both are semi-terrestrial birds of weak flight, and build a domed nest on or near the ground. Insects and larvae are their chief food, and the males are described as performing dancing antics like those of the [lyrebird](#).

The fossil record does not much help to determine the affiliations of the Orthonychidae. Three prehistoric species are known to science. The very large *Orthonyx hypsilophus* from Green Waterhole Cave and an undescribed species found in Pyramids Cave which was a bit smaller than the logrunner are probably of Late Pleistocene age. *Orthonyx kaldowinyeri*[1] is known from Middle or Late Miocene deposits of Riversleigh; it is the oldest and smallest species known to date (Boles, 1993).

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- *This article incorporates text from the Encyclopædia Britannica Eleventh Edition, a publication now in the public domain.*
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Footnotes

1. ^ Etymology: *kaldowinyeri* is the Yarlde (Ngarrindjeri) word for "a very long time ago"; this species is the oldest record of the family found to date. Like the bird, the language is nowadays extinct.

Pachycephalidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pachycephalidae** Swainson, 1831 Subfamilies: *Falcunculinae*, *Pachycephalinae*

The family **Pachycephalidae** includes the whistlers, shrike-thrushes, shrike-tits, pitohuis and Crested Bellbird, and is part of the Australo-Papuan corvid lineage. Its members range from small to medium in size, and occupy most of Australasia: Australia in particular, but also New Guinea, New Zealand, and in the case of the whistlers, the South Pacific islands and parts of Indonesia.

Several species belonging to this family are outstanding songsters: the whistlers produce an astonishing volume for their size, and the [lyrebirds](#) aside, the Grey Shrike-thrush is often regarded as the finest, most inventive songbird of them all.

Some authorities list **thickhead** as an alternative common name to whistler.

Species of Pachycephalidae

- Subfamily Falcunculinae
 - Whitehead, *Mohoua albicilla*
 - Yellowhead, *Mohoua ochrocephala*
 - Pipipi, *Mohoua novaeseelandiae*
 - Crested Shrike-tit, *Falcunculus frontatus*
 - Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis*
 - Mottled Whistler, *Rhagologus leucostigma*
- Subfamily Pachycephalinae
 - Dwarf Whistler, *Pachycephala flavogrisea*
 - Olive-flanked Whistler, *Hylocitrea bonensis*
 - Maroon-backed Whistler, *Coracornis raveni*
 - Rufous-naped Whistler, *Aleadryas rufinucha*
 - Olive Whistler, *Pachycephala olivacea*
 - Red-lored Whistler, *Pachycephala rufogularis*
 - Gilbert's Whistler, *Pachycephala inornata*
 - Mangrove Whistler, *Pachycephala grisola*
 - Green-backed Whistler, *Pachycephala albiventris*
 - White-vented Whistler, *Pachycephala homeyeri*
 - Island Whistler, *Pachycephala phaionotus*
 - Rusty Whistler, *Pachycephala hyperythra*
 - Brown-backed Whistler, *Pachycephala modesta*
 - Bornean Whistler, *Pachycephala hypoxantha*
 - Sulphur-bellied Whistler, *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*
 - Vogelkop Whistler, *Pachycephala meyeri*
 - Yellow-bellied Whistler, *Pachycephala philippinensis*

Gray-headed Whistler, *Pachycephala griseiceps*
 Fawn-breasted Whistler, *Pachycephala orpheus*
 Gray Whistler, *Pachycephala simplex*
 Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*
 Sclater's Whistler, *Pachycephala soror*
 Lorentz's Whistler, *Pachycephala lorentzi*
 Black-tailed Whistler, *Pachycephala melanura*
 New Caledonian Whistler, *Pachycephala caledonica*
 Samoan Whistler, *Pachycephala flavifrons*
 Tongan Whistler, *Pachycephala jacquinoti*
 Regent Whistler, *Pachycephala schlegelii*
 Bare-throated Whistler, *Pachycephala nudigula*
 Hooded Whistler, *Pachycephala implicata*
 Golden-backed Whistler, *Pachycephala aurea*
 Drab Whistler, *Pachycephala griseonota*
 Wallacean Whistler, *Pachycephala arctitorquis*
 Black-headed Whistler, *Pachycephala monacha*
 White-bellied Whistler, *Pachycephala leucogastra*
 Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*
 White-breasted Whistler, *Pachycephala lanioides*
 Sooty Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla umbrina*
 Rufous Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla megarhyncha*
 Sangihe Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla sanghirensis*
 Bower's Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla boweri*
 Sandstone Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla woodwardi*
 Grey Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla harmonica*
 Morningbird, *Colluricincla tenebrosa*
 Hooded Pitohui, *Pitohui dichrous*
 White-bellied Pitohui, *Pitohui incertus*
 Rusty Pitohui, *Pitohui ferrugineus*
 Crested Pitohui, *Pitohui cristatus*
 Variable Pitohui, *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
 Black Pitohui, *Pitohui nigrescens*
 Wattled Ploughbill, *Eulacestoma nigropectus*

Pitohui

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Pachycephalidae](#)

Genus: *Pitohui* Lesson, 1830 Species: See text.

Pitohui is a genus of birds endemic to New Guinea, belonging to the family [Pachycephalidae](#).

Currently six [species](#) are classified in the genus, though current molecular genetics research suggests that significant reclassification of the Pachycephalidae may be needed.

Species

- Variable Pitohui, *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
Hooded Pitohui, *Pitohui dichrous*
White-bellied Pitohui, *Pitohui incertus*
Rusty Pitohui, *Pitohui ferrugineus*
Crested Pitohui, *Pitohui cristatus*
Black Pitohui, *Pitohui nigrescens*

Pitohuis are brightly coloured, omnivorous birds. The skin and feathers of some pitohuis, especially the Variable and Hooded Pitohuis, contain powerful neurotoxic alkaloids of the batrachotoxin group (also secreted by the Colombian poison dart frogs, genus *Phylllobates*). It is believed that these serve the birds as a chemical defence, either against ectoparasites or against visually guided predators such as snakes, raptors or humans. (Dumbacher, et al., 1992) The birds probably do not produce batrachotoxin themselves. It is most likely that the toxins come from the Choresine genus of beetles, part of the bird's diet. [\[1\]](#) (Dumbacher, *et al.*, 2004)

The Hooded Pitohui is brightly coloured, with a brick red belly and a jet black head. The Variable Pitohui, as its name implies, exists in many different forms, and twenty subspecies with different plumage patterns have been named. Two of them, however, closely resemble the Hooded Pitohui.

It has been suggested that the birds' bright colours are an example of aposematism (warning colouration), and the similarity of the Hooded Pitohui and some forms of the Variable Pitohui might then be an example of Müllerian mimicry, in which dangerous species gain a mutual advantage by sharing colouration, so that an encounter with either species trains a predator to avoid both. (Dumbacher & Fleischer, 2001)

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Paradisaeidae

Bird of Paradise

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Paradisaeidae**

Genera:13, see list below

The **birds of paradise** are members of the family Paradisaeidae of the order [Passeriformes](#). They are found in Australasia regions of eastern Indonesia, New Guinea and northeastern Australia. The member of this family are perhaps best known for the striking [plumage](#) possessed by the male of most species, which are used in courtship displays in order to attract females. Many species also have highly elongated and elaborate feathers extending from the tail, wings or head. Despite this extravagant plumage, they are anatomically among the most primitive songbirds.

The best known for their [plumage](#) are the species of the genus *Paradisaea*, including the type species the Greater Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea apoda*. This species was described from specimens brought back to Europe from trading expeditions. These specimens had been prepared by native traders by removing their wings and feet, which led to the belief that the birds never landed but were kept permanently aloft by their plumes. This gave both the name "birds of paradise" and the specific name *apoda* - without feet.

Most species have elaborate mating rituals, with the *Paradisaea* species having a Lek-type mating system. Others, such as the *Cicinnurus* and *Parotia* species, have highly ritualized mating dances, with *Parotia* species presenting ballet tutu-like display plumage in a dance that is among the most astounding behaviors of all birds due to its completely accidental, but nonetheless uncanny resemblance to hula and limbo dances.

Due to the peculiarities of their mating system, birds of paradise are among the birds where hybrids most frequently occur, together with [ducks](#) and [hummingbirds](#), which both also have highly ornamental plumage in males and often form groups for mating purposes. Some scholars merge this family together with the [Corvidae](#).

- [1 Use by humans](#)
- [2 Species of Paradisaeidae](#)
- [3 Trivia](#)
- [4 References](#)

Use by humans

The native societies of New Guinea often use bird of paradise plumes in their dress and rituals, and the plumes were very important in Europe in ladies' millinery in past centuries. Hunting for plumes and habitat destruction has reduced some species to endangered status. Habitat destruction due to deforestation is the predominant reason today. Hunting for their

plumes for millinery was a significant factor in the late 19th and early 20th century, but as of today, they enjoy legal protection and hunting is only permitted at a sustainable level to fulfil the ceremonial needs of the local tribal population. As for Pteridophora plumes, scavenging from old [bowerbird](#) bowers is encouraged. When King Mahendra of Nepal was crowned in 1955, it was found that the bird of paradise plumes of the Nepali royal crown were in need of replacement. Due to the hunting ban, replacements were eventually procured from a confiscated shipment seized by United States Customs.

Hunting of birds of paradise has occurred for a long time, possibly since the beginning of human settlement. It is a peculiarity that among the most frequently-hunted species, males start mating opportunistically even before they grow their ornamental plumage. This may be an adaptation maintaining population levels in the face of hunting pressures, which have in all probability been present since 30 millennia.

Bird of paradise could also be found in Malaysia. They are highly sought after by traditional healers for medical purposes. In Malaysia these endangered birds are called Cendrawasih.

Species of Paradisaeidae

Genus *Lycocorax*

- Paradise Crow, *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*

Genus *Manucodia*

- Glossy-mantled Manucode, *Manucodia atra*
Jobi Manucode, *Manucodia jobiensis*
Crinkle-collared Manucode, *Manucodia chalybata*
Curl-crested Manucode, *Manucodia comrii*
Trumpet Manucode, *Manucodia keraudrenii*

Genus *Paradigalla*

- Long-tailed Paradigalla, *Paradigalla carunculata*
Short-tailed Paradigalla, *Paradigalla brevicauda*

Genus *Astrapia*

- Arfak Astrapia, *Astrapia nigra*
Splendid Astrapia, *Astrapia splendidissima*
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, *Astrapia mayeri*
Stephanie's Astrapia, *Astrapia stephaniae*
Huon Astrapia, *Astrapia rothschildi*

Genus *Parotia*

- Western Parotia, *Parotia sefilata*
Carola's Parotia, *Parotia carolae*
Berlepsch's Parotia, *Parotia berlepschi*
Lawes's Parotia, *Parotia lawesii*
Eastern Parotia, *Parotia helenae*
Wahnes's Parotia, *Parotia wahnesi*

Genus *Pteridophora*

- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise, *Pteridophora alberti*

Genus *Lophorina*

- Superb Bird of Paradise, *Lophorina superba*

Genus *Ptiloris*

- Magnificent Riflebird, *Ptiloris magnificus*
Eastern Riflebird, *Ptiloris intercedens*
Paradise Riflebird, *Ptiloris paradiseus*
Victoria's Riflebird, *Ptiloris victoriae*

Genus *Epimachus*

- Black Sicklebill, *Epimachus fastuosus*
Brown Sicklebill, *Epimachus meyeri*
Black-billed Sicklebill, *Epimachus albertisi*
Pale-billed Sicklebill, *Epimachus bruijnii*
Elliot's Bird of Paradise *Epimachus ellioti*

May be extinct, or just a hybrid of Black Sicklebill (*Epimachus fastuosus*) and Arfak Astrapia (*Astrapia nigra*)

Genus *Cicinnurus*

- Magnificent Bird of Paradise, *Cicinnurus magnificus*
Wilson's Bird of Paradise, *Cicinnurus respublica*
King Bird of Paradise, *Cicinnurus regius*

Genus *Semioptera*

- Wallace's Standardwing, *Semioptera wallacii*

Genus *Seleucidis*

- Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise, *Seleucidis melanoleuca*

Genus *Paradisaea*

- Lesser Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea minor*
Greater Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea apoda*
Raggiana Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea raggiana*
Goldie's Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea decora*
Red Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea rubra*
Emperor Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea guilielmi*
Blue Bird of Paradise, *Paradisaea rudolphi*

Others

- Loria's Bird-of-paradise, *Cnemophilus loriae* - may not be in this family due to recent research [1]
Crested Bird-of-paradise, *Cnemophilus macgregorii* - may not be in this family due to recent research [2]
Yellow-breasted Bird-of-paradise, *Loboparadisaea sericea* - may not be in this family due to recent research [3]
Macgregor's Bird-of-paradise, *Macgregoria pulchra* - recently found to be a honeyeater [4]

Lesser Melampitta, *Melampitta lugubris* - tentatively included in this group

Greater Melampitta, *Melampitta gigantea* - tentatively included in this group

Trivia

- A Bird of paradise is depicted on the flag of Papua New Guinea.
- Birds of Paradise is one of the most favored cards in Magic: The Gathering.

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Pardalotidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pardalotidae**

Subfamilies: *Pardalotinae*, *Dasyornithinae*, *Acanthizinae*

The large and diverse [passerine](#) bird family **Pardalotidae** includes the [pardalotes](#), scrubwrens, thornbills, gerygones and allies. The family originated in Australasia and now includes about 70 species in 15 or 16 genera. Nearly all are confined to Australia (48 species) or New Guinea (about 20 species, including 6 found in both Australia and New Guinea). Only the gerygones extend further afield, with representatives in South-east Asia, New Zealand, and islands of the South Pacific.

All members are small to medium in size—some are very small—the majority are drab, inconspicuous, and often difficult to identify. All are mainly insectivorous, have 10 primaries (the tenth is vestigial in the pardalotes) and 9 secondaries (most having a vestigial tenth secondary).

One species, the Lord Howe Gerygone *Gerygone insularis*, is extinct; and 25 taxa in 17 species are considered endangered, three of them critically so. The primary threats are land clearing, overgrazing, degradation and fragmentation of habitat, and changing fire regimes.

The taxonomy of the Pardalotidae is complex and its classification has changed a great deal over the years. Recent microbiological work has made it clear that it is part of the Australasian [corvid](#) lineage, and it is most closely related to the [honeyeaters](#) and the fairywrens, all three families being regarded as part of the superfamily Meliphagoidea. (The Pardalotidae form the second-largest family of birds in Australasia, after the honeyeaters.)

At various times the Pardalotidae have been classified as [Old World warblers](#), [Old World babblers](#), and [Old World flycatchers](#). The pardalotes themselves have been placed alone in their own family and grouped with the flowerpeckers. DNA studies suggest that the pardalotes may diverge sufficiently from the others in the group to justify regarding them as a separate family, in which case the remaining genera would be placed in the family Acanthizidae.

Species of Pardalotidae (part of the super-family [Meliphagoidea](#))

- **Subfamily Pardalotinae:** pardalotes
 - Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*
 - Forty-spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus quadragintus*
 - Red-browed Pardalote, *Pardalotus rubricatus*
 - Striated Pardalote, *Pardalotus striatus*
- **Subfamily Dasyornithinae**

- Eastern Bristlebird, *Dasyornis brachypterus*
Rufous Bristlebird, *Dasyornis broadbenti*
Western Bristlebird, *Dasyornis longirostris*
Pilotbird, *Pcynoptilus floccosus*
 - **Subfamily Acanthizinae**
- Rockwarbler, *Origma solitaria*
Fernwren, *Oreoscopus gutturalis*
Yellow-throated Scrubwren, *Sericornis citreogularis*
White-browed Scrubwren, *Sericornis frontalis*
Tasmanian Scrubwren, *Sericornis humilis*
Atherton Scrubwren, *Sericornis keri*
Large-billed Scrubwren, *Sericornis magnirostris*
Tropical Scrubwren, *Sericornis beccarii*
Scrubtit, *Acanthornis magnus*
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*
Shy Heathwren or Shy Hylacola, *Hylacola cauta*
Striated Fieldwren, *Calamanthus fuliginosus*
Rufous Fieldwren, *Calamanthus campestris*
Redthroat, *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*
Speckled Warbler, *Chthonicola sagittata*
Weebill, *Smicrornis brevirostris*
Brown Gerygone, *Gerygone mouki*
Grey Warbler, *Gerygone igata*
Chatham Island Warbler, *Gerygone albofrontata*
Norfolk Island Gerygone, *Gerygone modesta*
Dusky Gerygone, *Gerygone tenebrosa*
Mangrove Gerygone, *Gerygone levigaster*
Western Gerygone, *Gerygone fusca*
Lord Howe Gerygone, *Gerygone insularis* Conservation status: Extinct (c.1930)
Large-billed Gerygone, *Gerygone magnirostris*
Green-backed Gerygone, *Gerygone chloronotus*
Fairy Gerygone, *Gerygone palpebrosa*
White-throated Gerygone, *Gerygone olivacea*
Mountain Thornbill, *Acanthiza katherina*
Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla*
Inland Thornbill, *Acanthiza apicalis*
Tasmanian Thornbill, *Acanthiza ewingii*
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza uropygialis*
Slaty-backed Thornbill, *Acanthiza robustirostris*
Western Thornbill, *Acanthiza inornata*
Buff-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza reguloides*
Slender-billed Thornbill, *Acanthiza iredalei*
Yellow-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Yellow Thornbill, *Acanthiza nana*
Striated Thornbill, *Acanthiza lineata*
Southern Whiteface, *Aphelocephala leucopsis*
Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, *Aphelocephala pectoralis*
Banded Whiteface, *Aphelocephala nigricincta*

Further reading

- PJ Higgins & JM Peter (Eds.), *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand & Antarctic Birds, Volume 6: Pardalotes to shrike-thrushes*. Oxford, Melbourne, 2002: ISBN 0-19-553762-9

Pardalote

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Pardalotidae](#)

Genus: ***Pardalotus*** Vieillot, 1816 Species: *Pardalotus punctatus*, *Pardalotus quadragintus*, *Pardalotus rubricatus*, *Pardalotus striatus*

Pardalotes are very small, brightly coloured birds native to Australia, with short tails, strong legs, and stubby blunt beaks. They form part of the family [Pardalotidae](#). The name derives from a Greek word meaning "spotted".

Pardalotes spend most of their time high in the outer foliage of trees, feeding on insects, spiders, and above all lerps (a type of sap sucking insect). Their role in controlling lerp infestations in the eucalyptus forests of Australia may be significant.

They generally live in pairs or small family groups but sometimes come together into flocks after breeding.

All four species nest in deep horizontal tunnels drilled into banks of earth. Externally about the size of a mouse-hole, these can be very deep, a metre or more. (Some species also nest in tree-hollows; see below for details.)

There are four species in the genus *Pardalotus*, with several sub-species.

Species

- Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*.
Forty-spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus quadragintus*.
Red-browed Pardalote, *Pardalotus rubricatus*
Striated Pardalote, *Pardalotus striatus*.

Petroicidae

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: **Petroicidae**

Genera: *Poecilodryas* , *Heteromyias* , *Plesiodryas* , *Gennaeodryas* , *Peneothello* , *Tregellasia* , *Eopsaltria* , *Melanodyas* , *Monachella* , *Microeca* , *Eugerygone* , *Petroica* , *Pachycephalopsis* , *Drymodes*

The [bird family](#) **Petroicidae** includes roughly 45 species in about 15 genera. All are endemic to Australasia or nearby areas. For want of a more accurate common name, the family is often described as the **Australasian robins**: it extends beyond Australasia, however, and includes not just robins but the Jacky Winter, the New Zealand Tomtit, some flycatchers, and scrub-robins.

Most species have a stocky build with a large, rounded head, a short, straight bill, and rounded wingtips. They occupy a wide range of wooded habitats, from subalpine to tropical rainforest, and mangrove swamps to semi-arid scrubland. All are primarily insectivorous, although a few supplement their diet with seeds. Hunting is mostly by perch and pounce, a favoured tactic being to cling sideways onto a tree trunk and scan the ground below without moving.

Social organisation is usually centered on long term pair-bonds and small family groups. Some genera practice cooperative breeding, with all family members helping defend a territory and feed nestlings.

Nests are cup-shaped, usually constructed by the female, and often placed in a vertical fork of a tree or shrub; many species are expert at adding moss, bark or lichen to the outside of the nest as camouflage, making it very difficult to spot (even when it is in a seemingly prominent location).

The relationship of the Petroicidae to other bird families is uncertain. They are clearly part of a particularly old lineage. Sibley and Alquist's DNA-DNA hybridisation studies put them in the "Corvoidea" (a huge group that includes the shrikes, crows and jays, butcherbirds, woodswallows, drongos, cuckoo-shrike, fantails, monarch flycatchers and many others), but this superfamily has been proven to be paraphyletic.

More recent allozyme studies suggest that they be placed with the Meliphagoidea - the superfamily that includes the honeyeaters, Australian wrens, Pardalotes, and thornbills and itself derives from the great Australasian corvid radiation.

Although the details remain uncertain, the overall picture is clear: despite the striking similarity between the robins of Australasia and the true robins of Europe, their evolutionary relationship is quite distant, and the Petroicidae are more closely related to the [crows](#) and jays than to the group of northern hemisphere birds which resemble them in appearance, diet, habits, and even coloration.

Partial species list of Petroicidae (Part of the super-family [Meliphagoidea](#))

- Genus *Microeca*
 - Jacky Winter, *Microeca fascians*
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, *Microeca flavigaster*
Yellow-legged Flycatcher, *Microeca griseiceps*
- Genus *Petroica*
 - Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor*
New Zealand Tomtit, *Petroica macrocephala*
Red-capped Robin, *Petroica goodenovii*
Flame Robin, *Petroica phoenicea*
Rose Robin, *Petroica rosea*
Pink Robin, *Petroica rodinogaster*
South Island Robin, *Petroica australis*
North Island Robin, *Petroica australis* (often included in *P. australis*)
Black Robin (Chatham Island Robin), *Petroica traversi*
- Genus *Melanodryas*
 - Hooded Robin, *Melanodryas cicullata*
Dusky Robin, *Melanodryas vittata*
- Genus *Tregellasia*
 - Pale-yellow Robin, *Tregellasia capito*
White-faced Robin, *Tregellasia leucops*
- Genus *Eopsaltria*
 - Eastern Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria australis*
Western Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria griseogularis*
White-breasted Robin, *Eopsaltria georgiana*
Mangrove Robin, *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*
- Genus *Poecilodryas*
 - White-browed Robin, *Poecilodryas superciliosa*
- Genus *Heteromyias*
 - Grey-headed Robin, *Heteromyias albispecularis*
- Genus *Drymodes*
 - Northern Scrub-Robin, *Drymodes superciliaris*
Southern Scrub-Robin, *Drymodes brunnoepygia*

References

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Pityriaseidae

Bornean Bristlehead

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pityriaseidae**

Genus: ***Pityriasis*** Lesson, 1839 Species: ***P. gymnocephala***

Binomial name: ***Pityriasis gymnocephala*** (Temminck, 1836)

The **Bornean Bristlehead**, *Pityriasis gymnocephala*, is a [passerine bird](#), the only member of the family Pityriaseidae. It is a medium-sized 25 cm (10 in) species endemic to Borneo.

This is a large black bird with a red and yellow head. Females also have some red in the wings. It has a massive heavy black hooked bill and a short tail. The crown of the head has short, coloured projections like bare [feather](#) shaft, hence the name 'Bristlehead'.

The Bristlehead is found in lowland swamps and forests. It feeds on insects and other small invertebrates and [reptiles](#). It is a noisy species making a variety of unmusical calls.

The relationships of this species have been controversial.

- **Family: Pityriaseidae**
 - Bornean Bristlehead, *Pityriasis gymnocephala*

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Pityriasis gymnocephala](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes a brief justification of why this species is near threatened

Pomatostomidae

Australo-Papuan babblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pomatostomidae** Schodde, 1975 Genus: ***Pomatostomus*** Cabanis, 1850 Species:

Pomatostomus isidorei, *Pomatostomus temporalis*, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*,
Pomatostomus halli, *Pomatostomus ruficeps*

The **Pomatostomidae** (**Australo-Papuan** or **Australasian babblers**, also known as **pseudo-babblers**) are small to medium-sized birds endemic to Australia-New Guinea. All five [species](#) are ground-feeding omnivores and highly social. Babblers live in family groups and small flocks of up to about 20 individuals and forage communally, calling loudly to one another all day long.

For many years, the Australo-Papuan babblers were classified, rather uncertainly, with the [Old World babblers](#) (Timaliidae), on the grounds of similar appearance and habits. More recent research, however, indicates that they belong to the [Corvida](#) ("crow-like passerines") rather than the [Passerida](#) ("sparrow-like passerines") and they are now classed as a separate family. Both groups, however, retain the common name of babbler.

Species of Pomatostomidae

- New Guinea Babbler, *Pomatostomus isidorei*
Gray-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus temporalis*
White-browed Babbler, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*
Hall's Babbler, *Pomatostomus halli*
Chestnut-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus ruficeps*

Prionopidae

Helmetshrikes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Prionopidae**

Genera: *Prionops*, *Tephrodornis*, *Philentoma*

The **helmetshrikes** are smallish [passerine bird species](#). They were formerly classed with the true [shrikes](#) in the family Laniidae, but are now considered sufficiently distinctive to be separated from that group as the family Prionopidae.

This is an African group of species which are found in scrub or open woodland. They are similar in feeding habits to shrikes, hunting insects and other small prey from a perch on a bush or tree.

Although similar in build to the shrikes, these tend to be colourful species with the distinctive crests or other head ornaments, such as wattles, from which they get their name.

Helmetshrikes are noisy and sociable birds, some of which breed in loose colonies. They lay 2-4 eggs in neat, well-hidden nests.

- **Family: Prionopidae**

- White Helmetshrike, *Prionops plumatus*
Grey-crested Helmetshrike, *Prionops poliophus*
Yellow-crested Helmetshrike, *Prionops alberti*
Chestnut-bellied Helmetshrike, *Prionops caniceps*
Retz's Helmetshrike, *Prionops retzii*
Angola Helmetshrike, *Prionops gabala*
Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, *Prionops scopifrons*
Large Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis gularis*
Common Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
Rufous-winged Philentoma, *Philentoma pyrhoptrum*
Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*

Ptilonorhynchidae

Bowerbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Ptilonorhynchidae** GR Gray, 1841 Genera: Many, see text

Bowerbirds and **catbirds** make up the family **Ptilonorhynchidae**. All are small to medium in size. Although their distribution is centered around the tropical northern part of Australia-New Guinea, some species extend into the central Australian desert and the cold mountainous regions of southeast Australia.

The most notable characteristic of bowerbirds is the extraordinarily complex behaviour of males, which is to build a **bower** to attract mates. Depending on the species, the bower ranges from a circle of cleared earth with a small pile of twigs in the center to a complex and highly decorated structure of sticks and leaves - usually shaped like a walkway, a small hut or a maytree -, into and around which the male places a variety of objects he has collected. These objects - always strikingly colored - may include hundreds of shells, leaves, flowers, feathers, stones, berries, and even discarded plastic items, pieces of glass or similar things. The bird will spend hours carefully sorting and arranging his collection, with each thing in a specific place. If an object is moved while the bowerbird is away he will put it back in its place. No two bowers are the same, and the collection of objects reflects the personal taste of each bird and its capability to procure unusual and rare items (going as far as stealing them from neighboring bowers). At mating time, the female will go from bower to bower, watching as the male owner conducts an often elaborate mating ritual, and inspecting the quality of the bower. Inevitably, many females will end up selecting the same male, and many underperforming males will be left without mates.

In a striking example of what is known as the "transfer effect," bowerbird species that build the most elaborate bowers are dull in color and show little variation between male and female, whereas bowerbird species with minor bowers have males with bright plumage. Presumably, evolution has "transferred" the reproductive benefits of bright male plumage (common among polygamous birds) to elaborate bowers, allowing males to display their fitness by means other than physical characteristics that would appear to attract predation.

This complex mating behaviour, with highly-valued types and colors decorations varying in attractiveness from year to year like a fashion trend in many species, has led some researchers to regard the bowerbirds as the most advanced of any species of bird. It provides also one of the most compelling evidences that the extended phenotype of a species can play a role in sexual selection and indeed act as a powerful mechanism to shape its evolution, as seems to be the case for humans.

In addition, many species of bowerbirds are superb vocal mimics. Macgregor's bowerbird, for example, has been observed imitating pigs, waterfalls, and even human chatter.

Though bowerbirds have traditionally been regarded as closely related to the [birds of paradise](#), recent DNA-DNA hybridisation studies suggest that while both families are part of

the great corvid radiation that took place in or near Australia-New Guinea, the bowerbirds are more distant from the birds of paradise than was once thought. Sibley's landmark DNA studies placed them close to the [lyrebirds](#); however, anatomical evidence appears to contradict this and the true relationship remains unclear.

Species of Ptilonorhynchidae in taxonomic order

Bowerbird

White-eared Catbird, *Ailuroedus buccoides*
 Spotted Catbird, *Ailuroedus melanotis*
 Green Catbird, *Ailuroedus crassirostris*
 Tooth-billed Catbird, *Scenopooetes dentirostris*
 Archbold's Bowerbird, *Archboldia papuensis*
 Sanford's Bowerbird, *Archboldia sanfordi*
 Vogelkop Bowerbird, *Amblyornis inornatus*
 Macgregor's Bowerbird, *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
 Streaked Bowerbird, *Amblyornis subalaris*
 Golden-fronted Bowerbird, *Amblyornis flavifrons*
 Golden Bowerbird, *Prionodura newtoniana*
 Flame Bowerbird, *Sericulus aureus*
 Fire-maned Bowerbird, *Sericulus bakeri*
 Regent Bowerbird, *Sericulus chrysocephalus*
 Satin Bowerbird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*
 Western Bowerbird, *Chlamydera guttata*
 Spotted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera maculata*
 Great Bowerbird, *Chlamydera nuchalis*
 Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera lauterbachii*
 Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

Note that the Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) is an unrelated American bird that belongs to a different family.

Turnagridae

Conservation status: Extinct (early 1900s)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Turnagridae**

Genus: ***Turnagra*** Lesson, 1837 Species: *Turnagra capensis*, *Turnagra tanagra* Synonyms:

Keropia Gray, 1840, *Otagon* Bonaparte, 1850

The family **Turnagridae** consisted of two species of Piopio, [passerine birds](#) native to New Zealand, both of which are now considered [extinct](#).

Sometimes described as New Zealand Thrushes, the piopios had only a coincidental passing resemblance to the [Thrush](#) family. Piopios are actually believed to have more in common with the Bowerbird families of Australia.

The main reasons believed to have caused the extinction of the piopios was the destruction of their forested habitat and the introduction of new invasive alien species, mostly mammalian predators, to the island.

Species of Turnagridae

- South Island Piopio or New Zealand Thrush, *Turnagra capensis*
North Island Piopio, *Turnagra tanagra*

Vangidae

Vangas

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Vangidae** Swainson, 1831 Genera: *Calicalicus*, *Schetba*, *Vanga*, *Falculea*, *Artamella*, *Leptopterus*, *Cyanolanius*, *Oriolia*, *Euryceros*, *Tylas*, *Hypositta*, *Newtonia*, *Mystacornis*, *Pseudobias*, *Xenopirostris*

The **vangas** are a group of little-known small to medium sized [passerine birds](#) restricted to Madagascar. Their relationship with other passerine groups is uncertain, but they seem most closely related to several other enigmatic African groups, such as [helmetshrikes](#) (Fuchs *et al.*, 2004). Several of these species (including Van Dam's, Rufous and Sickie-billed) can be found in the Madagascar dry deciduous forests.

They are usually [shrike-like](#), arboreal forest birds, feeding on reptiles, frogs and insects (but see below). Vangas' stick nests are built in trees They do not [migrate](#).

Species list

Traditionally believed to be a small family of generally shrike-like birds, recent research has revealed that several taxa most similar in appearance and habits (and formerly considered to be) flycatchers or babblers are in fact vangas (Cibois *et al.* 1999, 2001; Yamagishi *et al.*, 2001; Schulenberg, 2003).

Family: Vangidae

- Red-tailed Vanga *Calicalicus madagascariensis*
- Red-shouldered Vanga *Calicalicus rufocarpalis*
- Rufous Vanga *Schetba rufa*
- Hook-billed Vanga *Vanga curvirostris*
- Lafresnaye's Vanga *Xenopirostris xenopirostris*
- Van Dam's Vanga *Xenopirostris damii*
- Pollen's Vanga *Xenopirostris polleni*
- Sickle-billed Vanga *Falculea palliata*
- White-headed Vanga *Artamella viridis*
- Chabert Vanga *Leptopterus chabert*
- Blue Vanga *Cyanolanius madagascarinus*
- Bernier's Vanga *Oriolia bernieri*
- Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii*
- Tylas Vanga *Tylas eduardi*
- Coral-billed Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta corallirostris*
- Short-toed Nuthatch Vanga *Hypositta perdita*
- Dark Newtonia, *Newtonia amphichroa*

Common Newtonia, *Newtonia brunneicauda*
Archbold's Newtonia, *Newtonia archboldi*
Red-tailed Newtonia, *Newtonia fanovanae*
Crossley's Babbler Vanga, *Mystacornis crossleyi*
Ward's Flycatcher Vanga, *Pseudobias wardi*

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Vireonidae

Vireos

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Vireonidae** Swainson, 1837 Genera: *Vireo* , *Hylophilus* , *Vireolanus* , *Cyclarhis*

The **vireos** are a group of small to medium sized [passerine birds](#) restricted to the New World. They are typically greenish in colour and resemble [wood warblers](#) apart from their heavier bills.

The four genera of these insectivorous birds make up the family Vireonidae, and are believed to be related to the New World warblers in the family Parulidae.

The four genera can be conveniently categorised as the true vireos, the greenlets, the shrike-vireos and the peppershrikes.

Species

- Genus *Vireo*, the true vireos
 - Slaty Vireo, *Vireo brevipennis*
 - White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus*
 - Thick-billed Vireo, *Vireo crassirostris*
 - Mangrove Vireo, *Vireo pallens*
 - Cozumel Vireo, *Vireo bairdi*
 - St. Andrew Vireo, *Vireo caribaeus*
 - Jamaican Vireo, *Vireo modestus*
 - Cuban Vireo, *Vireo gundlachii*
 - Puerto Rican Vireo, *Vireo latimeri*
 - Flat-billed Vireo, *Vireo nanus*
 - Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*
 - Black-capped Vireo, *Vireo atricapillus*
 - Dwarf Vireo, *Vireo nelsoni*
 - Gray Vireo, *Vireo vicinior*
 - Blue Mountain Vireo, *Vireo osburni*
 - Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*
 - Plumbeous Vireo, *Vireo plumbeus*
 - Cassin's Vireo, *Vireo cassinii*
 - Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*
 - Yellow-winged Vireo, *Vireo carmioli*
 - Hutton's Vireo, *Vireo huttoni*
 - Warbling Vireo, *Vireo gilvus*
 - Brown-capped Vireo, *Vireo leucophrys*
 - Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*
 - Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*

- Choco Vireo, *Vireo masteri*
- Golden Vireo, *Vireo hypochryseus*
- Yellow-green Vireo, *Vireo flavoviridis*
- Noronha Vireo, *Vireo gracilirostris*
- Black-whiskered Vireo, *Vireo altiloquus*
- Yucatan Vireo, *Vireo magister*
- Genus *Hylophilus*, the greenlets
 - Rufous-crowned Greenlet, *Hylophilus poicilotis*
 - Gray-eyed Greenlet, *Hylophilus amaurocephalus*
 - Lemon-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus thoracicus*
 - Gray-chested Greenlet, *Hylophilus semicinereus*
 - Ashy-headed Greenlet, *Hylophilus pectoralis*
 - Tepui Greenlet, *Hylophilus sclateri*
 - Buff-cheeked Greenlet, *Hylophilus muscicapinus*
 - Brown-headed Greenlet, *Hylophilus brunneiceps*
 - Dusky-capped Greenlet, *Hylophilus hypoxanthus*
 - Rufous-naped Greenlet, *Hylophilus semibrunneus*
 - Olivaceous Greenlet, *Hylophilus olivaceus*
 - Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*
 - Tawny-crowned Greenlet, *Hylophilus ochraceiceps*
 - Golden-fronted Greenlet, *Hylophilus aurantiifrons*
 - Lesser Greenlet, *Hylophilus decurtatus*
- Genus *Vireolanius*, the shrike-vireos
 - Chestnut-sided Shrike-vireo, *Vireolanius melitophrys*
 - Green Shrike-vireo, *Vireolanius pulchellus*
 - Yellow-browed Shrike-vireo, *Vireolanius eximius*
 - Slaty-capped Shrike-vireo, *Vireolanius leucotis*
- Genus *Cyclarhis*, the peppershrikes
 - Rufous-browed Peppershrike, *Cyclarhis gujanensis*
 - Black-billed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis nigrirostris*

Passeri

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Suborder: **Passeri**
Families Many, see text

A **songbird** or **oscine** is a [bird](#) belonging to the suborder *Passeri* of [Passeriformes](#) (ca. 4000 species), in which the vocal organ is developed in such a way as to produce various sound notes, commonly known as bird song. Songbirds evolved about 50 million years ago in the western part of Gondwana that later became Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica and later spread around the world.

This 'bird song' is essentially territorial in that it communicates the identity and whereabouts of an individual to other birds and also signals sexual intentions. It is not to be confused with bird calls which are used for alarms and contact, and are especially important in birds that feed or migrate in flocks.

Other birds have songs to attract mates or hold territory, but these are usually simple and repetitive, lacking the variety of many passerine songs. The monotonous repetition of the Common Cuckoo or Little Crane can be contrasted with the variety of a Nightingale or Marsh Warbler.

Although many songbirds have songs which are pleasant to the human ear, this is not invariably the case. Many members of the [crow](#) family make croaks or screeches which sound harsh to humans.

Under the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy this suborder is divided into two parvorders, [Corvida](#) and [Passerida](#). However, more recent research is casting doubt on the existence of Corvida as single parvorder, but given the present lack of any generally accepted redivision of Corvida into two or more groupings at the parvorder level, the families of suborder Passeri are listed below as being in either Corvida or Passerida.

- [1 Families](#)
 - [1.1 Corvida](#)
 - [1.2 Passerida](#)
- [2 See also](#)

Families

Corvida

- Menuridae: lyrebirds
- Atrichornithidae: scrub birds
- Climacteridae: Australian treecreepers
- Maluridae: fairy-wrens, emu-wrens and grasswrens
- Meliphagidae: honeyeaters and chats
- Pardalotidae: pardalotes, scrubwrens, thornbills, and gerygones
- Petroicidae: Australian robins
- Orthonychidae: logrunners
- Pomatostomidae: Australasian babblers
- Cinclosomatidae: whipbirds and allies
- Neosittidae: sittellas
- Pachycephalidae: whistlers, shrike-thrushes, pitohuis and allies
- Dicruridae: monarch flycatchers and allies
- Campephagidae: cuckoo shrikes and trillers
- Oriolidae: orioles and Figbird
- Icteridae: American blackbirds, New World orioles, grackles and cowbirds.
- Artamidae: wood swallows, butcherbirds, currawongs and Australian Magpie
- Paradisaeidae: birds of paradise
- Corvidae: crows, ravens, and jays
- Corcoracidae: White-winged Chough and Apostlebird
- Irenidae: fairy-bluebirds
- Laniidae: shrikes
- Vireonidae: vireos
- Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbirds
- Turnagridae: Piopio

Passerida

- Alaudidae: larks
- Chloropseidae: leafbirds
- Aegithinidae: ioras
- Picathartidae: rockfowl
- Bombycillidae: waxwings and allies
- Ptilogonatidae: silky flycatchers
- Cinclidae: dippers
- Motacillidae: wagtails and pipits
- Prunellidae: accentor

Melanocharitidae: berrypeckers and longbills
Paramythiidae: tit berrypecker and crested berrypeckers
Passeridae: true sparrows
Estrildidae: estrildid finches (waxbills, munias, etc)
Parulidae: New World warblers
Thraupidae: tanagers and allies
Peucedramidae: Olive Warbler
Fringillidae: true finches
Cardinalidae: cardinals
Drepanididae: Hawaiian honeycreepers
Emberizidae: buntings and American sparrows
Nectariniidae: sunbirds
Dicaeidae: flowerpeckers
Mimidae: mockingbirds and thrashers
Sittidae: nuthatches
Certhiidae: treecreepers
Troglodytidae: wrens
Polioptilidae: gnatcatchers
Paridae: tits, chickadees and titmice
Aegithalidae: long-tailed tits
Hirundinidae: swallows and martins
Regulidae: kinglets
Pycnonotidae: bulbuls
Sylviidae: Old World warblers
Hypocoliidae: Hypocolius
Cisticolidae: cisticolas and allies
Zosteropidae: White-eyes
Timaliidae: babblers
Muscicapidae: Old World flycatchers and chats
Turdidae: thrushes and allies
Sturnidae: starlings

See also

- [list of birds](#)

Passerida

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Suborder: Passeri

Parvorder: **Passerida**

Families Many, see text

Passerida is under the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, one of two parvorders contained within the suborder Passeri. While more recent research suggests that its sister parvorder, [Corvida](#) is not a singular grouping, the existence of Passerida as a distinct clade is well accepted.

Families

- Alaudidae: larks
- Chloropseidae: leafbirds
- Aegithinidae: ioras
- Picathartidae: rockfowl
- Bombycillidae: waxwings and allies
- Ptilonotidae: silky flycatchers
- Cinclidae: dippers
- Motacillidae: wagtails and pipits
- Prunellidae: accentor
- Melanocharitidae: berrypeckers and longbills
- Paramythiidae: tit berrypecker and crested berrypeckers
- Passeridae: true sparrows
- Estrildidae: estrildid finches (waxbills, munias, etc)
- Parulidae: New World warblers
- Thraupidae: tanagers and allies
- Peucedramidae: Olive Warbler
- Fringillidae: true finches
- Drepanididae: Hawaiian honeycreepers
- Emberizidae: buntings and American sparrows
- Nectariniidae: sunbirds
- Dicaeidae: flowerpeckers
- Mimidae: mockingbirds and thrashers
- Sittidae: nuthatches
- Certhiidae: treecreepers
- Troglodytidae: wrens
- Polioptilidae: gnatcatchers
- Paridae: tits, chickadees and titmice
- Aegithalidae: long-tailed tits

Hirundinidae: swallows and martins
Regulidae: kinglets
Pycnonotidae: bulbuls
Sylviidae: Old World warblers
Hypocoliidae: Hypocolius
Cisticolidae: cisticolas and allies
Zosteropidae: White-eyes
Timaliidae: babblers
Muscicapidae: Old World flycatchers and chats
Turdidae: thrushes and allies
Sturnidae: starlings

See also

- [list of birds](#)

Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tits

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Aegithalidae** Reichenbach, 1850 [Genera](#): *Aegithalos*, Hermann 1804, *Psaltriparus*, Townsend, 1837, *Psaltria*, Temminck 1836

Long-tailed tits are a group of small [passerine birds](#) with medium to long tails. They make woven bag nests in trees. Most eat a mixed diet that includes insects.

There are 8 species in 3 genera.

Aegithalos

- Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus*
White-cheeked Tit, *Aegithalos leucogenys*
Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus*
White-throated Tit, *Aegithalos niveogularis*
Black-browed Tit, *Aegithalos iouschistos*
Sooty Tit, *Aegithalos fuliginosus*

Psaltriparus

- Bushtit, *Psaltriparus minimus*

Psaltria

- Pygmy Tit, *Psaltria exilis*

Aegithinidae

Ioras

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Aegithinidae**

Genus: ***Aegithina*** Vieillot, 1816 Species: See text.

The **ioras** are a family of small [passerine bird species](#) found in India and southeast Asia. They are one of only two bird families that are entirely endemic to the Indomalayan ecozone. They were formerly grouped with the leafbirds in the family Irenidae.

These are [bulbul](#)-like birds of open forest or thorn scrub, but whereas that group tends to be drab in coloration, ioras are sexually dimorphic, with the males being brightly plumaged in yellows and greens.

Ioras eat insects and spiders. They lay 2-3 eggs in a tree nest.

Species of Aegithinidae

- Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia*
White-tailed Iora, *Aegithina nigrolutea*
Green Iora, *Aegithina viridissima*
Great Iora, *Aegithina lafresnayei*

Alaudidae

Larks

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Alaudidae**

Genera: *Mirafra* , *Pinarocorys* , *Heteromirafra* , *Certhilauda* , *Chersomanes* , *Eremopterix* , *Ammomanes* , *Alaemon* , *Ramphocoris* , *Melanocorypha* , *Calandrella* , *Spizocorys* , *Eremalauda* , *Chersophilus* , *Galerida* , *Pseudalaemon* , *Lullula* , [Alauda](#) , [Eremophila](#)

Larks are [passerine birds](#) of the predominantly Old World family Alaudidae. Only one species, the Shore Lark, has spread to North America, where it is called the Horned Lark.

Larks are small terrestrial birds with often extravagant songs and display flights. This fact, combined with a willingness to expand into anthropogenic habitats — as long as these are not too intensively managed — has ensured larks a prominent place in literature and music (the skylark being eulogised in "The Lark Ascending" (1914) by Ralph Vaughan Williams, for example).

Larks nest on the ground, laying 2–6 speckled [eggs](#). Like many ground birds, most lark species have long hind claws, which are thought to provide stability while standing.

Most larks are fairly dull in appearance. They feed on insects and seeds.

- [1 Species list](#)
- [2 See also](#)
- [3 Reference](#)

Species list

- Monotonous Lark, *Mirafra passerina*
- Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra cantillans*
- Australasian Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*
- Latakoo Lark, *Mirafra cheniana*
- White-tailed Lark, *Mirafra albicauda*
- Madagascar Lark, *Mirafra hova*
- Kordofan Lark, *Mirafra cordofanica*
- Williams' Lark, *Mirafra williamsi*
- Friedmann's Lark, *Mirafra pulpa*
- Red-winged Lark, *Mirafra hypermetra*
- Somali Long-billed Lark, *Mirafra somalica*
- Ash's Lark, *Mirafra ashi*
- Angola Lark, *Mirafra angolensis*
- Rufous-naped Lark, *Mirafra africana*

- Flappet Lark, *Mirafrā rufocinnamomea*
- Clapper Lark, *Mirafrā apiata*
- Collared Lark, *Mirafrā collaris*
- Indian Bushlark or Red-winged Bushlark, *Mirafrā erythroptera*
- Gillett's Lark, *Mirafrā gilletti*
- Fawn-colored Lark, *Mirafrā africanoides*
- Rufous-winged Bushlark, *Mirafrā assamica*
- Jerdon's Bushlark *Mirafrā affinis*
- Rusty Lark, *Mirafrā rufa*
- Pink-breasted Lark, *Mirafrā poecilosterna*
- Degodi Lark, *Mirafrā degodiensis*
- Sabota Lark, *Mirafrā sabota*
- Rufous-rumped Lark, *Pinarocorys erythropygia*
- Dusky Lark, *Pinarocorys nigricans*
- Archer's Lark, *Heteromirafrā archeri*
- Sidamo Lark, *Heteromirafrā sidamoensis*
- Rudd's Lark, *Heteromirafrā ruddi*
- Cape Lark, *Certhilauda curvirostris*
- Algulhas Long-billed Lark, *Certhilauda brevirostris*
- Eastern Long-billed Lark, *Certhilauda semitorquata*
- Karoo Long-billed Lark, *Certhilauda subcoronata*
- Benguela Lark, *Certhilauda benguelensis*
- Short-clawed Lark, *Certhilauda chuana*
- Dune Lark, *Certhilauda erythrochlamys*
- Karoo Lark, *Certhilauda albescens*
- Barlow's Lark, *Certhilauda barlowi*
- Ferruginous Lark, *Certhilauda burra*
- Spike-heeled Lark, *Chersomanes albofasciata*
- Black-eared Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix australis*
- Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix leucotis*
- Black-crowned Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix nigriceps*
- Gray-backed Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix verticalis*
- Chestnut-headed Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix signata*
- Fischer's Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix leucopareia*
- Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark, *Eremopterix grisea*
- Bar-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes cincturus*
- Rufous-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes phoenicurus*
- Desert Lark, *Ammomanes deserti*
- Gray's Lark, *Ammomanes grayi*
- Greater Hoopoe-lark, *Alaemon alaudipes*
- Lesser Hoopoe-lark, *Alaemon hamertoni*
- Thick-billed Lark, *Ramphocoris clotbey*
- Calandra Lark, *Melanocorypha calandra*

- Bimaculated Lark, *Melanocorypha bimaculata*
- Tibetan Lark, *Melanocorypha maxima*
- Mongolian Lark, *Melanocorypha mongolica*
- White-winged Lark, *Melanocorypha leucoptera*
- Black Lark, *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*
- Greater Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella brachydactyla*
- Blanford's Lark, *Calandrella blanfordi*
- Hume's Lark, *Calandrella acutirostris*
- Lesser Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella rufescens*
- Red-capped Lark, *Calandrella cinerea*
- Asian Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella cheleensis*
- Sand Lark, *Calandrella raytal*
- Somali Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella somalica*
- Pink-billed Lark, *Spizocorys conirostris*
- Botha's Lark, *Spizocorys fringillaris*
- Sclater's Lark, *Spizocorys sclateri*
- Obbia Lark, *Spizocorys obbiensis*
- Masked Lark, *Spizocorys personata*
- Dunn's Lark, *Eremalauda dunni*
- Stark's Lark, *Eremalauda starki*
- Dupont's Lark, *Chersophilus duponti*
- Crested Lark, *Galerida cristata*
- Thekla Lark, *Galerida theklae*
- Malabar Lark, *Galerida malabarica*
- Sun Lark, *Galerida modesta*
- Tawny Lark or Sykes' Crested Lark, *Galerida deva*
- Long-billed Lark, *Galerida magnirostris*
- Short-tailed Lark, *Pseudalaemon fremantlii*
- Wood Lark, *Lullula arborea*
- Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*
- Japanese Skylark, *Alauda japonica*
- Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula*
- Raso Skylark, *Alauda razae*
- Horned Lark or Shore Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*
- Temminck's Lark, *Eremophila bilopha*

See also

- [Lark Bunting](#)
- [Lark Sparrow](#)

Reference

- *Perrins, Christopher (ed.) (2003). Firefly Encyclopedia of Birds. Firefly Books. ISBN 1-5529-7777-3.*

Alauda

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Alaudidae](#)

Genus: **Alauda** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: *A. arvensis*, *A. japonica*, *A. gulgula*, *A. razae*

Alauda is a genus of [larks](#) with three widespread species found across much of Europe, Asia and in the mountains of north Africa, and one endemic to the island of Razo in the Cape Verde Islands.

These are 14-18 cm long [birds](#) of cultivation, heath, natural steppe and other open habitats. Their often characteristic songs are delivered in flight.

These are undistinguished looking birds on the ground, mainly streaked brown above and pale below, and with a short blunt erectile crest. In flight, they show a short tail and short broad wings. The tail and the rear edge of the wings are edged with white.

The nest is on the ground in tufts of grass, with 3-6 [eggs](#) being laid. They eat seeds supplemented with insects in the breeding season, and form flocks when hot breeding.

Species

- Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*
Japanese Skylark, *Alauda japonica*
Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula*
Raso Skylark, *Alauda razae*

Chersophilus

Dupont's Lark

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Alaudidae](#)

Genus: ***Chersophilus***

Species: ***C. duponti***

Binomial name: ***Chersophilus duponti*** (Vieillot, 1820)

The **Dupont's Lark** (*Chersophilus duponti*), is the only [lark](#) in the genus *Chersophilus* (Sharpe, 1890). It breeds across much of north Africa, from Algeria to Egypt, and in Spain and France. It is a [non-migratory](#) resident.

This is a bird of open sandy semi-desert or steppe with some grass. Its nest is on the ground, with 3-4 [eggs](#) being laid. Its food is seeds and insects.

Like most other larks, Dupont's Lark is an undistinguished looking species on the ground. It is 17-18 cm long, slim, with a long neck, long legs and a fine slightly curved bill. It has a thin pale crown stripe and a dark-streaked breast.

There are two races. *C. d. duponti* of Europe and northwest Africa is mainly brown-grey above and pale below. *C. d. margaritae*, which occupies most of the rest of the African range, has rufous upperparts.

This is a very shy species, which runs for cover when disturbed. Its song is a nasal whistle, given mainly at dawn and dusk or at night.

This bird was named after the French naturalist Leonard Puech Dupont, who was the first to collect a specimen.

References

- BirdLife International (2005). [Chersophilus duponti](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes a lengthy justification of why this species is near threatened

Eremophila

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Alaudidae](#)

Genus: ***Eremophila*** Boie, 1828 Species: *E. bilopha*, *E. alpestris*

The [bird](#) genus ***Eremophila*** comprises the two **horned larks**:

- the Shore Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*, known in North America as the **Horned Lark**,
- and Temminck's Lark, or **Temminck's Horned Lark**, *Eremophila bilopha*.

These are [larks](#) of open country which nest is on the ground. The [migratory](#) Shore Lark breeds across much of the northern regions of North America, Europe and Asia and in the mountains of Europe. Temminck's Lark is mainly a resident breeding species across much of north Africa, through northern Arabia to western Iraq.

Unlike most other [larks](#), these are distinctive looking species with striking head and face patterns, black and white in Temminck's Lark and black and yellow in most Shore Larks. The summer males of both species have black "horns", which give these larks their alternative names.

Lullula

Woodlark

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Alaudidae](#)

Genus: **Lullula**

Species: ***L. arborea***

Binomial name: ***Lullula arborea*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Woodlark** (*Lullula arborea*) is the only [lark](#) in the genus *Lullula* (Kaup, 1829). It breeds across most of Europe, the Middle East Asia and the mountains of north Africa. It is mainly resident in the west of its range, but eastern populations of this passerine bird are more migratory, moving further south in winter. Even in the milder west of its range, many birds move south in winter.

This is a 13.5-15 cm long bird of open heath with some trees, and other open woodlands, especially those with pines and light soil. Its generic name derives from its sweet plaintive song, delivered in flight from heights of 100 m or more.

Like most other [larks](#), this is an undistinguished-looking species on the ground, mainly brown above and pale below, but with distinctive white superciliar meeting on the nape. In flight it shows a short tail and short broad wings. The tail is tipped with white, but unlike the Skylark, the tail sides and the rear edge of the wings are not edged with white.

The nest is on the ground, with up to 6 [eggs](#) being laid. Food is seeds supplemented with insects in the breeding season.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Lullula arborea](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Melanocorypha

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Alaudidae](#)

Genus: **Melanocorypha** Boie, 1828 Species: *M. calandra*, *M. bimaculata*, *M. maxima*, *M. mongolica*, *M. leucoptera*, *M. yeltoniensis*

Melanocorypha is a small genus of [birds](#) in the [lark](#) family. Its members mainly occur in temperate Asia from Turkey through Central Asia to China, but the Calandra Lark also has an extensive European distribution around the Mediterranean

These larks are mostly partially [migratory](#), moving relatively short distances from the coldest parts of their ranges. Several species are very rare vagrants to western Europe.

These are birds of open cultivation, steppe or semi-desert. They nest on the ground and the young are precocial. The food is seeds supplemented with insects especially in the breeding season. They are gregarious outside the breeding season.

Melanocorypha larks are large, robust birds, 16.5-20 cm long with strong thick bills. Some have the typically undistinguished lark plumage, mainly streaked greyish-brown above and white below, but the, Black and White-winged Larks have distinctive male plumages. Several species have large black patches on the breast sides.

In flight they show broad wings and a shortish tail. The songs of most species are like that of the Skylark.

Species

- Calandra Lark, *Melanocorypha calandra*
Bimaculated Lark, *Melanocorypha bimaculata*
Tibetan Lark, *Melanocorypha maxima*
Mongolian Lark, *Melanocorypha mongolica*
White-winged Lark, *Melanocorypha leucoptera*
Black Lark, *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*

Buphagidae

Oxpeckers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Sturnidae

Subfamily: ***Buphaginae***

Genus: ***Buphagus*** Brisson, 1760 Species: See text.

The **oxpeckers** are two species of [bird](#) which comprise the [subfamily](#) **Buphaginae** within the [starling](#) family Sturnidae (some ornithologists regard them as a separate family **Buphagidae**). Oxpeckers are endemic to sub-Saharan African savannah.

Oxpeckers are medium-sized starlings with strong feet. Their flight is strong and direct, and they are fairly gregarious. Their preferred habitat is open country, and they eat insects. Both the English and scientific names arise from their habit of perching on large mammals (both wild and domesticated) such as cattle or rhinoceroses, and eating ticks, botfly larvae, and other parasites which lodge in mammalian skin and must be dug out. This symbiotic relationship is sometimes mutualistic, but can also be parasitic in nature.

Their [plumage](#) is light brown, and the species can be distinguished by bill-colour. They nest in holes, often in walls, lined with hair plucked from livestock and lay 2-3 [eggs](#).

The species are:

- Red-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* of east Africa
Yellow-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus africanus* of most of sub-saharan Africa.

Cardinalidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Cardinalidae**

Genera: *Periporphyrus*, *Saltator*, *Caryothraustes*, *Parkerthraustes*, *Rhodothraupis*, *Cardinalis*, *Pheucticus*, *Cyanocompsa*, *Guiraca*, *Passerina*, *Spiza*

The **Cardinals** or **Cardinalidae** are a [family](#) of [passerine birds](#) living in North and South America.

These are robust, seed-eating birds, with strong bills. They are typically associated with open woodland. The sexes usually have distinct [plumages](#); the family is named for the red colour (like that of a Catholic cardinal's vestments) of males of the type species, the Northern Cardinal.

The "buntings" in this family are sometimes generically known as "tropical buntings" (though not all live in the tropics) or "North American buntings" (though there are other buntings in North America) to distinguish them from the true buntings. Likewise the grosbeaks in this family are sometimes called "cardinal-grosbeaks" to distinguish them from other grosbeaks. The name "cardinal-grosbeak" can also apply to this family as a whole.

Species list

Family: Cardinalidae

- Genus *Periporphyrus*
 - Red-and-black Grosbeak, *Periporphyrus erythromelas*
- Genus *Saltator*, the saltators
 - Lesser Antillean Saltator, *Saltator albicollis*
 - Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*
 - Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens*
 - Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*
 - Black-headed Saltator, *Saltator atriceps*
 - Slate-colored Grosbeak, *Saltator grossus*
 - Black-throated Grosbeak, *Saltator fuliginosus*
 - Black-uuu, *Saltator similis*
 - Orinocan Saltator, *Saltator orenocensis*
 - Black-cowled Saltator, *Saltator nigriceps*
 - Golden-billed Saltator, *Saltator aurantiirostris*
 - Thick-billed Saltator, *Saltator maxillosus*
 - Masked Saltator, *Saltator cinctus*
 - Black-throated Saltator, *Saltator atricollis*
 - Rufous-bellied Saltator, *Saltator rufiventris*
- Genus *Caryothraustes*

- Black-faced Grosbeak, *Caryothraustes poliogaster*
Yellow-green Grosbeak, *Caryothraustes canadensis*
- Genus *Parkerthraustes*
 - Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, *Parkerthraustes humeralis*
- Genus *Rhodothraupis*
 - Crimson-collared Grosbeak, *Rhodothraupis celaeno*
- Genus *Cardinalis*
 - Vermilion Cardinal, *Cardinalis phoeniceus*
Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*
Pyrrhuloxia, *Cardinalis sinuatus*
- Genus *Pheucticus*
 - Yellow Grosbeak, *Pheucticus chrysopheplus*
Golden-bellied Grosbeak, *Pheucticus chrysogaster*
Black-thighed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus tibialis*
Black-backed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus aureoventris*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus*
- Genus *Cyanocompsa*
 - Ultramarine Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa brissonii*
Blue Bunting, *Cyanocompsa parellina*
Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa cyanoidea*
- Genus *Cyanoloxia*
 - Glaucous-blue Grosbeak, *Cyanoloxia glaucocaerulea*
- Genus *Passerina*, North American buntings
 - Blue Grosbeak, *Passerina caerulea*
Lazuli Bunting, *Passerina amoena*
Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*
Varied Bunting, *Passerina versicolor*
Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris*
Rose-bellied Bunting, *Passerina rositae*
Orange-breasted Bunting, *Passerina leclancherii*
- Genus *Porphyrospiza*
 - Yellow-billed Blue Finch, *Porphyrospiza caerulea*
- Genus *Spiza*
 - Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*

Grosbeak

Grosbeak is the name given to several species of seed-eating [passerine](#) bird with large bills, in the [finch](#) and [cardinal](#) families.

The following is a list of grosbeak species - note that the groups of species are not each other's closest relatives - they share the name grosbeak purely because of morphological similarity.

The [finch family](#), Fringillidae contains the following 11 extant species (plus two species of Grosbeak Canary):

- The São Tomé Grosbeak, *Neospiza concolor*, a critically endangered restricted-range endemic found only in forests on the island of São Tomé off the West African coast, believed extinct until rediscovered in 1996
- The Golden-winged Grosbeak, *Rynchostruthus socotranus*, a localised species found in northern Somalia, mountains of south-west Arabia and on the island of Socotra
- The Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*, a pan-Holarctic pine forest species
- The two Nearctic species in the genus *Coccothraustes* (which also contains a Palearctic species, the Hawfinch *C. coccothraustes*):
 - Evening Grosbeak *C. vespertinus*
 - Hooded Grosbeak *C. abeillei*
- The two species in the East Asian genus *Eophona*:
 - Japanese Grosbeak *E. personata*
 - Chinese (Yellow-Billed) Grosbeak *E. migratoria*
- The four species in the South Asian genus *Mycerobas*:
 - Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *M. icterioides*
 - Collared Grosbeak *M. affinis*
 - Spot-winged Grosbeak *M. melanozanthos*
 - White-winged Grosbeak *M. carpinus*

The [cardinal family](#), Cardinalidae, of the Americas contains the following 17 extant species:

- The Red-and-black Grosbeak, *Periporphyrus erythromelas* of northern South America
- Two species in the Neotropical genus *Saltator* (all other species in this genus are referred to as saltators):
 - Slate-coloured Grosbeak, *S. groseus*
 - Black-throated Grosbeak, *S. fuliginosus*
- The two species in the Neotropical genus *Caryothraustes*:
 - Black-faced Grosbeak *C. poliogaster*
 - Yellow-green Grosbeak *C. canadensis*
- The Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak *Parkerthraustes humeralis* of South America
- The Crimson-collared Grosbeak, *Rhodothraupis celaeno*, a restricted-range endemic found only in eastern Mexico

- The six species in the genus *Pheucticus*
 - Yellow Grosbeak *P. chrysopheplus*
 - Golden-bellied Grosbeak *P. chrysogaster*
 - Black-thighed Grosbeak *P. tibialis*, a restricted-range endemic found only in the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama
 - Black-backed Grosbeak *P. aureoventris*
 - Rose-breasted Grosbeak *P. ludovicianus*
 - Black-headed Grosbeak *P. melanocephalus*
- Two species in the Neotropical genus *Cyanocampsa* (this genus also contains the Blue Bunting *C. parcellina*):
 - Ultramarine Grosbeak *C. brissonii*
 - Blue-black Grosbeak *C. cyanoides*
- The Glaucous-blue Grosbeak *Cyanoloxia glaucoerulea* of eastern South America
- The Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea*

In addition, there are two extinct species with the name grosbeak: the Bonin Grosbeak *Chaunoproctus ferreorostris* (a finch), found only on the Ogasawara Islands, which was last recorded in c. 1832, and the Kona Grosbeak or Grosbeak Finch, a [Hawaiian honeycreeper](#), last recorded in c. 1896.

Finally, the weaver family (Ploceidae) contains a species called the Grosbeak Weaver.

Certhiidae

Treecreepers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Certhidae**

Genus: ***Certhia*** and ***Salpornis***

Species: *Certhia familiaris*, *C. hodgsoni*, *C. americana*, *C. brachydactyla*, *C. himalayana*, *C. tianquanensis*, *C. nipalensis*, *C. discolor*, *C. manipuensis*, *Salpornis spilonotus*

The treecreepers (Certhiidae) are a [family](#) of small [passerine birds](#), consisting of two subfamilies:

- The **typical treecreepers** (Certhiinae) are a group of seven species found in Europe and Asia, with one representative, the Brown Creeper in North America.
- The **Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis spilonotus* (Salpornithinae), which is found in India and Africa.

- [1 Typical treecreepers](#)
- [3 Other birds with creeper or treecreeper in their name](#)
- [4 References](#)

Typical treecreepers

The typical treecreepers are all very similar in appearance, and can present serious identification problems where two species occur together. They do not [migrate](#) other than for local movements.

The treecreepers are small woodland birds, brown above and white below. They have thin pointed down-curved bills, which they use to extricate insects from bark. They have stiff tail feathers, like woodpeckers, which they use to support themselves on vertical trees.

Nests are in tree crevices or behind bark.

Following recent studies of cytochrome b mtDNA sequence and song structure (Tietze *et al.*, 2006), the following species are recognized:

- Common Treecreeper or Eurasian Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris*
Hodgson's Treecreeper, *Certhia hodgsoni*
Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*
Short-toed Treecreeper, *Certhia brachydactyla*
Himalayan Treecreeper or Bar-tailed Treecreeper, *Certhia himalayana*
Sichuan Treecreeper, *Certhia tianquanensis*
Nepal Treecreeper or Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, *Certhia nipalensis*
Sikkim Treecreeper or Brown-throated Treecreeper, *Certhia discolor*
Manipur Treecreeper, *Certhia manipurensis*

They form two evolutionary lineages: the former four species represent a Holarctic radiation, whereas the remaining five are distributed in the area south and east of the Himalaya. Hodgson's Treecreeper, recently realized to be a distinct species, is an offshoot of the Common Treecreeper's ancestor which has speciated south of the Himalaya. The former group has a more warbling song, always (except in *C. familiaris* from China) starting or ending with a shrill *sreeh*. The Himalayan group, in contrast, has a faster-paced trill without the *sreeh* sound.

Other birds with creeper or treecreeper in their name

There are two other small bird families with *treecreeper* or *creeper* in their name:

- the Australian treecreepers (Climacteridae)
the Philippine creepers (Rhabdornithidae)

References

- Tietze, Dieter Thomas; Martens, Jochen & Sun, Yue-Hua (2006): Molecular phylogeny of treecreepers (*Certhia*) detects hidden diversity. *Ibis* **148**(3): 477-488 DOI:[doi:10.1111/j.1474-919X.2006.00547.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1474-919X.2006.00547.x) (HTML abstract)

Chaetopidae

Rock-jumpers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Chaetopidae**

Genera: *Chaetops*

The **Rock-jumpers** are medium-sized insectivorous or omnivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Chaetops* that constitute the entire family *Chaetopidae*. Originally, these birds were placed in the [Turdidae](#), but recent DNA-studies indicate these birds are something entirely different; they are primitive passeridans most closely related to the rockfowl (*Picathartidae*). These two endemic African families point to an African origin for [Passerida](#) as a whole.

These are small birds coloured mostly in brown and red. Their wings are very small and they clearly do not fly very often. They spend most of their lives running and jumping among rocks and grasses while hunting insects.

The two species, **Rufous Rock-jumper**, *Chaetops frenatus*, and **Orange-breasted Rock-jumper** *Chaetops aurantius*, are endemic residents of southern Africa.

Cinclidae

Dippers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Cinclidae**

Genus: ***Cinclus*** Borkhausen, 1797 Species: *Cinclus cinclus* , *Cinclus leucocephalus* , *Cinclus mexicanus* , *Cinclus pallasii* , *Cinclus schulzi*

Dippers are members of the genus ***Cinclus*** in the [bird](#) family Cinclidae. They are a group of [perching birds](#) whose habitat includes aquatic environments in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. They are named for their bobbing or dipping movements.

Usually they inhabit the banks of fast-moving hillside rivers, though some nest near shallow lakes. They have dense [feathers](#) with a down undercoat, an advanced nictitating eye membrane and a larger preen gland for waterproofing their plumage. Their blood can store more oxygen than other [passerine](#) birds which allows them to remain underwater for up to 10 seconds.

These adaptations let them submerge and walk on the bottom to feed on insect larvae. They are about 8 inches in size with a short tail and wings and resemble the [wrens](#), though there is no clear relationship.

Cinclus is the only genus in the family Cinclidae. The White-throated Dipper was also known historically in Britain as **ouzel**, or **water ouzel** (sometimes being spelt ousel).

Species

- White-throated Dipper or European Dipper, *Cinclus cinclus*
White-capped Dipper *Cinclus leucocephalus*
American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*
Rufous-throated Dipper *Cinclus schulzi*

Cisticolidae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: **Cisticolidae**
 Genera *Many: see text*

The **Cisticolidae** family of small [passerine birds](#) is a group of about 110 warblers found mainly in warmer southern regions of the Old World. They are often included within the [Old World warbler](#) family Sylviidae.

This family probably originated in Africa, which has the majority of species, but there are representatives of the family across tropical Asia into Australasia, and one species, the Zitting Cisticola, even breeds in Europe.

These are generally very small birds of drab brown or grey appearance found in open country such as grassland or scrub. They are often difficult to see and many species are similar in appearance, so the song is often the best identification guide.

These are insectivorous birds which nest low in vegetation.

Species list in taxonomic order

- Genus *Cisticola*, the cisticolas
 - Red-faced Cisticola, *Cisticola erythrops*
 - Singing Cisticola, *Cisticola cantans*
 - Whistling Cisticola, *Cisticola lateralis*
 - Chattering Cisticola, *Cisticola anonymus*
 - Trilling Cisticola, *Cisticola woosnami*
 - Bubbling Cisticola, *Cisticola bulliens*
 - Chubb's Cisticola, *Cisticola chubbi*
 - Hunter's Cisticola, *Cisticola hunteri*
 - Black-lored Cisticola, *Cisticola nigriloris*
 - Rock-loving Cisticola, *Cisticola aberrans*
 - Boran Cisticola, *Cisticola bodessa*
 - Rattling Cisticola, *Cisticola chiniana*
 - Ashy Cisticola, *Cisticola cinereolus*
 - Red-pate Cisticola, *Cisticola ruficeps*
 - Dorst's Cisticola, *Cisticola dorsti*
 - Grey Cisticola, *Cisticola rufilatus*
 - Red-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola subruficapillus*
 - Wailing Cisticola, *Cisticola lais*
 - Tana River Cisticola, *Cisticola restrictus*
 - Churring Cisticola, *Cisticola njombe*
 - Winding Cisticola, *Cisticola galactotes*
 - Chirping Cisticola, *Cisticola pipiens*

Carruthers' Cisticola, *Cisticola carruthersi*
 Tinkling Cisticola, *Cisticola tinniens*
 Stout Cisticola, *Cisticola robustus*
 Croaking Cisticola, *Cisticola natalensis*
 Piping Cisticola, *Cisticola fulvicapillus*
 Aberdare Cisticola, *Cisticola aberdare*
 Tabora Cisticola, *Cisticola angusticaudus*
 Slender-tailed Cisticola, *Cisticola melanurus*
 Siffling Cisticola, *Cisticola brachypterus*
 Rufous Cisticola, *Cisticola rufus*
 Foxy Cisticola, *Cisticola troglodytes*
 Tiny Cisticola, *Cisticola nanus*
 Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
 Socotra Cisticola, *Cisticola haesitatus*
 Madagascar Cisticola, *Cisticola cherinus*
 Desert Cisticola, *Cisticola aridulus*
 Cloud Cisticola, *Cisticola textrix*
 Black-necked Cisticola, *Cisticola eximius*
 Cloud-scraping Cisticola, *Cisticola dambo*
 Pectoral-patch Cisticola, *Cisticola brunnescens*
 Pale-crowned Cisticola, *Cisticola cinnamomeus*
 Wing-snapping Cisticola, *Cisticola ayresii*
 Golden-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola exilis*

- Genus *Rhopophilus*
 - White-browed Chinese Warbler, *Rhopophilus pekinensis*
- Genus *Incana*
 - Socotra Warbler, *Incana incanus*
- Genus *Scotocerca*
 - Scrub Warbler or Streaked Scrub Warbler, *Scotocerca inquieta*
- Genus *Prinia*, the prinias
 - Rufous-vented Prinia, *Prinia burnesii*
 - Swamp Prinia, *Prinia cinerascens*
 - Striated Prinia, *Prinia criniger*
 - Brown Prinia, *Prinia polychroa*
 - Hill Prinia, *Prinia atrogularis*
 - Grey-crowned Prinia, *Prinia cinereocapilla*
 - Rufous-fronted Prinia, *Prinia buchanani*
 - Rufescent Prinia, *Prinia rufescens*
 - Grey-breasted Prinia, *Prinia hodgsonii*
 - Bar-winged Prinia, *Prinia familiaris*
 - Graceful Prinia, *Prinia gracilis*
 - Jungle Prinia, *Prinia sylvatica*
 - Yellow-bellied Prinia, *Prinia flaviventris*
 - Ashy Prinia, *Prinia socialis*

Tawny-flanked Prinia, *Prinia subflava*
 Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata*
 Pale Prinia, *Prinia somalica*
 River Prinia, *Prinia fluviatilis*
 Black-chested Prinia, *Prinia flavicans*
 Karoo Prinia, *Prinia maculosa*
 Drakensberg Prinia, *Prinia hypoxantha*
 Namaqua Prinia, *Prinia substriata*
 Sao Tome Prinia, *Prinia molleri*
 Roberts' Prinia, *Prinia robertsi*
 Sierra Leone Prinia, *Prinia leontica*
 White-chinned Prinia, *Prinia leucopogon*
 Banded Prinia, *Prinia bairdii*
 Red-winged Prinia, *Prinia erythroptera*

- Genus *Malcorus*
 - Rufous-eared Warbler, *Malcorus pectoralis*
- Genus *Drymocichla*
 - Red-winged Grey Warbler, *Drymocichla incana*
- Genus *Urolais*
 - Green Longtail, *Urolais epichlora*
- Genus *Spiloptila*
 - Cricket Longtail, *Spiloptila clamans*
- Genus *Apalis*, the apalises
 - Black-collared Apalis, *Apalis pulchra*
 Ruwenzori Apalis or Collared Apalis, *Apalis ruwenzorii*
 Bar-throated Apalis, *Apalis thoracica*
 Taita Apalis, *Apalis fuscicularis*
 Namuli Apalis, *Apalis lynesii*
 Yellow-throated Apalis, *Apalis flavigularis*
 Black-capped Apalis, *Apalis nigriceps*
 Black-throated Apalis, *Apalis jacksoni*
 White-winged Apalis, *Apalis chariessa*
 Masked Apalis, *Apalis binotata*
 Black-faced Apalis, *Apalis personata*
 Yellow-breasted Apalis, *Apalis flava*
 Rudd's Apalis, *Apalis ruddi*
 Sharpe's Apalis, *Apalis sharpii*
 Buff-throated Apalis, *Apalis rufogularis*
 Bamenda Apalis, *Apalis bamendae*
 Gosling's Apalis, *Apalis goslingi*
 Chestnut-throated Apalis, *Apalis porphyrolaema*
 Kabobo Apalis, *Apalis kaboboensis*
 Chapin's Apalis, *Apalis chapini*
 Black-headed Apalis, *Apalis melanocephala*

Chirinda Apalis, *Apalis chirindensis*
Grey Apalis, *Apalis cinerea*
Brown-headed Apalis, *Apalis alticola*
Karamoja Apalis, *Apalis karamojae*
Kungwe Apalis, *Apalis argentea*

- Genus *Urorhipis*
 - Red-fronted Warbler, *Urorhipis rufifrons*
- Genus *Hypergerus*
 - Oriole Warbler, *Hypergerus atriceps*
- Genus *Eminia*
 - Grey-capped Warbler, *Eminia lepida*
- Genus *Camaroptera*
 - Grey-backed Camaroptera, *Camaroptera brachyura*
Yellow-browed Camaroptera, *Camaroptera superciliaris*
Olive-green Camaroptera, *Camaroptera chloronota*
- Genus *Calamonastes*
 - Miombo Camaroptera, *Calamonastes undosus*
Grey Wren-Warbler, *Calamonastes simplex*
Barred Camaroptera, *Calamonastes fasciolatus*
- Genus *Euryptila*
 - Kopje Warbler *Euryptila subcinnamomea*

Coerebidae

Bananaquit

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Coerebidae** d'Orbigny & Lafresnaye, 1838 Genus: **Coereba** Vieillot, 1809 Species: **C.**

flaveola Binomial name: **Coereba flaveola** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Bananaquit**, *Coereba flaveola*, is a [passerine bird](#), the only member of the genus *Coereba* and is normally placed within the family Coerebidae, although there is uncertainty whether that placement is correct (hence the assignment Genus *Coereba Incertae sedis*). It is resident in tropical South America north to southern Mexico and the Caribbean. It is a rare visitor to Florida, USA.

The Bananaquit is a very small bird attaining an average length of 11 cm. It has a slender, curved bill, adapted to taking nectar from flowers. It sometimes pierces flowers from the side, taking the nectar without pollinating the plant. It cannot hover like a [hummingbird](#), and must always perch while feeding. It will also eat fruit and insects. It often visits gardens and may become very tame.

Upperparts are dark grey with a black crown to the head and yellow underparts and rump. The Bananaquit has a prominent white eyestripe. Sexes are alike.

On Grenada and Saint Vincent, most Bananaquits have black plumage, suggesting divergence from other West Indian populations.

Bananaquits build spherical lined nests with a side entrance hole, laying up to three eggs.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Coereba flaveola](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Dicaeidae

Flowerpeckers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Dicaeidae** Bonaparte, 1853 Genera: *Prionochilus*, *Dicaeum*

The **flowerpeckers** are a family of [passerine birds](#) found in tropical southern Asia and Australasia from India east to the Philippines and south to Australia.

These are very small, stout, often brightly coloured birds, 10 to 18 cm in length, with short tails, short thick curved bills and tubular tongues. The latter features reflect the importance of nectar in the diet of many species, although berries, spiders and insects are also taken.

2-4 eggs are laid, typically in a purse-like nest suspended from a tree.

Species

- **Family: Dicaeidae**
 - Olive-backed Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus olivaceus*
 - Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus maculatus*
 - Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus percussus*
 - Palawan Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus plateni*
 - Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus xanthopygius*
 - Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus thoracicus*
 - Golden-rumped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum annae*
 - Thick-billed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum agile*
 - Brown-backed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum everetti*
 - Whiskered Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum proprium*
 - Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
 - Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*
 - White-throated Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum vincens*
 - Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum aureolimbatus*
 - Olive-capped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum nigrilore*
 - Flame-crowned Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum anthonyi*
 - Bicolored Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum bicolor*
 - Cebu Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum quadricolor*
 - Red-striped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum australe*
 - Red-keeled Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum haematostictum*
 - Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum retrocinctum*
 - Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
 - Pale-billed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*
 - Plain Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum concolor*
 - Flame-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum erythrothorax*

White-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum hypoleucum*
Pygmy Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum pygmaeum*
Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum nehrkorni*
Ashy Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum vulneratum*
Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum pectorale*
Red-capped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum geelvinkianum*
Louiade Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum nitidum*
Red-banded Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum eximium*
Midget Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum aeneum*
Mottled Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum tristrami*
Black-fronted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum igniferum*
Red-chested Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum maugei*
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Black-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum monticolum*
Grey-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum celebicum*
Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum sanguinolentum*
Mistletoebird, *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum cruentatum*
Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trochileum*

Drepanididae

Hawaiian Honeycreeper

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Drepanididae** Cabanis, 1847 Genera: *Telespiza*, *Psittirostra* (*extinct?*), *Dysmorodrepanis* (*extinct*), *Loxioides*, *Rhodacanthis* (*extinct*), *Chloridops* (*extinct*), *Orthospiza* (*extinct*), *Xestospiza* (*extinct*), *Pseudonestor*, *Hemignathus*, *Magumma* (*disputed*), *Akialoa* (*disputed; extinct*), *Heterorhynchus* (*disputed*), *Oreomystis*, *Paroreomyza*, *Vangulifer* (*extinct*), *Aidemia* (*extinct*), *Loxops*, *Ciridops* (*extinct*), *Vestiaria*, *Drepanis* (*extinct*), *Palmeria*, *Himatione*, *Melamprosops* (*extinct?*)

Hawaiian honeycreepers are small [passerine birds](#) endemic to Hawai»i. Some authorities categorize this group as the [subfamily Drepanidinae](#) of the [finch](#) family Fringillidae, to which they are closely related, but they are usually given full family status as the **Drepanididae**.

The family is divided into three tribes

- Psittirostrini (Hawaiian finches), seedeaters with thick finch-like bills and songs like those of cardueline finches.
- Hemignathini (Hawaiian creepers and allies, including nukupu»us). These are generally green-plumaged birds with thin bills which feed on nectar and insects
- Drepanidini (Mamos, 'Iiwi and allies). These are birds often with red [plumage](#). They are nectar-feeders and their songs contain nasal squeaks and whistles.

Some unusual forms extinct in earlier times, like *Xestospiza* or *Vangulifer*, cannot easily be placed into these tribes.

The male Hawaiian Honeycreepers are often more brightly coloured than the females, but in the Hemignathini, they often look very similar. The flowers of the native plant *Metrosideros polymorpha* ('ohi'a lehua) are favoured by a number of nectar-eating honeycreepers.

The wide range of bills in this group, from thick finch-like bills to slender downcurved bills for probing flowers have arisen through adaptive radiation, where an ancestral finch has evolved to fill a large number of ecological niches. Some 15 forms of Hawaiian Honeycreeper have become extinct in the recent past, many more since the arrival of the Polynesians who introduced the first rats. The recent extinctions are due to the introduction of other rodent species and the mongoose, habitat destruction and avian malaria and fowlpox.

Species

- **Family: Drepanididae** (or: Drepaniidae)
 - **Genus: Telespiza** - finch-like, granivores, opportunistic scavengers
 - Nihoa Finch, *Telespiza ultima*
 - Laysan Finch, *Telespiza cantans*

- Kaua'i Finch, *Telespiza persecutrix* Conservation status: Prehistoric
 - Maui Nui Finch, *Telespiza ypsilon* Conservation status: Prehistoric
- **Genus: Psittirostra** - slightly hooked bill, 'Ie'ie fruit specialist
 - 'O'u, *Psittirostra psittacea* Conservation status: Critical, probably extinct late 1990s
- **Genus: Dymorodrepanis** - pincer-like bill, possibly snail specialist
 - Lana'i Hookbill, *Dymorodrepanis munroi* Conservation status: Extinct (1918)
- **Genus: Loxioides** - finch-like, Mamane seed specialist (*L. bailleui*)
 - Palila, *Loxioides bailleui*
 - Kaua'i Palila, *Loxioides kikuichi* Conservation status: Prehistoric
- **Genus: Rhodacanthis** - finch-like, Koa seed specialists
 - Lesser Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthis flaviceps* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1891)
 - Greater Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthis palmeri* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1896)
 - Scissor-billed Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthis forfex* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Primitive Koa Finch, *Rhodacanthis litotes* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Chloridops** - thick-billed, Naio and other hard seed specialist
 - Kona Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops kona* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1894)
 - O'ahu Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops wahi* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Giant ("King Kong") Grosbeak Finch, *Chloridops regiskongi* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Orthospiza** - large weak bill, possibly soft seed or fruit specialist?
 - Highland Finch, *Orthospiza howarthi* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Xestospiza** - cone-shaped bills, possibly insectivores
 - Cone-billed Finch, *Xestospiza conica* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Ridge-billed Finch, *Xestospiza fastigialis* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Pseudonestor** - parrot-like bill, probes rotting wood for insect larvae
 - Maui Parrotbill, *Pseudonestor xanthophrys*
- **Genus: Hemignathus** - pointed or long and decurved bills, insectivores or nectarivores
 - Hawai'i 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus virens*
 - O'ahu 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus flavus*
 - Kaua'i 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus kauaiensis*
 - Nukupu'u, *Hemignathus lucidus*
 - 'Anianiau, *Hemignathus parvus* or *Magumma parva*
 - Greater 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus sagittirostris* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1901)
 - Giant 'Amakihi, *Hemignathus vorpalis* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Hawai'i 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus obscurus* or *Akialoa obscura* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1940)
 - Maui Nui 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus lanaiensis* or *Akialoa lanaiensis* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1892)
 - O'ahu 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus ellisianus* or *Akialoa ellisiana* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1940)

- Kaua'i 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus stejnegeri* or *Akialoa stejnegeri* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1969)
- Hoopoe-billed 'Akialoa, *Hemignathus upupirostris* or *Akialoa upupirostris* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- 'Akiapola'au, *Hemignathus munroi* or *Heterorhynchus wilsoni*
- **Genus: Oreomystis** - short pointed bills, browsers
 - 'Akikiki, *Oreomystis bairdi*
 - Hawai'i "Creeper", *Oreomystis mana*
- **Genus: Paroreomyza** - similar to Oreomystis
 - Maui 'Alauahio, *Paroreomyza montana* (more properly called Maui Nui 'Alauahio, but today occurs on Maui only)
- Kakawahie, *Paroreomyza flammea* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1963)
- O'ahu 'Alauahio, *Paroreomyza maculata*
- **Genus: Vangulifer** - flat rounded bills, possibly caught flying insects
 - Strange-billed Finch, *Vangulifer mirandus* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Thin-billed Finch, *Vangulifer neophasis* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Aidemia** - straight thin bills, insectivores
 - O'ahu Icterid-like Gaper, *Aidemia chascax* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Sickie-billed Gaper, *Aidemia zanclops* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
 - Maui Nui Icterid-like Gaper, *Aidemia lutetiae* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Loxops** - small pointed bills with the tips offset a little horizontally, insectivores
 - 'Akeke'e, *Loxops caeruleirostris*
 - Akepa, *Loxops coccineus*
- **Genus: Ciridops** - finch-like, fed on Loulu fruits etc.
 - 'Ula-'ai-Hawane, *Ciridops anna* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1892 or 1937)
 - Stout-legged Finch, *Ciridops tenax* [Conservation status](#): Prehistoric
- **Genus: Vestiaria** - decurved bill, nectarivore
 - 'I'iwi, *Vestiaria coccinea*
- **Genus: Drepanis** - decurved bills, nectarivores
 - Hawai'i Mamo, *Drepanis pacifica* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1898)
 - Black Mamo, *Drepanis funerea* [Conservation status](#): Extinct (1907)
- **Genus: Palmeria** - thin bill, nectarivore, especially »Ohi«a
 - 'Akohekohe, *Palmeria dolei*
- **Genus: Himantopus** - thin bill, nectarivore
 - 'Apapane, *Himantopus sanguinea*
- **Genus: Melamprosops** - short pointed bill, browser and snail specialist
 - Po'o-uli, *Melamprosops phaeosoma* [Conservation status](#): Critical, probably extinct November 28, 2004

Several other known species are undescribed, as they are known only from very fragmentary fossil remains insufficient to determine taxonomic affiliation. The term "prehistoric" above indicates birds that went extinct between first human settlement of Hawai'i around 400 AD and European contact in 1778.

Melamprosops

Conservation status: Critical

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Drepanididae](#)

Genus: *Melamprosops*

Species: *M. phaeosoma*

Binomial name: *Melamprosops phaeosoma* Casey & Jacobi, 1974

The **Po»o-uli** or **Black-faced Honeycreeper** (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*) is an endangered [bird](#) that is endemic to Hawai»i. It is considered to be a member of the Drepanididae ([Hawaiian honeycreeper](#)) family, and is the only member of its genus. The vernacular name (often erroneously spelled "po»ouli", "poouli", "po»o»uli", "pouli" or "poo-uli") means 'dark head' and refers to the bird's characteristic feature, a black 'bandit' mask (This is no original Hawaiian term; in fact, whether there was a native name as for many endemic birds of these islands is not known. The vernacular name should technically be *alouli* or *alo uli*, "dark face", since *po»o* refers to the top, not the front side, of the head).

The *po»o-uli* wasn't discovered until 1973 by students from the University of Hawai»i, who found the bird on the north-eastern slopes of Haleakala on the island of Maui. It feeds mostly on snails, insects, and spiders and nests in native »ohi»a forests.

It is believed that there are now at most two remaining individuals of this species, down from an estimated 200 when the species was first discovered. The dramatic population decline has been attributed to a number of factors, including habitat loss; mosquito-borne diseases; predation by pigs, rats, cats, and mongooses; and a decline in the native tree snails that the *po»o-uli* relies on for food.

Both of the two remaining birds are at least seven years of age, and nearing the end of their reproductive lifespan. It is uncertain whether they are a male and female pair or both of the same sex, or even if they are still alive. They have been deemed extinct now. Last one sighted was on December 27, 2006 in Maui.

In 2002, a female was captured and taken to a male's home range in an attempt to get them to breed. The female, however, had flown back to her own nest, which has a mile and a half away, by the next day. There was also a ten-day expedition which was scheduled to begin on April 27, 2004. The goal of this was to capture all three birds, and bring them to a bird conservation center on the island in the hope they would produce offspring.

On September 9, 2004, a male *po»o-uli* was captured and taken to the Maui Bird Conservation Center in Olinda, in an attempt to captively breed the bird. However, biologists could not find a mate for the male before it died of avian malaria on November 28, 2004. Biologists are now searching for the two remaining birds, which have not been seen for over a year and are probably dead too. Tissue samples have been taken from the male for possible future cloning, but as neither birds of the opposite sex are now available nor natural behavior can be imprinted on possible cloned individuals (assuming that cloning of birds will actually be established as a working technique, which currently is not the case), this does not seem

probable. As such efforts would likely compete with conservation funding of extant bird species, it may not even be desirable as a cloning attempt would both be highly likely to fail and at the same time jeopardize the survival of other highly threatened species. The paper by VanderWerf *et al.* (2006) wraps up the conservation issues regarding the po»o-uli.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Melamprosops phaeosoma](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is critically endangered
- VanderWerf, Eric A.; Groombridge, Jim J.; Fretz, J. Scott & Swinnerton, Kirsty J. (2006): Decision analysis to guide recovery of the po»ouli, a critically endangered Hawaiian honeycreeper. *Biological Conservation* **129**: 383-392. [HTML abstract](#)

Psittirostra

Conservation status: Critical (Possibly Extinct)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Drepanididae](#)

Genus: ***Psittirostra***

Species: ***P. psittacea***

Binomial name: ***Psittirostra psittacea*** (Gmelin, 1789)

The **Ou**, (or »O»u - the name is pronounced like "oh-uh"^[u]) (*Psittirostra psittacea*), is a highly endangered, if not extinct, [bird](#) endemic to the Hawai»ian islands. Though formerly widespread on the six largest islands of that group, this Hawai»ian honeycreeper declined precipitously from the turn of the 20th century. The last confirmed sighting was in 1989 on Kaua»i. It is almost certainly extinct there, but unconfirmed reports occasionally are received from the areas of Big Island above Kilauea volcano. The largest and most secure population above Waieka was driven from its habitat in 1984 when the area was devastated by a lava flow from Mauna Loa.

The »O»u was one of the most mobile honeycreeper species. Although it was not very active and usually slow-moving, it had remarkable stamina and when flying, would cover great distances. It is one of the few Hawai»ian endemics that did occur on all the major islands at one time and did not differentiate into subspecies, suggesting that birds crossed between islands on a regular basis. Also, there was considerable seasonal movement between different altitudes according to the availability of the species' favorite food, the bracts and fruit of the »ie»ie. This probably was the species' undoing, as it thus came in contact with mosquitoes transmitting avian malaria and fowlpox, which are exceptionally lethal to most honeycreepers.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Psittirostra psittacea](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006.

Footnotes

- [^] *Pronunciation*: Care should be taken in pronouncing the name. »O»o ("oh-oh") refers to another, unrelated kind of bird, while »U»u ("uh-uh") may mean "to masturbate". The Hawai»ian "u" is pronounced IPA: [u], not [Y] as in most American English dialects.

Vestiaria

Iiwi

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Drepanididae](#)

Genus: ***Vestiaria*** Jarocki, 1821 Species: ***V. coccinea***

Binomial name: ***Vestiaria coccinea*** (Forster, 1780)

The **'Iiwi** (*Vestiaria coccinea*) or Scarlet Hawaiian Honeycreeper is a Hawaiian bird of the family Drepanididae, and the only member of the genus Vestiaria. One of the most plentiful species of this family, which includes many endangered or [extinct](#) species, the 'Iiwi is one of the most recognized animals and symbols of Hawai'i. It is found on all the main islands of Hawai'i, however since the 1800s its range has become far more restricted due to introduced species and diseases. Now the 'Iiwi can be found at higher elevations where native forest ecosystems still exist more or less intact and temperatures are generally too cool for mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. They are rare or absent at lower elevations, even where native forests are in good condition. The species has a very high mortality rate from avian malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*): in a series of challenge experiments, more than half the birds died from a single infected mosquito-bite.

It is mainly red in color, with a long curved red bill, which it uses to drink nectar. The wings and tail are black. The feathers were highly prized by Hawaiian ali'i (nobles) for use in decorating 'ahu'ula (capes) and mahiole (helmets).

Although the long bill of the 'Iiwi apparently evolved for feeding on nectar in long curved flowers, they now depend on nectar from 'ohi'a trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), which have tiny flowers. 'Iiwi bill size has apparently shrunk in the past 100 years due to this change in food supply.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Vestiaria coccinea](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes a brief justification of why this species is near threatened

Emberizidae

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: **Emberizidae** Vigors, 1831

The **Emberizidae** are a large family of [passerine birds](#).

They are seed-eating [birds](#) with a distinctively shaped bill. In Europe, most species are named as [buntings](#).

The Emberizidae family probably originated in South America and spread first into North America before crossing into eastern Asia and continuing to move west. This explains the paucity of emberizid species in Europe and Africa when compared to the Americas.

In North America, most of the species in this family are known as **Sparrows**, but these birds are not closely related to the Old World [sparrows](#) which are in the family [Passeridae](#). The family also includes the North American birds known as [juncos](#) and towhees.

Their habits are similar to those of [finches](#), with which they sometimes used to be grouped. Older sources may place some emberizids in the [Fringillidae](#), and the common names of some emberizids still refer to them as finches. Many emberizid species have distinctive head patterns.

- [1 Species in taxonomic order](#)
 - [1.1 The buntings](#)
 - [1.2 The sierra finches](#)
 - [1.3 The Inca finches](#)
 - [1.4 The warbling finches](#)
 - [1.5 The seedeaters](#)
 - [1.6 The Flowerpiercers](#)
 - [1.7 The yellow finches](#)
 - [1.8 The brush finches](#)
 - [1.9 The American sparrows, including juncos and towhees](#)
 - [1.10 Longspurs](#)
 - 1.11 The ground finches
 - [1.12 The tree finches](#)

Species in taxonomic order

The buntings

- Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathami*
Slaty Bunting, *Latoucheornis siemsseni*
Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*

Pine Bunting, *Emberiza leucocephalos*
 Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
 Tibetan Bunting, *Emberiza koslowi*
 Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia*
 Godlewski's Bunting, *Emberiza godlewskii*
 Meadow Bunting, *Emberiza cioides*
 Rufous-backed Bunting, *Emberiza jankowskii*
 Grey-hooded Bunting, *Emberiza buchanani*
 Cinereous Bunting, *Emberiza cineracea*
 Ortolan Bunting, *Emberiza hortulana*
 Chestnut-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza stewarti*
 Cretzschmar's Bunting, *Emberiza caesia*
 House Bunting, *Emberiza striolata*
 Lark-like Bunting, *Emberiza impetuani*
 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza tahapisi*
 Socotra Bunting, *Emberiza socotrana*
 Cape Bunting, *Emberiza capensis*
 Ochre-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza yessoensis*
 Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami*
 Chestnut-eared Bunting, *Emberiza fucata*
 Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*
 Yellow-browed Bunting, *Emberiza chrysophrys*
 Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*
 Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans*
 Yellow-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza aureola*
 Golden-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza flaviventris*
 Somali Bunting, *Emberiza poliopleura*
 Brown-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza affinis*
 Cabanis' Bunting, *Emberiza cabanisi*
 Chestnut Bunting, *Emberiza rutila*
 Black-headed Bunting, *Emberiza melanocephala*
 Red-headed Bunting, *Emberiza bruniceps*
 Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza sulphurata*
 Black-faced Bunting, *Emberiza spodocephala*
 Grey Bunting, *Emberiza variabilis*
 Pallas' Reed Bunting, *Emberiza pallasi*
 Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*
 Corn Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*
 Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*
 McKay's Bunting, *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*
 Przevalski's Rosefinch, *Urocynchramus pylzowi*
 Coal-crested Finch, *Charitospiza eucosma*
 Black-masked Finch, *Coryphaspiza melanotis*
 Many-colored Chaco Finch, *Saltatricula multicolor*
 Pileated Finch, *Coryphospingus pileatus*

Red-crested Finch, *Coryphospingus cucullatus*
Crimson-breasted Finch, *Rhodospingus cruentus*

The sierra finches

- Black-hooded Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus atriceps*
Peruvian Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus punensis*
Gray-hooded Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus gayi*
Patagonian Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus patagonicus*
Mourning Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus fruticeti*
Plumbeous Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus unicolor*
Red-backed Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus dorsalis*
White-throated Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus erythronotus*
Carbonated Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus carbonarius*
Band-tailed Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus alaudinus*
Ash-breasted Sierra Finch, *Phrygilus plebejus*
Canary-winged Finch, *Melanodera melanodera*
Yellow-bridled Finch, *Melanodera xanthogramma*
Black-crested Finch, *Lophospingus pusillus*
Gray-crested Finch, *Lophospingus griseocristatus*
Long-tailed Reed Finch, *Donacospiza albifrons*
Gough Island Finch, *Rowettia goughensis*
Nightingale Finch, *Nesospiza acunhae*
Wilkins' Finch, *Nesospiza wilkinsi*
White-winged Diuca Finch, *Diuca speculifera*
Common Diuca Finch, *Diuca diuca*
Short-tailed Finch, *Idiopsar brachyurus*
Cinereous Finch, *Piezorhina cinerea*
Slender-billed Finch, *Xenospingus concolor*

The Inca finches

- Great Inca Finch, *Incapiza pulchra*
Rufous-backed Inca Finch, *Incapiza personata*
Gray-winged Inca Finch, *Incapiza ortizi*
Buff-bridled Inca Finch, *Incapiza laeta*
Little Inca Finch, *Incapiza watkinsi*

The warbling finches

- Bay-chested Warbling Finch, *Poospiza thoracica*
Bolivian Warbling Finch, *Poospiza boliviana*
Plain-tailed Warbling Finch, *Poospiza alticola*
Rufous-sided Warbling Finch, *Poospiza hypochondria*
Cinnamon Warbling Finch, *Poospiza ornata*
Rusty-browed Warbling Finch, *Poospiza erythrophrys*
Black-and-rufous Warbling Finch, *Poospiza nigrorufa*
Black-and-chestnut Warbling Finch, *Poospiza whitii*
Red-rumped Warbling Finch, *Poospiza lateralis*
Rufous-breasted Warbling Finch, *Poospiza rubecula*
Cochabamba Mountain Finch, *Poospiza garleppi*
Tucuman Mountain Finch, *Poospiza baeri*
Chestnut-breasted Mountain Finch, *Poospiza caesar*
Collared Warbling Finch, *Poospiza hispaniolensis*
Ringed Warbling Finch, *Poospiza torquata*
Black-capped Warbling Finch, *Poospiza melanoleuca*
Cinereous Warbling Finch, *Poospiza cinerea*
Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*

The seedeaters

- Buffy-fronted Seed eater, *Sporophila frontalis*
Temminck's Seed eater, *Sporophila falcirostris*
Slate-colored Seed eater, *Sporophila schistacea*
Plumbeous Seed eater, *Sporophila plumbea*
Caqueta Seed eater, *Sporophila murallae*
Gray Seed eater, *Sporophila intermedia*
Wing-barred Seed eater, *Sporophila americana*
Variable Seed eater, *Sporophila corvina*
White-collared Seed eater, *Sporophila torqueola*
Rusty-collared Seed eater, *Sporophila collaris*
Lesson's Seed eater, *Sporophila bouvronides*
Lined Seed eater, *Sporophila lineola*
Black-and-white Seed eater, *Sporophila luctuosa*
Yellow-bellied Seed eater, *Sporophila nigricollis*
Dubois' Seed eater, *Sporophila ardesiaca*
Hooded Seed eater, *Sporophila melanops*
Double-collared Seed eater, *Sporophila caerulescens*
White-throated Seed eater, *Sporophila albogularis*
Drab Seed eater, *Sporophila simplex*
White-bellied Seed eater, *Sporophila leucoptera*

Parrot-billed Seedeater, *Sporophila peruviana*
 Black-and-tawny Seedeater, *Sporophila nigrorufa*
 Capped Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvreuil*
 Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta*
 Tawny-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila hypoxantha*
 Dark-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila ruficollis*
 Marsh Seedeater, *Sporophila palustris*
 Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*
 Gray-and-chestnut Seedeater, *Sporophila hypochroma*
 Chestnut Seedeater, *Sporophila cinnamomea*
 Narosky's Seedeater, *Sporophila zelichi*
 Black-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila melanogaster*
 Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*
 Tumaco Seedeater, *Sporophila insulata*
 Band-tailed Seedeater, *Catamenia analis*
 Plain-colored Seedeater, *Catamenia inornata*
 Paramo Seedeater, *Catamenia homochroa*
 Blackish-blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza moesta*
 Blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza concolor*
 Slate-blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza relicta*
 Carrizal Seedeater, *Amaurospiza carrizalensis*
 Nicaraguan Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus nuttingi*
 Large-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus crassirostris*
 Black-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus atrirostris*
 Great-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus maximiliani*
 Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*
 Thick-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus funereus*
 White-naped Seedeater, *Dolospingus fringilloides*
 Cuban Bullfinch, *Melopyrrha nigra*
 Dull-colored Grassquit, *Tiaris obscura*
 Cuban Grassquit, *Tiaris canora*
 Yellow-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris olivacea*
 Black-faced Grassquit, *Tiaris bicolor*
 Sooty Grassquit, *Tiaris fuliginosa*
 Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, *Loxipasser anoxanthus*
 Orangequit, *Euneornis campestris*
 St. Lucia Black Finch, *Melanospiza richardsoni*
 Puerto Rican Bullfinch, *Loxigilla portoricensis*
 Greater Antillean Bullfinch, *Loxigilla violacea*
 Lesser Antillean Bullfinch, *Loxigilla noctis*
 Cocos Island Finch, *Pinaroloxias inornata*
 Slaty Finch, *Haplospiza rustica*
 Uniform Finch, *Haplospiza unicolor*
 Peg-billed Finch, *Acanthidops bairdii*

The Flowerpiercers

- Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa baritula*
Slaty Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa plumbea*
Rusty Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa sittoides*
Venezuelan Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa venezuelensis*
Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa gloriosissima*
White-sided Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa albilatera*
Glossy Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa lafresnayii*
Moustached Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa mystacalis*
Merida Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa gloriosa*
Black Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa humeralis*
Black-throated Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa brunneiventris*
Gray-bellied Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa carbonaria*
Scaled Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa duida*
Greater Flowerpiercer, *Diglossa major*
Indigo Flowerpiercer, *Diglossopsis indigotica*
Deep-blue Flowerpiercer, *Diglossopsis glauca*
Bluish Flowerpiercer, *Diglossopsis caerulescens*
Masked Flowerpiercer, *Diglossopsis cyanea*

The yellow finches

- Puna Yellow Finch, *Sicalis lutea*
Saffron Finch, *Sicalis flaveola*
Grassland Yellow Finch, *Sicalis luteola*
Stripe-tailed Yellow Finch, *Sicalis citrina*
Bright-rumped Yellow Finch, *Sicalis uropygialis*
Citron-headed Yellow Finch, *Sicalis luteocephala*
Greater Yellow Finch, *Sicalis auriventris*
Greenish Yellow Finch, *Sicalis olivascens*
Patagonian Yellow Finch, *Sicalis lebruni*
Orange-fronted Yellow Finch, *Sicalis columbiana*
Raimondi's Yellow Finch, *Sicalis raimondii*
Sulphur-throated Finch, *Sicalis taczanowskii*
Wedge-tailed Grass Finch, *Emberizoides herbicola*
Duida Grass Finch, *Emberizoides duidae*
Lesser Grass Finch, *Emberizoides ypiranganus*
Pale-throated Serra Finch, *Embernagra longicauda*
Great Pampa Finch, *Embernagra platensis*
Yellow Cardinal, *Gubernatrix cristata*
Red-crested Cardinal, *Paroaria coronata*
Red-cowled Cardinal, *Paroaria dominicana*

Red-capped Cardinal, *Paroaria gularis*
Crimson-fronted Cardinal, *Paroaria baeri*
Yellow-billed Cardinal, *Paroaria capitata*
Sooty-faced Finch, *Lysurus crassirostris*
Olive Finch, *Lysurus castaneiceps*
Yellow-thighed Finch, *Pselliophorus tibialis*
Yellow-green Finch, *Pselliophorus luteoviridis*
Large-footed Finch, *Pezopetes capitalis*

The brush finches

- White-naped Brush Finch, *Atlapetes albinucha*
Pale-naped Brush Finch, *Atlapetes pallidinucha*
Rufous-naped Brush Finch, *Atlapetes rufinucha*
Yellow-breasted Brush Finch, *Atlapetes latinuchus*
Yariguies Brush Finch, *Atlapetes latinuchus yariguierum*
White-rimmed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes leucopis*
Rufous-capped Brush Finch, *Atlapetes pileatus*
Santa Marta Brush Finch, *Atlapetes melanocephalus*
Olive-headed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes flaviceps*
Dusky-headed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes fuscoolivaceus*
Tricolored Brush Finch, *Atlapetes tricolor*
Moustached Brush Finch, *Atlapetes albofrenatus*
Slaty Brush Finch, *Atlapetes schistaceus*
Bay-crowned Brush Finch, *Atlapetes seebohmi*
Rusty-bellied Brush Finch, *Atlapetes nationi*
White-winged Brush Finch, *Atlapetes leucopterus*
White-headed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes albiceps*
Pale-headed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes pallidiceps*
Rufous-eared Brush Finch, *Atlapetes rufigenis*
Black-spectacled Brush Finch, *Atlapetes melanops*
Ochre-breasted Brush Finch, *Atlapetes semirufus*
Fulvous-headed Brush Finch, *Atlapetes fulviceps*
Tepui Brush Finch, *Atlapetes personatus*
Yellow-striped Brush Finch, *Atlapetes citrinellus*
Chestnut-capped Brush Finch, *Buarremon brunneinucha*
Green-striped Brush Finch, *Buarremon virenticeps*
Stripe-headed Brush Finch, *Buarremon torquatus*

The American sparrows, including [juncos](#) and towhees

- Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantirostris*
- Pectoral Sparrow, *Arremon taciturnus*
- Half-collared Sparrow, *Arremon semitorquatus*
- Golden-winged Sparrow, *Arremon schlegeli*
- Black-capped Sparrow, *Arremon abeillei*
- Saffron-billed Sparrow, *Arremon flavirostris*
- Olive Sparrow, *Arremonops rufivirgatus*
- Tocuyo Sparrow, *Arremonops tocuyensis*
- Green-backed Sparrow, *Arremonops chloronotus*
- Black-striped Sparrow, *Arremonops conirostris*
- Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow, *Melospiza kieneri*
- Prevost's Ground-Sparrow, *Melospiza biarcuatum*
- White-eared Ground-Sparrow, *Melospiza leucotis*
- Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus*
- Collared Towhee, *Pipilo ocai*
- Socorro Towhee, *Pipilo socorroensis*
- Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
- Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*
- California Towhee, *Pipilo crissalis*
- Canyon Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus*
- Abert's Towhee, *Pipilo aberti*
- White-throated Towhee, *Pipilo albicollis*
- Bridled Sparrow, *Aimophila mystacalis*
- Black-chested Sparrow, *Aimophila humeralis*
- Stripe-headed Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficauda*
- Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow, *Aimophila sumichrasti*
- Stripe-capped Sparrow, *Aimophila strigiceps*
- Tumbes Sparrow, *Aimophila stolzmanni*
- Bachman's Sparrow, *Aimophila aestivalis*
- Botteri's Sparrow, *Aimophila botterii*
- Cassin's Sparrow, *Aimophila cassinii*
- Rufous-crowned Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps*
- Rufous-winged Sparrow, *Aimophila carpalis*
- Five-striped Sparrow, *Aimophila quinquestriata*
- Oaxaca Sparrow, *Aimophila notosticta*
- Rusty Sparrow, *Aimophila rufescens*
- Striped Sparrow, *Oriturus superciliosus*
- Zapata Sparrow, *Torreornis inexpectata*
- American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*
- Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*
- Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*
- Brewer's Sparrow, *Spizella breweri*

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*
Worthen's Sparrow, *Spizella wortheni*
Black-chinned Sparrow, *Spizella atrogularis*
Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus*
Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*
Black-throated Sparrow, *Amphispiza bilineata*
Sage Sparrow, *Amphispiza belli*
Lark Bunting, *Calamospiza melanocorys*
Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*
Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus*
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus nelsoni*
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*
Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii*
Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*
Baird's Sparrow, *Ammodramus bairdii*
Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*
Grassland Sparrow, *Ammodramus humeralis*
Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*
Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*
Sierra Madre Sparrow, *Xenospiza baileyi*
Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*
Lincoln's Sparrow, *Melospiza lincolnii*
Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*
White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*
Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*
Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*
Yellow-eyed Junco, *Junco phaeonotus*
Guadalupe Junco, *Junco insularis*
Volcano Junco, *Junco vulcani*

Longspurs

- McCown's Longspur, *Calcarius mccownii*
Lapland Longspur, or Lapland Bunting, *Calcarius lapponicus*
Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*
Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*

The ground finches

- Large Ground Finch, *Geospiza magnirostris*
Medium Ground Finch, *Geospiza fortis*
Small Ground Finch, *Geospiza fuliginosa*
Sharp-beaked Ground Finch, *Geospiza difficilis*
Common Cactus Finch, *Geospiza scandens*
Large Cactus Finch, *Geospiza conirostris*

The tree finches

- Vegetarian Finch, *Camarhynchus crassirostris*
Mangrove Finch, *Camarhynchus heliobates*
Large Tree Finch, *Camarhynchus psittacula*
Small Tree Finch, *Camarhynchus parvulus*
Medium Tree Finch, *Camarhynchus pauper*
Woodpecker Finch, *Camarhynchus pallidus*
Warbler Finch, *Certhidea olivacea*

Ammodramus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genus: **Ammodramus** Swainson, 1827 Species: See text.

Synonyms: *Passerherbulus* Maynard, 1895

The genus **Ammodramus** is a group of American sparrows in the family *Emberizidae*.

These birds are relatively small, with large bills, flat heads and short tails. They are usually found in grasslands or marshes and are often fairly inconspicuous. Most of their songs are insect-like.

Many of these bird species have declined in numbers due to habitat loss.

The full list of species is:

- Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus*
 - Dusky Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens* (extinct, 1987)
 - Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, *Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus nelsoni*
 - Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacutus*
 - Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii*
 - Henslow's Sparrow, *Ammodramus henslowii*
 - Baird's Sparrow, *Ammodramus bairdii*
 - Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*
 - Grassland Sparrow, *Ammodramus humeralis*
 - Yellow-browed Sparrow, *Ammodramus aurifrons*

Calamospiza

Lark Bunting

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Emberizidae

Genus: *Calamospiza*

Species: *C. melanocorys*

Binomial name: *Calamospiza melanocorys* Stejneger, 1885

The **Lark Bunting**, *Calamospiza melanocorys*, is a medium-sized sparrow. It is the only member of the genus *Calamospiza* (Bonaparte, 1838).

These birds have a large pale bill and a pale wing patch. Adult males in breeding plumage are black except for their white wing patch. Other birds are more sparrow-like in appearance; they have dark brown upperparts and white underparts, with streaking on the back, breast and flanks. The wings are dark with brown edges.

Their breeding habitat is prairie regions in central Canada and the mid-western United States. The nest is an open cup on the ground in a grassy area.

These birds [migrate](#) in flocks to southern Texas and Mexico.

They forage on the ground, mainly eating insects in summer and seeds in winter; they sometimes take short flights in pursuit of insects. Outside of the nesting season, they often feed in flocks.

These birds nest in dispersed colonies. Males fly up over their territory and sing while descending to declare ownership of a nesting territory. The song consists of a mix of whistles and trills. The call is a soft *hoo*.

This bird's numbers have decreased with the loss of natural prairie habitat.

This is the state bird of Colorado.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Calamospiza melanocorys](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Calcarius

Longspurs

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genus: ***Calcarius*** Bechstein, 1802 Species: See text.

The **Longspurs**, [genus](#) ***Calcarius***, are a group of [birds](#) in the family [Emberizidae](#). The name refers to the long claw on the hind toe of each foot.

These are chunky ground-feeding birds with long wings which are usually seen in open areas. Males declare ownership of a territory by singing during short flights over it. The male's breeding [plumage](#) is much brighter than his winter plumage. These birds gather in large flocks in winter. The longspurs are all found in North America; the Lapland Longspur, or **Lapland Bunting**, is also found in Europe and Asia.

The full list of species is:

- McCown's Longspur, *Calcarius mccownii*
Lapland Longspur, or Lapland Bunting, *Calcarius lapponicus*
Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*
Chestnut-collared Longspur, *Calcarius ornatus*

Chondestes

Lark Sparrow

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Emberizidae

Genus: ***Chondestes*** Swainson, 1827 Species: ***C. grammacus***

Binomial name: ***Chondestes grammacus*** (Say, 1823)

The **Lark Sparrow**, *Chondestes grammacus*, is a fairly large sparrow. It is the only member of the genus *Chondestes*.

This [passerine bird](#) breeds in southern Canada, much of the USA, and northern Mexico. It is much less common in the east, where its range is contracting. The populations in Mexico and adjacent USA states are resident, but other birds are [migratory](#), wintering in the southern United States, Mexico and south to Guatemala.

It is a very common vagrant to western Europe, with two accepted records in Great Britain in 1981 and 1991.

Lark Sparrow is distinctive. Adults have a typically sparrow-like dark-streaked brown back, and white underparts except for a dark central spot. The cheeks and crown sides are chestnut, with white eyebrow and crown stripes. The dark tail's corners are also white.

Young Lark Sparrows are duller, and the underparts are streaked.

The breeding habitat is a variety of open habitats including grasslands and cultivation. Lark Sparrows nest on the ground, laying 3-6 eggs in a grass cup nest sheltered by a clump of grass or other vegetation. The eggs are white with black scrawling.

These birds forage on the ground or in low bushes. They mainly eat seeds, but insects, including grasshoppers are also eaten in the breeding season. They form flocks on migration or in winter.

The song is two clear notes followed by a mixture of buzzes and trills. The flight call is a thin *sit*.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Chondestes grammacus](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- *Buntings and Sparrows* by Byers, Olsson and Curson, ISBN 0-7470-3202-5

Emberiza

Buntings

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genera: *Melophus*, *Latoucheornis*, *Emberiza*, *Plectrophenax*

Buntings are a group of mainly European [passerine birds](#) of the [family Emberizidae](#).

They are seed-eating [birds](#) with stubby, conical bills, and are the Old World equivalents of the [species](#) known in North America as sparrows. (However, these birds are not closely related to the Old World [sparrows](#) which are in the family Passeridae.)

Their habits are similar to those of [finches](#), with which they sometimes used to be grouped. Some emberizids are still named "finches". Similarly, there are a few species named "buntings" which are now classed in the [cardinal](#) family, like the Painted Bunting and Indigo Bunting.

Bunting species are:

- **Family: Emberizidae**

- Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathamii*
- Slaty Bunting, *Latoucheornis siemsseni*
- Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*
- Pine Bunting, *Emberiza leucocephalos*
- Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
- Tibetan Bunting, *Emberiza koslowi*
- Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia*
- Godlewski's Bunting, *Emberiza godlewskii*
- Meadow Bunting, *Emberiza cioides*
- Rufous-backed Bunting, *Emberiza jankowskii*
- Grey-hooded Bunting, *Emberiza buehleri*
- Cinereous Bunting, *Emberiza cineracea*
- Ortolan Bunting, *Emberiza hortulana*
- Chestnut-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza stewarti*
- Cretzschmar's Bunting, *Emberiza caesia*
- House Bunting, *Emberiza striolata*
- Lark-like Bunting, *Emberiza impetuum*
- Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza tahapisi*
- Socotra Bunting, *Emberiza socotrana*
- Cape Bunting, *Emberiza capensis*
- Ochre-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza yessoensis*
- Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami*
- Chestnut-eared Bunting, *Emberiza fucata*
- Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*
- Yellow-browed Bunting, *Emberiza chrysophrys*

- Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*
- Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans*
- Yellow-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza aureola*
- Golden-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza flaviventris*
- Somali Bunting, *Emberiza poliopleura*
- Brown-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza affinis*
- Cabanis' Bunting, *Emberiza cabanisi*
- Chestnut Bunting, *Emberiza rutila*
- Black-headed Bunting, *Emberiza melanocephala*
- Red-headed Bunting, *Emberiza bruniceps*
- Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza sulphurata*
- Black-faced Bunting, *Emberiza spodocephala*
- Grey Bunting, *Emberiza variabilis*
- Pallas' Reed Bunting, *Emberiza pallasii*
- Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*
- Corn Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*
- Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*
- McKay's Bunting, *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*

The **Lark Bunting**, *Calamospiza melanocorys* is an American sparrow.

The **Lapland Bunting**, *Calcarius lapponicus*, is also known as Lapland Longspur, and is considered under [longspurs](#).

Geospizini

Darwin's Finches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genera: *Geospiza*, *Camarhynchus*, *Certhidea*, *Pinaroloxias*

Darwin's finches (also known as the **Galápagos Finches**) are 13 or 14 different but closely related [species](#) of [finches](#) Charles Darwin collected on the Galápagos Islands during the Voyage of the Beagle. 13 reside on the Galápagos Islands and one on the Cocos Islands.

The birds are all about the same size (10–20 cm). The most important differences between species are in the size and shape of their beaks, and the beaks are highly adapted to different food sources. The birds are all brownish or black. Their behaviour differs, and they have different song melodies.

- [1 The finches and Darwin's theory](#)
- [2 The finch species](#)
- [3 Text from the Voyage of the Beagle](#)
- [4 Reference](#)

The finches and Darwin's theory

Although these birds were to play an important part in the inception of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection, at the time of the survey voyage of HMS Beagle Darwin had no idea of their significance. It is often assumed that when he saw the finches on the islands this inspired the theory, but this is *not* true: Darwin believed that they were not closely related when he encountered them; indeed he thought that most of these birds were not finches at all (Sulloway 1982).

Following his return from the voyage, Darwin presented the finches to the Geological Society of London at their meeting on 4 January 1837, along with other mammal and bird specimens he had collected. The bird specimens, including the finches, were given to John Gould, the famous English ornithologist, for identification. Gould set aside his paying work and at the next meeting on 10 January reported that birds from the Galápagos Islands which Darwin had thought were blackbirds, "gross-bills" and finches were in fact "a series of ground Finches which are so peculiar" as to form "an entirely new group, containing 12 species." This story made the newspapers. In March Darwin met Gould again, learning that his Galápagos "wren" was another species of finch and the mockingbirds he had labelled by island were separate species rather than just varieties, with relatives on the South American mainland. Darwin had not bothered to label his finches by island, but others on the expedition had taken more care. He now sought specimens collected by Captain Robert FitzRoy and crewmen. From them he was able to establish that the species were uniquely

related to individual islands, giving him the idea that somehow in this geographical isolation these different species could have been formed from a small number of common ancestors so that each was modified to suit "different ends".

The term *Darwin's Finches* was first applied in 1936, and popularized in 1947 by David Lack. Later, Peter and Rosemary Grant conducted extensive research in documenting evolutionary change among the finches. Beginning in 1973, the pair spent many years tracking thousands of individual finches across several generations, showing how individual species changed in response to environmental changes. *The Beak of the Finch* by Jonathan Weiner is a book about the finches, highlighting the Grants' research.

The finch species

- Genus *Geospiza*
 - Large Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza conirostris*)
 - Sharp-beaked Ground-Finch (*Geospiza difficilis*)
 - Medium Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fortis*)
 - Small Ground-Finch (*Geospiza fuliginosa*)
 - Large Ground-Finch (*Geospiza magnirostris*)
 - Common Cactus-Finch (*Geospiza scandens*)
- Genus *Camarhynchus*
 - Vegetarian Finch (*Camarhynchus crassirostris* syn. *Platyspiza crassirostris*)
 - Large Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus psittacula*)
 - Medium Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus pauper*)
 - Small Tree-Finch (*Camarhynchus parvulus*)
 - Woodpecker Finch (*Camarhynchus pallidus*)
 - Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*)
- Genus *Certhidea*
 - Warbler Finch (*Certhidea olivacea*)
- Genus *Pinaroloxias*
 - Cocos Island Finch (*Pinaroloxias inornata*)

Text from the Voyage of the Beagle

The passage in chapter 17 in *The Voyage of the Beagle* in which Darwin describes the finches and surmises that they may have shared a common ancestor is shown below. This was written in the months after Gould had revealed that the birds which Darwin had thought to be unrelated were different species of finches.

The remaining land-birds form a most singular group of finches, related to each other in the structure of their beaks, short tails, form of body and plumage: there are thirteen species, which Mr. Gould has divided into four subgroups. All these species are peculiar to this archipelago; and so is the whole group, with the exception of one species of the sub-group Cactornis, lately brought from Bow Island, in the Low Archipelago. Of Cactornis, the two

species may be often seen climbing about the flowers of the great cactus- trees; but all the other species of this group of finches, mingled together in flocks, feed on the dry and sterile ground of the lower districts. The males of all, or certainly of the greater number, are jet black; and the females (with perhaps one or two exceptions) are brown. The most curious fact is the perfect gradation in the size of the beaks in the different species of Geospiza, from one as large as that of a hawfinch to that of a chaffinch, and (if Mr. Gould is right in including his sub-group, Certhidea, in the main group) even to that of a warbler. The largest beak in the genus Geospiza is shown in Fig. 1, and the smallest in Fig. 3; but instead of there being only one intermediate species, with a beak of the size shown in Fig. 2, there are no less than six species with insensibly graduated beaks. The beak of the sub-group Certhidea, is shown in Fig. 4. The beak of Cactornis is somewhat like that of a starling, and that of the fourth subgroup, Camarhynchus, is slightly parrot-shaped. Seeing this gradation and diversity of structure in one small, intimately related group of birds, one might really fancy that from an original paucity of birds in this archipelago, one species had been taken and modified for different ends. In a like manner it might be fancied that a bird originally a buzzard, had been induced here to undertake the office of the carrion-feeding Polybori of the American continent.

"Mr. Gould" (above) refers to John Gould, the famous English ornithologist.

Reference

- Adrian Desmond and James Moore, *Darwin* (London: Michael Joseph, the Penguin Group, 1991). ISBN 0-7181-3430-3

Juncos

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Emberizidae](#)
Genus: ***Junco***

The **Juncos**, genus *Junco*, comprise three to eight species of small American sparrow.

- **Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*). North America, in Canada and much of the United States. Five major races or groups of races, sometimes treated as species:
 - Slate-colored Junco (*J. h. hyemalis*). North America in taiga forests from Alaska to Newfoundland and south to the Appalachian Mountains, wintering further south.
White-winged Junco (*J. h. aikenii*). In the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, United States.
 - Oregon Junco (*J. h. oregonus*). The Pacific coast mountains from southeastern Alaska to California.
 - Pink-sided Junco (*J. h. mearnsi*). Northern Rocky Mountains from southern Alberta to Idaho and Wyoming.
 - Gray-headed Junco (*J. h. caniceps*). Southern Rocky Mountains from Colorado to central Arizona.
- **Guadalupe Junco** (*Junco insularis*, often treated as a race of *J. hyemalis*). Guadalupe Island off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico; now rare and endangered.
- **Yellow-eyed Junco** (*Junco phaeonotus*). High mountains of Mexico, Guatemala, southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Three major races or groups of races:
 - Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus phaeonotus*). High mountains of Mexico, southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.
 - Guatemala Junco (*Junco phaeonotus alticola*). High mountains of Chiapas (southeast Mexico) and Guatemala.
 - Baird's Junco (*Junco p. bairdi*). High mountains of Baja California Sur
- **Volcano Junco** (*Junco vulcani*). High mountains of Costa Rica and Panama.

Their breeding habitat is coniferous or mixed forest areas throughout North America, ranging from subarctic taiga to high altitude mountain forests in Mexico and Central America. They usually nest in a well-hidden location on the ground or low in a shrub or tree. Northern birds [migrate](#) farther south; southern populations are permanent residents or altitudinal migrants, moving only a short distance downslope to avoid severe winter weather in the mountains.

These birds forage on the ground. In winter, they often forage in flocks. They mainly eat insects and seeds.

"Junco" is the Spanish word for rush (the plant), though these birds are seldom found in rushes.

Passerculus

Savannah Sparrow

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genus: ***Passerculus***

Species: ***P. sandwichensis***

Binomial name: ***Passerculus sandwichensis*** (Gmelin, 1789) Subspecies: *see article text*

The **Savannah Sparrow**, *Passerculus sandwichensis*, is a small sparrow. It is the only member of the genus *Passerculus* (Bonaparte, 1838).

This [passerine bird](#) breeds in Alaska, Canada, northern, central and Pacific coastal USA, Mexico and Guatemala. The Pacific and Mexican breeders are resident, but other populations are migratory, wintering from the southern United States to northern South America. It is a very rare vagrant to western Europe.

Savannah Sparrow is a very variable species, with numerous races, several of which have been split as separate species at various times. The different forms vary principally in the darkness of the plumage, with Alaskan and interior races the palest, and southern Pacific coastal forms the darkest.

This species has a typically sparrow-like dark-streaked brown back, and whitish underparts with brown or blackish breast and flank streaking. It has yellowish or whitish crown and eyebrow stripes. The cheeks are brown and the throat white.

The breeding habitat is a wide variety of open habitats including grasslands and cultivation. Savannah Sparrows nest on the ground, laying 3-6 eggs in a cup nest sheltered by a clump of grass or other vegetation. They form flocks in the winter to migrate.

These birds forage on the ground or in low bushes. They mainly eat seeds, but insects are also eaten in the breeding season. The song is mixture of *chips* and trills. The flight call is a thin *seep*.

This bird was named after Savannah, Georgia where one of the first specimens of this bird was collected.

Although this bird is generally abundant across its range, some coastal populations depending on salt marsh habitat are declining.

Subspecies

Seventeen subspecies are currently recognized. One was formerly considered a distinct species. Four additional subspecies are not generally accepted. The subspecies are usually divided into several groups:

- The Savannah Sparrows proper (migratory):
 - *P. s. labradorius*, breeds in Newfoundland, Labrador, and N Quebec
 - *P. s. oblitus*, breeds in N Ontario and Manitoba

- *P. s. savanna* (**Eastern Savannah Sparrow**), breeds in the NE USA and adjacent Canada (includes *P. s. mediogriseus*)
- *P. s. sandwichensis* (**Aleutian Savannah Sparrow**), breeds on the Aleutian Islands and W Alaskan Peninsula
- *P. s. anthinus*, breeds in the remainder of Alaska, south and east to central British Columbia and north of the Great Plains to Manitoba
- *P. s. brooksi* (**Dwarf Savannah Sparrow**), breeds in southernmost British Columbia to northernmost California
- *P. s. alaudinus*, breeds in coastal northern and central California
- *P. s. nevadensis*, breeds in the N Great Plains and the Great Basin
- *P. s. brunnescens*, breeds from central Mexico south to Guatemala (includes *P. s. rufofuscus*)

P. s. wetmorei is a doubtful subspecies which may breed in the mountains of Guatemala. It is known from only 5 specimens, collected June 11-17, 1897, in Huehuetenango Department.

- The **Ipswich Sparrow** (formerly considered a distinct species, some post-breeding dispersal)
 - *P. s. princeps*, breeds almost exclusively on Sable Island
- The Large-billed Savannah Sparrows:
 - *P. s. rostratus*, which breed on the Gulf Coast of NE Baja California and NW Sonora (some post-breeding dispersal; has distinct mtDNA genotypes)
 - *P. s. atratus*, resident on the coast of central Sonora to central Sinaloa (resident)
- The Belding's Savannah Sparrows (resident):
 - *P. s. beldingi*, resident on the Pacific Coast from Morro Bay, California, to El Rosario, Baja California (includes *P. s. bryanti*)
 - *P. s. anulus*, resident around Sebastián Vizcaíno Bay, Baja California
 - *P. s. guttatus*, resident around San Ignacio Lagoon
 - *P. s. magdalenae*, resident around Magdalena Bay
 - The **San Benito Savannah Sparrow** (resident)
 - *P. s. sanctorum*, Islas San Benitos

The Savannah Sparrows proper are very similar and migrant birds can not usually be related to a breeding population with certainty. The resident or partially migratory subspecies are well distinguishable by size and, particularly between groups, coloration. The Ipswich Sparrow is somewhat larger and paler in colour than other eastern Savannah Sparrows. The breast streaks are narrower and pale brown. Some birds overwinter on the island; others migrate south along the Atlantic coast, usually departing later and returning sooner than mainland birds. Some birds interbreed with *P. s. savanna* in Nova Scotia. These birds frequently raise three broods in a year. This bird was first observed in winter on the dunes near the town of Ipswich, Massachusetts.

References

- **BirdLife International** (2004). [*Passerculus sandwichensis*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- **Byers**, Clive; Olsson, Urban & Curson, Jon (1995): *Sparrows and Buntings: A Guide to the Sparrows and Buntings of North America and the World*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. ISBN 0395738733

Passerella

Fox Sparrow

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Emberizidae

Genus: ***Passerella*** (Swainson, 1837) Species: ***P. iliaca***

Binomial name: ***Passerella iliaca*** (Merrem, 1786)

breeding ranges of the four Fox Sparrow groups

The **Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca*) is a large American sparrow. It is the only member of the genus *Passerella*, though some authors split the genus into four species (see below).

Adults are heavily spotted and streaked underneath. Plumage varies markedly from one subspecies group to another. More specific information regarding plumage is available in the accounts for the various subspecies groups.

Fox Sparrow's breeding habitat is wooded areas across northern Canada and the west coast of North America from Alaska to California. They nest either in a sheltered location on the ground or low in trees or shrubs.

These birds [migrate](#) south on the west coast and to the eastern United States.

These birds forage by scratching the ground, which makes them vulnerable to cats and other predators. They mainly eat seeds and insects, also some berries. Birds on the coast may also eat crustaceans.

Subspecies Groups

- Red Fox Sparrow (iliaca group)
 - Sooty Fox Sparrow (unalaschcensis group)
 - Slate-colored Fox Sparrow (schistacea group)
 - Thick-billed Fox Sparrow (megarhyncha group)

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Passerella iliaca](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
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- Sibley, D. A. (2000). *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. New York: Chanticleer Press, Inc.
- Zink, R. M. (1994). The Geography of Mitochondrial DNA Variation, Population Structure, hybridization, and Species Limits in the Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). *Evolution* 48: 96-111.

- Zink, R. M. & Kessen, A. E. (1999). Species Limits in the Fox Sparrow. *Birding* 31: 508-517.

Pipilo

Towhees

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

Genus: **Pipilo** Vieillot, 1816 Species: See text.

A **Towhee** is any one of a number of species of birds in the [genus](#) *Pipilo* within the family [Emberizidae](#) (which also includes the [buntings](#), American sparrows, and [juncos](#)).

Towhees typically have longer tails than other emberizids. Most species have rather skulking habits, so they are not well known, though the Eastern Towhee *P. erythrophthalmus* is bolder as well as more colorful. This species, and some others, frequent urban parks and gardens.

There has been considerable debate over the taxonomy of the towhees in recent years. Two species complexes have been identified, the rufous-sided complex (involving *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *P. maculatus*, *P. socorroensis*, *P. ocai* and *P. chlorurus*), and the brown towhee complex (involving *Pipilo crissalis*, *P. fuscus*, *P. aberti* and *P. albicollis*). The distinction of species within these is uncertain and opinions have differed over the years. Modern authorities distinguish all four species in the brown towhee complex, though *P. fuscus* and *P. crissalis* were formerly treated as a single species. Hybrids are frequent between some of the species, particularly between the Mexican races of *P. maculatus* ("Olive-backed Towhee", *P. maculatus macronyx*) and *P. ocai*.

Species list:

- Green-tailed Towhee, *Pipilo chlorurus*
- Collared Towhee, *Pipilo ocai*
- "Rufous-sided Towhee"--old name, now split into two species:
- Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
- Spotted Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus*
 - Olive-backed Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus macronyx*
- Socorro Towhee, *Pipilo socorroensis*
- "Brown Towhee"--old name, now split into two species:
- California Towhee, *Pipilo crissalis*
- Canyon Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus*
- Abert's Towhee, *Pipilo aberti*
- White-throated Towhee, *Pipilo albicollis*

References

- Zink, R. M., & Dittmann, D. L. (1991). *Evolution of brown towhees - mitochondrial-DNA evidence*. [Condor](#) **93**: 98-105.

Pooecetes

Vesper Sparrow

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Emberizidae

Genus: ***Pooecetes***

Species: ***P. gramineus***

Binomial name: ***Pooecetes gramineus*** (Gmelin, 1789)

The **Vesper Sparrow**, *Pooecetes gramineus*, is a medium-sized sparrow. It is the only member of the genus *Pooecetes* (Baird 1858).

Adults have light brown upperparts and light underparts, both with darker streaking. They have a white eye ring and a long dark brown tail which shows white outer feathers in flight.

Their breeding habitat is open grassy areas across most of North America. The nest is an open cup on the ground under a clump of grass.

These birds [migrate](#) to the southern and central United States and Mexico.

These birds forage on the ground, mainly eating insects and seeds. Outside of the nesting season, they often feed in small flocks.

The male sings from a higher perch, such as a shrub or fencepost, to indicate his ownership of the nesting territory. The musical song begins with two pairs of repeated whistled notes and ends in a series of trills, somewhat similar to that of the Song Sparrow.

This bird's numbers are declining in the eastern parts of its range due to habitat loss.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Pooecetes gramineus](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Seedeater

Emberizidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Emberizidae](#)

genera: *Sporophila*, *Oryzoborus*, *Amaurospiza*, *Dolospingus*, *Catamenia*

The **seedeaters** are a group of [passerine birds](#) in the [bunting](#) family Emberizidae.

They are seed-eating Central and South American birds with a distinctively conical bill.

Species in taxonomic order

The seedeaters

- Buffy-fronted Seedeater, *Sporophila frontalis*
Temminck's Seedeater, *Sporophila falcirostris*
Slate-colored Seedeater, *Sporophila schistacea*
Plumbeous Seedeater, *Sporophila plumbea*
Caqueta Seedeater, *Sporophila murallae*
Gray Seedeater, *Sporophila intermedia*
Wing-barred Seedeater, *Sporophila americana*
Variable Seedeater, *Sporophila corvina*
White-collared Seedeater, *Sporophila torqueola*
Rusty-collared Seedeater, *Sporophila collaris*
Lesson's Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvronides*
Lined Seedeater, *Sporophila lineola*
Black-and-white Seedeater, *Sporophila luctuosa*
Yellow-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila nigricollis*
Dubois' Seedeater, *Sporophila ardesiaca*
Hooded Seedeater, *Sporophila melanops*
Double-collared Seedeater, *Sporophila caerulescens*
White-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila albogularis*
Drab Seedeater, *Sporophila simplex*
White-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila leucoptera*
Parrot-billed Seedeater, *Sporophila peruviana*
Black-and-tawny Seedeater, *Sporophila nigrorufa*
Capped Seedeater, *Sporophila bouvreuil*
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, *Sporophila minuta*
Tawny-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila hypoxantha*
Dark-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila ruficollis*
Marsh Seedeater, *Sporophila palustris*
Chestnut-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila castaneiventris*

Gray-and-chestnut Seedeater, *Sporophila hypochroma*
Chestnut Seedeater, *Sporophila cinnamomea*
Narosky's Seedeater, *Sporophila zelichi*
Black-bellied Seedeater, *Sporophila melanogaster*
Chestnut-throated Seedeater, *Sporophila telasco*
Tumaco Seedeater, *Sporophila insulata*
Nicaraguan Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus nuttingi*
Large-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus crassirostris*
Black-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus atrirostris*
Great-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus maximiliani*
Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus angolensis*
Thick-billed Seed Finch, *Oryzoborus funereus*
Blackish-blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza moesta*
Blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza concolor*
Slate-blue Seedeater, *Amaurospiza relicta*
Carrizal Seedeater, *Amaurospiza carrizalensis*
White-naped Seedeater, *Dolospingus fringilloides*
Band-tailed Seedeater, *Catamenia analis*
Plain-colored Seedeater, *Catamenia inornata*
Paramo Seedeater, *Catamenia homochroa*

Spizella

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Emberizidae](#)
Genus: **Spizella**
Species: See text.

The genus **Spizella** (Bonaparte, 1832) is a group of American sparrows in the family *Emberizidae*.

These birds are relatively small and slim, with short bills, round heads and long wings. They are usually found in semi-open areas. Outside of the nesting season, they often forage in small mixed flocks.

The full list of species is:

- American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*
Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*
Clay-colored Sparrow, *Spizella pallida*
Brewer's Sparrow, *Spizella breweri*
Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*
Worthen's Sparrow, *Spizella wortheni*
Black-chinned Sparrow, *Spizella atrogularis*

Zonotrichia

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Emberizidae

Genus: **Zonotrichia** Swainson, 1832 species: *Z. leucophrys*, *Z. albicollis*, *Z. atricapilla*, *Z. capensis*, *Z. querula*

Zonotrichia is a small genus of American sparrows. Four of the species are North American, but the Rufous-collared Sparrow breeds in highlands from the extreme southeast of Mexico to Tierra del Fuego, and on Hispaniola.

The species are

- White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*
Rufous-collared Sparrow, *Zonotrichia capensis*
Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*

These birds have brown backs streaked with black, and distinctive head markings. Their cup nests, built by the female, are of plant material lined with fine grasses and constructed on the ground, low in a tree or bush, or in a niche in a wall.

The female lays brown-blotched greenish-blue or greenish white eggs, which she incubates for 12-14 days. The male helps in feeding the chicks.

Zonotrichia sparrows feed on the ground on seeds, fallen grain, insects and spiders.

References

- Byers, Olsson and Curson, *Buntings and Sparrows* ISBN1-873403-19-4
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica*, ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Estrildidae

Estrildid Finches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Estrildidae** Bonaparte, 1850 Genera: Many: see text

The **estrildid finches** are small [passerine birds](#) of the Old World tropics and Australasia. They can be classified as the [family Estrildidae](#) (weaver-finch) or as a sub-group within the family [Passeridae](#), which also includes the true sparrows.

They are gregarious and often colonial seed-eaters with short thick but pointed bills. They are all similar in structure and habits, but have a wide variation in plumage colours and pattern.

All the estrildids build large domed nests and lay 5-10 white eggs. Many species build roost nests Some of the fire-finches and pytilias are hosts to the brood parasitic [indigobirds](#) and [whydahs](#) respectively.

Most are sensitive to cold and require a warm, usually tropical, habitat, although a few have become adapted to the cooler climates of southern Australia.

Species list

- Antpeckers, genus *Parmoptila*
 - Jameson's Antpecker, *Parmoptila rubrifrons*
 - Woodhouse's Antpecker, *Parmoptila woodhousei*
- Negrofinches, genus *Nigrita*
 - White-breasted Negrofinch, *Nigrita fusconota*
 - Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch, *Nigrita bicolor*
 - Pale-fronted Negrofinch, *Nigrita luteifrons*
 - Grey-headed Negrofinch, *Nigrita canicapilla*
- Olivebacks, genus *Nesocharis*
 - White-collared Oliveback, *Nesocharis ansorgei*
 - Fernando Po Oliveback, *Nesocharis shelleyi*
 - Grey-headed Oliveback, *Nesocharis capistrata*
- Pytilias, genus *Pytilia*
 - Orange-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia afra*
 - Red-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia phoenicoptera*
 - Green-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia melba*
 - Red-faced Pytilia, *Pytilia hypogrammica*
- Green-backed Twinspot, *Mandingoa nitidula*
- Crimson-wings, genus *Cryptospiza*
 - Red-faced Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza reichenovii*
 - Abyssinian Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza salvadorii*

- Dusky Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza jacksoni*
- Shelley's Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza shelleyi*
- Seedcrackers, genus *Pyrenestes*
 - Crimson Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes sanguineus*
 - Black-bellied Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes ostrinus*
 - Lesser Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes minor*
- Bluebills, genus *Spermophaga*
 - Grant's Bluebill, *Spermophaga poliogenys*
 - Western Bluebill, *Spermophaga haematina*
 - Red-headed Bluebill, *Spermophaga ruficapilla*
- Twinspots, genera *Clytospiza*, *Hypargos*, *Euschistospiza*
 - Brown Twinspot, *Clytospiza monteiri*
 - Peters' Twinspot, *Hypargos niveoguttatus*
 - Pink-throated Twinspot, *Hypargos margaritatus*
 - Dybowski's Twinspot, *Euschistospiza dybowskii*
 - Dusky Twinspot, *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*
- Firefinches, genus *Lagonosticta*
 - Bar-breasted Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rufopicta*
 - Brown Firefinch, *Lagonosticta nitidula*
 - Red-billed Firefinch, *Lagonosticta senegala*
 - Black-bellied Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rara*
 - African Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rubricata*
 - Pale-billed Firefinch, *Lagonosticta landanae*
 - Jameson's Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*
 - Mali Firefinch, *Lagonosticta virata*
 - Rock Firefinch, *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*
 - Black-faced Firefinch, *Lagonosticta larvata*
 - Reichenow's Firefinch, *Lagonosticta umbrinodorsalis*
- Cordon-bleus, genus *Uraeginthus*
 - Blue-breasted Cordon-bleu, *Uraeginthus angolensis*
 - Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, *Uraeginthus bengalus*
 - Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
 - Purple Grenadier, *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*
 - Violet-eared Waxbill, *Uraeginthus granatina*
- Waxbills, genus *Estrilda*
 - Lavender Waxbill, *Estrilda caerulescens*
 - Black-tailed Waxbill, *Estrilda perreini*
 - Cinderella Waxbill, *Estrilda thomensis*
 - Yellow-bellied Waxbill, *Estrilda quartinia*
 - Sweet Waxbill, *Estrilda melanotis*
 - Fawn-breasted Waxbill, *Estrilda paludicola*
 - Anambra Waxbill, *Estrilda poliopareia*
 - Orange-cheeked Waxbill, *Estrilda melpoda*
 - Arabian Waxbill, *Estrilda rufibarba*

- Crimson-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda rhodopyga*
- Black-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda troglodytes*
- Common Waxbill, *Estrilda astrild*
- Black-lored Waxbill, *Estrilda nigriloris*
- Black-crowned Waxbill, *Estrilda nonnula*
- Black-headed Waxbill, *Estrilda atricapilla*
- Black-cheeked Waxbill, *Estrilda erythronotos*
- Red-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda chamosyna*
- Avadavats, genus *Amandava*
 - Red Avadavat, *Amandava amandava*
 - Green Avadavat, *Amandava formosa*
 - Zebra Waxbill, *Amandava subflava*
- Quailfinches, genus *Ortygospiza*
 - Red-billed Quailfinch, *Ortygospiza gabonensis*
 - African Quailfinch, *Ortygospiza atricollis*
 - Locustfinch, *Ortygospiza locustella*
- Firetails, genera *Emblema*, *Stagonopleura*, *Oreostruthus*, *Neochmia*
 - Painted Firetail, *Emblema pictum*
 - Beautiful Firetail, *Stagonopleura bella*
 - Red-eared Firetail, *Stagonopleura oculata*
 - Diamond Firetail, *Stagonopleura guttata*
 - Mountain Firetail, *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*
 - Red-browed Firetail, *Neochmia temporalis*
 - Crimson Finch, *Neochmia phaeton*
 - Star Finch, *Neochmia ruficauda*
 - Plum-headed Finch, *Neochmia modesta*
- Zebra finches, genera *Taeniopygia*, *Poephila*
 - Zebra Finch, *Taeniopygia guttata*
 - Chestnut-eared Finch, *Taeniopygia castanotis*
 - Double-barred Finch, *Taeniopygia bichenovii*
 - Masked Finch, *Poephila personata*
 - Long-tailed Finch, *Poephila acuticauda*
 - Black-throated Finch, *Poephila cincta*
- Parrotfinches, genus *Erythrura*
 - Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch, *Erythrura hyperythra*
 - Pin-tailed Parrotfinch, *Erythrura prasina*
 - Green-faced Parrotfinch, *Erythrura viridifacies*
 - Tricolored Parrotfinch, *Erythrura tricolor*
 - Blue-faced Parrotfinch, *Erythrura trichroa*
 - Red-eared Parrotfinch, *Erythrura coloria*
 - Papuan Parrotfinch, *Erythrura papuana*
 - Red-throated Parrotfinch, *Erythrura psittacea*
 - Fiji Parrotfinch, *Erythrura pealii*
 - Red-headed Parrotfinch, *Erythrura cyaneovirens*

- Royal Parrotfinch, *Erythrura regia*
- Pink-billed Parrotfinch, *Erythrura kleinschmidti*
- Gouldian Finch, *Chloebia gouldiae*
- Munias and Silverbills, genus *Lonchura*
 - Madagascar Munia, *Lonchura nana*
 - African Silverbill, *Lonchura cantans*
 - Indian Silverbill, *Lonchura malabarica*
 - Grey-headed Silverbill, *Lonchura griseicapilla*
 - Bronze Mannikin, *Lonchura cucullata*
 - Black-and-white Mannikin, *Lonchura bicolor*
 - Brown-backed Mannikin, *Lonchura nigriceps*
 - Magpie Mannikin, *Lonchura fringilloides*
 - White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata*
 - Javan Munia, *Lonchura leucogastroides*
 - Dusky Munia, *Lonchura fuscans*
 - Black-faced Munia, *Lonchura molucca*
 - Black-throated Munia, *Lonchura kelaarti*
 - Scaly-breasted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata*
 - White-bellied Munia, *Lonchura leucogastra*
 - Streak-headed Munia, *Lonchura tristissima*
 - Black-headed Munia, *Lonchura malacca*
 - Chestnut Munia, *Lonchura atricapilla*
 - White-capped Munia, *Lonchura ferruginosa*
 - Cream-bellied Munia, *Lonchura pallidiventer*
 - Five-colored Munia, *Lonchura quincolor*
 - White-headed Munia, *Lonchura maja*
 - Pale-headed Munia, *Lonchura pallida*
 - Grand Munia, *Lonchura grandis*
 - Grey-banded Munia, *Lonchura vana*
 - Grey-crowned Munia, *Lonchura nevermanni*
 - Hooded Munia, *Lonchura spectabilis*
 - Grey-headed Munia, *Lonchura caniceps*
 - Mottled Munia, *Lonchura hunsteini*
 - New Ireland Munia, *Lonchura forbesi*
 - New Hanover Munia, *Lonchura nigerrima*
 - Yellow-rumped Munia, *Lonchura flaviprymna*
 - Chestnut-breasted Munia, *Lonchura castaneothorax*
 - Black Munia, *Lonchura stygia*
 - Black-breasted Munia, *Lonchura teerinki*
 - Snow Mountain Munia, *Lonchura montana*
 - Alpine Munia, *Lonchura monticola*
 - Bismarck Munia, *Lonchura melaena*
- Pictorella Munia, *Heteromunia pectoralis*
- Java Sparrows, genus *Padda*

- Java Sparrow, *Padda oryzivora*
Timor Dusky Sparrow, *Padda fuscata*
- Cut-throats, genus *Amadina*
 - Cut-throat finch, *Amadina fasciata*
Red-headed Finch *Amadina erythrocephala*

Padda

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Estrildidae](#)
Genus: ***Padda***
Species: See text.

Padda is a genus of [estrildid finches](#) restricted to islands in southern Indonesia.

These are small, plump, gregarious [passerine birds](#). They frequent open grassland and cultivation and feed mainly on grain and other seeds, including rice.

Both species have white-cheeked black heads and thick bills. The sexes are similar, but immature birds have brown upperparts and paler brown underparts and cheeks.

The call of both species is a *chip*, and the song is a rapid series of call notes *chipchipchipchipchipchip*.

The species are

- Java Sparrow, or **Java Finch** *Padda oryzivora*
- Timor Dusky Sparrow, *Padda fuscata*

Java Sparrow is a popular cagebird, and has been introduced in a large number of other countries. Both *Padda* species are threatened by trapping for the cage bird trade.

Reference

- *Finches and Sparrows* by Clement, Harris and Davis, ISBN 0-7136-8017-2

Fringillidae

True Finches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Fringillidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Many, see text*

Finches are [passerine birds](#), often seed-eating, found chiefly in the northern hemisphere and Africa. One subfamily is endemic to the Neotropics. The taxonomic structure of the true finch family, **Fringillidae**, is somewhat disputed, with some including the Hawaiian honeycreepers as another subfamily (Drepanidinae) and/or uniting the cardueline and fringilline finches as tribes (Carduelini and Fringillini) in one subfamily; the euphonious finches were thought to be tanagers due to general similarity in appearance and mode of life until their real affinities were realized; the buntings and American sparrows were formerly considered another subfamily (Emberizinae). Przewalski's "Rosefinch" (*Urocynchramus pylzowi*) is now classified as a distinct, monotypic family with no particularly close relatives.

"Classic" or true finches are small to moderately large and have a strong, stubby beaks, which in some species can be quite large. All have 12 tail feathers and 9 primaries. They have a bouncing flight, alternating bouts of flapping with gliding on closed wings, and most sing well. Their nests are basket-shaped and built in trees.

There are many birds in other families which are often called finches. These include many species in the very similar-looking Estrildids or waxbill family, which occur in the Old World tropics and Australia. Several groups of the [Emberizidae](#) family (buntings and American sparrows) are also named as finches, including the [Darwin's finches](#) of the Galapagos islands, which provided evidence of Darwin's theory of evolution.

Systematics

The systematics of the cardueline finches are contentious. The layout presented here follows the molecular studies of Marten & Johnson (1986) and Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* (1998, 2001), and takes into account the traditional splitting of the genus *Carduelis*. The exact position of several genera in the cardueline sequence is tentative.

FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE

- Subfamily **Fringillinae** - **Fringilline** finches; contains only three species, which feed their young on insects rather than seeds.
 - Genus *Fringilla* - Bramblings and chaffinches
 - Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
 - Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*)
 - Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)
- Subfamily **Carduelinae** - **Cardueline** finches; a much larger group that contains several genera which feed their young on seeds.

- Genus *Eophona* - Oriental grosbeaks
- Genus *Mycerobas* - Mycerobas Grosbeaks
- Genus *Pinicola* - Pine grosbeak
- Genus *Pyrrhula* - Bullfinches
- Genus *Leucosticte* - Mountain finches
- Genus N.N. - Dark-breasted Rosefinch, "*Carpodacus*" *nipalensis* (possibly belongs into *Fringillinae*)
- Genus *Carpodacus* - Rosefinches (may be 2 or 3 genera; probably includes *Haematospiza* and possibly also *Uragus*)
- Genus *Haematospiza* - Scarlet Finch
- Genus *Uragus* - Streaked rosefinches
- Genus *Serinus* - Canaries, seedeaters, serins and African siskins
- Genus *Carduelis sensu lato*
 - (Sub)Genus *Carduelis sensu stricto* - Linnets, goldfinches, twite and cardueline siskins.
 - (Sub)Genus *Chloris* - greenfinches and desert finch
 - (Sub)Genus *Acanthis* - redpolls
 - (Sub)Genus *Loxia* - Crossbills
- Genus *Rhodopechys* - Trumpeter Finch and relatives
- Genus *Coccothraustes* - Hawfinch, Evening Grosbeak
- Genus *Pyrrhoplectes* - Gold-naped Finch
- Genus *Chaunoproctus* - Bonin Grosbeak (extinct)
- Genus *Callacanthus* - Spectacled Finch
- Genus *Neospiza* - Sao Tomé Grosbeak
- Genus *Linurgus* - Oriole Finch
- Genus *Rhynchostruthus* - Golden-winged Grosbeak
- Subfamily ***Euphoniinae*** - **Euphonioid** finches; endemic to the Neotropics; formerly treated in *Thraupidae*.
 - Genus *Euphonia*, the *euphonias*
 - Genus *Chlorophonia*, the *chlorophonias*

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Carduelis

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: [Fringillidae](#)
 Genus: **Carduelis** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Many, see text* Synonyms: *Acanthis, Linaria, Chloris*,
(but see article text)

The [genus Carduelis](#) is a large group of [birds](#) in the [finch family Fringillidae](#). It includes the greenfinches, redpolls, goldfinches, linnets, the twite and the non-African siskins. No species of this group ranges far into Africa (where they are replaced by the related genus *Serinus*), and the centers of evolution were probably Eurasia and North America, with a secondary radiation in the Neotropics.

The interrelationship of these species is complex and contentious. It is fairly certain that the [crossbills](#) are actually derived from proto-redpoll ancestors quite recently, and it was suggested that they should be placed into this genus. On the other hand, the greenfinches (which are apparently the most distinct group) and the redpolls have themselves been separated in distinct genera which might be the best way to express both the actual evolutionary relationships and the evolutionarily significant distinctiveness of the crossbills. The molecular data indicates that the major lineages split in the Late Miocene (Tortonian, roughly 9-7 mya), but it is unable to suggest any one robust arrangement either of the major groups among each other or among the lineages of *Carduelis sensu stricto*. As only the mitochondrial cytochrome b sequence has hitherto been studied (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.*, 1998), more data is clearly necessary.

Here, the species of *Carduelis sensu lato* are listed according to current knowledge. The genus *Carduelis sensu stricto* could conceivably be split further, and in this case only the European Goldfinch and the Citril and Corsican Finch (newly placed in his genus) would remain in *Carduelis*.

- [1 Greenfinches](#)
- [2 Redpolls](#)
- [3 Crossbills](#)
- [4 Carduelis sensu stricto](#)
 - [4.1 Carduelis group](#)
 - [4.2 Linaria group](#)
 - [4.3 Neotropical siskins](#)
- [5 References](#)
 - [5.1 Footnotes](#)

Greenfinches

(Sub)Genus *Chloris*

- Black-headed Greenfinch, *Carduelis ambigua*
European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris*
Oriental Greenfinch, *Carduelis sinica*
Vietnamese Greenfinch, *Carduelis monguilloti*
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, *Carduelis spinoides*
The Desert Finch, *Carduelis obsoletus*, has recently turned out to be a primitive form in this group (Zamora et al., 2006).

Redpolls

(Sub)Genus *Acanthis*

- Arctic Redpoll, or Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*
Common Redpoll, or Mealy Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*
Lesser Redpoll, *Carduelis cabaret*

Crossbills

(Sub)Genus *Loxia*

- 3 - 5+ species

Carduelis sensu stricto

Carduelis group

- European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*
Citril Finch, *Serinus citrinella*
Corsican Finch, *Serinus corsicana*

Linaria group

Linnets and Twite

- Eurasian Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina*
Warsangli Linnet, *Carduelis johannis*
Yemen Linnet, *Carduelis yemenensis*
Twite, *Carduelis flavirostris*

American goldfinches and Eurasian siskin

- American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*
Lesser Goldfinch, *Carduelis psaltria*
Lawrence's Goldfinch, *Carduelis lawrencei*
Eurasian Siskin, or Spruce Siskin, *Carduelis spinus*
Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*

Neotropical siskins

- Andean Siskin, *Carduelis spinescens*
Antillean Siskin, *Carduelis dominicensis*
Black Siskin, *Carduelis atrata*
Black-capped Siskin, *Carduelis atriceps*
Black-chinned Siskin, *Carduelis barbata*
Black-headed Siskin, *Carduelis notata*
Hooded Siskin, *Carduelis magellanica*
Olivaceous Siskin, *Carduelis olivacea*
Red Siskin, *Carduelis cucullata*
Saffron Siskin, *Carduelis siemiradzkii*
Thick-billed Siskin, *Carduelis crassirostris*
Yellow-bellied Siskin, *Carduelis xanthogastra*
Yellow-faced Siskin, *Carduelis yarrellii*
Yellow-rumped Siskin, *Carduelis uropygialis*

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Footnotes

1. [^] From Latin *carduus*, "thistle". Thistle seeds are a favorite food of many species.
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Carpodacus

Rosefinches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Subfamily: [Carduelinae](#)

Genera: *see article text*

The **rosefinches** are [birds](#) in the [finch](#) family [Fringillidae](#). Most *Carpodacus* [species](#) are so named, but three common North American ones are not. As the names imply, various shades of red are the characteristic plumage colours of this group.

Rose finches are found throughout the northern hemisphere, but the greatest diversity is in Asia. Most species are traditionally placed in the large [genus](#) *Carpodacus*.

Systematics

Comparison of mtDNA cytochrome b sequences strongly indicates that the genus *Carpodacus* is in need of a thorough revision (Arnaiz-Villena et al., 2001). For example, the Dark-breasted Rosefinch, a species with very distinctive appearance, is also very distinct genetically and definitely belongs into another genus, which may even be placed in the chaffinch-brambling subfamily Fringillinae; all other species belong to the cardueline finch subfamily (Carduelinae).

There have been a number of rosefinch radiations. First to split off were the ancestors of the North American species, the Common Rosefinch, and the Scarlet Finch (the later is traditionally placed in its own genus, but this is almost certainly incorrect). These diverged in the Middle Miocene (about 14-12 mya) from the proto-rosefinches and should constitute the genus *Carpodacus* proper, which might even be limited to the European species and probably the Scarlet Finch, with the North American forms becoming a distinct genus.

The Long-tailed Rosefinch, traditionally also placed in a monotypic genus, is closely allied to the Streaked Rosefinch and possibly other species; they diverged around 11-10 mya and either might be placed in *Carpodacus* or united in *Uragus*. If the latter is adopted, the bulk of the Asian species would also have to be separated as yet another distinct genus.

Przewalski's "Rosefinch" (*Urocynchramus pylzowi*) has been determined to be not a rosefinch, and indeed not a true finch at all, but to constitute a monotypic family Urocynchramidae.

- **Dark-breasted Rosefinch**
 - Dark-breasted Rosefinch, "*Carpodacus*" *nipalensis*
- ***Carpodacus* proper**
 - Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrurus*
- **Scarlet Finch** (traditionally separated as *Haematospiza*)
 - Scarlet Finch, *Carpodacus sipahi*
- **American rosefinches** (possibly a distinct genus)

- Cassin's Finch, *Carpodacus cassinii*
- Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*
- House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*
 - **Streaked rosefinches** (possibly genus *Uragus*)
- Streaked Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubicilloides*
- Long-tailed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus sibiricus*
- **Asian rosefinches** (possibly a distinct genus)
 - Beautiful Rosefinch, *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
 - White-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus thura*
 - Pallas' Rosefinch, *Carpodacus roseus*
 - Three-banded Rosefinch, *Carpodacus trifasciatus*
- **Unassigned** (most probably belong to Asian group)
 - Blanford's Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubescens*
 - Pink-rumped Rosefinch, *Carpodacus eos*
 - Pink-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rhodochrous*
 - Vinaceous Rosefinch, *Carpodacus vinaceus*
 - Dark-rumped Rosefinch, *Carpodacus edwardsii*
 - Pale Rosefinch, *Carpodacus synoicus*
 - Spot-winged Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rhodopeplus*
 - Tibetan Rosefinch, *Carpodacus roborowskii*
 - Red-mantled Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rhodochlamys*
 - Great Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubicilla*
 - Red-fronted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus puniceus*

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[PDF fulltext](#)

Coccothraustes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Coccothraustes*** Brisson, 1760 Species: See text.

Coccothraustes is a genus of large [finches](#) containing three species:

- Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus*
Hooded Grosbeak *Coccothraustes abeillei*

These are large, bulky, short-tailed species, around 18 cm in length, with thick powerful bills for cracking the stones of fruit. They are hardy species, and even the two northern species usually only [migrate](#) from the coldest parts of their range.

The Evening Grosbeak of North America and the Hooded Grosbeak of Central America are closely related, and in the past were classified in the genus *Hesperiphona*, but are now usually placed in the same genus as the Eurasian Hawfinch.

Eophona

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Eophona*** Gould, 1851 Species: See text.

Eophona is a genus of [finches](#) containing two species:

- Yellow-billed Grosbeak *Eophona migratoria*
- Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata*

Euphoniinae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Subfamily: **Euphoniinae**

Genera: [Euphonia](#), [Chlorophonia](#)

Euphoniinae is a subfamily of finches endemic to the Neotropics. It contains two genera, [Euphonia](#) and [Chlorophonia](#).

Species list

SUBFAMILY EUPHONIINAE

- **Genus *Euphonia*:** the [euphonias](#)
 - Jamaican Euphonia, *Euphonia jamaica*
 - Plumbeous Euphonia, *Euphonia plumbea*
 - Scrub Euphonia, *Euphonia affinis*
 - Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*
 - Yellow-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia luteicapilla*
 - Trinidad Euphonia, *Euphonia trinitatis*
 - Velvet-fronted Euphonia, *Euphonia concinna*
 - Orange-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia saturata*
 - Finsch's Euphonia, *Euphonia finschi*
 - Violaceous Euphonia, *Euphonia violacea*
 - Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia lanirostris*
 - Yellow-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia hirundinacea*
 - Green-chinned Euphonia, *Euphonia chalybea*
 - Elegant Euphonia, *Euphonia elegantissima*
 - Antillean Euphonia, *Euphonia musica*
 - Golden-rumped Euphonia, *Euphonia cyanocephala*
 - Spot-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia imitans*
 - Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*
 - Olive-backed Euphonia, *Euphonia gouldi*
 - Bronze-green Euphonia, *Euphonia mesochrysa*
 - White-lored Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*
 - White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*
 - Tawny-capped Euphonia, *Euphonia anae*
 - Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*
 - Rufous-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia rufiventris*
 - Golden-sided Euphonia, *Euphonia cayennensis*
 - Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia pectoralis*

- **Genus *Chlorophonia*:** the [chlorophonias](#)
 - Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia flavirostris*
Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*
Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*
Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia occipitalis*
Golden-browed Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia callophrys*

Chlorophonia

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Chlorophonia***

Chlorophonias are members of the genus *Chlorophonia*, a group of [finches](#) endemic to the Neotropics. They share the subfamily [Euphoniinae](#) with the [euphonias](#).

Chlorophonias are small, mostly bright green birds that inhabit cloudforest habitats from Mexico to South America.

Species list

- Genus *Chlorophonia*, the **chlorophonias**
 - Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia flavirostris*
 - Blue-naped Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia cyanea*
 - Chestnut-breasted Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia pyrrhophrys*
 - Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia occipitalis*
 - Golden-browed Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia callophrys*

Euphonia

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Euphonia***

Species: See text.

Euphonias are members of the genus *Euphonia*, a group of Neotropical birds in the [finch](#) family. They share the subfamily [Euphoniinae](#) with the [chlorophonias](#). *Euphonia* contains close to 27 species.

Most euphonias dark mettalic blue above and bright yellow below. Many have contrasting pale foreheads and white undertails. Some have light blue patches on the head and/or orangish underparts.

Euphonias were once considered members of the tanager family, [Thraupidae](#).

Species list

- Genus *Euphonia*, the **euphonias**
 - Jamaican Euphonia, *Euphonia jamaica*
 - Plumbeous Euphonia, *Euphonia plumbea*
 - Scrub Euphonia, *Euphonia affinis*
 - Purple-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia chlorotica*
 - Yellow-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia luteicapilla*
 - Trinidad Euphonia, *Euphonia trinitatis*
 - Velvet-fronted Euphonia, *Euphonia concinna*
 - Orange-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia saturata*
 - Finsch's Euphonia, *Euphonia finschi*
 - Violaceous Euphonia, *Euphonia violacea*
 - Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*
 - Yellow-throated Euphonia, *Euphonia hirundinacea*
 - Green-chinned Euphonia, *Euphonia chalybea*
 - Elegant Euphonia, *Euphonia elegantissima*
 - Antillean Euphonia, *Euphonia musica*
 - Golden-rumped Euphonia, *Euphonia cyanocephala*
 - Spot-crowned Euphonia, *Euphonia imitans*
 - Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*
 - Olive-backed Euphonia, *Euphonia gouldi*
 - Bronze-green Euphonia, *Euphonia mesochrysa*
 - White-lored Euphonia, *Euphonia chrysopasta*
 - White-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia minuta*
 - Tawny-capped Euphonia, *Euphonia anneae*
 - Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*

Rufous-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia rufiventris*
Golden-sided Euphonia, *Euphonia cayennensis*
Chestnut-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia pectoralis*

Fringilla

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Fringilla*** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: Three; see text

The genus ***Fringilla*** is a small group of [finches](#), which are the only species in the subfamily *Fringillinae*. The three species, which feed their young on insects rather than seeds, are:

- Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea*
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

The other much larger subfamily is the Cardueline finches in the subfamily *Carduelinae* which feed their young on seeds.

The *Fringilla* finches are seed-eating [passerine birds](#) restricted to the Old World. These [birds](#) have a bouncing flight with alternating bouts of flapping and gliding on closed wings, but feed largely on the ground.

Leucosticte

Mountain finches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Subfamily: [Carduelinae](#)

Genus: **Leucosticte** Swainson, 1832 Species: See text.

The **mountain finches** are [birds](#) in the genus **Leucosticte** from the true [finch](#) family Fringillidae. This genus also includes the **rosy finches** named from their pinkish plumage. They are apparently closely related to the bullfinches (Marten & Johnson, 1986) and to the Pine Grosbeak (Arnaiz-Villena et al., 2001), diverging from them not quite a dozen mya, at the end of the Middle Miocene.

These birds are typically found in barren mountainous regions. Many species eat more insect material than other finches.

The full list of species is:

- Plain Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte nemoricola*
Black-headed Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte brandti*
Tawny-headed Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte sillemi*
Asian Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte arctoa*
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte tephrocotis*
Black Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte atrata*
Brown-capped Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte australis*

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Loxia

Crossbills

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: **Loxia** (but see "Systematics and evolution" below) Linnaeus, 1758 Species: *Loxia pytyopsittacus*, *Loxia scotia*, *Loxia curvirostra*, *Loxia leucoptera*, *Loxia megaplaga*

The **crossbills** are birds in the [finch](#) family [Fringillidae](#). The three to five (or possibly many more) species are all currently classified in the genus **Loxia**, but see below. These birds are characterised by the mandibles crossing at their tips, which gives the group its English name.

These are specialist feeders on conifer cones, and the unusual bill shape is an adaptation to assist the extraction of the seeds from the cone. These are birds typically found in higher northern hemisphere latitudes, where their food sources grows. They will erupt out of the breeding range when the cone crop fails.

Crossbills breed very early in the year, often in winter months, to take advantage of maximum cone supplies.

Adult males tend to be red or orange in colour, and females green or yellow, but there is much variation.

- [1 Feeding behavior](#)
- [2 Systematics and evolution](#)
- [3 References](#)

Feeding behavior

The different species are each adapted to specialising in feeding on different conifer species, with the bill shape optimised for opening that species of conifer. This is achieved by inserting the bill between the conifer cone scales and twisting the lower mandible towards the side to which it crosses, enabling the bird to extract the seed at the bottom of the scale with its tongue.

The mechanism by which the bill-crossing (which usually, but not always occurs in an 1:1 frequency of left-crossing or right-crossing morphs) is developed and what determines the direction has hitherto withstood all attempts to resolve it.

It is very probable that there is a genetic basis underlying the phenomenon (young birds whose bills are still straight will give a cone-opening behavior if their bills are gently pressed, and the crossing develops before the birds are fledged and feeding independently), but at least in the Red Crossbill (the only species which has been somewhat thoroughly researched regarding this question) there is no straightforward mechanism of heritability.

While the direction of crossing seems to be the result of at least 3 genetic factors working together in a case of epistasis and most probably autosomal, it is not clear whether the 1:1 frequency of both morphs in most cases is the result of genetics or environmental selection: populations that feed on cones without removing or twisting them will likely show a 1:1 morph distribution no matter what the genetic basis may be, as the fitness of each morph is inversely proportional to its frequency in the population due to the fact that such birds can only access the cone with the lower mandible tip pointing towards it to successfully extract seeds, and thus a too high number of birds of one morph will result in the food availability for each bird decreasing (Edelaar *et al*, 2005).

They can utilise other conifers to their preferred, and often need to do so when their preferred species has a crop failure, but are less efficient in their feeding (not enough to prevent survival, but probably enough to reduce breeding success).

Systematics and evolution

Analysis of mitochondrial cytochrome b sequence data (Arnaiz-Villena *et al*, 2001) indicates that the crossbills and redpolls share a common ancestor and only diverging during the Tortonian (c. 8 mya, Late Miocene). They suggest that the crossbills might be included in the genus *Carduelis*, but given that the adaptations of the crossbills represent a unique evolutionary path, it seems more appropriate to split up the genus *Carduelis* as it was already done during most of the 20th century.

The species of crossbills are difficult to separate, and care is needed even with Two-barred/Hispaniolan Crossbill, the easiest. The other species are identified by subtle differences in head shape and bill size, and are the subject of much taxonomic speculation, with some scientists suggesting that the previously held assumption that the Parrot and Scottish Crossbills and possibly the Hispaniolan and Two-barred Crossbill are conspecific.

The identification problem is least severe in North America, where only Red and White-winged occur, and (possibly) worst in the Scottish Highlands, where three 'species' breed, and Two-barred is also a possible vagrant.

Work on vocalisation in North America suggest that there are eight or nine discrete populations of Red Crossbill in that continent alone, which do not interbreed and are (like the named species) adapted to specialise on different conifer species. Few ornithologists yet seem inclined to give these forms species status though. Preliminary investigations in Europe and Asia suggest an equal, if not greater, complexity, with several different call types identified; these call types as different from each other as from the named species Scottish and Parrot Crossbills - suggesting either that they are valid species, or else that the Scottish and Parrot may not be.

Species and their preferred food sources are:

- Parrot Crossbill, *Loxia pytyopsittacus*
 - Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*
- Scottish Crossbill, *Loxia scotica* (often treated as a race of Parrot Crossbill)
 - Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* and Larch *Larix* species (particularly plantations of *L. decidua*)

- Red Crossbill or Common Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*
 - Spruce Picea species; some populations (distinct species?) on various Pine Pinus species and (in western North America) Douglas-fir
- Two-barred Crossbill or White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*
 - Larch *Larix* species, particularly *L. sibirica*, *L. gmelinii*, *L. laricina* and (in North America) also Hemlock *Tsuga*
- Hispaniolan Crossbill, *Loxia megalaga* (previously treated as a race of Two-barred Crossbill)
 - Hispaniolan Pine *Pinus occidentalis*

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Pinicola

Pine Grosbeak

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Subfamily: [Carduelinae](#)

Genus: *Pinicola*

Species: ***P. enucleator***

Binomial name ***Pinicola enucleator*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Pine Grosbeak**, *Pinicola enucleator*, is a large [finch](#). It is the only member of its [genus](#) and represents an ancient divergence of the ancestors of the bullfinches (Arnaiz-Villena et al., 2001), diverging perhaps a dozen mya during the Clarendonian. Given that the radiation of the bullfinches (which are only found in Eurasia) and the mountain finches (also closely related: Marten & Johnson, 1986) started approximately at the same time in the interior of Asia, it is possible that the Pine Grosbeak evolved in North America; possibly, its ancestors were wind-blown individuals of a proto-bullfinch which arrived via the northern Pacific as at that time the Bering Land Bridge was widely inundated.

Adults have a long forked black tail, black wings with white wing bars and a large bill. Adult males have a rose red head, back and rump. Adult females are olive-yellow on the head and rump and grey on the back and underparts.

Their breeding habitat is coniferous woods across Canada, Alaska and the western mountains of the United States, and in northern Fennoscandia. They nest on a horizontal branch or in a fork of a conifer.

This bird is a permanent resident through most of its range; in the extreme north or when food sources are scarce, they may [migrate](#) further south.

This species is a very rare vagrant to western Europe.

These birds forage in trees and bushes. They mainly eat seeds, buds, berries and insects. Outside of the nesting season, they often feed in flocks.

The Pine Grosbeak was depicted on the 1986 series Canadian \$1000 note.

References

- **Arnaiz-Villena**, A.; Guillén, J.; Ruiz-del-Valle, V.; Lowy, E.; Zamora, J.; Varela, P.; Stefani, D. & Allende, L. M. (2001): Phylogeography of crossbills, bullfinches, grosbeaks, and rosefinches. *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences* **58**: 1159–1166. [PDF fulltext](#)
- **BirdLife International** (2004). *[Pinicola enucleator](#)*. 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

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Pyrrhula

Bullfinches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Subfamily: [Carduelinae](#)

Genus: ***Pyrrhula*** Brisson, 1760 Species: See text.

Pyrrhula is a small genus of [passerine](#) birds, commonly called **Bullfinches**, belonging to the finch family ([Fringillidae](#)).

The genus has a palearctic distribution. All species occur in Asia with two species exclusively in the Himalayas and one species, *P. pyrrhula*, also occurring in Europe. The Azores Bullfinch (*P. murina*) is an almost extinct species (about 120 pairs remaining), occurring only in the east of the island of São Miguel.

Analysis of the mtDNA cytochrome b sequence indicates that the holarctic Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) is the closest living relative of this genus. Arguably, it could be included in *Pyrrhula*, but more probably is a distinct offshoot of a common ancestor, with the Pine Grosbeak as the sister group to the ancestor of the bullfinches (Arnaiz-Villena et al., 2001). The evolution of the bullfinch species started soon after the Pine Grosbeak's ancestors diverged from them (at the end of the Middle Miocene, about a dozen mya), and it is quite possible that the latter species evolved in North America; what is fairly certain is that the bullfinch radiation started in the general area of the Himalayas. The mountain finches also seem to be part of this clade (Marten & Johnson, 1986).

Bullfinches have glossy black wings and tail feathers. They show a white rump. The legs and feet are fleshy brown. Their short, swollen bill is adapted to eat buds, and is black except in *P. nipalensis*, which has a yellowish bill. The males can be distinguished by their orange or red breast. Some species have a black cap.

Bullfinch species are sedentary to migratory; probably most populations are partially migratory. Populations winter chiefly within the breeding range, those breeding at high levels tending to make altitudinal movements. Most migrants move short or medium distances, but some (apparently chiefly from Russia) move longer distances; in northern and central Europe, there is no evidence that northern populations move further than southern ones. North European birds move within a wider compass than central European birds. Bullfinches are also eruptive migrants; numbers migrating show marked annual fluctuations; no link with particular food source has been established. Autumn migration begins late, and is fairly brief, mostly October-November; spring migration February-April.

The Eurasian Bullfinch population in Britain has been in serious decline since the mid-1970s, following a period of relative stability, and numbers have fallen by 62 per cent in 35 years. The decline was initially rapid, but has been shallower since the early 1980s. Nevertheless, the CES and BBS both suggest that the decline is continuing, at least in southern Britain. The demographic mechanism remains unclear (Siriwardena et al. 1999, 2000b), although agricultural intensification is suspected to have played a part. CES data indicate that

productivity has increased over the last decade, and nest failure rates at the chick stage (15 days) have fallen from 37% to 21%.

Species

- *Pyrrhula aurantiaca* Gould, 1858: Orange Bullfinch (Range : Kashmir)
- Pyrrhula erythaca* Blyth, 1862: Grey-headed Bullfinch (Range : Western China, Tibet)
- Pyrrhula erythrocephala* Vigors, 1832: Red-headed Bullfinch (Range: Himalayas)
- Pyrrhula leucogenis* Ogilvie-Grant, 1895: White-cheeked Bullfinch (Range : Philippines)
- Pyrrhula murina* du Cane Godman, 1866: Azores Bullfinch (Range : São Miguel Island, Azores)
- Pyrrhula nipalensis* Hodgson, 1836: Brown Bullfinch (Range : Himalayas, northern Myanmar and Northwest Yunnan)
- Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Linnaeus, 1758): Eurasian Bullfinch (Range : very wide, from Asia to Europe)

Genus *Pyrrhula* should be considered to be included in Genus *Carduelis*. Redpolls and Crossbills are the closest extant relatives (Arnaiz-Villena et al, 58:1159, 2001)

References

- **Arnaiz-Villena**, A.; Guillén, J.; Ruiz-del-Valle, V.; Lowy, E.; Zamora, J.; Varela, P.; Stefani, D. & Allende, L. M. (2001): Phylogeography of crossbills, bullfinches, grosbeaks, and rosefinches. *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences* **58**: 1159–1166. [PDF fulltext](#)
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Rhodopechys

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: ***Rhodopechys*** Cabanis, 1851 Species: See text.

Rhodopechys is a genus of [finches](#) containing four species:

- Crimson-winged Finch, *Rhodopechys sanguinea*
Trumpeter Finch, *Rhodopechys githaginea*
Mongolian Finch, *Rhodopechys mongolica*

The Desert Finch, *Carduelis obsoletus* (formerly *Rhodopechys obsoleta*), has turned out to belong to the genus *Carduelis* as indicated by DNA sequences, song and eyestripe pattern; it shares a common ancestor with the greenfinches Zamora *et al.*, 2006). See the species account for details.

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- **Zamora**, Jorge; Lowy, Ernesto; Ruiz-del-Valle, Valentin; Moscoso, Juan; Serrano-Vela, Juan Ignacio; Rivero-de-Aguilar, Juan & Arnaiz-Villena, Antonio (2006): *Rhodopechys obsoleta* (desert finch): a pale ancestor of greenfinches (*Carduelis* spp.) according to molecular phylogeny. *Journal of Ornithology* **147**(3): 448–456. DOI:[10.1007/s10336-005-0036-2](#) (HTML abstract). Erratum, *Journal of Ornithology* **147**(3): 511–512 DOI:[10.1007/s10336-006-0072-6](#)

Serinus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Fringillidae](#)

Genus: **Serinus** Koch, 1816 Species: See text.

The genus **Serinus** is a large genus of [birds](#) in the [finch](#) family Fringillidae. It includes the [canaries](#), [seedeaters](#) and the African siskins.

The full list of species is:

- Red-fronted Serin, *Serinus pusillus*
European Serin, *Serinus serinus*
Syrian Serin, *Serinus syriacus*
Canary, *Serinus canaria*
Tibetan Serin, *Serinus thibetanus*
Cape Canary, *Serinus canicollis*
Abyssinian Siskin, *Serinus nigriceps*
African Citril, *Serinus citrinelloides*
Black-faced Canary, *Serinus capistratus*
Papyrus Canary, *Serinus koliensis*
Forest Canary, *Serinus scotops*
White-rumped Seedeater, *Serinus leucopygius*
Olive-rumped Serin, *Serinus rothschildi*
Yellow-throated Serin, *Serinus flavigula*
Salvadori's Serin, *Serinus xantholaemus*
Black-throated Canary, *Serinus atrogularis*
Yellow-rumped Serin, *Serinus xanthopygius*
Lemon-breasted Seedeater, *Serinus citrinipectus*
Yellow-fronted Canary, *Serinus mozambicus*
Northern Grosbeak-canary, *Serinus donaldsoni*
Southern Grosbeak-canary, *Serinus buehleri*
White-bellied Canary, *Serinus dorsostriatus*
Yellow Canary, *Serinus flaviventris*
Brimstone Canary, *Serinus sulphuratus*
Reichard's Seedeater, *Serinus reichardi*
White-throated Canary, *Serinus albogularis*
Streaky-headed Seedeater, *Serinus gularis*
Black-eared Seedeater, *Serinus mennelli*
Brown-rumped Seedeater, *Serinus tristriatus*
Yemen Serin, *Serinus menachensis*
Ankober Serin, *Serinus ankoberensis*
Streaky Seedeater, *Serinus striolatus*
Thick-billed Seedeater, *Serinus burtoni*

Principe Seed eater, *Serinus rufobrunneus*

Protea Canary, *Serinus leucopterus*

Cape Siskin, *Serinus totta*

Drakensberg Siskin, *Serinus symonsi*

Black-headed Canary, *Serinus alario*

Mountain Serin, *Serinus estherae*

The Citril Finch, and the Corsican Finch are now placed in the genus *Carduelis* as *Carduelis citrinella* and *Carduelis corsicana* (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.*, 1998).

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Hirundinidae

Swallows and Martins

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Hirundinidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: Many, see text.

The **swallows** and **martins** are a group of [passerine birds](#) in the family **Hirundinidae** which are characterised by their adaptation to aerial feeding. Swallow is also used in Europe as a synonym for the Barn Swallow.

This family comprises two subfamilies: **Pseudochelidoninae** (the river martins of the genus *Pseudochelidon*) and **Hirundininae** (all other swallows and martins). Within the Hirundininae, the name martin tends to be used for the squarer-tailed species, and the name swallow for the more fork-tailed species; however, there is no scientific distinction between these two groups.

They have adapted to hunting insects on the wing by developing a slender streamlined body, and long pointed wings. Like the unrelated [swifts](#) and [nightjars](#), which hunt in a similar way, they have short bills, but a wide gape.

Their feet are designed for perching rather than walking, and the front toes are partially joined at the base. Many species have long tails.

Swallows typically build mud nests close to overhead shelter in locations that are protected from both the weather and predators.

Many cave and cliff dwelling species of swallow nest in large colonies. In historical times, the introduction of man-made stone structures such as barns and bridges, together with forest clearance, has led to an abundance of colony sites around the globe, significantly increasing the breeding ranges of some species. Birds living in large colonies typically have to contend with both ectoparasites and conspecific nest parasitism. Old males benefit most from coloniality, since they are able to maintain their own nests and benefit from frequent extra-pair copulations.

Subfamily Pseudochelidoninae (river martins)

- *Pseudochelidon*
 - African River Martin *Pseudochelidon eurystomina*
 - White-eyed River Martin *Pseudochelidon sirintarae*

Subfamily Hirundininae (all other swallows & martins)

- *Psalidoprocne*
 - Square-tailed Rough-winged Swallow *Psalidoprocne nitens*
 - Cameroon Mountain Rough-winged Swallow *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*
 - White-headed Rough-winged Swallow *Psalidoprocne albiceps*
 - Black Rough-winged Swallow *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
 - Fanti Rough-winged Swallow *Psalidoprocne obscura*
 - Eastern Saw-Wing (Swallow) *Psalidoprocne orientalis*
 - Black Saw-Wing (Swallow) *Psalidoprocne holomelaena*

- *Pseudhirundo*
 - Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*
- *Cheramoeca*
 - White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*
- *Phedina*
 - Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica*
Congo Martin *Phedina brazzae*
- *Riparia*
 - Brown-throated Sand Martin *Riparia paludicola*
Congo Sand Martin *Riparia congica*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*
Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*
- *Tachycineta*
 - Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*
Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*
Golden Swallow *Tachycineta euchrysea*
Bahama Swallow *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis*
Tumbes Swallow *Tachycineta stolzmanni*
Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*
White-winged Swallow *Tachycineta albiventer*
White-rumped Swallow *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*
Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeri*
- *Progne*
 - Purple Martin *Progne subis*
Cuban Martin *Progne cryptoleuca*
Caribbean Martin *Progne dominicensis*
Sinaloa Martin *Progne sinaloae*
Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
Galapagos Martin *Progne modesta*
Peruvian Martin *Progne murphyi*
Southern Martin *Progne elegans*
Brown-chested Martin *Progne tapera*
- *Notiochelidon*
 - Brown-bellied Swallow *Notiochelidon murina*
Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*
Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes*
Black-capped Swallow *Notiochelidon pileata*
- *Haplochelidon*
 - Andean Swallow *Neochelidon andecola*
- *Atticora*
 - White-banded Swallow *Atticora fasciata*
Black-collared Swallow *Atticora melanoleuca*
- *Neochelidon*

- White-thighed Swallow *Neochelidon tibialis*
- *Stelgidopteryx*
 - Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
 - Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*
- *Alopochelidon*
 - Tawny-headed Swallow *Alopochelidon fucata*
- *Hirundo*
 - Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 - Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*
 - Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*
 - Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
 - Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*
 - White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis*
 - Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*
 - Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*
 - White-throated Blue Swallow *Hirundo nigrita*
 - Pied-winged Swallow *Hirundo leucosoma*
 - White-tailed Swallow *Hirundo megaensis*
 - Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata*
 - Montane Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea*
 - Black-and-rufous Swallow *Hirundo nigrorufa*
- *Ptyonoprogne*
 - Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
 - Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
 - Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
- *Delichon*
 - House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
 - Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
 - Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense*
- *Cecropis*
 - Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata*
 - Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*
 - Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropis semirufa*
 - Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*
 - Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
 - Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*
 - Rufous-bellied Swallow *Cecropis badia*
- *Petrochelidon*
 - Red-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon rufigula*
 - Preuss's Swallow *Petrochelidon preussi*
 - Red Sea Swallow *Petrochelidon perdita*
 - South African Swallow *Petrochelidon spilodera*
 - Forest Swallow *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*
 - Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola*

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*
Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*
Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
Cave Swallow *Petrochelidon fulva*
Chestnut-collared Swallow *Petrochelidon rufocollaris*

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Pseudochelidoninae

River martins

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Hirundinidae](#)

Subfamily: **Pseudochelidoninae** Shelley, 1896 Genus: ***Pseudochelidon*** Hartlaub, 1861 Species:
See text.

The **river martins** are a distinct subfamily ***Pseudochelidoninae*** within the swallow and martin [bird](#) family [Hirundinidae](#). They possess a number of distinct features which mark them out from other swallows and martins, namely their robust legs and feet, and stout bill.

There are two species:

- **African River Martin** *Pseudochelidon eurystomina*, found around the River Congo in Congo and Gabon
- **White-eyed River Martin** *Pseudochelidon sirintarae*, of Thailand in South-east Asia.

When the African River Martin was first discovered in the 19th Century, it was not thought to be a member of the swallow and martin family; Hartlaub placed it with the Rollers, and later authors either placed it in its own family, or with the Woodswallows. Study of the anatomy of the species by Lowe (1938) revealed that the species was closest to the swallows and martins, but sufficiently distinct to be placed in a separate subfamily.

The White-eyed River Martin was discovered as recently as 1968 and is only known from specimens and anecdotal evidence - no modern ornithologists have seen the species in the wild, and its breeding grounds are unknown; it may be [extinct](#).

The two species are usually considered to belong to a single genus, *Pseudochelidon* due to their having a number of structural similarities; Brooke (1972) proposed that White-eyed River Martin be placed in a separate monotypic genus ***Eurochelidon***, but this has not been adopted by other authors.

Hypocoliidae

Hypocolius

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Hypocoliidae**

Genus: ***Hypocolius*** Bonaparte, 1850 Species: ***H. ampelinus***

Binomial name: ***Hypocolius ampelinus*** Bonaparte, 1850

The **Grey Hypocolius** (*Hypocolius ampelinus*; alternative name **Hypocolius**) is a small [passerine bird species](#). It is the sole member of the genus ***Hypocolius*** and family **Hypocoliidae**. It ranges through the Middle East, breeding in the Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan area, and wintering mostly near the Red Sea and Persian Gulf coasts of Arabia. It is found in bushes and scrub, also in palm groves and gardens.

The Hypocolius's shape and soft [plumage](#) resemble the [waxwings](#)'. Birds are mainly a uniform grey color, with males having a black triangular mask around the eyes. They have white-tipped black primary wing feathers and a black tip to the tail.

These birds eat berries with some insects. They lay 3-4 eggs in a nest in a bush.

Their relationships are unclear. They may be related to the waxwings, and some authorities place them in the same family, but others believe their closest relatives are the [bulbuls](#).

The bird is not especially rare, but the political difficulties in getting into and around any of the countries in its range are formidable.

References

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Leafbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Chloropseidae**

Genus: ***Chloropsis*** Jardine & Selby, 1827 Species: See text.

The **Leafbirds** are a family of small [passerine bird](#) species found in India and southeast Asia. They are one of only two bird families that are entirely endemic to the Indomalayan ecozone. They were formerly grouped with the [loras](#) in the family Irenidae.

These are [bulbul](#)-like forest birds, but whereas that group tends to be drab in coloration, leafbirds are sexually dimorphic, with the males being brightly [plumaged](#), usually in greens and yellows.

Leafbirds eat fruit and nectar with some insects. They have a spiked tongue, adapted to nectar feeding. They lay 2-3 [eggs](#) in a tree nest.

- **Family: Chloropseidae**

- Philippine Leafbird, *Chloropsis flavipennis*
Yellow-throated Leafbird, *Chloropsis palawanensis*
Greater Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis sonnerati*
Lesser Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis cyanopogon*
Blue-winged Leafbird, *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
Golden-fronted Leafbird, *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Orange-bellied Leafbird, *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Blue-masked Leafbird, *Chloropsis venusta*

Melanocharitidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Melanocharitidae** Sibley & Ahlquist, 1985 Genera: *Melanocharis*, Sclater, 1858,,
Toxorhamphus, Stresemann, 1914

The **Melanocharitidae**, the **berrypeckers and longbills**, is a small [bird family](#) restricted to the forests of New Guinea. The family was once placed inside the [Flowerpecker](#) family Dicaeidae. It comprises ten species in two genera:

- *Melanocharis*
 - Obscure Berrypecker, *Melanocharis arfakiana*
 - Black Berrypecker, *Melanocharis nigra*
 - Lemon-breasted Berrypecker, *Melanocharis longicauda*
 - Fan-tailed Berrypecker, *Melanocharis versteri*
 - Streaked Berrypecker, *Melanocharis striativentris*
 - Spotted Berrypecker, *Melanocharis crassirostris*
- *Toxorhamphus*
 - Yellow-bellied Longbill, *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*
 - Slaty-chinned Longbill, *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*
 - Dwarf Honeyeater, *Toxorhamphus iliolophus*
 - Pygmy Honeyeater, *Toxorhamphus pygmaeum*

These are medium-sized birds which feed on fruit and some insects and other invertebrates. They have drab coloured [plumage](#) in greys, browns or black and white. The berrypeckers resemble stout short-billed [honeyeaters](#), and the longbills are like drab [sunbirds](#).

Melanocharitidae species are usually seen alone or in pairs; they build a cup nest and lay one or two eggs.

Mimidae

Mimids

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Mimidae** Bonaparte, 1853 Genera: *Cinclocerthia*, *Dumetella*, *Allenia*, *Margarops*, *Melanoptila*, *Melanotis*, *Mimodes*, *Mimus*, *Nesomimus*, *Oreoscoptes*, *Ramphocinclus*, *Toxostoma*

The **Mimids** are a New World family of [passerine birds](#) that includes thrashers, mockingbirds, tremblers, and the New World catbirds. As their name (Latin for "mimic") suggests, these birds are notable for their vocalization, especially their remarkable ability to mimic a wide variety of birds and other sounds heard outdoors.

The species tend towards dull grays and browns in their appearance.

There are at least 34 species in 10 genera.

It was a member of this family, the Galapagos Mockingbird, which inspired Darwin's work on his theory of evolution.

Species list

- Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*
- Black Catbird, *Melanoptila glabrirostris*
- Bahama Mockingbird, *Mimus gundlachii*
- Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*
- Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*
- Chalk-browed Mockingbird, *Mimus saturninus*
- Patagonian Mockingbird, *Mimus patagonicus*
- Brown-backed Mockingbird, *Mimus dorsalis*
- White-banded Mockingbird, *Mimus triurus*
- Long-tailed Mockingbird, *Mimus longicaudatus*
- Chilean Mockingbird, *Mimus thenca*
- Galapagos Mockingbird, *Nesomimus parvulus*
- Charles Mockingbird, *Nesomimus trifasciatus*
- Hood Mockingbird, *Nesomimus macdonaldi*
- San Cristobal Mockingbird, *Nesomimus melanotis*
- Sage Thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*
- Socorro Mockingbird, *Mimodes graysoni*
- Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*
- Long-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma longirostre*
- Cozumel Thrasher, *Toxostoma guttatum*
- Gray Thrasher, *Toxostoma cinereum*
- Bendire's Thrasher, *Toxostoma bendirei*
- Ocellated Thrasher, *Toxostoma ocellatum*

Curve-billed Thrasher, *Toxostoma curvirostre*
California Thrasher, *Toxostoma redivivum*
Crissal Thrasher, *Toxostoma crissale*
Le Conte's Thrasher, *Toxostoma lecontei*
Vizcaino Thrasher, *Toxostoma arenicola*
White-breasted Thrasher, *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*
Blue Mockingbird, *Melanotis caerulescens*
Blue-and-white Mockingbird, *Melanotis hypoleucus*
Gray Trembler, *Cinclocerthia gutturalis*
Brown Trembler, *Cinclocerthia ruficauda*
Scaly-breasted Thrasher, *Allenia fusca*
Pearly-eyed Thrasher, *Margarops fuscatus*

Motacillidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Motacillidae** Horsfield, 1821 Genera: *Anthus*, *Tmetothylacus*, *Motacilla*, *Dendronanthus*, *Macronyx*

The **Motacillidae** are a family of small [passerine birds](#) with medium to long tails. They include the wagtails, longclaws and pipits.

They are slender, ground feeding insectivores of open country. They are ground nesters, laying up to six speckled eggs.

There are 54 species in five genera.

Species and Genera of Motacillidae

- **Genus *Anthus***: typical pipits
 - (34 species, listed at **pipit**)
- **Genus *Tmetothylacus***
 - Golden Pipit, *Tmetothylacus tenellus*
- **Genus *Motacilla***: typical wagtails
 - Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*
 - Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola*
 - Japanese Wagtail, *Motacilla grandis*
 - White-browed Wagtail, *Motacilla madaraspratus*
 - African Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla aguimp*
 - Mountain Wagtail, *Motacilla clara*
 - Cape Wagtail, *Motacilla capensis*
 - Madagascar Wagtail, *Motacilla flaviventris*
 - Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*
 - White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*
 - White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba alba*
 - Pied Wagtail: *Motacilla alba yarrellii*
 - Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens*
- **Genus *Dendronanthus***
 - Forest Wagtail, *Dendronanthus indicus*
 - **Genus *Macronyx*: longclaws**
 - Cape Longclaw, *Macronyx capensis*
 - Yellow-throated Longclaw, *Macronyx croceus*
 - Fulleborne's Longclaw, *Macronyx fuellebornii*
 - Sharpe's Longclaw, *Macronyx sharpei*
 - Abyssinian Longclaw, *Macronyx flavicollis*
 - Pangani Longclaw, *Macronyx aurantiigula*

Rosy-breasted Longclaw, *Macronyx ameliae*
Grimwood's Longclaw, *Macronyx grimwoodi*.

Muscicapidae

Old World flycatchers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Muscicapidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: See text.

The **Old World flycatcher** family **Muscicapidae** is a large family of small [passerine birds](#) restricted to the Old World. These are mainly small arboreal insectivores, many of which, as the name implies, take their prey on the wing.

This article follows *Handbook of Birds of the World* in including the small [chat-like](#) ground feeders previously classed with the Turdidae [thrushes](#) in this group.

The appearance of these birds is very varied, but they mostly have weak songs and harsh calls. The nest of most is a well-constructed cup in a tree or hedge.

- **Family: Muscicapidae**

- Genus *Empidonis*
 - Silverbird, *Empidonis semipartitus*
- Genus *Bradornis*
 - Pale Flycatcher, *Bradornis pallidus*
Chat Flycatcher, *Bradornis infuscatus*
Mariqua Flycatcher, *Bradornis mariquensis*
African Grey Flycatcher, *Bradornis microrhynchus*
- Genus *Melaenornis*
 - Angola Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis brunneus*
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis fischeri*
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis chocolatinus*
Northern Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis edolioides*
Southern Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis pammelaina*
Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis ardesiacus*
Nimba Flycatcher, *Melaenornis annamarulae*
- Genus *Fraseria*
 - African Forest Flycatcher, *Fraseria ocreata*
White-browed Forest Flycatcher, *Fraseria cinerascens*
- Genus *Sigelus*
 - Fiscal Flycatcher, *Sigelus silens*
- Genus *Rhinomyias*
 - Buru Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias addita*
Flores Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias oscillans*
Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias brunneata*
Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias umbratilis*
Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias olivacea*
Chestnut-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias ruficauda*
Henna-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias colonus*

- Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias gularis*
- Rusty-flanked Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias insignis*
- Negros Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias albigularis*
- Mindanao Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias goodfellowi*
- Genus *Muscicapa*
 - Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa striata*
 - Gambaga Flycatcher, *Muscicapa gambagae*
 - Grey-spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa griseisticta*
 - Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica*
 - Asian Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa dauurica*
 - Brown-streaked Flycatcher, *Muscicapa williamsoni*
 - Ash-breasted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa randi*
 - Sumba Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa segregata*
 - Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ruficauda*
 - Brown-breasted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa muttui*
 - Ferruginous Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ferruginea*
 - Ussher's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ussheri*
 - Sooty Flycatcher, *Muscicapa infuscata*
 - Boehm's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa boehmi*
 - Swamp Flycatcher, *Muscicapa aquatica*
 - Olivaceous Flycatcher, *Muscicapa olivascens*
 - Chapins' Flycatcher, *Muscicapa lendu*
 - African Dusky Flycatcher, *Muscicapa adusta*
 - Little Grey Flycatcher, *Muscicapa epulata*
 - Yellow-footed Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sethsmithi*
 - Dusky-blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapa comitata*
 - Tessmann's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa tessmanni*
 - Cassin's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa cassini*
 - Ashy Flycatcher, *Muscicapa caerulescens*
- Genus *Myioparus*
 - Grey-throated Tit-flycatcher, *Myioparus griseigularis*
 - Grey Tit-flycatcher, *Myioparus plumbeus*
- Genus *Humblotia*
 - Grand Comoro Flycatcher, *Humblotia flavirostris*
- Genus *Ficedula*
 - European Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca*
 - Atlas Flycatcher, *Ficedula speculigera*
 - Collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicollis*
 - Semi-collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula semitorquata*
 - Korean Flycatcher, *Ficedula zanthopygia*
 - Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*
 - Beijing Flycatcher, *Ficedula beijingnica*
 - Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
 - Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*
 - Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula strophciata*

- Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*
- Red-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*
- Kashmir Flycatcher, *Ficedula subrubra*
- Snowy-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hyperythra*
- White-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula monileger*
- Rufous-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula solitaris*
- Rufous-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula dumetoria*
- Rufous-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula rufigula*
- Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula buruensis*
- Little Slaty Flycatcher, *Ficedula basilanica*
- Sumba Flycatcher, *Ficedula harterti*
- Palawan Flycatcher, *Ficedula platenae*
- Russet-tailed Flycatcher, *Ficedula crypta*
- Furtive Flycatcher, *Ficedula disposita*
- Lompobattang Flycatcher, *Ficedula bonthaina*
- Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni*
- Ultramarine Flycatcher, *Ficedula superciliaris*
- Slaty-blue Flycatcher, *Ficedula tricolor*
- Black-and-rufous Flycatcher, *Ficedula nigrorufa*
- Sapphire Flycatcher, *Ficedula sapphira*
- Black-banded Flycatcher, *Ficedula timorensis*
- Genus *Cyanoptila*
 - Blue-and-white Flycatcher, *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
- Genus *Eumyias*
 - Verditer Flycatcher, *Eumyias thalassina*
 - Dull-blue Flycatcher, *Eumyias sordida*
 - Island Flycatcher, *Eumyias panayensis*
 - Nilgiri Flycatcher, *Eumyias albicaudata*
 - Indigo Flycatcher, *Eumyias indigo*
- Genus *Niltava*
 - Large Niltava, *Niltava grandis*
 - Small Niltava, *Niltava macgrigoriae*
 - Fujian Niltava, *Niltava davidi*
 - Rufous-bellied Niltava, *Niltava sundara*
 - Rufous-vented Niltava, *Niltava sumatrana*
 - Vivid Niltava, *Niltava vivida*
- Genus *Cyornis*
 - Matinan Flycatcher, *Cyornis sanfordi*
 - Blue-fronted Flycatcher, *Cyornis hoevelli*
 - Timor Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis hyacinthinus*
 - White-tailed Flycatcher, *Cyornis concretus*
 - Rueck's Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis ruckii*
 - Blue-breasted Flycatcher, *Cyornis herioti*
 - Hainan Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis hainanus*
 - White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis pallipes*

- Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis poliogenys*
- Pale Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis unicolor*
- Blue-throated Flycatcher, *Cyornis rubeculoides*
- Hill Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis banyumas*
- Long-billed Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis caerulatus*
- Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis turcosus*
- Palawan Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis lemprieri*
- Bornean Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis superbus*
- Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis tickelliae*
- Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis rufigastra*
- Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis omissus*
- Genus *Muscicapella*
 - Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
- Genus *Culicicapa*
 - Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
 - Citrine Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa helianthea*
- Genus *Horizorhinus*
 - Dohrn's Flycatcher, *Horizorhinus dohrni*
- Genus *Tarsiger*
 - Red-flanked Bluetail, *Tarsiger cyanurus*
 - Golden Bush Robin, *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
 - White-browed Bush Robin, *Tarsiger indicus*
 - Rufous-breasted Bush Robin, *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 - Collared Bush Robin, *Tarsiger johnstoniae*
- Genus [*Luscinia*](#)
 - Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica*
 - Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
 - Rufous-tailed Robin or Swinhoe's Nightingale, *Luscinia sibilans*
 - Thrush Nightingale, *Luscinia luscinia*
 - Nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 - Indian Blue Robin or Indian Blue Chat, *Luscinia brunneus*
 - White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
 - Rufous-headed Robin, *Luscinia ruficeps*
 - Black-throated Blue Robin, *Luscinia obscura*
 - Firethroat, *Luscinia pectardens*
 - Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane*
- Genus [*Erithacus*](#)
 - European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*
 - Japanese Robin, *Erithacus akahige*
 - Ryukyu Robin, *Erithacus komadori*
- Genus *Irania*
 - White-throated Robin, *Irania gutturalis*
- Genus *Saxicola*
 - Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*
 - Stoliczka's Bushchat or White-browed Bushchat, *Saxicola macrorhyncha*

Hodgson's Bushchat or White-throated Bushchat, *Saxicola insignis*
 Fuerteventura Chat or Canary Island Stonechat, *Saxicola dacotiae*
 European Stonechat, *Saxicola rubicola* (previously *S. torquata rubicola*)
 Siberian Stonechat or Asian Stonechat, *Saxicola maura* (previously *S. torquata maura*)
 African Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*
 Réunion Stonechat, *Saxicola tectes*
 White-tailed Stonechat, *Saxicola leucura*
 Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata*
 Jerdon's Bushchat, *Saxicola jerdoni*
 Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*
 White-bellied Bushchat or Timor Bushchat, *Saxicola gutturalis*
 Buff-streaked Bushchat, *Saxicola bifasciata*

- Genus *Pogonocichla*
 - White-starred Robin, *Pogonocichla stellata*
- Genus *Swynnertonia*
 - Swynnerton's Robin, *Swynnertonia swynnertoni*
- Genus *Stiphrornis*
 - Forest Robin, *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*
- Genus *Xenocopsychus*
 - Angola Cave Chat, *Xenocopsychus ansorgei*
- Genus *Saxicoloides*
 - Indian Robin, *Saxicoloides fulicata*
- Genus *Cinclidium*
 - White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum*
 Sunda Robin, *Cinclidium diana*
 Blue-fronted Robin, *Cinclidium frontale*
- Genus *Grandala*
 - Grandala, *Grandala coelicolor*
- Genus *Namibornis*
 - Herero Chat, *Namibornis herero*
- Genus *Cercomela*
 - Sicklewing Chat, *Cercomela sinuata*
 Karoo Chat, *Cercomela schlegelii*
 Tractrac Chat, *Cercomela tractrac*
 Familiar Chat, *Cercomela familiaris*
 Brown-tailed Chat, *Cercomela scotocerca*
 Indian Chat, *Cercomela fusca*
 Sombre Chat, *Cercomela dubia*
 Blackstart, *Cercomela melanura*
 Moorland Chat, *Cercomela sordida*
- Genus *Myrmecocichla*
 - Congo Moorchat, *Myrmecocichla tholloni*
 Northern Anteater Chat, *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
 Southern Anteater Chat, *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

- Sooty Chat, *Myrmecocichla nigra*
- Rueppell's Chat, *Myrmecocichla melaena*
- White-fronted Black Chat, *Myrmecocichla albifrons*
- White-headed Black Chat, *Myrmecocichla arnotti*
- Genus *Thamnolaea*
 - Mocking Cliff Chat, *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
 - White-winged Cliff Chat, *Thamnolaea semirufa*
- Genus *Pinarornis*
 - Boulder Chat *Pinarornis plumosus*
- Genus *Sheppardia*, [akalats](#)
 - Bocage's Akalat, *Sheppardia bocagei*
 - Lowland Akalat, *Sheppardia cyornithopsis*
 - Equatorial Akalat, *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
 - Sharpe's Akalat, *Sheppardia sharpei*
 - East Coast Akalat, *Sheppardia gunningi*
 - Gabela Akalat, *Sheppardia gabela*
 - Usambara Akalat, *Sheppardia montana*
 - Iringa Akalat, *Sheppardia lowei*
- Genus [Cossyphicula](#), [robin-chats](#)
 - White-bellied Robin Chat, *Cossyphicula roberti*
 - Mountain Robin Chat, *Cossypha isabellae*
 - Archer's Robin Chat, *Cossypha archeri*
 - Olive-flanked Robin Chat, *Cossypha anomala*
 - Cape Robin Chat, *Cossypha caffra*
 - White-throated Robin Chat, *Cossypha humeralis*
 - Blue-shouldered Robin Chat, *Cossypha cyanocampter*
 - Grey-winged Robin Chat, *Cossypha polioptera*
 - Rueppell's Robin Chat, *Cossypha semirufa*
 - White-browed Robin Chat, *Cossypha heuglini*
 - Red-capped Robin Chat, *Cossypha natalensis*
 - Chorister Robin Chat, *Cossypha dichroa*
 - White-headed Robin Chat, *Cossypha heinrichi*
 - Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, *Cossypha niveicapilla*
 - White-crowned Robin Chat, *Cossypha albicapilla*
- Genus *Cichladusa*, palm-thrushes
 - Collared Palm Thrush, *Cichladusa arquata*
 - Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, *Cichladusa ruficauda*
 - Spotted Morning Thrush, *Cichladusa guttata*
- Genus *Cercotrichas*, the scrub-robins or **bush-chats**
 - Forest Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucosticta*
 - Bearded Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*
 - Miombo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas barbata*
 - Brown Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas signata*
 - Brown-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*
 - Red-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin or Rufous Bush Chat, *Cercotrichas galactotes*
- Kalahari Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas paena*
- African Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas minor*
- Karoo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*
- Black Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas podobe*
- Genus *Copsychus*, [magpie-robins](#) or **shamas**
 - Madagascar Magpie-robin, *Copsychus albospectularis*
 - Oriental Magpie-robin, *Copsychus saularis*
 - White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus*
 - Seychelles Magpie-robin, *Copsychus sechellarum*
 - White-browed Shama, *Copsychus luzoniensis*
 - White-vented Shama, *Copsychus niger*
 - Black Shama, *Copsychus cebuensis*
- Genus *Trichixos*, [shamas](#)
 - Rufous-tailed Shama, *Trichixos pyrropyga*
- Genus *Phoenicurus*, redstarts
 - Ala Shan Redstart, *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*
 - Rufous-backed Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythronota*
 - Blue-capped Redstart, *Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*
 - Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*
 - Common Redstart, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
 - Hodgson's Redstart, *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
 - White-throated Redstart, *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
 - Daurian Redstart, *Phoenicurus aureus*
 - Moussier's Redstart, *Phoenicurus moussieri*
 - White-winged Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*
 - Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*
- Genus *Chaimarrornis*, redstarts
 - White-capped Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
- Genus *Rhyacornis*, redstarts
 - Plumbeous Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*
 - Luzon Redstart, *Rhyacornis bicolor*
- Genus *Hodgsonius*, redstarts
 - White-bellied Redstart, *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*
- Genus *Enicurus*, [forktails](#)
 - Little Forktail, *Enicurus scouleri*
 - Sunda Forktail, *Enicurus velatus*
 - Chestnut-naped Forktail, *Enicurus ruficapillus*
 - Black-backed Forktail, *Enicurus immaculatus*
 - Slaty-backed Forktail, *Enicurus schistaceus*
 - White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti*
 - Spotted Forktail, *Enicurus maculatus*
- Genus *Cochoa*, [cochoas](#)
 - Purple Cochoa, *Cochoa purpurea*
 - Green Cochoa, *Cochoa viridis*

- Sumatran Cochoa, *Cochoa beccarii*
- Javan Cochoa, *Cochoa azurea*
- Genus [*Oenanthe*](#), [*wheatears*](#)
 - Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
 - Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*
 - Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*
 - Black-eared Wheatear, *Oenanthe hispanica*
 - Pied Wheatear, *Oenanthe pleschanka*
 - Cyprus Wheatear, *Oenanthe cypriaca*
 - Finsch's Wheatear, *Oenanthe finschii*
 - Mourning Wheatear, *Oenanthe lugens*
 - Hooded Wheatear, *Oenanthe monacha*
 - White-crowned Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucopyga*
 - Black Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucura*
 - Persian Wheatear, *Oenanthe xanthoprymna*
 - Red-rumped Wheatear, *Oenanthe moesta*
 - Hume's Wheatear, *Oenanthe alboniger*
 - Mountain Wheatear, *Oenanthe monticola*
 - Somali Wheatear, *Oenanthe phillipsi*
 - Variable Wheatear, *Oenanthe picata*
 - Red-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe xanthoprymna*
 - Capped Wheatear, *Oenanthe pileata*
 - Red-breasted Wheatear, *Oenanthe bottae*
 - Heuglin's Wheatear, *Oenanthe heuglini*

Ficedula

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Muscicapidae](#)
Genus: **Ficedula**
Species: See text.

The **Ficedula flycatchers** are a genus of [Old World flycatchers](#). There are 31 species.

- European Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Atlas Flycatcher, *Ficedula speculigera*
Collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicollis*
Semi-collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula semitorquata*
Korean Flycatcher, *Ficedula zanthopygia*
Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*
includes Beijing Flycatcher, "*Ficedula beijingnica*"
Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula strophciata*
Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*
Taiga Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*
Kashmir Flycatcher, *Ficedula subrubra*
Snowy-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hyperythra*
White-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula monileger*
Rufous-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula solitaris*
Rufous-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula dumetoria*
Rufous-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula rufigula*
Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula buruensis*
Little Slaty Flycatcher, *Ficedula basilanica*
Sumba Flycatcher, *Ficedula harterti*
Palawan Flycatcher, *Ficedula platenae*
Russet-tailed Flycatcher, *Ficedula crypta*
Furtive Flycatcher, *Ficedula disposita*
Lompobattang Flycatcher, *Ficedula bonthaina*
Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni*
Ultramarine Flycatcher, *Ficedula supercilialis*
Slaty-blue Flycatcher, *Ficedula tricolor*
Black-and-rufous Flycatcher, *Ficedula nigrorufa*
Sapphire Flycatcher, *Ficedula sapphira*
Black-banded Flycatcher, *Ficedula timorensis*

Saxicolinae

Chats

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: [Muscicapidae](#)
 Subfamily: **Saxicolinae**
 Genera: See text.

Chats (formerly sometimes known as Chat-thrushes) are a group of small Old World insectivorous [birds](#) formerly classed as members of the [thrush](#) family Turdidae, but now considered [Old World flycatchers](#).

This name is normally applied to the robust ground feeding species found in Europe and Asia in the subfamily Saxicolinae.

They come from a large number of genera.

Most northern species are strong [migrants](#).

Species are:

- **Family: Muscicapidae**
 - **Subfamily: Saxicolinae**
 - Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica*
 - Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
 - Rufous-tailed Robin, *Luscinia sibilans*
 - Thrush Nightingale, *Luscinia luscinia*
 - Nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 - Indian Blue Robin, *Luscinia brunneus*
 - White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
 - Rufous-headed Robin, *Luscinia ruficeps*
 - Black-throated Blue Robin, *Luscinia obscura*
 - Firethroat, *Luscinia pectardens*
 - Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane*
 - Red-flanked Bluetail, *Tarsiger cyanurus*
 - Golden Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
 - White-browed Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger indicus*
 - Rufous-breasted Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 - Collared Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger johnstoniae*
 - European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*
 - Japanese Robin, *Erithacus akahige*
 - Ryukyu Robin, *Erithacus komadori*
 - White-throated Robin, *Irania gutturalis*
 - Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*
 - Stoliczka's Bushchat or White-browed Bushchat, *Saxicola macrorhyncha*
 - Hodgson's Bushchat or White-throated Bushchat, *Saxicola insignis*
 - Fuerteventura Chat or Canary Island Stonechat, *Saxicola dacotiae*

European Stonechat, *Saxicola rubicola* (previously *S. torquata rubicola*)
 Siberian Stonechat or Asian Stonechat, *Saxicola maura* (previously *S. torquata maura*)
 African Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*
 Réunion Stonechat, *Saxicola tectes*
 White-tailed Stonechat, *Saxicola leucura*
 Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata*
 Jerdon's Bushchat, *Saxicola jerdoni*
 Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*
 White-bellied Bushchat or Timor Bushchat, *Saxicola gutturalis*
 Buff-streaked Bushchat, *Saxicola bifasciata*
 White-starred Robin, *Pogonocichla stellata*
 Swynnerton's Robin, *Swynnertonia swynnertoni*
 Forest Robin, *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*
 Angola Cave-Chat, *Xenocopsychus ansorgei*
 Indian Robin, *Saxicoloides fulicata*
 White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum*
 Sunda Robin, *Cinclidium diana*
 Blue-fronted Robin, *Cinclidium frontale*
 Grandala, *Grandala coelicolor*
 Herero Chat, *Namibornis herero*
 Sicklewing Chat, *Cercomela sinuata*
 Karoo Chat, *Cercomela schlegelii*
 Tractrac Chat, *Cercomela tractrac*
 Familiar Chat, *Cercomela familiaris*
 Brown-tailed Chat, *Cercomela scotocerca*
 Indian Chat, *Cercomela fusca*
 Sombre Chat, *Cercomela dubia*
 Blackstart, *Cercomela melanura*
 Moorland Chat, *Cercomela sordida*
 Congo Moorchat, *Myrmecocichla tholloni*
 Northern Anteater-Chat, *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
 Southern Anteater-Chat, *Myrmecocichla formicivora*
 Sooty Chat, *Myrmecocichla nigra*
 Rueppell's Chat, *Myrmecocichla melaena*
 White-fronted Black-Chat, *Myrmecocichla albifrons*
 White-headed Black-Chat, *Myrmecocichla arnotti*
 Mocking Cliff-Chat, *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
 White-winged Cliff-Chat, *Thamnolaea semirufa*
 Boulder Chat *Pinarornis plumosus*

Other Saxicolini species are dealt with under the following articles:

- Genus *Oenanthe*, [wheatears](#)
- Genus *Phoenicurus* redstarts.
- Genus *Sheppardia*, [akalats](#)

- Genus *Cossypha*, [robin-chats](#)
- Genus *Cichladusa*, palm-thrushes
- Genus *Cercotrichas*, [scrub-robins](#), including Rufous Bush Robin
- Genera *Copsychus* and *Trichixos*, [magpie-robins](#) and sharmas
 - Genus *Enicurus*, [forktails](#)
- Genus *Cochoa*, [cochoas](#)

Cercotrichas

Scrub robins

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: ***Cercotrichas*** Boie, 1831 Species: See text.

The **scrub robins** or **bush chats** are medium-sized insectivorous [birds](#) in the [genus](#) ***Cercotrichas***. They were formerly in the [thrush](#) family ([Turdidae](#)), but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) family ([Muscicapidae](#)).

These are mainly African species of open woodland or scrub, which nest in bushes or on the ground, but the Rufous Bush Chat also breeds in southern Europe and east to Pakistan.

Species are:

- Forest Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucosticta*
Bearded Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*
Miombo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas barbata*
Brown Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas signata*
Brown-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*
Red-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin or Rufous Bush Chat, *Cercotrichas galactotes*
Kalahari Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas paena*
African Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas minor*
Karoo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*
Black Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas podobe*

Cochoa

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: **Cochoa** Hodgson, 1836 [Species](#): *Cochoa purpurea*, *Cochoa viridis*, *Cochoa beccarii*, *Cochoa azurea*

The **cochoas** are medium-sized insectivorous and molluscivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Cochoa*. They were formerly in the [thrush](#) family Turdidae, but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) family Muscicapidae.

These are southeast Asian forest-dwelling species, often found near water.

- Purple Cochoa, *Cochoa purpurea*
Green Cochoa, *Cochoa viridis*
Sumatran Cochoa, *Cochoa beccarii*
Javan Cochoa, *Cochoa azurea*

Copsychus

Magpie-Robins

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genera: *Copsychus*, *Trichixos*

The **magpie-robins** or **shamas** are medium-sized insectivorous [birds](#) (some also eat berries and other fruit) in the genera *Copsychus* and *Trichixos*. They were formerly in the [thrush](#) family Turdidae, but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) Muscicapidae.

These are African and Asian garden and forest dwelling species.

Species list:

- Madagascar Magpie Robin, *Copsychus albospectus*
Oriental Magpie Robin, *Copsychus saularis*
White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus*
Seychelles Magpie Robin, *Copsychus sechellarum*
White-browed Shama, *Copsychus luzoniensis*
White-vented Shama, *Copsychus niger*
Black Shama, *Copsychus cebuensis*
Rufous-tailed Shama, *Trichixos pyrropyga*

Cossypha

Robin-Chats

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: ***Cossypha*** Vigors, 1825 Species: See text.

The **robin-chats** are small insectivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Cossypha* . They were formerly in the [thrush](#) family Turdidae, but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) Muscicapidae.

These are African woodland dwelling species, but some have become adapted to sites around human habitation.

Species are

- White-bellied Robin-Chat, *Cossypha roberti*
Mountain Robin-Chat, *Cossypha isabellae*
Archer's Robin-Chat, *Cossypha archeri*
Olive-flanked Robin-Chat, *Cossypha anomala*
Cape Robin-Chat, *Cossypha caffra*
White-throated Robin-Chat, *Cossypha humeralis*
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, *Cossypha cyanocampter*
Gray-winged Robin-Chat, *Cossypha polioptera*
Rueppell's Robin-Chat, *Cossypha semirufa*
White-browed Robin-Chat, *Cossypha heuglini*
Red-capped Robin-Chat, *Cossypha natalensis*
Chorister Robin-Chat, *Cossypha dichroa*
White-headed Robin-Chat, *Cossypha heinrichi*
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat, *Cossypha niveicapilla*
White-crowned Robin-Chat, *Cossypha albicapilla*

Enicurus

Forktails

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: ***Enicurus*** Temminck, 1822 Species: See text.

The **forktails** are small insectivorous [birds](#) in the [genus](#) *Enicurus*. They were formerly in the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#), but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) family Muscicapidae. Their name derives from their long forked tail.

These are southeast Asian forest species principally associated with mountain forests and streams. Most nest in rock crevices, laying 2-4 [eggs](#).

Species

- Little Forktail, *Enicurus scouleri*
Sunda Forktail, *Enicurus velatus*
Chestnut-naped Forktail, *Enicurus ruficapillus*
Black-backed Forktail, *Enicurus immaculatus*
Slaty-backed Forktail, *Enicurus schistaceus*
White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti*
Spotted Forktail, *Enicurus maculatus*

Forktail is also the name of the journal of the Oriental Bird Club

Erithacus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: **Erithacus** Cuvier, 1800 Species: *E. rubecula*, *E. akahige*, *E. komadori*

Erithacus is a genus of small [passerine birds](#) formerly classed as members of the [thrush](#) family, but now considered to be [Old World flycatchers](#).

The three species are:

- European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*
- Japanese Robin, *Erithacus akahige*
- Ryukyu Robin, *Erithacus komadori*

The two Asian species were formerly considered to be members of the genus *Luscinia*; apparently, both genera need to be split and rearranged. The European species would then be the only remaining *Erithacus*, whereas the East Asian species are closely related to some species from the region now classed as *Luscinia*, for example the Siberian Blue Robin and would form a new genus (Seki, 2006).

The three species are stocky small birds with an upright stance and short frequently cocked tail. They have a plain brown back, and a red or black face and breast contrasting with whitish or grey underparts. The females of the Asian species are much duller than the males, but in the European Robin differences between the sexes are minimal and restricted to the shape of the boundary between the red and brown plumage on the forehead.

Erithacus robins are territorial woodland birds which build a neat cup nest in a hole or on the ground. They watch for insects, worms and other invertebrates from a low perch, and feed mostly on the ground, hopping on strong legs with frequent stops.

References

- **Seki**, Shin-Ichi (2006): The origin of the East Asian *Erithacus* robin, *Erithacus komadori*, inferred from cytochrome *b* sequence data. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* **39**(3): 899–905. DOI:[10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.028](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.028)
- **Svensson**, Lars; Zetterström, Dan; Møller, A. P. (1999): *Collins bird guide*. Harper & Collins, London. ISBN 0-00-219728-6

Luscinia

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Muscicapidae](#)
Genus: ***Luscinia*** Forster, 1817 Species: See text.

Luscinia is a genus of small [passerine birds](#) formerly classed as members of the [thrush](#) family, but now considered to be [Old World flycatchers](#).

The species are:

- Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica*
Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
Rufous-tailed Robin or Swinhoe's Nightingale, *Luscinia sibilans*
Thrush Nightingale, *Luscinia luscinia*
Nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Indian Bluechat, *Luscinia brunneus*
White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
Rufous-headed Robin, *Luscinia ruficeps*
Black-throated Blue Robin, *Luscinia obscura*
Firethroat, *Luscinia pectardens*
Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane*

Formerly, some or all of the *Luscinia* species have been placed in the genus *Erithacus* and vice versa. Recent research (Seki, 2006) suggests that the genus should be split, with most species being retained in *Luscinia* and a new genus uniting East Asian forms like the Siberian Blue Robin with the East Asian *Erithacus* species.

These are species of the temperate regions of Europe and Asia, including the Himalayas. All the birds in this genus are strongly [migratory](#), wintering in tropical Africa, India or Southeast Asia.

The breeding habitat is typically scrub or forest, and the cup nest is usually constructed low in a bush. The birds can be difficult to see in dense undergrowth, especially if not singing, but they may frequent somewhat more open habitats in their winter quarters.

The *Luscinia* species are stocky small birds, 13-16 cm long with an upright stance and short frequently cocked tail. They are territorial birds which watch for insects, worms and other invertebrates from a low perch, and feed mostly on the ground, hopping on strong legs with frequent stops.

In the three species named as nightingales, the sexes are similar. These birds are plain brown above, whitish below with light streaking, and have a rufous tail.

In the other *Luscinia* species, the male is much brighter than the usually brown or grey female. Males of most of these species have a dark blue or black back, and red, orange or blue at least on the throat and upper breast. Several have white or rufous patches on the sides of the tail, giving a pattern recalling that of a [wheatear](#) or Red-breasted Flycatcher.

The songs of this genus are often complex and musical, especially in the nightingales.

References

- **Grimmett**, Richard; Inskipp, Carol & Inskipp, Tim (1999): *Birds of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.. ISBN 0-691-04910-6
- **Seki**, Shin-Ichi (2006): The origin of the East Asian *Erithacus* robin, *Erithacus komadori*, inferred from cytochrome *b* sequence data. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* **39**(3): 899–905. DOI:[10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.028](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.01.028)
- **Svensson**, Lars; Zetterström, Dan; Mullaney, Killian & Grant, P. J. (1999): *Collins bird guide*. Harper & Collins, London. ISBN 0-00-219728-6

Oenanthe

Wheatears

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: **Oenanthe** Vieillot, 1816 Species: See text.

The **wheatears**, [genus Oenanthe](#), were formerly considered to be members of the [thrush](#) family Turdidae. They are more commonly now placed in the [flycatcher](#) family Muscicapidae. This is an Old World group, but the Northern Wheatear has established a foothold in eastern Canada and Greenland.

They are terrestrial insectivorous [passerine birds](#) of open, often dry, country. They often nest in rock crevices or disused burrows.

Northern species are long-distance [migrants](#), wintering in Africa.

Wheatears are typically larger than the European Robin. Most species have characteristic black and white or red and white markings on their rumps or their long tails.

Most species are strongly sexually dimorphic; only the male has the striking plumage patterns characteristic of the genus, though the females share the white or red rump patches.

The wheatear species are:

- Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
- Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*
- Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*
- Black-eared Wheatear, *Oenanthe hispanica*
- Pied Wheatear, *Oenanthe pleschanka*
- Cyprus Wheatear, *Oenanthe cypriaca*
- Finsch's Wheatear, *Oenanthe finscii*
- Mourning Wheatear, *Oenanthe lugens*
- Hooded Wheatear, *Oenanthe monacha*
- White-crowned Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucopyga*
- Black Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucura*
- Persian Wheatear or Red-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe xanthopyrna*
- Red-rumped Wheatear, *Oenanthe moesta*
- Hume's Wheatear, *Oenanthe alboniger*
- Mountain Wheatear, *Oenanthe monticola*
- Somali Wheatear, *Oenanthe phillipsi*
- Variable Wheatear, *Oenanthe picata*
- Capped Wheatear, *Oenanthe pileata*
- Red-breasted Wheatear, *Oenanthe bottae*
- Heuglin's Wheatear, *Oenanthe heuglini*

Phoenicurus

Redstarts

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Species: See text.

Redstarts are a group of small Old World birds. They were formerly classified in the [thrush](#) family ([Turdidae](#)), but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) family ([Muscicapidae](#)).

These are insectivorous ground feeding [birds](#), many of which have the red tail ("start" in old English, which gives the group its name). Most northern species are strong [migrants](#).

New World redstarts of the genera *Setophaga* and *Myioborus* are not closely related; they are [New World warblers](#) of the family Parulidae. The latter are often called "whitestarts".

Species include:

- Family Muscicapidae
 - Genus *Phoenicurus*
 - Ala Shan Redstart (*Phoenicurus alaschanicus*)
 - Rufous-backed Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythronota*)
 - Blue-capped Redstart (*Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus*)
 - Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
 - Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
 - Hodgson's Redstart (*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*)
 - White-throated Redstart (*Phoenicurus schisticeps*)
 - Daurian Redstart (*Phoenicurus aureus*)
 - Moussier's Redstart (*Phoenicurus moussieri*)
 - White-winged Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythrogaster*)
 - Blue-fronted Redstart (*Phoenicurus frontalis*)
 - Genus *Chaimarrornis*
 - White-capped Redstart (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*)
 - Genus *Rhyacornis*
 - Plumbeous Redstart (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*)
 - Luzon Redstart (*Rhyacornis bicolor*)
 - Genus *Hodgsonius*
 - White-bellied Redstart (*Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*)

Saxicola

Stonechats

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: ***Saxicola*** Bechstein, 1802 Species: See text.

The genus *Saxicola*, the **stonechats** or **chats**, is a genus of 14 species of small [passerine birds](#) restricted to the Old World. They are insectivores of open scrubland and grassland with scattered small shrubs.

Genetic evidence presented in the recent monograph by Urquhart & Bowley 2002 strongly supports the splitting of the **Common Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata* sensu lato) into three species, **African Stonechat** (*S. torquata*), **European Stonechat** (*S. rubicola*) and **Asian Stonechat** (*S. maura*). This treatment is likely to become standard in the future.

Species list, following Urquhart & Bowley 2002:

- Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*
- Stoliczka's Bushchat or White-browed Bushchat, *Saxicola macrorhyncha*
- Hodgson's Bushchat or White-throated Bushchat, *Saxicola insignis*
- Fuerteventura Chat or Canary Island Stonechat, *Saxicola dacotiae*
- European Stonechat, *Saxicola rubicola* (previously *S. torquata rubicola*)
- Siberian Stonechat or Asian Stonechat, *Saxicola maura* (previously *S. torquata maura*)
- African Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*
- Reunion Stonechat, *Saxicola tectes*
- White-tailed Stonechat, *Saxicola leucura*
- Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata*
- Jerdon's Bushchat, *Saxicola jerdoni*
- Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferrea*
- White-bellied Bushchat or Timor Bushchat, *Saxicola gutturalis*
- Buff-streaked Bushchat, *Saxicola bifasciata*

Reference

- Urquhart, E. & Bowley, A. 2002. *Stonechats. A Guide to the Genus Saxicola*. Helm. ISBN 0-7136-6024-4

Sheppardia

Akalats

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Muscicapidae](#)

Genus: ***Sheppardia*** Haagner, 1909 Species: See text.

The **akalats** are medium-sized insectivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Sheppardia*. They were formerly placed in the [thrush](#) family, Turdidae, but are more often now treated as part of the [Old World flycatcher](#) Muscicapidae.

These are African forest-dwelling species.

Species are:

- Bocage's Akalat, *Sheppardia bocagei*
Lowland Akalat, *Sheppardia cyornithopsis*
Equatorial Akalat, *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
Sharpe's Akalat, *Sheppardia sharpei*
East Coast Akalat, *Sheppardia gunningi*
Gabela Akalat, *Sheppardia gabela*
Usambara Akalat, *Sheppardia montana*
Iringa Akalat, *Sheppardia lowei*
Rubeho Akalat, *Sheppardia aurantiithorax*

Nectariniidae

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Nectariniidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: Many: see text

The **sunbirds** and **spiderhunters** are very small [passerine birds](#) which feed largely on nectar, although they will also take insects, especially when feeding young. Flight is fast and direct on their short wings. Most species can take nectar by hovering like a hummingbird, but usually perch to feed.

Although they are completely unrelated, the sunbirds find counterparts in the [hummingbirds](#) of the Americas and the [honeyeaters](#) of Australia. The resemblances are due to convergent evolution due to the similar nectar-feeding lifestyle.

The sunbirds are tropical species, with representatives from Africa to Australasia; however, the greatest variety of species is in Africa where the group probably arose. Most species are sedentary or short-distance [seasonal migrants](#).

Like the hummingbirds, they are strongly sexually dimorphic, with the males usually brilliantly plumaged in metallic colours. Sunbirds have long thin down-curved bills and brush tipped tubular tongues, both adaptations to their nectar feeding. Up to three eggs are laid in a purse-shaped suspended nest.

- **Family: Nectariniidae**
 - [Genus](#) *Chalcoparia* (sometimes included in *Anthreptes*)
 - Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, *Chalcoparia singalensis* [Conservation status](#): Lower risk (lc)
 - Genus *Deleornis* (sometimes included in *Anthreptes*)
 - Scarlet-tufted Sunbird, *Deleornis fraseri* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Grey-headed Sunbird, *Deleornis axillaris* (sometimes considered subspecies of *D. fraseri*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Genus *Anthreptes*
 - Plain-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes reichenowi* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 - Anchieta's Sunbird, *Anthreptes anchietae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Plain Sunbird, *Anthreptes simplex* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Plain-throated Sunbird, *Anthreptes malacensis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Red-throated Sunbird, *Anthreptes rhodolaemus* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 - Mouse-brown Sunbird, *Anthreptes gabonicus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Western Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes longuemarei* Conservation

- status: Lower risk (lc)
 Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes orientalis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes neglectus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Violet-tailed Sunbird, *Anthreptes aurantium* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Little Green Sunbird, *Anthreptes seimundi* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Green Sunbird, *Anthreptes rectirostris* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Banded Sunbird, *Anthreptes rubritorques* Conservation status: Vulnerable
- Genus *Hedydipna* (sometimes included in *Anthreptes*)
 - Collared Sunbird, *Hedydipna collaris* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Pygmy Sunbird, *Hedydipna platyura* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Nile Valley Sunbird, *Hedydipna metallica* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Amani Sunbird, *Hedydipna pallidigaster* Conservation status: Endangered
 - Genus *Hypogramma*
 - Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum* [Conservation status:](#) Lower risk (lc)
 - Genus *Anabathmis* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Reichenbach's Sunbird, *Anabathmis reichenbachii* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Principe Sunbird, *Anabathmis hartlaubii* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Newton's Sunbird, *Anabathmis newtonii* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Genus *Dreptes* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Sao Tome Sunbird, *Dreptes thomensis* [Conservation status:](#) Vulnerable
 - Genus *Anthobaphes* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Orange-breasted Sunbird, *Anthobaphes violacea* [Conservation status:](#) Lower risk (lc)
 - Genus *Cyanomitra* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Green-headed Sunbird, *Cyanomitra verticalis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Blue-headed Sunbird, *Cyanomitra alinae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Cameroon Sunbird, *Cyanomitra oritis* Conservation status: Lower risk

- (lc)
 Bannerman's Sunbird, *Cyanomitra bannermani* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Eastern Olive Sunbird, *Cyanomitra olivacea* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Western Olive Sunbird, *Cyanomitra obscura* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Mouse-colored Sunbird, *Cyanomitra veroxii* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
- Genus *Chalcomitra* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Buff-throated Sunbird, *Chalcomitra adelberti* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Carmelite Sunbird, *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Green-throated Sunbird, *Chalcomitra rubescens* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Amethyst Sunbird, *Chalcomitra amethystina* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Scarlet-chested Sunbird, *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Hunter's Sunbird, *Chalcomitra hunteri* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Socotra Sunbird, *Chalcomitra balfouri* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
- Genus *Leptocoma* (sometimes included in *Nectarinia*)
 - Purple-rumped Sunbird, *Leptocoma zeylonica* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Crimson-backed Sunbird, *Leptocoma minima* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Copper-throated Sunbird, *Leptocoma calcostetha* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Purple-throated Sunbird, *Leptocoma sperata* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Black Sunbird, *Leptocoma sericea* (formerly *Nectarinia aspasia*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
- Genus *Nectarinia*
 - Bocage's Sunbird, *Nectarinia bocagii* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Purple-breasted Sunbird, *Nectarinia purpureiventris* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Tacazze Sunbird, *Nectarinia tacazze* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Bronze Sunbird, *Nectarinia kilimensis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Golden-winged Sunbird, *Nectarinia reichenowi* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Red-tufted Sunbird, *Nectarinia johnstoni* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

of *C. bifasciatus*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Violet-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris chalcomelas* Conservation status:
 Lower risk (lc)
 Pemba Sunbird, *Cinnyris pembae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Orange-tufted Sunbird, *Cinnyris bouvieri* Conservation status: Lower
 risk (lc)
 Palestine Sunbird, *Cinnyris oseus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Shining Sunbird, *Cinnyris habessinicus* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Splendid Sunbird, *Cinnyris coccinigaster* Conservation status: Lower
 risk (lc)
 Johanna's Sunbird, *Cinnyris johannae* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Superb Sunbird, *Cinnyris superbus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Rufous-winged Sunbird, *Cinnyris rufipennis* Conservation status:
 Vulnerable
 Oustalet's Sunbird, *Cinnyris oustaleti* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 White-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris talatala* Conservation status: Lower
 risk (lc)
 Variable Sunbird, *Cinnyris venustus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Dusky Sunbird, *Cinnyris fuscus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Ursula's Sunbird, *Cinnyris ursulae* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 Bates' Sunbird, *Cinnyris batesi* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Copper Sunbird, *Cinnyris cupreus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Purple Sunbird, *Cinnyris asiaticus* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Apricot-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris buettikoferi* Conservation status:
 Lower risk (lc)
 Flame-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris solaris* Conservation status: Lower
 risk (lc)
 Souimanga Sunbird, *Cinnyris sovimanga* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Seychelles Sunbird, *Cinnyris dussumieri* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Madagascar Sunbird, *Cinnyris notatus* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Humblot's Sunbird, *Cinnyris humbloti* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Anjouan Sunbird, *Cinnyris comorensis* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)
 Mayotte Sunbird, *Cinnyris coquerellii* Conservation status: Lower risk
 (lc)

- Long-billed Sunbird, *Cinnyris lotenius* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
- Genus *Aethopyga*
 - Gray-hooded Sunbird, *Aethopyga primigenia* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 - Mount Apo Sunbird, *Aethopyga boltoni* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 - Lina's Sunbird, *Aethopyga linaraborae* Conservation status: Lower risk (nt)
 - Flaming Sunbird, *Aethopyga flagrans* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Metallic-winged Sunbird, *Aethopyga pulcherrima* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Elegant Sunbird, *Aethopyga duyvenbodei* Conservation status: Endangered
 - Lovely Sunbird, *Aethopyga shelleyi* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Handsome Sunbird, *Aethopyga belli* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Gould's Sunbird, *Aethopyga gouldiae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - White-flanked Sunbird, *Aethopyga eximia* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Green-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga nipalensis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Fork-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga christinae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Black-throated Sunbird, *Aethopyga saturata* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Western Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga vigorsii* (sometimes considered subspecies of *A. siparaja*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga siparaja* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Scarlet Sunbird, *Aethopyga mystacalis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Temminck's Sunbird, *Aethopyga temminckii* (sometimes considered subspecies of *A. mystacalis*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Fire-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga ignicauda* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
- Genus *Arachnothera* - spiderhunters
 - Thick-billed Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera crassirostris* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Spectacled Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera flavigaster* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Long-billed Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera robusta* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)
 - Little Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera longirostra* Conservation status:

Lower risk (lc)

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera chrysogenys* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Naked-faced Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera clarae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Gray-breasted Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera modesta* (sometimes considered subspecies of *A. affinis*) Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera affinis* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Bornean Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera everetti* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Streaked Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera magna* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Whitehead's Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera juliae* Conservation status: Lower risk (lc)

Nuthatches

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Sittidae** Lesson, 1828 Genus: **Sitta** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: 22 species, see text

The **nuthatches** are a family, **Sittidae**, of generally very similar small [passerine birds](#) found throughout the Northern hemisphere.

The nuthatch family, Sittidae, traditionally contained 23 species. The subfamily Sittinae held the 22 species of “true” nuthatches, and the subfamily Tichodromadinae held a single species, the unique Wallcreeper, Tichodroma muraria, which is now separated in its own family, Tichodromadidae.

Most nuthatches are woodland birds, although a few species have adapted to rocky habitats. They have the unusual ability to climb down trees head first, unlike species such as woodpeckers which can only go upwards.

Nuthatches have big heads, short tails and powerful bills and feet. Their shape is distinctive, and all species are recognizable as nuthatches if one has been seen.

They are generally omnivorous, taking insects, nuts and seeds. Most are resident, but the Red-breasted Nuthatch [migrates](#) from the north of its range.

Nests are in holes or crevices. In some species the size of the hole is reduced by the building of a mud wall.

This group gets its name from the habit of the Eurasian Nuthatch of wedging a nut in a crevice in a tree, and then hacking at it with its strong bill.

The list of species below, all in the genus *Sitta* (Linnaeus, 1758), is probably the maximum. Some taxonomists consider that some of the indicated species are in fact conspecific.

Family: Sittidae

- Eurasian Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea*
- Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, *Sitta nagaensis*
- Kashmir Nuthatch, *Sitta cashmirensis*
- Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta castanea*
- White-tailed Nuthatch, *Sitta himalayensis*
- White-browed Nuthatch, *Sitta victoriae*
- Pygmy Nuthatch, *Sitta pygmaea*
- Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla*
- Corsican Nuthatch, *Sitta whiteheadi*
- Algerian Nuthatch, *Sitta ledanti*
- Krüper's Nuthatch, *Sitta krueperi*
- Chinese Nuthatch, *Sitta villosa*
- Yunnan Nuthatch, *Sitta yunnanensis*
- Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*

White-cheeked Nuthatch, *Sitta leucopsis*
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*
Western Rock Nuthatch, *Sitta neumayer*
Eastern Rock Nuthatch, *Sitta tephronota*
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis*
Yellow-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta solangiae*
Sulphur-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta oenochlamys*
Blue Nuthatch, *Sitta azurea*
Giant Nuthatch, *Sitta magna*
Beautiful Nuthatch, *Sitta formosa*

References

- *Tits, Nuthatches and Treecreepers*, Harrap and Quinn, ISBN 0-7136-3964-4
- *The Nuthatches*, Erik Matthysen, Academic Press 1998, ISBN 0-85661-101-8

Old World babblers

Babblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Timaliidae**

Genera: almost 50: see text

The **Old World babblers** are a large family of mostly Old World [passerine birds](#). They are rather diverse in size and coloration, but are characterised by soft fluffy plumage. These are birds of tropical areas, with the greatest variety in southeast Asia. There is also a single New World species, the Wrentit, *Chamaea fasciata*. The timaliids are one of two unrelated groups of birds known as babblers, the other being the Australasian Babblers of the family Pomatostomidae (also known as pseudo-babblers).

These birds have strong legs, and many are quite terrestrial. This group is not strongly [migratory](#), and most [species](#) have short rounded wings, and a weak flight.

The species are:

Family: Timaliidae

- Genus *Malia*
 - *Malia*, *Malia grata*
- Genus *Garrulax*, the laughingthrushes
 - Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cinereifrons*
 - Sunda Laughingthrush, *Garrulax palliatus*
 - Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax rufifrons*
 - Masked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax perspicillatus*
 - White-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax albogularis*
 - White-crested Laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus*
 - Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax monileger*
 - Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax pectoralis*
 - Black Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lugubris*
 - Striated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax striatus*
 - White-necked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax strepitans*
 - Black-hooded Laughingthrush, *Garrulax milleti*
 - Grey Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maesi*
 - Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ruficollis*
 - Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax nuchalis*
 - Black-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax chinensis*
 - White-cheeked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax vassali*
 - Yellow-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax galbanus*
 - Wynaad Laughingthrush, *Garrulax delesserti*
 - Rufous-vented Laughingthrush, *Garrulax gularis*

- Pere David's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax davidi*
 Sukatshev's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sukatschewi*
 Moustached Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cineraceus*
 Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax rufogularis*
 Spotted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ocellatus*
 Barred Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lunulatus*
 Biet's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax bieti*
 Giant Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maximus*
 Grey-sided Laughingthrush, *Garrulax caerulatus*
 Rusty Laughingthrush, *Garrulax poecilorhynchus*
 Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax mitratus*
 Spot-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax merulinus*
 Hwamei, *Garrulax canorus*
 White-browed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sannio*
 Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cachinnans*
 Grey-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax jerdoni*
 Streaked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lineatus*
 Striped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax virgatus*
 Scaly Laughingthrush, *Garrulax subunicolor*
 Brown-capped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax austeni*
 Blue-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax squamatus*
 Elliot's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax elliotii*
 Variegated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax variegatus*
 Prince Henry's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax henrici*
 Black-faced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax affinis*
 White-whiskered Laughingthrush, *Garrulax morrisonianus*
 Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
 Golden-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ngoclinhensis*
 Collared Laughingthrush, *Garrulax yersini*
 Red-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax formosus*
 Red-tailed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax milnei*
- Genus *Liocichla*, the liocichlas
 - Grey-faced Liocichla, *Liocichla omeiensis*
 - Steere's Liocichla, *Liocichla steerii*
 - Red-faced Liocichla, *Liocichla phoenicea*
 - Bugun Liocichla, *Liocichla bugunorum*
 - Genus *Modulatrix*
 - Spot-throat, *Modulatrix stictigula*
 - Genus *Arcanator*
 - Dapple-throat, *Arcanator orostruthus*
 - Genus *Trichastoma*
 - White-chested Babbler, *Trichastoma rostratum*
 - Sulawesi Babbler, *Trichastoma celebense*

- Ferruginous Babbler, *Trichastoma bicolor*
 - Bagobo Babbler, *Trichastoma woodi*
- Genus *Malacocincla*
 - Abbott's Babbler, *Malacocincla abbotti*
 - Horsfield's Babbler, *Malacocincla sepiarium*
 - Black-browed Babbler, *Malacocincla perspicillata*
 - Short-tailed Babbler, *Malacocincla malaccensis*
 - Ashy-headed Babbler, *Malacocincla cinereiceps*
- Genus *Pellorneum*
 - Brown-capped Babbler, *Pellorneum fuscicapillum*
 - Marsh Babbler, *Pellorneum palustre*
 - Buff-breasted Babbler, *Pellorneum tickelli*
 - Temminck's Babbler, *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*
 - Spot-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum albiventris*
 - Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps*
 - Black-capped Babbler, *Pellorneum capistratum*
- Genus *Malacopteron*
 - Palawan Babbler, *Malacopteron palawanense*
 - Moustached Babbler, *Malacopteron magnirostre*
 - Sooty-capped Babbler, *Malacopteron affine*
 - Scaly-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron cinereum*
 - Rufous-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron magnum*
 - Grey-breasted Babbler, *Malacopteron albugulare*
- Genus *Illadopsis*, the illadopsises
 - Blackcap Illadopsis, *Illadopsis cleaveri*
 - Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, *Illadopsis albipectus*
 - Rufous-winged Illadopsis, *Illadopsis rufescens*
 - Puvel's Illadopsis, *Illadopsis puveli*
 - Pale-breasted Illadopsis, *Illadopsis rufipennis*
 - Brown Illadopsis, *Illadopsis fulvescens*
 - Mountain Illadopsis, *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*
 - African Hill Babbler, *Illadopsis abyssinica*
- Genus *Kakamega*
 - Grey-chested Illadopsis, *Kakamega poliothorax*
- Genus *Ptyrticus*
 - Thrush Babbler, *Ptyrticus turdinus*
- Genus *Pomatorhinus*, scimitar babblers
 - Large Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
 - Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*
 - Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*
 - Indian Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*
 - White-browed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
 - Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus montanus*
 - Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*

- Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*
- Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*
- Genus *Xiphirhynchus*, scimitar-babblers
 - Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris*
- Genus *Jabouilleia*, scimitar-babblers
 - Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, *Jabouilleia danjoui*
- Genus *Rimator*, wren-babblers
 - Long-billed Wren-babbler, *Rimator malacoptilus*
- Genus *Ptilocichla*, wren-babblers
 - Bornean Wren-babbler, *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*
 - Striated Wren-babbler, *Ptilocichla mindanensis*
 - Falcated Wren-babbler, *Ptilocichla falcata*
- Genus *Kenopia*, wren-babblers
 - Striped Wren-babbler, *Kenopia striata*
- Genus *Napothera*, wren-babblers
 - Large Wren-babbler, *Napothera macrodactyla*
 - Rusty-breasted Wren-babbler, *Napothera rufipectus*
 - Black-throated Wren-babbler, *Napothera atrigularis*
 - Marbled Wren-babbler, *Napothera marmorata*
 - Limestone Wren-babbler, *Napothera crispifrons*
 - Streaked Wren-babbler, *Napothera brevicaudata*
 - Mountain Wren-babbler, *Napothera crassa*
 - Luzon Wren-babbler, *Napothera rabori*
 - Eyebrowed Wren-babbler, *Napothera epilepidota*
- Genus *Pnoepyga*, wren-babblers
 - Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler, *Pnoepyga albiventer*
 - Immaculate Wren-babbler, *Pnoepyga immaculata*
 - Pygmy Wren-babbler, *Pnoepyga pusilla*
- Genus *Spelaeornis*, wren-babblers
 - Rufous-throated Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis caudatus*
 - Mishmi Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis badeigularis*
 - Bar-winged Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis troglodytoides*
 - Spotted Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis formosus*
 - Long-tailed Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis chocolatinus*
 - Tawny-breasted Wren-babbler, *Spelaeornis longicaudatus*
 - Wedge-billed Wren-babbler, *Sphenocichla humei*
- Genus *Neomixis*, jerys
 - Common Jerry, *Neomixis tenella*
 - Green Jerry, *Neomixis viridis*
 - Stripe-throated Jerry, *Neomixis striatigula*
- Genus *Hartertula*
 - Wedge-tailed Jerry, *Hartertula flavoviridis*
- Genus *Stachyris*

- Deignan's Babbler, *Stachyris rodolphei*
- Buff-chested Babbler, *Stachyris ambigua*
- Rufous-fronted Babbler, *Stachyris rufifrons*
- Rufous-capped Babbler, *Stachyris ruficeps*
- Black-chinned Babbler, *Stachyris pyrrhops*
- Golden Babbler, *Stachyris chrysaea*
- Pygmy Babbler, *Stachyris plateni*
- Golden-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris dennistouni*
- Black-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris nigrocapitata*
- Rusty-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris capitalis*
- Flame-templed Babbler, *Stachyris speciosa*
- Chestnut-faced Babbler, *Stachyris whiteheadi*
- Luzon Striped Babbler, *Stachyris striata*
- Panay Striped Babbler, *Stachyris latistriata*
- Negros Striped Babbler, *Stachyris nigrorum*
- Palawan Striped Babbler, *Stachyris hypogrammica*
- White-breasted Babbler, *Stachyris grammiceps*
- Sooty Babbler, *Stachyris herberti*
- Grey-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigriceps*
- Grey-headed Babbler, *Stachyris poliocephala*
- Snowy-throated Babbler, *Stachyris oglei*
- Spot-necked Babbler, *Stachyris striolata*
- White-necked Babbler, *Stachyris leucotis*
- Black-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigricollis*
- White-bibbed Babbler, *Stachyris thoracica*
- Chestnut-rumped Babbler, *Stachyris maculata*
- Chestnut-winged Babbler, *Stachyris erythroptera*
- Crescent-chested Babbler, *Stachyris melanothorax*
- Genus *Dumetia*
 - Tawny-bellied Babbler, *Dumetia hyperythra*
- Genus *Rhopocichla*
 - Dark-fronted Babbler, *Rhopocichla atriceps*
- Genus *Macronous*, tit-babblers
 - Striped Tit-babbler, *Macronous gularis*
 - Grey-cheeked Tit-babbler, *Macronous flavicollis*
 - Grey-faced Tit-babbler, *Macronous kelleyi*
 - Brown Tit-babbler, *Macronous striaticeps*
 - Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler, *Macronous ptilosus*
 - Miniature Tit-babbler, *Micromacronus leytenis*
- Genus *Timalia*
 - Chestnut-capped Babbler, *Timalia pileata*
- Genus *Chrysomma*

- Yellow-eyed Babbler, *Chrysomma sinense*
 Jerdon's Babbler, *Chrysomma alirostre*
 Rufous-tailed Babbler, *Chrysomma poecilotis*
- Genus *Turdoides*
 - Spiny Babbler, *Turdoides nipalensis*
 Iraq Babbler, *Turdoides alirostris*
 Common Babbler, *Turdoides caudatus*
 Striated Babbler, *Turdoides earlei*
 White-throated Babbler, *Turdoides gularis*
 Slender-billed Babbler, *Turdoides longirostris*
 Large Grey Babbler, *Turdoides malcolmi*
 Arabian Babbler, *Turdoides squamiceps*
 Fulvous Chatterer, *Turdoides fulvus*
 Scaly Chatterer, *Turdoides aylmeri*
 Rufous Chatterer, *Turdoides rubiginosus*
 Rufous Babbler, *Turdoides subrufus*
 Jungle Babbler, *Turdoides striatus*
 Orange-billed Babbler, *Turdoides rufescens*
 Yellow-billed Babbler, *Turdoides affinis*
 Blackcap Babbler, *Turdoides reinwardtii*
 Dusky Babbler, *Turdoides tenebrosus*
 Black-lored Babbler, *Turdoides melanops*
 Scaly Babbler, *Turdoides squamulatus*
 White-rumped Babbler, *Turdoides leucopygius*
 Southern Pied Babbler, *Turdoides bicolor*
 Northern Pied Babbler, *Turdoides hypoleucus*
 Hinde's Pied Babbler, *Turdoides hindei*
 Cretzschmar's Babbler, *Turdoides leucocephalus*
 Brown Babbler, *Turdoides plebejus*
 Arrow-marked Babbler, *Turdoides jardineii*
 Bare-cheeked Babbler, *Turdoides gymnogenys*
- Genus *Babax*, the babaxes
 - Chinese Babax, *Babax lanceolatus*
 Giant Babax, *Babax waddelli*
 Tibetan Babax, *Babax koslowi*
- Genus *Leiothrix*
 - Silver-eared Mesia, *Leiothrix argentea*
 Red-billed Leiothrix, *Leiothrix lutea*
- Genus *Cutia*
 - Cutia, *Cutia nipalensis*
- Genus *Pteruthius*, shrike-babblers
 - Black-headed Shrike-babbler, *Pteruthius rufiventer*
 White-browed Shrike-babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
 Green Shrike-babbler, *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*

- Black-eared Shrike-babbler, *Pteruthius melanotis*
- Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler, *Pteruthius aenobarbus*
- Genus *Gampsorhynchus*
 - White-hooded Babbler, *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*
- Genus *Actinodura*, the barwings
 - Rusty-fronted Barwing, *Actinodura egertoni*
 - Spectacled Barwing, *Actinodura ramsayi*
 - Black-crowned Barwing, *Actinodura sodangorum*
 - Hoary-throated Barwing, *Actinodura nipalensis*
 - Streak-throated Barwing, *Actinodura waldeni*
 - Streaked Barwing, *Actinodura souliei*
 - Taiwan Barwing, *Actinodura morrisoniana*
- Genus *Minla*, the minlas
 - Blue-winged Minla, *Minla cyanouroptera*
 - Chestnut-tailed Minla, *Minla strigula*
 - Red-tailed Minla, *Minla ignotincta*
- Genus *Alcippe*, the fulvettas
 - Golden-breasted Fulvetta, *Alcippe chrysotis*
 - Gold-fronted Fulvetta, *Alcippe variegaticeps*
 - Yellow-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinerea*
 - Rufous-winged Fulvetta, *Alcippe castaneiceps*
 - White-browed Fulvetta, *Alcippe vinipectus*
 - Chinese Fulvetta, *Alcippe striaticollis*
 - Spectacled Fulvetta, *Alcippe ruficapilla*
 - Streak-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinereiceps*
 - Ludlow's Fulvetta, *Alcippe ludlowi*
 - Rufous-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe rufogularis*
 - Dusky Fulvetta, *Alcippe brunnea*
 - Rusty-capped Fulvetta, *Alcippe dubia*
 - Brown Fulvetta, *Alcippe brunneicauda*
 - Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, *Alcippe poioicephala*
 - Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, *Alcippe morrisonia*
 - Javan Fulvetta, *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*
 - Mountain Fulvetta, *Alcippe peracensis*
 - Nepal Fulvetta, *Alcippe nipalensis*
- Genus *Lioptilus*
 - Bush Blackcap, *Lioptilus nigricapillus*
- Genus *Kupeornis*, the mountain-babblers
 - White-throated Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis gilberti*
 - Red-collared Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis rufocinctus*
 - Chapin's Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis chapini*
- Genus *Parophasma*
 - Abyssinian Catbird, *Parophasma galinieri*
- Genus *Phyllanthus*

- Capuchin Babbler, *Phyllanthus atripennis*
- Genus *Croci*, the crocias
 - Grey-crowned Crocias, *Croci langbianis*
 - Spotted Crocias, *Croci albonotatus*
- Genus *Heterophasia*, the sibilas
 - Rufous-backed Sibia, *Heterophasia annectens*
 - Rufous Sibia, *Heterophasia capistrata*
 - Grey Sibia, *Heterophasia gracilis*
 - Black-backed Sibia, *Heterophasia melanoleuca*
 - Black-headed Sibia, *Heterophasia desgodinsi*
 - White-eared Sibia, *Heterophasia auricularis*
 - Beautiful Sibia, *Heterophasia pulchella*
 - Long-tailed Sibia, *Heterophasia picaoides*
- Genus *Yuhina*, the yuhinas
 - Striated Yuhina, *Yuhina castaniceps*
 - Chestnut-crested Yuhina, *Yuhina everetti*
 - White-naped Yuhina, *Yuhina bakeri*
 - Whiskered Yuhina, *Yuhina flavicollis*
 - Burmese Yuhina, *Yuhina humilis*
 - Stripe-throated Yuhina, *Yuhina gularis*
 - White-collared Yuhina, *Yuhina diademata*
 - Rufous-vented Yuhina, *Yuhina occipitalis*
 - Taiwan Yuhina, *Yuhina brunneiceps*
 - Black-chinned Yuhina, *Yuhina nigrimenta*
 - White-bellied Yuhina, *Yuhina zantholeuca*
- Genus *Myzornis*
 - Fire-tailed Myzornis, *Myzornis pyrrhura*
- Genus *Oxylabes*
 - White-throated Oxylabes, *Oxylabes madagascariensis*
- Genus *Crossleyia*
 - Yellow-browed Oxylabes, *Crossleyia xanthophrys*
- Genus *Chamaea*
 - Wrentit, *Chamaea fasciata*

The genus *Mystacornis* is now classified as a [vanga](#).

Paradoxornithidae

Parrotbills

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Paradoxornithidae**

Genera: *Panurus*, *Conostoma*, *Paradoxornis*

The **parrotbills** are a small family of Old World [passerine birds](#), **Paradoxornithidae** (or **Panuridae** in some systems). They are related to the [Old World babblers](#), but in general appearance and behaviour are more like the [tits](#). The bills of these birds are short, heavy and laterally compressed, like a parrot's, hence the English name.

These are mostly birds of tropical southeast Asia, although the Bearded Tit is a bird of reedbeds in temperate Eurasia.

These are birds of open habitats, reedbeds and bamboo stands. This group is not strongly [migratory](#), although the Bearded Tit can be eruptive.

The species are:

Family: Paradoxornithidae

- Genus *Panurus*
 - Bearded Tit, or **Bearded Reedling**, *Panurus biarmicus*
- Genus *Conostoma*
 - Great Parrotbill, *Conostoma oemodium*
- Genus *Paradoxornis*
 - Brown Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis unicolor*
 - Grey-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis gularis*
 - Three-toed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis paradoxus*
 - Black-breasted Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis flavirostris*
 - Spot-breasted Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis guttaticollis*
 - Spectacled Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis conspicillatus*
 - Vinous-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis webbianus*
 - Brown-winged Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis brunneus*
 - Ashy-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis alphonsianus*
 - Grey-hooded Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis zappeyi*
 - Rusty-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis przewalskii*
 - Fulvous Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*
 - Black-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis nipalensis*
 - Golden Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis verreauxi*
 - Short-tailed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis davidianus*
 - Black-browed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*
 - Rufous-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis ruficeps*
 - Reed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis heudei*

Paramythiidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Paramythiidae**

Genus: ***Oreocharis*** Salvadori, 1876, ***Paramythia*** De Vis, 1892

The **Paramythiidae** is a very small [bird](#) family restricted to the mountain forests of New Guinea. It comprises two species:

- Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*
- Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*

These are colourful medium-sized birds which feed on fruit and some insects.

These species were formerly included in the Dicaeidae, but DNA-DNA hybridization studies showed these species were related to each other but distinct from the flowerpeckers.

Paridae

Tits and Chickadees

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Paridae** Vigors, 1825 [Genera](#): See text.

The **tits**, **chickadees**, and **titmice**, family **Paridae**, are a large family of small [passerine birds](#) which occur in the northern hemisphere and Africa. Most were formerly in the genus *Parus*; some recent authors have split this large group into several genera (as indicated below), which has been followed by North American ornithological authorities but not elsewhere.

On current evidence, only *Pseudopodoces*, *Baeolophus*, *Melanochlora* and *Sylviparus* are well supported as distinct genera from *Parus* (Harrap & Quinn, *Tits, Nuthatches & Treecreepers*, ISBN 0-7136-3964-4). The order in the list below follows Harrap & Quinn, with the incorporation of the recent split of Plain Titmouse into Oak and Juniper Titmice, and the addition of Hume's Ground Tit.

These birds are called "chickadees" (derived from their distinctive "chick-a dee dee dee" alarm call) or "titmice" in North America, and just "tits" in the rest of the English speaking world. The name titmouse is attested from the 14th century, composed of the Old English name for the bird, mase (Proto-Germanic *maison) and tit, denoting something small. The spelling was influenced by mouse in the 16th century. "Chickadee" is onomatopoeic, i.e., sounds like the call of many North American species.

These are mainly small stocky woodland species with short stout bills. Some have crests. They are adaptable birds, with a mixed diet including seeds and insects. Many species will live around human habitation and come readily to bird feeders for nuts or seed, and learn to take other foods. In England, Great Tits and Blue Tits learned to break open the foil caps sealing bottles of milk that had been delivered to homes to get at the cream floating on top.

These are hole-nesting birds laying speckled white [eggs](#).

In the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, the Paridae family is much enlarged to include related groups such as the Penduline tits and [Long-tailed tits](#).

Species

- Marsh Tit, *Parus palustris* (*Poecile palustris*)
- Black-bibbed Tit, *Parus hypermelaena* (*Poecile hypermelaena*)
- Sombre Tit, *Parus lugubris* (*Poecile lugubris*)
- Caspian Tit, *Parus hyrcana* (*Poecile hyrcanus*)
- Willow Tit, *Parus montanus* (*Poecile montana*)
- Songar Tit, *Parus songarus* (*Poecile songara*)
- Carolina Chickadee, *Parus carolinensis* (*Poecile carolinensis*)
- Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapilla* (*Poecile atricapillus*)
- Mountain Chickadee, *Parus gambeli* (*Poecile gambeli*)

Mexican Chickadee, *Parus sclateri* (*Poecile sclateri*)
 White-browed Tit, *Parus superciliosus* (*Poecile superciliosa*)
 Père David's Tit, *Parus davidi* (*Poecile davidi*)
 Boreal Chickadee, *Parus hudsonicus* (*Poecile hudsonica*)
 Siberian Tit or Gray-headed Chickadee, *Parus cinctus* (*Poecile cincta*)
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, *Parus rufescens* (*Poecile rufescens*)
 Rufous-naped Tit or Black-breasted Tit, *Parus rufonuchalis* (*Periparus rufonuchalis*)
 Rufous-vented Tit, *Parus rubidiventris* (*Periparus rubidiventris*)
 Spot-winged Tit or Black-crested Tit, *Parus melanolophus* (*Periparus melanolophus*)
 Coal Tit, *Parus ater* (*Periparus ater*)
 Yellow-bellied Tit, *Parus venustulus* (*Pardaliparus venustulus*)
 Elegant Tit, *Parus elegans* (*Pardaliparus elegans*)
 Palawan Tit, *Parus amabilis* (*Pardaliparus amabilis*)
 Crested Tit, *Parus cristatus* (*Lophophanes cristatus*)
 Grey-crested Tit, *Parus dichrous* (*Lophophanes dichrous*)
 White-shouldered Tit, *Parus guineensis* (*Melaniparus guineensis*)
 White-winged Black Tit, *Parus leucomelas* (*Melaniparus leucomelas*)
 Southern Black Tit, *Parus niger* (*Melaniparus niger*)
 Carp's Tit, *Parus carpi* (*Melaniparus carpi*)
 White-bellied Tit, *Parus albiventris* (*Melaniparus albiventris*)
 White-backed Tit, *Parus leuconotus* (*Melaniparus leuconotus*)
 Dusky Tit, *Parus funereus* (*Melaniparus funereus*)
 Rufous-bellied Tit, *Parus rufiventris* (*Melaniparus rufiventris*)
 Cinnamon-breasted Tit, *Parus pallidiventris* (*Melaniparus pallidiventris*)
 Red-throated Tit, *Parus fringillinus* (*Melaniparus fringillinus*)
 Stripe-breasted Tit, *Parus fasciiventer* (*Melaniparus fasciiventer*)
 Acacia Tit or Somali Tit, *Parus thruppi* (*Melaniparus thruppi*)
 Miombo Tit, *Parus griseiventris* (*Melaniparus griseiventris*)
 Ashy Tit, *Parus cinerascens* (*Melaniparus cinerascens*)
 Southern Grey Tit, *Parus afer* (*Melaniparus afer*)
 Great Tit, *Parus major*
 Japanese Tit, *Parus minor*
 Turkestan Tit, *Parus bokharensis*
 Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus*
 White-winged Tit, *Parus nuchalis*
 Black-lored Tit, *Parus xanthogenys*
 Yellow-cheeked Tit, *Parus spilonotus*
 Yellow Tit, *Parus holsti* (*Macholophus holsti*)
 Blue Tit, *Parus caeruleus* (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)
 Azure Tit, *Parus cyanus* (*Cyanistes cyanus*)
 Yellow-breasted Tit, *Parus flavipectus* (*Cyanistes flavipectus*)
 Varied Tit, *Parus varius* (*Sittiparus varius*)
 White-fronted Tit, *Parus semilarvatus* (*Sittiparus semilarvatus*)

Bridled Titmouse, *Baeolophus wollweberi*
Oak Titmouse, *Baeolophus inornatus*
Juniper Titmouse, *Baeolophus ridgwayi*
Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*
Black-crested Titmouse, *Baeolophus atricristatus*
Yellow-browed Tit, *Sylviparus modestus*
Sultan Tit, *Melanochlora sultanea*
Hume's Ground Tit, previously Hume's Ground Jay, *Pseudopodoces humilis*
(This species has only recently been removed from the Crow family *Corvidae*
and placed into the Tit family.)

Pseudopodoces

Hume's Ground Tit

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Paridae](#)

Genus: ***Pseudopodoces*** Zarudny & Loudon, 1902 Species: ***P. humilis***

Binomial name: ***Pseudopodoces humilis*** (Hume, 1871)

Hume's Ground Tit (*Pseudopodoces humilis*), previously known as **Hume's Ground Jay**, is a [lark](#)-like bird. It is similar in shape to the (unrelated) [genus](#) Podoces but is much smaller, about the size of a House Sparrow. It is a greyish-fawn in colour with a tawny flush and has soft, lax feathers on the body. The upper parts tend to be a darker fawn-brown with the central tail feathers and wing primaries a little darker still. The bill, legs and feet are black. The flight of this bird is not strong and it flies low over the ground preferring to run or jump out of the way if approached which it does very quickly.

This species has only recently been removed, on the basis of DNA analysis, from the Crow family ([Corvidae](#)) and placed into the Tit family (Paridae). It is the only species in genus *Pseudopodoces*.

It occurs from north western Szechuan province in China westwards to Tibet in open, grass steppe type country or sometimes arid regions with small scattered shrubs. It avoids anywhere that has dense vegetation, especially trees.

Food is obtained on the ground and includes a wide range of insect prey often obtained by probing wild Yak dung and turning it over to flush them out. It peers into rock crevices and into holes in the ground also in its search for food. If chased, it will bolt straight down the nearest hole (very un-birdlike behaviour) until the danger has passed, usually caused by a bird of prey.

The nest is also unusual in being in a tunnel which the bird(s) excavate themselves. It is usually dug horizontally into a bank or wall of earth and can reach a depth of up to 1.8 metres. The nest is placed at the end of this in a small chamber and consists usually of just wool placed onto a grass base. The 4–6 [eggs](#) are pure white and the young stay with their parents for some time after fledging.

The voice is described as a plaintive whistling, *cheep-cheep-cheep-cheep* and it also has a two syllable [Finch](#)-like call.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Pseudopodoces humilis](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Parulidae

New World warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Parulidae** Wetmore et al, 1947 Genera: *Vermivora*, *Parula*, *Dendroica*, *Catharopeza*, *Mniotilta*, *Setophaga*, *Protonotaria*, *Helminthos*, *Limnithlypis*, *Seiurus*, *Oporornis*, *Geothlypis*, *Microligea*, *Teretistris*, *Leucopoeza*, *Wilsonia*, *Cardellina*, *Ergaticus*, *Myioborus*, *Euthlypis*, *Basileuterus*, *Zeledonia*, *Icteria*, *Granatellus*, *Xenoligea*

The **New World warblers** or **wood-warblers** are a group of small often colourful [passerine birds](#) restricted to the New World. They are not related to the [Old World warblers](#) (Sylviidae) or the Australian warblers.

Most are arboreal, but some, like the [Ovenbird](#) and the two waterthrushes, are more terrestrial. Most members of this family are insectivores.

It is likely that this group originated in northern Central America, which remains with the greatest diversity and numbers of species. From thence they spread north during the interglacial periods, mainly as [migrants](#), returning to the ancestral region in winter. Two genera, *Myioborus* and *Basileuterus* seem to have colonised South America early, perhaps before the two continents were linked, and provide most of the resident warbler species of that region.

Many migratory species, particularly those breeding further north, have distinctive male plumage at least in the breeding season, since males need to reclaim territory and advertise for mates each year. This tendency is particularly marked in the large genus *Dendroica*. In contrast, resident tropical species, which pair for life, show little if any sexual dimorphism.

There are of course exceptions. The *Seiurus* waterthrushes and [Ovenbird](#) are strongly migratory, but have identical male and female plumage, whereas the mainly tropical and sedentary yellowthroats are dimorphic.

The *Granatellus* chats also show sexual dimorphism, but due to recent genetic work may soon be moved into the family [Cardinalidae](#) (New World buntings and cardinals).

The migratory species tend to lay larger clutches of eggs, typically up to six, since the hazards of their journeys mean that many individuals will have only one chance to breed. In contrast, two eggs is typical for many tropical species, since the chicks can be provided with better care, and the adults are likely to have further opportunities for reproduction.

The scientific name for the family, Parulidae, originates from the fact that Linnaeus in 1758 named the Northern Parula as a [tit](#), *Parus americanus*, and, as taxonomy developed, the genus name was modified first to *Parulus* and then the current *Parula*. The family name, of course, derives from that genus.

- [1 Taxonomic issues](#)
- 2 Species list in taxonomic order
- [3 References](#)

Taxonomic issues

There are a number of issues in the taxonomy of the Parulidae.

- Sibley and Ahlquist have suggested that the family be merged with the Emberizidae as a subfamily Parulinae. The Olive Warbler, however would be removed from the group as the only member of the separate subfamily Peucedramimae.
- The New World warblers are closely related to the [tanagers](#), and some species like the conebills *Conirostrum* and the [Bananaquit](#) have been placed into either group by different authorities. Currently, the conebills are normally placed in [Thraupidae](#) and the Bananaquit in its own family.
- Green-tailed Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, the Granatellus chats and White-winged Warbler, are other species where there have been questions as to whether they should be considered as warblers or tanagers.
- The Pardusco, *Nephelornis oneilli* is also of uncertain affinities

Species list in taxonomic order

Family: Parulidae

- Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii*
- Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*
- Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*
- Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*
- Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*
- Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*
- Virginia's Warbler, *Vermivora virginiae*
- Colima Warbler, *Vermivora crissalis*
- Lucy's Warbler, *Vermivora luciae*
- Flame-throated Warbler, *Parula gutturalis*
- Crescent-chested Warbler, *Parula superciliosa*
- Northern Parula, *Parula americana*
- Tropical Parula, *Parula pitayumi*
- Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*
- Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*
- Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*
- Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*
- Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*
- Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*
- Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Dendroica nigrescens*
- Golden-cheeked Warbler, *Dendroica chrysoparia*
- Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*
- Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*
- Hermit Warbler, *Dendroica occidentalis*
- Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*

Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*
 Olive-capped Warbler, *Dendroica pityophila*
 Grace's Warbler, *Dendroica graciae*
 Adelaide's Warbler, *Dendroica adelaidae*
 Barbuda Warbler, *Dendroica subita*
 St. Lucia Warbler, *Dendroica delicata*
 Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*
 Kirtland's Warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandii*
 Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*
 Vitelline Warbler, *Dendroica vitellina*
 Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*
 Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*
 Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*
 Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*
 Plumbeous Warbler, *Dendroica plumbea*
 Arrow-headed Warbler, *Dendroica pharetra*
 Elfin-woods Warbler, *Dendroica angelae*
 Whistling Warbler, *Catharopeza bishopi*
 Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*
 American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*
 Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*
 Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*
 Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*
 Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*
 Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*
 Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*
 Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*
 Connecticut Warbler, *Oporornis agilis*
 Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis philadelphia*
 MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*
 Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*
 Belding's Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis beldingi*
 Altamira Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis flavovelata*
 Bahama Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis rostrata*
 Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis semiflava*
 Black-poll'd Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis speciosa*
 Masked Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis aequinoctialis*
 Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis poliocephala*
 Hooded Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis nelsoni*
 Green-tailed Warbler, *Microligea palustris*
 Yellow-headed Warbler, *Teretistris fernandinae*
 Oriente Warbler, *Teretistris fornsi*
 Semper's Warbler, *Leucopeza semperi*
 Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*
 Wilson's Warbler, *Wilsonia pusilla*

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*
 Red-faced Warbler, *Cardellina rubrifrons*
 Red Warbler, *Ergaticus ruber*
 Pink-headed Warbler, *Ergaticus versicolor*
 Painted Redstart, *Myioborus pictus*
 Slate-throated Redstart, *Myioborus miniatus*
 Tepui Redstart, *Myioborus castaneocapillus*
 Brown-capped Redstart, *Myioborus brunniceps*
 Yellow-faced Redstart, *Myioborus pariae*
 White-faced Redstart, *Myioborus albifacies*
 Saffron-breasted Redstart, *Myioborus cardonai*
 Collared Redstart, *Myioborus torquatus*
 Spectacled Redstart, *Myioborus melanocephalus*
 Golden-fronted Redstart, *Myioborus ornatus*
 White-fronted Redstart, *Myioborus albifrons*
 Yellow-crowned Redstart, *Myioborus flavivertex*

The members of *Myioborus* are also often, more accurately, named as **whitestarts**, as they have conspicuous white, not red, feathers on the tail sides.

- Fan-tailed Warbler, *Euthlypis lachrymosa*
 Gray-and-gold Warbler, *Basileuterus fraseri*
 Two-banded Warbler, *Basileuterus bivittatus*
 Golden-bellied Warbler, *Basileuterus chrysogaster*
 Choco Warbler, *Basileuterus chlorophrys*
 Pale-legged Warbler, *Basileuterus signatus*
 Citrine Warbler, *Basileuterus luteoviridis*
 Black-crested Warbler, *Basileuterus nigrocristatus*
 Gray-headed Warbler, *Basileuterus griseiceps*
 Santa Marta Warbler, *Basileuterus basilicus*
 Gray-throated Warbler, *Basileuterus cinereicollis*
 White-lored Warbler, *Basileuterus conspicillatus*
 Russet-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus coronatus*
 Golden-crowned Warbler, *Basileuterus culicivorus*
 Three-banded Warbler, *Basileuterus trifasciatus*
 White-bellied Warbler, *Basileuterus hypoleucus*
 Rufous-capped Warbler, *Basileuterus rufifrons*
 Golden-browed Warbler, *Basileuterus belli*
 Black-cheeked Warbler, *Basileuterus melanogenys*
 Pirre Warbler, *Basileuterus ignotus*
 Three-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus tristriatus*
 White-rimmed Warbler, *Basileuterus leucoblepharus*
 White-striped Warbler, *Basileuterus leucophrys*
 Flavescent Warbler, *Basileuterus flaveolus*
 Buff-rumped Warbler, *Basileuterus fulvicauda*
 Neotropical River Warbler, *Basileuterus rivularis*

Wrenthrush, *Zeledonia coronata*
Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*
Red-breasted Chat, *Granatellus venustus*
Gray-throated Chat, *Granatellus sallaei*
Rose-breasted Chat, *Granatellus pelzelni*
White-winged Warbler, *Xenoligea montana*

References

- Curson, Quinn and Beadle, *New World Warblers* ISBN 0-7136-3932-6

Dendroica

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: Parulidae
 Genus: ***Dendroica*** Gray, 1842

Dendroica is a genus of [birds](#) of the [New World Warbler](#) family Parulidae. It contains 29 species. The males in breeding plumage are often highly colourful. The *Dendroica* warblers are an example of adaptive radiation with the various species using different feeding techniques and often feeding in different parts of the same tree.

List of species

- Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*
- Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*
- Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*
- Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*
- Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*
- Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*
- Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Dendroica nigrescens*
- Golden-cheeked Warbler, *Dendroica chrysoparia*
- Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*
- Townsend's Warbler, *Dendroica townsendi*
- Hermit Warbler, *Dendroica occidentalis*
- Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*
- Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*
- Olive-capped Warbler, *Dendroica pityophila*
- Grace's Warbler, *Dendroica graciae*
- Adelaide's Warbler, *Dendroica adelaidae*
- Barbuda Warbler, *Dendroica subita*
- St. Lucia Warbler, *Dendroica delicata*
- Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*
- Kirtland's Warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandii*
- Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor*
- Vitelline Warbler, *Dendroica vitellina*
- Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*
- Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*
- Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*
- Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*
- Plumbeous Warbler, *Dendroica plumbea*

Arrow-headed Warbler, *Dendroica pharetra*
Elfin-woods Warbler, *Dendroica angelae*

Seiurus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Parulidae

Genus: ***Seiurus*** Swainson, 1827

The genus ***Seiurus*** consists of three species of [bird](#) in the [New World warbler](#) family Parulidae.

They are terrestrial feeders always found near water. Two of the species, the **waterthrushes**, are very similar; they are

- Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*
Northern Waterthrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*

The third member of the *Seiurus* genus is the

- [Ovenbird](#), *Seiurus aurocapillus*.

Vermivora

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: Parulidae
Genus: **Vermivora**
species: See text.

Vermivora is a genus of [New World Warblers](#). There are seven species.

- Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii* Extinct
Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*
Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*
Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*
Orange-crowned Warbler, *Vermivora celata*
Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*
Virginia's Warbler, *Vermivora virginiae*
Colima Warbler, *Vermivora crissalis*
Lucy's Warbler, *Vermivora luciae*

Passeridae

Old World sparrows

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Passeridae** Illiger, 1811 Genera: *Passer*, *Petronia*, *Carpospiza*, *Montifringilla*

This article is about "true sparrows," the Old World **sparrows** in the family **Passeridae**. Sparrows are small [passerine birds](#). The differences between sparrow species can be subtle. In general, sparrows tend to be small plump brownish or greyish birds with short tails and stubby powerful beaks. They are primarily seed-eaters, though they also consume small insects. A few species scavenge for food around cities, and like [gulls](#) or [pigeons](#) will happily eat virtually anything in small quantities.

The Old World true sparrows are found indigenously in Europe, Africa, and Asia. In Australia and the Americas, early settlers imported some species which quickly naturalised, particularly in urban and degraded areas. House Sparrows, for example, are now found throughout North America, in every state of Australia except Western Australia, and over much of heavily populated parts of South America.

Some authorities also classify the closely related [estrildid finches](#) of the equatorial regions and Australasia as members of the Passeridae. Like the true sparrows, the estrildid finches are small, gregarious, and often colonial seed-eaters with short, thick, but pointed bills. They are broadly similar in structure and habits, but tend to be very colourful and vary greatly in their plumage. About 140 species are native to the old world tropics and Australasia. Most taxonomic schemes list the estrildid finches as the separate family Estrildidae, leaving just the true sparrows in Passeridae.

American sparrows, or New World sparrows, are not closely related to the true sparrows, despite some physical resemblance, such as the seed-eaters bill and frequently well-marked heads. They are in the family [Emberizidae](#).

The Hedge Sparrow or Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) is similarly unrelated. It is a sparrow in name only, a relic of the old practice of calling *any* small bird a "sparrow".

There are 35 species of Old World sparrows, in four genera.

Species list

- *Passer*, the true sparrows
 - Saxaul Sparrow, *Passer ammodendri*
 - House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
 - Spanish Sparrow, *Passer hispaniolensis*
 - Sind Sparrow, *Passer pyrrhonotus*
 - Somali Sparrow, *Passer castanopterus*
 - Cinnamon Sparrow or Russet Sparrow, *Passer rutilans*
 - Pegu Sparrow or Plain-backed Sparrow, *Passer flaveolus*
 - Dead Sea Sparrow, *Passer moabiticus*

- Rufous Sparrow, *Passer motitensis*
- Socotra Sparrow, *Passer insularis*
- Iago Sparrow or Cape Verde Sparrow, *Passer iagoensis*
- Cape Sparrow or Mossie, *Passer melanurus*
- Grey-headed Sparrow, *Passer griseus*
- Swainson's Sparrow, *Passer swainsonii*
- Parrot-billed Sparrow, *Passer gongonensis*
- Swaheli Sparrow, *Passer suahelicus*
- Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, *Passer diffusus*
- Desert Sparrow, *Passer simplex*
- Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*
- Sudan Golden Sparrow, *Passer luteus*
- Arabian Golden Sparrow, *Passer euchlorus*
- Chestnut Sparrow, *Passer eminibey*
- Italian Sparrow, *Passer italiae*
- Kenya Rufous Sparrow, *Passer rufocinctus*
- Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, *Passer cordofanicus*
- Shelley's Rufous Sparrow, *Passer shelleyi*
- Asian Desert Sparrow, *Passer zarudnyi*
- *Petronia*, the rock sparrows
 - Yellow-spotted Petronia, *Petronia pyrgita*
 - Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, *Petronia xanthocollis*
 - Yellow-throated Petronia, *Petronia superciliaris*
 - Bush Petronia, *Petronia dentata*
 - Rock Sparrow, *Petronia petronia*
- *Carospiza*, Pale Rockfinch
 - Pale Rockfinch, *Carospiza brachydactyla*
- *Montifringilla*, the snowfinches
 - White-winged Snowfinch, *Montifringilla nivalis*
 - Black-winged Snowfinch, *Montifringilla adamsi*
 - White-rumped Snowfinch, *Montifringilla taczanowskii*
 - Père David's Snowfinch, *Montifringilla davidiana*
 - Rufous-necked Snowfinch, *Montifringilla ruficollis*
 - Blanford's Snowfinch, *Montifringilla blanfordi*
 - Afghan Snowfinch, *Montifringilla theresae*
 - Tibetan Snowfinch, *Montifringilla henrici*

Sparrows in literature

The Roman poet Catullus addresses one of his odes to his lover Lesbia's pet sparrow ('*Passer, deliciae meae puellae...*'), and writes an elegy on its death ('*Lugete, o Veneres Cupidinesque...*'). The sparrow's playful erotic intimacy with its mistress ('To whose seeking she often gives her first finger/And provokes sharp pecks') makes the poet envious. At the climax of its elegy he reproaches it for dying, and distressing her ('Now, by your deeds, my

girl's/Little eyes are slightly swollen and red from weeping'). The diminutiveness of the sparrow, and the hugeness and eternity of the afterlife, form a bathos that is typical of the mock elegy form: '*qui nunc it per iter tenebricosum/illuc unde negant redire quemquam*' ('He now goes on a journey through that gloomy place,/From where they say no one returns'). Note how the sparrow's hopping is represented metrically. The bird is also alluded to in the line "He who lives by the stick, dies by the stick" in James Wilson's "The Stick Finch".

In 'Phyllyp Sparowe' (pub. c. 1505), by the English poet John Skelton, Jane Scrope's laments for her dead sparrow are mixed with antiphonal Latin liturgy from the Office of the Dead. It belongs to the same tradition as Catullus' poem, or Ovid's lament for a parrot in the *Amores*, but the erotic element is more direct: 'And on me it wolde lepe/Whan I was aslepe,/And his fethers shake,/Wherewith he wolde make/Me often for to wake/And for to take him in/Upon my naked skyn'.

Peucedramidae

Olive Warbler

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Peucedramidae** Wolters, 1980 Genus: **Peucedramus** Henshaw, 1875 Species: ***P. taeniatus***

Binomial name: ***Peucedramus taeniatus*** (Du Bus de Gisignies, 1847)

The **Olive Warbler**, *Peucedramus taeniatus*, is a small [passerine bird](#), the only member of the family Peucedramidae.

This species breeds from Arizona, USA, south through Mexico to Nicaragua. It was in the past classed with the Parulidae ([New World warblers](#)), but DNA studies suggest that it split early from the other related passerines, prior to the differentiation of the entire New World warbler/American sparrow/[Icterid](#) group. It is therefore now given a family of its own.

The Olive Warbler is a long-winged bird. It has a grey body with some olive-green on the wings and two white wing bars. The male's head and breast are orange, and there is a black patch through the eye. In the female and juvenile, the orange is replaced by yellow, and the black mask is more diffuse. The song consists of clear whistles.

It is a [non-migratory](#) insectivorous species of coniferous forests. It lays 3-4 eggs in a tree nest.

- **Family: Peucedramidae**
 - Olive Warbler, *Peucedramus taeniatus*

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [Peucedramus taeniatus](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Picathartidae

Picathartes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Picathartidae** Lowe, 1938 Genus: *Picathartes* Lesson, 1828 Species: See text.

The **picathartes**, **rockfowl** or **bald crows** are a small family of two [passerine bird species](#) found in the rain-forests of tropical west and central Africa. They have unfeathered heads, and feed on insects and molluscs picked from damp rocky areas. Both species are totally [non-migratory](#), being dependent on a specialised rocky jungle habitat.

These are lanky birds with [crow-like](#) bills, long neck, tail and legs, and strong feet adapted to terrestrial feeding. They are similar in size and structure to the completely unrelated roadrunners, but they hop rather than walk. They also have brightly coloured bald heads.

Picathartes breed colonially. The nest is made of mud attached to a cave roof or overhanging rock on a cliff. Two eggs are laid.

The **White-necked Rockfowl** is found in rocky forest areas at higher altitudes from Sierra Leone to Togo. It has grey upperparts, white underparts and a yellow head with a black patch on each side.

The **Grey-necked Rockfowl** breeds in southern Cameroon, northern Nigeria and neighbouring areas of central Africa. It has grey upperparts and throat. The underparts are pale orange and the head is violet at the front and red at the back, again with black side patches.

Species of Picathartidae

- White-necked Rockfowl, *Picathartes gymnocephalus*
Grey-necked Rockfowl, *Picathartes oreas*

Platysteiridae

Wattle-eyes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Platysteiridae**

Genera: *Megabyas*, *Bias*, *Pseudobias*, *Platysteira*, *Batis*, *Lanioturdus*

The **wattle-eyes** or **puffback flycatchers** are small stout [passerine birds](#) of the African tropics. They were previously classed as a subfamily of the [Old World flycatcher](#) family Muscicapidae.

They get their name from the brightly coloured fleshy eye decorations found in most species in this group.

These insect-eating birds are found in usually open forests or bush. They hunt by flycatching, or by taking prey from the ground like a [shrike](#). The nest is a small neat cup low in a tree or bush.

• Family: Platysteiridae

- African Shrike-flycatcher, *Megabyas flammulatus*
- Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, *Bias musicus*
- Common Wattle-eye, *Platysteira cyanea*
- White-fronted Wattle-eye, *Platysteira albifrons*
- Black-throated Wattle-eye, *Platysteira peltata*
- Banded Wattle-eye, *Platysteira laticincta*
- Chestnut Wattle-eye, *Platysteira castanea*
- White-spotted Wattle-eye, *Platysteira tonsa*
- Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, *Platysteira blissetti*
- Black-necked Wattle-eye, *Platysteira chalybea*
- Jameson's Wattle-eye, *Platysteira jamesoni*
- Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, *Platysteira concreta*
- Boulton's Batis, *Batis margaritae*
- Short-tailed Batis, *Batis mixta*
- Ruwenzori Batis, *Batis diops*
- Cape Batis, *Batis capensis*
- Woodward's Batis, *Batis fratrum*
- Chinspot Batis, *Batis molitor*
- Pale Batis, *Batis soror*
- Pririt Batis, *Batis pririt*
- Senegal Batis, *Batis senegalensis*
- Gray-headed Batis, *Batis orientalis*
- Black-headed Batis, *Batis minor*
- Pygmy Batis, *Batis perkeo*
- Verreaux's Batis, *Batis minima*
- Ituri Batis, *Batis ituriensis*

- Fernando Po Batis, *Batis poensis*
- West African Batis, *Batis occulta*
- Angola Batis, *Batis minulla*
- White-tailed Shrike *Lanioturdus torquatus*

Ploceidae

Weaver

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Ploceidae** Sundevall, 1836 Genera: Many: see text

The **Weavers** are small [passerine birds](#) related to the [finches](#).

These are seed-eating birds with rounded conical bills, most of which breed in sub-Saharan Africa, with fewer species in tropical Asia and also in Australia. The weaver group is divided into the buffalo, sparrow, typical, and widow weavers. The males of many species are brightly coloured, usually in red or yellow and black, some species show variation in colour only in the breeding season.

Weaver birds, also known as weaver finches get their name because of their elaborately woven nests (the most elaborate of any birds), though some are notable for their selective parasitic nesting habits. The nests vary in size, shape, material used and construction techniques from species to species. Materials used for building nests include fine leaf-fibers, grass and twigs. Many species weave very fine nests using thin strands of leaf fiber, and some like the buffalo-weavers, however, form massive untidy stick nests in their colonies, which may have several spherical woven nests within. The sparrow weavers of Africa build apartment-house nests, in which 100 to 300 pairs have separate flask-shaped chambers entered by tubes at the bottom. Most species weave nests that have narrow entrances, facing upside down.

The weavers are gregarious birds which often breed colonially. The birds build their nests together, often several to a branch. Usually the male birds weave the nests and use them as a form of display to lure prospective females. The weaver bird colonies may be found close to water bodies. They sometimes cause crop damage, notably the Red-billed Quelea, reputed to be the world's most numerous bird.

Species list in taxonomic order

- Genus: *Anomalospiza*
 - Grosbeak Weaver, *Amblyospiza albifrons*
 - Parasitic Weaver, *Anomalospiza imberbis*
- Genus: *Anaplectes*
 - Red-headed Weaver, *Anaplectes rubriceps*
- Genus: *Brachycope*
 - Bob-tailed Weaver, *Brachycope anomala*
- Genus: *Bubalornis*
 - Red-billed Buffalo-weaver, *Bubalornis niger*
 - White-billed Buffalo-weaver, *Bubalornis albirostris*
- Genus: *Dinemellia*

- White-headed Buffalo-weaver, *Dinemellia dinemelli*
- Genus: Euplectes
 - Black Bishop, Euplectes gierowii
 - Black-winged Red Bishop, Euplectes hordeaceus
 - Buff-shouldered Widowbird, Euplectes psammocromius
 - Fan-tailed Widowbird, Euplectes axillaris
 - Fire-fronted Bishop, Euplectes diadematus
 - Golden-backed Bishop, Euplectes aureus
 - Jackson's Widowbird, Euplectes jacksoni
 - Long-tailed Widowbird, Euplectes progne
 - Marsh Widowbird, Euplectes hartlaubi
 - Northern Red Bishop, Euplectes orix
 - Orange Bishop, Euplectes franciscanus
 - Red-collared Widowbird, Euplectes ardens
 - White-winged Widowbird, Euplectes albonotatus
 - Yellow Bishop, Euplectes capensis
 - Yellow-crowned Bishop, Euplectes afer
 - Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, Euplectes macrourus
 - Zanzibar Bishop, Euplectes nigroventris
- Genus: Foudia
 - Forest Fody, Foudia omissa
 - Mauritius Fody, Foudia rubra
 - Red Fody, Foudia madagascariensis
 - Red-headed Fody, Foudia eminentissima
 - Rodrigues Fody, Foudia flavicans
 - Seychelles Fody, Foudia sechellarum
- Genus: Histurgops
 - Rufous-tailed Weaver, *Histurgops ruficauda*
- Genus: Malimbus
 - Ballmann's Malimbe, Malimbus ballmanni
 - Black-throated Malimbe, Malimbus cassini
 - Crested Malimbe, Malimbus malimbicus
 - Gray's Malimbe, Malimbus nitens
 - Ibadan Malimbe, Malimbus ibadanensis
 - Rachel's Malimbe, Malimbus racheliae
 - Red-bellied Malimbe, Malimbus erythrogaster
 - Red-crowned Malimbe, Malimbus coronatus
 - Red-headed Malimbe, Malimbus rubricollis
 - Red-vented Malimbe, Malimbus scutatus
 - Yellow-legged Malimbe, Malimbus flavipes
- Genus: Pacyphantes
 - Compact Weaver, *Pachyphantes superciliosus*
- Genus: Philetairus
 - Social Weaver, *Philetairus socius*

- Genus: *Plocepasser*
 - Chestnut-backed Sparrow-weaver, *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus*
 - Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver, *Plocepasser superciliosus*
 - Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-weaver, *Plocepasser donaldsoni*
 - White-browed Sparrow-weaver, *Plocepasser mahali*
- Genus: *Ploceus*
 - African Golden-weaver, *Ploceus subaureus*
 - African Masked-weaver, *Ploceus velatus*
 - Asian Golden Weaver, *Ploceus hypoxanthus*
 - Baglafaecht Weaver, *Ploceus baglafaecht*
 - Bannerman's Weaver, *Ploceus bannermani*
 - Bar-winged Weaver, *Ploceus angolensis*
 - Bates' Weaver, *Ploceus batesi*
 - Baya Weaver, *Ploceus philippinus*
 - Bengal Weaver, *Ploceus benghalensis*
 - Bertrand's Weaver, *Ploceus bertrandi*
 - Black-billed Weaver, *Ploceus melanogaster*
 - Black-chinned Weaver, *Ploceus nigrimentum*
 - Black-headed Weaver, *Ploceus melanocephalus*
 - Black-necked Weaver, *Ploceus nigricollis*
 - Bocage's Weaver, *Ploceus temporalis*
 - Brown-capped Weaver, *Ploceus insignis*
 - Cape Weaver, *Ploceus capensis*
 - Chestnut Weaver, *Ploceus rubiginosus*
 - Cinnamon Weaver, *Ploceus badius*
 - Clarke's Weaver, *Ploceus golandi*
 - Forest Weaver, *Ploceus bicolor*
 - Fox's Weaver, *Ploceus spekeoides*
 - Giant Weaver, *Ploceus grandis*
 - Golden Palm Weaver, *Ploceus bojeri*
 - Golden-backed Weaver, *Ploceus jacksoni*
 - Golden-naped Weaver, *Ploceus aureonucha*
 - Heuglin's Masked-weaver, *Ploceus heuglini*
 - Holub's Golden-weaver, *Ploceus xanthops*
 - Kilombero Weaver, *Ploceus burnieri*
 - Lesser Masked-weaver, *Ploceus intermedius*
 - Little Weaver, *Ploceus luteolus*
 - Loango Weaver, *Ploceus subpersonatus*
 - Maxwell's Black Weaver, *Ploceus albinucha*
 - Nelicourvi Weaver, *Ploceus nelicourvi*
 - Northern Brown-throated Weaver, *Ploceus castanops*
 - Northern Masked-weaver, *Ploceus taeniopterus*
 - Olive-headed Weaver, *Ploceus olivaceiceps*
 - Orange Weaver, *Ploceus aurantius*

- Preuss' Weaver, *Ploceus preussi*
- Principe Golden-weaver, *Ploceus princeps*
- Rueppell's Weaver, *Ploceus galbula*
- Sakalava Weaver, *Ploceus sakalava*
- Salvadori's Weaver, *Ploceus dichrocephalus*
- Sao Tome Weaver, *Ploceus sanctithomae*
- Slender-billed Weaver, *Ploceus pelzelni*
- Southern Brown-throated Weaver, *Ploceus xanthopterus*
- Spectacled Weaver, *Ploceus ocularis*
- Speke's Weaver, *Ploceus spekei*
- Strange Weaver, *Ploceus alienus*
- Streaked Weaver, *Ploceus manyar*
- Tanzania Masked-weaver, *Ploceus reichardi*
- Taveta Golden-weaver, *Ploceus castaneiceps*
- Usambara Weaver, *Ploceus nicolli*
- Vieillot's Weaver, *Ploceus nigerrimus*
- Village Weaver, *Ploceus cucullatus*
- Weyns' Weaver, *Ploceus weynsi*
- Yellow Weaver, *Ploceus megarhynchus*
- Yellow-capped Weaver, *Ploceus dorsomaculatus*
- Yellow-mantled Weaver, *Ploceus tricolor*
- Genus: *Pseudonigrita*
 - Black-capped Social-weaver, *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*
 - Grey-headed Social-weaver, *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*
- Genus: *Quelea*
 - Cardinal *Quelea*, *Quelea cardinalis*
 - Red-billed *Quelea*, *Quelea quelea*
 - Red-headed *Quelea*, *Quelea erythrops*
- Genus: *Sporopipes*
 - Scaly Weaver, *Sporopipes squamifrons*
 - Speckle-fronted Weaver, *Sporopipes frontalis*

Poliophtilidae

Gnatcatchers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Poliophtilidae** Baird, 1858 Genera: *Microbates*, *Ramphocaenus*, *Poliophtila*

The 15 species of small [passerine birds](#) in the **gnatcatcher** family occur in North and South America. Most species of this mainly tropical and sub-tropical group are resident, but the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher of the USA and southern Canada [migrates](#) south in winter.

These dainty birds resemble [Old World warblers](#) in their structure and habits, moving restlessly through the foliage seeking insects. The gnatcatchers and **gnatwrens** are mainly soft bluish grey in colour, and have the typical insectivore's long sharp bill.

They are birds of fairly open woodland or scrub, and nest in bushes or trees.

A species new to science, the Iquitos Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila clements*i was first described in 2005.

- **Family Poliophtilidae**

- Collared Gnatwren, *Microbates collaris*
- Tawny-faced Gnatwren, *Microbates cinereiventris*
- Long-billed Gnatwren, *Ramphocaenus melanurus*
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*
- Cuban Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila lembeyi*
- California Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila californica*
- Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila melanura*
- Black-capped Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila nigriceps*
- White-lored Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila albiloris*
- Maranon Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila maranonica*
- Guianan Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila guianensis*
- Iquitos Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila clements*i
- Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila plumbea*
- Creamy-bellied Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila lactea*
- Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila schistaceigula*
- Masked Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila dumicola*

Promeropidae

Sugarbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Promeropidae**

Genus: ***Promerops*** Brisson, 1760 Species: See text.

The **sugarbirds** are a small family of [passerine birds](#) which are restricted to Africa.

The two species of sugarbird make up one of only two bird families restricted entirely to southern Africa, the other being the rockjumpers Chaetopidae. They are specialist nectar feeders, but will also take insects.

In general appearance as well as habits they resemble large [sunbirds](#), but are possibly more closely related to the Australian [honeyeaters](#). They have brownish plumage, the long downcurved bill typical of passerine nectar feeders, and long tail feathers.

They can often be seen on the flowers of the Protea bushes which are characteristic of South African highland landscapes. They lay two eggs in a nest in a fork of a tree.

Gurney's Sugarbird is found from Zambia southwards, except the extreme south of South Africa.

Cape Sugarbird is the species of the Cape provinces of South Africa. It has at times been considered conspecific with Gurney's.

- **Family: Promeropidae**

- Gurney's Sugarbird, *Promerops gurneyi*
- Cape Sugarbird, *Promerops cafer*

Prunellidae

Accentor

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Prunellidae** Richmond, 1908 Genus: *Prunella* Vieillot, 1816 Species: See text.

The **accentors** are in the only [bird](#) family, Prunellidae, which is completely endemic to the Palearctic. This small group of closely related [passerines](#) are all in a single genus *Prunella*. All but the Dunnock and the Japanese Accentor are inhabitants of the mountainous regions of Europe and Asia; these two also occur in lowland areas, as does the Siberian Accentor in the far north of Siberia. This genus is not strongly [migratory](#), but they will leave the coldest parts of their range in winter, and make altitudinal movements.

These are small, fairly drab species superficially similar, but unrelated to, [sparrows](#). However, accentors have thin sharp bills, reflecting their diet of insects in summer, augmented with seeds and berries in winter.

They build neat cup nests and lay about 4 unspotted green or blue eggs. Both sexes incubate.

Species list:

- Alpine Accentor, *Prunella collaris*
- Altai Accentor, *Prunella himalayana*
- Robin Accentor, *Prunella rubeculoides*
- Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophia*
- Siberian Accentor, *Prunella montanella*
- Brown Accentor, *Prunella fulvescens*
- Radde's Accentor, *Prunella ocularis*
- Black-throated Accentor, *Prunella atrogularis*
- Koslow's Accentor, *Prunella koslowi*
- Dunnock or Hedge Accentor or Hedge Sparrow, *Prunella modularis*
- Japanese Accentor, *Prunella rubida*
- Maroon-backed Accentor, *Prunella immaculata*

Harrison (*An Atlas of the Birds of the Western Palearctic*, 1982) used the group name **Dunnock** for all of the species, not just *Prunella modularis* (thus e.g. **Japanese Dunnock** for *P. rubida*); this usage has much to be said for it, based as it is on the oldest known name for any of the species (old English *dun-*, brown, + *-ock*, small bird: "little brown bird"), and a much more euphonious name than the contrived "Accentor". *Accentor* was the scientific name for the Alpine Accentor (*Accentor collaris*). It comes from Late Latin, meaning "sing with another" (ad + cantor).

Ptilogonatidae

Silky-flycatchers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Ptilogonatidae**

Genera: *Phainoptila* , *Ptilogonys* , *Phainopepla*

The **silky-flycatchers** are a small family of [passerine birds](#) which occur mainly in Central America, although the range of one species, the *Phainopepla*, extends into the southwestern USA.

They are related to [waxwings](#), and like that group have a soft silky plumage, usually grey or pale yellow in colour. They have small crests.

These birds eat fruit or insects, and the *Phainopepla* is particularly dependent on Desert Mistletoe, *Phoradendron californicum*.

They are birds of various types of woodland (semi-desert with trees for the *Phainopepla*), and they nest in trees.

This family was formerly lumped with waxwings and *Hypocolius* in the family Bombycillidae, and they are listed in that family by the Sibley-Monroe checklist.

Species of Ptilogonatidae

- Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher, *Phainoptila melanoxantha*
Gray Silky-flycatcher, *Ptilogonys cinereus*
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher, *Ptilogonys caudatus*
Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens*

Pycnonotidae

Bulbuls

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pycnonotidae**

Genera: See text.

Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae) are a [family](#) of medium-sized [passerine songbirds](#) resident in Africa and tropical Asia. There are about 130 species.

These are mostly frugivorous [birds](#). Some are colorful with yellow, red or orange vents, cheeks, throat or supercilia, but most are drab, with uniform olive brown to black plumage. Some have very distinct crests.

These are noisy and gregarious birds with often beautiful striking songs.

Many of these species inhabit tree tops, while some are restricted to the undergrowth. Up to five purple-pink eggs are laid in an open tree nests and incubated by the female.

The Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*, has been widely introduced to tropical and subtropical areas, for example southern Florida, USA.

Systematics

The traditional layout was to divide the bulbuls into 4 groups, named *Pycnonotus*, *Phyllastrephus*, *Criniger*, and *Chlorocichla* groups after characteristic genera (Delacour, 1943). However, more recent analyses demonstrated that this arrangement was probably based on erroneous interpretation of characters:

Studies of the mitochondrial cytochrome b sequence found that five species of *Phyllastrephus* did not belong to the bulbuls, but to an enigmatic group of songbirds from Madagascar instead (Cibois et al., 2001; see below for the species in question). Similarly, analysis of DNA sequences of the RAG1 and RAG2 genes suggests that the genus *Nicator* was not a bulbul either (Beresford et al., 2005). That the previous arrangement had failed to take into account biogeography was indicated by the study of Pasquet et al. (2001) who demonstrated the genus *Criniger* must be divided into an African and an Asian (*Alophoixus*) lineage. Using analysis of 2 mitochondrial and one nuclear DNA sequences, Moyle & Marks (2006) found one largely Asian lineage and one African group of genera; the Golden Greenbul seemed to be very distinct and form a group of its own. Some taxa are not monophyletic, and more research is necessary to determine relationships within the larger genera.

Family Pycnonotidae

- Genus *Pycnonotus* (paraphyletic)
 - "Ancient" Asian bulbuls
 - Black-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus atriceps*
 - Puff-backed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus eutilotus*

Black-and-white Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanoleucus*
Pycnonotus proper
 Black-crested Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
 Grey-bellied Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cyaniventris*
 Spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*
 Straw-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*
 Red-eyed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus brunneus*
 Olive-winged Bulbul, *Pycnonotus plumosus*
 Yellow-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus goiavier*
 Common Bulbul, *Pycnonotus barbatus*
 Black-fronted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus nigricans*
 White-cheeked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
 Unassigned
 Striated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus striatus*
 Cream-striped Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogrammicus*
 Spot-necked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus tympanistrigus*
 Grey-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus priocephalus*
 Styan's Bulbul, *Pycnonotus taivanus*
 Scaly-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus squamatus*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*
 Brown-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
 Light-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis*
 Cape Bulbul, *Pycnonotus capensis*
 White-spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
 White-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucotis*
 Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer*
 Sooty-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
 Blue-wattled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus nieuwenhuisii* (disputed)
 Yellow-wattled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus urostictus*
 Orange-spotted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*
 Stripe-throated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
 Yellow-throated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xantholaemus*
 Yellow-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus penicillatus*
 Flavescent Bulbul, *Pycnonotus flavesens*
 White-browed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus luteolus*
 Streak-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
 Cream-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus simplex*

- Genus *Spizixos*
 - Crested Finchbill, *Spizixos canifrons*
 - Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques*
- Genus *Tricholestes*
 - Hairy-backed Bulbul, *Tricholestes criniger*
- Genus *Setornis*
 - Hook-billed Bulbul, *Setornis criniger*

- Genus *Alophoixus* (possibly polyphyletic)
 - Finsch's Bulbul, *Alophoixus finschii*
 - White-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus flaveolus*
 - Puff-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus pallidus*
 - Ochraceous Bulbul, *Alophoixus ochraceus*
 - Gray-cheeked Bulbul, *Alophoixus bres*
 - Yellow-bellied Bulbul, *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*
 - Golden Bulbul, *Alophoixus affinis*
- Genus *Iole*
 - Olive Bulbul, *Iole virescens*
 - Grey-eyed Bulbul, *Iole propinqua*
 - Buff-vented Bulbul, *Iole olivacea*
 - Yellow-browed Bulbul, *Iole indica*
- Genus *Hemixos*
 - Ashy Bulbul, *Hemixos flavala*
 - Chestnut Bulbul, *Hemixos castanonotus*
- Genus *Ixos* (paraphyletic)
 - Close to *Hemixos*
 - Streaked Bulbul, *Ixos malaccensis*
 - Close to *Hypsipetes*
 - Philippine Bulbul, *Ixos philippinus*
 - Unassigned
 - Sulphur-bellied Bulbul, *Ixos palawanensis*
 - Streak-breasted Bulbul, *Ixos siquijorensis*
 - Yellowish Bulbul, *Ixos everetti*
 - Zamboanga Bulbul, *Ixos rufigularis*
 - Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos maclellandii*
 - Sunda Bulbul, *Ixos virescens*
- Genus *Microscelis*
 - Brown-eared Bulbul, *Microscelis amaurotis* (sometimes included in *Ixos*)
- Genus *Hypsipetes*
 - Madagascar Bulbul, *Hypsipetes madagascariensis*
 - Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
 - Seychelles Bulbul, *Hypsipetes crassirostris*
 - Comoro Bulbul, *Hypsipetes parvirostris*
 - Reunion Bulbul, *Hypsipetes borbonicus*
 - Mauritius Bulbul, *Hypsipetes olivaceus*
 - Nicobar Bulbul, *Hypsipetes virescens*
 - White-headed Bulbul, *Hypsipetes thompsoni*
- Genus *Calyptocichla*
 - Golden Greenbul, *Calyptocichla serina*
- Genus *Phyllastrephus*
 - Leaf-love Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus scandens*
 - Cabanis' Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

- Fischer's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus fischeri*
 Placid Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus placidus*
 Terrestrial Brownbul, *Phyllastrephus terrestris*
 Northern Brownbul, *Phyllastrephus strepitans*
 Pale-olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus fulviventris*
 Gray-olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*
 Baumann's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus baumanni*
 Toro Olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*
 Cameroon Olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus poensis*
 Sassi's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus lorenzi*
 Yellow-streaked Bulbul, *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*
 Grey-headed Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*
 Tiny Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus debilis*
 White-throated Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus albigularis*
 Icterine Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus icterinus*
 Liberian Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus leucolepis*
 Xavier's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus xavieri*
- Genus *Andropadus* (possibly polyphyletic)
 - Cameroon Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus montanus*
 - Shelley's Greenbul, *Andropadus masukuensis*
 - Little Greenbul, *Andropadus virens*
 - Grey Greenbul, *Andropadus gracilis*
 - Ansorge's Greenbul, *Andropadus ansorgei*
 - Plain Greenbul, *Andropadus curvirostris*
 - Slender-billed Greenbul, *Andropadus gracilirostris*
 - Sombre Greenbul, *Andropadus importunus*
 - Yellow-whiskered Bulbul, *Andropadus latirostris*
 - Western Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus tephrolaemus*
 - Eastern Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus nigriceps*
 - Stripe-cheeked Bulbul, *Andropadus milanjensis*
 - Genus *Criniger*
 - Red-tailed Greenbul, *Criniger calurus*
 - Western Bearded Greenbul, *Criniger barbatus*
 - Eastern Bearded Greenbul, *Criniger chloronotus*
 - Yellow-bearded Greenbul, *Criniger olivaceus*
 - White-bearded Greenbul, *Criniger ndussumensis*
 - Genus *Bleda*
 - Common Bristlebill, *Bleda syndactyla*
 - Green-tailed Bristlebill, *Bleda eximia*
 - Grey-headed Bristlebill, *Bleda canicapilla*
 - Genus *Thescelocichla*
 - Swamp Greenbul, *Thescelocichla leucopleura*
 - Genus *Chlorocichla*

- Simple Greenbul, *Chlorocichla simplex*
 Yellow-throated Greenbul, *Chlorocichla flavicollis*
 Yellow-necked Greenbul, *Chlorocichla falkensteini*
 Yellow-bellied Greenbul, *Chlorocichla flaviventris*
 Joyful Greenbul, *Chlorocichla laetissima*
 Prigogine's Greenbul, *Chlorocichla prigoginei*
- Genus *Ixonotus* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Spotted Greenbul, *Ixonotus guttatus*
- Genus *Baeopogon*
 - Honeyguide Greenbul, *Baeopogon indicator*
 Sjostedt's Greenbul, *Baeopogon clamans*
- Genus *Neolestes*
 - Black-collared Bulbul, *Neolestes torquatus*

The last genus might be allied to *Calyptocichla* or not be a bulbul at all.

Taxa until recently included in the Pycnonotidae are:

- Genus *Bernieria*
 - Long-billed Greenbul, *Bernieria madagascariensis*
- Genus *Xanthomixis* (possibly polyphyletic)
 - Spectacled Greenbul, *Xanthomixis zosterops*
 Appert's Greenbul, *Xanthomixis apperti*
 Dusky Greenbul, *Xanthomixis tenebrosus*
 Gray-crowned Greenbul, *Xanthomixis cinereiceps*
- Genus *Nicator*
 - Yellow-spotted Nicator, *Nicator chloris*
 Eastern Nicator, *Nicator gularis*
 Yellow-throated Nicator, *Nicator vireo*

The first two belong to the "Malagasy warblers"; the affiliations of *Nicator* are unknown at present.

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Regulidae

Kinglets

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Regulidae**

Genus: **Regulus** Cuvier, 1800 Species: See text.

The **kinglets** or **crests** are a small group of birds often included in the [Old World warblers](#), but frequently given family status because they also resemble the [titmice](#). They have representatives in North America and Eurasia. There are now seven species in this family. Madeira Firecrest, *R. madeirensis* recently split from Firecrest as a separate species. The scientific and English names come from the fact that the adults have coloured crowns.

Recent molecular techniques have added some confusion the true phylogeny of the Regulidae Family. They are placed in the Superfamily Sylvioidea (e.g., nuthatches, treecreepers, tits, wrens, crests/kinglets, swallows, bulbuls, babblers, and warblers). This is likely correct however the relationships of Regulidae are unresolved. A Myoglobin tree was used in the research in order to differentiate lineages. (Alström)

- Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus*
 Tenerife Goldcrest or Orangecrest, *R. teneriffae*, split from Goldcrest as separate species
 Firecrest, *R. ignicapillus*
 Madeira Firecrest, *R. madeirensis*
 Taiwan Firecrest or Flamecrest, *R. goodfellowi*
 Golden-crowned Kinglet, *R. satrapa*
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *R. calendula*

All members of the family are 9-15.5 cm. These birds have an eye-ring or a stripe at the [supercilium](#). The males possess a colorful crown patch. They have one specific feather which projects forward over the nares.

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Remizidae

Penduline tits

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Remizidae** Olphe-Galliard, 1891 Genera: *Remiz*, *Anthoscopus*, *Cephalopyrus*, *Auriparus*, *Pholidornis*

The **penduline tits** are a group of small [passerine birds](#), related to the true [tits](#). All but the Verdin and Fire-capped Tit make elaborate bag nests hanging from trees, usually over water; inclusion of the Fire-capped Tit in this family is disputed by some authorities. They are insectivores.

There are 13 species in 5 genera, following Harrap & Quinn, *Tits*, *Nuthatches* & *Treecreepers*.

Genus *Remiz*

- European Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*
- Black-headed Penduline Tit *Remiz macronyx*
- White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus*
- Chinese Penduline Tit *Remiz consobrinus*

Genus *Anthoscopus*

- Sudan Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus punctifrons*
- Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*
- Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus*
- Forest Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus flavifrons*
- African Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli*
- Cape Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus minutus*

Genus *Cephalopyrus*

- Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

Genus *Auriparus*

- Verdin *Auriparus flaviceps*

Genus *Pholidornis*

- Tit-hylia *Pholidornis rushiae*

Rhabdornithidae

Philippine creepers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Suborder: [Passeri](#)

Parvorder: [Passerida](#)

Family: **Rhabdornithidae** Greenway, 1967 Genus: ***Rhabdornis***

Species: *R. mysticalis*, *R. grandis*, *R. inornatus*

The **Philippine creepers** (Rhabdornithidae) are a family of small [passerine birds](#). The family is [endemic](#) to the Philippines. The family contains a single genus *Rhabdornis* with three species. They do not [migrate](#) other than local movements.

The placement of genus *Rhabdornis* in a family of its own is not accepted by all authorities, and is sometimes placed in Certhiidae or Timaliidae.

The Philippine creepers are similar in appearance to [treecreepers](#). They have thin pointed down-curved bills, which they can use to extricate insects from bark, but they have brush-like tongues, which enable them to also feed on nectar.

Their behaviour is said to resemble that of tits more than the treecreepers, to which they are not related.

Nests are tree crevices.

The list of species follows below.

- Stripe-headed Creeper *Rhabdornis mysticalis*
Long-billed Creeper *Rhabdornis grandis*
Plain-headed Creeper *Rhabdornis inornatus*

There are two other small bird families with 'treecreeper' or 'creeper' in their name. See also Australian treecreepers, and [treecreepers](#).

Sturnidae

Starlings

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Sturnidae** Rafinesque, 1815 Genera: *Aplonis*, *Mino*, *Basilornis*, *Sarcops*, *Streptocitta*, *Enodes*, *Scissirostrum*, *Sarroglossa*, *Ampeliceps*, *Gracula*, *Acridotheres*, *Leucopsar*, *Sturnia*, *Sturnus*, *Creatophora*, *Fregilupus* (extinct), *Necropsar* (extinct), *Coccycolius*, *Lamprotornis*, *Cinnyricinclus*, *Spreo*, *Cosmoparus*, *Onychognathus*, *Poeoptera*, *Grafisia*, *Speculipastor*, *Neochicla*, *Buphagus*

See also: [Oxpecker](#)

Starlings are small to medium-sized [passerine birds](#) in the [family](#) Sturnidae. Starlings occur naturally only in the Old World (Europe, Asia and Africa), some forms as far east as Australia, but several European and Asian species have been introduced to North America, Australia, and New Zealand.

They are medium-sized passerines with strong feet. Their flight is strong and direct, and they are very gregarious. Their preferred habitat is fairly open country, and they eat insects and fruit. Several species live around habitation, and are effectively omnivores. Many species search for food by opening the bill after probing it into dense vegetation; this behavior is called "open-bill probing" or is referred to by the German word "zirkeln."

Plumage is typically dark with a metallic sheen. Most species nest in holes, laying blue or white [eggs](#).

Many Asian species, particularly the larger ones, are called mynas, and the members of the African genus *Lamprotornis* are known as glossy starlings because of their iridescent [plumage](#). The two species of *Buphagus* are called [oxpeckers](#).

European Starlings introduced to North America have been a factor in reducing native cavity nesting bird populations (such as Bluebirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers) by competing aggressively for nesting cavities.

Starlings were first brought to North America in the 1890s. Eugene Schieffelin decided that North America should contain all the birds mentioned in William Shakespeare's plays. As starlings receive a brief mention in *Henry IV, Part 1*, Schieffelin introduced 60 of the birds in Central Park, New York.

Starlings have diverse and complex vocalizations, and have been known to imbed sounds from their surroundings into their own calls, including car alarms, and human speech patterns. The birds can recognize particular individuals by their calls, and are currently the subject of research into the evolution of human language^[1].

Species list

- Genus [Aplonis](#)
 - Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica*
 - Yellow-eyed Starling, *Aplonis mystacea*

Singing Starling, *Aplonis cantoroides*
 Tanimbar Starling, *Aplonis crassa*
 Atoll Starling, *Aplonis feadensis*
 Rennell Starling, *Aplonis insularis*
 Long-tailed Starling, *Aplonis magna*
 White-eyed Starling, *Aplonis brunneicapillus*
 Brown-winged Starling, *Aplonis grandis*
 San Cristobal Starling, *Aplonis dichroa*
 Rusty-winged Starling, *Aplonis zelandica*
 Striated Starling, *Aplonis striata*
 Norfolk Starling, *Aplonis fusca* (extinct, c.1923)
 Mountain Starling, *Aplonis santovestris*
 Asian Glossy Starling, *Aplonis panayensis*
 Moluccan Starling, *Aplonis mysolensis*
 Short-tailed Starling, *Aplonis minor*
 Micronesian Starling, *Aplonis opaca*
 Pohnpei Starling, *Aplonis pelzelni* (possibly extinct, c.2000)
 Polynesian Starling, *Aplonis tabuensis*
 Samoan Starling, *Aplonis atrifusca*
 Kosrae Island Starling, *Aplonis corvina* (extinct, mid-19th century)
 Mysterious Starling, *Aplonis mavornata* (extinct, mid-19th century)
 Rarotonga Starling, *Aplonis cinerascens*
 Huahine Starling, *Aplonis diluvialis* (prehistoric)
 Bay Starling, *Aplonis ulietensis* (extinct, 1774 to 1850; formerly considered a thrush)

- **Genus *Mino***

- Yellow-faced Myna, *Mino dumontii*
 Golden Myna, *Mino anais*
 Long-tailed Myna, *Mino kreffti*

- **Genus *Basilornis***

- Sulawesi Myna, *Basilornis celebensis*
 Helmeted Myna, *Basilornis galeatus*
 Long-crested Myna, *Basilornis corythaix*
 Apo Myna, *Basilornis mirandus*

- **Genus *Sarcops***

- Coleto, *Sarcops calvus*

- **Genus *Streptocitta***

- White-necked Myna, *Streptocitta albigollis*
 Bare-eyed Myna, *Streptocitta albertinae*

- **Genus *Enodes***

- Fiery-browed Myna, *Enodes erythrophris*

- **Genus *Scissirostrum***

- Finch-billed Myna, *Scissirostrum dubium*

- **Genus *Saroglossa***

- Spot-winged Starling, *Saroglossa spiloptera*
Madagascar Starling, *Saroglossa aurata*
- **Genus *Ampeliceps***
 - Golden-crested Myna, *Ampeliceps coronatus*
- **Genus *Gracula***
 - Common Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa*
Southern Hill Myna, *Gracula indica*
Enggano Myna, *Gracula enganensis*
Nias Myna, *Gracula robusta*
Sri Lanka Myna, *Gracula ptilogenys*
- **Genus *Acridotheres***
 - White-vented Myna, *Acridotheres grandis*
Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus*
Javan Myna, *Acridotheres javanicus*
Pale-bellied Myna, *Acridotheres cinereus*
Jungle Myna, *Acridotheres fuscus*
Collared Myna, *Acridotheres albocinctus*
Bank Myna, *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*
- **Genus *Leucopsar***
 - Bali Myna, *Leucopsar rothschildi*
- **Genus *Sturnia* (often included in *Sturnus*)**
 - Daurian Starling, *Sturnia sturnina*
Chestnut-cheeked Starling, *Sturnia philippensis*
White-shouldered Starling, *Sturnia sinensis*
Chestnut-tailed Starling, *Sturnia malabarica*
White-headed Starling, *Sturnia erythropygia*
- **Genus *Sturnus***
 - White-faced Starling, *Sturnus albofrontatus* (sometimes named *S. senex*)
Brahminy Starling, *Sturnus pagodarum*
Vinous-breasted Starling, *Sturnus burmannicus* (sometimes separated in *Gracupica*)
Black-collared Starling, *Sturnus nigricollis* (sometimes separated in *Gracupica*)
Asian Pied Starling, *Sturnus contra* (sometimes placed in *Acridotheres*)
Black-winged Starling, *Sturnus melanopterus* (sometimes placed in *Acridotheres*)
Rosy Starling, *Sturnus roseus*
Red-billed Starling, *Sturnus sericeus*
White-cheeked Starling, *Sturnus cineraceus*

European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
Spotless Starling, *Sturnus unicolor*

- **Genus *Creatophora***
 - Wattled Starling, *Creatophora cinerea*
- **Genus *Fregilupus***
 - Réunion Starling, *Fregilupus varius* ([extinct](#), 1850s)
- **Genus *Necropsar***
 - Rodrigues Starling, *Necropsar rodericanus* ([extinct](#), late 18th century?)

The supposed *N. leguati* was determined to be in reality a mislabelled albino specimen of the Martinique Trembler (*Cinclocerthia gutturalis*).

- **Genus *Coccycolius***
 - Emerald Starling, *Coccycolius iris* (sometimes placed in *Lamprotornis*)
- **Genus *Lamprotornis***
 - Cape Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis nitens*
 - Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
 - Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
 - Southern Blue-eared Glossy-starling, *Lamprotornis elisabeth*
 - Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
 - Splendid Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis splendidus*
 - Principe Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis ornatus*
 - Purple Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpureus*
 - Rueppell's Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpureoptera*
 - Long-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis caudatus*
 - Meves' Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis mevesii*
 - Burchell's Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis australis*
 - Sharp-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis acuticaudus*
 - Black-bellied Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis corruscus*
 - Superb Starling, *Lamprotornis superbus*
 - Hildebrandt's Starling, *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*
 - Shelley's Starling, *Lamprotornis shelleyi*
 - Chestnut-bellied Starling, *Lamprotornis pulcher*
 - Purple-headed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*
 - Copper-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis cupreocauda*
- **Genus *Cinnyricinclus***
 - Violet-backed Starling, *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 - Sharpe's Starling, *Cinnyricinclus sharpii* (sometimes separated in *Pholia*)
 - Abbott's Starling, *Cinnyricinclus femoralis* (sometimes separated in *Pholia*)
- **Genus *Spreo***
 - African Pied Starling, *Spreo bicolor*
 - Fischer's Starling, *Spreo fischeri*
 - White-crowned Starling, *Spreo albicapillus*
- **Genus *Compsarus***

- Golden-breasted Starling, *Compsarus regius* (sometimes placed in *Lamprotornis*)
- Ashy Starling, *Compsarus unicolor* (sometimes placed in *Spreo*)
- **Genus *Onychognathus***
 - Red-winged Starling, *Onychognathus morio*
 - Slender-billed Starling, *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
 - Chestnut-winged Starling, *Onychognathus fulgidus*
 - Waller's Starling, *Onychognathus walleri*
 - Somali Starling, *Onychognathus blythii*
 - Socotra Starling, *Onychognathus frater*
 - Tristram's Starling, *Onychognathus tristramii*
 - Pale-winged Starling, *Onychognathus nabouroup*
 - Bristle-crowned Starling, *Onychognathus salvadorii*
 - White-billed Starling, *Onychognathus albirostris*
 - Neumann's Starling, *Onychognathus neumanni*
- **Genus *Poeoptera***
 - Narrow-tailed Starling, *Poeoptera lugubris*
 - Stuhlmann's Starling, *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*
 - Kenrick's Starling, *Poeoptera kenricki*
- **Genus *Grafisia***
 - White-collared Starling, *Grafisia torquata*
- **Genus *Speculipastor***
 - Magpie Starling, *Speculipastor bicolor*
- **Genus *Neocichla***
 - Babbling Starling, *Neocichla gutturalis*
- **Genus *Buphagus***
 - Red-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
 - Yellow-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus africanus*

Acridotheres

Acridotheres

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sturnidae](#)

Genus: ***Acridotheres*** Vieillot, 1816 Species: *A. grandis*, *A. cristatellus*, *A. javanicus*, *A. cinereus*, *A. fuscus*, *A. albocinctus*, *A. ginginianus*, *A. tristis*

Acridotheres is a genus of mynas, tropical members of the [starling](#) family of [birds](#). This genus has representatives in tropical southern Asia from Iran east to southern China and Indonesia.

The following is the list of *Acridotheres* species in taxonomic order.:

- White-vented Myna, *Acridotheres grandis*
Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus*
Javan Myna, *Acridotheres javanicus*
Pale-bellied Myna, *Acridotheres cinereus*
Jungle Myna, *Acridotheres fuscus*
Collared Myna, *Acridotheres albocinctus*
Bank Myna, *Acridotheres ginginianus*
Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*

The taxonomy of this group is complex, and other authorities differ considerably in which species they place in this genus, and the species boundaries within *Acridotheres*.

Two species have been introduced widely elsewhere. The Common Myna has been introduced to South Africa, Israel, Hawaii, North America, Australia and New Zealand, and the Crested Myna to the Vancouver region of British Columbia.

The *Acridotheres* mynas resemble [Gracula](#) species in their dark plumage, large white or buff wing patches (which are obvious in flight), and fluted calls, but differ in that only the head plumage is glossy, and the underparts tend to be paler. The sexes are similar.

Acridotheres mynas are much more terrestrial. They walk rather than hop, and have modifications to the skull and its muscles for open bill probing.

They have bowing courtship displays, whereas *Gracula* has no visual display, and they lay unmarked pale blue eggs.

Several species have frontal crests which become covered with pollen when the birds take nectar from flowers, and may play a role in pollination.

Like most starlings, the *Acridotheres* mynas are fairly omnivorous, eating fruit, nectar and insects.

References

- *Birds of India* by Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp, ISBN 0-691-04910-6
- *Starlings and Mynas* by Freare and Craig, ISBN 0-7136-3961-X

Aplonis

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sturnidae](#)

Genus: **Aplonis** Gould, 1836 Species: *see text*

Aplonis is a genus of [starlings](#). These are essentially island species of Indonesia, Oceania and Australasia, although some species' ranges extend to the Malay Peninsula, southern Vietnam and northeastern Queensland. Several species have restricted ranges, and, like other island endemics, have become endangered or extinct as a result of habitat loss or introduced mammals such as rats.

The following is the list of *Aplonis* species in taxonomic order.:

- Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica*
- Yellow-eyed Starling, *Aplonis mystacea*
- Singing Starling, *Aplonis cantoroides*
- Tanimbar Starling, *Aplonis crassa*
- Atoll Starling, *Aplonis feadensis*
- Rennell Starling, *Aplonis insularis*
- Long-tailed Starling, *Aplonis magna*
- White-eyed Starling, *Aplonis brunneicapillus*
- Brown-winged Starling, *Aplonis grandis*
- San Cristobal Starling, *Aplonis dichroa*
- Rusty-winged Starling, *Aplonis zelandica*
- Striated Starling, *Aplonis striata*
- Norfolk Starling, *Aplonis fusca* (extinct, c.1923)
- Mountain Starling, *Aplonis santovestris*
- Asian Glossy Starling, *Aplonis panayensis*
- Moluccan Starling, *Aplonis mysolensis*
- Short-tailed Starling, *Aplonis minor*
- Micronesian Starling, *Aplonis opaca*
- Pohnpei Starling, *Aplonis pelzelni* (possibly extinct, c.2000)
- Polynesian Starling, *Aplonis tabuensis*
- Samoan Starling, *Aplonis atrifusca*
- Kosrae Island Starling, *Aplonis corvina* (extinct, mid-19th century)
- Mysterious Starling, *Aplonis mavornata* (extinct, mid-19th century)
- Rarotonga Starling, *Aplonis cinerascens*
- Huahine Starling, *Aplonis diluvialis* (prehistoric)
- Bay Starling, *Aplonis ulietensis* (extinct, 1774 to 1850; formerly considered a thrush)

The typical adult *Aplonis* starling is fairly uniformly plumaged in black, brown or dark green, sometimes with a metallic gloss. The eye ring is often distinctively coloured. Immatures of several species have dark streaked pale underparts.

References

- Freare and Craig, *Starlings and Mynas* ISBN 0-7136-3961-X.

Gracula

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sturnidae](#)

Genus: **Gracula** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: *G. religiosa*, *G. indica*, *G. enganensis*, *G. robusta*, *G. ptilogenys*

Gracula is a genus of mynas, tropical members of the [starling](#) family of [birds](#).

This genus has representatives in tropical southern Asia from India and Sri Lanka east to Indonesia, and the Hill Myna, a popular cage bird, has been introduced to the USA.

Until recently only two species were recognised, the Sri Lanka Myna and the Hill Myna, but three former subspecies of the latter have now been elevated to species status.

The *Gracula* mynas are resident breeders typically found in forest and cultivation. The nest is built in a hole and the usual clutch is two or three eggs.

These 25-30 cm long birds have glossy black [plumage](#) and large white wing patches which are obvious in flight. The bill and strong legs are bright yellow or orange, and there are yellow wattles on the head, the shape and position of which vary with species. The sexes are similar, but juveniles have a duller bill.

Like most starlings, the *Gracula* mynas are fairly omnivorous, eating fruit, nectar and insects.

Species

- Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa*
Southern Hill Myna, *Gracula indica*
Enggano Myna, *Gracula enganensis*
Nias Myna, *Gracula robusta*
Sri Lanka Myna, *Gracula ptilogenys*

References

- *Birds of India* by Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp, ISBN 0-691-04910-6
- *Starlings and Mynas* by Freare and Craig, ISBN 0-7136-3961-X

Sturnus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sturnidae](#)

Genus: ***Sturnus*** Linnaeus, 1756 Species: *S. albofrontatus*, *S. pagodarum*, *S. burmannicus*, *S. nigricollis*, *S. contra*), *S. melanopterus*, *S. roseus*, *S. sericeus*, *S. cineraceus*, *S. vulgaris*, *S. unicolor*

Sturnus is a genus of starlingss. As indicated below, the taxonomy of this group is complex, and other authorities differ considerably in which species they place in this genus, and the species boundaries within *Sturnus*.

The following is the list of *Sturnus* species in taxonomic order.:

- **Genus *Sturnus***
- White-faced Starling, *Sturnus albofrontatus* (sometimes named *S. senex*)
- Brahminy Starling, *Sturnus pagodarum*
- Vinous-breasted Starling, *Sturnus burmannicus* (sometimes separated in *Gracupica*)
- Black-collared Starling, *Sturnus nigricollis* (sometimes separated in *Gracupica*)
- Asian Pied Starling, *Sturnus contra* (sometimes placed in *Acridotheres*)
- Black-winged Starling, *Sturnus melanopterus* (sometimes placed in *Acridotheres*)
- Rosy Starling, *Sturnus roseus*
- Red-billed Starling, *Sturnus sericeus*
- White-cheeked Starling, *Sturnus cineraceus*
- European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
- Spotless Starling, *Sturnus unicolor*

This genus has representatives across most of Eurasia and one species, the European Starling, has been introduced to South Africa, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

The *Sturnus* starlings are terrestrial species; they walk rather than hop, and have modifications to the skull and its muscles for open-bill probing. The latter adaption has facilitated the spread of this genus from humid tropical southern Asia to cooler regions of Europe and Asia.

The more northerly breeding species are completely or partially [migratory](#), wintering in warmer regions.

Sturnus starlings nest in holes in trees or buildings. They are omnivorous and mostly feed on the ground; they specialise in taking invertebrates from just below the surface. This is facilitated by the head adaptations described above, which enable the birds to probe with the bill open, closing it to secure prey items.

The plumages within this group are variable, but all the species have the starling's familiar triangular wing shape.

The European and Spotless Starlings are particularly closely related, and interbreed to some extent where their ranges overlap in southwestern France and northeastern Spain. The

non-migratory Spotless may be descended from a population of *vulgaris* that survived in an Iberian refugium during an ice age retreat.

References

- Freare and Craig, *Starlings and Mynas* ISBN 0-7136-3961-X
- Grimmett, Inskipp and Inskipp, *Birds of India* ISBN 0-691-04910-6
- Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterstrom and Grant, *Collins Bird Guide* ISBN 0-00-219728-6

Sylviidae

Old World warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Sylviidae** Vigors, 1825 Genus: Many: see text

The **Old World Warblers**, family **Sylviidae**, are a group of more than 280 small insectivorous [passerine bird](#) species. The largely southern warbler family [Cisticolidae](#) is traditionally often included in the Sylviidae. The [Kinglets](#), genus *Regulus*, family Regulidae, are also frequently placed in this family. The American Ornithologists' Union includes the [gnatcatchers](#), family Polioptilidae, in the Sylviidae.

The American [Wood warblers](#), Parulidae, and the Australian warblers, Acanthizidae, are unrelated to the Sylviidae.

The Sylviidae mainly occur as breeding species, as the name implies, in Europe, Asia and, to a lesser extent Africa. However, most birds of temperate regions are strongly [migratory](#), and winter in the latter continent or tropical Asia.

Most are of generally undistinguished appearance, but many have distinctive songs.

In the following list, for those groups which do not yet have articles, the species are included to be moved at the appropriate time:

- **Family: Sylviidae**
 - Ground warblers, genus *Tesia*
 - Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Tesia castaneocoronata*
 - Javan Tesia, *Tesia superciliaris*
 - Slaty-bellied Tesia, *Tesia olivacea*
 - Grey-bellied Tesia, *Tesia cyaniventer*
 - Russet-capped Tesia, *Tesia everetti*
 - Stubtails, genus *Urosphena*
 - Timor Stubtail, *Urosphena subulata*
 - Bornean Stubtail, *Urosphena whiteheadi*
 - Asian Stubtail, *Urosphena squameiceps*
 - [Bush warblers](#), genera *Cettia* and *Bradypterus*
 - Emu-tails, genus *Dromaeocercus*
 - Brown Emu-tail, *Dromaeocercus brunneus*
 - Grey Emu-tail, *Dromaeocercus seebohmi*
 - Rufous-warblers, genus *Bathmocercus*
 - Black-capped Rufous Warbler, *Bathmocercus cerviniventris*
 - Black-faced Rufous Warbler, *Bathmocercus rufus*
 - Mrs Moreau's Warbler, *Sceptomycter winifredae*
 - Brush warblers, genus *Nesillas*
 - Aldabra Brush Warbler, *Nesillas aldabrana* - extinct
 - Anjouan Brush Warbler, *Nesillas longicaudata*
 - Madagascar Brush Warbler, *Nesillas typica*

- Grand Comoro Brush Warbler, *Nesillas brevicaudata*
 - Moheli Brush Warbler, *Nesillas mariae*
- Thamnornis, *Thamnornis chloropetoides*
- Moustached Grass Warbler, *Melocichla mentalis*
 - Damara Rock-jumper, *Achaetops pycnopygius*
 - Cape Grassbird, *Sphenoeacus afer*
 - [Grass warblers](#), genus *Locustella*
 - [Marsh warblers](#), genus *Acrocephalus*
 - [Tree warblers](#), genus *Hippolais*
- Chloropeta warblers, genus *Chloropeta*
 - African Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta natalensis*
 - Mountain Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta similis*
 - Papyrus Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta gracilirostris*
- Fairy Warbler, *Stenostira scita*
- Buff-bellied Warbler, *Phyllolais pulchella*
 - [Tailorbirds](#), genus *Orthotomus*
- White-tailed Warbler, *Poliolais lopezi*
- Grauer's Warbler, *Graueria vittata*
- Eremomelas, genus *Eremomela*
 - Salvadori's Eremomela, *Eremomela salvadorii*
 - Yellow-vented Eremomela, *Eremomela flavicrissalis*
 - Yellow-bellied Eremomela, *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 - Senegal Eremomela, *Eremomela canescens*
 - Green-backed Eremomela, *Eremomela pusilla*
 - Greencap Eremomela, *Eremomela scotops*
 - Yellow-rumped Eremomela, *Eremomela gregalis*
 - Rufous-crowned Eremomela, *Eremomela badiceps*
 - Turner's Eremomela, *Eremomela turneri*
 - Black-necked Eremomela, *Eremomela atricollis*
 - Burnt-neck Eremomela, *Eremomela usticollis*
- Rand's Warbler, *Randia pseudozosterops*
- Cryptic Warbler, *Cryptosylvicola randriansoloi*
- Crombecks, genus *Sylvietta*
 - Green Crombec, *Sylvietta virens*
 - Lemon-bellied Crombec, *Sylvietta denti*
 - White-browed Crombec, *Sylvietta leucophrys*
 - Northern Crombec, *Sylvietta brachyura*
 - Short-billed Crombec, *Sylvietta philippae*
 - Red-capped Crombec, *Sylvietta ruficapilla*
 - Red-faced Crombec, *Sylvietta whytii*
 - Somali Crombec, *Sylvietta isabellina*
 - Cape Crombec, *Sylvietta rufescens*
- Neumann's Warbler, *Hemitesia neumanni*
- Longbills, genera *Macrosphenus* and *Amaurocichla*

- Kemp's Longbill, *Macrosphenus kemp*
 Yellow Longbill, *Macrosphenus flavicans*
 Grey Longbill, *Macrosphenus concolor*
 Pulitzer's Longbill, *Macrosphenus pulitzeri*
 Kretschmer's Longbill, *Macrosphenus kretschmeri*
 Bocage's Longbill or São Tomé Short-tail, *Amaurocichla bocagei*
- Green Hylia, *Hylia prasina*
- Tit-warblers, genus *Leptopoecile*
 - White-browed Tit-warbler, *Leptopoecile sophiae*
 Crested Tit-warbler, *Leptopoecile elegans*
- Flycatcher warblers, genus *Seicercus*
 - Golden-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus burkii*
 Grey-hooded Warbler, *Seicercus xanthoschistos*
 White-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus affinis*
 Grey-cheeked Warbler, *Seicercus poliogenys*
 Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps*
 Yellow-breasted Warbler, *Seicercus montis*
 Sunda Warbler, *Seicercus grammiceps*
 - [Leaf warblers](#), genus *Phylloscopus*
- Abroscopus warblers, genus *Abroscopus*
 - Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis*
 Yellow-bellied Warbler, *Abroscopus superciliaris*
 Black-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus schisticeps*
- Broad-billed Warbler, *Tickellia hodgsoni*
- Hyliotas, genus *Hyliota*
 - Yellow-bellied Hyliota, *Hyliota flavigaster*
 Southern Hyliota, *Hyliota australis*
 Usambara Hyliota, *Hyliota usambarae*
 Violet-backed Hyliota, *Hyliota violacea*
- Grassbirds, genera *Chaetornis*, *Graminicola*, *Megalurus* and *Schoenicola*
 - Marsh Grassbird, *Megalurus pryori*
 Tawny Grassbird, *Megalurus timoriensis*
 Little Grassbird, *Megalurus gramineus*
 Striated Grassbird, *Megalurus palustris*
 Fly River Grassbird, *Megalurus albolimbatus*
 Fernbird, *Megalurus punctatus*
 Chatham Islands Fernbird, *Megalurus rufescens* - extinct
 Bristled Grassbird, *Chaetornis striatus*
 Rufous-rumped Grassbird, *Graminicola bengalensis*
 Broad-tailed Grassbird, *Schoenicola platyura*
 Fan-tailed Grassbird, *Schoenicola brevirostris*
- Songlarks, genus *Cincloramphus*
 - Brown Songlark, *Cincloramphus cruralis*
 Rufous Songlark, *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

- Spinifex-bird, *Eremiornis carteri*
Buff-banded Bushbird, *Buettikoferella bivittata*
- Thicketbirds, genus *Megalurulus*
 - New Caledonian Grassbird, *Megalurulus mariei*
Bismarck Thicketbird, *Megalurulus grosvenori*
Bougainville Thicketbird, *Megalurulus llanae*
Guadalcanal Thicketbird, *Megalurulus whitneyi*
Rusty Thicketbird, *Megalurulus rubiginosus*
- Long-legged Warbler, *Trichocichla rufa*
Wrentit, *Chamaea fasciata*
Typical warblers, genus *Sylvia*
- Parisoma warblers, genus *Parisoma*
 - Layard's Warbler, *Parisoma layardi*
Rufous-vented Warbler, *Parisoma subcaeruleum*
Brown Warbler, *Parisoma lugens*
Banded Warbler, *Parisoma boehmi*
Yemen Warbler, *Parisoma buryi*

The Newtonias are now considered [vangas](#).

Acrocephalus

Acrocephalus warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Acrocephalus** Naumann,JA & Naumann,JF, 1811 Species: About 35, see text

The **Acrocephalus** warblers are small, insectivorous [passerine birds](#) belonging to the genus *Acrocephalus* of the [Old World warbler](#) family Sylviidae. They are sometimes called **marsh warblers** or **reed warblers**, but this invites confusion with Marsh Warbler and Reed Warbler, especially in North America where it is common to use lower case for bird species.

These are rather drab brownish warblers usually associated with marshes or other wetlands. Some are streaked, others plain. Almost all are [migratory](#).

Many species have a flat head profile, which gives rise to the group's scientific name.

Species breeding in temperate regions are strongly [migratory](#).

The 35 species are

- Moustached Warbler, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
- Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola*
- Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
- Streaked Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus sorghophilus*
- Black-browed Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*
- Paddyfield Warbler, *Acrocephalus agricola*
- Blunt-winged Warbler, *Acrocephalus concinens*
- Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
- African Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus baeticatus*
- Blyth's Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
- Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*
- Great Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
- Oriental Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orientalis*
- Clamorous Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
- Large-billed Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orinus*
- Basra Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus griseldis*
- Australian Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus australis*
- Nightingale Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus luscini*
- Caroline Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus syrinx*
- Nauru Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus rehsei*
- Millerbird, *Acrocephalus familiaris*
- Christmas Island Warbler, *Acrocephalus aequinoctialis*
- Tahiti Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus caffer*
- Tuamotu Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus atyphus*
- Rimitara Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus rimitarae*
- Pitcairn Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus vaughani*

Henderson Island Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus taiti*
Marquesan Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus mendanae*
Cook Islands Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus kerearako*
Greater Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus rufescens*
Cape Verde Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus brevipennis*
Lesser Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Madagascar Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus newtoni*
Thick-billed Warbler, *Acrocephalus aedon*
Rodrigues Brush Warbler, *Acrocephalus rodericanus*
Seychelles Warbler, *Acrocephalus sechellensis*

Bradypterus

Bush warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Species: *See text*

Bush warblers are small insectivorous [birds](#) belonging to the [genera](#) *Cettia* and *Bradypterus* of the [Old World warbler family Sylviidae](#). There are about 38 species in the genera, the most recently described being the Odedi (*Cettia haddeni*) from Bougainville.

These are mostly dull birds, unmarked brown above, with strong legs and feet and short broad wings. Many are similar in appearance. They are mostly southern Asian, although Cetti's Warbler has a more extensive range, across southern Europe. Southern species are usually resident, and northern are short-distance [migrants](#).

These are quite terrestrial birds, which live in densely vegetated habitats like thick forest and reedbeds. They will walk away from disturbance rather than flush. The [plumage](#) similarities and skulking lifestyle makes these birds hard to see and identify.

Species in genus *Cettia*

- Manchurian Bush Warbler, *Cettia canturians*
Pale-footed Bush Warbler, *Cettia pallidipes*
Japanese Bush Warbler, *Cettia diphone*
Philippine Bush Warbler, *Cettia seebohmi*
Palau Bush Warbler, *Cettia annae*
Shade Warbler, *Cettia parens*
Odedi, *Cettia haddeni*
Fiji Bush Warbler, *Cettia ruficapilla*
Tanimbar Bush Warbler, *Cettia carolinae*
Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, *Cettia fortipes*
Sunda Bush-Warbler, *Cettia vulcania*
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, *Cettia major*
Aberrant Bush Warbler, *Cettia flavolivacea*
Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, *Cettia acanthizoides*
Gray-sided Bush Warbler, *Cettia brunnifrons*
Cetti's Warbler, *Cettia cetti*

Species in genus *Bradypterus*

- Taiwan Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus alishanensis*
African Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus baboecala*
Ja River Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus grandis*

White-winged Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus carpalis*
Grauer's Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus graueri*
Bamboo Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus alfredi*
Knysna Scrub Warbler / Knysna Warbler, *Bradypterus sylvaticus*
Cameroon Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus lopezi*
African Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus barratti*
Bangwa Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus bangwaensis*
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*
Victorin's Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus victorini* *almost certainly not a true
Bradypterus - see SASOL Birds of Southern Africa
Spotted Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus thoracicus*
Long-billed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus major*
Chinese Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus tacsanowskii*
Russet Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus seebohmi*
Brown Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus luteoventris*
Taiwan Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus alishanensis*
Sri Lanka Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus palliseri*
Friendly Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus accentor*
Long-tailed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus caudatus*
Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus castaneus*

Chamaea

Wrentit

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Chamaea**

Species: ***C. fasciata***

Binomial name ***Chamaea fasciata*** (Gambel, 1845)

The **Wrentit**, *Chamaea fasciata*, is a small [bird](#) that lives in chaparral and bushland. It is the only species in the genus Chamaea (Gambel, 1847).

It is the subject of much taxonomic debate, having been placed in many different families by different authors for as long as it has been known to science. Its name reflects the uncertainty, and its resemblance to both tits and [wrens](#).

The Wrentit has been variously placed in its own family, the **Chamaeidae**, with the bushtits (Aegithalidae), the tits and chickadees (Paridae), the [Old World warblers](#) (Sylviidae), and most recently with the Old World babblers (Timaliidae). The AOU places the Wrentit in the latter family, giving it the distinction of being the only babbler known from the New World.

Description

The Wrentit is a small (15-cm) bird with uniform dull olive, brown, or grayish [plumage](#). It has short wings and a long tail often held high (hence the comparison to wrens). It has a short bill and a pale iris. Given its retiring nature and loud voice, the Wrentit is more likely to be detected by its call than by sight.

Behavior and Range

The Wrentit is a sedentary (non-[migratory](#)) resident of a narrow strip of coastal habitat in western coast of North America, being found from Washington south to Baja California. It is usually restricted to scrub and certain types of woodland. It nests in 1m high shrubs such as poison oak, coyote bush and Californian blackberry. Logging and other changes in habitat have led to this species expanding its range recently, particularly northwards.

Wrentits mate for life, forming pair bonds only a few months after hatching. Both sexes participate in building the nest, a four-stage process that takes about two weeks. The three or four eggs are incubated for 14 days, again by both sexes. The chicks fledge after 15 days (at which stage they are unable to fly) and are fed by their parents for another 40 days.

The Wrentit feeds by skulking through dense scrub gleaning exposed insects found by sight. It feeds primarily on beetles, caterpillars, bugs, and ants, but also takes small berries and seeds.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Chamaea fasciata*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 05 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- Geupel, G. R., and G. Ballard. 2002. Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) in *The Birds of North America*, vol. 17, no. 654 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Hippolais

Tree Warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Hippolais**

Species: *H. caligata*, *H. rama*, *H. pallida*, *H. languida*, *H. olivetorum*, *H. opaca*, *H. polyglotta*, *H. icterina*

Tree warblers are medium-sized [birds](#) belonging to the genus *Hippolais* of the [Old World warbler](#) family *Sylviidae*. They occur in Europe, Africa and western Asia.

These warblers are always associated with trees, though normally in fairly open woodland rather than tight plantations. They are quite clumsy in their movements.

These are plump, strong-looking birds with long bills, strong feet and long wing. Most are unstreaked greenish or brownish above and cream or white below. They are insectivorous, but will occasionally take berries or seeds.

Species breeding in temperate regions are usually strongly [migratory](#).

The species are:

- Booted Warbler, *Hippolais caligata*
Sykes' Warbler, *Hippolais rama*
Western Olivaceous Warbler, *Hippolais pallida*
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, *Hippolais opaca*
Upcher's Warbler, *Hippolais languida*
Olive-tree Warbler, *Hippolais olivetorum*
Melodious Warbler, *Hippolais polyglotta*
Icterine Warbler, *Hippolais icterina*

Locustella

Grass warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Locustella** Kaup, 1829 Species: *L. luscinioides*, *L. certhiola*, *L. ochotensis*, *L. lanceolata*, *L. fluviatilis*, *L. fasciolata*, *L. naevia*, *L. pleskei*, *L. pryeri*

The **grass warblers** are small [passerine birds](#) belonging to the genus *Locustella* of the [Old World warbler](#) family Sylviidae.

These are rather drab brownish warblers usually associated with fairly open grassland, shrubs or marshes. Some are streaked, others plain, all are difficult to view. They are insectivorous.

The most characteristic feature of this group is that the song of several species is a mechanical insect-like reeling which gives rise to the group's scientific name.

Species breeding in temperate regions are strongly [migratory](#).

The nine species are

- Savi's Warbler, *Locustella luscinioides*
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella certhiola*
Middendorf's Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella ochotensis*
Lanceolated Warbler, *Locustella lanceolata*
River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella fasciolata*
Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella naevia*
Styan's Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella pleskei*
Japanese Swamp Warbler, *Locustella pryeri*

Orthotomus

Tailorbird

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Orthotomus** Horsfield, 1821 Species: *O. metopias*, *O. moreau*, *O. cuculatus*, *O. sutorius*, *O. heterolaemus*, *O. atrogularis*, *O. castaneiceps*, *O. frontalis*, *O. derbianus*, *O. sericeus*, *O. ruficeps*, *O. sepium*, *O. samarensis*, *O. nigriceps*, *O. cinereiceps*

Tailorbirds are small [birds](#) belonging to the genus *Orthotomus* of the [Old World warbler](#) family *Sylviidae*. They occur in the Old World tropics, principally in Asia.

These warblers are usually brightly coloured, with green or grey upperparts and yellow white or grey underparts. They often have chestnut on the head.

Tailorbirds have short rounded wings, short tails, strong legs and long curved bills. The tail is typically held upright, like a [wren](#). They are typically found in open woodland, scrub and gardens.

Tailorbirds get their name from the way their nest is constructed. The edges of a large leaf are pierced and sewn together with plant fibre or spider's web to make a cradle in which the actual grass nest is built.

The species are:

- African Tailorbird, *Orthotomus metopias*
Long-billed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus moreau*
Mountain Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cuculatus*
Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius*
Rufous-headed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus heterolaemus*
Dark-necked Tailorbird, *Orthotomus atrogularis*
Philippine Tailorbird, *Orthotomus castaneiceps*
Rufous-fronted Tailorbird, *Orthotomus frontalis*
Grey-backed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus derbianus*
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sericeus*
Ashy Tailorbird, *Orthotomus ruficeps*
Olive-backed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sepium*
Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, *Orthotomus samarensis*
White-browed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus nigriceps*
White-eared Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cinereiceps*

References

- *Warblers of Europe, Asia and North Africa* by Baker, ISBN 0-7136-3971-7

Phylloscopus

Leaf warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: ***Phylloscopus*** Boie, 1826 Species: See text.

Leaf warblers are very small insectivorous [birds](#) belonging to the genus *Phylloscopus* of the [Old World warbler](#) family Sylviidae. There are about 50 species in the genus.

These are active, constantly moving, warblers always associated with trees, though normally in fairly open woodland rather than tight plantations. They occur from top canopy to undershrubs. Most of the species are markedly territorial both in their summer and winter quarters.

Most are greenish or brownish above and off-white below. Compared to some other [warbler](#) families, their songs are very simple.

Species breeding in temperate regions are usually strongly [migratory](#).

The species are

- Red-faced Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus laetus*
- Laura's Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus laurae*
- Yellow-throated Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus ruficapillus*
- Uganda Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus budongoensis*
- Brown Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*
- Black-capped Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus herberti*
- Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*
- Canary Islands Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus canariensis*
- Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*
- Iberian Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus brehmii*
- Mountain Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus sindianus*
- Plain Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus neglectus*
- Western Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus bonelli*
- Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus orientalis*
- Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
- Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
- Smoky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuligiventer*
- Tickell's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*
- Buff-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus subaffinis*
- Sulphur-bellied Warbler, *Phylloscopus griseolus*
- Yellow-streaked Warbler, *Phylloscopus armandii*
- Radde's Warbler, *Phylloscopus schwarzi*
- Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher*
- Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
- Pale-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus chloronotus*

Pallas's Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Lemon-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
Gansu Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus kansuensis*
Chinese Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus sichuanensis*
Brooks' Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus subviridis*
Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Hume's Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei*
Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis*
Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Pale-legged Warbler, *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealoides*
Large-billed Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
Tytler's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus tytleri*
Western Crowned Warbler, *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
Eastern Crowned Warbler, *Phylloscopus coronatus*
Ijima's Warbler, *Phylloscopus ijimae*
Blyth's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus reguloides*
Hainan Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus hainanus*
Emei Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus emeiensis*
White-tailed Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus davisoni*
Yellow-vented Warbler, *Phylloscopus cantator*
Sulphur-breasted Warbler, *Phylloscopus ricketti*
Lemon-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus cebuensis*
Mountain Warbler, *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus sarasinorum*
Timor Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus presbytes*
Island Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*
Philippine Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus olivaceus*
San Cristobal Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus makirensis*
Kulambangra Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus amoenus*

Sylvia

Typical Warblers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Sylviidae](#)

Genus: **Sylvia** Scopoli, 1769 Species: see species list

The **typical warblers** are small insectivorous [birds](#) belonging to the genus *Sylvia* of the [Old World warbler](#) family Sylviidae. There are about 20 species in the genus.

These are active, constantly moving, warblers usually associated with fairly open woodland, hedges or shrubs.

This is one of the few Old World warbler groups in which many of the species show sexual dimorphism, with distinctive male and female [plumages](#). Males of some species have black on the head.

Species breeding in temperate regions are usually strongly [migratory](#), although some are resident.

The species are

- Yemen Warbler, *Sylvia buryi*
Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*
Garden Warbler, *Sylvia borin*
Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis*
Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*
Small Whitethroat, *Sylvia minula*
Hume's Whitethroat, *Sylvia althaea*
Asian Desert Warbler, *Sylvia nana*
African Desert Warbler, *Sylvia deserti*
Barred Warbler, *Sylvia nisoria*
Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia hortensis*
Red Sea Warbler, *Sylvia leucomelaena*
Rüppell's Warbler, *Sylvia rueppelli*
Subalpine Warbler, *Sylvia cantillans*
Sardinian Warbler, *Sylvia melanocephala*
Cyprus Warbler, *Sylvia melanothorax*
Menetries' Warbler, *Sylvia mystacea*
Spectacled Warbler, *Sylvia conspicillata*
Tristram's Warbler, *Sylvia deserticola*
Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata*
Marmora's Warbler, *Sylvia sarda*

Thraupidae

Tanagers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Thraupidae**

Genera: many: see text

There are 240 species of **Tanagers** in the bird family [Thraupidae](#). Thraupidae belongs to the order [Passeriformes](#).

[Euphonias](#) and chlorophonias were once considered part of the tanager family, but they are now treated as members of [Fringillidae](#), in their own subfamily ([Euphoniinae](#)).

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Size and appearance

Tanagers are small to medium-sized birds. The smallest, the Short-billed Honeycreeper, is 9 cm long and weighs 9 grams. The longest, the Magpie Tanager is 26 cm. The heaviest is the White-capped Tanager which weighs 114 grams. Both sexes are usually the same size and weight. Tanagers are often brightly colored, but some species are black and white. Birds in their first year are often duller or a different color altogether. Males are typically more brightly coloured than females.

Most tanagers have short, rounded wings. The shape of the bill seems to be linked to the species' foraging habits.

Range

Tanagers are restricted to the New World tropics. About 60% of tanagers live in South America, and 30% of these species live in the Andes. Most species are endemic to a relatively small area. 18 species live in North America and Central America year round. 4 species are migratory, breeding in North America. They are the Scarlet Tanager, Western Tanager, Hepatic Tanager and the Summer Tanager. Recent molecular evidence indicates these 4 migratory species may be more closely related to the family [Emberizidae](#).

Social behavior

Most tanagers live in pairs or in small groups of 3-5 individuals. These groups may consist simply of parents and their offspring. Birds may also be seen in single species or mixed flocks. Tanagers are thought to have dull songs. Some are very elaborate.

Diet

Tanagers are omnivorous, but the diet of tanagers varies from genus to genus. They have been seen eating fruits, seeds, nectar, flower parts and insects. Their foraging technique depends much on what they look for. Many pick insects off branches. Other species look for insects on the underside of leaves. Yet others wait on branches until they see a flying insect and catch it in the air. Many of these particular species inhabit the same areas, but these specializations alleviate competition.

Breeding and reproduction

The breeding season begins in March through until June in temperate areas and in September through October in South America. Some species are territorial while others build their nests closer together. There is little information on tanager breeding behavior so it is difficult to say if they are monogamous or polygamous. Males show off their brightest feathers to potential mates and rival males. Some species' courtship rituals involve bowing and tail lifting.

Most tanagers build cup nests on branches in trees. Some nests are almost globular. Entrances are usually built on the side of the nest. The nests can be shallow or deep. The species of the tree they choose to build their nest in and the nest's position varies among genera. Most species nest in an area hidden by very dense vegetation. There is still no information on the nests of some species.

The clutch size is 3-5 eggs. The female incubates the eggs and builds the nest, but the male may feed the female while she incubates. Both sexes feed the young. Five species have helpers assist in feeding the young. These helpers are thought to be the previous year's nestlings.

Species list

Family: Thraupidae

- Genus *Conirostrum*, the conebills
 - Chestnut-vented Conebill, *Conirostrum speciosum*
 - White-eared Conebill, *Conirostrum leucogenys*
 - Bicolored Conebill, *Conirostrum bicolor*
 - Pearly-breasted Conebill, *Conirostrum margaritae*

Cinereous Conebill, *Conirostrum cinereum*
 Tamarugo Conebill, *Conirostrum tamarugense*
 White-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum ferrugineiventre*
 Rufous-browed Conebill, *Conirostrum rufum*
 Blue-backed Conebill, *Conirostrum sitticolor*
 Capped Conebill, *Conirostrum albifrons*

- Genus *Oreomanes*
 - Giant Conebill, *Oreomanes fraseri*
- Genus *Orchesticus*
 - Brown Tanager, *Orchesticus abeillei*
- Genus *Schistochlamys*
 - Cinnamon Tanager, *Schistochlamys ruficapillus*
 Black-faced Tanager, *Schistochlamys melanopis*
- Genus *Neothraupis*
 - White-banded Tanager, *Neothraupis fasciata*
- Genus *Cypsnagra*
 - White-rumped Tanager, *Cypsnagra hirundinacea*
- Genus *Conothraupis*
 - Black-and-white Tanager, *Conothraupis speculigera*
 Cone-billed Tanager, *Conothraupis mesoleuca*
- Genus *Cissopis*
 - Magpie Tanager, *Cissopis leveriana*
- Genus *Lamprospiza*
 - Red-billed Pied Tanager, *Lamprospiza melanoleuca*
- Genus *Chlorornis*
 - Grass-green Tanager, *Chlorornis riefferii*
- Genus *Compsothraupis*
 - Scarlet-throated Tanager, *Compsothraupis loricata*
- Genus *Sericossypha*
 - White-capped Sericossypha Tanager, *Sericossypha albocristata*
- Genus *Nesospingus*
 - Puerto Rican Tanager, *Nesospingus speculiferus*
- Genus *Chlorospingus*, the bush tanagers
 - Common Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*
 Tacarcuna Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus tacarcunae*
 Pirre Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus inornatus*
 Dusky Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus semifuscus*
 Sooty-capped Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus pileatus*
 Short-billed Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus parvirostris*
 Yellow-throated Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus flavigularis*
 Yellow-green Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus flavovirens*
 Ashy-throated Bush Tanager, *Chlorospingus canigularis*
- Genus *Cnemoscopus*

- Gray-hooded Bush Tanager, *Cnemoscopus rubrirostris*
- Genus *Hemispingus*, the hemispinguses
 - Black-capped Hemispingus, *Hemispingus atropileus*
 - Orange-browed Hemispingus, *Hemispingus calophrys*
 - Parodi's Hemispingus, *Hemispingus parodii*
 - Superciliaried Hemispingus, *Hemispingus superciliaris*
 - Gray-capped Hemispingus, *Hemispingus reyi*
 - Oleaginous Hemispingus, *Hemispingus frontalis*
 - Black-eared Hemispingus, *Hemispingus melanotis*
 - Slaty-backed Hemispingus, *Hemispingus goeringi*
 - Rufous-browed Hemispingus, *Hemispingus rufosuperciliaris*
 - Black-headed Hemispingus, *Hemispingus verticalis*
 - Drab Hemispingus, *Hemispingus xanthophthalmus*
 - Three-striped Hemispingus, *Hemispingus trifasciatus*
- Genus *Pyrrhocomma*
 - Chestnut-headed Tanager, *Pyrrhocomma ruficeps*
- Genus *Thlypopsis*
 - Fulvous-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis fulviceps*
 - Rufous-chested Tanager, *Thlypopsis ornata*
 - Brown-flanked Tanager, *Thlypopsis pectoralis*
 - Orange-headed Tanager, *Thlypopsis sordida*
 - Buff-bellied Tanager, *Thlypopsis inornata*
 - Rust-and-yellow Tanager, *Thlypopsis ruficeps*
- Genus *Hemithraupis*
 - Guira Tanager, *Hemithraupis guira*
 - Rufous-headed Tanager, *Hemithraupis ruficapilla*
 - Yellow-backed Tanager, *Hemithraupis flavicollis*
- Genus *Chrysothlypis*
 - Black-and-yellow Tanager, *Chrysothlypis chrysomelaena*
 - Scarlet-and-white Tanager, *Chrysothlypis salmوني*
- Genus *Nemosia*
 - Hooded Tanager, *Nemosia pileata*
 - Cherry-throated Tanager, *Nemosia rourei*
- Genus *Phaenicophilus*
 - Black-crowned Palm Tanager, *Phaenicophilus palmarum*
 - Gray-crowned Palm Tanager, *Phaenicophilus poliocephalus*
- Genus *Calyptophilus*, the chat-tanager
 - Western Chat-tanager, *Calyptophilus tertius*
 - Eastern Chat-tanager, *Calyptophilus frugivorus*
- Genus *Rhodinocichla*
 - Rosy Thrush-tanager, *Rhodinocichla rosea*
- Genus *Mitrospingus*
 - Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassinii*
 - Olive-backed Tanager, *Mitrospingus oleagineus*

- Genus *Chlorothraupis*
 - Olive Tanager, *Chlorothraupis carmioli*
Lemon-spectacled Tanager, *Chlorothraupis olivacea*
Ochre-breasted Tanager, *Chlorothraupis stolzmanni*
- Genus *Orthogonys*
 - Olive-green Tanager, *Orthogonys chloricterus*
- Genus *Eucometis*
 - Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*
- Genus *Lanio*, the shrike-tanagers
 - Fulvous Shrike-tanager, *Lanio fulvus*
White-winged Shrike-tanager, *Lanio versicolor*
Black-throated Shrike-tanager, *Lanio aurantius*
White-throated Shrike-tanager, *Lanio leucothorax*
- Genus *Creurgops*
 - Rufous-crested Tanager, *Creurgops verticalis*
Slaty Tanager, *Creurgops dentata*
- Genus *Heterospingus*
 - Sulphur-rumped Tanager, *Heterospingus rubrifrons*
Scarlet-browed Tanager, *Heterospingus xanthopygius*
- Genus *Tachyphonus*
 - Flame-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus cristatus*
Yellow-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufiventer*
Fulvous-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus surinamus*
White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*
Tawny-crested Tanager, *Tachyphonus delatrii*
Ruby-crowned Tanager, *Tachyphonus coronatus*
White-lined Tanager, *Tachyphonus rufus*
Red-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus phoenicius*
- Genus *Trichothraupis*
 - Black-goggled Tanager, *Trichothraupis melanops*
- Genus *Habia*, the ant tanagers
 - Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*
Red-throated Ant-Tanager, *Habia fuscicauda*
Sooty Ant-Tanager, *Habia gutturalis*
Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, *Habia atrimaxillaris*
Crested Ant-Tanager, *Habia cristata*
- Genus *Piranga*
 - Rose-throated Tanager, *Piranga roseogularis*
Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava*
Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*
Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*
Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*
Flame-colored Tanager, *Piranga bidentata*
White-winged Tanager, *Piranga leucoptera*

- Red-headed Tanager, *Piranga erythrocephala*
- Red-hooded Tanager, *Piranga rubriceps*
- Genus *Calochaetes*
 - Vermilion Tanager, *Calochaetes coccineus*
- Genus *Ramphocelus*
 - Crimson-collared Tanager, *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*
 - Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*
 - Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*
 - Huallaga Tanager, *Ramphocelus melanogaster*
 - Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*
 - Brazilian Tanager, *Ramphocelus bresilius*
 - Passerini's Tanager, *Ramphocelus passerinii*
 - Cherrie's Tanager, *Ramphocelus costaricensis*
 - Flame-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus flammigerus*
- Genus *Spindalis*, the [spindalises](#)
 - Western Spindalis, *Spindalis zena*
 - Puerto Rican Spindalis, *Spindalis portoricensis*
 - Hispaniolan Spindalis, *Spindalis dominicensis*
 - Jamaican Spindalis, *Spindalis nigricephala*
- Genus *Thraupis*
 - Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*
 - Glaucous Tanager, *Thraupis glaucocolpa*
 - Sayaca Tanager, *Thraupis sayaca*
 - Azure-shouldered Tanager, *Thraupis cyanoptera*
 - Golden-chevroned Tanager, *Thraupis ornata*
 - Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*
 - Blue-and-yellow Tanager, *Thraupis bonariensis*
 - Yellow-winged Tanager, *Thraupis abbas*
 - Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*
- Genus *Cyanicterus*
 - Blue-backed Tanager, *Cyanicterus cyanicterus*
- Genus *Bangsia*
 - Blue-and-gold Tanager, *Bangsia arcae*
 - Black-and-gold Tanager, *Bangsia melanochlamys*
 - Golden-chested Tanager, *Bangsia rothschildi*
 - Moss-backed Tanager, *Bangsia edwardsi*
 - Gold-ringed Tanager, *Bangsia aureocincta*
- Genus *Buthraupis*
 - Hooded Mountain Tanager, *Buthraupis montana*
 - Black-chested Mountain Tanager, *Buthraupis eximia*
 - Golden-backed Mountain Tanager, *Buthraupis aureodorsalis*
 - Masked Mountain Tanager, *Buthraupis wetmorei*
- Genus *Wetmorethraupis*
 - Orange-throated Tanager, *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron*

- Genus *Anisognathus*
 - Santa Marta Mountain Tanager, *Anisognathus melanogenys*
 - Lacrimose Mountain Tanager, *Anisognathus lacrymosus*
 - Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, *Anisognathus igniventris*
 - Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, *Anisognathus somptuosus*
 - Black-chinned Mountain Tanager, *Anisognathus notabilis*
- Genus *Stephanophorus*
 - Diademed Tanager, *Stephanophorus diadematus*
- Genus *Iridosornis*
 - Purplish-mantled Tanager, *Iridosornis porphyrocephala*
 - Yellow-throated Tanager, *Iridosornis analis*
 - Golden-collared Tanager, *Iridosornis jelskii*
 - Golden-crowned Tanager, *Iridosornis rufivertex*
 - Yellow-scarfed Tanager, *Iridosornis reinhardti*
- Genus *Thraupis Dubusia*
 - Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, *Dubusia taeniata*
- Genus *Delothraupis*
 - Chestnut-bellied Mountain Tanager, *Delothraupis castaneoventris*
- Genus *Pipraeidea*
 - Fawn-breasted Tanager, *Pipraeidea melanonota*
- Genus *Chlorochrysa*
 - Glistening-green Tanager, *Chlorochrysa phoenicotis*
 - Orange-eared Tanager, *Chlorochrysa calliparaea*
 - Multicolored Tanager, *Chlorochrysa nitidissima*
- Genus *Tangara*
 - Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*
 - Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*
 - Azure-rumped Tanager, *Tangara cabanisi*
 - Gray-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara palmeri*
 - Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*
 - Seven-colored Tanager, *Tangara fastuosa*
 - Green-headed Tanager, *Tangara seledon*
 - Red-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanocephala*
 - Brassy-breasted Tanager, *Tangara desmaresti*
 - Gilt-edged Tanager, *Tangara cyanoventris*
 - Blue-whiskered Tanager, *Tangara johannae*
 - Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*
 - Emerald Tanager, *Tangara florida*
 - Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus*
 - Silver-throated Tanager, *Tangara icterocephala*
 - Golden-eared Tanager, *Tangara chrysotis*
 - Saffron-crowned Tanager, *Tangara xanthocephala*
 - Flame-faced Tanager, *Tangara parzudakii*
 - Yellow-bellied Tanager, *Tangara xanthogastra*

Spotted Tanager, *Tangara punctata*
 Speckled Tanager, *Tangara guttata*
 Dotted Tanager, *Tangara varia*
 Rufous-throated Tanager, *Tangara rufigula*
 Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*
 Rufous-winged Tanager, *Tangara lavinia*
 Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*
 Black-backed Tanager, *Tangara peruviana*
 Lesser Antillean Tanager, *Tangara cucullata*
 Chestnut-backed Tanager, *Tangara preciosa*
 Scrub Tanager, *Tangara vitriolina*
 Green-capped Tanager, *Tangara meyerdeschauensei*
 Rufous-cheeked Tanager, *Tangara rufigenis*
 Golden-naped Tanager, *Tangara ruficervix*
 Metallic-green Tanager, *Tangara labradorides*
 Blue-browed Tanager, *Tangara cyanotis*
 Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*
 Golden-hooded Tanager, *Tangara larvata*
 Masked Tanager, *Tangara nigrocincta*
 Spangle-cheeked Tanager, *Tangara dowii*
 Green-naped Tanager, *Tangara fucosa*
 Beryl-spangled Tanager, *Tangara nigroviridis*
 Blue-and-black Tanager, *Tangara vassorii*
 Black-capped Tanager, *Tangara heinei*
 Sira Tanager, *Tangara phillipsi*
 Silver-backed Tanager, *Tangara viridicollis*
 Straw-backed Tanager, *Tangara argyrofenges*
 Black-headed Tanager, *Tangara cyanopectus*
 Opal-rumped Tanager, *Tangara velia*
 Opal-crowned Tanager, *Tangara callophrys*

- Genus *Iridophanes*
 - Golden-collared Honeycreeper, *Iridophanes pulcherrima*
- Genus *Pseudodacnis*
 - Turquoise Dacnis-Tanager, *Pseudodacnis hartlaubi*
- Genus *Dacnis*, the dacnises
 - White-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis albiventris*
 - Black-faced Dacnis, *Dacnis lineata*
 - Yellow-bellied Dacnis, *Dacnis flaviventer*
 - Black-legged Dacnis, *Dacnis nigripes*
 - Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, *Dacnis venusta*
 - Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*
 - Viridian Dacnis, *Dacnis viguieri*
 - Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, *Dacnis berlepschi*
- Genus *Chlorophanes*

- Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*
- Genus *Cyanerpes*, the [honeycreepers](#)
 - Short-billed Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes nitidus*
 - Shining Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes lucidus*
 - Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*
 - Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*
- Genus *Xenodacnis*
 - Tit-like Dacnis, *Xenodacnis parina*
- Genus *Tersina*
 - Swallow Tanager, *Tersina viridis*
- Genus *Catamblyrhynchus*
 - Plush-capped Finch, *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*
- Genus *Oreothraupis*
 - Tanager Finch, *Oreothraupis arremonops*
- Genus *Urothraupis*
 - Black-backed Bush Tanager, *Urothraupis stolzmanni*
- Genus *Nephelornis*
 - Pardusco *Nephelornis oneilli*

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Cyanerpes

Honeycreeper

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: ***Cyanerpes***

Species: See text.

The **Honeycreepers** are small [birds](#) in the [tanager](#) family. They are found in the tropical New World from Mexico south to Brazil.

They occur in the forest canopy, and, as the name implies, they are specialist nectar feeders with long curved bills.

The four *Cyanerpes* species have colourful legs, long wings and a short tail. The males are typically glossy purple-blue and the females greenish.

The Green Honeycreeper is called a Honeycreeper, but belongs to the monotypic *Chlorophanes* genus. It has a larger, stouter bill than the *Cyanerpes* group, and is less heavily dependent on nectar.

Honeycreeper is also the name of an independent rock band from upstate New York. [\[1\]](#)

Species

- Short-billed Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes nitidus*
Shining Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes lucidus*
Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes caeruleus*
Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*

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- *Birds of Venezuela* by Hilty, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* by ffrench, ISBN 0-7136-6759-1

Habia

Ant tanager

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: **Habia** Blyth, 1840 species: *H. rubica*, *H. fuscicauda*, *H. gutturalis*, *H. atrimaxillaris*, *H. cristata*

Ant tanagers are [birds](#) of the [tanager](#) family in the genus **Habia**. These are long-tailed and strong billed birds. The males have a red crest and plumage containing red, brown or sooty hues. Females may resemble the males or be largely yellowish or brown in colour.

All species forage for insects, which can be larger than their bills. Fruit is a minor part of their diet. Red-throated, Sooty and Black-cheeked Ant-Tanagers form a superspecies; they inhabit secon growth and patchy woodland. They look down from a series of low (2-3 m) perches and take prey from foliage or in flight. They follow army ant swarms to catch insects that are fleeing from the ants.

Red-crowned and Crested Ant-Tanagers prefer denser undergrowth and watch from higher (4-5 m) perches, often working upwards through the foliage. They are less likely to follow ant columns.

The female alone builds a cup nest and incubates the two or three eggs. The young leave the nest before they can fly and hide in dense vegetation.

Ant tanagers have harsh call notes but musical whistled songs.

Species in taxonomic order

- Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*
- Red-throated Ant-Tanager, *Habia fuscicauda*
- Sooty Ant-Tanager, *Habia gutturalis*
- Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, *Habia atrimaxillaris*
- Crested Ant-Tanager, *Habia cristata*

References

- ffrench, *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* ISBN 0-7136-6759-1
- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela*, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- Morton, Isler & Isler, *Tanagers* ISBN 0-7136-5116-4
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Piranga

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Thraupidae](#)
Genus: **Piranga** Vieillot, 1807 species: *see species list*

Piranga is a genus of [birds](#) of the [tanager](#) family. Several species are [migratory](#), breeding in North America and wintering in the tropics.

These tanagers are found high in tree canopies, and are not very gregarious in their breeding areas.

Piranga tanagers pick insects from leaves, or sometimes in flight. They will also take some fruit

Species in taxonomic order

- Rose-throated Tanager, *Piranga roseogularis*
Hepatic Tanager, *Piranga flava*
Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*
Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*
Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana*
Flame-colored Tanager, *Piranga bidentata*
White-winged Tanager, *Piranga leucoptera*
Red-headed Tanager, *Piranga erythrocephala*
Red-hooded Tanager, *Piranga rubriceps*

References

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- Morton, Isler & Isler, *Tanagers* ISBN 0-7136-5116-4
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Ramphocelus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: ***Ramphocelus*** Desmarest, 1805 species: *see species list*

Ramphocelus is a genus of [birds](#) of the [tanager](#) family. Most species have enlarged shiny whitish lower mandibles, which are pointed upwards in display.

Ramphocelus tanagers are found in semi-open areas. The nest is a cup built by the female of plant materials such as moss, rootlets, and strips of large leaves like banana or Heliconia, and is often in a fairly open site in a tree. The female usually lays pale blue eggs, with grey, brown or lavender spots, and the young stay in the nest for only about 12 days.

The songs of this genus are repetitions of rich one- or two-syllable whistles

Ramphocelus tanagers hunt at forest edges or in second growth, taking insects in flight or picking them from leaves

Taxonomy

The Crimson-collared Tanager is sometimes placed in a genus of its own as *Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta* (Howell and Webb 1994), and a genetic study suggests that it is less closely related to the other *Ramphocelus* tanagers than they are to each other (Hackett 1996). Its closest relative is Masked Crimson Tanager.

The other species form two superspecies. One includes Crimson-backed, Huallaga, Silver-beaked and Brazilian Tanagers, and the other comprises Passerini's, Cherrie's and Flame-rumped Tanagers.

The northern form of Flame-rumped Tanager is sometimes split as Lemon-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus icteronotus*, and Passerini's and Cherrie's Tanager were formerly lumped as Scarlet-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus passerinii*.

Species in taxonomic order

- Crimson-collared Tanager, *Ramphocelus sanguinolentus*
Masked Crimson Tanager, *Ramphocelus nigrogularis*
Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*
Huallaga Tanager, *Ramphocelus melanogaster*
Silver-beaked Tanager, *Ramphocelus carbo*
Brazilian Tanager, *Ramphocelus bresilius*
Passerini's Tanager, *Ramphocelus passerinii*
Cherrie's Tanager, *Ramphocelus costaricensis*
Flame-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus flammigerus*

References

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- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela*, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
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Spindalis

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Subphylum: Vertebrata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: [Passeriformes](#)
 Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: ***Spindalis*** Jardine and Selby, 1837 Species: *Spindalis zena* , *Spindalis portoricensis* , *Spindalis dominicensis* , *Spindalis nigricephala*

Spindalis is a non-migratory genus of [tanagers](#) (Thraupidae family) comprised of 4 species. The genus is considered [endemic](#) to the Greater Antilles; a population on Cozumel Island, off the Yucatan Peninsula's east coast, is part of that island's West Indian fauna.

Historically, the genus consisted of a single polytypic species, *Spindalis zena*, with eight recognized subspecies—*S. z. townsendi* and *S. z. zena* from the Bahamas, *S. z. pretrei* from Cuba, *S. z. salvini* from Grand Cayman, *S. z. dominicensis* from Hispaniola and Gonave Island, *S. z. portoricensis* from Puerto Rico, *S. z. nigricephala* from Jamaica, and *S. z. benedicti* from Cozumel Island. In 1997, based primarily on morphological and vocalization differences, three of the subspecies (*portoricensis*, *dominicensis* and *nigricephala*) were elevated to species status. *S. zena* remained a polytypic species with five recognized subspecies—*S. z. pretrei*, *S. z. salvini*, *S. z. benedicti*, *S. z. townsendi*, and *S. z. zena*.^[1]

Spindalis males are characterized by bright plumage while females are duller and have a different coloration.

The nests of *Spindalis* are cup-shaped.^[2]

Footnotes

1. [^] Garrildo, et al, p.588-89.
2. [^] Garrildo, et al, p.587.

References

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Tangara

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: **Tangara** Brisson, 1760 species: *see species list*

Tangara is a large genus of [birds](#) of the [tanager](#) family. Many have restricted ranges.

These tanagers are mainly found high in forest canopies, but some occupy more open habitat.

The female builds a usually well concealed cup nest and lays two brown- or lilac-speckled white eggs. These hatch in 13-14 days and the chicks fledge in a further 15-16 days. The male and female feed the nestlings on insects and fruit, and may be assisted by helpers.

Tangara tanagers pick insects from leaves, or sometimes in flight, but fruit is a major dietary item, accounting for 53-86% of food items in those species which have been studied.

Species in taxonomic order

- Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*
- Turquoise Tanager, *Tangara mexicana*
- Azure-rumped Tanager, *Tangara cabanisi*
- Gray-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara palmeri*
- Paradise Tanager, *Tangara chilensis*
- Seven-colored Tanager, *Tangara fastuosa*
- Green-headed Tanager, *Tangara seledon*
- Red-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanocephala*
- Brassy-breasted Tanager, *Tangara desmaresti*
- Gilt-edged Tanager, *Tangara cyanoventris*
- Blue-whiskered Tanager, *Tangara johannae*
- Green-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara schrankii*
- Emerald Tanager, *Tangara florida*
- Golden Tanager, *Tangara arthus*
- Silver-throated Tanager, *Tangara icterocephala*
- Golden-eared Tanager, *Tangara chrysotis*
- Saffron-crowned Tanager, *Tangara xanthocephala*
- Flame-faced Tanager, *Tangara parzudakii*
- Yellow-bellied Tanager, *Tangara xanthogastra*
- Spotted Tanager, *Tangara punctata*
- Speckled Tanager, *Tangara guttata*
- Dotted Tanager, *Tangara varia*
- Rufous-throated Tanager, *Tangara rufigula*
- Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*
- Rufous-winged Tanager, *Tangara lavinia*

Burnished-buff Tanager, *Tangara cayana*
Black-backed Tanager, *Tangara peruviana*
Lesser Antillean Tanager, *Tangara cucullata*
Chestnut-backed Tanager, *Tangara preciosa*
Scrub Tanager, *Tangara vitriolina*
Green-capped Tanager, *Tangara meyerdeschauenseei*
Rufous-cheeked Tanager, *Tangara rufigenis*
Golden-naped Tanager, *Tangara ruficervix*
Metallic-green Tanager, *Tangara labradorides*
Blue-browed Tanager, *Tangara cyanotis*
Blue-necked Tanager, *Tangara cyanicollis*
Golden-hooded Tanager, *Tangara larvata*
Masked Tanager, *Tangara nigrocincta*
Spangle-cheeked Tanager, *Tangara dowii*
Green-naped Tanager, *Tangara fucosa*
Beryl-spangled Tanager, *Tangara nigroviridis*
Blue-and-black Tanager, *Tangara vassorii*
Black-capped Tanager, *Tangara heinei*
Sira Tanager, *Tangara phillipsi*
Silver-backed Tanager, *Tangara viridicollis*
Straw-backed Tanager, *Tangara argyrofenges*
Black-headed Tanager, *Tangara cyanoptera*
Opal-rumped Tanager, *Tangara velia*
Opal-crowned Tanager, *Tangara callophrys*

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- Morton, Isler & Isler, *Tanagers* ISBN 0-7136-5116-4
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Thraupis

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Thraupidae](#)

Genus: **Thraupis** Boie, 1826 species: *see species list*

Thraupis is a genus of [birds](#) of the [tanager](#) family occurring from Mexico to Argentina. Some are familiar species with large ranges.

These tanagers are mainly found in semi-open habitats including plantations and open woodland, but some will venture into towns. They feed from medium to high levels in trees, taking mainly fruit, with some nectar, and insects which may be taken in flight.

The pair builds a usually well concealed cup nest, but the female incubates alone. The Blue-gray and Palm Tanagers will nest in buildings.

Thraupis tanagers have squeaky call notes and songs which consist of 5-10 repetitions of a single or double note.

Species in taxonomic order

- Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*
Glaucous Tanager, *Thraupis glaucocolpa*
Sayaca Tanager, *Thraupis sayaca*
Azure-shouldered Tanager, *Thraupis cyanoptera*
Golden-chevroned Tanager, *Thraupis ornata*
Blue-capped Tanager, *Thraupis cyanocephala*
Blue-and-yellow Tanager, *Thraupis bonariensis*
Yellow-winged Tanager, *Thraupis abbas*
Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*

References

- French, *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* ISBN 0-7136-6759-1
- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela*, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- Morton, Isler & Isler, *Tanagers* ISBN 0-7136-5116-4
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Troglodytidae

Wrens

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Troglodytidae** Swainson, 1832 Genera: *Donacobius*, *Odontorchilus*, *Salpinctes*, *Microcerculus*, *Campylorhynchus*, *Catherpes*, *Hylorchilus*, *Thryomanes*, *Thryothorus*, *Cinnycerthia*, *Cantorchilus*, *Thryophilus*, *Pheugopedius* *Cyphorhinus*, *Uropsila*, *Thryorchilus*, *Henicorhina*, *Troglodytes*, *Cistothorus*, *Ferminia*

The true **wrens** are members of a mainly New World [passerine bird](#) family **Troglodytidae** containing 79 [species](#).

A troglodyte means a cave-dweller, and wrens get their scientific name from the tendency of some species to forage in dark crevices. They are mainly small and inconspicuous except for their loud songs. These birds have short wings and a thin down-turned bill. Several species often hold their tails upright. All are insectivorous.

Only one species, *Troglodytes troglodytes*, known as the Winter Wren in North America, occurs in the Old World, where it is commonly known simply as the **Wren**.

The 27 Australasian "wren" species are unrelated and are in the family [Maluridae](#), as are the [New Zealand "wrens"](#) in the family Acanthisittidae.

The wren is to become the next official mascot of The College of William and Mary.

Species list

This list follows the review by Mann *et al.* (2006).

- Genus *Donacobius*
 - Black-capped Donacobius *Donacobius atricapillus*
- Genus *Odontorchilus*
 - Gray-mantled Wren *Odontorchilus branickii*
 - Tooth-billed Wren *Odontorchilus cinereus*
- Genus *Salpinctes*
 - Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*
- Genus *Microcerculus*
 - Flutist Wren *Microcerculus ustulatus*
 - Nightingale Wren *Microcerculus philomela*
 - Scaly-breasted Wren *Microcerculus marginatus*
 - Wing-banded Wren *Microcerculus bambla*
- Genus *Catherpes*
 - Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*
- Genus *Hylorchilus*
 - Nava's Wren *Hylorchilus navai*
 - Slender-billed Wren *Hylorchilus sumichrasti*

- Genus *Campylorhynchus*
 - Band-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus zonatus*
 - Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus*
 - Boucard's Wren *Campylorhynchus jocosus*
 - Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*
 - Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus*
 - Giant Wren *Campylorhynchus chiapensis*
 - Gray-barred Wren *Campylorhynchus megalopterus*
 - Rufous-naped Wren *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*
 - Spotted Wren *Campylorhynchus gularis*
 - Stripe-backed Wren *Campylorhynchus nuchalis*
 - Thrush-like Wren *Campylorhynchus turdinus*
 - White-headed Wren *Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*
 - Yucatan Wren *Campylorhynchus yucatanicus*
- Genus *Thryomanes*
 - Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*
- Genus *Thryothorus*
 - Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus*
 - White-browed Wren *Thryothorus (l.) albinucha*
- Genus *Cinnycerthia*
 - Fulvous Wren *Cinnycerthia fulva*
 - Peruvian Wren *Cinnycerthia peruana*
 - Rufous Wren *Cinnycerthia unirufa*
 - Sharpe's Wren *Cinnycerthia olivascens*
- Genus *Cantorchilus* (formerly *Thryothorus*)
 - Stripe-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus thoracicus*
 - Stripe-throated Wren *Cantorchilus leucopogon*
 - Plain Wren *Cantorchilus modestus*
 - Riverside Wren *Cantorchilus semibadius*
 - Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*
 - Superciliated Wren *Cantorchilus superciliaris*
 - Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis* (probably not monophyletic)
 - Fawn-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus guarayanus*
 - Long-billed Wren *Cantorchilus longirostris*
- Genus *Thryophilus* (formerly *Thryothorus*)
 - Gray Wren *Thryophilus griseus* (placement in genus requires confirmation)
 - Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*
 - Niceforo's Wren *Thryophilus nicefori*
 - Sinaloa Wren *Thryophilus sinaloa*
 - Banded Wren *Thryophilus pleurostictus*
- Genus *Pheugopedius* (formerly *Thryothorus*)
 - Moustached Wren *Pheugopedius genibarbis*
 - Coraya Wren *Pheugopedius coraya*
 - Whiskered Wren *Pheugopedius mystacalis*

- Plain-tailed Wren *Pheugopedius euophrys*
- Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*
- Black-throated Wren *Pheugopedius atrogularis*
- Speckle-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius sclateri*
- Sooty-headed Wren *Pheugopedius spadix*
- Happy Wren *Pheugopedius felix*
- Inca Wren *Pheugopedius eisenmanni*
- Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*
- Spot-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius maculipectus*
- Genus *Cyphorhinus*
 - Chestnut-breasted Wren *Cyphorhinus thoracicus*
 - Musician Wren *Cyphorhinus aradus*
 - Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*
- Genus *Uropsila*
 - White-bellied Wren *Uropsila leucogastra*
- Genus *Thryorchilus*
 - Timberline Wren *Thryorchilus browni*
- Genus *Henicorhina*
 - Bar-winged Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucoptera*
 - Gray-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*
 - White-breasted Wood Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*
 - Munchique Wood-wren, *Henicorhina negreti*
- Genus *Troglodytes*
 - Clarion Island Wren *Troglodytes tanneri*
 - Cobb's Wren *Troglodytes cobbi*
 - House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
 - Socorro Wren *Troglodytes sissonii* (sometimes placed in *Thryomanes*)
 - Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*
 - Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*
 - Rufous-browed Wren *Troglodytes rufociliatus*
 - Santa Marta Wren *Troglodytes monticola*
 - Tepui Wren *Troglodytes rufulus*
 - Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (sometimes monotypic genus *Nannus*)
- Genus *Cistothorus*
 - Apolinar's Wren *Cistothorus apolinaris*
 - Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*
 - Paramo Wren *Cistothorus meridae*
 - Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*
- Genus *Ferminia*
 - Zapata Wren *Ferminia cerverai*

References

- **Mann**, Nigel I.; Barker, F. Keith; Graves, Jeff A.; Dingess-Mann, Kimberly A. & Slater, Peter J. B. (2006): Molecular data delineate four genera of "Thryothorus" wrens. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* **40**: 750–759. DOI:[10.1016/j.ympev.2006.04.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2006.04.014) (HTML abstract)

Campylorhynchus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Troglodytidae](#)

Genus: ***Campylorhynchus*** Spix, 1824 Species: *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*,
Campylorhynchus nuchalis, *Campylorhynchus rufinucha*, *Campylorhynchus zonatus*, ...

Campylorhynchus is a genus of [wrens](#).

Troglodytes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Troglodytidae](#)

Genus: **Troglodytes** Vieillot, 1809 Species: See text.

Troglodytes is a genus of small [passerine birds](#) in the [wren](#) family. The genus name (Greek *trogodytai*, from *trogos*, "a hole" and *dyein*, "to enter") refers to the tendency of these wrens to enter small crevices and similar as they forage for food.

These wrens are around 11-12 cm long. They are typically streaked brown above and somewhat paler below, with short rounded wings, strong legs and a cocked tail. The flight is direct and buzzing.

Troglodytes wrens are mostly found in somewhat cooler habitats than most of their relatives, being birds of temperate latitudes and tropical highlands, apart from the widely distributed lowland House Wren. The hardy Winter Wren has a wide distribution in North America, Europe and Asia and is the only wren of any genus which occurs outside the New World. The Cobb's Wren of the Falkland Islands is another species which tolerates harsh conditions well.

The other species are found in the mountains of the tropics from Mexico to northern South America.

Like other wrens, this group have skulking lifestyles as they hunt for small insects and spiders but readily reveal their positions through their loud songs.

These are territorial birds, but the tiny Winter Wren will roost communally in a cavity in cold weather to help conserve heat.

Species

- Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
- House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*
- Cobb's Wren *Troglodytes cobbi*
- Clarion Island Wren *Troglodytes tanneri*
- Rufous-browed Wren *Troglodytes rufociliatus*
- Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*
- Santa Marta Wren *Troglodytes monticola*
- Mountain Wren *Troglodytes solstitialis*
- Tepui Wren *Troglodytes rufulus*

A number of these species, such as the Clarion Island Wren, were formerly considered subspecies of the House Wren, and it has been argued that the tropical forms of the House Wren should be further split as the Southern House Wren, *Troglodytes mutilus*.

The Winter Wren is less closely related to the other members of the genus, and is occasionally split as the montypical genus *Nannus*.

References

- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela* ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- French, *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* ISBN 0-7136-6759-1
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-08-149600-4
- National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* ISBN 0-7922-6877-6
- Mullaney, Svensson, Zetterstrom and Grant, *Collins Bird Guide* ISBN 0-00-219728-6
- Rice, Peterson and Escalona-Segura *Phylogenetic patterns in montane Troglodytes wrens*

Turdidae

Thrushes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Turdidae**

Genera: 22 genera, see text

See also other birds with Thrush in their name: Waterthrush, [Shrike](#)-thrush, Thrush Nightingale

The **Thrushes**, [family Turdidae](#), are a group of [passerine birds](#) that occur mainly but not exclusively in the Old World.

They are plump, soft plumaged, small to medium sized insectivores or sometimes omnivores, often feeding on the ground. Many have attractive songs.

The taxonomic treatment of this large family has varied significantly in recent years. Traditionally it included the small Old World species, like the Nightingale and European Robin in the subfamily Saxicolini, but now often either that group or the whole family is now placed in the [Old World flycatcher](#) family [Muscicapidae](#).

This article follows Handbook of the Birds of the World with edits from Clement & Hathaway, *Thrushes* (2000), and retains the large thrushes in Turdidae.

- **Family Turdidae**
 - Genus *Turdus*, true thrushes
 - Blackbird, *Turdus merula*
 - Yemen Thrush, *Turdus menachensis*
 - Olive Thrush, *Turdus olivaceus*
 - Olivaceous Thrush, *Turdus olivaceofuscus*
 - Comoro Thrush, *Turdus bewsheri*
 - Kurrichane Thrush, *Turdus libonyanus*
 - African Thrush, *Turdus pelios*
 - African Bare-eyed Thrush, *Turdus tephronotus*
 - Grey-backed Thrush, *Turdus hortulorum*
 - Tickell's Thrush, *Turdus unicolor*
 - Black-breasted Thrush, *Turdus dissimilis*
 - Japanese Thrush, *Turdus cardis*
 - White-collared Blackbird, *Turdus albocinctus*
 - Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*
 - Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus boulboul*
 - Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus*
 - Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus*
 - White-backed Thrush, *Turdus kessleri*
 - Grey-sided Thrush, *Turdus feae*
 - Eyebrowed Thrush, *Turdus obscurus*
 - Pale Thrush, *Turdus pallidus*

- Brown-headed Thrush, *Turdus chrysolaus*
- Izu Thrush, *Turdus celaenops*
- Dark-throated Thrush, *Turdus atrogularis*
 - **Black-throated Thrush**, *T. a. atrogularis*
 - **Red-throated Thrush**, *T.a. ruficollis*
- Dusky Thrush, *Turdus naumanni*
 - **Naumann's Thrush**, *T. n. naumanni*
 - **Dusky Thrush**, *T. n. eunomus*
- Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*
- Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*
- Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*
- Chinese Thrush, *Turdus mupinensis*
- Mistle Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*
- Red-legged Thrush, *Turdus plumbeus*
- Chiguanco Thrush, *Turdus chiguanco*
- Sooty Robin, *Turdus nigrescens*
- Great Thrush, *Turdus fuscater*
- Black Robin, *Turdus infuscatus*
- Glossy-black Thrush, *Turdus serranus*
- Andean Slaty Thrush, *Turdus nigriceps*
- Eastern Slaty Thrush, *Turdus subalaris*
- Black-hooded Thrush, *Turdus olivater*
- Plumbeous-backed Thrush, *Turdus reevei*
- Maranon Thrush, *Turdus maranonicus*
- Chestnut-bellied Thrush, *Turdus fulviventris*
- Rufous-bellied Thrush, *Turdus rufiventris*
- Austral Thrush, *Turdus falcklandii*
- Pale-breasted Thrush, *Turdus leucomelas*
- Creamy-bellied Thrush, *Turdus amaurochalinus*
- Mountain Robin, *Turdus plebejus*
- Black-billed Thrush, *Turdus ignobilis*
- Lawrence's Thrush, *Turdus lawrencii*
- Cocoa Thrush, *Turdus fumigatus*
- Pale-vented Thrush, *Turdus obsoletus*
- Hauxwell's Thrush, *Turdus hauxwelli*
- Clay-colored Robin, *Turdus grayi*
- Bare-eyed Thrush, *Turdus nudigenis*
- Ecuadorian Thrush, *Turdus maculirostris*
- Unicolored Thrush, *Turdus haplochrous*
- White-eyed Thrush, *Turdus jamaicensis*
- White-throated Thrush, *Turdus assimilis*
- White-necked Thrush, *Turdus albicollis*
- Rufous-backed Robin, *Turdus rufopalliatu*
- Rufous-collared Robin, *Turdus rufitorques*
- American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*

- La Selle Thrush, *Turdus swalesi*
- White-chinned Thrush, *Turdus aurantius*
- Genus *Zoothera*, Asian thrushes
 - Slaty-backed Thrush, *Zoothera schistacea*
 - Moluccan Thrush, *Zoothera dumasi*
 - Chestnut-capped Thrush, *Zoothera interpres*
 - Rusty-backed Thrush, *Zoothera erythronota*
 - Red-and-black Thrush, *Zoothera mendeni*
 - Chestnut-backed Thrush, *Zoothera dohertyi*
 - Pied Thrush, *Zoothera wardii*
 - Ashy Thrush, *Zoothera cinerea*
 - Orange-banded Thrush, *Zoothera peronii*
 - Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina*
 - Everett's Thrush, *Zoothera everetti*
 - Siberian Thrush, *Zoothera sibirica*
 - Varied Thrush, *Zoothera naevia*
 - Aztec Thrush, *Zoothera pinicola*
 - Abyssinian Ground Thrush, *Zoothera piaggiae*
 - Kivu Ground Thrush, *Zoothera tanganjicae*
 - Crossley's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera crossleyi*
 - Orange Ground Thrush, *Zoothera gurneyi*
 - Oberlaender's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera oberlaenderi*
 - Black-eared Ground Thrush, *Zoothera cameronensis*
 - Grey Ground Thrush, *Zoothera princei*
 - Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*
 - Spot-winged Thrush, *Zoothera spiloptera*
 - Sunda Thrush, *Zoothera andromedae*
 - Plain-backed Thrush, *Zoothera mollissima*
 - Long-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera dixonii*
 - White's Thrush or Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma*
 - Amami Thrush, *Zoothera major*
 - Horsfield's Thrush, *Zoothera horsfieldi*
 - Fawn-breasted Thrush, *Zoothera machiki*
 - Olive-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera lunulata*
 - Russet-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera heinei*
 - New Britain Thrush, *Zoothera talaseae*
 - San Cristobal Thrush, *Zoothera margaretae*
 - Guadalcanal Thrush, *Zoothera turipavae*
 - Long-billed Thrush, *Zoothera monticola*
 - Dark-sided Thrush, *Zoothera marginata*
 - †Bonin Islands Thrush, *Zoothera terrestris* Conservation status: Extinct
- Genus *Catharus*, typical American thrushes
 - Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*
 - Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*
 - Bicknell's Thrush, *Catharus bicknelli*

- Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*
- Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*
- Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus aurantirostris*
- Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus fuscater*
- Russet Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus occidentalis*
- Black-billed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus gracilirostris*
- Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus frantzii*
- Black-headed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus mexicanus*
- Spotted Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus dryas*
- Genus *Hylocichla*
 - Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*
 - Genus *Monticola*, [rock thrushes](#)
 - Forest Rock Thrush, *Monticola sharpei*
 - Benson's Rock Thrush, *Monticola bensoni*
 - Littoral Rock Thrush, *Monticola imerinus*
 - Cape Rock Thrush, *Monticola rupestris*
 - Sentinel Rock Thrush, *Monticola explorator*
 - Short-toed Rock Thrush, *Monticola brevipes*
 - Miombo Rock Thrush, *Monticola angolensis*
 - Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, *Monticola saxatilis*
 - Little Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufocinereus*
 - Blue-capped Rock Thrush, *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
 - White-throated Rock Thrush, *Monticola gularis*
 - Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufiventris*
 - Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*
- Genus *Neocossyphus*, flycatcher thrushes and ant thrushes
 - Rufous Flycatcher-thrush, *Neocossyphus fraseri*
 - Finsch's Flycatcher-thrush, *Neocossyphus finschii*
 - Red-tailed Ant-thrush, *Neocossyphus rufus*
 - White-tailed Ant-thrush, *Neocossyphus poensis*
- Genus *Myophonus*, whistling thrushes
 - Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus blighi*
 - Shiny Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus melanurus*
 - Sunda Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus glaucinus*
 - Malayan Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus robinsoni*
 - Malabar Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus horsfieldii*
 - Formosan Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus insularis*
 - Blue Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus*
- Genus *Geomalia*
 - *Geomalia heinrichi*
- Genus *Cataponera*
 - Sulawesi Thrush, *Cataponera turdoides*
- Genus *Nesocichla*
 - Tristan Thrush, *Nesocichla eremita*
- Genus *Cichlherminia*

- Forest Thrush, *Cichlherminia lherminieri*
- Genus *Sialia*, [bluebirds](#)
 - Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*
Western Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*
Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*
 - Genus *Myadestes*, [solitaires](#)
 - Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*
Brown-backed Solitaire, *Myadestes occidentalis*
Cuban Solitaire, *Myadestes elisabeth*
Rufous-throated Solitaire, *Myadestes genibarbis*
Black-faced Solitaire, *Myadestes melanops*
Varied Solitaire, *Myadestes coloratus*
Slate-colored Solitaire, *Myadestes unicolor*
Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*
†»maui, *Myadestes woahensis* Conservation status: Extinct (mid-19th century)
†Kma»o, *Myadestes myadestinus* Conservation status: Extinct (mid-1990s)
Oloma»o, *Myadestes lanaiensis* - probably extinct (1980s)
»Lma»o, *Myadestes obscurus*
Puaiohi, *Myadestes palmeri*
- Genus *Cichlopsis*, [solitaires](#)
 - Rufous-brown Solitaire, *Cichlopsis leucogenys*
- Genus *Entomodestes*, [solitaires](#)
 - White-eared Solitaire, *Entomodestes leucotis*
Black Solitaire, *Entomodestes coracinus*
- Genus *Platycichla*
 - Pale-eyed Thrush, *Platycichla leucops*
Yellow-legged Thrush, *Platycichla flavipes*
- Genus *Psophocichla*
 - Groundscraper Thrush, *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*
- Genus *Chlamydochaera*
 - Fruit-hunter, *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*
- Genus *Brachypteryx*, shortwings
 - Rusty-bellied Shortwing, *Brachypteryx hyperythra*
Gould's Shortwing, *Brachypteryx stellata*
White-bellied Shortwing, *Brachypteryx major*
Lesser Shortwing, *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
White-browed Shortwing, *Brachypteryx montana*
- Genus *Heinrichia*, shortwings
 - Great Shortwing, *Heinrichia calligyna*
 - Genus *Chaetops*, [rock-jumpers](#)
 - Rufous Rock-jumper, *Chaetops frenatus*
Orange-breasted Rock-jumper, *Chaetops aurantius*,
- Genus *Alethe* [alethes](#)

- Brown-chested Alethe, *Alethe poliocephala*
Red-throated Alethe, *Alethe poliophrys*
Cholo Alethe, *Alethe choloensis*
White-chested Alethe, *Alethe fuelleborni*
Fire-crested Alethe, *Alethe diademata*

For species previously in Turdidae, see [Muscicapidae](#) and [chats](#).

Alethes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Turdidae](#)

Genus: ***Alethe***

Species: See text.

The **Alethes** are small mainly insectivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Alethe* of the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#).

All are African species:

- Brown-chested Alethe, *Alethe poliocephala*
Red-throated Alethe, *Alethe poliophrys*
Cholo Alethe, *Alethe choloensis*
White-chested Alethe, *Alethe fuelleborni*
Fire-crested Alethe *Alethe diademata*

Bluebirds

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Turdidae](#)
Genus: ***Sialia***
Species: *Sialia sialis* , *Sialia mexicana* , *Sialia currucoides*

The **bluebirds** are medium-sized, mostly insectivorous or omnivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Sialia* of the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#).

These are one of the relatively few thrush genera to be restricted to the Americas. As the name implies, these are attractive birds with blue, or blue and red, plumage. Female birds are less brightly colored than males, although color patterns are similar and there is no noticeable difference in size between genders.

Species:

- Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*
Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*
Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

Behavior

Bluebirds are territorial, prefer open grassland with scattered trees and are cavity nesters (similar to many species of woodpecker). Bluebirds can typically produce between two to four broods during the spring and summer (March through August in the Northeastern United States). Males identify potential nest sites and try to attract prospective female mates to those nesting sites with special behaviors that include singing and flapping wings, and then placing some material in a nesting box or cavity. If the female accepts the male and the nesting site she and she alone builds the nest and incubates the eggs.

Predators of young in the nests can include snakes, cats and raccoons. Non-native bird species competing with bluebirds for nesting locations include the Common Starling and House Sparrow, both of which have been known to kill young bluebirds.

Bluebirds are attracted to platform bird feeders, filled with grubs of the darkling beetle, sold by many online bird product wholesalers as mealworms. Bluebirds will also eat raisins soaked in water. In addition, in winter bluebirds use backyard heated birdbaths.

Bluebird numbers declined by estimates ranging to 70% in the 1970s due to a decline in habitat. However, in late 2005 Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology reported bluebird sightings at many locations in the southern U.S. as part of its yearly Backyard Bird Count, a strong indication of the bluebird's return to the region.

Catharus thrushes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Turdidae](#)

Genus: **Catharus** Bonaparte, 1850 species: *See list*

Catharus is a genus of [birds](#) in the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#). It comprises the small, mostly insectivorous or omnivorous thrushes of North America and the nightingale-thrushes of Central and South America

These are mainly forest birds with large eyes, straight slim bills and fluty voices.

This is a typical New World thrush genus, although representatives of other genera, such as the true thrushes, *Turdus* also occur, especially in Central and South America.

The species are:

- Veery, *Catharus fuscescens*
Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*
Bicknell's Thrush, *Catharus bicknelli*
Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*
Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*
Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus aurantiirostris*
Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus fuscater*
Russet Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus occidentalis*
Black-billed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus gracilirostris*
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus frantzii*
Black-headed Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus mexicanus*
Spotted Nightingale-thrush, *Catharus dryas*

References

- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-8014-9600-4

Myadestes

Solitaires

Kingdom: Animalia

Subkingdom: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Turdidae](#)

Genera: *Myadestes*, *Cichlopsis*, *Entomodestes*

The **Solitaires** are medium-sized mostly insectivorous [birds](#) in the [genera](#) *Myadestes*, *Cichlopsis* and *Entomodestes* of the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#).

These are [species](#) of the Americas and Hawaii.

Species list:

- Townsend's Solitaire, *Myadestes townsendi*
Brown-backed Solitaire, *Myadestes occidentalis*
Cuban Solitaire, *Myadestes elisabeth*
Rufous-throated Solitaire, *Myadestes genibarbis*
Black-faced Solitaire, *Myadestes melanops*
Varied Solitaire, *Myadestes coloratus*
Slate-colored Solitaire, *Myadestes unicolor*
Andean Solitaire, *Myadestes ralloides*
Kamoa, *Myadestes myadestinus* (extinct)
Olomao, *Myadestes lanaiensis*
Omao, *Myadestes obscurus*
Puaiohi, *Myadestes palmeri*
Amaui, *Myadestes woahensis* (extinct)
Rufous-brown Solitaire, *Cichlopsis leucogenys*
White-eared Solitaire, *Entomodestes leucotis*
Black Solitaire, *Entomodestes coracinus*

Rock thrushes

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Turdidae](#)
Genus: ***Monticola*** Boie, 1822 Species: See text

The **rock thrushes** are medium-sized mostly insectivorous or omnivorous [birds](#) in the genus *Monticola* in the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#). Three of the species are sometimes treated in a separate genus *Pseudocossyphus*.

All are Old World species associated with mountainous regions:

- Benson's Rock Thrush, *Monticola* (*Pseudocossyphus*) *bensoni*
Blue-capped Rock Thrush, *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*
Cape Rock Thrush, *Monticola rupestris*
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufiventris*
Forest Rock Thrush, *Monticola* (*Pseudocossyphus*) *sharpei*
Little Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufocinereus*
Littoral Rock Thrush, *Monticola* (*Pseudocossyphus*) *imerinus*
Miombo Rock Thrush, *Monticola angolensis*
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, *Monticola saxatilis*
Sentinel Rock Thrush, *Monticola explorator*
Short-toed Rock Thrush, *Monticola brevipes*
White-throated Rock Thrush, *Monticola gularis*

Zoothera

Asian Thrushes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Turdidae](#)

Genus: **Zoothera** Vigors, 1832 Species: Many, see text

The **Asian thrushes** are medium-sized mostly insectivorous or omnivorous [birds](#) in the genus **Zoothera** of the [thrush](#) family [Turdidae](#).

Apart from two in the New World (Varied Thrush, Aztec Thrush), all are Old World species:

- Slaty-backed Thrush, *Zoothera schistacea*
- Moluccan Thrush, *Zoothera dumasi*
- Chestnut-capped Thrush, *Zoothera interpres*
- Chestnut-backed Thrush, *Zoothera dohertyi*
- Rusty-backed Thrush, *Zoothera erythronota*
- Pied Thrush, *Zoothera wardii*
- Ashy Thrush, *Zoothera cinerea*
- Orange-banded Thrush, *Zoothera peronii*
- Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina*
- Everett's Thrush, *Zoothera everetti*
- Siberian Thrush, *Zoothera sibirica*
- Varied Thrush, *Zoothera naevia*
- Aztec Thrush, *Zoothera pinicola*
- Abyssinian Ground Thrush, *Zoothera piaggiae*
- Kivu Ground Thrush, *Zoothera tanganjicae*
- Crossley's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera crossleyi*
- Orange Ground Thrush, *Zoothera gurneyi*
- Black-eared Ground Thrush, *Zoothera cameronensis*
- Gray Ground Thrush, *Zoothera princei*
- Oberlaender's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera oberlaenderi*
- Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*
- Spot-winged Thrush, *Zoothera spiloptera*
- Sunda Thrush, *Zoothera andromedae*
- Plain-backed Thrush, *Zoothera mollissima*
- Long-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera dixonii*
- White's Thrush or Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma*
- Amami Thrush, *Zoothera major*
- Horsfield's Thrush, *Zoothera horsfieldi*
- Fawn-breasted Thrush, *Zoothera machiki*
- Olive-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera lunulata*
- Russet-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera heinei*

New Britain Thrush, *Zoothera talaseae*
San Cristobal Thrush, *Zoothera margaretae*
Long-billed Thrush, *Zoothera monticola*
Dark-sided Thrush, *Zoothera marginata*
Bonin Thrush, *Zoothera terrestris* (extinct)

Viduidae

Indigobirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Viduidae

Genus: **Vidua** Cuvier, 1816 Species: See text.

The **Indigobirds** and **whydahs**, are small [passerine birds](#) native to Africa.

These are [finch-like](#) species which usually have black or indigo predominating in their plumage. The birds named as "whydahs" have long or very long tails.

All are brood parasites, which lay their eggs in the nests of [estrildid finch](#) species; most indigobirds use fire-finches as hosts, whereas the paradise whydahs chose pytilias.

Unlike the cuckoo, the host's eggs are not destroyed. Typically, 2-4 eggs are laid in with the those already present. The eggs of both the host and the victim are white, although the indigobird's are slightly larger.

Many of the indigo-plumaged species named as "indigobirds" are very similar in appearance, with the males difficult to separate in the field, and the young and females near impossible. The best guide is often the estrildid finch with which they are associating, since each indigobird parasitises a different host species. Thus the Village Indigobird is usually found with Red-billed Fire-finches.

Indigobirds and whydahs imitate their host's song, which the males learn in the nest. Although females do not sing, they also learn to recognise the song, and chose males with the same song, thus perpetuating the link between each species of indigobird and firefinch.

Similarly, the nestling indigobirds mimic the unique gape pattern of the fledglings of the host species.

The matching with the host is the driving force behind speciation in this family, but the close genetic and morphological similarities among species suggest that they are of recent origin.

- **Family: Viduidae**

- Village Indigobird, *Vidua chalybeata*
- Jambandu Indigobird, *Vidua raricola*
- Baka Indigobird, *Vidua larvaticola*
- Jos Plateau Indigobird, *Vidua maryae*
- Quailfinch Indigobird, *Vidua nigeriae*
- Variable Indigobird, *Vidua funerea*
- Green Indigobird, *Vidua codringtoni*
- Purple Indigobird, *Vidua purpurascens*
- Pale-winged Indigobird, *Vidua wilsoni*
- Cameroon Indigobird, *Vidua camerunensis*
- Steel-blue Whydah, *Vidua hypocherina*
- Straw-tailed Whydah, *Vidua fischeri*
- Shaft-tailed Whydah, *Vidua regia*

- Pin-tailed Whydah, *Vidua macroura*
- Togo Paradise Whydah, *Vidua togoensis*
- Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, *Vidua interjecta*
- Eastern Paradise Whydah, *Vidua paradisaea*
- Northern Paradise Whydah, *Vidua orientalis*
- Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, *Vidua obtusa*

Waxwings

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Bombycillidae**

Genus: ***Bombycilla*** Vieillot, 1808 Species: *B. garrulus* , *B. japonica* , *B. cedrorum*

The **waxwings** are a group of [passerine birds](#) characterised by soft silky plumage and unique red tips to some of the wing feathers. In the Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings, these tips look like sealing wax, and give the group its name.

These are arboreal birds of northern forests. They live on insects in summer and berries in winter.

They are not true long-distance [migrants](#), but wander erratically outside the breeding season and move south from their summer range in winter. In poor berry years huge numbers can erupt well beyond their normal range.

Some authorities (including the Sibley-Monroe checklist) place the [silky-flycatchers](#), and the [Hypocolius](#), in family Bombycillidae along with the waxwings.

Species

- Bohemian Waxwing, *B. garrulus*
Japanese Waxwing, *B. japonica*
Cedar Waxwing, *B. cedrorum*

Quote

I was the shadow of the waxwing slain
By the false azure of the windowpane
are the first lines of the poem "Pale Fire" by "John Shade," a fictional poet created by Vladimir Nabokov, for his novel Pale Fire.

Zosteropidae

White-Eyes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Zosteropidae**

Genera: *Cleptornis*, *Heleia*, *Hypocryptadius*, *Lophozosterops*, *Madanga*, *Megazosterops*, *Oculocincta*, *Rukia*, *Speirops*, *Tephrozosterops*, *Woodfordia*, *Zosterops*, *Apalopteron*

The **white-eyes** are small [passerine birds](#) native to tropical and sub-tropical Africa, southern Asia and Australasia. They also inhabit most of the islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Many white-eye species are endemic to single islands, and the brown-backed species only occur on islands, but some have a very wide distribution. The Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*, naturally colonised New Zealand, where it is known as the "Wax-eye" or Tauhau, from 1855. The genus *Apalopteron*, formerly treated in the Meliphagidae, has recently been transferred to the Zosteropidae on genetic evidence.

The birds of this group are mostly of undistinguished appearance, the plumage above being generally either mouse-coloured or greenish olive, but some species have a white or bright yellow throat, breast or lower parts, and several have buff flanks. They have rounded wings and strong legs. The size ranges up to 15cm (6 inches) in length.

All the species of white-eyes are sociable, forming large flocks which only separate on the approach of the breeding season. They build tree nests and lay 2-4 unspotted pale blue eggs.

Though mainly insectivorous, they eat nectar and fruits of various kinds. The Silvereye can be a problem in Australian vineyards, through piercing the grape allowing infection or insect damage to follow.

The scientific name of the group derives from the Greek for girdle-eye, and refers to the ring of white feathers round the eyes, which is very conspicuous in many species.

Species in taxonomic order

- Black-capped *Speirops*, *Speirops lugubris*
 Cameroon *Speirops*, *Speirops melanocephalus*
 Fernando Po *Speirops*, *Speirops brunneus*
 Principe *Speirops*, *Speirops leucophoeus*
 African Yellow White-eye, *Zosterops senegalensis*
 Broad-ringed White-eye, *Zosterops poliogaster*
 White-breasted White-eye, *Zosterops abyssinicus*
 Cape White-eye, *Zosterops pallidus*
 Pemba White-eye, *Zosterops vauhani*
 Mayotte White-eye, *Zosterops mayottensis*
 Madagascar White-eye, *Zosterops maderaspatanus*

Comoro White-eye, *Zosterops mouroiensis*
 Sao Tome White-eye, *Zosterops ficedulinus*
 Annobon White-eye, *Zosterops griseovirescens*
 Mascarene White-eye, *Zosterops borbonicus*
 Reunion White-eye, *Zosterops olivaceus*
 Mauritius Olive White-eye, *Zosterops chloronothos*
 Seychelles White-eye, *Zosterops modestus*
 Sri Lanka White-eye, *Zosterops ceylonensis*
 Chestnut-flanked White-eye, *Zosterops erythropleurus*
 Oriental White-eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus*
 Japanese White-eye, *Zosterops japonicus*
 Lowland White-eye, *Zosterops meyeri*
 Enggano White-eye, *Zosterops salvadorii*
 Bridled White-eye, *Zosterops conspicillatus*
 Caroline Islands White-eye, *Zosterops semperi*
 Plain White-eye, *Zosterops hypolais*
 Black-capped White-eye, *Zosterops atricapillus*
 Everett's White-eye, *Zosterops everetti*
 Yellowish White-eye, *Zosterops nigrorum*
 Mountain White-eye, *Zosterops montanus*
 Christmas Island White-eye, *Zosterops natalis*
 Javan White-eye, *Zosterops flavus*
 Yellow-bellied White-eye, *Zosterops chloris*
 Ashy-bellied White-eye, *Zosterops citrinellus*
 Great Kai White-eye, *Zosterops grayi*
 Little Kai White-eye, *Zosterops uropygialis*
 Sulawesi White-eye, *Zosterops consobrinorum*
 Black-ringed White-eye, *Zosterops anomalus*
 Yellow-spectacled White-eye, *Zosterops wallacei*
 Black-crowned White-eye, *Zosterops atrifrons*
 Sangihe White-eye, *Zosterops nehrkorni*
 Seram White-eye, *Zosterops stalkerii*
 Cream-throated White-eye, *Zosterops atriceps*
 Black-fronted White-eye, *Zosterops minor*
 White-throated White-eye, *Zosterops meeki*
 Black-headed White-eye, *Zosterops hypoxanthus*
 Biak White-eye, *Zosterops mysorensis*
 Capped White-eye, *Zosterops fuscicapillus*
 Buru White-eye, *Zosterops buruensis*
 Ambon White-eye, *Zosterops kuehni*
 New Guinea White-eye, *Zosterops novaeguineae*
 Australian Yellow White-eye, *Zosterops luteus*
 Louisiade White-eye, *Zosterops griseotinctus*
 Rennell White-eye, *Zosterops rennellianus*
 Banded White-eye, *Zosterops vellalavella*

Ganongga White-eye, *Zosterops splendidus*
 Splendid White-eye, *Zosterops luteirostris*
 Solomon Islands White-eye, *Zosterops kulambangrae*
 Kulambangra White-eye, *Zosterops murphyi*
 Yellow-throated White-eye, *Zosterops metcalfei*
 Grey-throated White-eye, *Zosterops rendovae*
 Malaita White-eye, *Zosterops stresemanni*
 Santa Cruz White-eye, *Zosterops santaecrucis*
 Large Lifou White-eye, *Zosterops inornatus*
 Green-backed White-eye, *Zosterops xanthochrous*
 Small Lifou White-eye, *Zosterops minutus*
 Lord Howe White-eye, *Zosterops tephropleurus*
 Slender-billed White-eye, *Zosterops tenuirostris*
 White-chested White-eye, *Zosterops albogularis*
 Layard's White-eye, *Zosterops explorator*
 Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*
 Yellow-fronted White-eye, *Zosterops flavifrons*
 Samoan White-eye, *Zosterops samoensis*
 Dusky White-eye, *Zosterops finschii*
 Grey White-eye, *Zosterops cinereus*
 Yap White-eye, *Zosterops oleagineus*
 Truk White-eye, *Rukia ruki*
 Long-billed White-eye, *Rukia longirostra*
 Golden White-eye, *Cleptornis marchei*
 Rufescent White-eye, *Tephrozosterops stalker*
 Rufous-throated White-eye, *Madanga ruficollis*
 Javan Grey-throated White-eye, *Lophozosterops javanicus*
 Streak-headed White-eye, *Lophozosterops squamiceps*
 Grey-hooded White-eye, *Lophozosterops pinaiae*
 Mindanao White-eye, *Lophozosterops goodfellowi*
 White-browed White-eye, *Lophozosterops superciliaris*
 Dark-crowned White-eye, *Lophozosterops dohertyi*
 Pygmy White-eye, *Oculocincta squamifrons*
 Flores White-eye, *Heleia crassirostris*
 Timor White-eye, *Heleia muelleri*
 Mountain Black-eye, *Chlorocharis emiliae*
 Bare-eyed White-eye, *Woodfordia superciliosa*
 Sanford's White-eye, *Woodfordia lacertosa*
 Giant White-eye, *Megazosterops palauensis*
 Cinnamon White-eye, *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*
 Bonin White-eye, *Apalopteron familiare* (formerly Bonin Honeyeater)

Zosterops

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Zosteropidae

Genus: **Zosterops** Vigors & Horsfield, 1827 Species: See text.

Zosterops is a genus of birds in the [White-eye](#) family Zosteropidae

This genus contains with 73 the highest number of species in that family. They occur in the Afrotropic ecoregion, the Indomalaya zone, and the Australasia ecozone. They can reach a length between 8 and 15 cm. Their most characteristic feature is the conspicuous white feather ring around the eyes.

Species list

- *Zosterops abyssinicus* Guerin-Meneville, 1843
- Zosterops albogularis* Gould, 1837
- Zosterops anomalus* Meyer & Wigglesworth, 1896
- Zosterops atricapillus* Salvadori, 1879
- Zosterops atriceps* Gray, 1860
- Zosterops atrifrons* Wallace, 1864
- Zosterops borbonicus* (Boddaert, 1783)
- Zosterops buruensis* Salvadori, 1878
- Zosterops ceylonensis* Holdsworth, 1872
- Zosterops chloris* Bonaparte, 1850
- Zosterops chloronothos* (Vieillot, 1817)
- Zosterops cinereus* (Kittlitz, 1832)
- Zosterops citrinellus* Bonaparte, 1850
- Zosterops consobrinorum* Meyer, 1904
- Zosterops conspicillatus* (Kittlitz, 1833)
- Zosterops erythropleurus* Swinhoe, 1863
- Zosterops everetti* Tweeddale, 1878
- Zosterops explorator* Layard, 1875
- Zosterops ficedulinus* Hartlaub, 1866
- Zosterops finschii* (Hartlaub, 1868)
- Zosterops flavifrons* (J. F. Gmelin, 1789)
- Zosterops flavus* (Horsfield, 1821)
- Zosterops fuscicapillus* Salvadori, 1876
- Zosterops grayi* Wallace, 1864
- Zosterops griseotinctus* Gray, 1858
- Zosterops griseovirescens* Bocage, 1893
- Zosterops hypolais* Hartlaub & Finsch, 1872
- Zosterops hypoxanthus* Salvadori, 1881

Zosterops inornatus Layard, 1878
Zosterops japonicus Temminck & Schlegel, 1847
Zosterops kirki Shelley, 1880
Zosterops kuehni Hartert, 1906
Zosterops kulambangrae Rothschild & Hartert, 1901
Zosterops lateralis (Latham, 1802)
Zosterops luteirostris Hartert, 1904
Zosterops luteus Gould, 1843
Zosterops maderaspatanus (Linnaeus, 1766)
Zosterops mayottensis Schlegel, 1866
Zosterops meeki Hartert, 1898
Zosterops metcalfei Tristram, 1894
Zosterops meyeri Bonaparte, 1850
Zosterops minor Meyer, 1875
Zosterops minutus Layard, 1878
Zosterops modestus (Newton, 1867)
Zosterops montanus Bonaparte, 1850
Zosterops mouroniensis Milne-Edwards & Oustalet, 1885
Zosterops murphyi Hartert, 1929
Zosterops mysorensis Meyer, 1875
Zosterops natalis Lister, 1889
Zosterops nigrorum Tweeddale, 1878
Zosterops novaeguineae Salvadori, 1878
Zosterops oleagineus Hartlaub & Finsch, 1872
Zosterops olivaceus (Linnaeus, 1766)
Zosterops pallidus Swainson, 1838
Zosterops palpebrosus (Temminck, 1824)
Zosterops poliogaster Heuglin, 1861
Zosterops rendovae Tristram, 1882
Zosterops rennellianus Murphy, 1929
Zosterops salvadorii Meyer & Wigglesworth, 1894
Zosterops samoensis Murphy & Mathews, 1929
Zosterops sanctaecrucis Tristram, 1894
Zosterops semperi Hartlaub, 1868
Zosterops senegalensis Bonaparte, 1850
Zosterops splendidus Hartert, 1929
Zosterops strenuus Gould, 1855 (extinct)
Zosterops stresemanni Mayr, 1931
Zosterops tenuirostris Gould, 1837
Zosterops tephropleurus Gould, 1855
Zosterops uropygialis Salvadori, 1874
Zosterops vaghani Bannerman, 1924
Zosterops vellalavella Hartert, 1908
Zosterops wallacei Finsch, 1901
Zosterops xanthochrous Gray, 1859

Tyranni

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Suborder: **Tyranni**

Families: *Tyrannidae*, *Pittidae*, *Eurylaimidae*, *Dendrocolaptidae*, *Furnariidae*, *Thamnophilidae*, *Formicariidae*, *Conopophagidae*, *Rhinocryptidae*, *Cotingidae*, *Pipridae*, *Philepittidae*, *Acanthisittidae*

The suborder **Tyranni** (the **suboscines**) of [passerine birds](#) include about 1,000 fairly primitive species, the large majority of which are South American.

These have a less developed vocal structure than the [songbirds](#) in the suborder Passeri, the oscine passerines. Mitochondrial DNA studies have confirmed that the Tyranni and Passeri suborders are genetically distinct.

Families

- Tyrannidae: tyrant flycatchers
- Pittidae: pittas
- Eurylaimidae: broadbills
- Dendrocolaptidae: woodcreepers
- Furnariidae: ovenbirds
- Thamnophilidae: antbirds
- Formicariidae: antpittas and antthrushes
- Conopophagidae: gnateaters
- Rhinocryptidae: tapaculos
- Cotingidae: cotingas
- Pipridae: manakins
- Philepittidae: asities
- Acanthisittidae: New Zealand "wrens"

Acanthisittidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Acanthisittidae**

Genera: *Acanthisitta*, *Xenicus*, *Pachyplichas*, *Dendroscansor*

The **New Zealand "wrens"**, [family Acanthisittidae](#), are tiny [passerines](#) restricted to New Zealand.

They are understood to form a distinct lineage within the passerines, but authorities differ on their assignment to the oscines or suboscines (the two suborders that between them make up the passeriformes). DNA-DNA hybridisation studies suggest that they may, in fact, form a third suborder and have no living close relatives at all. They are called "wrens" due to their similar appearance and behavior, but are not related to true [wrens](#).

Species

- Titipounamu or Rifleman, *Acanthisitta chloris*
Bush Wren, *Xenicus longipes* (possibly extinct)
Piwauwau or New Zealand Rock Wren, *Xenicus gilviventris*
Stephens Island Wren, *Xenicus lyalli* (extinct)
North Island Stout-legged Wren, *Pachyplichas yaldwyni* (extinct in prehistoric times)
South Island Stout-legged Wren, *Pachyplichas jagmi* (extinct in prehistoric times)
Long-legged Wren, *Dendroscansor decurvirostris* (extinct in prehistoric times)

Conopophagidae

Gnateaters

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Conopophagidae** Sclater & Salvin, 1873 Genus: *Conopophaga* Vieillot, 1816 Species: 8, see text

The **gnateaters** are a family of eight small [passerine bird species](#) found in South America.

They are birds of dense wet forest undergrowth or bamboo stands in the Amazon and Orinoco basins and surrounding slightly higher ground.

They are round, short-tailed, and long-legged birds, about 5 inches in length. They are quite upright when standing. Sexes differ in [plumage](#), and males are attractively coloured in shades of red and brown. Most species have a white tuft behind the eye. They are insectivorous as the group name implies.

Species list

Family: Conopophagidae

- Rufous Gnateater, *Conopophaga lineata*
Chestnut-bellied Gnateater, *Conopophaga aurita*
Hooded Gnateater, *Conopophaga roberti*
Ash-throated Gnateater, *Conopophaga peruviana*
Slaty Gnateater, *Conopophaga ardesiaca*
Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, *Conopophaga castaneiceps*
Black-cheeked Gnateater, *Conopophaga melanops*
Black-bellied Gnateater, *Conopophaga melanogaster*

Cotingidae

Cotingas

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Cotingidae**

Genera: Many, see text.

The **cotingas** are a large family of [passerine bird species](#) found in tropical South America.

They are birds of forests or forest edges, which mostly eat fruit or insects and fruit. Comparatively little is known about this diverse group, although all have broad bills with hooked tips, rounded wings, and strong legs.

The males of many species, such as the [cock-of-the-rocks](#), are brightly coloured, or decorated with plumes or wattles, like the [umbrellabirds](#), with their umbrella-like crest and long throat wattles. Some, like the bellbirds, have distinctive and far-carrying calls. The females of most species are duller than the males.

The cock-of-the-rocks are more terrestrial than other species, and have an elaborate group mating display.

Species

- Genus *Oxyruncus*
 - Sharpbill, *Oxyruncus cristatus*
- Genus *Phytotoma*, the plantcutters
 - Peruvian Plantcutter, *Phytotoma raimondii*
 - White-tipped Plantcutter, *Phytotoma rutila*
 - Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, *Phytotoma rara*
- Genus *Phoenicircus*
 - Black-necked Red Cotinga, *Phoenicircus nigricollis*
 - Guianan Red Cotinga, *Phoenicircus carnifex*
- Genus *Laniisoma*
 - Shrike-like Cotinga, *Laniisoma elegans*
- Genus *Laniocera*, the mourners
 - Speckled Mourner, *Laniocera rufescens*
 - Cinereous Mourner, *Laniocera hypopyrra*
- Genus *Phibalura*
 - Swallow-tailed Cotinga, *Phibalura flavirostris*
- Genus *Tijuca*
 - Black-and-gold Cotinga, *Tijuca atra*
 - Gray-winged Cotinga, *Tijuca condita*
- Genus *Carpornis*, the berryeaters
 - Hooded Berryeater, *Carpornis cucullatus*

- Black-headed Berryeater, *Carpornis melanocephalus*
- Genus *Ampelion*
 - Red-crested Cotinga, *Ampelion rubrocristata*
 - Chestnut-crested Cotinga, *Ampelion rufaxilla*
- Genus *Doliornis*
 - Chestnut-bellied Cotinga, *Doliornis remseni*
 - Bay-vented Cotinga, *Doliornis sclateri*
- Genus *Zaratornis*
 - White-cheeked Cotinga, *Zaratornis stresemanni*
- Genus *Pipreola*, the fruiteaters
 - Green-and-black Fruiteater, *Pipreola riefferii*
 - Band-tailed Fruiteater, *Pipreola intermedia*
 - Barred Fruiteater, *Pipreola arcuata*
 - Golden-breasted Fruiteater, *Pipreola aureopectus*
 - Orange-breasted Fruiteater, *Pipreola jucunda*
 - Black-chested Fruiteater, *Pipreola lubomirskii*
 - Masked Fruiteater, *Pipreola pulchra*
 - Fiery-throated Fruiteater, *Pipreola chlorolepidota*
 - Scarlet-breasted Fruiteater, *Pipreola frontalis*
 - Handsome Fruiteater, *Pipreola formosa*
 - Red-banded Fruiteater, *Pipreola whitelyi*
- Genus *Ampelioides*
 - Scaled Fruiteater, *Ampelioides tschudii*
- Genus *Iodopleura*, the purpletufts
 - Buff-throated Purpletuft, *Iodopleura pipra*
 - White-browed Purpletuft, *Iodopleura isabellae*
 - Dusky Purpletuft, *Iodopleura fusca*
- Genus *Calyptura*
 - Kinglet Calyptura, *Calyptura cristata*
- Genus *Lipaugus*, the pihas
 - Gray-tailed Piha, *Lipaugus subalaris*
 - Olivaceous Piha, *Lipaugus cryptolophus*
 - Dusky Piha, *Lipaugus fuscocinereus*
 - Scimitar-winged Piha, *Lipaugus uropygialis*
 - Screaming Piha, *Lipaugus vociferans*
 - Rufous Piha, *Lipaugus unirufus*
 - Cinnamon-vented Piha, *Lipaugus lanioides*
 - Rose-collared Piha, *Lipaugus streptophorus*
- Genus *Porphyrolaema*
 - Purple-throated Cotinga, *Porphyrolaema porphyrolaema*
- Genus *Cotinga*
 - Lovely Cotinga, *Cotinga amabilis*
 - Turquoise Cotinga, *Cotinga ridgwayi*
 - Blue Cotinga, *Cotinga nattererii*

- Plum-throated Cotinga, *Cotinga maynana*
- Purple-breasted Cotinga, *Cotinga cotinga*
- Banded Cotinga, *Cotinga maculata*
- Spangled Cotinga, *Cotinga cayana*
- Genus *Xipholena*
 - Pompadour Cotinga, *Xipholena punicea*
 - White-tailed Cotinga, *Xipholena lamellipennis*
 - White-winged Cotinga, *Xipholena atropurpurea*
- Genus *Carpodectes*
 - Black-tipped Cotinga, *Carpodectes hopkei*
 - Yellow-billed Cotinga, *Carpodectes antoniae*
 - Snowy Cotinga, *Carpodectes nitidus*
- Genus *Conioptilon*
 - Black-faced Cotinga, *Conioptilon mcilhennyi*
- Genus *Gymnoderus*
 - Bare-necked Fruitcrow, *Gymnoderus foetidus*
- Genus *Haematoderus*
 - Crimson Fruitcrow, *Haematoderus militaris*
- Genus *Querula*
 - Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*
- Genus *Pyroderus*
 - Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, *Pyroderus scutatus*
- Genus *Cephalopterus*, the [umbrellabirds](#)
 - Long-wattled Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus penduliger*
 - Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*
 - Bare-necked Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus glabricollis*
- Genus *Perissocephalus*
 - Capuchinbird, *Perissocephalus tricolor*
- Genus *Procnias*, the [bellbirds](#)
 - Three-wattled Bellbird, *Procnias tricarunculata*
 - White Bellbird, *Procnias alba*
 - Bearded Bellbird, *Procnias averano*
 - Bare-throated Bellbird, *Procnias nudicollis*
 - Genus *Rupicola*, the [cock-of-the-rocks](#)
 - Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola rupicola*
 - Andean Cock-of-the-rock, *Rupicola peruviana*

Cephalopterus

Umbrellabirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Cotingidae](#)

Genus: ***Cephalopterus*** Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, E, 1809 Species: *Long-wattled Umbrellabird*, *Amazonian Umbrellabird*, *Bare-necked Umbrellabird*

Umbrellabird or *Cephalopterus* is a [genus](#) of the [cotinga](#) family. They live in the tropical forests of the Americas.

Species

- Long-wattled Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus penduliger*
Amazonian Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus ornatus*
Bare-necked Umbrellabird, *Cephalopterus glabricollis*

Procnias

South American Bellbird

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Cotingidae](#)

Genus: ***Procnias*** Illiger, 1811 Species: *Three-wattled Bellbird* , *White Bellbird* , *Bearded Bellbird* , *Bare-throated Bellbird*

South American Bellbird (or simply 'bellbird') is the common name given to [passerine birds](#) of the [genus](#) *Procnias*, found in South America. They are members of the [cotinga](#) family.

Species list

Genus *Procnias*

- Three-wattled Bellbird, *Procnias tricarunculata*
White Bellbird, *Procnias alba*
Bearded Bellbird, *Procnias averano*
Bare-throated Bellbird, *Procnias nudicollis*

Rupicola

Cock-of-the-rock

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Cotingidae](#)

Genus: ***Rupicola*** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Rupicola rupicola* , *Rupicola peruviana*

The **Cock-of-the-rock**, [genus](#) *Rupicola*, is a South American [cotingid](#) bird.

They are found in Tropical Rain Forests close to rocky areas, where they build their nests. Just like other cotingids they have a complex court behaviour, performing impressive lek displays.

The males are magnificent birds, not only because of their strong bright-orange or reddish colors, but also because of the very prominent fan shaped crests they have. They are wary animals and feed, basically, on fruits.

There are two different species of Cock-of-the-rocks, the Andean Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruviana*) and the Guianan Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), both species found only in the northern part of South America.

Eurylaimidae

Broadbills

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Eurylaimidae**

Genera: *Sapayoa*, *Smithornis*, *Pseudocalyptomena*, *Corydon*, *Cymbirhynchus*, *Eurylaimus*, *Psarisomus*, *Serilophus*, *Calyptomena*

The **broadbills** are a family of small [passerine bird species](#) found in tropical southeast Asia, with a few species in Africa.

Broadbills are brightly coloured birds that feed on fruit and also take insects in flycatcher fashion, snapping their broad bills. Their habitat is canopies of wet forests, so despite their colours, they are difficult to observe.

Their nest is a purse-shaped structure built in a tree, into which typically 2–3 eggs are laid.

The *Smithornis* and *Pseudocalyptomena* species occur in tropical Africa; the rest extend from the eastern Himalayas to Sumatra and Borneo.

The Sapayoa was originally classified in the group Pipridae, according to [Sapayoa aenigma: a New World representative of 'Old World suboscines'](#) the genus more accurately fits the broadbill family.

In addition to the Sapayoa, which if included would be in its own subfamily, there are four other subfamilies of broadbill:

- The typical African broadbills, **Smithornithinae** (containing three species in a single genus, *Smithornis*)
- The Asian green broadbills, **Calyptomeninae** (containing three species in a single genus, *Calyptomena*)
- Grauer's Broadbill, **Pseudocalyptomeninae**
- The typical Asian broadbills, **Eurylaiminae** (the remaining five genera, containing eight species)

Species

- Broad-billed Sapayoa, *Sapayoa aenigma*
- African Broadbill, *Smithornis capensis*
- Gray-headed Broadbill, *Smithornis sharpei*
- Rufous-sided Broadbill, *Smithornis rufolateralis*
- Grauer's Broadbill, *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*
- Dusky Broadbill, *Corydon sumatranus*
- Black-and-red Broadbill, *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*
- Banded Broadbill, *Eurylaimus javanicus*

Black-and-yellow Broadbill, *Eurylaimus ochromalus*
Wattled Broadbill, *Eurylaimus steerii*
Visayan Broadbill, *Eurylaimus samarensis*
Long-tailed Broadbill, *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
Silver-breasted Broadbill, *Serilophus lunatus*
Green Broadbill, *Calyptomena viridis*
Hose's Broadbill, *Calyptomena hosei*
Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*

Calyptomena

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Eurylaimidae

Genus: ***Calyptomena*** Raffles, 1822

The genus ***Calyptomena*** Raffles, 1822 consist of three species of Asian green [broadbills](#).

Species

- Green Broadbill, *Calyptomena viridis*
Hose's Broadbill, *Calyptomena hosii*
Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*

Formicariidae

Antthrushes and Antpittas

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Formicariidae**

Genera: *Formicarius*, *Chamaeza*, *Pittasoma*, *Grallaria*, *Hylopezus*, *Myrmothera*, *Grallaricula*

The **Formicariidae** are a [family](#) of smallish [passerine bird species](#) of subtropical and tropical Central and South America. They are between 10 and 15 cm in length, and are related to the [antbirds](#), *Thamnophilidae*.

These are forest birds that tend to feed on insects at or near the ground since many are specialist ant eaters. Most are drab in appearance with shades of brown, black, and white being their dominant tones.

They are conventionally divided into two groups. The **antthrushes** in [genera](#) *Formicarius* and *Chamaeza* are similar in appearance to the [rails](#). They have sexes alike in plumage, and walk like [starlings](#). The *thrush* part of the name refers only to the similarity in size to true [thrushes](#).

The **antpittas** in the genera *Pittasoma*, *Grallaria*, *Hylopezus*, *Myrmothera* and *Grallaricula* are also sexually monomorphic; they resemble the true pittas in that they are virtually tailless; they hop like [thrushes](#), and are much easier to hear than see.

They lay two or three eggs in a nest in a tree, both sexes incubating.

Species

- Genus *Formicarius*
 - Rufous-capped Antthrush, *Formicarius colma*
 - Black-headed Antthrush, *Formicarius nigricapillus*
 - Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarius analis*
 - Rufous-fronted Antthrush, *Formicarius rufifrons*
 - Rufous-breasted Antthrush, *Formicarius rufipectus*
- Genus *Chamaeza*
 - Striated Antthrush, *Chamaeza nobilis*
 - Short-tailed Antthrush, *Chamaeza campanisona*
 - Brazilian Antthrush, *Chamaeza ruficauda*
 - Schwartz's Antthrush, *Chamaeza turdina*
 - Such's Antthrush, *Chamaeza meruloides*
 - Barred Antthrush, *Chamaeza mollissima*
- Genus *Pittasoma*
 - Black-crowned Antpitta, *Pittasoma michleri*
 - Rufous-crowned Antpitta, *Pittasoma rufopileatum*
- Genus *Grallaria*
 - Undulated Antpitta, *Grallaria squamigera*

- Giant Antpitta, *Grallaria gigantea*
- Great Antpitta, *Grallaria excelsa*
- Variegated Antpitta, *Grallaria varia*
- Scaled Antpitta, *Grallaria guatemalensis*
- Moustached Antpitta, *Grallaria alleni*
- Táchira Antpitta, *Grallaria chthonia*
- Plain-backed Antpitta, *Grallaria haplonota*
- Ochre-striped Antpitta, *Grallaria dignissima*
- Elusive Antpitta, *Grallaria eludens*
- Santa Marta Antpitta, *Grallaria bangsi*
- Chestnut-crowned Antpitta, *Grallaria ruficapilla*
- Cundinamarca Antpitta, *Grallaria kaestneri*
- Watkins' Antpitta, *Grallaria watkinsi*
- Stripe-headed Antpitta, *Grallaria andicola*
- Bicolored Antpitta, *Grallaria rufocinerea*
- Chestnut-naped Antpitta, *Grallaria nuchalis*
- Jocotoco Antpitta, *Grallaria ridgelyi*
- Pale-billed Antpitta, *Grallaria carrikeri*
- Yellow-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaria flavotincta*
- White-bellied Antpitta, *Grallaria hypoleuca*
- Rusty-tinged Antpitta, *Grallaria przewalskii*
- Bay Antpitta, *Grallaria capitalis*
- Red-and-white Antpitta, *Grallaria erythroleuca*
- White-throated Antpitta, *Grallaria albigula*
- Gray-naped Antpitta, *Grallaria griseonucha*
- Rufous Antpitta, *Grallaria rufula*
- Chestnut Antpitta, *Grallaria blakei*
- Rufous-faced Antpitta, *Grallaria erythrotis*
- Tawny Antpitta, *Grallaria quitensis*
- Brown-banded Antpitta, *Grallaria milleri*
- Genus *Hylopezus*
 - Spotted Antpitta, *Hylopezus macularius*
 - Streak-chested Antpitta, *Hylopezus perspicillatus*
 - Masked Antpitta, *Hylopezus auricularis*
 - Fulvous-bellied Antpitta, *Hylopezus dives*
 - White-lored Antpitta, *Hylopezus fulviventris*
 - Amazonian Antpitta, *Hylopezus berlepschi*
 - White-browed Antpitta, *Hylopezus ochroleucus*
 - Speckle-breasted Antpitta, *Hylopezus nattereri*
- Genus *Myrmothera*
 - Thrush-like Antpitta, *Myrmothera campanisona*
 - Tepui Antpitta, *Myrmothera simplex*
- Genus *Grallaricula*
 - Ochre-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaricula flavirostris*

- Rusty-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaricula ferrugineipectus*
- Scallop-breasted Antpitta, *Grallaricula loricata*
- Hooded Antpitta, *Grallaricula cucullata*
- Peruvian Antpitta, *Grallaricula peruviana*
- Ochre-fronted Antpitta, *Grallaricula ochraceifrons*
- Slate-crowned Antpitta, *Grallaricula nana*
- Crescent-faced Antpitta *Grallaricula lineifrons*Home

Furnariidae

Ovenbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Furnariidae**

Genera: Many, see text.

Ovenbirds or **furnariids** comprise a large family of small sub-oscine passerine bird species found in Central and South America. They form the family Furnariidae. They should not be confused with the Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, which is a [wood warbler](#) in the family Parulidae.

This is a diverse group of insectivores which gets its name from the elaborate "oven-like" clay nests built by some species, although others build stick nests or nest in tunnels or clefts in rock. The Spanish word for "oven" gives the conspicuous horneros their name. Furnariid nests are always constructed with a cover, and up to six pale blue, greenish or white [eggs](#) are laid. Most species are forest birds, but some are found in more open habitats.

- [1 Systematics](#)
 - [1.1 Subfamily Sclerurinae](#)
 - [1.2 Subfamily Dendrocolaptinae - Woodcreepers](#)
 - [1.3 Subfamily Furnariinae](#)
- [2 References](#)

Systematics

Recently, the [woodcreepers](#) (formerly Dendrocolaptidae) were merged into this family.

The systematics of the Dendrocolaptinae were reviewed by Rajkow (1994) based on morphology and by Irestedt *et al.* (2004) based on analysis of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA. Using the latter approach, the suspected major lineages of the Furnariinae (foilage-gleaners, spinetails, and true ovenbirds) were confirmed, but some new lineages were discovered and the relationships of several genera had to be revised (Fjeldså *et al.*, 2005).

The taxonomic arrangement presented below is based on a synthesis of current data (e.g. Cheviron *et al.*, 2005). Many species or entire genera have not been sampled to analyze DNA sequences, and as the recent studies have discovered that convergent evolution is commonplace in the family, it seems not advisable to place them in the taxonomic sequence without further research. Several genera are in need of revision too.

Subfamily Sclerurinae

Miners and leaftossers

- Genus *Geositta* - miners
- Genus *Sclerurus* - leaftossers

Subfamily Dendrocolaptinae - [Woodcreepers](#)

Tribe **Xenopini** - xenops

- Genus *Megaxenops* - Great Xenops
Genus *Xenops*

Tribe **Dendrocolaptini** - true woodcreepers

- Genus *Glyphorhynchus* - Wedge-billed Woodcreeper
Genus *Dendrocincla*
Genus *Deconychura*
Genus *Sittasomus* - Olivaceous Woodcreeper
Genus *Nasica* - Long-billed Woodcreeper
Genus *Dendrexetastes* - Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper
Genus *Dendrocolaptes*
Genus *Hylexetastes*
Genus *Xiphocolaptes*
Genus *Campylorhamphus*
Genus *Drymornis* - Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper
Genus *Lepidocolaptes*
Genus *Dendroplex* - formerly in *Xiphorhynchus*
Genus *Xiphorhynchus* (possibly polyphyletic)

Subfamily Furnariinae

[Horneros](#) and allies

Tribe **"Berlepschiini"** - **Palmcreeper** (possibly distinct subfamily)

- Genus *Berlepschia*

Tribe **Philydorini** - **foilage-gleaners and allies**

- Foilage-gleaners
 - Genus *Philydor*
Genus *Automolus*

- Genus *Thripadectes* - treehunters

Tribe **"Margarornini" - treerunners**

- Genus *Margarornis*

Tribe **Furnarini - true ovenbirds**

- Genus *Furnarius* - horneros
Genus *Upucerthia*
Genus *Cinclodes* - cinclodes

Tribe **Synallaxini - spinetails and allies**

- Genus *Leptasthenura* - tit-spinetails
Genus *Phacellodomus* - thornbirds
Genus *Anumbius* - Firewood-gatherer
Genus *Coryphistera* - Brushrunner
Genus *Asthenes* - canasteros
- Spinetails
 - Genus *Cranioleuca*
Genus *Synallaxis*
Genus *Poecilurus*

Affiliations undetermined

- Genus *Lochmias* - Streamcreeper (Sclerurinae or "Margaronini"?)
Genus *Heliobletus* - Sharp-billed Treehunter (probably Xenopini)
Genus *Pseudocolaptes* - tuftedcheeks (possibly "Berlepschiini")
Genus *Anabacerthia* (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Syndactyla* (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Simoxenops* - recurvebills (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Ancistrops* - Hookbill (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Hyloctistes* - Woodhaunter (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Anabazenops* (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Cichlocolaptes* - Pale-browed Treehunter (probably Philydorini)
Genus *Hylocryptus* (possibly Philydorini)
- Barbtails (probably "Margaronini")
 - Genus *Premnornis*
Genus *Premnoplex*
Genus *Roraimia*
- Genus *Ochetorhynchus* (probably Furnarini)
Genus *Eremobius* - Band-tailed Earthcreeper (probably Furnarini)
Genus *Chilia* - Chilia (probably Furnarini)
Genus *Clibanornis* - Groundcreeper (possibly Furnarini)
Genus *Limnornis* - reedhaunters (possibly Synallaxini)
Genus *Phleocryptes* - Rushbird

- Genus *Aphrastura* - rayaditos (possibly *Synallaxini*)
- Genus *Spartonoica* - Wren-spinetail (possibly *Synallaxini*)
- Genus *Sylviorthorhynchus* - Wiretail (possibly *Synallaxini*)
- Thistletails (probably *Synallaxini*)
 - Genus *Schizoeaca*
 - Genus *Oreophylax*
 - Genus *Schoeniophylax*
 - Genus *Siptornopsis*
 - Genus *Gyalophylax*
 - Genus *Hellmayrea*
 - Genus *Certhiaxis*
 - Genus *Thripophaga*
- Genus *Siptornis* - Prickletail
- Genus *Metopothrix* - Plushcrown
- Genus *Xenerpestes* - graytails
- Genus *Acrobatornis* - Graveteiro
- Genus *Pseudoseisura* - cacholotes
- Genus *Pygarrhichas* - White-throated Treerunner

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Furnarius

Hornero

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Furnariidae](#)

Genus: **Furnarius** Vieillot, 1816 Species: *Pale-legged Hornero*, *F. leucopus*, *Bay Hornero*, *F. torridus*, *Tail-banded Hornero*, *F. figulus*, *Lesser Hornero*, *F. minor*, *Rufous Hornero*, *F. rufus*, *Crested Hornero*, *F. cristatus*

The **horneros**, also known as ovenbirds (though unrelated to the [Ovenbird](#), which is a parulid warbler) are members of the genus **Furnarius** in the family [Furnariidae](#), native to South America.

Horneros are rather soft-looking, light-brown birds known for building mud nests that resemble old wood-fired ovens. (The Spanish word "hornero" comes from *horno*, meaning "oven".) The entrance forms a curved doorway to protect the chicks from intense winds and from predators. The nest contains two chambers for the 3–4 chicks.

An adult hornero can frequently be seen sitting on top of its nest. When distressed while it is inside, it forces air out under its wings to create a loud noise sounding like a cry.

Horneros are a national emblem of Argentina, one of the many countries they inhabit.

References

- [Furnarius \(TSN 557691\)](#). Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Accessed on 13 March 2006.

Pseudocolaptes

Tuftedcheek

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Furnariidae](#)

Genus: ***Pseudocolaptes*** Reichenbach, 1853 Species: *P. boissonneautii*, *P. lawrencii*, *P. johnsoni*

The **Tuftedcheeks** are [passerine birds](#) in the genus ***Pseudocolaptes*** of the [ovenbird family](#). The three species occur in the mountains of the tropical New World from Costa Rica to Bolivia. They are:

- Streaked Tuftedcheek, *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*
Buffy Tuftedcheek, *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*
Pacific Tuftedcheek, *Pseudocolaptes johnsoni*

They are sometimes considered conspecific.

They occur as resident breeders in wet mountain forests with many epiphytes, normally above 1500 m. The female lays one white egg in a thickly lined old woodpecker nest or other tree cavity. One parent, probably the female, incubates the single white egg for about 29 days to hatching.

The Tuftedcheeks are 20-22 cm long weigh 48 g, and have long bright rufous tails, mainly brown upperparts, and a pale-streaked dark brown cap to the head. The feature that gives the group its English name is the tuft of buff or whitish feathers on each cheek. The throat is the same colour as the tufts.

The Tuftedcheeks forage actively amongst mosses, vines, bromeliads and other epiphytes for insects, spiders, and even small amphibians. They will join mixed feeding flocks in the middle levels of the mountain forests.

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- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Xenops

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Furnariidae](#)

Genus: **Xenops** Illiger, 1811 Species: See text.

Xenops is a [genus](#) in the South American [bird](#) family Furnariidae, the [ovenbirds](#).

They are small birds with a longish tail, a laterally flattened bill with an upturned tip, brown back and buff or rufous wing stripe. They forage for insects on bark, rotting stumps or bare twigs, moving mechanically in all directions on the trunk like a [woodcreeper](#), but without using the tail as a prop.

Species

- Rufous-tailed Xenops, *Xenops milleri*
Slender-billed Xenops, *Xenops tenuirostris*
Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*
Streaked Xenops, *Xenops rutilans*

References

- *Birds of Venezuela* by Hilty, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* by ffrench, ISBN 0-7136-6759-1

Philepittidae

Asities

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Philepittidae** Sharpe, 1870 Genera: *Philepitta* , *Neodrepanis*

The **asities** are a family of small suboscine passerine [bird](#) species found in Madagascar. They were thought to have been related to the [pittas](#), hence the scientific name, but a study by Prum (1993) suggested that they are actually just a subfamily of [broadbills](#). Here they are considered traditionally as a separate family.

These are plump strong-legged birds of the Malagasy forests which take fruit and insects and nest in trees or scrub. The *Neodrepanis* species — **sunbird-asities** — will take nectar, and were formerly known as false sunbirds.

- **Family: Philepittidae**

- Velvet Asity, *Philepitta castanea*
Schlegel's Asity, *Philepitta schlegeli*
Common Sunbird-asity, *Neodrepanis coruscans*
Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity, *Neodrepanis hypoxanthus*

Reference

Prum, R. O. 1993. Phylogeny, biogeography, and evolution of the broadbills (Eurylaimidae) and asities (Philepittidae) based on morphology. *Auk* **110**:304-324.

Pipridae

Manakins

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pipridae** Rafinesque, 1815 Genera: *Many, see text*

The **manakins** are a family of some sixty small [passerine bird species](#) of subtropical and tropical mainland Central and South America, and Trinidad and Tobago.

These are compact forest birds, the males typically being brightly coloured, although the females of most species are duller and usually green-plumaged. Manakins feed on small fruits, berries and insects.

Many manakin species have spectacular lekking courtship rituals, which are especially elaborate in the genus *Pipra*. Manakins make buzzing, snapping, and other sounds with their wings, which are heavily modified in two species (the White-collared and Orange-collared Manakins). Nest-building, incubation for 18-21 days, and care of the young are undertaken by the female alone, since manakins do not form stable pairs. The normally clutch is two [eggs](#).

Species list

- Genus *Chloropipo*
 - Jet Manakin, *Chloropipo unicolor*
 - Olive Manakin, *Chloropipo uniformis*
 - Green Manakin, *Chloropipo holochlora*
 - Yellow-headed Manakin, *Chloropipo flavicapilla*
- Genus *Manacus*
 - White-collared Manakin, *Manacus candei*
 - Orange-collared Manakin, *Manacus aurantiacus*
 - Golden-collared Manakin, *Manacus vitellinus*
 - White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus*
- Genus *Corapipo*
 - White-throated Manakin, *Corapipo gutturalis*
 - White-ruffed Manakin, *Corapipo altera*
 - White-bibbed Manakin, *Corapipo leucorrhoa*
- Genus [Chiroxiphia](#)
 - Lance-tailed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia lanceolata*
 - Long-tailed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia linearis*
 - Blue-backed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia pareola*
 - Yungas Manakin, *Chiroxiphia boliviana*
 - Blue Manakin, *Chiroxiphia caudata*
- Genus *Dixiphia*
 - White-crowned Manakin, *Dixiphia pipra*
- Genus *Pipra*

- Crimson-hooded Manakin, *Pipra aureola*
- Band-tailed Manakin, *Pipra fasciicauda*
- Wire-tailed Manakin, *Pipra filicauda*
- Blue-crowned Manakin, *Pipra coronata*
- Golden-headed Manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*
- Red-capped Manakin, *Pipra mentalis*
- Red-headed Manakin, *Pipra rubrocapilla*
- Round-tailed Manakin, *Pipra chloromeros*
- Scarlet-horned Manakin, *Pipra cornuta*
- Opal-crowned Manakin, *Pipra iris*
- Blue-rumped Manakin, *Pipra isidorei*
- Golden-crowned Manakin, *Pipra vilasboasi*
- Snow-capped Manakin, *Pipra nattereri*
- Cerulean-capped Manakin, *Pipra coeruleocapilla*
- Genus *Lepidothrix*
 - Tepui Manakin, *Lepidothrix suavissima*
 - White-fronted Manakin, *Lepidothrix serena*
- Genus *Antilophia*
 - Araripe Manakin, *Antilophia bokermanni*
 - Helmeted Manakin, *Antilophia galeata*
- Genus *Masius*
 - Golden-winged Manakin, *Masius chrysopterus*
- Genus *Ilicura*
 - Pin-tailed Manakin, *Ilicura militaris*
- Genus *Machaeropterus*
 - Fiery-capped Manakin, *Machaeropterus pyrocephalus*
 - Striped Manakin, *Machaeropterus regulus*
 - Club-winged Manakin, *Machaeropterus deliciosus*
- Genus *Xenopipo*
 - Black Manakin, *Xenopipo atronitens*
- Genus *Heterocercus*, crested manakins
 - Yellow-crested Manakin, *Heterocercus flavivertex*
 - Orange-crested Manakin, *Heterocercus aurantiivertex*
 - Flame-crested Manakin, *Heterocercus linteatus*
- Genus *Neopelma*, tyrant-manakins
 - Saffron-crested Tyrant-manakin, *Neopelma chrysocephalum*
 - Sulphur-bellied Tyrant-manakin, *Neopelma sulphureiventer*
 - Pale-bellied Tyrant-manakin, *Neopelma pallescens*
 - Wied's Tyrant-manakin, *Neopelma aurifrons*
- Genus *Tyranneutes*, tyrant-manakins
 - Dwarf Tyrant-manakin, *Tyranneutes stolzmanni*
 - Tiny Tyrant-manakin, *Tyranneutes virescens*
- Genus *Piprites*, *Piprites*

- Black-capped Piprites, *Piprites pileatus*
Gray-headed Piprites, *Piprites griseiceps*
Wing-barred Piprites, *Piprites chloris*

Chiroxiphia

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Pipridae

Genus: **Chiroxiphia** Cabanis, 1847 Species: *Chiroxiphia lanceolata* , *Chiroxiphia linearis* , *Chiroxiphia pareola* , *Chiroxiphia boliviana* , *Chiroxiphia caudata*

Chiroxiphia is one of several [genera](#) of [manakins](#), small song birds of South and Central America.

Manakins of the genus *Chiroxiphia* have an unusual mating system, based on female mate choice. In order to mate successfully, males have to form partnerships with another male. The two males co-operate in an elaborate courtship dance, and sing a joint song (called a *duet*) at one of many traditionally fixed mating sites; the area where mating takes place can be described as an exploded lek. Females attend a number of these courtship sites, observing the male displays and eventually allow a male at one of the sites to mate.

Partnerships normally consist of only two males, which can be designated alpha and beta, since there is a clear dominance relationship between them. Only the alpha male is ever seen to mate with the female.

As in other manakins, males play no part in the care of the young.

Species

- Lance-tailed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia lanceolata*
Long-tailed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia linearis*
Blue-backed Manakin, *Chiroxiphia pareola*
Yungas Manakin, *Chiroxiphia boliviana*
Blue Manakin, *Chiroxiphia caudata*

References

- Trainer, J. M., McDonald, D. B., & Learn, W. A. (2002). The development of coordinated singing in cooperatively displaying long-tailed manakins. *Behavioral Ecology*, 13, 65-69.

Manacus

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: [Passeriformes](#)
Family: [Pipridae](#)

Genus: **Manacus** Brisson, 1760 species: *M. candei*, *M. aurantiacus*, *M. vitellinus*, *M. manacus*

Manacus is a genus of [passerine birds](#) in the [manakin](#) family which are found in the forests of tropical mainland Central and South America, and on Trinidad and Tobago. There are four species.

- White-collared Manakin, *Manacus candei*

Orange-collared Manakin, *Manacus aurantiacus*

Golden-collared Manakin, *Manacus vitellinus*

White-bearded Manakin, *Manacus manacus*

The "Almirante Manakin" (*Manacus x cerritus*) are stereotyped hybrids between the White-collared and the Golden-collared species, found in Bocas del Toro Province, Panama (Brumfield *et al.*, 2001; McDonald *et al.*, 2001).

These are small, compact, short-tailed birds with a heavy hooked bill and orange legs. The males have brightly coloured plumage and long puffed throat feathers, whereas the females are the typical manakin dull olive hue.

The females lay two eggs in a shallow cup nest in a tree. Nest-building, incubation for 18-21 days, and care of the young are undertaken by the female alone, since manakins do not form stable pairs.

Manacus manakins feed low in the trees on fruit and some insects, both plucked from the foliage in flight.

Like some other manakin species, this genus has spectacular courtship rituals, in which the males give communal displays in a specially prepared lek. The males jump with their throat feathers erected to form a beard, and give whistles together with the characteristic loud snaps (like a breaking twig) and various buzzing, rustling and whiffling noises made with the wings.

The males of three very closely related species, the White-collared Manakin of the Caribbean slopes of Central America, and its Pacific counterparts, the Orange-collared and Golden-collared Manakins, have heavily modified wings with the five outer primaries very narrow for their outer half, and the inner primaries thickened and bowed.

References

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- **McDonald**, David B.; Clay, Robert P.; Brumfield, Robb T. & Braun, Michael J. (2001): Sexual selection on plumage and behavior in an avian hybrid zone: experimental tests of male-male interactions. *Evolution* **55**(7): 1443-1451. [PDF fulltext](#)
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Pitta

Pittas

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Pittidae** Swainson, 1831 Genus: **Pitta** Vieillot, 1816 Species: See text.

Pittas are [passerine birds](#) mainly found in tropical Asia and Australasia, although a couple of species live in Africa.

They are all similar in general structure and habits, and are placed in single genus. Pittas are medium-sized by passerine standards, and stocky, with longish strong legs, very short tails and stout bills. Many, but not all, are brightly coloured. The name is derived from the word *pitta* in the Telugu language of Andhra Pradesh in India and is a generic local name used for all small birds.

These are fairly terrestrial birds of wet forest floors, which eat snails, insects and similar invertebrate prey. They are mostly solitary and lay up to six eggs in a large spherical nest in a tree or shrub, or sometimes on the ground.

Many species of pittas are migratory, and they often end up at odd places like house-gardens during passage migration.

Species

- Eared Pitta, *Pitta phayrei*
- Blue-naped Pitta, *Pitta nipalensis*
- Blue-rumped Pitta, *Pitta soror*
- Rusty-naped Pitta, *Pitta oatesi*
- Schneider's Pitta, *Pitta schneideri*
- Giant Pitta, *Pitta caerulea*
- Blue Pitta, *Pitta cyanea*
- Banded Pitta, *Pitta guajana*
- Bar-bellied Pitta, *Pitta elliotii*
- Gurney's Pitta, *Pitta gurneyi*
- Blue-headed Pitta, *Pitta baudii*
- Hooded Pitta, *Pitta sordida*
- Ivory-breasted Pitta, *Pitta maxima*
- Superb Pitta, *Pitta superba*
- Azure-breasted Pitta, *Pitta steerii*
- Whiskered Pitta, *Pitta kochi*
- Red-bellied Pitta, *Pitta erythrogaster*
- Sula Pitta, *Pitta dohertyi*
- Blue-banded Pitta, *Pitta arcuata*
- Garnet Pitta, *Pitta granatina*
- Black-headed Pitta, *Pitta ussheri*

Black-crowned Pitta, *Pitta venusta*
African Pitta, *Pitta angolensis*
Green-breasted Pitta, *Pitta reichenowi*
Indian Pitta, *Pitta brachyura*
Fairy Pitta, *Pitta nympha*
Blue-winged Pitta, *Pitta moluccensis*
Mangrove Pitta, *Pitta megarhyncha*
Elegant Pitta, *Pitta elegans*
Noisy Pitta, *Pitta versicolor*
Black-faced Pitta, *Pitta anerythra*
Rainbow Pitta, *Pitta iris*

Rhinocryptidae

Tapaculos

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Rhinocryptidae** Wetmore, 1930 Genera: *Pteroptochos*, *Scelorchilus*, *Rhinocrypta*, *Teledromas*, *Liosceles*, *Psilorhamphus*, *Merulaxis*, *Melanopareia*, *Eugralla*, *Myornis*, *Scytalopus*, *Acropternis*

The **tapaculos** are a family (**Rhinocryptidae**) of small [passerine bird species](#) found in South America.

These are terrestrial species that fly only poorly on their short wings. They have strong legs, well-suited to their habitat of grassland or forest undergrowth. The tail is cocked and pointed towards the head, and the name *tapaculo* derives from the Spanish for "cover your behind".

While the majority of the family are small blackish or brown birds there are some larger and more colourful species. They are best located and identified by their vocalisations.

They feed on insects, seeds and other soft plant material with their pointy bills, and will scratch on the ground like a [pheasant](#).

Most species lay two or three white eggs in a covered environment, whether it be a burrow, hole in a tree or domed nest.

Species list:

Family Rhinocryptidae

- Genus *Pteroptochos*, the huet-huets
 - Black-throated Huet-huet, *Pteroptochos tarnii*
 - Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, *Pteroptochos castaneus*
- Genus *Pteroptochos*
 - Moustached Turca, *Pteroptochos megapodius*
- Genus *Scelorchilus*
 - White-throated Tapaculo, *Scelorchilus albicollis*
 - Chucao Tapaculo, *Scelorchilus rubecula*
- Genus *Rhinocrypta*, the gallitos
 - Crested Gallito, *Rhinocrypta lanceolata*
 - Sandy Gallito, *Teledromas fuscus*
- Genus *Liosceles*
 - Rusty-belted Tapaculo, *Liosceles thoracicus*
- Genus *Melanopareia*, the crescent-chests
 - Collared Crescent-chest, *Melanopareia torquata*
 - Olive-crowned Crescent-chest, *Melanopareia maximiliani*
 - Elegant Crescent-chest, *Melanopareia elegans*
 - Maranon Crescent-chest, *Melanopareia maranonica*

- Genus *Psilorhamphus*
 - Spotted Bamboowren, *Psilorhamphus guttatus*
- Genus *Merulaxis*, the bristlefronts
 - Slaty Bristlefront, *Merulaxis ater*
Stresemann's Bristlefront, *Merulaxis stresemanni*
- Genus *Eugralla*
 - Ochre-flanked Tapaculo, *Eugralla paradoxa*
- Genus *Myornis*
 - Ash-colored Tapaculo, *Myornis senilis*
- Genus *Scytalopus*
 - Unicolored Tapaculo, *Scytalopus unicolor*
Blackish Tapaculo, *Scytalopus latrans*
Trilling Tapaculo, *Scytalopus parvirostris*
Large-footed Tapaculo, *Scytalopus macropus*
Rufous-vented Tapaculo, *Scytalopus femoralis*
Long-tailed Tapaculo, *Scytalopus micropterus*
Bolivian Tapaculo, *Scytalopus bolivianus*
White-crowned Tapaculo, *Scytalopus atratus*
Perija Tapaculo, *Scytalopus nigricans*
Santa Marta Tapaculo, *Scytalopus sanctaemartae*
Pale-throated Tapaculo, *Scytalopus panamensis*
Narino Tapaculo, *Scytalopus vicini*
Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, *Scytalopus argentifrons*
Brown-rumped Tapaculo, *Scytalopus latebricola*
Merida Tapaculo, *Scytalopus meridanus*
Colombian Tapaculo, *Scytalopus infasciatus*
Caracas Tapaculo, *Scytalopus caracae*
Spillman's Tapaculo, *Scytalopus spillmanni*
Zimmer's Tapaculo, *Scytalopus zimmeri*
Puna Tapaculo, *Scytalopus simonsi*
Vilcabamba Tapaculo, *Scytalopus urubambae*
Neblina Tapaculo, *Scytalopus altirostris*
Ancash Tapaculo, *Scytalopus affinis*
Paramo Tapaculo, *Scytalopus canus*
Magellanic Tapaculo, *Scytalopus magellanicus*
Matorral Tapaculo, *Scytalopus griseicollis*
White-browed Tapaculo, *Scytalopus superciliaris*
Dusky Tapaculo, *Scytalopus fuscus*
Tschudi's Tapaculo, *Scytalopus acutirostris*
Mouse-colored Tapaculo, *Scytalopus speluncae*
Planalto Tapaculo, *Scytalopus pachecoi*
Brasilia Tapaculo, *Scytalopus novacapitalis*
Bahia Tapaculo, *Scytalopus psychopompus*
Wetland Tapaculo, *Scytalopus iraiensis*

White-breasted Tapaculo, *Scytalopus indigoticus*

Diademed Tapaculo, *Scytalopus schulenbergi*

Choco Tapaculo, *Scytalopus chocoensis*

Ecuadorian Tapaculo, *Scytalopus robbinsi*

Stiles' Tapaculo, *Scytalopus stilesi*

Chusquea Tapaculo, *Scytalopus parkeri*

Upper Magdalena Tapaculo, *Scytalopus rodriguezi*

- Genus *Acropternis*
 - Ocellated Tapaculo, *Acropternis orthonyx*

Thamnophilidae

Antbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Thamnophilidae**

Genera: Many, see text.

The **antbirds** are a large family of smallish [passerine bird](#) species of subtropical and tropical Central and South America. They are closely related to the antthrushes and antpittas in the family [Formicariidae](#).

These are forest birds, but tend to feed on insects at or near the ground. A sizable minority of them specialize in following columns of army ants to eat the small invertebrates that leave hiding to flee the ants.

Many species lack bright colour; brown, black and white being the dominant tones in their appearance.

They lay two or three eggs in a nest in a tree, both sexes incubating.

- [1 Systematics](#)
 - [1.1 Subfamily N.N.: Basal antbirds](#)
 - [1.2 Subfamily Thamnophilinae: antshrikes and relatives](#)
 - [1.3 Subfamily N.N.: Typical antwrens and relatives](#)
 - [1.4 Unassigned](#)
- [2 References](#)

Systematics

There are some 200 species, variously called as antwrens, antvireos, antbirds and antshrikes. These terms refer to the relative sizes of the birds (increasing in the order given) rather than any particular morphological resemblance to the true [wrens](#), [vireos](#) or [shrikes](#). The genus *Phlegopsis* is the bare-eyes, *Pyriglena* the fire-eyes and *Neotantes* and *Clytoctantes* are the bushbirds.

Although the taxonomical layout of the group is based on studies from the mid-19th century when less than half the present species were known to science, comparison of the myoglobin intron 2, GAPDH intron 11 and the mitochondrial cytochrome b DNA sequences (Irestedt et al., 2004) has largely verified it. Two major clades - most antshrikes and other larger, strong-billed species and *Herpsilochmus*, and the classical antwrens the more slender, longer-billed species and other antwrens - and the monophyly of most genera was confirmed.

The Thamnophilidae contain several large or very large genera, and a considerable number of small or monotypic ones. Several of these, which have always been difficult to assign, seem to form a third, hitherto unrecognized clade independently derived from

ancestral antbirds. The results also confirmed suspicions of previous researchers that some species, most notably in *Myrmotherula* and *Myrmeciza*, need to be assigned to different genera. Still, due to the difficulties of sampling from such a large number of often poorly known species, the assignment of some genera is still awaiting confirmation.

Subfamily N.N.: Basal antbirds

- Genus *Terenura*
 - Streak-capped Antwren, *Terenura maculata*
 - Orange-bellied Antwren, *Terenura sicki*
 - Rufous-rumped Antwren, *Terenura callinota*
 - Chestnut-shouldered Antwren, *Terenura humeralis*
 - Yellow-rumped Antwren, *Terenura sharpei*
 - Ash-winged Antwren, *Terenura spodiopila*
- Genus *Myrmornis*
 - Wing-banded Antbird, *Myrmornis torquata*
- Genus *Pygiptila*
 - Spot-winged Antshrike, *Pygiptila stellaris*
- Genus *Thamnistes*
 - Russet Antshrike, *Thamnistes anabatinus*

Subfamily Thamnophilinae: antshrikes and relatives

- Genus *Megastictus*
 - Pearly Antshrike, *Megastictus margaritatus*
- Genus *Thamnomanes*
 - Saturnine Antshrike, *Thamnomanes saturninus*
 - Dusky-throated Antshrike, *Thamnomanes ardesiacus*
 - Cinereous Antshrike, *Thamnomanes caesius*
 - Bluish-slate Antshrike, *Thamnomanes schistogynus*
- Genus *Xenornis* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Speckled Antshrike, *Xenornis setifrons*
- Genus *Dichrozona*
 - Banded Antwren, *Dichrozona cincta*
- Genus *Taraba*
 - Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*
- Genus *Hypoedaleus*
 - Spot-backed Antshrike, *Hypoedaleus guttatus*
- Genus *Batara*
 - Giant Antshrike, *Batara cinerea*
- Genus *Mackenziaena*

- Tufted Antshrike, *Mackenziaena severa*
Large-tailed Antshrike, *Mackenziaena leachii*
- Genus *Cymbilaimus* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Fasciated Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus lineatus*
Bamboo Antshrike, *Cymbilaimus sanctaemariae*
- Genus *Frederickena*
 - Black-throated Antshrike, *Frederickena viridis*
Undulated Antshrike, *Frederickena unduligera*
- Genus *Dysithamnus*
 - Spot-breasted Antwreio, *Dysithamnus stictothorax*
Plain Antwreio, *Dysithamnus mentalis*
Streak-crowned Antwreio, *Dysithamnus striaticeps*
Spot-crowned Antwreio, *Dysithamnus puncticeps*
Rufous-backed Antwreio, *Dysithamnus xanthopterus*
White-streaked Antwreio, *Dysithamnus leucostictus*
Plumbeous Antwreio, *Dysithamnus plumbeus*
Bicolored Antwreio, *Dysithamnus occidentalis*
- Genus *Herpsilochmus*
 - Ash-throated Antwren, *Herpsilochmus parkeri*
Creamy-bellied Antwren, *Herpsilochmus motacilloides*
Black-capped Antwren, *Herpsilochmus atricapillus*
Caatinga Antwren, *Herpsilochmus sellowi*
Pileated Antwren, *Herpsilochmus pileatus*
Spot-tailed Antwren, *Herpsilochmus sticturus*
Dugand's Antwren, *Herpsilochmus dugandi*
Todd's Antwren, *Herpsilochmus stictocephalus*
Ancient Antwren, *Herpsilochmus gentryi*
Spot-backed Antwren, *Herpsilochmus dorsimaculatus*
Roraiman Antwren, *Herpsilochmus roraimae*
Pectoral Antwren, *Herpsilochmus pectoralis*
Large-billed Antwren, *Herpsilochmus longirostris*
Yellow-breasted Antwren, *Herpsilochmus axillaris*
Rufous-winged Antwren, *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*
- Genus *Sakesphorus*
 - Collared Antshrike, *Sakesphorus bernardi*
Black-crested Antshrike, *Sakesphorus canadensis*
Silvery-cheeked Antshrike, *Sakesphorus cristatus*
Black-backed Antshrike, *Sakesphorus melanonotus*
Band-tailed Antshrike, *Sakesphorus melanothorax*
Glossy Antshrike, *Sakesphorus luctuosus*
- Genus *Thamnophilus* (possibly polyphyletic)
 - Acre Antshrike, *Thamnophilus divisorus*
Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*
Chapman's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus zarumae*

Bar-crested Antshrike, *Thamnophilus multistriatus*
 Chestnut-backed Antshrike, *Thamnophilus palliatus*
 Lined Antshrike, *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*
 Black-hooded Antshrike, *Thamnophilus bridgesi*
 Black Antshrike, *Thamnophilus nigriceps*
 Cocha Antshrike, *Thamnophilus praecox*
 Blackish-gray Antshrike, *Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*
 Castelnau's Antshrike, *Thamnophilus cryptoleucus*
 White-shouldered Antshrike, *Thamnophilus aethiops*
 Uniform Antshrike, *Thamnophilus unicolor*
 Upland Antshrike, *Thamnophilus aroyae*
 Plain-winged Antshrike, *Thamnophilus schistaceus*
 Mouse-colored Antshrike, *Thamnophilus murinus*
 Western Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*
 Guianan Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus punctatus*
 Peruvian Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus leucogaster*
 Natterer's Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus stictocephalus*
 Bolivian Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus sticturus*
 Planalto Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus pelzelni*
 Sooretama Slaty Antshrike, *Thamnophilus ambiguus*
 Streak-backed Antshrike, *Thamnophilus insignis*
 Amazonian Antshrike, *Thamnophilus amazonicus*
 Variable Antshrike, *Thamnophilus caerulescens*
 Rufous-winged Antshrike, *Thamnophilus torquatus*
 Rufous-capped Antshrike, *Thamnophilus ruficapillus*

Subfamily N.N.: Typical antwrens and relatives

Tribe "Microrhopini"

- Genus *Neotantes*
 - Black Bushbird, *Neotantes niger*
- Genus *Clytoctantes* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Recurve-billed Bushbird, *Clytoctantes alixii*
 - Rondonia Bushbird, *Clytoctantes atrogularis*
- Genus *Myrmorchilus*
 - Stripe-backed Antbird, *Myrmorchilus strigilatus*
- Genus *Microrhopias*
 - Dot-winged Antwren, *Microrhopias quixensis*

Tribe Formicivorini

- Genus *Myrmochanes*
 - Black-and-white Antbird, *Myrmochanes hemileucus*

- Genus *Myrmotherula* (paraphyletic)
 - Stipple-throated group ("Microrhopini"):
 - Brown-bellied Antwren, *Myrmotherula gutturalis*
 - Checker-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula fulviventris*
 - White-eyed Antwren, *Myrmotherula leucophthalma*
 - Foothill Antwren, *Myrmotherula spodionota*
 - Stipple-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula haematonota*
 - Brown-backed Antwren, *Myrmotherula fjeldsaai*
 - Ornate Antwren, *Myrmotherula ornata*
 - Rufous-tailed Antwren, *Myrmotherula erythrura*
 - Streaked group (closer to *Myrmochanes*):
 - Pygmy Antwren, *Myrmotherula brachyura*
 - Short-billed Antwren, *Myrmotherula ignota* (sometimes *M. obscura*)
 - Guianan Antwren, *Myrmotherula surinamensis*
 - Amazonian Antwren, *Myrmotherula multostriata*
 - Pacific Antwren, *Myrmotherula pacifica*
 - Cherrie's Antwren, *Myrmotherula cherriei*
 - Klages' Antwren, *Myrmotherula klagesi*
 - Stripe-chested Antwren, *Myrmotherula longicauda*
 - Sclater's Antwren, *Myrmotherula sclateri*
 - Yellow-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula ambigua*
 - Grey group (may include *Formicivora*):
 - White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaris*
 - Slaty Antwren, *Myrmotherula schisticolor*
 - Rio Suno Antwren, *Myrmotherula sunensis*
 - Salvadori's Antwren, *Myrmotherula minor*
 - Ihering's Antwren, *Myrmotherula iheringi*
 - Rio de Janeiro Antwren, *Myrmotherula fluminensis*
 - Plain-winged Antwren, *Myrmotherula behni*
 - Ashy Antwren, *Myrmotherula grisea*
 - Unicolored Antwren, *Myrmotherula unicolor*
 - Alagoas Antwren, *Myrmotherula snowi*
 - Long-winged Antwren, *Myrmotherula longipennis*
 - Band-tailed Antwren, *Myrmotherula urosticta*
 - Gray Antwren, *Myrmotherula menetriesii*
 - unassigned (probably stipple-throated group):
 - Rufous-bellied Antwren, *Myrmotherula guttata*
 - Plain-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula hauxwelli*
 - Star-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula gularis*
 - unassigned (Relationships unknown):
 - Leaden Antwren, *Myrmotherula assimilis*
- Genus *Formicivora*
 - Narrow-billed Antwren, *Formicivora iheringi*
 - White-fringed Antwren, *Formicivora grisea*

Black-bellied Antwren, *Formicivora melanogaster*
 Serra Antwren, *Formicivora serrana*
 Restinga Antwren, *Formicivora littoralis*
 Black-hooded Antwren, *Formicivora erythronotos*
 Rusty-backed Antwren, *Formicivora rufa*

- Genus *Stymphalornis* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Parana Antwren, *Stymphalornis acutirostris*

Tribe Pithyini

- Genus *Pithys*
 - White-plumed Antbird, *Pithys albifrons*
 - White-masked Antbird, *Pithys castanea*
- Genus *Skutchia* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Pale-faced Antbird, *Skutchia borbae*
- Genus *Phlegopsis*
 - Black-spotted Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*
 - Reddish-winged Bare-eye, *Phlegopsis erythroptera*
- Genus *Phaenostictus*
 - Ocellated Antbird, *Phaenostictus mcleannani*
- Genus *Gymnopithys*
 - Rufous-throated Antbird, *Gymnopithys rufigula*
 - Bicolored Antbird, *Gymnopithys leucaspis*
 - Lunulated Antbird, *Gymnopithys lunulata*
 - White-throated Antbird, *Gymnopithys salvini*
- Genus *Rhegmatorhina*
 - Hairy-crested Antbird, *Rhegmatorhina melanosticta*
 - Chestnut-crested Antbird, *Rhegmatorhina cristata*
 - White-breasted Antbird, *Rhegmatorhina hoffmannsi*
 - Harlequin Antbird, *Rhegmatorhina berlepschi*
 - Bare-eyed Antbird, *Rhegmatorhina gymnops*
- Genus *Cercomacra*
 - Gray Antbird, *Cercomacra cinerascens*
 - Rio de Janeiro Antbird, *Cercomacra brasiliana*
 - Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacra tyrannina*
 - Willis' Antbird, *Cercomacra laeta*
 - Parker's Antbird, *Cercomacra parkeri*
 - Blackish Antbird, *Cercomacra nigrescens*
 - Bananal Antbird, *Cercomacra ferdinandi*
 - Black Antbird, *Cercomacra serva*
 - Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans*
 - Rio Branco Antbird, *Cercomacra carbonaria*
 - Mato Grosso Antbird, *Cercomacra melanaria*
 - Manu Antbird, *Cercomacra manu*
- Genus *Hypocnemis*

- Warbling Antbird, *Hypocnemis cantator*
Yellow-browed Antbird, *Hypocnemis hypoxantha*
- Genus *Drymophila*
 - Ferruginous Antbird, *Drymophila ferruginea*
Bertoni's Antbird, *Drymophila rubricollis*
Rufous-tailed Antbird, *Drymophila genei*
Ochre-rumped Antbird, *Drymophila ochropyga*
Striated Antbird, *Drymophila devillei*
Dusky-tailed Antbird, *Drymophila malura*
Long-tailed Antbird, *Drymophila caudata*
Scaled Antbird, *Drymophila squamata*

Tribe Myrmecizini

- Genus *Sclateria*
 - Silvered Antbird *Sclateria naevia*
- Genus *Percnostola* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Black-headed Antbird, *Percnostola rufifrons*
White-lined Antbird, *Percnostola lophotes*
- Genus *Schistocichla* (sometimes placed in *Percnostola*)
 - Slate-colored Antbird, *Schistocichla schistacea*
Spot-winged Antbird, *Schistocichla leucostigma*
Caura Antbird, *Schistocichla caurensis*
- Genus *Myrmoborus*
 - White-browed Antbird, *Myrmoborus leucophrys*
Ash-breasted Antbird, *Myrmoborus lugubris*
Black-faced Antbird, *Myrmoborus myotherinus*
Black-tailed Antbird, *Myrmoborus melanurus*
- Genus *Gymnocichla*
 - Bare-crowned Antbird, *Gymnocichla nudiceps*
- Genus *Rhopornis* (pending confirmation of placement)
 - Slender Antbird, *Rhopornis ardesiaca*
- Genus *Pyriglena*
 - White-backed Fire-eye, *Pyriglena leuconota*
White-shouldered Fire-eye, *Pyriglena leucoptera*
Fringe-backed Fire-eye, *Pyriglena atra*
- Genus *Hypocnemoides*
 - Black-chinned Antbird, *Hypocnemoides melanopogon*
Band-tailed Antbird, *Hypocnemoides maculicauda*
- Genus *Hylophylax*
 - Spotted Antbird, *Hylophylax naevioides*
Spot-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax naevia*
Dot-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax punctulata*
Scale-backed Antbird, *Hylophylax poecilinota*
- Genus *Myrmeciza* (paraphyletic)

- Chestnut-tailed group (Pithyini)
 - Southern Chestnut-tailed Antbird, *Myrmeciza hemimelaena*
 - Northern Chestnut-tailed Antbird, *Myrmeciza castanea*
 - Large dark group (close to *Pyriglena*)
 - Plumbeous Antbird, *Myrmeciza hyperythra*
 - Goeldi's Antbird, *Myrmeciza goeldii*
 - White-shouldered Antbird, *Myrmeciza melanocephala*
 - Sooty Antbird, *Myrmeciza fortis*
 - Immaculate Antbird, *Myrmeciza immaculata*
 - Patterned breast group (close to *Hypocnemoides* and *Hylophylax*)
 - Ferruginous-backed Antbird, *Myrmeciza ferruginea*
 - Scalloped Antbird, *Myrmeciza ruficauda*
 - White-bibbed Antbird, *Myrmeciza loricata*
 - Squamate Antbird, *Myrmeciza squamosa*
 - Main group
 - Gray-headed Antbird, *Myrmeciza griseiceps*
 - Dull-mantled Antbird, *Myrmeciza laemosticta*
 - Esmeraldas Antbird, *Myrmeciza nigricauda*
 - Stub-tailed Antbird, *Myrmeciza berlepschi*
 - unassigned
 - Yapacana Antbird, *Myrmeciza disjuncta*
 - White-bellied Antbird, *Myrmeciza longipes*
 - Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Myrmeciza exsul*
 - Gray-bellied Antbird, *Myrmeciza pelzelni*
 - Black-throated Antbird, *Myrmeciza atrothorax*

Unassigned

- Genus *Biatas*
 - White-bearded Antshrike, *Biatas nigropectus*

References

- Irestedt, Martin ; Fjeldså, Jon; Nylander, Johan A. A. & Ericson, Per G. P. (2004): Phylogenetic relationships of typical antbirds (Thamnophilidae) and test of incongruence based on Bayes factors. *BMC Evol. Biol.* 4: 23. DOI:[10.1186/1471-2148-4-23](https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2148-4-23) [Supplementary information](#)

Tyrannidae

Tyrant Flycatchers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: **Tyrannidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: Many, see text.

The **tyrant flycatchers** are a large family of [passerine birds](#) which occur throughout North and South America, but are mainly tropical in distribution. They superficially resemble the [Old World flycatchers](#), but are more robust with stronger bills. They are members of suborder Tyranni (suboscines) and so do not have the sophisticated vocal capabilities of the [songbirds](#).

Most, but not all, are rather plain, and many have erectile crests. As the name implies, most are insectivorous, but some will eat fruit.

The becards and tityras were formerly considered to be [cotingas](#), but are now usually included in the Tyrannidae. They are also sometimes given their own family, the Tityridae.

- [1 Habitat Distribution](#)
- [2 Protected status](#)
- [3 Species in taxonomic order](#)

Habitat Distribution

Species richness of Tyrannidae, when compared to habitat, is highly variable. The habitats of tropical lowland evergreen forest and montane evergreen forest have the highest single site species diversity while many habitats including rivers, palm forest, possible white sand forest, tropical deciduous forest edge, southern temperate forest, southern temperate forest edge, semihumid/humid montane scrub, and northern temperate grassland have the lowest single species diversity. The variation between the highest and the lowest is extreme; ninety species can be found in the tropical lowland evergreen forests while only one species can be found at the habitats listed above. This may be due in part to the fewer niches found in certain areas and therefore fewer places for the species to occupy.

Tyrannidae specialization among habitat is very strong in tropical lowland evergreen forests and montane evergreen forests. These habitat types therefore display the greatest specialization. The counts differ by three species (tropical lowland evergreen forests have 49 endemic species and montane evergreen forests have 46 endemic species). It can be assumed that they both have similar levels of specialization.

Regionally, the South Atlantic Coast has a significantly higher species richness with the Manabí-Tumbes region following closely behind.

Protected status

The Northern Beardless Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*) and the Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) are protected in the US under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.[\[1\]](#)

Species in taxonomic order

There are about 429 species.

- Genus *Ornithion*
 - White-lored Tyrannulet, *Ornithion inerme*
 - Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet, *Ornithion semiflavum*
 - Brown-capped Tyrannulet, *Ornithion brunneicapillum*
- Genus *Camptostoma*
 - Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma imberbe*
 - Southern Beardless Tyrannulet, *Camptostoma obsoletum*
- Mouse-colored Tyrannulet, *Phaeomyias murina*
- Cocos Island Flycatcher, *Nesotriccus ridgwayi*
- Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*
- Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*
- Genus *Myiopagis*
 - Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*
 - Foothill Elaenia, *Myiopagis olallai*
 - Gray Elaenia, *Myiopagis caniceps*
 - Pacific Elaenia, *Myiopagis subplacens*
 - Yellow-crowned Elaenia, *Myiopagis flavivertex*
 - Jamaican Elaenia, *Myiopagis cotta*
 - Greenish Elaenia, *Myiopagis viridicata*
- Gray-and-white Tyrannulet, *Pseudelaenia leucospodia*
- Genus *Elaenia*
 - Caribbean Elaenia, *Elaenia martinica*
 - Large Elaenia, *Elaenia spectabilis*
 - Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*
 - Noronha Elaenia, *Elaenia ridleyana*
 - White-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia albiceps*
 - Small-billed Elaenia, *Elaenia parvirostris*
 - Slaty Elaenia, *Elaenia strepera*
 - Olivaceous Elaenia, *Elaenia mesoleuca*
 - Mottle-backed Elaenia, *Elaenia gigas*
 - Brownish Elaenia, *Elaenia pelzelni*
 - Plain-crested Elaenia, *Elaenia cristata*
 - Rufous-crowned Elaenia, *Elaenia ruficeps*
 - Lesser Elaenia, *Elaenia chiriquensis*

- Mountain Elaenia, *Elaenia frantzii*
- Highland Elaenia, *Elaenia obscura*
- Great Elaenia, *Elaenia dayi*
- Sierran Elaenia, *Elaenia pallatangae*
- Greater Antillean Elaenia, *Elaenia fallax*
- Genus *Serpophaga*
 - Torrent Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga cinerea*
 - Sooty Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga nigricans*
 - River Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga hypoleuca*
 - White-crested Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga subcristata*
 - White-bellied Tyrannulet, *Serpophaga munda*
- Genus *Mionectes*
 - Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, *Mionectes oleagineus*
 - Streak-necked Flycatcher, *Mionectes striaticollis*
 - Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus*
 - Gray-hooded Flycatcher, *Mionectes rufiventris*
 - MacConnell's Flycatcher, *Mionectes macconnelli*
- Genus *Leptopogon*
 - Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, *Leptopogon rufipectus*
 - Inca Flycatcher, *Leptopogon taczanowskii*
 - Sepia-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon amaurocephalus*
 - Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*
- Genus *Pseudotriccus*
 - Bronze-olive Pygmy Tyrant, *Pseudotriccus pelzelni*
 - Hazel-fronted Pygmy Tyrant, *Pseudotriccus simplex*
 - Rufous-headed Pygmy Tyrant, *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*
- Genus *Phylloscartes*
 - Marble-faced Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes ophthalmicus*
 - Venezuelan Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes venezuelanus*
 - Antioquia Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes lanyoni*
 - Spectacled Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes orbitalis*
 - Variegated Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes poecilotis*
 - Southern Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes eximius*
 - Black-fronted Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes nigrifrons*
 - Chapman's Bristle Tyrant, *Phylloscartes chapmani*
 - Ecuadorian Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes gualaquizeae*
 - Rufous-lored Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes flaviventris*
 - Cinnamon-faced Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes parkeri*
 - Minas Gerais Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes roquettei*
 - Sao Paulo Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes paulistus*
 - Oustalet's Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes oustaleti*
 - Restinga Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes kronei*
 - Serra do Mar Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes difficilis*
 - Alagoas Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes ceciliae*

- Mottle-cheeked Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes ventralis*
- Bahia Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes beckeri*
- Yellow-green Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes flavovirens*
- Olive-green Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes virescens*
- Rufous-browed Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes superciliaris*
- Bay-ringed Tyrannulet, *Phylloscartes sylviolus*
- Genus *Phyllomyias*
 - Planalto Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias fasciatus*
 - White-fronted Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias zeledoni*
 - Rough-legged Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias burmeisteri*
 - Greenish Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias virescens*
 - Reiser's Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias reiseri*
 - Sclater's Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias sclateri*
 - Gray-capped Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseicapilla*
 - Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias griseiceps*
 - Plumbeous-crowned Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias plumbeiceps*
 - Black-capped Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias nigrocapillus*
 - Ashy-headed Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias cinereiceps*
 - Tawny-rumped Tyrannulet, *Phyllomyias uropygialis*
- Genus *Zimmerius*
 - Mistletoe Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius vilissimus*
 - Venezuelan Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius improbus*
 - Bolivian Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius bolivianus*
 - Red-billed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius cinereicapillus*
 - Slender-footed Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius gracilipes*
 - Peruvian Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius viridiflavus*
 - Golden-faced Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius chrysops*
- Genus *Sublegatus*
 - Amazonian Scrub Flycatcher, *Sublegatus obscurior*
 - Northern Scrub Flycatcher, *Sublegatus arenarum*
 - Southern Scrub Flycatcher, *Sublegatus modestus*
- Suiriri Flycatcher, *Suiriri suiriri*
- Genus *Mecocerculus*
 - White-throated Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus leucophrys*
 - White-tailed Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus poecilocercus*
 - Buff-banded Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus hellmayri*
 - Rufous-winged Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus calopterus*
 - Sulphur-bellied Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus minor*
 - White-banded Tyrannulet, *Mecocerculus stictopterus*
- Genus *Inezia*
 - Slender-billed Tyrannulet, *Inezia tenuirostris*
 - Plain Tyrannulet, *Inezia inornata*
 - Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, *Inezia subflava*
- Genus *Stigmatura*

- Lesser Wagtail-tyrant, *Stigmatura napensis*
Greater Wagtail-tyrant, *Stigmatura budyoides*
- Genus *Uromyias*
 - Agile Tit-tyrant, *Uromyias agilis*
Unstreaked Tit-tyrant, *Uromyias agraphia*
- Genus *Anairetes*
 - Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, *Anairetes alpinus*
Black-crested Tit-tyrant, *Anairetes nigrocristatus*
Pied-crested Tit-tyrant, *Anairetes reguloides*
Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant, *Anairetes flavirostris*
Juan Fernandez Tit-tyrant, *Anairetes fernandezianus*
Tufted Tit-Tyrant, *Anairetes parulus*
- Many-colored Rush Tyrant, *Tachuris rubrigastra*
Sharp-tailed Tyrant, *Culicivora caudacuta*
- Genus *Polystictus*
 - Bearded Tachuri, *Polystictus pectoralis*
Gray-backed Tachuri, *Polystictus superciliaris*
- Genus *Pseudocolopteryx*
 - Crested Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx sclateri*
Dinelli's Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx dinellianus*
Subtropical Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx acutipennis*
Warbling Doradito, *Pseudocolopteryx flaviventris*
- Genus *Euscarthmus*
 - Tawny-crowned Pygmy Tyrant, *Euscarthmus meloryphus*
Rufous-sided Pygmy Tyrant, *Euscarthmus rufomarginatus*
- Genus *Myiornis*
 - White-bellied Pygmy Tyrant, *Myiornis albiventris*
Eared Pygmy Tyrant, *Myiornis auricularis*
Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant, *Myiornis atricapillus*
Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant, *Myiornis ecaudatus*
- Genus *Lophotriccus*
 - Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus*
Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, *Lophotriccus vitiosus*
Long-crested Pygmy Tyrant, *Lophotriccus eulophotes*
Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant, *Lophotriccus galeatus*
Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pilaris*
- Genus *Oncostoma*
 - Northern Bentbill, *Oncostoma cinereigulare*
Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum*
- Genus *Poecilatriccus*
 - Rufous-crowned Tody-tyrant, *Poecilatriccus ruficeps*
Slate-headed Tody-tyrant, *Poecilatriccus sylvia*
Black-and-white Tody-tyrant, *Poecilatriccus capitalis*
White-cheeked Tody-tyrant, *Poecilatriccus albifacies*

- Black-chested Tyrant, *Taeniotriccus andrei*
- Genus *Hemitriccus*
 - Snethlage's Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus minor*
 - Boat-billed Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus josephinae*
 - Flammulated Bamboo Tyrant, *Hemitriccus flammulatus*
 - Drab-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, *Hemitriccus diops*
 - Brown-breasted Bamboo Tyrant, *Hemitriccus obsoletus*
 - White-eyed Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus zosterops*
 - Zimmer's Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus minimus*
 - Eye-ringed Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus orbitatus*
 - Johannes' Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus iohannis*
 - Stripe-necked Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus striaticollis*
 - Hangnest Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus nidipendulus*
 - Yungas Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus spodiops*
 - Pearly-vented Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus margaritaceiventer*
 - Pelzel's Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus inornatus*
 - Black-throated Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus granadensis*
 - Buff-throated Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus rufigularis*
 - Cinnamon-breasted Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus cinnamomeipectus*
 - Buff-breasted Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus mirandae*
 - Kaempfer's Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus kaempferi*
 - Fork-tailed Tody-tyrant, *Hemitriccus furcatus*
- Genus *Todirostrum*
 - Buff-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum senex*
 - Ruddy Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum russatum*
 - Ochre-faced Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum plumbeiceps*
 - Rusty-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum latirostre*
 - Smoky-fronted Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum fumifrons*
 - Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum maculatum*
 - Yellow-lored Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum poliocephalum*
 - Short-tailed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum viridanum*
 - Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum nigriceps*
 - Painted Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum pictum*
 - Golden-winged Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum calopteryx*
 - Black-backed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum pulchellum*
 - Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*
 - Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum chrysocrotaphum*
- Genus *Corythopsis*
 - Ringed Antpipit, *Corythopsis torquata*
 - Southern Antpipit, *Corythopsis delalandi*
- Brownish Flycatcher, *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*
- Genus *Ramphotrigon*

- Large-headed Flatbill, *Ramphotrigon megacephala*
Dusky-tailed Flatbill, *Ramphotrigon fuscicauda*
Rufous-tailed Flatbill, *Ramphotrigon ruficauda*
- Genus *Rhynchocyclus*
 - Eye-ringed Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*
Pacific Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus pacificus*
Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*
Fulvous-breasted Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus fulvipectus*
- Genus *Tolmomyias*
 - Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphureus*
Yellow-margined Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias assimilis*
Gray-crowned Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias poliocephalus*
Orange-eyed Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias traylori*
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias flaviventris*
- Genus *Platyrinchus*
 - Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, *Platyrinchus saturatus*
Stub-tailed Spadebill, *Platyrinchus cancrominus*
Yellow-throated Spadebill, *Platyrinchus flavigularis*
Golden-crowned Spadebill, *Platyrinchus coronatus*
White-throated Spadebill, *Platyrinchus mystaceus*
White-crested Spadebill, *Platyrinchus platyrhynchos*
Russet-winged Spadebill, *Platyrinchus leucoryphus*
- Royal Flycatcher, *Onychorhynchus coronatus*
- Ornate Flycatcher, *Myiotriccus ornatus*
- Genus *Myiophobus*
 - Flavescent Flycatcher, *Myiophobus flavicans*
Orange-crested Flycatcher, *Myiophobus phoenicomitra*
Roraiman Flycatcher, *Myiophobus roraimae*
Unadorned Flycatcher, *Myiophobus inornatus*
Handsome Flycatcher, *Myiophobus pulcher*
Orange-banded Flycatcher, *Myiophobus lintoni*
Ochraceous-breasted Flycatcher, *Myiophobus ochraceiventris*
Bran-colored Flycatcher, *Myiophobus fasciatus*
Olive-chested Flycatcher, *Myiophobus cryptoxanthus*
- Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terenotriccus erythrurus*
- Genus *Myiobius*
 - Tawny-breasted Flycatcher, *Myiobius villosus*
Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, *Myiobius sulphureipygius*
Whiskered Flycatcher, *Myiobius barbatus*
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, *Myiobius mastacalis*
Black-tailed Flycatcher, *Myiobius atricaudus*
- Cinnamon Tyrant, *Neopipo cinnamomea*
Cinnamon Flycatcher, *Pyrrhomias cinnamomea*

- Cliff Flycatcher, *Hirundinea ferruginea*
- Fuscous Flycatcher, *Cnemotriccus fuscatus*
- Genus [*Lathrotriccus*](#)
 - Euler's Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus euleri*
 - Gray-breasted Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus griseipectus*
- Genus [*Aphanotriccus*](#)
 - Tawny-chested Flycatcher, *Aphanotriccus capitalis*
 - Black-billed Flycatcher, *Aphanotriccus audax*
- Genus *Xenotriccus*
 - Belted Flycatcher, *Xenotriccus callizonus*
 - Pileated Flycatcher, *Xenotriccus mexicanus*
- Genus *Mitrephanes*
 - Tufted Flycatcher, *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*
 - Olive Flycatcher, *Mitrephanes olivaceus*
- Genus *Contopus*, [*pewees*](#)
 - Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus cooperi*
 - Greater Pewee, *Contopus pertinax*
 - Dark Pewee, *Contopus lugubris*
 - Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*
 - Ochraceous Pewee, *Contopus ochraceus*
 - Western Wood-Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*
 - Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*
 - Tropical Pewee, *Contopus cinereus*
 - Blackish Pewee, *Contopus nigrescens*
 - Cuban Pewee, *Contopus caribaeus*
 - Jamaican Pewee, *Contopus pallidus*
 - Hispaniolan Pewee, *Contopus hispaniolensis*
 - Lesser Antillean Pewee, *Contopus latirostris*
 - White-throated Pewee, *Contopus albogularis*
- Genus [*Empidonax*](#)
 - Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*
 - Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*
 - Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*
 - Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*
 - White-throated Flycatcher, *Empidonax albigularis*
 - Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*
 - Hammond's Flycatcher, *Empidonax hammondii*
 - Gray Flycatcher, *Empidonax wrightii*
 - Dusky Flycatcher, *Empidonax oberholseri*
 - Pine Flycatcher, *Empidonax affinis*
 - Pacific-slope Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*
 - Cordilleran Flycatcher, *Empidonax occidentalis*
 - Yellowish Flycatcher, *Empidonax flavescens*

- Buff-breasted Flycatcher, *Empidonax fulvifrons*
 - Black-capped Flycatcher, *Empidonax atriceps*
- Genus *Sayornis*, [phoebes](#)
 - Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*
 - Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*
 - Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*
- Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
- Genus *Silvicultrix*
 - Jelski's Chat-tyrant, *Silvicultrix jelskii*
 - Yellow-bellied Chat-tyrant, *Silvicultrix diadema*
 - Golden-browed Chat-tyrant, *Silvicultrix pulchella*
- Genus *Ochthoeca*
 - Crowned Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca frontalis*
 - Peruvian Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca spodionota*
 - Slaty-backed Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*
 - Maroon-chested Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca thoracica*
 - Piura Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca piurae*
 - D'Orbigny's Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca oenanthoides*
 - Rufous-breasted Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca rufipectoralis*
 - Brown-backed Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca fumicolor*
 - White-browed Chat-tyrant, *Ochthoeca leucophrys*
- Tumbes Tyrant, *Tumbezia salvini*
- Patagonian Tyrant, *Colorhamphus parvirostris*
- Drab Water Tyrant, *Ochthornis littoralis*
- Red-rumped Bush Tyrant, *Cnemarchus erythropygius*
- Genus *Myiotheretes*
 - Streak-throated Bush Tyrant, *Myiotheretes striaticollis*
 - Santa Marta Bush Tyrant, *Myiotheretes pernix*
 - Smoky Bush Tyrant, *Myiotheretes fumigatus*
 - Rufous-bellied Bush Tyrant, *Myiotheretes fusciorufus*
- Genus *Xolmis*
 - Fire-eyed Diucon, *Xolmis pyrope*
 - Gray Monjita, *Xolmis cinerea*
 - Black-crowned Monjita, *Xolmis coronata*
 - White-rumped Monjita, *Xolmis velata*
 - White Monjita, *Xolmis irupero*
 - Rusty-backed Monjita, *Xolmis rubetra*
 - Salinas Monjita, *Xolmis salinarum*
- Black-and-white Monjita, *Heteroxolmis dominicana*
- Chocolate-vented Tyrant, *Neoxolmis rufiventris*
- Genus *Agriornis*
 - Black-billed Shrike-tyrant, *Agriornis montana*
 - White-tailed Shrike-tyrant, *Agriornis andicola*
 - Great Shrike-tyrant, *Agriornis livida*

- Gray-bellied Shrike-tyrant, *Agriornis microptera*
- Lesser Shrike-tyrant, *Agriornis murina*
- Rufous-webbed Tyrant, *Polioptila rufipennis*
- Genus *Muscisaxicola*
 - Spot-billed Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*
 - Little Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola fluviatilis*
 - Dark-faced Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola macloviana*
 - Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola capistrata*
 - Rufous-naped Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola rufivertex*
 - Puna Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola juninensis*
 - White-browed Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola albilora*
 - Plain-capped Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola alpina*
 - Cinereous Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola cinerea*
 - White-fronted Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola albifrons*
 - Ochre-naped Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*
 - Black-fronted Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola frontalis*
 - Short-tailed Field Tyrant, *Muscigralla brevicauda*
- Genus *Lessonia*
 - Andean Negrito, *Lessonia oreas*
 - Austral Negrito, *Lessonia rufa*
- Genus *Knipolegus*
 - Cinereous Tyrant, *Knipolegus striaticeps*
 - Hudson's Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus hudsoni*
 - Amazonian Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus poecilocercus*
 - Andean Tyrant, *Knipolegus signatus*
 - Blue-billed Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus cyanirostris*
 - Rufous-tailed Tyrant, *Knipolegus poecilurus*
 - Riverside Tyrant, *Knipolegus orenocensis*
 - White-winged Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus aterrimus*
 - Caatinga Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus franciscanus*
 - Velvety Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus nigerrimus*
 - Crested Black Tyrant, *Knipolegus lophotes*
- Spectacled Tyrant, *Hymenops perspicillatus*
- Genus *Fluvicola*
 - Pied Water Tyrant, *Fluvicola pica*
 - Black-backed Water Tyrant, *Fluvicola albiventer*
 - Masked Water Tyrant, *Fluvicola nengeta*
- White-headed Marsh Tyrant, *Arundinicola leucocephala*
- Genus *Alectrurus*
 - Cock-tailed Tyrant, *Alectrurus tricolor*
 - Strange-tailed Tyrant, *Alectrurus risora*
- Streamer-tailed Tyrant, *Gubernetes yetapa*
- Yellow-browed Tyrant, *Satrapa icterophrys*
- Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*

- Cattle Tyrant, *Machetornis rixosus*
- Shear-tailed Gray Tyrant, *Muscipipra vetula*
- Genus *Attila*
 - Rufous-tailed Attila, *Attila phoenicurus*
 - Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*
 - Ochraceous Attila, *Attila torridus*
 - Citron-bellied Attila, *Attila citriniventris*
 - Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*
 - Dull-capped Attila, *Attila bolivianus*
 - Gray-hooded Attila, *Attila rufus*
- Genus *Casiornis*
 - Rufous Casiornis, *Casiornis rufa*
 - Ash-throated Casiornis, *Casiornis fusca*
- *Sirystes*, *Sirystes sibilator*
- Genus *Rhytipterna*
 - Rufous Mourner, *Rhytipterna holerythra*
 - Grayish Mourner, *Rhytipterna simplex*
 - Pale-bellied Mourner, *Rhytipterna immunda*
- Genus *Myiarchus*
 - Rufous Flycatcher, *Myiarchus semirufus*
 - Yucatan Flycatcher, *Myiarchus yucatanensis*
 - Sad Flycatcher, *Myiarchus barbirostris*
 - Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
 - Swainson's Flycatcher, *Myiarchus swainsoni*
 - Venezuelan Flycatcher, *Myiarchus venezuelensis*
 - Panama Flycatcher, *Myiarchus panamensis*
 - Short-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus ferox*
 - Pale-edged Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cephalotes*
 - Sooty-crowned Flycatcher, *Myiarchus phaeocephalus*
 - Apical Flycatcher, *Myiarchus apicalis*
 - Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
 - Nutting's Flycatcher, *Myiarchus nuttingi*
 - Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*
 - Brown-crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*
 - Grenada Flycatcher, *Myiarchus nugator*
 - Galapagos Flycatcher, *Myiarchus magnirostris*
 - Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, *Myiarchus validus*
 - La Sagra's Flycatcher, *Myiarchus sagrae*
 - Stolid Flycatcher, *Myiarchus stolidus*
 - Lesser Antillean Flycatcher, *Myiarchus oberi*
 - Puerto Rican Flycatcher, *Myiarchus antillarum*
- Flammulated Flycatcher, *Deltarhynchus flammulatus*
- Lesser Kiskadee, *Philohydor lictor*

- Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*
- Boat-billed Flycatcher, *Megarynchus pitangua*
- Genus *Myiozetetes*
 - Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*
 - Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*
 - Grey-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*
 - Dusky-chested Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes luteiventris*
- Genus *Conopias*
 - White-ringed Flycatcher, *Conopias albobittata*
 - Three-striped Flycatcher, *Conopias trivirgata*
 - Yellow-throated Flycatcher, *Conopias parva*
 - Lemon-browed Flycatcher, *Conopias cinchoneti*
- Genus *Myiodynastes*
 - Golden-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes hemichrysus*
 - Golden-crowned Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes chrysocephalus*
 - Baird's Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes bairdii*
 - Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculatus*
 - Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*
- Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*
- White-bearded Flycatcher, *Phelpsia inornata*
- Variegated Flycatcher, *Empidonax varius*
- Crowned Slaty Flycatcher, *Griseotyrannus aurantioatrocristatus*
- Sulphury Flycatcher, *Tyrannopsis sulphurea*
- Genus *Tyrannus*, [kingbirds](#)
 - Snowy-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus niveigularis*
 - White-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus albogularis*
 - Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
 - Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus couchii*
 - Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*
 - Thick-billed Kingbird, *Tyrannus crassirostris*
 - Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*
 - Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*
 - Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis*
 - Loggerhead Kingbird, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*
 - Giant Kingbird, *Tyrannus cubensis*
 - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*
 - Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*
- Genus *Schiffornis*
 - Greater Schiffornis, *Schiffornis major*
 - Thrush-like Schiffornis, *Schiffornis turdinus*
 - Greenish Schiffornis, *Schiffornis virescens*
- White-naped Xenopsaris, *Xenopsaris albinucha*
- Genus *Pachyramphus*, *becards*

- Chestnut-crowned Becard, *Pachyramphus castaneus*
 Green-backed Becard, *Pachyramphus viridis*
 Yellow-cheeked Becard, *Pachyramphus xanthogenys*
 Barred Becard, *Pachyramphus versicolor*
 Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*
 White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*
 Gray-collared Becard, *Pachyramphus major*
 Black-and-white Becard, *Pachyramphus albogriseus*
 Black-capped Becard, *Pachyramphus marginatus*
 Glossy-backed Becard, *Pachyramphus surinamus*
 Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*
 Slaty Becard, *Pachyramphus spodiurus*
 Pink-throated Becard, *Pachyramphus minor*
 Jamaican Becard, *Pachyramphus niger*
 Rose-throated Becard, *Pachyramphus aglaiae*
 One-colored Becard, *Pachyramphus homochrous*
 Crested Becard, *Pachyramphus validus*
- Genus [*Tityra*](#)
 - Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*
 Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*
 Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*

Aphanotriccus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: ***Aphanotriccus*** Ridgway, 1905 species: *A. capitalis*, *A. audax*

Aphanotriccus is a small genus of [passerine birds](#) in the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family. They breed in the Caribbean lowlands and foothills of Central America.

There are just two species

- Tawny-chested Flycatcher or Salvin's Flycatcher , *Aphanotriccus capitalis*
- Black-billed Flycatcher, or Nelson's Flycatcher *Aphanotriccus audax*

Tawny-chested breeds from eastern Nicaragua to northeastern Costa Rica, although all Nicaraguan records are historical specimens collected near Lake Nicaragua or its outflow.

Black-billed Flycatcher occurs in eastern Panama and northwestern Colombia.

These are uncommon inhabitants of mature evergreen forest and tall secondary growth, usually in dense understory vegetation on the woodland edges, along streams or in clearings.

These flycatchers are seen alone or in pairs seeking insects, especially beetles and ants, picked from the underside of foliage in flight.

Logging, conversion to banana plantations and cattle-ranch expansion have resulted in widespread forest clearance and severe fragmentation, particularly in Costa Rica and Panama. These species' small range and intolerance of forest fragmentation suggest that they are declining, although more research is needed.

References

- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica*, ISBN 0-8014-9600-4
- Young and Zook, *Nesting of Four Poorly-Known Bird Species on the Caribbean Slope of Costa Rica*, Wilson Bull., 111(1), 1999, pp. 124-128

Attila

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: **Attila** Lesson, 1830 species: *A. phoenicurus*, *A. cinnamomeus*, *A. torridus*, *A. citriniventris*, *A. spadiceus*, *A. bolivianus*, *A. rufus*

Attila is a genus of tropical [passerine birds](#) in the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family. The species in this genus have large heads and hooked bills.

Species

- Rufous-tailed Attila, *Attila phoenicurus*
Cinnamon Attila, *Attila cinnamomeus*
Ochraceous Attila, *Attila torridus*
Citron-bellied Attila, *Attila citriniventris*
Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*
Dull-capped Attila, *Attila bolivianus*
Gray-hooded Attila, *Attila rufus*

References

- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela*, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Contopus

Pewees

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: Tyrannidae

Genus: **Contopus** Cabanis, 1855 Species: See text.

The genus **Contopus** is a group of small to medium-sized insect-eating [birds](#) in the [Tyrant flycatcher](#) family Tyrannidae.

These birds are commonly known as *peewees*, from the call of one of the more common members of this vocal group. They are generally greyish birds with wing bars that live in wooded areas.

Species

- Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Contopus cooperi*
Greater Pewee, *Contopus pertinax*
Dark Pewee, *Contopus lugubris*
Smoke-colored Pewee, *Contopus fumigatus*
Ochraceous Pewee, *Contopus ochraceus*
Western Wood Pewee, *Contopus sordidulus*
Eastern Wood Pewee, *Contopus virens*
Tropical Pewee, *Contopus cinereus*
Blackish Pewee, *Contopus nigrescens*
Cuban Pewee, *Contopus caribaeus*
Jamaican Pewee, *Contopus pallidus*
Hispaniolan Pewee, *Contopus hispaniolensis*
Lesser Antillean Pewee, *Contopus latirostris*
White-throated Pewee, *Contopus albogularis*

Empidonax

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: **Empidonax** Cabanis 1855 Species: See text.

The genus **Empidonax** is a group of small insect-eating [passerine birds](#) in the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family, the Tyrannidae.

These birds are remarkably similar in [plumage](#): olive on the upper parts with light underparts, eye rings and wing bars. In the nesting season, they may be distinguished on range, habitat and call; in other situations, particularly on [migration](#), it may not be possible to be sure of specific identification.

Empidonax flycatchers often flick their wings and tails rapidly.

Euler's Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus euleri* and Gray-breasted Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus griseipectus* were formerly placed in *Empidonax*, but differ anatomically and biochemically and are now split as the genus *Lathrotriccus*.

Species

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, *Empidonax flaviventris*
Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*
Alder Flycatcher, *Empidonax alnorum*
Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*
White-throated Flycatcher, *Empidonax albigularis*
Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*
Hammond's Flycatcher, *Empidonax hammondii*
Gray Flycatcher, *Empidonax wrightii*
Dusky Flycatcher, *Empidonax oberholseri*
Pine Flycatcher, *Empidonax affinis*
Pacific-slope Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*
Cordilleran Flycatcher, *Empidonax occidentalis*
Yellowish Flycatcher, *Empidonax flavescens*
Buff-breasted Flycatcher, *Empidonax fulvifrons*
Black-capped Flycatcher, *Empidonax atriceps*

Lathrotriccus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: ***Lathrotriccus*** Lanyon & Lanyon, 1986 species: *L. euleri*, *L. griseipectus*

Lathrotriccus is a small genus of [passerine birds](#) in the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family. They breed in tropical South America, including, for one species, the islands of Trinidad and formerly also Grenada.

They closely resembles the [Empidonax](#) flycatchers in appearance, and were formerly placed in that genus, but differ anatomically and biochemically.

There are just two species

- Euler's Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus euleri*
- Gray-breasted Flycatcher, *Lathrotriccus griseipectus*

These are birds of fairly open habitats such as open woods and arid scrub. They are inconspicuous birds, tending to keep to undergrowth perches from which they sally forth to catch insects.

References

- *Birds of Venezuela* by Hilty, ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* by ffrench, ISBN

Myiarchus

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: **Myiarchus** Cabanis, 1844 Species: *Myiarchus antillarum*, *Myiarchus crinitus*, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, *Myiarchus venezuelensis*, ...

Myiozetetes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: **Myiozetetes** Sclater, 1859 Species: *M. cayanensis*, *M. granadensis*, *M. similis*, *M. luteiventris*

Myiozetetes is a small genus of [passerine birds](#) in the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family. The four species occur in tropical Central and South America. They are.

- Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*
Grey-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*
Social Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes similis*
Dusky-chested Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes luteiventris*

They breed in cultivation, pasture, and open woodland with some trees, building a large roofed nest from stems and in a bush, tree or on a building. The nest is often constructed near a wasp, bee or ant nest, or the nest of another tyrant flycatcher,. The nest site is often near or over water. The typical clutch is two to four brown or lilac-blotched cream or white eggs, laid between February and June.

The adult *Myiozetetes* flycatchers are 16-18 cm long and weighs 24-30 g. The upperparts are olive-brown, and the wings and tail are brown with only faint rufous fringes. The underparts are yellow and the throat is white. Young birds lack the red-orange crown stripe of the adult, and have chestnut fringes to the wing and tail feathers. The best distinction between the species is the head pattern. Social Flycatcher has strong black-and white head markings, whereas Grey-capped Flycatcher has a grey head with a short weak eyestripe

Myiozetetes flycatchers sally out from an open perch in a tree to catch insects in flight. They sometimes hover to take small berries.

References

- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela* ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Sayornis

Phoebes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrranidae](#)

Genus: ***Sayornis*** Bonaparte, 1854 Species: See text.

The genus ***Sayornis*** is a small group of medium-sized insect-eating [birds](#) in the [Tyrant flycatcher](#) family *Tyrranidae* native to North and South America.

They prefer semi-open or open areas. These birds wait on a perch and then catch insects in flight, also sometimes picking them up from the ground. Their nest is an open cup sometimes placed on man-made structures.

They often slowly lower and raise their tails while perched.

The full list of species is:

- Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*
Black Phoebe, *Sayornis nigricans*
Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya*

Tityra

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: **Tityra** Vieillot, 1816 species: *T. cayana*, *T. semifasciata*, *T. inquisitor*

The **Tityras** are [passerine birds](#) in the genus **Tityra** of the [tyrant flycatcher](#) family. They breed from southern Mexico throughout tropical Central and South America, including Trinidad.

The tityras were formerly placed in the [cotinga](#) family, but are now usually treated as [tyrant flycatchers](#), although Stiles and Skutch separate the tityras as part of a separate family, the Tityridae. The Black-crowned Tityra is sometimes placed in a separate genus *Erator*.

There are just three species of tityra.

- Black-tailed Tityra, *Tityra cayana*
- Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*
- Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*

These are medium-sized birds. Their plumage is quite unlike that of other tyrant flycatchers. The adult males are greyish-white above and white below, except for the wings and tail which are black. The males of all three species also have black head markings. The females are similar, but darker grey above, with brown head markings.

These species are found in forest clearings and edges, second growth and other semi-open habitats such as plantation shade trees. The eggs are laid in a bed of dry leaves in a tree hole, often an old woodpecker nest. The female incubates alone, but both parents feed the chicks. Fledging takes up to 25 days.

Tityras are seen alone or in pairs, perched conspicuously as they feed on medium-sized fruits, large insects and sometimes small lizards. They have unmusical nasal grunting or buzzing calls.

References

- Hilty, *Birds of Venezuela* ISBN 0-7136-6418-5
- French, *Birds of Trinidad and Tobago* ISBN 0-7136-6759-1
- Stiles and Skutch, *A guide to the birds of Costa Rica* ISBN 0-0814-9600-4

Tyrannus

Kingbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Tyrannidae](#)

Genus: ***Tyrannus*** Lacepede, 1799 Species: See text.

The genus ***Tyrannus*** is a group of large insect-eating [birds](#) in the [Tyrant flycatcher](#) family Tyrannidae. The majority are named as **Kingbirds**.

They prefer semi-open or open areas. These birds wait on an exposed perch and then catch insects in flight. They have long pointed wings and large broad bills.

These birds tend to defend their breeding territories aggressively, often chasing away much larger birds. The genus name means "tyrant".

Species

- Snowy-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus niveigularis*
White-throated Kingbird, *Tyrannus albogularis*
Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus couchii*
Cassin's Kingbird, *Tyrannus vociferans*
Thick-billed Kingbird, *Tyrannus crassirostris*
Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*
Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*
Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis*
Loggerhead Kingbird, *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*
Giant Kingbird, *Tyrannus cubensis*
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*
Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana*

Parvorders of birds

Superfamilies of birds

Anatoidea

Ducks

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: **Anatidae** Vigors, 1825 Subfamilies: Dendrocygninae, Thalassorninae, [Anserinae](#), Stictonettinae, Plectropterinae, Tadorninae, [Anatinae](#), [Merginae](#), Oxyurinae

Anatidae is the biological family that includes the [ducks](#) and most duck-like waterfowl, such as [geese](#) and [swan](#). The Magpie-goose is no longer considered to be part of the Anatidae, but is placed in its own family Anseranatidae. These are [birds](#) that are modified for swimming, floating on the water surface, and in some cases diving in at least shallow water.

They have webbed feet and bills which are flattened to a greater or lesser extent. Their feathers are excellent at shedding water due to special oils. Anatidae are remarkable for being one of the few families of birds that possess a penis; they are adapted for copulation on the water only and care must be taken when breeding ducks or geese that a pool is provided for this purpose as attempts to copulate on dry land will often lead to injury of the drake's penis. Duck, eider and goose feathers and down have long been popular for bedspreads, pillows, sleeping bags and coats. The members of this family also have long been used for food.

While the status of the Anatidae as a family is straightforward, and there is little debate about which species properly belong to it, the relationships of the different tribes and subfamilies within it are poorly understood. The listing in the box at right should be regarded simply one of several possible ways of organising the many species within the Anatidae.

- [1 Classification](#)
 - [1.1 Dendrocygninae: whistling ducks](#)
 - [1.2 Thalassorninae: White-backed Duck](#)
 - [1.3 Anserinae: swans and geese](#)
 - [1.4 Stictonettinae: Freckled Duck](#)
 - [1.5 Plectropterinae: Spur-winged Goose](#)
 - [1.6 Tadorninae: shelducks, sheldgeese and steamer-ducks](#)
 - [1.7 Anatinae: dabbling and diving ducks and moa-nalos](#)
 - [1.8 Merginae: eiders, scoters, sawbills and other sea-ducks](#)
 - [1.9 Oxyurinae: stiff-tail ducks](#)
- [2 References](#)

Classification

Previously divided into six subfamilies, recent anatomical studies by Livezey (1986; A phylogenetic analysis of recent Anseriform genera, *Auk* 103: 737-754) showed that the

Anatidae are better treated in nine subfamilies. This classification has been followed by Madge & Burn:

Dendrocygninae: whistling ducks

- One pantropical genus, of distinctive long-legged goose-like birds:
 - *Dendrocygna* (whistling ducks, 9 species)

Thalassorninae: White-backed Duck

- One genus in Africa, most closely related to the subfamily Dendrocygninae, though also showing convergent similarities to the subfamily Oxyurinae:
 - *Thalassornis* (White-backed Duck, 1 species)

Anserinae: swans and geese

- Five to seven extant genera with 27 living species, mainly cool temperate Northern Hemisphere but also some Southern Hemisphere species, with the [swans](#) in two genera (three genera in some treatments), and the [geese](#) in four genera (three genera in some treatments):
 - Coscoroba (Coscoroba Swan, 1 species)
 - Cygnus (swans, 7 species, 4 sometimes separated in Olor)
 - Sarcidiornis (Mascarene Swan, extinct[1]).
 - Anser (grey geese, 7 species)
 - [Chen](#) ([white geese](#), 3 species)
 - *Branta* ([black geese](#), 8 living species)
 - Cereopsis (Cape Barren Goose, 1 species, sometimes transferred to Tadorninae)
 - Cnemiornis (New Zealand Geese, extinct)

Stictonettinae: Freckled Duck

- One genus in Australia, formerly included in the Oxyurinae, but with anatomy suggesting a distinct ancient lineage perhaps closest to the Anserinae:
 - *Stictonetta* (Freckled Duck, 1 species)

Plectropterinae: Spur-winged Goose

- One genus in Africa, formerly included in the 'perching ducks', but closer to the Tadorninae:
 - *Plectropterus* (Spur-winged Goose, 1 species)

Tadorninae: shelducks, sheldgeese and steamer-ducks

- This group of larger, often semi-terrestrial waterfowl can be seen as intermediate between Anserinae and Anatinae. Recent revision has resulted in the inclusion of 10 extant genera with 23 living species (one probably extinct) in this subfamily, mostly from the Southern Hemisphere but a few in the Northern Hemisphere:
 - Sarkidiornis (Comb Duck, 1 species)
 - Pachyanas (Chatham Island Duck, extinct)
 - Tadorna (shelducks, 7 species, one probably extinct)
 - Malacorhynchus (Pink-eared Ducks, 1 living species)
 - Centrornis (Madagascar Sheldgoose, extinct)
 - Alopochen (Egyptian Goose and Mascarene Shelducks, 1 living species)
 - Neochen (Orinoco Goose, 1 species)
 - Chloephaga (sheldgeese, 5 species)
 - Cyanochen (Blue-winged Goose, 1 species)
 - Hymenolaimus (Blue Duck, 1 species)
 - Merganetta (Torrent Duck, 1 species)
 - Tachyeres (steamer ducks, 4 species)

Anatinae: dabbling and diving ducks and moa-nalos

- The dabbling duck group, of worldwide distribution, were previously restricted to just one or two genera, but has now been extended to include 8 extant genera and about 55 living species, including several genera formerly known as the "perching ducks":
 - Pteronetta (Hartlaub's Duck, 1 species)
 - Cairina (Muscovy Duck and White-winged Wood Duck, 2 species)
 - Aix (Mandarin Duck and Wood Duck, 2 species)
 - Nettapus (pygmy geese, 3 species)
 - Anas (wigeons, gadwalls, teals, pintails, mallards, shovelers, etc, 40-45 living species)
 - Callonetta (Ringed Teal, 1 species)
 - Chenonetta (Maned Duck, 1 living species)
 - Amazonetta (Brazilian Duck, 1 species)

- The moa-nalos, of which 4 species in 3 genera are known to date, are a peculiar group of flightless, extinct Anatidae from the Hawaiian Islands. Gigantic in size and with massive bills, they were believed to be geese, but have been shown to be in reality very closely related to the genus *Anas*. They evolved to fill the ecological niche of turtles, ungulates and other megaherbivores.
 - Chelychelynechen (Turtle-jawed Moa-nalo, extinct)
 - Thambetochen (Large-billed Moa-nalos, 2 species, extinct)
 - Ptaiochen (Small-billed Moa-nalo, extinct)
- The 16 species of diving ducks, of worldwide distribution, in 3 genera; *Marmaronetta* was formerly included with the dabbling ducks but is now treated here, and phylogenetic analysis of the probably extinct Pink-headed Duck of India, previously treated separately in *Rhodonessa*, has shown that it is possibly better placed in *Netta*:
 - *Marmaronetta* (Marbled Duck, 1 species)
 - Netta* (Red-crested Pochard and allies, 4 species, one probably extinct)
 - Aythya* (pochards, scaups, etc, 12 species, one probably extinct)

Merginae: eiders, scoters, sawbills and other sea-ducks

- There are 10 extant genera and 20 living species (one or two extinct); most of this group occur in the Northern Hemisphere, but two *Mergus* in the Southern Hemisphere:
 - Chendytes (Diving-geese, extinct)
 - Polysticta (Steller's Eider, 1 species)
 - Somateria (eiders, 3 species)
 - Histrionicus (Harlequin Duck, 1 species)
 - Camptorhynchus (Labrador Duck, extinct)
 - Melanitta (scoters, 3 species)
 - Clangula (Long-tailed Duck, 1 species)
 - Bucephala (goldeneyes, 3 species)
 - Mergellus (Smew, 1 species)
 - Lophodytes (Hooded Merganser, 1 species)
 - Mergus (mergansers, 5 species, one extinct).

Oxyurinae: stiff-tail ducks

- A small group of 4 genera, 3 of them monotypic, with 8 living species:
 - Oxyura (stiff-tailed ducks, 5 living species)
 - Nomonyx (Masked Duck, 1 living species)
 - Biziura (Musk Ducks, 1 living species)
 - Heteronetta (Black-headed Duck, 1 species)

References

- Madge and Burn, *Wildfowl* 1998 ISBN 0-7470-2201-1

Bird families

Bird families - A

Accipitridae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: **Accipitridae** Vieillot, 1816 Subfamilies: Elaninae , Perninae , Milvinae , Accipitrinae , [Buteoninae](#) , Aegypiinae , Circinae , Circaetinae

The **Accipitridae** is one of the two major families within the order Falconiformes (the diurnal [birds of prey](#)). Many well-known birds like [hawks](#), [eagles](#), [kites](#), [harriers](#) and Old World vultures are included in this group. Most, but not all, other raptors belong to the Falconidae, or falcon family, which is often considered a distinct order, in which case the present group would belong to the order Accipitriformes.)

The [Osprey](#) is usually placed in a separate family (Pandionidae), as is the [Secretary bird](#) (Sagittariidae), and the New World vultures are also usually now regarded as a separate family or order. Karyotype data (Amaral & Jorge, 2003) indicated that the accipitrids hitherto analyzed are indeed a distinct monophyletic group, but whether this group should be considered a family of the Falconiformes or an order on its own is a matter of taste.

Species

- **Subfamily Elaninae**
 - Black-winged Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*
 - Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus axillaris*
 - White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*
 - Letter-winged Kite, *Elanus scriptus*
 - Scissor-tailed Kite, *Chelictinia riocourii*
 - Bat Hawk, *Machaerhamphus alcinus*
 - Pearl Kite, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*
 - Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*
- **Subfamily Perninae**
 - African Baza, *Aviceda cuculoides*
 - Madagascar Baza, *Aviceda madagascariensis*
 - Jerdon's Baza, *Aviceda jerdoni*
 - Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata*
 - Black Baza, *Aviceda leuphotes*
 - Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, *Hernicopernis longicauda*
 - Black Honey Buzzard, *Hernicopernis infuscatus*
 - European Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*
 - Oriental Honey Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
 - Barred Honey-buzzard, *Pernis celebensis*
 - Grey-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*
 - White-collared Kite, *Leptodon forbesi*
 - Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

• **Subfamily Milvinae**

- Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*
- Rufous-thighed Kite, *Harpagus diodon*
- Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*
- Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*
- Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
- Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus hamatus*
- Whistling Kite, *Haliastur sphenurus*
- Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus*
- Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*
- Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
- Black-eared Kite, *Milvus lineatus*
- Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura*
- Black-breasted Buzzard, *Hamirostra melanosternon*

• **Subfamily Accipitrinae**

- Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*
- Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus*
- Grey-bellied Goshawk, *Accipiter poliogaster*
- Crested Goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus*
- Sulawesi Goshawk, *Accipiter griseiceps*
- Red-chested Goshawk, *Accipiter toussenelii*
- African Goshawk, *Accipiter tachiro*
- Chinese Goshawk, *Accipiter soloensis*
- Frances' Goshawk, *Accipiter francesii*
- Spot-tailed Goshawk, *Accipiter trinotatus*
- Grey Goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
- Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*
- Black-mantled Goshawk, *Accipiter melanochlamys*
- Pied Goshawk, *Accipiter albogularis*
- Fiji Goshawk, *Accipiter rufitorques*
- White-bellied Goshawk, *Accipiter haplochrous*
- Moluccan Goshawk, *Accipiter henicogrammus*
- Grey-headed Goshawk, *Accipiter poliocephalus*
- New Britain Goshawk, *Accipiter princeps*
- Black Goshawk, *Accipiter melanoleucus*
- Henst's Goshawk, *Accipiter henstii*
- Meyer's Goshawk, *Accipiter meyerianus*
- Chestnut-flanked Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter castanilius*
- Nicobar Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter butleri*
- Levant Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter brevipes*
- Slaty-mantled Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter luteoschistaceus*
- Imitator Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter imitator*
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter erythropus*
- Little Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter minullus*

- Japanese Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter gularis*
- Small Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nanus*
- Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter erythrauchen*
- Collared Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter cirrocephalus*
- New Britain Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter brachyurus*
- Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter rhodogaster*
- Madagascar Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter madagascariensis*
- Ovampo Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter ovampensis*
- Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter rufiventris*
- Shikra, *Accipiter badius*
- Tiny Hawk, *Accipiter superciliosus*
- Semicollared Hawk, *Accipiter collaris*
- Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*
- White-breasted Hawk, *Accipiter chionogaster*
- Plain-breasted Hawk, *Accipiter ventralis*
- Rufous-thighed Hawk, *Accipiter erythronemius*
- Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*
- Gundlach's Hawk, *Accipiter gundlachi*
- Bicoloured Hawk, *Accipiter bicolor*
- Besra, *Accipiter virgatus*
- Gabar Goshawk, *Micronisus gabar*
- Dark Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax metabates*
- Eastern Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax poliopterus*
- Pale Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax canorus*
- Long-tailed Hawk, *Urotriorchis macrourus*
- Red Goshawk, *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*
- Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk, *Erythrotriorchis buergersi*
- Doria's Goshawk, *Megatriorchis doriae*
- **Subfamily Buteoninae**
 - Black-chested Buzzard-eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
 - Common Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*
 - Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*
 - Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
 - Rough-legged Buzzard, *Buteo lagopus*
 - Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*
 - Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*
 - Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*
 - Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*
 - Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*
 - Ridgway's Hawk, *Buteo ridgwayi*
 - White-rumped Hawk, *Buteo leucorrhous*
 - Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*
 - White-throated Hawk, *Buteo albigula*
 - White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus*

Galápagos Hawk, *Buteo galapagoensis*
 Red-backed Hawk, *Buteo polyosoma*
 Puna Hawk, *Buteo poecilochrous*
 Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*
 Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus*
 Hawaiian Hawk, *Buteo solitarius*
 Rufous-tailed Hawk, *Buteo ventralis*
 Mountain Buzzard, *Buteo oreophilus*
 Madagascar Buzzard, *Buteo brachypterus*
 Upland Buzzard, *Buteo hemilasius*
 Red-necked Buzzard, *Buteo auguralis*
 Augur Buzzard, *Buteo augur*
 Archer's Buzzard, *Buteo archeri*
 Jackal Buzzard, *Buteo rufofuscus*
 Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*
 Common Black Hawk, *Buteogallus anthracinus*
 Mangrove Black Hawk, *Buteogallus subtilis*
 Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*
 Rufous Crab Hawk, *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*
 Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis*
 Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*
 Plumbeous Hawk, *Leucopternis plumbea*
 Slate-coloured Hawk, *Leucopternis schistacea*
 Barred Hawk, *Leucopternis princeps*
 Black-faced Hawk, *Leucopternis melanops*
 White-browed Hawk, *Leucopternis kuhli*
 White-necked Hawk, *Leucopternis lacernulata*
 Semiplumbeous Hawk, *Leucopternis semiplumbea*
 White Hawk, *Leucopternis albicollis*
 Grey-backed Hawk, *Leucopternis occidentalis*
 Mantled Hawk, *Leucopternis polionota*
 Lizard Buzzard, *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
 Grasshopper Buzzard, *Butastur rufipennis*
 White-eyed Buzzard, *Butastur teesa*
 Rufous-winged Buzzard, *Butastur liventer*
 Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus*
 Crowned Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*
 Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*
 Crested Eagle, *Morphnus guianensis*
 Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*
 Philippine Eagle, *Pitheophaga jefferyi*
 New Guinea Eagle, *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
 Black-and-chestnut Eagle, *Oroaetus isidori*
 Black-and-white Hawk Eagle, *Spizastur melanoleucus*
 Cassin's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus africanus*

Changeable Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
 Mountain Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis*
 Blyth's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus alboniger*
 Javan Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus bartelsi*
 Sulawesi Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus lanceolatus*
 Philippine Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus philippensis*
 Wallace's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus nanus*
 Black Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*
 Ornate Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus ornatus*
 Long-crested Eagle, *Lophaetus occipitalis* - possibly belongs into *Ictinaetus*
 Crowned Hawk Eagle, *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
 Martial Eagle, *Polemaetus bellicosus*
 Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides*
 Ayres' Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus ayresii*
 Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus kienerii*
 Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciata* - formerly *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
 Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennata* - formerly *Hieraaetus pennatus*
 African Hawk-eagle, *Aquila spilogastra* - formerly *Hieraaetus spilogaster*
 Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
 Eastern Imperial Eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
 Spanish Imperial Eagle, *Aquila adalberti*
 Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis*
 Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*
 Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 Verreaux's Eagle, *Aquila verreauxii*
 Gurney's Eagle, *Aquila gurneyi*
 Wahlberg's Eagle, *Aquila wahlbergi*
 Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*
 Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis*
 White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*
 Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 Steller's Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*
 African Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer*
 White-bellied Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
 Sanford's Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus sanfordi*
 Madagascar Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vociferoides*
 Pallas' Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
 Lesser Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga humilis*
 Grey-headed Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
 • **Subfamily Aegypiinae: old world vultures**

- Red-headed Vulture, *Sarcogyps calvus*
 Eurasian Black Vulture or Monk Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*
 Lappet-faced Vulture, *Torgos tracheliotus*
 White-headed Vulture, *Trigonoceps occipitalis*
 Common Griffon Vulture, *Gyps fulvus*
 Rüppell's Vulture or Rüppell's Griffon, *Gyps rueppellii*
 Himalayan Griffon Vulture, *Gyps himalayensis*
 Cape Griffon, *Gyps coprotheres*
 White-backed Vulture, *Gyps africanus*
 Indian White-rumped Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*
 Long-billed Vulture, *Gyps indicus*
 Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*
 Hooded Vulture, *Necrosyrtes monachus*
 Palm Nut Vulture, *Gypohierax angolensis*
 Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture, *Gypaetus barbatus*
 - **Subfamily Circinae: harriers**
- Montagu's Harrier, *Circus pygargus*
 Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
 Western Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*
 Eastern Marsh Harrier, *Circus spilonotus*
 African Marsh Harrier, *Circus ranivorus*
 Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*
 Madagascar Marsh Harrier, *Circus maillardi*
 Long-winged Harrier, *Circus buffoni*
 Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*
 Black Harrier, *Circus maurus*
 Cinereous Harrier, *Circus cinereus*
 Pallid Harrier, *Circus macrourus*
 Pied Harrier, *Circus melanoleucos*
 Madagascar Harrier-hawk, *Polyboroides radiatus*
 African Harrier-hawk, *Polyboroides typus*
 Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*
 - **Subfamily Circaetinae: snake-eagles**
- Bateleur, *Terathopius ecaudatus*
 Short-toed Eagle, *Circaetus gallicus*
 Black-chested Snake-eagle, *Circaetus pectoralis*
 Brown Snake-eagle, *Circaetus cinereus*
 Fasciated Snake-eagle, *Circaetus fasciolatus*
 Banded Snake-eagle, *Circaetus cinerascens*
 Crested Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis cheela*
 Nicobar Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis minimus*
 Mountain Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
 Sulawesi Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis rufipectus*
 Philippine Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis holospilus*

Andaman Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis elgini*

Madagascar Serpent-eagle, *Eutriorchis astur*

See also [list of birds](#).

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Aegothelidae

Owlet-nightjar

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: ***Aegothelidae***

Genus: ***Aegotheles*** Vigors and Horsfield, 1827

Owlet-nightjars are small nocturnal [birds](#) related to the [nightjars](#) and frogmouths. Most are native to New Guinea, but some species extend to Australia, the Moluccas, and New Caledonia.

Owlet-nightjars are insectivores which hunt mostly in the air but sometimes on the ground; their soft plumage is a cryptic mixture of browns and paler shades, they have fairly small, weak feet (but larger and stronger than those of a frogmouth or a nightjar), a tiny bill that opens extraordinarily wide, surrounded by prominent whiskers. The wings are short, with 10 primaries and about 11 secondaries; the tail long and rounded.

Systematics

The comprehensive 2003 study by Dumbacher *et al.* analyzing mtDNA sequences Cytochrome b and ATPase subunit 8 suggests that 11 species of owlet-nightjar should be recognized, plus one that went extinct early in the second millennium AD.

The relationship between the owlet-nightjars and other groups within the Caprimulgiformes has long been controversial and obscure and remains so today: in the 19th century they were regarded as a subfamily of the frogmouths, and they are still generally considered to be related to the frogmouths and/or the [nightjars](#) but there have also been recent suggestions (Mayr, 2002) that they are not so closely related to either as previously thought, and that the owlet-nightjars share a common ancestor with the Apodiformes.

In form and habits, however, they are very similar to both caprimulgiform group - or, at first glance, to small [owls](#) with huge eyes. Interestingly, the ancestors of the swifts and [hummingbirds](#), two groups of birds which are morphologically very specialized, seem to have looked very similar to a small owlet-nightjar, possessing strong legs and a wide gape, while the legs and feet are very reduced in today's swifts and hummingbirds, and the bill is narrow in the latter.

They were thought to have originated in Australasia or Southeast Asia, but the recent discovery of owlet-nightjar fossils in France dating back to the Oligocene suggests otherwise.

- Genus *Quipollornis* ([fossil](#); Early/Middle Miocene of New South Wales)
- Genus *Aegotheles*
 - New Zealand Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles novaezealandiae* (prehistoric; formerly *Megaegotheles*)
 - New Caledonian Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles savesi*
 - Feline Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles insignis*
 - Starry or Spangled Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles tatei*

Moluccan or Long-whiskered Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles crinifrons*
Australian Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles cristatus*
Barred Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles bennettii*
Upland Barred Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles affinis* (formerly *A. bennettii*
affinis)
Salvadori's Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles salvadorii* (formerly *A. albertisi*
salvadorii)
Wallace's Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles wallacii*
Archbold's Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles archboldi*
Mountain Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles albertisi*

References

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- **Mayr**, Gerald (2002): Osteological evidence for paraphyly of the avian order Caprimulgiformes (nightjars and allies). *Journal für Ornithologie* **143**: 82–97. [PDF fulltext](#)

Aepyornithidae

Elephant birds

Conservation status Extinct (16th century)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Superorder: Paleognathae

Order: Struthioniformes

Family: **Aepyornithidae**

Genera *Aepyornis*, *Mullerornis*

Elephant birds are an [extinct](#) family of flightless [birds](#) made up of the genera *Aepyornis* and *Mullerornis*. These large birds, which were native to Madagascar, have been extinct since at least the 16th century. *Aepyornis* was the world's largest bird, believed to have been over three metres (10 feet) tall and weighing more than half a tonne (500 kilograms, or 1,100 pounds), until being dethroned by *Phorusrhacidae* in October 2006. [\[1\]](#) Remains of *Aepyornis* adults and eggs have been found; in some cases the eggs have a circumference of over one metre (three feet). Four species are usually accepted in the genus *Aepyornis* today; *A. hildebrandti*, *A. gracilis*, *A. medius* and *A. maximus* (Brodkorb, 1963), but the validity of some is disputed, with numerous authors treating them all in just one species, *A. maximus*. *Aepyornis* was a [ratite](#), related to the [ostrich](#); it could not fly, and its breast bone had no keel.

The National Geographic Society in Washington holds a specimen of an *Aepyornis* egg which was discovered by Luis Marden in 1967. The specimen is intact and contains an embryonic skeleton of the unborn bird.

Whilst it is often believed that the extinction of the *Aepyornis* was an effect of human actions, a study in 2000, by a team of archaeologists from Sheffield University and Royal Holloway University in the UK, suggests otherwise. Their study in Madagascar aimed to investigate human relationships with this bird. Research reports from Sheffield University stated that there was no evidence for the suggestion that the bird had been hunted to extinction. The archaeologists also believe that the killing of the bird may have been taboo, or "fady," as no evidence was found that it had been killed for food.

The modern Malagasy name for the bird is **Vorompatra**, meaning "marsh bird". They are commonly known as the 'elephant bird', a term that originated from Marco Polo. It has also been suggested, (compare text on the Fra Mauro map of 1467-69) that the legend of the roc may have originated from this bird.

- [1 Elephant Bird Species](#)
- [2 In literature](#)
- [3 References](#)

Elephant Bird Species

- Aepyornis gracilis (Monnier, 1913)
Aepyornis hildebrandti (Burckhardt, 1893)
Aepyornis maximus (Geoffroy-Saint Hilaire, 1851)
Aepyornis medius (Milne-Edwards & Grandidier, 1866)
Mullerornis betsilei (Milne-Edwards & Grandidier, 1894)
Mullerornis agilis (Milne-Edwards & Grandidier, 1894)
Mullerornis rudis (Milne-Edwards & Grandidier, 1894)

In literature

- H.G. Wells wrote a short story entitled Aepyornis Island about the bird. It was published in The Complete Short Stories of H.G. Wells (ISBN 0-7538-0872-2). [Full text](#).

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Alcedinidae

River Kingfishers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: **Alcedinidae**

Genera: *Alcedo*, *Ceyx*, *Ispidina*

The **river kingfishers** or **Alcedinidae**, are one of the three [families](#) of [bird](#) in the [kingfisher](#) group.

The family is widespread through Africa, through east and south Asia as far as Australia, with one species, the River Kingfisher or European Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) also appearing in Europe and northern Asia. The origin of the family is thought to have been in Asia.

The taxonomy of the family is uncertain at present: it includes 22 to 24 species in 2 to 4 genera. The uncertainty arises from two small African species. The Dwarf Kingfisher is sometimes placed in the monospecific genus *Myioceyx*, and sometimes with the Pygmy Kingfishers in *Ispidina*. However, molecular analysis (Moyle, 2006) suggests that the Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher is most closely related to the Malachite Kingfisher, and that the present arrangement into *Alcedo* and *Ceyx* needs to be reviewed as it seems not to reflect the actual relationships (for example, the Azure Kingfisher is closer to *Ceyx erithacus*).

Species list:

- Blyth's Kingfisher, *Alcedo hercules*
- European Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*
- Half-collared Kingfisher, *Alcedo semitorquata*
- Shining-blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo quadribrachys*
- Blue-eared Kingfisher, *Alcedo meninting*
- Azure Kingfisher, *Alcedo azurea*
- Bismarck Kingfisher, *Alcedo websteri*
- Blue-banded Kingfisher, *Alcedo euryzona*
- Indigo-banded Kingfisher, *Alcedo cyanopecta*
- Silvery Kingfisher, *Alcedo argentata*
- Malachite Kingfisher, *Alcedo cristata*
- Madagascar Malachite Kingfisher, *Alcedo vintsioides*
- White-bellied Kingfisher, *Alcedo leucogaster*
- Small Blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo coerulescens*
- Little Kingfisher, *Alcedo pusilla*
- Príncipe Kingfisher, *Alcedo nais*
- São Tomé Kingfisher, *Alcedo thomensis*
- Black-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx erithacus*
- Philippine Kingfisher, *Ceyx melanurus*
- Sulawesi Kingfisher, *Ceyx fallax*
- Rufous-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx rufidorsa*
- Variable Kingfisher, *Ceyx lepidus*

Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher, *Ispidina madagascariensis*
African Pygmy Kingfisher, *Ispidina picta*
Dwarf Kingfisher, *Ispidina lecontei*

References

- Moyle, Robert G. (2006): A Molecular Phylogeny of Kingfishers (Alcedinidae) With Insights into Early Biogeographic History. *Auk* **123**(2): 487–499. [HTML fulltext \(without images\)](#)

Alcidae

Auks

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Alcidae** Leach, 1820 [Genera](#): *Uria*, , *Alle*, *Alca*, *Pinguinus*, *Synthliboramphus*, *Cepphus*, *Brachyramphus*, *Ptychoramphus*, *Aethia*, *Cerorhinca*, [Fratercula](#)

Extinct Genera, see [Systematics](#)

Auks are [birds](#) of the family **Alcidae** in the order Charadriiformes. They are superficially similar to [penguins](#) due to their black-and-white colours, their upright posture and some of their habits. Nevertheless they are not related to the penguins at all, but considered by some to be a product of moderate convergent evolution.

In contrast to penguins, the modern auks are able to fly (with the exception of the recently extinct Great Auk). They are good swimmers and divers, but their walking appears clumsy. Due to their short wings auks have to flap their wings very fast in order to fly.

Auks live on the open sea and only go ashore for breeding, although some species, like the Common Guillemot, spend a great part of the year defending their nesting spot from others.

Several species have different names in Europe and North America. The guillemots of Europe are murrelets in North America, if they occur in both continents, and the Little Auk becomes the Dovekie.

Some species, such as the *Uria* guillemots, nest in large colonies on cliff edges; others, like the *Cepphus* guillemots, breed in small groups on rocky coasts; and the [puffins](#), auklets and some murrelets nest in burrows. All species except the *Brachyramphus* murrelets are colonial.

- [1 Evolution and distribution](#)
- [2 Feeding and ecology](#)
- [3 Social behaviour and breeding](#)
- [4 Systematics](#)
- [5 References](#)

Evolution and distribution

Traditionally, the auks were believed to be one of the earliest distinct charadriiform lineages due to their characteristic morphology. However, molecular analyses have demonstrated that these peculiarities are the product of strong natural selection instead: as opposed to, for example, plovers (a much older charadriiform lineage), auks radically changed from a wading shorebird to a diving seabird lifestyle. Thus, today, the auks are no longer separated in their own suborder ("Alcae"), but are considered part of the Lari suborder which otherwise contains gulls and similar birds. Judging from molecular data,

their closest living relatives appear to be the skuas, with these two lineages separating about 30 MYA (Paton et al., 2003). This may or may not be correct due to uncertainties of the fossil record (Thomas et al., 2004, and see below). Alternatively, auks may have split off far earlier from the rest of the Lari and undergone strong morphological, but slow molecular evolution, which would require a very high evolutionary pressure, coupled with a long lifespan and slow reproduction.

The earliest unequivocal fossils of auks are from the Miocene (e.g. the genus *Miocepheus*, 15 MYA). Two very fragmentary fossils are often assigned to the Alcidae, although this may not be correct: *Hydrotherikornis* (Late Eocene, some 35 MYA) and *Petralca* (Late Oligocene). Most extant genera are known to exist since the Late Miocene or Early Pliocene (c. 5 MYA). Miocene fossils have been found in both California and Maryland, but the greater diversity of fossils and tribes in the Pacific leads most scientists to conclude that it was there they first evolved, and it is in the Miocene Pacific that the first fossils of extant genera are found. Early movement between the Pacific and the Atlantic probably happened to the south (since there was no northern opening to the Atlantic), later movements across the Arctic Sea (Konyukhov, 2002). The flightless subfamily Mancallinae which was apparently restricted to the Pacific coast of southern North America became extinct in the Early Pleistocene.

The extant auks (subfamily Alcinae) are broken up into 2 main groups: the usually high-billed puffins (tribe Fraterculini) and auklets (tribe Aethiini), and the more slender-billed murrelets (tribe Alcini) and the murrelets and guillemots (tribes Brachyramphini and Cepphini). Molecular studies (Friesen *et al.*, 1996; Moum *et al.*, 2002) confirm this arrangement except that the *Synthliboramphus* murrelets should be split into a distinct tribe, as they appear more closely related to the Alcini.

Compared to other families of seabirds, there are no genera with many species (such as the 47 [Larus gulls](#)). This is probably a product of the rather small geographic range of the family (the most limited of any seabird family), and the periods of glacial advance and retreat that have kept the populations on the move in a narrow band of subarctic ocean.

Today, as in the past, the auks are restricted to cooler northern waters. Their ability to spread further south is restricted as their prey hunting method, pursuit diving, becomes less efficient in warmer waters. The speed at which small fish (which along with krill are the auk's principal food items) can swim doubles as the temperature increases from 5°C to 15°C, with no corresponding increase in speed for the bird. The southernmost auks, in California and Mexico, can survive there because of cold upwellings. The current paucity of auks in the Atlantic (6 species), compared to the Pacific (19-20 species) is considered to be because of extinctions to the Atlantic auks; the fossil record shows there were many more species in the Atlantic during the Pliocene. Auks also tend to be restricted to continental shelf waters and breed on few oceanic islands.

Feeding and ecology

The feeding behaviour of auks is often compared to that of [penguins](#); they are both wing-propelled pursuit divers. In the region where auks live their only seabird competition is with

[cormorants](#) (which dive powered by their strong feet); in areas where the two groups feed on the same prey the auks tend to feed further offshore.

Although not to the extent of penguins, auks have to a large extent sacrificed flight, and also mobility on land, in exchange for swimming; their wings are a compromise between the best possible design for diving and the bare minimum needed for flying. This varies by subfamily, the *Uria* guillemots (including the Razorbill) and murrelets being the most efficient under the water, whereas the puffins and auklets are better adapted for flying and walking. This reflects the type of prey taken; murrelets hunt faster schooling fish, whereas auklets take slower moving krill. Time depth recorders on auks have shown that they can dive as deep as 100 m in the case of *Uria* guillemots, 40 m for the *Cepphus* guillemots and between 30 m for the auklets.

Social behaviour and breeding

The majority of auk species are colonial, nesting in anything between small groups to large thousand strong colonies. As well as possible advantages for defence against predators, there is a benefit in terms of foraging to being colonial; birds that see a neighbour returning with food will set off to forage in the direction it came from. Two species, the Marbled Murrelet and the Kittlitz's Murrelet are solitary nesters, choosing old growth forest and high mountains respectively. In these areas the benefits of colonial nesting would be outweighed by the presence of terrestrial predators (foxes and raccoons, for example) which island and cliff breeding auks do not have to deal with.

Nesting sites in colonies can vary from nothing more than a patch on a cliff face, to natural crevices in the rocks and boulders, to burrows dug by the bird. Many nesting sites are attended nocturnally, in some cases as the adults are likely to fall victim to kleptoparasitism (such as the Rhinoceros Auklet) or because the adults themselves are likely prey items (like the Cassin's Auklet). Mating itself can happen both on the colony, as happens with the Razorbill and Little Auk, or at sea, as is the case for [puffins](#) and auklets.

Systematics

ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES

Suborder Lari

Family Alcidae

- *Hydrotherikornis* ([fossil](#), disputed)
 - **Subfamily Petralcinae** ([fossil](#), disputed)
 - *Petralca*
- **Subfamily [Mancallinae](#)** ([fossil](#))

- *Alcodes*
- *Praemancalla*
- *Mancalla*
 - **Subfamily Alcinae**
- *Miocepphus* ([fossil](#))
- **Tribe Alcini** - Auks and murrelets
 - *Uria*
 - Common Guillemot or Common Murre, *Uria aalge*
 - Brunnich's Guillemot or Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia*
 - Little Auk or Dovekie, *Alle alle*
 - Great Auk, *Pinguinus impennis* ([extinct](#), c.1844)
 - Razorbill, *Alca torda*
- **Tribe Synthliboramphini** - Synthliboramphine murrelets
 - *Synthliboramphus*
 - Xantus's Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus hypoleucus* - sometimes separated in *Endomychura*
 - Craveri's Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus craveri* - sometimes separated in *Endomychura*
 - Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*
 - Japanese Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus wumizusume*
- **Tribe Cepphini** - True guillemots
 - *Cepphus*
 - Black Guillemot or Tystie, *Cepphus grylle*
 - Pigeon Guillemot, *Cepphus columba*
 - Kurile Guillemot, *Cepphus (columba) snowi*
 - Spectacled Guillemot, *Cepphus carbo*
- **Tribe Brachyramphini** - Brachyramphine murrelets
 - *Brachyramphus*
 - Marbled Murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*
 - Long-billed Murrelet *Brachyramphus (marmoratus) perdix*
 - Kittlitz's Murrelet, *Brachyramphus brevirostris*
 - **Tribe Aethiini** - Auklets
 - Cassin's Auklet, *Ptychoramphus aleuticus*
 - *Aethia*
 - Parakeet Auklet, *Aethia psittacula*
 - Crested Auklet, *Aethia cristatella*
 - Whiskered Auklet, *Aethia pygmaea*
 - Least Auklet, *Aethia pusilla*
 - **Tribe Fraterculini** - Puffins
 - Rhinoceros Auklet, *Cerorhinca monocerata*
 - *Fratercula*
 - Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*
 - Horned Puffin, *Fratercula corniculata*
 - Tufted Puffin, *Fratercula cirrhata*

Biodiversity of auks seems to have been markedly higher during the Pliocene (Konyukhov, 2002). See the genus accounts for prehistoric species.

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Anhingidae

Darters

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Anhingidae** Reichenbach, 1849 Genus: **Anhinga** Brisson, 1760 Species: *A. anhinga*, *A. melanogaster*, *A. rufa*, *A. novaehollandiae* For extinct taxa, see article text.

The **darters** or snake-birds are [birds](#) in the family **Anhingidae**. There are four living species, one of which is near-threatened. The darters are frequently referred to as “snake-birds” because of their long thin neck, which gives a snake-like appearance when they swim with their bodies submerged.

The darters are large birds with dimorphic plumage. The males have black and dark brown plumage, an erectile crest on the nape and a larger bill than the female. The females have a much paler plumage especially on the neck and underparts. Both have grey stippling on long scapulars and upper wing coverts. The sharply pointed bill has serrated edges. The darters have completely webbed feet, and their legs are short and set far back on the body. Their plumage is somewhat permeable, like that of [cormorants](#), and they spread their wings to dry after diving. Vocalizations include a clicking or rattling when flying or perching. During breeding adults sometimes have *caw* or hissing calls.

- [1 Range:](#)
- [2 Diet:](#)
- [3 Breeding:](#)
- [4 Systematics and evolution](#)
- [5 References](#)

Range:

Darters are circum-equatorial, tropical or subtropical. They inhabit either fresh or brackish water and can be found in lakes, rivers, marshes, swamps, estuaries, bays, lagoons and mangrove swamps. They tend to gather in flocks sometimes up to about 100 birds but are highly territorial when breeding. Most are sedentary and do not [migrate](#), however the populations at extreme distributions may migrate. The Oriental Darter is near-threatened species [\[1\]](#). Habitat destruction along with other human interferences is among the main reasons for a declining population.

Diet:

Darters feed mainly on fish. They use their sharply pointed bill to spear their prey when they dive; this is how they get the name darter. Their ventral keel is present on the 5-7

vertebrae which allows for muscles to attach so that they are able to project their bill forward like a spear. They also eat amphibians such as frogs and newts, reptiles such as snakes and turtles and invertebrates such as insects, shrimp and mollusks. These birds use their feet to move underwater and quietly stalk and ambush their prey. They then stab the prey, such as a fish, and bring them to the surface where they toss it into the air and catch and swallow it.

Breeding:

The darters are monogamous and pair bond during the breeding season. There are many different types of displays used for mating including male displays to attract the female, greeting displays between the male and female and pair bonding displays between the pairs. Also during breeding, their small gular sac changes from pink or yellow to black and the bare facial skin turns to turquoise from a yellow or yellow-green color. They usually breed in colonies.

Breeding can be seasonal or year round and varies by geographic range. The nests are made of twigs and are built in trees or reeds, often near water. The clutch size is two to six eggs (usually about 4) of a pale green color and the eggs are incubated for 25 to 30 days. The eggs hatch asynchronously. Bi-parental care is given and the young are considered altricial. They reach sexual maturity by about 2 years. These birds generally live to around 9 years.

Systematics and evolution

This family is very closely related to the other families in the order Pelecaniformes. There are four living species recognized, all in the [genus](#) *Anhinga*, although the Old World ones are often lumped together as subspecies of *A. melanogaster*.

- Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga*
Oriental Darter, *Anhinga melanogaster*
African Darter, *Anhinga rufa*
Australian Darter, *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Extinct "species" from Mauritius and Australia known only from bones were described as *Anhinga nana* ("Mauritian Darter") and *Anhinga parva*, but they were misidentifications of bones of the Long-tailed Cormorant and the Little Pied Cormorant, respectively (Miller, 1966; Olson, 1975). In the former case, however, they might belong to an extinct subspecies which would have to be called *Phalacrocorax africanus nanus* (Mauritian Cormorant) - quite ironically, as *nana* means "dwarf" and the remains are *larger* than those of the geographically closest population of the Long-tailed Cormorant.

The darters are known since the Early Miocene. The diversity was highest in the Americas; a number of prehistoric species and [genera](#) known only from [fossils](#) have been described. The aptly named *Macranhinga*, *Meganhinga* and *Giganhinga* represent very large and flightless forms.

- *Meganhinga* (Early Miocene of Chile)
- *Macranhinga* (Late Miocene -? Early Pliocene of SC South America)

- *Giganhinga* (Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene of Uruguay)
- *Anhinga subvolans* (Early Miocene of Thomas Farm, USA)
- *Anhinga* cf. *grandis* (Middle Miocene of Colombia -? Late Pliocene of SC South America)
- *Anhinga fraileyi* (Late Miocene -? Early Pliocene of S South America)
- *Anhinga minuta* (Solimões Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of SC South America)
- *Anhinga pannonica* (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Tataru_-Brusturi, Hungary ?and Tunisia, Pakistan and Thailand)
- *Anhinga grandis* (Late Miocene - Kimball Late Pliocene of USA)
- *Anhinga malagurala* (Allingham Early Pliocene of Charters Towers, Australia)
- *Anhinga* cf. *pannonica* (Sahabi Early Pliocene of Libya)
- *Anhinga* sp. (Early Pliocene of Bone Valley, USA)
- *Anhinga hadarensis* (Late Pliocene/Early Pleistocene of E Africa)
- *Anhinga* sp. (Early Pleistocene of Coleman, USA)

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Apterygidae

Kiwi

Conservation status: Vulnerable

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Struthioniformes

Family: **Apterygidae** G.R. Gray, 1840 Genus: **Apteryx** Shaw, 1813 Species: See text.

A **kiwi** is any of the species of small [flightless birds](#) endemic to New Zealand of the genus **Apteryx** (the only genus in family **Apterygidae**). At around the size of a domestic [chicken](#), kiwi are by far the smallest living [ratites](#). Several kiwi species are endangered. The kiwi is also a national symbol for New Zealand.

- [1 Habitat](#)
- 2 Species
- 3 Discovery and documentation
- 4 Food
- 5 References

Habitat

Prior to the arrival of humans in the 13th century or earlier, New Zealand's only endemic mammals were three species of bat, and the ecological niches that in other parts of the world were filled by creatures as diverse as horses, wolves and mice were taken up by birds (and, to a lesser extent, reptiles).

Kiwi are shy and usually nocturnal. Their mostly nocturnal habits may be a result of habitat intrusion by predators including man, resulting in kiwis that prefer day-time activities loosing out . This seems evident in areas of New Zealand where introduced predators have been removed like sanctuaries where kiwis are often seen in day light. Kiwis are creatures with a highly developed sense of smell and, most unusual in a bird, nostrils at the end of their long bill. They feed by thrusting the bill into the ground in search of worms, insects, and other invertebrates; they also take fruit and, if the opportunity arises, small crayfish, amphibians and eels.

After an initial meeting during mating season (March to June), kiwi usually live as monogamous couples, unless a more suitable mate arises. The pair will meet in the nesting burrow every few days and call to each other at night. These relationships have been known to last for up to 20 years. (Source: [KiwiRecovery.org](#)) Kiwi eggs can weigh up to one quarter the size of the female. Usually only one egg is laid. Although the kiwi is about the size of a domestic chicken, it is able to lay eggs that are up to ten times larger than a chicken's egg. (Source: Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia)

Their adaptation to a terrestrial life is extensive: like all ratites they have no keel on the breastbone to anchor wing muscles, and barely any wings either: the vestiges are so small

that they are invisible under the kiwi's bristly, hair-like, two-branched feathers. While birds generally have hollow bones to save weight and make flight practicable, kiwi have marrow, in the style of mammals. With no constraints on weight from flight requirements, some Brown Kiwi females carry and lay a single 450 g [egg](#).

It was long presumed that the kiwi's closest relatives were the other New Zealand ratites, the [moa](#). However recent DNA studies indicate that the [Ostrich](#) is more closely related to the [moa](#) and the kiwi's closest relatives are the [Emu](#) and the [cassowaries](#). This theory suggests that the kiwi's ancestors arrived in New Zealand from elsewhere in Australasia well after the [moa](#).

According to British scientists, the kiwi may be an ancient import from Australia. Researchers of Oxford University have found DNA evidence connected to Australia's [Emu](#) and the [Ostrich](#) of Africa. Upon examining DNA from New Zealand's native [moa](#), they believe that the kiwi is more closely related to its Australian cousins. (Source: [News In Science](#))

Species

Currently there are five accepted species (one of which has four sub-species), plus one to be formally described:

- The largest species is the **Great Spotted Kiwi**, *Apteryx haastii*, which stands about 450 mm high and weighs about 3.3 kg. (Males about 2.4 kg) It has grey-brown [plumage](#) with lighter bands. The female lays just one egg, with both sexes incubating. Population is estimated to be over 20,000, distributed through the more mountainous parts of northwest Nelson, the northern West Coast, and the Southern Alps.
- The very small **Little Spotted Kiwi**, *Apteryx owenii* is unable to survive predation by imported pigs, stoats and cats and is extinct on the mainland and the most threatened of all kiwi. About 1350 remain on Kapiti Island and it has been introduced to other predator-free islands and appears to be becoming established with about 50 'Little Spots' on each island. A docile bird the size of a bantam, it stands 250 mm high and the female weighs 1.3 kg. She lays one egg which is incubated by the male.
- The **North Island Brown Kiwi**, *Apteryx mantelli* is widespread in the northern two-thirds of the North Island and with about 35,000 remaining is the most common kiwi. Females stand about 400 mm high and weigh about 2.8 kg, the males about 2.2 kg. The North Island Brown has demonstrated a remarkable resilience: it adapts to a wide range of habitats, even non-native forests and some farmland. The plumage is streaky red-brown and spiky. The female usually lays two eggs, which are incubated by the male.
- The **Rowi**, also known as the **Okarito Brown Kiwi** or *Apteryx rowi*, is a recently identified species, slightly smaller, with a greyish tinge to the plumage and sometimes white facial feathers. Females lay as many as three eggs in a season, each one in a different nest. Male and female both incubate. Distribution of these

kiwi are limited to a small area on the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand.

- The **Southern Tokoeka**, *Apteryx australis australis*, relatively common species of kiwi known from southwest South Island (Fiordland) that occurs at most elevations. It is approximately the size of the **Great Spotted Kiwi** and is similar in appearance to the **Brown Kiwi** but its plumage is lighter in colour.
 - The **Stewart Island Tokoeka**, *Apteryx australis lawryi*, is a subspecies of **Southern Tokoeka** known from Stewart Island.
- The **Haast Tokoeka**, *Apteryx* n. sp. (*?fusca*), is the rarest species of kiwi with only about 300 individuals. It was identified as a distinct form in 1993. It only occurs in a restricted area in South Island's Haast Range at an altitude of 1,500 m. This form is distinguished by a more strongly downcurved bill and more rufous plumage.

Analysis of mitochondrial DNA, ecology, behaviour, morphology, geographic distribution and parasites of the North Island Brown Kiwi has led scientists to propose that the Brown Kiwi is three distinct species. The North Island Brown Kiwi; the Okarito Brown Kiwi (Rowi), whose distribution is restricted to a single site on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand; and a third distinct population of the North Island Brown Kiwi, the Southern Tokoeka, distributed in the in lowland forest to the north of Franz Josef glacier in the South Island and on Stewart Island, with a small population near Haast being another possibly distinct species, the Haast Tokoeka.

Discovery and documentation

The first kiwi specimen to be studied by Europeans was a kiwi skin brought to George Shaw by Captain Andrew Barclay aboard the ship Providence, who was reported to have been given it by a sealer in Sydney Harbour around 1811. George Shaw gave the kiwi its scientific name and drew sketches of the way he imagined a live bird to look which appeared as plates 1057 and 1058 in volume 24 of *The Naturalist's Miscellany* in 1813.

Food

The kiwi birds eat spiders, beetles, caterpillars, seeds, grubs, and many varieties of worms. Of course, their long beaks make it easy to catch prey.

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 - [News In Science](#)

Bird families - B

Bucerotidae

Hornbills

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: **Bucerotidae** Rafinesque, 1815 Genera: *Aceros*, *Anorrhinus*, *Anthracoceros*, *Buceros*, *Bucorvus*, *Ceratogymna* (=Bycanistes), *Ocyrceros*, *Penelopides*, *Tockus*

Hornbills (family **Bucerotidae**) are a group of [birds](#) whose bill is shaped like a cow's horn, but without a twist, sometimes with a casque on the upper mandible. Frequently, the bill is brightly coloured.

Both the common English and the scientific name of the family refer to the shape of the bill, "buceros" being "cow horn" in Greek.

The Bucerotidae family includes 57 species, 9 of them endemic to the southern part of Africa. Their distribution ranges from Africa south of the Sahara through tropical Asia to the Philippines and Solomon Islands. Most are arboreal birds of dense forest, but the large ground hornbills (*Bucorvus*), as their name implies, are terrestrial birds of open savanna.

The female lays up to six white eggs. During incubation, the female (of all species except the two ground hornbills) is locked within the nest cavity by a wall made of mud, droppings and fruit pulp. There is only one narrow aperture, big enough for the male to transfer food to the mother and the chicks. During the incubation period the female undergoes a complete moult. When the chicks and the female are too big to fit in the nest, the mother breaks out and rebuilds the wall, then both parents feed the chicks. In some species the chicks themselves rebuild the wall unaided.

Hornbills are omnivorous birds, eating fruit, insects and small animals.

In the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, hornbills are separated from the Coraciiformes, which also includes kingfishers, bee-eaters and rollers, as a separate order *Bucerotiformes*.

Some species have different plumages for each sex. The blue throat of the Abyssinian Ground Hornbill pictured here shows it to be an adult female.

Most species' casques are very light, containing a good deal of air space. However, the Helmeted Hornbill has a solid casque made of a material called hornbill ivory, which the Chinese valued greatly as a carving material, as did the Japanese, who often used it to make netsuke.

Hornbill is also the magazine of the Bombay Natural History Society. This society's icon is a Great Indian Hornbill sitting on a branch.

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Bird families - C

Caprimulgidae

Nightjars

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: **Caprimulgidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Nyctiprogne*, *Podager*, *Lurocalis*, *Chordeiles*, *Nyctidromus*, *Phalaenoptilus*, *Siphonorhis*, *Nyctiphrynus*, *Caprimulgus*, *Macrodipteryx*, *Hydropsalis*, *Uropsalis*, *Macropsalis*, *Eleothreptus*, *Eurostopodus*

Nightjars are medium-sized nocturnal [birds](#) with long wings, short legs and very short bills that usually nest on the ground. Nightjars are sometimes referred to as **goatsuckers** from the mistaken belief that they suck milk from goats (the Latin for goatsucker is *Caprimulgus*). Some North American species are named as **nighthawks**.

Nightjars are found around the world. They are mostly active in the late evening and early morning or at night, and feed predominantly on moths and other large flying insects.

Most have small feet, of little use for walking, and long pointed wings. Their soft plumage is cryptically coloured to resemble bark or leaves. Some species, unusually for birds, perch along a branch, rather than across it. This helps to conceal them during the day.

The Common Poorwill, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* is unique as a bird that undergoes a form of hibernation, becoming torpid and with a much reduced body temperature for weeks or months.

Nightjars lay one or two patterned eggs directly onto bare ground.

Traditionally, nightjars have been divided into two subfamilies: the **Caprimulginae**, or typical nightjars with about 70 species, and the **Chordeilinae**, or [nighthawks](#) of the New World with about 8 species. The two groups are similar in most respects, but the typical nightjars have rictal bristles, longer bills, and softer plumage. In their pioneering DNA-DNA hybridisation work, Sibley and Ahlquist found that the genetic difference between the eared nightjars and the typical nightjars was, in fact, greater than that between the typical nightjars and the nighthawks of the New World. Accordingly, they placed the eared nightjars in a separate family: Eurostopodidae.

Subsequent work, both morphological and genetic, has provided support for the separation of the typical and the eared nightjars, and some authorities have adopted this Sibley-Ahlquist recommendation, and also the more far-reaching one to group all the [owls](#) (traditionally Strigiformes) together in the Caprimulgiformes. The listing below retains a more orthodox arrangement, but recognises the eared nightjars as a separate group. For more detail and an alternative classification scheme, see Caprimulgiformes and Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy.

Species

- Subfamily [Chordeilinae](#) (New World nighthawks)

- Band-tailed Nighthawk, *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*
- Nacunda Nighthawk, *Podager nacunda*
- Rufous-bellied Nighthawk, *Lurocalis rufiventris*
- Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*
- Antillean Nighthawk, *Chordeiles gundlachii*
- Lesser Nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
- Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*
- Least Nighthawk, *Chordeiles pusillus*
- Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*
- **Subfamily Caprimulginae** (typical nightjars)
- Egyptian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus aegyptius*
- Savanna Nightjar, *Caprimulgus affinis*
- Scrub Nightjar, *Caprimulgus anthonyi*
- Indian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus asiaticus*
- Jerdon's Nightjar *Caprimulgus atripennis*
- Yucatan Nightjar, *Caprimulgus badius*
- Bates's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus batesi*
- Brown Nightjar, *Caprimulgus binotatus*
- White-winged Nightjar, *Caprimulgus candicans*
- Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis*
- White-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus cayennensis*
- Sulawesi Nightjar, *Caprimulgus celebensis*
- Vaurie's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus centralasicus*
- Slender-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus clarus*
- Long-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus climacurus*
- Bonaparte's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus concretus*
- Greater Antillean Nightjar, *Caprimulgus cubanensis*
- Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus donaldsoni*
- Collared Nightjar, *Caprimulgus enarratus*
- European Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus*
- Golden Nightjar, *Caprimulgus eximius*
- Square-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus fossii*
- Sombre Nightjar, *Caprimulgus fraenatus*
- Pygmy Nightjar, *Caprimulgus hirundinaceus*
- Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus*
- Plain Nightjar, *Caprimulgus inornatus*
- Band-winged Nightjar, *Caprimulgus longirostris*
- Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus*
- Spot-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus maculicaudus*
- Cayenne Nightjar, *Caprimulgus maculosus*
- Madagascar Nightjar, *Caprimulgus madagascariensis*
- Sykes's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*
- Philippine Nightjar, *Caprimulgus manillensis*
- Swamp Nightjar, *Caprimulgus natalensis*

- Blackish Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nigrescens*
 Black-shouldered Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*
 Puerto Rican Nightjar, *Caprimulgus noctitherus*
 Nubian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nubicus*
 Little Nightjar, *Caprimulgus parvulus*
 Fiery-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
 Montane Nightjar, *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*
 Itombwe Nightjar, *Caprimulgus prigoginei*
 Salvadori's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus pulchellus*
 Buff-collared Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ridgwayi*
 Red-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*
 Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus rufigena*
 Rufous Nightjar, *Caprimulgus rufus*
 Ruwenzori Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*
 Tawny-collared Nightjar, *Caprimulgus salvini*
 Dusky Nightjar, *Caprimulgus saturatus*
 Silky-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus sericocaudatus*
 Star-spotted Nightjar, *Caprimulgus stellatus*
 Freckled Nightjar, *Caprimulgus tristigma*
 Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus vociferus*
 Roraiman Nightjar, *Caprimulgus whitelyi*
 Scissor-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis brasiliانا*
 Ladder-tailed Nightjar, *Hydropsalis climacocerca*
 Standard-winged Nightjar, *Macrodipteryx longipennis*
 Pennant-winged Nightjar, *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*
 Long-trained Nightjar, *Macropsalis creagra*
 Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*
 Eared Poorwill, *Nyctiphrynus mcleodii*
 Ocellated Poorwill, *Nyctiphrynus ocellatus*
 Yucatan Poorwill, *Nyctiphrynus yucatanicus*
 Common Poorwill, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*
 Jamaican Pauraque, *Siphonorhis americana* (extinct; rumors of survival)
 Least Pauraque, *Siphonorhis brewsteri*
 Cuban Parauque, *Siphonorhis daiquiri* (extinct; rumors of survival)
 Lyre-tailed Nightjar, *Uropsalis lyra*
 Swallow-tailed Nightjar, *Uropsalis segmentata*
 Sickie-winged Nightjar, *Eleothreptus anomalus*
- **Subfamily Eurostopodidae** (eared nightjars)
 - Mountain Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus archboldi*
 - Spotted Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus argus*
 - Satanic Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus diabolicus*
 - Great Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus macrotis*
 - White-throated Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus mystacalis*

Papuan Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus papuensis*
Malaysian Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus temminckii*

Casuariidae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Struthioniformes
 Family: **Casuariidae** Kaup, 1847 [Genera](#): *Casuarius*, *Dromaius*
 For fossil forms, see article

The bird family **Casuariidae** has four surviving members: the three [species](#) of [cassowary](#), and the only remaining species of [Emu](#). The emus were formerly classified in their own family, Dromaiidae, but are regarded as sufficiently closely related to the cassowaries to be part of the same family.

All four members of the family are very large flightless birds native to Australia-New Guinea. The characteristics of the family are those of its members.

Systematics and evolution

The emus form a distinct subfamily, characterized by legs adapted for running. As with all [ratites](#), there are several contested theories concerning their evolution and relationships. As regards this family, it is especially interesting whether emus or cassowaries are the more primitive form: the latter are generally assumed to retain more plesiomorphic features, but this does not need to be true at all; the fossil record is also ambiguous, and the present state of genomics does not allow for sufficiently comprehensive analyses. A combination of all these approaches with considerations of plate tectonics at least is necessary for resolving this issue.

The number of cassowary species described based on minor differences in casque shape and color variations is quite large. In recent times, however, only 3 species are recognized, and most authorities only acknowledge few subspecies or none at all.

The fossil record of casuariforms is interesting, but not very extensive. Regarding fossil species of *Dromaius* and *Casuarius*, see their genus pages.

Some Australian fossils initially believed to be from emus were recognized to represent a distinct genus, *Emuarius*^[1], which had a cassowary-like skull and femur and an emu-like lower leg and foot. In addition, the first fossils of mihirungs were initially believed to be from giant emus^[2], but these birds were completely unrelated.

Subfamily **Casuariinae** - cassowaries

- Genus *Casuarius*
 - Southern Cassowary, *Casuarius casuarius*
 - Dwarf Cassowary, *Casuarius bennetti*
 - Northern Cassowary, *Casuarius unappendiculatus*

Subfamily **Dromaiinae** - emus

- Genus *Dromaius*
 - [Emu](#), *Dromaius novaehollandiae*
 - Tasmanian Emu, *D. n. diemenensis* (extinct)
 - South-eastern Emu, *D. n. novaehollandiae*

South-western Emu, *D. n. rothschildi*

Northern Emu, *D. n. woodwardi*

- Kangaroo Island Emu, *Dromaius baudinianus* (extinct)
- King Island Emu, *Dromaius ater* (extinct)
- Genus ***Emuarius*** - "emuwaries" ([fossil](#))
 - *Emuarius guljaruba* (Late Oligocene - Late Miocene)
 - *Emuarius gidju* (Wipajiri Early Miocene of Lake Ngapakaldi)

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Footnotes

1. [^](#) From "Emu" + "*Casuarius*". Describer W. E. Boles commonly refers to the genus as "emuwaries" or "cassomus".
2. [^](#) The vernacular name "mihirung" is derived from *mihirung paringmal*, which means "giant emu" in the Chaap Wuurong language

Cathartidae

New World vultures

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: **Cathartidae** Lafresnaye, 1839 Genera: *Cathartes*, *Coragyps*, *Gymnogyps*, *Sarcorhamphus*, *Vultur*

The **New World vultures** [family](#) **Cathartidae** contains seven [species](#) found in warm and temperate areas of the Americas. It includes five [vultures](#) and two [condors](#). Except *Cathartes*, all [genera](#) are monotypic.

The five species of vulture are:

- Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
- Greater Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes melambrotus*
- Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus*
- King Vulture *Sarcorhamphus papa*
- American Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

The [Condors](#) are

- California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus*
- [Andean Condor](#) *Vultur gryphus*

Evolution and systematics

New World vultures are most probably not closely related to [Old World vultures](#) or other diurnal [raptors](#), which themselves are often classified in different [orders](#). They rather resemble Old World vultures because of convergent evolution and are usually considered to be more closely related to storks, as is reflected by their placement in the Ciconiiformes and supported by karyotype (Ligon, 1967), morphological, mtDNA cytochrome b sequence (Avisé et al., 1994; Wink, 1995) and behavioral data. Nonetheless, this has been criticized more recently, as the Ciconiiformes - not only in Sibley & Ahlquist's undoubtedly paraphyletic, but also in the traditional sense - appear not to be a monophyletic assemblage. Consequently, there is a recent trend to raise the New World vultures to the rank of an independent order **Cathartiformes** not closely associated with either birds of prey or storks or herons (Ericson *et al*, 2006).

A related extinct family were the Teratornithidae or **Teratorns**, essentially an exclusively (North) American counterpart to the New World vultures - the latter were, in prehistoric times, also present in Europe and possibly even evolved there. The Incredible Teratorn is sometimes called "Giant Condor" because it must have looked similar to the modern bird. They were, however, not very closely related but rather an example of parallel evolution, and the external similarity is less emphasized in recent times due to new information suggesting that the teratorns were more predatory than vultures (Campbell & Tonni, 1983).

The fossil history of the Cathartidae is fairly extensive, but nonetheless confusing. Many taxa that may or may not have been New World vultures were considered to be early

representatives of the family. There is no unequivocal European record from the Neogene and trying to retrace the evolutionary history of the entire Ciconiiformes sensu Sibley & Ahlquist by means of molecular analysis has proven to be just as equivocal until the mid-2000s.

At any rate, the Cathartidae had a much higher diversity in the Plio-/Pleistocene, rivalling the current diversity of Old World vultures and their relatives in shapes, sizes, and ecological niches. Extinct genera are:

- *Diatropornis* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene -? Middle Oligocene of France)
- *Phasmagyps* (Early Oligocene of WC North America)
- *Brasilogyps* (Late Oligocene - Early Miocene of Brazil)
- *Hadrogyps* (Middle Miocene of SW North America)
- *Pliogyps* (Late Miocene - Late Pliocene of S North America)
- *Perugyps* (Pisco Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of SC Peru)
- *Dryornis* (Early - Middle Pliocene of Argentina; may belong to modern genus *Vultur*)
- *Aizenogyps* (Late Pliocene of SE North America)
- *Breagyps* (Late Pleistocene of SW North America)
- *Geronogyps* (Late Pleistocene of Peru)
- *Wingegyps* (Late Pleistocene of Brazil)
- *Parasarcoramphus*

Fossils found in Mongolia (Late Oligocene), Lee Creek Mine, USA (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene) and Argentina (Middle Pliocene) have not been assigned to a genus yet. There is also a number of extinct congeners of the extant species; see the respective genus accounts.

An European genus from the Earliest Neogene that possibly belongs to the New World vultures is *Plesiocathartes*. On the other hand, the bathornithid *Neocathartes* was long believed to be a peculiar New World vulture (including charming, but inaccurate reconstructions as a kind of Turkey Vulture on stilts).

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Charadriidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Charadriidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: Vanellinae (Erthrogonys , Vanellus), Charadriinae (Pluvialis , Charadrius , Thinornis , Elseyornis , Peltodyas , Anarhynchus , Plegadis , Oreopholus)

The bird family **Charadriidae** includes the plovers, dotterels, and lapwings, about 64 to 66 [species](#) in all. They are small to medium-sized [birds](#) with compact bodies, short, thick necks and long, usually pointed, wings.

They are distributed through open country worldwide, mostly in habitats near water, although there are some exceptions: the Inland Dotterel, for example, prefers stony ground in the deserts of central and western Australia.

They hunt by sight, rather than by feel as longer-billed waders like snipe do. Foods eaten include insects, worms or other invertebrates depending on habitat, and are usually obtained by a run-and-pause technique, rather than the steady probing of some other wader groups.

Most members of the family are known as *plovers*, *lapwings* or *dotterels*. These were rather vague terms which were not applied with any great consistency in the past. In general, larger species have often been called *lapwings*, smaller species *plovers* or *dotterels* and there are in fact two clear taxonomic sub-groups: most lapwings belong to the subfamily Vanellinae, most plovers and dotterels to Charadriinae.

The trend in recent years has been to rationalise the common names of the Charadriidae. For example, the large and very common Australian bird traditionally known as the 'Spur-winged Plover', is now the Masked Lapwing; the former 'Solitary Plover' is now the Solitary Lapwing.

Chionididae

Sheathbills

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Chionididae** Bonaparte, 1832 Genus: **Chionis** Forster, JR, 1788 Species: *Chionis alba*, *Chionis minor*

The **sheathbills** are the two species of [birds](#) in the genus **Chionis** in the **Chionididae** family. They are confined to Antarctic regions.

They have white [plumage](#), with only the face and leg colours distinguishing the two species. They look plump and [dove](#)-like, but are believed to be similar to the ancestors of the modern [gulls](#) and [terns](#).

They derive their English name from the horny sheath which partially covers the upper mandible of their stout bills.

The sheathbills are scavengers, but will take chicks and [eggs](#) as well as offal.

They lay 2 or 3 blotchy white eggs on the ground.

The two species are the Snowy Sheathbill (*Chionis alba*) and the Black-faced Sheathbill (*C. minor*).

Columbidae

Pigeons and Doves

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: **Columbidae**

subfamily: *see article text*

Pigeon beside Weiming Lake, Peking University (2002)

Pigeons and **doves** are some 300 [species](#) of near passerine [birds](#) in the order Columbiformes. In general parlance the terms "dove" and "pigeon" are used somewhat interchangeably. In ornithological practice there is a tendency for "dove" to be used for smaller species and "pigeon" for larger ones, but this is in no way consistently applied, and historically the common names for these birds involve much variation between "dove" and "pigeon".

The species commonly referred to just as the "pigeon" is the feral [Rock Pigeon](#), common in many cities.

Pigeons and doves are stout-bodied birds with short necks and short slender bills with a fleshy cere.

The usually flimsy nests are made of sticks, and the two white [eggs](#) are incubated by both sexes. Doves feed on seeds, fruit and other soft plantstuff. Unlike most other birds, (but see flamingo), the doves and pigeons produce "crop milk", which is secreted by a sloughing of fluid-filled cells from the lining of the crop. Both sexes produce this highly nutritious substance to feed to the young.

This family occurs worldwide, but the greatest variety is in the Indomalaya and Australasia ecozones. It is related to the extinct dodo. The young doves and pigeons are called "squabs".

- [1 Systematics and evolution](#)
 - [1.1 Subfamily Columbinae - typical pigeons & doves](#)
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 - 7.3 Miscellaneous

Systematics and evolution

The family is usually divided into five subfamilies, but this is probably inaccurate. For example, the American ground and quail doves which are usually placed in the Columbinae seem to be two distinct subfamilies^[1]. The order presented here follows Baptista *et al.* (1997) with some updates (Johnson & Clayton, 2000; Johnson *et al.*, 2001; Shapiro *et al.*, 2002)...

Note that the arrangement of genera and naming of subfamilies is in some cases provisional because analyses of different DNA sequences yield results that differ, often radically, in the placement of certain (mainly Indo-Australian) genera. This ambiguity, probably caused by Long branch attraction, on the other hand seems to confirm that the first pigeons evolved in the Australasian region, and that the "Treronidae" and allied forms (crowned and pheasant pigeons, for example) represent the earliest radiation of the group.

Exacerbating these issues, columbids are not well represented in the fossil record. No really primitive forms have been found to date. The genus *Gerandia* which most likely belongs to the Columbinae has been described from Early Miocene deposits of France. Apart from that, all other fossils belong to extant genera. For these, and for the considerable number of more recently extinct prehistoric species, see the respective genus accounts.

Subfamily Columbinae - typical pigeons & doves

Genus *Columba* (Old World pigeons)

- [Rock Pigeon](#), *Columba livia*
 - Domestic pigeon or feral pigeon, *Columba livia domestica*
- Stock Pigeon, *Columba oenas*
 - Trocaz Pigeon, *Columba trocaz*
 - Bolle's Pigeon, *Columba bollii*
 - Laurel Pigeon, *Columba junoniae*
 - Hill Pigeon, *Columba rupestris*
 - Snow Pigeon, *Columba leuconota*
 - Speckled Pigeon, *Columba guinea*
 - White-collared Pigeon, *Columba albitorques*
 - Pale-backed Pigeon, *Columba eversmanni*
 - Somali Pigeon, *Columba oliviae*
 - Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*

Afep Pigeon, *Columba unicincta*
 African Olive Pigeon, *Columba arquatrix*
 Cameroon Olive Pigeon, *Columba sjostedti*
 Sao Tome Olive Pigeon, *Columba thomensis*
 Comoro Olive Pigeon, *Columba polleni*
 Speckled Wood-pigeon, *Columba hodgsonii*
 White-naped Pigeon, *Columba albinucha*
 Ashy Wood-pigeon, *Columba pulchricollis*
 Nilgiri Wood-pigeon, *Columba elphinstonii*

- Sri Lanka Wood-pigeon, *Columba torringtoni*
 Pale-capped Pigeon, *Columba punicea*
 Silvery Pigeon, *Columba argentina* (possibly extinct)
 Andaman Wood-pigeon, *Columba palumboides*
 Japanese Wood-pigeon, *Columba janthina*
 Bonin Wood-pigeon, *Columba versicolor* (extinct)
 Ryukyu Wood-pigeon, *Columba jouyi* (extinct)
 Metallic Pigeon or White-throated Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis*
 White-headed Pigeon, *Columba leucomela*
 Yellow-legged Pigeon, *Columba pallidiceps*
- Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, *Columba delegorguei*
 Western Bronze-naped Pigeon, *Columba iriditorques*
 Sao Tome Bronze-naped Pigeon, *Columba malherbii*
 African Lemon-dove, *Columba larvata*
 Sao Tome Lemon-dove, *Columba simplex*

Genus *Streptopelia* (turtledoves)

- Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* (may be distinct genus *Stigmatopelia*)
 Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* (may be distinct genus *Stigmatopelia*)
 Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
 Barbary Dove *Streptopelia risoria* (domesticated; taxonomic status doubtful)
 African Collared Dove, *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*
 Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
 Dusky Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia lugens*
 Adamawa Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*
 Island Collared Dove, *Streptopelia bitorquata*
 White-winged Collared Dove, *Streptopelia reichenowi*
 African Mourning Dove, *Streptopelia decipiens*
 Red-eyed Dove, *Streptopelia semitorquata*
 Ring-necked Dove, *Streptopelia capicola*
 Vinaceous Dove, *Streptopelia vinacea*
 Red Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Madagascar Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia picturata* (may be distinct genus *Nesoenas*)

Rodrigues Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia rodericana* (extinct; may be distinct genus *Nesoenas*)

Pink Pigeon, *Streptopelia mayeri* (may be distinct genus *Nesoenas*)

Réunion Pink Pigeon, *Streptopelia duboisi* (extinct; may be distinct genus *Nesoenas*)

Genus *Patagioenas* (American pigeons; formerly included in *Columba*)

- White-crowned Pigeon, *Patagioenas leucocephala*
- Scaly-naped Pigeon, *Patagioenas squamosa*
- Scaled Pigeon, *Patagioenas speciosa*
- Picazuro Pigeon, *Patagioenas picazuro*
- Bare-eyed Pigeon, *Patagioenas corensis*
- Spot-winged Pigeon, *Patagioenas maculosa*
- Band-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas fasciata*
- Chilean Pigeon, *Patagioenas araucana*
- Ring-tailed Pigeon, *Patagioenas caribaea*
- Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*
- Red-billed Pigeon, *Patagioenas flavirostris*
- Peruvian Pigeon, *Patagioenas oenops*
- Plain Pigeon, *Patagioenas inornata*
- Plumbeous Pigeon, *Patagioenas plumbea*
- Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*
- Short-billed Pigeon, *Patagioenas nigrirostris*
- Dusky Pigeon, *Patagioenas goodsoni*

Genus *Macropygia*

- Barred Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia unchall*
- Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia amboinensis*
- Brown Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia phasianella*
- Dusky Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia magna*
- Andaman Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia rufipennis*
- Philippine Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia tenuirostris*
- Ruddy Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia emiliana*
- Black-billed Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia nigrirostris*
- Mackinlay's Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia mackinlayi*
- Little Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia ruficeps*

Genus *Reinwardtoena*

- Great Cuckoo-dove, *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
- Pied Cuckoo-dove, *Reinwardtoena browni*
- Crested Cuckoo-dove, *Reinwardtoena crassirostris*

Genus *Turacoena*

- White-faced Cuckoo-dove, *Turacoena manadensis*
- Black Cuckoo-dove, *Turacoena modesta*

Subfamily N.N. - Bronzewings and relatives

Genus *Turtur* (African wood doves; subfamily assignment unclear)

- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, *Turtur chalcospilos*
Black-billed Wood Dove, *Turtur abyssinicus*
Blue-spotted Wood Dove, *Turtur afer*
Tambourine Dove, *Turtur tympanistria*
Blue-headed Wood Dove, *Turtur brehmeri*

Genus *Oena* (subfamily assignment unclear)

- Namaqua Dove, *Oena capensis*

Genus *Chalcophaps*

- Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica*
Stephan's Dove, *Chalcophaps stephani*

Genus *Henicophaps*

- New Guinea Bronzewing, *Henicophaps albifrons*
New Britain Bronzewing, *Henicophaps foersteri*

Genus *Phaps*

- Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera*
Brush Bronzewing, *Phaps elegans*
Flock Bronzewing, *Phaps histrionica*

Genus *Ocyphaps*

- Crested Pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Genus *Geophaps*

- Spinifex Pigeon, *Geophaps plumifera*
Squatter Pigeon, *Geophaps scripta*
Partridge Pigeon, *Geophaps smithii*

Genus *Petrophassa*, rock pigeons

- Chestnut-quilled Rock Pigeon, *Petrophassa rufipennis*
White-quilled Rock Pigeon, *Petrophassa albipennis*

Genus *Geopelia*

- Diamond Dove, *Geopelia cuneata*
Zebra Dove, *Geopelia striata*
Peaceful Dove, *Geopelia placida*
Barred Dove, *Geopelia maugei*
Bar-shouldered Dove, *Geopelia humeralis*

Subfamily Leptotilinae - Zenaidine and quail doves

Genus *Zenaida*

- White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*
Pacific Dove, *Zenaida meloda*
Zenaida Dove, *Zenaida aurita*
Galapagos Dove, *Zenaida galapagoensis*
Eared Dove, *Zenaida auriculata*
Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*
Socorro Dove, *Zenaida graysoni* (extinct in the wild)

Genus *Ectopistes*

- Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* ([extinct](#))

Genus *Leptotila*

- White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*
White-faced Dove, *Leptotila megalura*
Grey-fronted Dove, *Leptotila rufaxilla*
Grey-headed Dove, *Leptotila plumbeiceps*
Pallid Dove, *Leptotila pallida*
Brown-backed Dove, *Leptotila battyi*
Grenada Dove, *Leptotila wellsi*
Caribbean Dove, *Leptotila jamaicensis*
Grey-chested Dove, *Leptotila cassini*
Ochre-bellied Dove, *Leptotila ochraceiventris*
Tolima Dove, *Leptotila conoveri*

Genus *Geotrygon*, quail-doves

- Purplish-backed Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon lawrencii*
Veracruz Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon carrikeri*
Costa Rica Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon costaricensis*
Russet-crowned Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon goldmani*
Sapphire Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon saphirina*
Grey-headed Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon caniceps*
Crested Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon versicolor*
Rufous-breasted Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon chiriquensis*
Olive-backed Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon veraguensis*
White-faced Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon albifacies*
Lined Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon linearis*
White-throated Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon frenata*
Key West Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon chrysia*
Bridled Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon mystacea*
Violaceous Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon violacea*
Ruddy Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon montana*

Genus *Starnoenas*

- Blue-headed Quail-Dove, *Starnoenas cyanocephala*

Subfamily Columbinae - American ground doves

Genus *Columbina*

- Common Ground Dove, *Columbina passerina*
Plain-breasted Ground Dove, *Columbina minuta*
Ecuadorian Ground Dove, *Columbina buckleyi*
Ruddy Ground Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*
Picui Dove, *Columbina picui*
Croaking Ground Dove, *Columbina cruziana*
Blue-eyed Ground Dove, *Columbina cyanopsis*

Genus *Claravis*

- Blue Ground Dove, *Claravis pretiosa*
Purple-winged Ground Dove, *Claravis godefrida*
Maroon-chested Ground Dove, *Claravis mondetoura*

Genus *Metropelia*

- Bare-faced Ground Dove, *Metriopelia ceciliae*
Moreno's Ground Dove, *Metriopelia morenoi*
Black-winged Ground Dove, *Metriopelia melanoptera*
Golden-spotted Ground Dove, *Metriopelia aymara*

Genus *Scardafella*

- Inca Dove, *Scardafella inca*
Scaled Dove, *Scardafella squammata*

Genus *Uropelia*

- Long-tailed Ground Dove, *Uropelia campestris*...

Subfamily N.N. - Indopacific ground doves

Genus *Gallicolumba*

- Luzon Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba luzonica*
Mindanao Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba criniger* (*criniger* is a spelling error in the description)
Mindoro Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba platenae*
Negros Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba keayi*
Sulu Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba menagei* (possibly extinct)
Cinnamon Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba rufigula*
Sulawesi Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba tristigmata*
White-bibbed Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba jobiensis*
Caroline Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba kubaryi*
Polynesian Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba erythroptera*
White-throated Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba xanthonura*
Friendly Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba stairi*
Tanna Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba ferruginea* (extinct)

Santa Cruz Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba sanctaecrucis*
Thick-billed Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba salamonis* (extinct)
Marquesas Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba rubescens*
Bronze Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba beccarii*
Palau Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba canifrons*
Wetar Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba hoedtii*
Norfolk Island Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba norfolciensis* (extinct)

Genus *Trugon*

- Thick-billed Ground Pigeon, *Trugon terrestris*

Subfamily Otidiphabinae - Pheasant Pigeon

Genus *Otidiphaps*

- Pheasant Pigeon, *Otidiphaps nobilis*

Subfamily Didunculinae - tooth-billed pigeon

Genus *Didunculus*

- Tooth-billed Pigeon, *Didunculus strigirostris*

Subfamily Gourinae - crowned pigeons

Genus *Goura*

- Western Crowned Pigeon, *Goura cristata*
Southern Crowned Pigeon, *Goura scheepmakeri*
Victoria Crowned Pigeon, *Goura victoria*

Subfamily N.N. ("Treroninae") - green and fruit doves and imperial pigeons

Genus *Ducula* (imperial pigeons)

- Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula poliocephala*
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula forsteni*
Mindoro Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula mindorensis*
Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula radiata*
Grey-necked Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula carola*
Green Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula aenea*
White-eyed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula perspicillata*
Blue-tailed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula concinna*
Pacific Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula pacifica*

Micronesian Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula oceanica*
 Polynesian Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula aurorae*
 Nukuhiva Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula galeata*
 Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula rubricera*
 Spice Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula myristicivora*
 Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula rufigaster*
 Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula basilica*
 Finsch's Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula finschii*
 Shinning Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula chalconota*
 Island Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula pistrinaria*
 Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula rosacea*
 Christmas Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula whartoni*
 Grey Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula pickeringii*
 Peale's Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula latrans*
 Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula brenchleyi*
 Vanuatu Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula bakeri*
 New Caledonian Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula goliath*
 Pinon's Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula pinon*
 Bismarck Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula melanochroa*
 Collared Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula mullerii*
 Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula zoeae*
 Mountain Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula badia*
 Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula lacernulata*
 Timor Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula cineracea*

- Pied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula bicolor*
- Torresian Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula spilorrhoa*
- White Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula luctuosa*

Genus *Lopholaimus*

- Topknot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Genus *Hemiphaga*

- New Zealand Pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

Genus *Cryptophaps*

- Sombre Pigeon, *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoa*

Genus *Gymnophaps* (mountain pigeons)

- Papuan Mountain Pigeon, *Gymnophaps albertisii*
- Long-tailed Mountain Pigeon, *Gymnophaps mada*
- Pale Mountain Pigeon, *Gymnophaps solomonensis*

Genus *Ptilinopus* (fruit doves)

- Black-backed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus cinctus*
- Black-banded Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus alligator*
- Red-naped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus dohertyi*
- Pink-headed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus porphyreus*

Flame-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus marchei*
 Cream-bellied Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus merrilli*
 Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus occipitalis*
 Red-eared Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus fischeri*
 Jambu Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus jambu*
 Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus subularis*
 Black-chinned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus leclancheri*
 Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus bernsteinii*
 Wompoo Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus magnificus*
 Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus perlatus*
 Ornate Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus ornatus*
 Tanna Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus tannensis*
 Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
 Wallace's Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus wallacii*
 Superb Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus superbus*
 Many-coloured Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus perousii*
 Purple-capped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus porphyraceus*
 Palau Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus pelewensis*
 Rarotonga Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus rarotongensis*
 Mariana Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus roseicapilla*
 Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus regina*
 Silver-capped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus richardsii*
 Grey-green Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus purpuratus*
 Makatea Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus chalcurus*
 Atoll Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus coralensis*
 Red-bellied Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus greyii*
 Rapa Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus huttoni*
 White-capped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus dupetithouarsii*

- Red-moustached Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus mercierii* (extinct)
- Henderson Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus insularis*
- Coroneted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus coronulatus*
- Beautiful Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
- Blue-capped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus monacha*
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus rivoli*
- Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus solomonensis*
- Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus viridis*
- White-headed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus eugeniae*
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus iozonus*
- Knob-billed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus insolitus*
- Grey-headed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus hyogaster*
- Carunculated Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus granulifrons*
- Black-naped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus melanospila*
- Dwarf Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus nanus*

Negros Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus arcanus* (possibly extinct)
 Orange Dove, *Ptilinopus victor*
 Golden Dove, *Ptilinopus luteovirens*
 Whistling Dove, *Ptilinopus layardi*

Genus *Natunaornis*

- Viti Levu Giant Pigeon, *Natunaornis gigoura* ([prehistoric](#))

Genus *Drepanoptila*

- Cloven-feathered Dove, *Drepanoptila holosericea*

Genus *Alectroenas* (blue pigeons)

- Madagascar Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas madagascariensis*
 Comoro Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas sganzini*
 Seychelles Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas pulcherrima*
 Farquhar Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas* sp. (extinct)
 Mauritius Blue Pigeon, *Alectroenas nitidissima* (extinct)
 Rodrigues Pigeon "*Alectroenas*" *rodericana* (extinct; probably distinct genus)

Placement unresolved

Genus *Caloenas*

- Nicobar Pigeon, *Caloenas nicobarica*
 Liverpool Pigeon, "*Caloenas*" *maculata* (extinct; probably distinct genus)

Genus *Treron* (green pigeons)

- Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon, *Treron fulvicollis*
 Little Green Pigeon, *Treron olax*
 Pink-necked Green Pigeon, *Treron vernans*
 Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, *Treron bicincta*
 Pompadour Green Pigeon, *Treron pompadora*
 Thick-billed Green Pigeon, *Treron curvirostra*
 Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, *Treron griseicauda*
 Sumba Green Pigeon, *Treron teysmannii*
 Flores Green Pigeon, *Treron floris*
 Timor Green Pigeon, *Treron psittacea*
 Large Green Pigeon, *Treron capellei*
 Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, *Treron phoenicoptera*
 Bruce's Green Pigeon, *Treron waalia*
 Madagascar Green Pigeon, *Treron australis*
 African Green Pigeon, *Treron calva*
 Pemba Green Pigeon, *Treron pembaensis*
 Sao Tome Green Pigeon, *Treron sanctithomae*
 Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, *Treron apicauda*
 Sumatran Green Pigeon, *Treron oxyura*
 Yellow-vented Green Pigeon, *Treron seimundi*

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, *Treron sphenura*

White-bellied Green Pigeon, *Treron sieboldii*

Whistling Green Pigeon, *Treron formosae*

Genus *Phapitreron* (brown doves)

- White-eared Brown Dove, *Phapitreron leucotis*
- Amethyst Brown Dove, *Phapitreron amethystina*
- Dark-eared Brown Dove, *Phapitreron cinereiceps*

Genus *Leucosarcia*

- Wonga Pigeon, *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Genus *Microgoura*

- Choiseul Pigeon, *Microgoura meeki* ([extinct](#); subfamily assignment unclear)

Genus *Dysmoropelia*

- St Helena Flightless Pigeon, *Dysmoropelia dekabiskos* ([extinct](#))

Genus indeterminate

- Henderson Island Archaic Pigeon, *Columbidae* gen. et sp. indet. ([prehistoric](#))

Symbolism

- White doves, usually meaning domesticated [Rock Pigeons](#), are a traditional Christian and Jewish symbol of love and peace. According to the biblical story, a dove was released by Noah after the flood in order to find land; it came back carrying an olive branch, telling Noah that, somewhere, there was land. A dove with an olive branch has since then come to symbolize peace. In Christian iconography, a dove also symbolizes the Holy Spirit, in reference to Matthew 3:16 and Luke 3:22 where the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove at the Baptism of Jesus.
- Doves or other birds are sometimes released at Christian weddings. It should be noted that these birds, unless they are trained homing pigeons, cannot survive in the wild and will either starve to death or be easy prey for predators.
- Doves are often associated with the concept of peace and pacifism. They often appear in political cartoons, on banners and signs at events promoting peace (such as the Olympic games, at various anti-war/anti-violence protests, etc.), and in pacifist literature. A person who is a pacifist is sometimes referred to as a dove (similarly, in American politics, a person who advocates the use of military resources as opposed to diplomacy can be referred to as a hawk).
- Ironically, although sometimes ungratefully considered "pests" in big cities, common pigeons or Rock Pigeons have served humans in times of war as war pigeons, and have even been awarded war medals to honour their services to humanity. These include the homing pigeon, Cher Ami, who received the French Croix de guerre for services during wartime, and who is now enshrined in the Smithsonian Institution, and G.I. Joe, who received the Dickin Medal for his role in preventing the bombing of an Italian village of over 1,000 people.

Doves as food

Several species of pigeon or dove are used as food, and probably any could be; the powerful breast muscles characteristic of the family make excellent meat. In Europe the Wood Pigeon is commonly shot as a game bird, while [Rock Pigeons](#) were originally domesticated as a food species, and many breeds were developed for their meat-bearing qualities. The extinction of the Passenger Pigeon was at least partly due to shooting for use as food.

Doves are Kosher, and they and Turtle Doves are the only birds that may be used for a Korban. Other Kosher birds may be eaten, but not brought as a Korban.

Trivia

- Doves can be trained and often are utilized in tricks and animal acts by magicians and showmen.
- In the United States, "dove" is sometimes used as a street name for cocaine. Ecstasy pills are also sometimes referred to as "doves", due to a well-known "brand" of pills featuring an embossed dove.
- Dove is a brand of American ice cream; their "Dove Bar", featuring a vanilla ice cream filling with a thin chocolate coating, is particularly well known.
- Dove is also a brand of soaps, deodorants skin care and hair care products, manufactured by Unilever.
- A "pigeon" is an English slang word to refer to an uneducated, naive, or unsophisticated person: one that is easily deceived or cheated by underhanded means. To be referred to as a "pigeon" or a "dupe" suggests unwariness in the person deluded — especially used in the slang language of gambling. Etymology: from Middle French *duppe*.

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Footnotes

1. [^](#) Basically, the conventional treatment had 2 large subfamilies, one for the fruit-doves, imperial pigeons and fruit-pigeons, and another for nearly all of the remaining species. Additionally, there were 3 monotypic subfamilies, one each for the genera *Goura*, *Otidiphaps* and *Didunculus*. The old subfamily Columbinae consists of 5 distinct lineages, whereas the other 4 groups are more or less accurate representations of the evolutionary relationships.

See also

Related to doves

- [Homing pigeon](#)
- [Carrier pigeon](#)

Bird families - D

Dendrocolaptidae

Woodcreepers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Furnariidae](#)

Subfamily: **Dendrocolaptinae**

Genera: many; see article text

The **woodcreepers**, Dendrocolaptinae, comprise a [subfamily](#) of sub-oscine [passerine birds](#) [endemic](#) to the neotropics. They were formerly considered a distinct [family](#), Dendrocolaptidae.

Generally brownish birds, the true woodcreepers maintain an upright vertical posture, supported by their stiff tail vanes, and feed mainly on insects taken from tree trunks. However, woodcreepers often form part of the core group at the center of flocks attending army ant swarms. Though unrelated, they superficially resemble the Old World treecreepers. Woodcreepers are arboreal cavity-nesting birds; 2-3 white eggs are laid and incubated for about 15 days.

These birds can be difficult to identify in that they tend to have similar brown upperparts, and the more distinctive underparts are hard to see on a bird pressed against a trunk in deep forest shade. The bill shape and call are useful aids to determining species.

Systematics

The former family has been merged into the ovenbird family, [Furnariidae](#), due to genetic work showing *Sclerus* leaf-tossers and *Geositta* miners to be basal to the Furnariidae and the woodcreepers. Maintaining Dendrocolaptidae as a separate family between them and the other furnariids created a paraphyletic Furnariidae, hence the merger.

Interestingly, the xenops, which were usually considered to be ovenbirds with a somewhat woodcreeper-like plumage, are in fact closely related to the latter (Fjeldså et al., 2005). They are best considered to form a separate tribe and give a good impression of how the ancestors of the woodcreepers must have looked like. The true woodcreepers are characterized by a belly feather growth pattern not found in any other birds.

The systematics of the Dendrocolaptinae were reviewed by Raikow (1994, based on morphology) and Irestedt et al. (2004, based on analysis of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA sequences). As the latter paper revealed, the commonplace convergent evolution of bill morphology hampered Raikow's analysis. Color patterns, on the other hand, were more in agreement with the molecular data, but the generally drab coloration of the woodcreepers renders this character less informative than desirable. The work of Irestedt *et al.*, on the other hand, was severely limited by unavailability of samples of many phylogenetically interesting taxa.

For example, the *Deconychura* species apparently belong into separate genera, but only *D. longicauda* was available for molecular analysis. Moving *Lepidocolaptes fuscus* to

Xiphorhynchus restores monophyly of *Lepidocolaptes*, and *Xiphorhynchus* was very much under-split (Aleixo, 2002a,b). *Hylexetastes* may contain anything from 1 to 4 species.

It remains unresolved whether the Scimitar-billed and Long-billed Woodcreepers' distinctiveness is due to strong selective pressure (and therefore rapid morphological evolution) of forms related to *Lepidocolaptes* and *Dendrexetastes*, respectively, or to long-time evolution of distinct lineages which separated early in the evolution of the group, with genetic similarity due to long branch attraction. The data gained from the myoglobin intron II DNA sequence disagrees strongly with mtDNA cytochrome b sequence data regarding the validity of *Lepidocolaptes* in general Irestedt *et al.* (2004); as the latter agrees much better with morphological and biogeographical data it therefore is used here.

More detailed studies are needed to resolve these questions, namely reevaluation of morphological data in the light of the molecular findings, and new molecular studies which thoroughly sample the questionable genera.

FAMILY

FURNARIIDAE

Subfamily **Dendrocolaptinae** - woodcreepers

Tribe **Xenopini** - xenops

- Genus *Megaxenops* - Great Xenops
 - Great Xenops, *Megaxenops paraguayae*
- Genus *Xenops*
 - Rufous-tailed Xenops, *Xenops milleri*
 - Slender-billed Xenops, *Xenops tenuirostris*
 - Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*
 - Streaked Xenops, *Xenops rutilans*

Tribe **Dendrocolaptini** - true woodcreepers

- Genus *Glyphorhynchus*
 - Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*
- Genus *Dendrocincla*
 - Tyrannine Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla tyrannina*
 - Thrush-like Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla turdina*
 - Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla anabatina*
 - Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*
 - White-chinned Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla merula*
 - Ruddy Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla homochroa*
- Genus *Deconychura*
 - Long-tailed Woodcreeper, *Deconychura longicauda*
 - Spot-throated Woodcreeper, *Deconychura stictolaema* - probably a genus on its own
- Genus *Sittasomus*
 - Olivaceous Woodcreeper, *Sittasomus griseicapillus*
- Genus *Nasica*
 - Long-billed Woodcreeper, *Nasica longirostris*

- Genus *Dendrexetastes*
 - Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, *Dendrexetastes rufigula*
- Genus *Dendrocolaptes*
 - Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*
Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes certhia*
Hoffmann's Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes hoffmannsi*
Black-banded Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes picumnus*
Planalto Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*
- Genus *Hylexetastes*
 - Bar-bellied Woodcreeper, *Hylexetastes stresemanni*
 - Red-billed Woodcreeper, *Hylexetastes perrotii*
 - Uniform Woodcreeper, *Hylexetastes (perrotii) uniformis*
 - Brigida's Woodcreeper, *Hylexetastes (perrotii) brigidai*
- Genus *Xiphocolaptes*
 - White-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*
Moustached Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes falcistrostris*
Great Rufous Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes major*
Strong-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*
- Genus *Campylorhamphus*
 - Greater Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus pucherani*
Red-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*
Brown-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus pusillus*
Black-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus falcularius*
Curve-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus procurvoides*
- Genus *Dendroplex* - formerly in *Xiphorhynchus*
 - Straight-billed Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex picus*
Zimmer's Woodcreeper, *Dendroplex kienerii* - formerly *Xiphorhynchus necopinus*
- Genus *Xiphorhynchus* (possibly polyphyletic)
 - Lesser Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus fuscus* - formerly *Lepidocolaptes*
Spix's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus spixii*
Elegant Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus elegans*
Tschudi's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus chunchotambo*
Ocellated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus*
Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus pardalotus*
Striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus obsoletus*
Spotted Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*
Olive-backed Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus triangularis*
Ivory-billed Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster*
Black-striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*
Buff-throated Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatus*
Lafesnaye's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus guttatoides*
 - Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*
 - Lawrence's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus (susurrans) nanus*

- Genus *Drymornis*
 - Scimitar-billed Woodcreeper, *Drymornis bridgesii*
- Genus *Lepidocolaptes*
 - White-striped Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes leucogaster*
 - Streak-headed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*
 - Narrow-billed Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*
 - Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes affinis*
 - Montane Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes lacrymiger*
 - Scaled Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes squamatus*
 - Lineated Woodcreeper, *Lepidocolaptes albolineatus*

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Dinornithidae

Moa

Conservation status: Extinct (c. 1500)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Superorder: Paleognathae

Order: Struthioniformes

Family: **Dinornithidae**

Genera: *Anomalopteryx* (*bush moa*), *Euryapteryx*, *Megalapteryx* (*upland moa*), *Dinornis* (*giant moa*), *Emeus*, *Pachyornis*

Moa were giant flightless [birds](#) native to New Zealand. They are unique in having no wings, not even small wings, unlike other ratites. Ten species of varying sizes are known, with the largest species, the giant moa (*Dinornis robustus* and *Dinornis novaezelandiae*), reaching about 3 m (10 ft) in height and about 250 kg (550 lb) in weight. They were the dominant herbivores in the New Zealand forest ecosystem.

- [1 History](#)
- [2 Taxonomy](#)
- [3 Biology](#)
- [4 Claims by cryptozoologists](#)
- [5 Trivia](#)
- [6 References](#)

History

Moa are thought to have become extinct about 1500, although some reports speculate that a few stragglers of *Megalapteryx didinus* may have persisted in remote corners of New Zealand until the 18th and even 19th centuries.

Although it used to be thought that numbers were declining before the impact of humans, their extinction is now attributed to hunting and forest clearance by the Polynesian ancestors of the Mori, who settled in New Zealand a few hundred years earlier. Before the arrival of humans, moa were hunted by Haast's Eagle, the world's largest eagle, which is also now extinct.

Although the indigenous Mori told European settlers tales about the huge birds which they called moa, which had once roamed the flats and valleys, the widespread physical evidence that they had actually existed was never closely examined by early European settlers.

In 1839, John W. Harris, a Poverty Bay flax trader who was a natural history enthusiast, was given a piece of unusual bone by a Mori who had found it in a river bank. He showed the 15 cm fragment of bone to his uncle, John Rule, a Sydney surgeon, who sent it to Richard Owen who at that time was working at the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of

Surgeons in London. Owen became a noted biologist, anatomist and paleontologist at the British Museum.

Owen puzzled over the fragment for almost four years. He established it was part of the femur of a big animal, but it was uncharacteristically light and honeycombed.

Owen announced to a skeptical scientific community and the world that it was from a giant extinct bird like an [ostrich](#), and named it "Dinornis". His deduction was ridiculed in some quarters but was proved correct with the subsequent discoveries of considerable quantities of moa bones throughout the land, sufficient to construct skeletons of the birds.

In July 2004, the Natural History Museum in London placed on display the moa bone fragment Owen had first examined, to celebrate 200 years since his birth, and in memory of Owen as founder of the museum.

Taxonomy

The [kiwi](#) were once regarded as the closest relatives of the moa, but comparisons of their DNA suggest they are more closely related to the Australian [emu](#) and [cassowary](#). (Turvey *et al.*, 2005).

Although dozens of species were described in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many were based on partial skeletons and turned out to be synonyms. More recent research, based on DNA recovered from museum collections, suggest that there were only 11-15 species, including 2-4 giant moa. The giant moa seem to have had pronounced sexual dimorphism, with females being much larger than males; so much bigger that they were formerly classified as separate species (see also below). The giant moa grew as large as 13 feet and became extinct much earlier (also by Mori hunting), about 1300.

Although traditionally reconstructed in an upright position giving impressive height, it is thought more likely that moas carried their heads forward, in the manner of a kiwi in order to graze on low-level vegetation.

Most interestingly, ancient DNA analyses have determined that there were a number of cryptic evolutionary lineages in several moa species. These may eventually be classified as species or subspecies; *Megalapteryx benhami* which was synonymized with *M. didinus* has been revealed to be a valid species by the same study (Baker *et al.*, 2005).

Sometimes, the Dinornithidae are considered to be a full order (Dinornithiformes), in which case the subfamilies listed below would be advanced to full family status (replacing "-inae" with "-idae").

Thus, the currently recognized genera and species are:

- Family †**Dinornithidae** - Moa
 - Subfamily **Megalapteryginae** - Megalapteryx Moa
 - Genus ***Megalapteryx***
 - Benham's Megalapteryx, *Megalapteryx benhami* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Lesser Megalapteryx, *Megalapteryx didinus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Subfamily **Anomalopteryginae** - Lesser Moa

- Genus **Anomalopteryx**
 - Bush Moa, *Anomalopteryx didiformis* (South Island, New Zealand)
- Genus **Euryapteryx**
 - North Island Broad-billed Moa, *Euryapteryx curtus* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - South Island Broad-billed Moa, *Euryapteryx geranoides* (South Island, New Zealand)
- Genus **Emeus**
 - Eastern Moa, *Emeus crassus* (South Island, New Zealand)
- Genus **Pachyornis**
 - Crested Moa, *Pachyornis australis* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Heavy-footed Moa, *Pachyornis elephantopus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - Mappin's Moa, *Pachyornis mappini* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - *Pachyornis* new lineage A (North Island, New Zealand)
 - *Pachyornis* new lineage B (South Island, New Zealand)
- Subfamily **Dinornithinae** - Giant Moa
 - Genus **Dinornis**
 - North Island Giant Moa, *Dinornis novaezealandiae* (North Island, New Zealand)
 - South Island Giant Moa, *Dinornis robustus* (South Island, New Zealand)
 - *Dinornis* new lineage A (South Island, New Zealand)
 - *Dinornis* new lineage B (South Island, New Zealand)

Biology

It has been long suspected that the species of moa described as *Euryapteryx curtus* / *E. exilis*, *Emeus huttonii* / *E. crassus*, and *Pachyornis septentrionalis* / *P. mappini* constituted males and females, respectively. This has been confirmed by analysis for sex-specific genetic markers of DNA extracted from bone material (Huynen *et al.*, 2003). More interestingly, the former three species of *Dinornis*: *D. giganteus* = *robustus*, *D. novaezealandiae* and *D. struthioides* have turned out to be males (*struthioides*) and females of only two species, one each formerly occurring on New Zealand's North Island (*D. novaezealandiae*) and South Island (*D. robustus*) (Huynen *et al.*, 2003; Bunce *et al.*, 2003); *robustus* however, comprises 3 distinct genetic lineages and may eventually be classified as as many species as discussed above.

Moa females were larger than males, being up to 150% of the male's size and 280% of their weight. This phenomenon — reverse size dimorphism — is not uncommon amongst [ratites](#), being most pronounced in moa and [kiwis](#).

Claims by cryptozoologists

Though there is no reasonable doubt that moa are [extinct](#), there has been occasional speculation that some may still exist in deepest south Westland, a rugged wilderness in the South Island of New Zealand. Cryptozoologists and others reputedly continue to search for them, but no hard evidence or actual specimens have ever been found, and their efforts are widely considered to be pseudoscientific.

In January 1993, on the West Coast, Paddy Freaney, Sam Waby and Rochelle Rafferty claimed to have seen a large moa-like bird. Analysis of the blurry photograph they claimed was of a moa suggested that the subject could be either a large bird or a red deer. The incident is considered a hoax, especially as Freaney is a hotelier, and may have concocted the story to attract tourists.

Moa experts say the likelihood of any moa remaining alive and unnoticed is extremely unlikely, since they would be giant birds in a region often visited by hunters and hikers. Freaney cites the rediscovery of the Takah as evidence that living birds could still exist undiscovered. However, while the hen-sized Takah could successfully avoid humans, a large moa would have considerably more difficulty in doing so. The Takah was rediscovered after its tracks were identified, but no reliable evidence of moa tracks has been reported.

Trivia

- The plural form of moa is also moa, as Mori words do not feature plural-"s".
- In the popular MMORPG Guild Wars, moa can be tamed as combat pets.

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Dromadidae

Crab Plover

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Dromadidae** GR Gray, 1840 Genus: **Dromas** Paykull, 1805 Species: ***D. ardeola***

Binomial name: ***Dromas ardeola*** Paykull, 1805

The **Crab Plover** (*Dromas ardeola*) is a [bird](#) related to the [waders](#), but sufficiently distinctive to merit its own family **Dromadidae**. Its relationship within the Charadriiformes is unclear, some have in close to the Thick-knees, or the pratincoles, or even closer to the [auks](#) and [gulls](#). It is the only member of the genus *Dromas*.

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Range and Behaviour](#)
- [3 References](#)

Description

This bird resembles a plover, but has very long grey legs and a strong heavy black bill similar to a [tern](#). Its black-and-white plumage and long-necked upright posture make it look like a cross between a pied avocet and a giraffe. Its bill is unique among waders, and specialised for eating crabs. It has partially webbed toes. The plumage is white except for black on its back and in the primary feathers of the wings. They are noisy birds, calling frequently on their breeding sites and in their wintering grounds.

The Crab Plover is one of the species to which the *Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds* (AEWA) applies.

Range and Behaviour

It is resident on the coasts and islands of the Indian Ocean, where it feeds on crabs and other small animals. They are gregarious and will feed in large groups, at night and during dawn and dusk as well as during the day; this crepuscular and nocturnal behaviour is more common during the breeding season. They breed around the Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Somalia in the months of April to July then disperse across the Indian Ocean in August as far as the Andaman Islands and Sri Lanka in the east and Tanzania and Madagascar.

The Crab Plover is unusual for waders in that it nests in burrows in sandy banks. It is a colonial breeder, nesting in colonies as large 1500 pairs. It lays one white [egg](#), occasionally two, which are large for its body size. The chicks are also unique for waders in being unable

to walk and remain in the nest for several days after hatching, having food brought to them. Even once they fledge they have a long period of parental care afterwards.

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Dromornithidae

Conservation status: Fossil

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: Dromornithidae P. Rich, 1979 Genera: *Dromornis*, *Barawertornis*, *Bullockornis*, *Ilbandornis*, *Genyornis*

Dromornithidae were a family of large, flightless [birds](#) that lived in Australia until the end of the Pleistocene, but are now [extinct](#). They were long believed to belong to the order of Struthioniformes, but are now usually classified as a family of Anseriformes¹. Their closest living relatives are waterfowl such as [ducks](#) and [geese](#).

The scientific name *Dromornithidae* derives from Greek *dromaio*s ("swift-running") and *ornis* ("bird"). Additionally, the family has been called *Thunder birds*, *giant emus*, *giant runners*, *demon ducks* and *Mihirungs*. The latter word is derived from Chaap Wuurong (Tjapwuring) *mihirung paringmal* for a "giant [emu](#)". The name used in this article, **dromornithids**, is derived from the family name.

Including the probably largest bird that ever lived —*Dromornis stirtoni* grew up to 3 meters tall— dromornithids were part of the Australian megafauna. This collective term is used to describe a number of comparatively large species of animals that lived in Australia from 20,000 to 50,000 years ago. The causes for the disappearance of these animals are under dispute (see "Extinction" below). It is also not clear to what degree dromornithids were carnivores. The massive, crushing beaks of some species suggest that at least some members of the family were a combination of carnivorous predators and scavengers (much like today's hyenas) or omnivores. Other features, such as the "hoof-like" feet, stomach structure, and eye structure that resulted in a wide field of vision but likely also created a centre blind spot of about forty degrees (which would hinder hunting significantly) suggest a more herbivorous, migratory lifestyle.

- [1 Appearance](#)
- [2 Species](#)
- [3 Distribution](#)
- [4 Age](#)
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Appearance

Dromornithids looked superficially like very large [emus](#) or [moas](#). Most were heavy-bodied, with powerfully developed legs and greatly reduced wings. The last bones of the toes resembled small hooves, rather than claws as in most birds. Like emus and other flightless birds, dromornithids lost the keel on the breastbone (or sternum), that serves as the attachment for the large flight muscles in most [bird skeletons](#). Their skull also was quite different from that of emus. These birds ranged from about the size of a modern [cassowary](#) (1.5 to 1.8 meters) up to 3 meters in the case of *Dromornis stirtoni*, possibly the largest bird that ever lived.

Species

As of 2005, 5 genera and 7 species have been described, and at least one new genus is currently under study. The smallest species was *Barawertornis tedfordi*, a bird about the size of a modern [cassowary](#), weighing 80-95 kg. The two species of *Ilbandornis* (*Ilbandornis lawsoni* and *Ilbandornis woodburnei*) were larger birds, but had more slender legs than the other dromornithids and were similar to [ostriches](#) in their build and size. *Bullockornis planei* (the Demon Duck of Doom) and *Genyornis newtoni* (the mihirung) were more heavily built, stood about 2-2.5m tall and probably reached weights of 220 to 240 kg. The largest dromornithids were *Dromornis australis* and the massive *Dromornis stirtoni* (*Stirton's Thunderbird*).

Distribution

Records of these birds are known only from Australia. Most of the records of dromornithids come from the eastern half of the continent, although fossil evidence of has also been discovered in Tasmania and Western Australia. At some Northern Territory sites they are very common, sometimes comprising 60-70% of the fossil material. A fragment of a dromornithid-sized foot bone has been found in Antarctica, but whether it represents these birds is uncertain.

Age

The earliest bones identified were found in Late Oligocene deposits at Riversleigh, northwest Queensland. There are foot impressions from the Early Eocene in southeast Queensland that may be referable to dromornithids. The most recent evidence, of *Genyornis newtoni*, has been found at Cuddie Springs, north central New South Wales and dated at 31,000 years old.

Discovery

The most recent species, *Genyornis newtoni*, was certainly known to Aborigines during the Late Pleistocene. Cave paintings thought to depict this bird are known, as are carved footprints larger than those considered to represent emus. At Cuddie Springs, *Genyornis* bones have been excavated in association with human artifacts. The issue of how much of an impact humans had on dromornithids and other large animals of the time is unresolved and much debated. Many scientists believe that human settlement and hunting were largely responsible for the extinction of many species of the Australian megafauna.

The first Europeans to encounter the bones of dromornithids may have been Thomas Mitchell and his team. While exploring the Wellington Caves, one of his men tied his rope to a projecting object which broke when he tried to descend down the rope. After the man had climbed back up, it was found that the projecting object was the fossilised long bone of a large bird. The first species to be described was *Dromornis australis*. The specimen was found in a 55 meter deep well at Peak Downs, Queensland, and subsequently described by Richard Owen in 1872.

Extensive collections of any dromornithid fossils were first made at Lake Callabonna, South Australia.

In 1892, E.C. Stirling and A.H. Zietz of the South Australian Museum received reports of large bones in a dry lake bed in the northwest of the state. Over the next years, they made several trips to the site, collecting nearly complete skeletons of several individuals. They named the newfound species *Genyornis newtoni* in 1896. Additional remains of *Genyornis* have been found in other parts of South Australia and in New South Wales and Victoria.

Other sites of importance were Bullock Creek and Alcoota, both in the Northern Territory. The specimen recovered there remained unstudied and unnamed until 1979, when Patricia Rich described five new species and four new genera. As of 2005, another new genus and species is under study at the Australian Museum.

Fossils

The best represented bones of dromornithids are vertebrae, long bones of the hindlimb and toe bones. Ribs and wing bones are uncommonly preserved. The rarest part of the skeleton is the skull. For many years, the only skull known was a damaged specimen of *Genyornis*. Early reconstructions of dromornithids made them appear like oversized emus. Peter Murray and Dirk Megirian, of the Northern Territory Museum in Australia, recovered enough skull material of *Bullockornis* to give a good idea of what that bird's head looked like. It is now known that *Bullockornis*' skull was very large, with the enormous bill making up about two-thirds of it. The bill was deep, but rather narrow. The jaws had cutting edges at the front as well as crushing surfaces at the back. There were attachments for large muscles, indicating that *Bullockornis* had a powerful bite. More fragmentary remains of the skull of *Dromornis* suggest that it, too, had an oversized skull.

Bones are not the only remains of dromornithids that have been found:

- The polished stones that the birds kept in their gizzards (muscular stomachs) occur at a number of sites. These stones, called gastroliths, played an important role in their digestion by breaking up coarse food or matter that was swallowed in large chunks.
- Series of footprints, called trackways, have been found at several sites. Impressions of the inside of the skull cavity (endocranial casts or endocasts) have been found. Endocasts are formed when sediments fill the empty skull, after which the skull is destroyed. These fossils give a fairly accurate picture of dromornithid brains.
- Almost complete eggs have been found on occasion and eggshell fragments are common in some areas of sand dunes.

Diet

It has been generally thought that the dromornithids were plant eaters. This belief is based on:

- the lack of a hook at the end of the bill
- the lack of talons on the toes
- the association of gizzard stones (caveat: gastroliths are also found the stomachs of some carnivores, such as modern crocodiles)
- the large number of individuals occurring together, suggesting flocking behaviour.

The very large skull and deep bill of *Bullockornis*, however, are very unlike those found in large herbivorous birds such as moas. If this dromornithid ate plants, it was equipped to process very robust material that has thus far not been identified. Growing and maintaining such a large head would be detrimental and probably not occur unless it provided a substantial benefit of some sort, although it may have just been a social signal - this, however, would require a highly developed or complex social structure to evolve.

It has been suggested that, despite the indications of herbivory in some dromornithids, *Bullockornis* may have been a carnivore or possibly a scavenger. The jaws could easily cut meat and their robust structure could have resisted damage if it bit into bones. The bird could easily have fed on the carcasses of large animals.

It is, of course, not necessary that all dromornithids had the same diet. There is good evidence that *Genyornis*, at least, was a plant eater. Amino acid analysis of eggshells indicates that this species was herbivorous. *Bullockornis* and *Dromornis*, with larger heads, may have had different diets.

Locomotion

Because of their enormous size, dromornithids have been considered to have been slow lumbering creatures. Their legs are not long and slender like those of emus or ostriches, which are specialised for running. However, biomechanical analysis of the attachments and

presumed sizes of the muscles suggest that dromornithids might have been able to run much faster than originally thought, making up for their less than ideal form with brute strength.

Phylogeny

What the nearest relatives of this group are is a controversial issue. For many years it was thought that dromornithids were related to ratites, such as emus, cassowaries and ostriches. It is now believed that the similarities between these groups are the result of similar responses to the loss of flight. The latest idea on dromornithid relationships, based on details of the skull, is that they evolved early in the lineage that includes [waterfowl].

Extinction

The reasons for the extinction of this entire family along with the rest of the Australian megafauna by the end of the Pleistocene are still debated. It is hypothesized that the arrival of the first humans in Australia (around 48-60 thousand years ago) and their hunting and landscape-changing use of fire may have contributed to the disappearance of the megafauna. However, drought conditions during peak glaciation (about 18,000 years ago) are a significantly confounding factor. Recent studies (Roberts et al. 2001) appear to rule this out as the primary cause of extinction, but there is also some dispute about these studies (Wroe et al. 2002). It is likely that a combination of all of these factors contributed to the megafauna's demise. However, there is significant disagreement about the relative importance of each.

See also

- [Fossil Birds](#)
- [Later Quaternary Prehistoric Birds](#)

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Bird families - E

Bird families - F

Falconidae

Falconids

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: **Falconidae** Vigors, 1824 Genera: *Daptrius*, *Phalcoboenus*, *Polyborus*, *Milvago*, *Herpetotheres*, *Micrastur*, *Spizapteryx*, *Polihierax*, *Microhierax*, [Falco](#)

The [family](#) **Falconidae** includes about 60 [species](#) of diurnal birds of prey, notably the [falcons](#) and caracaras. They differ from other Falconiformes in killing with their beaks instead of their feet. They have a "tooth" on the side of their beak for the purpose.

Species

- Genus *Daptrius*
 - Black Caracara, *Daptrius ater*
 - Red-throated Caracara, *Daptrius americanus*
- Genus *Phalcoboenus*
 - Carunculated Caracara, *Phalcoboenus carunculatus*
 - Mountain Caracara, *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*
 - White-throated Caracara, *Phalcoboenus albogularis*
 - Striated Caracara, *Phalcoboenus australis*
- Genus *Polyborus*
 - Crested Caracara, *Polyborus plancus*
- Genus *Milvago*
 - Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*
 - Chimango Caracara, *Milvago chimango*
 - *Milvago alexandri* (extinct)
 - *Milvago readei* (extinct)
- Genus *Herpetotheres*
 - Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*
- Genus *Micrastur* (Forest falcons -- see list in that page)
- Genus *Spizapteryx*
 - Spot-winged Falconet, *Spizapteryx circumcinctus*
- Genus *Polihierax*
 - African Pygmy Falcon, *Polihierax semitorquatus*
 - White-rumped Pygmy Falcon, *Polihierax insignis*
- Genus *Microhierax*
 - Collared Falconet, *Microhierax caerulescens*
 - Black-thighed Falconet, *Microhierax fringillarius*
 - White-fronted Falconet, *Microhierax latifrons*

Philippine Falconet, *Microhierax erythrogenys*

Pied Falconet, *Microhierax melanoleucus*

- Genus [*Falco*](#) (Falcons -- see list in that page)
- Genus *Pediohierax*
 - *Pediohierax ramenta* (extinct)
- Genus *Badiostes*
 - *Badiostes patagonicus* (extinct)

Fregatidae

Frigatebirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Fregatidae** Degland & Gerbe, 1867 Genus: ***Fregata*** Lacépède, 1799 Species: *Fregata magnificens*, *Fregata aquila*, *Fregata andrewsi*, *Fregata minor*, *Fregata ariel*

There are five [species](#) in the family **Fregatidae**, the **frigatebirds**. They are very closely related, and are all in the single [genus](#) ***Fregata***. Frigatebirds attack other sea birds, hence the name. They are also sometimes called Man of War birds or Pirate birds. Since they are related to the pelicans, the term "frigate pelican" is also a name applied to them.

Frigatebirds are large, with iridescent black feathers (the females have a white underbelly), with long wings (male wingspan can reach 2.3 metres) and deeply-forked tails. The males have inflatable red-coloured throat pouches, which they inflate to attract females during the mating season.

Frigatebirds are found over tropical oceans and ride warm updrafts. Therefore, they can often be spotted riding weather fronts and can signal changing weather patterns.

These birds do not swim and cannot walk well, and cannot take off from a flat surface. Having the largest wingspan to body weight ratio of any bird, they are essentially aerial, able to stay aloft for more than a week, landing only to roost or breed on trees or cliffs.

They lay one or two white eggs. Both parents take turns feeding for the first three months but then only by the mother for another eight months. It takes so long to rear a chick that frigatebirds cannot breed every year. It is typical to see juveniles as big as their parents waiting to be fed. When they sit waiting for endless hours in the hot sun, they assume an energy-efficient posture in which their head hangs down, and they sit so still that they seem dead. But when the parent returns, they will wake up, bob their head, and scream until the parent opens its mouth. The starving juvenile plunges its head down the parent's throat and feeds at last.

As members of pelecaniformes, frigatebirds have the key characteristics of all four toes being connected by the web, a gular sac (also called gular skin), and a furcula that is fused to the breastbone. Although there is definitely a web on the frigatebird foot, the webbing is reduced and part of each toe is free. Frigatebirds produce very little oil and therefore do not land in the ocean. The gular sac is used as part of a courtship display and is, perhaps, the most striking frigatebird feature.

Their feeding habits are pelagic. Frigatebirds often rob other seabirds of their catch, using their speed and manoeuvrability to outrun their victims. However, they are perfectly capable of catching fish, baby turtles and similar prey, snatching them up from flight.

Distribution and identifying characteristics differ among frigatebird species, and thus are addressed in species-specific articles.

Species

- **Genus *Fregata***
 - Magnificent Frigatebird or Man O'War, *Fregata magnificens*.
Ascension Frigatebird, *Fregata aquila*.
Christmas Island Frigatebird, *Fregata andrewsi*.
Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor*.
Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel*.

Bird families - G

Gastornithidae

Gastornithes

Fossil range: Late Paleocene-Eocene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes or Gastornithiformes

Family: **Gastornithidae** Hébert, 1855 Genera: *Gastornis* , *Zhongyuanus* , *Omorhamphus*

Gastornis is an extinct [genus](#) of large [flightless birds](#) that lived during the late Paleocene and Eocene periods of the Cenozoic. *Gastornis* lived in Europe, but it had an extremely close relative in North America; the North American bird is often called *Diatryma* (DIE-a-TREE-ma), but experts now believe they both belong in the *Gastornis* genus.

Gastornis measured on average 1.75m tall, while "*Diatryma*" was 2m tall. It had a remarkably huge [beak](#), which may mean that it was carnivorous (although the beak may simply have been used for sexual display and probably was better suited for crushing than for tearing or cutting action). Similar (but unrelated) gigantic birds were the Phorusrhacoids with South American origin and the Australian Dromornithidae (*Genyornis*). The former were certainly and the latter possibly carnivorous.

The closest living relatives of *Gastornis* are the Anseriformes, which includes waterfowl and screamers. In fact, gastornithids might well be anseriforms themselves.

Gastornis's name means 'Gaston's bird'; it is named after Gaston Planté, who discovered the first fossils at Geiseltal, Germany.

Gastornis appeared in the CGI series *Walking with Beasts*. It also made an appearance in the 2006 CGI family film *Ice Age: The Meltdown*.

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Bird families - H

Haematopodidae

Oystercatchers

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Haematopodidae** Bonaparte, 1838 Genus: **Haematopus** Linnaeus, 1758 Species:

Magellanic Oystercatcher, *H. leucopodus*, *Blackish Oystercatcher*, *H. ater*, *American Black Oystercatcher*, *H. bachmani*, *American Oystercatcher*, *H. palliatus*, *Canarian Black Oystercatcher* †, *H. meadewaldoi*, *African Black Oystercatcher*, *H. moquini*, *Eurasian Oystercatcher*, *H. ostralegus*, *Australian Pied Oystercatcher*, *H. longirostris*, *Chatham Island Oystercatcher*, *H. chathamensis*, *Variable Oystercatcher*, *H. unicolor*, *Sooty Oystercatcher*, *H. fuliginosus*

The **Oystercatchers** are a group of [waders](#); they form the [family](#) **Haematopodidae**, which has a single [genus](#), **Haematopus**. They are large obvious and noisy plover-like [birds](#), with strong bills used for smashing or prising open molluscs.

In some species, the bill shape varies according to the diet. Those birds with blade-like bill tips prise open or smash mollusc shells, and those with pointed bill tips tend to probe for annelid worms.

They are found on coasts worldwide apart from the polar regions. They are all-black, black and white or brown and white in appearance.

Their [eggs](#) are laid in a shallow scrape on shingle. Oystercatcher eggs are grey and speckled, providing camouflage against the grey rock background. They are pointed at one end. Contrary to popular belief, the purpose of this is not to provide space for the chick's long beaks (their long beaks develop after hatching). The pointed shape is thought to prevent the eggs from rolling down a steep slope.

Hydrobatidae

Storm Petrels

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: **Hydrobatidae** Mathews, 1912 Genera: **Subfamily Oceanitinae:** *Oceanites*, *Garrodia*, *Pelagodroma*, *Fregetta*, *Nesofregatta* - **Subfamily Hydrobatinae:** *Hydrobates*, *Oceanodroma*

The **storm-petrels** are [seabirds](#) in the [family Hydrobatidae](#), part of the order Procellariiformes. These smallest of seabirds, relatives of the petrels, feed on planktonic crustaceans and small fish picked from the surface, typically while hovering. The flight is fluttering and sometimes bat-like.

Storm-petrels have a cosmopolitan distribution, being found in all oceans. They are strictly pelagic, coming to land only when breeding. In the case of most species, little is known of their behaviour and distribution at sea, where they can be hard to find and harder to identify.

- [1 Taxonomy](#)
- [2 Morphology and flight](#)
- [3 Breeding](#)
- [4 Relationship with humans](#)
 - [4.1 Threats and Conservation](#)
- [5 Species](#)
- [6 References](#)

Taxonomy

Traditionally, two subfamilies are recognized. The **Oceanitinadae** are mostly found in southern waters (though the Wilson's Storm-petrel regularly migrates into the northern hemisphere); there are 7 species in 5 genera. The **Hydrobatinae** are the two genera *Hydrobates* and *Oceanodroma*. They are largely restricted to the northern hemisphere, although a few can visit or breed a short distance beyond the equator.

Cytochrome b DNA sequence analysis suggests that the family is paraphyletic and may be more accurately treated as distinct families.[1] The same study found that the storm-petrels are certainly ancestral to the Procellariiformes. The first split was the subfamily Hydrobatinae, with the Oceanitinadae splitting from the rest of the order at a later date.

Morphology and flight

Storm-petrels are the smallest of all the [seabirds](#), ranging in size from 13-26 cm in length. There are two body shapes in the family; the Oceanitinadae have short wings, square tails,

elongated skulls, and long legs; the Hydrobatinae have longer wings, forked or wedge-shaped tails and short legs.

The [plumage](#) of the Oceanitinadae is dark with white underparts (with the exception of the Wilson's Storm-petrel) All but two of the Hydrobatinae are mostly dark in colour with varying amounts of white on the rump. Two species have different plumage entirely, the Hornby's Storm-petrel which has white undersides and facial markings, and the Fork-tailed Storm-petrel which has pale grey plumage. [\[2\]](#)

Storm-petrels use a variety of techniques to aid [flight](#). Most species will occasionally feed by surface pattering, holding and moving their feet on the water's surface while holding steady above the water. They remain stationary by hovering with rapid fluttering or by using the wind to anchor themselves in place.[\[3\]](#) This method of feeding flight is most commonly used by Oceanitinadae storm-petrels. The White-faced Storm-petrel possesses a unique variation on pattering, holding it's wings motionless and at an angle into the wind it pushes itself off the water's surface in a succession of bounding jumps.[\[4\]](#) Storm-petrels also use dynamic soaring and slope soaring to travel over the ocean surface. Dynamic soaring is used mostly by the Hydrobatinae, gliding across wave fronts gaining energy from the vertical wind gradient.[\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#) Slope soaring is more straightforward and favoured by the Oceanitinadae,[\[3\]](#) the storm-petrel turns to the wind, gaining height, from where it can then glide back down to the sea.

Breeding

Storm-petrels nest in colonies on remote islands. Nesting sites are attended nocturnally in order to avoid predators.[\[7\]](#) Storm-petrels display high levels of philopatry, returning to their natal colonies to breed. In one instance a Band-rumped Storm-petrel was caught as an adult 2m from its natal burrow.[\[8\]](#) Storm-petrels nest either in burrows dug into soil or sand, or in small crevices in rocks and scree. Competition for nesting sites is intense in colonies where storm-petrels compete with other burrowing petrels, with shearwaters having been recorded killing storm-petrels in order to occupy their burrows.[\[9\]](#) Colonies can be extremely large and dense; 840,000 pairs of White-faced Storm Petrel nest on South East Island in the Chathams in burrow densities of between 1.18 - 0.47 burrows/m²; densities as high as 8 pairs/m² for Maderian Storm-petrels in the Galapagos and colonies 3.6 million strong for Leach's Storm Petrel have been recorded.[\[10\]](#)

Storm-petrels are monogamous and form long-term pair bonds that last a number of years. Studies of paternity using DNA fingerprinting have shown that unlike many other monogamous birds infidelity (extra-pair matings) is very rare.[\[11\]](#) As with the other Procellariiformes, a single egg is laid by a pair in a breeding season, if the egg fails then usually no attempt is made to relay (although it happens rarely). Both sexes incubate in shifts of up to six days. The egg hatches after 40 or 50 days; the young is brooded continuously for another 7 days or so before being left alone in the nest during the day and fed by regurgitation at night. Meals fed to the chick weigh around 10-20% of the parent's body weight, and consist of both prey items and stomach oil. Stomach oil is a energy rich (its calorific value is around 9600 calories per gram) oil created by partly digested prey in a part of the foregut known as the proventriculus.[\[12\]](#) By partly converting prey items into stomach

oil storm-petrels can maximise the amount of energy chicks receive during feed, an advantage for small seabirds that can only make a single visit to the chick during a 24 hour period (at night).[13] Chicks fledge after 50 or 70 days, depending on the species.

Relationship with humans

The name "petrel" is a diminutive form of "Peter", a reference to Saint Peter; it was given to these birds because they sometimes appear to walk across the water's surface. The more specific 'storm petrel' or 'stormy petrel' is a reference to their habit of hiding in the lee of ships during storms.[14] Early sailors named these birds "Mother Carey's Chickens" because they were thought to warn of oncoming storms; this name is based on a corrupted form of Mater Cara, a name for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Threats and Conservation

Several species of storm-petrel are threatened by human activities.^[15] Two, the Guadalupe Storm-petrel, and the New Zealand Storm-petrel, are listed as critically endangered. The Guadalupe Storm-petrel has not been observed since 1906 and most authorities consider it extinct. The New Zealand Storm-petrel was also considered extinct for many years but was sighted again in 2003, even so the population is likely to be very small. One species (the Ashy Storm-petrel) is listed as endangered due to a 42% decline over twenty years,^[16] and two other species are also listed as near threatened or worse. In addition four species are so poorly known that they are listed as data deficient.

Storm-petrels face the same threats as other [seabirds](#), in particular they are threatened by introduced species. The Guadalupe Storm-petrel was driven to extinction by [feral cats](#),^[17] and introduced predators such as have also been responsible for declines in other species. Habitat degradation which limits nesting opportunities caused by introduced goats and pigs is also a problem, especially if it increases competition from more aggressive burrowing petrels.

Species

- **Subfamily Oceanitinae**
 - Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*
 - New Zealand Storm-petrel, *Oceanites maorianus*
 - White-vented Storm-petrel, *Oceanites gracilis*
 - Grey-backed Storm-petrel, *Garrodia nereis*
 - White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*
 - Black-bellied Storm-petrel or Gould's Storm-Petrel, *Fregetta tropica*

- White-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta grallaria*
- Polynesian Storm-petrel, *Nesofregetta fuliginosa*
- **Subfamily Hydrobatinae**
 - European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
 - Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
 - Matsudaira's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae*
 - Least Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma microsoma*
 - Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma tethys*
 - Madeiran Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*
 - Swinhoe's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma monorhis*
 - Guadalupe Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma macrodactyla* (extinct)
 - Tristram's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma tristrami*
 - Markham's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma markhami*
 - Black Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma melania*
 - Ashy Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma homochroa*
 - Ringed Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma hornbyi*
 - Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma furcata*

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Bird families - I

Ibidorhynchidae

Ibisbill

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Ibidorhynchidae** Bonaparte, 1856 Genus: *Ibidorhyncha*

Species: *I. struthersii*

Binomial name: *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* (Vigors, 1832)

The **Ibisbill** (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*) is a [bird](#) related to the [waders](#), but sufficiently distinctive to merit its own family **Ibidorhynchidae**.

It lives on the shingle riverbanks of the high plateau of central Asia and the Himalayas.

This bird is quite unmistakable. The adult is grey with a white belly, red legs and long down curved bill, and a black face and black breast band. The young birds lack the black on the face and breast, and the bill is duller. The legs are bright red in the breeding adults and dull sepia in juveniles. In spite of its spectacular appearance it is inconspicuous in its stony environment.

They feed by probing under rocks or gravel on stream beds. ^[1]

The call is a ringing *Klew-klew* similar to that of a Greenshank.

It lays four eggs in a scrape on the ground.

The taxonomy position of the family is still unclear. It may be related to both the oystercatchers and the avocets. For an alternative classification of the *Charadriiformes*.

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Bird families - L

Lovebird

Lovebirds

Scientific classification

Kingdom: [Animalia](#)

Phylum: [Chordata](#)

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Psittaciformes](#)

Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genus: ***Agapornis***
Selby, 1836

Species

Nine - see text

A **lovebird** ([genus](#) *Agapornis*, Greek for "lovebird") is a very social and affectionate parrot.

The name "lovebird" stems from these birds' affectionate nature. Lovebirds form very close bonds with their mates, usually lasting a lifetime. This is reflected by the lovebird's name in other languages: in German, "die Unzertrennlichen," and in French "les inséparables"- "inseparables." For this reason, many people feel strongly that lovebirds in captivity should be kept only in pairs. Others believe that lovebirds, like other parrots, are social animals who can bond with human companions when given a great deal of care and attention.

Lovebirds are about 13-17 cm in size, 40-60 grams in weight and characterized by a small, stocky build and a short, cute, blunt tail. This puts them among the smallest parrots in the world although their beak is rather large for their overall size. Many lovebirds are green, although color mutations can feature many different colors. Some lovebird species, like Fischer's, black cheeked, and the yellow collared lovebird, have a white ring around the eye. Lifespan is 10 to 15 years.

- [1 Species and habits](#)
- [2 Agapornis as pets](#)
 - [2.1 Housing](#)
 - [2.2 Food](#)
 - [2.3 Potential problems](#)
- [3 References](#)

Species and habits

Phylogeny of the genus *Agapornis* based on existing molecular evidence.^[1] The species with the red line is currently unplaced in the phylogeny, but does belong to this genus.

Eight of the different species come from the mainland of Africa. The ninth species, *Agapornis canus*, originates from Madagascar. In the wild the different species are separated geographically. Lovebirds live in small flocks and eat mainly fruit, vegetables, some grasses and seed. Black-winged lovebirds also enjoy figs.

Only some of the lovebird species are sexually dimorphic. This includes the Abyssinian lovebird, the Madagascar lovebird, and the black-collared lovebird.

There are a total of 9 different [species](#):

- Peach-faced Lovebird, *Agapornis roseicollis*
Masked Lovebird, *Agapornis personata*
Fischer's Lovebird, *Agapornis fischeri*
Nyasa Lovebird, *Agapornis lilianae*
Black-cheeked Lovebird, *Agapornis nigrigeni*
Madagascar Lovebird, *Agapornis canus*
Abyssinian Lovebird, *Agapornis taranta*
Red-faced Lovebird, *Agapornis pullarius*
Black-collared Lovebird, *Agapornis swinderniana*

Agapornis as pets

Like with any other pet, it is essential that one make sure the birds that one is about to buy were bred in captivity, and not wild caught. Besides conservational and ethical reasons, wild caught animals are more likely to get sick and to die. Lovebirds, especially when kept individually or brought up hand-fed, make very good pets. Lovebirds can be very interactive with humans, and when comfortable around humans, will willingly perch on human's fingers and shoulders. Lovebirds rarely talk, but there is a chance they may learn to mimic human speech if taught to at a young age.

Housing

Lovebirds are very active and require an appropriately sized cage. They require lots of toys and things to chew on and play with. Lovebirds are extremely social birds, and there is debate on whether they should be kept individually. However, the consensus seems to be that they need social interaction, be it with conspecifics or human companion, for their emotional as well as physical well-being. Without this interaction, daily exercise, a roomy cage, and many toys to play with, they may resort to feather-plucking or other behavioral problems. They love to take baths almost every day and may sun themselves after bathing in order to dry

Food

Lovebirds require a variety of food, such as pellets, fruits, seeds, and vegetables. As a regular food, pellets are recommended, as the millet food generally sold in pet stores has too much fat in it and is not very balanced. Pellets specially made for birds provide a well-balanced diet. Fresh greens, such as spinach, are also extremely beneficial if not essential.

Potential problems

Lovebirds are very vocal birds, making loud, high-pitched noises that can be a nuisance. They make noise all day, but especially during the first morning hours.

As stated above, lovebirds are also very active, and love to chew things. When they are let out of their cage, it would be wise to watch them carefully, and protect any furniture, electrical wiring or anything else that they could possibly chew on.

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Bird families - M

Mesitornithidae

Mesites

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: **Mesitornithidae** Wetmore, 1960 Genera: *Mesitornis* , *Monias*

The **mesites** are a small group of [birds](#) of uncertain affinities often alternatively placed with the [Rallidae](#).

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Habitat and feeding](#)
- [3 Species](#)

Description

They are smallish, near flightless birds endemic to Madagascar. They are brownish birds generally with paler undersides. There are two genera, *Mesitornis*, the White-breasted Mesite and the Brown Mesite, and *Monias*, the Subdesert Mesite.

Habitat and feeding

They are forest and scrub birds which feed on insects and seeds. The Brown and White-breasted Mesites forage on the ground, gleaning insects from the leaves and under them, as well as low vegetation. The Subdesert Mesite uses its long bill to probe in the soil. Other birds such as [drongos](#) and flycatchers will follow mesites to catch any insects they flush and miss. Mesites are vocal birds, with calls similar to [passerine](#) song, used for territorial defence. The usually single white egg is laid in a nest in a bush. Two of the species (*Mesitornis*) are monogamous; the other is polygamous.

They are the only family with more than two species in which every kind is threatened; all three are listed as vulnerable and are expected to decline greatly in the next 20 years. None of the mesites have any legal protection, and none are the subject of ex-situ conservation. They are threatened by habitat loss and introduced species.

Species

- White-breasted Mesite, *Mesitornis variegata*
Brown Mesite, *Mesitornis unicolor*
Subdesert Mesite *Monias benschi*

Bird families - N

Bird families - 0

Bird families - P

Pedionomidae

Plains Wanderer

Conservation status: **Endangered**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Pedionomidae** Bonaparte, 1856 Genus: ***Pedionomus***

Species: ***P. torquatus***

Binomial name: ***Pedionomus torquatus*** Gould, 1841

The **Plains Wanderer**, *Pedionomus torquatus*, is a unique [bird](#) and is put in a family of its own. It is endemic to Australia.

It was formerly believed to be related to the buttonquails and thus placed in the gamebird order Galliformes or with the cranes and rails in Gruiformes, but DNA analysis shows it to be a [wader](#) related to the jacanas.

This is a quail-like ground bird, measuring 15–19 cm. The adult male is light brown above, with fawn-white underparts with black crescents. The adult female has a distinctive white-spotted black collar.

This bird is officially an endangered species. Population decline has been caused by the conversion of native grasslands to cultivation.

References

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Phaethontidae

Tropicbirds

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Phaethontidae** Brandt, 1840 Genus: *Phaethon*

Species: 3, see text

Tropicbirds are a group of three closely related pelagic [seabirds](#) of tropical oceans: The Red-billed Tropicbird, the Red-tailed Tropicbird, and the White-tailed Tropicbird.

- [1 Size and Appearance](#)
- [2 Systematics, evolution & distribution](#)
- [3 Ecology and reproduction](#)
- [4 References](#)

Size and Appearance

Tropicbirds range in size from 76cm-102cm in length and 94cm-112cm in wingspan. Their plumage is predominately white, with elongated central tail feathers. The three species will have a different combination of black markings on the face, back, and wings. Their bills are large, powerful and slightly decurved. Their heads are large and their necks are short and thick. Tropicbird legs are very short and their feet are totipalmate.

The Tropicbirds' call is typically a loud, piercing, shrill, but grating whistle, or crackle. These are often given in a rapid series when they are in a display flight at the colony.

Systematics, evolution & distribution

Tropicbirds are currently grouped in the order Pelecaniformes, which also includes the pelicans, cormorants and shags, darters, gannets and boobies and frigatebirds; in the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, the Pelecaniformes have been united with other, unrelated groups into a massively paraphyletic "Ciconiiformes".

Recent research suggests that the Pelecaniformes as traditionally defined are paraphyletic too. The tropicbirds and the related prehistoric family Prophaethontidae are probably better considered a distinct order related to the Procellariiformes (Mayr, 2003; Bourdon *et al.*, 2005) or a booby-[cormorant](#) lineage or placed into these groups as a superfamily **Phaetontes**.

Family Phaetontidae

- Genus *Phaeton*

- Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (tropical Atlantic, eastern Pacific, and Indian oceans)
- Red-tailed Tropicbird, *P. rubricauda* (Indian Ocean and the western and central tropical Pacific)
- White-tailed Tropicbird, *P. lepturus* (widespread in tropical waters, except in the eastern Pacific)

Heliadornis is a prehistoric genus of tropicbirds described from [fossils](#).

Ecology and reproduction

Tropicbirds frequently catch its prey by hovering and then plunge-diving, typically only into the surface-layer of the waters. They eat mostly fish, especially flying fish, and occasionally squid. Tropicbirds tend to avoid multi-species feeding flocks as opposed to their sister [Frigatebirds](#).

Tropicbirds are usually solitary or in pairs away from breeding colonies. There, they engage in spectacular courtship displays. For several minutes, groups of 2–20 birds simultaneously and repeatedly fly around one another in large, vertical circles, while swinging the tail streamers from side to side. If the female likes the presentation, she will mate with the male in his prospective nest-site. Occasionally, disputes will occur between males trying to protect their mates and nesting areas.

Tropicbirds generally nest in holes or crevices on the bare ground. The female will lay one white egg, spotted brown and incubate for 40-46 days. The incubation is performed by both parents, but mostly the female, while the male brings food to feed the female. The chick hatches with grey down. It will stay alone in nest while both parents search for food, and they will feed the chick twice every three days until fledging, about 12-13 weeks after hatching. The young are not able to fly initially, they will float on the ocean for several days to lose weight before flight.

Tropicbird chicks have relatively slow growth relative to a nearshore bird and they also tend to accumulate fat deposits while young. That, along with one-egg clutches, appears to be an adaptation to a pelagic lifestyle where food is often gathered in big amounts, but may be hard to find.

References

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Phalacrocoracidae

Cormorants

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Phalacrocoracidae** Reichenbach, 1850 Genera: *Nannopterum* , *Phalacrocorax* , *Leucocarbo*

The **Phalacrocoracidae** family of birds is represented by 38 [species](#) of **cormorants** and **shags**. Several different classifications of the family have been proposed recently, but in the one most commonly used, all but three species are placed in a single [genus](#) *Phalacrocorax*, the exceptions being the Galapagos' Flightless Cormorant, the Kerguelen Shag and the Imperial Shag.

- [1 Names](#)
- [2 Characteristics](#)
- [3 Species](#)
- [4 Cormorants' fishing](#)
- [5 Cultural references](#)
- [6 References](#)

Names

There is no consistent distinction between cormorants and shags. The names "cormorant" and "shag" were originally the common names of the two species of the family found in Great Britain, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (now referred to by ornithologists as the Great Cormorant) and *P. aristotelis* (the Common Shag). "Shag" refers to the bird's crest, which the British forms of the Great Cormorant lack. As other species were discovered by English-speaking sailors and explorers elsewhere in the world, some were called cormorants and some shags, depending on whether they had crests or not. Sometimes the same species is called a cormorant in one part of the world and a shag in another, e.g. the Great Cormorant is called the Black Shag in New Zealand (the birds found in Australasia have a crest that is absent in European members of the species). Some modern classifications of the family have divided it into two genera and have tried to attach the name "Cormorant" to one and "Shag" to the other, but this flies in the face of common usage and has not been widely adopted.

The scientific [genus](#) name is latinized Ancient Greek, from phalakros (bald) and korax (raven). "Cormorant" is a contraction derived from Latin *corvus marinus*, "sea raven". Indeed, "sea raven" or analogous terms were the usual terms for cormorants in Germanic languages until after the Middle Ages, and the erroneous belief that these birds were related to ravens lasted at least to the 16th century:

"...le bec semblable à celui d'un cormaran, ou autre corbeau." (...the beak similar to that of a cormorant or other corvids."; Thevet, 1558).

Characteristics

Cormorants and shags are medium-to-large [seabirds](#). The majority, including all Northern Hemisphere species, have mainly dark [plumage](#), but some Southern Hemisphere species are black and white, and a few (e.g. the Spotted Shag of New Zealand) are quite colourful. Many species have areas of coloured skin on the face (the lores and the gular skin) which can be bright blue, orange, red or yellow, typically becoming more brightly coloured in the breeding season. The bill is long, thin, and sharply hooked. Their feet are four-toed and webbed, a distinguishing feature among the Pelecaniformes order.

They are coastal rather than oceanic birds, and some have colonised inland waters. They range around the world, except for the central Pacific islands.

All are [fish](#)-eaters, dining on small eels, fish, and even water snakes. They dive from the surface, though many species make a characteristic half-jump as they dive, presumably to give themselves a more streamlined entry into the water. Under water they propel themselves with their feet. Some cormorant species have been found, using depth gauges, to dive to depths of as much as 45 metres.

After fishing, cormorants go ashore, and are frequently seen holding their wings out in the sun; it is assumed that this is to dry them. Unusually for a water bird, their [feathers](#) are not waterproofed. This may help them dive quickly, since their feathers do not retain air bubbles.

Cormorants are colonial nesters, using trees, rocky islets, or cliffs. The [eggs](#) are a chalky-blue colour. There is usually one brood a year. The young are fed through regurgitation. They typically have deep, ungainly bills which make it obvious that they are related to [pelicans](#).

Species

For an alternative scientific classification, see Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy.

- Genus *Phalacrocorax*
 - Brandt's Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*
 - Double-crested Cormorant or White-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*
 - Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
 - Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
 - Olivaceous Cormorant or Mexican Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax olivaceus*
 - Pelagic Cormorant or Baird's Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*
 - Red-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax urile*
 - Guanay Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii* (off Peru, guano collected from nesting colonies of this bird is used to produce internationally traded commercial fertilizer)
 - Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
 - Indian Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
 - Cape Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax capensis*

Socotran Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*
 Wahlberg's Cormorant or Bank Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax neglectus*
 Temminck's Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax capillatus*
 Common Shag, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
 Rock Shag, *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*
 Long-tailed Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax africanus*
 White-breasted Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax lucidus*
 Crowned Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax coronatus*
 Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*
 Pygmy Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*
 Pitt Cormorant or Featherstone's Shag *Phalacrocorax featherstoni*
 Pied Cormorant or Yellow-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius*
 King Shag, *Phalacrocorax carunculatus*
 Black-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*
 Spectacled Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus* (extinct)
 Red-footed Shag, *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*
 Spotted Shag *Phalacrocorax punctatus*
 White-bellied Shag, *Phalacrocorax albiventer*
 Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
 Stewart Island Shag, *Phalacrocorax chalconotus*
 Chatham Shag, *Phalacrocorax onslowi*
 Auckland Shag, *Phalacrocorax colensoi*
 Campbell Shag, *Phalacrocorax campbelli*
 Bounty Shag, *Phalacrocorax ranfurlyi*
 Flightless Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax harrisi* (previously *Nannopterum harrisi*) (confined to the Galapagos Islands where, through evolution, its wings have shrunk to the size of a penguin's flippers)

- Genus *Leucocarbo*
 - Imperial Shag (Blue eyed Shag), *Leucocarbo atriceps* (Previously Antarctic, South Georgian, Heard, Crozet, and Macquarie Shags, *Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis*, *georgianus*, *nivalis*, *melanogenis*, and *purpurascens*.)
Kerguelen Shag, Leucocarbo verrococus (Previously *P. verrococus*.)

The King Shag of New Zealand has a number of races previously considered as full species.

Cormorants' fishing

Humans have historically exploited cormorants' fishing skills, in China, Japan, and Macedonia, where they have been trained by fishermen. In Japan, traditional cormorant fishing can be seen in Gifu City, in Gifu Prefecture, where it has continued uninterrupted for 1300 years, or in the city of Inuyama, in Aichi Prefecture. In Guilin, China, cormorant birds are famous for fishing on the shallow Lijiang River. A snare is tied near the base of the bird's throat, a snare that allows the bird only to swallow small fish. When the bird captures and tries to swallow a large fish, the fish gets stuck in the bird's throat. When the bird returns to

the fisherman's raft, the fisherman helps the bird to remove the fish from its throat. The method is not as common today, since more efficient methods of catching fish have been developed.

Cultural references

- Cormorants feature quite commonly in heraldry and medieval ornamentation, usually in their "wing-drying" pose, which was seen as representing the Christian cross. The species depicted is most likely to be the Great Cormorant.
- On the other hand, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Satan takes on the form of a cormorant.
- Christopher Isherwood wrote the poem

"The common cormorant or shag
Lays eggs inside a paper bag,
The reason you will see no doubt
It is to keep the lightning out.
But what these unobservant birds
Have never noticed is that herds
Of wandering bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs."

His information about the bird's nesting habits shouldn't be relied on.

- In addition to the comic verse quoted above, the bird inspired at least one other poet, Amy Clampitt, to write the sonnet below; it is not obvious which species she was referring to, since all members of the family share the characteristic behavioural and morphological features that the poem celebrates.

The Cormorant in Its Element

That bony potbellied arrow, wing-pumping along
implacably, with a ramrod's rigid adherence,
airborne, to the horizontal, discloses talents
one would never have guessed at. Plummeling
waterward, big black feet splayed for a landing
gear, slim head turning and turning, vermilion-
strapped, this way and that, with a lightning glance
over the shoulder, the cormorant astounding-
ly, in one sleek involution arabesque, a vertical
turn on a dime, goes into the inimitable
vanishing-and-emerging-from-under-the-briny-
deep act which, unlike the works of Homo Houdini,
is performed for reasons having nothing at all
to do with ego, guilt, ambition, or even money.

- Colin Meloy mentions the cormorant in the song "The Island: Come and See, The Landlord's Daughter, You'll Not Feel The Drowning" on The Crane Wife, a 2006 album by the Decemberists.
- In the video game Ace Combat Zero: The Belkan War, the Gelb Squadron is also known as "The Coupled Cormorants." The callsign of Gelb 2 (2nd Lieutenant Rainer Altman) is "Cormorant." Their squadron insignia includes a cormorant with goggles.

References

- **Thevet**, F. André (1558): [About birds of Ascension Island]. In: *Les singularitez de la France Antarctique, autrement nommee Amerique, & de plusieurs terres & isles decouvertes de nostre temps*: 39-40. Maurice de la Porte heirs, Paris. [Fulltext at Gallica](#)

Phasianidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: **Phasianidae** Horsfield, 1821 Genera: Many, see text

The **Phasianidae** is a family of [birds](#) which consists of the [pheasants](#) and their allies (including junglefowl, quail, and peacocks). The American Ornithological Union includes Tetraonidae, Numididae, and Meleagrididae in Phasianidae as subfamilies.

These are terrestrial species, variable in size but generally plump, with broad relatively short wings. Many have a spur on their legs. Males of the larger species are often brightly coloured. The typical diet consists of seeds with some insects and berries.

This large family has several groups, some of which correspond to a [genus](#), others being loose collections of not particularly closely related genera.

Genera

- Quails:
 - Genus Coturnix (9 species)
Anurophasis monorhynchos (Snow Mountain Quail)
 - Genus Perdix (4 species)
Ophrysia superciliosa (Himalayan Quail)
 - [Partridges](#)
 - Genus Alectoris (7 species)
Genus Ammoperdix (2 species)
Genus Arborophila (Hill Partridges, 18 species)
Genus Bambusicola (Bamboo Partridges, 2 species)
Caloperdix oculea (Ferruginous Wood Partridge)
Haematortyx sanguiniceps (Crimson-headed Partridge)
Lerwa lerwa (Snow Partridge)
Margaroperdix madagascariensis (Madagascar Partridge)
Melanoperdix nigra (Black Wood-partridge)
Genus Perdix (3 species)
Ptilopachus petrosus (Stone Partridge)
Rhizothera longirostris (Long-billed Partridge)
Rollulus rouloul (Crested Wood Partridge)
Genus Xenoperdix (2 species)
 - [Pheasants](#):
 - Argusianus argus (Great Argus Pheasant)
 - Catreus wallichi (Cheer Pheasant)
 - Genus Chrysolophus (2 species)
 - Genus Crossoptilon (Eared Pheasants, 4 species)
 - Ithaginis cruentus (Blood Pheasant)

- Genus *Lophura* (10 species)
- Genus *Phasianus* (2 species)
- Genus *Polyplectron* (Peacock Pheasants, 7 species)
- Pucrasia macrolopha* (Koklass Pheasant)
- Rheinartia ocellata* (Crested Argus Pheasant)
- Genus *Syrnaticus* (5 species)
- Genus *Tetraogallus* (Snowcocks, 5 species)
- Genus *Francolinus* (Francolins, 41 species)
- Genus *Galloperdix* (Spurfowls, 3 species)
- Genus *Tragopan* (Tragopans, 5 species)
- Genus *Lophophorus* (Monals, 3 species)
- Peafowl:
 - Genus *Pavo* (2 species)
 - Afropavo congolesis*: (Congo Peafowl)
- Genus *Gallus* (Junglefowls including the domestic [chicken](#), 5 species)

Phorusrhacidae

Phorusrhacoids

Conservation status: Fossil

Fossil range: Paleogene-Mid Neogene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: **Phorusrhacidae** Ameghino, 1889 Synonyms: *Phororhacosidae*, Ameghino, 1889 , *Phororhacidae*, Lydekker, 1893 , *Brontornithidae*, Moreno & Mercerat, 1891 , *Darwinornithidae*, Moreno & Mercerat, 1891, *Stereornithidae*, Moreno & Mercerat, 1891 , *Patagornithidae*, Mercerat, 1897 , *Devincenziidae*, Kraglievich, 1932 , *Mesembriornithidae* Kraglievich, 1932, , *Phorusrhacidae*, Brodkorb, 1963

Phorusrhacoids, or **Terror Birds**, were large carnivorous flightless birds that were the dominant predators in South America during the Cenozoic, 62–2.5 million years ago. They were roughly 1–3 meters (3–10 feet) tall. *Titanis walleri*, one of the largest species, is known from North America, marking one of the comparatively rare examples where animals that evolved in South America managed to spread north after the Isthmus of Panama landbridge formed. The ancestors of *T. walleri* have not been found; however, it is possible that more North American species await discovery. Only a few bones of *T. walleri* have been discovered at scattered locations in Florida and at a site along the Texas coast. No complete skeleton exists of North America's only known phorusrhacoid.

Phorusrhacoids are colloquially known as "terror birds", because their larger species were top-level predators and among the most fearsome carnivores of their habitat. Their wings had evolved to meathook-like structures that could be outstretched like arms and were able to perform a hacking motion which apparently was helpful in bringing down prey. Most of the smaller and some of the larger species were fast runners.

Their closest modern-day relatives are the seriemas, which do not, however, belong to the same lineage.

A new (2006) specimen from Patagonia represents the largest bird skull found yet; it has not been formally described yet but might belong to a new taxon. [\[1\]](#)

Taxonomy

Following the revision by Alvarenga and Höfling (2003), there are now 5 [subfamilies](#), containing 13 [genera](#) and 17 [species](#):

- Subfamily **Brontornithinae** - gigantic species, standing over 2 meters high
 - Genus *Brontornis*
 - *Brontornis burmeisteri*
 - Genus *Physornis*
 - *Physornis fortis*
 - Genus *Paraphysornis*
 - *Paraphysornis brasiliensis*

- Subfamily **Phorusrhacinae** - gigantic species, but somewhat smaller and decidedly more nimble than the Brontornithinae
 - Genus *Phorusrhacos*
 - *Phorusrhacos longissimus*
 - Genus *Devincenzia*
 - *Devincenzia pozzii*
 - Genus *Titanis*
 - *Titanis walleri*
- Subfamily **Patagornithinae** - medium-sized and very nimble species, standing around 1.5 meters high
 - Genus *Patagornis*
 - *Patagornis marshi*
 - Genus *Andrewsornis*
 - *Andrewsornis abbotti*
 - Genus *Andalgalornis*
 - *Andalgalornis steulleti*
- Subfamily **Psilopterinae** - small species, standing 70-100 centimeters high
 - Genus *Psilopterus*
 - *Psilopterus bachmanni*
 - *Psilopterus lemoinei*
 - *Psilopterus affinis*
 - *Psilopterus colzeca*
 - Genus *Procariama*
 - *Procariama simplex*
 - Genus *Paleopsilopterus*
 - *Paleopsilopterus itaboraiensis*
- Subfamily **Mesembriornithinae** - medium-sized species, standing between 1 and 1.5 meters high
 - Genus *Mesembriornis*
 - *Mesembriornis milneedwardsi*
 - *Mesembriornis incertus*

Alvarenga and Höfling do not include the Ameghinornithinae and Aenigmavis sapea from Europe in the phorusrhacoids; they conclude that the former are close relatives, and the latter is of uncertain affiliation.

References

- Alvarenga, Herculano M. F. & Höfling, Elizabeth (2003): *Systematic revision of the Phorusrhacidae (Aves: Ralliformes)*. *Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia* **43**(4): 55-91 [PDF fulltext](#)
- Ameghino, F. (1889): "Contribución al conocimiento de los mamíferos fósiles de la República Argentina", *Actas Academia Nacional Ciencias de Córdoba* **6**: 1-1028.

Picidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Piciformes

Family: **Picidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Jynx*, *Picumnus*, *Sasia*, *Nesocittes*, *Melanerpes*, *Sphyrapicus*, *Xiphidiopicus*, *Dendropicus*, *Dendrocopos*, *Picoides*, *Veniliornis*, *Campethera*, *Geocolaptes*, *Dinopium*, *Meiglyptes*, *Hemicircus*, *Micropternus*, *Picus*, *Mulleripicus*, *Dryocopus*, *Celeus*, *Piculus*, *Colaptes*, *Campephilus*, *Chrysocolaptes*, *Reinwardtipicus*, *Blythipicus*, *Gecinulus*, *Sapheopipo*

The avian [family](#) **Picidae** includes the woodpeckers, piculets and wrynecks. Members of this family are found worldwide, except for Australia, Madagascar, and the extreme polar regions. Most species live in forests or woodland habitats, although a few species are known to live in desert areas.

Family Picidae is just one of the eight families in the order Piciformes. Members of the order Piciformes, such as the jacamars, puffbirds, barbets, toucans and honeyguides, have traditionally been thought to be very closely related to the woodpeckers, piculets and wrynecks. Recent molecular studies has strengthened this view.

There are about over 200 species and about 30 genera in this family (for the full species list, see Woodpecker). Many species are threatened or endangered due to loss of habitat or habitat fragmentation. Two species of woodpeckers, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the Imperial Woodpecker, have been considered extinct for about 30 years (there has been some controversy recently whether these species still exist).

Species of the family Picidae range in size from 8 cm to 58 cm in length. Most species possess predominantly white, black and brown feathers, although many piculets show a certain amount of gray and olive green. In woodpeckers, many species exhibit patches of red and yellow on their heads and bellies. Although the genders of a species tend to look alike, male woodpeckers will have brighter reds and yellows than the females.

Members of the family Picidae have strong bills for drilling and drumming on trees and long sticky tongues for extracting food. Woodpecker bills are typically longer, sharper and stronger than the bills of piculets and wrynecks, however their morphology is very similar. Due to their smaller bill size, many piculets and wrynecks will forage in decaying wood more often than woodpeckers. The long sticky tongues, which possess bristles, aid these birds in grabbing and extracting insects deep within a hole of a tree.

Woodpeckers, piculets and wrynecks all possess zygodactyl feet. Zygodactyl feet consist of four toes, two facing frontward and two facing back. This type of foot arrangement is good for grasping the limbs and trunks of trees. Members of this family can walk vertically up a tree trunk, which is beneficial for activities such as foraging for food or nest excavation.

The diet of these birds consists mainly of insects, such as ants and beetles, nuts, seeds, berries, some fruit and sap. Species may feed generally on all of these, or may specialize on one or two.

All members of the family Picidae nest in cavities. Woodpeckers and piculets will excavate their own nests, but wrynecks will not. The excavated nest is usually only lined from

the wood chips produced as the hole was made. Many species of woodpeckers excavate one hole per breeding season, sometimes after multiple attempts. It takes around a month to finish the job. Abandoned holes are used by many other birds and animals, such as flying squirrels.

Members of Picidae are typically monogamous. A pair will work together to help build the nest, incubate the eggs and raise their altricial young. However, in most species the male does most of the nest excavation and takes the night shift while incubating the eggs. A nest will usually consist of 2-5 round white eggs. Since these birds are cavity nesters their eggs do not need to be camouflaged and the white color helps the parents to see them in dim light. The eggs are incubated for about 11-14 days before the chicks are born. It takes about 18-30 days before the young are ready to leave the nest.

Picidae species can either be sedentary or migratory. Many species are known to stay in the same area year around while others, such as the Eurasian Wryneck and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, travel great distances from their breeding grounds to their wintering ground.

- [1 Systematics and evolution](#)
 - [1.1 Prehistoric taxa](#)
 - [1.2 Subfamily Jynaginae: Wrynecks](#)
 - [1.3 Subfamily Picumninae: Piculets](#)
 - [1.4 Subfamily Nesocittinae: Antillean Piculet](#)
 - [1.5 Subfamily Picinae: Woodpeckers](#)
- [2 References](#)

Systematics and evolution

The phylogeny has been updated according to new knowledge about convergence patterns and evolutionary history (Benz *et al.*, 2006; Moore *et al.*, 2006). Most notably, the relationship of the picine genera has been largely clarified, and it was determined that the Antillean Piculet is a surviving offshoot of proto-woodpeckers.

The evolutionary history of this group is not well documented, but the known fossils allow some preliminary conclusions: the earliest known modern picids were piculet-like forms of the Late Oligocene (c. 25 MYA). By that time, however, the group was already present in the Americas and Europe, and it is hypothesized that they actually evolved much earlier, maybe as early as the Early Eocene (50 MYA). The modern subfamilies appear to be rather young by comparison; until the mid-Miocene (10-15 MYA), all picids seem to have been small or mid-sized birds similar to a mixture between a piculet and a wryneck. An enigmatic form based on a coracoid found in Pliocene deposits of New Providence, Bahamas, has been described as *Bathoceus hyphalus* and probably also is a woodpecker (Cracraft & Morony, 1969).

Prehistoric forms of the extant genera are treated in the corresponding genus articles.

Prehistoric taxa

Basal

- Genus *Palaeopicus* (Late Oligocene of France)

Not assigned to subfamily

- Picidae gen. et sp. indet. (Middle Miocene of New Mexico, USA)
- Picidae gen. et sp. indet. (Late Miocene of Gargano Peninsula, Italy)

Subfamily Jynginae: Wrynecks

- Genus *Jynx*
 - Eurasian Wryneck, *Jynx torquilla*
 - Rufous-necked Wryneck, *Jynx ruficollis*

Subfamily Picumninae: Piculets

Genus *Picumnus*

- Speckled Piculet, *Picumnus innominatus* (sometimes *Vivia*)
- Bar-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus aurifrons*
- Orinoco Piculet, *Picumnus pumilus*
- Lafresnaye's Piculet, *Picumnus lafresnayi*
- Golden-spangled Piculet, *Picumnus exilis*
- Black-spotted Piculet, *Picumnus nigropunctatus*
- Ecuadorian Piculet, *Picumnus sclateri*
- Scaled Piculet, *Picumnus squamulatus*
- White-bellied Piculet, *Picumnus spilogaster*
- Guianan Piculet, *Picumnus minutissimus*
- Spotted Piculet, *Picumnus pygmaeus*
- Speckle-chested Piculet, *Picumnus steindachneri*
- Varzea Piculet, *Picumnus varzeae*
- White-barred Piculet, *Picumnus cirratus*
- Ocellated Piculet, *Picumnus dorbygnianus*
- Ochre-collared Piculet, *Picumnus temminckii*
- White-wedged Piculet, *Picumnus albosquamatus*
- Rusty-necked Piculet, *Picumnus fuscus*
- Rufous-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus rufiventris*
- Tawny Piculet, *Picumnus fulvescens*
- Ochraceous Piculet, *Picumnus limae*
- Mottled Piculet, *Picumnus nebulosus*
- Plain-breasted Piculet, *Picumnus castelneau*

- Fine-barred Piculet, *Picumnus subtilis*
- Olivaceous Piculet, *Picumnus olivaceus*
- Grayish Piculet, *Picumnus granadensis*
- Chestnut Piculet, *Picumnus cinnamomeus*
- Genus *Verreauxia* (sometimes included in *Sasia*)
 - African Piculet, *Verreauxia africana*
- Genus *Sasia*
 - Rufous Piculet, *Sasia abnormis*
 - White-browed Piculet, *Sasia ochracea*

Subfamily Nesotitinae: Antillean Piculet

- Genus *Nesotites*
 - Antillean Piculet, *Nesotites micromegas*

Subfamily Picinae: Woodpeckers

Unassigned fossil forms

- Genus *Palaeonerpes* (Ogalalla Early Pliocene of Hitchcock County, USA) - possibly dendropicine
- Genus *Pliopicus* (Early Pliocene of Kansas, USA) - possibly dendropicine
- cf. *Colaptes* DMNH 1262 (Early Pliocene of Ainsworth, USA) - malarpicine?

Tribe Dendropicini

- Genus *Melanerpes*
 - White Woodpecker, *Melanerpes candidus*
 - Lewis' Woodpecker, *Melanerpes lewis*
 - Guadeloupe Woodpecker, *Melanerpes herminieri*
 - Puerto Rican Woodpecker, *Melanerpes portoricensis*
 - Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
 - Acorn Woodpecker, *Melanerpes formicivorus*
 - Golden-naped Woodpecker, *Melanerpes chrysauchen*
 - Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani*
 - Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cruentatus*
 - Yellow-fronted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes flavifrons*
 - White-fronted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes cactorum*
 - Hispaniolan Woodpecker, *Melanerpes striatus*
 - Jamaican Woodpecker, *Melanerpes radiolatus*
 - Golden-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes chrysogenys*
 - Gray-breasted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes hypopolius*

Yucatan Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pygmaeus*
 Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*
 Hoffmann's Woodpecker, *Melanerpes hoffmannii*
 Gila Woodpecker, *Melanerpes uropygialis*
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker, *Melanerpes aurifrons*
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*
 West Indian Woodpecker, *Melanerpes superciliaris*

- Genus *Sphyrapicus*
 - Williamson's Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*
 Red-naped Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*
 Red-breasted Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus ruber*
- Genus *Xiphidiopicus*
 - Cuban Woodpecker, *Xiphidiopicus percussus* (Placement in *Dendropicini* tentative)
- Genus *Dendropicos*
 - Little Grey Woodpecker, *Dendropicos elachus*
 Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendropicos poecilolaemus*
 Abyssinian Woodpecker, *Dendropicos abyssinicus*
 Cardinal Woodpecker, *Dendropicos fuscescens*
 Gabon Woodpecker, *Dendropicos gabonensis*
 Melancholy Woodpecker, *Dendropicos lugubris*
 Stierling's Woodpecker, *Dendropicos stierlingi*
 Bearded Woodpecker, *Dendropicos namaquus*
 Fire-bellied Woodpecker, *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*
 Golden-crowned Woodpecker, *Dendropicos xantholophus*
 Elliot's Woodpecker, *Dendropicos elliotii*
 Grey Woodpecker, *Dendropicos goertae*
 African Grey-headed Woodpecker, *Dendropicos spodocephalus*
 Olive Woodpecker, *Dendropicos griseocephalus*
 Brown-backed Woodpecker, *Dendropicos obsoletus*
- Genus *Dendrocopos*
 - Sulawesi Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos temminckii*
 Philippine Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos maculatus*
 Brown-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos nanus*
 Sunda Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos moluccensis*
 Grey-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
 Pygmy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos kizuki*
 Brown-fronted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos auriceps*
 Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei*
 Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos atratus*
 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*
 Arabian Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos doriae*

- Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
- Darjeeling Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
- Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos cathpharius*
- Middle Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos medius*
- White-backed Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos leucotos*
- Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major*
- Syrian Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos syriacus*
- White-winged Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos leucopterus*
- Sind Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos assimilis*
- Himalayan Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
- Genus *Picoides* - this genus is in need of revision (Moore *et al.*, 2006). See the genus article for more.
 - Small group
 - Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Picoides minor* - previously *Dendrocopos*
 - Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*
 - Nuttall's Woodpecker, *Picoides nuttallii*
 - Ladder-backed Woodpecker, *Picoides scalaris*
 - Large group
 - Red-cockaded Woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*
 - Smoky-brown Woodpecker, *Picoides fumigatus*
 - Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*
 - White-headed Woodpecker, *Picoides albolarvatus*
 - Strickland's Woodpecker, *Picoides stricklandi*
 - Arizona Woodpecker, *Picoides arizonae*
 - Three-toed
 - Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*
 - American Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides dorsalis*
 - Black-backed Woodpecker, *Picoides arcticus*
- Genus *Veniliornis*
 - Red-rumped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis kirkii*
 - Golden-collared Woodpecker, *Veniliornis cassinii*
 - Choco Woodpecker, *Veniliornis chocoensis*
 - Yellow-eared Woodpecker, *Veniliornis maculifrons*
 - Red-stained Woodpecker, *Veniliornis affinis*
 - Bar-bellied Woodpecker, *Veniliornis nigriceps*
 - Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, *Veniliornis callonotus*
 - Yellow-vented Woodpecker, *Veniliornis dignus*
 - Little Woodpecker, *Veniliornis passerinus*
 - Dot-fronted Woodpecker, *Veniliornis frontalis*
 - Blood-colored Woodpecker, *Veniliornis sanguineus*
 - White-spotted Woodpecker, *Veniliornis spilogaster*
 - Striped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis lignarius*
 - Checkered Woodpecker, *Veniliornis mixtus*

Tribe Malarpicini

- Genus *Campethera*
 - Fine-spotted Woodpecker, *Campethera punctuligera*
 - Nubian Woodpecker, *Campethera nubica*
 - Bennett's Woodpecker, *Campethera bennettii*
 - Reichenow's Woodpecker, *Campethera scriptoricauda*
 - Golden-tailed Woodpecker, *Campethera abingoni*
 - Mombasa Woodpecker, *Campethera mombassica*
 - Knysna Woodpecker, *Campethera notata*
 - Little Green Woodpecker, *Campethera maculosa*
 - Green-backed Woodpecker, *Campethera cailliautii*
 - Tullberg's Woodpecker, *Campethera tullbergi*
 - Buff-spotted Woodpecker, *Campethera nivosa*
 - Brown-eared Woodpecker, *Campethera caroli*
- Genus *Geocolaptes*
 - Ground Woodpecker, *Geocolaptes olivaceus*
- Genus *Dinopium*
 - Olive-backed Woodpecker, *Dinopium rafflesii*
 - Himalayan Flameback, *Dinopium shorii*
 - Common Flameback, *Dinopium javanense*
 - Black-rumped Flameback, *Dinopium benghalense*
- Genus *Meiglyptes*
 - Buff-rumped Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tristis*
 - Black-and-buff Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes jugularis*
 - Buff-necked Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tukki*
- Genus *Hemicircus* (Placement in Malarpicini tentative)
 - Grey-and-buff Woodpecker, *Hemicircus concretus*
 - Heart-spotted Woodpecker, *Hemicircus canente*
- Genus *Micropternus* (formerly in *Celeus*)
 - Rufous Woodpecker, *Micropternus brachyurus*
- Genus *Picus*
 - Banded Woodpecker, *Picus mineaceus*
 - Lesser Yellownape, *Picus chlorolophus*
 - Crimson-winged Woodpecker, *Picus puniceus*
 - Greater Yellownape, *Picus flavinucha*
 - Checker-throated Woodpecker, *Picus mentalis*
 - Streak-breasted Woodpecker, *Picus viridanus*
 - Laced Woodpecker, *Picus vittatus*
 - Streak-throated Woodpecker, *Picus xanthopygaeus*
 - Scaly-bellied Woodpecker, *Picus squamatus*
 - Japanese Woodpecker, *Picus awokera*
 - Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis*
 - Levaillant's Woodpecker, *Picus vaillantii*

- Red-collared Woodpecker, *Picus rabieri*
- Black-headed Woodpecker, *Picus erythropygius*
- Grey-headed Woodpecker, *Picus canus*
- Genus *Mulleripicus*
 - Ashy Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus fulvus*
 - Sooty Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus funebris*
 - Great Slaty Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
- Genus *Dryocopus*
 - Helmeted Woodpecker, *Dryocopus galeatus*
 - Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*
 - Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*
 - Black-bodied Woodpecker, *Dryocopus schulzi*
 - White-bellied Woodpecker, *Dryocopus javensis*
 - Andaman Woodpecker, *Dryocopus hodgei*
 - Black Woodpecker, *Dryocopus martius*
- Genus *Celeus*
 - Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus*
 - Scaly-breasted Woodpecker, *Celeus grammicus*
 - Waved Woodpecker, *Celeus undatus*
 - Chestnut-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus castaneus*
 - Chestnut Woodpecker, *Celeus elegans*
 - Pale-crested Woodpecker, *Celeus lugubris*
 - Blond-crested Woodpecker, *Celeus flavescens*
 - Cream-colored Woodpecker, *Celeus flavus*
 - Rufous-headed Woodpecker, *Celeus spectabilis*
 - Caatinga Woodpecker, *Celeus obrieni* (possibly extinct)
 - Ringed Woodpecker, *Celeus torquatus*
- Genus *Piculus*
 - Rufous-winged Woodpecker, *Piculus simplex*
 - Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, *Piculus callopterus*
 - Lita Woodpecker, *Piculus litae*
 - White-throated Woodpecker, *Piculus leucolaemus*
 - Yellow-throated Woodpecker, *Piculus flavigula*
 - Golden-green Woodpecker, *Piculus chrysochloros*
 - Yellow-browed Woodpecker, *Piculus aurulentus*
- Genus *Colaptes*
 - Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*
 - Gilded Flicker, *Colaptes chrysoides*
 - Fernandina's Flicker, *Colaptes fernandinae*
 - Chilean Flicker, *Colaptes pitius*
 - Andean Flicker, *Colaptes rupicola*
 - Campo Flicker, *Colaptes campestris*
 - Black-necked Woodpecker, *Colaptes atricollis*
 - Spot-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes punctigula*

Green-barred Woodpecker, *Colaptes melanochloros*
 Golden-breasted Woodpecker, *Colaptes (melanochloros) melanolaimus*
 Golden-olive Woodpecker, *Colaptes rubiginosus*
 Gray-crowned Woodpecker, *Colaptes auricularis*
 Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, *Colaptes rivolii*

Tribe Megapicini

- Genus *Campephilus*
 - Powerful Woodpecker, *Campephilus pollens*
 - Crimson-bellied Woodpecker, *Campephilus haematogaster*
 - Red-necked Woodpecker, *Campephilus rubricollis*
 - Robust Woodpecker, *Campephilus robustus*
 - Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*
 - Guayaquil Woodpecker, *Campephilus gayaquilensis*
 - Pale-billed Woodpecker, *Campephilus guatemalensis*
 - Cream-backed Woodpecker, *Campephilus leucopogon*
 - Magellanic Woodpecker, *Campephilus magellanicus*
 - Ivory-billed Woodpecker, *Campephilus principalis* (possibly extinct)
 - Imperial Woodpecker, *Campephilus imperialis* (possibly extinct)
- Genus *Chrysocolaptes*
 - White-naped Woodpecker, *Chrysocolaptes festivus*
 - Greater Flameback, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
- Genus *Reinwardtipicus*
 - Orange-backed Woodpecker, *Reinwardtipicus validus*
- Genus *Blythipicus*
 - Maroon Woodpecker, *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
 - Bay Woodpecker, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
- Genus *Gecinulus* (Placement in Megapicini tentative)
 - Pale-headed Woodpecker, *Gecinulus grantia*
 - Bamboo Woodpecker, *Gecinulus viridis*
- Genus *Sapheopipo* (Placement in Megapicini tentative)
 - Okinawa Woodpecker, *Sapheopipo noguchii*

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Plotopteridae

Plotopterids

Fossil range: Eocene - Miocene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Plotopteridae** Howard, 1969 [Genera](#): *Plotopteryx*, *Copepteryx*, *Tonsala*, *Phocavis*

The **Plotopteridae** were a [family](#) of flightless [seabirds](#) from the order Pelecaniformes. Related to the gannets and boobies, they exhibited remarkable convergent evolution with the [penguins](#), particularly with the now [extinct](#) giant penguins. That they lived in the North Pacific, the other side of the world from the penguins, has led to them being described at times as the Northern Hemisphere's penguins, although one novel new theory suggests that this group is a link between the penguins and the Pelecaniformes. Their fossils have been found in California, Washington and Japan. They ranged in size from that of a large cormorant (such as a Brandt's Cormorant), to being 2 m long. They had shortened wings designed for underwater wing-propelled pursuit diving (like penguins or the now extinct Great Auk), a body skeleton similar to that of the darter and the skull similar to that of a [sulid](#).

The earliest known Plotopteridae species, *Phocavis maritimus* lived in the mid-Eocene, but most of the known species lived in the early and mid-Miocene, after which it appears they went extinct. That they went extinct at the same time as the giant penguins of the Southern Hemisphere, which also coincided with the radiation of the seals and dolphins, has led to speculation that the expansion of marine mammals was responsible for the extinction of the Plotopteridae.

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Pluvianellidae

Magellanic Plover

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Pluvianellidae** Jehl, 1975 Genus: *Pluvianellus*

Species: *P. socialis*

Binomial name: *Pluvianellus socialis* Gray, GR, 1846

The **Magellanic Plover**, *Pluvianellus socialis*, is a rare and unique [wader](#) found only in southernmost South America. Its relationships with the plovers and other wader groups are uncertain, and it is often placed in its own family, Pluvianellidae. This species is not [migratory](#), although some birds move further north in southern Argentina in winter.

This species is in its structure and habits much like a turnstone, but it cannot be confused with any other wader species. Its upperparts and breast are pale grey, and the rest of the underparts are white. It has short red legs, a black bill and a red eye. In young birds, the eyes and legs are yellowish in colour. The call is a [dovelike](#) *coo*.

This species breeds near water, laying two large [eggs](#) on the ground, although usually only one chick survives.

Magellanic Plovers feed on small invertebrates, picked from the ground, or from under pebbles, again like a turnstone.

References

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Podicipedidae

Grebes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: **Podicipediformes** Fürbringer, 1888 Family: **Podicipedidae** Bonaparte, 1831 Genera:

Podiceps, *Tachybaptus*, *Podilymbus*, *Aechmophorus*, *Poliocephalus*, *Rollandia*

Grebes are members of the **Podicipediformes** [order](#), a widely distributed order of freshwater diving [birds](#), some of which visit the sea when [migrating](#) and in winter. This order contains only a single [family](#), the **Podicipedidae**, containing 20 [species](#) in 6 [genera](#).

Grebes are small to medium-large in size, have lobed toes, and are excellent swimmers and divers. However, they have their feet placed far back on the body, making them quite ungainly on land. They leave the water only to nest, walking very short distances upright like [penguins](#). They can run for a short distance, but often fall over.

Grebes have narrow wings, and some species are reluctant to fly; indeed, two South American species are completely flightless. They respond to danger by diving rather than flying, and are in any case much less wary than [ducks](#).

However, the North American and Eurasian species are all, of necessity, migratory over much or all of their ranges, and those species that winter at sea are also seen regularly in flight. Even the small freshwater Pied-billed Grebe of North America has occurred as a transatlantic vagrant to Europe on more than 30 occasions.

Bills vary from short and thick to long and pointed; the feet are always large, with broad lobes on the toes and small webs connecting the front three toes. The hind toe also has a small lobe. Recent experimental work has shown that these lobes work like the hydrofoil blades of a propeller. Curiously, the same mechanism seems to have evolved independently in the extinct Cretaceous-age Hesperornithiformes.

Grebes have unusual [plumage](#). It is dense and waterproof, and on the underside the feathers are at right-angles to the skin, sticking straight out to begin with and curling at the tip. By pressing their feathers against the body, grebes can adjust their buoyancy. Often, they swim low in the water with just the head and neck exposed.

In the non-breeding season, grebes are plain-coloured in dark browns and whites. However, most have ornate and distinctive breeding plumages, often developing chestnut markings on the head area, and perform elaborate display rituals. The young, particularly those of the *Podiceps* genus, are often striped and retain some of their juvenile plumage even after reaching full size.

When preening, grebes eat their own feathers, and feed them to their young. The function of this behaviour is uncertain but it is believed to assist with pellet formation and to reduce their vulnerability to gastric parasites.

The grebes share anatomical characters with and are genetically most closely related to flamingos Phoenicopteridae, in spite of their superficial differences.

Species in taxonomic order

- Genus *Tachybaptus*
 - Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Madagascar Grebe, *Tachybaptus pelzelni*
Alaotra Grebe (Rusty Grebe), *Tachybaptus rufolavatus* - probably extinct (late 1980s)
Least Grebe, *Tachybaptus dominicus*
- Genus *Podilymbus*
 - Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*
†Atitlán Grebe, *Podilymbus gigas* Conservation status: Extinct (1989)
- Genus *Rollandia*
 - White-tufted Grebe, *Rollandia rolland*
Titicaca Flightless Grebe, *Rollandia microptera*
- Genus *Poliocephalus*
 - Hoary-headed Grebe, *Poliocephalus poliocephalus*
New Zealand Dabchick, *Poliocephalus rufopectus*
- Genus *Podiceps*
 - Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*
Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*
Slavonian Grebe or Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*
Black-necked Grebe or Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*
†Colombian Grebe, *Podiceps andinus* Conservation status: Extinct (1977)
Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*
Silvery Grebe, *Podiceps occipitalis*
Junin Flightless Grebe, *Podiceps taczanowskii*
Hooded Grebe, *Podiceps gallardoi*
- Genus *Aechmophorus*
 - Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
Clark's Grebe, *Aechmophorus clarkii*

References

- *Grebes of our world* by André Konter. Lynx Edicions. 187 pages. ISBN 84-87334-33-4

Presbyornithidae

Conservation status: Fossil

Fossil range: Late Cretaceous - Early Oligocene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: **Presbyornithidae** Wetmore, 1926 [Genera](#): *see text*

Presbyornithidae were a [family](#) of waterbirds with an apparently global distribution that lived until the Earliest Oligocene, but are now [extinct](#). Initially, they were believed to present a mix of characters shown by waterbirds, shorebirds and flamingos and were used to argue for an evolutionary relationship between these groups, but they are now generally accepted to be "wading ducks", the sister taxon of the [Anatidae](#), and thus essentially modern waterbirds. They were generally long-legged, long-necked birds, standing around 1 meter high, with the body of a duck, feet similar to a [wader](#) but webbed, and a flat ducklike bill adapted for filter feeding. Apparently, at least some species were very social birds that lived in large flocks and nested in colonies.

As the "wading duck" moniker implies, they were waterfowl whose elongated legs enabled them to live a lifestyle similar to the "proto-flamingos" (e.g. *Palaelodus*) - which were not really ancestors of the modern flamingos, but a group that evolved in parallel with them and in fact seems to have taken over part of the presbyornithid's ecological niche after the latter became extinct. Thus, while probably somewhat capable of swimming, they would have preferred to strain the shallow waters of their habitat for food and were also able to snatch up insects and small crustaceans on dry land, just like some species of modern ducks, e.g. the Laysan Duck, hunt for brine flies.

- [1 Significance in avian evolution](#)
- [2 Systematics](#)
- [3 References](#)

Significance in avian evolution

The implication of the plethora of this and other, ecologically similar Neornithes (e.g. the wastebin taxon "Graculavidae") from the Late Cretaceous and early Palaeogene is that shore habitats offered most resources for ancestors of modern birds. The reasons seem to have been that arboreal niches were where the main radiation of the Enantiornithes had taken place some time earlier, and later on because the C-T mass extinction affected both aquatic and terrestrial habitats extensively, leading to the almost total collapse of their trophic webs. In marine habitats, the climatic changes associated with the mass extinction's cause(s) caused a wholesale die-off of oceanic phytoplankton and thus their food webs were destroyed from the bottom up. In terrestrial habitats on the other hand, apart from the loss of the primary production capacity, the keystone species, which were in almost all cases

dinosaurs, disappeared, leading the trophic webs on dry land to collapse also from the inside out.

Specialized taxa of the older bird radiations that were very well adapted to their particular ecological niche and dependent on the intactness of the trophic webs had generally no chance to survive such mass extinctions. It is now apparent that at least the main evolutionary lineages of modern bird families already existed at the end of the Cretaceous, albeit they were somewhat marginal compared to the dominant, earlier groups of birds such as Enantiornithes and Confuciornithidae. This serves to show that in evolution the possession of derived or "modern" characters can actually be a disadvantage when a species needs to compete against well-established but more "primitive" lineages, especially as it must be understood that "primitive" refers only to descendance from a lineage that had been established a longer time ago, not that these species were any more generalist or less well-adapted than "modern" forms. In fact, that there were "no" (probably rather: very few) arboreal Neornithes by the end of the Cretaceous is today believed to be because the "primitive" Enantiornithes had had more time to develop adaptations to an arboreal lifestyle and were actually able to outcompete the "modern" arboreal forms, leaving vacant only a few possibilities for early Neornithes to evolve an arboreal lifestyle.

At any rate and their evolutionary relationships notwithstanding, most bird taxa that survived the mass extinction seem to have been living in environments where they could utilize both terrestrial as well as marine or limnic food resources (the ancestors of the Galliformes probably being the one noteworthy exception). Until the trophic webs had diversified and become complex enough again, such generalist forms were at a competitive advantage. When specialization became a feasible evolutionary strategy again, however, they were outcompeted by more advanced taxa. Note that here, too, "generalist" does not imply that these birds were competitively inferior in their *entire* ecological niche, only that whenever some form evolves specialization for living in *part* of this niche, the generalist is at a competitive disadvantage in that particular part of its niche. As time progresses and consequently opportunities for specialization accumulate, it may happen that the generalist forms are either forced to specialize themselves to maintain a competitive edge, or disappear, their niche being in effect divided up by specialist forms.

Principles in evolution as demonstrated by the Presbyornithidae

- Generalist forms which have more "fall-back" potential if part of an ecological niche gets destroyed are better adapted to survive mass extinctions than specialized forms which occupy a narrow ecological niche.
- Primitiveness in descent does not translate into "primitiveness" in morphology or adaptation. The former is an absolute value defined by when the lineage in question separated from relatives which later underwent additional radiation. The latter is dependent on when the last mass extinction created opportunities for the survivors to embark on a new adaptive journey.
- After a lineage has been able to evolve uninterrupted for a considerable amount of time, there is a trend for generalists to be competitively excluded from more and more of their niche by specialist forms, both related and unrelated, that one by one adapt to part of the generalist's niche.

- With continuing uninterrupted evolution of a lineage, remaining plesiomorphies are usually non-adaptive: *Presbyornis* was a bird which, although primitive by descent and generalist by ecology, was uniquely and highly adapted to its particular mode of life, in a way that is not found anymore in modern birds, because the ecological niche to which it was most well adapted was later partitioned away for the most part, with other opportunities for generalist forms arising in the process.

Systematics

Four [genera](#) are unequivocally accepted to belong to the Presbyornithidae:

- *Presbyornis* (type)
- *Headonornis* (disputed)
- *Telmabates*
- *Vegavis*

There is one species generally accepted in *Headonornis*, *Vegavis* and *Telmabates* each. *Presbyornis* contains 2 or 3 described species. *Vegavis* is known from the Late Cretaceous of Antarctica, whereas *Telmabates* lived in today's Patagonia during the Eocene. The genus *Nautilornis* is today considered a synonym of *Presbyornis*, which is found in a wide range of Late Paleocene to Early Oligocene deposits in North America and Europe. Additionally, most of the bones referred to *Headonornis* have been found to belong to *Presbyornis*, and the remaining coracoid may do so too (Dyke, 2001).

Apart from these unequivocal presbyornithids, there are some genera which are tentatively assigned to this family pending the discovery of more complete material. As many fossils from the Early Palaeogene show somewhat ambiguous characters, it is not easy to place these early modern birds unequivocally into one lineage or another. That they were ecologically generalized and are usually known from very few [fossil](#) remains only serves to worsen this situation.

Possible genera of presbyornithids include:

- *Teviornis*
- *Proherodius*

of which the former is known from Late Cretaceous deposits in Mongolia and the latter from the Early Eocene of England. There are some other, undescribed, presbyornithid or possible presbyornithid remains, such as the partial right scapula BMNH PAL 4989, which was considered part of *Headonornis hantoniensis*, but cannot be positively referred to a known taxon.

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Psittacidae

Parrots

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: **Psittacidae** Illiger, 1811 Subfamily: *Loriinae*, *Psittacinae*

The **true parrots** are about 330 species of bird belonging to the **Psittacidae**, one of the two families in the biological order Psittaciformes. The other family is the Cacatuidae (or cockatoos) which are also parrots, but not classified as true parrots.

- [1 Phylogeny](#)
- [3 Books](#)

Phylogeny

The classification of the family is discussed in detail under Psittaciformes.

Books

- Bruce Thomas Boehner - *Parrot Culture. Our 2.500-year-Long Fascination with the World's Most Talkative Bird* (2004)

Pteroclididae

Sandgrouse

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: **Pteroclidiformes**

Family: **Pteroclididae** Bonaparte, 1831 Genera: *Pterocles*, *Syrrhaptes*

The **sandgrouse** are a group of 16 near passerine [bird](#) species in the order **Pteroclidiformes**. They are restricted to treeless open country in the Old World, such as plains and semi-deserts.

Sandgrouse have small, pigeon like heads and necks, but sturdy compact bodies. They have long pointed wings and sometimes tails and a fast direct flight. Flocks fly to watering holes at dawn and dusk.

Legs are feathered down to the toes, and genus *Syrrhaptes* has the toes feathered as well.

Two to three eggs are laid directly on the ground. They are buff or greenish with cryptic markings. Most species are resident, but Pallas's Sandgrouse is eruptive.

Sandgrouse are traditionally placed in two genera. Two central Asian species in *Syrrhaptes*, and the rest in *Pterocles*, but recent research casts some doubt on this division.

- Order Pteroclidiformes
 - Family Pteroclididae
 - Genus *Syrrhaptes*
 - Tibetan Sandgrouse, *S. tibetanus*
 - Pallas's Sandgrouse, *S. paradoxus*
 - Genus *Pterocles*
 - Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, *P. alchata*
 - Namaqua Sandgrouse, *P. namaqua*
 - Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, *P. exustus*
 - Spotted Sandgrouse, *P. senegallus*
 - Black-bellied Sandgrouse, *P. orientalis*
 - Crowned Sandgrouse, *P. coronatus*
 - Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, *P. gutturalis*
 - Burchell's Sandgrouse, *P. burchelli*
 - Masked Sandgrouse, *P. personatus*
 - Black-faced Sandgrouse, *P. decoratus*
 - Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, *P. lichtensteinii*
 - Double-banded Sandgrouse, *P. bicinctus*
 - Painted Sandgrouse, *P. indicus*
 - Four-banded Sandgrouse, *P. quadricinctus*

Bird families - R

Rallidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Gruiformes

Family: **Rallidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Nesotrochis (extinct)*, *Diaphorapteryx (extinct)*, *Aphanapteryx (extinct)*, *Sarothrura*, *Himantornis*, *Canirallus*, *Coturnicops*, *Micropygia*, *Rallina*, *Anurolimnas*, *Laterallus*, *Nesoclopeus*, *Gallirallus*, *Cabalus (extinct)*, *Rallus*, *Lewinia*, *Dryolimnas*, *Crecopsis*, *Crex*, *Rougetius*, *Aramidopsis*, *Atlantisia*, *Aramides*, *Amaurolimnas*, *Gymnocrex*, *Amaurornis*, *Mundia (extinct)*, *Porzana*, *Aenigmatolimnas*, *Cyanolimnas*, *Neocrex*, *Pardirallus*, *Eulabeornis*, *Habroptila*, *Megacrex*, *Gallicrex*, *Aphanocrex (extinct)*, *Porphyrio*, *Gallinula*, *Fulica*

The [family Rallidae](#) is a large group of small to medium-sized birds which includes the **rails**, **crakes**, **coots**, and **gallinules**. Nearly all members are associated with wetlands. There are exceptions, however, notably the Corncrake which breeds on farmland.

The most typical family members occupy dense vegetation in damp environments near lakes, swamps, or rivers. Reedbeds are a particularly favoured habitat. They are omnivorous, and those that [migrate](#) do so at night: most nest in dense vegetation. In general they are shy and secretive birds, difficult to observe.

Most species walk and run vigorously on strong legs, and have long toes which are well adapted to soft, uneven surfaces. They tend to have short, rounded wings and be weak fliers, although nevertheless capable of covering long distances.

Island species often become flightless, and many of them are now extinct following the introduction of terrestrial predators such as cats, rats and pigs.

Many reedbed species are secretive, apart from loud calls, and crepuscular, and have laterally flattened bodies. In the Old World, long billed species tend to be called “rails” and short billed species “crakes”. North American species are normally called rails irrespective of bill length.

The larger species are also sometimes given other names. The black **coots** are more adapted to open water than their relatives, and some other large species are called **gallinules** and **swamphens**.

Taxonomy

The family Rallidae has traditionally been grouped with two families of larger birds, the cranes and bustards to make up the order Gruiformes. The alternative Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, which has been widely accepted in America, raises the family to ordinal level as the **Ralliformes**.

Species and genera

- Genus *Atlantisia*

- Inaccessible Island Rail, *Atlantisia rogersi*
Ascension Flightless Crane, *Atlantisia elpenor* (extinct)
St Helena Crane, *Atlantisia podarces* (extinct)
- Genus *Nesotrochis* (cave-rails)
 - Antillean Cave-Rail, *Nesotrochis debooyi* (extinct)
- Genus *Diaphorapteryx*
 - Hawkins' Rail, *Diaphorapteryx hawkinsi* (extinct)
- Genus *Aphanapteryx*
 - Red Rail, *Aphanapteryx bonasia* (extinct)
Rodrigues Rail, *Aphanapteryx leguati* (extinct)
- Genus *Sarothrura* (flufftails)
 - White-spotted Flufftail, *Sarothrura pulchra*
Buff-spotted Flufftail, *Sarothrura elegans*
Red-chested Flufftail, *Sarothrura rufa*
Chestnut-headed Flufftail, *Sarothrura lugens*
Streaky-breasted Flufftail, *Sarothrura boehmi*
Striped Flufftail, *Sarothrura affinis*
Madagascar Flufftail, *Sarothrura insularis*
White-winged Flufftail, *Sarothrura ayresi*
Slender-billed Flufftail, *Sarothrura watersi*
- Genus *Himantornis*
 - Nkulengu Rail, *Himantornis haematopus*
- Genus *Canirallus*
 - Grey-throated Rail, *Canirallus oculus*
Madagascar Wood Rail, *Canirallus kiolooides*
- Genus *Coturnicops*
 - Swinhoe's Rail, *Coturnicops exquisitus*
Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis*
Speckled Rail, *Coturnicops notatus*
- Genus *Micropygia*
 - Ocellated Crane, *Micropygia schomburgkii*
- Genus *Rallina*
 - Chestnut Forest Rail, *Rallina rubra*
White-striped Forest Rail, *Rallina leucospila*
Forbes's Forest Rail, *Rallina forbesi*
Mayr's Forest Rail, *Rallina mayri*
Red-necked Crane, *Rallina tricolor*
Andaman Crane, *Rallina canningi*
Red-legged Crane, *Rallina fasciata*
Slaty-legged Crane, *Rallina eurizonoides*
- Genus *Anurolimnas*
 - Chestnut-headed Crane, *Anurolimnas castaneiceps*
Russet-crowned Crane, *Anurolimnas viridis*
Black-banded Crane, *Anurolimnas fasciatus*

- Genus *Laterallus*
 - Rufous-sided Crane, *Laterallus melanophaius*
 - Rusty-flanked Crane, *Laterallus levraudi*
 - Ruddy Crane, *Laterallus ruber*
 - White-throated Crane, *Laterallus albigularis*
 - Grey-breasted Crane, *Laterallus exilis*
 - Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis*
 - Junin Rail, *Laterallus tuerosi*
 - Galapagos Rail, *Laterallus spilonotus*
 - Red-and-white Crane, *Laterallus leucopyrrhus*
 - Rufous-faced Crane, *Laterallus xenopterus*
- Genus *Nesoclopeus*
 - Bar-winged Rail, *Nesoclopeus poecilopterus* (extinct)
 - Woodford's Rail, *Nesoclopeus woodfordi*
- Genus *Gallirallus*
 - Weka, *Gallirallus australis*
 - New Caledonian Rail, *Gallirallus lafresnayanus* (possibly extinct)
 - Lord Howe Island Rail, *Gallirallus sylvestris*
 - Okinawa Rail, *Gallirallus okinawae*
 - Calayan Rail, *Gallirallus calayanensis*
 - Barred Rail, *Gallirallus torquatus*
 - New Britain Rail, *Gallirallus insignis*
 - Buff-banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis*
 - Roviana Rail, *Gallirallus rovianae*
 - Guam Rail, *Gallirallus owstoni* (extinct in the wild)
 - Dieffenbach's Rail, *Gallirallus dieffenbachii* (extinct)
 - Tahiti Rail, *Gallirallus pacificus* (extinct)
 - Wake Island Rail, *Gallirallus wakensis* (extinct)
 - Sharpe's Rail, *Gallirallus sharpei* (probably extinct)
 - Slaty-breasted Rail, *Gallirallus striatus*
- Genus *Cabalus* (sometimes included in *Gallirallus*)
 - Chatham Rail, *Cabalus modestus* (extinct)
- Genus *Rallus*
 - Clapper Rail, *Rallus longirostris*
 - California Clapper Rail, *R. l. brownii*
 - King Rail, *Rallus elegans*
 - Plain-flanked Rail, *Rallus wetmorei*
 - Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*
 - Bogota Rail, *Rallus semiplumbeus*
 - Austral Rail, *Rallus antarcticus*
 - Water Rail, *Rallus aquaticus*
 - African Rail, *Rallus caerulescens*
 - Madagascar Rail, *Rallus madagascariensis*
- Genus *Lewinia* (sometimes included in *Rallus*)

- Lewin's Rail, *Lewinia pectoralis*
Brown-banded Rail, *Lewinia mirifica*
Auckland Rail, *Lewinia muelleri*
- Genus *Dryolimnas*
 - White-throated Rail, *Dryolimnas cuvieri*
Réunion Rail, *Dryolimnas augusti* (extinct)
- Genus *Crex* (sometimes included in *Crex*)
 - African Crake, *Crex egregia*
- Genus *Crex*
 - Corn Crake, *Crex crex*
- Genus *Rougetius*
 - Rouget's Rail, *Rougetius rougetii*
- Genus *Aramidopsis*
 - Snoring Rail, *Aramidopsis plateni*
- Genus *Aramides*
 - Red-throated Wood Rail, *Aramides gutturalis* (extinct, doubtful species)
Little Wood Rail, *Aramides mangle*
Rufous-necked Wood Rail, *Aramides axillaris*
Grey-necked Wood Rail, *Aramides cajanea*
Brown Wood Rail, *Aramides wolffi*
Giant Wood Rail, *Aramides ypecaha*
Slaty-breasted Wood Rail, *Aramides saracura*
Red-winged Wood Rail, *Aramides calopterus*
- Genus *Amaurolimnas*
 - Uniform Crake, *Amaurolimnas concolor*
- Genus *Gymnocrex*
 - Bald-faced Rail, *Gymnocrex rosenbergii*
Talaud Rail, *Gymnocrex talaudensis*
Bare-eyed Rail, *Gymnocrex plumbeiventris*
- Genus *Amaurornis*
 - Brown Crake, *Amaurornis akool*
Plain Bush-hen, *Amaurornis olivacea*
Isabelline Bush-hen, *Amaurornis isabellina*
Rufous-tailed Bush-hen, *Amaurornis moluccana*
White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Black Crake, *Amaurornis flavirostra*
Sakalava Rail, *Amaurornis olivieri*
Black-tailed Crake, *Amaurornis bicolor*
Talaud Bush-hen, *Amaurornis magnirostris*
- Genus *Mundia* (formerly included in *Atlantisia*)
 - Ascension Island Rail, *Mundia elpenor* (extinct)
- Genus *Porzana* (crakes)

- Saint Helena Crake, *Porzana astrictocarpus* (extinct)
 - Little Crake, *Porzana parva*
 - Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla*
 - Laysan Rail, *Porzana palmeri* (extinct)
 - Spotted Crake, *Porzana porzana*
 - Australian Crake, *Porzana fluminea*
 - Sora, *Porzana carolina*
 - Dot-winged Crake, *Porzana spiloptera*
 - Ash-throated Crake, *Porzana albicollis*
 - Hawaiian Rail, *Porzana sandwichensis* (extinct)
 - Ruddy-breasted Crake, *Porzana fusca*
 - Band-bellied Crake, *Porzana paykullii*
 - Spotless Crake, *Porzana tabuensis*
 - Kosrae Island Crake, *Porzana monasa*
 - Henderson Island Crake, *Porzana atra*
 - Miller's Crake, *Porzana nigra* (extinct, doubtful species)
 - Yellow-breasted Crake, *Porzana flaviventer*
 - White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea*
- Genus *Aenigmatolimnas*
 - Striped Crake, *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*
- Genus *Cyanolimnas*
 - Zapata Rail, *Cyanolimnas cerverai*
- Genus *Neocrex*
 - Colombian Crake, *Neocrex colombianus*
 - Paint-billed Crake, *Neocrex erythrops*
- Genus *Pardirallus*
 - Spotted Rail, *Pardirallus maculatus*
 - Blackish Rail, *Pardirallus nigricans*
 - Plumbeous Rail, *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*
- Genus *Eulabeornis*
 - Chestnut Rail, *Eulabeornis castaneoventris*
- Genus *Habroptila*
 - Invisible Rail, *Habroptila wallacii*
- Genus *Megacrex*
 - New Guinea Flightless Rail, *Megacrex inepta*
- Genus *Gallicrex*
 - Watercock, *Gallicrex cinerea*
- Genus *Aphanocrex* (formerly included in *Atlantisia*)
 - Saint Helena Swamphen, *Aphanocrex podarces* (extinct)
- Genus *Porphyrio* (swamphens and purple gallinules)
 - Réunion Swamphen or Oiseau bleu, *Porphyrio coerulescens* (extinct, doubtful species)
 - New Caledonian Swamphen, *Porphyrio kukwiedei* (extinct)
 - Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Lord Howe Swamphen, *Porphyrio albus* (extinct)
 Marquesan Swamphen, *Porphyrio paepae* (extinct)
 North Island Takah, *Porphyrio mantelli* (extinct)
 Takah, *Porphyrio hochstetteri*
 Allen's Gallinule, *Porphyrio alleni* (sometimes placed in genus *Porphyryula*)
 American Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica* (sometimes placed in genus *Porphyryula*)
 Azure Gallinule, *Porphyrio flavirostris* (sometimes placed in genus *Porphyryula*)
 African Purple Swamphen or African Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio madagascariensis* (sometimes placed in genus *Porphyryula*)
Porphyrio mcnabi (extinct)

- Genus *Gallinula* (gallinules)
 - Samoan Wood Rail, *Gallinula pacifica* (sometimes placed in genus *Pareudiastes*, possibly extinct)
 Makira Wood Rail, *Gallinula silvestris* (sometimes placed in genus *Pareudiastes* or *Edithornis*, possibly extinct)
 Tristan Moorhen, *Gallinula nesiotis* (extinct)
 Gough Island Moorhen, *Gallinula comeri*
 Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*
 Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*
 Lesser Moorhen, *Gallinula angulata*
 Spot-flanked Gallinule, *Gallinula melanops*
 Black-tailed Native-hen, *Gallinula ventralis*
 Tasmanian Native-hen, *Gallinula mortierii*
- Genus *Fulica* (coots)
 - Mascarene Coot, *Fulica newtoni* (extinct)
 Red-knobbed Coot, *Fulica cristata*
 Eurasian Coot or Common Coot, *Fulica atra*
 Hawaiian Coot, *Fulica alai*
 American Coot, *Fulica americana*
 Caribbean Coot, *Fulica caribaea*
 White-winged Coot, *Fulica leucoptera*
 Andean Coot, *Fulica ardesiaca*
 Red-gartered Coot, *Fulica armillata*
 Red-fronted Coot, *Fulica rufifrons*
 Giant Coot, *Fulica gigantea*
 Horned Coot *Fulica cornuta*

Additionally, there are many species only known from [fossil](#) or subfossil remains that have not been listed here, such as the Ibiza Rail (*Rallus eivissensis*). See [Late Quaternary prehistoric birds](#) for these species.

Raphidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Columbiformes

Family: **Raphidae** Poche, 1904 Genera: *Pezophaps (extinct)*, *Raphus (extinct)*

The **Raphidae** is a family of extinct flightless birds, part of the order Columbiformes, comprising the genera *Pezophaps* and *Raphus*. The former comprised the species *Pezophaps solitaria* (the Rodrigues Solitaire); the latter *Raphus cucullatus* (the Dodo). Recent genetic evidence tends to support the submergence of the family within the Columbidae.

Both were native to the Mascarene Islands, Indian Ocean, and become extinct through human hunting and predation by introduced non-native predators following Western colonisation in the 1600s.

The Réunion Sacred Ibis, until recently considered a third extinct member of the Raphidae, has now been reclassified as belonging to the order Ciconiiformes.

Rostratulidae

Painted Snipes

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Rostratulidae** Ridgway, 1919

Species

- *Rostralata benghalensis*
- *Rostratula australis*
- *Nycticryptes semicollaris*

Painted snipe are three distinctive [wader species](#) placed together in their own [family](#) Rostratulidae. They are short-legged, long-billed [birds](#) similar in shape to the true snipes, but much more brightly coloured.

The female is brighter than the male and takes the lead in courtship. The male incubates the [eggs](#), usually four, in a nest on the ground or floating for about 20 days.

All three species live in reedy swamps, and their diet consists of annelid worms and other invertebrates, which they find with their long bills.

Species of Painted Snipe

The **Greater Painted Snipe** (*Rostralata benghalensis*) is found in marshes in Africa, India and South-east Asia.

The **Australian Painted Snipe** (*Rostratula australia*) is a rare, nomadic and declining species found only in Australia (Lane & Rogers 2000)

The **Lesser Painted Snipe** (*Nycticryptes semicollaris*), inhabits grassy marshland in southern South America.

References

- Lane, B.A.; & Rogers, D.I. (2000). The Australian Painted Snipe, *Rostratula (benghalensis) australis*: an Endangered species?. Stilt 36: 26-34

Bird families - S

Scolopacidae

Typical waders

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: **Scolopacidae** Vigors, 1825 [Genera](#): *Actitis* , *Aphriza* , *Arenaria* , *Bartramia* , *Calidris* , *Catoptrophorus* , *Coenocorypha* , *Eurynorhynchus* , *Gallinago* , *Heterosceles* , *Limicola* , *Limnodromus* , *Limosa* , *Limnocyptes* , *Numenius* , *Steganopus* , *Phalaropus* , *Philomachus* , *Prosobonia* , *Scolopax* , *Tringa* , *Tryngites* , *Xenus*

The **Scolopacidae** are a large family of [waders](#), (known as shorebirds in North America).

The majority of species eat small invertebrates picked out of the mud or soil. Different lengths of bills enable different species to feed in the same habitat, particularly on the coast, without direct competition for food.

Many of the smaller species found in coastal habitats, particularly but not exclusively the calidrids, are often named as "Sandpipers", but this term does not have a strict meaning, since the Upland Sandpiper is a grassland species.

This large family is often further subdivided into groups of similar birds. These groups do not necessarily consist of a single genus. The groups are

- Godwits (4, all genus *Limosa*)
- Curlews (8, all genus *Numenius*)
- Upland Sandpiper (1 genus *Bartramia*)
- Shanks and tattlers (16)
- Polynesian sandpipers (1 extant, 1-3 extinct, all genus *Prosobonia*)
- Turnstones (2, both genus *Arenaria*)
- Phalaropes (3, all genus *Phalaropus*)
- Woodcocks (6, all genus *Scolopax*)
- Snipe (16)
- Dowitchers (3, all genus *Limnodromus*)
- Calidrids and allies (25, of which 21 in genus *Calidris*)

See also

- [list of birds](#)

Spheniscidae

Penguins

Fossil range: Paleocene-Recent

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: **Sphenisciformes** Sharpe, 1891 Family: **Spheniscidae** Bonaparte, 1831 Modern Genera: *Aptenodytes*, *Eudyptes*, *Eudyptula*, *Megadyptes*, *Pygoscelis*, *Spheniscus*

Penguins (order **Sphenisciformes**, family **Spheniscidae**) are an order of aquatic, [flightless birds](#) living exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere.

- [1 Species and habitats](#)
- [2 Evolution](#)
 - [2.1 Systematics](#)
- [3 Anatomy](#)
- [4 Mating habits](#)
 - [4.1 Male bonding behaviour](#)
- [5 Name](#)
- [6 Penguins in popular culture](#)
 - [6.1 Penguins and polar bears](#)
- [8 References](#)

Species and habitats

The number of penguin species has been and still is a matter of debate. The numbers of penguin species listed in the literature varies between 16 and 19 species. Some sources consider the White-Flipped Penguin a separate *Eudyptula* species, although today it is generally considered a subspecies of the Little Penguin (e.g. Williams, 1995; Davis & Renner, 2003). Similarly, it is still unclear whether the Royal Penguin is merely a color morph of the Macaroni penguin. Also possibly eligible to be treated as a separate species is the Northern population of Rockhopper penguins (Davis & Renner, 2003). Although all penguin species are native to the southern hemisphere, they are not, contrary to popular belief, found only in cold climates, such as Antarctica. In fact, only a few species of penguin actually live so far south. Three species live in the tropics; one lives as far north as the Galápagos Islands (the Galápagos Penguin).

The largest living species is the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*): adults average about 1.1 m (3 ft 7 in) tall and weigh 35 kg (75 lb) or more. The smallest penguin species is the Little Blue Penguin (also known as the Fairy Penguin), which stands around 40 cm tall (16 in) and weighs 1 kg (2.2 lb). Generally larger penguins retain heat better, and thus inhabit colder regions, while smaller penguins are found in temperate or even tropical climates (see

also Bergmann's Rule). Some prehistoric species attained enormous sizes, becoming as high as an adult human; see below for more.

Most penguins feed on krill, fish, squid, and other forms of sealife caught while swimming underwater. They spend half of their life on land and half in the oceans.

When mothers lose a chick, they sometimes attempt to steal another mother's chick, usually unsuccessfully as other females in the vicinity assist the defending mother in keeping her chick.

Penguins seem to have no fear of humans and have approached groups of explorers without hesitation. This is probably on account of there being no land predators in Antarctica or the nearby offshore islands that prey on or attack penguins. Instead, penguins are at risk at sea from such predators as the leopard seal.

Evolution

The evolutionary history of penguins is poorly understood, as penguin fossils are rare. The oldest known [fossil](#) penguin species are the Waimanu, which lived in the early Paleocene epoch of New Zealand, about 62 million years ago. While they were not as well adapted to aquatic life as modern penguins (which first emerged in the Eocene epoch 40 million years ago), Waimanu were flightless and loon-like, with short wings adapted for deep diving. These fossils prove that prehistoric penguins were already flightless and seagoing, so their origins probably reach as far back as 65 million years ago, before the extinction of the dinosaurs. Penguin ancestry beyond Waimanu is not well known, though some scientists (Mayr, 2005) think the penguin-like plotopterids (usually considered relatives of anhingas and cormorants) may actually be an early sister group of the penguins, and that penguins may have ultimately shared a common ancestor with the Pelecaniformes.

During the Late Eocene and the Early Oligocene (40-30 MYA), some lineages of gigantic penguins existed. Nordenskjoeld's Giant Penguin was the tallest, growing nearly 1.80 meters (6 feet) tall. The heaviest known species was with at least 80 kg the New Zealand Giant Penguin. Both were found on New Zealand, the former also in the Antarctic.

Palaeudyptines

Traditionally, most extinct species of penguins, giant or small, have been placed in the paraphyletic sub-family called Palaeudyptinae. More recently, it is becoming accepted that there were at least 2 major extinct lineages, one or two closely related ones from Patagonia and at least one other with pan-Antarctic and subantarctic distribution. For a complete list of these generations, see below.

Systematics

(updated after Marples, 1962, and Acosta Hospitaleche, 2004)

ORDER SPHENISCIFORMES

- *Waimanu*

- **Family Spheniscidae**
 - **Subfamily Palaeedyptinae** (Giant penguins, [fossil](#))
 - Palaeedyptes
Archaeospheniscus
 - *Anthropornis*
 - Nordenskjoeld's Giant Penguin, *Anthropornis nordenskjoeldi*
 - Crossvallia (tentatively assigned to this subfamily)
Delphinornis
Pachydyptes
Platydyptes
Anthropodyptes (tentatively assigned to this subfamily)
 - **Subfamily Paraptenodytinae** (Patagonian stout-legged penguins, [fossil](#))
 - Paraptenodytes
Arthrodytes
 - **Subfamily Palaeospheniscinae** (Patagonian slender-legged penguins, [fossil](#))
 - *Palaeospheniscus* - includes *Chubutodyptes*
 - **Subfamily Spheniscinae** (modern penguins)
 - *Aptenodytes*
 - King Penguin, *Aptenodytes patagonicus*
Emperor Penguin, *Aptenodytes forsteri*
Ridgen's Penguin, *Aptenodytes ridgeni* (fossil)
 - *Pygoscelis*
 - Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua*
Tyree's Penguin, *Pygoscelis tyreei* (fossil)
Adelie Penguin, *Pygoscelis adeliae*
Chinstrap Penguin, *Pygoscelis antarctica*
Pygoscelis grandis (fossil)
?*Pygoscelis* small sp. (fossil, may be different genus)
 - *Eudyptes*
 - Rockhopper Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysocome*
Fiordland Penguin, *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*
Snares Penguin, *Eudyptes robustus*
Royal Penguin, *Eudyptes schlegeli*
Erect-crested Penguin, *Eudyptes sclateri*
Macaroni Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysolophus*
Chatham Islands Penguin, *Eudyptes* sp. (prehistoric?)
 - *Megadyptes*
 - Yellow-eyed Penguin, *Megadyptes antipodes*
 - *Eudyptula*
 - Little Penguin (Blue or Fairy Penguin), *Eudyptula minor*
White-Flipped Penguin, *Eudyptula albosignata*
 - *Spheniscus*

- *Spheniscus predemersus* (fossil)
African Penguin (Jackass or Blackfooted Penguin), *Spheniscus demersus*
Spheniscus chilensis (fossil)
Spheniscus megaramphus (fossil)
Spheniscus urbinai (fossil)
Magellanic Penguin, *Spheniscus magellanicus*
Humboldt Penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*
Galápagos Penguin, *Spheniscus mendiculus*
- **Not assigned to a subfamily** (all [fossil](#))
- Dege
Duntroonornis
Eretiscus
Insuza
Korora
Marplesornis
Marambiornis
Mesetaornis
Nucleornis
Pseudaptenodytes
Tonniornis
Wimanornis

Anatomy

Penguins are superbly adapted to an aquatic life. Their wings have become flippers, useless for flight in the air. In the water, however, penguins are astonishingly agile. Within the smooth [plumage](#) a layer of air is preserved, ensuring buoyancy. The air layer also helps insulate the birds in cold waters. On land, penguins use their tails and wings to maintain balance for their upright stance.

All penguins are countershaded - that is, they have a white underside and a dark (mostly black) upperside. This is for camouflage. A predator looking up from below (such as an orca or a leopard seal) has difficulty distinguishing between a white penguin belly and the reflective water surface. The dark plumage on their backs camouflages them from above.

Diving penguins reach 6 to 12 km/h (3.7 to 7.5 mph), though there are reports of velocities of 27 km/h (17 mph) (which are more realistic in the case of startled flight). The small penguins do not usually dive deep; they catch their prey near the surface in dives that normally last only one or two minutes. Larger penguins can dive deep in case of need. Dives of the large Emperor Penguin have been recorded which reach a depth of 565 m (1870 ft) and last up to 20 minutes.

Penguins either waddle on their feet or slide on their bellies across the snow, a movement called "tobogganing", which allows them to conserve energy and move relatively fast at the same time.

Penguins have an excellent sense of hearing. Their eyes are adapted for underwater vision, and are their primary means of locating prey and avoiding predators; in air, conversely, they are nearsighted. Their sense of smell has not been researched so far.

They are able to drink salt water safely because their supraorbital gland filters excess salt from the bloodstream. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#) The salt is excreted in a concentrated fluid from the nasal passages.

Mating habits

Some penguins mate for life, while others for just one season. They generally raise a small brood, and the parents cooperate in caring for the clutch and for the young. During the cold season on the other hand the mates separate for several months to protect the egg. The male stays with the egg and keeps it warm, and the female goes out to sea and finds food so that when it comes home, the baby will have food to eat. Once the female comes back, they switch.

Male bonding behaviour

In early February 2004 the New York Times reported a male pair of Chinstrap penguins in the Central Park Zoo in New York City were partnered, and when given an egg which needed incubation, successfully hatched it. Other penguins in New York have also been reported to be forming same-sex pairs.[\[4\]](#)

This was the basis for the children's picture book *And Tango Makes Three*. The couple about whom the book was based, Roy and Silo, would see further interesting developments in their relationship when in September 2005, Silo left Roy for a female penguin, only to come back to Roy in a few weeks.

Zoos in Japan and Germany have also documented male penguin couples.[\[5\]](#) The couples have been shown to build nests together and use a stone to replace an egg in the nest. Researchers at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, found twenty such pairs at sixteen major aquariums and zoos in Japan. Bremerhaven Zoo in Germany attempted to break up the male couples by importing female penguins from Sweden and separating the male couples; they were unsuccessful. The zoo director stated the relationships were too strong between the older couples.

Name

Penguin is thought by some to derive from the Welsh words *pen* (head) and *gwyn* (white), applied to the Great Auk, which had a conspicuous white patch between the bill and the eye (although its head was black), or from an island off Newfoundland known as "White Head" due to a large white rock. This may be, however, a false etymology created by Dr. John Dee in his book on Prince Madoc of Wales, supposedly one of the discoverers of America. By this Dee hoped to cement Queen Elizabeth I's claim, as a Tudor, to the New World. Penguins live

nowhere near Newfoundland, nor do they generally have white heads, however Great Auks did look remarkably like penguins. According to another theory, the original name was pen-wing, with reference to the rudimentary wings of both Great Auks and penguins. A third theory is that penguin comes from the Latin *pinguis* (fat). This has added credibility because in two other Germanic languages, Dutch 'pinguin' and German, 'Pinguin' both have the 'i' vowel too. While it has been replaced by an 'e' in the English spelling, it can still be heard. By simply looking at the word's pronunciation and comparing that to the Dutch and German words, one could assume a common Latin root - after the first Germanic sound shift (500-200 BC) that makes a PIE 'p' into a 'f', of course. However, a Welsh 'i' is often mutated to an 'e' in the English language so the Welsh origin is still arguable..

Penguins in popular culture

Penguins are popular around the world primarily for their unusually upright, waddling pace and (compared to other birds) lack of fear towards humans. Their striking black and white plumage is often likened to a tuxedo suit and generates humorous remarks about the bird being "well dressed".

Perhaps in reaction to this cutesy stereotype, fictional penguins are occasionally presented as grouchy or even sinister. The popular Sanrio character Badtz Maru is an example, being cute yet somewhat surly. One of the best known penguins in childrens' TV is Pingu, characterised by his red scarf and bundle on a stick over his shoulder. The 1960s television cartoon character Tennessee Tuxedo would often escape the confines of his zoo with his partner, Chumley the walrus. Also, the webcomic Fluble features an enormous penguin conspiracy run by numerous diabolical, if often inept, penguins. In the children's movie *Madagascar*, the penguins are cast as spies. In the animated series "Wallace and Gromit" a penguin called Feathers McGraw disguises himself as a chicken with a red rubber glove. In the animated "Toy Story 2" a rubber penguin named Wheezy also featured-and once again was a sweet and friendly character. Penguins are often portrayed as friendly and smart as well. Another example is in the anime *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, which features a warm-water hot springs penguin named Pen Pen. Tux the penguin is the official mascot for Linux. Also, in *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, a popular sport is penguin sledding, which is catching a penguin and using it like a toboggan. There was also a film that came out in 1988 called "Scamper The Penguin," directed by G.A. Sokoljishij and Jim Terry, featuring Virginia Masters, David Miles Monson, and others as the voices of the animated characters who execute an elaborate escape plan. There is also the classic Woody the Woodpecker show, with Chilly Willy.

The Penguin is also the name of a villain in the comic series *Batman* and its TV show and movie spinoffs, and is usually seen wearing a tuxedo type outfit in order to fit the name.

Opus, a character from the Comic strips *Bloom County*, *Outland*, and *Opus* was a popular penguin from the 80's on, typically seen with a rather un-penguinlike nose.

Penguins also appear regularly in Steve Bell's "If" comic strip in England's *Guardian* newspaper, wherein they tend to be somewhat anarchic and poorly behaved (by human standards).

The documentary March of the Penguins (2005) details a year in the life of a colony of Emperor Penguins mating, giving birth, and hunting for food in the harsh continent of Antarctica. It won the 2005 Academy Award for Documentary Feature.

The old Budweiser ice commercials starred a Penguin, with the catchphrase "Doo bee doobee dooo," signaling his arrival, and the eventual stealing of the Bud ice. ^[6]

The Little America hotels used a penguin as their logo for many years.

In the upcoming Pokemon Diamond and Pearl video game for the Nintendo DS, the water starter is a penguin.

Penguins and polar bears

Despite what commercials and other sources may show, the likelihood of a meeting between a penguin and a polar bear without human intervention is vanishingly small. This is because the two species are found on opposite hemispheres. Polar bears inhabit the northern hemisphere, while penguins mainly inhabit the southern hemisphere. This is a misconception that is fueled by popular culture such as movies and television. A prominent example of this takes place in a holiday 2005 ad campaign by Coca-Cola featuring the partying penguins and the polar bears watching from afar.

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Strigidae

Typical owls

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Strigiformes](#)

Family: **Strigidae** Vigors, 1825 [Genera](#): *Aegolius*: saw-whet owls, *Asio*: eared owls, *Athene*, *Bubo*: horned owls, *Ciccaba*, *Glaucidium*: pygmy owls, *Jubula*, *Lophotrix*, *Micrathene*: elf owls, *Mimizuku*, *Nesasio*, *Ninox*, *Otus*: scops owls, *Pseudoscops*, *Pulsatrix*, *Pyrroglaux*: palau owls, *Sceloglaux*, *Scotopelia*, *Speotyto*, *Strix*: earless owls, *Surnia*: hawk owls, *Uroglaux*, *Xenoglaux*

Typical owls ([family Strigidae](#)) are one of the two generally accepted families of [owls](#), the other being the [barn owls](#) (family **Tytonidae**).

The nearly 200 species are, in taxonomic order:

- White-fronted Scops Owl, *Otus sagittatus*
- Andaman Scops Owl, *Otus balli*
- Reddish Scops Owl, *Otus rufescens*
- Serendib Scops Owl, *Otus thilohoffmanni*
- Sandy Scops Owl, *Otus icterorhynchus*
- Sokoike Scops Owl, *Otus ireneae*
- Flores Scops Owl, *Otus alfredi*
- Mountain Scops Owl, *Otus spilocephalus*
- Rajah Scops Owl, *Otus brookii*
- Javan Scops Owl, *Otus angelinae*
- Mentawai Scops Owl, *Otus mentawi*
- Indian Scops Owl, *Otus bakkamoena*
- Collared Scops Owl, *Otus (bakkamoena) lettia*
- Sunda Scops Owl, *Otus lempiji*
- Japanese Scops Owl, *Otus semitorques*
- Wallace's Scops Owl, *Otus silvicola*
- Palawan Scops Owl, *Otus fuliginosus*
- Philippine Scops Owl, *Otus megalotis*
- Mindanao Scops Owl, *Otus mirus*
- Luzon Scops Owl, *Otus longicornis*
- Mindoro Scops Owl, *Otus mindorensis*
- Pallid Scops Owl, *Otus brucei*
- African Scops Owl, *Otus senegalensis*
- European Scops Owl, *Otus scops*
- Oriental Scops Owl, *Otus sunia*
- Flammulated Owl, *Otus flammeolus*
- Moluccan Scops Owl, *Otus magicus*
- Mantanani Scops Owl, *Otus mantananensis*
- Ryukyu Scops Owl, *Otus elegans*
- Sulawesi Scops Owl, *Otus manadensis*

Sangihe Scops Owl, *Otus collari*
 Biak Scops Owl, *Otus beccarii*
 Seychelles Scops Owl, *Otus insularis*
 Simeulue Scops Owl, *Otus umbra*
 Enggano Scops Owl, *Otus enganensis*
 Nicobar Scops Owl, *Otus alius*
 Pemba Scops Owl, *Otus pembaensis*
 Comoro Scops Owl, *Otus pauliani*
 Anjouan Scops Owl, *Otus capnodes*
 Moheli Scops Owl, *Otus moheliensis*
 Mayotte Scops Owl, *Otus mayottensis*
 Malagasy Scops Owl, *Otus rutilus*
 Torotoroka Scops Owl, *Otus madagascariensis*
 Sao Tome Scops Owl, *Otus hartlaubi*
 Western Screech Owl, *Otus kennicottii*
 Balsas Screech Owl, *Otus seductus*
 Pacific Screech Owl, *Otus cooperi*
 Whiskered Screech Owl, *Otus trichopsis*
 Eastern Screech Owl, *Otus asio*
 Tropical Screech Owl, *Otus choliba*
 Koepcke's Screech Owl, *Otus koepckeae*
 West Peruvian Screech Owl, *Otus roboratus*
 Bare-shanked Screech Owl, *Otus clarkii*
 Bearded Screech Owl, *Otus barbarus*
 Rufescent Screech Owl, *Otus ingens*
 Colombian Screech Owl, *Otus colombianus*
 Cinnamon Screech Owl, *Otus petersoni*
 Cloud-forest Screech Owl, *Otus marshalli*
 Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, *Otus watsonii*
 Guatemalan Screech Owl, *Otus guatemalae*
 Vermiculated Screech Owl, *Otus vermiculatus*
 Hoy's Screech Owl, *Otus hoyi*
 Variable Screech Owl, *Otus atricapillus*
 Long-tufted Screech Owl, *Otus sanctaecatarinae*
 Puerto Rican Screech Owl, *Otus nudipes*
 White-throated Screech Owl, *Otus albogularis*
 Palau Owl, *Pyrroglaux podarginus*
 Cuban Screech Owl, *Gymnoglaux lawrencii*
 Northern White-faced Owl, *Ptilopsis leucotis*
 Southern White-faced Owl, *Ptilopsis granti*
 Mindanao Eagle Owl, *Mimizuku gurneyi*

See horned owl for more on the following horned and eagle owls.

- Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*
 Magellanic Horned Owl, *Bubo magellanicus*

- Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo*
- Rock Eagle Owl, *Bubo bengalensis*
- Pharaoh Eagle Owl, *Bubo ascalaphus*
- Cape Eagle Owl, *Bubo capensis*
- Spotted Eagle Owl, *Bubo africanus*
- Grayish Eagle Owl, *Bubo cinerascens*
- Fraser's Eagle Owl, *Bubo poensis*
- Usambara Eagle Owl, *Bubo vosseleri*
- Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, *Bubo nipalensis*
- Barred Eagle Owl, *Bubo sumatranus*
- Shelley's Eagle Owl, *Bubo shelleyi*
- Verreaux's Eagle Owl, *Bubo lacteus*
- Dusky Eagle Owl, *Bubo coromandus*
- Akun Eagle Owl, *Bubo leucostictus*
- Philippine Eagle Owl, *Bubo philippensis*
- Blakiston's Fish Owl, *Bubo blakistoni*
- Brown Fish Owl, *Bubo zeylonensis*
- Tawny Fish Owl, *Bubo flavipes*
- Buffy Fish Owl, *Bubo ketupu*
- Snowy Owl, *Bubo scandiaca*
- Pel's Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia peli*
- Rufous Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia ussheri*
- Vermiculated Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia bouvieri*
- Spotted Wood Owl, *Strix seloputo*
- Mottled Wood Owl, *Strix ocellata*
- Brown Wood Owl, *Strix leptogrammica*
- Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco*
- Hume's Owl, *Strix butleri*
- Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis*
- Barred Owl, *Strix varia*
- Fulvous Owl, *Strix fulvescens*
- Rusty-barred Owl, *Strix hylophila*
- Rufous-legged Owl, *Strix rufipes*
- Chaco Owl, *Strix chacoensis*
- Ural Owl, *Strix uralensis*
- Pere David's Owl, *Strix davidi*
- Great Grey Owl, *Strix nebulosa*
- African Wood Owl, *Strix woodfordii*
- Mottled Owl, *Ciccaba virgata*
- Black-and-white Owl, *Ciccaba nigrolineata*
- Black-banded Owl, *Ciccaba huhula*
- Rufous-banded Owl, *Ciccaba albitarsis*
- Crested Owl, *Lophotrix cristata*
- Maned Owl, *Jubula lettii*

Spectacled Owl, *Pulsatrix perspicillata*
 Tawny-browed Owl, *Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*
 Band-bellied Owl, *Pulsatrix melanota*
 Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*
 Eurasian Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium passerinum*
 Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei*
 Pearl-spotted Owlet, *Glaucidium perlatum*
 Northern Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium californicum*
 Mountain Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium gnoma*
 Guatemalan Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium cobanense*
 Cape Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium hoskinsii*
 Costa Rican Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium costaricanum*
 Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium nubicola*
 Andean Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium jardinii*
 Colima Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium palmarum*
 Tamaulipas Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium sanchezi*
 Central American Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium griseiceps*
 Subtropical Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium parkeri*
 Yungas Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium bolivianum*
 Amazonian Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium hardyi*
 Least Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium minutissimum*
 Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium brasilianum*
 Tucuman Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium tucumanum*
 Peruvian Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium peruanum*
 Austral Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium nanum*
 Cuban Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium siju*
 Red-chested Owlet, *Glaucidium tephronotum*
 Sjostedt's Owlet, *Glaucidium sjostedti*
 Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides*
 Javan Owlet, *Glaucidium castanopterum*
 Jungle Owlet, *Glaucidium radiatum*
 Chestnut-backed Owlet, *Glaucidium castanonotum*
 African Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium capense*
 Chestnut Owlet, *Glaucidium castaneum*
 Albertine Owlet, *Glaucidium albertinum*
 Long-whiskered Owlet, *Xenoglaux loweryi*
 Elf Owl, *Micrathene whitneyi*
 Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia*
 Spotted Owlet, *Athene brama*
 Forest Owlet, *Athene blewitti*
 Little Owl, *Athene noctua*
 Tengmalm's Owl or Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*
 Northern Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius acadicus*
 Unspotted Saw-whet Owl, *Aegolius ridgwayi*
 Buff-fronted Owl, *Aegolius harrisii*

Rufous Owl, *Ninox rufa*
 Powerful Owl, *Ninox strenua*
 Barking Owl, *Ninox connivens*
 Sumba Boobook, *Ninox rudolfi*
 Southern Boobook, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*, sometimes split as
 Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*,
 Southern Boobook, *Ninox boobook*
 Andaman Hawk Owl, *Ninox affinis*
 Brown Hawk Owl, *Ninox scutulata*
 White-browed Owl, *Ninox superciliaris*
 Philippine Hawk Owl, *Ninox philippensis*
 Ochre-bellied Hawk Owl, *Ninox ochracea*
 Cinnabar Hawk Owl, *Ninox ios*
 Moluccan Hawk Owl, *Ninox squamipila*
 Christmas Island Hawk Owl, *Ninox natalis*
 Jungle Hawk Owl, *Ninox theomacha*
 Manus Hawk Owl, *Ninox meeki*
 Speckled Hawk Owl, *Ninox punctulata*
 Bismarck Hawk Owl, *Ninox variegata*
 New Britain Hawk Owl, *Ninox odiosa*
 Solomon Hawk Owl, *Ninox jacquinoti*
 Papuan Hawk Owl, *Uroglaux dimorpha*
 Jamaican Owl, *Pseudoscops grammicus*
 Striped Owl, *Pseudoscops clamator*
 Stygian Owl, *Asio stygius*
 Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*
 African Long-eared Owl, *Asio abyssinicus*
 Madagascar Long-eared Owl, *Asio madagascariensis*
 Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*
 Marsh Owl, *Asio capensis*
 Fearful Owl, *Nesasio solomonensis*

Sulidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Sulidae** Reichenbach, 1849 Genera: *Morus*, *Sula*, *Papasula*

The [bird](#) family **Sulidae** comprises the [gannets](#) and boobies. Both groups are medium-large coastal [seabirds](#) that plunge-dive for fish. The species in this family are often considered congeneric, placing all in the genus *Sula*. However, bones of *Sula* (boobies) and *Morus* (gannets) at least can in most cases be readily distinguished, and Abbot's Booby has traits of morphology and behavior not found in any other species.

Systematics and evolution

The [fossil](#) record of sulids is quite extensive due to the many Miocene/Pliocene forms that have been recovered. The initial radiation formed a number of genera which are now completely extinct, such as the freshwater *Masillastega* or the bizarre *Rhamphastosula* which had a bill shaped like an *Aracari*'s; the modern genera are (as with most genera of extant birds) documented from the Miocene onwards.

Family Sulidae

- Genus *Masillastega* ([fossil](#); Middle Eocene of Messel, Germany)
- Genus *Eostega* ([fossil](#); Middle/Late Eocene of Cluj-Manastur, Romania)
- Genus *Empheresula* ([fossil](#); Late Oligocene of Gannat, France - Middle Miocene of Steinheimer Becken, Germany)
- Genus *Microsula* ([fossil](#); Lower Miocene of Léognan - Grund Middle Miocene of Austria)
- Genus *Sarmatosula* ([fossil](#); Middle Miocene of Credinca, Romania)
- Genus *Rhamphastosula* ([fossil](#); Pisco Early Pliocene of SC Peru)
- Genus *Miosula* ([fossil](#))
- Genus *Palaeosula* ([fossil](#))
- Sulidae gen. et sp. indet. ([fossil](#); Thalberg Late Oligocene of Germany)
- Genus *Morus* - [gannets](#)
- Genus *Sula* - **boobies**
 - Genus *Papasula* - **Abbott's Booby**

For prehistoric species of the extant genera, see the genus articles.

Sylviornithidae

Sylviornis

Conservation status: Prehistoric

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: **Sylviornithidae** Mourer-Chauviré & Balouet, 2005 Genus: *Sylviornis* Poplin, 1980 Species: *S. neocaledoniae*

Binomial name: *Sylviornis neocaledoniae* Poplin, 1980

Sylviornis is an [extinct](#) genus of galliform bird containing a single species, *S. neocaledoniae*, the **Sylviornis** or **New Caledonian Giant Megapode**. Technically, however, it has recently been found not to be a megapode, but the sole known member of its own [family](#), the Sylviornithidae; at the time of its description, it was believed to be a [ratite](#). The Sylviornis was never encountered alive by scientists, but it is known from many thousands of subfossil bones found in deposits, some of them from the Holocene, on New Caledonia and the adjacent Île des Pins.

The Sylviornis was a huge, flightless bird, 1.70 meters long altogether, and weighing around 30 kg. It had a large skull with a high and laterally compressed beak surmounted by a bony knob. Its legs were rather short, but had strong toes with long nails. The skeleton has a number of peculiarities and differences that make the Sylviornis stand apart from all other known birds: the clavicles were not fused to a furcula, the number of caudal vertebrae was very high, and the ribcage and pelvis were almost dinosaurian in appearance. The wings were reduced to small stubs.

A large proportion - up to 50% in some deposits - of the remains found were from juvenile animals. Thus, it has been theorized that the Sylviornis had a clutch of at least two, more probably closer to 10 eggs, and that the average lifespan was not much more than 5-7 years, which would be extremely low for such a large bird. Apparently, the bird did not incubate its eggs but built a mound similar to the megapodes. Tumuli on the Île des Pins which were initially believed to be graves were found to contain no human remains or grave goods, and it has been hypothesized that they were in reality the incubation mounds of Sylviornis. As these mounds are up to 5 m high and 50 m wide even after nearly 4 millennia, they seem too large to have been made by the Giant Scrubfowl, an extinct New Caledonian species of megapode.

Little can be said about the Sylviornis' lifestyle. It was probably a slow-moving browser, and the structure of the bill and feet suggest that roots and tubers it dug up formed a major part of its diet.

Extinction

The bird was hunted to extinction by the Lapita ancestors of the Kanak people, who settled New Caledonia around 1500 BC. Predation by feral dogs and pigs probably also

played a part. The legacy of the *Sylviornis* persists in Kanak oral history in the form of stories giving a rough description of the bird and some of its habits. A native name was *du*.

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Bird families - T

Teratornithidae

Conservation status: Fossil

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: **Teratornithidae** L. H. Miller, 1909

Teratorns were very large [birds of prey](#) who lived in North and South America from Miocene to Pleistocene. They were somewhat close to modern [condors](#) and as such, they are more closely related to [storks](#) rather than Accipitridae which includes most other diurnal predatory birds, including Old World vultures; however, Rhys (1980) put the family Teratornithidae in the order Accipitriformes. They include some of the largest known flying birds. So far, four species have been identified:

- *Teratornis merriami* (Miller, 1909). This is by far the best-known species. Over a hundred specimens have been found, mostly from La Brea Tar Pits. It stood about 75 cm (29.5 in) tall with estimated wingspan of perhaps 3.5 to 3.8 metres (11.5 to 12.5 ft), and weighed about 15 kg (33 lbs); making it slightly bigger than extant condors. It became extinct at the end of Pleistocene, some 10 000 years ago. Teratornis is Greek for "monster bird".
- *Aiolornis incredibilis* (Howard, 1952), previously known as *Teratornis incredibilis*. This species is fairly poorly known, finds from Nevada and California include several wing bones and part of the beak. They show remarkable similarity with *merriami* but are uniformly about 40% larger: this would translate to wingspan of about 5 metres (16.5 ft) for *incredibilis*. The finds are dated from Pliocene to late Pleistocene which is considerable chronological spread, and thus it is uncertain whether they actually represent the same species.
- *Cathartornis gracilis* (Miller, 1910). This species is known only from a couple of leg bones found from La Brea Ranch. Compared to *T. merriami*, remains are slightly shorter and clearly more slender, indicating more gracile body build.
- *Argentavis magnificens* (Campbell & Tonni, 1980). A partial skeleton of this enormous teratorn was found from La Pampa, Argentina. It is the oldest known teratorn, dating to late Miocene, about 6 to 8 million years ago, and one of the very few teratorn finds in South America. Initial discovery included portions of the skull, incomplete humerus and several other wing bones. Even conservative estimates put its wingspan at 6 meters and up (some 20 ft), and it may have been as much as 8 metres (26 ft). Weight of the bird was estimated to have been around 80 kg (176 lbs). Estimated weight and wing area rival those of the largest pterosaurs.

Another form, "*Teratornis*" *olsoni*, was described from the Pleistocene of Cuba, but its exact affinities are not completely resolved; it might not be a teratorn at all. There are also undescribed fossils from southwestern Ecuador, but apart from these forms, teratorns were restricted to North America (Campbell & Tonni, 1983).

Description and ecology

Despite their size, there is little doubt that even the largest teratorns could fly. Visible marks of the attachments of contour feathers can be seen on *Argentavis* wing bones. This defies some earlier theories that modern birds like condors, [swans](#), and bustards represent the ultimate size limit for flying birds. Wing loading of *Argentavis* was relatively low for its size, a bit more than a turkey (Campbell & Tonni, 1983), and if there were any significant wind present, the bird could probably get airborne merely by spreading its wings, just like modern [Albatrosses](#). It is noteworthy that South America during Miocene probably featured strong and steady westerly winds, as the Andes were still forming and not yet very high.

T. merriami was small enough to take off with a simple jump and a few flaps. The fingerbones are mostly fused as in all birds, but the former index finger has partially evolved into a wide shelf at least in *T. merriami*, and as condors have a similar adaptation, probably other species, too. Wing length estimates vary considerably but more likely than not were on the upper end of the range, because this bone structure serves to bear the load of the massive primaries

Traditionally, teratorns have been described as large scavengers, very much like oversized condors, owing to considerable similarity with condors. However, the long beaks and wide gapes of teratorns are more like the beaks of [eagles](#) and other actively predatory birds, rather than vultures. Most likely teratorns swallowed their prey whole; *Argentavis* could technically swallow up to hare-sized animals in a single piece. Although they undoubtedly engaged in opportunistic scavenging, they seem to have been active predators most of the time (Campbell & Tonni, 1983). It is noteworthy that teratorns have relatively longer and stouter legs than Old World vultures, thus it seems possible that teratorns would stalk their prey on the ground, and take off only to fly to another feeding ground, or their nests; especially *Cathartornis* seems well-adapted for such a lifestyle. *Argentavis* may have been an exception, as its sheer bulk would have made it a less effective hunter, but better adapted to taking over other predators' kills. As teratorns were not habitual scavengers, they most likely had completely feathered heads, unlike [vultures](#).

As with other large birds, a clutch probably had only one or two eggs; the young would be cared for for more than half a year, and take several years to reach maturity, probably up to a dozen in *Argentavis* (Palmqvist & Vizcaíno, 2003).

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Tetraonidae

Grouse

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Galliformes

Family: **Tetraonidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Tetrao* , *Lagopus* , *Falcapennis* , *Centrocercus* , *Bonasa* , *Dendragapus* , *Tympanuchus*

Grouse are from the order Galliformes which inhabit temperate and subarctic regions of the northern hemisphere. They are game and are sometimes hunted for food.

Males are often polygamous, and many species have elaborate courtship displays. These heavily built birds have legs [feathered](#) to the toes. Most species are year-round residents, and do not [migrate](#).

These birds feed mainly on vegetable food, but will also feed on insects, especially when feeding young.

Species

- Siberian Grouse, *Falcapennis falcapennis*
Spruce Grouse, *Falcapennis canadensis*
- Blue Grouse now split into two species:
 - Dusky Grouse, *Dendragapus obscurus*
Sooty Grouse, *Dendragapus fuliginosus*
- Willow Grouse (Willow Ptarmigan in North America), *Lagopus lagopus*
Ptarmigan (Rock Ptarmigan in North America), *Lagopus mutus*
White-tailed Ptarmigan, *Lagopus leucurus*
Eurasian Black Grouse, *Tetrao tetrix*
Caucasian Black Grouse, *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*
Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus*
Black-billed Capercaillie, *Tetrao parvirostris*
Hazel Grouse, *Bonasa bonasia*
Severtzov's Grouse, *Bonasa sewerzowi*
Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*
Greater Sage-Grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*
Gunnison Sage-Grouse, *Centrocercus minimus*
Sharp-tailed Grouse, *Tympanuchus phasianellus*
- Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido*
 - Heath Hen, *T. c. cupido* (extinct, 1932) - possibly a distinct species
- Lesser Prairie-Chicken *Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*

Threskiornithidae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: **Threskiornithidae** Richmond, 1917 Subfamilies: *Threskionithinae* (*ibises*) , *Plateinae* (*spoonbills*)

The [family](#) **Threskiornithidae** includes 36 [species](#) of large terrestrial and wading [birds](#), falling into two subfamilies, the [ibises](#) and the **spoonbills**. It was formerly known as Plataleidae. The spoonbills and ibises are related to other groups of long-legged wading birds in the order Ciconiiformes, including the [storks](#), the herons, and the bitterns.

Members of the family have long, broad wings with 11 primary [feathers](#) and about 20 secondaries. They are strong fliers and, rather surprisingly, given their size and weight, very capable soarers. The body tends to be elongated, the neck more so, with rather long legs. The bill is also long, decurved in the case of the ibises, straight and distinctively flattened in the spoonbills.

They are distributed almost worldwide, being found near almost any area of standing or slow-flowing fresh or brackish water. Ibises are also found in drier areas, including city rubbish tips. All are diurnal; spending the day feeding on a wide range of invertebrates and small vertebrates: ibises by probing in soft earth or mud, spoonbills by swinging the bill from side to side in shallow water. At night, they roost in trees near water. They are gregarious, feeding, roosting, and flying together, often in formation.

Nesting is colonial in ibises, more often in small groups or singly in spoonbills, nearly always in trees overhanging water, but sometimes on islands or small islands in swamps. Generally, the female builds a large structure out of reeds and sticks brought by the male. Typical clutch size is 2 to 5; hatching is asynchronic. Both sexes incubate in shifts, and after hatching feed the young by partial regurgitation. Two or three weeks after hatching, the young no longer need to be brooded continuously and may leave the nest, often forming creches but returning to be fed by the parents.

Trochilidae

Hummingbird

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Apodiformes

Family: **Trochilidae** Vigors, 1825 Subfamilies: *Phaethornithinae*, *Trochilinae*

Hummingbirds are small [birds](#) in the [family Trochilidae](#). They are known for their ability to hover in mid-air by rapidly flapping their wings, 15 to 80 times per second (depending on the species). Capable of sustained hovering, the hummingbird has the ability to fly deliberately backwards or vertically, and to maintain position while drinking from flower blossoms. They are named for the characteristic hum made by their wings.

Hummingbirds are attracted to many flowering plants—shrimp plants, Heliconia, bromeliads, verbenas, fuchsias, many penstemons—especially those with red flowers. They feed on the nectar of these plants and are important pollinators, especially of deep-throated flowers. Most species of hummingbird also take insects, especially when feeding young.

The Bee Hummingbird (*Mellisuga helenae*) is the smallest bird in the world, weighing 1.8 grams. A more typical hummingbird, such as the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), weighs approximately 3 g and has a length of 10-12 cm (3.5-4 inches). The largest hummingbird is the Giant Hummingbird (*Patagona gigas*), with some individuals weighing as much as 24 grams.

Most male hummingbirds take no part in nesting. Most species make a neatly woven cup in a tree branch. Two white eggs are laid, which despite being the smallest of all bird eggs, are in fact large relative to the hummingbird's adult size. Incubation is typically 14-19 days.

- [1 Appearance](#)
- [2 Aerodynamics of hummingbird flight](#)
- [3 Metabolism](#)
- [4 Range](#)
- [5 Systematics and evolution](#)
- [6 Hummingbirds and humans](#)
 - [6.1 Hummingbird feeders and nectar](#)
 - [6.2 Hummingbirds in myth and culture](#)
- [7 References](#)
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Appearance

Hummingbirds bear the most glittering [plumage](#) and some of the most elegant adornments in the bird world. Male hummingbirds are usually brightly coloured. The females of most species are duller.

The names that admiring naturalists have given to hummingbirds suggest exquisite, fairylike grace and gemlike brilliance. Fiery-tailed Aowlbill, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Glittering-bellied Emerald, Brazilian Ruby, Green-crowned Brilliant, Festive Coquette, Shining Sunbeam, and Amethyst-throated Sunangel are some of the names applied to birds in this group.

Aerodynamics of hummingbird flight

Hummingbird flight has been studied intensively from an aerodynamic perspective: Hovering hummingbirds may be filmed using high-speed video cameras.

Writing in *Nature*, biophysicist Douglas Warrick and coworkers studied the Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*, in a wind tunnel using particle image velocimetry techniques and investigated the lift generated on the bird's upstroke and downstroke.

They concluded that their subjects produced 75% of their weight support during the downstroke and 25% during the upstroke: many earlier studies had assumed (implicitly or explicitly) that lift was generated equally during the two phases of the wingbeat cycle. This finding shows that hummingbirds' hovering is similar to, but distinct from, that of hovering insects such as the hawk moths. The differences result from an inherently dissimilar avian body plan (Warrick *et al.*, 2005).

Metabolism

With the exception of insects, hummingbirds while in flight have the highest metabolism of all animals, a necessity in order to support the rapid beating of their wings. Their heartbeat can reach as high as 1260 beats per minute, a rate once measured in a Blue-throated hummingbird [1]. They also typically consume more than their own weight in food each day, and to do that they have to visit hundreds of flowers daily. At any given moment, they are only hours away from starving. However, they are capable of slowing down their metabolism at night, or any other time food is not readily available. They enter a hibernation-like state known as torpor. During torpor, the heartrate and rate of breathing are both slowed dramatically (the heartrate to roughly 50-180 beats per minute), reducing their need for food.

Studies of hummingbirds' metabolism are highly relevant to the question of whether a [migrating](#) Ruby-throated Hummingbird can cross 800 km (500 miles) of the Gulf of Mexico on a nonstop flight, as field observations suggest it does. This hummingbird, like other birds preparing to migrate, stores up fat to serve as fuel, thereby augmenting its weight by as much as 40 to 50 percent and hence increasing the bird's potential flying time. (Skutch, 1973)

Range

Hummingbirds are found only in the Americas, from southern Alaska and Canada to Tierra del Fuego, including the West Indies. The majority of species occur in tropical Central and South America, but several species also breed in temperate areas. Excluding vagrants, sometimes from Cuba or the Bahamas, only the migratory Ruby-throated Hummingbird breeds in eastern North America. The Black-chinned Hummingbird, its close relative and another migrant, is the most widespread and common species in the western United States and Canada.

Most hummingbirds of the U.S. and Canada and southern migrate to warmer climates in the northern winter, though some remain in the warmest coastal regions. Some southern South American forms also move to the tropics.

The Rufous Hummingbird shows an increasing trend to migrate east to winter in the eastern United States, rather than south to Central America, as a result of increasing survival prospects provided by artificial feeders in gardens. In the past, individuals that migrated east would usually die, but now many survive, and their changed migration direction is inherited by their offspring. Provided sufficient food and shelter is available, they are surprisingly hardy, able to tolerate temperatures down to at least -20°C.

Systematics and evolution

Traditionally, hummingbirds were placed in the order Apodiformes, which also contains the [swifts](#). In the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, hummingbirds are separated as a new order, Trochiliformes, but this is not well supported by additional evidence.

There are between 325 and 340 species of hummingbird, depending on taxonomic viewpoint, divided into two subfamilies, the [hermits](#) (subfamily **Phaethornithinae**, 34 species in six genera), and the **typical hummingbirds** (subfamily **Trochilinae**, all the others). This arrangement has been extensively verified (see review in Gerwin & Zink, 1998).

The modern diversity of hummingbirds is thought by evolutionary biologists to have evolved in South America, as the great majority of the species are found there. All of the most common North American species are thought to be of relatively recent origin, and are therefore (following the usual procedure of lists starting with more 'ancestral' species and ending with the most recent) listed close to the end of the list. However, as seen below, the actual origin of the hummingbird lineage now seems to have been parts of Europe to what is southern Russia today.

Genetic analysis has indicated that the hummingbird lineage diverged from their closest relatives some 35 million years ago, in the Late Eocene, but fossil evidence has proved quite elusive. Fossil hummingbirds are known from the Pleistocene of Brazil and the Bahamas - neither of which has been scientifically described -, and there are fossils and subfossils of a few extant species known, but until recently, older fossils had not been securely identifiable as hummingbirds.

Then, in 2004, Dr. Gerald Mayr of the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt am Main identified two 30-million-year-old hummingbird fossils and published his results in *Nature*. The fossils of this primitive hummingbird species, named *Eurotrochilus inexpectatus* ("unexpected European hummingbird"), had been sitting in a museum drawer in Stuttgart; they had been unearthed in a clay pit at Wiesloch-Frauenweiler, south of Heidelberg, Germany and because it was assumed that hummingbirds never occurred outside the Americas were never believed to be hummingbirds until Mayr took a closer look at them.

Fossils of birds not clearly assignable to either hummingbirds or a related, extinct family, the Jungornithidae, have been found at the Messel pit and in the Caucasus, dating from 40-35 mya, proving that the split between these two lineages indeed occurred at that date. The areas where these early fossils have been found had a climate quite similar to the northern Caribbean or southernmost China during that time. The biggest remaining mystery at the present time is what happened to hummingbirds in the roughly 25 million years between the primitive *Eurotrochilus* and the modern fossils. The astounding morphological adaptations, the decrease in size and the dispersal to the Americas and extinction in Eurasia all occurred during in this timespan. DNA-DNA hybridization results (Bleiweiss et al, 1994) suggest that the main radiation of South American hummingbirds at least partly took place in the Miocene, some 12-13 mya, during the uplifting of the northern Andes.

Hummingbirds and humans

Hummingbirds sometimes fly into garages and become trapped. It is widely believed that this is because they mistake the hanging (usually red-color) door-release handle for a flower, although hummingbirds can also get trapped in enclosures that do not contain anything red. Once inside, they may be unable to escape because their natural instinct when threatened or trapped is to fly upward. This is a life-threatening situation for hummingbirds, as they can become exhausted and die in a relatively short period of time, possibly as little as an hour. If a trapped hummingbird is within reach, it can often be caught gently and released outdoors. It will lie quietly in the space between cupped hands until released.

Hummingbird feeders and nectar

The diet of hummingbirds requires an energy source (typically nectar) and a protein source (typically small insects). For nectar, hummingbirds will happily take artificial nectar from man-made feeders. Such feeders allow people to observe and enjoy hummingbirds up-close while providing the hummingbirds with a reliable supply of nectar, especially when flower blossoms are less abundant. The feeders can be placed as high as 60 meters maximum. Homemade nectar can be made from **1 part white, granulated table sugar to 4 parts water**, boiled to make it easier to dissolve the sugar and to purify the solution so that it will stay fresh longer. The cooled nectar is then poured into the feeder. Honey should not be used because it is prone to culture a bacterium that is dangerous to hummingbirds.^[1] Diet

sweeteners should also be avoided because, though the hummingbirds will drink it, they will be starved of the calories they need to sustain their metabolism.

Some commercial hummingbird foods contain red dyes and preservatives which are unnecessary and have not been studied for long-term effects on hummingbirds. While it is true that bright colors (especially red) attract hummingbirds, it is better to use a feeder that has some red on it, rather than coloring the water. There are suggestions that red dye is harmful to hummingbirds [\[2\]](#). Yellow dyes also cannot be used, as it has been known to attract bees and wasps. Commercial nectar mixes may contain small amounts of mineral nutrients which *are* useful to hummingbirds, but hummingbirds get all the nutrients they need from the insects they eat, not from nectar, so the added nutrients are also unnecessary. Authorities on hummingbirds recommend just plain sugar and water (Shackelford *et al.*, 2005).

A hummingbird feeder should be easy to refill and clean. Prepared nectar can be refrigerated for 1 to 2 weeks before being used, but once placed outdoors it will only remain fresh for 2-4 days in hot weather or 4-6 days in moderate weather before turning cloudy or developing mold. Hummingbirds can be seriously harmed if they sip from a feeder with nectar that has gone bad. When changing the nectar, the feeder should be rinsed thoroughly with warm tap water, flushing the reservoir and ports to remove any contamination or sugar build-up. If dish soap is used, it needs extra rinsing so that no residue is left behind. The feeder can be soaked in dilute chlorine bleach if black specks of mold appear.

Other animals are also attracted to hummingbird feeders. It is a good idea to get a feeder that has very narrow ports, or ports with mesh-like "wasp guards", to prevent bees and wasps from getting inside where they get trapped. Orioles are known to drink from hummingbird feeders, sometimes tipping them and draining the liquid. If this becomes a problem, it is possible to buy feeders which are specifically designed to support their extra weight and which hummingbirds will use too. If ants find your hummingbird feeder, one solution is to install an "ant moat", which is available at specialty garden stores and online.

Hummingbirds in myth and culture

- The Aztec god Huitzilopochtli is often depicted as a hummingbird. One of the Nazca Lines depicts a hummingbird. The Ohlone tells the story of how a Hummingbird brought fire to the world. See an article at the National Parks Conservation Association's website for a recounting. Trinidad and Tobago is known as "The land of the hummingbird," and a hummingbird can be seen on that nation's 1 cent coin. Many popular songs have been written under the title "Hummingbird", including separate works by B.B. King, Wilco, Leon Russell, John Mayer, Frankie Laine, Cat Stevens, Seals and Crofts, Merzbow and Yuki.

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Footnotes

1. [^](http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/hummingbird/2003021845028716.html)
<http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/hummingbird/2003021845028716.html>
2. [^](http://www.hummingbirds.net/dye.html) <http://www.hummingbirds.net/dye.html>

Tytonidae

Barn-owls

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Strigiformes](#)

Family: **Tytonidae** Ridgway, 1914 [Genera](#): *Tyto*, *Phodilus*

For fossil genera, see article.

Barn-owls (family **Tytonidae**) are one of the two generally accepted families of owls, the other being the [typical owls](#), Strigidae. They are medium to large sized owls with large heads and characteristic heart-shaped faces. They have long strong legs with powerful talons. The barn owls comprise two extant sub-families: the Tytoninae or Tyto owls (including the Common Barn Owl) and the Phodilinae or bay-owls.

The barn owls are a wide ranging family, absent only from northern North America, Saharan Africa and large areas of Asia. They live in a wide range of habitats from deserts to forests, and from temperate latitudes to the tropics. The majority of the 16 living species of barn owls are poorly known, some, like the Madagascar Red Owl, have barely been seen or studied since their discovery, in contrast to the Common Barn Owl, which is one of the best known owl species in the world. However, some sub-species of the Common Barn Owl possible deserve to be a species, and are very poorly known.

5 species of barn-owl are threatened, and some island species have gone [extinct](#) during the Holocene or earlier (e.g. *Tyto pollens*, known from the fossil record of Andros Island, and possibly the basis for the Chickcharnie). The barn-owls are mostly nocturnal, and generally non-[migratory](#), living in pairs or singly.

- [1 Description](#)
- [2 Species](#)
- [3 References](#)

Description

The barn-owls main characteristic is the heart-shaped facial disc, formed by stiff [feathers](#) which serve to amplify and locate the source of sounds when hunting. Further adaptations in the wing feathers eliminate sound caused by flying, aiding both the hearing of the owl listening for hidden prey and keeping the prey unaware of the owl. Barn-owls overall are darker on the back than the front, usually an orange-brown colour, the front being a paler version of the back or mottled, although there is considerable variation even amongst species. The bay-owls closely resemble the *Tyto* owls but have a divided facial disc, ear tufts, and tend to be smaller.

Species

The fossil record of the barn-owls goes back to the Eocene, with the family eventually losing ground to the true owls after the radiation of rodents and owls during the Neogene epoch . Two subfamilies are only known from the fossil record, the *Necrobyinae* and the *Selenornithinae*. Numerous extinct species of *Tyto* have been described; see the genus page for more information.

Genus *Tyto*

- Greater Sooty-owl, *T. tenebricosa*
 Lesser Sooty-owl, *T. multipunctata*
 Australian Masked-owl, *T. novaehollandiae*
 Golden Masked-owl, *T. aurantia*
- Lesser Masked-owl, *T. sororcula*
 - Buru Masked-owl, *T. (sororcula) cayelii* (possibly [extinct](#))
- Manus Masked-owl, *T. manusi*
 Taliabu Masked-owl, *T. nigrobrunnea*
 Minahassa Masked-owl, *T. inexpectata*
 Sulawesi Owl, *T. rosenbergii*
- Barn Owl, *T. alba*
 - Eastern Barn Owl, *T. (alba) delicatula*
- Ashy-faced Owl, *T. glaucops*
 Madagascar Red Owl *T. soumagnei*
 African Grass-owl *T. capensis*
 Australasian Grass-owl *T. longimembris*

Genus *Phodilus*

- Oriental Bay-owl *P. badius*
 - Samar Bay-owl *P. (badius) riverae* (probably [extinct](#))
- Congo Bay-owl, *P. prigoginei* - sometimes placed in *Tyto*

[Fossil](#) genera

- *Necrobyas* (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene - Early Miocene of France)
- *Prosybris* (Early Miocene of France)
- *Nocturnavis*
- *Palaeobyas*
- *Palaeotyto*
- *Selenornis*

The presumed "Easter Island Barn-owl", based on subfossil bones found on Rapa Nui, has turned out to be some procellariid (Steadman, 2006).

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Bird families - V

Bird families - W

Subfamilies of birds

Anatinae

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Anseriformes
Family: [Anatidae](#)
Subfamily: **Anatinae** Leach, 1820
Genera

- Dabbling ducks
 - *Amazonetta*
 - Aix*
 - Anas*
 - Cairina*
 - Callonetta*
 - Chenonetta*
 - Nettapus*
 - Pteronetta*
- moa-nalos
 - *Chelychelynechen*
 - Thambetochen*
 - Ptaiochen*
- Diving ducks
 - *Marmaronetta*
 - Netta*
 - Aythya*

The **Anatinae** is one of the subfamilies of the family [Anatidae](#), which includes the [swans](#), [geese](#) and [ducks](#).

The Anatinae subfamily contains three groups of ducks:

- The dabbling duck group, of worldwide distribution, include usually 8 genera and some 50-60 living species. Salvadori's Teal and the Crested Duck are sometimes separated from *Anas* in monotypic genera.
- The 3 known genera and 4 known species of moa-nalos are all extinct. They formerly occurred on the Hawaiian Islands and were derived from dabbling ducks.
- 16 living or recently extinct species of diving ducks, of worldwide distribution, in presently 3 genera; *Marmaronetta* was formerly included with the dabbling ducks but is now treated here. Phylogenetic analysis of the probably extinct Pink-headed Duck, previously treated separately in *Rhodonessa*, has suggested that it belongs into *Netta* (Livezey, 1998), but this approach has been questioned (Collar *et al.*, 2001). Molecular studies, which would probably resolve this question, have not been conducted to date.

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Anserinae

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Anseriformes
 Family: [Anatidae](#)
 Subfamily: **Anserinae** Vigors, 1825
 Genera

- *Cygnus (including Olor)*
Coscoroba
Sarcidiornis (extinct)
- [Anser](#)
- [Chen](#)
- [Branta](#)
- *Cereopsis*
Cnemiornis (extinct)

The **Anserinae** is a subfamily of the waterfowl family [Anatidae](#). It includes the [swans](#) and [geese](#); this article deals with the swans and true geese in the subfamily **Anserinae**. See [swan](#) and [goose](#), and the individual species, for more details. A number of other waterbirds, mainly related to the shelducks, have "goose" as part of their name; see the family page at [Anatidae](#) for these and others.

Species of swan and goose:

- Genus [Cygnus](#) - swans
 - Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*. Arctic North America, Europe and Asia, wintering further south.
 Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus bewickii*. Siberia, wintering on the coasts of the North, Caspian and Yellow Seas and Japan. Often considered a subspecies of *C. columbianus*.
 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Subarctic Europe and Asia, wintering further south.
 Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator*. Subarctic North America, wintering further south.
 Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*. Temperate Europe and Asia, mainly resident.
 - Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*. Australia, resident or nomadic.
 - New Zealand Swan, *Cygnus atratus sumnerensis*. New Zealand, possibly Chatham Islands, resident. **Conservation status: Prehistoric**
 - Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melanocoryphus*. Southern South America, wintering further north.
- Genus ***Coscoroba***

- Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*. Southern South America, wintering further north.
- Genus *Sarcidiornis*
 - Mascarene Swan, *Sarcidiornis mauritania* (*mauritanus*) an extinct species which lived in the Mascarene Islands, last observed in Mauritius in 1668 [\[1\]](#).
- Genus **Anser** - **grey geese**
 - Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Temperate Europe and Asia.
 - White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. Arctic North America, Europe and Asia, wintering further south.
 - Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*. Subarctic Europe and Asia, wintering further south.
 - Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*. Arctic and subarctic Europe and Asia, wintering further south.
 - Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Arctic Atlantic Ocean shores, wintering further south in western Europe.
 - Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*. Mountains of temperate central Asia, wintering further south in India.
 - Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*. Temperate eastern Asia, wintering further south.
- Genus **Chen** - **white geese** (sometimes merged into *Anser*)
 - Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* or *Anser caerulescens*. Arctic and subarctic North America, wintering further south.
 - Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* or *Anser rossii*. Arctic North America, wintering further south.
 - Emperor Goose *Chen canagica* or *Anser canagicus*. Arctic Pacific Ocean shores, wintering a short distance further south.
 - Genus **Branta** - **black geese**
 - Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. Arctic Atlantic Ocean shores, wintering further south in western Europe.
 - Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*. Arctic to temperate North America, wintering further south or resident.
 - Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*. Arctic to temperate North America, wintering further south or resident.
 - Hawaiian Goose or Nn, *Branta sandvicensis*. Hawaii, resident.
 - Nn-nui, *Branta hylobadistes*. Hawaii, resident. Conservation status: Prehistoric
 - Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*.
 - Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*. Arctic Asia, wintering further in southeast Europe.
- Genus **Cereopsis**
 - Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*. Southern Australia, resident or nomadic. Distinct from other geese and often placed in a subfamily of its own.

- Genus ***Cnemiornis*** - **New Zealand geese** Conservation status: Prehistoric
 - South Island Goose *Cnemiornis calcitrans*. New Zealand, South Island, resident. Conservation status: Prehistoric
 - North Island Goose *Cnemiornis gracilis*. New Zealand, North Island, resident. Conservation status: Prehistoric

Bucorvinae

Ground-hornbill

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Bucerotidae

Subfamily: **Bucorvinae**

Genus: ***Bucorvus*** Lesson, 1830 Species: *Bucorvus leadbeateri*, *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

The **Ground-hornbills** (Bucorvinae) are a subfamily of the [hornbill](#) family Bucerotidae, with a single genus *Bucorvus* and two extant species:

- Abyssinian Ground-hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* (also known as Northern Ground-hornbill)
Southern Ground-hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

The subfamily is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa - Abyssinian Ground-hornbill being found in a belt from Senegal east to Ethiopia, with Southern Ground-hornbill occurring in the south and east of the continent.

A prehistoric ground-hornbill, *Bucorvus brailloni*, has been described from [fossil](#) bones.

Ground hornbills are large, with adults around a metre tall. Both species are ground-dwelling, unlike other hornbills. Some ornithologists raise the Ground-hornbills to family level on account of this and other distinctive features.

Buteoninae

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Falconiformes
Family: [Accipitridae](#)
Subfamily: **Buteoninae**
Genera: *See article text*

Buteoninae is a [bird of prey](#) subfamily which consists of medium to large broad-winged [species](#).

They have large powerful hooked [beaks](#) for tearing flesh from their prey, strong legs and powerful talons. They also have extremely keen eyesight to enable them to spot potential prey from a distance.

This subfamily contains the buzzards and [true eagles](#).

Species

SUBFAMILY BUTEONINAE

- Genus *Geranoaetus*
 - Black-chested Buzzard-eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
- Genus *Buteo*
 - Common Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*
 - Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*
 - Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
 - Rough-legged Buzzard, *Buteo lagopus*
 - Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*
 - Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*
 - Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*
 - Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*
 - Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris*
 - Ridgway's Hawk, *Buteo ridgwayi*
 - White-rumped Hawk, *Buteo leucorrhous*
 - Short-tailed Hawk, *Buteo brachyurus*
 - White-throated Hawk, *Buteo albigula*
 - White-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus*
 - Galápagos Hawk, *Buteo galapagoensis*
 - Red-backed Hawk, *Buteo polyosoma*
 - Puna Hawk, *Buteo poecilochrous*
 - Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*
 - Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus*
 - Hawaiian Hawk, *Buteo solitarius*
 - Rufous-tailed Hawk, *Buteo ventralis*

- Mountain Buzzard, *Buteo oreophilus*
- Madagascar Buzzard, *Buteo brachypterus*
- Upland Buzzard, *Buteo hemilasius*
- Red-necked Buzzard, *Buteo auguralis*
- Augur Buzzard, *Buteo augur*
- Archer's Buzzard, *Buteo archeri*
- Jackal Buzzard, *Buteo rufofuscus*
- Genus *Parabuteo*
 - Harris' Hawk, *Parabuteo unicinctus*
- Genus *Buteogallus*
 - Common Black Hawk, *Buteogallus anthracinus*
 - Mangrove Black Hawk, *Buteogallus subtilis*
 - Great Black Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*
 - Rufous crab Hawk, *Buteogallus aequinoctialis*
 - Savanna Hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis*
- Genus *Busarellus*
 - Black-collared Hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis*
- Genus *Leucopternis*
 - Plumbeous Hawk, *Leucopternis plumbea*
 - Slate-coloured Hawk, *Leucopternis schistacea*
 - Barred Hawk, *Leucopternis princeps*
 - Black-faced Hawk, *Leucopternis melanops*
 - White-browed Hawk, *Leucopternis kuhli*
 - White-necked Hawk, *Leucopternis lacernulata*
 - Semiplumbeous Hawk, *Leucopternis semiplumbea*
 - White Hawk, *Leucopternis albicollis*
 - Grey-backed Hawk, *Leucopternis occidentalis*
 - Mantled Hawk, *Leucopternis polionota*
- Genus *Kaupifalco*
 - Lizard Buzzard, *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
- Genus *Butastur*
 - Grasshopper Buzzard, *Butastur rufipennis*
 - White-eyed Buzzard, *Butastur teesa*
 - Rufous-winged Buzzard, *Butastur liventer*
 - Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus*
- Genus *Harpyhaliaetus*
 - Crowned Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*
 - Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*
- Genus *Morphnus*
 - Crested Eagle, *Morphnus guianensis*
- Genus *Harpia*
 - Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*
- Genus *Pithecophaga*
 - Philippine Eagle, *Pithecophaga jefferyi*

- Genus *Harpyopsis*
 - New Guinea Eagle, *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
- Genus *Oroaetus*
 - Black-and-chestnut Eagle, *Oroaetus isidori*
- Genus *Spizastur*
 - Black-and-white Hawk-eagle, *Spizastur melanoleucus*
- Genus *Spizaetus*
 - Cassin's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus africanus*
 - Changeable Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
 - Mountain Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis*
 - Blyth's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus alboniger*
 - Javan Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus bartelsi*
 - Sulawesi Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus lanceolatus*
 - Philippine Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus philippensis*
 - Wallace's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus nanus*
 - Black Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*
 - Ornate Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus ornatus*
- Genus *Lophaetus*
 - Long-crested Eagle, *Lophaetus occipitalis* - possibly belongs into *Ictinaetus*
- Genus *Stephanoaetus*
 - Crowned Hawk-eagle, *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
- Genus *Polemaetus*
 - Martial Eagle, *Polemaetus bellicosus*
- Genus *Hieraaetus*
 - Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides*
 - Ayres' Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus ayresii*
 - Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus kienerii*
- Genus *Aquila*
 - Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciata* - formerly *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
 - Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennata* - formerly *Hieraaetus pennatus*
 - African Hawk-eagle, *Aquila spilogastra* - formerly *Hieraaetus spilogaster*
 - Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
 - Eastern Imperial Eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
 - Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*
 - Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis*
 - Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*
 - Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 - Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 - Verreaux's Eagle, *Aquila verreauxii*
 - Gurney's Eagle, *Aquila gurneyi*
 - Wahlberg's Eagle, *Aquila wahlbergi*
 - Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*

- Genus *Ictinaetus*
 - Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis*
- Genus *Haliaeetus*
 - White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*
 - Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 - Steller's Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*
 - African Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer*
 - White-bellied Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
 - Sanford's Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus sanfordi*
 - Madagascar Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vociferoides*
 - Pallas' Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
- Genus *Ichthyophaga*
 - Lesser Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga humilis*
 - Grey-headed Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Chordeilinae

Nighthawk

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Caprimulgiformes

Family: [Caprimulgidae](#)

Subfamily: **Chordeilinae**

Genera: *Nyctiprogne*, *Podager*, *Lurocalis*, *Chordeiles*

Nighthawks are [birds](#) of the [nightjar](#) family in the New World subfamily **Chordeilinae**.

They are medium-sized nocturnal birds with long wings, short legs and very short bills that usually nest on the ground and catch flying insects. Nightjars are sometimes referred to as goatsuckers from the mistaken belief that they suck milk from goats (the Latin for goatsucker is *Caprimulgus*).

Nighthawks have small feet, of little use for walking, and long pointed wings. Their soft plumage is cryptically coloured to resemble bark or leaves. Some species, unusual for birds, perch along a branch, rather than across it. This helps to conceal them during the day. They lay two patterned eggs directly onto bare ground.

They are mostly active in the late evening and early morning or at night, and feed predominantly on moths and other large flying insects.

Nighthawks are similar in most respects to the nightjars of the Old World, but have shorter bills and less soft plumage. Nighthawks are less strictly nocturnal than many Old World nightjars, and may be seen hunting when there is still light in the sky.

Species

- Band-tailed Nighthawk, *Nyctiprogne leucopyga*
Nacunda Nighthawk, *Podager nacunda*
Rufous-bellied Nighthawk *Lurocalis rufiventris*
Short-tailed Nighthawk, *Lurocalis semitorquatus*
Antillean Nighthawk, *Chordeiles gundlachii*
Lesser Nighthawk, *Chordeiles acutipennis*
Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*
Least Nighthawk, *Chordeiles pusillus*
Sand-colored Nighthawk, *Chordeiles rupestris*

Mancallinae

Mancalla

Conservation status: Fossil

Fossil range: Late Miocene - Early Pleistocene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: [Alcidae](#)

Subfamily: **Mancallinae** Lucas, 1901 Genera: *Alcodes*, *Praemancalla*, *Mancalla*

The **Mancallinae** were a sub-family of prehistoric flightless [auks](#) that lived on the Pacific coast of today's California and Mexico from the late Miocene Epoch to the Early Pleistocene. They are sometimes collectively referred to as Lucas auks after the scientist who described the first species, Frederic Augustus Lucas.

They had evolved along somewhat similar lines as the Great Auk, their North Atlantic ecological counterpart, but their decidedly stubbier wings were in some aspects more convergent with [penguins](#).

Compared with the subarctic Great Auk, they were also smaller (see also: Bergmann's Rule): *Praemancalla* species have been estimated to have weighed about 3 kg. Most *Mancalla* forms weighed somewhat less (about 2.4 kg), with *M. milleri* being a smaller (1.65 kg) and *M. emlongi* a much larger bird (3.8 kg) than the rest (Livezey, 1988). The last species thus stood around 55-60 cm high in life.

Evolution and systematics

- **Family** [Alcidae](#)
 - **Subfamily** Mancallinae
 - Genus *Alcodes*
 - *Alcodes ulnulus*
 - Genus *Praemancalla*
 - *Praemancalla lagunensis* (Howard, 1966)
 - *Praemancalla wetmorei* (Howard, 1976)
 - Genus *Mancalla*
 - *Mancalla californiensis* (Lucas, 1901)
 - *Mancalla diegense* (Miller, 1937)
 - *Mancalla milleri* (Howard, 1970)
 - *Mancalla cedrosensis* (Howard, 1971)
 - *Mancalla emlongi* (Olson, 1981)

There seems to exist a further, undescribed species which differs somewhat from the others in the proportion of the wing bones (Livezey, 1988).

The mancallines probably evolved from proto-[puffins](#) (Livezey, 1988), which must have been birds not dissimilar to the Rhinoceros Auklet. Accordingly, their status as a subfamily has been questioned as this would make the Alcinae (true auks) paraphyletic. However, the

mancallines were a very distinct and unique evolutionary lineage and are thus usually retained as a subfamily. They must have diverged from flying ancestors during the mid-Miocene, roughly 15 mya.

Alcodes is known from a single ulna found in Late Miocene (Clarendonian, 9-12 mya) deposits at Laguna Hills, California. While assignment of such a fragmentary fossil is always problematical, the ulna is a fairly distinctive bone and that of *Alcodes* is quite peculiar. However, it is more allied with the Mancallines as a matter of convenience; additional material would be needed to confirm this relationship (Olson, 1985). From the bone's measurements, it seems probable that this species was flightless (Livezey, 1988) and judging from its age, it either represents an earlier development paralleling *Mancalla*, or a third lineage of flightless auks.

Praemancalla is known from Clarendonian to Early Pliocene remains. It is similar to *Mancalla*, but less extreme in its adaptations and it is quite possibly that the latter genus evolved from one of the 2 known species. *Mancalla* was a common species throughout the Pliocene, appearing in the Hemphillian stage of the Late Miocene (5-9 mya), and spreading in the Pliocene, with 4 species apparently coexisting at one time on the coast of southern California (Olson, 1985).

As with many marine birds, the mancalline auks were much affected by the extinction crisis in the late Pliocene oceans. This coincided with the diversification of marine mammals, but may ultimately have been caused by increased supernova activity in the vicinity of the solar system (Comins & Kaufmann). Despite their apparent awkwardness, they seem to have been quite well adapted for flightless birds, with the fossil record suggesting that the last remnants did not disappear until the Early Pleistocene (c. 7 mya), some time after the ecological changes had passed their peak.

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Merginae

Sea Ducks

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: [Anatidae](#)

Subfamily: **Merginae**

Genera: *Chendytes* (extinct), *Polysticta*, *Somateria*, *Histrionicus*, *Camptorhynchus* (extinct), *Melanitta*, *Clangula*, *Bucephala*, *Mergellus*, *Lophodytes*, *Mergus*

The **seaducks**, **Merginae**, form a [subfamily](#) of the [duck](#), [goose](#) and [swan](#) family of [birds](#), [Anatidae](#).

As the name implies, most but not all, are essentially marine outside the breeding season. Many species have developed specialized salt glands to allow them to tolerate salt water, but these have not yet developed in young birds. Some of the mergansers prefer riverine habitats.

All but two of the 20 species in this group occupy habitats in far northern latitudes.

The fish-eating members of this group, such as the mergansers and Smew, have serrated edges to their bills to help them grip their prey. These are therefore often known as "sawbills".

Other seaducks take molluscs or crustaceans from the sea floor.

There are twenty living species in ten extant genera.

Subfamily Merginae

- Genus *Chendytes*, the diving-geese. These birds became extinct in prehistoric times. They were large, goose-like ducks with reduced wings which were unfit for flying, but could assist in diving as in the Great Auk. At least one species survived to the Holocene.
 - Law's Diving-geese *Chendytes lawi*
- Genus *Polysticta*
 - Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*
- Genus *Somateria*, the eiders. These are large marine ducks. The drakes have body plumage showing varying amounts of black and white, and distinctive head patterns. Females are brown.
 - Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*
 - Spectacled Eider *Somateria fischeri*
 - King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*
- Genus *Histrionicus*
 - Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*
- Genus *Camptorhynchus*
 - Labrador Duck *Camptorhynchus labradorius*

- Genus *Melanitta*, the scoters. These are stocky marine ducks. The drakes are mostly black and have swollen bills. Females are brown.
 - Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
Black Scoter or American Scoter *Melanitta americana* (sometimes considered a subspecies of *M. nigra*)
Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*
White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi* (sometimes considered a subspecies of *M. fusca*)
Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*
- Genus *Clangula*
 - Long-tailed Duck or **Oldsquaw** *Clangula hyemalis*
- Genus *Bucephala*, the goldeneyes. These are less marine than some species in this group, and will winter on fresh water. Drakes have white bodies with black backs and distinctive head markings. Females are grey with chestnut heads.
 - Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*
Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*
- Genus *Mergellus* (sometimes included in *Mergus*)
 - Smew *Mergellus albellus*
- Genus *Lophodytes* (sometimes included in *Mergus*)
 - Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*
- Genus *Mergus*, the typical mergansers. These are the least marine of this group, only Red-breasted being common on the sea. These are large saw-billed ducks which dive for fish.
 - Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus*
Auckland Islands Merganser *Mergus australis*
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Common Merganser or Goosander *Mergus merganser*
Chinese Merganser *Mergus squamatus*

Palaeedyptinae

Conservation status: Fossil

Fossil range: Middle/Late Eocene -? Middle Miocene

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Sphenisciformes

Family: Spheniscidae

Subfamily: **Palaeedyptinae** Simpson, 1946 Genera: *Palaeedyptes*, *Archaeospheniscus*, *Anthropornis*, *Pachydyptes*, *Platydyptes*
and see article text

Synonyms: *Anthropornithidae* Simpson, 1946

The **New Zealand Giant Penguins**, **Palaeedyptinae**, are an [extinct](#) subfamily of [penguins](#). It includes several [genera](#) of medium-sized to very large species - including *Palaeedyptes marplei* and *Anthropornis nordenskjöldi* which grew 150 centimeters tall or even larger, and the massive *Pachydyptes ponderosus* which weighed at least as much as an adult human male.

They belonged to an evolutionary lineage more primitive than modern penguins. In some taxa at least, the wing, while already having lost the avian feathering, had not yet transformed into the semi-rigid flipper found in modern penguin species: While the ulna and the radius were already flattened to increase propelling capacity, the elbow and wrist joints still retained a higher degree of flexibility than the more rigidly lockable structure found in modern genera. The decline and eventual disappearance of this subfamily seems to be connected by increased competition as mammal groups such as cetaceans and pinnipeds became better-adapted to a marine lifestyle in the Oligocene and Miocene.

The members of this subfamily are known from fossils found in New Zealand, Antarctica, and possibly Australia, dating from the Middle or Late Eocene to the Late Oligocene; the Australian Middle Miocene genus *Anthropodyptes* is also often assigned to this subfamily, as are the remaining genera of primitive penguins except those from Patagonia. Indeed, it was long assumed that all prehistoric penguins which cannot be assigned to extant genera belonged into the Palaeedyptinae; this view is generally considered obsolete today. It is likely that some of the unassigned New Zealand/Antarctican/Australian genera like *Delphinornis* do indeed belong into this subfamily, but it is just as probable that others, such as *Dunroonornis* and *Korora*, represent another, smaller and possibly somewhat more advanced lineage.

The Palaeedyptinae as originally defined (Simpson, 1946) contained only the namesake genus, the remainder being placed in the Anthropornithidae. The arrangement followed here is based on the review of Marples (1962) who synonymized the two, with updates to incorporate more current findings.

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Phaethornithinae

Hermit

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Apodiformes

Family: Trochilidae

Subfamily: **Phaethornithinae** Jardine, 1833 Genera: *Ramphodon*, *Eutoxeres*, *Glaucis*, *Threnetes*, *Anopetia*, *Phaethornis*

The **Hermits** are tropical [hummingbirds](#) in the subfamily *Phaethornithinae*, comprising about 34 species in six genera.

Their plumage typically involves greens, browns, rufous or grey. They lack the iridescent plumage of many other hummingbird species, and the male and female plumages of hermits are often very similar, only a few species showing the strong sexual dimorphism usually associated with hummingbirds.

Hermits in the main genus, *Phaethornis*, have a long decurved bill with a red or yellow base to the lower mandible, and their two central tail feathers are elongated and tipped with white. The crown of the head is flat, and two pale facial stripes enclose a dusky mask.

Hermits usually form leks and congregate on traditional display grounds, where females visit to choose a mate. However, male hermits are less aggressively territorial than other male hummingbirds.

Hermits are closely associated with heliconias. The flowers are an important food source accessible to the long decurved bill typical of this group of forest [hummingbirds](#). Many species, including the Rufous-breasted Hermit, also use the plant for nesting, attaching their conical nest to the underside of one of the plant's broad leaves.

Species

- **Genus *Ramphodon***
 - Saw-billed Hermit, *Ramphodon naevius*
- **Genus *Eutoxeres***
 - White-tipped Sicklebill, *Eutoxeres aquila*
 - Buff-tailed Sicklebill, *Eutoxeres condamini*
- **Genus *Glaucis***
 - Hook-billed Hermit, *Glaucis dohrnii*
 - Rufous-breasted Hermit, *Glaucis hirsuta*
 - Bronzy Hermit, *Glaucis aenea*
- **Genus *Threnetes***
 - Band-tailed Barbthroat, *Threnetes ruckeri*
 - Pale-tailed Barbthroat, *Threnetes niger*
- **Genus *Anopetia***
 - Broad-tipped Hermit, *Anopetia gounellei*
- **Genus *Phaethornis***

- White-whiskered Hermit, *Phaethornis yaruqui*
Green Hermit, *Phaethornis guy*
White-bearded Hermit, *Phaethornis hispidus*
- Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*
 - Mexican Hermit, *Phaethornis (longirostris) mexicanus*
 - Baron's Hermit, *Phaethornis (longirostris) baroni*
- Long-tailed Hermit, *Phaethornis superciliosus*
Great-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis malaris*
Tawny-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis syrmatophorus*
Koepcke's Hermit, *Phaethornis koepckeae*
Needle-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis philippii*
Straight-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis bourcieri*
Pale-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis anthophilus*
Scale-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis eurynome*
Planalto Hermit, *Phaethornis pretrei*
Sooty-capped Hermit, *Phaethornis augusti*
Buff-bellied Hermit, *Phaethornis subochraceus*
Dusky-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis squalidus*
Streak-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis rupurumii*
Little Hermit, *Phaethornis longuemareus*
Minute Hermit, *Phaethornis idaliae*
Cinnamon-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis nattereri*
Reddish Hermit, *Phaethornis ruber*
White-browed Hermit, *Phaethornis stuarti*
Black-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis atrimentalis*
- Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*
 - Dusky Hermit, *Phaethornis (striigularis) saturatus*
- Gray-chinned Hermit, *Phaethornis griseogularis*

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Tadorninae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: [Anatidae](#)

Subfamily: **Tadorninae**

Genera: *Sarkidiornis*, *Pachyanas* (*extinct*), *Tadorna*, *Malacorhynchus*, *Centrornis* (*extinct*), *Cyanochen*, *Chloephaga*, *Neochen*, *Alopochen*, *Hymenolaimus*, *Merganetta*, *Tachyeres*

The **Tadorninae** is a [subfamily](#) of the [Anatidae](#), the biological [family](#) that includes the [ducks](#) and most duck-like waterfowl such as the ([geese](#) and [swans](#)).

This subfamily includes the shelducks, sheldgeese and steamer-ducks. This group of larger, often semi-terrestrial waterfowl can be seen as intermediate between geese ([Anserinae](#)) and ducks.

This group is largely tropical or Southern Hemisphere in distribution, with only two species, the common Shelduck and the Ruddy Shelduck breeding in northern temperate regions, though the Crested Shelduck (presumed extinct) was also a northern species.

Most of these species have a distinctive plumage, but there is no pattern as to whether the sexes are alike, even within a single genus.

There are 10 extant genera and 23 living species (one is probably [extinct](#)):

- *Sarkidiornis* (South America, Africa, India)
 - Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
- *Pachyanas* (Chatham Islands, extinct)
 - Chatham Island Duck *Pachyanas chathamica*
- *Tadorna*, shelducks (Europe, Africa, Australasia, 7 species)
 - Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
 - Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*
 - Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*
 - Paradise Shelduck *Tadorna variegata*
 - Crested Shelduck *Tadorna cristata*
 - Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
 - Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*
- *Malacorhynchus* (Australia, 1 living species, 1 extinct)
 - Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*
 - Scarlett's Duck *Malacorhynchus scarletti*
- *Centrornis* (Madagascar, extinct)
 - Madagascar Sheldgoose *Centrornis majori*
- *Alopochen* (Africa, 1 living species, 2-3 extinct)
 - Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
 - Réunion Shelduck *Alopochen kervazoi*
 - Mauritius Shelduck *Alopochen mauritanus*

Madagascar Shelduck *Alopochen sirabensis* (may be the same as *A. mauritanus*)

- *Neochen* (South America)
 - Orinoco Goose *Neochen jubata*
- *Chloephaga*, sheldgeese (South America, 5 species)
 - Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera*
 - Magellan Goose *Chloephaga picta*
 - Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida*
 - Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala*
 - Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*
- *Cyanochen* (Ethiopia)
 - Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanopterus*
- *Hymenolaimus* (New Zealand)
 - Blue Duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*
- *Merganetta* (Andes Mts., South America)
 - Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*
- *Tachyeres*, steamer ducks (South America, 4 species).
 - Flying Steamer Duck *Tachyeres patachonicus*
 - Magellanic Flightless Steamer Duck *Tachyeres pteneres*
 - White-headed Flightless Steamer Duck *Tachyeres leucocephalus*
 - Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachypterus*

Vanellinae

Lapwings

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: [Charadriidae](#)

Subfamily: **Vanellinae** Bonaparte, 1842 Genera: *Erthrogonys*, *Vanellus*

Lapwings are medium-sized wading [birds](#) belonging to the subfamily **Vanellinae** of the [family Charadriidae](#), which also includes the plovers and dotterels. A lapwing can be thought of as a larger plover.

The traditional terms *plover*, *lapwing*, and *dotterel* were coined long before modern understandings of the relationships between different groups of birds emerged: in consequence, several of the lapwings (subfamily Vanellinae) are still called "plovers", and the reverse also applies.

While authorities are generally agreed that there about 24 species of lapwing, classifications within the subfamily remain confused. At one extreme, Peters recognised no less than 19 different genera; other workers have gone as far as to group all the lapwings into the single genus, *Vanellus*. Current opinion appears to be that a more moderate position is appropriate.

These long-legged [waders](#) mostly have strongly patterned plumage. Although the most familiar northern hemisphere lapwing, Northern Lapwing, has a wispy crest, only two other species do so. Red or yellow facial wattles are a more typical decoration.

A group of lapwings is called a "deceit".

List of species in taxonomic order

- Red-kneed Dotterel, *Erythrogonys cinctus*
- Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*
- White-headed Plover, *Vanellus albiceps*
- Southern Lapwing, *Vanellus chilensis*
- Grey-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus cinereus*
- Crowned Lapwing, *Vanellus coronatus*
- Long-toed Lapwing, *Vanellus crassirostris*
- River Lapwing or Spur-winged Lapwing, *Vanellus duvaucelii*
- Red-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus*
- Masked Lapwing, *Vanellus miles*
- Spur-winged Lapwing or Spur-winged Plover, *Vanellus spinosus*
- Banded Lapwing, *Vanellus tricolor*
- Blacksmith Lapwing, *Vanellus armatus*
- Black-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus tectus*
- Yellow-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus malabaricus*
- Senegal Lapwing, *Vanellus lugubris*

Black-winged Lapwing, *Vanellus melanopterus*
African Wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus senegallus*
Spot-breasted Lapwing, *Vanellus melanocephalus*
Brown-chested Lapwing, *Vanellus superciliosus*
Javanese Wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus macropterus*
Sociable Lapwing, *Vanellus gregarius*
White-tailed Lapwing, *Vanellus leucurus*
Pied Lapwing, *Vanellus cayanus*
Andean Lapwing, *Vanellus resplendens*

Only Northern, Sociable, White-tailed Lapwing, Grey-headed and Brown-chested Lapwings are [migratory](#) species.

Spur-winged, Blacksmith, River, Southern, Andean and Pied Lapwings are boldly patterned, red-eyed species with a spurred carpal joint.

Many species have wattles which can be small (Black-headed, Spot-breasted, Red-wattled and Banded Lapwings) or large (White-headed Plover, African Wattled, Yellow-wattled, Javanese Wattled, or Masked Lapwings).

Tribes of birds

Nestorini

Nestor

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Subfamily: **Nestorinae**

Genus: ***Nestor*** Lesson, 1830 Species: *N. notabilis*, *N. meridionalis*, *N. productus*

The [genus](#) ***Nestor***, the only genus of the **Nestorinae** subfamily, contains two parrot species from New Zealand and one species from Norfolk Island, Australia. The Norfolk Island Kk is extinct.

- Kea, *Nestor notabilis*
- Kk, *Nestor meridionalis*
 - North Island Kk, *Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*
 - South Island Kk, *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis*
- Norfolk Island Kk, *Nestor productus* (extinct)

Platycercini

Platycercinae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Psittacidae

Subfamily: Psittacinae

Tribe: **Platycercini**

Genera: *Prosopeia*, *Eunymphicus*, *Cyanoramphus*, *Platycercus*, *Barnardius*, *Purpureicephalus*, *Lathamus*, *Northiella*, *Psephotus*, *Neopsephotus*, *Neophema*, *Melopsittacus*, *Pezoporus*

A **broad-tailed parrot** is any of about 35-40 [species](#) belonging to the tribe **Platycercini**, sometimes considered a subfamily (**Platycercinae**). The members of the subfamily are small to medium in size, and all are native to Australasia, Australia in particular, but also New Zealand, New Caledonia, and nearby islands.

TRIBE PLATYCERCINI

- **Genus *Prosopeia***
 - Crimson Shining Parrot, *Prosopeia splendens*
 - Masked Shining Parrot, *Prosopeia personata*
 - Red Shining Parrot, *Prosopeia tabuensis*
- **Genus *Eunymphicus***
 - Horned Parakeet, *Eunymphicus cornutus*
 - Uvea Parakeet, *Eunymphicus uvaeensis*
- **Genus [Cyanoramphus](#)**
 - Black-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus zealandicus* (extinct, c.1850)
 - Society Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus ulietanus* (extinct, late 18th century)
 - Antipodes Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus unicolor*
 - Red-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*
 - Subantarctic Red-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus erythrotis*
 - Reischek's Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus (erythrotis) hochstetteri*
 - Yellow-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus auriceps*
 - Chatham Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus forbesi*
 - Malherbe's Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus malherbi*
- **Genus *Platycercus***
 - Western Rosella, *Platycercus icterotis*
 - Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*
 - Adelaide Rosella, *Platycercus (elegans) adelaidae*
 - Yellow Rosella, *Platycercus (elegans) flaveolus*
 - Green Rosella, *Platycercus caledonicus*
 - Pale-headed Rosella, *Platycercus adscitus*

- Eastern Rosella, *Platycercus (adscitus) eximius*
 - Northern Rosella, *Platycercus venustus*
- **Genus *Barnardius*** - sometimes included in *Platycercus*
 - Australian Ringneck, *Barnardius zonarius* (includes Port Lincoln, Mallee Ringneck, Cloncurry and Twenty Eight parakeets)
- **Genus *Purpureicephalus***
 - Red-capped Parrot, *Purpureicephalus spurius*
- **Genus *Lathamus***
 - Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor*
- **Genus *Northiella*** - often included in *Psephotus*
 - Blue Bonnet, *Northiella haematogaster*
- **Genus *Psephotus***
 - Red-rumped Parrot, *Psephotus haematonotus*
 - Mulga Parrot, *Psephotus varius*
 - Golden-shouldered Parrot, *Psephotus chrysoptergius*
 - Hooded Parrot, *Psephotus dissimilis*
 - Paradise Parrot, *Psephotus pulcherrimus* (extinct, late 1920s)
- **Genus *Melopsittacus***
 - [Budgerigar](#), *Melopsittacus undulatus*
- **Genus *Neopsephotus*** - sometimes included in *Neophema*
 - Bourke's Parrot, *Neopsephotus bourkii*
- **Genus *Neophema***
 - Blue-winged Parrot, *Neophema chrysostoma*
 - Elegant Parrot, *Neophema elegans*
 - Rock Parrot, *Neophema petrophilla*
 - Orange-bellied Parrot, *Neophema chrysogaster*
 - Turquoise Parrot, *Neophema pulchella*
 - Scarlet-chested Parrot, *Neophema splendida*
- **Genus *Pezoporus***
 - Ground Parrot, *Pezoporus wallicus*
 - Night Parrot, *Pezoporus occidentalis* - formerly *Geopsittacus*

Passeriformes

Passerines

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: **Passeriformes** Linnaeus, 1758 Suborders: *Tyranni*, *Passeri*

A **passerine** is a [bird](#) of the giant [order](#) **Passeriformes**. More than half of all species of bird are passerines. Sometimes known as **perching birds** or, less accurately, as *songbirds*, the passerines are one of the most spectacularly successful vertebrate orders: with around 5,400 species, they are roughly twice as diverse as the largest of the mammal orders, the Rodentia.

The group gets its name from the Latin name for the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

- [1 Characteristics](#)
- [2 Origin](#)
- [3 Taxonomy of passerines](#)
- [4 See also](#)

Characteristics

Many passerines are songbirds and have complex muscles to control their syrinx; many gape in the nest as infants to beg for food.

The order is divided into two suborders, Tyranni, and Passeri (oscines). Oscines have the most control of their syrinx muscles and are true [songbirds](#) (though some of them, such as the crows, do not sound like it).

Most passerines are smaller than typical members of other avian orders. The largest passerine is the Thick-billed Raven (although the Lyrebird is longer).

The foot of a passerine has three toes directed forward without any webbing or joining, and one toe directed backward. The hind toe joins the leg at the same level as the front toes. In other orders of birds the toe arrangement is different.

Most passerines lay coloured eggs, in contrast to non-passerines, where the colour is white except in some ground nesting groups such as Charadriiformes and nightjars, where camouflage is necessary, and some parasitic cuckoos which have to match the passerine host's egg.

Origin

The evolutionary history of and relationships among the passerine families remained rather mysterious until around the end of the 20th century. Many passerine families were grouped together on the basis of morphological similarities that, it is now believed, are the result of convergent evolution, not a close genetic relationship. For example, the "wrens" of

the northern hemisphere, of Australia, and of New Zealand all look very similar and behave in similar ways, and yet belong to three far-flung branches of the passerine family tree: they are as unrelated as it is possible to be while yet remaining Passeriformes.

Much research remains to be done, but a series of biochemical studies are gradually revealing a clearer picture of passerine origins and evolution. It is now thought that the early passerines evolved in Gondwana at about the time that the southern supercontinent was breaking up. This led to the Tyranni and, a little later, to a great radiation of forms in Australia-New Guinea (the Passeri or songbirds). A major branch of the passerine tree, the Passerida (or sparrow-like forms), emerged either as the sister group to the basal lineages ("Corvida"), or more likely as a subgroup of it, and reached the northern hemisphere, where there was a further explosive radiation of new species. Since then, there has been extensive mixing, with northern forms returning to the south, southern forms moving north, and so on.

Taxonomy of passerines

This list is in taxonomic order, placing related species/groups next to each other. For missing families.

Note that as of 2006, several studies have appeared which if validated will revolutionize the phylogeny presented here. For example, the Corvida as presented here are as far as anyone can tell a rather arbitrary assemblage of early and minor lineages of passeriform birds of Old World origin.

- **ORDER PASSERIFORMES**
 - **Suborder Tyranni**
 - Tyrannidae: tyrant flycatchers
 - Pittidae: pittas
 - Eurylaimidae: broadbills
 - Furnariidae: ovenbirds and woodcreepers
 - Thamnophilidae: antbirds
 - Formicariidae: antpittas and antthrushes
 - Conopophagidae: gnateaters
 - Rhinocryptidae: tapaculos
 - Cotingidae: cotingas
 - Pipridae: manakins
 - Philepittidae: asities
 - Acanthisittidae: New Zealand wrens
 - **Suborder Passeri (Corvida)**
 - Menuridae: lyrebirds
 - Atrichornithidae: scrub birds
 - Climacteridae: Australian treecreepers
 - Maluridae: fairy-wrens, emu-wrens and grasswrens
 - Meliphagidae: honeyeaters and chats
 - Promeropidae: sugarbirds
 - Pardalotidae: pardalotes, scrubwrens, thornbills, and gerygones
 - Petroicidae: Australian robins

- Orthonychidae: logrunners
- Pomatostomidae: Australasian babblers
- Cinclosomatidae: whipbirds and allies
- Neosittidae: sittellas
- Pachycephalidae: whistlers, shrike-thrushes, pitohuis and allies
- Dicruridae: monarch flycatchers and allies
- Campephagidae: cuckoo shrikes and trillers
- Oriolidae: orioles and Figbird
- Artamidae: wood swallows, butcherbirds, currawongs and Australian Magpie
- Paradisaeidae: birds of paradise
- Corvidae: crows, ravens and jays
- Corcoracidae: White-winged Chough and Apostlebird
- Irenidae: fairy-bluebirds
- Laniidae: shrikes
- Prionopidae: helmetshrikes.
- Malaconotidae: puffback shrikes, bush shrikes, tchagras and boubous
- Vireonidae: vireos
- Vangidae: vangas
- Ptilonorhynchidae: bowerbirds
- Turnagridae: Piopio
- Callaeidae: New Zealand wattlebirds
- **Suborder Passeri (Passerida)**
- Alaudidae: larks
- Chloropseidae: leafbirds
- Aegithinidae: ioras
- Picathartidae: rockfowl
- Bombycillidae: waxwings and allies
- Dulidae: palmchat
- Ptilogonatidae: silky flycatchers
- Cinclidae: dippers
- Motacillidae: wagtails and pipits
- Prunellidae: accentor
- Melanocharitidae: berrypeckers and longbills
- Paramythiidae: tit berrypecker and crested berrypeckers
- Passeridae: true sparrows
- Urocynchramidae: Przewalski's Finch
- Estrildidae: estrildid finches (waxbills, munias, etc)
- Parulidae: New World warblers
- Thraupidae: tanagers and allies
- Peucedramidae: Olive Warbler
- Fringillidae: true finches
- Cardinalidae: cardinals
- Ploceidae: weavers
- Drepanididae: Hawaiian honeycreepers

Emberizidae: buntings and American sparrows
Nectariniidae: sunbirds
Dicaeidae: flowerpeckers
Mimidae: mockingbirds and thrashers
Sittidae: nuthatches
Certhiidae: treecreepers
Rhabdornithidae: Philippine creepers
Troglodytidae: wrens
Polioptilidae: gnatcatchers
Paridae: tits, chickadees and titmice
Aegithalidae: long-tailed tits
Remizidae: penduline tits
Hirundinidae: swallows and martins
Regulidae: kinglets
Pycnonotidae: bulbuls
Coerebidae: Bananaquit
Sylviidae: Old World warblers
Hypocoliidae: Hypocolius
Icteridae: grackles, New World blackbirds, and New World orioles
Cisticolidae: cisticolas and allies
Zosteropidae: White-eyes
Paradoxornithidae: Parrotbills
Timaliidae: babblers
Muscicapidae: Old World flycatchers and chats
Platysteiridae: wattle-eyes or puffback flycatchers
Turdidae: thrushes and allies
Sturnidae: starlings

See also

- [list of birds](#)

Carinatae

In phylogenetic taxonomy, the **Carinatae** are considered the last common ancestor of Neornithes (living [birds](#)) and Ichthyornis (an extinct seabird of the Cretaceous). Defined in this way, the group includes all living [birds](#), including [ratites](#) ([ostrich](#), [emu](#), etc.), as well as neognathous birds and a few Mesozoic forms.

Traditionally, Carinatae were defined as all birds having a keeled sternum. The carina or "keel" referred to a strong median ridge running down the length of the sternum, or breast bone. This is an important area for the attachment of flight muscles. Thus, all flying birds have a pronounced carina. Ratites, all of whom are flightless, lack a strong carina. Thus, living birds were divided into carinates and ratites. The difficulty with this scheme was that there have been (and still are) any number of flightless birds, without strong carinae, but which are descended directly from ordinary flying birds with carinae. Examples include the turkey, a galliform (chicken-like) bird, and the dodo, a columbiform (the [pigeon](#) family). None of these birds are ratites. Thus, this supposedly distinctive feature was easy to use, but had nothing to do with actual phylogenetic relationship.

Unfortunately, the use of this term to describe the Ichthyornis-Neornithine group turned out to be equally inapt. Various dinosaurs -- apparently, remote ancestors and cousins of the Carinatae -- **do** possess a keeled sternum. So, evidently the presence of this structure does not necessarily imply its use in flight. This sort of definitional problem is one reason why the use of physical characteristics to define or name taxonomic groups is now discouraged.

The characteristics that actually are unique to the Carinatae have little to do with the sternum. Rather, carinates are unique in having, for example, a globe-shaped, convex head on the humerus and fully fused bones in the lower leg and outer arm.

Birds by geography

Endemism in birds

This article is a parent page for a series of articles providing information about endemism among birds in the World's various zoogeographic zones.

The term **endemic**, in the context of bird endemism, refers to any species found only in a specific area. There is no upper size limit for the geographical area. It would not be incorrect to refer to all bird species as endemic to Earth; in practice, however, the largest areas for which the term is in common use are countries (e.g. New Zealand endemics) or zoogeographical regions and subregions (West Indies endemics).

Birdlife International has defined the term **restricted-range endemic** as any species whose historical range is less than 50,000km².

Patterns of endemism

Endemism is particularly notable when not just a particular species is confined to given areas, but a whole higher-level taxon (e.g. [genus](#), family or even [order](#)).

Almost all orders are represented on at least two continents. The orders with the most-restricted range are the mousebirds (Coliiformes), found only in sub-Saharan Africa and the tinamous, found only in South and Central America.

At the level of family, endemism is exhibited widely. Examples include:

- The Kagu, a monotypic family found only on New Caledonia in the south Pacific Ocean
- The Palmchat, another monotypic family, found only on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean
- The kiwis, a family of five species found only in New Zealand
- The todies, a family of five species found only on the Greater Antilles
- The Hawaiian honeycreepers, a family found only on the Hawaiian islands - see Endemism in the Hawaiian Islands and Endemic birds of Hawaii
- Australia has many endemic families - see Endemic birds of Australia
- Madagascar has a number of endemic families (plus others found only on Madagascar and nearby island groups) - see Endemic birds of Madagascar and western Indian Ocean islands

Endemic Bird Areas

Birdlife International has defined the concept of an Endemic Bird Area (EBA). This is a region of the world which contains two or more restricted range species.

To support this, they have also introduced the Secondary Area concept, for areas which contain one or more restricted-range species.

Publications in Bird Endemism

Birdlife International has produced two publications on endemism in birds:

- *Putting biodiversity on the map: priority areas for global conservation* C. J. Bibby, N. J. Collar, M. J. Crosby, M.F. Heath, Ch. Imboden, T. H. Johnson, A. J. Long, A. J. Stattersfield and S. J. Thirgood (1992) ISBN 0-946888-24-8
- *Endemic Bird Areas of the World: Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation* Alison J. Stattersfield, Michael J. Crosby, Adrian J. Long and David C. Wege (1998) ISBN 0-946888-33-7

Birds of Africa

This **list of African birds** is a listing of all the bird species known from the continent of Africa.

- [1 Notes](#)
- [2 Ostrich](#)
- [3 Penguins](#)
- [4 Loons](#)
- [5 Grebes](#)
- [6 Albatrosses](#)
- [7 Shearwaters and petrels](#)
- [8 Storm-petrels](#)
- [9 Tropicbirds](#)
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Notes

The taxonomy of this list adheres to James Clements' Birds of the World: A Checklist, and reflects all changes to that work until July, 2005. Taxonomic changes are on-going. As more research is gathered from studies of distribution, behavior, and DNA, the order and number of families and species may change. Furthermore, different approaches to ornithological nomenclature have led to concurrent systems of classification (see Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy).

The area covered by this list is the same as the Africa region defined by the American Birding Association's listing rules[1]. It includes Socotra in the Arabian Sea, Sao Tome and

Annobon in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Canary Islands, but excludes Madeira. The region does not include Madagascar or the Comoro Islands.

Ostrich

Order: Struthioniformes **Family:** Struthionidae

- [Ostrich](#), *Struthio camelus*

Penguins

Order: Sphenisciformes **Family:** Spheniscidae

- King Penguin, *Aptenodytes patagonicus*
Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua*
Rockhopper Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysocome*
Macaroni Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysolophus*
Jackass Penguin, *Spheniscus demersus*

Loons

Order: Gaviiformes **Family:** Gaviidae

- Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*
Arctic Loon, *Gavia arctica*
Common Loon, *Gavia immer*

Grebes

Order: Podicipediformes **Family:** Podicipedidae

- Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*
Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*
Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*
Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*
Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*

Albatrosses

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Diomedidae

- Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*
Royal Albatross, *Diomedea epomophora*
Laysan Albatross, *Phoebastria immutabilis*

Grey-headed Albatross, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*
Black-browed Albatross, *Thalassarche melanophris*
Buller's Albatross, *Thalassarche bulleri*
Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*
Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*
Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria fusca*
Light-mantled Albatross, *Phoebastria palpebrata*

Shearwaters and petrels

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Procellariidae

- Antarctic Giant Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus*
Hall's Giant Petrel, *Macronectes halli*
Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*
Southern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*
Antarctic Petrel, *Thalassoica antarctica*
Cape Petrel, *Daption capense*
Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*
White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii*
Atlantic Petrel, *Pterodroma incerta*
Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*
Cape Verde Petrel, *Pterodroma feae*
Blue Petrel, *Halobaena caerulea*
Broad-billed Prion, *Pachyptila vittata*
Salvin's Prion, *Pachyptila salvini*
Antarctic Prion, *Pachyptila desolata*
Slender-billed Prion, *Pachyptila belcheri*
Fairy Prion, *Pachyptila turtur*
Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*
Jouanin's Petrel, *Bulweria fallax*
Grey Petrel, *Procellaria cinerea*
White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Kerguelen Petrel, *Aphrodroma brevirostris*
Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas*
Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea*
Cape Verde Shearwater, *Calonectris edwardsii*
Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*
Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*
Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*
Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*
Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus puffinus*
Balearic Shearwater, *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Levantine Shearwater, *Puffinus yelkouan*
Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis*

Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*
Persian Shearwater, *Puffinus persicus*
Mascarene Shearwater, *Puffinus atrodorsalis*

Storm-petrels

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Hydrobatidae

- Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*
White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*
Black-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta tropica*
White-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta grallaria*
European Storm-petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Band-rumped Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*
Leach's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
Swinhoe's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma monorhis*
Matsudaira's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma matsudairae*

Tropicbirds

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Phaethontidae

- Red-billed Tropicbird, *Phaethon aethereus*
Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda*
White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus*

Pelicans

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Pelecanidae

- Great White Pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Pink-backed Pelican, *Pelecanus rufescens*
Dalmatian Pelican, *Pelecanus crispus*

Gannets and boobies

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** [Sulidae](#)

- Northern Gannet, *Morus bassanus*
Cape Gannet, *Morus capensis*
Australian Gannet, *Morus serrator*
Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*
Red-footed Booby, *Sula sula*
Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*

Cormorants

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Phalacrocoracidae

- Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Cape Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax capensis*
Socotra Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*
Bank Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax neglectus*
European Shag, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
Long-tailed Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax africanus*
Crowned Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax coronatus*
Pygmy Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*

Darter

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Anhingidae

- [Darter](#), *Anhinga melanogaster*

Frigatebirds

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Fregatidae

- Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*
Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor*
Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel*

Hérons, egrets, and bitterns

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Ardeidae

- Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea*
Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*
Black-headed Heron, *Ardea melanocephala*
Goliath Heron, *Ardea goliath*
Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret, *Ardea alba*
Slaty Egret, *Egretta vinaceigula*
Black Heron, *Egretta ardesiaca*
Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia*
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*
Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*
Western Reef Heron, *Egretta gularis*
Squacco Heron, *Ardeola ralloides*
Indian Pond Heron, *Ardeola grayii*

Madagascar Pond Heron, *Ardeola idae*
Rufous-bellied Heron, *Ardeola rufiventris*
Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*
Striated Heron, *Butorides striata*
Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*
White-backed Night Heron, *Gorsachius leuconotus*
White-crested Bittern, *Tigriornis leucolopha*
Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*
Dwarf Bittern, *Ixobrychus sturmii*
American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*
Great Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*

Hamerkop

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Scopidae

- Hamerkop, *Scopus umbretta*

Storks

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Ciconiidae

- Yellow-billed Stork, *Mycteria ibis*
African Openbill, *Anastomus lamelligerus*
Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*
Abdim's Stork, *Ciconia abdimii*
Woolly-necked Stork, *Ciconia episcopus*
White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*
Saddle-billed Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
Marabou Stork, *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Shoebill

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Balaenicipitidae

- Shoebill, *Balaeniceps rex*

Ibises and spoonbills

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Threskiornithidae

- Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Waldrapp, *Geronticus eremita*
Bald Ibis, *Geronticus calvus*
Olive Ibis, *Bostrychia olivacea*

Spot-breasted Ibis, *Bostrychia rara*
Hadada Ibis, *Bostrychia hagedash*
Wattled Ibis, *Bostrychia carunculata*
Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*
Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*
African Spoonbill, *Platalea alba*

Flamingos

Order: Phoenicopteriformes **Family:** Phoenicopteridae

- Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Lesser Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus minor*

Ducks, geese, and swans

Order: Anseriformes **Family:** [Anatidae](#)

- Fulvous Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*
White-faced Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna viduata*
White-backed Duck, *Thalassornis leuconotus*
Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*
Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*
Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus*
Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis*
Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*
Lesser White-fronted Goose, *Anser erythropus*
Greylag Goose, *Anser anser*
Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*
Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis*
Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla*
Red-breasted Goose, *Branta ruficollis*
Blue-winged Goose, *Cyanochen cyanoptera*
Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*
South African Shelduck, *Tadorna cana*
Common Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*
Spur-winged Goose, *Plectropterus gambensis*
Comb Duck, *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
Hartlaub's Duck, *Pteronetta hartlaubii*
Cotton Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus coromandelianus*
African Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus auritus*
Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*
Mandarin Duck, *Aix galericulata*

African Black Duck, *Anas sparsa*
Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*
American Wigeon, *Anas americana*
Gadwall, *Anas strepera*
Green-winged Teal, *Anas carolinensis*
Eurasian Teal, *Anas crecca*
Cape Teal, *Anas capensis*
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*
Yellow-billed Duck, *Anas undulata*
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*
Red-billed Duck, *Anas erythrorhynchos*
Hottentot Teal, *Anas hottentota*
Garganey, *Anas querquedula*
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*
Cape Shoveler, *Anas smithii*
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*
Marbled Teal, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
Red-crested Pochard, *Netta rufina*
Southern Pochard, *Netta erythrophthalma*
Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina*
Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*
Ferruginous Pochard, *Aythya nyroca*
Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*
Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*
Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*
Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*
White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta fusca*
Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*
Smew, *Mergellus albellus*
Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*
Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*
Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*
White-headed Duck, *Oxyura leucocephala*
Maccoa Duck, *Oxyura maccoa*

Osprey

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** Pandionidae

- Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Hawks, eagles, and kites

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** [Accipitridae](#)

- African Cuckoo Hawk, *Aviceda cuculoides*
- European Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*
- Oriental Honey Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
- Bat Hawk, *Macheiramphus alcinus*
- Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*
- Scissor-tailed Kite, *Chelictinia riocourii*
- Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*
- Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
- African Fish Eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer*
- White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*
- Palm-nut Vulture, *Gypohierax angolensis*
- Hooded Vulture, *Necrosyrtes monachus*
- Lammergeier, *Gypaetus barbatus*
- Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*
- White-backed Vulture, *Gyps africanus*
- Rueppell's Griffon, *Gyps rueppellii*
- Eurasian Griffon, *Gyps fulvus*
- Cape Griffon, *Gyps coprotheres*
- Cinereous Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*
- Lappet-faced Vulture, *Torgos tracheliotus*
- White-headed Vulture, *Trigonoceps occipitalis*
- Short-toed Eagle, *Circaetus gallicus*
- Beaudouin's Snake Eagle, *Circaetus beaudouini*
- Black-breasted Snake Eagle, *Circaetus pectoralis*
- Brown Snake Eagle, *Circaetus cinereus*
- Fasciated Snake Eagle, *Circaetus fasciolatus*
- Banded Snake Eagle, *Circaetus cinerascens*
- Bateleur, *Terathopius ecaudatus*
- Congo Serpent Eagle, *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*
- Western Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*
- African Marsh Harrier, *Circus ranivorus*
- Black Harrier, *Circus maurus*
- Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
- Pallid Harrier, *Circus macrourus*
- Montagu's Harrier, *Circus pygargus*
- African Harrier Hawk, *Polyboroides typus*
- Lizard Buzzard, *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
- Dark Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax metabates*
- Eastern Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax poliopterus*
- Pale Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax canorus*
- Gabar Goshawk, *Micronisus gabar*
- Red-chested Goshawk, *Accipiter toussenelii*
- African Goshawk, *Accipiter tachiro*
- Chestnut-flanked Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter castanilius*

Shikra, *Accipiter badius*
 Levant Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter brevipes*
 Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter erythropus*
 Little Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter minullus*
 Ovampo Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter ovampensis*
 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus*
 Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter rufiventris*
 Black Goshawk, *Accipiter melanoleucus*
 Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*
 Long-tailed Hawk, *Urotriorchis macrourus*
 Grasshopper Buzzard, *Butastur rufipennis*
 Eurasian Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*
 Mountain Buzzard, *Buteo oreophilus*
 Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
 Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*
 Red-necked Buzzard, *Buteo auguralis*
 Augur Buzzard, *Buteo augur*
 Archer's Buzzard, *Buteo archeri*
 Jackal Buzzard, *Buteo rufofuscus*
 Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina*
 Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga*
 Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*
 Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis*
 Spanish Eagle, *Aquila adalberti*
 Imperial Eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
 Wahlberg's Eagle, *Aquila wahlbergi*
 Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
 Verreaux's Eagle, *Aquila verreauxii*
 Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciatus*
 African Hawk Eagle, *Aquila spilogaster*
 Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennatus*
 Ayres' Hawk Eagle, *Aquila ayresii*
 Martial Eagle, *Polemaetus bellicosus*
 Long-crested Eagle, *Lophaetus occipitalis*
 Cassin's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus africanus*
 Crowned Hawk Eagle, *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Secretary-bird

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** Sagittariidae

- Secretary-bird, *Sagittarius serpentarius*

Falcons

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** [Falconidae](#)

- Pygmy Falcon, *Polihierax semitorquatus*
Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni*
Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*
Greater Kestrel, *Falco rupicoloides*
Fox Kestrel, *Falco alopex*
Grey Kestrel, *Falco ardosiaceus*
Dickinson's Kestrel, *Falco dickinsoni*
Red-necked Falcon, *Falco chicquera*
Red-footed Falcon, *Falco vespertinus*
Amur Falcon, *Falco amurensis*
Eleonora's Falcon, *Falco eleonora*
Sooty Falcon, *Falco concolor*
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*
Eurasian Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*
African Hobby, *Falco cuvierii*
Lanner Falcon, *Falco biarmicus*
Saker Falcon, *Falco cherrug*
Barbary Falcon, *Falco pelegrinoides*
Taita Falcon, *Falco fasciinucha*
Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*

Pheasants and partridges

Order: Galliformes **Family:** [Phasianidae](#)

- Chukar, *Alectoris chukar*
Barbary Partridge, *Alectoris barbara*
Red-legged Partridge, *Alectoris rufa*
Sand Partridge, *Ammoperdix heyi*
Coqui Francolin, *Francolinus coqui*
White-throated Francolin, *Francolinus albogularis*
Schlegel's Francolin, *Francolinus schlegelii*
Forest Francolin, *Francolinus lathami*
Crested Francolin, *Francolinus sephaena*
Ring-necked Francolin, *Francolinus streptophorus*
Finsch's Francolin, *Francolinus finschi*
Red-winged Francolin, *Francolinus levillantii*
Grey-winged Francolin, *Francolinus africanus*
Moorland Francolin, *Francolinus psilolaemus*
Shelley's Francolin, *Francolinus shelleyi*
Orange River Francolin, *Francolinus levillantoides*

Scaly Francolin, *Francolinus squamatus*
 Ahanta Francolin, *Francolinus achantensis*
 Grey-striped Francolin, *Francolinus griseostriatus*
 Nahan's Francolin, *Francolinus nahani*
 Hartlaub's Francolin, *Francolinus hartlaubi*
 Double-spurred Francolin, *Francolinus bicalcaratus*
 Heuglin's Francolin, *Francolinus icterorhynchus*
 Clapperton's Francolin, *Francolinus clappertoni*
 Harwood's Francolin, *Francolinus harwoodi*
 Red-billed Francolin, *Francolinus adspersus*
 Cape Francolin, *Francolinus capensis*
 Natal Francolin, *Francolinus natalensis*
 Hildebrandt's Francolin, *Francolinus hildebrandti*
 Yellow-necked Francolin, *Francolinus leucoscepus*
 Grey-breasted Francolin, *Francolinus rufopictus*
 Red-necked Francolin, *Francolinus afer*
 Swainson's Francolin, *Francolinus swainsonii*
 Jackson's Francolin, *Francolinus jacksoni*
 Handsome Francolin, *Francolinus nobilis*
 Cameroon Francolin, *Francolinus camerunensis*
 Swierstra's Francolin, *Francolinus swierstrai*
 Chestnut-naped Francolin, *Francolinus castaneicollis*
 Erckel's Francolin, *Francolinus erckelii*
 Djibouti Francolin, *Francolinus ochropectus*
 Common Quail, *Coturnix coturnix*
 Harlequin Quail, *Coturnix delegorguei*
 Blue Quail, *Coturnix adansonii*
 Udzungwa Partridge, *Xenoperdix udzungwensis*
 Stone Partridge, *Ptilopachus petrosus*
 Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*
 Congo Peacock, *Afropavo congensis*

Guineafowl

Order: Galliformes **Family:** Numididae

- White-breasted Guineafowl, *Agelastes meleagrides*
 Black Guineafowl, *Agelastes niger*
 Helmeted Guineafowl, *Numida meleagris*
 Plumed Guineafowl, *Guttera plumifera*
 Crested Guineafowl, *Guttera pucherani*
 Vulturine Guineafowl, *Acryllium vulturinum*

Buttonquails

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Turnicidae

- Small Buttonquail, *Turnix sylvaticus*
Hottentot Buttonquail, *Turnix hottentottus*
Quail-plover, *Ortyxelos meiffrenii*

Cranes

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Gruidae

- Grey Crowned Crane, *Balearica regulorum*
Black Crowned Crane, *Balearica pavonina*
Demoiselle Crane, *Anthropoides virgo*
Blue Crane, *Anthropoides paradiseus*
Wattled Crane, *Buggeranus carunculatus*
Common Crane, *Grus grus*

Rails, gallinules, and coots

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** [Rallidae](#)

- White-spotted Flufftail, *Sarothrura pulchra*
Buff-spotted Flufftail, *Sarothrura elegans*
Red-chested Flufftail, *Sarothrura rufa*
Chestnut-headed Flufftail, *Sarothrura lugens*
Streaky-breasted Flufftail, *Sarothrura boehmi*
Striped Flufftail, *Sarothrura affinis*
White-winged Flufftail, *Sarothrura ayresi*
Nkulengu Rail, *Himantornis haematopus*
Grey-throated Rail, *Canirallus oculus*
Water Rail, *Rallus aquaticus*
African Rail, *Rallus caerulescens*
African Crake, *Crecopsis egregia*
Corn Crake, *Crex crex*
Rouget's Rail, *Rougetius rougetii*
Black Crake, *Amaurornis flavirostra*
Little Crake, *Porzana parva*
Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla*
Spotted Crake, *Porzana porzana*
Sora, *Porzana carolina*
Striped Crake, *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*
Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Allen's Gallinule, *Porphyrio alleni*

Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*
Lesser Moorhen, *Gallinula angulata*
Red-knobbed Coot, *Fulica cristata*
Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*

Finfoot

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Heliornithidae

- African Finfoot, *Podica senegalensis*

Bustards

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Otididae

- Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*
Arabian Bustard, *Ardeotis arabs*
Kori Bustard, *Ardeotis kori*
Houbara Bustard, *Chlamydotis undulata*
Macqueen's Bustard, *Chlamydotis macqueenii*
Ludwig's Bustard, *Neotis ludwigii*
Stanley Bustard, *Neotis denhami*
Heuglin's Bustard, *Neotis heuglinii*
Nubian Bustard, *Neotis nuba*
White-bellied Bustard, *Eupodotis senegalensis*
Blue Bustard, *Eupodotis caerulescens*
Karoo Bustard, *Eupodotis vigorsii*
Rueppell's Bustard, *Eupodotis rueppellii*
Little Brown Bustard, *Eupodotis humilis*
Savile's Bustard, *Eupodotis savilei*
Buff-crested Bustard, *Eupodotis gindiana*
Red-crested Bustard, *Eupodotis ruficrista*
Black Bustard, *Eupodotis afra*
White-quilled Bustard, *Eupodotis afraoides*
Black-bellied Bustard, *Lissotis melanogaster*
Hartlaub's Bustard, *Lissotis hartlaubii*
Little Bustard, *Tetrax tetrax*

Jacanas

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Jacanidae

- Lesser Jacana, *Microparra capensis*
African Jacana, *Actophilornis africanus*
Pheasant-tailed Jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Painted Snipe

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Rostratulidae

- Greater Painted Snipe, *Rostratula benghalensis*

Crab Plover

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Dromadidae

- [Crab Plover](#), *Dromas ardeola*

Oystercatchers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Haematopodidae

- African Oystercatcher, *Haematopus moquini*
Eurasian Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Avocets](#) and stilts

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Recurvirostridae](#)

- Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Thick-knees

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Burhinidae

- Water Thick-knee, *Burhinus vermiculatus*
Eurasian Thick-knee, *Burhinus oedicnemus*
Senegal Thick-knee, *Burhinus senegalensis*
Spotted Thick-knee, *Burhinus capensis*

Pratincoles and coursers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Glareolidae

- Egyptian Plover, *Pluvianus aegyptius*
Cream-colored Courser, *Cursorius cursor*

Burchell's Courser, *Cursorius rufus*
Temminck's Courser, *Cursorius temminckii*
Double-banded Courser, *Smutsornis africanus*
Three-banded Courser, *Rhinoptilus cinctus*
Bronze-winged Courser, *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*
Collared Pratincole, *Glareola pratincola*
Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola maldivarum*
Black-winged Pratincole, *Glareola nordmanni*
Madagascar Pratincole, *Glareola ocularis*
Rock Pratincole, *Glareola nuchalis*
Grey Pratincole, *Glareola cinerea*

Lapwings and plovers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Charadriidae](#)

- Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*
Long-toed Lapwing, *Vanellus crassirostris*
Blacksmith Plover, *Vanellus armatus*
Spur-winged Plover, *Vanellus spinosus*
Black-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus tectus*
White-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus albiceps*
Senegal Lapwing, *Vanellus lugubris*
Black-winged Lapwing, *Vanellus melanopterus*
Crowned Lapwing, *Vanellus coronatus*
Wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus senegallus*
Spot-breasted Lapwing, *Vanellus melanocephalus*
Brown-chested Lapwing, *Vanellus superciliosus*
Sociable Lapwing, *Vanellus gregarius*
White-tailed Lapwing, *Vanellus leucurus*
Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*
American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*
Eurasian Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*
Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
Common Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius*
Kittlitz's Plover, *Charadrius pecuarius*
Three-banded Plover, *Charadrius tricollaris*
Forbes' Plover, *Charadrius forbesi*
White-fronted Plover, *Charadrius marginatus*
Chestnut-banded Plover, *Charadrius pallidus*
Snowy Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Lesser Sandplover, *Charadrius mongolus*
Greater Sandplover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Caspian Plover, *Charadrius asiaticus*
Eurasian Dotterel, *Charadrius morinellus*

Sandpipers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Scolopacidae](#)

- Eurasian Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*
Jack Snipe, *Lymnocyptes minimus*
Pintail Snipe, *Gallinago stenura*
African Snipe, *Gallinago nigripennis*
Great Snipe, *Gallinago media*
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*
Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*
Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa*
Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*
Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica*
Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*
Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris*
Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata*
Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*
Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus*
Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*
Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*
Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus*
Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*
Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*
Terek Sandpiper, *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*
Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*
Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*
Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris*
Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*
Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*
Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*
Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*
Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii*
Long-toed Stint, *Calidris subminuta*
White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*
Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*

Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*
Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea*
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*
Purple Sandpiper, *Calidris maritima*
Stilt Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*
Broad-billed Sandpiper, *Limicola falcinellus*
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*
Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Sheathbill

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Chionididae

- Snowy Sheathbill, *Chionis albus*

Skuas and jaegers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Stercorariidae

- South Polar Skua, *Stercorarius maccormicki*
Brown Skua, *Stercorarius antarcticus*
Great Skua, *Stercorarius skua*
Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Pomarine Skua)
Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Arctic Skua)
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus* (Long-tailed Skua)

Gulls

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Laridae

- White-eyed Gull, *Larus leucophthalmus*
Sooty Gull, *Larus hemprichii*
Mew Gull, *Larus canus*
Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii*
Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*
Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*
Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*
Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*
Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*
Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoideus*
European Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*
Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*

Heuglin's Gull, *Larus heuglini*
 Caspian Gull, *Larus cachinnans*
 Armenian Gull, *Larus armenicus*
 Steppe Gull, *Larus barabensis*
 Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michahellis*
 Great Black-headed Gull, *Larus ichthyaetus*
 Grey-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*
 Hartlaub's Gull, *Larus hartlaubii*
 Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*
 Slender-billed Gull, *Larus genei*
 Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*
 Mediterranean Gull, *Larus melanocephalus*
 Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*
 Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*
 Little Gull, *Larus minutus*
 Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*
 Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*

Terns

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Sternidae

- Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*
 Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia*
 Lesser Crested Tern, *Sterna bengalensis*
 Sandwich Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*
 Royal Tern, *Sterna maxima*
 Great Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*
 Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*
 Black-naped Tern, *Sterna sumatrana*
 Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*
 Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*
 Antarctic Tern, *Sterna vittata*
 Damara Tern, *Sterna balaenarum*
 White-cheeked Tern, *Sterna repressa*
 Little Tern, *Sternula albifrons*
 Saunders' Tern, *Sternula saundersi*
 Bridled Tern, *Onychoprion anaethetus*
 Sooty Tern, *Onychoprion fuscata*
 Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybrida*
 White-winged Tern, *Chlidonias leucopterus*
 Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*
 Lesser Noddy, *Anous tenuirostris*
 Black Noddy, *Anous minutus*
 Brown Noddy, *Anous stolidus*

Skimmer

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Rynchopidae

- African Skimmer, *Rynchops flavirostris*

Auks, murres, and puffins

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Alcidae

- Dovekie, *Alle alle*
Common Murre, *Uria aalge*
Razorbill, *Alca torda*
Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*

Sandgrouse

Order: Pterocliiformes **Family:** Pteroclididae

- Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, *Pterocles alchata*
Namaqua Sandgrouse, *Pterocles namaqua*
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, *Pterocles exustus*
Spotted Sandgrouse, *Pterocles senegallus*
Black-bellied Sandgrouse, *Pterocles orientalis*
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, *Pterocles gutturalis*
Crowned Sandgrouse, *Pterocles coronatus*
Black-faced Sandgrouse, *Pterocles decoratus*
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, *Pterocles lichtensteinii*
Double-banded Sandgrouse, *Pterocles bicinctus*
Four-banded Sandgrouse, *Pterocles quadricinctus*
Burchell's Sandgrouse, *Pterocles burchelli*

Pigeons and doves

Order: Columbiformes **Family:** Columbidae

- Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*
Speckled Pigeon, *Columba guinea*
White-collared Pigeon, *Columba albitorques*
Stock Dove, *Columba oenas*
Somali Pigeon, *Columba oliviae*
Common Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*
Bolle's Pigeon, *Columba bollii*
Afepe Pigeon, *Columba unicincta*

Laurel Pigeon, *Columba junoniae*
 Rameron Pigeon, *Columba arquatrix*
 Cameroon Pigeon, *Columba sjostedti*
 Maroon Pigeon, *Columba thomensis*
 White-naped Pigeon, *Columba albinucha*
 Delegorgue's Pigeon, *Columba delegorguei*
 Bronze-naped Pigeon, *Columba iriditorques*
 Sao Tome Pigeon, *Columba malherbii*
 Lemon Dove, *Columba larvata*
 Forest Dove, *Columba simplex*
 Eurasian Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia turtur*
 Dusky Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia lugens*
 Adamawa Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia hypopyrrha*
 Eurasian Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*
 African Collared Dove, *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
 White-winged Collared Dove, *Streptopelia reichenowi*
 African Mourning Dove, *Streptopelia decipiens*
 Red-eyed Dove, *Streptopelia semitorquata*
 Ring-necked Dove, *Streptopelia capicola*
 Vinaceous Dove, *Streptopelia vinacea*
 Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*
 Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, *Turtur chalcospilos*
 Black-billed Wood Dove, *Turtur abyssinicus*
 Blue-spotted Wood Dove, *Turtur afer*
 Tambourine Dove, *Turtur tympanistria*
 Blue-headed Wood Dove, *Turtur brehmeri*
 Namaqua Dove, *Oena capensis*
 Bruce's Green Pigeon, *Treron waalia*
 Pemba Green Pigeon, *Treron pembaensis*
 Sao Tome Green Pigeon, *Treron sanctithomae*
 African Green Pigeon, *Treron calvus*

Parrots

Order: Psittaciformes **Family:** Psittacidae

- Rose-ringed Parakeet, *Psittacula krameri*
 Red-headed Lovebird, *Agapornis pullarius*
 Black-winged Lovebird, *Agapornis taranta*
 Black-collared Lovebird, *Agapornis swindernianus*
 Rosy-faced Lovebird, *Agapornis roseicollis*
 Fischer's Lovebird, *Agapornis fischeri*
 Yellow-collared Lovebird, *Agapornis personatus*
 Lilian's Lovebird, *Agapornis lilianae*
 Black-cheeked Lovebird, *Agapornis nigrigenis*

Grey Parrot, *Psittacus erithacus*
 Brown-necked Parrot, *Poicephalus robustus*
 Red-fronted Parrot, *Poicephalus gularis*
 Meyer's Parrot, *Poicephalus meyeri*
 Rueppell's Parrot, *Poicephalus rueppellii*
 Brown-headed Parrot, *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*
 Niam-Niam Parrot, *Poicephalus crassus*
 Red-bellied Parrot, *Poicephalus rufiventris*
 Senegal Parrot, *Poicephalus senegalus*
 Yellow-fronted Parrot, *Poicephalus flavifrons*

Turacos

Order: Cuculiformes **Family:** Musophagidae

- Great Blue Turaco, *Corythaeola cristata*
 Guinea Turaco, *Tauraco persa*
 Livingstone's Turaco, *Tauraco livingstonii*
 Schalow's Turaco, *Tauraco schalowi*
 Knysna Turaco, *Tauraco corythaix*
 Black-billed Turaco, *Tauraco schuettii*
 White-crested Turaco, *Tauraco leucolophus*
 Fischer's Turaco, *Tauraco fischeri*
 Yellow-billed Turaco, *Tauraco macrorhynchus*
 Bannerman's Turaco, *Tauraco bannermani*
 Red-crested Turaco, *Tauraco erythrolophus*
 Hartlaub's Turaco, *Tauraco hartlaubi*
 White-cheeked Turaco, *Tauraco leucotis*
 Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, *Tauraco ruspolii*
 Purple-crested Turaco, *Tauraco porphyreolophus*
 Ruwenzori Turaco, *Ruwenzorornis johnstoni*
 Violet Turaco, *Musophaga violacea*
 Ross' Turaco, *Musophaga rossae*
 Bare-faced Go-away-bird, *Corythaixoides personatus*
 Grey Go-away-bird, *Corythaixoides concolor*
 White-bellied Go-away-bird, *Corythaixoides leucogaster*
 Western Plantain-eater, *Crinifer piscator*
 Eastern Plantain-eater, *Crinifer zonurus*

Cuckoos

Order: Cuculiformes **Family:** Cuculidae

- Pied Cuckoo, *Clamator jacobinus*
 Levaiant's Cuckoo, *Clamator levaiantii*

Great Spotted Cuckoo, *Clamator glandarius*
 Thick-billed Cuckoo, *Pachycoccyx audeberti*
 Red-chested Cuckoo, *Cuculus solitarius*
 Black Cuckoo, *Cuculus clamosus*
 Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*
 African Cuckoo, *Cuculus gularis*
 Lesser Cuckoo, *Cuculus poliocephalus*
 Madagascar Cuckoo, *Cuculus rochii*
 Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo, *Cercococcyx mechowi*
 Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo, *Cercococcyx olivinus*
 Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, *Cercococcyx montanus*
 Yellow-throated Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx flavigularis*
 Klaas' Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx klaas*
 African Emerald Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx cupreus*
 Dideric Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx caprius*
 Yellowbill, *Ceuthmochares aereus*
 Black Coucal, *Centropus grillii*
 Black-throated Coucal, *Centropus leucogaster*
 Gabon Coucal, *Centropus anelli*
 Blue-headed Coucal, *Centropus monachus*
 Coppery-tailed Coucal, *Centropus cupreicaudus*
 Senegal Coucal, *Centropus senegalensis*
 White-browed Coucal, *Centropus superciliosus*
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*

Barn-Owls

Order: Strigiformes **Family:** [Tytonidae](#)

- African Grass Owl, *Tyto capensis*
 Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

Owls

Order: Strigiformes **Family:** Strigidae

- Congo Bay Owl, *Phodilus prigoginei*
 Sandy Scops Owl, *Otus icterorhynchus*
 Sokoke Scops Owl, *Otus ireneae*
 Pallid Scops Owl, *Otus brucei*
 African Scops Owl, *Otus senegalensis*
 European Scops Owl, *Otus scops*
 Pemba Scops Owl, *Otus pembaensis*
 Sao Tome Scops Owl, *Otus hartlaubi*
 Northern White-faced Owl, *Ptilopsis leucotis*

Southern White-faced Owl, *Ptilopsis granti*
 Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo*
 Pharaoh Eagle Owl, *Bubo ascalaphus*
 Cape Eagle Owl, *Bubo capensis*
 Spotted Eagle Owl, *Bubo africanus*
 Greyish Eagle Owl, *Bubo cinerascens*
 Fraser's Eagle Owl, *Bubo poensis*
 Usambara Eagle Owl, *Bubo vosseleri*
 Shelley's Eagle Owl, *Bubo shelleyi*
 Verreaux's Eagle Owl, *Bubo lacteus*
 Akun Eagle Owl, *Bubo leucostictus*
 Pel's Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia peli*
 Rufous Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia ussheri*
 Vermiculated Fishing Owl, *Scotopelia bouvieri*
 Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco*
 Hume's Owl, *Strix butleri*
 African Wood Owl, *Strix woodfordii*
 Maned Owl, *Jubula lettii*
 Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*
 Pearl-spotted Owlet, *Glaucidium perlatum*
 Red-chested Owlet, *Glaucidium tephronotum*
 Sjostedt's Owlet, *Glaucidium sjostedti*
 African Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium capense*
 Chestnut Owlet, *Glaucidium castaneum*
 Albertine Owlet, *Glaucidium albertinum*
 Little Owl, *Athene noctua*
 Northern Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*
 African Long-eared Owl, *Asio abyssinicus*
 Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*
 Marsh Owl, *Asio capensis*

Nightjars

Order: Caprimulgiformes **Family:** Caprimulgidae

- Brown Nightjar, *Caprimulgus binotatus*
 Red-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*
 Eurasian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus*
 Sombre Nightjar, *Caprimulgus fraenatus*
 Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus rufigena*
 Egyptian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus aegyptius*
 Nubian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nubicus*
 Golden Nightjar, *Caprimulgus eximius*
 Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus donaldsoni*
 Black-shouldered Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis*

Fiery-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
 Abyssinian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*
 Montane Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii*
 Swamp Nightjar, *Caprimulgus natalensis*
 Plain Nightjar, *Caprimulgus inornatus*
 Star-spotted Nightjar, *Caprimulgus stellatus*
 Nechisar Nightjar, *Caprimulgus solala*
 Freckled Nightjar, *Caprimulgus tristigma*
 Itombwe Nightjar, *Caprimulgus prigoginei*
 Bates' Nightjar, *Caprimulgus batesi*
 Long-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus climacurus*
 Slender-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus clarus*
 Square-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus fossii*
 Pennant-winged Nightjar, *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*
 Standard-winged Nightjar, *Macrodipteryx longipennis*

Swifts

Order: Apodiformes **Family:** Apodidae

- Scarce Swift, *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*
 Schouteden's Swift, *Schoutedenapus schoutedeni*
 Sao Tome Spinetail, *Zoonavena thomensis*
 Mottled Spinetail, *Telacanthura ussheri*
 Black Spinetail, *Telacanthura melanopygia*
 Sabine's Spinetail, *Rhaphidura sabini*
 Cassin's Spinetail, *Neafrapus cassini*
 Bat-like Spinetail, *Neafrapus boehmi*
 Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*
 African Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus parvus*
 Alpine Swift, *Tachymarptis melba*
 Mottled Swift, *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*
 Common Swift, *Apus apus*
 Plain Swift, *Apus unicolor*
 Nyanza Swift, *Apus niansae*
 Pallid Swift, *Apus pallidus*
 African Swift, *Apus barbatus*
 Forbes-Watson's Swift, *Apus berliozi*
 Bradfield's Swift, *Apus bradfieldi*
 Little Swift, *Apus affinis*
 Horus Swift, *Apus horus*
 White-rumped Swift, *Apus caffer*
 Bates' Swift, *Apus batesi*

Mousebirds

Order: Coliiformes **Family:** Coliidae

- Speckled Mousebird, *Colius striatus*
White-headed Mousebird, *Colius leucocephalus*
Red-backed Mousebird, *Colius castanotus*
White-backed Mousebird, *Colius colius*
Blue-naped Mousebird, *Urocolius macrourus*
Red-faced Mousebird, *Urocolius indicus*

Trogons

Order: Trogoniformes **Family:** Trogonidae

- Narina Trogon, *Apaloderma narina*
Bare-cheeked Trogon, *Apaloderma aequatoriale*
Bar-tailed Trogon, *Apaloderma vittatum*

Kingfishers

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Alcedinidae

- Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*
Half-collared Kingfisher, *Alcedo semitorquata*
Shining-blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo quadribrachys*
Malachite Kingfisher, *Alcedo cristata*
White-bellied Kingfisher, *Alcedo leucogaster*
African Pygmy Kingfisher, *Ispidina picta*
Dwarf Kingfisher, *Ispidina lecontei*
Chocolate-backed Kingfisher, *Halcyon badia*
White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Grey-headed Kingfisher, *Halcyon leucocephala*
Woodland Kingfisher, *Halcyon senegalensis*
Mangrove Kingfisher, *Halcyon senegaloides*
Blue-breasted Kingfisher, *Halcyon malimbica*
Brown-hooded Kingfisher, *Halcyon albiventris*
Striped Kingfisher, *Halcyon chelicuti*
Collared Kingfisher, *Todiramphus chloris*
Giant Kingfisher, *Megaceryle maximus*
Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis*

Bee-eaters

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Meropidae

- Black Bee-eater, *Merops gularis*
Blue-headed Bee-eater, *Merops muelleri*
Red-throated Bee-eater, *Merops bulocki*
White-fronted Bee-eater, *Merops bullockoides*
Little Bee-eater, *Merops pusillus*
Blue-breasted Bee-eater, *Merops variegatus*
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, *Merops oreobates*
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, *Merops hirundineus*
Black-headed Bee-eater, *Merops breweri*
Somali Bee-eater, *Merops revoilii*
White-throated Bee-eater, *Merops albicollis*
Green Bee-eater, *Merops orientalis*
Boehm's Bee-eater, *Merops boehmi*
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, *Merops persicus*
Madagascar Bee-eater, *Merops superciliosus*
European Bee-eater, *Merops apiaster*
Rosy Bee-eater, *Merops malimbicus*
Northern Carmine Bee-eater, *Merops nubicus*
Southern Carmine Bee-eater, *Merops nubicoides*

Rollers

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Coraciidae

- European Roller, *Coracias garrulus*
Abyssinian Roller, *Coracias abyssinicus*
Lilac-breasted Roller, *Coracias caudatus*
Racket-tailed Roller, *Coracias spatulatus*
Rufous-crowned Roller, *Coracias noevius*
Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis*
Blue-bellied Roller, *Coracias cyanogaster*
Broad-billed Roller, *Eurystomus glaucurus*
Blue-throated Roller, *Eurystomus gularis*

Hoopoe

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Upupidae

- Eurasian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops*

Woodhoopoes

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Phoeniculidae

- Green Woodhoopoe, *Phoeniculus purpureus*
Violet Woodhoopoe, *Phoeniculus damarensis*
Black-billed Woodhoopoe, *Phoeniculus somaliensis*
White-headed Woodhoopoe, *Phoeniculus bollei*
Forest Woodhoopoe, *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*
Black Scimitar-bill, *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*
Common Scimitar-bill, *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
Abyssinian Scimitar-bill, *Rhinopomastus minor*

Hornbills

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Bucerotidae

- White-crested Hornbill, *Tockus albocristatus*
Black Dwarf Hornbill, *Tockus hartlaubi*
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, *Tockus camurus*
Monteiro's Hornbill, *Tockus monteiri*
Red-billed Hornbill, *Tockus erythrorhynchus*
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, *Tockus flavirostris*
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, *Tockus leucomelas*
Jackson's Hornbill, *Tockus jacksoni*
Von der Decken's Hornbill, *Tockus deckeni*
Crowned Hornbill, *Tockus alboterminatus*
Bradfield's Hornbill, *Tockus bradfieldi*
African Pied Hornbill, *Tockus fasciatus*
Hemprich's Hornbill, *Tockus hemprichii*
African Grey Hornbill, *Tockus nasutus*
Pale-billed Hornbill, *Tockus pallidirostris*
Trumpeter Hornbill, *Ceratogymna bucinator*
Piping Hornbill, *Ceratogymna fistulator*
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, *Ceratogymna brevis*
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, *Ceratogymna subcylindrica*
Brown-cheeked Hornbill, *Ceratogymna cylindrica*
White-thighed Hornbill, *Ceratogymna albotibialis*
Black-casqued Hornbill, *Ceratogymna atrata*
Yellow-casqued Hornbill, *Ceratogymna elata*
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, *Bucorvus abyssinicus*
Southern Ground Hornbill, *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Barbets

Order: Piciformes **Family:** Capitonidae

- Naked-faced Barbet, *Gymnobucco calvus*
- Bristle-nosed Barbet, *Gymnobucco peli*
- Sladen's Barbet, *Gymnobucco sladeni*
- Grey-throated Barbet, *Gymnobucco bonapartei*
- White-eared Barbet, *Stactolaema leucotis*
- Anchieta's Barbet, *Stactolaema anchietae*
- Whyte's Barbet, *Stactolaema whytii*
- Green Barbet, *Stactolaema olivacea*
- Speckled Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus scolopaceus*
- Western Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus coryphaeus*
- Moustached Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus leucomystax*
- Green Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus simplex*
- Red-rumped Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus atroflavus*
- Yellow-throated Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus subsulphureus*
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus bilineatus*
- Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
- Red-fronted Tinkerbird, *Pogoniulus pusillus*
- Yellow-spotted Barbet, *Buccanodon duchaillui*
- Hairy-breasted Barbet, *Tricholaema hirsuta*
- Red-fronted Barbet, *Tricholaema diademata*
- Miombo Barbet, *Tricholaema frontata*
- Pied Barbet, *Tricholaema leucomelas*
- Spot-flanked Barbet, *Tricholaema lachrymosa*
- Black-throated Barbet, *Tricholaema melanocephala*
- Banded Barbet, *Lybius undatus*
- Vieillot's Barbet, *Lybius vieilloti*
- White-headed Barbet, *Lybius leucocephalus*
- Chaplin's Barbet, *Lybius chaplini*
- Red-faced Barbet, *Lybius rubrifacies*
- Black-billed Barbet, *Lybius guifsobalito*
- Black-collared Barbet, *Lybius torquatus*
- Brown-breasted Barbet, *Lybius melanopterus*
- Black-backed Barbet, *Lybius minor*
- Double-toothed Barbet, *Lybius bidentatus*
- Bearded Barbet, *Lybius dubius*
- Black-breasted Barbet, *Lybius rolleti*
- Yellow-billed Barbet, *Trachyphonus purpuratus*
- Crested Barbet, *Trachyphonus vaillantii*
- Yellow-breasted Barbet, *Trachyphonus margaritatus*
- Red-and-yellow Barbet, *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*
- D'Arnaud's Barbet, *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Honeyguides

Order: Piciformes **Family:** Indicatoridae

- Spotted Honeyguide, *Indicator maculatus*
Scaly-throated Honeyguide, *Indicator variegatus*
Greater Honeyguide, *Indicator indicator*
Lesser Honeyguide, *Indicator minor*
Thick-billed Honeyguide, *Indicator conirostris*
Willcock's Honeyguide, *Indicator willcocksi*
Least Honeyguide, *Indicator exilis*
Dwarf Honeyguide, *Indicator pumilio*
Pallid Honeyguide, *Indicator meliphilus*
Lyre-tailed Honeyguide, *Melichneutes robustus*
Yellow-footed Honeyguide, *Melignomon eisentrauti*
Zenker's Honeyguide, *Melignomon zenkeri*
Cassin's Honeyguide, *Prodotiscus insignis*
Green-backed Honeyguide, *Prodotiscus zambesiae*
Wahlberg's Honeyguide, *Prodotiscus regulus*

Woodpeckers and allies

Order: Piciformes **Family:** [Picidae](#)

- Eurasian Wryneck, *Jynx torquilla*
Rufous-necked Wryneck, *Jynx ruficollis*
African Piculet, *Sasia africana*
Fine-spotted Woodpecker, *Campethera punctuligera*
Nubian Woodpecker, *Campethera nubica*
Bennett's Woodpecker, *Campethera bennettii*
Reichenow's Woodpecker, *Campethera scriptoricauda*
Golden-tailed Woodpecker, *Campethera abingoni*
Mombasa Woodpecker, *Campethera mombassica*
Knysna Woodpecker, *Campethera notata*
Little Green Woodpecker, *Campethera maculosa*
Green-backed Woodpecker, *Campethera cailliautii*
Tullberg's Woodpecker, *Campethera tullbergi*
Buff-spotted Woodpecker, *Campethera nivosa*
Brown-eared Woodpecker, *Campethera caroli*
Ground Woodpecker, *Geocolaptes olivaceus*
Little Grey Woodpecker, *Dendropicos elachus*
Speckle-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendropicos poecilolaemus*
Abyssinian Woodpecker, *Dendropicos abyssinicus*
Cardinal Woodpecker, *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Gabon Woodpecker, *Dendropicos gabonensis*
Melancholy Woodpecker, *Dendropicos lugubris*
Stierling's Woodpecker, *Dendropicos stierlingi*
Bearded Woodpecker, *Dendropicos namaquus*
Fire-bellied Woodpecker, *Dendropicos pyrrhogaster*
Golden-crowned Woodpecker, *Dendropicos xantholophus*
Elliot's Woodpecker, *Dendropicos elliotii*
Grey Woodpecker, *Dendropicos goertae*
Grey-headed Woodpecker, *Dendropicos spodocephalus*
Olive Woodpecker, *Dendropicos griseocephalus*
Brown-backed Woodpecker, *Dendropicos obsoletus*
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos minor*
Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major*
Syrian Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos syriacus*
Levaillant's Woodpecker, *Picus vaillantii*

Broadbills

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Eurylaimidae

- African Broadbill, *Smithornis capensis*
Grey-headed Broadbill, *Smithornis sharpei*
Rufous-sided Broadbill, *Smithornis rufolateralis*
Grauer's Broadbill, *Pseudocalyptomena graueri*

Pittas

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Pittidae

- African Pitta, *Pitta angolensis*
Green-breasted Pitta, *Pitta reichenowi*

Larks

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Alaudidae](#)

- Monotonous Lark, *Mirafra passerina*
Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra cantillans*
Latakoo Lark, *Mirafra cheniana*
White-tailed Lark, *Mirafra albicauda*
Kordofan Lark, *Mirafra cordofanica*
Williams' Lark, *Mirafra williamsi*
Friedmann's Lark, *Mirafra pulpa*
Red-winged Lark, *Mirafra hypermetra*
Somali Long-billed Lark, *Mirafra somalica*

Ash's Lark, *Mirafrashi*
 Angola Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Rufous-naped Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Flappet Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Cape Clapper Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Eastern Clapper Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Collared Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Gillett's Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Degodi Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Rusty Lark, *Mirafrangi*
 Fawn-colored Lark, *Calendulauda africana*
 Foxy Lark, *Calendulauda alopex*
 Pink-breasted Lark, *Calendulauda poecilosterna*
 Dune Lark, *Calendulauda erythrochlamys*
 Karoo Lark, *Calendulauda albescens*
 Barlow's Lark, *Calendulauda barlowi*
 Ferruginous Lark, *Calendulauda burra*
 Sabota Lark, *Calendulauda sabota*
 Rufous-rumped Lark, *Pinarocorys erythropygia*
 Dusky Lark, *Pinarocorys nigricans*
 Archer's Lark, *Heteromirafrashi*
 Sidamo Lark, *Heteromirafrashi*
 Rudd's Lark, *Heteromirafrashi*
 Cape Lark, *Certhilauda curvirostris*
 Algulhas Lark, *Certhilauda brevirostris*
 Eastern Long-billed Lark, *Certhilauda semitorquata*
 Karoo Long-billed Lark, *Certhilauda subcoronata*
 Benguela Lark, *Certhilauda benguelensis*
 Short-clawed Lark, *Certhilauda chuana*
 Spike-heeled Lark, *Chersomanes albofasciata*
 Beesley's Lark, *Chersomanes beesleyi*
 Black-eared Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix australis*
 Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix leucotis*
 Black-crowned Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix nigriceps*
 Grey-backed Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix verticalis*
 Chestnut-headed Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix signatus*
 Fischer's Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix leucopareia*
 Bar-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes cinctura*
 Desert Lark, *Ammomanes deserti*
 Gray's Lark, *Ammomanopsis grayi*
 Greater Hoopoe Lark, *Alaemon alaudipes*
 Lesser Hoopoe Lark, *Alaemon hamertoni*
 Thick-billed Lark, *Ramphocoris clotbey*
 Calandra Lark, *Melanocorypha calandra*
 Bimaculated Lark, *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

Greater Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella brachydactyla*
 Blanford's Lark, *Calandrella blanfordi*
 Erlanger's Lark, *Calandrella erlangeri*
 Lesser Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella rufescens*
 Red-capped Lark, *Calandrella cinerea*
 Somali Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella somalica*
 Pink-billed Lark, *Spizocorys conirostris*
 Stark's Lark, *Spizocorys starki*
 Botha's Lark, *Spizocorys fringillaris*
 Sclater's Lark, *Spizocorys sclateri*
 Obbia Lark, *Spizocorys obbiensis*
 Masked Lark, *Spizocorys personata*
 Dunn's Lark, *Eremalauda dunni*
 Dupont's Lark, *Chersophilus duponti*
 Crested Lark, *Galerida cristata*
 Thekla Lark, *Galerida theklae*
 Sun Lark, *Galerida modesta*
 Large-billed Lark, *Galerida magnirostris*
 Short-tailed Lark, *Pseudalaemon fremantlii*
 Wood Lark, *Lullula arborea*
 Sky Lark, *Alauda arvensis*
 Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula*
 Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*
 Temminck's Lark, *Eremophila bilopha*

Swallows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Hirundinidae

- African River Martin, *Pseudochelidon eurystomina*
 Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*
 Plain Martin, *Riparia paludicola*
 Congo Martin, *Riparia congica*
 Banded Martin, *Riparia cincta*
 Mascarene Martin, *Phedina borbonica*
 Brazza's Martin, *Phedina brazzae*
 Red Sea Swallow, *Petrochelidon perdita*
 Preuss' Swallow, *Petrochelidon preussi*
 Red-throated Swallow, *Petrochelidon rufigula*
 South African Swallow, *Petrochelidon spilodera*
 Forest Swallow, *Petrochelidon fuliginosa*
 Grey-rumped Swallow, *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*
 Eurasian Crag Martin, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
 Rock Martin, *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*

Red-chested Swallow, *Hirundo lucida*
 Ethiopian Swallow, *Hirundo aethiopica*
 Angola Swallow, *Hirundo angolensis*
 White-throated Swallow, *Hirundo albigularis*
 Wire-tailed Swallow, *Hirundo smithii*
 White-throated Blue Swallow, *Hirundo nigrita*
 Black-and-rufous Swallow, *Hirundo nigrorufa*
 Blue Swallow, *Hirundo atrocaerulea*
 Pied-winged Swallow, *Hirundo leucosoma*
 White-tailed Swallow, *Hirundo megaensis*
 Pearl-breasted Swallow, *Hirundo dimidiata*
 Greater Striped Swallow, *Cecropis cucullata*
 Lesser Striped Swallow, *Cecropis abyssinica*
 Rufous-chested Swallow, *Cecropis semirufa*
 Mosque Swallow, *Cecropis senegalensis*
 Red-rumped Swallow, *Cecropis daurica*
 House Martin, *Delichon urbicum*
 Square-tailed Sawwing, *Psalidoprocne nitens*
 Mountain Sawwing, *Psalidoprocne fuliginosa*
 White-headed Sawwing, *Psalidoprocne albiceps*
 Black Sawwing, *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
 Fanti Sawwing, *Psalidoprocne obscura*

Wagtails and pipits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) Family: [Motacillidae](#)

- White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*
- African Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla aguimp*
- Cape Wagtail, *Motacilla capensis*
- Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola*
- Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*
- Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*
- Mountain Wagtail, *Motacilla clara*
- Golden Pipit, *Tmetothylacus tenellus*
- Yellow-throated Longclaw, *Macronyx croceus*
- Fuelleborn's Longclaw, *Macronyx fuelleborni*
- Abyssinian Longclaw, *Macronyx flavicollis*
- Orange-throated Longclaw, *Macronyx capensis*
- Rosy-throated Longclaw, *Macronyx ameliae*
- Pangani Longclaw, *Macronyx aurantiigula*
- Grimwood's Longclaw, *Macronyx grimwoodi*
- Sharpe's Longclaw, *Hemimacronyx sharpei*
- Yellow-breasted Pipit, *Hemimacronyx chloris*
- Striped Pipit, *Anthus lineiventris*

Yellow-tufted Pipit, *Anthus crenatus*
Mountain Pipit, *Anthus hoeschi*
Jackson's Pipit, *Anthus latistriatus*
Plain-backed Pipit, *Anthus leucophrys*
Long-tailed Pipit, *Anthus longicaudatus*
Richard's Pipit, *Anthus richardi*
Buffy Pipit, *Anthus vaalensis*
African Pipit, *Anthus cinnamomeus*
Long-legged Pipit, *Anthus pallidiventris*
Malindi Pipit, *Anthus melindae*
Kimberley Pipit, *Anthus pseudosimilis*
Tawny Pipit, *Anthus campestris*
Long-billed Pipit, *Anthus similis*
Woodland Pipit, *Anthus nyassae*
Berthelot's Pipit, *Anthus berthelotii*
Short-tailed Pipit, *Anthus brachyurus*
Bush Pipit, *Anthus caffer*
Sokoke Pipit, *Anthus sokokensis*
Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis*
Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni*
Meadow Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*
Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus*
Rock Pipit, *Anthus petrosus*
Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*
American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*

Cuckoo-shrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Campephagidae

- White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina pectoralis*
Blue Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina azurea*
Grey Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina caesia*
Grauer's Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina graueri*
Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga petiti*
Black Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga flava*
Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga phoenicea*
Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga quiscalina*
Ghana Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga lobata*
Oriole Cuckoo-shrike, *Campephaga oriolina*

Bulbuls

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Pycnonotidae

- Common Bulbul, *Pycnonotus barbatus*
- Black-fronted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus nigricans*
- Cape Bulbul, *Pycnonotus capensis*
- White-spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
- Cameroon Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus montanus*
- Shelley's Greenbul, *Andropadus masukuensis*
- Little Greenbul, *Andropadus virens*
- Grey Greenbul, *Andropadus gracilis*
- Ansorge's Greenbul, *Andropadus ansorgei*
- Plain Greenbul, *Andropadus curvirostris*
- Slender-billed Greenbul, *Andropadus gracilirostris*
- Sombre Greenbul, *Andropadus importunus*
- Yellow-whiskered Bulbul, *Andropadus latirostris*
- Western Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus tephrolaemus*
- Eastern Mountain Greenbul, *Andropadus nigriceps*
- Stripe-cheeked Bulbul, *Andropadus milanjensis*
- Golden Greenbul, *Calyptocichla serina*
- Honeyguide Greenbul, *Baeopogon indicator*
- Sjostedt's Greenbul, *Baeopogon clamans*
- Spotted Greenbul, *Ixonotus guttatus*
- Simple Greenbul, *Chlorocichla simplex*
- Yellow-throated Greenbul, *Chlorocichla flavicollis*
- Yellow-necked Greenbul, *Chlorocichla falkensteini*
- Yellow-bellied Greenbul, *Chlorocichla flaviventris*
- Joyful Greenbul, *Chlorocichla laetissima*
- Prigogine's Greenbul, *Chlorocichla prigoginei*
- Swamp Greenbul, *Thescelocichla leucopleura*
- Leaf-love, *Phyllastrephus scandens*
- Cabanis' Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*
- Fischer's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus fischeri*
- Terrestrial Brownbul, *Phyllastrephus terrestris*
- Northern Brownbul, *Phyllastrephus strepitans*
- Pale-olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus fulviventris*
- Grey-olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*
- Baumann's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus baumanni*
- Toro Olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus hypochloris*
- Cameroon Olive Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus poensis*
- Sassi's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus lorenzi*
- Yellow-streaked Bulbul, *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*
- Grey-headed Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*
- Tiny Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus debilis*
- White-throated Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus albigularis*
- Icterine Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus icterinus*
- Liberian Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus leucolepis*

Xavier's Greenbul, *Phyllastrephus xavieri*
Common Bristlebill, *Bleda syndactylus*
Green-tailed Bristlebill, *Bleda eximius*
Lesser Bristlebill, *Bleda notatus*
Grey-headed Bristlebill, *Bleda canicapillus*
Yellow-spotted Nicator, *Nicator chloris*
Eastern Nicator, *Nicator gularis*
Yellow-throated Nicator, *Nicator vireo*
Red-tailed Greenbul, *Criniger calurus*
Western Bearded Greenbul, *Criniger barbatus*
Eastern Bearded Greenbul, *Criniger chloronotus*
Yellow-bearded Greenbul, *Criniger olivaceus*
White-bearded Greenbul, *Criniger ndussumensis*
Black-collared Bulbul, *Neolestes torquatus*

Kinglets

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Regulidae

- Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus*
Canary Islands Kinglet, *Regulus teneriffae*
Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapilla*

Waxwing

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Bombycillidae

- Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*

Hypocolius

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Hypocoliidae

- [Hypocolius](#), *Hypocolius ampelinus*

Dipper

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Cinclidae

- White-throated Dipper, *Cinclus cinclus*

Wren

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Troglodytidae](#)

- Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Accentors

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Prunellidae](#)

- Alpine Accentor, *Prunella collaris*
- Dunnock, *Prunella modularis*

Thrushes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Turdidae](#)

- Rufous Flycatcher Thrush, *Neocossyphus fraseri*
Finsch's Flycatcher Thrush, *Neocossyphus finschii*
Red-tailed Ant Thrush, *Neocossyphus rufus*
White-tailed Ant Thrush, *Neocossyphus poensis*
Cape Rock Thrush, *Monticola rupestris*
Sentinel Rock Thrush, *Monticola explorator*
Short-toed Rock Thrush, *Monticola brevipes*
Miombo Rock Thrush, *Monticola angolensis*
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, *Monticola saxatilis*
Little Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufocinereus*
Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*
Abyssinian Ground Thrush, *Zoothera piaggiae*
Kivu Ground Thrush, *Zoothera tanganjicae*
Crossley's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera crossleyi*
Orange Ground Thrush, *Zoothera gurneyi*
Black-eared Ground Thrush, *Zoothera cameronensis*
Grey Ground Thrush, *Zoothera princei*
Oberlaender's Ground Thrush, *Zoothera oberlaenderi*
Spotted Ground Thrush, *Zoothera guttata*
Groundscraper Thrush, *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*
Olive Thrush, *Turdus olivaceus*
Olivaceous Thrush, *Turdus olivaceofuscus*
Kurrichane Thrush, *Turdus libonyanus*
African Thrush, *Turdus pelios*
African Bare-eyed Thrush, *Turdus tephronotus*
Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*
Eurasian Blackbird, *Turdus merula*
Dark-throated Thrush, *Turdus ruficollis*

Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*
 Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*
 Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*
 Mistle Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*
 Brown-chested Alethe, *Alethe poliocephala*
 Red-throated Alethe, *Alethe poliophrys*
 Cholo Alethe, *Alethe choloensis*
 White-chested Alethe, *Alethe fuelleborni*
 Fire-crested Alethe, *Alethe diademata*

Cisticolas and allies

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Cisticolidae](#)

- Red-faced Cisticola, *Cisticola erythrops*
 Singing Cisticola, *Cisticola cantans*
 Whistling Cisticola, *Cisticola lateralis*
 Chattering Cisticola, *Cisticola anonymus*
 Trilling Cisticola, *Cisticola woosnami*
 Bubbling Cisticola, *Cisticola bulliens*
 Chubb's Cisticola, *Cisticola chubbi*
 Hunter's Cisticola, *Cisticola hunteri*
 Black-lored Cisticola, *Cisticola nigriloris*
 Rock-loving Cisticola, *Cisticola aberrans*
 Boran Cisticola, *Cisticola bodessa*
 Rattling Cisticola, *Cisticola chiniana*
 Ashy Cisticola, *Cisticola cinereolus*
 Red-pate Cisticola, *Cisticola ruficeps*
 Dorst's Cisticola, *Cisticola dorsti*
 Grey Cisticola, *Cisticola rufilatus*
 Red-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola subruficapilla*
 Wailing Cisticola, *Cisticola lais*
 Tana River Cisticola, *Cisticola restrictus*
 Churring Cisticola, *Cisticola njombe*
 Winding Cisticola, *Cisticola galactotes*
 Chirping Cisticola, *Cisticola pipiens*
 Carruthers' Cisticola, *Cisticola carruthersi*
 Tinkling Cisticola, *Cisticola tinniens*
 Stout Cisticola, *Cisticola robustus*
 Croaking Cisticola, *Cisticola natalensis*
 Piping Cisticola, *Cisticola fulvicapilla*
 Aberdare Cisticola, *Cisticola aberdare*
 Tabora Cisticola, *Cisticola angusticauda*
 Slender-tailed Cisticola, *Cisticola melanurus*
 Siffling Cisticola, *Cisticola brachypterus*

Rufous Cisticola, *Cisticola rufus*
 Foxy Cisticola, *Cisticola troglodytes*
 Tiny Cisticola, *Cisticola nanus*
 Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
 Socotra Cisticola, *Cisticola haesitatus*
 Desert Cisticola, *Cisticola aridulus*
 Cloud Cisticola, *Cisticola textrix*
 Black-necked Cisticola, *Cisticola eximius*
 Cloud-scraping Cisticola, *Cisticola dambo*
 Pectoral-patch Cisticola, *Cisticola brunnescens*
 Pale-crowned Cisticola, *Cisticola cinnamomeus*
 Wing-snapping Cisticola, *Cisticola ayresii*
 Socotra Warbler, *Incana incanus*
 Streaked Scrub Warbler, *Scotocerca inquieta*
 Graceful Prinia, *Prinia gracilis*
 Tawny-flanked Prinia, *Prinia subflava*
 Pale Prinia, *Prinia somalica*
 River Prinia, *Prinia fluviatilis*
 Black-chested Prinia, *Prinia flavicans*
 Karoo Prinia, *Prinia maculosa*
 Drakensberg Prinia, *Prinia hypoxantha*
 Namaqua Prinia, *Prinia substriata*
 Sao Tome Prinia, *Prinia mollerii*
 Roberts' Prinia, *Prinia robertsi*
 Banded Prinia, *Prinia bairdii*
 Red-winged Prinia, *Prinia erythroptera*
 Sierra Leone Prinia, *Schistolais leontica*
 White-chinned Prinia, *Schistolais leucopogon*
 Rufous-eared Warbler, *Malcorus pectoralis*
 Red-winged Grey Warbler, *Drymocichla incana*
 Green Longtail, *Urolais epichlorus*
 Cricket Longtail, *Spiloptila clamans*
 Black-collared Apalis, *Apalis pulchra*
 Ruwenzori Apalis, *Apalis ruwenzorii*
 Bar-throated Apalis, *Apalis thoracica*
 Black-capped Apalis, *Apalis nigriceps*
 Black-throated Apalis, *Apalis jacksoni*
 White-winged Apalis, *Apalis chariessa*
 Masked Apalis, *Apalis binotata*
 Black-faced Apalis, *Apalis personata*
 Yellow-breasted Apalis, *Apalis flavida*
 Rudd's Apalis, *Apalis ruddi*
 Sharpe's Apalis, *Apalis sharpii*
 Buff-throated Apalis, *Apalis rufogularis*
 Bamenda Apalis, *Apalis bamendae*

Gosling's Apalis, *Apalis goslingi*
 Chestnut-throated Apalis, *Apalis porphyrolaema*
 Chapin's Apalis, *Apalis chapini*
 Black-headed Apalis, *Apalis melanocephala*
 Chirinda Apalis, *Apalis chirindensis*
 Grey Apalis, *Apalis cinerea*
 Brown-headed Apalis, *Apalis alticola*
 Karamoja Apalis, *Apalis karamojae*
 Red-fronted Warbler, *Urorhipis rufifrons*
 Oriole Warbler, *Hypergerus atriceps*
 Grey-capped Warbler, *Eminia lepida*
 Green-backed Camaroptera, *Camaroptera brachyura*
 Yellow-browed Camaroptera, *Camaroptera superciliaris*
 Olive-green Camaroptera, *Camaroptera chloronota*
 Miombo Wren Warbler, *Calamonastes undosus*
 Grey Wren Warbler, *Calamonastes simplex*
 Barred Wren Warbler, *Calamonastes fasciolatus*
 Kopje Warbler, *Euryptila subcinnamea*

Old World warblers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Sylviidae](#)

- Cetti's Warbler, *Cettia cetti*
 African Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus baboecala*
 Ja River Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus grandis*
 White-winged Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus carpalis*
 Grauer's Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus graueri*
 Bamboo Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus alfredi*
 Knysna Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus sylvaticus*
 Cameroon Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus lopezi*
 African Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus barratti*
 Bangwa Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus bangwaensis*
 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*
 Victorin's Scrub Warbler, *Bradypterus victorini*
 Black-capped Rufous Warbler, *Bathmocercus cerviniventris*
 Black-faced Rufous Warbler, *Bathmocercus rufus*
 Mrs. Moreau's Warbler, *Sceptomycter winifredae*
 Moustached Grass Warbler, *Melocichla mentalis*
 Cape Grassbird, *Sphenoeacus afer*
 Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella naevia*
 Eurasian River Warbler, *Locustella fluviatilis*
 Savi's Warbler, *Locustella luscinioides*
 Moustached Warbler, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
 Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 Eurasian Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
 African Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus baeticatus*
 Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*
 Great Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
 Clamorous Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
 Basra Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus griseldis*
 Greater Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus rufescens*
 Lesser Swamp Warbler, *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
 Thick-billed Warbler, *Acrocephalus aedon*
 Booted Warbler, *Hippolais caligata*
 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, *Hippolais pallida*
 Western Olivaceous Warbler, *Hippolais opaca*
 Upcher's Warbler, *Hippolais languida*
 Olive-tree Warbler, *Hippolais olivetorum*
 Melodious Warbler, *Hippolais polyglotta*
 Icterine Warbler, *Hippolais icterina*
 African Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta natalensis*
 Mountain Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta similis*
 Papyrus Yellow Warbler, *Chloropeta gracilirostris*
 Buff-bellied Warbler, *Phyllolais pulchella*
 African Tailorbird, *Orthotomus metopias*
 Long-billed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus moreau*
 White-tailed Warbler, *Poliolais lopezi*
 Grauer's Warbler, *Graueria vittata*
 Salvadori's Eremomela, *Eremomela salvadori*
 Yellow-vented Eremomela, *Eremomela flavicrissalis*
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela, *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 Senegal Eremomela, *Eremomela pusilla*
 Green-backed Eremomela, *Eremomela canescens*
 Greencap Eremomela, *Eremomela scotops*
 Yellow-rumped Eremomela, *Eremomela gregalis*
 Rufous-crowned Eremomela, *Eremomela badiceps*
 Turner's Eremomela, *Eremomela turneri*
 Black-necked Eremomela, *Eremomela atricollis*
 Burnt-neck Eremomela, *Eremomela usticollis*
 Green Crombec, *Sylvietta virens*
 Lemon-bellied Crombec, *Sylvietta denti*
 White-browed Crombec, *Sylvietta leucophrys*
 Northern Crombec, *Sylvietta brachyura*
 Short-billed Crombec, *Sylvietta philippae*
 Red-capped Crombec, *Sylvietta ruficapilla*
 Red-faced Crombec, *Sylvietta whytii*
 Somali Crombec, *Sylvietta isabellina*
 Cape Crombec, *Sylvietta rufescens*

Neumann's Warbler, *Hemitesia neumanni*
 Kemp's Longbill, *Macrosphenus kemp*
 Yellow Longbill, *Macrosphenus flavicans*
 Grey Longbill, *Macrosphenus concolor*
 Pulitzer's Longbill, *Macrosphenus pulitzeri*
 Kretschmer's Longbill, *Macrosphenus kretschmeri*
 Bocage's Longbill or São Tomé Short-tail, *Amaurocichla bocagei*
 Green Hylia, *Hylia prasina*
 Red-faced Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus laetus*
 Laura's Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus laurae*
 Yellow-throated Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*
 Uganda Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus budongoensis*
 Brown Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*
 Black-capped Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus herberti*
 Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*
 Canary Islands Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus canariensis*
 Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*
 Iberian Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus ibericus*
 Western Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus bonelli*
 Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus orientalis*
 Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
 Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Lemon-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*
 Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*
 Hume's Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei*
 Yellow-bellied Hyliota, *Hyliota flavigaster*
 Southern Hyliota, *Hyliota australis*
 Usambara Hyliota, *Hyliota usambarae*
 Violet-backed Hyliota, *Hyliota violacea*
 Fan-tailed Grassbird, *Schoenicola brevirostris*
 Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*
 Garden Warbler, *Sylvia borin*
 Greater Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis*
 Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*
 Asian Desert Warbler, *Sylvia nana*
 African Desert Warbler, *Sylvia deserti*
 Barred Warbler, *Sylvia nisoria*
 Western Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia hortensis*
 Eastern Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia crassirostris*
 Red Sea Warbler, *Sylvia leucomelaena*
 Rueppell's Warbler, *Sylvia rueppelli*
 Subalpine Warbler, *Sylvia cantillans*
 Sardinian Warbler, *Sylvia melanocephala*
 Cyprus Warbler, *Sylvia melanothorax*
 Menetries' Warbler, *Sylvia mystacea*

Spectacled Warbler, *Sylvia conspicillata*
 Tristram's Warbler, *Sylvia deserticola*
 Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata*
 Marmora's Warbler, *Sylvia sarda*
 Layard's Warbler, *Parisoma layardi*
 Rufous-vented Warbler, *Parisoma subcaeruleum*
 Brown Warbler, *Parisoma lugens*
 Banded Warbler, *Parisoma boehmi*

Old World flycatchers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Muscicapidae](#)

- Silverbird, *Empidonax semipartitus*
- Pale Flycatcher, *Bradornis pallidus*
- Chat Flycatcher, *Bradornis infuscatus*
- Mariqua Flycatcher, *Bradornis mariquensis*
- African Grey Flycatcher, *Bradornis microrhynchus*
- Angola Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis brunneus*
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis fischeri*
- Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, *Melaenornis chocolatinus*
- Northern Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis edolioides*
- Southern Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis pammelaina*
- Yellow-eyed Black Flycatcher, *Melaenornis ardesiacus*
- Nimba Flycatcher, *Melaenornis annamarulae*
- African Forest Flycatcher, *Fraseria ocreata*
- White-browed Forest Flycatcher, *Fraseria cinerascens*
- Fiscal Flycatcher, *Sigelus silens*
- Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa striata*
- Gambaga Flycatcher, *Muscicapa gambagae*
- Ussher's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ussheri*
- Sooty Flycatcher, *Muscicapa infuscata*
- Boehm's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa boehmi*
- Swamp Flycatcher, *Muscicapa aquatica*
- Olivaceous Flycatcher, *Muscicapa olivascens*
- Chapin's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa lendu*
- African Dusky Flycatcher, *Muscicapa adusta*
- Little Grey Flycatcher, *Muscicapa epulata*
- Yellow-footed Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sethsmithi*
- Dusky-blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapa comitata*
- Tessmann's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa tessmanni*
- Cassin's Flycatcher, *Muscicapa cassinii*
- Ashy Flycatcher, *Muscicapa caerulescens*
- Grey-throated Tit Flycatcher, *Myioparus griseigularis*
- Grey Tit Flycatcher, *Myioparus plumbeus*

Fairy Flycatcher, *Stenostira scita*
 European Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca*
 Atlas Flycatcher, *Ficedula speculigera*
 Collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicollis*
 Semicollared Flycatcher, *Ficedula semitorquata*
 Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*
 Taiga Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*
 Dohrn's Flycatcher, *Horizorhinus dohrni*
 White-starred Robin, *Pogonocichla stellata*
 Swynnerton's Robin, *Swynnertonia swynnertoni*
 Forest Robin, *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*
 Bocage's Akalat, *Sheppardia bocagei*
 Lowland Akalat, *Sheppardia cyornithopsis*
 Equatorial Akalat, *Sheppardia aequatorialis*
 Sharpe's Akalat, *Sheppardia sharpei*
 East Coast Akalat, *Sheppardia gunningi*
 Gabela Akalat, *Sheppardia gabela*
 Usambara Akalat, *Sheppardia montana*
 Iringa Akalat, *Sheppardia lowei*
 Rubeho Akalat, *Sheppardia aurantiithorax*
 European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*
 Thrush Nightingale, *Luscinia luscinia*
 Common Nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
 Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica*
 White-throated Robin, *Irania gutturalis*
 White-bellied Robin Chat, *Cossyphicula roberti*
 Mountain Robin Chat, *Cossypha isabellae*
 Archer's Robin Chat, *Cossypha archeri*
 Olive-flanked Robin Chat, *Cossypha anomala*
 Cape Robin Chat, *Cossypha caffra*
 White-throated Robin Chat, *Cossypha humeralis*
 Blue-shouldered Robin Chat, *Cossypha cyanocampter*
 Grey-winged Robin Chat, *Cossypha polioptera*
 Rueppell's Robin Chat, *Cossypha semirufa*
 White-browed Robin Chat, *Cossypha heuglini*
 Red-capped Robin Chat, *Cossypha natalensis*
 Chorister Robin Chat, *Cossypha dichroa*
 White-headed Robin Chat, *Cossypha heinrichi*
 Snowy-crowned Robin Chat, *Cossypha niveicapilla*
 White-crowned Robin Chat, *Cossypha albicapilla*
 Angola Cave Chat, *Xenocopsychus ansorgei*
 Collared Palm Thrush, *Cichladusa arquata*
 Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush, *Cichladusa ruficauda*
 Spotted Morning Thrush, *Cichladusa guttata*

Forest Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucosticta*
 Bearded Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*
 Miombo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas barbata*
 Brown Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas signata*
 Brown-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas hartlaubi*
 Red-backed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas galactotes*
 Kalahari Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas paena*
 African Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas minor*
 Karoo Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*
 Black Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas podobe*
 Herero Chat, *Namibornis herero*
 Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*
 Common Redstart, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
 Moussier's Redstart, *Phoenicurus moussieri*
 White-winged Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
 Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*
 Canary Island Stonechat, *Saxicola dacotiae*
 European Stonechat, *Saxicola rubicola*
 African Stonechat, *Saxicola torquatus*
 Buff-streaked Bushchat, *Saxicola bifasciatus*
 White-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucopyga*
 Hooded Wheatear, *Oenanthe monacha*
 Black Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucura*
 Mountain Wheatear, *Oenanthe monticola*
 Somali Wheatear, *Oenanthe phillipsi*
 Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
 Mourning Wheatear, *Oenanthe lugens*
 Finsch's Wheatear, *Oenanthe finschii*
 Red-rumped Wheatear, *Oenanthe moesta*
 Pied Wheatear, *Oenanthe pleschanka*
 Cyprus Wheatear, *Oenanthe cypriaca*
 Black-eared Wheatear, *Oenanthe hispanica*
 Red-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe xanthopyrma*
 Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*
 Capped Wheatear, *Oenanthe pileata*
 Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*
 Red-breasted Wheatear, *Oenanthe bottae*
 Heuglin's Wheatear, *Oenanthe heuglini*
 Sicklewing Chat, *Cercomela sinuata*
 Karoo Chat, *Cercomela schlegelii*
 Tractrac Chat, *Cercomela tractrac*
 Familiar Chat, *Cercomela familiaris*
 Brown-tailed Chat, *Cercomela scotocerca*
 Sombre Chat, *Cercomela dubia*

Blackstart, *Cercomela melanura*
 Moorland Chat, *Cercomela sordida*
 Congo Moorchat, *Myrmecocichla tholloni*
 Northern Anteater Chat, *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
 Southern Anteater Chat, *Myrmecocichla formicivora*
 Sooty Chat, *Myrmecocichla nigra*
 Rueppell's Chat, *Myrmecocichla melaena*
 White-fronted Black Chat, *Myrmecocichla albifrons*
 White-headed Black Chat, *Myrmecocichla arnotti*
 Mocking Cliff Chat, *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
 White-winged Cliff Chat, *Thamnolaea semirufa*
 Boulder Chat, *Pinarornis plumosus*

Wattle-eyes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Platysteiridae

- African Shrike-flycatcher, *Megabyas flammulatus*
 Black-and-white Shrike-flycatcher, *Bias musicus*
 Brown-throated Wattle-eye, *Platysteira cyanea*
 White-fronted Wattle-eye, *Platysteira albifrons*
 Black-throated Wattle-eye, *Platysteira peltata*
 Banded Wattle-eye, *Platysteira laticincta*
 Chestnut Wattle-eye, *Platysteira castanea*
 White-spotted Wattle-eye, *Platysteira tonsa*
 Red-cheeked Wattle-eye, *Platysteira blissetti*
 Black-necked Wattle-eye, *Platysteira chalybea*
 Jameson's Wattle-eye, *Platysteira jamesoni*
 Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye, *Platysteira concreta*
 Boulton's Batis, *Batis margaritae*
 Short-tailed Batis, *Batis mixta*
 Ruwenzori Batis, *Batis diops*
 Cape Batis, *Batis capensis*
 Woodward's Batis, *Batis fratum*
 Chinspot Batis, *Batis molitor*
 Pale Batis, *Batis soror*
 Pririt Batis, *Batis pririt*
 Senegal Batis, *Batis senegalensis*
 Grey-headed Batis, *Batis orientalis*
 Black-headed Batis, *Batis minor*
 Pygmy Batis, *Batis perkeo*
 Verreaux's Batis, *Batis minima*
 Ituri Batis, *Batis ituriensis*
 Fernando Po Batis, *Batis poensis*
 West African Batis, *Batis occulta*

Angola Batis, *Batis minulla*
White-tailed Shrike, *Lanioturdus torquatus*

Monarch flycatchers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Monarchidae](#)

- Chestnut-capped Flycatcher, *Erythrocercus mccallii*
Yellow Flycatcher, *Erythrocercus holochlorus*
Livingstone's Flycatcher, *Erythrocercus livingstonei*
African Blue Flycatcher, *Elminia longicauda*
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, *Elminia albicauda*
Dusky Crested Flycatcher, *Elminia nigromitrata*
White-bellied Crested Flycatcher, *Elminia albiventris*
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, *Elminia albonotata*
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher, *Trochocercus nitens*
African Crested Flycatcher, *Trochocercus cyanomelas*
Black-headed Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone rufiventer*
Bedford's Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone bedfordi*
Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*
Bates' Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone batesi*
African Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone viridis*
Sao Tome Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone atrochalybeia*

Rockfowl

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** *Picathartidae*

- White-necked Rockfowl, *Picathartes gymnocephalus*
Grey-necked Rockfowl, *Picathartes oreas*

Babblers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** *Timaliidae*

- Spot-throat, *Modulatrix stictigula*
Dapple-throat, *Arcanator orostruthus*
Damara Rockjumper, *Chaetops pycnopygius*
Rufous Rockjumper, *Chaetops frenatus*
Orange-breasted Rockjumper, *Chaetops aurantius*
Blackcap Illadopsis, *Illadopsis cleaveri*
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, *Illadopsis albipectus*
Rufous-winged Illadopsis, *Illadopsis rufescens*
Puvel's Illadopsis, *Illadopsis puveli*
Pale-breasted Illadopsis, *Illadopsis rufipennis*

Brown Illadopsis, *Illadopsis fulvescens*
 Mountain Illadopsis, *Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*
 African Hill Babbler, *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*
 Grey-chested Illadopsis, *Kakamega poliothorax*
 Thrush Babbler, *Ptyrticus turdinus*
 Arabian Babbler, *Turdoides squamiceps*
 Fulvous Chatterer, *Turdoides fulva*
 Scaly Chatterer, *Turdoides aylmeri*
 Rufous Chatterer, *Turdoides rubiginosa*
 Blackcap Babbler, *Turdoides reinwardtii*
 Dusky Babbler, *Turdoides tenebrosa*
 Black-faced Babbler, *Turdoides melanops*
 Black-lored Babbler, *Turdoides sharpei*
 Scaly Babbler, *Turdoides squamulata*
 White-rumped Babbler, *Turdoides leucopygia*
 Hartlaub's Babbler, *Turdoides hartlaubii*
 Southern Pied Babbler, *Turdoides bicolor*
 Northern Pied Babbler, *Turdoides hypoleuca*
 Hinde's Pied Babbler, *Turdoides hindei*
 Cretzschmar's Babbler, *Turdoides leucocephala*
 Brown Babbler, *Turdoides plebejus*
 Arrow-marked Babbler, *Turdoides jardineii*
 Bare-cheeked Babbler, *Turdoides gymnogenys*
 Bush Blackcap, *Lioptilus nigricapillus*
 White-throated Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis gilberti*
 Red-collared Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis rufocinctus*
 Chapin's Mountain Babbler, *Kupeornis chapini*
 Abyssinian Catbird, *Parophasma galinieri*
 Capuchin Babbler, *Phyllanthus atripennis*

Parrotbill

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Paradoxornithidae

- Bearded Reedling, *Panurus biarmicus*

Long-tailed tit

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Aegithalidae](#)

- [Long-tailed Tit](#), *Aegithalos caudatus*

Tits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Paridae

- Coal Tit, *Parus ater*
- Crested Tit, *Lophophanes cristatus*
- White-winged Black Tit, *Melaniparus leucomelas*
- White-shouldered Black Tit, *Melaniparus guineensis*
- Southern Black Tit, *Melaniparus niger*
- Carp's Tit, *Melaniparus carpi*
- White-bellied Tit, *Melaniparus albiventris*
- White-backed Black Tit, *Melaniparus leuconotus*
- Rufous-bellied Tit, *Melaniparus rufiventris*
- Dusky Tit, *Melaniparus funereus*
- Red-throated Tit, *Melaniparus fringillinus*
- Stripe-breasted Tit, *Melaniparus fasciiventer*
- Somali Tit, *Melaniparus thruppi*
- Miombo Tit, *Melaniparus griseiventris*
- Ashy Tit, *Melaniparus cinerascens*
- Grey Tit, *Melaniparus afer*
- Great Tit, *Parus major*
- African Blue Tit, *Cyanistes teneriffae*

Nuthatches

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Sittidae

- Eurasian Nuthatch, Sitta europaea
- Algerian Nuthatch, *Sitta ledanti*

Wallcreeper

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Tichodromidae

- Wallcreeper, *Tichodroma muraria*

Creepers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Certhiidae

- Short-toed Treecreeper, Certhia brachydactyla
- Spotted Creeper, *Salpornis spilonotus*

Penduline tits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Remizidae

- Eurasian Penduline Tit, *Remiz pendulinus*
 Sennar Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus punctifrons*
 Mouse-colored Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus musculus*
 Yellow Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus parvulus*
 Forest Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus flavifrons*
 African Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus caroli*
 Southern Penduline Tit, *Anthoscopus minutus*
 Tit-hylia, *Pholidornis rushiae*

Sunbirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Nectarinidae

- Scarlet-tufted Sunbird, *Deleornis fraseri*
 Grey-headed Sunbird, *Deleornis axillaris*
 Plain-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes reichenowi*
 Anchieta's Sunbird, *Anthreptes anchietae*
 Mouse-brown Sunbird, *Anthreptes gabonicus*
 Western Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes longuemarei*
 Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes orientalis*
 Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird, *Anthreptes neglectus*
 Violet-tailed Sunbird, *Anthreptes aurantium*
 Little Green Sunbird, *Anthreptes seimundi*
 Green Sunbird, *Anthreptes rectirostris*
 Banded Sunbird, *Anthreptes rubritorques*
 Collared Sunbird, *Hedydipna collaris*
 Pygmy Sunbird, *Hedydipna platura*
 Nile Valley Sunbird, *Hedydipna metallica*
 Amani Sunbird, *Hedydipna pallidigaster*
 Reichenbach's Sunbird, *Anabathmis reichenbachii*
 Principe Sunbird, *Anabathmis hartlaubii*
 Newton's Sunbird, *Anabathmis newtonii*
 Sao Tome Sunbird, *Dreptes thomensis*
 Orange-breasted Sunbird, *Anthobaphes violacea*
 Green-headed Sunbird, *Cyanomitra verticalis*
 Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, *Cyanomitra cyanolaema*
 Blue-headed Sunbird, *Cyanomitra alinae*
 Cameroon Sunbird, *Cyanomitra oritis*
 Bannerman's Sunbird, *Cyanomitra bannermani*
 Eastern Olive Sunbird, *Cyanomitra olivacea*
 Western Olive Sunbird, *Cyanomitra obscura*

Mouse-colored Sunbird, *Cyanomitra veroxii*
 Buff-throated Sunbird, *Chalcomitra adelberti*
 Carmelite Sunbird, *Chalcomitra fuliginosa*
 Green-throated Sunbird, *Chalcomitra rubescens*
 Amethyst Sunbird, *Chalcomitra amethystina*
 Scarlet-chested Sunbird, *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
 Hunter's Sunbird, *Chalcomitra hunteri*
 Socotra Sunbird, *Chalcomitra balfouri*
 Bocage's Sunbird, *Nectarinia bocagii*
 Purple-breasted Sunbird, *Nectarinia purpureiventris*
 Tacazze Sunbird, *Nectarinia tacazze*
 Bronze Sunbird, *Nectarinia kilimensis*
 Red-tufted Sunbird, *Nectarinia johnstoni*
 Malachite Sunbird, *Nectarinia famosa*
 Golden-winged Sunbird, *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*
 Olive-bellied Sunbird, *Cinnyris chloropygius*
 Tiny Sunbird, *Cinnyris minullus*
 Miombo Sunbird, *Cinnyris manoensis*
 Southern Double-collared Sunbird, *Cinnyris chalybeus*
 Neergaard's Sunbird, *Cinnyris neergaardi*
 Stuhlmann's Sunbird, *Cinnyris stuhlmanni*
 Prigogine's Sunbird, *Cinnyris prigoginei*
 Montane Double-collared Sunbird, *Cinnyris ludovicensis*
 Northern Double-collared Sunbird, *Cinnyris reichenowi*
 Greater Double-collared Sunbird, *Cinnyris afer*
 Regal Sunbird, *Cinnyris regius*
 Rockefeller's Sunbird, *Cinnyris rockefelleri*
 Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, *Cinnyris mediocris*
 Moreau's Sunbird, *Cinnyris moreaui*
 Beautiful Sunbird, *Cinnyris pulchellus*
 Loveridge's Sunbird, *Cinnyris loveridgei*
 Mariqua Sunbird, *Cinnyris mariquensis*
 Shelley's Sunbird, *Cinnyris shelleyi*
 Congo Sunbird, *Cinnyris congensis*
 Red-chested Sunbird, *Cinnyris erythrocerus*
 Black-bellied Sunbird, *Cinnyris nectarinioides*
 Purple-banded Sunbird, *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
 Tsavo Sunbird, *Cinnyris tsavoensis*
 Violet-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris chalcomelas*
 Pemba Sunbird, *Cinnyris pembae*
 Orange-tufted Sunbird, *Cinnyris bouvieri*
 Palestine Sunbird, *Cinnyris osea*
 Shining Sunbird, *Cinnyris habessinicus*
 Splendid Sunbird, *Cinnyris coccinigastrus*
 Johanna's Sunbird, *Cinnyris johannae*

Superb Sunbird, *Cinnyris superbus*
Rufous-winged Sunbird, *Cinnyris rufipennis*
Oustalet's Sunbird, *Cinnyris oustaleti*
White-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris talatala*
Variable Sunbird, *Cinnyris venustus*
Dusky Sunbird, *Cinnyris fuscus*
Ursula's Sunbird, *Cinnyris ursulae*
Bates' Sunbird, *Cinnyris batesi*
Copper Sunbird, *Cinnyris cupreus*

White-eyes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Zosteropidae

- Black-capped Speirops, *Speirops lugubris*
Cameroon Speirops, *Speirops melanocephalus*
Fernando Po Speirops, *Speirops brunneus*
Principe Speirops, *Speirops leucophoeus*
African Yellow White-eye, *Zosterops senegalensis*
Broad-ringed White-eye, *Zosterops poliogastrus*
White-breasted White-eye, *Zosterops abyssinicus*
Cape White-eye, *Zosterops pallidus*
Pemba White-eye, *Zosterops vaughani*
Sao Tome White-eye, *Zosterops ficedulinus*
Annobon White-eye, *Zosterops griseovirescens*

Sugarbirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Promeropidae

- Gurney's Sugarbird, *Promerops gurneyi*
Cape Sugarbird, *Promerops cafer*

Old World orioles

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Oriolidae

- Eurasian Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus*
African Golden Oriole, *Oriolus auratus*
Green-headed Oriole, *Oriolus chlorocephalus*
Sao Tome Oriole, *Oriolus crassirostris*
Western Black-headed Oriole, *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*
Dark-headed Oriole, *Oriolus monacha*
African Black-headed Oriole, *Oriolus larvatus*

Black-tailed Oriole, *Oriolus percivali*
Black-winged Oriole, *Oriolus nigripennis*

Shrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Laniidae

- Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*
Rufous-tailed Shrike, *Lanius isabellinus*
Emin's Shrike, *Lanius gubernator*
Souza's Shrike, *Lanius souzae*
Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*
Southern Grey Shrike, *Lanius meridionalis*
Lesser Grey Shrike, *Lanius minor*
Grey-backed Fiscal, *Lanius excubitoroides*
Long-tailed Fiscal, *Lanius cabanisi*
Taita Fiscal, *Lanius dorsalis*
Somali Fiscal, *Lanius somalicus*
Mackinnon's Shrike, *Lanius mackinnoni*
Common Fiscal, *Lanius collaris*
Newton's Fiscal, *Lanius newtoni*
Masked Shrike, *Lanius nubicus*
Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius senator*
Yellow-billed Shrike, *Corvinella corvina*
Magpie Shrike, *Corvinella melanoleuca*
White-rumped Shrike, *Eurocephalus rueppelli*
White-crowned Shrike, *Eurocephalus anguitimens*

Bushshrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Malaconotidae

- Brubru, *Nilaus afer*
Northern Puffback, *Dryoscopus gambensis*
Pringle's Puffback, *Dryoscopus pringlii*
Black-backed Puffback, *Dryoscopus cubla*
Red-eyed Puffback, *Dryoscopus senegalensis*
Pink-footed Puffback, *Dryoscopus angolensis*
Large-billed Puffback, *Dryoscopus sabini*
Marsh Tchagra, *Tchagra minutus*
Black-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra senegalus*
Brown-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra australis*
Three-streaked Tchagra, *Tchagra jamesi*
Southern Tchagra, *Tchagra tchagra*
Red-naped Bushshrike, *Laniarius ruficeps*

Luehder's Bushshrike, *Laniarius luehderi*
 Braun's Bushshrike, *Laniarius brauni*
 Gabela Bushshrike, *Laniarius amboimensis*
 Bulo Burti Boubou, *Laniarius liberatus*
 Turati's Boubou, *Laniarius turatii*
 Tropical Boubou, *Laniarius aethiopicus*
 Gabon Boubou, *Laniarius bicolor*
 Southern Boubou, *Laniarius ferrugineus*
 Common Gonolek, *Laniarius barbarus*
 Black-headed Gonolek, *Laniarius erythrogaster*
 Crimson-breasted Gonolek, *Laniarius atrococcineus*
 Papyrus Gonolek, *Laniarius mufumbiri*
 Yellow-breasted Boubou, *Laniarius atroflavus*
 Slate-colored Boubou, *Laniarius funebris*
 Sooty Boubou, *Laniarius leucorhynchus*
 Fueleborn's Boubou, *Laniarius fueleborni*
 Mountain Sooty Boubou, *Laniarius poensis*
 Rosy-patched Bushshrike, *Rhodophoneus cruentus*
 Bokmakierie, *Telophorus zeylonus*
 Grey-green Bushshrike, *Telophorus bocagei*
 Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, *Telophorus sulfureopectus*
 Olive Bushshrike, *Telophorus olivaceus*
 Many-colored Bushshrike, *Telophorus multicolor*
 Black-fronted Bushshrike, *Telophorus nigrifrons*
 Mt. Kupe Bushshrike, *Telophorus kupeensis*
 Four-colored Bushshrike, *Telophorus viridis*
 Doherty's Bushshrike, *Telophorus dohertyi*
 Fiery-breasted Bushshrike, *Malaconotus cruentus*
 Lagden's Bushshrike, *Malaconotus lagdeni*
 Green-breasted Bushshrike, *Malaconotus gladiator*
 Grey-headed Bushshrike, *Malaconotus blanchoti*
 Monteiro's Bushshrike, *Malaconotus monteiri*
 Uluguru Bushshrike, *Malaconotus alius*

Helmetshrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Prionopidae

- White Helmetshrike, *Prionops plumatus*
 Grey-crested Helmetshrike, *Prionops poliophus*
 Yellow-crested Helmetshrike, *Prionops alberti*
 Chestnut-bellied Helmetshrike, *Prionops caniceps*
 Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike, *Prionops rufiventris*
 Retz's Helmetshrike, *Prionops retzii*

Angola Helmetshrike, *Prionops gabela*
Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, *Prionops scopifrons*

Drongos

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Dicruridae](#)

- Square-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus ludwigii*
Shining Drongo, *Dicrurus atripennis*
Fork-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus adsimilis*
Velvet-mantled Drongo, *Dicrurus modestus*

[Crows](#), jays, and magpies

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Corvidae](#)

- Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius*
Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*
Stresemann's Bush Crow, *Zavattariornis stresemanni*
Red-billed Chough, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Yellow-billed Chough, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*
Piapiac, *Ptilostomus afer*
Eurasian Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*
House Crow, *Corvus splendens*
Cape Crow, *Corvus capensis*
Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*
Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*
Hooded Crow, *Corvus cornix*
Pied Crow, *Corvus albus*
Brown-necked Raven, *Corvus ruficollis*
Somali Crow, *Corvus edithae*
Fan-tailed Raven, *Corvus rhipidurus*
White-necked Raven, *Corvus albicollis*
Thick-billed Raven, *Corvus crassirostris*
Common Raven, *Corvus corax*

Starlings

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Sturnidae](#)

- Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*
Rosy Starling, *Pastor roseus*
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
Spotless Starling, *Sturnus unicolor*
Wattled Starling, *Creatophora cinerea*

Cape Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis nitens*
 Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
 Lesser Blue-eared Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
 Bronze-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis chalcurus*
 Splendid Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis splendidus*
 Principe Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis ornatus*
 Emerald Starling, *Lamprotornis iris*
 Purple Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpureus*
 Rueppell's Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
 Long-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis caudatus*
 Golden-breasted Starling, *Lamprotornis regius*
 Meves' Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis mevesii*
 Burchell's Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis australis*
 Sharp-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis acuticaudus*
 Black-bellied Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis corruscus*
 Superb Starling, *Lamprotornis superbus*
 Hildebrandt's Starling, *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*
 Shelley's Starling, *Lamprotornis shelleyi*
 Chestnut-bellied Starling, *Lamprotornis pulcher*
 Purple-headed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis purpureiceps*
 Copper-tailed Glossy Starling, *Lamprotornis cupreocauda*
 Violet-backed Starling, *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 African Pied Starling, *Spreo bicolor*
 Fischer's Starling, *Spreo fischeri*
 Ashy Starling, *Spreo unicolor*
 White-crowned Starling, *Spreo albicapillus*
 Red-winged Starling, *Onychognathus morio*
 Slender-billed Starling, *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
 Chestnut-winged Starling, *Onychognathus fulgidus*
 Waller's Starling, *Onychognathus walleri*
 Somali Starling, *Onychognathus blythii*
 Socotra Starling, *Onychognathus frater*
 Tristram's Starling, *Onychognathus tristramii*
 Pale-winged Starling, *Onychognathus nabouroup*
 Bristle-crowned Starling, *Onychognathus salvadorii*
 White-billed Starling, *Onychognathus albirostris*
 Neumann's Starling, *Onychognathus neumanni*
 Narrow-tailed Starling, *Poeoptera lugubris*
 Stuhlmann's Starling, *Poeoptera stuhlmanni*
 Kenrick's Starling, *Poeoptera kenricki*
 Sharpe's Starling, *Pholia sharpii*
 Abbott's Starling, *Pholia femoralis*
 White-collared Starling, *Grafisia torquata*
 Magpie Starling, *Speculipastor bicolor*
 Babbling Starling, *Neocichla gutturalis*

Red-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
Yellow-billed Oxpecker, *Buphagus africanus*

Old World sparrows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Passeridae](#)

- House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
Spanish Sparrow, *Passer hispaniolensis*
Somali Sparrow, *Passer castanopterus*
Dead Sea Sparrow, *Passer moabiticus*
Cape Verde Sparrow, *Passer iagoensis*
Socotra Sparrow, *Passer insularis*
Great Rufous Sparrow, *Passer motitensis*
Kenya Rufous Sparrow, *Passer rufocinctus*
Shelley's Rufous Sparrow, *Passer shelleyi*
Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, *Passer cordofanicus*
Cape Sparrow, *Passer melanurus*
Grey-headed Sparrow, *Passer griseus*
Swainson's Sparrow, *Passer swainsonii*
Parrot-billed Sparrow, *Passer gongonensis*
Swahili Sparrow, *Passer suahelicus*
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, *Passer diffusus*
Desert Sparrow, *Passer simplex*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*
Sudan Golden Sparrow, *Passer luteus*
Arabian Golden Sparrow, *Passer euchlorus*
Chestnut Sparrow, *Passer eminibey*
Yellow-spotted Petronia, *Petronia pyrgita*
Yellow-throated Petronia, *Petronia superciliaris*
Bush Petronia, *Petronia dentata*
Rock Petronia, *Petronia petronia*
Pale Rockfinch, *Carpospiza brachydactyla*
White-winged Snowfinch, *Montifringilla nivalis*

Weavers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Ploceidae](#)

- White-billed Buffalo Weaver, *Bubalornis albirostris*
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, *Bubalornis niger*
White-headed Buffalo Weaver, *Dinemellia dinemelli*
Speckle-fronted Weaver, *Sporopipes frontalis*
Scaly Weaver, *Sporopipes squamifrons*
White-browed Sparrow Weaver, *Plocepasser mahali*

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver, *Plocepasser superciliosus*
 Chestnut-backed Sparrow Weaver, *Plocepasser rufoscapulatus*
 Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow Weaver, *Plocepasser donaldsoni*
 Rufous-tailed Weaver, *Histurgops ruficauda*
 Grey-headed Social Weaver, *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*
 Black-capped Social Weaver, *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*
 Social Weaver, *Philetairus socius*
 Bannerman's Weaver, *Ploceus bannermani*
 Bates' Weaver, *Ploceus batesi*
 Black-chinned Weaver, *Ploceus nigrimentus*
 Baglafecht Weaver, *Ploceus baglafecht*
 Bertram's Weaver, *Ploceus bertrandi*
 Slender-billed Weaver, *Ploceus pelzelni*
 Loango Weaver, *Ploceus subpersonatus*
 Little Weaver, *Ploceus luteolus*
 Lesser Masked Weaver, *Ploceus intermedius*
 Spectacled Weaver, *Ploceus ocularis*
 Black-necked Weaver, *Ploceus nigricollis*
 Black-billed Weaver, *Ploceus melanogaster*
 Strange Weaver, *Ploceus alienus*
 Bocage's Weaver, *Ploceus temporalis*
 Cape Weaver, *Ploceus capensis*
 African Golden Weaver, *Ploceus subaureus*
 Holub's Golden Weaver, *Ploceus xanthops*
 Principe Golden Weaver, *Ploceus princeps*
 Orange Weaver, *Ploceus aurantius*
 Golden Palm Weaver, *Ploceus bojeri*
 Taveta Golden Weaver, *Ploceus castaneiceps*
 Southern Brown-throated Weaver, *Ploceus xanthopterus*
 Northern Brown-throated Weaver, *Ploceus castanops*
 Kilombero Weaver, *Ploceus burnieri*
 Rueppell's Weaver, *Ploceus galbula*
 Heuglin's Masked Weaver, *Ploceus heuglini*
 Northern Masked Weaver, *Ploceus taeniopterus*
 Southern Masked Weaver, *Ploceus velatus*
 Vitelline Masked Weaver, *Ploceus vitellinus*
 Tanganyika Masked Weaver, *Ploceus reichardi*
 Katanga Masked Weaver, *Ploceus katangae*
 Lake Lufira Weaver, *Ploceus ruweti*
 Village Weaver, *Ploceus cucullatus*
 Giant Weaver, *Ploceus grandis*
 Speke's Weaver, *Ploceus spekei*
 Fox's Weaver, *Ploceus spekeoides*
 Vieillot's Weaver, *Ploceus nigerrimus*
 Weyns' Weaver, *Ploceus weynsi*

Clarke's Weaver, *Ploceus golandi*
 Black-headed Weaver, *Ploceus melanocephalus*
 Salvadori's Weaver, *Ploceus dichrocephalus*
 Golden-backed Weaver, *Ploceus jacksoni*
 Cinnamon Weaver, *Ploceus badius*
 Chestnut Weaver, *Ploceus rubiginosus*
 Golden-naped Weaver, *Ploceus aureonucha*
 Yellow-mantled Weaver, *Ploceus tricolor*
 Maxwell's Black Weaver, *Ploceus albinucha*
 Forest Weaver, *Ploceus bicolor*
 Preuss' Weaver, *Ploceus preussi*
 Yellow-capped Weaver, *Ploceus dorsomaculatus*
 Usambara Weaver, *Ploceus nicolli*
 Olive-headed Weaver, *Ploceus olivaceiceps*
 Brown-capped Weaver, *Ploceus insignis*
 Bar-winged Weaver, *Ploceus angolensis*
 Sao Tome Weaver, *Ploceus sanctithomae*
 Yellow-legged Weaver, *Ploceus flavipes*
 Compact Weaver, *Pachyphantes superciliosus*
 Red-crowned Malimbe, *Malimbus coronatus*
 Black-throated Malimbe, *Malimbus cassini*
 Ballman's Malimbe, *Malimbus ballmanni*
 Rachel's Malimbe, *Malimbus racheliae*
 Red-vented Malimbe, *Malimbus scutatus*
 Ibadan Malimbe, *Malimbus ibadanensis*
 Red-bellied Malimbe, *Malimbus erythrogaster*
 Grey's Malimbe, *Malimbus nitens*
 Crested Malimbe, *Malimbus malimbicus*
 Red-headed Malimbe, *Malimbus rubricollis*
 Red-headed Weaver, *Anaplectes rubriceps*
 Bob-tailed Weaver, *Brachycope anomala*
 Cardinal Quelea, *Quelea cardinalis*
 Red-headed Quelea, *Quelea erythrops*
 Red-billed Quelea, *Quelea quelea*
 Yellow-crowned Bishop, *Euplectes afer*
 Fire-fronted Bishop, *Euplectes diadematus*
 Black Bishop, *Euplectes gierowii*
 Black-winged Bishop, *Euplectes hordeaceus*
 Orange Bishop, *Euplectes franciscanus*
 Red Bishop, *Euplectes orix*
 Zanzibar Bishop, *Euplectes nigroventris*
 Golden-backed Bishop, *Euplectes aureus*
 Yellow Bishop, *Euplectes capensis*
 Fan-tailed Widowbird, *Euplectes axillaris*
 Yellow-shouldered Widowbird, *Euplectes macroura*

White-winged Widowbird, *Euplectes albonotatus*
 Red-collared Widowbird, *Euplectes ardens*
 Marsh Widowbird, *Euplectes hartlaubi*
 Buff-shouldered Widowbird, *Euplectes psammocromius*
 Long-tailed Widowbird, *Euplectes progne*
 Jackson's Widowbird, *Euplectes jacksoni*
 Grosbeak Weaver, *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Waxbills

Order: [Passeriformes](#) Family: [Estrildidae](#)

- Red-fronted Antpecker, *Parmoptila rubrifrons*
 Jameson's Antpecker, *Parmoptila jamesoni*
 Woodhouse's Antpecker, *Parmoptila woodhousei*
 White-breasted Negrofinch, *Nigrita fusconotus*
 Chestnut-breasted Negrofinch, *Nigrita bicolor*
 Pale-fronted Negrofinch, *Nigrita luteifrons*
 Grey-headed Negrofinch, *Nigrita canicapillus*
 White-collared Oliveback, *Nesocharis ansorgei*
 Fernando Po Oliveback, *Nesocharis shelleyi*
 Grey-headed Oliveback, *Nesocharis capistrata*
 Orange-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia afra*
 Red-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia phoenicoptera*
 Red-billed Pytilia, *Pytilia lineata*
 Green-winged Pytilia, *Pytilia melba*
 Red-faced Pytilia, *Pytilia hypogrammica*
 Green-backed Twinspot, *Mandingoa nitidula*
 Red-faced Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza reichenovii*
 Abyssinian Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza salvadorii*
 Dusky Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza jacksoni*
 Shelley's Crimson-wing, *Cryptospiza shelleyi*
 Crimson Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes sanguineus*
 Black-bellied Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes ostrinus*
 Lesser Seedcracker, *Pyrenestes minor*
 Grant's Bluebill, *Spermophaga poliogenys*
 Western Bluebill, *Spermophaga haematina*
 Red-headed Bluebill, *Spermophaga ruficapilla*
 Brown Twinspot, *Clytospiza monteiri*
 Peters' Twinspot, *Hypargos niveoguttatus*
 Pink-throated Twinspot, *Hypargos margaritatus*
 Dybowski's Twinspot, *Euschistospiza dybowskii*
 Dusky Twinspot, *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea*
 Bar-breasted Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rufopicta*
 Brown Firefinch, *Lagonosticta nitidula*

Red-billed Firefinch, *Lagonosticta senegala*
 Black-bellied Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rara*
 African Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rubricata*
 Pale-billed Firefinch, *Lagonosticta landanae*
 Jameson's Firefinch, *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*
 Mali Firefinch, *Lagonosticta virata*
 Rock Firefinch, *Lagonosticta sanguinodorsalis*
 Black-faced Firefinch, *Lagonosticta larvata*
 Reichenow's Firefinch, *Lagonosticta umbrinodorsalis*
 African Quailfinch, *Lagonosticta fuscocrissa*
 Black-faced Quailfinch, *Lagonosticta atricollis*
 Blue-breasted Cordonbleu, *Uraeginthus angolensis*
 Red-cheeked Cordonbleu, *Uraeginthus bengalus*
 Blue-capped Cordonbleu, *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
 Purple Grenadier, *Granatina ianthinogaster*
 Violet-eared Waxbill, *Granatina granatinus*
 Lavender Waxbill, *Estrilda caerulescens*
 Black-tailed Waxbill, *Estrilda perreini*
 Cinderella Waxbill, *Estrilda thomensis*
 Fawn-breasted Waxbill, *Estrilda paludicola*
 Anambra Waxbill, *Estrilda poliopareia*
 Orange-cheeked Waxbill, *Estrilda melpoda*
 Crimson-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda rhodopyga*
 Black-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda troglodytes*
 Common Waxbill, *Estrilda astrild*
 Black-faced Waxbill, *Estrilda nigriloris*
 Black-crowned Waxbill, *Estrilda nonnula*
 Black-headed Waxbill, *Estrilda atricapilla*
 Kandt's Waxbill, *Estrilda kandti*
 Black-cheeked Waxbill, *Estrilda erythronotos*
 Red-rumped Waxbill, *Estrilda charmosyna*
 Yellow-bellied Waxbill, *Coccygia quartinia*
 Sweet Waxbill, *Coccygia melanotis*
 Red Avadavat, *Amandava amandava*
 Zebra Waxbill, *Sporaeginthus subflavus*
 Red-billed Quailfinch, *Ortygospiza gabonensis*
 Locustfinch, *Paludipasser locustella*
 African Silverbill, *Euodice cantans*
 Bronze Mannikin, *Spermestes cucullatus*
 Black-and-white Mannikin, *Spermestes bicolor*
 Magpie Mannikin, *Spermestes fringilloides*
 Grey-headed Silverbill, *Odontospiza griseicapilla*
 Java Sparrow, *Padda oryzivora*
 Cut-throat, *Amadina fasciata*
 Red-headed Finch, *Amadina erythrocephala*

Indigobirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Viduidae

- Village Indigobird, *Vidua chalybeata*
- Jambandu Indigobird, *Vidua raricola*
- Baka Indigobird, *Vidua larvaticola*
- Jos Plateau Indigobird, *Vidua maryae*
- Quailfinch Indigobird, *Vidua nigeriae*
- Variable Indigobird, *Vidua funerea*
- Green Indigobird, *Vidua codringtoni*
- Purple Indigobird, *Vidua purpurascens*
- Pale-winged Indigobird, *Vidua wilsoni*
- Cameroon Indigobird, *Vidua camerunensis*
- Steel-blue Whydah, *Vidua hypocherina*
- Straw-tailed Whydah, *Vidua fischeri*
- Shaft-tailed Whydah, *Vidua regia*
- Pin-tailed Whydah, *Vidua macroura*
- Togo Paradise Whydah, *Vidua togoensis*
- Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, *Vidua interjecta*
- Eastern Paradise Whydah, *Vidua paradisaea*
- Northern Paradise Whydah, *Vidua orientalis*
- Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, *Vidua obtusa*
- Parasitic Weaver, *Anomalospiza imberbis*

Finches

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Fringillidae](#)

- Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*
- Blue Chaffinch, *Fringilla teydea*
- Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla*
- Sao Tome Grosbeak, *Neospiza concolor*
- Oriole Finch, *Linurgus olivaceus*
- Golden-winged Grosbeak, *Rhynchostruthus socotranus*
- Somali Grosbeak, *Rhynchostruthus louisae*
- Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrinus*
- Pale Rosefinch, *Carpodacus synoicus*
- Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*
- European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris*
- Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*
- Eurasian Siskin, *Carduelis spinus*
- European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*
- Eurasian Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina*

Warsangli Linnet, *Carduelis johannis*
 Ankober Serin, *Carduelis ankoberensis*
 Fire-fronted Serin, *Serinus pusillus*
 European Serin, *Serinus serinus*
 Syrian Serin, *Serinus syriacus*
 Island Canary, *Serinus canaria*
 Citril Finch, *Serinus citrinella*
 Cape Canary, *Serinus canicollis*
 Yellow-crowned Canary, *Serinus flavivertex*
 Abyssinian Siskin, *Serinus nigriceps*
 African Citril, *Serinus citrinelloides*
 Western Citril, *Serinus frontalis*
 Southern Citril, *Serinus hypostictus*
 Black-faced Canary, *Serinus capistratus*
 Papyrus Canary, *Serinus koliensis*
 Forest Canary, *Serinus scotops*
 White-rumped Seedeater, *Serinus leucopygius*
 Yellow-throated Serin, *Serinus flavigula*
 Salvadori's Serin, *Serinus xantholaemus*
 Black-throated Canary, *Serinus atrogularis*
 Reichenow's Seedeater, *Serinus reichenowi*
 Yellow-rumped Serin, *Serinus xanthopygius*
 Lemon-breasted Seedeater, *Serinus citrinipectus*
 Yellow-fronted Canary, *Serinus mozambicus*
 Northern Grosbeak Canary, *Serinus donaldsoni*
 Southern Grosbeak Canary, *Serinus buechanani*
 White-bellied Canary, *Serinus dorsostriatus*
 Yellow Canary, *Serinus flaviventris*
 Brimstone Canary, *Serinus sulphuratus*
 Reichard's Seedeater, *Serinus reichardi*
 White-throated Canary, *Serinus albogularis*
 Streaky-headed Seedeater, *Serinus gularis*
 Black-eared Seedeater, *Serinus mennelli*
 Brown-rumped Seedeater, *Serinus tristriatus*
 Streaky Seedeater, *Serinus striolatus*
 Yellow-browed Seedeater, *Serinus whytii*
 Thick-billed Seedeater, *Serinus burtoni*
 Tanzania Seedeater, *Serinus melanochrous*
 Principe Seedeater, *Serinus rufobrunneus*
 Protea Canary, *Serinus leucopterus*
 Black-headed Canary, *Alario alario*
 Damara Canary, *Alario leucolaemus*
 Cape Siskin, *Pseudochloroptila totta*
 Drakensberg Siskin, *Pseudochloroptila symonsi*
 Eurasian Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Crimson-winged Finch, *Rhodopechys sanguineus*
Trumpeter Finch, *Bucanetes githagineus*
Desert Finch, *Rhodospiza obsoletus*

Buntings and sparrows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Emberizidae](#)

- Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*
Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza cirlus*
Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia*
Cinereous Bunting, *Emberiza cineracea*
Ortolan Bunting, *Emberiza hortulana*
Cretzschmar's Bunting, *Emberiza caesia*
House Bunting, *Emberiza striolata*
Lark-like Bunting, *Emberiza impetuari*
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza tahapisi*
Socotra Bunting, *Emberiza socotrana*
Cape Bunting, *Emberiza capensis*
Vincent's Bunting, *Emberiza vincenti*
Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*
Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*
Yellow-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza aureola*
Golden-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza flaviventris*
Somali Bunting, *Emberiza poliopleura*
Brown-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza affinis*
Cabanis' Bunting, *Emberiza cabanisi*
Black-headed Bunting, *Emberiza melanocephala*
Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Corn Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*

See also

- [List of birds](#)

References

- *Birds of the World: A Checklist*, fifth edition and supplements, by James F. Clements, ISBN 0-934797-16-1, Ibis Publishing, 2000 (supplements up to July, 2005).
 - ' [Description of the ABA Listing Areas and Regions](#) from the American Birding Association.

- *Splitting headaches? Recent taxonomic changes affecting the British and Western Palearctic lists* - Martin Collinson, British Birds vol 99 (June 2006), 306-323

Birds of Asia

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Notes

The taxonomy of this list adheres to James Clements' Birds of the World: A Checklist, and reflects all changes to that work until July, 2005. Taxonomic changes are on-going. As more research is gathered from studies of distribution, behavior, and DNA, the order and number of families and species may change. Furthermore, different approaches to ornithological nomenclature have led to concurrent systems of classification (see Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy).

The area covered by this list corresponds with the Asian listing area as defined by the American Birding Association[1]. The area includes Russia east of the Ural River and Ural Mountains and the Russian Arctic islands east of but not including Novaya Zemlya, as well as Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey (except for the portion north of the Bosphorus, Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles), and Cyprus. The area is separated from Africa by the Suez Canal. In the Indian Ocean it includes Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep (the Laccadive Islands), the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but does not include Socotra (Africa), the Maldives, the Chagos Archipelago, and Christmas Island (all Indian Ocean). It includes the Russian islands in the Bering Sea and North Pacific. Japan, the Izu Islands (except Nampo Shoto and the Daito Islands), the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and most of Indonesia. In Indonesia the dividing line between Asia and Australasia runs through the Banda and Molucca Seas with Sulawesi, Banggai and Talaud on the Asian side, and the islands of Kai, Ceram, Buru, the Sula Group, and Morotai on the Australasian side.

Ostrich

Order: Struthioniformes **Family:** Struthionidae

- [Ostrich](#), *Struthio camelus*

Loons

Order: Gaviiformes **Family:** Gaviidae

- Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*
Arctic Loon, *Gavia arctica*
Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica*
Common Loon, *Gavia immer*
Yellow-billed Loon, *Gavia adamsii*

Grebes

Order: Podicipediformes **Family:** Podicipedidae

- Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Australasian Grebe, *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*
Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*
Horned Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*
Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*

Albatrosses

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Diomedidae

- Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*
Short-tailed Albatross, *Phoebastria albatrus*
Laysan Albatross, *Phoebastria immutabilis*
Black-footed Albatross, *Phoebastria nigripes*
Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*

Shearwaters and petrels

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Procellariidae

- Northern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*
Cape Petrel, *Daption capense*
Tahiti Petrel, *Pterodroma rostrata*
Atlantic Petrel, *Pterodroma incerta*
Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata*
Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri*
Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta*
Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*
Barau's Petrel, *Pterodroma baraui*
Galapagos Petrel, *Pterodroma phaeopygia*
Hawaiian Petrel, *Pterodroma sandwichensis*
Juan Fernandez Petrel, *Pterodroma externa*
Bonin Petrel, *Pterodroma hypoleuca*
Black-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma nigripennis*
Stejneger's Petrel, *Pterodroma longirostris*
Antarctic Prion, *Pachyptila desolata*
Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*
Jouanin's Petrel, *Bulweria fallax*
Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas*
Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea*
Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*
Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*
Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*
Buller's Shearwater, *Puffinus bulleri*
Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*
Short-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris*

Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus puffinus*
Balearic Shearwater, *Puffinus mauretanicus*
Levantine Shearwater, *Puffinus yelkouan*
Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis*
Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*
Persian Shearwater, *Puffinus persicus*
Mascarene Shearwater, *Puffinus atrodorsalis*

Storm-petrels

Order: Procellariiformes **Family:** Hydrobatidae

- Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*
White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*
Black-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta tropica*
European Storm-petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Band-rumped Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*
Leach's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
Swinhoe's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma monorhis*
Tristram's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma tristrami*
Matsudaira's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma matsudairae*
Fork-tailed Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma furcata*

Tropicbirds

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Phaethontidae

- Red-billed Tropicbird, *Phaethon aethereus*
Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda*
White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus*

Pelicans

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Pelecanidae

- Great White Pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Pink-backed Pelican, *Pelecanus rufescens*
Spot-billed Pelican, *Pelecanus philippensis*
Dalmatian Pelican, *Pelecanus crispus*
Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Gannets and boobies

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** [Sulidae](#)

- Northern Gannet, *Morus bassanus*
Abbott's Booby, *Sula abbotti*
Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*
Red-footed Booby, *Sula sula*
Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*

Cormorants

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Phalacrocoracidae

- Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
Indian Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Socotra Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*
Japanese Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax capillatus*
European Shag, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
Pelagic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*
Red-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax urile*
Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*
Pygmy Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*

Darter

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Anhingidae

- [Darter](#), *Anhinga melanogaster*

Frigatebirds

Order: Pelecaniformes **Family:** Fregatidae

- Christmas Island Frigatebird, *Fregata andrewsi*
Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor*
Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel*

Hérons, egrets, and bitterns

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Ardeidae

- Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea*
Black-headed Heron, *Ardea melanocephala*
White-bellied Heron, *Ardea insignis*
Great-billed Heron, *Ardea sumatrana*
Goliath Heron, *Ardea goliath*

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea*
 Great Egret, *Ardea alba*
 Pied Heron, *Egretta picata*
 Black Heron, *Egretta ardesiaca*
 Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia*
 White-faced Heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae*
 Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*
 Western Reef Heron, *Egretta gularis*
 Chinese Egret, *Egretta eulophotes*
 Pacific Reef Heron, *Egretta sacra*
 Squacco Heron, *Ardeola ralloides*
 Indian Pond Heron, *Ardeola grayii*
 Chinese Pond Heron, *Ardeola bacchus*
 Javan Pond Heron, *Ardeola speciosa*
 Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*
 Striated Heron, *Butorides striata*
 Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 Rufous Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus*
 White-eared Night Heron, *Gorsachius magnificus*
 Japanese Night Heron, *Gorsachius goisagi*
 Malayan Night Heron, *Gorsachius melanolophus*
 Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*
 Schrenck's Bittern, *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*
 Cinnamon Bittern, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
 Black Bittern, *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
 Great Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*

Hamerkop

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Scopidae

- Hamerkop, *Scopus umbretta*

Storks

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Ciconiidae

- Milky Stork, *Mycteria cinerea*
 Yellow-billed Stork, *Mycteria ibis*
 Painted Stork, *Mycteria leucocephala*
 Asian Openbill, *Anastomus oscitans*
 Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*
 Abdim's Stork, *Ciconia abdimii*
 Woolly-necked Stork, *Ciconia episcopus*

Storm's Stork, *Ciconia stormi*
White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*
Oriental Stork, *Ciconia boyciana*
Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*
Marabou Stork, *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*
Greater Adjutant, *Leptoptilos dubius*

Ibises and spoonbills

Order: Ciconiiformes **Family:** Threskiornithidae

- Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Black-headed Ibis, *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Red-naped Ibis, *Pseudibis papillosa*
White-shouldered Ibis, *Pseudibis davisoni*
Giant Ibis, *Pseudibis gigantea*
Waldrapp, *Geronticus eremita*
Crested Ibis, *Nipponia nippon*
Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*
Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*
Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*
African Spoonbill, *Platalea alba*
Black-faced Spoonbill, *Platalea minor*

Flamingos

Order: Phoenicopteriformes **Family:** Phoenicopteridae

- Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopus roseus*
Lesser Flamingo, *Phoenicopus minor*

Ducks, geese, and swans

Order: Anseriformes **Family:** [Anatidae](#)

- Spotted Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna guttata*
Fulvous Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*
Wandering Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata*
Lesser Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna javanica*
Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*
Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator*
Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*
Tundra Swan, *Cygnus columbianus*
Swan Goose, *Anser cygnoides*

Bean Goose, *Anser fabalis*
 Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*
 Lesser White-fronted Goose, *Anser erythropus*
 Greylag Goose, *Anser anser*
 Bar-headed Goose, *Anser indicus*
 Snow Goose, *Chen caerulescens*
 Emperor Goose, *Chen canagica*
 Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*
 Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii*
 Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla*
 Red-breasted Goose, *Branta ruficollis*
 Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
 Ruddy Shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea*
 Common Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*
 Radjah Shelduck, *Tadorna radjah*
 White-winged Duck, *Cairina scutulata*
 Comb Duck, *Sarkidiornis melanotos*
 Cotton Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus coromandelianus*
 Mandarin Duck, *Aix galericulata*
 Eurasian Wigeon, *Anas penelope*
 American Wigeon, *Anas americana*
 Falcated Duck, *Anas falcata*
 Gadwall, *Anas strepera*
 Baikal Teal, *Anas formosa*
 Green-winged Teal, *Anas carolinensis*
 Common Teal, *Anas crecca*
 Cape Teal, *Anas capensis*
 Sunda Teal, *Anas gibberifrons*
 Andaman Teal, *Anas albogularis*
 Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*
 Spot-billed Duck, *Anas poecilorhyncha*
 Pacific Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa*
 Philippine Duck, *Anas luzonica*
 Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*
 Red-billed Duck, *Anas erythrorhyncha*
 Garganey, *Anas querquedula*
 Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*
 Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*
 Marbled Teal, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
 Red-crested Pochard, *Netta rufina*
 Southern Pochard, *Netta erythrophthalma*
 Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina*
 Canvasback, *Aythya valisineria*
 Redhead (duck), *Aythya americana*
 Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*

Ferruginous Pochard, *Aythya nyroca*
 Baer's Pochard, *Aythya baeri*
 White-eyed Duck, *Aythya australis*
 Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*
 Greater Scaup, *Aythya marila*
 Lesser Scaup, *Aythya affinis*
 Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima*
 King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis*
 Spectacled Eider, *Somateria fischeri*
 Steller's Eider, *Polysticta stelleri*
 Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*
 Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*
 Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra*
 Surf Scoter, *Melanitta perspicillata*
 White-winged Scoter, *Melanitta fusca*
 Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*
 Bufflehead, *Bucephala albeola*
 Smew, *Mergellus albellus*
 Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*
 Common Merganser, *Mergus merganser*
 Scaly-sided Merganser, *Mergus squamatus*
 White-headed Duck, *Oxyura leucocephala*

Osprey

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** Pandionidae

- Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Hawks, eagles, and kites

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** [Accipitridae](#)

- Jerdon's Baza, *Aviceda jerdoni*
 Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata*
 Black Baza, *Aviceda leuphotes*
 European Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*
 Barred Honey Buzzard, *Pernis celebensis*
 Oriental Honey Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
 Bat Hawk, *Macheiramphus alcinus*
 Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*
 Scissor-tailed Kite, *Chelictinia riocourii*
 Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*
 Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
 Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus*

White-bellied Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
 Pallas' Fish Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
 White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*
 Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 Steller's Sea Eagle, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*
 Lesser Fish Eagle, *Ichthyophaga humilis*
 Grey-headed Fish Eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
 Lammergeier, *Gypaetus barbatus*
 Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*
 White-rumped Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*
 Indian Vulture, *Gyps indicus*
 Slender-billed Vulture, *Gyps tenuirostris*
 Rüppell's Vulture, *Gyps rueppellii*
 Himalayan Griffon Vulture, *Gyps himalayensis*
 Griffon Vulture, *Gyps fulvus*
 Cinereous Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*
 Lappet-faced Vulture, *Torgos tracheliotus*
 Red-headed Vulture, *Sarcogyps calvus*
 Short-toed Eagle, *Circus gallicus*
 Bateleur, *Terathopius ecaudatus*
 Nicobar Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis klossi*
 Sulawesi Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis rufipectus*
 Mountain Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
 Crested Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis cheela*
 Philippine Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis holospilus*
 Andaman Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis elgini*
 Western Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*
 Eastern Marsh Harrier, *Circus spilonotus*
 Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*
 Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
 Pallid Harrier, *Circus macrourus*
 Pied Harrier, *Circus melanoleucos*
 Montagu's Harrier, *Circus pygargus*
 Dark Chanting Goshawk, *Melierax metabates*
 Gabar Goshawk, *Micronisus gabar*
 Crested Goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus*
 Sulawesi Goshawk, *Accipiter griseiceps*
 Shikra, *Accipiter badius*
 Nicobar Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter butleri*
 Levant Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter brevipes*
 Chinese Goshawk, *Accipiter soloensis*
 Spot-tailed Goshawk, *Accipiter trinitatus*
 Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*
 Japanese Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter gularis*
 Small Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nanus*

Besra, *Accipiter virgatus*
 Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter rhodogaster*
 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus*
 Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*
 Grasshopper Buzzard, *Butastur rufipennis*
 White-eyed Buzzard, *Butastur teesa*
 Rufous-winged Buzzard, *Butastur liventer*
 Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus*
 Eurasian Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*
 Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
 Upland Buzzard, *Buteo hemilasius*
 Rough-legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*
 Great Philippine Eagle, *Pithecophaga jefferyi*
 Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis*
 Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina*
 Indian Spotted Eagle, *Aquila hastata*
 Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga*
 Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*
 Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis*
 Imperial Eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
 Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
 Verreaux's Eagle, *Aquila verreauxii*
 Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciatus*
 Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennatus*
 Rufous-bellied Eagle, *Aquila kienerii*
 Changeable Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
 Mountain Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis*
 Blyth's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus alboniger*
 Javan Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus bartelsi*
 Sulawesi Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus lanceolatus*
 Philippine Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus philippensis*
 Wallace's Hawk Eagle, *Spizaetus nanus*

Falcons

Order: Falconiformes **Family:** [Falconidae](#)

- White-rumped Falcon, *Polihierax insignis*
 Collared Falconet, *Microhierax caerulescens*
 Black-thighed Falconet, *Microhierax fringillarius*
 White-fronted Falconet, *Microhierax latifrons*
 Philippine Falconet, *Microhierax erythrogenys*
 Pied Falconet, *Microhierax melanoleucos*
 Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni*
 Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*

Spotted Kestrel, *Falco moluccensis*
Australian Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*
Red-necked Falcon, *Falco chicquera*
Red-footed Falcon, *Falco vespertinus*
Amur Falcon, *Falco amurensis*
Eleonora's Falcon, *Falco eleonora*
Sooty Falcon, *Falco concolor*
Merlin, *Falco columbarius*
Eurasian Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*
Oriental Hobby, *Falco severus*
Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis*
Lanner Falcon, *Falco biarmicus*
Laggar Falcon, *Falco jugger*
Saker Falcon, *Falco cherrug*
Gyr Falcon, *Falco rusticolus*
Barbary Falcon, *Falco pelegrinoides*
Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* (State bird and Military ensign of Pakistan Air Force)

Megapodes

Order: Galliformes **Family:** Megapodiidae

- Maleo, *Macrocephalon maleo*
Nicobar Scrubfowl, *Megapodius nicobariensis*
Tabon Scrubfowl, *Megapodius cumingii*
Sula Scrubfowl, *Megapodius bernsteinii*
Orange-footed Scrubfowl, *Megapodius reinwardt*

Grouse

Order: Galliformes **Family:** Tetraonidae

- Siberian Grouse, *Dendragapus falcipennis*
Willow Ptarmigan, *Lagopus lagopus*
Rock Ptarmigan, *Lagopus muta*
Black-billed Capercaillie, *Tetrao parvirostris*
Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus*
Black Grouse, *Tetrao tetrix*
Caucasian Grouse, *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*
Hazel Grouse, *Bonasa bonasia*
Severtzov's Grouse, *Bonasa sewerzowi*

Pheasants and partridges

Order: Galliformes **Family:** [Phasianidae](#)

- Snow Partridge, *Lerwa lerwa*
Verreaux's Partridge, *Tetraophasis obscurus*
Szechenyi's Partridge, *Tetraophasis szechenyii*
Caucasian Snowcock, *Tetraogallus caucasicus*
Caspian Snowcock, *Tetraogallus caspius*
Altai Snowcock, *Tetraogallus altaicus*
Tibetan Snowcock, *Tetraogallus tibetanus*
Himalayan Snowcock, *Tetraogallus himalayensis*
Chukar, *Alectoris chukar* (National bird of Pakistan)
Philby's Partridge, *Alectoris philbyi*
Przevalski's Partridge, *Alectoris magna*
Arabian Partridge, *Alectoris melanocephala*
See-see Partridge, *Ammoperdix griseogularis*
Sand Partridge, *Ammoperdix heyi*
Black Francolin, *Francolinus francolinus*
Painted Francolin, *Francolinus pictus*
Chinese Francolin, *Francolinus pintadeanus*
Grey Francolin, *Francolinus pondicerianus*
Swamp Francolin, *Francolinus gularis*
Grey Partridge, *Perdix perdix*
Daurian Partridge, *Perdix dauurica*
Tibetan Partridge, *Perdix hodgsoniae*
Long-billed Partridge, *Rhizothera longirostris*
Black Partridge, *Melanoperdix niger*
Japanese Quail, *Coturnix japonica*
Common Quail, *Coturnix coturnix*
Harlequin Quail, *Coturnix delegorguei*
Rain Quail, *Coturnix coromandelica*
Brown Quail, *Coturnix ypsilophora*
Blue-breasted Quail, *Coturnix chinensis*
Jungle Bush Quail, *Perdicula asiatica*
Rock Bush Quail, *Perdicula argoondah*
Painted Bush Quail, *Perdicula erythrorhyncha*
Manipur Bush Quail, *Perdicula manipurensis*
Hill Partridge, *Arborophila torqueola*
Sichuan Partridge, *Arborophila rufipectus*
Chestnut-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila mandellii*
White-necklaced Partridge, *Arborophila gingica*
Rufous-throated Partridge, *Arborophila rufogularis*
White-cheeked Partridge, *Arborophila atrogularis*
Taiwan Partridge, *Arborophila crudigularis*

Hainan Partridge, *Arborophila ardens*
 Chestnut-bellied Partridge, *Arborophila javanica*
 Grey-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila orientalis*
 Bar-backed Partridge, *Arborophila brunneopectus*
 Orange-necked Partridge, *Arborophila davidi*
 Chestnut-headed Partridge, *Arborophila cambodiana*
 Red-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila hyperythra*
 Red-billed Partridge, *Arborophila rubrirostris*
 Scaly-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila chloropus*
 Vietnam Partridge, *Arborophila merlini*
 Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, *Arborophila charltonii*
 Ferruginous Partridge, *Caloperdix oculeus*
 Crimson-headed Partridge, *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*
 Crested Partridge, *Rollulus rouloul*
 Mountain Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola fytchii*
 Chinese Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracicus*
 Red Spurfowl, *Galloperdix spadicea*
 Painted Spurfowl, *Galloperdix lunulata*
 Ceylon Spurfowl, *Galloperdix bicalcarata*
 Blood Pheasant, *Ithaginis cruentus*
 Western Tragopan, *Tragopan melanocephalus*
 Satyr Tragopan, *Tragopan satyra*
 Blyth's Tragopan, *Tragopan blythii*
 Temminck's Tragopan, *Tragopan temminckii*
 Cabot's Tragopan, *Tragopan caboti*
 Koklass Pheasant, *Pucrasia macrolopha*
 Himalayan Monal, *Lophophorus impejanus*
 Sclater's Monal, *Lophophorus sclateri*
 Chinese Monal, *Lophophorus lhuysii*
 Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus*
 Grey Junglefowl, *Gallus sonneratii*
 Ceylon Junglefowl, *Gallus lafayetii*
 Green Junglefowl, *Gallus varius*
 Kalij Pheasant, *Lophura leucomelanos*
 Imperial Pheasant, *Lophura imperialis*
 Edwards' Pheasant, *Lophura edwardsi*
 Vietnamese Fireback, *Lophura hatinhensis*
 Swinhoe's Pheasant, *Lophura swinhoii*
 Salvadori's Pheasant, *Lophura inornata*
 Silver Pheasant, *Lophura nycthemera*
 Crestless Fireback, *Lophura erythrophthalma*
 Crested Fireback, *Lophura ignita*
 Siamese Fireback, *Lophura diardi*
 Bulwer's Pheasant, *Lophura bulweri*
 White Eared Pheasant, *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*

Brown Eared Pheasant, *Crossoptilon mantchuricum*
Blue Eared Pheasant, *Crossoptilon auritum*
Cheer Pheasant, *Catreus wallichi*
Elliot's Pheasant, *Syrmaticus ellioti*
Hume's Pheasant, *Syrmaticus humiae*
Mikado Pheasant, *Syrmaticus mikado*
Copper Pheasant, *Syrmaticus soemmerringii*
Reeves' Pheasant, *Syrmaticus reevesii*
Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*
Green Pheasant, *Phasianus versicolor*
Golden Pheasant, *Chrysolophus pictus*
Lady Amherst's Pheasant, *Chrysolophus amherstiae*
Bronze-tailed Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron chalcurum*
Mountain Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron inopinatum*
Germain's Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron germaini*
Grey Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*
Malayan Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron malacense*
Bornean Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*
Palawan Peacock Pheasant, *Polyplectron napoleonis*
Crested Argus, *Rheinardia ocellata*
Great Argus, *Argusianus argus*
Indian Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus*
Green Peafowl, *Pavo muticus*

Guineafowl

- Order:** Galliformes **Family:** Numididae
- Helmeted Guineafowl, *Numida meleagris*

Buttonquails

- Order:** Gruiformes **Family:** Turnicidae
- Small Buttonquail, *Turnix sylvaticus*
Red-backed Buttonquail, *Turnix maculosus*
Yellow-legged Buttonquail, *Turnix tanki*
Spotted Buttonquail, *Turnix ocellatus*
Barred Buttonquail, *Turnix suscitator*
Luzon Buttonquail, *Turnix worcesteri*

Cranes

- Order:** Gruiformes **Family:** Gruidae

- Demoiselle Crane, *Anthropoides virgo*
 Siberian Crane, *Grus leucogeranus*
 Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*
 Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone*
 White-naped Crane, *Grus vipio*
 Common Crane, *Grus grus*
 Hooded Crane, *Grus monacha*
 Black-necked Crane, *Grus nigricollis*
 Red-crowned Crane, *Grus japonensis*

Rails, gallinules, and coots

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** [Rallidae](#)

- Swinhoe's Rail, *Coturnicops exquisitus*
 Andaman Crake, *Rallina canningi*
 Red-legged Crake, *Rallina fasciata*
 Slaty-legged Crake, *Rallina eurizonoides*
 Okinawa Rail, *Gallirallus okinawae*
 Buff-banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis*
 Barred Rail, *Gallirallus torquatus*
 Calayan Rail, *Gallirallus calayanensis*
 Slaty-breasted Rail, *Gallirallus striatus*
 Virginia Rail, *Rallus limicola*
 Water Rail, *Rallus aquaticus*
 Luzon Rail, *Lewinia mirificus*
 Corn Crake, *Crex crex*
 Platen's Rail, *Aramidopsis plateni*
 Bare-faced Rail, *Gymnocrex rosenbergii*
 Talaud Rail, *Gymnocrex talaudensis*
 Brown Crake, *Amaurornis akool*
 Isabelline Bush-hen, *Amaurornis isabellina*
 Plain Bush-hen, *Amaurornis olivacea*
 Rufous-tailed Bush-hen, *Amaurornis moluccana*
 White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
 Black-tailed Crake, *Amaurornis bicolor*
 Little Crake, *Porzana parva*
 Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla*
 Spotted Crake, *Porzana porzana*
 Ruddy-breasted Crake, *Porzana fusca*
 Band-bellied Crake, *Porzana paykullii*
 Spotless Crake, *Porzana tabuensis*
 White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea*
 Watercock, *Gallicrex cinerea*

Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Allen's Gallinule, *Porphyrio alleni*
Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*
Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*
Lesser Moorhen, *Gallinula angulata*
Red-knobbed Coot, *Fulica cristata*
Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*

Finfoot

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Heliornithidae

- Masked Finfoot, *Heliopais personatus*

Bustards

Order: Gruiformes **Family:** Otididae

- Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*
Arabian Bustard, *Ardeotis arabs*
Indian Bustard, *Ardeotis nigriceps*
Houbara Bustard, *Chlamydotis undulata*
Macqueen's Bustard, *Chlamydotis macqueenii*
Bengal Florican, *Houbaropsis bengalensis*
Lesser Florican, *Sypheotides indicus*
Little Bustard, *Tetrax tetrax*

Jacanas

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Jacanidae

- Comb-crested Jacana, *Irediparra gallinacea*
Pheasant-tailed Jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
Bronze-winged Jacana, *Metopidius indicus*

Painted Snipe

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Rostratulidae

- Greater Painted Snipe, *Rostratula benghalensis*

Crab Plover

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Dromadidae

- [Crab Plover](#), *Dromas ardeola*

Oystercatchers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Haematopodidae

- Eurasian Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus*
Sooty Oystercatcher, *Haematopus fuliginosus*

Ibisbill

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Ibidorhynchidae

- [Ibisbill](#), *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

[Avocets](#) and stilts

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Recurvirostridae](#)

- Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Stilt, *Himantopus leucocephalus*
Pied Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Thick-knees

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Burhinidae

- Eurasian Thick-knee, *Burhinus oedicnemus*
Senegal Thick-knee, *Burhinus senegalensis*
Spotted Thick-knee, *Burhinus capensis*
Great Thick-knee, *Burhinus recurvirostris*
Beach Thick-knee, *Burhinus magnirostris*

Pratincoles and coursers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Glareolidae

- Cream-colored Courser, *Cursorius cursor*
Indian Courser, *Cursorius coromandelicus*
Jerdon's Courser, *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*
Australian Pratincole, *Stiltia isabella*
Collared Pratincole, *Glareola pratincola*
Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola maldivarum*
Black-winged Pratincole, *Glareola nordmanni*
Small Pratincole, *Glareola lactea*

Lapwings and plovers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Charadriidae](#)

- Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*
Spur-winged Plover, *Vanellus spinosus*
River Lapwing, *Vanellus duvaucelii*
Yellow-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus malabaricus*
Black-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus tectus*
Grey-headed Lapwing, *Vanellus cinereus*
Red-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus*
Sunda Lapwing, *Vanellus macropterus*
Sociable Lapwing, *Vanellus gregarius*
White-tailed Lapwing, *Vanellus leucurus*
Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*
American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*
Eurasian Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*
Black-bellied Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
Common Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
Long-billed Plover, *Charadrius placidus*
Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius*
Kittlitz's Plover, *Charadrius pecuarius*
Snowy Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Javan Plover, *Charadrius javanicus*
Red-capped Plover, *Charadrius ruficapillus*
Malaysian Plover, *Charadrius peronii*
Lesser Sandplover, *Charadrius mongolus*
Greater Sandplover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Caspian Plover, *Charadrius asiaticus*
Oriental Plover, *Charadrius veredus*
Eurasian Dotterel, *Charadrius morinellus*
Black-fronted Dotterel, *Elseya melanops*

Sandpipers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** [Scolopacidae](#)

- Eurasian Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*
Amami Woodcock, *Scolopax mira*
Bukidnon Woodcock, *Scolopax bukidnonensis*
Dusky Woodcock, *Scolopax saturata*
Sulawesi Woodcock, *Scolopax celebensis*
Jack Snipe, *Lymnocyrtes minimus*
Solitary Snipe, *Gallinago solitaria*

Latham's Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii*
 Wood Snipe, *Gallinago nemoricola*
 Pintail Snipe, *Gallinago stenura*
 Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala*
 Great Snipe, *Gallinago media*
 Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*
 Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*
 Long-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
 Asian Dowitcher, *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
 Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa*
 Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica*
 Eskimo Curlew, *Numenius borealis*
 Little Curlew, *Numenius minutus*
 Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*
 Bristle-thighed Curlew, *Numenius tahitiensis*
 Slender-billed Curlew, *Numenius tenuirostris*
 Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata*
 Far Eastern Curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis*
 Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus*
 Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
 Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis*
 Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*
 Nordmann's Greenshank, *Tringa guttifer*
 Greater Yellowlegs, *Tringa melanoleuca*
 Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*
 Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus*
 Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*
 Terek Sandpiper, *Xenus cinereus*
 Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularius*
 Grey-tailed Tattler, *Heterosceles brevipes*
 Wandering Tattler, *Heterosceles incanus*
 Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*
 Black Turnstone, *Arenaria melanocephala*
 Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris*
 Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*
 Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
 Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*
 Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*
 Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*
 Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*
 Temminck's Stint, *Calidris temminckii*
 Long-toed Stint, *Calidris subminuta*
 Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*
 White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*

Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*
Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*
Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea*
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*
Purple Sandpiper, *Calidris maritima*
Rock Sandpiper, *Calidris ptilocnemis*
Stilt Sandpiper, *Calidris himantopus*
Spoon-billed Sandpiper, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*
Broad-billed Sandpiper, *Limicola falcinellus*
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*
Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Skuas and jaegers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Stercorariidae

- South Polar Skua, *Stercorarius maccormicki*
Brown Skua, *Stercorarius antarcticus*
Great Skua, *Stercorarius skua*
Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Pomarine Skua)
Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Arctic Skua)
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus* (Long-tailed Skua)

Gulls

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Laridae

- Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris*
White-eyed Gull, *Larus leucophthalmus*
Sooty Gull, *Larus hemprichii*
Mew Gull, *Larus canus*
Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii*
Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*
Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*
Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*
Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*
Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*
Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*
Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*
Heuglin's Gull, *Larus heuglini*
East Siberian Gull, *Larus vegae*

American Herring Gull, *Larus smithsonianus*
 Caspian Gull, *Larus cachinnans*
 Armenian Gull, *Larus armenicus*
 Steppe Gull, *Larus barabensis*
 Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michahellis*
 Great Black-headed Gull, *Larus ichthyaetus*
 Slaty-backed Gull, *Larus schistisagus*
 Brown-headed Gull, *Larus brunnicephalus*
 Grey-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*
 Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*
 Slender-billed Gull, *Larus genei*
 Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*
 Saunders' Gull, *Larus saundersi*
 Mediterranean Gull, *Larus melanocephalus*
 Relict Gull, *Larus relictus*
 Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*
 Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*
 Little Gull, *Larus minutus*
 Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*
 Ross's Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*
 Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*
 Red-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa brevirostris*
 Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*

Terns

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Sternidae

- Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*
 Caspian Tern, *Hydroprogne caspia*
 Lesser Crested Tern, *Sterna bengalensis*
 Sandwich Tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*
 Chinese Crested Tern, *Sterna bernsteini*
 Great Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*
 River Tern, *Sterna aurantia*
 Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*
 Black-naped Tern, *Sterna sumatrana*
 Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*
 Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*
 White-cheeked Tern, *Sterna repressa*
 Black-bellied Tern, *Sterna acuticauda*
 Little Tern, *Sternula albifrons*
 Saunders' Tern, *Sternula saundersi*
 Yellow-billed Tern, *Sternula supercilialis*
 Aleutian Tern, *Onychoprion aleutica*

Grey-backed Tern, *Onychoprion lunata*
Bridled Tern, *Onychoprion anaethetus*
Sooty Tern, *Onychoprion fuscata*
Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybrida*
White-winged Tern, *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*
Lesser Noddy, *Anous tenuirostris*
Black Noddy, *Anous minutus*
Brown Noddy, *Anous stolidus*
Blue Noddy, *Procelsterna cerulea*
White Tern, *Gygis alba*

Skimmers

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Rynchopidae

- African Skimmer, *Rynchops flavirostris*
Indian Skimmer, *Rynchops albicollis*

Auks, murres, and puffins

Order: Charadriiformes **Family:** Alcidae

- Dovekie, *Alle alle*
Common Murre, *Uria aalge*
Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia*
Black Guillemot, *Cephus grylle*
Pigeon Guillemot, *Cephus columba*
Spectacled Guillemot, *Cephus carbo*
Marbled Murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus*
Long-billed Murrelet, *Brachyramphus perdix*
Kittlitz's Murrelet, *Brachyramphus brevirostris*
Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquus*
Japanese Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus wumizusume*
Parakeet Auklet, *Aethia psittacula*
Crested Auklet, *Aethia cristatella*
Whiskered Auklet, *Aethia pygmaea*
Least Auklet, *Aethia pusilla*
Rhinoceros Auklet, *Cerorhinca monocerata*
Horned Puffin, *Fratercula corniculata*
Tufted Puffin, *Fratercula cirrhata*

Sandgrouse

Order: Pterocliformes **Family:** Pteroclididae

- Tibetan Sandgrouse, *Syrrhaptes tibetanus*
Pallas's Sandgrouse, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, *Pterocles alchata*
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, *Pterocles exustus*
Spotted Sandgrouse, *Pterocles senegallus*
Black-bellied Sandgrouse, *Pterocles orientalis*
Crowned Sandgrouse, *Pterocles coronatus*
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, *Pterocles lichtensteinii*
Painted Sandgrouse, *Pterocles indicus*

Pigeons and doves

Order: Columbiformes **Family:** [Columbidae](#)

- Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*
Hill Pigeon, *Columba rupestris*
Snow Pigeon, *Columba leuconota*
Stock Dove, *Columba oenas*
Pale-backed Pigeon, *Columba eversmanni*
Common Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*
Rameron Pigeon, *Columba arquatrix*
Speckled Wood Pigeon, *Columba hodgsonii*
Ashy Wood Pigeon, *Columba pulchricollis*
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, *Columba elphinstonii*
Ceylon Wood Pigeon, *Columba torringtoni*
Pale-capped Pigeon, *Columba punicea*
Silvery Wood Pigeon, *Columba argentina*
Andaman Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumboides*
Japanese Wood Pigeon, *Columba janthina*
Metallic Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis*
Eurasian Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia turtur*
Dusky Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia lugens*
Oriental Turtle Dove, *Streptopelia orientalis*
Island Collared Dove, *Streptopelia bitorquata*
Eurasian Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*
African Collared Dove, *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
Red-eyed Dove, *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Red Collared Dove, *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*
Laughing Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Barred Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia unchall*

Dusky Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia magna*
 Slender-billed Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia amboinensis*
 Andaman Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia rufipennis*
 Philippine Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia tenuirostris*
 Ruddy Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia emiliana*
 Little Cuckoo Dove, *Macropygia ruficeps*
 White-faced Cuckoo Dove, *Turacoena manadensis*
 Slaty Cuckoo Dove, *Turacoena modesta*
 Namaqua Dove, *Oena capensis*
 Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica*
 Stephan's Dove, *Chalcophaps stephani*
 Zebra Dove, *Geopelia striata*
 Barred Dove, *Geopelia maugei*
 Nicobar Pigeon, *Caloenas nicobarica*
 Luzon Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba luzonica*
 Mindanao Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba crinigera*
 Mindoro Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba platenae*
 Negros Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba keayi*
 Sulu Bleeding-heart, *Gallicolumba menagei*
 Sulawesi Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba tristigmata*
 Wetar Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba hoedtii*
 White-eared Dove, *Phapitreron leucotis*
 Amethyst Dove, *Phapitreron amethystinus*
 Dark-eared Dove, *Phapitreron cinereiceps*
 Little Green Pigeon, *Treron olax*
 Pink-necked Pigeon, *Treron vernans*
 Cinnamon-headed Pigeon, *Treron fulvicollis*
 Orange-breasted Pigeon, *Treron bicinctus*
 Pompadour Green Pigeon, *Treron pompadora*
 Thick-billed Pigeon, *Treron curvirostra*
 Grey-cheeked Pigeon, *Treron griseicauda*
 Timor Green Pigeon, *Treron psittaceus*
 Large Green Pigeon, *Treron capellei*
 Yellow-footed Pigeon, *Treron phoenicopterus*
 Bruce's Green Pigeon, *Treron waalia*
 Yellow-vented Pigeon, *Treron seimundi*
 Pin-tailed Pigeon, *Treron apicauda*
 Green-spectacled Pigeon, *Treron oxyurus*
 Wedge-tailed Pigeon, *Treron sphenurus*
 White-bellied Pigeon, *Treron sieboldii*
 Whistling Green Pigeon, *Treron formosae*
 Black-backed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus cinctus*
 Pink-headed Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus porphyreus*
 Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus occipitalis*
 Flame-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus marchei*

Cream-breasted Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus merrilli*
Red-eared Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus fischeri*
Jambu Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus jambu*
Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus subularis*
Black-chinned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus leclancheri*
Superb Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus superbus*
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus regina*
Black-naped Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus melanospilus*
Negros Fruit Dove, *Ptilinopus arcanus*
Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula poliocephala*
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula forsteni*
Mindoro Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula mindorensis*
Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula radiata*
Spotted Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula carola*
Green Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula aenea*
Elegant Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula concinna*
Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula rosacea*
Grey Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula pickeringii*
Mountain Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula badia*
Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula lacernulata*
Timor Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula cineracea*
Pied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula bicolor*
White Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula luctuosa*
Sombre Pigeon, *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoa*

Cockatoos

Order: Psittaciformes **Family:** Cacatuidae

- Tanimbar Corella, *Cacatua goffiniana*
Philippine Cockatoo, *Cacatua haematuropygia*
Yellow-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua sulphurea*

Parrots

Order: Psittaciformes **Family:** Psittacidae

- Red-and-blue Lory, *Eos histrio*
Ornate Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus ornatus*
Rainbow Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus haematodus*
Olive-headed Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus euteles*
Yellow-and-green Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*
Mindanao Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus johnstoniae*
Iris Lorikeet, *Psitteuteles iris*
Guaibero, *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*

Blue-rumped Parrot, *Psittinus cyanurus*
 Red-cheeked Parrot, *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
 Luzon Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus montanus*
 Mindanao Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus waterstradti*
 Blue-headed Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus platenae*
 Green Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus luconensis*
 Blue-crowned Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus discurus*
 Blue-winged Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus verticalis*
 Yellowish-breasted Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus flavicans*
 Golden-mantled Racquet-tail, *Prioniturus platurus*
 Great-billed Parrot, *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*
 Blue-naped Parrot, *Tanygnathus lucionensis*
 Azure-rumped Parrot, *Tanygnathus sumatranus*
 Moluccan King Parrot, *Alisterus amboinensis*
 Olive-shouldered Parrot, *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*
 Alexandrine Parakeet, *Psittacula eupatria*
 Rose-ringed Parakeet, *Psittacula krameri*
 Slaty-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula himalayana*
 Grey-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula finschii*
 Plum-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula cyanocephala*
 Blossom-headed Parakeet, *Psittacula roseata*
 Malabar Parakeet, *Psittacula columboides*
 Layard's Parakeet, *Psittacula calthropae*
 Derbyan Parakeet, *Psittacula derbiana*
 Red-breasted Parakeet, *Psittacula alexandri*
 Nicobar Parakeet, *Psittacula caniceps*
 Long-tailed Parakeet, *Psittacula longicauda*
 Vernal Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus vernalis*
 Ceylon Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus beryllinus*
 Philippine Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus philippensis*
 Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus galgulus*
 Sulawesi Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus stigmatus*
 Sula Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus sclateri*
 Sangihe Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus catamene*
 Pygmy Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus exilis*
 Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot, *Loriculus pusillus*

Cuckoos

Order: Cuculiformes **Family:** Cuculidae

- Pied Cuckoo, *Clamator jacobinus*
 Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, *Clamator coromandus*
 Great Spotted Cuckoo, *Clamator glandarius*
 Sulawesi Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus crassirostris*

Large Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides*
 Common Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus varius*
 Moustached Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus vagans*
 Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus nasicolor*
 Northern Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus hyperythrus*
 Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus fugax*
 Philippine Hawk Cuckoo, *Cuculus pectoralis*
 Indian Cuckoo, *Cuculus micropterus*
 Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*
 Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus*
 Horsfield's Cuckoo, *Cuculus horsfieldi*
 Lesser Cuckoo, *Cuculus poliocephalus*
 Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*
 Banded Bay Cuckoo, *Cacomantis sonneratii*
 Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus*
 Brush Cuckoo, *Cacomantis variolosus*
 Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx basalis*
 Little Bronze Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
 Asian Emerald Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx maculatus*
 Violet Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
 Klaas' Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx klaas*
 Dideric Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx caprius*
 Asian Drongo Cuckoo, *Surniculus lugubris*
 Philippine Drongo Cuckoo, *Surniculus velutinus*
 Black-billed Koel, *Eudynamis melanorhynchus*
 Asian Koel, *Eudynamis scolopaceus*
 Australian Koel, *Eudynamis cyanocephalus*
 Channel-billed Cuckoo, *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
 Black-bellied Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus diardi*
 Chestnut-bellied Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*
 Blue-faced Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*
 Green-billed Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
 Sirkeer Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii*
 Raffles' Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*
 Red-billed Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
 Yellow-billed Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus calyrorhynchus*
 Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
 Red-faced Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*
 Red-crested Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus superciliosus*
 Scale-feathered Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus cumingi*
 Sumatran Ground Cuckoo, *Carpococcyx viridis*
 Bornean Ground Cuckoo, *Carpococcyx radiatus*
 Coral-billed Ground Cuckoo, *Carpococcyx renauldi*
 Bay Coucal, *Centropus celebensis*
 Rufous Coucal, *Centropus unirufus*

Black-faced Coucal, *Centropus melanops*
Sunda Coucal, *Centropus nigrorufus*
Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*
Short-toed Coucal, *Centropus rectunguis*
Black-hooded Coucal, *Centropus steerii*
Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis*
Andaman Coucal, *Centropus andamanensis*
Philippine Coucal, *Centropus viridis*
Green-billed Coucal, *Centropus chlororhynchus*
Lesser Coucal, *Centropus bengalensis*
White-browed Coucal, *Centropus superciliosus*

Barn-Owls

Order: Strigiformes **Family:** [Tytonidae](#)

- Minahassa Owl, *Tyto inexpectata*
Sulawesi Owl, *Tyto rosenbergii*
Australasian Grass Owl, *Tyto longimembris*
Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*

Owls

Order: Strigiformes **Family:** Strigidae

- Oriental Bay Owl, *Phodilus badius*
White-fronted Scops Owl, *Otus sagittatus*
Andaman Scops Owl, *Otus balli*
Reddish Scops Owl, *Otus rufescens*
Serendib Scops Owl, *Otus thilohoffmanni*
Mountain Scops Owl, *Otus spilocephalus*
Rajah Scops Owl, *Otus brookii*
Javan Scops Owl, *Otus angelinae*
Mentawai Scops Owl, *Otus mentawi*
Indian Scops Owl, *Otus bakkamoena*
Collared Scops Owl, *Otus lettia*
Sunda Scops Owl, *Otus lempiji*
Japanese Scops Owl, *Otus semitorques*
Palawan Scops Owl, *Otus fuliginosus*
Philippine Scops Owl, *Otus megalotis*
Mindanao Scops Owl, *Otus mirus*
Luzon Scops Owl, *Otus longicornis*
Mindoro Scops Owl, *Otus mindorensis*
Pallid Scops Owl, *Otus brucei*
African Scops Owl, *Otus senegalensis*

European Scops Owl, *Otus scops*
 Oriental Scops Owl, *Otus sunia*
 Moluccan Scops Owl, *Otus magicus*
 Mantanani Scops Owl, *Otus mantananensis*
 Ryukyu Scops Owl, *Otus elegans*
 Sulawesi Scops Owl, *Otus manadensis*
 Sangihe Scops Owl, *Otus collari*
 Simeulue Scops Owl, *Otus umbra*
 Enggano Scops Owl, *Otus enganensis*
 Nicobar Scops Owl, *Otus alius*
 Mindanao Eagle Owl, *Mimizuku gurneyi*
 Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo*
 Rock Eagle Owl, *Bubo bengalensis*
 Pharaoh Eagle Owl, *Bubo ascalaphus*
 Spotted Eagle Owl, *Bubo africanus*
 Spot-bellied Eagle Owl, *Bubo nipalensis*
 Barred Eagle Owl, *Bubo sumatranus*
 Dusky Eagle Owl, *Bubo coromandus*
 Philippine Eagle Owl, *Bubo philippensis*
 Snowy Owl, *Bubo scandiacus*
 Blakiston's Fish Owl, *Ketupa blakistoni*
 Brown Fish Owl, *Ketupa zeylonensis*
 Tawny Fish Owl, *Ketupa flavipes*
 Buffy Fish Owl, *Ketupa ketupu*
 Spotted Wood Owl, *Strix seloputo*
 Mottled Wood Owl, *Strix ocellata*
 Brown Wood Owl, *Strix leptogrammica*
 Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco*
 Hume's Owl, *Strix butleri*
 Ural Owl, *Strix uralensis*
 Pere David's Owl, *Strix davidi*
 Great Grey Owl, *Strix nebulosa*
 Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*
 Eurasian Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium passerinum*
 Collared Owlet, *Glaucidium brodiei*
 Asian Barred Owlet, *Glaucidium cuculoides*
 Javan Owlet, *Glaucidium castanopterum*
 Jungle Owlet, *Glaucidium radiatum*
 Chestnut-backed Owlet, *Glaucidium castanonotum*
 Spotted Owlet, *Athene brama*
 Forest Owlet, *Athene blewitti*
 Little Owl, *Athene noctua*
 Boreal Owl, *Aegolius funereus*
 Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*
 Andaman Hawk Owl, *Ninox affinis*

Brown Hawk Owl, *Ninox scutulata*
Northern Boobook, *Ninox japonica*
Chocolate Boobook, *Ninox randi*
Philippine Hawk Owl, *Ninox philippensis*
Ochre-bellied Hawk Owl, *Ninox ochracea*
Togian Hawk Owl, *Ninox burhani*
Cinnabar Hawk Owl, *Ninox ios*
Speckled Hawk Owl, *Ninox punctulata*
Northern Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*
Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*

Frogmouths

Order: Caprimulgiformes **Family:** Podargidae

- Large Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus auritus*
Dulit Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus harterti*
Philippine Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus septimus*
Gould's Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus stellatus*
Ceylon Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus moniliger*
Hodgson's Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus hodgsoni*
Short-tailed Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus poliophus*
Javan Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus javensis*
Sunda Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus cornutus*

Nightjars

Order: Caprimulgiformes **Family:** Caprimulgidae

- Diabolical Nightjar, *Eurostopodus diabolicus*
Malaysian Nightjar, *Eurostopodus temminckii*
Great Eared Nightjar, *Eurostopodus macrotis*
Grey Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus*
Eurasian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Egyptian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus aegyptius*
Nubian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus nubicus*
Sykes' Nightjar, *Caprimulgus mahrattensis*
Vaurie's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus centralasicus*
Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus*
Andaman Nightjar, *Caprimulgus andamanicus*
Jerdon's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus atripennis*
Philippine Nightjar, *Caprimulgus manillensis*
Sulawesi Nightjar, *Caprimulgus celebensis*
Indian Nightjar, *Caprimulgus asiaticus*
Plain Nightjar, *Caprimulgus inornatus*

Savanna Nightjar, *Caprimulgus affinis*
 Bonaparte's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus concretus*
 Salvadori's Nightjar, *Caprimulgus pulchellus*

Swifts

Order: Apodiformes **Family:** Apodidae

- Waterfall Swift, *Hydrochous gigas*
 Glossy Swiftlet, *Collocalia esculenta*
 Cave Swiftlet, *Collocalia linchi*
 Pygmy Swiftlet, *Collocalia troglodytes*
 Indian Swiftlet, *Aerodramus unicolor*
 Moluccan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus infuscatus*
 Philippine Swiftlet, *Aerodramus mearnsi*
 Himalayan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus brevirostris*
 Indochinese Swiftlet, *Aerodramus rogersi*
 Volcano Swiftlet, *Aerodramus vulcanorum*
 Whitehead's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus whiteheadi*
 Palawan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus palawanensis*
 Uniform Swiftlet, *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
 Mossy-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus salangana*
 Black-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus maximus*
 Edible-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus fuciphagus*
 German's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus germani*
 Philippine Needletail, *Mearnsia picina*
 White-rumped Needletail, *Zoonavena sylvatica*
 Silver-rumped Needletail, *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
 White-throated Needletail, *Hirundapus caudacutus*
 Silver-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*
 Brown-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus giganteus*
 Purple Needletail, *Hirundapus celebensis*
 Asian Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
 African Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus parvus*
 Alpine Swift, *Tachymarptis melba*
 Common Swift, *Apus apus*
 Pallid Swift, *Apus pallidus*
 Fork-tailed Swift, *Apus pacificus*
 Dark-rumped Swift, *Apus acuticauda*
 Little Swift, *Apus affinis*
 House Swift, *Apus nipalensis*
 White-rumped Swift, *Apus caffer*

Treeswifts

Order: Apodiformes **Family:** Hemiprocnidae

- Crested Treeswift, *Hemiprocne coronata*
Grey-rumped Treeswift, *Hemiprocne longipennis*
Whiskered Treeswift, *Hemiprocne comata*

Trogons

Order: Trogoniformes **Family:** Trogonidae

- Javan Trogon, *Harpactes reinwardtii*
Sumatran Trogon, *Harpactes mackloti*
Malabar Trogon, *Harpactes fasciatus*
Red-naped Trogon, *Harpactes kasumba*
Diard's Trogon, *Harpactes diardii*
Philippine Trogon, *Harpactes ardens*
Whitehead's Trogon, *Harpactes whiteheadi*
Cinnamon-rumped Trogon, *Harpactes orrhophaeus*
Scarlet-rumped Trogon, *Harpactes duvaucelii*
Red-headed Trogon, *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
Orange-breasted Trogon, *Harpactes oreskios*
Ward's Trogon, *Harpactes wardi*

Kingfishers

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Alcedinidae

- Blyth's Kingfisher, *Alcedo hercules*
Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*
Blue-eared Kingfisher, *Alcedo meninting*
Blue-banded Kingfisher, *Alcedo euryzona*
Indigo-banded Kingfisher, *Alcedo cyanopectus*
Silvery Kingfisher, *Alcedo argentata*
Small Blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo coerulescens*
Black-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx erithaca*
Philippine Kingfisher, *Ceyx melanurus*
Sulawesi Kingfisher, *Ceyx fallax*
Rufous-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx rufidorsa*
Variable Kingfisher, *Ceyx lepidus*
Banded Kingfisher, *Lacedo pulchella*
Lilac Kingfisher, *Cittura cyanotis*
Brown-winged Kingfisher, *Pelargopsis amauroptera*
Stork-billed Kingfisher, *Pelargopsis capensis*

Black-billed Kingfisher, *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*
 Ruddy Kingfisher, *Halcyon coromanda*
 White-throated Kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*
 Grey-headed Kingfisher, *Halcyon leucocephala*
 Black-capped Kingfisher, *Halcyon pileata*
 Javan Kingfisher, *Halcyon cyanoventris*
 Rufous-lored Kingfisher, *Todiramphus winchelli*
 Collared Kingfisher, *Todiramphus chloris*
 Talaud Kingfisher, *Todiramphus enigma*
 Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, *Todiramphus australasia*
 Sacred Kingfisher, *Todiramphus sanctus*
 Rufous-collared Kingfisher, *Actenoides concretus*
 Spotted Kingfisher, *Actenoides lindsayi*
 Blue-capped Kingfisher, *Actenoides hombroni*
 Green-backed Kingfisher, *Actenoides monachus*
 Scaly Kingfisher, *Actenoides princeps*
 Crested Kingfisher, *Megaceryle lugubris*
 Pied Kingfisher, *Ceryle rudis*

Bee-eaters

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Meropidae

- Red-bearded Bee-eater, *Nyctyornis amictus*
 Blue-bearded Bee-eater, *Nyctyornis athertoni*
 Purple-bearded Bee-eater, *Meropogon forsteni*
 Little Bee-eater, *Merops pusillus*
 Somali Bee-eater, *Merops revoilii*
 White-throated Bee-eater, *Merops albicollis*
 Green Bee-eater, *Merops orientalis*
 Blue-throated Bee-eater, *Merops viridis*
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, *Merops persicus*
 Blue-tailed Bee-eater, *Merops philippinus*
 Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*
 European Bee-eater, *Merops apiaster*
 Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, *Merops leschenaulti*

Rollers

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Coraciidae

- European Roller, *Coracias garrulus*
 Abyssinian Roller, *Coracias abyssinicus*
 Rufous-crowned Roller, *Coracias noevius*
 Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis*

Purple-winged Roller, *Coracias temminckii*
Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis*

Hoopoe

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Upupidae

- Eurasian Hoopoe, *Upupa epops*

Hornbills

Order: Coraciiformes **Family:** Bucerotidae

- African Grey Hornbill, *Tockus nasutus*
Malabar Grey Hornbill, *Ocyceros griseus*
Ceylon Grey Hornbill, *Ocyceros gingalensis*
Indian Grey Hornbill, *Ocyceros birostris*
Malabar Pied Hornbill, *Anthracoceros coronatus*
Oriental Pied Hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris*
Black Hornbill, *Anthracoceros malayanus*
Palawan Hornbill, *Anthracoceros marchei*
Sulu Hornbill, *Anthracoceros montani*
Rhinoceros Hornbill, *Buceros rhinoceros*
Great Hornbill, *Buceros bicornis*
Rufous Hornbill, *Buceros hydrocorax*
Helmeted Hornbill, *Buceros vigil*
Brown Hornbill, *Anorrhinus austeni*
Rusty-cheeked Hornbill, *Anorrhinus tickelli*
Bushy-crested Hornbill, *Anorrhinus galeritus*
Luzon Hornbill, *Penelopides manillae*
Mindoro Hornbill, *Penelopides mindorensis*
Tarictic Hornbill, *Penelopides panini*
Samar Hornbill, *Penelopides samarensis*
Mindanao Hornbill, *Penelopides affinis*
Sulawesi Hornbill, *Penelopides exarhatus*
White-crowned Hornbill, *Aceros comatus*
Rufous-necked Hornbill, *Aceros nipalensis*
Wrinkled Hornbill, *Aceros corrugatus*
Writhe-billed Hornbill, *Aceros waldeni*
Writhed Hornbill, *Aceros leucocephalus*
Knobbed Hornbill, *Aceros cassidix*
Wreathed Hornbill, *Aceros undulatus*
Narcondam Hornbill, *Aceros narcondami*
Plain-pouched Hornbill, *Aceros subruficollis*

Barbets

Order: Piciformes **Family:** Capitonidae

- Fire-tufted Barbet, *Psilopogon pyrolophus*
Great Barbet, *Megalaima virens*
Red-vented Barbet, *Megalaima lagrandieri*
Brown-headed Barbet, *Megalaima zeylanica*
Lineated Barbet, *Megalaima lineata*
White-cheeked Barbet, *Megalaima viridis*
Green-eared Barbet, *Megalaima faiostriata*
Brown-throated Barbet, *Megalaima corvina*
Gold-whiskered Barbet, *Megalaima chrysopogon*
Red-crowned Barbet, *Megalaima rafflesii*
Red-throated Barbet, *Megalaima mystacophanos*
Black-banded Barbet, *Megalaima javensis*
Yellow-fronted Barbet, *Megalaima flavifrons*
Golden-throated Barbet, *Megalaima franklinii*
Black-browed Barbet, *Megalaima oorti*
Blue-throated Barbet, *Megalaima asiatica*
Mountain Barbet, *Megalaima monticola*
Moustached Barbet, *Megalaima incognita*
Yellow-crowned Barbet, *Megalaima henrici*
Flame-fronted Barbet, *Megalaima armillaris*
Golden-naped Barbet, *Megalaima pulcherrima*
Blue-eared Barbet, *Megalaima australis*
Bornean Barbet, *Megalaima eximia*
Crimson-fronted Barbet, *Megalaima rubricapillus*
Coppersmith Barbet, *Megalaima haemacephala*
Brown Barbet, *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*

Honeyguides

Order: Piciformes **Family:** Indicatoridae

- Malaysian Honeyguide, *Indicator archipelagicus*
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, *Indicator xanthonotus*

Woodpeckers and allies

Order: Piciformes **Family:** [Picidae](#)

- Eurasian Wryneck, *Jynx torquilla*
Speckled Piculet, *Picumnus innominatus*
Rufous Piculet, *Sasia abnormis*

White-browed Piculet, *Sasia ochracea*
 Sulawesi Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos temminckii*
 Philippine Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos maculatus*
 Brown-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos moluccensis*
 Grey-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
 Pygmy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos kizuki*
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos minor*
 Brown-fronted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos auriceps*
 Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei*
 Stripe-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos atratus*
 Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos mahrattensis*
 Arabian Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos dora*
 Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
 Darjeeling Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos darjellensis*
 Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos cathpharius*
 Middle Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos medius*
 White-backed Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos leucotos*
 Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major*
 Syrian Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos syriacus*
 White-winged Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos leucopterus*
 Sind Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos assimilis*
 Himalayan Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos himalayensis*
 Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, *Picoides tridactylus*
 Rufous Woodpecker, *Celeus brachyurus*
 White-bellied Woodpecker, *Dryocopus javensis*
 Andaman Woodpecker, *Dryocopus hodgei*
 Black Woodpecker, *Dryocopus martius*
 Banded Woodpecker, *Picus mineaceus*
 Lesser Yellownape, *Picus chlorolophus*
 Crimson-winged Woodpecker, *Picus puniceus*
 Greater Yellownape, *Picus flavinucha*
 Checker-throated Woodpecker, *Picus mentalis*
 Streak-breasted Woodpecker, *Picus viridanus*
 Laced Woodpecker, *Picus vittatus*
 Streak-throated Woodpecker, *Picus xanthopygaeus*
 Scaly-bellied Woodpecker, *Picus squamatus*
 Japanese Woodpecker, *Picus awokera*
 Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis*
 Red-collared Woodpecker, *Picus rabieri*
 Black-headed Woodpecker, *Picus erythropygius*
 Grey-faced Woodpecker, *Picus canus*
 Olive-backed Woodpecker, *Dinopium rafflesii*
 Himalayan Flameback, *Dinopium shorii*
 Common Flameback, *Dinopium javanense*
 Black-rumped Flameback, *Dinopium benghalense*

White-naped Woodpecker, *Chrysocolaptes festivus*
Greater Flameback, *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
Pale-headed Woodpecker, *Gecinulus grantia*
Bamboo Woodpecker, *Gecinulus viridis*
Okinawa Woodpecker, *Sapheopipo noguchii*
Maroon Woodpecker, *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
Bay Woodpecker, *Blythipicus pyrrhotis*
Orange-backed Woodpecker, *Reinwardtipicus validus*
Buff-rumped Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tristis*
Black-and-buff Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes jugularis*
Buff-necked Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tukki*
Grey-and-buff Woodpecker, *Hemicircus concretus*
Heart-spotted Woodpecker, *Hemicircus canente*
Ashy Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus fulvus*
Sooty Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus funebris*
Great Slaty Woodpecker, *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

Broadbills

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Eurylaimidae

- Dusky Broadbill, *Corydon sumatranus*
Black-and-red Broadbill, *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*
Banded Broadbill, *Eurylaimus javanicus*
Black-and-yellow Broadbill, *Eurylaimus ochromalus*
Wattled Broadbill, *Eurylaimus steerii*
Visayan Broadbill, *Eurylaimus samarensis*
Long-tailed Broadbill, *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
Silver-breasted Broadbill, *Serilophus lunatus*
Green Broadbill, *Calyptomena viridis*
Hose's Broadbill, *Calyptomena hosii*
Whitehead's Broadbill, *Calyptomena whiteheadi*

Pittas

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Pittidae

- Eared Pitta, *Pitta phayrei*
Blue-naped Pitta, *Pitta nipalensis*
Blue-rumped Pitta, *Pitta soror*
Rusty-naped Pitta, *Pitta oatesi*
Schneider's Pitta, *Pitta schneideri*
Giant Pitta, *Pitta caerulea*
Blue Pitta, *Pitta cyanea*
Banded Pitta, *Pitta guajana*

Bar-bellied Pitta, *Pitta elliotii*
 Gurney's Pitta, *Pitta gurneyi*
 Blue-headed Pitta, *Pitta baudii*
 Hooded Pitta, *Pitta sordida*
 Azure-breasted Pitta, *Pitta steerii*
 Whiskered Pitta, *Pitta kochi*
 Red-bellied Pitta, *Pitta erythrogaster*
 Sula Pitta, *Pitta dohertyi*
 Blue-banded Pitta, *Pitta arcuata*
 Garnet Pitta, *Pitta granatina*
 Black-headed Pitta, *Pitta ussheri*
 Black-crowned Pitta, *Pitta venusta*
 Indian Pitta, *Pitta brachyura*
 Fairy Pitta, *Pitta nympha*
 Blue-winged Pitta, *Pitta moluccensis*
 Mangrove Pitta, *Pitta megarhyncha*
 Elegant Pitta, *Pitta elegans*

Larks

Order: [Passeriformes](#) Family: [Alaudidae](#)

- Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra cantillans*
 Australasian Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*
 Indian Bushlark, *Mirafra erythroptera*
 Bengal Bushlark, *Mirafra assamica*
 Jerdon's Bushlark, *Mirafra affinis*
 Indochinese Bushlark, *Mirafra erythrocephala*
 Burmese Bushlark, *Mirafra microptera*
 Black-crowned Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix nigriceps*
 Chestnut-headed Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix signatus*
 Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark, *Eremopterix griseus*
 Bar-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes cinctura*
 Rufous-tailed Lark, *Ammomanes phoenicura*
 Desert Lark, *Ammomanes deserti*
 Greater Hoopoe Lark, *Alaemon alaudipes*
 Thick-billed Lark, *Ramphocoris clotbey*
 Calandra Lark, *Melanocorypha calandra*
 Bimaculated Lark, *Melanocorypha bimaculata*
 Tibetan Lark, *Melanocorypha maxima*
 Mongolian Lark, *Melanocorypha mongolica*
 White-winged Lark, *Melanocorypha leucoptera*
 Black Lark, *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*
 Greater Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella brachydactyla*
 Blanford's Lark, *Calandrella blanfordi*

Hume's Lark, *Calandrella acutirostris*
 Lesser Short-toed Lark, *Calandrella rufescens*
 Red-capped Lark, *Calandrella cinerea*
 Sand Lark, *Calandrella raytal*
 Dunn's Lark, *Eremalauda dunni*
 Dupont's Lark, *Chersophilus duponti*
 Crested Lark, *Galerida cristata*
 Malabar Lark, *Galerida malabarica*
 Tawny Lark, *Galerida deva*
 Wood Lark, *Lullula arborea*
 Sky Lark, *Alauda arvensis*
 Oriental Skylark, *Alauda gulgula*
 Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris*
 Temminck's Lark, *Eremophila bilopha*

Swallows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Hirundinidae](#)

- White-eyed River Martin, *Pseudochelidon sirintarae*
 Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*
 Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia*
 Pale Sand Martin, *Riparia diluta*
 Plain Martin, *Riparia paludicola*
 Banded Martin, *Riparia cincta*
 Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
 Tree Martin, *Petrochelidon nigricans*
 Streak-throated Swallow, *Petrochelidon fluvicola*
 Fairy Martin, *Petrochelidon ariel*
 Eurasian Crag Martin, *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
 Rock Martin, *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
 Dusky Crag Martin, *Ptyonoprogne concolor*
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
 Ethiopian Swallow, *Hirundo aethiopica*
 Pacific Swallow, *Hirundo tahitica*
 Wire-tailed Swallow, *Hirundo smithii*
 Lesser Striped Swallow, *Cecropis abyssinica*
 Red-rumped Swallow, *Cecropis daurica*
 Striated Swallow, *Cecropis striolata*
 Rufous-bellied Swallow, *Cecropis badia*
 House Martin, *Delichon urbicum*
 Asian Martin, *Delichon dasypus*
 Nepal Martin, *Delichon nipalense*

Wagtails and pipits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Motacillidae](#)

- Forest Wagtail, *Dendronanthus indicus*
White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*
Mekong Wagtail, *Motacilla samveasnae*
Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens*
Japanese Wagtail, *Motacilla grandis*
White-browed Wagtail, *Motacilla madaraspatensis*
Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola*
Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*
Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis*
Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*
Golden Pipit, *Metothylacus tenellus*
Oriental Pipit, *Anthus rufulus*
Richard's Pipit, *Anthus richardi*
Tawny Pipit, *Anthus campestris*
Blyth's Pipit, *Anthus godlewskii*
Long-billed Pipit, *Anthus similis*
Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis*
Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni*
Pechora Pipit, *Anthus gustavi*
Meadow Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*
Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus*
Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*
Rock Pipit, *Anthus petrosus*
Water Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta*
Upland Pipit, *Anthus sylvanus*
American Pipit, *Anthus rubescens*
Nilgiri Pipit, *Anthus nilghiriensis*

Cuckoo-shrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Campephagidae](#)

- Large Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina macei*
Sunda Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina larvata*
Javan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina javensis*
Slaty Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina schistacea*
Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina personata*
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae*
Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina striata*
Pied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina bicolor*
Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina temminckii*

White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina leucopygia*
 Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina abbotti*
 Cicadabird, *Coracina tenuirostris*
 Blackish Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina coerulescens*
 Sula Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina sula*
 Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina mindanensis*
 Sulawesi Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina morio*
 McGregor's Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina mcgregori*
 Indochinese Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina polioptera*
 White-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina ostenta*
 Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melaschistos*
 Lesser Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina fimbriata*
 Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina melanoptera*
 Black-and-white Triller, *Lalage melanoleuca*
 Pied Triller, *Lalage nigra*
 White-rumped Triller, *Lalage leucopygialis*
 White-shouldered Triller, *Lalage sueurii*
 Rosy Minivet, *Pericrocotus roseus*
 Brown-rumped Minivet, *Pericrocotus cantonensis*
 Ashy Minivet, *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
 Small Minivet, *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
 Ryukyu Minivet, *Pericrocotus tegimae*
 Fiery Minivet, *Pericrocotus igneus*
 White-bellied Minivet, *Pericrocotus erythropygius*
 Long-tailed Minivet, *Pericrocotus ethologus*
 Short-billed Minivet, *Pericrocotus brevirostris*
 Sunda Minivet, *Pericrocotus miniatus*
 Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus*
 Grey-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris*
 Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus picatus*
 Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

Bulbuls

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Pycnonotidae

- Crested Finchbill, *Spizixos canifrons*
 Collared Finchbill, *Spizixos semitorques*
 Straw-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*
 Striated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus striatus*
 Cream-striped Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogrammicus*
 Spot-necked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus tympanistrigus*
 Black-and-white Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanoleucos*
 Grey-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus priocephalus*
 Black-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus atriceps*

Black-crested Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
 Styan's Bulbul, *Pycnonotus taivanus*
 Scaly-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus squamatus*
 Grey-bellied Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cyaniventris*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*
 Brown-breasted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthorrhous*
 Light-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis*
 White-spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*
 White-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucotis*
 White-cheeked Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
 Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer*
 Sooty-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
 Puff-backed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus eutilotus*
 Blue-wattled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus nieuwenhuisii*
 Yellow-wattled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus urostictus*
 Orange-spotted Bulbul, *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*
 Stripe-throated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
 Yellow-throated Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xantholaemus*
 Yellow-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus penicillatus*
 Flavescent Bulbul, *Pycnonotus flavescent*
 White-browed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus luteolus*
 Yellow-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus goiavier*
 Olive-winged Bulbul, *Pycnonotus plumosus*
 Streak-eared Bulbul, *Pycnonotus blanfordi*
 Cream-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus simplex*
 Red-eyed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus brunneus*
 Spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*
 Finsch's Bulbul, *Alophoixus finschii*
 White-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus flaveolus*
 Puff-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus pallidus*
 Ochraceous Bulbul, *Alophoixus ochraceus*
 Grey-cheeked Bulbul, *Alophoixus bres*
 Yellow-bellied Bulbul, *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*
 Golden Bulbul, *Alophoixus affinis*
 Hook-billed Bulbul, *Setornis criniger*
 Hairy-backed Bulbul, *Tricholestes criniger*
 Olive Bulbul, *Iole virescens*
 Grey-eyed Bulbul, *Iole propinqua*
 Buff-vented Bulbul, *Iole olivacea*
 Yellow-browed Bulbul, *Iole indica*
 Sulphur-bellied Bulbul, *Ixos palawanensis*
 Philippine Bulbul, *Ixos philippinus*
 Streak-breasted Bulbul, *Ixos siquijorensis*
 Brown-eared Bulbul, *Ixos amaurotis*
 Yellowish Bulbul, *Ixos everetti*

Zamboanga Bulbul, *Ixos rufigularis*
Streaked Bulbul, *Ixos malaccensis*
Mountain Bulbul, *Ixos mccllellandii*
Sunda Bulbul, *Ixos virescens*
Ashy Bulbul, *Hemixos flavala*
Chestnut Bulbul, *Hemixos castanonotus*
Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
Nicobar Bulbul, *Hypsipetes virescens*
White-headed Bulbul, *Hypsipetes thompsoni*

Kinglets

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Regulidae

- Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus calendula*
Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus*
Flamecrest, *Regulus goodfellowi*
Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapilla*

Leafbirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Chloropseidae

- Philippine Leafbird, *Chloropsis flavipennis*
Yellow-throated Leafbird, *Chloropsis palawanensis*
Greater Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis sonnerati*
Lesser Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis cyanopogon*
Blue-winged Leafbird, *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
Golden-fronted Leafbird, *Chloropsis aurifrons*
Orange-bellied Leafbird, *Chloropsis hardwickii*
Blue-masked Leafbird, *Chloropsis venusta*

Ioras

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Aegithinidae](#)

- Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia*
White-tailed Iora, *Aegithina nigrolutea*
Green Iora, *Aegithina viridissima*
Great Iora, *Aegithina lafresnayei*

Waxwings

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Bombycillidae

- Bohemian Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus*
Japanese Waxwing, *Bombycilla japonica*

Hypocolius

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Hypocoliidae

- [Hypocolius](#), *Hypocolius ampelinus*

Dippers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Cinclidae

- White-throated Dipper, Cinclus cinclus
Brown Dipper, Cinclus pallasii

Wrens

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Troglodytidae](#)

- Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Accentors

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Prunellidae

- Alpine Accentor, *Prunella collaris*
Himalayan Accentor, *Prunella himalayana*
Robin Accentor, *Prunella rubeculoides*
Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophiata*
Siberian Accentor, *Prunella montanella*
Radde's Accentor, *Prunella ocularis*
Yemen Accentor, *Prunella fagani*
Brown Accentor, *Prunella fulvescens*
Black-throated Accentor, *Prunella atrogularis*
Mongolian Accentor, *Prunella koslowi*
Dunnock, *Prunella modularis*
Japanese Accentor, *Prunella rubida*
Maroon-backed Accentor, *Prunella immaculata*

Thrushes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Turdidae](#)

- Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, *Monticola saxatilis*
- Little Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufocinereus*
- Blue-capped Rock Thrush, *Monticola cinclorhynchus*
- White-throated Rock Thrush, *Monticola gularis*
- Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush, *Monticola rufiventris*
- Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*
- Ceylon Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus blighi*
- Shiny Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus melanurus*
- Javan Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus glaucinus*
- Chestnut-winged Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus castaneus*
- Bornean Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus borneensis*
- Malayan Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus robinsoni*
- Malabar Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus horsfieldii*
- Formosan Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus insularis*
- Blue Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus*
- Geomalia, *Geomalia heinrichi*
- Chestnut-capped Thrush, *Zoothera interpres*
- Enggano Thrush, *Zoothera leucolaema*
- Chestnut-backed Thrush, *Zoothera dohertyi*
- Rusty-backed Thrush, *Zoothera erythronota*
- Red-and-black Thrush, *Zoothera mendeni*
- Pied Thrush, *Zoothera wardii*
- Ashy Thrush, *Zoothera cinerea*
- Orange-banded Thrush, *Zoothera peronii*
- Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina*
- Everett's Thrush, *Zoothera everetti*
- Siberian Thrush, *Zoothera sibirica*
- Spot-winged Thrush, *Zoothera spiloptera*
- Sunda Thrush, *Zoothera andromedae*
- Plain-backed Thrush, *Zoothera mollissima*
- Long-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera dixonii*
- Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma*
- Long-billed Thrush, *Zoothera monticola*
- Dark-sided Thrush, *Zoothera marginata*
- Bonin Thrush, *Zoothera terrestris* (extinct)
- Sulawesi Thrush, *Cataponera turdoides*
- Grey-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*
- Yemen Thrush, *Turdus menachensis*
- Grey-backed Thrush, *Turdus hortulorum*
- Tickell's Thrush, *Turdus unicolor*
- Black-breasted Thrush, *Turdus dissimilis*
- Japanese Thrush, *Turdus cardis*
- White-collared Blackbird, *Turdus albocinctus*
- Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*

Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus boulboul*
 Eurasian Blackbird, *Turdus merula*
 Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus*
 Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus*
 White-backed Thrush, *Turdus kessleri*
 Grey-sided Thrush, *Turdus feae*
 Eyebrowed Thrush, *Turdus obscurus*
 Pale Thrush, *Turdus pallidus*
 Brown-headed Thrush, *Turdus chrysolaus*
 Izu Thrush, *Turdus celaenops*
 Dark-throated Thrush, *Turdus ruficollis*
 Dusky Thrush, *Turdus naumanni*
 Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*
 Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*
 Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*
 Chinese Thrush, *Turdus mupinensis*
 Mistle Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*
 Fruit-hunter, *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*
 Rusty-bellied Shortwing, *Brachypteryx hypertyra*
 Gould's Shortwing, *Brachypteryx stellata*
 White-bellied Shortwing, *Brachypteryx major*
 Lesser Shortwing, *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
 White-browed Shortwing, *Brachypteryx montana*
 Great Shortwing, *Heinrichia calligyna*

Cisticolas and allies

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Cisticolidae](#)

- Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
 Golden-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola exilis*
 White-browed Chinese Warbler, *Rhopophilus pekinensis*
 Streaked Scrub Warbler, *Scotocerca inquieta*
 Rufous-vented Prinia, *Prinia burnesii*
 Swamp Prinia, *Prinia cinerascens*
 Striated Prinia, *Prinia crinigera*
 Brown Prinia, *Prinia polychroa*
 Hill Prinia, *Prinia atrogularis*
 Grey-crowned Prinia, *Prinia cinereocapilla*
 Rufous-fronted Prinia, *Prinia buehneri*
 Rufescent Prinia, *Prinia rufescens*
 Grey-breasted Prinia, *Prinia hodgsonii*
 Bar-winged Prinia, *Prinia familiaris*
 Graceful Prinia, *Prinia gracilis*
 Jungle Prinia, *Prinia sylvatica*

Yellow-bellied Prinia, *Prinia flaviventris*
 Ashy Prinia, *Prinia socialis*
 Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata*

Old World warblers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Sylviidae](#)

- Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Tesia castaneocoronata*
 Javan Tesia, *Tesia superciliaris*
 Slaty-bellied Tesia, *Tesia olivea*
 Grey-bellied Tesia, *Tesia cyaniventer*
 Timor Stubtail, *Urosphena subulata*
 Bornean Stubtail, *Urosphena whiteheadi*
 Asian Stubtail, *Urosphena squameiceps*
 Manchurian Bush Warbler, *Cettia canturians*
 Pale-footed Bush Warbler, *Cettia pallidipes*
 Japanese Bush Warbler, *Cettia diphone*
 Philippine Bush Warbler, *Cettia seebohmi*
 Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler, *Cettia fortipes*
 Sunda Bush Warbler, *Cettia vulcania*
 Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler, *Cettia major*
 Aberrant Bush Warbler, *Cettia flavolivacea*
 Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler, *Cettia acanthizoides*
 Grey-sided Bush Warbler, *Cettia brunnifrons*
 Cetti's Warbler, *Cettia cetti*
 Spotted Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus thoracicus*
 Long-billed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus major*
 Chinese Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus tacsanowskii*
 Russet Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus seebohmi*
 Brown Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus luteoventris*
 Taiwan Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus alishanensis*
 Ceylon Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus palliseri*
 Friendly Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus accentor*
 Long-tailed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus caudatus*
 Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus castaneus*
 Lanceolated Warbler, *Locustella lanceolata*
 Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella naevia*
 Pallas's Warbler, *Locustella certhiola*
 Middendorff's Warbler, *Locustella ochotensis*
 Pleske's Warbler, *Locustella pleskei*
 Eurasian River Warbler, *Locustella fluviatilis*
 Savi's Warbler, *Locustella luscinioides*
 Grey's Warbler, *Locustella fasciolata*
 Sakhalin Warbler, *Locustella amnicola*

Moustached Warbler, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
 Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola*
 Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 Streaked Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus sorghophilus*
 Black-browed Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*
 Paddyfield Warbler, *Acrocephalus agricola*
 Blunt-winged Warbler, *Acrocephalus concinens*
 Eurasian Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
 African Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus baeticatus*
 Blyth's Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*
 Great Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
 Oriental Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orientalis*
 Clamorous Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
 Large-billed Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orinus*
 Basra Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus griseldis*
 Thick-billed Warbler, *Acrocephalus aedon*
 Booted Warbler, *Hippolais caligata*
 Sykes' Warbler, *Hippolais rama*
 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, *Hippolais pallida*
 Upcher's Warbler, *Hippolais languida*
 Olive-tree Warbler, *Hippolais olivetorum*
 Melodious Warbler, *Hippolais polyglotta*
 Icterine Warbler, *Hippolais icterina*
 Mountain Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cuculatus*
 Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius*
 Rufous-headed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus heterolaemus*
 Dark-necked Tailorbird, *Orthotomus atrogularis*
 Philippine Tailorbird, *Orthotomus castaneiceps*
 Rufous-fronted Tailorbird, *Orthotomus frontalis*
 Grey-backed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus derbianus*
 Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sericeus*
 Ashy Tailorbird, *Orthotomus ruficeps*
 Olive-backed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sepium*
 Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, *Orthotomus samarensis*
 White-browed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus nigriceps*
 White-eared Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cinereiceps*
 White-browed Tit Warbler, *Leptopoecile sophiae*
 Crested Tit Warbler, *Leptopoecile elegans*
 Brown Woodland Warbler, *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*
 Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*
 Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*
 Mountain Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus sindianus*
 Plain Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus neglectus*
 Western Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, *Phylloscopus orientalis*
 Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
 Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Smoky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuligiventer*
 Tickell's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*
 Buff-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus subaffinis*
 Sulphur-bellied Warbler, *Phylloscopus griseolus*
 Yellow-streaked Warbler, *Phylloscopus armandii*
 Radde's Warbler, *Phylloscopus schwarzi*
 Buff-barred Warbler, *Phylloscopus pulcher*
 Ashy-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus maculipennis*
 Pale-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus chloronotus*
 Lemon-rumped Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*
 Sichuan Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus forresti*
 Gansu Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus kansuensis*
 Chinese Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*
 Brooks' Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus subviridis*
 Yellow-browed Warbler, *Phylloscopus inornatus*
 Hume's Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei*
 Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
 Pale-legged Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus tenellipes*
 Sakhalin Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealoides*
 Large-billed Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus magnirostris*
 Tytler's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus tytleri*
 Western Crowned Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus occipitalis*
 Eastern Crowned Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus coronatus*
 Ijima's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus ijimae*
 Blyth's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus reguloides*
 Hainan Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus hainanus*
 Emei Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus emeiensis*
 White-tailed Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus davisoni*
 Yellow-vented Warbler, *Phylloscopus cantator*
 Sulphur-breasted Warbler, *Phylloscopus ricketti*
 Lemon-throated Warbler, *Phylloscopus cebuensis*
 Mountain Warbler, *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
 Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus sarasinorum*
 Timor Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus presbytes*
 Philippine Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus olivaceus*
 Golden-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus burkii*
 Grey-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus tephrocephalus*
 Plain-tailed Warbler, *Seicercus soror*
 Whistler's Warbler, *Seicercus whistleri*
 Bianchi's Warbler, *Seicercus valentini*
 Grey-hooded Warbler, *Seicercus xanthoschistos*

White-spectacled Warbler, *Seicercus affinis*
 Grey-cheeked Warbler, *Seicercus poliogenys*
 Chestnut-crowned Warbler, *Seicercus castaniceps*
 Yellow-breasted Warbler, *Seicercus montis*
 Sunda Warbler, *Seicercus grammiceps*
 Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis*
 Yellow-bellied Warbler, *Abroscopus superciliaris*
 Black-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus schisticeps*
 Broad-billed Warbler, *Tickellia hodgsoni*
 Marsh Grassbird, *Megalurus pryri*
 Tawny Grassbird, *Megalurus timoriensis*
 Striated Grassbird, *Megalurus palustris*
 Buff-banded Bushbird, *Buettikoferella bivittata*
 Bristled Grassbird, *Chaetornis striata*
 Rufous-rumped Grassbird, *Graminicola bengalensis*
 Broad-tailed Grassbird, *Schoenicola platyurus*
 Yemen Warbler, *Sylvia buryi*
 Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*
 Garden Warbler, *Sylvia borin*
 Greater Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis*
 Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*
 Small Whitethroat, *Sylvia minula*
 Margelanian Whitethroat, *Sylvia margelanica*
 Hume's Whitethroat, *Sylvia althaea*
 Asian Desert Warbler, *Sylvia nana*
 Barred Warbler, *Sylvia nisoria*
 Western Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia hortensis*
 Eastern Orphean Warbler, *Sylvia crassirostris*
 Red Sea Warbler, *Sylvia leucomelaena*
 Rueppell's Warbler, *Sylvia rueppelli*
 Subalpine Warbler, *Sylvia cantillans*
 Sardinian Warbler, *Sylvia melanocephala*
 Cyprus Warbler, *Sylvia melanothorax*
 Menetries' Warbler, *Sylvia mystacea*
 Spectacled Warbler, *Sylvia conspicillata*

Old World flycatchers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Muscicapidae](#)

- Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias brunneatus*
 Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias umbratilis*
 Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias olivaceus*
 Chestnut-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias ruficauda*
 Henna-tailed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias colonus*

Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias gularis*
 Rusty-flanked Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias insignis*
 Negros Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias albigularis*
 Mindanao Jungle Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias goodfellowi*
 Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa striata*
 Gambaga Flycatcher, *Muscicapa gambagae*
 Grey-streaked Flycatcher, *Muscicapa griseisticta*
 Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica*
 Asian Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa dauurica*
 Brown-streaked Flycatcher, *Muscicapa williamsoni*
 Ash-breasted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa randi*
 Rusty-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ruficauda*
 Brown-breasted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa muttui*
 Ferruginous Flycatcher, *Muscicapa ferruginea*
 European Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula hypoleuca*
 Collared Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicollis*
 Semicollared Flycatcher, *Ficedula semitorquata*
 Korean Flycatcher, *Ficedula zanthopygia*
 Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*
 Beijing Flycatcher, *Ficedula beijingnica*
 Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
 Slaty-backed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hodgsonii*
 Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula strophliata*
 Red-breasted Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*
 Taiga Flycatcher, *Ficedula albicilla*
 Kashmir Flycatcher, *Ficedula subrubra*
 Snowy-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hyperythra*
 White-gorgeted Flycatcher, *Ficedula monileger*
 Rufous-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula solitaris*
 Rufous-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula dumetoria*
 Rufous-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula rufigula*
 Little Slaty Flycatcher, *Ficedula basilanica*
 Palawan Flycatcher, *Ficedula platenae*
 Russet-tailed Flycatcher, *Ficedula crypta*
 Furtive Flycatcher, *Ficedula disposita*
 Lompobattang Flycatcher, *Ficedula bonthaina*
 Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni*
 Ultramarine Flycatcher, *Ficedula superciliaris*
 Slaty-blue Flycatcher, *Ficedula tricolor*
 Black-and-rufous Flycatcher, *Ficedula nigrorufa*
 Sapphire Flycatcher, *Ficedula sapphira*
 Black-banded Flycatcher, *Ficedula timorensis*
 Blue-and-white Flycatcher, *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
 Verditer Flycatcher, *Eumyias thalassinus*
 Dull-blue Flycatcher, *Eumyias sordidus*

Island Flycatcher, *Eumyias panayensis*
 Nilgiri Flycatcher, *Eumyias albicaudatus*
 Indigo Flycatcher, *Eumyias indigo*
 Large Niltava, *Niltava grandis*
 Small Niltava, *Niltava macgrigoriae*
 Fujian Niltava, *Niltava davidi*
 Rufous-bellied Niltava, *Niltava sundara*
 Rufous-vented Niltava, *Niltava sumatrana*
 Vivid Niltava, *Niltava vivida*
 Matinan Flycatcher, *Cyornis sanfordi*
 Blue-fronted Flycatcher, *Cyornis hoevelli*
 Timor Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis hyacinthinus*
 White-tailed Flycatcher, *Cyornis concretus*
 Rueck's Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis ruckii*
 Blue-breasted Flycatcher, *Cyornis herioti*
 Hainan Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis hainanus*
 White-bellied Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis pallipes*
 Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis poliogenys*
 Pale Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis unicolor*
 Blue-throated Flycatcher, *Cyornis rubeculoides*
 Hill Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis banyumas*
 Long-billed Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis caerulatus*
 Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis turcosus*
 Palawan Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis lemprieri*
 Bornean Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis superbus*
 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis tickelliae*
 Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis rufigastra*
 Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis omissus*
 Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, *Muscicapella hodgsoni*
 Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
 Citrine Canary Flycatcher, *Culicicapa helianthea*
 European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*
 Japanese Robin, *Erithacus akahige*
 Ryukyu Robin, *Erithacus komadori*
 Rufous-tailed Robin, *Luscinia sibilans*
 Thrush Nightingale, *Luscinia luscinia*
 Common Nightingale, *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
 White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
 Bluethroat, *Luscinia svecica*
 Rufous-headed Robin, *Luscinia ruficeps*
 Black-throated Blue Robin, *Luscinia obscura*
 Firethroat, *Luscinia pectardens*
 Indian Blue Robin, *Luscinia brunnea*
 Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane*

Red-flanked Bluetail, *Tarsiger cyanurus*
 Golden Bush Robin, *Tarsiger chrysaeus*
 White-browed Bush Robin, *Tarsiger indicus*
 Rufous-breasted Bush Robin, *Tarsiger hyperythrus*
 Collared Bush Robin, *Tarsiger johnstoniae*
 White-throated Robin, *Irania gutturalis*
 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas galactotes*
 Black Scrub Robin, *Cercotrichas podobe*
 Oriental Magpie Robin, *Copsychus saularis*
 White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus*
 White-browed Shama, *Copsychus luzoniensis*
 White-vented Shama, *Copsychus niger*
 Black Shama, *Copsychus cebuensis*
 Rufous-tailed Shama, *Trichixos pyrropygus*
 Indian Robin, *Saxicoloides fulicatus*
 Ala Shan Redstart, *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*
 Rufous-backed Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythronotus*
 Blue-capped Redstart, *Phoenicurus caeruleocephala*
 Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*
 Common Redstart, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
 Hodgson's Redstart, *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*
 White-throated Redstart, *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
 Daurian Redstart, *Phoenicurus aureus*
 White-winged Redstart, *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
 Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 White-capped Redstart, *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
 Plumbeous Redstart, *Rhyacornis fuliginosa*
 Luzon Redstart, *Rhyacornis bicolor*
 White-bellied Redstart, *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*
 White-tailed Robin, *Cinclidium leucurum*
 Sunda Robin, *Cinclidium diana*
 Blue-fronted Robin, *Cinclidium frontale*
 Grandala, *Grandala coelicolor*
 Little Forktail, *Enicurus scouleri*
 Sunda Forktail, *Enicurus velatus*
 Chestnut-naped Forktail, *Enicurus ruficapillus*
 Black-backed Forktail, *Enicurus immaculatus*
 Slaty-backed Forktail, *Enicurus schistaceus*
 White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti*
 Spotted Forktail, *Enicurus maculatus*
 Purple Cochoa, *Cochoa purpurea*
 Green Cochoa, *Cochoa viridis*
 Sumatran Cochoa, *Cochoa beccarii*
 Javan Cochoa, *Cochoa azurea*
 Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*

White-browed Bushchat, *Saxicola macrorhynchus*
 White-throated Bushchat, *Saxicola insignis*
 European Stonechat, *Saxicola rubicola*
 Siberian Stonechat, *Saxicola maurus*
 African Stonechat, *Saxicola torquatus*
 White-tailed Stonechat, *Saxicola leucurus*
 Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata*
 Jerdon's Bushchat, *Saxicola jerdoni*
 Grey Bushchat, *Saxicola ferreus*
 Timor Bushchat, *Saxicola gutturalis*
 White-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucopyga*
 Hooded Wheatear, *Oenanthe monacha*
 Hume's Wheatear, *Oenanthe albonigra*
 Black Wheatear, *Oenanthe leucura*
 Northern Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*
 Mourning Wheatear, *Oenanthe lugens*
 Finsch's Wheatear, *Oenanthe finschii*
 Variable Wheatear, *Oenanthe picata*
 Red-rumped Wheatear, *Oenanthe moesta*
 Pied Wheatear, *Oenanthe pleschanka*
 Cyprus Wheatear, *Oenanthe cypriaca*
 Black-eared Wheatear, *Oenanthe hispanica*
 Red-tailed Wheatear, *Oenanthe xanthopyrma*
 Desert Wheatear, *Oenanthe deserti*
 Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*
 Red-breasted Wheatear, *Oenanthe bottae*
 Indian Chat, *Cercomela fusca*
 Blackstart, *Cercomela melanura*

Fantails

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Rhipiduridae

- Yellow-bellied Fantail, *Rhipidura hypoxantha*
- Blue Fantail, *Rhipidura superciliaris*
- Blue-headed Fantail, *Rhipidura cyaniceps*
- Rufous-tailed Fantail, *Rhipidura phoenicura*
- Black-and-cinnamon Fantail, *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea*
- White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis*
- Spot-breasted Fantail, *Rhipidura albogularis*
- White-bellied Fantail, *Rhipidura euryura*
- White-browed Fantail, *Rhipidura aureola*
- Northern Fantail, *Rhipidura rufiventris*
- Pied Fantail, *Rhipidura javanica*
- Spotted Fantail, *Rhipidura perlata*

Rusty-flanked Fantail, *Rhipidura teysmanni*
Rufous Fantail, *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Monarch flycatchers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Monarchidae](#)

- Short-crested Monarch, *Hypothymis helenae*
Black-naped Monarch, *Hypothymis azurea*
Pale-blue Monarch, *Hypothymis puella*
Celestial Monarch, *Hypothymis coelestis*
Cerulean Paradise Flycatcher, *Eutrichomyias rowleyi*
African Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone viridis*
Japanese Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone atrocaudata*
Blue Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone cyanescens*
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*
Asian Paradise Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradisi*
Island Monarch, *Monarcha cinerascens*
Spectacled Monarch, *Monarcha trivirgatus*
White-tipped Monarch, *Monarcha everetti*
Broad-billed Flycatcher, *Myiagra ruficollis*

Whistlers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Pachycephalidae](#)

- Olive-flanked Whistler, *Hylocitrea bonensis*
Maroon-backed Whistler, *Coracornis raveni*
Mangrove Whistler, *Pachycephala grisola*
Green-backed Whistler, *Pachycephala albiventris*
White-vented Whistler, *Pachycephala homeyeri*
Bornean Whistler, *Pachycephala hypoxantha*
Sulphur-bellied Whistler, *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*
Yellow-bellied Whistler, *Pachycephala philippinensis*
Fawn-breasted Whistler, *Pachycephala orpheus*
Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*
Drab Whistler, *Pachycephala griseonota*
Sangihe Shrike Thrush, *Colluricincla sanghirensis*

Babblers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Timaliidae](#)

- Malia, *Malia grata*
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cinereifrons*

Sunda Laughingthrush, *Garrulax palliatus*
 Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax rufifrons*
 Masked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax perspicillatus*
 White-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax albogularis*
 White-crested Laughingthrush, *Garrulax leucolophus*
 Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax monileger*
 Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax pectoralis*
 Black Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lugubris*
 Striated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax striatus*
 White-necked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax strepitans*
 Black-hooded Laughingthrush, *Garrulax milleti*
 Grey Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maesi*
 Rufous-necked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ruficollis*
 Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax nuchalis*
 Black-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax chinensis*
 White-cheeked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax vassali*
 Yellow-throated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax galbanus*
 Wynaad Laughingthrush, *Garrulax delesserti*
 Rufous-vented Laughingthrush, *Garrulax gularis*
 Pere David's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax davidi*
 Sukatshev's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sukatschewi*
 Moustached Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cineraceus*
 Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax rufogularis*
 Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush, *Garrulax konkakinhensis*
 Spotted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ocellatus*
 Barred Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lunulatus*
 Biet's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax bieti*
 Giant Laughingthrush, *Garrulax maximus*
 Grey-sided Laughingthrush, *Garrulax caerulatus*
 Rusty Laughingthrush, *Garrulax poecilorhynchus*
 Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax mitratus*
 Spot-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax merulinus*
 Hwamei, *Garrulax canorus*
 White-browed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sannio*
 Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax cachinnans*
 Grey-breasted Laughingthrush, *Garrulax jerdoni*
 Streaked Laughingthrush, *Garrulax lineatus*
 Striped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax virgatus*
 Scaly Laughingthrush, *Garrulax subunicolor*
 Brown-capped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax austeni*
 Blue-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax squamatus*
 Elliot's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax elliotii*
 Variegated Laughingthrush, *Garrulax variegatus*
 Prince Henry's Laughingthrush, *Garrulax henrici*
 Black-faced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax affinis*

White-whiskered Laughingthrush, *Garrulax morrisonianus*
 Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
 Golden-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax ngoclinhensis*
 Collared Laughingthrush, *Garrulax yersini*
 Red-winged Laughingthrush, *Garrulax formosus*
 Red-tailed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax milnei*
 Grey-faced Liocichla, *Liocichla omeiensis*
 Steere's Liocichla, *Liocichla steerii*
 Red-faced Liocichla, *Liocichla phoenicea*
 White-chested Babbler, *Trichastoma rostratum*
 Sulawesi Babbler, *Trichastoma celebense*
 Ferruginous Babbler, *Trichastoma bicolor*
 Bagobo Babbler, *Trichastoma woodi*
 Abbott's Babbler, *Malacocincla abbotti*
 Horsfield's Babbler, *Malacocincla sepiaria*
 Short-tailed Babbler, *Malacocincla malaccensis*
 Ashy-headed Babbler, *Malacocincla cinereiceps*
 Brown-capped Babbler, *Pellorneum fuscicapillus*
 Marsh Babbler, *Pellorneum palustre*
 Buff-breasted Babbler, *Pellorneum tickelli*
 Temminck's Babbler, *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*
 Spot-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum albiventris*
 Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps*
 Black-capped Babbler, *Pellorneum capistratum*
 Palawan Babbler, *Malacopteron palawanense*
 Moustached Babbler, *Malacopteron magnirostre*
 Sooty-capped Babbler, *Malacopteron affine*
 Scaly-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron cinereum*
 Rufous-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron magnum*
 Grey-breasted Babbler, *Malacopteron albogulare*
 Large Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
 Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis*
 Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*
 Indian Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*
 White-browed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
 Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus montanus*
 Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
 Red-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*
 Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus*
 Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, *Xiphirhynchus superciliosus*
 Short-tailed Scimitar Babbler, *Jabouilleia danjoui*
 Long-billed Wren Babbler, *Rimator malacoptilus*
 Bornean Wren Babbler, *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*
 Striated Wren Babbler, *Ptilocichla mindanensis*
 Falcated Wren Babbler, *Ptilocichla falcata*

Striped Wren Babbler, *Kenopia striata*
 Large Wren Babbler, *Napothera macrodactyla*
 Rusty-breasted Wren Babbler, *Napothera rufipectus*
 Black-throated Wren Babbler, *Napothera atrigularis*
 Marbled Wren Babbler, *Napothera marmorata*
 Limestone Wren Babbler, *Napothera crispifrons*
 Streaked Wren Babbler, *Napothera brevicaudata*
 Mountain Wren Babbler, *Napothera crassa*
 Luzon Wren Babbler, *Napothera rabori*
 Eyebrowed Wren Babbler, *Napothera epilepidota*
 Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler, *Pnoepyga albiventer*
 Immaculate Wren Babbler, *Pnoepyga immaculata*
 Pygmy Wren Babbler, *Pnoepyga pusilla*
 Rufous-throated Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis caudatus*
 Mishmi Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis badeigularis*
 Bar-winged Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis troglodytoides*
 Spotted Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis formosus*
 Long-tailed Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis chocolatinus*
 Tawny-breasted Wren Babbler, *Spelaeornis longicaudatus*
 Wedge-billed Wren Babbler, *Sphenocichla humei*
 Deignan's Babbler, *Stachyris rodolphei*
 Buff-chested Babbler, *Stachyris ambigua*
 Rufous-fronted Babbler, *Stachyris rufifrons*
 Rufous-capped Babbler, *Stachyris ruficeps*
 Black-chinned Babbler, *Stachyris pyrrhops*
 Golden Babbler, *Stachyris chrysaea*
 Pygmy Babbler, *Stachyris plateni*
 Golden-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris dennistouni*
 Black-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris nigrocapitata*
 Rusty-crowned Babbler, *Stachyris capitalis*
 Flame-templed Babbler, *Stachyris speciosa*
 Chestnut-faced Babbler, *Stachyris whiteheadi*
 Luzon Striped Babbler, *Stachyris striata*
 Panay Striped Babbler, *Stachyris latistriata*
 Negros Striped Babbler, *Stachyris nigrorum*
 Palawan Striped Babbler, *Stachyris hypogrammica*
 White-breasted Babbler, *Stachyris grammiceps*
 Sooty Babbler, *Stachyris herberti*
 Grey-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigriceps*
 Grey-headed Babbler, *Stachyris poliocephala*
 Snowy-throated Babbler, *Stachyris oglei*
 Spot-necked Babbler, *Stachyris striolata*
 White-necked Babbler, *Stachyris leucotis*
 Black-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigricollis*
 White-bibbed Babbler, *Stachyris thoracica*

Chestnut-rumped Babbler, *Stachyris maculata*
 Chestnut-winged Babbler, *Stachyris erythroptera*
 Crescent-chested Babbler, *Stachyris melanothorax*
 Tawny-bellied Babbler, *Dumetia hyperythra*
 Dark-fronted Babbler, *Rhopocichla atriceps*
 Striped Tit Babbler, *Macronous gularis*
 Grey-cheeked Tit Babbler, *Macronous flavicollis*
 Grey-faced Tit Babbler, *Macronous kelleyi*
 Brown Tit Babbler, *Macronous striaticeps*
 Fluffy-backed Tit Babbler, *Macronous ptilosus*
 Miniature Tit Babbler, *Micromacronus leytensis*
 Chestnut-capped Babbler, *Timalia pileata*
 Yellow-eyed Babbler, *Chrysomma sinense*
 Jerdon's Babbler, *Chrysomma altirostre*
 Rufous-tailed Babbler, *Chrysomma poecilotis*
 Spiny Babbler, *Turdoides nipalensis*
 Iraq Babbler, *Turdoides altirostris*
 Common Babbler, *Turdoides caudata*
 Striated Babbler, *Turdoides earlei*
 White-throated Babbler, *Turdoides gularis*
 Slender-billed Babbler, *Turdoides longirostris*
 Large Grey Babbler, *Turdoides malcolmi*
 Arabian Babbler, *Turdoides squamiceps*
 Rufous Babbler, *Turdoides subrufa*
 Jungle Babbler, *Turdoides striata*
 Orange-billed Babbler, *Turdoides rufescens*
 Yellow-billed Babbler, *Turdoides affinis*
 Chinese Babax, *Babax lanceolatus*
 Giant Babax, *Babax waddelli*
 Tibetan Babax, *Babax koslowi*
 Silver-eared Mesia, *Leiothrix argentea*
 Red-billed Leiothrix, *Leiothrix lutea*
 Cutia, *Cutia nipalensis*
 Black-headed Shrike Babbler, *Pteruthius rufiventer*
 White-browed Shrike Babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
 Green Shrike Babbler, *Pteruthius xanthochlorus*
 Black-eared Shrike Babbler, *Pteruthius melanotis*
 Chestnut-fronted Shrike Babbler, *Pteruthius aenobarbus*
 White-hooded Babbler, *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*
 Rusty-fronted Barwing, *Actinodura egertoni*
 Spectacled Barwing, *Actinodura ramsayi*
 Black-crowned Barwing, *Actinodura sodangorum*
 Hoary-throated Barwing, *Actinodura nipalensis*
 Streak-throated Barwing, *Actinodura waldeni*
 Streaked Barwing, *Actinodura souliei*

Taiwan Barwing, *Actinodura morrisoniana*
 Blue-winged Minla, *Minla cyanouroptera*
 Chestnut-tailed Minla, *Minla strigula*
 Red-tailed Minla, *Minla ignotincta*
 Golden-breasted Fulvetta, *Alcippe chrysotis*
 Gold-fronted Fulvetta, *Alcippe variegaticeps*
 Yellow-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinerea*
 Rufous-winged Fulvetta, *Alcippe castaneiceps*
 White-browed Fulvetta, *Alcippe vinipectus*
 Chinese Fulvetta, *Alcippe striaticollis*
 Spectacled Fulvetta, *Alcippe ruficapilla*
 Streak-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe cinereiceps*
 Ludlow's Fulvetta, *Alcippe ludlowi*
 Rufous-throated Fulvetta, *Alcippe rufogularis*
 Dusky Fulvetta, *Alcippe brunnea*
 Rusty-capped Fulvetta, *Alcippe dubia*
 Brown Fulvetta, *Alcippe brunneicauda*
 Brown-cheeked Fulvetta, *Alcippe poioicephala*
 Grey-cheeked Fulvetta, *Alcippe morrisonia*
 Javan Fulvetta, *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*
 Mountain Fulvetta, *Alcippe peracensis*
 Nepal Fulvetta, *Alcippe nipalensis*
 Grey-crowned Crocias, *Crocias langbianis*
 Spotted Crocias, *Crocias albonotatus*
 Rufous-backed Sibia, *Heterophasia annectens*
 Rufous Sibia, *Heterophasia capistrata*
 Grey Sibia, *Heterophasia gracilis*
 Black-backed Sibia, *Heterophasia melanoleuca*
 Black-headed Sibia, *Heterophasia desgodinsi*
 White-eared Sibia, *Heterophasia auricularis*
 Beautiful Sibia, *Heterophasia pulchella*
 Long-tailed Sibia, *Heterophasia picaoides*
 Striated Yuhina, *Yuhina castaniceps*
 Chestnut-crested Yuhina, *Yuhina everetti*
 White-naped Yuhina, *Yuhina bakeri*
 Whiskered Yuhina, *Yuhina flavicollis*
 Burmese Yuhina, *Yuhina humilis*
 Stripe-throated Yuhina, *Yuhina gularis*
 White-collared Yuhina, *Yuhina diademata*
 Rufous-vented Yuhina, *Yuhina occipitalis*
 Taiwan Yuhina, *Yuhina brunneiceps*
 Black-chinned Yuhina, *Yuhina nigrimenta*
 White-bellied Yuhina, *Yuhina zantholeuca*
 Fire-tailed Myzornis, *Myzornis pyrrhoura*

Parrotbills

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Paradoxornithidae

- Bearded Reedling, *Panurus biarmicus*
Great Parrotbill, *Conostoma oemodium*
Brown Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis unicolor*
Grey-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis gularis*
Three-toed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis paradoxus*
Black-breasted Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis flavirostris*
Spot-breasted Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis guttaticollis*
Spectacled Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis conspicillatus*
Vinous-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis webbianus*
Brown-winged Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis brunneus*
Ashy-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis alphonsianus*
Grey-hooded Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis zappeyi*
Rusty-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis przewalskii*
Fulvous Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis fulvifrons*
Black-throated Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis nipalensis*
Golden Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis verreauxi*
Short-tailed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis davidianus*
Black-browed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris*
Rufous-headed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis ruficeps*
Reed Parrotbill, *Paradoxornis heudei*

Rail-babbler

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Eupetidae

- Malaysian Rail-babbler, *Eupetes macrocerus*

Long-tailed tits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Aegithalidae](#)

- Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus*
White-cheeked Tit, *Aegithalos leucogenys*
Black-throated Tit, *Aegithalos concinnus*
White-throated Tit, *Aegithalos niveogularis*
Black-browed Tit, *Aegithalos iouschistos*
Sooty Tit, *Aegithalos fuliginosus*
Pygmy Tit, *Psaltria exilis*

Gerygones

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Acanthizidae

- Golden-bellied Gerygone, *Gerygone sulphurea*
Plain Gerygone, *Gerygone inornata*
Rufous-sided Gerygone, *Gerygone dorsalis*

Tits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Paridae

- Sombre Tit, *Poecile lugubris*
Marsh Tit, *Poecile palustris*
Black-bibbed Tit, *Poecile hypermelaenus*
Caspian Tit, *Poecile hyrcana*
Willow Tit, *Poecile montana*
Songar Tit, *Poecile songara*
White-browed Tit, *Poecile superciliosa*
Pere David's Tit, *Poecile davidi*
Grey-headed Chickadee, *Poecile cincta*
Coal Tit, *Periparus ater*
Black-breasted Tit, *Periparus rufonuchalis*
Rufous-vented Tit, *Periparus rubidiventris*
Black-crested Tit, *Periparus melanolophus*
Yellow-bellied Tit, *Pardaliparus venustulus*
Elegant Tit, *Pardaliparus elegans*
Palawan Tit, *Pardaliparus amabilis*
Crested Tit, *Lophophanes cristatus*
Grey-crested Tit, *Lophophanes dichrous*
Great Tit, *Parus major*
Turkestan Tit, *Parus bokharensis*
Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus*
White-winged Tit, *Parus nuchalis*
Black-lored Tit, *Parus xanthogenys*
Yellow-cheeked Tit, *Parus spilonotus*
Yellow Tit, *Macholophus holsti*
Eurasian Blue Tit, *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Azure Tit, *Cyanistes cyanus*
Yellow-breasted Tit, *Cyanistes flavipectus*
White-fronted Tit, *Sittiparus semilarvatus*
Varied Tit, *Sittiparus varius*
Yellow-browed Tit, *Sylviparus modestus*
Sultan Tit, *Melanochlora sultanea*
Ground Tit, *Pseudopodoces humilis*

Nuthatches

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Sittidae

- Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta castanea*
Eurasian Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea*
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch, *Sitta nagaensis*
Kashmir Nuthatch, *Sitta cashmirensis*
White-tailed Nuthatch, *Sitta himalayensis*
White-browed Nuthatch, *Sitta victoriae*
Krueper's Nuthatch, *Sitta krueperi*
Snowy-browed Nuthatch, *Sitta villosa*
Yunnan Nuthatch, *Sitta yunnanensis*
White-cheeked Nuthatch, *Sitta leucopsis*
Rock Nuthatch, *Sitta neumayer*
Persian Nuthatch, *Sitta tephronota*
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis*
Yellow-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta solangiae*
Sulphur-billed Nuthatch, *Sitta oenochlamys*
Blue Nuthatch, *Sitta azurea*
Giant Nuthatch, *Sitta magna*
Beautiful Nuthatch, *Sitta formosa*

Wallcreeper

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Tichodromidae

- Wallcreeper, *Tichodroma muraria*

Creepers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Certhiidae

- Eurasian Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris*
Sichuan Treecreeper, *Certhia tianquanensis*
Short-toed Treecreeper, *Certhia brachydactyla*
Bar-tailed Treecreeper, *Certhia himalayana*
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper, *Certhia nipalensis*
Brown-throated Treecreeper, *Certhia discolor*
Spotted Creeper, *Salpornis spilonotus*

Philippine creepers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Rhabdornithidae

- Stripe-sided Rhabdornis, *Rhabdornis mysticalis*
Long-billed Rhabdornis, *Rhabdornis grandis*
Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis, *Rhabdornis inornatus*

Penduline tits

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Remizidae

- Eurasian Penduline Tit, *Remiz pendulinus*
Black-headed Penduline Tit, *Remiz macronyx*
White-crowned Penduline Tit, *Remiz coronatus*
Chinese Penduline Tit, *Remiz consobrinus*
Fire-capped Tit, *Cephalopyrus flammiceps*

Sunbirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Nectarinidae

- Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, *Chalcoparia singalensis*
Plain Sunbird, *Anthreptes simplex*
Plain-throated Sunbird, *Anthreptes malacensis*
Red-throated Sunbird, *Anthreptes rhodolaemus*
Nile Valley Sunbird, *Hedydipna metallica*
Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*
Purple-rumped Sunbird, *Leptocoma zeylonica*
Crimson-backed Sunbird, *Leptocoma minima*
Copper-throated Sunbird, *Leptocoma calcostetha*
Purple-throated Sunbird, *Leptocoma sperata*
Black Sunbird, *Leptocoma sericea*
Palestine Sunbird, *Cinnyris osea*
Shining Sunbird, *Cinnyris habessinicus*
Purple Sunbird, *Cinnyris asiaticus*
Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis*
Flame-breasted Sunbird, *Cinnyris solaris*
Long-billed Sunbird, *Cinnyris lotenius*
Grey-hooded Sunbird, *Aethopyga primigenia*
Mount Apo Sunbird, *Aethopyga boltoni*
Lina's Sunbird, *Aethopyga linaraborae*
Flaming Sunbird, *Aethopyga flagrans*
Metallic-winged Sunbird, *Aethopyga pulcherrima*
Elegant Sunbird, *Aethopyga duyvenbodei*

Lovely Sunbird, *Aethopyga shelleyi*
 Handsome Sunbird, *Aethopyga bella*
 Gould's Sunbird, *Aethopyga gouldiae*
 White-flanked Sunbird, *Aethopyga eximia*
 Green-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga nipalensis*
 Fork-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga christinae*
 Black-throated Sunbird, *Aethopyga saturata*
 Western Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga vigorsii*
 Eastern Crimson Sunbird, *Aethopyga siparaja*
 Scarlet Sunbird, *Aethopyga mystacalis*
 Temminck's Sunbird, *Aethopyga temminckii*
 Fire-tailed Sunbird, *Aethopyga ignicauda*
 Thick-billed Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera crassirostris*
 Spectacled Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera flavigaster*
 Long-billed Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera robusta*
 Little Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera longirostra*
 Yellow-eared Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera chrysogenys*
 Naked-faced Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera clarae*
 Grey-breasted Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera modesta*
 Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera affinis*
 Streaked Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera magna*
 Whitehead's Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera juliae*

Flowerpeckers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Dicaeidae

- Olive-backed Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus olivaceus*
- Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus maculatus*
- Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus percussus*
- Palawan Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus plateni*
- Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus xanthopygius*
- Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus thoracicus*
- Thick-billed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum agile*
- Brown-backed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum everetti*
- Whiskered Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum proprium*
- Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
- Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*
- White-throated Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum vincens*
- Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum aureolimbatus*
- Olive-capped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum nigrilore*
- Flame-crowned Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum anthonyi*
- Bicolored Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum bicolor*
- Cebu Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum quadricolor*
- Red-striped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum australe*

Red-keeled Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum haematostictum*
 Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum retrocinctum*
 Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
 Pale-billed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos*
 Plain Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum concolor*
 White-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum hypoleucum*
 Pygmy Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum pygmaeum*
 Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum nehrkorni*
 Red-chested Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum maugei*
 Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum ignipectus*
 Black-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum monticolum*
 Grey-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum celebicum*
 Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum sanguinolentum*
 Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum cruentatum*
 Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trochileum*

White-eyes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Zosteropidae

- White-breasted White-eye, *Zosterops abyssinicus*
 Ceylon White-eye, *Zosterops ceylonensis*
 Chestnut-flanked White-eye, *Zosterops erythropleurus*
 Oriental White-eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus*
 Japanese White-eye, *Zosterops japonicus*
 Lowland White-eye, *Zosterops meyeri*
 Enggano White-eye, *Zosterops salvadorii*
 Black-capped White-eye, *Zosterops atricapilla*
 Everett's White-eye, *Zosterops everetti*
 Yellowish White-eye, *Zosterops nigrorum*
 Mountain White-eye, *Zosterops montanus*
 Javan White-eye, *Zosterops flavus*
 Yellow-bellied White-eye, *Zosterops chloris*
 Ashy-bellied White-eye, *Zosterops citrinella*
 Sulawesi White-eye, *Zosterops consobrinorum*
 Black-ringed White-eye, *Zosterops anomalus*
 Black-crowned White-eye, *Zosterops atrifrons*
 Sangihe White-eye, *Zosterops nehrkorni*
 Javan Grey-throated White-eye, *Lophozosterops javanicus*
 Streak-headed White-eye, *Lophozosterops squamiceps*
 Mindanao White-eye, *Lophozosterops goodfellowi*
 Pygmy White-eye, *Oculocincta squamifrons*
 Timor White-eye, *Heleia muelleri*
 Mountain Black-eye, *Chlorocharis emiliae*
 Cinnamon White-eye, *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*

Honeyeaters

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Meliphagidae](#)

- Indonesian Honeyeater, *Lichmera limbata*
Yellow-eared Honeyeater, *Lichmera flavicans*
Sulawesi Myzomela, *Myzomela chloroptera*
Black-breasted Myzomela, *Myzomela vulnerata*
Streak-breasted Honeyeater, *Meliphaga reticulata*
Bonin Honeyeater, *Apalopteron familiare*
Timor Friarbird, *Philemon inornatus*
Helmeted Friarbird, *Philemon buceroides*
Dark-eared Honeyeater, *Myza celebensis*
Greater Streaked Honeyeater, *Myza sarasinorum*

Old World orioles

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Oriolidae](#)

- Timor Oriole, *Oriolus melanotis*
Dark-throated Oriole, *Oriolus xanthonotus*
White-lored Oriole, *Oriolus albiloris*
Philippine Oriole, *Oriolus steerii*
Isabela Oriole, *Oriolus isabellae*
Eurasian Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus*
Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis*
Slender-billed Oriole, *Oriolus tenuirostris*
Black-hooded Oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus*
Black Oriole, *Oriolus hosii*
Black-and-crimson Oriole, *Oriolus cruentus*
Maroon Oriole, *Oriolus traillii*
Silver Oriole, *Oriolus mellianus*
Green Figbird, *Sphecotheres viridis*

Fairy-bluebirds

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Irenidae](#)

- Asian Fairy-bluebird, *Irena puella*
Philippine Fairy-bluebird, *Irena cyanogastra*

Shrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Laniidae

- Tiger Shrike, *Lanius tigrinus*
Bull-headed Shrike, *Lanius bucephalus*
Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*
Rufous-tailed Shrike, *Lanius isabellinus*
Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus*
Burmese Shrike, *Lanius collurioides*
Bay-backed Shrike, *Lanius vittatus*
Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach*
Grey-backed Shrike, *Lanius tephronotus*
Grey-capped Shrike, *Lanius validirostris*
Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*
Southern Grey Shrike, *Lanius meridionalis*
Lesser Grey Shrike, *Lanius minor*
Chinese Grey Shrike, *Lanius sphenocercus*
Masked Shrike, *Lanius nubicus*
Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius senator*

Bushshrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Malaconotidae

- Black-crowned Tchagra, *Tchagra senegalus*
Large Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis gularis*
Common Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*

Helmetshrikes

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Prionopidea

- Rufous-winged Philentoma, *Philentoma pyrhoptera*
Maroon-breasted Philentoma, *Philentoma velata*

Drongos

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Dicruridae](#)

- Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus*
Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
White-bellied Drongo, *Dicrurus caerulescens*
Crow-billed Drongo, *Dicrurus annectans*
Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus*

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus remifer*
Hair-crested Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Balicassiao, *Dicrurus balicassius*
Sulawesi Drongo, *Dicrurus montanus*
Sumatran Drongo, *Dicrurus sumatranus*
Wallacean Drongo, *Dicrurus densus*
Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus bracteatus*
Andaman Drongo, *Dicrurus andamanensis*
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Magpie-lark

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Grallinidae

- Magpie-lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Woodswallows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Artamidae](#)

- Ashy Woodswallow, *Artamus fuscus*
White-backed Woodswallow, *Artamus monachus*
White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*
Black-faced Woodswallow, *Artamus cinereus*

Bristlehead

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Pityriaseidae

- [Bornean Bristlehead](#), *Pityriasis gymnocephala*

[Crows](#), jays, and magpies

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Corvidae](#)

- Crested Jay, *Platylophus galericulatus*
Black Magpie, *Platysmurus leucopterus*
Siberian Jay, *Perisoreus infaustus*
Sichuan Jay, *Perisoreus internigrans*
Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius*
Black-headed Jay, *Garrulus lanceolatus*
Lidth's Jay, *Garrulus lidthi*
Azure-winged Magpie, *Cyanopica cyanus*
Ceylon Magpie, *Urocissa ornata*
Formosan Magpie, *Urocissa caerulea*

Gold-billed Magpie, *Urocissa flavirostris*
 Blue Magpie, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
 White-winged Magpie, *Urocissa whiteheadi*
 Green Magpie, *Cissa chinensis*
 Yellow-breasted Magpie, *Cissa hypoleuca*
 Short-tailed Magpie, *Cissa thalassina*
 Rufous Treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 Grey Treepie, *Dendrocitta formosae*
 Sumatran Treepie, *Dendrocitta occipitalis*
 Bornean Treepie, *Dendrocitta cinerascens*
 White-bellied Treepie, *Dendrocitta leucogastra*
 Collared Treepie, *Dendrocitta frontalis*
 Andaman Treepie, *Dendrocitta bayleyi*
 Racket-tailed Treepie, *Crypsirina temia*
 Hooded Treepie, *Crypsirina cucullata*
 Ratchet-tailed Treepie, *Temnurus temnurus*
 Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*
 Mongolian Ground Jay, *Podoces hendersoni*
 Xinjiang Ground Jay, *Podoces biddulphi*
 Turkestan Ground Jay, *Podoces panderi*
 Iranian Ground Jay, *Podoces pleskei*
 Eurasian Nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
 Red-billed Chough, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
 Yellow-billed Chough, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*
 Eurasian Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*
 Daurian Jackdaw, *Corvus dauuricus*
 House Crow, *Corvus splendens*
 Slender-billed Crow, *Corvus enca*
 Piping Crow, *Corvus typicus*
 Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*
 Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*
 Hooded Crow, *Corvus cornix*
 Large-billed Crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos*
 Torresian Crow, *Corvus orru*
 Collared Crow, *Corvus torquatus*
 Brown-necked Raven, *Corvus ruficollis*
 Fan-tailed Raven, *Corvus rhipidurus*
 Common Raven, *Corvus corax*

Starlings

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** Sturnidae

- Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica*
Asian Glossy Starling, *Aplonis panayensis*

Moluccan Starling, *Aplonis mysolensis*
 Short-tailed Starling, *Aplonis minor*
 Sulawesi Myna, *Basilornis celebensis*
 Helmeted Myna, *Basilornis galeatus*
 Apo Myna, *Basilornis mirandus*
 Coledo, *Sarcops calvus*
 White-necked Myna, *Streptocitta albigollis*
 Bare-eyed Myna, *Streptocitta albertinae*
 Fiery-browed Myna, *Enodes erythrophris*
 Finch-billed Myna, *Scissirostrum dubium*
 Spot-winged Starling, *Saroglossa spiloptera*
 Golden-crested Myna, *Ampeliceps coronatus*
 Common Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa*
 Southern Hill Myna, *Gracula indica*
 Enggano Myna, *Gracula enganensis*
 Nias Myna, *Gracula robusta*
 Ceylon Myna, *Gracula ptilogenys*
 White-vented Myna, *Acridotheres grandis*
 Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus*
 Javan Myna, *Acridotheres javanicus*
 Pale-bellied Myna, *Acridotheres cinereus*
 Jungle Myna, *Acridotheres fuscus*
 Collared Myna, *Acridotheres albocinctus*
 Bank Myna, *Acridotheres ginginianus*
 Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*
 Vinous-breasted Starling, *Acridotheres burmannicus*
 Black-winged Starling, *Acridotheres melanopterus*
 Bali Myna, *Leucopsar rothschildi*
 Black-collared Starling, *Gracupica nigricollis*
 Asian Pied Starling, *Gracupica contra*
 Daurian Starling, *Sturnia sturnina*
 Chestnut-cheeked Starling, *Sturnia philippensis*
 White-shouldered Starling, *Sturnia sinensis*
 Chestnut-tailed Starling, *Sturnia malabarica*
 White-headed Starling, *Sturnia erythropygia*
 White-faced Starling, *Sturnia albofrontata*
 Brahminy Starling, *Temenuchus pagodarum*
 Rosy Starling, *Pastor roseus*
 Red-billed Starling, *Sturnus sericeus*
 White-cheeked Starling, *Sturnus cineraceus*
 European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
 Wattled Starling, *Creatophora cinerea*
 Violet-backed Starling, *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 Tristram's Starling, *Onychognathus tristramii*

Old World sparrows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Passeridae](#)

- Saxaul Sparrow, *Passer ammodendri*
House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
Spanish Sparrow, *Passer hispaniolensis*
Sind Sparrow, *Passer pyrrhonotus*
Russet Sparrow, *Passer rutilans*
Plain-backed Sparrow, *Passer flaveolus*
Dead Sea Sparrow, *Passer moabiticus*
Desert Sparrow, *Passer simplex*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*
Arabian Golden Sparrow, *Passer euchlorus*
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia, *Petronia xanthocollis*
Bush Petronia, *Petronia dentata*
Rock Petronia, *Petronia petronia*
Pale Rockfinch, *Carpospiza brachydactyla*
White-winged Snowfinch, *Montifringilla nivalis*
Black-winged Snowfinch, *Montifringilla adamsi*
White-rumped Snowfinch, *Montifringilla taczanowskii*
Pere David's Snowfinch, *Montifringilla davidiana*
Rufous-necked Snowfinch, *Montifringilla ruficollis*
Blanford's Snowfinch, *Montifringilla blanfordi*
Afghan Snowfinch, *Montifringilla theresae*

Weavers

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Ploceidae](#)

- Rueppell's Weaver, *Ploceus galbula*
Streaked Weaver, *Ploceus manyar*
Baya Weaver, *Ploceus philippinus*
Asian Golden Weaver, *Ploceus hypoxanthus*
Yellow Weaver, *Ploceus megarhynchus*
Bengal Weaver, *Ploceus benghalensis*
Red Fody, *Foudia madagascariensis*

Waxbills

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Estrildidae](#)

- Arabian Waxbill, *Estrilda rufibarba*
Red Avadavat, *Amandava amandava*
Green Avadavat, *Sporaeginthus formosus*

Zebra Waxbill, *Sporaeeginthus subflavus*
 Zebra Finch, *Taeniopygia guttata*
 Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch, *Erythrura hyperythra*
 Pin-tailed Parrotfinch, *Erythrura prasina*
 Green-faced Parrotfinch, *Erythrura viridifacies*
 Tricolored Parrotfinch, *Erythrura tricolor*
 Blue-faced Parrotfinch, *Erythrura trichroa*
 Red-eared Parrotfinch, *Erythrura coloria*
 African Silverbill, *Euodice cantans*
 White-throated Munia, *Euodice malabarica*
 White-rumped Munia, *Lonchura striata*
 Javan Munia, *Lonchura leucogastroides*
 Dusky Munia, *Lonchura fuscans*
 Black-faced Munia, *Lonchura molucca*
 Black-throated Munia, *Lonchura kelaarti*
 Nutmeg Mannikin, *Lonchura punctulata*
 White-bellied Munia, *Lonchura leucogastra*
 Black-headed Munia, *Lonchura malacca*
 Chestnut Munia, *Lonchura atricapilla*
 White-capped Munia, *Lonchura ferruginosa*
 Five-colored Munia, *Lonchura quincolor*
 White-headed Munia, *Lonchura maja*
 Pale-headed Munia, *Lonchura pallida*
 Java Sparrow, *Padra oryzivora*
 Timor Sparrow, *Padra fuscata*

Finches

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Fringillidae](#)

- Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*
 Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla*
 Golden-winged Grosbeak, *Rhynchostruthus socotranus*
 Plain Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte nemoricola*
 Black-headed Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte brandti*
 Tawny-headed Mountain Finch, *Leucosticte sillemi*
 Asian Rosy Finch, *Leucosticte arctoa*
 Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator*
 Crimson-browed Finch, *Pinicola subhimachala*
 Blanford's Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubescens*
 Dark-breasted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus nipalensis*
 Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrinus*
 Beautiful Rosefinch, *Carpodacus pulcherrimus*
 Pink-rumped Rosefinch, *Carpodacus eos*
 Pink-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rodochroa*

Vinaceous Rosefinch, *Carpodacus vinaceus*
 Dark-rumped Rosefinch, *Carpodacus edwardsii*
 Pale Rosefinch, *Carpodacus synoicus*
 Pallas' Rosefinch, *Carpodacus roseus*
 Three-banded Rosefinch, *Carpodacus trifasciatus*
 Spot-winged Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rhodopeplus*
 White-browed Rosefinch, *Carpodacus thura*
 Tibetan Rosefinch, *Carpodacus roborowskii*
 Red-mantled Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rhodochlamys*
 Streaked Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubicilloides*
 Great Rosefinch, *Carpodacus rubicilla*
 Red-fronted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus puniceus*
 Parrot Crossbill, *Loxia pytyopsittacus*
 Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*
 White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*
 Yellow-breasted Greenfinch, *Carduelis spinoides*
 Vietnamese Greenfinch, *Carduelis monguilloti*
 European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris*
 Black-headed Greenfinch, *Carduelis ambigua*
 Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*
 Hoary Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemanni*
 Eurasian Siskin, *Carduelis spinus*
 European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*
 Oriental Greenfinch, *Carduelis sinica*
 Twite, *Carduelis flavirostris*
 Eurasian Linnet, *Carduelis cannabina*
 Yemen Linnet, *Carduelis yemenensis*
 Fire-fronted Serin, *Serinus pusillus*
 European Serin, *Serinus serinus*
 Syrian Serin, *Serinus syriacus*
 Tibetan Serin, *Serinus thibetanus*
 Olive-rumped Serin, *Serinus rothschildi*
 Yemen Serin, *Serinus menachensis*
 Mountain Serin, *Serinus estherae*
 Brown Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula nipalensis*
 White-cheeked Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula leucogenis*
 Orange Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula aurantiaca*
 Red-headed Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula erythrocephala*
 Grey-headed Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula erythaca*
 Eurasian Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
 Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
 Yellow-billed Grosbeak, *Eophona migratoria*
 Japanese Grosbeak, *Eophona personata*
 Black-and-yellow Grosbeak, *Mycerobas icterioides*
 Collared Grosbeak, *Mycerobas affinis*

Spot-winged Grosbeak, *Mycerobas melanozanthos*
 White-winged Grosbeak, *Mycerobas carnipes*
 Gold-naped Finch, *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*
 Spectacled Finch, *Callacanthus burtoni*
 Crimson-winged Finch, *Rhodopechys sanguineus*
 Mongolian Finch, *Bucanetes mongolicus*
 Trumpeter Finch, *Bucanetes githagineus*
 Desert Finch, *Rhodospiza obsoletus*
 Long-tailed Rosefinch, *Uragus sibiricus*
 Scarlet Finch, *Haematospiza sipahi*

Buntings and sparrows

Order: [Passeriformes](#) **Family:** [Emberizidae](#)

- Przewalski's Rosefinch, *Urocynchramus pylzowi*
 Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathami*
 Slaty Bunting, *Latoucheornis siemsseni*
 Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*
 Pine Bunting, *Emberiza leucocephalos*
 Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza cirlus*
 Tibetan Bunting, *Emberiza koslowi*
 Rock Bunting, *Emberiza cia*
 Godlewski's Bunting, *Emberiza godlewskii*
 Meadow Bunting, *Emberiza cioides*
 Rufous-backed Bunting, *Emberiza jankowskii*
 Grey-hooded Bunting, *Emberiza buchanani*
 Cinereous Bunting, *Emberiza cineracea*
 Ortolan Bunting, *Emberiza hortulana*
 Chestnut-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza stewarti*
 Cretzschmar's Bunting, *Emberiza caesia*
 House Bunting, *Emberiza striolata*
 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza tahapisi*
 Ochre-rumped Bunting, *Emberiza yessoensis*
 Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami*
 Chestnut-eared Bunting, *Emberiza fucata*
 Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*
 Yellow-browed Bunting, *Emberiza chrysophrys*
 Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*
 Yellow-throated Bunting, *Emberiza elegans*
 Yellow-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza aureola*
 Chestnut Bunting, *Emberiza rutila*
 Black-headed Bunting, *Emberiza melanocephala*
 Red-headed Bunting, *Emberiza bruniceps*
 Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza sulphurata*

Black-faced Bunting, *Emberiza spodocephala*
Grey Bunting, *Emberiza variabilis*
Pallas' Bunting, *Emberiza pallasii*
Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Corn Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*
American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*
Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*
Fox Sparrow, *Passerella iliaca*
White-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia atricapilla*
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*
Lapland Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus*
Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*

See also

- [List of birds](#)

References

- *Birds of the World: A Checklist*, fifth edition and supplements, by James F. Clements, ISBN 0-934797-16-1, Ibis Publishing, 2000 (supplements up to July, 2005).
 - ‘[Description of the ABA Listing Areas and Regions](#)’ from the American Birding Association.
- *Splitting headaches? Recent taxonomic changes affecting the British and Western Palaearctic lists* - Martin Collinson, *British Birds* vol 99 (June 2006), 306-323

Birds of Australia

Australia has about 800 species of [bird](#), ranging from the tiny 8 cm Weebill to the huge, flightless [Emu](#).

Many species will immediately seem familiar to visitors from the northern hemisphere - Australian wrens look and act much like northern hemisphere wrens and Australian robins seem to be close relatives of the northern hemisphere robins, but in fact the majority of Australian [passerines](#) are descended from the ancestors of the [crow](#) family, and the close resemblance is misleading: the cause is not genetic relatedness but convergent evolution.

For example, almost any land habitat offers a niche for a small bird that specialises in finding small insects: the form best fitted to that task is one with long legs for agility and obstacle clearance, moderately-sized wings optimised for quick, short flight, and a large, upright tail for rapid changes of direction. In consequence, the unrelated birds that fill that niche in the Americas and in Australia look and act as though they are close relatives.

- [1 Kinds of Birds](#)
- [2 Regional Lists](#)
- [3 Organisations](#)
- [4 Regional References and Guides](#)

Kinds of Birds

Australian birds can be classified into six broad categories:

- **Old endemics:** long-established [non-passerines](#) of ultimately Gondwanan origin, notably [emus](#), [cassowaries](#) and the huge parrot group
- **Corvid radiation:** [Passerines](#) peculiar to Australasia, descended from the [corvid](#) family, and now occupying a vast range of roles and sizes; examples include [wrens](#), robins, [magpies](#), thornbills, [pardalotes](#), the huge [honeyeater](#) family, [treecreepers](#), [lyrebirds](#), [birds of paradise](#) and [bowerbirds](#)
- **Eurasian colonists:** later colonists from Eurasia, including plovers, [swallows](#), [larks](#), [thrushes](#), cisticolas, [sunbirds](#) and some [raptors](#)
- **Recent introductions:** birds recently introduced by humans; some, such as the European Goldfinch and Greenfinch, appear to coexist with native fauna; others, such as the Common Starling, Blackbird, House and Tree Sparrows, and the Common Myna, are more destructive
- **Migratory shorebirds:** a suite of [waders](#) in the [Scolopacidae](#) and [Charadriidae](#) which breed in northern Asia and Alaska and spend the non-breeding season in Australasia
- **Seabirds:** a large and cosmopolitan group of petrels, [albatrosses](#), [sulids](#), [gulls](#), [terns](#) and [cormorants](#), many of which either breed on islands within Australian territory or frequent its coast and territorial waters

Regional Lists

For comprehensive regional lists, see:

- [Australian Birds](#), covering Australia and its territories
- [Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds](#), the HANZAB list for Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and the surrounding ocean and islands.

Organisations

National organisations include:

- Birds Australia, also known as the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, the leading Australian NGO for birds, birding, ornithology and conservation
- Australian Bird Study Association, for banders and other field ornithologists
- Birding-Aus - an Internet mailing list about Australian birds
- Bird Observers Club of Australia, a major birdwatcher's organisation with 40 branches and affiliate groups

Regional References and Guides

Important regional references include:

- The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB), the pre-eminent scientific reference, a seven-volume encyclopedia. The Atlas of Australian Birds, an extensive detailed survey of Australian bird distributions.
The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2000, Garnett, Stephen T.; & Crowley, Gabriel M., Environment Australia, Canberra, 2000 ISBN 0-642-54683-5, a comprehensive survey of the conservation status of Australian species, with costed conservation and recovery strategies.

Full-coverage field guides in print are as follows, (grouped in rough order of authority):

- **Pizzey:** *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, Pizzey, G and Menkhorst, P (ed), 7th edition, 2003
- **Slater:** *The Slater Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Slater P, Slater P and Slater R, 2003 revised edition
- **Simpson and Day:** *Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Simpson K and Day N, 7th edition, 2004 ISBN 0-670-04180-7
- **Morcombe:** *Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Morcombe, M, 2nd edition 2003, and complete compact edition 2004

- **Flegg:** *Photographic Field Guide: Birds of Australia*, Flegg, J, 2nd edition, 2002
- **Trounson:** *Australian Birds: A Concise Photographic Field Guide*, Trounson D and Trounson M, 2005 reprint
- **Caley:** *What Bird is That?*, Caley, N, 2000 edition

List of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds

- [1 Struthioniiformes](#)
- [2 Podicipediformes](#)
- [3 Sphenisciformes](#)
- [4 Procellariiformes](#)
- [5 Pelecaniformes](#)
- [6 Ciconiiformes](#)
- [7 Phoenicopteriformes](#)
- [8 Anseriformes](#)
- [9 Falconiformes](#)
- [10 Galliformes](#)
- [11 Turniciformes](#)
- [12 Gruiformes](#)
- [13 Charadriiformes](#)
- [14 Columbiformes](#)
- [15 Psittaciformes](#)
- [16 Cuculiformes](#)
- [17 Strigiformes](#)
- [18 Caprimulgiformes](#)
- [19 Apodiformes](#)
- [20 Coraciiformes](#)
- [21 Passeriformes](#)
- [22 See also](#)

This list is based on the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds* [list, May 2002 update](#), with the doubtfuls omitted. It includes the birds of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, and the surrounding ocean and islands.

- Australian call-ups are based on the List of Australian birds.

Struthioniiformes

- [Casuariidae](#)
 - Emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae* - Aus
 - King Island Emu, *Dromaius ater* - Aus, extinct
 - Kangaroo Island Emu, *Dromaius baudinianus* - Aus, extinct
- [Casuariidae](#)
 - Southern Cassowary, *Casuarius casuarius* - Aus
- Struthionidae
 - [Ostrich](#), *Struthio camelus* - Aus, introduced, considered locally extinct
- Apterygidae

- Brown Kiwi, *Apteryx australis* - NZ
- Little Spotted Kiwi, *Apteryx owenii* - NZ
- Great Spotted Kiwi, *Apteryx haastii* - NZ

Podicipediformes

- Podicipedidae
 - Australasian Grebe, *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* - Aus, NZ
 - Hoary-headed Grebe, *Poliocephalus poliocephalus* - Aus, NZ
 - New Zealand Dabchick, *Poliocephalus rufopectus* - NZ
 - Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus* - Aus, NZ

Sphenisciformes

- Spheniscidae
 - King Penguin, *Aptenodytes patagonicus* - Aus, NZ
 - Emperor Penguin, *Aptenodytes forsteri* - Aus, NZ
 - Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua* - Aus, NZ
 - Adelie Penguin, *Pygoscelis adeliae* - Aus, NZ
 - Chinstrap Penguin, *Pygoscelis antarctica* - Aus, NZ
 - Rockhopper Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysocome* - Aus, NZ
 - Fiordland Penguin, *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* - Aus, NZ
 - Snares Penguin, *Eudyptes robustus* - Aus, NZ
 - Erect-crested Penguin, *Eudyptes sclateri* - Aus, NZ
 - Macaroni Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysolophus* - Aus, NZ
 - Yellow-eyed Penguin, *Megadyptes antipodes* - NZ
 - Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor* - Aus, NZ
 - Magellanic Penguin, *Spheniscus magellanicus* - Aus, NZ

Procellariiformes

- Diomedidae
 - Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans* - Aus, NZ
 - Royal Albatross, *Diomedea epomophora* - Aus, NZ
 - Black-footed Albatross, *Diomedea nigripes* - NZ
 - Black-browed Albatross, *Diomedea melanophris* - Aus, NZ
 - Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta* - Aus, NZ
 - Grey-headed Albatross, *Diomedea chrysostoma* - Aus, NZ
 - Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhynchos* - NZ
 - Buller's Albatross, *Diomedea bulleri* - Aus, NZ
 - Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria fusca* - Aus, NZ
 - Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria palpebrata* - Aus, NZ

- Procellariidae
 - Southern Giant Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus* - Aus
 - Northern Giant Petrel, *Macronectes halli* - Aus
 - Southern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis* - Aus, NZ
 - Antarctic Petrel, *Thalassoica antarctica* - Aus, NZ
 - Cape Petrel, *Daption capense* - Aus, NZ
 - Snow Petrel, *Pagodroma nivea* - Aus
 - Kerguelen Petrel, *Lugensa brevirostris* - Aus, NZ
 - Tahiti Petrel, *Pseudobulweria rostrata* - Aus, NZ
 - Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera* - Aus, NZ
 - White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii* - Aus, NZ
 - Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri* - Aus
 - Magenta Petrel, *Pterodroma magentae*
 - Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta* - Aus, NZ
 - Herald Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana* - Aus
 - Phoenix Petrel, *Pterodroma alba* - NZ
 - Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis* - Aus, NZ
 - Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata* - Aus, NZ
 - Juan Fernandez Petrel, *Pterodroma externa* - Aus, NZ
 - White-necked Petrel, *Pterodroma cervicalis* - Aus, NZ
 - Barau's Petrel, *Pterodroma barau* - Aus
 - Black-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma nigripennis* - Aus, NZ
 - Chatham Petrel, *Pterodroma axillaris* - NZ
 - Cook's Petrel, *Pterodroma cookii* - Aus, NZ
 - Stejneger's Petrel, *Pterodroma longirostris* - NZ
 - Pycroft's Petrel, *Pterodroma pycrofti* - NZ
 - Gould's Petrel, *Pterodroma leucoptera* - Aus, NZ
 - Blue Petrel, *Halobaena caerulea* - Aus, NZ
 - Broad-billed Prion, *Pachyptila vittata* - Aus, NZ
 - Salvin's Prion, *Pachyptila salvini* - Aus, NZ
 - Antarctic Prion, *Pachyptila desolata* - Aus, NZ
 - Slender-billed Prion, *Pachyptila belcheri* - Aus, NZ
 - Fairy Prion, *Pachyptila turtur* - Aus, NZ
 - Fulmar Prion, *Pachyptila crassirostris* - Aus, NZ
 - Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii* - Aus
 - White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis* - Aus, NZ
 - Westland Petrel, *Procellaria westlandica* - Aus, NZ
 - Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni* - Aus
 - Grey Petrel, *Procellaria cinerea* - Aus, NZ
 - Cory's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea* - NZ
 - Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas* - Aus
 - Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus* - Aus, NZ
 - Buller's Shearwater, *Puffinus bulleri* - Aus, NZ
 - Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes* - Aus, NZ

- Pink-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus creatopus* - Aus, NZ
- Great Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis* - Aus
- Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus* - Aus
- Short-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris* - Aus, NZ
- Christmas Shearwater, *Puffinus nativitatis* - NZ
- Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus puffinus* - Aus, NZ
- Fluttering Shearwater, *Puffinus gavia* - Aus, NZ
- Hutton's Shearwater, *Puffinus huttoni* - Aus, NZ
- Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri* - Aus
- Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis* - Aus, NZ
- Procellariidae
 - South Georgian Diving Petrel, *Pelecanoides georgicus* - Aus
 - Common Diving Petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix* - Aus
- Hydrobatidae
 - Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus* - Aus
 - Grey-backed Storm-petrel, *Garrodia nereis* - Aus
 - White-faced Storm-petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* - Aus
 - Black-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta tropica* - Aus
 - White-bellied Storm-petrel, *Fregetta grallaria* - Aus
 - Leach's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* - Aus
 - Matsudaira's Storm-petrel, *Oceanodroma matsudairae* - Aus

Pelecaniformes

- Pelecanidae
 - Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - Aus
 - [Sulidae](#)
 - Cape Gannet, *Morus capensis* - Aus
 - Australasian Gannet, *Morus serrator* - Aus
 - Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra* - Aus
 - Red-footed Booby, *Sula sula* - Aus
 - Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* - Aus
 - Abbott's Booby, *Papasula abbotti* - Aus
- Anhingidae
 - [Darter](#), *Anhinga melanogaster* - Aus
- Phalacrocoracidae
 - Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo* - Aus, NZ
 - Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius* - Aus, NZ
 - Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - Aus, NZ
 - Black-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscescens* - Aus
 - Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* - Aus, NZ
 - Spotted Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax punctatus* - NZ
 - Pitt Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax featherstoni* - NZ

- King Shag, *Phalacrocorax carunculatus* - NZ
- Stewart Island Shag, *Phalacrocorax chalconotus* - NZ
- Chatham Shag, *Phalacrocorax onslowi* - NZ
- Auckland Shag, *Phalacrocorax colensoi* - NZ
- Campbell Shag, *Phalacrocorax campbelli* - NZ
- Bounty Shag, *Phalacrocorax ranfurlyi* - NZ
- Kerguelen Shag, *Leucocarbo verrucosus*
- **Fregatidae**
 - Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor* - Aus
 - Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel* - Aus
 - Christmas Frigatebird, *Fregata andrewsi* - Aus
- **Phaethontidae**
 - Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda* - Aus, NZ
 - White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus* - Aus

Ciconiiformes

- **Ardeidae**
 - White-necked Heron, *Ardea pacifica* - Aus, NZ
 - Great-billed Heron, *Ardea sumatrana* - Aus
 - Great Egret, *Ardea alba* - Aus, NZ
 - Pied Heron, *Ardea picata* - Aus
 - Intermediate Egret, *Ardea intermedia* - Aus, NZ
 - Swinhoe's Egret, *Egretta eulophotes*
 - Cattle Egret, *Ardea ibis* - Aus, NZ
 - White-faced Heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae* - Aus, NZ
 - Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* - Aus, NZ
 - Eastern Reef Egret, *Egretta sacra* - Aus, NZ
 - Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus* - Aus
 - Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax* - Aus
 - Nankeen Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus* - Aus
 - Malayan Night Heron, *Gorsachius melanolophus* - Aus
 - Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus* - Aus, NZ
 - New Zealand Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus novaezelandiae* - NZ, extinct
 - Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis* - Aus
 - Black Bittern, *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - Aus
 - Australasian Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - Aus, NZ
- **Ciconiidae**
 - White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*
 - Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* - Aus
- **Threskiornithidae**
 - Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus* - Aus, NZ
 - Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca* - Aus, NZ

Straw-necked Ibis, *Threskiornis spinicollis* - Aus
Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia* - Aus, NZ
Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes* - Aus, NZ

Phoenicopteriformes

- Phoenicopteridae
 - Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopus ruber* - Aus

Anseriformes

- Anseranatidae
 - Magpie Goose, *Anseranas semipalmata* - Aus
 - [Anatidae](#)
 - Plumed Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna eytoni* - Aus
Wandering Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata* - Aus
Argentine Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura vittata*
Blue-billed Duck, *Oxyura australis* - Aus, NZ
Musk Duck, *Biziura lobata* - Aus
Freckled Duck, *Stictonetta naevosa* - Aus
Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor* - Aus
Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus* - Aus
Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis* - Aus
Cape Barren Goose, *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* - Aus
Paradise Shelduck, *Tadorna variegata* - Aus, NZ
Australian Shelduck, *Tadorna tadornoides* - Aus
Radjah Shelduck, *Tadorna radjah* - Aus
Green Pygmy Goose, *Nettapus pulchellus* - Aus
Cotton Pygmy Goose, *Nettapus coromandelianus* - Aus
Australian Wood Duck, *Chenonetta jubata* - Aus
Pink-eared Duck, *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* - Aus
Blue Duck, *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus* - NZ
Chiloe Widgeon, *Anas sibilatrix*
Chilean Teal, *Anas flavirostris*
Grey Teal, *Anas gibberifrons* - Aus
Chestnut Teal, *Anas castanea* - Aus
Brown Teal, *Anas chlorotis* - NZ
Auckland Teal, *Anas aucklandica* - NZ
Campbell Teal, *Anas nesiotis* - NZ
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta* - Aus
Brown Pintail, *Anas georgica*
Eaton's Pintail, *Anas eatoni*
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* - Aus

Pacific Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa* - Aus
Garganey, *Anas querquedula* - Aus
Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*
Australasian Shoveler, *Anas rhynchotis* - Aus
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata* - Aus
Hardhead, *Aythya australis* - Aus
New Zealand Scaup, *Aythya novaeseelandiae* - NZ
Auckland Merganser, *Mergus australis* - NZ

Falconiformes

- [Accipitridae](#)
 - Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata* - Aus
 - Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus axillaris* - Aus
 - Letter-winged Kite, *Elanus scriptus* - Aus
 - Black Kite, *Milvus migrans* - Aus
 - Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus* - Aus
 - Whistling Kite, *Haliastur sphenurus* - Aus
 - White-bellied Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - Aus
 - Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis* - Aus
 - Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans* - Aus, NZ
 - Grey Goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae* - Aus
 - Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus* - Aus
 - Collared Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* - Aus
 - Gurney's Eagle, *Aquila gurneyi* - Aus
 - Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax* - Aus
 - Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides* - Aus
 - Black-breasted Buzzard, *Hamirostra melanosternon* - Aus
 - Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura* - Aus
 - Red Goshawk, *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* - Aus
 - Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus* - Aus
- [Falconidae](#)
 - Brown Falcon, *Falco berigora* - Aus
 - Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides* - Aus
 - Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis* - Aus
 - New Zealand Falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae* - NZ
 - Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos* - Aus
 - Black Falcon, *Falco subniger* - Aus
 - Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus* - Aus

Galliformes

- Megapodiidae

- Orange-footed Scrubfowl, *Megapodius reinwardt* - Aus
- Malleefowl, *Leipoa ocellata* - Aus
- Australian Brush-turkey, *Alectura lathamii* - Aus
- [Phasianidae](#)
- Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo* - Aus, introduced
- **Odontophoridae**
- California Quail, *Callipepla californica* - Aus, introduced
- [Phasianidae](#)
- Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus* - Aus, introduced
- Indian Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus* - Aus, NZ, introduced
- Common Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* - Aus, NZ, introduced
- Chukar, *Alectoris chukar* - NZ, introduced
- Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis* - Aus
- New Zealand Quail, *Coturnix novaezelandiae* - NZ, extinct
- Brown Quail, *Coturnix ypsilophora* - Aus
- King Quail, *Coturnix chinensis* - Aus

Turniciformes

- **Turnicidae**
- Red-backed Button-quail, *Turnix maculosa* - Aus
- Painted Button-quail, *Turnix varia* - Aus
- Chestnut-backed Button-quail, *Turnix castanota* - Aus
- Buff-breasted Button-quail, *Turnix olivii* - Aus
- Black-breasted Button-quail, *Turnix melanogaster* - Aus
- Little Button-quail, *Turnix velox* - Aus
- Red-chested Button-quail, *Turnix pyrrhorostris* - Aus

Gruiformes

- **Gruidae**
- Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone* - Aus
- Brolga, *Grus rubicunda* - Aus
- [Rallidae](#)
- Red-necked Crane, *Rallina tricolor* - Aus
- Red-legged Crane, *Rallina fasciata* - Aus
- Buff-banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis* - Aus
- Weka, *Gallirallus australis* - NZ
- Lord Howe Woodhen, *Gallirallus sylvestris* - Aus
- Chatham Island Rail, *Gallirallus modestus* - NZ, extinct
- Lewin's Rail, *Rallus pectoralis* - Aus
- Bush-hen, *Amaurornis olivaceus* - Aus

Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla* - Aus
 Australian Spotted Crake, *Porzana fluminea* - Aus
 Ruddy-breasted Crake, *Porzana fusca* - Aus
 Spotless Crake, *Porzana tabuensis* - Aus
 White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea* - Aus
 Chestnut Rail, *Eulabeornis castaneoventris* - Aus
 Watercock, *Gallicrex cinerea* - Aus
 Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio martinica*
 Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio* - Aus, NZ
 Takahe, *Porphyrio mantelli* - NZ
 Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa* - Aus
 Black-tailed Native-hen, *Gallinula ventralis* - Aus
 Tasmanian Native-hen, *Gallinula mortierii* - Aus
 Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra* - Aus

- Otididae
 - Australian Bustard, *Ardeotis australis* - Aus

Charadriiformes

- Pedionomidae
 - Plains-wanderer, *Pedionomus torquatus* - Aus
- Rostratulidae
 - Painted Snipe, *Rostratula benghalensis* - Aus
- Jacanidae
 - Comb-crested Jacana, *Irediparra gallinacea* - Aus
 - Pheasant-tailed Jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* - Aus
- Chionididae
 - Pale-faced Sheathbill, *Chionis alba*
 - Black-faced Sheathbill, *Chionis minor* - Aus
- Burhinidae
 - Bush Stone-curlew, *Burhinus grallarius* - Aus
 - Beach Stone-curlew, *Esacus neglectus* - Aus
- Haematopodidae
 - Pied Oystercatcher, *Haematopus longirostris* - Aus
 - South Island Pied Oystercatcher, *Haematopus finschi* - Aus, NZ
 - Chatham Island Oystercatcher, *Haematopus chathamensis* - NZ
 - Sooty Oystercatcher, *Haematopus fuliginosus* - Aus
 - Variable Oystercatcher, *Haematopus unicolor* - NZ
- [Recurvirostridae](#)
 - Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus* - Aus
 - Black Stilt, *Himantopus novaehollandiae* - NZ
 - Banded Stilt, *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* - Aus
 - Red-necked Avocet, *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* - Aus

- [Charadriidae](#)
 - Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva* - Aus
 - American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*
 - Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola* - Aus
 - New Zealand Dotterel, *Charadrius obscurus* - NZ
 - Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula* - Aus
 - Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius* - Aus
 - Kentish Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus* - Aus
 - Red-capped Plover, *Charadrius ruficapillus* - Aus
 - Double-banded Plover, *Charadrius bicinctus* - Aus
 - Lesser Sand Plover, *Charadrius mongolus* - Aus
 - Greater Sand Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii* - Aus
 - Caspian Plover, *Charadrius asiaticus* - Aus
 - Oriental Plover, *Charadrius veredus* - Aus
 - Inland Dotterel, *Charadrius australis* - Aus
 - Three-banded Plover, *Charadrius tricollaris*
 - Black-fronted Dotterel, *Elseya melanops* - Aus
 - Hooded Plover, *Thinornis rubricollis* - Aus
 - Shore Plover, *Thinornis novaeseelandiae* - NZ
 - Wrybill, *Anarhynchus frontalis* - NZ
 - Red-kneed Dotterel, *Erythrogonys cinctus* - Aus
 - Banded Lapwing, *Vanellus tricolor* - Aus
 - Masked Lapwing, *Vanellus miles* - Aus
 - Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*
 - Blacksmith Lapwing, *Vanellus armatus*
- [Scolopacidae](#)
 - Latham's Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii* - Aus
 - Pin-tailed Snipe, *Gallinago stenura* - Aus
 - Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala* - Aus
 - Chatham Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha pusilla* - NZ
 - New Zealand Snipe, *Coenocorypha aucklandica* - NZ
 - Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Aus
 - Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica* - Aus
 - Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica* - Aus
 - Little Curlew, *Numenius minutus* - Aus
 - Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus* - Aus
 - Bristle-thighed Curlew, *Numenius tahitiensis*
 - Eastern Curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis* - Aus
 - Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda* - Aus
 - Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus* - Aus
 - Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus* - Aus
 - Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis* - Aus
 - Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* - Aus
 - Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes* - Aus

- Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*
 Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus* - Aus
 Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola* - Aus
 Terek Sandpiper, *Xenus cinereus* - Aus
 Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos* - Aus
 Grey-tailed Tattler, *Heteroscelus brevipes* - Aus
 Wandering Tattler, *Heteroscelus incana* - Aus
 Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* - Aus
 Asian Dowitcher, *Limnodromus semipalmatus* - Aus
 Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris* - Aus
 Red Knot, *Calidris canutus* - Aus, NZ
 Sanderling, *Calidris alba* - Aus
 Western Sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*
 Little Stint, *Calidris minuta* - Aus
 Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis* - Aus
 Long-toed Stint, *Calidris subminuta* - Aus
 Least Sandpiper, *Calidris minutilla*
 White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis* - Aus
 Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii* - Aus
 Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos* - Aus
 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata* - Aus
 Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Aus
 Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea* - Aus
 Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus* - Aus
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis* - Aus
 Broad-billed Sandpiper, *Limicola falcinellus* - Aus
 Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* - Aus
 Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor* - Aus
 Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus* - Aus
 Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius* - Aus
- Glareolidae
 - Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola maldivarum* - Aus
 - Australian Pratincole, *Stiltia isabella* - Aus
 - Laridae
 - Great Skua, *Catharacta skua*
 - South Polar Skua, *Catharacta maccormicki* - Aus
 - Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus* - Aus
 - Arctic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus* - Aus, NZ
 - Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicauda* - Aus
 - Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus* - Aus
 - Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris* - Aus
 - Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus* - Aus, NZ
 - Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae* - Aus, NZ
 - Black-billed Gull, *Larus bulleri* - NZ

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus* - Aus
 Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla* - Aus
 Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan* - Aus
 Sabine's Gull, *Larus sabini* - Aus
 Gull-billed Tern, *Sterna nilotica* - Aus
 Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia* - Aus, NZ
 Lesser Crested Tern, *Sterna bengalensis* - Aus
 Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii* - Aus
 Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* - Aus
 White-fronted Tern, *Sterna striata* - Aus
 Black-naped Tern, *Sterna sumatrana* - Aus
 Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo* - Aus
 Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* - Aus
 Antarctic Tern, *Sterna vittata* - Aus
 Kerguelen Tern, *Sterna virgata*
 Black-fronted Tern, *Sterna albobriatus* - NZ
 Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons* - Aus
 Fairy Tern, *Sterna nereis* - Aus
 Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus* - Aus
 Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata* - Aus
 Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybridus* - Aus
 White-winged Black Tern, *Chlidonias leucopterus* - Aus
 Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger* - Aus
 Common Noddy, *Anous stolidus* - Aus
 Black Noddy, *Anous minutus* - Aus
 Lesser Noddy, *Anous tenuirostris* - Aus
 Grey Ternlet, *Procelsterna albivittata* - Aus
 White Tern, *Gygis alba* - Aus

Columbiformes

- [Columbidae](#)
 - Rock Dove, *Columba livia* - Aus, introduced
 - White-throated Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis* - Aus
 - White-headed Pigeon, *Columba leucomela* - Aus
 - Laughing Turtle-dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis* - Aus, introduced
 - Spotted Turtle-dove, *Streptopelia chinensis* - Aus, introduced
 - Barbary Dove, *Streptopelia risoria* - introduced
 - Brown Cuckoo-dove, *Macropygia amboinensis* - Aus
 - Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica* - Aus
 - Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera* - Aus
 - Brush Bronzewing, *Phaps elegans* - Aus
 - Flock Bronzewing, *Phaps histrionica* - Aus
 - Crested Pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes* - Aus

Spinifex Pigeon, *Geophaps plumifera* - Aus
 Partridge Pigeon, *Geophaps smithii* - Aus
 Squatter Pigeon, *Geophaps scripta* - Aus
 White-quilled Rock-pigeon, *Petrophassa albipennis* - Aus
 Chestnut-quilled Rock-pigeon, *Petrophassa rufipennis* - Aus
 Diamond Dove, *Geopelia cuneata* - Aus
 Peaceful Dove, *Geopelia striata* - Aus
 Bar-shouldered Dove, *Geopelia humeralis* - Aus
 Wonga Pigeon, *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* - Aus
 Norfolk Island Ground-dove, *Gallicolumba norfolciensis* - Aus, extinct
 Banded Fruit-dove, *Ptilinopus cinctus* - Aus
 Wompoo Fruit-dove, *Ptilinopus magnificus* - Aus
 Superb Fruit-dove, *Ptilinopus superbus* - Aus
 Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, *Ptilinopus regina* - Aus
 Elegant Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula concinna* - Aus
 Christmas Island Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula whartoni* - Aus
 Collared Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula mullerii* - Aus
 Pied Imperial Pigeon, *Ducula bicolor* - Aus
 Topknot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus* - Aus
 New Zealand Pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* - Aus, NZ

Psittaciformes

- **Cacatuidae**
 - Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus* - Aus
 - Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksii* - Aus
 - Glossy Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus lathami* - Aus
 - Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus* - Aus
 - Short-billed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* - Aus
 - Long-billed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* - Aus
 - Gang-gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum* - Aus
 - Galah, *Eolophus roseicapilla* - Aus
 - Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua tenuirostris* - Aus
 - Western Corella, *Cacatua pastinator* - Aus
 - Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguinea* - Aus
 - Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, *Cacatua leadbeateri* - Aus
 - Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita* - Aus
 - Cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus* - Aus
- **Psittacidae**
 - Rainbow Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus haematodus* - Aus
 - Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* - Aus
 - Varied Lorikeet, *Psitteuteles versicolor* - Aus
 - Musk Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta concinna* - Aus

Little Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta pusilla* - Aus
 Purple-crowned Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala* - Aus
 Eclectus Parrot, *Eclectus roratus* - Aus
 Red-cheeked Parrot, *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* - Aus
 Double-eyed Fig Parrot, *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* - Aus
 Australian King Parrot, *Alisterus scapularis* - Aus
 Red-winged Parrot, *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - Aus
 Superb Parrot, *Polytelis swainsonii* - Aus
 Regent Parrot, *Polytelis anthopeplus* - Aus
 Princess Parrot, *Polytelis alexandrae* - Aus
 Green Rosella, *Platycercus caledonicus* - Aus
 Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans* - Aus
 Eastern Rosella, *Platycercus eximius* - Aus
 Pale-headed Rosella, *Platycercus adscitus* - Aus
 Northern Rosella, *Platycercus venustus* - Aus
 Western Rosella, *Platycercus icterotis* - Aus
 Australian Ringneck, *Barnardius zonarius* - Aus
 Red-capped Parrot, *Purpureicephalus spurius* - Aus
 Blue Bonnet, *Northiella haematogaster* - Aus
 Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor* - Aus
 Red-rumped Parrot, *Psephotus haematonotus* - Aus
 Mulga Parrot, *Psephotus varius* - Aus
 Golden-shouldered Parrot, *Psephotus chrysopterygius* - Aus
 Hooded Parrot, *Psephotus dissimilis* - Aus
 Paradise Parrot, *Psephotus pulcherrimus* - Aus
 Antipodes Island Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus unicolor* - NZ
 Red-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae* - Aus, NZ
 Yellow-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus auriceps* - NZ
 Budgerigar, *Melopsittacus undulatus* - Aus
 Bourke's Parrot, *Neophema bourkii* - Aus
 Blue-winged Parrot, *Neophema chrysostoma* - Aus
 Elegant Parrot, *Neophema elegans* - Aus
 Rock Parrot, *Neophema petrophila* - Aus
 Orange-bellied Parrot, *Neophema chrysogaster* - Aus
 Turquoise Parrot, *Neophema pulchella* - Aus
 Scarlet-chested Parrot, *Neophema splendida* - Aus
 Ground Parrot, *Pezoporus wallicus* - Aus
 Night Parrot, *Pezoporus occidentalis* - Aus
 Kea, *Nestor notabilis* - NZ
 Kk, *Nestor meridionalis* - NZ
 Norfolk Island Kaka, *Nestor productus* - Aus
 Kakapo, *Strigops habroptilus* - NZ

Cuculiformes

- Cuculidae
 - Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*
 - African Cuckoo, *Cuculus gularis*
 - Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus* - Aus
 - Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus* - Aus
 - Brush Cuckoo, *Cuculus variolosus* - Aus
 - Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, *Cuculus castaneiventris* - Aus
 - Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis flabelliformis* - Aus
 - Black-eared Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx osculans* - Aus
 - Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx basalis* - Aus
 - Shining Bronze-cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx lucidus* - Aus, NZ
 - Little Bronze-cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx minutillus* - Aus
 - Gould's Bronze-cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx russatus* - Aus
 - Common Koel, *Eudynamys scolopacea* - Aus
 - Long-tailed Cuckoo, *Eudynamys taitensis* - Aus, NZ
 - Channel-billed Cuckoo, *Scythrops novaehollandiae* - Aus
- Centropodidae
 - Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus* - Aus

Strigiformes

- Strigidae
 - Buffy Fish-owl, *Ketupa ketupu*
 - Little Owl, *Athene noctua*
 - Powerful Owl, *Ninox strenua* - Aus
 - Rufous Owl, *Ninox rufa* - Aus
 - Barking Owl, *Ninox connivens* - Aus
 - Southern Boobook, *Ninox novaeseelandiae* - Aus, NZ
 - Brown Hawk-owl, *Ninox scutulata* - Aus
 - Christmas Island Hawk-owl, *Ninox natalis* - Aus
 - Laughing Owl, *Sceloglaux albifacies*
- [Tytonidae](#)
 - Greater Sooty Owl, *Tyto tenebricosa* - Aus
 - Lesser Sooty Owl, *Tyto multipunctata* - Aus
 - Masked Owl, *Tyto novaehollandiae* - Aus
 - Barn Owl, *Tyto alba* - Aus
 - Grass Owl, *Tyto capensis* - Aus

Caprimulgiformes

- Podargidae
 - Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides* - Aus
 - Papuan Frogmouth, *Podargus papuensis* - Aus
 - Marbled Frogmouth, *Podargus ocellatus* - Aus
- Caprimulgidae
 - White-throated Nightjar, *Eurostopodus mystacalis* - Aus
 - Spotted Nightjar, *Eurostopodus argus* - Aus
 - Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus* - Aus
 - Savanna Nightjar, *Caprimulgus affinis* - Aus
- Aegothelidae
 - Australian Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles cristatus* - Aus

Apodiformes

- Apodidae
 - Glossy Swiftlet, *Collocalia esculenta* - Aus
 - White-rumped Swiftlet, *Collocalia spodiopygius* - Aus
 - Uniform Swiftlet, *Collocalia vanikorensis* - Aus
 - White-throated Needletail, *Hirundapus caudacutus* - Aus
 - Common Swift, *Apus apus*
 - Fork-tailed Swift, *Apus pacificus* - Aus
 - House Swift, *Apus affinis* - Aus

Coraciiformes

- Alcedinidae
 - Azure Kingfisher, *Alcedo azurea* - Aus
 - Little Kingfisher, *Alcedo pusilla* - Aus
- Halcyonidae
 - Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, *Tanysiptera sylvia* - Aus
 - Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo novaeguineae* - Aus
 - Blue-winged Kookaburra, *Dacelo leachii* - Aus
 - Yellow-billed Kingfisher, *Syma torotoro* - Aus
 - Forest Kingfisher, *Todiramphus macleayii* - Aus
 - Red-backed Kingfisher, *Todiramphus pyrrhopygia* - Aus
 - Sacred Kingfisher, *Todiramphus sanctus* - Aus
 - Collared Kingfisher, *Todiramphus chloris* - Aus
- Meropidae
 - Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus* - Aus
- Coraciidae

- Broad-billed Roller, *Eurystomus glaucurus*
Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis* - Aus

Passeriformes

- Tyrannidae
 - Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*
Dark-faced Ground Tyrant, *Muscisaxicola macloviana*
 - [Acanthisittidae](#)
 - Rifleman, *Acanthisitta chloris* - NZ
Bush Wren, *Xenicus longipes* - NZ
Rock Wren, *Xenicus gilviventris* - NZ
Stephens Island Wren, *Traversia lyalli* - NZ
- Pittidae
 - Red-bellied Pitta, *Pitta erythrogaster* - Aus
Blue-winged Pitta, *Pitta moluccensis* - Aus
Noisy Pitta, *Pitta versicolor* - Aus
Rainbow Pitta, *Pitta iris* - Aus
- Menuridae
 - Albert's Lyrebird, *Menura alberti* - Aus
Superb Lyrebird, *Menura novaehollandiae* - Aus
- Atrichornithidae
 - Rufous Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis rufescens* - Aus
Noisy Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis clamosus* - Aus
- Climacteridae
 - White-throated Treecreeper, *Cormobates leucophaeus* - Aus
White-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris affinis* - Aus
Red-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris erythroptera* - Aus
Brown Treecreeper, *Climacteris picumnus* - Aus
Black-tailed Treecreeper, *Climacteris melanura* - Aus
Rufous Treecreeper, *Climacteris rufa* - Aus
 - [Maluridae](#)
 - Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, *Malurus coronatus* - Aus
Superb Fairy-wren, *Malurus cyaneus* - Aus
Splendid Fairy-wren, *Malurus splendens* - Aus
Variegated Fairy-wren, *Malurus lamberti* - Aus
Lovely Fairy-wren, *Malurus amabilis* - Aus
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, *Malurus pulcherrimus* - Aus
Red-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus elegans* - Aus
White-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus leucopterus* - Aus
Red-backed Fairy-wren, *Malurus melanocephalus* - Aus
Southern Emu-wren, *Stipiturus malachurus* - Aus
Mallee Emu-wren, *Stipiturus mallee* - Aus

- Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, *Stipiturus ruficeps* - Aus
- Grey Grasswren, *Amytornis barbatus* - Aus
- Black Grasswren, *Amytornis housei* - Aus
- White-throated Grasswren, *Amytornis woodwardi* - Aus
- Carpentarian Grasswren, *Amytornis dorotheae* - Aus
- Striated Grasswren, *Amytornis striatus* - Aus
- Short-tailed Grasswren, *Amytornis merrotsyi* - Aus
- Eyrean Grasswren, *Amytornis goyderi* - Aus
- Thick-billed Grasswren, *Amytornis textilis* - Aus
- Dusky Grasswren, *Amytornis purnelli* - Aus
- Kalkadoon Grasswren, *Amytornis ballarae* - Aus
- [Meliphagidae](#)
 - Red Wattlebird, *Anthochaera carunculata* - Aus, NZ
 - Yellow Wattlebird, *Anthochaera paradoxa* - Aus
 - Little Wattlebird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera* - Aus
 - Western Wattlebird, *Anthochaera lunulata* - Aus
 - Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, *Acanthagenys rufogularis* - Aus
 - Striped Honeyeater, *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* - Aus
 - Helmeted Friarbird, *Philemon buceroides* - Aus
 - Silver-crowned Friarbird, *Philemon argenteiceps* - Aus
 - Noisy Friarbird, *Philemon corniculatus* - Aus
 - Little Friarbird, *Philemon citreogularis* - Aus
 - Regent Honeyeater, *Xanthomyza phrygia* - Aus
 - Blue-faced Honeyeater, *Entomyzon cyanotis* - Aus
 - Bell Miner, *Manorina melanophrys* - Aus
 - Noisy Miner, *Manorina melanocephala* - Aus
 - Yellow-throated Miner, *Manorina flavigula* - Aus
 - Black-eared Miner, *Manorina melanotis* - Aus
 - Macleay's Honeyeater, *Xanthotis macleayana* - Aus
 - Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, *Xanthotis flaviventer* - Aus
 - Lewin's Honeyeater, *Meliphaga lewinii* - Aus
 - Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, *Meliphaga notata* - Aus
 - Graceful Honeyeater, *Meliphaga gracilis* - Aus
 - White-lined Honeyeater, *Meliphaga albilineata* - Aus
 - Bridled Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus frenatus* - Aus
 - Eungella Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus hindwoodi* - Aus
 - Yellow-faced Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus chrysops* - Aus
 - Singing Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus virescens* - Aus
 - Varied Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus versicolor* - Aus
 - Mangrove Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fasciogularis* - Aus
 - White-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus unicolor* - Aus
 - Yellow Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavus* - Aus
 - White-eared Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus leucotis* - Aus
 - Yellow-throated Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavicollis* - Aus

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus melanops* - Aus
 Purple-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus cratitius* - Aus
 Grey-headed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus keartlandi* - Aus
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus ornatus* - Aus
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus plumulus* - Aus
 Fuscous Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fuscus* - Aus
 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavescens* - Aus
 White-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus penicillatus* - Aus
 Black-chinned Honeyeater, *Melithreptus gularis* - Aus
 Strong-billed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus validirostris* - Aus
 Brown-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus brevirostris* - Aus
 White-throated Honeyeater, *Melithreptus albogularis* - Aus
 White-naped Honeyeater, *Melithreptus lunatus* - Aus
 Black-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus affinis* - Aus
 Stitchbird, *Notiomystis cincta* - NZ
 Green-backed Honeyeater, *Glycichaera fallax* - Aus
 Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta* - Aus
 White-streaked Honeyeater, *Trichodere cockerelli* - Aus
 Painted Honeyeater, *Grantiella picta* - Aus
 Crescent Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera* - Aus
 New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* - Aus
 White-cheeked Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris nigra* - Aus
 White-fronted Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris albifrons* - Aus
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris melanops* - Aus
 Brown-backed Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis modestus* - Aus
 Bar-breasted Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis fasciatus* - Aus
 Rufous-banded Honeyeater, *Conopophila albogularis* - Aus
 Rufous-throated Honeyeater, *Conopophila rufogularis* - Aus
 Grey Honeyeater, *Conopophila whitei* - Aus
 Eastern Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* - Aus
 Western Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus* - Aus
 Banded Honeyeater, *Certhionyx pectoralis* - Aus
 Black Honeyeater, *Certhionyx niger* - Aus
 Pied Honeyeater, *Certhionyx variegatus* - Aus
 Dusky Honeyeater, *Myzomela obscura* - Aus
 Red-headed Honeyeater, *Myzomela erythrocephala* - Aus
 Scarlet Honeyeater, *Myzomela sanguinolenta* - Aus
 Bellbird, *Anthornis melanura* - NZ
 Tui, *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae* - NZ
 Crimson Chat, *Epthianura tricolor* - Aus
 Orange Chat, *Epthianura aurifrons* - Aus
 Yellow Chat, *Epthianura crocea* - Aus
 White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons* - Aus
 Gibberbird, *Ashbyia lovensis* - Aus

- [Pardalotidae](#)
 - Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus* - Aus
 - Forty-spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus quadragintus* - Aus
 - Red-browed Pardalote, *Pardalotus rubricatus* - Aus
 - Striated Pardalote, *Pardalotus striatus* - Aus
 - Eastern Bristlebird, *Dasyornis brachypterus* - Aus
 - Rufous Bristlebird, *Dasyornis broadbenti* - Aus
 - Western Bristlebird, *Dasyornis longirostris* - Aus
 - Pilotbird, *Pycnoptilus floccosus* - Aus
 - Rockwarbler, *Origma solitaria* - Aus
 - Fernwren, *Oreoscopus gutturalis* - Aus
 - Yellow-throated Scrubwren, *Sericornis citreogularis* - Aus
 - White-browed Scrubwren, *Sericornis frontalis* - Aus
 - Tasmanian Scrubwren, *Sericornis humilis* - Aus
 - Atherton Scrubwren, *Sericornis keri* - Aus
 - Large-billed Scrubwren, *Sericornis magnirostris* - Aus
 - Tropical Scrubwren, *Sericornis beccarii* - Aus
 - Scrubtit, *Acanthornis magnus* - Aus
 - Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, *Hylacola pyrrhopygia* - Aus
 - Shy Heathwren, *Hylacola cauta* - Aus
 - Striated Fieldwren, *Calamanthus fuliginosus* - Aus
 - Rufous Fieldwren, *Calamanthus campestris* - Aus
 - Redthroat, *Pyrrholaemus brunneus* - Aus
 - Speckled Warbler, *Chthonicola sagittata* - Aus
 - Weebill, *Smicrornis brevirostris* - Aus
 - Brown Gerygone, *Gerygone mouki* - Aus
 - Grey Warbler, *Gerygone igata* - NZ
 - Chatham Island Warbler, *Gerygone albofrontata* - NZ
 - Norfolk Island Gerygone, *Gerygone modesta* - Aus
 - Dusky Gerygone, *Gerygone tenebrosa* - Aus
 - Mangrove Gerygone, *Gerygone levigaster* - Aus
 - Western Gerygone, *Gerygone fusca* - Aus
 - Lord Howe Gerygone, *Gerygone insularis* - Aus
 - Large-billed Gerygone, *Gerygone magnirostris* - Aus
 - Green-backed Gerygone, *Gerygone chloronotus* - Aus
 - Fairy Gerygone, *Gerygone palpebrosa* - Aus
 - White-throated Gerygone, *Gerygone olivacea* - Aus
 - Rusty-tailed Gerygone, *Gerygone ruficauda* - NZ, extinct
 - Mountain Thornbill, *Acanthiza katherina* - Aus
 - Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla* - Aus
 - Inland Thornbill, *Acanthiza apicalis* - Aus
 - Tasmanian Thornbill, *Acanthiza ewingii* - Aus
 - Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza uropygialis* - Aus
 - Slaty-backed Thornbill, *Acanthiza robustirostris* - Aus

- Western Thornbill, *Acanthiza inornata* - Aus
- Buff-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza reguloides* - Aus
- Slender-billed Thornbill, *Acanthiza iredalei* - Aus
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* - Aus
- Yellow Thornbill, *Acanthiza nana* - Aus
- Striated Thornbill, *Acanthiza lineata* - Aus
- Southern Whiteface, *Aphelocephala leucopsis* - Aus
- Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, *Aphelocephala pectoralis* - Aus
- Banded Whiteface, *Aphelocephala nigricincta* - Aus
- Petroicidae
 - Jacky Winter, *Microeca fascians* - Aus
 - Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, *Microeca flavigaster* - Aus
 - Yellow-legged Flycatcher, *Microeca griseiceps* - Aus
 - Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor* - Aus
 - New Zealand Tomtit, *Petroica macrocephala* - NZ
 - Red-capped Robin, *Petroica goodenovii* - Aus
 - Flame Robin, *Petroica phoenicea* - Aus
 - Rose Robin, *Petroica rosea* - Aus
 - Pink Robin, *Petroica rodinogaster* - Aus
 - New Zealand Robin, *Petroica australis* - NZ
 - Black Robin, *Petroica traversi* - NZ
 - Hooded Robin, *Melanodryas cucullata* - Aus
 - Dusky Robin, *Melanodryas vittata* - Aus
 - Pale-yellow Robin, *Tregellasia capito* - Aus
 - White-faced Robin, *Tregellasia leucops* - Aus
 - Eastern Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria australis* - Aus
 - Western Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria griseogularis* - Aus
 - White-breasted Robin, *Eopsaltria georgiana* - Aus
 - Mangrove Robin, *Eopsaltria pulverulenta* - Aus
 - White-browed Robin, *Poecilodryas superciliosa* - Aus
 - Grey-headed Robin, *Heteromyias albispecularis* - Aus
 - Northern Scrub-robin, *Drymodes supercilialis* - Aus
 - Southern Scrub-robin, *Drymodes brunneopygia* - Aus
 - [Orthonychidae](#)
 - Logrunner, *Orthonyx temminckii* - Aus
 - Chowchilla (bird), *Orthonyx spaldingii* - Aus
- Pomatostomidae
 - Grey-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus temporalis* - Aus
 - White-browed Babbler, *Pomatostomus superciliosus* - Aus
 - Hall's Babbler, *Pomatostomus halli* - Aus
 - Chestnut-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus ruficeps* - Aus
 - [Cinclosomatidae](#)
 - Eastern Whipbird, *Psophodes olivaceus* - Aus
 - Western Whipbird, *Psophodes nigrogularis* - Aus

- Chirruping Wedgebill, *Psophodes cristatus* - Aus
- Chiming Wedgebill, *Psophodes occidentalis* - Aus
- Spotted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma punctatum* - Aus
- Chestnut Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castanotus* - Aus
- Cinnamon Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* - Aus
- Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castaneothorax* - Aus
- Neosittidae
 - Varied Sittella, *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* - Aus
 - [Pachycephalidae](#)
 - Whitehead, *Mohoua albigilla* - NZ
 - Yellowhead, *Mohoua ochrocephala* - NZ
 - Brown Creeper, *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* - NZ
 - Crested Shrike-tit, *Falcunculus frontatus* - Aus
 - Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis* - Aus
 - Olive Whistler, *Pachycephala olivacea* - Aus
 - Red-lored Whistler, *Pachycephala rufogularis* - Aus
 - Gilbert's Whistler, *Pachycephala inornata* - Aus
 - Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis* - Aus
 - Mangrove Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala melanura* - Aus
 - Grey Whistler, *Pachycephala simplex* - Aus
 - Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris* - Aus
 - White-breasted Whistler, *Pachycephala lanioides* - Aus
 - Little Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla megarhyncha* - Aus
 - Bower's Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla boweri* - Aus
 - Sandstone Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla woodwardi* - Aus
 - Grey Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla harmonica* - Aus
 - [Dicruridae](#)
 - Yellow-breasted Boatbill, *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* - Aus
 - Black-faced Monarch, *Monarcha melanopsis* - Aus
 - Black-winged Monarch, *Monarcha frater* - Aus
 - Spectacled Monarch, *Monarcha trivirgatus* - Aus
 - White-eared Monarch, *Monarcha leucotis* - Aus
 - Frilled Monarch, *Arses telescopthalmus* - Aus
 - Pied Monarch, *Arses kaupi* - Aus
 - Broad-billed Flycatcher, *Myiagra ruficollis* - Aus
 - Leaden Flycatcher, *Myiagra rubecula* - Aus
 - Satin Flycatcher, *Myiagra cyanoleuca* - Aus
 - Shining Flycatcher, *Myiagra alecto* - Aus
 - Restless Flycatcher, *Myiagra inquieta* - Aus
 - Magpie-lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca* - Aus
 - Rufous Fantail, *Rhipidura rufifrons* - Aus
 - Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa* - Aus, NZ
 - Mangrove Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura phasiana* - Aus
 - Northern Fantail, *Rhipidura rufiventris* - Aus

- Willie Wagtail, *Rhipidura leucophrys* - Aus
- Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus bracteatus* - Aus
- **Campephagidae**
 - Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae* - Aus
 - Barred Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina lineata* - Aus
 - White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina papuensis* - Aus
 - Cicadabird, *Coracina tenuirostris* - Aus
 - Ground Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina maxima* - Aus
 - White-winged Triller, *Lalage sueurii* - Aus
 - Varied Triller, *Lalage leucomela* - Aus
 - Long-tailed Triller, *Lalage leucopyga*
- **Oriolidae**
 - Yellow Oriole, *Oriolus flavocinctus* - Aus
 - Olive-backed Oriole, *Oriolus sagittatus* - Aus
 - Figbird, *Sphecotheres viridis* - Aus
 - [Artamidae](#)
 - White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus* - Aus
 - Masked Woodswallow, *Artamus personatus* - Aus, NZ
 - White-browed Woodswallow, *Artamus superciliosus* - Aus, NZ
 - Black-faced Woodswallow, *Artamus cinereus* - Aus
 - Dusky Woodswallow, *Artamus cyanopterus* - Aus
 - Little Woodswallow, *Artamus minor* - Aus
 - Black Butcherbird, *Cracticus quoyi* - Aus
 - Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus* - Aus
 - Black-backed Butcherbird, *Cracticus mentalis* - Aus
 - Pied Butcherbird, *Cracticus nigrogularis* - Aus
 - Pied Currawong, *Strepera graculina* - Aus
 - Black Currawong, *Strepera fuliginosa* - Aus
 - Grey Currawong, *Strepera versicolor* - Aus
 - Australian Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen* - Aus, NZ
- **Paradisaeidae**
 - Paradise Riflebird, *Ptiloris paradiseus* - Aus
 - Victoria's Riflebird, *Ptiloris victoriae* - Aus
 - Magnificent Riflebird, *Ptiloris magnificus* - Aus
 - Trumpet Manucode, *Manucodia keraudrenii* - Aus
 - [Corvidae](#)
 - Rook, *Corvus frugilegus* - NZ, introduced
 - Australian Raven, *Corvus coronoides* - Aus
 - Forest Raven, *Corvus tasmanicus* - Aus
 - Little Raven, *Corvus mellori* - Aus
 - Little Crow, *Corvus bennetti* - Aus
 - Torresian Crow, *Corvus orru* - Aus
 - [Corcoracidae](#)

- White-winged Chough, *Corcorax melanorhamphos* - Aus
- Apostlebird, *Struthidea cinerea* - Aus
- [Callaeidae](#)
- Kokako, *Callaeas cinerea* - NZ
- Saddleback, *Philesturnus carunculatus* - NZ
- Huia, *Heteralocha acutirostris* - NZ
- Laniidae
 - Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus* - Aus
 - Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*
- Ptilonorhynchidae
 - Spotted Catbird, *Ailuroedus melanotis* - Aus
 - Green Catbird, *Ailuroedus crassirostris* - Aus
 - Tooth-billed Bowerbird, *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* - Aus
 - Golden Bowerbird, *Prionodura newtoniana* - Aus
 - Regent Bowerbird, *Sericulus chrysocephalus* - Aus
 - Satin Bowerbird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* - Aus
 - Spotted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera maculata* - Aus
 - Western Bowerbird, *Chlamydera guttata* - Aus
 - Great Bowerbird, *Chlamydera nuchalis* - Aus
 - Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera cerviniventris* - Aus
 - [Turnagridae](#)
 - Piopio, *Turnagra capensis* - NZ
 - [Alaudidae](#)
 - Singing Bushlark, *Mirafrja javanica* - Aus
 - Skylark, *Alauda arvensis* - Aus
 - [Motacillidae](#)
 - Richard's Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae* - Aus, NZ
 - Correndera Pipit, *Anthus correndera*
 - Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus* - Aus
 - Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava* - Aus
 - Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola* - Aus
 - Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea* - Aus
 - White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba* - Aus
 - Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens* - Aus
- Prunellidae
 - Dunnock, *Prunella modularis* - NZ
 - [Passeridae](#)
 - House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus* - Aus, introduced
 - Zebra Finch, *Taeniopygia guttata* - Aus
 - Double-barred Finch, *Taeniopygia bichenovii* - Aus
 - Long-tailed Finch, *Poephila acuticauda* - Aus
 - Black-throated Finch, *Poephila cincta* - Aus
 - Masked Finch, *Poephila personata* - Aus

- Crimson Finch, *Neochmia phaeton* - Aus
- Star Finch, *Neochmia ruficauda* - Aus
- Plum-headed Finch, *Neochmia modesta* - Aus
- Red-browed Finch, *Neochmia temporalis* - Aus
- Diamond Firetail, *Stagonopleura guttata* - Aus
- Beautiful Firetail, *Stagonopleura bella* - Aus
- Red-eared Firetail, *Stagonopleura oculata* - Aus
- Painted Finch, *Emblema pictum* - Aus
- Nutmeg Mannikin, *Lonchura punctulata* - Aus
- Yellow-rumped Mannikin, *Lonchura flaviprymna* - Aus
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, *Lonchura castaneothorax* - Aus
- Java Sparrow, *Lonchura oryzivora* - Aus
- Pale-headed Munia, *Lonchura pallida* - Aus
- Pictorella Mannikin, *Heteromunia pectoralis* - Aus
- Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, *Erythrura trichroa* - Aus
- Gouldian Finch, *Erythrura gouldiae* - Aus
- [Fringillidae](#)
 - Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - Long-tailed Meadowlark, *Sturnella loyca* - introduced
- [Emberizidae](#)
 - Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza cirlus* - NZ, introduced
- Nectariniidae
 - Yellow-bellied Sunbird, *Nectarinia jugularis* - Aus
- Dicaeidae
 - Mistletoebird, *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - Aus
 - Red-capped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum geelvinkianum* - Aus
- [Hirundinidae](#)
 - White-rumped Swallow, *Tachycineta leucorrhoa*
 - White-backed Swallow, *Cheramoeca leucosternus* - Aus
 - Sand Martin, *Riparia riparia*
 - Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* - Aus
 - Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena* - Aus
 - Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica* - Aus
 - Tree Martin, *Hirundo nigricans* - Aus
 - Fairy Martin, *Hirundo ariel* - Aus
 - Asian House Martin, *Hirundo dasypus* - Aus
- Pycnonotidae
 - Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus* - Aus
- [Sylviidae](#)

- Clamorous Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus* - Aus
- Oriental Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus orientalis* - Aus
- Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*
- Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis* - Aus
- Tawny Grassbird, *Megalurus timoriensis* - Aus
- Little Grassbird, *Megalurus gramineus* - Aus
- Fernbird, *Bowdleria punctata* - NZ
- Chatham Island Fernbird, *Bowdleria rufescens* - NZ
- Spinifexbird, *Eremiornis carteri* - Aus
- Rufous Songlark, *Cincloramphus mathewsi* - Aus
- Brown Songlark, *Cincloramphus cruralis* - Aus
- Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis* - Aus
- Golden-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola exilis* - Aus
- Zosteropidae
 - Christmas Island White-eye, *Zosterops natalis* - Aus
 - Pale White-eye, *Zosterops citrinellus* - Aus
 - Yellow White-eye, *Zosterops luteus* - Aus
 - Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis* - Aus, NZ
 - Robust White-eye, *Zosterops strenuus* - Aus
 - Slender-billed White-eye, *Zosterops tenuirostris* - Aus
 - White-chested White-eye, *Zosterops albogularis* - Aus
 - [Muscicapidae](#)
 - Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius* - Aus
 - Bassian Thrush, *Zoothera lunulata* - Aus
 - Russet-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera heinei* - Aus
 - Common Blackbird, *Turdus merula* - Aus
 - Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus* - Aus
 - Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos* - Aus
 - Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina* - Aus
 - Blue-and-White Flycatcher, *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* - Aus
 - Mountain Wheatear, *Oenanthe monticola*
- Sturnidae
 - Tasman Starling, *Aplonis fusca* - Aus
 - Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica* - Aus
 - Singing Starling, *Aplonis cantoroides* - Aus
 - Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* - Aus, NZ, introduced
 - Purple-backed Starling, *Sturnus sturninus*
 - Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis* - Aus, NZ, introduced

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The Birds Australia list is considered unofficial. It is based on Christidis and Boles, **The Taxonomy and Species of Birds of Australia and its Territories**, RAOU, Melbourne, 1994, but incorporates suggested changes in taxonomy such as new species accepted by the Birds Australia Rarities Committee.

Struthioniformes

Struthionidae

- [Ostrich](#), *Struthio camelus* - introduced, now considered locally extinct

Casuariidae

- Southern Cassowary, *Casuarius casuarius*
Emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae*
King Island Emu, *Dromaius ater* - extinct
Kangaroo Island Emu, *Dromaius baudinianus* - extinct

Galliformes

Megapodiidae

- Australian Brush-turkey, *Alectura lathamii*
Malleefowl, *Leipoa ocellata*
Orange-footed Scrubfowl, *Megapodius reinwardt*

Phasianidae

- Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis*
Brown Quail, *Coturnix ypsilophora*
King Quail, *Coturnix chinensis*
Red Junglefowl, *Gallus gallus*
Common Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*
Indian Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus*
Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*

Odontophoridae

- California Quail, *Callipepla californica*

Anseriformes

Anseranatidae

- Magpie Goose, *Anseranas semipalmata*

Anatidae

- Plumed Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna eytoni*
Wandering Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata*
Blue-billed Duck, *Oxyura australis*
Musk Duck, *Biziura lobata*
Freckled Duck, *Stictonetta naevosa*
Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*
Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*
Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*
Cape Barren Goose, *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*
Australian Shelduck, *Tadorna tadornoides*
Paradise Shelduck, *Tadorna variegata*
Radjah Shelduck, *Tadorna radjah*
Australian Wood Duck, *Chenonetta jubata*
Cotton Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus coromandelianus*
Green Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus pulchellus*
Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*
Pacific Black Duck, *Anas superciliosa*
Australasian Shoveler, *Anas rhynchotis*
Northern Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*
Grey Teal, *Anas gracilis*
Chestnut Teal, *Anas castanea*
Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*
Garganey, *Anas querquedula*
Pink-eared Duck, *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*
Hardhead, *Aythya australis*

Podicipediformes

Podicipedidae

- Australasian Grebe, *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Hoary-headed Grebe, *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*
Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*

Sphenisciformes

Spheniscidae

- King Penguin, *Aptenodytes patagonicus*
Emperor Penguin, *Aptenodytes forsteri*
Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua*
Adelie Penguin, *Pygoscelis adeliae*
Chinstrap Penguin, *Pygoscelis antarctica*
Rockhopper Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysocome*
Fiordland Penguin, *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*
Snares Penguin, *Eudyptes robustus*
Erect-crested Penguin, *Eudyptes sclateri*
Macaroni Penguin, *Eudyptes chrysolophus*
Royal Penguin, *Eudyptes schlegeli*
Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor*
Magellanic Penguin, *Spheniscus magellanicus*

Procellariiformes

Procellariidae

- Common Diving-Petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*
South Georgian Diving-Petrel, *Pelecanoides georgicus*
Southern Giant-Petrel, *Macronectes giganteus*
Northern Giant-Petrel, *Macronectes halli*
Southern Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*
Antarctic Petrel, *Thalassoica antarctica*
Cape Petrel, *Daption capense*
Snow Petrel, *Pagodroma nivea*
Kerguelen Petrel, *Lugensa brevirostris*
Tahiti Petrel, *Pseudobulweria rostrata*
Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*
White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii*
Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri*
Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta*
Herald Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana*
Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*
Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata*

Juan Fernandez Petrel, *Pterodroma externa*
 White-necked Petrel, *Pterodroma cervicalis*
 Barau's Petrel, *Pterodroma baraui*
 Black-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma nigripennis*
 Cook's Petrel, *Pterodroma cookii*
 Gould's Petrel, *Pterodroma leucoptera*
 Blue Petrel, *Halobaena caerulea*
 Broad-billed Prion, *Pachyptila vittata*
 Salvin's Prion, *Pachyptila salvini*
 Antarctic Prion, *Pachyptila desolata*
 Slender-billed Prion, *Pachyptila belcheri*
 Fairy Prion, *Pachyptila turtur*
 Fulmar Prion, *Pachyptila crassirostris*
 Bulwer's Petrel, *Bulweria bulwerii*
 White-chinned Petrel, *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
 Westland Petrel, *Procellaria westlandica*
 Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*
 Grey Petrel, *Procellaria cinerea*
 Streaked Shearwater, *Calonectris leucomelas*
 Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*
 Buller's Shearwater, *Puffinus bulleri*
 Flesh-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*
 Pink-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus creatopus*
 Great Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*
 Sooty Shearwater, *Puffinus griseus*
 Short-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris*
 Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus puffinus*
 Fluttering Shearwater, *Puffinus gavia*
 Hutton's Shearwater, *Puffinus huttoni*
 Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus lherminieri*
 Little Shearwater, *Puffinus assimilis*
 Newell's Shearwater, *Puffinus auricularis*

Diomedidae

- Wandering Albatross, *Diomedea exulans*
 Tristan Albatross, *Diomedea dabbenena*
 Antipodean Albatross, *Diomedea antipodensis*
 Gibson's Albatross, *Diomedea gibsoni*
 Southern Royal Albatross, *Diomedea epomophora*
 Northern Royal Albatross, *Diomedea sanfordi*
 Amsterdam Albatross, *Diomedea amsterdamensis*
 Laysan Albatross, *Phoebastria immutabilis*

Black-browed Albatross, *Thalassarche melanophrys*
Campbell Albatross, *Thalassarche impavida*
Buller's Albatross, *Thalassarche bulleri*
Pacific Albatross, *Thalassarche platei*
Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*
White-capped Albatross, *Thalassarche steadi*
Salvin's Albatross, *Thalassarche salvini*
Chatham Albatross, *Thalassarche eremita*
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche carteri*
Grey-headed Albatross, *Thalassarche chrysostoma*
Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria fusca*
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, *Phoebastria palpebrata*

Hydrobatidae

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, *Garrodia nereis*
White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, *Fregetta tropica*
White-bellied Storm-Petrel, *Fregetta grallaria*
Leach's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma matsudairae*

Pelecaniformes

Phaethontidae

- Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricauda*
White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus*

Sulidae

- Abbott's Booby, *Papasula abbotti*
Cape Gannet, *Morus capensis*
Australasian Gannet, *Morus serrator*
Masked Booby, *Sula dactylatra*
Tasman Booby, *Sula tasmani* - extinct

Red-footed Booby, *Sula sula*
Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster*

Anhingidae

- [Darter](#), *Anhinga melanogaster*

Phalacrocoracidae

- Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
Black-faced Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*
Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius*
Little Black Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Imperial Shag, *Leucocarbo atriceps*

Pelecanidae

- Australian Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Fregatidae

- Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor*
Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel*
Christmas Frigatebird, *Fregata andrewsi*

Ciconiiformes

Ardeidae

- White-faced Heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae*
Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*
Eastern Reef Egret, *Egretta sacra*
White-necked Heron, *Ardea pacifica*
Great-billed Heron, *Ardea sumatrana*
Pied Heron, *Ardea picata*

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*
Intermediate Egret, *Ardea intermedia*
Cattle Egret, *Ardea ibis*
Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*
Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Nankeen Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus*
Malayan Night Heron, *Gorsachius melanolophus*
Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*
Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*
Black Bittern, *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
Australasian Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Threskiornithidae

- Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*
Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*
Straw-necked Ibis, *Threskiornis spinicollis*
Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*
Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes*

Ciconiidae

- Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Phoenicopteriformes

Phoenicopteridae

- Greater Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Falconiformes

Accipitridae

- Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
Pacific Baza, *Aviceda subcristata*

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus axillaris*
Letter-winged Kite, *Elanus scriptus*
Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura*
Black-breasted Buzzard, *Hamirostra melanosternon*
Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
Whistling Kite, *Haliastur sphenurus*
Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus*
White-bellied Sea-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*
Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*
Brown Goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*
Grey Goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
Collared Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*
Red Goshawk, *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*
Gurney's Eagle, *Aquila gurneyi*
Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*
Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Falconidae

- Brown Falcon, *Falco berigora*
Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis*
Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos*
Black Falcon, *Falco subniger*
Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*
Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*

Gruiformes

Gruidae

- Sarus Crane, *Grus antigone*
Brolga, *Grus rubicunda*

Rallidae

- Red-necked Crake, *Rallina tricolor*
Red-legged Crake, *Rallina fasciata*
Buff-banded Rail, *Gallirallus philippensis*

Lord Howe Woodhen, *Gallirallus sylvestris*
Lewin's Rail, *Rallus pectoralis*
Bush-hen, *Amaurornis olivaceus*
White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Baillon's Crake, *Porzana pusilla*
Australian Spotted Crake, *Porzana fluminea*
Ruddy-breasted Crake, *Porzana fusca*
Spotless Crake, *Porzana tabuensis*
White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea*
Chestnut Rail, *Eulabeornis castaneoventris*
Watercock, *Gallicrex cinerea*
Purple Swamphen, *Porphyrio porphyrio*
White Gallinule, *Porphyrio albus* - extinct
Dusky Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*
Black-tailed Native-hen, *Gallinula ventralis*
Tasmanian Native-hen, *Gallinula mortierii*
Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*

Otididae

- Australian Bustard, *Ardeotis australis*

Turniciformes

Turnicidae

- Red-backed Button-quail, *Turnix maculosa*
Little Button-quail, *Turnix velox*
Red-chested Button-quail, *Turnix pyrrhothorax*
Chestnut-backed Button-quail, *Turnix castanota*
Buff-breasted Button-quail, *Turnix olivii*
Painted Button-quail, *Turnix varia*
Black-breasted Button-quail, *Turnix melanogaster*

Charadriiformes

Pedionomidae

- Plains Wanderer, *Pedionomus torquatus*

Scolopacidae

- Latham's Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii*
Pin-tailed Snipe, *Gallinago stenura*
Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala*
Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa*
Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*
Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica*
Little Curlew, *Numenius minutus*
Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*
Eastern Curlew, *Numenius madagascariensis*
Upland Sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*
Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus*
Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper, *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*
Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*
Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*
Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus*
Terek Sandpiper, *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*
Grey-tailed Tattler, *Heteroscelus brevipes*
Wandering Tattler, *Heteroscelus incana*
Ruddy Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*
Asian Dowitcher, *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
Short-billed Dowitcher, *Limnodromus griseus*
Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris*
Red Knot, *Calidris canutus*
Sanderling, *Calidris alba*
Little Stint, *Calidris minuta*
Red-necked Stint, *Calidris ruficollis*
Long-toed Stint, *Calidris subminuta*
White-rumped Sandpiper, *Calidris fuscicollis*
Baird's Sandpiper, *Calidris bairdii*
Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*
Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea*
Stilt Sandpiper, *Micropalama himantopus*
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Tryngites subruficollis*
Broad-billed Sandpiper, *Limicola falcinellus*
Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*
Wilson's Phalarope, *Phalaropus tricolor*
Red-necked Phalarope, *Phalaropus lobatus*
Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rostratulidae

- Australian Painted Snipe, *Rostratula australis*

Jacanidae

- Comb-crested Jacana, *Irediparra gallinacea*
Pheasant-tailed Jacana, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

Chionididae

- Black-faced Sheathbill, *Chionis minor*

Burhinidae

- Bush Stone-curlew, *Burhinus grallarius*
Beach Stone-curlew, *Esacus neglectus*

Haematopodidae

- Pied Oystercatcher, *Haematopus longirostris*
Sooty Oystercatcher, *Haematopus fuliginosus*
South Island Pied Oystercatcher, *Haematopus finschi*

Recurvirostridae

- Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*
Banded Stilt, *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*
Red-necked Avocet, *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

Charadriidae

- Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*
Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius*
Kentish Plover, *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Red-capped Plover, *Charadrius ruficapillus*
Double-banded Plover, *Charadrius bicinctus*
Lesser Sand Plover, *Charadrius mongolus*
Greater Sand Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Caspian Plover, *Charadrius asiaticus*
Oriental Plover, *Charadrius veredus*
Inland Dotterel, *Charadrius australis*
Black-fronted Dotterel, *Elseyaornis melanops*
Hooded Plover, *Thinornis rubricollis*
Red-kneed Dotterel, *Erythrogonyx cinctus*
Banded Lapwing, *Vanellus tricolor*
Masked Lapwing, *Vanellus miles*

Glareolidae

- Oriental Pratincole, *Glareola maldivarum*
Australian Pratincole, *Stiltia isabella*

Laridae

- Brown Skua, *Catharacta lonnbergi*
South Polar Skua, *Catharacta maccormicki*
Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*
Arctic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicauda*
Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus*
Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris*
Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*

Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*
Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*
Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*
Sabine's Gull, *Larus sabini*
Gull-billed Tern, *Sterna nilotica*
Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*
Lesser Crested Tern, *Sterna bengalensis*
Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*
Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii*
White-fronted Tern, *Sterna striata*
Black-naped Tern, *Sterna sumatrana*
Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*
Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*
Antarctic Tern, *Sterna vittata*
Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons*
Fairy Tern, *Sterna nereis*
Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus*
Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*
Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybridus*
White-winged Black Tern, *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Black Tern, *Chlidonias niger*
Common Noddy, *Anous stolidus*
Black Noddy, *Anous minutus*
Lesser Noddy, *Anous tenuirostris*
Grey Ternlet, *Procelsterna albivittata*
White Tern, *Gygis alba*

Columbiformes

Columbidae

- New Zealand Pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* - extinct
Norfolk Island Ground-dove, *Gallicolumba norfolciensis*
White-throated Pigeon, *Columba vitiensis* - extinct
Rock Dove, *Columba livia*
White-headed Pigeon, *Columba leucomela*
Laughing Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Spotted Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis*
Brown Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia amboinensis*
Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica*

Common Bronzewing, *Phaps chalcoptera*
 Brush Bronzewing, *Phaps elegans*
 Flock Bronzewing, *Phaps histrionica*
 Crested Pigeon, *Ocyphaps lophotes*
 Spinifex Pigeon, *Geophaps plumifera*
 Partridge Pigeon, *Geophaps smithii*
 Squatter Pigeon, *Geophaps scripta*
 White-quilled Rock-Pigeon, *Petrophassa albipennis*
 Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeon, *Petrophassa rufipennis*
 Diamond Dove, *Geopelia cuneata*
 Peaceful Dove, *Geopelia striata*
 Bar-shouldered Dove, *Geopelia humeralis*
 Wonga Pigeon, *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*
 Banded Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus cinctus*
 Wompoo Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus magnificus*
 Superb Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus superbus*
 Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, *Ptilinopus regina*
 Elegant Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula concinna*
 Christmas Island Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula whartoni*
 Collared Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula mullerii*
 Pied Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula bicolor*
 Topknot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Psittaciformes

Cacatuidae

- Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus*
 Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksii*
 Glossy Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus lathami*
 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus funereus*
 Short-billed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*
 Long-billed Black-Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*
 Gang-gang Cockatoo, *Callocephalon fimbriatum*
 Galah, *Eolophus roseicapilla*
 Long-billed Corella, *Cacatua tenuirostris*
 Western Corella, *Cacatua pastinator*
 Little Corella, *Cacatua sanguinea*
 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, *Cacatua leadbeateri*
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, *Cacatua galerita*
 Cockatiel, *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Psittacidae

- Rainbow Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus haematodus*
 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*
 Varied Lorikeet, *Psitteuteles versicolor*
 Musk Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta concinna*
 Little Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta pusilla*
 Purple-crowned Lorikeet, *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*
 Eclectus Parrot, *Eclectus roratus*
 Red-cheeked Parrot, *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
 Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
 Australian King-Parrot, *Alisterus scapularis*
 Red-winged Parrot, *Aprosmictus erythropterus*
 Superb Parrot, *Polytelis swainsonii*
 Regent Parrot, *Polytelis anthopeplus*
 Princess Parrot, *Polytelis alexandrae*
 Green Rosella, *Platycercus caledonicus*
 Crimson Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*
 Eastern Rosella, *Platycercus eximius*
 Pale-headed Rosella, *Platycercus adscitus*
 Northern Rosella, *Platycercus venustus*
 Western Rosella, *Platycercus icterotis*
 Australian Ringneck, *Barnardius zonarius*
 Red-capped Parrot, *Purpureicephalus spurius*
 Blue Bonnet, *Northiella haematogaster*
 Swift Parrot, *Lathamus discolor*
 Red-rumped Parrot, *Psephotus haematonotus*
 Mulga Parrot, *Psephotus varius*
 Golden-shouldered Parrot, *Psephotus chrysopterygius*
 Hooded Parrot, *Psephotus dissimilis*
 Red-crowned Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*
 Budgerigar, *Melopsittacus undulatus*
 Bourke's Parrot, *Neopsephotus bourkii*
 Blue-winged Parrot, *Neophema chrysostoma*
 Elegant Parrot, *Neophema elegans*
 Rock Parrot, *Neophema petrophila*
 Orange-bellied Parrot, *Neophema chrysogaster*
 Turquoise Parrot, *Neophema pulchella*
 Scarlet-chested Parrot, *Neophema splendida*
 Ground Parrot, *Pezoporus wallicus*
 Night Parrot, *Pezoporus occidentalis*

Norfolk Island Kaka, *Nestor productus* - extinct
Paradise Parrot, *Psephotus pulcherrimus* - extinct

Cuculiformes

Cuculidae

- Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus*
Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*
Brush Cuckoo, *Cacomantis variolosus*
Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Black-eared Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx osculans*
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx basalis*
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx lucidus*
Little Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx russatus*
Common Koel, *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Long-tailed Cuckoo, *Eudynamys taitensis*
Channel-billed Cuckoo, *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Centropodidae

- Pheasant Coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*

Strigiformes

Strigidae

- Powerful Owl, *Ninox strenua*
Rufous Owl, *Ninox rufa*
Barking Owl, *Ninox connivens*
Southern Boobook, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*
Brown Hawk-Owl, *Ninox scutulata*
Christmas Island Hawk-Owl, *Ninox natalis*

Tytonidae

- Sooty Owl, *Tyto tenebricosa*
Lesser Sooty Owl, *Tyto multipunctata*
Masked Owl, *Tyto novaehollandiae*
Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*
Grass Owl, *Tyto capensis*

Caprimulgiformes

Podargidae

- Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides*
Papuan Frogmouth, *Podargus papuensis*
Marbled Frogmouth, *Podargus ocellatus*

Caprimulgidae

- White-throated Nightjar, *Eurostopodus mystacalis*
Spotted Nightjar, *Eurostopodus argus*
Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus*
Savanna Nightjar, *Caprimulgus affinis*

Aegothelidae

- Australian Owlet-nightjar, *Aegotheles cristatus*

Apodiformes

Apodidae

- Glossy Swiftlet, *Collocalia esculenta*
White-rumped Swiftlet, *Collocalia spodiopygius*
Uniform Swiftlet, *Collocalia vanikorensis*
White-throated Needletail, *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Fork-tailed Swift, *Apus pacificus*
House Swift, *Apus affinis*

Coraciiformes

Alcedinidae

- Azure Kingfisher, *Ceyx azurea*
Little Kingfisher, *Ceyx pusilla*

Halcyonidae

- Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, *Tanysiptera sylvia*
Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo novaeguineae*
Blue-winged Kookaburra, *Dacelo leachii*
Yellow-billed Kingfisher, *Syma torotoro*
Forest Kingfisher, *Todiramphus macleayi*
Red-backed Kingfisher, *Todiramphus pyrrhopygia*
Sacred Kingfisher, *Todiramphus sanctus*
Collared Kingfisher, *Todiramphus chloris*

Meropidae

- Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*

Coraciidae

- Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis*

Passeriformes

Pittidae

- Red-bellied Pitta, *Pitta erythrogaster*
Blue-winged Pitta, *Pitta moluccensis*
Noisy Pitta, *Pitta versicolor*
Rainbow Pitta, *Pitta iris*

Menuridae

- Albert's Lyrebird, *Menura alberti*
Superb Lyrebird, *Menura novaehollandiae*

Atrichornithidae

- Rufous Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis rufescens*
Noisy Scrub-bird, *Atrichornis clamosus*

Climacteridae

- White-throated Treecreeper, *Cormobates leucophaeus*
White-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris affinis*
Red-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris erythrops*
Brown Treecreeper, *Climacteris picumnus*
Black-tailed Treecreeper, *Climacteris melanura*
Rufous Treecreeper, *Climacteris rufa*

Maluridae

- Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, *Malurus coronatus*
Superb Fairy-wren, *Malurus cyaneus*
Splendid Fairy-wren, *Malurus splendens*
Variegated Fairy-wren, *Malurus lamberti*
Lovely Fairy-wren, *Malurus amabilis*
Blue-breasted Fairy-wren, *Malurus pulcherrimus*
Red-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus elegans*
White-winged Fairy-wren, *Malurus leucopterus*
Red-backed Fairy-wren, *Malurus melanocephalus*
Southern Emu-wren, *Stipiturus malachurus*
Mallee Emu-wren, *Stipiturus mallee*

Rufous-crowned Emu-wren, *Stipiturus ruficeps*
 Grey Grasswren, *Amytornis barbatus*
 Black Grasswren, *Amytornis housei*
 White-throated Grasswren, *Amytornis woodwardi*
 Carpentarian Grasswren, *Amytornis dorotheae*
 Striated Grasswren, *Amytornis striatus*
 Short-tailed Grasswren, *Amytornis merrotsyi*
 Eyrean Grasswren, *Amytornis goyderi*
 Thick-billed Grasswren, *Amytornis textilis*
 Dusky Grasswren, *Amytornis purnelli*
 Kalkadoon Grasswren, *Amytornis ballarae*

Pardalotidae

- Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*
 Forty-spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus quadragintus*
 Red-browed Pardalote, *Pardalotus rubricatus*
 Striated Pardalote, *Pardalotus striatus*
 Eastern Bristlebird, *Dasyornis brachypterus*
 Western Bristlebird, *Dasyornis longirostris*
 Rufous Bristlebird, *Dasyornis broadbenti*
 Pilotbird, *Pycnoptilus floccosus*
 Rockwarbler, *Origma solitaria*
 Fernwren, *Oreoscopus gutturalis*
 Yellow-throated Scrubwren, *Sericornis citreogularis*
 White-browed Scrubwren, *Sericornis frontalis*
 Tasmanian Scrubwren, *Sericornis humilis*
 Atherton Scrubwren, *Sericornis keri*
 Large-billed Scrubwren, *Sericornis magnirostris*
 Tropical Scrubwren, *Sericornis beccarii*
 Scrubtit, *Acanthornis magnus*
 Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*
 Shy Heathwren, *Hylacota cauta*
 Striated Fieldwren, *Calamanthus fuliginosus*
 Rufous Fieldwren, *Calamanthus campestris*
 Redthroat, *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*
 Speckled Warbler, *Chthonicola sagittata*
 Weebill, *Smicrornis brevirostris*
 Brown Gerygone, *Gerygone mouki*
 Norfolk Island Gerygone, *Gerygone modesta*
 Dusky Gerygone, *Gerygone tenebrosa*
 Mangrove Gerygone, *Gerygone laevigaster*
 Lord Howe Gerygone, *Gerygone insularis* - extinct

Western Gerygone, *Gerygone fusca*
 Large-billed Gerygone, *Gerygone magnirostris*
 Green-backed Gerygone, *Gerygone chloronota*
 Fairy Gerygone, *Gerygone palpebrosa*
 White-throated Gerygone, *Gerygone olivacea*
 Mountain Thornbill, *Acanthiza katherina*
 Brown Thornbill, *Acanthiza pusilla*
 Inland Thornbill, *Acanthiza apicalis*
 Tasmanian Thornbill, *Acanthiza ewingii*
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza uropygialis*
 Slaty-backed Thornbill, *Acanthiza robustirostris*
 Western Thornbill, *Acanthiza inornata*
 Buff-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza reguloides*
 Slender-billed Thornbill, *Acanthiza iredalei*
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill, *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*
 Yellow Thornbill, *Acanthiza nana*
 Striated Thornbill, *Acanthiza lineata*
 Southern Whiteface, *Aphelocephala leucopsis*
 Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, *Aphelocephala pectoralis*
 Banded Whiteface, *Aphelocephala nigricincta*

Meliphagidae

- Red Wattlebird, *Anthochaera carunculata*
- Yellow Wattlebird, *Anthochaera paradoxa*
- Little Wattlebird, *Anthochaera chrysoptera*
- Western Wattlebird, *Anthochaera lunulata*
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, *Acanthagenys rufogularis*
- Striped Honeyeater, *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*
- Helmeted Friarbird, *Philemon buceroides*
- Silver-crowned Friarbird, *Philemon argenteiceps*
- Noisy Friarbird, *Philemon corniculatus*
- Little Friarbird, *Philemon citreogularis*
- Regent Honeyeater, *Xanthomyza phrygia*
- Blue-faced Honeyeater, *Entomyzon cyanotis*
- Bell Miner, *Manorina melanophrys*
- Noisy Miner, *Manorina melanocephala*
- Yellow-throated Miner, *Manorina flavigula*
- Black-eared Miner, *Manorina melanotis*
- Macleay's Honeyeater, *Xanthotis macleayana*
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, *Xanthotis flaviventer*
- Lewin's Honeyeater, *Meliphaga lewinii*
- Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, *Meliphaga notata*

Graceful Honeyeater, *Meliphaga gracilis*
 White-lined Honeyeater, *Meliphaga albilineata*
 Bridled Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus frenatus*
 Eungella Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus hindwoodi*
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus chrysops*
 Singing Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus virescens*
 Varied Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus versicolor*
 Mangrove Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fasciogularis*
 White-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus unicolor*
 Yellow Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavus*
 White-eared Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus leucotis*
 Yellow-throated Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavicollis*
 Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus melanops*
 Purple-gaped Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus cratitius*
 Grey-headed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus keartlandi*
 Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus ornatus*
 Grey-fronted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus plumulus*
 Fuscous Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus fuscus*
 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus flavescens*
 White-plumed Honeyeater, *Lichenostomus penicillatus*
 Black-chinned Honeyeater, *Melithreptus gularis*
 Strong-billed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus validirostris*
 Brown-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus brevirostris*
 White-throated Honeyeater, *Melithreptus albogularis*
 White-naped Honeyeater, *Melithreptus lunatus*
 Black-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus affinis*
 Green-backed Honeyeater, *Glycichaera fallax*
 Brown Honeyeater, *Lichmera indistincta*
 White-streaked Honeyeater, *Trichodere cockerelli*
 Painted Honeyeater, *Grantiella picta*
 Crescent Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*
 New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*
 White-cheeked Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris nigra*
 White-fronted Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris albifrons*
 Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris melanops*
 Brown-backed Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis modestus*
 Bar-breasted Honeyeater, *Ramsayornis fasciatus*
 Rufous-banded Honeyeater, *Conopophila albogularis*
 Rufous-throated Honeyeater, *Conopophila rufogularis*
 Grey Honeyeater, *Conopophila whitei*
 Eastern Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
 Western Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*
 Banded Honeyeater, *Certhionyx pectoralis*
 Black Honeyeater, *Certhionyx niger*
 Pied Honeyeater, *Certhionyx variegatus*

Dusky Honeyeater, *Myzomela obscura*
Red-headed Honeyeater, *Myzomela erythrocephala*
Scarlet Honeyeater, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
Crimson Chat, *Epthianura tricolor*
Orange Chat, *Epthianura aurifrons*
Yellow Chat, *Epthianura crocea*
White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*
Gibberbird, *Ashbyia lovensis*

Petroicidae

- Jacky Winter, *Microeca leucophaea*
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, *Microeca flavigaster*
Yellow-legged Flycatcher, *Microeca griseiceps*
Scarlet Robin, *Petroica multicolor*
Red-capped Robin, *Petroica goodenovii*
Flame Robin, *Petroica phoenicea*
Rose Robin, *Petroica rosea*
Pink Robin, *Petroica rodinogaster*
Hooded Robin, *Melanodryas cucullata*
Dusky Robin, *Melanodryas vittata*
Pale-yellow Robin, *Tregellasia capito*
White-faced Robin, *Tregellasia leucops*
Eastern Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria australis*
Western Yellow Robin, *Eopsaltria griseogularis*
White-breasted Robin, *Eopsaltria georgiana*
Mangrove Robin, *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*
White-browed Robin, *Poecilodryas superciliosa*
Grey-headed Robin, *Heteromyias albispecularis*
Northern Scrub-robin, *Drymodes supercilialis*
Southern Scrub-robin, *Drymodes brunneopygia*

Orthonychidae

- Logrunner, *Orthonyx temminckii*
Chowchilla, *Orthonyx spaldingii*

Pomatostomidae

- Grey-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus temporalis*
White-browed Babbler, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

Hall's Babbler, *Pomatostomus halli*

Chestnut-crowned Babbler, *Pomatostomus ruficeps*

Cinclosomatidae

- Eastern Whipbird, *Psophodes olivaceus*
Western Whipbird, *Psophodes nigrogularis*
Chirruping Wedgebill, *Psophodes cristatus*
Chiming Wedgebill, *Psophodes occidentalis*
Spotted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma punctatum*
Chestnut Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castanotum*
Cinnamon Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*
Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush, *Cinclosoma castaneothorax*

Neosittidae

- Varied Sittella, *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Pachycephalidae

- Crested Shrike-tit, *Falcunculus frontatus*
Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis*
Olive Whistler, *Pachycephala olivacea*
Red-lored Whistler, *Pachycephala rufogularis*
Gilbert's Whistler, *Pachycephala inornata*
Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*
Mangrove Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala melanura*
Grey Whistler, *Pachycephala simplex*
Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*
White-breasted Whistler, *Pachycephala lanioides*
Little Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla megarhyncha*
Bower's Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla boweri*
Sandstone Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla woodwardi*
Grey Shrike-thrush, *Colluricincla harmonica*

Dicruridae

- Yellow-breasted Boatbill, *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*
Black-faced Monarch, *Monarcha melanopsis*
Black-winged Monarch, *Monarcha frater*

Spectacled Monarch, *Monarcha trivirgatus*
White-eared Monarch, *Monarcha leucotis*
Fringed Monarch, *Arses telescopthalmus*
Pied Monarch, *Arses kaupi*
Broad-billed Flycatcher, *Myiagra ruficollis*
Leaden Flycatcher, *Myiagra rubecula*
Satin Flycatcher, *Myiagra cyanoleuca*
Shining Flycatcher, *Myiagra alecto*
Restless Flycatcher, *Myiagra inquieta*
Magpie-Lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*
Rufous Fantail, *Rhipidura rufifrons*
Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
Lord Howe Fantail, *Rhipidura cervina* - extinct
Mangrove Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura phasiana*
Northern Fantail, *Rhipidura rufiventris*
Willie Wagtail, *Rhipidura leucophrys*
Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Campephagidae

- Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina novaehollandiae*
Barred Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina lineata*
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina papuensis*
Cicadabird, *Coracina tenuirostris*
Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina maxima*
White-winged Triller, *Lalage sueurii*
Varied Triller, *Lalage leucomela*
Long-tailed Triller, *Lalage leucopyga*

Oriolidae

- Yellow Oriole, *Oriolus flavocinctus*
Olive-backed Oriole, *Oriolus sagittatus*
Figbird, *Sphecotheres viridis*

Artamidae

- White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*
Masked Woodswallow, *Artamus personatus*
White-browed Woodswallow, *Artamus superciliosus*
Black-faced Woodswallow, *Artamus cinereus*

Dusky Woodswallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*
Little Woodswallow, *Artamus minor*
Black Butcherbird, *Cracticus quoyi*
Grey Butcherbird, *Cracticus torquatus*
Black-backed Butcherbird, *Cracticus mentalis*
Pied Butcherbird, *Cracticus nigrogularis*
Australian Magpie, *Gymnorhina tibicen*
Pied Currawong, *Strepera graculina*
Black Currawong, *Strepera fuliginosa*
Grey Currawong, *Strepera versicolor*

Paradisaeidae

- Paradise Riflebird, *Ptiloris paradiseus*
Victoria's Riflebird, *Ptiloris victoriae*
Magnificent Riflebird, *Ptiloris magnificus*
Trumpet Manucode, *Manucodia keraudrenii*

Corvidae

- Australian Raven, *Corvus coronoides*
Forest Raven, *Corvus tasmanicus*
Little Raven, *Corvus mellori*
Little Crow, *Corvus bennetti*
Torresian Crow, *Corvus orru*

Corcoracidae

- White-winged Chough, *Corcorax melanorhamphos*
Apostlebird, *Struthidea cinerea*

Laniidae

- Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus*

Ptilonorhynchidae

- Spotted Catbird, *Ailuroedus melanotis*
Green Catbird, *Ailuroedus crassirostris*
Tooth-billed Catbird, *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*
Golden Bowerbird, *Prionodura newtoniana*
Regent Bowerbird, *Sericulus chrysocephalus*
Satin Bowerbird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*
Spotted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera maculata*
Western Bowerbird, *Chlamydera guttata*
Great Bowerbird, *Chlamydera nuchalis*
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

Alaudidae

- Singing Bushlark, *Mirafrja javanica*
Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*

Motacillidae

- Australasian Pipit, *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Red-throated Pipit, *Anthus cervinus*
Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*
Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*
Black-backed Wagtail, *Motacilla lugens*

Passeridae

- House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*
Zebra Finch, *Taeniopygia guttata*
Double-barred Finch, *Taeniopygia bichenovii*
Long-tailed Finch, *Poephila acuticauda*
Black-throated Finch, *Poephila cincta*
Masked Finch, *Poephila personata*
Crimson Finch, *Neochmia phaeton*
Star Finch, *Neochmia ruficauda*
Plum-headed Finch, *Neochmia modesta*
Red-browed Finch, *Neochmia temporalis*

Diamond Firetail, *Stagonopleura guttata*
Beautiful Firetail, *Stagonopleura bella*
Red-eared Firetail, *Stagonopleura oculata*
Painted Finch, *Emblema picta*
Nutmeg Mannikin, *Lonchura punctulata*
Yellow-rumped Mannikin, *Lonchura flaviprymna*
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, *Lonchura castaneothorax*
Java Sparrow, *Lonchura oryzivora*
Pale-headed Munia, *Lonchura pallida*
Pictorella Mannikin, *Heteromunia pectoralis*
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, *Erythrura trichroa*
Gouldian Finch, *Erythrura gouldiae*

Fringillidae

- Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*
European Greenfinch, *Carduelis chloris*
European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*
Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea*

Emberizidae

- Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*

Nectariniidae

- Yellow-bellied Sunbird, *Nectarinia jugularis*

Dicaeidae

- Mistletoebird, *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*
Red-capped Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum geelvinkianum*

Hirundinidae

- White-backed Swallow, *Cheramoeca leucosternum*
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*

Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica*
Tree Martin, *Hirundo nigricans*
Fairy Martin, *Hirundo ariel*
Asian House Martin, *Hirundo dasypus*

Pycnonotidae

- Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Sylviidae

- Clamorous Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
Oriental Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus orientalis*
Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis*
Tawny Grassbird, *Megalurus timoriensis*
Little Grassbird, *Megalurus gramineus*
Spinifexbird, *Eremiornis carteri*
Rufous Songlark, *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*
Brown Songlark, *Cinclorhamphus cruralis*
Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
Golden-headed Cisticola, *Cisticola exilis*

Zosteropidae

- Christmas Island White-eye, *Zosterops natalis*
Pale White-eye, *Zosterops citrinella*
Yellow White-eye, *Zosterops lutea*
Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*
Robust White-eye, *Zosterops strenuus* - extinct
Slender-billed White-eye, *Zosterops tenuirostris* - extinct
White-chested White-eye, *Zosterops albogularis*

Muscicapidae

- Bassian Thrush, *Zoothera lunulata*
Russet-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera heinei*
Common Blackbird, *Turdus merula*
Island Thrush, *Turdus poliocephalus*
Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*
Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*

Blue-and-white Flycatcher, *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
Blue Rock-Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*

Sturnidae

- Tasman Starling, *Aplonis fusca* - extinct
Metallic Starling, *Aplonis metallica*
Singing Starling, *Aplonis cantoroides*
Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*
Purple-backed Starling *Sturnus philippensis*
Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*

See also

- [List of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic birds](#)

Birds of Europe

In this article, Europe refers to the geographical continent, not the somewhat larger Western Palearctic, which includes parts of the Middle East and north Africa.

There are about 700 species of [bird](#) in the area, and in general the avifauna is similar to Asia north of the Himalayas, which shares the same ecozone. There are also many groups shared with North America.

Conversely, many of the southern hemisphere groups, including the ancient flightless *Struthioniformes* ([ostrich](#) family), and their relatives the tinamous are not represented at all.

The order follows the **Voous Order**, with the revision of the Anseriformes and Galliformes brought to the start of the list, adopted by all European countries.

European birds include the following families:

Anseriformes

- [Anatidae](#) [swans](#), [geese](#) and [ducks](#)

Galliformes

- Tetraonidae [grouse](#)
 - [Phasianidae](#) [partridges](#), [pheasants](#), quails etc.

Gaviiformes

- Gaviidae divers

Podicipediformes

- Podicepidae [grebes](#)

Procellariiformes

- Diomedidae [albatross](#) rare vagrant
- **Procellariidae** fulmars, shearwaters, [gadfly](#) and other petrels.
- Hydrobatidae storm-petrels

Pelecaniformes

- Phaethontidae tropicbirds very rare vagrant
- Sulidae [gannets](#)
- Phalacrocoracidae [cormorants](#)
- Pelecanidae [pelicans](#)
- Fregatidae [frigatebirds](#) very rare vagrant

Ciconiiformes (American taxonomists often include all the [raptors](#) in this family.)

- Ardeidae herons and bitterns
- Ciconiidae: [storks](#)
- Threskiomithidae [ibises](#) and spoonbills

- Phoenicopteridae flamingos

Accipitriformes (Some classifications also include the Falconidae.)

- **Accipitridae** [hawks](#), [eagles](#), buzzards and [Old World vultures](#), [harriers](#), [kites](#) and allies
- Pandionidae Osprey

Falconiformes (Sometimes included in the Accipitriformes.)

- Falconidae [falcons](#)

Gruiformes

- Rallidae rails and crakes
Turnicidae buttonquails very marginal in Europe
Gruidae cranes
Otidae bustards

Charadriformes

- Haematopodidae [oystercatchers](#)
- Recurvirostridae [avocets](#) and stilts
- Burhinidae thick-knees
- Glareolidae coursers and pratincoles
- Charadriidae plovers
- Scolopacidae typical [waders](#) or shorebirds
- Stercoraridae skuas
- Laridae [gulls](#)
- Sternidae [terns](#)
- Alcidae [auks](#)

Pterocliiformes

- Pteroclididae [sandgrouse](#)

Columbiformes

- Columbidae [pigeons](#) and [doves](#)

Psittaciformes

- Psittacidae parrots introduced only

Cuculiformes

- Cuculidae cuckoos

Strigiformes

- Tytonidae barn owls
- Strigidae [owls](#)

Caprimulgiformes

- Caprimulgidae [nightjars](#)

Apodiformes

- Apodidae [swifts](#)

Coraciiformes

- Alcedinidae [kingfishers](#)
- Meropidae bee-eaters
- Coraciidae rollers
- Upupidae Hoopoe

Piciformes

- Picidae woodpeckers

[Passeriformes perching birds](#)

- Alaudidae larks
- Hirundinidae swallows and martins
- Motacillidae wagtails and pipits
- Bombycillidae waxwings
- Cinclidae dippers
- Troglodytidae wrens
- Prunellidae accentors
- Turdidae thrushes and chats
- Sylviidae Old World warblers
- Regulidae kinglets
- Muscicapidae Old World flycatchers
- Timaliidae Bearded Tit (and babblers, not in Europe)
- Aegithalidae long-tailed tits
- Paridae tits
- Sittidae nuthatches
- Tichodromadidae Wallcreeper
- Certhiidae treecreepers
- Remizidae penduline tits
- Oriolidae orioles
- Laniidae shrikes
- Corvidae crows and jays
- Sturnidae starlings
- Passeridae sparrows
- Estrildidae waxbills etc introduced
- Vireonidae vireos very rare vagrant
- Fringillidae finches
- Parulidae New World warblers very rare vagrant

Thraupidae tanagers very rare vagrant

Emberizidae buntings and American sparrows

Icteridae icterids very rare vagrant

The links above lead to family accounts and hence to individual species. Taxonomy is very fluid in the age of DNA analysis, so other arrangements may be found.

See also

- [List of Australian birds](#)

Birds of prey

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Orders

- **Accipitriformes**
 - Pandionidae
 - [Accipitridae](#)
 - Sagittariidae
 - **Falconiformes**
 - [Falconidae](#)

A **bird of prey** or **raptor** is a [bird](#) that hunts for food primarily using its talons. They display a characteristic curved tip to their [beak](#) and have superb vision. Diurnal birds of prey belong to the orders Accipitriformes and Falconiformes in several groups including:

- **Accipitriformes**
 - Pandionidae: Osprey
 - [Accipitridae](#): [hawks](#), [eagles](#), buzzards, [kites](#) and [Old World vultures](#)
 - Sagittariidae: Secretary Bird
 - **Falconiformes**
 - [Falconidae](#): [falcons](#)

For an alternative taxonomy, see also Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy.

Nocturnal birds of prey—the [owls](#)—are separate from the diurnal families, and are in the order Strigiformes. The term "raptor" includes owls.

Although other bird groups may fill similar ecological roles and sometimes appear closely related at first sight, this is largely because of convergent evolution.

Raptor names

- [Eagles](#) are large birds with long, broad wings and massive legs. Booted eagles have feathered legs and build large stick nests.
- [Kites](#) have long wings and weak legs. They spend much of their time soaring. They will take live prey but mostly feed on carrion.
- [Falcons](#) are small to medium sized birds of prey with long pointed wings. Unlike most other raptors, they belong to the [Falconidae](#) rather than the [Accipitridae](#). Many are particularly swift flyers. Instead of building their own nests, falcons

appropriate old nests of other birds but sometimes they lay their eggs on cliff ledges or in tree hollows.

- [Owls](#) are variable-sized nocturnal hunting birds. They fly soundlessly and have very acute senses of hearing and sight.
- [Harriers](#) are large, slender hawk-like birds with long tails and long thin legs. Most hunt by gliding and circling low over grasslands and marshes on their long broad wings.
- [Hawks](#) are medium-sized birds of prey that belong to the genus *Accipiter*. They are mainly woodland birds that hunt by sudden dashes from a concealed perch. They usually have long tails.
- **Buzzards** are raptors with a robust body and broad wings, or, alternatively, any bird of the genus *Buteo* (also commonly known as **Hawks** in North America).

Eagles

- [1 Taxonomy](#)
 - [1.1 Species](#)
- [2 Eagles in culture](#)
 - [2.1 Eagles as national symbols](#)
 - [2.2 Eagles as religious objects](#)
 - [2.3 Eagles as organizational symbols](#)
- [3 References](#)

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: [Accipitridae](#)

Genera: Several, see below.

Eagles are large [birds of prey](#) which inhabit mainly the Old World, with only two species (Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle) commonly found in North America, a few in South America, the (White-bellied Sea Eagle, Wedge-tailed Eagle) in Australia and the Philippine Eagle in the Philippine Archipelago. They are members of the [bird](#) order Falconiformes (or Accipitriformes, according to alternative classification schemes), family [Accipitridae](#) and belong to several genera which are not necessarily closely related to each other.

Eagles are differentiated from other broad-winged birds of prey mainly by their larger size, more powerful build, and heavier head and bill. Even the smallest eagles, like the Booted Eagle, which is comparable in size to a Common Buzzard or Red-tailed Hawk has relatively longer and more evenly broad wings, and more direct, faster flight. Most eagles are larger than any other raptors apart from the [vultures](#).

In Britain before 1678, *Eagle* referred specifically to the Golden Eagle, the other native species, the White-tailed Eagle, being known as the Erne. The modern name "Golden Eagle" for *Aquila chrysaetos* was introduced by the naturalist John Ray.

Like all birds of prey, eagles have very large powerful hooked [beaks](#) for tearing flesh from their prey, strong legs, and powerful talons. They also have extremely keen eyesight to enable them to spot potential prey from a very long distance. This keen eyesight is primarily contributed by their extremely large pupils which cause minimal diffraction (spreading) of the incoming light.

Eagles build their nest in tall trees or on high cliffs. Their nests, which are sometimes called eyries, can grow to 10 feet in diameter and weigh as much as 2000 pounds.

Eagles are sometimes used in [falconry](#). They appear prominently in myth and literature. In the Old World, such references are commonly to the Golden Eagle (or possibly closely related species found in warm climates).

Taxonomy

For many years there has been some scientific debate as to whether the Accipitriformes are a separate order, or belong to the Falconiformes.

Major new research into eagle taxonomy suggests that the important genera *Aquila* and *Hieraetus* are not composed of nearest relatives, and it is likely that a reclassification of these genera will soon take place, with some species being moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*.

- Bonelli's Eagle, Booted Eagle and African Hawk-eagle have been moved from *Hieraetus* to *Aquila*.
Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga* and Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina* should be moved either to join Long-crested Eagle, *Lophaetus occipitalis* or, perhaps better, all three of these species should move to *Ictinaetus* with the Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis*.
Steppe Eagles and Tawny Eagles, once thought to be conspecific, are shown not even to be each other's nearest relatives.

Species

FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE

- **Subfamily *Buteoninae*** - hawks (buzzards), true eagles and sea-eagles
 - Genus *Geranoaetus*
 - Black-chested Buzzard-eagle, *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*
 - Genus *Harpyhaliaetus*
 - Crowned Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*
Solitary Eagle, *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*
 - Genus *Morphnus*
 - Crested Eagle, *Morphnus guianensis*
 - Genus *Harpia*
 - Harpy Eagle, *Harpia harpyja*
 - Genus *Pithecophaga*
 - Philippine Eagle, *Pithecophaga jefferyi*
 - Genus *Harpyopsis*
 - New Guinea Eagle, *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
 - Genus *Oroaetus*
 - Black-and-chestnut Eagle, *Oroaetus isidori*
 - Genus *Spizastur*
 - Black-and-white Hawk-eagle, *Spizastur melanoleucus*
 - Genus *Spizaetus*
 - Cassin's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus africanus*
Changeable Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
Mountain Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus nipalensis*

- Blyth's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus alboniger*
- Javan Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus bartelsi*
- Sulawesi Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus lanceolatus*
- Philippine Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus philippensis*
- Wallace's Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus nanus*
- Black Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*
- Ornate Hawk-eagle, *Spizaetus ornatus*
- Genus *Lophaetus*
 - Long-crested Eagle, *Lophaetus occipitalis* - possibly belongs into *Ictinaetus*
- Genus *Stephanoaetus*
 - Crowned Hawk-eagle, *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
- Genus *Polemaetus*
 - Martial Eagle, *Polemaetus bellicosus*
- Genus *Hieraaetus*
 - Little Eagle, *Hieraaetus morphnoides*
 - Ayres' Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus ayresii*
 - Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle, *Hieraaetus kienerii*
- Genus *Aquila*
 - - Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciata* - formerly *Hieraaetus fasciatus*
 - Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennata* - formerly *Hieraaetus pennatus*
 - African Hawk-eagle, *Aquila spilogaster* - formerly *Hieraaetus spilogaster*
 - Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
 - Eastern Imperial Eagle, *Aquila heliaca*
 - Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*
 - Steppe Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis*
 - Tawny Eagle, *Aquila rapax*
 - Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 - Lesser Spotted Eagle, *Aquila pomarina* - to be moved to *Lophaetus* or *Ictinaetus*
 - Verreaux's Eagle, *Aquila verreauxii*
 - Gurney's Eagle, *Aquila gurneyi*
 - Wahlberg's Eagle, *Aquila wahlbergi*
 - Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*
 - Genus *Ictinaetus*
 - Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis*
 - Genus *Haliaeetus*
 - White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*
 - Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
 - Steller's Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus pelagicus*
 - African Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vocifer*

- White-bellied Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- Sanford's Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus sanfordi*
- Madagascar Fish-eagle, *Haliaeetus vociferoides*
- Pallas' Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
- Genus *Ichthyophaga*
 - Lesser Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga humilis*
 - Grey-headed Fish-eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
- **Subfamily Circaetinae: snake-eagles**
- Genus *Terathopius*
 - Bateleur, *Terathopius ecaudatus*
- Genus *Circaetus*
 - Short-toed Eagle, *Circaetus gallicus*
 - Black-chested Snake-eagle, *Circaetus pectoralis*
 - Brown Snake-eagle, *Circaetus cinereus*
 - Fasciated Snake-eagle, *Circaetus fasciolatus*
 - Banded Snake-eagle, *Circaetus cinerascens*
- Genus *Spilornis*
 - Crested Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis cheela*
 - Nicobar Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis minimus*
 - Mountain Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
 - Sulawesi Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis rufipectus*
 - Philippine Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis holospilus*
 - Andaman Serpent-eagle, *Spilornis elgini*
- Genus *Eutriorchis*
 - Madagascar Serpent-eagle, *Eutriorchis astur*

Eagles in culture

Eagles as national symbols

Coat of arms of the town of Berg en Terblijt in the Netherlands, an example of the prolific use of the eagle in European heraldry.

The eagle has been used by many nations as a national symbol, depicting power, beauty and independence.

- **Ancient Egypt.** The Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt used it as their seal
- **Arabic world.** Many Arabic states and organisations use eagles as symbols, e.g. the PLO.

- **Czech Republic.** The Czech Republic integrates three historical parts: Bohemia (with a double tailed lion in the emblem), Moravia and Silesia (both with eagle females in emblems - red-and-white chequered and black).
- **First French Empire.** Napoleon Bonaparte recovered the Roman golden eagle as the symbol of his new French empire.
- **Mexico.** The bird on the Mexican coat of arms and flag is a Golden Eagle.
- **Moldova.** An eagle is part of the coat of arms and flag of Moldova.
- **The Philippines.** The endangered Philippine Eagle is the national bird of the Philippines.
- **Poland.** A white eagle on a red field is the coat of arms of Poland.
- **Romania.** The eagle is also part of the coat of arms of Romania
- **Rome.** The Romans used it on the standards of their armies. From this derives:
 - **The Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium)** at Constantinople chose a two-headed golden eagle as its symbol. One head symbolised ancient Rome, and the other head symbolised "new Rome" at Constantinople. From this derives:
 - **Albania.** The two-headed eagle is the emblem of "Shqipëria" or *Land of the Eagles*, which is known in English as Albania
 - **Russian Empire.** After the fall of Constantinople, the Russian Empire took the two-headed eagle as its own symbol.
 - **Charlemagne and Holy Roman Empire.** After his crowning as the new Roman Emperor, Charlemagne adopted the ancient Roman eagle as his own symbol. The Holy Roman Empire born of his kingdom took the eagle, but the Habsburgs replaced the golden eagle by an imperial eagle. From this derives:
 - **Austria.** The Austrian Empire had a two-headed eagle as its symbol. After the abolition of Austria-Hungary, Austria took as its symbol a one-headed eagle in the modern coat of arms of Austria.
 - **Germany and Prussia.** Prussia, and later Germany have used a black eagle as their national symbol.
 - **Spain.** The "Catholic Kings", Isabella and Ferdinand, used the Golden Eagle as a part of the royal shield. The eagle was on the Spanish shield until 1978.
- **Serbia/Montenegro.** The Two-headed eagle is the emblem of Serbia, Montenegro, and Serbia and Montenegro.
- **Seljuk Turks** and Ottoman Turks used a double-headed eagle as coats-of-arms.
- **USA.** The United States has adopted the North American Bald Eagle as its national emblem. Although the Golden Eagle is found in North America, U.S. references to an unspecified "eagle" are often to the Bald Eagle; this point was not realized by an American coin die engraver, who, told to depict "an eagle", depicted a Golden Eagle; this error is the cause of the expression "illegal eagle".

Eagles as religious objects

In Jewish tradition the eagle is a symbol of true greatness, and the nation's greatest leaders such as the great sage of the Middle Ages Maimonides and the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the modern day leader of world Jewry have been referred to by their peers and students as "The Great Eagle". The Torah compares G-d Himself to an eagle in Deuteronomy, 32.11-12. "As an eagle awakens its nest, hovering over its fledglings, it spreads its wings, taking them and carrying them on its pinions. [So] the Lord guided them [the Israelites] alone, and there was no alien deity with Him."

The eagle is a sacred bird in some cultures and the feathers of the eagle are central to many religious and spiritual customs, especially amongst Native Americans. Native Americans revere eagles as sacred religious objects and the feathers and parts of Bald and Golden Eagles are often compared to the Bible and crucifix. Eagle feathers are often used in various ceremonies and are used to honor noteworthy achievements and qualities such as exceptional leadership and bravery.

Despite modern and historic Native American practices of giving eagle feathers to non-Native Americans and Native American members of other tribes who have been deemed worthy, current United States eagle feather law stipulates that only individuals of certifiable Native American ancestry enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe are legally authorized to obtain eagle feathers for religious or spiritual use.

Eagles as organizational symbols

- **USA.** Eagles are a common motif for American companies and organizations seeking association with a national identity. A few examples are the United States Postal Service, the Constitution Party, and the name of the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Portugal.** Eagle is the symbol of the Portuguese football team Sport Lisboa e Benfica.

References

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Falconry

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Falconry or **hawking** is the art or sport involving [raptors](#) (birds of prey) to hunt or pursue game. There are two traditional terms used to describe a person involved in falconry. A Falconer, who flies a falcon. An Austringer is one who flies a "true" hawk (accipiter). In modern falconry, buteos are now commonly used so a more loosely used term of falconer now applies to all people involved in falconry, because the words hawking and hawker have become so much used to mean petty travelling traders in goods.

History

Traditional views of falconry state that the art started in East Asia; however, archaeologists have found evidence of falconry in the Middle East dating back to the 1st century BC. Historically, falconry was a popular sport, and status symbol, among the nobles of both medieval Europe and feudal Japan, where it is called takagari. Eggs and chicks of [birds of prey](#) were quite rare and expensive, and since the process of raising and training a hawk

or falcon takes a lot of time and money and space, it was more or less restricted to the noble classes. In Japan, there were even strict restrictions on who could hunt which sorts of animals, and where, based on one's ranking within the samurai class. In art, and in other aspects of culture, such as literature, falconry remained a status symbol long after falconry was no longer popularly practiced. [Eagles](#) and [hawks](#) displayed on the wall could represent the noble himself, metaphorically, as noble and fierce. Woodblock prints or paintings of [falcons](#) or falconry scenes could be bought by wealthy commoners, and displayed as the next best thing to partaking in the sport, again representing a certain degree of nobility.

Timeline

- **722-705 BC** - An Assyrian bas-relief found in the ruins at Khorsabad during the excavation of the palace of Sargon II (or Saragon II) has been claimed to depict falconry. In fact, it depicts an archer shooting at raptors and an attendant capturing a raptor. A. H. Layard's statement in his 1853 book Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon is "A falconer bearing a hawk on his wrist appeared to be represented in a bas-relief which I saw on my last visit to those ruins."
- **680 BC** - Chinese records describe falconry. E. W. Jameson suggests that evidence of falconry in Japan surfaces.
- **4th Century BC** - It is assumed that the Romans learned falconry from the Greeks.
- **384 BC** - Aristotle and other Greeks made references to falconry
- **70-44 BC** - Caesar is reported to have trained falcons to kill carrier pigeons.
- **355 AD** - Nihon-shoki, a historical narrative, records first hawking in Japan as of 43rd reign of Nintoku.
- **500** - E. W. Jameson says that the earliest reliable evidence of falconry in Europe is a Roman floor mosaic of a falconer and his hawk hunting [ducks](#).
- **600** - Germanic tribes practiced falconry
- **8th and 9th century and continuing today** - Falconry flourished in the Middle East.
- **818** - The Japanese Emperor Saga ordered someone to edit a falconry text named "Shinshuu Youkyou".
- **875** - Western Europe and Saxon England practiced falconry widely.
- **991** - The Battle of Maldon. A poem describing it says that before the battle, the Anglo-Saxons' leader Byrhtnoth "let his beloved hawk fly from his hand towards the woodland".
- **1066** - Normans wrote of the practice of falconry; following the Norman conquest of England, falconry became even more popular. The word "falconry" is descended from the Norman-French word *fauconnerie*.
- **c.1100** - Crusaders are credited with bringing falconry to England and making it popular in the courts.
- **c.1240s**, Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor, commissions a translation of the treatise De arte venandi cum avibus, by the Arab Moamyn, and is said to have

corrected and rewritten it on the basis of his own extensive experience with falconry.

- **1390s** - In his *Libro de la caza de las aves*, Castilian poet and chronicler Pero López de Ayala attempts to compile all the correct and available knowledge concerning falconry.
- **early 16th Century** - Japanese warlord Asakura Norikage (1476-1555) succeeded in captive breeding of goshawks.
- **1600's** - Dutch records of falconry; the Dutch willage of Valkenswaard was almost entirely dependent on falconry for its economy.
- **1660s** - Tsar Alexis of Russia writes a treatise which celebrates aesthetic pleasures derived from falconry.
- **1801** - James Strutt of England writes, "the ladies not only accompanied the gentlemen in pursuit of the diversion [falconry], but often practiced it by themselves; and even excelled the men in knowledge and exercise of the art."
- **1934** - The first US falconry club, The Peregrine Club, is formed; it died out during World War II
- **1961** - NAFA formed
- **1970** - The Peregrine Fund is founded mostly by falconers to conserve raptors, but focusing on Peregrines.

The Boke of St Albans

The often-quoted *Boke of St Albans*, first printed in 1486, often attributed to Dame Juliana Berners, provides this hierarchy of [hawks](#) and the social ranks for which each bird was supposedly appropriate. The line numbers are not in the original.

- 1) Emperor: The Eagle, Vulture, and Merloun
- 2) King: The Ger Falcon and the Tercel of the Ger Falcon
- 3) Prince: The Falcon Gentle and the Tercel Gentle
- 4) Duke: The Falcon of the Loch
- 5) Earl: The Falcon Peregrine
- 6) Baron: The Bustard
- 7) Knight: The Sacre and the Sacret
- 8) Esquire: The Lanere and the Laneret
- 9) Lady: The Marlyon
- 10) Young Man: The Hobby
- 11) Yeoman: The Goshawk
- 12) Poor Man: The Jercel
- 13) Priest: The Sparrowhawk
- 14) Holy Water Clerk: The Musket
- 15) Knave or Servant: The Kestrel

This list, however, was mistaken in several respects.

- 1) Vultures are not used for falconry.
- 3) 4) 5) These are usually said to be different names for the Peregrine Falcon. But there is

an opinion that renders 4) as "rock falcon" = a peregrine from remote rocky areas, which would be bigger and stronger than other peregrines.

6) The bustard is not a bird of prey, but a game species that was commonly hunted by falconers; this entry may have been a mistake for buzzard, or for busard which is French for "harrier"; but any of these would be a poor deal for barons; some treat this entry as "bastard hawk", whatever that may be.

7) 8) Sakers and Lanners were imported from abroad and very expensive, and ordinary knights and squires would be unlikely to have them.

10) 15) Hobbies and kestrels are of little use for serious falconry.

12) If "Jercel" is a handwriting misread for "tercel" (= tiercel), a poor man would not be able to afford one of those. Or "jercel" might have been an old portmanteau of names of two sorts of hawk, used as slang for a non-existent species of hawk, and thus to mean "no hawk", similar to modern expressions such as "a reel of chalk line" and "skyhook".

Birds

There are several categories of raptor that could possibly be used in falconry. They are also classed by falconers as:-

- Broadwings: [eagles](#), buzzards, Harris hawk.
- Longwings: [falcons](#).
- Shortwings: Accipiters.

Osprey (Pandion)

The Osprey is a medium large raptor which is a specialist fish-eater with a worldwide distribution. Generally speaking it does not lend itself to falconry. However the possibility of using a raptor to obtain [fish](#) remains an intriguing idea. (Some references to "ospreys" in old records mean a mechanical fish-catching device and not the bird.)

Sea Eagles (Haliaeetus)

Most species of this genus, to some extent, catch and eat fish, some almost exclusively. However, in countries where they are not protected, some have been effectively used in hunting for ground quarry.

True [Eagles](#) (Aquila)

This genus has a worldwide distribution. The more powerful types are used in falconry, for example golden eagles and subspecies have reportedly been used to hunt wolves in Kazakhstan, and are now used by the Kazakh eagle hunters to hunt foxes and other large

prey. Most are primarily ground oriented but will occasionally take birds. Eagles are not used as widely in falconry as other birds of prey, due to the lack of versatility in the larger species (they primarily hunt over large, open ground), the greater potential danger to other people if hunted in a widely populated area, and the difficulty of training and managing an eagle.

Buzzards (Buteo)

This genus has worldwide distribution but is particularly well represented in North America. The Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk are all examples of species from this genus that are used in falconry today. The Red-tailed Hawk is hardy and versatile, taking rabbits, hares, and tree squirrels, and given the right conditions can be trained to take geese, ducks, and pheasants. The Eurasian or Common Buzzard is also used, although this species requires more perseverance if rabbits are to be hunted. These birds are mainly ground prey oriented, and since carrion is a large part of the diet in the wild they often require more perseverance to hunt than the hawks or falcons.

The Harris' Hawk (Parabuteo)

This is the sole representative of the Parabuteo genus worldwide. This is arguably the very best rabbit or hare raptor available anywhere. The Harris' Hawk is also adept at catching birds. The Harris' Hawk is remarkably popular in the UK because of its temperament and ability. They are gregarious birds: they are the only semi-social raptor; all others are not social except with their mate, so they can hunt in groups, a behavior that is trademark for family groups in the wild. This genus is native to the Americas in areas with a warm climate.

The True Hawks (Accipiter)

This genus of raptor is also found worldwide. Hawk expert Mike McDermott once said, "The attack of the accipiters is extremely swift, rapid and violent in every way." They are well known in falconry use both in Europe and North America.

The [Falcons](#) (Falco)

This genus is found worldwide. Much falconry is concerned with species of this group of birds. True falcons are generally oriented towards birds as prey.

The [Owl](#) (Strigidae)

Owls are not closely related to hawks or falcons. There is little written in classic falconry that discusses the use of Owls in falconry. However, there are at least two species that have successfully been used, the Eurasian Eagle Owl and the Great Horned Owl. As in Yeats' Second Coming "the falcon cannot hear the falconer" establishes the belief that once a falcon is lost from the falconer mutiny may break loose. Successful training of owls is very much different from the training of hawks and falcons, as they are hearing rather than sight-oriented (owls can only see black and white, and are long-sighted). This often leads falconers to believe that they are less intelligent, as they are distracted easily by new or unnatural noises and they don't respond as readily to food cues. However, if trained successfully, owls show intelligence on the same level as that of hawks and falcons.

Falconry Around the World

Falconry, defined as the use of a raptor to take game, is currently practiced in many countries around the world.

Tangent aspects, such as [bird abatement](#) and raptor rehabilitation also employ falconry techniques to accomplish their goals, but are not falconry in the proper sense of the word.

U.S. Regulations on Falconry

In the United States, falconry is legal in all states except Hawaii and the District of Columbia. A falconer must have state and federal licenses to practice the sport. Acquiring a falconry license in the US requires an aspiring falconer to pass a written test, have his equipment and facilities inspected, and serve a minimum of two years as an apprentice under a licensed falconer. There are three classes of the falconry license, which is a permit issued jointly by the falconer's state of residence and the federal government. The aforementioned Apprentice license matriculates to a General Class license, which allows the falconer to possess no more than two raptors at a time. After a minimum of 5 years at General level, the falconer may apply for his Master Class license, which allows him to keep 3 raptors for falconry. It should be noted that, within the U.S., a state's regulations may be more, but not less, restrictive than the federal guidelines. Both state and federal regulations (as well as state hunting laws) must be complied with by the falconer.

Owing to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA,) a federal legislation created to enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty (which is an international agreement between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Japan and England,) no one may possess, kill, or harass any bird appearing on the Migratory Bird list without specific license to do so. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the individual states both claim ownership of raptors which appear on the Migratory Bird list. They extend their claim of ownership to include captive-bred raptors (which may legally be bought, sold, traded or bartered by licensed individuals and companies.) Many feel captive-bred raptors should reasonably be considered Livestock, personal property. This

becomes an especially important issue to falconers in the U.S. because the MBTA allows government officials to confiscate raptors without specific cause. Confiscated raptors very often die within a short period of time, and so falconers, who have put hundreds of hours and hundreds or thousands of dollars invested in these birds are understandably upset by the practice. Recent studies show that less than half of one percent of all falconers are ever even investigated, (let alone tried or convicted,) for violations of state or falconry regulations.

The Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna ([CITES](#)) also has a say in matters pertaining to the import and export of certain animals. CITES assign plants and animals to a certain Appendix, and imposes standards amongst the member nations (over 160 at this time). In practice, each nation has its own policies and procedures for issuing the required CITES import/export permits. In nearly all nations, the process takes from a few hours to a worst-case scenario of two weeks, but in the U.S. acquiring a CITES permit often takes months.

The Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA), a unilateral legislation put into action circa 1993, prohibits importation of any non-native species of bird into the U.S. Originally intended to lessen the impact of wild parrots being trapped for sale to the pet trade, a supposed oversight leaves raptors under this law as well. While the WBCA does have provision for importation, the process requires membership in a CITES-recognized breeding co-op, and renders importation prohibitively exhaustive and expensive.

Clubs & organizations in the U.S.

The [North American Falconers' Association](#) (NAFA), founded in 1961, is the premier national club for falconry in the US, Canada and Mexico, and has members worldwide.

The [Falconry Alliance](#) (FA) is a newcomer to the scene, a proactive advocacy organization with no social aspect, focusing exclusively on protecting falconry in the US and the improving regulations falconers must abide by.

Both NAFA and the FA now work to protect this venerable art/sport from an increasing anti-hunting sentiment and what is, by international comparisons, heavyhanded regulation.

Additionally, most of the states have their own falconry clubs. Although these clubs are primarily social in nature, the state clubs also serve to represent falconers within the state in regards to that state's wildlife regulations.

Raptor conservation in the U.S.

Among North American raptors, some of the most popular birds used in falconry are the Red-tailed hawk, the Peregrine Falcon, the Prairie Falcon, the Goshawk, and the Harris's Hawk. Artificial insemination techniques have allowed hybrid raptors to be made in captive breeding projects. These crosses have become popular both in the U.S. and abroad.

Until recently, all Peregrines used for falconry in the U. S. were captive-bred from the progeny of falcons taken before the U. S. Endangered Species Act was enacted. Peregrine

Falcons were removed from the United States' endangered species list in 1999 due largely to the effort and knowledge of falconers. Finally, after years of close work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a limited take of wild Peregrines was allowed in 2004, the first wild Peregrines taken specifically for falconry in over 30 years.

An Environmental Impact report prepared by the US Fish & Wildlife service's Brian Milsap and George Allen is expected to be officially released during 2006. This report confirms that falconry has literally no measurable impact on wild populations.

Current practices in Great Britain

In sharp contrast to the US, in the UK, falconry is permitted without a special license, but only using captive-bred birds. All raptors native to the UK are ringed and registered, and can be DNA tested to verify their origins. Anyone may possess captive-bred raptors, though this is not necessarily considered falconry. Falconry is hunting with a trained bird; a bird kept as a pet is not considered a falconer's bird. Birds may be used for breeding or kept after their hunting days are done, but a young, fit bird should be flown at quarry.

Species used

Most practical falconry in the UK is done with the Harris Hawk (found from the southwestern USA, through Central America and into the northern regions of South America), or the Red-tailed Hawk (native to North America). The Harris Hawk, which is the singular exception within the otherwise non-social raptor family, naturally hunts in family units, social packs with rabbits as its main quarry).

Goshawks are excellent hunters, and were once called the 'cook's hawk', but can be willful and unpredictable. Rabbits are bolted from their warrens with ferrets, or approached as they lay out. The acceleration of a short-wing, especially the Goshawk, is astonishing and a rabbit surprised any distance from its burrow has little hope of escape. Short-wings will dive into cover after their quarry, where the tinkling of the bells is vital for locating the bird. In many cases, modern falconers use radio telemetry to track their birds. Game birds in season and a wide range of other quarry can be taken.

Sparrowhawks were formerly used to take a range of small birds, but are really too delicate for serious falconry and have fallen out of favour now that American species are available.

The long-winged falcon usually flies only after birds. Classical game hawking saw a brace of peregrines flown against grouse, or merlins in 'ringing' flights after skylarks. Rooks and crows are classic game for the large falcon, and the magpie, making up in cunning what it lacks in flying ability, is another common target. Short-wings can be flown in wooded country, but falcons need large open tracts where the falconer can follow the flight with ease. Medieval falconers often rode horses but this is now rare.

Escaped or released species breeding in the wild

Birds are inevitably lost on occasion, though most are found again. Of records of species becoming established in Britain after escapes, there are:-

- There has been a report of escaped Harris hawks breeding in the wild in Britain.
- The return of the Goshawk as a breeding bird to Britain since 1945 is due in some part to falconers' escapes: its earlier British population was wiped out by gamekeepers and egg collectors in the late 19th century.
- A pair of European Eagle Owls bred in the wild in Yorkshire for several years. The pair may have been natural migrants or captive escapes. It is not yet known if this will lead to a population being established.

After raptors were mercilessly wiped out by gamekeepers, shooters, egg collectors, and DDT, the numbers of most British species have recovered well in recent times. The Red Kite, the Goshawk and the White Tailed Sea Eagle have all returned as breeding birds, and the techniques perfected in breeding birds of prey for falconry have proved their worth.

Species to start with?

Falconers used to start with a kestrel, but this little falcon is really too delicate for a beginner's hands, and the European Buzzard is similarly useless for taking quarry. The first bird of choice is either the equable Harris Hawk or the slightly more demanding Red-tailed Hawk. The beauty of these birds, easily bred in captivity, is that they can be used to take quarry and can easily satisfy a falconer's demand for a capable bird in themselves. The Lanner falcon makes a good first long-wing, with a Peregrine, or a hybrid containing Peregrine or Gyr genes being the ultimate step.

Falconry today

Falconry is not the preserve of the past, or the lord of the manor. If its simple but inviolable precepts are followed, a well trained bird is a delight for many years. Falcons can live into their mid teens, with larger hawks living longer and eagles likely to see out their middle aged owners. The captive breeding of birds rescued a dying sport in the seventies and has ensured its good health today. It has largely escaped the attention of the anti-blood-sports lobby and its popularity, through lure flying displays at country houses and game fairs, has probably not been higher for 300 years. Flying a raptor is a delight, but entails a great responsibility. A bird cannot be loaned out to a next-door neighbour while the falconer holidays, nor hung up in a cupboard like a gun. One mistake can lose the bird, but the hours of care and attention in training is repaid in full by the thrill of a perfect flight.

Falconry is always associated with the Middle Ages, and many of its terms and practices seem archaic. However, the last 30 years has seen a great rebirth of the sport, with a host of innovations. One of these, stemming from the captive breeding of birds which has rejuvenated the sport, is the creation of 'hybrid' falcons. Falcons are more closely related than many suspected, the heavy northern Gyrfalcon and Asiatic Saker being especially closely related, and they may interbreed naturally to create the so called 'Altay' falcon.

Hybrid falcons

Hybrid falcons have been available since the late 1970s, and enjoyed a meteoric rise in popularity in the UK in the 1990s. Originally 'created' to remove suspicions of having nest-robbled peregrines (by demonstrating without doubt that they were captive-bred), hybrids

have assumed an important, if controversial role in falconry worldwide. Some combinations appear to lend themselves to certain styles of flight, for example:-

- The gyr/peregrine is well-suited to game-hawking.
- The peregrine/lanner has proved useful in keeping birds off airport runways to prevent birdstrikes: peregrines fly too far for this job, and lanners do not fly far enough for this job.

But hybrids falcon are not the panacea that some breeders would have you believe. Proponents of hybrids often cite 'hybrid vigour' as the reason that these birds seem to do so well, despite the fact that crossing two non-inbred lines is more likely to lead to outbreeding depression (i.e., a negative effect), and could never prompt hybrid vigour, a phenomenon that boosts genetic integrity and heterogeneity in lines that have been too heavily inbred by judicious selection.

Artificial selection

No species of raptor have been in captivity long enough to have undergone successful selective breeding for desired traits, thus hybrid vigour is an irrelevance when applied to falcons.

However, several generations of captive breeding of gyrfalcons have resulted in selection for feather color [\[1\]](#) and for better disease resistance, and probably for better ability to breed in captivity.

Falconry elsewhere

In Australia, although falconry is not specifically illegal, it is illegal to keep any type of bird of prey in captivity. The only exemption is when the birds are kept for purposes of rehabilitation (for which a licence must still be held), circumstances under which the practice can be an effective tool used in returning a bird to health.

Most of Europe practices falconry under varying degrees of regulation.

[Owls](#) and [Eagles](#) are sometimes used in North American and European falconry.

In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia (among Kazakh population), the golden eagle is used extensively, hunting game as large as fox and wolf. It has been reported that a pair (called a cast) of Bergut Golden Eagles (an exceptionally large variation of the Golden Eagle) equipped with steel sheathings over their talons, has historically been used to hunt tigers. .

South Korea allows a small number of people (4 in 2005) to own raptors and practise falconry as a cultural asset.

Literature

In Virginia Henley's historical romance books, "The Falcon and the Flower", "The Dragon and the Jewel", "The Marriage Prize", "The Border Hostage" and "Infamous", there are

numerous mentions to the art of Falconry, as these books are set at dates ranging from the 1150's to the 1500's.

References

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- F.L. Beebe, H.M. Webster, *North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks*; 8th edition, 2000, ISBN 0-685-66290-X,

Falcon

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: [Falconidae](#)

Genus: ***Falco***
Linnaeus, 1758

Species

About 37; see text.

A **Falcon** is any of several species of [raptors](#) in the genus *Falco*. The word came from Latin *falco*, from Latin *falx* = "sickle" because of the shape of its wings.

Overview

Falcons have thin pointed wings, which give them speed and the ability to change direction rapidly. Peregrine Falcons, the fastest [birds](#) on Earth, are said to have reached stoop speeds of up to 200 mph.

Young falcons in their first year have longer flight feathers than adults. This makes their configuration more like a general-purpose bird such as a broadwing while they are learning how to fly.

Other falcons include the Gyrfalcon, Lanner Falcon, and the Merlin. Some small insectivorous falcons with long, narrow wings are called hobbies, and some which sometimes hover as they hunt for small rodents are called kestrels.

The traditional term for a male falcon is a "tiercel", from Latin *tertius*, because it is roughly a third smaller than the female.

An eyass is a raptor chick still in its downy stage: the word arose by misdivision of Old French *un niais*, from Latin presumed **nidiscus*, from Latin *nidus* = "nest". Or it is sometime sused for a falcon which had been taken from its nest before it flew.

The technique of hunting with trained captive birds of prey is known as [falconry](#).

The falcons are part of the family [Falconidae](#), which also includes the caracaras, Laughing Falcon, forest falcons, and falconets.

In February 2005 the Canadian scientist Dr Louis Lefebvre announced a method of measuring avian IQ in terms of their innovation in feeding habits. Falcons were named among the most intelligent birds based on this scale.

Falcon fossils have been found dated 50 million years ago in the Eocene in the Messel Pit in Germany.

Species in taxonomic order

- Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni*
- Common Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*
- Madagascar Kestrel, *Falco newtoni*
- Mauritius Kestrel, *Falco punctatus*
- Seychelles Kestrel, *Falco araea*
- Spotted Kestrel, *Falco moluccensis*
- Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*
- American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*
- Greater Kestrel, *Falco rupicoloides*
- Fox Kestrel, *Falco alopex*
- Grey Kestrel, *Falco ardosiaceus*
- Dickinson's Kestrel, *Falco dickinsoni*
- Banded Kestrel, *Falco zoniventris*
- Red-necked Falcon, *Falco chicquera*
- Red-footed Falcon, *Falco vespertinus*
- Amur Falcon, *Falco amurensis*
- Eleonora's Falcon, *Falco eleonora*
- Sooty Falcon, *Falco concolor*
- Apomado Falcon, *Falco femoralis*
- Merlin Falcon, *Falco columbarius*
- Bat Falcon, *Falco rufigularis*
- Orange-breasted Falcon, *Falco deiroleucus*
- Eurasian Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*
- African Hobby, *Falco cuvierii*
- Oriental Hobby, *Falco severus*
- Australian Hobby, *Falco longipennis*
- New Zealand Falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae*
- Brown Falcon, *Falco berigora*
- Grey Falcon, *Falco hypoleucos*
- Lanner Falcon, *Falco biarmicus*
- Laggar Falcon, *Falco jugger*
- Saker Falcon, *Falco cherrug*
- Black Falcon, *Falco subniger*
- Gyr Falcon, *Falco rusticolus*
- Prairie Falcon, *Falco mexicanus*
- Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*
- Barbary Falcon, *Falco (peregrinus) pelegrinoides*
- Taita Falcon, *Falco fasciinucha*

Harrier

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Falconiformes
Family: [Accipitridae](#)
Subfamily: **Circinae**

Genera: *Circus*, *Geranospiza*, *Polyboroides*

A **Harrier** is any of several species of diurnal [birds of prey](#) which fly low over meadows and marshes and hunt or harry small animals or birds (hence their common name). Most are in the [genus](#) *Circus*, the scientific name also arising from the circling movements male and female make when mating.

Species list

- Montagu's Harrier, *Circus pygargus*
Northern or Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
Western Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*
Eastern Marsh Harrier, *Circus spilonotus*
African Marsh Harrier, *Circus ranivorus*
Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*
Madagascar Marsh Harrier, *Circus maillardi*
Long-winged Harrier, *Circus buffoni*
Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*
Black Harrier, *Circus maurus*
Cinereous Harrier, *Circus cinereus*
Pallid Harrier, *Circus macrourus*
Pied Harrier, *Circus melanoleucos*
Madagascar Harrier-hawk, *Polyboroides radiatus*
African Harrier-hawk, *Polyboroides typus*
Crane Hawk, *Geranospiza caerulescens*

Kites

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Falconiformes
Family: [Accipitridae](#)
Genera

- Milvinae
 - *Harpagus*
 - *Ictinia*
 - *Rostrhamus*
 - *Haliastur*
 - *Milvus*
 - *Lophoictinia*
 - *Hamirostra*
- Elaninae
 - *Elanus*
 - *Chelictinia*
 - *Machaerhamphus*
 - *Gampsonyx*
 - *Elanoides*

Kites are [raptors](#) with long wings and weak legs which spend a great deal of time soaring. In general they will take live prey but mostly feed on carrion.

They are [birds of prey](#) which along with [hawks](#), [eagles](#), [Old World vultures](#) and many others are in the family [Accipitridae](#).

Together with less closely related groups such as [New World vultures](#) and Osprey, they make up the diurnal bird of prey order Falconiformes.

Species list

- **Subfamily Elaninae**
 - Black-winged Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*
 - Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus axillaris*
 - White-tailed Kite, *Elanus leucurus*
 - Letter-winged Kite, *Elanus scriptus*
 - Scissor-tailed Kite, *Chelictinia riocourii*
 - Bat Hawk, *Machaerhamphus alcinus*
 - Pearl Kite, *Gampsonyx swainsonii*
 - Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*
- **Subfamily Milvinae**
 - Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*
 - Rufous-thighed Kite, *Harpagus diodon*
 - Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*
Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*
Slender-billed Kite, *Rostrhamus hamatus*
Whistling Kite, *Haliastur sphenurus*
Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus*
Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*
Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
Black-eared Kite, *Milvus lineatus*
Square-tailed Kite, *Lophoictinia isura*
Black-breasted Buzzard, *Hamirostra melanosternon*
Chinese Kite, *Milvus korshun*

A few of the *Perninae* are also called kites.

- Grey-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*
White-collared Kite, *Leptodon forbesi*
Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

Old World vulture

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: [Accipitridae](#)

Genera: *Gypaetus*, *Gyps*, *Torgos*, *Aegypius*, *Neophron*, *Gypohierax*, *Necrosyrtes*

Old World vultures belong to the family [Accipitridae](#), which also includes [eagles](#), [kites](#), buzzards and [hawks](#).

They are not at all closely related to the superficially similar [New World vultures](#) and [condors](#), and do not share that group's good sense of smell. The similarities between the two groups are due to convergent evolution rather than a close relationship. They were widespread in both the Old World and North America, during the Neogene.

Vultures are scavenging [birds](#), feeding mostly from carcasses of dead animals. Old World vultures find carcasses exclusively by sight.

A particular characteristic of many vultures is a bald head, devoid of [feathers](#). This is because a feathered head would become spattered with blood and other fluids, and thus be difficult to keep clean.

Species

- **Genus Aegypius**
 - Eurasian Black Vulture or Monk Vulture, *Aegypius monachus*
- **Genus Gypaetus**
 - Lämmergeier or Bearded Vulture, *Gypaetus barbatus*
- **Genus Gypohierax**
 - Palm-nut Vulture, *Gypohierax angolensis*
- **Genus Gyps**
 - Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*
 - Indian White-rumped Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*
 - Rüppell's Vulture, *Gyps rueppelli*
 - Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus*
 - Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*
 - White-backed Vulture, *Gyps africanus*
 - Cape Griffon, *Gyps coprotheres*
- **Genus Necrosyrtes**
 - Hooded Vulture, *Necrosyrtes monachus*
- **Genus Neophron**
 - Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*
- **Genus Sarcogyps**
 - Red-headed Vulture, *Sarcogyps calvus*
- **Genus Torgos**

- Lappet-faced Vulture, *Torgos tracheliotus*
 - **Genus Trionoceph**
- White-headed Vulture, *Trionoceph occipitalis*

Owls

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: **Strigiformes** Wagler, 1830 Families: *Strigidae*, *Tytonidae*

The **owl** is a solitary, mainly nocturnal [bird of prey](#). Owls belong to the order **Strigiformes**, in which there are 222 known [species](#). Owls mostly hunt small mammals, insects, and other [birds](#), though a few species specialize in hunting [fish](#). They are found in all regions of the Earth except Antarctica, most of Greenland, and some remote islands. Though owls are typically solitary, the literary collective noun for a group of owls is a *parliament*.

Owls are classified in two families: the [typical owls](#), Strigidae, and the [barn owls](#), Tytonidae.

- [1 External appearance](#)
- [2 Behaviour](#)
- [3 Myth, lore, and popular culture](#)
 - [3.1 Africa](#)
 - [3.2 The Americas](#)
 - [3.3 Asia](#)
 - [3.4 Europe](#)
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- [4 References](#)

External appearance

Owls have large forward-facing eyes and ears, a [hawk](#)-like [beak](#), and usually a conspicuous circle of feathers around each eye called a *facial disc*. Although owls have binocular vision, their large eyes are fixed in their sockets, as with other birds, and they must turn their entire head to change views.

Owls are far-sighted, and are unable to clearly see anything within a few inches of their eyes. Their far vision, particularly in low light, is incredibly good, and they can turn their head 270 degrees around.

Different species of owls make different sounds. The facial disc helps to funnel the sound of prey to their ears. In some species, these are placed asymmetrically, for better directional location.

Owls are more closely related to the [nightjars](#) (Caprimulgiformes) than to the diurnal predators in the order Falconiformes. Some taxonomists place the nightjars in the same order as owls, as in the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy .

Behaviour

Owls' powerful clawed feet and sharp beak enable them to tear their prey to pieces before eating, although most items are swallowed whole. Their muffled wings and dull feathers allow them to fly practically silent and unseen. Some fish-eating owls, which have no need of silence, lack this adaptation.

Scientists studying the diets of owls are helped by their habit of disgorging the indigestible parts of their prey (bones, scales, fur, etc.) in the form of pellets. These "owl pellets" are often sold by companies to schools to be dissected by students as a lesson in biology and ecology, because they are plentiful and easy to interpret.

Owl eggs are white and almost spherical, and range in number from a few to a dozen dependent on species. Their nests are crudely built and may be in trees, underground burrows or barns and caves.

Most owls are nocturnal, but several, including the pygmy owls (*Glaucidium*), are crepuscular, or twilight active, hunting mainly at dawn and dusk. A few owls, such as the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*) and the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), are also active during the day.

The smallest owls include the pygmy owls, some of which are only 13 cm (5.1 in) long, have a 32 cm (12.6-in) wingspan, and weigh only 50 g (1.76 oz). The largest owls are the eagle owls, the Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* and Verreaux's Eagle Owl *B. lacteus*, which may reach 76.2 cm (30 in) long, have a wingspan of just over 2 m (6.6 ft), and weigh about 4 kg (almost 9 lb).

Myth, lore, and popular culture

In many parts of the world, owls have been associated with death and misfortune, likely due to their nocturnal activity and common screeching call. However, owls have also been associated with wisdom and prosperity as a result of frequently being companion animals for goddesses.

Henry David Thoreau summarized one perception of owls, when he wrote in 1854's *Walden*, "I rejoice that there are owls. Let them do the idiotic and maniacal hooting for men. It is a sound admirably suited to swamps and twilight woods which no day illustrates, suggesting a vast and underdeveloped nature which men have not recognized. They represent the stark twilight and unsatisfied thoughts which all [men] have."

Africa

Ancient Egyptians used a representation of an owl for their hieroglyph for the sound *m*, although they would often draw this hieroglyph with its legs broken to keep this bird of prey from coming to life..

The Americas

In the culture of the Native Americans, (e.g. the Native American Hopi nation), taboos often surround owls and they are often associated with evil or sorcery. Like [eagle](#) feathers, the possession of owl feathers as religious objects is regulated by federal law (e.g. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Title 50 Part 22 Code of Federal Regulations).

The Aztecs and Mayans, along with other natives of Mesoamerica, considered the Owl a symbol of death and destruction. In fact, the Aztec god of death, Mictlantecuhli, was often depicted with owls. There is a saying in Spanish that still exists today: *cuando el tecolote canta, el indio se muere* ("when the owl cries/sings, the Indian dies").

Asia

In Japanese culture, owls are seen as either negative or positive symbols depending on species. Owls are seen as divine messengers of the gods while Barn or Horned owls are perceived as demonic figures.

In Indian culture, a white owl is considered a companion of the goddess of wealth, and therefore a harbinger of prosperity. The owl has been adapted as an emblem to reflect its implications of wisdom (Wise old owl) by a revered military institution in India known as the Defence Service Staff College. In colloquial use, however, it is commonly used to refer to stupidity.

In the ancient region of Akkadia (located in present-day Iraq), the demoness Lilith is thought to have been associated with (screech) owls as well. However, prior to the rise of Islam, owls were considered evil omens and bad luck in most Middle Eastern pagan traditions. In modern times, although such superstitions are less prevalent, owls are still popularly considered "evil" because of their fierce, horrific appearance.

Europe

In Greek mythology, the owl, and specifically the Little Owl, was often associated with the Greek goddess Athena, a bird goddess who often assumed the form of an owl. Athena was also the goddess of wisdom, the Arts, and skills, and as a result, owls also became symbols of teaching and of institutions of learning, being included in the crest of arms of many universities. In the Western world, owls continue to be traditionally associated with wisdom. They are the unofficial mascot of the high-IQ society Mensa.

The Romans, in addition to having borrowed the Greek associations of the owl, also considered owls to be funerary birds, due to their nocturnal activity and often having their nests in inaccessible places. As a result, seeing an owl in the daytime was considered a bad omen. The vampiric strix of Roman mythology was in part based on the owl.

Likewise, in Romanian culture, the mournful call of an owl is thought to predict the death of somebody living in the neighbourhood. Such superstitions caused a minor disturbance when an owl showed up at Romanian President's residence, Cotroceni Palace.

Owls in popular culture

References

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True hawks

Hawks

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Accipitriformes

Family: [Accipitridae](#)

Subfamily: **Accipitrinae**

The term **hawk** refers to [birds of prey](#) in any of three senses:

- Strictly, to mean any of the [species](#) in the bird sub-family Accipitrinae in the [genera](#) Accipiter, Micronisus, Melierax, Urotriorchis, and Megatriorchis. The large and widespread Accipiter genus includes goshawks, sparrowhawks, the Sharp-shinned Hawk and others. They are mainly woodland birds that hunt by sudden dashes from a concealed perch. They usually have long tails and high visual acuity.
- More generally, to mean small to medium-sized birds that are members of the [Accipitridae](#), the family which includes the true hawks (Accipiters) and also [eagles](#), [kites](#), [harriers](#), buzzards, and [Old World vultures](#).
- Loosely, to mean almost any bird of prey.

The common names of birds in various parts of the world often use *hawk* loosely. For example, in North America, the Buteos are often called "hawks".

In February 2005 the Canadian scientist Dr Louis Lefebvre announced a method of measuring avian IQ in terms of their innovation in feeding habits. Hawks were named among the most intelligent birds based on this scale.

Hawks are believed to have vision as good as 20/2, about eight times more acute than humans with good eyesight. This is because of many photoreceptors in the retina (Up to 1,000,000 per square mm, against 200,000 for humans), a very high number of nerves connecting the receptors to the brain, a second set of eye muscles not found in other animals, and an indented fovea which magnifies the central part of the visual field.

Species list

This list is in taxonomic order to show the relationships between species.

- **Subfamily Accipitrinae**
 - **Genus *Accipiter***
 - Goshawk, *A. gentilis*
 - Sparrowhawk, *A. nisus*
 - Grey-bellied Goshawk, *A. poliogaster*
 - Crested Goshawk, *A. trivirgatus*
 - Sulawesi Goshawk, *A. griseiceps*
 - Red-chested Goshawk, *A. toussenelii*
 - African Goshawk, *A. tachiro*
 - Chinese Goshawk, *A. soloensis*

- Frances' Goshawk, *A. francesii*
- Spot-tailed Goshawk, *A. trinotatus*
- Grey Goshawk, *A. novaehollandiae*
- Brown Goshawk, *A. fasciatus*
- Black-mantled Goshawk, *A. melanochlamys*
- Pied Goshawk, *A. albogularis*
- Fiji Goshawk, *A. rufitorques*
- White-bellied Goshawk, *A. haplochrous*
- Moluccan Goshawk, *A. henicogrammus*
- Grey-headed Goshawk, *A. poliocephalus*
- New Britain Goshawk, *A. princeps*
- Black Goshawk, *A. melanoleucus*
- Henst's Goshawk, *A. henstii*
- Meyer's Goshawk, *A. meyerianus*
- Chestnut-flanked Sparrowhawk, *A. castanilius*
- Nicobar Sparrowhawk, *A. butleri*
- Levant Sparrowhawk, *A. brevipes*
- Slaty-mantled Sparrowhawk, *A. luteoschistaceus*
- Imitator Sparrowhawk, *A. imitator*
- Red-thighed Sparrowhawk, *A. erythropus*
- Little Sparrowhawk, *A. minullus*
- Japanese Sparrowhawk, *A. gularis*
- Small Sparrowhawk, *A. nanus*
- Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk, *A. erythrauchen*
- Collared Sparrowhawk, *A. cirrocephalus*
- New Britain Sparrowhawk, *A. brachyurus*
- Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk, *A. rhodogaster*
- Madagascar Sparrowhawk, *A. madagascariensis*
- Ovampo Sparrowhawk, *A. ovampensis*
- Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, *A. rufiventris*
- Shikra, *A. badius*
- Tiny Hawk, *A. superciliosus*
- Semicollared Hawk, *A. collaris*
- Sharp-shinned Hawk, *A. striatus*
- White-breasted Hawk, *A. chionogaster*
- Plain-breasted Hawk, *A. ventralis*
- Rufous-thighed Hawk, *A. erythronemius*
- Cooper's Hawk, *A. cooperii*
- Gundlach's Hawk, *A. gundlachi*
- Bicoloured Hawk, *A. bicolor*
- Besra, *A. virgatus*
- **Genus *Micronisus***
 - Gabar Goshawk, *M. gabar*
- **Genus *Melierax***

- Dark Chanting Goshawk, *M. metabates*
Eastern Chanting Goshawk, *M. poliopterus*
Pale Chanting Goshawk, *M. canorus*
- **Genus *Urotriorchis***
 - Long-tailed Hawk, *U. macrourus*
- **Genus *Erythrotriorchis***
 - Red Goshawk, *E. radiatus*
Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk, *E. buergeri*
- **Genus *Megatriorchis***

Hawks and humans

- Hawks are sometimes used in [falconry](#), a sport in which trained hawks, [eagles](#) or [falcons](#), are used to pursue and catch small game.
- In the US, hawks are sometimes shot for sport or by ranchers who believe the birds may depredate livestock. This makes hawk conservation an issue in some areas. In other parts of the world, most hawk species are protected by law

Birdwatching

Birdwatching or **birding** is the observation and study of [birds](#). The term *birding* is of American origin; birdwatching is the more commonly used word in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Most birders or birdwatchers pursue this activity for recreational or social reasons, unlike [ornithologists](#), who are engaged in the formal [scientific](#) study of birds. Ornithologists can, however, study birds using the same methods as birders.

- [1 Overview](#)
- [2 Rarity watching](#)
 - [2.1 Birding competitions](#)
 - [2.2 Equipment](#)
 - [2.2.1 Photography](#)
- [3 Birding organizations](#)
- [4 Socio-psychology of birdwatching](#)
- [5 Birding vs. birdwatching](#)
- [6 Famous birders/ornithologists](#)
 - [6.1 Famous for birding/ornithology](#)
 - [6.2 Otherwise famous](#)
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- [7 See also](#)
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Overview

The most active times of the year for birding in the temperate zones are during spring and fall [migration](#) when the greatest variety of birds may be seen. These birds are travelling north or south to wintering or nesting locations.

Early morning is typically the best time of the day for birding since many birds are active searching for food, and thus are easier to find and observe. Success in locating the more interesting species typically requires detailed knowledge of their appearance, sounds, behavior, and most likely habitat, in addition to stealth and patience.

Birding can be one of the quieter and more relaxing outdoor activities. However, birders who are keen rarity-seekers will travel long distances to see a new species to add to the list of birds they have personally observed (life list, national list, state list, county list, year list, etc.).

Seawatching is a type of birdwatching where observers based at a coastal watchpoint (such as a headland) watch birds flying over the sea.

Many birders take part in censuses of bird populations and their migratory patterns which are sometimes specific to individual species, and sometimes count all the birds in a given area (as in a Christmas Bird Count). This citizen science can assist in identifying environmental threats to the well-being of birds or, conversely, in assessing the outcomes of environmental management initiatives intended to ensure the survival of at-risk species or

encourage the breeding of species for aesthetic or ecological reasons. This more scientific side of the hobby is an aspect of ornithology, co-ordinated in the UK by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Increasing (seasonal) bird populations can be a good indicator of biodiversity or the quality of different habitats. Some species may be persecuted as vermin, often illegally (e.g. the Hen Harrier in Britain), under the (usually false) perception that predatory species increase in number at the expense of other species of birds, insects, or smaller mammals. In most cases, the reverse applies: the population of predatory species is controlled by the abundance of the prey species. Bird counts in defined geographic areas can therefore be useful from a scientific perspective.

Rarity watching

"Twitching" is a British term used to mean "the pursuit of a previously-located rare bird." In North America it is more often called "chasing", though the British usage is starting to catch on in North America, especially among younger birders. The British term is said to come from the frenzy that descends on some when they receive news of a rare bird. The term may derive from one of its first proponents, who used to arrive on his motorbike in freezing weather in the early 1960s, still "twitching" from the cold. The end goal of twitching is often to accumulate species on one's *lists*. Some birders engage in competition with one another to accumulate the biggest species lists. The act of the pursuit itself is referred to as a "twitch" or a "chase". A rare bird that stays put long enough for people to see it is called "twitchable" or "chaseable".

Twitching is probably most highly developed in the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Ireland because their small sizes make it possible to travel within their borders quickly with relative ease. The most popular twitches in the UK have drawn crowds of up to 5,000 people at any one time (Golden-Winged Warbler in Kent). Twitching is also highly popular in Finland and Sweden. In the United Kingdom there exists a particular twitchers' vocabulary which is surprisingly well-developed and potentially confusing for the uninitiated. In the UK for example, "dipping" is the act of missing the rare bird you tried to see, "gripped off" is how you feel if other twitchers see the bird but you didn't, "supression" is the act of concealing news of a rare bird from twitchers, and a "dude" is someone who doesn't know much about rare birds. Similar vocabularies have developed in all countries where twitching is popular. Twitchers often have mobile phones and (especially in Europe) pagers to keep constantly informed of rare bird sightings and weather. The latter is important, since the right winds can lead to drift migration from the east or "Yankees" caught up in the tail end of hurricanes from the west.

Birding competitions

A North American one-day birding competition is called a "Big Day"; in Britain it is called a "Bird Race". Teams trying to win such competitions usually have twenty-four hours in a

designated geographical area to do so. They commonly drive hundreds of kilometers. Some record-chasers have employed private jets and helicopters in the enterprise.

The most popular birding competitions in the United States are the one-day World Series of Birding which is held in New Jersey in May and the five-day Great Texas Birding Classic held in April.

Equipment

Equipment commonly used for birding includes binoculars and a telescope or spotting scope with tripod, a notepad, and one or more field guides.

Photography

Photography has always been a part of birding, but in the past the cost of good cameras and long lenses made this a minority, often semi-professional, interest. The advent of affordable digital cameras, which can be used in conjunction with binoculars or a telescope (a technique known as digiscoping), have made this a much more widespread aspect of the hobby.

Birding organizations

Prominent national organizations concerned with birding include the B.T.O. and RSPB in the United Kingdom (over 1 million members), and the National Audubon Society and American Birding Association in the United States. Many statewide or local Audubon organizations are also quite active in the U.S. BirdLife International is an important global alliance of bird conservation organisations.

Socio-psychology of birdwatching

It has been suggested that birdwatching is a form of expression of the innate need for human connection to the environment. Ethologist Nikolaas Tinbergen considered birdwatching an expression of the male hunting instinct. Indeed, most birders (especially those below middle-age) are male; however, one of the top world listers was a woman, Phoebe Snetsinger. The idea of birding as a completely male-oriented activity is not accurate, though twitching in the UK is heavily male dominated.

Another intriguing connection has been that of the interest in birds by spies. There have been several cases of spies who were serious ornithologists such as Sidney Dillon Ripley, St. John Philby and Richard Meinertzhagen.

Birding vs. birdwatching

In the U.S., birders differentiate themselves from birdwatchers. At the most basic level, the (possibly elitist) distinction is one of dedication or intensity. Generally, self-described birders are more versed in minutiae such as molt, distribution, migration timing, and habitat usage. Whereas dedicated *birders* may travel widely, *bird watchers* have a more limited scope, perhaps to their own yards.^[1]

Famous birders/ornithologists

Famous for birding/ornithology

- Kenn Kaufman
Ted Parker
Roger Tory Peterson
Pete Dunne
Jon Dunn
Clay Sutton
Phoebe Snetsinger
David Allen Sibley
John James Audubon
Salim Ali
Induhoodan
Susanth

Otherwise famous

- Members of the band British Sea Power
Alan Brooke, 1st Viscount Alanbrooke
Sir Anthony Galsworthy, former UK Ambassador to China
Kenneth Clarke MP
Ian Fleming, who named his most famous character after the ornithologist
James Bond
Billy Fury
Trevor Harrison
Princess Takamado of Japan
Eric Morecambe
Bill Oddie
Harold Wilson, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
Jimmy Carter

Charley Harper
Iolo Williams
Sir Kenneth Dover, famous British classicist

Birders in fiction

- Stephen Maturin in the Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey–Maturin series

See also

- [Birdfeeding](#)

References

1. [^](#) Dunne, Pete (2003). *Pete Dunne on Bird Watching*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-395-90686-5.

Bird diseases

Angel Wing

Angel Wing or Slipped Wing is a disease that affects waterfowl, primarily [geese](#) and [ducks](#). There are two basic theories concerning the cause of angel wing, both of which may be correct and both suppose the root cause to be overfeeding waterfowl. The first involves too much protein and the second involves too many sugars. Angel wing is not generally observed in waterfowl not residing near humans, and the disease can often be observed in areas where geese or ducks are excessively fed bread. To prevent angel wing, waterfowl should not be fed bread, popcorn or other human foodstuffs.

The disease manifests as an incurable anatomical condition which is acquired in young birds. Due to a high-calorie diet, especially one high in proteins and/or low in vitamin D, vitamin E and manganese, one or both carpus (wrist) joints are retarded in their development relative to the rest of the wing; for reasons unknown, if only one wing is affected it is usually the left one. The result is a wrist which is twisted outwards and unable to perform its usual function.

Angel wing symptoms include stripped remiges (flight [feathers](#)) in the wrist area, or remiges protruding from wings at odd angles. In extreme cases, the stripped feathers may resemble sickly blue straw protruding from wings. In adult birds the disease is incurable and usually leads to an early death as affected birds are rendered effectively or totally flightless. In young birds wrapping the wing and binding it against the bird's flank, together with feeding the bird a more natural diet, can reverse the damage.

Avian adenovirus

Aviadenovirus are viruses that affect birds; they represent one of four genera of the family Adenoviridae, the others being Mastadenovirus, Atadenovirus and Siadenovirus.

They are class I, non-enveloped, icosahedral viruses that are 74 – 80nm in diameter, having a double stranded DNA genome of approximately 26 – 45 kilo-base pairs (kbp) and a guanine/cytosine content of 53 – 59%.

Naturally acquired aviadenovirus diseases include enteritis, splenitis, inclusion body hepatitis, bronchitis, pulmonary congestion ventriculitis, pancreatitis, oedema and abnormal reproduction (Egg Drop Syndrome), depending on the species of bird infected.

Diagnosis of Aviadenovirus is the same as for all Adenoviruses, by viral isolation and serotyping also ELISA assay.

Avian flu

Flu

For the current concern about the transmission of an avian flu to humans see [Transmission and infection of H5N1](#).

Avian flu (also "bird flu", "avian influenza", "bird influenza"), means "flu from viruses adapted to [birds](#)", but is sometimes mistakenly used to refer to both other flu subsets (such as H5N1 flu) or the viruses that cause them (such as H5N1).^{[1][2] [3][4] [5][6] [7]}

"Bird flu" is a phrase similar to "Pig flu", "Dog flu", "Horse flu", or "Human flu" in that it refers to an illness caused by any of many different strains of flu viruses such that the strain in question has adapted to the host. "Avian flu" differs in being named after an entire vertebrate class with 8,800–10,200 species. All known avian flu viruses belong to the species of virus called Influenza A virus. All subtypes (but not all strains of all subtypes) of Influenza A virus are adapted to birds, which is why for many purposes avian flu virus *is* the Influenza A virus (note that the "A" does *not* stand for "avian").

Adaptation is sometimes partial or multiple so a flu virus strain can be partially adapted to a species or adapted to more than one species. Flu pandemic viruses are human adapted and also bird adapted. Being adapted to one species does not mean another species can not catch it; nor does it mean it can not adapt to another species.

Genetic factors in distinguishing between "human flu viruses" and "avian flu viruses" include:

PB2: (RNA polymerase): Amino acid (or residue) position 627 in the PB2 protein encoded by the PB2 RNA gene. Until H5N1, all known avian influenza viruses had a Glu at position 627, while all human influenza viruses had a lysine.

HA: (hemagglutinin): Avian influenza HA bind alpha 2-3 sialic acid receptors while human influenza HA bind alpha 2-6 sialic acid receptors. Swine influenza viruses have the ability to bind both types of sialic acid receptors.

The HA changes have not yet occurred in any sequenced H5N1 virus - even ones from humans that died from it and the PB2 changes don't stop it from being a flu virus adapted to birds (the definition of "avian flu virus").

Pandemic flu viruses have some avian flu virus genes and usually some human flu virus genes. Both the H2N2 and H3N2 pandemic strains contained genes from avian influenza viruses. The new subtypes arose in pigs coinfecting with avian and human viruses and were soon transferred to humans. Swine were considered the original "intermediate host" for influenza, because they supported reassortment of divergent subtypes. However, other hosts appear capable of similar coinfection (e.g., many poultry species), and direct transmission of avian viruses to humans is possible. The Spanish flu virus strain may have been transmitted directly from birds to humans. ^[8]

In spite of their pandemic connection, avian flu viruses are noninfectious for most species. When they are infectious they are usually asymptomatic, so the carrier does not have any disease from it. Thus while infected with an avian flu virus, the animal doesn't have a "flu". Typically, when illness (called "flu") from an avian flu virus *does* occur, it is the result

of an avian flu virus strain adapted to one species spreading to another species (usually from one [bird](#) species to another bird species). So far as is known, the most common result of this is an illness so minor as to be not worth noticing (and thus little studied). But with the domestication of chickens and turkeys, humans have created species subtypes (domesticated poultry) that can catch an avian flu virus adapted to waterfowl and have it rapidly mutate into a form that kills in days over 90% of an entire flock and spread to other flocks and kill 90% of *them* and can only be stopped by killing every domestic bird in the area. Until H5N1 infected humans in the 1990s, this was all that was considered important about avian flu (outside of the poultry industry). Since then, avian flu viruses have been intensively studied; resulting in changes in what is believed about flu pandemics, changes in poultry farming, changes in flu vaccination research, and changes in flu pandemic planning.

H5N1 has evolved into a flu virus strain that infects more species than any previously known flu virus strain, is deadlier than any previously known flu virus strain, and continues to evolve becoming both more widespread and more deadly causing the world's number one expert on avian flu to publish an article titled "The world is teetering on the edge of a pandemic that could kill a large fraction of the human population" in *American Scientist*. He called for adequate resources to fight what he sees as a major world threat to possibly billions of lives.^[9] Since the article was written, the world community has spent billions of dollars fighting this threat with limited success. It is a race between an exceptionally fast mutating virus and modern scientific research capabilities, with the winner of the race still in doubt.

Notes:

- Source WHO [Confirmed Human Cases of H5N1](#)
- "[T]he incidence of human cases peaked, in each of the three years in which cases have occurred, during the period roughly corresponding to winter and spring in the northern hemisphere. If this pattern continues, an upsurge in cases could be anticipated starting in late 2006 or early 2007." [Avian influenza – epidemiology of human H5N1 cases reported to WHO](#)
- The regression curve for deaths is $y = a + e^{kx}$, and is shown extended through the end of November, 2006.
 - [1 H5N1](#)
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 - [3 Illustrative examples of imprecise usage](#)
 - [4 See also](#)
 - [5 Sources and notes](#)

H5N1

As of 2006, "avian flu" is being commonly used to refer to infection from a particular subtype of Influenza A virus, H5N1, which can cause severe illness in humans who are infected. Currently, this strain is transmitted by contact with infected birds, and has been

transmitted from one person to another only in a few cases. H5N1 flu is therefore not pandemic now and is not currently capable of causing a pandemic. Only if H5N1 mutates into a form that can be readily transmitted from one person to another could it cause a pandemic.

Illustrative examples of correct usage

H5N1

WHO pandemic phases

1. Low risk
2. New virus
- 3. Self limiting**
4. Person to person
5. Epidemic exists
6. Pandemic exists

In technical contexts, correct usage of terms is necessary because precise distinctions are the essence of the communication.

- "Avian influenza strains are those well adapted to birds" [\[1\]](#)
- "An outbreak of influenza A (H5N1), also known as 'avian flu' or 'bird flu,' has been reported in several countries throughout Asia." [\[10\]](#)
- "Avian influenza virus usually refers to influenza A viruses found chiefly in birds, but infections can occur in humans." [\[11\]](#)
- "Of the few avian influenza viruses that have crossed the species barrier to infect humans, H5N1 has caused the largest number of cases of severe disease and death in humans. Unlike normal seasonal influenza, where infection causes only mild respiratory symptoms in most people, the disease caused by H5N1 follows an unusually aggressive clinical course, with rapid deterioration and high fatality." Seasonal influenza is human flu. [\[12\]](#)
- "avian influenza HA bind alpha 2-3 sialic acid receptors while human influenza HA bind alpha 2-6 sialic acid receptors. Swine influenza viruses have the ability to bind both types of sialic acid receptors." [\[13\]](#)
- Sometimes a virus contains both avian adapted genes and human adapted genes. Both the H2N2 and H3N2 pandemic strains contained avian flu virus RNA segments. "While the pandemic human influenza viruses of 1957 (H2N2) and 1968 (H3N2) clearly arose through reassortment between human and avian viruses, the influenza virus causing the 'Spanish flu' in 1918 appears to be entirely derived from an avian source (Belshe 2005)." [\[2\]](#)

Illustrative examples of imprecise usage

In nontechnical contexts, imprecise usage of terms is typical when discussing complex things.

- "A 1,000 square mile quarantine zone to combat an outbreak of bird flu was lifted in Scotland today - despite the spread of a similar disease south of the border." Here "bird flu" is used to mean "Asian lineage HPAI A(H5N1) flu" (which is a bird flu) and contrasted with flu from an avian adapted strain of H7N3 (which is also a bird flu).[\[14\]](#)

See also

Timeline data on avian flu

- Timeline data on avian flu can be found at the article on the causative agent species called *Influenza A virus*.
- Timeline data on the global spread of the strain that is the current pandemic concern (called Asian lineage HPAI A(H5N1)) can be found at Global spread of H5N1.
- Timeline data on creation of a flu vaccine for H5N1 can be found at H5N1 clinical trials.

Subtypes of the causative agent species of avian flu include

- H1N1
H1N2
H2N2
H3N2
H3N8
H5N1
H5N2
H5N3
H5N8
H5N9
H7N1
H7N2
H7N3
H7N4
H7N7
H9N2
H10N7

Information concerning research about it can be found at

- [Transmission and infection of H5N1](#)

Sources and notes

1. ^ ^{a b} "Avian influenza strains are those well adapted to birds" [EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL](#).
2. ^ ^{a b} [Chapter Two : Avian Influenza by Timm C. Harder and Ortrud Werner](#) from excellent free on-line Book called *Influenza Report 2006* which is a medical textbook that provides a comprehensive overview of epidemic and pandemic influenza.
3. ^ [Large-scale sequencing of human influenza reveals the dynamic nature of viral genome evolution](#) Nature magazine presents a summary of what has been discovered in the Influenza Genome Sequencing Project.
4. ^ Full HTML text of [Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Infection in Humans](#) by The Writing Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on Human Influenza A/H5 in the September 29, 2005 New England Journal of Medicine
5. ^ [The Threat of Pandemic Influenza: Are We Ready? Workshop Summary \(2005\)](#) Full text of online book by INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
6. ^ [Here](#) is the tree showing evolution by antigenic drift since 2002 that created dozens of highly pathogenic varieties of the Z genotype of avian flu virus H5N1, some of which are increasingly adapted to mammals.
7. ^ [Evolutionary characterization of the six internal genes of H5N1 human influenza A virus](#)
8. ^ [Chapter Two : Avian Influenza by Timm C. Harder and Ortrud Werner](#) from excellent free on-line Book called *Influenza Report 2006* which is a medical textbook that provides a comprehensive overview of epidemic and pandemic influenza.
9. ^ Webster, R. G. and Walker, E. J. (2003). "[The world is teetering on the edge of a pandemic that could kill a large fraction of the human population](#)". *American Scientist* **91** (2): 122. DOI:[10.1511/2003.2.122](#).
10. ^ [OSHA](#)
11. ^ [CDC](#) Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)
12. ^ [WHO](#) Avian influenza frequently asked questions
13. ^ [Greninger Paper \(PDF\)](#)
14. ^ [News](#) Avian flu quarantine zone lifted published May 1, 2006.

Transmission and infection of H5N1

H5N1

WHO pandemic phases

1. Low risk
2. New virus
3. **Self limiting**
4. Person to person
5. Epidemic exists
6. Pandemic exists

H5N1 flu refers to the **transmission and infection of H5N1**. H5N1 flu is a concern due to the global spread of H5N1 that constitutes a pandemic threat. This article is about the transmission of the H5N1 virus, infection by that virus, the resulting symptoms of that infection (having or coming down with influenza or more specifically [avian flu](#) or even more specifically H5N1 flu which can include pneumonia), and the medical response including treatment.

Infected birds pass on H5N1 through their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Other birds may pick up the virus through direct contact with these excretions or when they have contact with surfaces contaminated with this material. Because migratory birds are among the carriers of the H5N1 virus it may spread to all parts of the world. Past outbreaks of avian flu have often originated in crowded conditions in southeast and east Asia, where humans, pigs, and poultry live in close quarters. In these conditions a virus is more likely to mutate into a form that more easily infects humans.

The majority of H5N1 flu cases have been reported in southeast and east Asia. Once an outbreak is detected, local authorities often order a mass slaughter of birds or animals affected. If this is done promptly, an outbreak of avian flu may be prevented. However, the United Nations (UN) World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern that not all countries are reporting outbreaks as completely as they should. China, for example, is known to have initially denied past outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and HIV, although there have been some signs of improvement regarding its openness in recent months, particularly with regard to H5N1.

H5N1 infections in humans are generally caused by bird to human transmission of the virus. Until May 2006, the WHO estimate of the number of human to human transmission had been "two or three cases". On May 24, 2006, Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, estimated that there had been "at least three." On May 30, Maria Cheng, a WHO spokeswoman, said there were "probably about half a dozen," but that no one "has got a solid number." [1] A few isolated cases of suspected human to human transmission exist. [2] with the latest such case in June 2006 (among members of a family in Sumatra). [3] No pandemic strain of H5N1 has yet been found. The key point is that, at present, "the virus is not spreading efficiently or sustainably among humans." [4]

There is also concern, although no definitive proof, that other animals — particularly cats — may be able to act as a bridge between birds and humans. So far several cats have been confirmed to have died from H5N1 and the fact that cats have regular close contact with both birds and humans means monitoring of H5N1 in cats will need to continue.

Notes:

- Source WHO [Confirmed Human Cases of H5N1](#)
- "[T]he incidence of human cases peaked, in each of the three years in which cases have occurred, during the period roughly corresponding to winter and spring in the northern hemisphere. If this pattern continues, an upsurge in cases could be anticipated starting in late 2006 or early 2007." [Avian influenza – epidemiology of human H5N1 cases reported to WHO](#)
- The regression curve for deaths is $y = a + e^{kx}$, and is shown extended through the end of November, 2006.

H5N1 vaccines for chickens exist and are sometimes used, although there are many difficulties that make deciding if it helps more or hurts more especially difficult. H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccines exist in quantities sufficient to inoculate a few million people^[5] and might be useful for priming to "boost the immune response to a different H5N1 vaccine tailor-made years later to thwart an emerging pandemic".^[6] H5N1 pandemic vaccines and technologies to rapidly create them are in the H5N1 clinical trials stage but can not be verified as useful until after there exists a pandemic strain.

- [1 Avian flu in birds](#)
- [2 Transmission by wild birds \(waterfowl\)](#)
- 3 Prevention
- [4 Environmental survival](#)
- [5 Incubation](#)
- [6 Symptoms](#)
- [7 Treatment](#)
- [8 Mortality rate](#)
 - [8.1 Mortality rate in planning reports](#)
- [9 Notes and references](#)

Avian flu in birds

According to *Avian Influenza* by Timm C. Harder and Ortrud Werner:

Following an incubation period of usually a few days (but rarely up to 21 days), depending upon the characteristics of the isolate, the dose of inoculum, the species, and age of the bird, the clinical presentation of avian influenza in birds is variable and symptoms are fairly unspecific.^[7] Therefore, a diagnosis solely based on the clinical presentation is impossible. The symptoms following infection with low pathogenic AIV may be as discrete as ruffled feathers, transient reductions in egg production or weight loss combined with a slight respiratory disease.^[8] Some LP strains such as certain Asian H9N2 lineages, adapted to efficient replication in poultry, may cause more prominent signs and also significant mortality.^{[9][10]} In its highly pathogenic form, the illness in chickens and turkeys is characterised by a sudden onset of severe symptoms and a mortality that can approach 100% within 48 hours.^{[11][12]}

Poultry farming practices have changed due to H5N1:

- killing millions of poultry
- vaccinating poultry against [bird flu](#)
- vaccinating poultry workers against human flu
- limiting travel in areas where H5N1 is found
- increasing farm hygiene
- reducing contact between livestock and wild birds
- reducing open-air wet markets
- limiting workers contact with cock fighting
- reducing purchases of live fowl
- improving veterinary vaccine availability and cost. ^[13]

For example, after nearly two years of using mainly culling to control the virus, the Vietnamese government in 2005 adopted a combination of mass poultry vaccination, disinfecting, culling, information campaigns and bans on live poultry in cities.^[14]

Webster *et al* write

Transmission of highly pathogenic H5N1 from domestic poultry back to migratory waterfowl in western China has increased the geographic spread. The spread of H5N1 and its likely reintroduction to domestic poultry increase the need for good agricultural vaccines. In fact, the root cause of the continuing H5N1 pandemic threat may be the way the pathogenicity of H5N1 viruses is masked by cocirculating influenza viruses or bad agricultural vaccines."^[15]

Dr. Robert Webster explains: "If you use a good vaccine you can prevent the transmission within poultry and to humans. But if they have been using vaccines now [in China] for several years, why is there so much bird flu? There is bad vaccine that stops the disease in the bird but the bird goes on pooping out virus and maintaining it and changing it. And I think this is what is going on in China. It has to be. Either there is not enough vaccine being used or there is substandard vaccine being used. Probably both. It's not just China. We can't blame China for substandard vaccines. I think there are substandard vaccines for influenza in poultry all over the world." ^[16] In response to the same concerns, Reuters reports Hong Kong infectious disease expert Lo Wing-lok saying, "The issue of vaccines has to take top priority," and Julie

Hall, in charge of the WHO's outbreak response in China, saying China's vaccinations might be masking the virus." ^[17] The BBC reported that Dr Wendy Barclay, a virologist at the University of Reading, UK said: "The Chinese have made a vaccine based on reverse genetics made with H5N1 antigens, and they have been using it. There has been a lot of criticism of what they have done, because they have protected their chickens against death from this virus but the chickens still get infected; and then you get drift - the virus mutates in response to the antibodies - and now we have a situation where we have five or six 'flavours' of H5N1 out there." ^[18]

Transmission by wild birds (waterfowl)

According to the United Nations FAO: there is no denying the fact that wild water fowl most likely play a role in the avian influenza cycle and could be the initial source for AI viruses, which may be passed on through contact with resident water fowl or domestic poultry, particularly domestic ducks. The virus undergoing mutations could circulate within the domestic and possibly resident bird populations until HPAI arises. This new virus is pathogenic to poultry and possibly to the wild birds that it arose from. Wild birds found to have been infected with HPAI were either sick or dead. This could possibly affect the ability of these birds to carry HPAI for long distances. However, the findings in Qinghai Lake-China, suggest that H5N1 viruses could possibly be transmitted between migratory birds. Additionally, the new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry and wild birds in Russia, Kazakhstan, Western China and Mongolia may indicate that migratory birds probably act as carriers for the transport of HPAI over longer distances. Short distance transmission between farms, villages or contaminated local water bodies is likewise a distinct possibility. The AI virus has adapted to the environment in ways such as: 1) the use of water for survival and to spread 2) has evolved in a reservoir (ducks) strictly tied to water. The water in turn influences movement, social behaviour and migration patterns of water bird species. It is therefore of great importance to know the ecological strategy of influenza virus as well, in order to fully understand this disease and to control outbreaks when they occur. There remains a body of data and analysis missing on the collection and detection of HPAI viruses in wild birds. Finding HPAI viruses in wild birds may be a rare event, but if the contact with susceptible species occurs it can cause an outbreak at the local level or in distant areas. ^[19]

Prevention

The current method of prevention in animal populations is to destroy infected animals, as well as animals suspected of being infected. In southeast Asia, millions of domestic birds have been slaughtered to prevent the spread of the virus.

The probability of a "humanized" form of H5N1 emerging through genetic recombination in the body of a human co-infected with H5N1 and another influenza virus type (a process called reassortment) could be reduced by influenza vaccination of those at risk for infection by H5N1. It is not clear at this point whether vaccine production and immunization could be

stepped up sufficiently to meet this demand. Additionally, vaccination of only humans would not address the possibility of reassortment in pigs, cats, or other mammal hosts.

If an outbreak of pandemic flu does occur, its spread might be slowed by increasing hygiene in aircraft, and by examining airline cabin air filters for presence of H5N1 virus.

The American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises travelers to areas of Asia where outbreaks of H5N1 have occurred to avoid poultry farms and animals in live food markets [\[20\]](#). Travelers should also avoid surfaces that appear to be contaminated by feces from any kind of animal, especially poultry.

There are several H5N1 vaccines for several of the avian H5N1 varieties. H5N1 continually mutates rendering them, so far for humans, of little use. While there can be some cross-protection against related flu strains, the best protection would be from a vaccine specifically produced for any future pandemic flu virus strain. Dr. Daniel Lucey, co-director of the Biohazardous Threats and Emerging Diseases graduate program at Georgetown University has made this point, "There is no H5N1 pandemic so there can be no pandemic vaccine." [\[21\]](#) However, "pre-pandemic vaccines" have been created; are being refined and tested; and do have some promise both in furthering research and preparedness for the next pandemic [\[22\]](#). Vaccine manufacturing companies are being encouraged to increase capacity so that if a pandemic vaccine is needed, facilities will be available for rapid production of large amounts of a vaccine specific to a new pandemic strain.

It is not likely that use of antiviral drugs could prevent the evolution of a pandemic flu virus. [\[23\]](#)

Environmental survival

Avian flu virus can last forever at a temperature dozens of degrees below freezing, as is found in the northern most areas that migratory birds frequent.

Heat kills H5N1 (i.e. inactivates the virus):

- Over 30 days at 0°C (32.0°F) (over one month at freezing temperature)
- 6 days at 37°C (98.6°F) (one week at human body temperature)
- 30 minutes 60°C (140.0°F) (half hour at a temperature that causes first and second degree burns in humans in ten seconds) [\[24\]](#)

Inactivation of the virus also occurs under the following conditions:

- Acidic pH conditions
- Presence of oxidizing agents such as sodium dodecyl sulfate, lipid solvents, and B-propiolactone
- Exposure to disinfectants: formalin, iodine compounds [\[25\]](#)

Incubation

The human incubation period of avian influenza A (H5N1) is 2 to 17 days [\[26\]](#). Once infected, the virus can spread by cell-to-cell contact, bypassing receptors. So even if a strain is very hard to initially catch, once infected, it spreads rapidly within a body. [\[27\]](#)

Symptoms

Avian influenza HA bind alpha 2-3 sialic acid receptors while human influenza HA bind alpha 2-6 sialic acid receptors. Usually other differences also exist. There is as yet no human form of H5N1, so all humans who have caught it so far have caught **avian** H5N1.

Human flu symptoms usually include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, conjunctivitis and, in severe cases, severe breathing problems and pneumonia that may be fatal. The severity of the infection will depend to a large part on the state of the infected person's immune system and if the victim has been exposed to the strain before, and is therefore partially immune. No one knows if these or other symptoms will be the symptoms of a humanized H5N1 flu.

Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian flu in a human is far worse, killing over 50% of humans that catch it. In one case, a boy with H5N1 experienced diarrhea followed rapidly by a coma without developing respiratory or flu-like symptoms. [\[28\]](#)

There have been studies of the levels of cytokines in humans infected by the H5N1 flu virus. Of particular concern is elevated levels of tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF \pm), a protein that is associated with tissue destruction at sites of infection and increased production of other cytokines. Flu virus-induced increases in the level of cytokines is also associated with flu symptoms including fever, chills, vomiting and headache. Tissue damage associated with pathogenic flu virus infection can ultimately result in death [29]. The inflammatory cascade triggered by H5N1 has been called a 'cytokine storm' by some, because of what seems to be a positive feedback process of damage to the body resulting from immune system stimulation. H5N1 type flu virus induces higher levels of cytokines than the more common flu virus types such as H1N1 [30] Other important mechanisms also exist "in the acquisition of virulence in avian influenza viruses" according to the CDC. [\[31\]](#)

The NS1 protein of the highly pathogenic avian H5N1 viruses circulating in poultry and waterfowl in Southeast Asia is currently believed to be responsible for the enhanced proinflammatory cytokine response. H5N1 NS1 is characterized by a single amino acid change at position 92. By changing the amino acid from glutamic acid to aspartic acid, researchers were able to abrogate the effect of the H5N1 NS1. This single amino acid change in the NS1 gene greatly increased the pathogenicity of the H5N1 influenza virus.

In short, this one amino acid difference in the NS1 protein produced by the NS RNA molecule of the H5N1 virus is believed to be largely responsible for an increased pathogenicity (on top of the already increased pathogenicity of its hemagglutinin type which allows it to grow in organs other than lungs) that can manifest itself by causing a cytokine storm in a patient's body, often causing pneumonia and death.

Treatment

Neuraminidase inhibitors are a class of drugs that includes zanamivir and oseltamivir, the latter being licensed for prophylaxis treatment in the United Kingdom. Oseltamivir inhibits the influenza virus from spreading inside the user's body [23]. It is marketed by

Roche as Tamiflu. This drug has become a focus for some governments and organizations trying to be seen as making preparations for a possible H5N1 pandemic. In August 2005, Roche agreed to donate three million courses of o be deployed by the WHO to contain a pandemic in its region of origin. Although Tamiflu is patented, international law gives governments wide freedom to issue compulsory licenses for life-saving drugs.

A second class of drugs, which include amantadine and rimantadine, target the M2 protein, but are ineffective against H5N1. Unlike zanamivir and oseltamivir, these drugs are inexpensive and widely available and the WHO had initially planned to use them in efforts to combat an H5N1 pandemic. However, the potential of these drugs was considerably lessened when it was discovered that farmers in China have been administering amantadine to poultry with government encouragement and support since the early 1990s, against international livestock regulations; the result has been that the strain of the virus now circulating in South East Asia is largely resistant to these medications and hence significantly more dangerous to humans^[32].

However, recent data suggest that some strains of H5N1 are susceptible to the older drugs. An analysis of more than 600 H5N1 viruses collected in Southeast Asia showed that most samples from China and Indonesia lacked genetic characteristics signaling resistance to amantadine, whereas most samples from Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia had those characteristics. The report was published by the Journal of Infectious Diseases. The new WHO guidelines were drawn up by an international group of clinicians with experience treating H5N1 patients, along with other experts, at a meeting in late March. The panel systematically reviewed and graded the evidence for the drugs' effectiveness. Since no results from controlled trials of medication use in H5N1 cases are available, "Overall, the quality of the underlying evidence for all recommendations was very low," the 138-page WHO report states. The evidence includes results of lab and animal studies and indirect evidence from studies of antiviral use in patients with seasonal influenza. The recommendations are classified as "strong" or "weak," depending on the quality of the relevant evidence. The WHO says that if a patient has a confirmed or strongly suspected H5N1 case and NIs are available, "Clinicians should administer oseltamivir treatment (strong recommendation); zanamivir might be used as an alternative (weak recommendation)." Oseltamivir comes in capsule form, whereas zanamivir is taken with an inhaler. The WHO says zanamivir has lower bioavailability outside the respiratory tract than oseltamivir, but it may be active against some strains of oseltamivir-resistant H5N1 virus.^[33]

Mortality rate

Human Mortality from H5N1

A strain of H5N1 killed chickens in 1959 in Scotland and turkeys in 1991 in England. This strain was "highly pathogenic" (deadly to birds) but caused neither illness nor death in humans.^[34] "The precursor of the H5N1 influenza virus that spread to humans in 1997 was first detected in Guangdong, China, in 1996, when it caused a moderate number of deaths in

geese and attracted very little attention." [35] In 1997, in Hong Kong, 18 humans were infected and 6 died in the first known case of H5N1 infecting humans. [36] H5N1 had evolved from a zero mortality rate to a 33% mortality rate.

By 2003 H5N1 infection was detected in three flocks in the Republic of Korea. This strain caused asymptomatic infections in humans and has died out, meaning that its low mortality level is no more relevant than the 1959 strain's low mortality rate. [37][38] The apparently extinct strain that caused Vietnam's human deaths from H5N1 in 2003, 2004 and 2005 also had a lower case mortality rate than the currently existing strains. [38] Changes are occurring in H5N1 that are increasing its pathogenicity in mammals. [39]

In 2005, 42 of 97 people confirmed by the WHO to be infected with H5N1 died -- or 43%. From January 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006, the case fatality ratio has been higher, with 74 deaths among 109 WHO-confirmed cases [40]-- or 68%. This has been interpreted by some to mean that the virus itself is becoming more deadly over time. [41] The global case fatality ratio is, nonetheless, a crude summary of a complex situation with many contributing factors. In particular, if an influenza pandemic arises from one of the currently circulating strains of Asian lineage HPAI A(H5N1), the mortality rates for the resulting human adapted influenza strain cannot be predicted with any confidence.

H5N1 is currently much better adapted to birds than to other hosts, which is why the disease it causes is called a bird flu. No pandemic strain of H5N1 has yet been found. The precise nature and extent of the genetic alterations that might change one of the currently circulating avian flu strains into a human flu strain cannot be known in advance. While many of the current H5N1 strains circulating in birds can generate a dangerous cytokine storm in healthy adult humans [42][43], the ultimate pandemic strain might arise from a less-lethal strain, or its current level of lethality might be lost in the adaptation to a human host.

The global case fatality ratio looks only to the official tally of cases confirmed by the WHO. It takes no account of other cases, such as those appearing in press reports. Nor does it reflect any estimate of the global extent of mild, asymptomatic, or other cases which are undiagnosed, unreported by national governments to the WHO, or for any reason cannot be confirmed by the WHO. While the WHO's case count is clearly the most authoritative, these unavoidable limitations result in an unknown number of cases being omitted from it. The problem of overlooked but genuine cases is emphasized by occasional reports in which later serology reveals antibodies to the H5N1 infection in the blood of persons who were never known to have bird flu, and who then are confirmed by the WHO only retroactively as "cases." Press reports of such cases, often poultry handlers, have appeared in various countries. The largest number of asymptomatic cases was recently confirmed among Korean workers who had assisted in massive culls of H5N1-infected poultry. [44] This relatively benign Korean strain of H5N1 has died out, and the remaining strains of H5N1 have a higher case fatality rate in humans.

Unconfirmed cases have a potentially huge impact on the case fatality ratio. This mathematical impact is well-understood by epidemiologists, and is easy to see in theory. For example, if for each confirmed case reported by the WHO we assume that there has been another mild and unreported case, the actual global number of cases would be double the current number of WHO-confirmed cases. The fatality ratio for H5N1 infections would then be calculated as the same number of deaths, but divided by a doubled number for total cases, resulting in a hypothetical death ratio of half the currently-reported fatality ratio. Such a

result would indicate to epidemiologists that the world was confronting an H5N1 virus that is less-lethal than currently assumed, although possibly one that was more contagious and difficult to track.

A case-fatality ratio based on an accurate and all-inclusive count of cases would be invaluable, but unfortunately it is impossible to attain. The ability to diagnose every case of H5N1 as it arises does not exist. A few reported studies have attempted to gather preliminary data on this crucial statistic, by carrying out systematic blood testing of neighbors and contacts of fatal cases in villages where there had been confirmed H5N1 fatalities. This testing failed to turn up any overlooked mild cases. ^{[45][46]} These methodical studies of contacts provide significant evidence that the high death rate among confirmed cases in the villages where these studies were carried out cannot be simply attributed to a wholesale failure to detect mild cases. Unfortunately, these studies are likely to remain too few and sketchy to define the complex situation worldwide regarding the lethality of the varying H5N1 clades. The testing and reporting necessary for mass serology studies to determine the incidence of overlooked cases for each existing clade and strain of H5N1 worldwide would be prohibitively costly.

Hence the precise allocation of infections by the various H5N1 clades across the spectrum including lethal, serious, mild, and asymptomatic cases is likely to remain unknown in both humans and the hundreds of other species it can infect. Scientists are very concerned about what we do know about H5N1; but even more concerned about the vast amount of important data that we don't know about H5N1 and its future mutations.

A case fatality ratio of over 50% provides a grim backdrop for the fact that the currently circulating H5N1 strains have certain genetic similarities with the Spanish Influenza pandemic virus. In that pandemic, 50 million to 100 million people worldwide were killed during about a year in 1918 and 1919 ^[47]. The highly lethal second and third waves of the 1918 Spanish flu evolved through time into toward a less virulent and more transmissible human form. Although the overall fatality rate for the Spanish Flu was at most 1% to 2% of the population, the lethal waves of the Spanish Flu are not reported to have emerged with anything like the over-50% case fatality ratio observed to date in human H5N1 infection. Unfortunately, a human H5N1 pandemic might emerge with initial lethality resembling that over-50% case fatality now observed in pre-pandemic H5N1 human cases, rather than with the still-high 1-2% seen with the Spanish Flu or with the lower rates seen in the two more recent influenza pandemics.^[48]

Review of patient ages and outcomes reveals that H5N1 attacks are especially lethal in pre-adults and young adults, while older victims tend to have milder attacks and to survive. ^[49] This is consistent with the frequent development of a cytokine storm in the afflicted.^[50] Very few persons over 50 years of age died after suffering a H5N1 attack. Instead, the age-fatality curve of H5N1 influenza attacks in humans resembles that of the 1918 Spanish pandemic flu, and is the opposite of the mortality curve of seasonal flu strains, since seasonal influenza preferentially kills the elderly and does not kill by cytokine storm.

Another factor complicating any attempt to predict lethality of an eventual pandemic strain is that many human victims of the current H5N1 influenza have been blood relatives (but rarely spouses) of other victims. This data suggests that the victims' genetic susceptibility may have played a role in the human cases registered to date.

Mortality rate in planning reports

Governments and other organizations at many levels and in many places have produced "planning" reports that, among other things, have offered speculation on the mortality rate of an eventual H5N1 pandemic. One such report stated that "over half a million Americans could die and over 2.3 million could be hospitalized if a moderately severe strain of a pandemic flu virus hits the U.S."^[51]. No one knew if "moderately severe" was an accurate guess or not. A report entitled *A Killer Flu?*^[52] projected that, with an assumed (guessed) contraction rate of just 25%, and with a severity rate as low as that of the two lowest severity flu pandemics of the 1900s, a modern influenza A pandemic would cause 180 thousand deaths in the US, while a pandemic equaling the 1918 Spanish Flu in level of lethality would cause one million deaths in the US. Again, the report offered no evidence that an emerging H5N1 flu pandemic would be between these figures^[53].

The current avian flu, in humans, is fatal in over 50% of confirmed cases. Yet early projections like those above have assumed that such a lethal avian strain would surely lose genes contributing to its lethality in humans as it made the adaptations necessary for ready transmission in the human population. This optimistic assumption cannot be relied on, as the WHO reported in November 2006. Initial outbreaks of an H5N1 pandemic could rival the current lethality of over 50%.^[54] Further information necessary to make an accurate projection of initial lethality of an H5N1 pandemic does not exist, as no data was collected that could show the pre-pandemic virulence in any potential flu strain until after the last pandemic of the 20th Century. There is no basis for assuming that an H5N1 pandemic will emerge with only the far lower 1-2% lethality rate of the Spanish Flu, once assumed to be a worst case scenario. There exists no reliable prediction of the mortality rate of an H5N1 pandemic, and it would be irresponsible to confine planning to only optimistic assumptions out of step with the currently observed case fatality ratio.

Although marred by unrealistically low ranges of assumed mortality, the earlier planning reports nevertheless show convincingly that we are not prepared *even* for a pandemic as severe as the milder pandemics of the past century.^[55] let alone the much higher case fatality ratios seen more recently.

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Bumblefoot

Bumblefoot (ulcerative pododermatitis) is a bacterial infection and inflammatory reaction on the foot of [birds of prey](#) and rodents. This infection is much more likely to occur in captive animals than in those in the wild.

Bumblefoot on Birds of Prey

Bumblefoot is, perhaps, the largest cause of referral of birds of prey to a verterinary surgeon. Bumblefoot on birds of prey can be put into three broad types of the infection;

In the first type, a small reddened area, or sometimes a small shiny patch, can be seen on the foot. This is mostly caused by inappropriate perching (or perching for too long), or, less likely, by badly fitted furniture, such as jesses that are too small. To treat this type, one must change the fault in the husbandry, fly the bird regularly, and apply haemorrhoid cream to the effected foot.

The second type is more serious, where there has been some penetration has occurred. While treatment for the first type will help, it is likely that the bird will require antibiotics as well.

The third type involves the bird having severe distortion of the contours of the foot and/or the toes, resulting from the Bumblefoot causing considerable damage in the foot.

Bumblefoot in rodents

Bumblefoot in rodents is not necessarily associated with wire-floor cages, but more commonly with genetic factors, and/or an unsanitary living environment [\[1\]](#), although no conclusive evidence yet exists that would directly link this infection to these factors. Bumblefoot is so named because of the characteristic "bumbles" or lesions as well as swelling of the foot pad symptomatic of an infection. Topical antiseptics such as Blue-Kote in addition to oral or injected antibiotics may be used to combat the infection, which if left untreated may be fatal. [\[2\]](#)

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Gallid herpesvirus 1

Virus classification

Group: Group I (dsDNA) Family: *Herpesviridae* Genus: *Iltovirus* Species: ***Gallid herpesvirus 1*** (GaHV-1)

Gallid herpesvirus 1 (GaHV-1) (also known as *Avian herpesvirus 1*) is a virus of the family *Herpesviridae* that causes **avian infectious laryngotracheitis**. It was originally recognized as a disease of [chickens](#) in the United States in 1926.^[1] The disease also occurs in [pheasants](#).^[2] GaHV-1 is shed in respiratory secretions and transmitted by droplet inhalation. A previously unexposed flock will develop cases for two to eight weeks following introduction. The incubation period is two to eight days.^[1] Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, head shaking, lethargy, discharge from the eyes and nostrils (sometimes bloody), and difficulty breathing. The name comes from the severe inflammation of the larynx and trachea. A diphtheritic membrane may form in the trachea, causing obstruction. Mortality is typically less than 15 percent.^[2] A vaccine is available, but it does not prevent latent infections.

The disease is usually referred to as Infectious laryngotracheitis or simply LT in the poultry industry. It is widely viewed as one of the most contagious viruses that affect the poultry industry. A confirmed case will usually result in the establishment of a quarantine zone around the farm. Inside this quarantine zone, poultry workers will avoid poultry farms to prevent the spread of the virus.

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Scaly leg

Scaly leg is a disease of [chickens](#) and other [birds](#). It is caused by a parasitic mite, *Knemidocoptes mutans*. The mite burrows under the scales in the bird's legs, but may also infect other areas, including the comb or wattles. The mite spends its entire lifecycle on the birds and is usually spread by direct contact.

Birds infected with scaly leg have raised or protruding scales, sometimes with a white crusty appearance. Scaly leg is extremely irritating to the infected bird, and in extreme cases can result in lameness.

The disease can be treated by soaking the afflicted bird's legs in soapy water mixed with diluted ammonia, and the encrusted areas scrubbed gently with a soft brush, followed by the application of an insecticide to kill the mites, usually oil based. Petroleum jelly (mixed with sulphur if available), or a commercial chest rub can be used — the mites are unable to breathe beneath the jelly.

Multiple treatments may be required to completely eliminate the mite, and pen, perches, and nesting areas should be sprayed. Ideally birds should be moved to a new area for at least a month to avoid re-infection from dropped scales that may remain infectious for up to 30 days.

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Famous birds

This is a **list of historical birds**.

Famous birds

- The [African grey parrot](#) **Alex**, who, in studies by Dr. Irene Pepperberg, has demonstrated an ability to count; differentiate categories involving objects, colors, shapes, and materials; and understand the concept of same and different
- The Capitoline geese, who warned of an imminent attack on Rome's hill of the Capitol by the Gauls in 390 B.C.
- Cher Ami, British-bred [homing pigeon](#) (autumn of 1918) – delivers twelve messages for the U.S. Army during World War I, among other things helping to save the Lost Battalion.
- **Incas**, the last Carolina parakeet, who died in 1918 at the Cincinnati Zoo, reportedly of grief after his mate **Lady Jane** died a few months before him, in 1917
- **Martha**, the last of the American passenger pigeons, who died at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. Species Requiem Day, September 1, marks Martha's passing.
- **Mike**, the Wyandotte rooster of Fruita, Colorado who lived for 18 months after his head was cut off. The botched decapitation in 1945 missed his brain stem and jugular vein. His owners fed him thereafter with an eyedropper, and took him on tours of the West Coast. He died in 1947.
- The [ducks](#) of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, who, in a tradition dating back to the 1930s, are escorted from their penthouse palace down the elevator every day of the year at 11:00 a.m., cross a red carpet to a Sousa march, and spend the day in the lobby fountain, returning home with equal ceremony at 5:00 p.m.
- The [ravens](#) of the Tower of London, whose continuing presence there is said to maintain the general safety of the kingdom. qand

Birds owned by famous people

- **Mrs. Ballard's parrots**, whose owner, Alba Ballard, dressed them up in costumes and had them photographed in miniature scenes she made. Sherlock Holmes, General Patton, and Sonny and Cher were just a few of the people portrayed. They appeared on several American late-night television shows in the 1970s and 1980s.
- The parrot who sailed with Thor Heyerdahl on the raft Kon-Tiki
- **Ulysses**, Gerald Durrell's pet owl when he was growing up in Corfu. Ulysses appeared frequently in Durrell's books about living on the Greek island.

Famous extinct birds

- Carolina parakeet

- Dodo
- Great Auk
 - [Moa](#)
- Passenger pigeon
 - See also [Extinct birds](#)

Feathers

Feathers are one of the epidermal growths that form the distinctive outer covering, or [plumage](#), on [birds](#). They are the outstanding characteristic that distinguishes the Class [Aves](#) from all other living groups. Other Theropoda also had feathers.

- [1 Characteristics](#)
- [2 Evolution](#)
 - [2.1 Feathered dinosaurs](#)
- [3 Human uses](#)
- [4 References](#)

Characteristics

Feathers are among the most complex structural organs found in vertebrates: integumentary appendages, formed by controlled proliferation of cells in the epidermis, or outer skin layer, that produce keratin proteins. The α -keratins in feathers, beaks and claws — and the claws, scales and shells of reptiles — are composed of protein strands hydrogen-bonded into β -pleated sheets, which are then further twisted and crosslinked by disulfide bridges into structures even tougher than the α -keratins of mammalian hair, horns and hoof.

Feathers insulate birds from water and cold temperatures. Individual feathers in the wings and tail play important roles in controlling flight. These have their own identity and are not just randomly distributed. Some species have a crest of feathers on their heads. Although feathers are light, a bird's plumage weighs two or three times more than its skeleton, since many bones are hollow and contain air sacs. Color patterns serve as camouflage against predators for birds in their habitats, and by predators looking for a meal. As with fish, the top and bottom colors may be different to provide camouflage during flight. Striking differences in feather patterns and colours are part of the sexual dimorphism of many bird species and are particularly important in selection of mating pairs. The remarkable colors and feather sizes of some species have never been fully explained.

There are two basic types of feather: *vaned feathers* which cover the exterior of the body, and down feathers which are underneath the vaned feathers. The pennaceous feathers are vaned feathers. Also called contour feathers, pennaceous feathers are distributed over the whole body. Some of them are modified into remiges, the flight feathers of the wing, and rectrices, the flight feathers of the tail. A typical vaned feather features a main shaft, called the rachis. Fused to the rachis are a series of branches, or barbs; the barbs themselves are also branched and form the barbules. These barbules have minute hooks called barbicels for cross-attachment. Down feathers are fluffy because they lack barbicels, so the barbules float free of each other, allowing the down to trap much air and provide excellent thermal insulation. At the base of the feather, the rachis expands to form the hollow tubular calamus, or quill, which inserts into a follicle in the skin.

The Dyck texture is what causes the colours blue and green in most parrots. This is due to a texture effect in microscopic portions of the feather itself, rather than pigment, or the Tyndall effect as was previously believed.

The spectacular red feathers of certain parrots owe their vibrancy to a rare set of pigments found nowhere else in nature.

A bird's feathers are replaced periodically during its life through molting, new feathers are formed through the same follicle from which the old ones were fledged.

Some birds have a supply of powder-down feathers which grow continuously, with small particles regularly breaking off from the ends of the barbules. These particles produce a powder that sifts through the feathers on the bird's body and acts as a waterproofing agent and a feather conditioner. Most waterbirds produce a large amount of powder down. Waterproofing can be lost by exposure to emulsifying agents due to human pollution. Feathers can become waterlogged and birds may sink. It is also very difficult to clean and rescue birds whose feathers have been fouled by oil spills.

Bristles are stiff, tapering feathers with a large rachis but few barbs. **Rictal bristles** are bristles found around the eyes and bill. They serve a similar purpose to eyelashes and vibrissae in mammals.

Evolution

Feathers most likely originated as a filamentous insulation structure, or possibly as markers for mating, with flight emerging only as a secondary purpose. It has been thought that feathers evolved from the scales of [reptiles](#), but recent research suggests that while there is a definite relationship between these structures, it remains uncertain the exact process. (see *Quarterly Review of Biology* 77:3 (September 2002): 261-95). Experiments show that the same protein (when missing before birth) that causes bird feet to stay webbed, causes bird scutes and scales to become feathers. [\[1\]](#)

Feathered dinosaurs

Although birds use feathers primarily for flight, several dinosaurs have been discovered with feathers on their limbs that would not have functioned for flight. One theory is that feathers originally developed on dinosaurs as a means of insulation; those small dinosaurs that then grew longer feathers may have found them helpful in gliding, which would have begun the evolutionary process that resulted in some proto-birds like Archaeopteryx and Microraptor zhaoianus. Other dinosaurs discovered with feathers include Pedopenna daohugouensis, Sinosauropteryx, and Dilong paradoxus. Currently the question is whether birds are deinonychosaurians or dromaeosaurids, not whether birds are dinosaurs. It has been suggested that Pedopenna is older than Archaeopteryx, however, their age remains doubted by some experts. Dilong is a tyrannosauroid which predates Tyrannosaurus rex by 60 to 70 million years.

Human uses

Feathers have a number of utilitarian and cultural and religious uses.

Utilitarian Functions

Feathers are both soft and excellent at trapping heat; thus, they are sometimes used in high-class bedding, especially pillows, blankets, and mattresses. They are also used as filling for winter clothing, such as quilted coats and sleeping bags; goose down especially has great loft, the ability to expand from a compressed, stored state to trap large amounts of compartmentalized, insulating air. Bird feathers have long been used for fletching arrows and in the past were used for ink pens. They have also been put to use as sexual aids; see feather-dancing. Another human use is tickling for their soft feeling. Colorful feathers such as those belonging to pheasants have been used in the past to decorate hats and fishing lures. During the late 19th and early 20th Centuries a booming international trade in plumes, to satisfy market demand in North America and Europe for extravagant head-dresses as adornment for fashionable women, caused so much destruction (for example, to egret breeding colonies) that a major campaign against it by conservationists caused the fashion to change and the market to collapse.

Cultural and Religious Uses

[Eagle](#) feathers have great cultural and spiritual value to American Indians as religious objects. The religious use of eagle and hawk feathers are governed by the eagle feather law (50 CFR 22), a federal law limiting the possession of [eagle](#) feathers to certified and enrolled members of federally-recognized Native American tribes.

Various birds and their plumages serve as cultural icons throughout the world, from the hawk in ancient Egypt to the bald eagle and the turkey in the United States. In Greek mythology, Icarus tried to escape his prison by attaching feathered wings to his shoulders with wax, which melted near the Sun.

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Plumage

The differences in plumage of a Blue Grosbeak, from top to bottom, between a breeding male (alternate plumage) a non-breeding male (basic plumage), a female and a related Indigo Bunting

Plumage refers both to the layer of [feathers](#) that cover a [bird](#) and the pattern, colour, and arrangement of those feathers. The pattern and colours of plumage vary between species and subspecies and can also vary between different age classes, sexes, and season. Within species there can also be a number of different colour morphs. Differences in plumage are used by [ornithologists](#) and birdwatchers in order to distinguish between species and collect other species specific information.

Basic and alternate plumage

Almost all species of birds moult at least annually, usually after the breeding season. This resulting covering of feathers, which will last either until the next breeding season or until the next annual moult, is known as the **basic plumage**. Many species undertake another moult prior to the breeding season known as the prealternate moult, the resulting breeding plumage being known as the **alternate plumage**. The alternate plumage is often brighter than the basic plumage, for the purposes of sexual display, but may also be cryptic in order to hide incubating birds that might be vulnerable on the nest.

Fictional birds

- [1 Birds in legends, mythology, and religion](#)
- [2 Birds in literature](#)
- [3 Birds in heraldry](#)
- [4 Birds in Television](#)
- [5 Birds on the radio](#)
- [6 Birds in animation, comics, puppetry, and theme parks](#)
- [7 Birds in film](#)
- [8 Birds in music](#)
- [9 Birds in sports](#)
- [10 Birds in video games](#)
- [11 Birds in commerce](#)
- [12 See also](#)

Birds in legends, mythology, and religion

- Alkonost in Russian legends
- Ba in Egyptian mythology
- Bagucks in Chippewa mythology
- Bar Juchne in Talmud
- Camulatz in Mayan mythology
- Chamrosh in Persian mythology
- The Cu Bird (el Pájaro Cu) in Mexican folklore
- Noah's Dove in the Bible
- Feng-huang (Chinese Phoenix) in Chinese mythology
- Firebird in Native American mythologies
- Ember bird in Russian fairy tales
- Gamayun in Russian folklore
- Garuda in Buddhism and Hinduism
- Griffin in European mythology
- Hábrók, a hawk from Norse mythology
- Harpies in Greek mythology
- Hokhokw in Kwakiutl mythology
- Ho-o in Japanese, imported from Chinese; Fenghuang
- Huginn and Muninn (Thought and Memory), Odin's two companion birds in Norse mythology
- Jatayu in Hindu mythology
- Kin-u in Japanese, imported from Chinese
- Kwakwakalanooksiwae in Kwakiutl mythology
- Lightning Bird, a real or imaginary bird in southern African folklore
- Phoenix in Egyptian mythology
- Pisia in Native American mythology

Quetzalcoatl in Aztec mythology
Raven in Native American mythologies
Noah's Raven in the Bible
Roc in Persian mythology
Samjoko in Korean mythology
Shang-Yang (a rainbird) in Chinese mythology
Simurgh in Persian mythology
Sirin in Russian folklore
Suzaku in Japanese mythology, imported from the Chinese Shu-jaku
Tecumbalam in Maya mythology
Thunderbird in Native American mythologies
Xecotcovach in Maya mythology
Yatagarasu in Japanese mythology
Ziz in Talmud

Birds in literature

- The albatross in Rime of the Ancient Mariner
Archimedes (an owl) and various hawks, falcons, and white-fronted geese in The Once and Future King by T. H. White
Billina (a chicken) in numerous Land of Oz books by L. Frank Baum
numerous bond-birds in the Velgarth books by Mercedes Lackey, mostly raptors, usually selectively-bred for size and intelligence
The black hen in the "Hickety, pickety" nursery rhyme
Mr. Brown, the owl in Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin
Chanticleer (a rooster) and Pertelote (his favorite hen) in "The Nun's Priest's Tale" by Geoffrey Chaucer
Chil the Kite in The Jungle Book and The Second Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
Crow, by Ted Hughes
Johnny Crow, the crow star of a series of children's books illustrated by L. Leslie Brookes
The Crow and the Oriole, one of James Thurber's fables; also, The Owl Who was God, and The Shrike and the Chipmunks
A dove carrying a sprig flies to Noah, indicating the end of the Flood in Book of Genesis
The E-Telekeli (a humanoid eagle) leader of the Underpeople in the works of Cordwainer Smith
Fawkes (a phoenix) in the Harry Potter novels by J. K. Rowling
Captain Flint (a parrot) in Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
The four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie in the nursery rhyme
Miss Goldfinch the elder and Miss Clara Goldfinch, who have a tea and coffee tavern in Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Little Pig Robinson
Thorondor, king of the eagles in the works of J. R. R. Tolkien

Gwaihir and Landroval, also eagles, in *The Lord of the Rings*, also by Tolkien
 Roäc and Cärc, two ravens from *The Hobbit*, also by Tolkien
 Hedwig (a snowy owl) in the *Harry Potter* novels by J. K. Rowling; also many other owls, used to carry messages
 Jack and Jill, the blackbirds on a hill told to fly away in the nursery rhyme
 Kaisa, the dæmon of the witch Serafina Pekkala in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Philip Pullman. His final form is a snow goose.
 Kehaar the seagull in *Watership Down*
 Sally Henny-penny, the chicken who re-opens the shop in Beatrix Potter's *Ginger and Pickles*
 Oreb (a "night chough", a fictitious crow-like species) in *The Book of the Long Sun* and *The Book of the Short Sun* by Gene Wolfe; also various hawks and "the white-headed one", some kind of vulture
 Owl (an owl) in the *Winnie the Pooh* books by A. A. Milne
 A sarcastic parrot belonging to the title character in Terry Pratchett's *Faust* Eric
 The phoenix, in E. Nesbit's *The Phoenix and the Carpet*
 Pickwick, a dodo from the *Thursday Next* series by Jasper Fforde
 "Pigeons on the grass, alas," from a poem by Gertrude Stein
 Pigeons, owls, hens, and an eagle in James Thurber's taking issue with Stein's pigeon passage – the story *There's an Owl in My Room*
 Pip, Beth March's unfortunate canary in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*
 Polynesia, a parrot in Hugh Lofting's *Dr. Dolittle* stories.
 Quoth (a raven) in the works of Terry Pratchett (a pun on *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe)
 The raven in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*
 The robin of the "Little Robin Redbreast" nursery rhyme
 Jonathan Livingston Seagull (a gull), eponymous character in a short story by Richard Bach. The story has other gull characters as well.
 A stork (presumably a white stork) and a kingfisher (presumably a belted kingfisher) in *Little, Big* by John Crowley
 Tobias, a human who becomes stuck in the body of a red-tailed hawk in the *Animorphs* series by K. A. Applegate
 The Ugly Duckling (actually a cygnet) in the story of that name by Hans Christian Andersen
 Yittleby and Yattleby (alien flightless birds called krylobos) in *Wizard's Eleven* and the *Jinian* books by Sheri S. Tepper.
 Zoltan the raven in *The Gunslinger* by Stephen King.
 Many species in Aesop's *Fables*
 Many species in *The Conference of the Birds*, a Persian book of poems by Farid ud-Din Attar.
 Many species in La Fontaine's *fables*.
 Many species in Brian Jacques's *Redwall* novels.
 Many species in Thornton Burgess's children's stories.
 Many species including the Ratbird in Paul Stewart's *Edge Chronicles* series.
 The twin white condors in *The Legend of the Condor Heroes* and *The Return of*

the Condor Heroes

The divine condor in The Return of the Condor Heroes

Birds in heraldry

Birds in Television

- Carly, the Cardinal spokes/songbird for National Arbor Day in the U.S.
Dahl (parrot), household pet of the Kennedy family in the Australian soap-opera Neighbours
Fred the cockatoo in Baretta
Owl, from Winnie the Pooh
Rosita, Dolores and Marguerita, parrots who advertise Tropicana brand orange juice on UK television
Tony Soprano's swimming pool ducks in The Sopranos

Birds on the radio

- The Wise Old Bird on the planet Brontitall in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Birds in animation, comics, puppetry, and theme parks

- The Aracuan Bird, in various Walt Disney cartoons
Archimedes, an owl in Disney's The Sword in the Stone
Articuno, Zapdos, Moltres, Lugia and Ho-oh from Pokémon
Beaky Buzzard, a buzzard in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons
Big Bird, a very big canary and Little Bird on Sesame Street
Big Mama, an owl in the Disney film The Fox and the Hound
Birdee, Kira Yamato's robotic pet created by Athrun Zala as a parting gift; Gundam Seed.
Blackbird, a pirate (based on Blackbeard) in The Legend Of Anne Bunny
Booker, a baby chick in Garfield and Friends
Buzby, yellow bird of unspecified species in advertisements for British Telecom in the late 1970s/early 1980s
Gallina Caponata, a big (theoretical) chicken similar to Big Bird in Spanish version of Sesame Street
Cathryn Aura and her son Nigel, vultures in Kevin and Kell
Charlie the Owl in the New Zoo Revue
Chicken Pig of Avatar: The Last Airbender
Chilly Willy, a penguin in the Walter Lantz cartoons

Cozy Heart Penguin, a Care Bears cousin
 The crows in Dumbo
 Daffy Duck, a duck in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons
 Darkwing Duck, of the Disney television cartoon of the same name.
 Diablo, Maleficent's raven, in Disney's animated version of Sleeping Beauty
 The last of the Dodos in Looney Tunes
 Donald Duck, Daisy Duck, Huey, Dewey and Louie, Ludwig Von Drake, and
 Scrooge McDuck in the Walt Disney cartoons
 Duckman, a duck in the cartoon of the same name
 Flit, a hummingbird in Disney's animated version of Pocahontas
 Friend Owl, in Disney's Bambi
 Frobisher (aka Avan Tarklu), an alien shapeshifter from the Dr. Who comic
 strip who preferred the form of a penguin.
 Foghorn Leghorn, a rooster in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons
 Gogo Dodo in Tiny Toon Adventures
 The Goodfeathers (pigeons) in Animaniacs
 Graculus in Noggin the Nog
 Giant hawks flown by the Glider Elves in Elfquest comics
 The Great Bird Conspiracy in Kevin and Kell
 H. Ross Parrot on Sesame Street
 Henery Hawk, a chickenhawk in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies
 cartoons
 Howard the Duck in the comic book of the same name
 Howland Owl, and Sarcophagus MacAbre, a vulture in Walt Kelly's Pogo
 Iago, a parrot in Disney's animated version of Aladdin
 Jose Carioca, a parrot in various Walt Disney cartoons
 Jose, Michael, Pierre, and Fritz, parrot sin Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room
 attraction at Disney theme parks
 Kehaar the seagull in Watership Down
 Kestrel, Owl, Mr. Pheasant and several others in Animals of Farthing Wood
 Kotreeka birds in Gene Catlow
 Matthew, Dream's raven in the DC Comics Sandman series.
 Opus, a penguin in Berkeley Breathed's Bloom County
 Owls in Futurama, considered vermin in the 31st Century
 * Owl in Disney's animated versions of the Winnie the Pooh stories.
 Pen2, a penguin from Neon Genesis Evangelion.
 Panchito, a rooster in The Three Caballeros
 The penguin waiters in Mary Poppins
 Penguins in Avatar: The Last Airbender of Avatar: The Last Airbender
 The pigeons from Pigeon Street.
 Pingu, a penguin in the animated children's series of the same name (Swiss)
 Plucky Duck in Tiny Toon Adventures
 Pokey the Penguin, a penguin living in the Arctic Circle, in the webcomic of the
 same name
 Professor Yaffle, a Green Woodpecker in Bagpuss (UK)

The purple falcon sidekick of Birdman
Reptile Parrot of Avatar: The Last Airbender
The Road Runner (a roadrunner) in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons
Screaming Bird of Avatar: The Last Airbender
Scuttle, a seagull in Disney's The Little Mermaid
Sheldon, an unhatched chick egg, in Garfield and Friends
Shoe, a grumpy, cigar-smoking newspaper publisher in his own comic strip
Shirley McLoon in Tiny Toon Adventures
Sonny (a cuckoo), a cartoon spokesbird for Cocoa Puffs cereal (USA)
Toucan Sam, a toucan, the cartoon spokesbird for Froot Loops cereal (USA)
Turtle Ducks of Avatar: The Last Airbender
Tweety, a canary in the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons
The vultures in Disney's animated version of The Jungle Book
The Why Bird, in BBC educational programme Playdays.
Woodstock in the Charles Schultz's Peanuts comic strip
Woody Woodpecker, a woodpecker in the Walter Lantz cartoons
Yankee Doodle Pigeon in Hanna-Barbera's Dastardly and Muttley in their Flying Machines
Yoyo, an owl in The Books of Magic comic book by Neil Gaiman and others
Zazu, a hornbill in The Lion King.

Birds in film

- Babs and Ginger (hens) and Fowler and Rocky (roosters) in Chicken Run
The Crow (also made into a television series) is about a superhero named The Crow, but he associated with an actual crow
Falcon (a falcon) and Margalo (a canary) in Stuart Little 2
Paulie (a parrot) in the film of the same name
The killer birds in the Hitchcock film The Birds (and the Daphne du Maurier story on which the film is based)
Mordechai: Pet falcon of Richie Tenenbaum in The Royal Tenenbaums
Waddlesworth (a parrot) in 102 Dalmatians
Howard - "Howard The Duck" aka "Howard: A New Breed of Hero" (1986)
Zazu, from The Lion King
Iago (a parrot) from Aladdin
Hedwig, Pigwidgeon (owls) from Harry Potter

Birds in music

- Blackbird in the Beatles' Blackbird
The Birds – British band
The Byrds – American band

The doves in Prince's When Doves Cry
Free Bird by Lynyrd Skynyrd
The old grey goose who drowned in the millpond in Go Tell Aunt Rhody
The Kookaburra of the Australian song of the same name
The Lark Ascending; composition by Vaughan Williams
Mockingbird by Carly Simon and James Taylor
The Mutton Birds – band
The Mynah Birds – band
The Nightingale; composition by Igor Stravinsky
Oiseaux exotiques and Catalogue d'oiseaux; organ compositions by Olivier Messiaen.
The turkey in Turkey in the Straw
And Your Bird Can Sing by The Beatles
"City Bird" from the album Satanic Panic in the Attic by Of Montreal.
Bird song in transcribed form is found in Antonio Vivaldi's The Four Seasons,
Richard Wagner's Siegfried, Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier, Camille Saint-Saëns's Le Carnaval des Animaux and Olivier Messiaen's Chronochromie and
Couleurs de la cité céleste.
"Bird on a Wire" by Leonard Cohen

Birds in sports

- The Anaheim Ducks
The Arizona Cardinals
The Atlanta Hawks
The Atlanta Thrashers
The Baltimore Orioles
The Baltimore Ravens
The Bellevue Blackhawks
The Boston Doves (now Atlanta Braves)
The Chicago Owls (defunct)
The Oklahoma Thunderbirds (defunct)
The Pittsburgh Condors (defunct)
The Pittsburgh Penguins
The St Louis Eagles (defunct)
The Seattle Seahawks
The Toronto Blue Jays

Birds in video games

- The Chozo in the Metroid series
Beat the Bird in Mega Man
Chill Penguin and Storm Eagle in Mega Man X

Overdrive Ostrich in Mega Man X2
Cyber Peacock and Storm Owl in Mega Man X4
Falco Lombardi in the Star Fox series
Sgt. James Byrd in the Spyro the Dragon series, beginning with Spyro 3: Year of the Dragon
Miscellaneous Pokémon characters, including Pidgey, Delibird, Spearow, Zapdos, and Ho-oh, among many others
Helmaroc King and Kargorocs in the Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker
Chocobo in the Final Fantasy series
Kaepora Gaebora in the The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time
Kazooie, the sidekick in the Banjo-Kazooie series
Blathers, the owner of the museum in Animal Crossing
Celeste, in Animal Crossing: Wild World. The sister of Blathers
The Babylon Rogues of Sonic Riders
Tiki the Kiwi from New Zealand Story

Birds in commerce

- Granny Goose

See also

- [Bird](#)
- [List of fictional ducks](#)

Fictional ducks

- [1 Disney cartoon ducks](#)
 - [1.1 Residents of Disney's Duckburg and the Donald Duck/Scrooge McDuck universes](#)
 - [1.2 Residents of Disney's St. Canard exclusive to Darkwing Duck](#)
 - [1.3 Other characters](#)
- [2 Warner Brothers ducks](#)
- [3 Other cartoon ducks](#)
- [4 Krazy Kat](#)
- [5 Pokemon](#)
- [6 Live or costumed ducks on television and film](#)
- [7 Ducks in literature and song](#)
- [8 Duck mascots](#)
- [9 Other media](#)
- [10 See also](#)

Disney cartoon ducks

Disney animators have created an entire universe of ducks; most are modeled after the [Pekin duck](#).

Residents of Disney's Duckburg and the Donald Duck/Scrooge McDuck universes

- Bubba the Caveduck
 - Daisy Duck
 - Daphne Duck
 - Della Thelma Duck
 - Donald Duck
 - Downy O'Drake
 - Eider Duck
 - Fenton Crackshell
 - Huey, Dewey and Louie and their lost brother Phooey Duck
 - April, May and June Duck
 - Humperdink Duck
 - Pintail Duck
 - Quackmore Duck
 - Gladstone Gander
 - Flintheart Glomgold
- Clan McDuck

- Angus McDuck
Dingus McDuck
Fergus McDuck
Hortense McDuck
Hugh McDuck
Jake McDuck
Malcolm McDuck
Matilda McDuck
Quagmire McDuck
Scrooge McDuck
Sir Eider McDuck
Sir Quackly McDuck
Sir Roast McDuck
Sir Stuft McDuck
Sir Swamphole McDuck
- Launchpad McQuack
Pah-Peh-Rheo
Paperinik
Howard Rockerduck
John Rockerduck

Residents of Disney's St. Canard exclusive to *Darkwing Duck*

- Darkwing Duck/Drake Mallard
Gosalyn Mallard
Stegmutt
NegaDuck
Morgana Macawber
Bushroot
Quackerjack
- Other characters
- Abby Mallard 'The Ugly Duckling'
Moby Duck

Warner Brothers ducks

- Daffy Duck
Danger Duck (Loonatics Unleashed)
Duck Dodgers
Melissa Duck

Plucky Duck

Shirley the Loon- technically a loon, not a duck.

Other cartoon ducks

- Arima Ahiru, a duck transformed into a girl in Princess Tutu.
Baby Huey, no relation to Disney's Huey
Bill from Sitting Ducks TV series by Canadian artist Michael Bedard
Yakky Doodle, a Hanna-Barbera character
Wade Duck from U.S. Acres
Count Duckula, a vampire duck originally from the British television series
Dangermouse. Count Duckula later starred in a cartoon series of his own.
Duckman, a former USA Network animated character known for his raunchy behavior and foul mouth.
Alfred J. Kwak, Dutch cartoon character
Mousse from the popular manga Ranma ½ transforms into a duck when doused with cold water.
Turtle Ducks of Avatar: The Last Airbender
[[1]Throwback the Duck] Classic video game journalist.

Krazy Kat

- Gooseberry Sprig the duck duke, comic-strip character created by George Herriman, later appeared in Herriman's Krazy Kat
Mock Duck, a fowl of Chinese descent who resembles a coolie and operates a cleaning establishment
Mrs. Katalpa Kwakk Wakk, a duck in a pillbox hat, is a scold who frequently notices Ignatz in the course of his plotting and then informs Officer Pupp.

Pokemon

- Psyduck
Golduck
Farfetch'd

Live or costumed ducks on television and film

- Plucka Duck from the Australian television show "Hey Hey it's Saturday"
The Chick and The Duck from American sitcom Friends
The ducks in Star Wars
The Aflac duck

Howard the Duck
Doobie Duck (and his disco bus)
Orville the Duck
Edd the Duck
Tom Holden

Ducks in literature and song

- The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen (In the end not actually a duckling, but a Cygnet)
Jemima Puddle-Duck and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Rebecca Puddle-Duck, in The Tale of Tom Kitten and The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck by Beatrix Potter
The duck in the traditional song "Froggy would a-wooing go"; at the end it swallowed the frog
Ping from The Story of Ping.
Sasha from Peter and the Wolf.
Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their children from Robert McCloskey's Make Way for Ducklings.
The titular ducks from Angus and the Ducks by Marjorie Flack.
The Llama Song, even though most of it is about llamas, ducks are in it too.

Duck mascots

- University of Oregon Ducks
Stevens Institute of Technology's Attila the Duck, mascot of the Stevens Ducks
Long Island Ducks minor league baseball team,
National Hockey League's Anaheim Ducks (originally the Mighty Ducks, named after the Mighty Ducks movies, where a youth hockey team named themselves the Mighty Ducks)
United Hockey League's Quad City Mallards.
Millard the Mallard of WRVA Richmond, Virginia.
The duck from Duck Products' adhesives.

Other media

- Derwin, Mallary, Pate and Scoot from the Animal Crossing video-games
Dirty Duck from the comic strip of the same name by Bobby London
Destroyer Duck comic book
Duckman Drake, a humanoid shotgun-wielding duck from the Timesplitters video games
Jonathin Quackup

Montague, a steam engine from The Railway Series by Rev. W. Awdry is better known as Duck.

Ernie's rubber ducky from Sesame Street.

Ty characters Jake, Quackers, Allegro, Splash, Flip Flop, Gemma, Duck-e, Puddles, and Huggyducky.

The animated short series on Showtime titled and starring Queer Duck.

See also

- [List of fictional birds](#)

Flightless birds

Flightless birds evolved from flying ancestors; there are about forty species in existence today. The best-known flightless birds are the [ostrich](#), [emu](#), [cassowary](#), rhea and [penguins](#). Most flightless [birds](#) evolved in the absence of predators, on islands, and lost the power of flight because they had few enemies. A notable exception, the [ostrich](#), which lives in the African savannas, has claws on its feet to use as a weapon against predators.

Two key differences between flying and flightless birds are the smaller wing bones of flightless birds and the absent (or greatly reduced) keel on their breastbone. The keel anchors muscles needed for wing movement[1]. Flightless birds also have more feathers than flying birds.

New Zealand has more species of flightless birds (including the [kiwis](#), several species of [penguins](#), and the takahe) than any other country. One reason is that until the arrival of humans roughly 1000 years ago, there were no land mammals in New Zealand other than three species of bat; the main predators of flightless birds were larger birds[2].

Some flightless variety of island birds are closely related to flying varieties, implying flight is a significant biological cost.

With the introduction of mammals (among them humans) to the habitats of flightless birds, many have become extinct, including the Great Auk, the Dodo, and the [Moas](#).

The smallest flightless bird is the Inaccessible Island Rail (length 12.5 cm, weight 34.7 g). The largest (both heaviest and tallest) flightless bird, which is also the largest living bird, is the Ostrich (2.7 m, 156 kg)[3].

Flightless birds are the easiest to take care of in captivity because they do not have to be caged. Ostriches were once farmed for their decorative feathers. Today they are raised for meat and for their skins, which are used to make leather.

- [1 List of recent flightless birds](#)
 - [1.1 Ratites](#)
 - [1.2 Grebes](#)
 - [1.3 Pelican-like birds](#)
 - [1.4 Petrel-like birds](#)
 - [1.5 Duck-like birds](#)
 - [1.6 Rails and relatives](#)
 - [1.7 Gulls and relatives](#)
 - [1.8 Parrots](#)
 - [1.9 Doves and relatives](#)
 - [1.10 Songbirds](#)
- [2 See also](#)
- [3 Reference](#)

List of recent flightless birds

Ratites

- [Ostrich](#)
 - [Emu](#)
- Kangaroo Island Emu (extinct)
King Island Emu (extinct)
 - [Cassowaries](#)
- [Moas](#) (extinct)
 - [Elephant birds](#) (extinct)
 - [Kiwis](#)
- Rheas

Grebes

- Junin Flightless Grebe
Titicaca Flightless Grebe

Pelican-like birds

- Flightless Cormorant
Spectacled Cormorant (extinct)

Petrel-like birds

- [Penguins](#)

Duck-like birds

- Moa-nalo (extinct)
Magellanic Flightless Steamer Duck
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck
White-headed Flightless Steamer Duck
Auckland Island Teal

Rails and relatives

- Red Rail (extinct)
Rodrigues Rail (extinct)
Woodford's Rail (probably flightless)
Bar-winged Rail (extinct, probably flightless)
Weka
New Caledonian Rail
Lord Howe Woodhen
Calayan Rail
New Britain Rail
Guam Rail
Roviana Rail ("flightless, or nearly so" [Taylor (1998)])
Tahiti Rail (extinct)
Dieffenbach's Rail (extinct)
Chatham Rail (extinct)
Wake Island Rail (extinct)
Snoring Rail
Inaccessible Island Rail
Laysan Rail (extinct)
Hawaiian Rail (extinct)
Kosrae Island Crake (extinct)
Henderson Island Crake
Invisible Rail
New Guinea Flightless Rail
Lord Howe Swamphen (extinct, probably flightless)
North Island Takahe (extinct)
Takahe
Samoan Wood Rail
Makira Wood Rail
Tristan Moorhen (extinct)
Gough Island Moorhen
Adzebills (extinct)
Kagu

Gulls and relatives

- Great Auk (extinct)

Parrots

- Kakapo

Doves and relatives

- Dodo (extinct)
Rodrigues Solitaire (extinct)

Songbirds

- Stephens Island Wren (extinct)

See also

- [Extinct birds](#)
- [Ratite](#)

Reference

Taylor, Barry (1998). [*Rails: A Guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World*](#). Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-07758-0.

Struthioniformes

Ratites

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Superorder: Paleognathae

Order: **Struthioniformes** Latham, 1790 Families: *Struthionidae* (ostriches), *Rheidae* (rheas), *Casuariidae* (emus etc.), †*Aepyornithidae* (elephant birds), †*Dinornithidae* (moa), *Apterygidae* (kiwis)

A **ratite** is any of a diverse group of large, [flightless birds](#) of Gondwanan origin, most of them now extinct. Unlike other flightless birds, the ratites have no keel on their sternum and, lacking a strong anchor for their wing muscles, could not fly even were they to develop suitable wings. The name *ratite* comes from the Latin word for raft (*ratīs*), because their breastbone looks like a raft.

Most parts of the former Gondwana have ratites, or have had until the fairly recent past.

Living forms

- The African [Ostrich](#) is the largest living ratite. A large member of this species can be 3 m tall, weigh 135 kg, and outrun a horse.
- Of the living species, the Australian [emu](#) is next in size, reaching up to 2 m tall and about 60 kg. Like the ostrich, it is a fast-running, powerful bird of the open plains and woodlands.
- Also native to Australia and the islands to the north, are the three species of [cassowary](#). Shorter than an emu and very solidly built, cassowaries prefer thickly vegetated tropical forest. They can be very dangerous when surprised or cornered. In New Guinea, cassowary eggs are brought back to villages and the chicks raised for eating as a much-prized delicacy, despite (or perhaps because of) the risk they pose to life and limb.
- The smallest ratites are the six species of [kiwi](#) from New Zealand. Kiwi are [chicken](#)-sized, shy, and nocturnal. They nest in deep burrows and use a highly developed sense of smell to find small insects and grubs in the soil. Kiwi are notable for laying eggs that are very large in relation to their body size. A Kiwi egg may equal 15 to 20 percent of the body mass of a female kiwi.
- South America has two species of rhea, mid-sized, fast-running birds of the pampas. The larger American rhea grows to about 1.5 m tall and weighs 20 to 25 kg. (South America also has 73 species of the small and ground-dwelling but not flightless tinamou family, which is distantly related to the ratite group.)

Extinct forms

- *Aepyornis*, the "elephant bird" of Madagascar, was the largest bird ever known. Although shorter than the tallest [moa](#), a large aepyornis could weigh 450 kg.

- [Moa](#) - at least ten species in New Zealand, ranging from just over turkey-sized, to the Giant Moa *Dinornis robustus* (formerly known as *Dinornis giganteus*) with a height of 3 m and weighing about 250 kg[1]. Extinct by 1500 due to hunting by human settlers, who arrived around 1000, although at least one species may have survived past this date and maybe was seen by early European settlers.

In addition, eggshell fragments similar to those of *Aepyornis* (though this is probably a symplesiomorphy) were found on the Canary Islands. The fragments apparently date to the Middle or Late Miocene, and no satisfying theory has been proposed as to how they got there due to uncertainties about whether these islands were ever connected to the mainland.

Evolution and systematics

There are two taxonomic approaches to ratite classification: the one applied here combines the groups as [families](#) in the [order](#) **Struthioniformes**, while the other supposes that the lineages evolved mostly independently and thus elevates the families to order rank (e.g. **Rheiformes**, **Casuariformes** etc.). The uncertainties regarding the evolution of these groups may be taken as indication that the latter is actually a better way of expressing ratite interrelationships.

The traditional account of ratite evolution has the group emerging in Gondwana in cretaceous times, then evolving in their separate directions as the continents drifted apart. Cladistic evidence for this is strong: ratites share too many features for their current forms to be easily explained by convergent evolution. However, recent analysis of genetic variations between the ratites conflicts with this: DNA analysis appears to show that the ratites diverged from one another too recently to share a common Gondwanian ancestor, and suggest that the kiwis are more closely related to the cassowaries than the moa. At present there is no generally accepted explanation. Also, there is the Middle Eocene fossil "proto-ostrich" *Palaeotis* from Central Europe, which either implies that the ancestral ratites had not yet lost flight when they were dispersing all over Gondwana - by the Middle Eocene, both Laurasia and Gondwana had separated into the continents of today - or that the "out-of-Gondwana" hypothesis is wrong. Research continues, but at present the ratites are perhaps the one group of modern birds for which no good theory of their evolution and paleobiogeography exists.

Heraldic birds

American Robin

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: [Turdidae](#)

Genus: *Turdus*

Species: ***T. migratorius***

Binomial name: ***Turdus migratorius*** Linnaeus, 1766

The **American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) is a [migratory songbird](#) of the thrush family.

- [1 Overview](#)
- [2 Song and calls](#)
- [3 Trivia](#)
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Overview

The American Robin is 25–28 cm (10–11 in) long. It has gray upperparts and head, and orange underparts, usually brighter in the male; the similarity between this coloring and that of the smaller and unrelated European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) led to its common name. There are seven races, but only *T. m. confinus* in the southwest is particularly distinctive, with pale gray-brown underparts.

During the breeding season, the adult males grow distinctive black [feathers](#) on their heads; after the breeding season they lose this eye-catching plumage.

This bird breeds throughout Canada and the United States. While Robins occasionally overwinter in the northern part of the United States and southern Canada, most winter in the southern parts of the breeding range and beyond, from the southern U.S.A. to Guatemala. Most depart south by the end of August and begin to return north in February and March. (Exact dates vary with latitude and climate, of course.)

This species is a very rare vagrant to western Europe. In autumn 2003, migration was displaced eastwards leading to massive movements through the eastern USA. Presumably this is what led to no fewer than three American Robins being found in Great Britain, with two attempting to overwinter in 2003–4, one eventually being taken by a Sparrowhawk.

As with many migratory birds, the males return to the summer breeding grounds before the females and compete with each other for nesting sites. The females then select mates based on the males' songs, plumage, and territory quality. The females build the nest and lay three or four blue [eggs](#) in the lined cup. Incubation, almost entirely by the female is 11-14 days to hatching, with another 15–16 days to fledging. Two broods in a season are common. The adult male looks after the fledged chicks while female incubates her second clutch. Some people enjoy the Robin's presence, and want to protect the chicks; they do this by building

nesting shelves for the Robin's use. Bird banders found that only 25% of young robins survive the first year.

The American Robin's habitat is all sorts of woodland and more open farmland and urban areas. Food is the typical thrush mixture consisting largely of insects and earthworms. Robins are also fond of some berries, including those of the black cherry tree; they will fly in especially to feed on them during the period when they ripen.

Robins are frequently seen running across lawns, picking up earthworms by sight. In fact, the *running and stopping* behavior is a distinguishing characteristic. When stopping, they are believed to be listening for the movement of prey.

Without showing symptoms, the American Robin is sometimes a carrier of the West Nile virus in the Western hemisphere.

This is the state bird of Connecticut, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Song and calls

The American Robin, like many thrushes, has a beautiful and complex song, and in contrast to other thrushes, its song is almost continuous. Its song is commonly described as a *cheerily* carol song. The song is made of discrete units, often repeated, and spliced together into a string with brief pauses in between. The song varies regionally, and its style varies by time of day. American Robins will often be among the last songbirds singing as the evening sets in.

In addition to its song, the American Robin has a number of calls used for communicating specific information. When a ground predator approaches but does not directly threaten, Robins will make a *PEEK!! tut tut tut tut...* warning call. When a nest or Robin is being directly threatened, another call is used, which sounds like a horse's whinny. Even during nesting season, when Robins exhibit mostly competitive and territorial behaviour, they may still band together to drive away a predator. Robins also make a very high-pitched sound when a hawk or other bird of prey is seen; other robins will repeat the sound, seek cover, and stop moving. During the colder parts of the year, the American Robin gathers in flocks around food sources, and there is yet another call that is heard in such flocks.

Trivia

- Crayola has a crayon color, robin's egg blue named after the color of the eggs.
- The American Robin was depicted on the 1986 series Canadian \$2 note.
- The Disney film *Mary Poppins*, set in London, incorrectly portrayed American Robins singing by an open window, despite the fact that the European Robin is the only bird named as a robin to be commonly found in the United Kingdom. Additionally, both robins building the nest in that film are males.

References

- BirdLife International (2004). [*Turdus migratorius*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
- *Thrushes* by Clement and Hathaway, ISBN 0-7136-3940-7
 - [Design for human-built nesting shelves](#)

Andean Condor

Conservation status Near threatened

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: New_World_vulture.html

Genus: ***Vultur*** Lesson, 1842 Species: ***V. gryphus***

Binomial name: ***Vultur gryphus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms, *Vultur fossilis* Moreno & Mercerat, 1891 , *Vultur patruus* Lönnberg, 1902 , *Vultur pratuus* Emslie, 1988 (*lapsus*)

The **Andean Condor**, *Vultur gryphus*, is a species of bird in one of the [vulture](#) families. It is in many regards the largest flying land bird in the Western Hemisphere and is the heaviest, but not the longest, member of the order Ciconiiformes.

This [condor](#) inhabits the Andes mountains. Although it is primarily a scavenger, feeding on carrion, this species belongs to the New World vulture family Cathartidae, related to storks and not closely related to Old World vultures, which are in the family Accipitridae along with [hawks](#), eagles and [kites](#).

- [1 Appearance](#)
- [2 Behavior](#)
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- [4 Systematics and evolution](#)
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Appearance

Although about 5 cm shorter (beak to tail) on average than the California Condor, the Andean Condor is undoubtedly larger in wingspan: Ferguson-Lees gives 274–310 cm (108–122 in). It is also heavier: up to 11–15 kg (24–33 lb) for males and 7.5–11 kg (16–24 lb) for females. Measurements are usually taken from specimens reared in captivity.

The adult [plumage](#) is of a uniform black, with the exception of a frill of white feathers nearly surrounding the base of the neck and, especially in the male, large patches or bands of white on the wings which do not appear until the completion of the first moulting. As an adaptation for hygiene, the head and neck have few feathers, exposing the skin to the sterilizing effects of dehydration and ultraviolet light at high altitudes, and are meticulously kept clean by the bird. The head is much flattened above. In the male it is crowned with a caruncle or comb, while the skin of the neck in the male lies in folds, forming a wattle. The skin of the head and neck is capable of flushing noticeably in response to emotional state, which serves to communicate between individuals.

The middle toe is greatly elongated, and the hinder one but slightly developed, while the talons of all the toes are comparatively straight and blunt. The feet are thus more adapted to

walking as in their relatives the storks, and of little use as weapons or organs of prehension as in birds of prey and Old World vultures. The female, contrary to the usual rule among [birds of prey](#), is smaller than the male.

Behavior

Sexual maturity and breeding behavior do not appear in the condor until 5 or 6 years of age. They may live for 50 years or more, and mate for life. The Andean condor prefers roosting and breeding at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 m (10,000–16,000 ft). There on inaccessible ledges of rock, its nest consisting merely of a few sticks placed around the eggs, it deposits one or two bluish-white eggs, weighing about 10 ounces (280 g) and from 3 to 4 inches (75 to 100 mm) in length, during the months of February and March every second year. The egg hatches after 54–58 days of incubation by both parents. If the chick or egg is lost or removed, another egg is laid to take its place. Researchers and breeders take advantage of this behavior to double the reproductive rate by taking the first egg away for hand-rearing, causing the parents to lay a second egg which they are generally allowed to raise.

The young are covered with a grayish down until almost as large as their parents. They are able to fly after six months, but continue to roost and hunt with their parents until age two, when they are displaced by a new clutch. There is a well developed social structure within large groups of condors, with competition to determine a 'pecking order' by body language, competitive play behavior, and a wide variety of vocalizations, even though the condor has no voice box.

On wing the movements of the condor, as it wheels in majestic circles, are remarkably graceful. The lack of a large sternum to anchor correspondingly large flight muscles identifies them physiologically as primarily soarers. The birds flap their wings on rising from the ground, but after attaining a moderate elevation they seem to sail on the air. Charles Darwin commented on having watched them for half an hour without once observing a flap of their wings. They prefer to roost on high places from where they can launch without major wing-flapping effort. Oftentimes, these birds are seen soaring near rock cliffs, using the heat thermals to aid them with rising in the air.

Wild condors inhabit large territories, often traveling 250 km (150 miles) a day in search of carrion. They prefer large carcasses such as deer or cattle which they spot by looking for other scavengers, who cannot rip through the tougher hides of these larger animals with the efficiency of the larger condor. In the wild they are intermittent eaters, often going for a few days without eating, then gorging themselves on several pounds at once, sometimes to the point of being unable to lift off the ground.

Human influence

The Andean Condor is the national symbol of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, and Chile. It plays an important role in the folklore and mythology of the South American

Andean regions, similar to the role the Bald Eagle plays in North America. As such, condors are depicted in the national coats of arms of Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile, and can also be seen in the state flag of Ecuador.

One of best known Peruvian songs is *El Cóndor Pasa* (*The condor passes*), composed by Peruvian musician Daniel Alomía Robles. The melody attained world fame years later, in Paul Simon's "If I Could". Tourists can see the condors flying freely at the Colca Canyon in Peru, which is a natural habitat of the great Andean Condor.

The Andean Condor is becoming more common in bird shows, and these large birds can prove very powerful and aggressive, so a well-trained Andean Condor appearing free in a public show is an impressive feat.

Systematics and evolution

See Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy for a radically different approach to ciconiiform classification, quite popular in the late 20th century but is increasingly falling out of favor, being superseded by more current research.

The Andean Condor is the only accepted species of its genus, living or extinct. Unlike the California Condor, which is known from extensive fossil remains and some additional ones of congeners, the fossil record of the Andean Condor recovered to date is scant. Some prehistoric genera of New World vultures seem to be closely related to *Vultur*; the Argentine Early to Middle Pliocene *Dryornis pampeanus* may actually belong into this genus. Presumed Plio-/Pleistocene species of South American condors were later recognized to be not different from the present species, although one known only from a few rather small bones found in a Pliocene deposit of Tarija Department, Bolivia, may have been a smaller palaeosubspecies, *V. gryphus patruus* (Fisher, 1944).

References

- **Fisher**, Harvey L. (1944): The skulls of the Cathartid vultures. *Condor* **46**: 272-296. [PDF fulltext](#)

Blue Jay

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Corvidae

Genus: *Cyanocitta*

Species: ***C. cristata***

Binomial name: ***Cyanocitta cristata*** Linnaeus, 1758

The **Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*) is a North American jay, a handsome bird with predominantly lavender-blue to mid-blue feathering from the top of the head to midway down the back. There is a pronounced crest on the head. The colour changes to black, sky-blue and white barring on the wing primaries and the tail. The bird has an off-white underside, with a black collar around the neck and sides of the head and a white face.

Blue Jays reside over a very large area of the eastern side of North America from Newfoundland in the northeast to Florida in the southeast and westward to Texas and the mid-west and eastern Colorado in the north. It is mainly a bird of mixed woodland, including American beech and various oak species, but also of parks and gardens in some towns and cities. West of the Rockies, it is replaced by the closely related Steller's Jay.

Its food is sought both on the ground and in trees and includes virtually all known types of plant and animal sources, such as acorns and beech mast, weed seeds, grain, fruits and other berries, peanuts, bread, meat, eggs and nestlings, small invertebrates of many types, scraps in town parks and bird-table food.

Its occasionally aggressive behavior at feeding stations, plus a reputation for occasionally destroying the nests and eggs of other birds, has made the Blue Jay unwelcome at some bird feeders. However, these are clever and adaptable birds who are good survivors and have adapted well to human presence. They are particularly fond of peanuts and sunflower seeds.

Any suitable tree or large bush may be used for nesting and both sexes build the nest and rear the young, though only the female broods them. There are usually 4–5 eggs laid and incubated over 16–18 days. The young are fledged usually between 17–21 days. Blue Jays typically form monogamous pair bonds for life.

Although this bird is generally found year round through most of its range, some northern birds do move into the southern parts of the range. These birds [migrate](#) during the day.

The voice is typical of most jays in being varied, but the most commonly recognized sound is the alarm call, which is a loud, almost gull-like scream. There is also a high-pitched *jayer-jayer* call that increases in speed as the bird becomes more agitated. Blue Jays will use these calls to band together to drive a predator such as a [hawk](#) away from their nest.

Blue Jays also have a quiet, almost subliminal call which they use among themselves in close proximity. In fact, they can make a large variety of sounds, and individuals may vary perceptibly in their calling style.

As with other blue-hued birds, the Blue Jay's coloration is not derived by pigments, but is the result of light refraction due to the internal structure of the [feathers](#); if a Blue Jay feather is crushed, the blue disappears as the structure is destroyed. This is referred to as structural coloration.

The Blue Jay is the provincial bird of Prince Edward Island and gave its name to the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

Blue Jays in captivity are generally aggressive toward other birds. They tend to bond to one or two people and attack all others.

References

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- Madge, S. and H. Burn. 1994. *Crows and Jays: A Guide to the Crows, Jays and Magpies of the World*. Boston, Houghton Mifflin.
- Tarvin, K. A., and G. E. Woolfenden. 1999. *Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata)*. In *The Birds of North America*. No. 469.

Caladrius

According to the Aberdeen Bestiary (as well earlier texts such as The Physiologus), the **Caladrius** is a snow-white bird that lives in kings' houses. Supposedly, the bird refuses to look at any patient that is not going to make a full recovery.

It is said to also be able to take the sickness into itself and then fly away, dispersing the sickness and healing both itself and the sick person.

This is said to be analogous to Jesus Christ, whose crucifixion is said to have drawn out "the sickness" (sin, see [Biblical sin-sickness analogy](#)) and, through his "flight" from the grave, saved the sinner.

Basis of Origination

There are numerous theories as to where the legend of the Caladrius was started. One of them would be that it is merely the product of some overactive imaginations or that it was created purely as an analogy.

Another is that the Caladrius is based on a real bird. According to the descriptions of its being completely white with no black on it, it is possible that it was based on the dove, or possibly some sort of water bird such as the heron.

Other

[Caladrius Computing](#) is also the name of an Australian data backup company.

Canada Goose

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: [Anatidae](#)

Genus: [Branta](#)

Species: ***B. canadensis***

Binomial name: ***Branta canadensis*** (Linnaeus, 1758) Subspecies: *B. c. occidentalis* (Dusky Canada Goose), *B. c. fulva* (Vancouver Canada Goose), *B. c. parvipes* (Lesser Canada Goose), *B. c. moffitti* (Moffitt's Canada Goose), *B. c. maxima* (Giant Canada Goose), *B. c. interior* (Interior Canada Goose), *B. c. canadensis* (Atlantic Canada Goose)

The **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*) belongs to the *Branta* [genus](#) of [geese](#), which contains [species](#) with largely black plumage, distinguishing them from the grey species of the *Anser* genus.

The species name, *canadensis*, is a New Latin word meaning "of Canada".

- [1 Appearance](#)
- [2 Behaviour and habitat](#)
- [3 Other locations](#)
- [4 Taxonomy](#)
- [5 See also](#)
- [6 Notes](#)
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Appearance

The black head and neck with white "chinstrap" distinguish this goose from all except the Barnacle Goose, but the latter has a black breast, and grey, rather than brownish, body plumage. There are seven subspecies of this bird, of varying sizes and plumage details, but all are recognizable as Canada Geese. Some are hard to distinguish from the Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), with which the Canada Goose was long assumed to form one species; the name Lesser Canada Goose is, confusingly, often applied to *B. hutchinsii*.

This species is 90-100 cm long with a 160-175 cm wing span. Males weigh 3.5–6.5 kg, (8–14 pounds), and can be very aggressive in defending territory. The female looks virtually identical but is slightly lighter at 3–5.5 kg (7–12 pounds), and has a different honk.

Behaviour and habitat

These birds feed mainly on plant material. When feeding in water, they submerge their heads and necks to reach aquatic plants, sometimes tipping forward like a dabbling duck. Flocks of these birds often feed on leftover cultivated grains in fields, especially during [migration](#) or in winter.

During the second year of their lives, Canada Geese find themselves a mate. Most couples stay together all of their lives. If one is killed, the other may find a new mate, and divorce also occurs, though rarely.^[1] The female lays 4-8 [eggs](#) and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate, but the female spends more time at the nest than the male. During that time, they lose their flight feathers, so that they cannot fly until after their eggs hatch. This period lasts for 25-28 days.

In some populations, up to 12% of the pairs are homosexual. Both males and females may form same-sex pairs. One study has observed that 18% of the males formed same-sex pair bonds, while for females the ratios varied between 6 and 12%. Courtship behavior is associated with such couples, though copulation is not a prominent feature of same-sex pairs.^[2]

Adult geese are often seen leading their goslings in a line with one parent at the front, and the other at the back of the "parade". While protecting their young, parents often violently chase away nearby creatures, from small blackbirds to other geese, to humans that approach. However, geese may form groups of a number of goslings and a few adults, called crèches. The young do not leave their parents until after the spring migration, when they return to their birthplace.

This well-known species is native to North America. It breeds in Canada and the northern United States in a variety of habitats. However, the nest is usually located in an elevated area near water, sometimes on a beaver lodge. The eggs are laid in a shallow depression lined with plant material and down. The Great Lakes region maintains a very large population of Canada Geese.

Like most geese, it is naturally [migratory](#), the wintering range being most of the US. The calls overhead from large groups of Canada Geese flying in V-shaped formation signal the transitions into spring and autumn. In some areas, migration routes have changed due to changes in habitat and food sources. In mild climates, such as the Pacific Northwest, due to a lack of former predators, some of the population has become non-migratory.

If a goose feels threatened by another creature it will usually warn the creature by giving off a hissing sound.

Other locations

Canada Geese have reached western Europe naturally, as has been proved by ringing recoveries. The birds are of at least the subspecies *parvipes*, and possibly others. Canada

Geese are also found naturally on the Kamchatka Peninsula in eastern Siberia, eastern China, and throughout Japan.

Greater Canada Geese have also been widely introduced in Europe, and have established feral populations in Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia. Semi-tame feral birds are common in parks, and have become a pest in some areas. It is now proven that most Scandinavian and some British birds have established a migration pattern. The geese were first introduced in the Britain in the late 17th century as an addition to King James II's waterfowl collection in St. James's Park. Finally, Canada Geese were introduced as a game bird into New Zealand, but they have also become a problem in some areas there.

By the early 20th century, over-hunting and loss of habitat in the late 1800s and early 1900s had resulted in a serious decline in the numbers of this bird in its native range. The Giant Canada Goose subspecies was believed to be extinct in the 1950s until, in 1962, a small flock was discovered wintering in Rochester, Minnesota by Harold Hanson of the Illinois Natural History Survey. With improved game laws and habitat recreation and preservation programs, their populations have recovered in most of their range, although some local populations, especially of the subspecies *occidentalis*, may still be declining. They have adapted well to urban environments, especially those with well-trimmed lawns and large ponds, such as golf courses and city parks.

Taxonomy

The Cackling Goose was originally considered to be the same species or a subspecies of the Canada Goose, but in July 2004 the American Ornithologists' Union's Committee on Classification and Nomenclature split the two into two species, making Cackling Goose into a full species with the scientific name *Branta hutchinsii*. The British Ornithologists Union followed suit in June 2005.

The AOU has divided the many associated subspecies of both animals:

- Canada Goose (also known as Greater Canada Goose)
 - Atlantic Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis canadensis*)
 - Interior Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis interior*)
 - Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*)
 - Moffit's Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis moffitti*)
 - Vancouver Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis fulva*)
 - Dusky Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*)
 - part of "Lesser complex" (*Branta canadensis parvipes*)
- Cackling Goose (also known as Lesser Canada Goose or Small Canada Goose)
 - Richardson's Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii*)
 - Bering Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii asiatica*) **Conservation status:**
Extinct (c.1929)
 - Aleutian Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii leucopareia*)
 - Small Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*)

- part of "Lesser complex" (*Branta hutchinsii taverneri*)

The distinctions between the two geese have led to a great deal of confusion and debate among ornithologists. This has been aggravated by the overlap between the small types of Canada Goose and larger types of Cackling Goose. The old "Lesser Canada Goose" was believed to be a partly hybrid population, with the birds named *taverneri* considered a mixture of *minima*, *occidentalis* and *parvipes*. In addition, it has been determined that the Barnacle Goose is a derivative of the Cackling Goose lineage, whereas the Hawaiian Goose is an insular representative of the Canada Goose.

See also

- The Canada Goose was depicted on the 1986 series Canadian \$100 note.
- The 1996 movie *Fly Away Home* was about a young girl who finds and raises a brood of orphaned Canada Goslings and attempts to get them to migrate after the birds reach adulthood.
- A Canada Goose was used as the logo for the tail section of Canadian Airlines last livery before the airline merged with Air Canada.

Notes

1. [^] Bruce Bagemihl, *Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity*, St. Martin's Press, 1999; p.485
2. [^] Bruce Bagemihl, *Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity*, St. Martin's Press, 1999; pp.483-485

References

- BirdLife International (2006). [*Branta canadensis*](#). 2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006.

Canary

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Passeriformes
Family: [Fringillidae](#)
Genus: *Serinus*
Species: *S. canaria*

Binomial name: ***Serinus canaria*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Canary** (*Serinus canaria*) sometimes called the **Island Canary**, **Wild Canary** or **Atlantic Canary** is a small [songbird](#) which is a member of the finch family.

This [bird](#) is native to Madeira, Azores and the Canary Islands. The bird was named after the Canary Islands, not the other way around; "Canary" is derived from the Latin *canaria*, "of the dogs", referring to the numerous wild dogs that inhabited the islands.

Its habitat is semi-open areas such as orchards and copses, where it nests in bushes or trees.

The wild bird is 4 to 6 in. long, yellow-green, with streaking on its back. It is larger, longer and less contrasted than its relative the Serin, and has more grey and brown in its [plumage](#).

The song is a silvery twittering like the Goldfinch.

This species is often kept as a pet: see **Domestic Canary** for details.

References

- Clement, Harris and Davis, *Finches and Sparrows* ISBN 0-7136-8017-2

Cassowary

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Struthioniformes

Family: Casuariidae

Genus: **Casuarus** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Casuarus casuarus*, *Casuarus unappendiculatus*, *Casuarus bennetti*

Cassowaries ([genus Casuarus](#)) are very large [flightless birds](#) native to the tropical forests of New Guinea and northeastern Australia. Some nearby islands also have small cassowary populations, but it is not known if these are natural or the result of the New Guinea trade in young birds. They are frugivorous; fallen fruit and fruit on low branches is the mainstay of their diet. They also eat fungi, snails, insects, frogs, snakes and other small animals. Recently, they have also been observed to attack humans, though this usually only occurs in self-defense when humans intrude upon the birds' territory or cause them to feel threatened.

Cassowaries (from the Indonesian name *kasuari*) are part of the [ratite](#) group, which also includes the [emu](#), rhea, [ostrich](#), [moa](#), and kiwi. There are three species recognized today:

- **Southern Cassowary** or **double-wattled cassowary** *C. casuarus* of Australia and New Guinea.
- **Dwarf Cassowary** *C. bennetti* of New Guinea and New Britain.
- **Northern Cassowary** *C. unappendiculatus* of New Guinea.

The Northern and Dwarf Cassowaries are not well known. All cassowaries are usually shy, secretive birds of the deep forest, adept at disappearing long before a human knows they are there. Even the more accessible Southern Cassowary of the far north Queensland rain forests is not well understood.

The evolutionary history of cassowaries, as all ratites, is not well known. A fossil species was reported from Australia, but for reasons of biogeography this assignment is not certain and it might belong to the prehistoric "emuwaries", *Emuarius*, which were cassowary-like primitive emus.

The Southern Cassowary is the second-largest bird in Australia and the third-largest remaining bird in the world (after the ostrich and emu). Adult Southern Cassowaries are 1.5 to 1.8 m (5 to 6 feet) tall, although some may reach 2m (6 feet 8 inches), and weigh about 60 kilograms (130 pounds). They have a bony casque on the head that is used to batter through underbrush, making them the only armoured bird in the world. Females are bigger and more brightly coloured.

A cassowary's three-toed feet have sharp claws; the dagger-like middle claw is 120 mm (5 inches) long. This claw is particularly dangerous since the Cassowary can use it to kill an enemy, disemboweling it with a single kick. They can run up to 50 km/h (32 mph) through the dense forest, pushing aside small trees and brush with their bony casques. They can jump up to 1.5 m (5 feet) and they are good swimmers.

The 2004 edition of the Guinness World Records lists the cassowary as the world's most dangerous bird. Normally cassowaries are very shy but when disturbed can lash out dangerously with their powerful legs. During World War II American and Australian troops stationed in New Guinea were warned to steer clear of the birds. They are capable of inflicting fatal injuries to an adult human. Usually, attacks are the result of provocation. Wounded or cornered birds are particularly dangerous. Cassowaries, deftly using their surroundings to conceal their movements, have been known to out-flank organized groups of human predators. Cassowaries are considered to be one of the most dangerous animals to keep in zoos, based on the frequency and severity of injuries incurred by zookeepers.

More recently, Cassowaries have been known to lose their natural fear of people. As a result, large areas of Australian National Parks have been temporarily closed to avoid human contact with the bird.

Females lay three to eight large, pale green-blue [eggs](#) in each clutch. These eggs measure about 9 by 14 cm (3½ by 5½ inches) — only [ostrich](#) and [emu](#) eggs are larger. The female does not care for the eggs or the chicks; the male incubates the eggs for two months, then cares for the brown-striped chicks for nine months.

Southern and Northern Cassowaries are threatened species because of habitat loss; estimates of their current population range from 1500 to 10,000 individuals. About 40 are kept in captivity in Australia. Habitat loss has caused some cassowaries to venture out of the rainforest into human communities. This has caused conflict particularly with fruit growers. However, in some locations such as Mission Beach, Queensland, tourism involving the birds has been launched.

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Condor

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Ciconiiformes
Family: New_World_vulture.html
Genera: [Vultur](#), *Gymnogyps*

Condor is the name for the largest [species](#) of [New World vultures](#). They are the largest flying land birds in the Western Hemisphere.

There are two species, each in its own monotypic [genus](#):

- The [Andean Condor](#) (*Vultur gryphus*) which inhabits the Andes mountains.
- The **California Condor** (*Gymnogyps californianus*) nowadays restricted to western coastal mountains of the United States.

Taxonomy

Although they are primarily scavengers, feeding on carrion, these species belong to the New World vulture family Cathartidae, most likely closer related to the [storks](#) instead of [Old World vultures](#). The latter are in the diurnal raptor family [Accipitridae](#) along with [hawks](#), [eagles](#) and [kites](#).

Appearance

Both condors are very large broad-winged soaring birds, the Andean Condor being 5 cm shorter (beak to tail) on average than the northern species, but larger in wingspan.

Measurements are usually taken from specimens reared in captivity.

The adult [plumage](#) is of a uniform black, with the exception of a frill of white feathers nearly surrounding the base of the neck and, especially in the male, large patches or bands of white on the wings which do not appear until the completion of the first moulting. As an adaptation for hygiene, the head and neck have few feathers (see below photo), exposing the skin to the sterilizing effects of dehydration and ultraviolet light at high altitudes, and are meticulously kept clean by the bird. The head is much flattened above. In the male it is crowned with a caruncle or comb, while the skin of the neck in the male lies in folds, forming a wattle. The skin of the head and neck is capable of flushing noticeably in response to emotional state, which serves to communicate between individuals.

The middle toe is greatly elongated, and the hinder one but slightly developed, while the talons of all the toes are comparatively straight and blunt. The feet are thus more adapted to walking as in their relatives the storks, and of little use as weapons or organs of prehension as in birds of prey and Old World vultures. The female, contrary to the usual rule among [birds of prey](#), is smaller than the male.

Behavior

Sexual maturity and breeding behavior do not appear in the condor until 5 or 6 years of age. They may live for 50 years or more, and mate for life.

The young are covered with a grayish down until almost as large as their parents. They are able to fly after six months, but continue to roost and hunt with their parents until age two, when they are displaced by a new clutch. There is a well developed social structure within large groups of condors, with competition to determine a 'pecking order' by body language, competitive play behavior, and a wide variety of vocalizations, even though the condor has no voice box.

On the wing the movements of the condor, as it wheels in majestic circles, are remarkably graceful. The lack of a large sternum to anchor correspondingly large flight muscles identifies it physiologically as a primarily soarer. The birds flap their wings on rising from the ground, but after attaining a moderate elevation they seem to sail on the air.

Wild condors inhabit large territories, often traveling 250 km (150 miles) a day in search of carrion. They prefer large carcasses such as deer or cattle which they spot by looking for other scavengers, which cannot rip through the tougher hides of these larger animals with the efficiency of the larger condor. In the wild they are intermittent eaters, often going for a few days without eating, then gorging themselves on several kilograms at once, sometimes to the point of being unable to lift off the ground.

Double-headed eagle

The **double headed eagle** is a common symbol in heraldry and vexillology. Several Eastern European nations use this symbol today, having adopted this symbol from the Byzantine Empire. In Byzantine heraldry, the heads represent the dual sovereignty of the Emperor (secular and religious) and/or dominance of the Roman Emperors over both East and West. The Russian tsars adopted the symbol both to position themselves as successors to the Byzantine state and to likewise symbolize their dominion over the west (Europe) and the east (Asia).

The two-headed eagle appears on the coat of arms of the following countries:

- Albania
- Austria-Hungary (historical)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina:
- Republika Srpska
- Byzantine Empire (historical)
- Russian Federation
- Russian Empire (historical)
- Serbia and Montenegro (historical)
- Serbia
- Montenegro
- Pre-WWII Yugoslavia (historical)

It also appears on the following flags:

- Flag of Albania
- Flag of Montenegro
- Flag of Serbia
- the flag of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.
- the flag of Mount Athos

- [1 Origins](#)
- [2 Byzantine Empire](#)
- [3 Use by the Turks](#)
- [4 Use by other countries](#)
- [5 Use in Masonry](#)
- [6 Use in fiction](#)
- [7 Use in sports](#)

Origins

Double headed eagles have been present in imagery for many centuries. A representation of a two-headed woman dating from 6000 BC was discovered in Çatalhöyük (Turkey) one of the oldest cities in the world. Therefore, the apparition of the two-headed eagle is very old,

because it can be found in archeologic remains of the Hittite civilization dating from a period that goes between the 20th century BC and the 13th century BC.

First, cylindric seals discovered in Bogazkoy, nowday (Turkey), an old Hittite capital, represents clearly a two-headed eagle with spread wings. The esthetic of this symmetric position explains in part the birth of this religious figure. It probably dates from the 18th century BC, and was used in a tradesman background.

This symbol can also be seen in the same region in two monumental realisations : in Alacahöyük (around 1400 BC) and in Yazilikaya (Turkey). (before 1250 BC). Here the context looks different and totally religious. The eagle becomes divinity's symbol. The two-headed eagle slowly disappears during the last Hittite period, from the 9th century BC to the 7th century BC and totally disappears after the end of the empire.

Byzantine Empire

Constantinople was the successor of Rome, and the Byzantines continued the use of the old imperial 'single-headed' eagle motif. Although the roots of the transformation to double-headed are almost certainly connected with old depictions in Asia Minor, the details of its adoption are uncertain. Beyond any doubt, it was used in the wider area during the first centuries AD and certainly before the 10th century AD, as it appears in Persian and Armenian art. According to the most prevalent theory, the imperial Roman single-headed eagle was modified to double-headed by emperor Isaakios Komnenos being influenced from local traditions about such a beast (the haga) in his native Paphlagonia in Asia Minor. Local legends talked about this giant eagle with two heads that could easily hold a bull in its claws; the haga was seen as a representation of power, and people would often "call" it for protection. Isaakios Komnenos, deeply influenced by these beliefs, had already used it as a family emblem (N. Zappeiriou, "the Greek Flag from Antiquity to present", Athens, 1947). As there has been reference to "stone representations" of the eagle that were the inspiration for its picture, it is reasonable to assume that Hittite carvings may have been the sources of the myths themselves, but other relevant artwork cannot be excluded as such a source. Whether the eagle became an "imperial" symbol or remained purely a personal symbol for Komnenos, is not clear.

After the Latin conquest of Constantinople in 1204, it was used by the successor states of Epirus and Nicaea. The first mention of a double-headed eagle in the West dates from 1250 in a roll of arms of Matthew of Paris for Emperor Friedrich II. Theodore II Laskaris chose it for his symbol as Emperor (Empire of Nicaea), taking it to symbolize his state's claims to all the Byzantine Empire's former domains, both European (West) and Asian (East). An alternative (and probably more correct) interpretation is that the eagle symbolized the Emperor's double temporal and spiritual sovereignty. After the recapture of Constantinople and the restoration of the Byzantine Empire, the symbol was used as an emblem of the imperial family, but it is uncertain whether it was the official emblem of the Empire. More recent research has suggested that it was not, its usage being limited to imperial seals and other personal or dynasty symbols such as imperial robes, although there has been no depiction of any Emperor wearing it. The role of "state" symbols was most probably played

by flags with the cross. In Byzantine usage, the eagle was almost always connected with colors of imperial power (gold and red). A black eagle on golden background was used outside the imperial family, denoting the subordinate position (the eagle was black as being the 'shadow' of the Emperor's golden eagle) of their bearers.

Use by the Turks

The double-headed eagle reappears in the same region, but after 2000 years. The double-headed eagle became the standard of the Seljuk Turks with the crowning of Toghrül (meaning "Eagle") Beg at Mosul in 1058 as "King of the East and the West" and was much used afterwards. The Sultans of Rum, Ala ad-Din Kay Qubadh I (1220-1237) and his son Kay Khusrau II (1237-1246) used the bicephalous eagle in their standards, and the motif was also found on tissues, cut stones, mural squares, and Koran holders.

Turcomans who ruled in Anatolia during the 13th century, inherited it from the Seljuk Turks. Islamic coins from the reign of Khalif Nasreddin Mahmoud bin Mohammad, following Turkish influence, sport a double-headed eagle on one side and the Star of David on the other as early as year 1200. The use of the symbol by the Turks has two possible explanations. First is the propagandist explanation: the eagle was a sign of grandeur and magnificence and it was to support the claim of Turkish rulers over the Roman imperial inheritance. Another explanation can be found in pre-Islamic Turkic shamanism, in which the eagle (one-headed) was the creature that would guide spirits to the afterlife.

Today, the Turkish Police has a double-headed eagle in its insignia.

Use by other countries

From Byzantium, two-headed eagles spread to Russia after Ivan III's marriage to Zoe Palaeologina, and to Montferrat, where a cadet branch of the Palaeologi ruled. The Serbian Nemanji dynasty adopted a white version as their own to signify their own independence of, and indeed, claim to the imperial throne of Constantinople. George Kastriotis (Skanderbeg) adopted a similar flag in his struggle against the Ottomans, consisting of a black eagle on red background, which has been resurrected in the current Flag of Albania. After the fall of Constantinople, the black eagle also became the symbol of the Austrian Empire and thence passed into several families of the German aristocracy.

During the next centuries, the eagle was made to hold a sword and/or a sceptre and an orb with a cross, symbols of the aforementioned double sovereignty. Its usage also survived as a decorative element in the Greek Orthodox Church, which was the inheritor of the Byzantine legacy during the Ottoman Empire, while it remained a popular symbol among Greeks. In modern Greece various variations of the two-headed eagles are used in Church flags (based on Byzantine flag patterns) and, officially, by the Greek Army; the bird found its way into the Greek coat of arms for a brief period in 1925-1926.

Use in Masonry

The **Double-Headed Eagle of Lagash** is used as emblem by the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry[1]. While there are many meanings attached to this symbol, [2] the famed Masonic author M. P. Hall declares it an alchemical symbol of union between the masculine and feminine principles in the individual.

Use in fiction

In the world of Warhammer 40,000, the double-headed eagle forms the crest of the Imperium of Man, earning it considerable religious and cultural significance. For this reason, it is not too uncommon to create actual double-headed eagles through surgery, mechanical proxy or genetic manipulation. When these are used to aid the abilities of a psyker, they are known as psyber-eagles. In Namco's game, Tales of Symphonia, Aska, a golden, twin-headed bird who is one of the two Summon Spirits of Light is thought to have been inspired by the two-headed eagle. In Ragnarok Online the double-headed eagle appears in many flags and buildings of the city of Prontera.

In The Mouse that Roared and its sequels, the Double-headed eagle is on the national flag of Grand Fenwick.

Use in sports

The double-headed eagle is the emblem of the Greek sport clubs AEK (black eagle on yellow background) and PAOK (black eagle on white background). It is a symbol of the clubs' origins, since both clubs were founded by Greeks who fled to Greece from Constantinople in 1922-23. It is also the emblem of the Turkish Konyaspor. [\[3\]](#)

Duck

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Anseriformes
 Family: [Anatidae](#)
 Subfamilies: *Dendrocygninae*, *Oxyurinae*, *Anatinae*, *Merginae*

Duck is the common name for a number of species in the [Anatidae](#) family of [birds](#). The ducks are divided between several subfamilies listed in full in the Anatidae article. Ducks are mostly aquatic birds, mostly smaller than their relatives the [swans](#) and [geese](#), and may be found in both fresh water and sea water.

Most ducks have a wide flat beak adapted for dredging. They exploit a variety of food sources such as grasses, grains and aquatic plants, fish, and insects. Diving ducks forage deep underwater; Dabbling ducks feed on the surface of water or land. Dabbling ducks have special plates called lamellae[1] that are similar to a whale's baleen. These tiny rows of plates along the inside of the bill allow them to filter water out of the side of their bills and keep food inside. To be able to submerge more easily, the diving ducks are heavier than dabbling ducks, and therefore have more difficulty taking off to fly. A few specialized species (the goosander and the mergansers) are adapted to catch large fish.

In Ohio, one of a duck's biggest enemies is the muskie, which has been known to eat fully grown ducks. In Britain, big pike have been known to swallow fully grown wild ducks whole, and pike often take small ducklings.

The males (drakes) of northern species often have extravagant [plumage](#), but this is moulted in summer to give a more female-like appearance, the "eclipse" plumage. Many species of ducks are temporarily flightless while moulting; they seek out protected habitat with good food supplies during this period. This moult typically precedes [migration](#).

Some duck species, mainly those breeding in the temperate and arctic Northern Hemisphere, are [migratory](#), but others are not. Some, particularly in Australia where rainfall is patchy and erratic, are nomadic, seeking out the temporary lakes and pools that form after localised heavy rain.

Some people use "duck" specifically for adult females and "drake" for adult males, for the species described here; others use "hen" and "drake", respectively.

Ducks are sometimes confused with several types of unrelated water birds with similar forms, such as loons or divers, grebes, gallinules, and coots.

Etymology

The word **duck** from (Anglo-Saxon *dkce*) meaning the bird, came from the verb "to duck" (from Anglo-Saxon supposed **dkcan*) meaning "to bend down low as if to get under something", because of the way many species in the dabbling duck group feed by upending (compare the Dutch word *duiken* = "to dive").

This happened because the older Old English word for "duck" came to be pronounced the same as the word for "end": other Germanic languages still have similar words for "duck"

and "end": for example, Dutch eend = "duck", eind = "end"; compare Latin anas (stem anat-) = "duck", Sanskrit anta (masc.) = "end", Lithuanian *antis* = "duck".

Ducks and humans

In many areas, wild ducks of various species (including ducks farmed and released into the wild) are hunted for food or sport, by shooting, or formerly by decoys. From this came the expression "a sitting duck", which means "an easy target".

Ducks have many economic uses, being farmed for their meat, eggs, feathers and down feathers. They are also kept and bred by aviculturists and often displayed in zoos. All domestic ducks are descended from the wild Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, except Muscovy Ducks[2]. Many breeds have become much larger than their wild ancestor, with a "hull length" (from base of neck to base of tail) of 30 cm (12 inches) or more and routinely able to swallow an adult British Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*, whole.

Foie gras is often made using the liver of ducks, rather than of geese.

In a wildlife pond, the bottom over most of the area should be too deep for dabbling wild ducks to reach the bottom, to protect bottom-living life from being constantly disturbed and eaten by wild ducks dredging, and domestic ducks should not be allowed in.

Generally, the sound made by ducks is called a "quack". A common false urban legend asserts that quacks do not echo.^[3]

Ducks and humor

In 2002, psychologist Richard Wiseman and colleagues at the University of Hertfordshire (UK) finished a year-long LaughLab experiment, concluding that, of the animals in the world, the duck is the type that attracts most humor and silliness; he said "If you're going to tell a joke involving an animal, make it a duck." The word "duck" may have become an inherently funny word in many languages because ducks are seen as a silly animal, and their odd appearance compared to other birds. Of the many ducks in fiction, many are silly [cartoon](#) characters (see the *New Scientist* article [\[1\]](#) mentioning humor in the word "duck").

Trivia

- Some Ancient Egyptian wall pictures show that (some of) the ships of the Sea Peoples had ornamental prows shaped like a duck's head.^[4]

See also

- [Domesticated duck](#) — ducks kept as pets or show animals and for meat and eggs and down
 - [List of fictional ducks](#)

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Emu

Conservation status See text

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Struthioniformes](#)

Family: Casuariidae

Genus: *Dromaius*

Species: ***D. novaehollandiae***

Binomial name: ***Dromaius novaehollandiae*** (Latham, 1790) Synonyms: ***Dromiceius novaehollandiae***

The **Emu** (IPA pronunciation: [Èiðmjʊ]), *Dromaius novaehollandiae*, is the largest [bird](#) native to Australia and the only extant member of the [genus](#) *Dromaius*. It is also the second-largest bird in the world by height, after its [ratite](#) relative, the [ostrich](#). The soft-feathered, brown, [flightless birds](#) reach up to 2 m (6 ft 7 in) in height. The Emu is common over most of mainland Australia, although it avoids heavily populated areas, dense forest and arid areas. Emus can travel great distances at a fast, economical trot and, if necessary, can sprint at 50 km/h (31 mph) for some distance at a time.^[u] They are opportunistically nomadic and may travel long distances to find food; they feed on a variety of plants and insects.

The Emu subspecies that previously inhabited Tasmania became extinct following the European settlement of Australia in 1788; the distribution of the mainland subspecies has also been affected by human activities. The Emu was once common on the east coast, but is now uncommon there; by contrast, the development of agriculture and the provision of water for stock in the interior of the continent have increased the range of the Emu in arid regions. Emus are farmed for their meat, oil and leather.

- [1 Taxonomy and distribution](#)
- [2 Physical description](#)
- [3 Reproduction](#)
- [4 Ecology and behaviour](#)
- [5 Conservation status](#)
- [6 Emu farming and products](#)
- [7 Cultural references](#)
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Taxonomy and distribution

Three different *Dromaius* species were common in Australia before European settlement and one species is known from fossils. The small emu — *Dromaius baudinianus* and *D. ater*

— both became extinct shortly after; however, the Emu, *D. novaehollandiae*, remains common. The population varies from decade to decade, largely dependent on rainfall; it is estimated that the Emu population is 625,000–725,000, with 100,000–200,000 in Western Australia and the remainder mostly in New South Wales and Queensland.[2] *D. novaehollandiae diemenensis*, a subspecies known as the Tasmanian Emu, became extinct around 1865. Emus were introduced in Maria Island near Tasmania, and Kangaroo Island near South Australia, in the 20th century and have established breeding populations there.

There are three extant subspecies in Australia:

- In the southeast, *D. novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*, with its whitish ruff when breeding;
- In the north, *D. novaehollandiae woodwardi*, slender and paler; and
- In the southwest, *D. novaehollandiae rothschildi*, darker, with no ruff during breeding.

The species was first described under the name of the New Holland Cassowary in Arthur Phillip's *Voyage to Botany Bay*, published in 1789.[3] The species was named by ornithologist John Latham, who collaborated on Phillip's book and provided the first descriptions of and names for many Australian bird species; its name is Latin for "fast-footed New Hollander". The etymology of the common name Emu is uncertain, but is thought to have come from an Arabic word for large bird that was later used by Portuguese explorers to describe the related Cassowary in New Guinea.[2]

Physical description

Emus are large birds. The largest individuals can reach up to two metres (6 ft 7 in) in height (1–1.3 metres (3.2–4.3 ft) at the shoulder) and weigh between 30 and 45 kilograms (66–100 pounds).[2] They have small vestigial wings and a long neck and legs. Their ability to run at high speeds is due to their highly specialised pelvic limb musculature. Their feet have only three toes and a similarly reduced number of bones and associated foot muscles; they are the only birds with gastrocnemius muscles in the back of the lower legs. The pelvic limb muscles of Emus have a similar contribution to total body mass as the flight muscles of flying birds.[4]

Emus have brown to grey-brown plumage of shaggy appearance; the shafts and the tips of the [feathers](#) are black. Solar radiation is absorbed by the tips, and the loose-packed inner [plumage](#) insulates the skin. The resultant heat is prevented from flowing to the skin by the insulation provided by the coat,[5] allowing the bird to be active during the heat of the day. A unique feature of the Emu feather is its double rachis emerging from a single shaft. The sexes are similar in appearance.

On very hot days, Emus pant to maintain their body temperature, their lungs work as evaporative coolers and, unlike some other species, the resulting low levels of carbon dioxide in the blood do not appear to cause alkalosis.[6] For normal breathing in cooler weather, they have large, multifolded nasal passages. Cool air warms as it passes through into the

lungs, extracting heat from the nasal region. On exhalation, the Emu's cold nasal turbinates condense moisture back out of the air and absorb it for reuse.^[7]

Reproduction

Emus form breeding pairs during the summer months of December and January, and may remain together for about five months. Mating occurs in the cooler months of May and June. During the breeding season, males experience hormonal changes, including an increase in luteinizing hormone and testosterone levels, and their testes double in size.^[8] Males lose their appetite and construct a rough nest in a semi-sheltered hollow on the ground from bark, grass, sticks and leaves. The pair mates every day or two, and every second or third day the female lays an average of 11 (and as many as 20) very large, thick-shelled, dark-green eggs. The eggs are on average 134 x 89 millimeters (5.3 x 3.5 inches) and weigh between 700 and 900 grams (1.5–2 pounds),^[9] which is roughly equivalent to 10–12 chicken eggs in volume and weight. The first occurrence of genetically identical avian twins was demonstrated in the Emu.^[10]

The male becomes broody after his mate starts laying, and begins to incubate the eggs before the laying period is complete. From this time on, he does not eat, drink or defecate, and stands only to turn the eggs, which he does about 10 times a day. Over eight weeks of incubation, he will lose a third of his weight and will survive only on stored body-fat and on any morning dew that he can reach from the nest. As with many other Australian birds, such as the Superb Fairy-wren, infidelity is the norm for Emus, despite the initial pair-bond: once the male starts brooding, the female mates with other males and may lay in multiple clutches; thus, as many as half the chicks in a brood may be fathered by others, or by neither parent as Emus also exhibit brood parasitism.^[11] Some females stay and defend the nest until the chicks start hatching, but most leave the nesting area completely to nest again; in a good season, a female Emu may nest three times.^[12]

Incubation takes 56 days, and the male stops incubating the eggs shortly before they hatch.^[12] Newly hatched chicks are active and can leave the nest within a few days. They stand about 25 centimetres tall and have distinctive brown and cream stripes for camouflage, which fade after three months or so. The male stays with the growing chicks for up to 18 months, defending them and teaching them how to find food.^[9] Chicks grow very quickly and are full-grown in 12–14 months; they may remain with their family group for another six months or so before they split up to breed in their second season. In the wild, Emus live between 10 to 20 years,^[13] captive birds can live longer than those in the wild.

Ecology and behaviour

Emus live in most habitats across Australia, although they are most common in areas of sclerophyll forest and savanna woodland, and least common in populated and very arid areas. Emus are largely solitary, and while they can form enormous flocks, this is an atypical

social behaviour that arises from the common need to move towards food sources. Emus have been shown to travel long distances to reach abundant feeding areas. In Western Australia, Emu movements follow a distinct seasonal pattern — north in summer and south in winter. On the east coast their wanderings do not appear to follow a pattern.^[12] Emus are also able to swim when necessary.

Their calls consist of loud booming, drumming and grunting sounds that can be heard up to two kilometres away. The booming sound is created in an inflatable neck sac.^[2]

Emus forage in a diurnal pattern. They eat a variety of native and introduced plant species; the type of plants eaten depends on seasonal availability. They also eat insects, including grasshoppers and crickets, ladybirds, soldier and saltbush caterpillars, Bogong and cotton-boll moth larvae and ants.^[14] In Western Australia, food preferences have been observed in travelling Emus: they eat seeds from *Acacia aneura* until it rains, after which they eat fresh grass shoots and caterpillars; in winter they feed on the leaves and pods of *Cassia*; in spring, they feed on grasshoppers and quandong fruit.^[11] Emus may serve as an important agent for the dispersal of large viable seeds, which could contribute to the maintenance of floral biodiversity.^[15]

Conservation status

Emus were used as a source of food by indigenous Australians and early European settlers. Aborigines used a variety of techniques to catch the bird, including spearing them while they drank at waterholes, poisoning waterholes, catching Emus in nets, and attracting Emus by imitating their calls or with a ball of feathers and rags dangled from a tree.^[9] Europeans killed Emus to provide food and to remove them if they interfered with farming or invaded settlements in search of water during drought. An extreme example of this was the Emu War in Western Australia in 1932, when Emus that flocked to Campion during a hot summer scared the town's inhabitants and an unsuccessful attempt to drive them off was mounted. In John Gould's *Handbook to the Birds of Australia*, first published in 1865, he laments the loss of the Emu from Tasmania, where it had become rare and has since become extinct; he notes that Emus were no longer common in the vicinity of Sydney and proposes that the species be given protected status.^[3] Wild Emus are formally protected in Australia under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Although the population of Emus on mainland Australia is thought to be higher now than before European settlement,^[2] some wild populations are at risk of local extinction due to small population size. Threats to small populations include the clearance and fragmentation of areas of habitat; deliberate slaughter; collisions with vehicles; and predation of the young and eggs by foxes, feral and domestic dogs, and feral pigs. The isolated Emu population of the New South Wales North Coast Bioregion and Port Stephens is listed as endangered by the New South Wales Government.^[16]

Emu farming and products

Commercial Emu farming started in Western Australia in 1987 and the first slaughtering occurred in 1990.[17] In Australia, the commercial industry is based on stock bred in captivity and all states except Tasmania have licensing requirements to protect wild Emus. Outside Australia, Emus are farmed on a large scale in North America, with about 1 million birds in the US,[18] Peru and China, and to a lesser extent in some other countries. Emus breed well in captivity, and are kept in large open pens to avoid leg and digestive problems that arise with inactivity. They are typically fed on grain supplemented by grazing, and are slaughtered at 50–70 weeks of age.

Emus are farmed primarily for their meat, leather and oil. Emu meat is a low-fat, low-cholesterol meat (85 mg/100 g); despite being avian, it is considered a red meat because of its red colour and pH value.[19][18] The best cuts come from the thigh and the larger muscles of the drum or lower leg. Emu fat is rendered to produce oil for cosmetics, dietary supplements and therapeutic products. There is some evidence that the oil has anti-inflammatory properties;[20] however, the US Food and Drug Administration regards pure emu oil product as an unapproved drug. Emu leather has a distinctive patterned surface, due to a raised area around the hair follicles in the skin; the leather is used in such small items as wallets and shoes, often in combination with other leathers. The feathers and eggs are used in decorative arts and crafts.

Cultural references

The Emu has a prominent place in Australian Aboriginal mythology, including a creation myth of the Yuwaalaraay and other groups in NSW who say that the sun was made by throwing an Emu's egg into the sky; the bird features in numerous aetiological stories told across a number of Aboriginal groups.^[21]

The Emu is popularly but unofficially considered as a faunal emblem—the national bird of Australia.[22] It appears as a shield bearer on the Coat of Arms of Australia with the Red Kangaroo and as a part of the Arms also appears on the Australian 50 cent coin. It has featured on numerous Australian postage stamps, including a pre-federation New South Wales 100th Anniversary issue from 1888, which featured a 2p blue Emu stamp, a 36-cent stamp released in 1986 and a \$1.35 stamp released in 1994. The hats of the Australian Light Horse were famously decorated with an Emu feather plume.

There are around 600 gazetted places named after the Emu in Australia, including mountains, lakes, creeks and towns.[23] During the 19th and 20th centuries, many Australian companies and household products were named after the bird; for example, in Western Australia, Emu branded beer has been produced since the early 20th century. The Swan Brewery continues to produce a range of Emu branded beers that include Emu Bitter, Emu Export and Emu Draft. Emu - Austral Ornithology is the quarterly peer-reviewed publication of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, also known as Birds Australia.

The British entertainer Rod Hull was well known for his puppet "Emu", and regularly appeared on television with it. Sheena Knowles's children's picture books, *Edward the Emu* and *Edwina the Emu*, follow the fictional lives of a male Emu and his family in rhyming verse.

See also

- [Birds of Australia](#)

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Goose

Geese

Kingdom:Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Anseriformes

Family: [Anatidae](#)

Subfamily: [Anserinae](#)

Genera: *Anser*, *Branta*, *Chen*, *Cereopsis*, *Cnemiornis* ([extinct](#)), see also: [Swan](#), [Duck](#), [Anatidae](#)

Goose (plural **geese**) is the general English name for a considerable number of [birds](#), belonging to the family [Anatidae](#). This family also includes [swans](#), most of which are larger than geese, and [ducks](#), which are smaller.

- [1 Introduction](#)
- [2 True geese](#)
- [3 Other species called "geese"](#)
- [4 Etymology](#)
- [5 See also](#)

Introduction

This article deals with the true geese in the subfamily [Anserinae](#). A number of other waterbirds, mainly related to the shelducks, have "goose" as part of their name.

True geese are medium to large birds, always (with the exception of the Nn) associated to a greater or lesser extent with water. Most species in Europe, Asia and North America are strongly [migratory](#) as wild birds, breeding in the far north and wintering much further south. However, escapes and introductions have led to resident feral populations of several species.

Geese have been [domesticated](#) for centuries. In the West, farmyard geese are descended from the Greylag, but in Asia the Swan Goose has been farmed for at least as long.

All geese eat an exclusively vegetarian diet, and can become pests when flocks feed on arable crops or inhabit ponds or grassy areas in urban environments.

Geese mate for life, though a small number will "divorce" and remate. They tend to lay a smaller number of eggs than ducks, however, both parents protect the nest and young, which usually results in a higher survival rate for the young geese, known as **goslings**.

Not all couples are heterosexual, as both females and males will form long-term same-sex couples with greater or lesser frequency depending on species. Of the heterosexual couples, a significant proportion are non-breeding despite having an active sexual life. See [Canada Goose](#)

A group on the ground is called a *gaggle*. When flying, a group of geese is known as a *wedge* or a *skein*.

Geese have appeared in feature films such as "Fly Away Home" which starred Jeff Daniels and Anna Paquin.

True geese

The following are the true goose species.

Genus **Anser** Brisson 1760, Grey Geese

- Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
- White-fronted Goose *A. albifrons*
- Lesser White-fronted Goose *A. erythropus*
- Bean Goose *A. fabalis*
- Pink-footed Goose *A. brachyrhynchus*
- Bar-headed Goose *A. indicus*
- Swan Goose, *A. cygnoides*

Genus **Chen** Boie 1822 or *Anser* (depending on authority cited), White Geese

- Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* or *Anser caerulescens*
- Ross's Goose, *C. rossii* or *A. rossii*
- Emperor Goose, *C. canagica* or *A. canagicus*

Genus **Branta** Scopoli 1769, Black Geese

- Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*
- Barnacle Goose *B. leucopsis*
- Canada Goose *B. canadensis*
- Cackling Goose *B. hutchinsii*
- Red-breasted Goose *B. ruficollis*
- Hawaiian Goose or Nn, *B. sandvicensis*
- Nn-nui or Woods-walking Goose, *B. hylobadistes* Conservation status: Prehistoric

Genus **Cereopsis**

- Cape Barren Goose, *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

Genus **Cnemiornis**, New Zealand Geese Conservation status: Prehistoric

- South Island Goose, *Cnemiornis calcitrans* Conservation status: Prehistoric
- North Island Goose, *Cnemiornis gracilis* Conservation status: Prehistoric

Other species called "geese"

There are a number of mainly southern hemisphere birds named as geese which are more correctly placed with the shelducks in the Tadorninae. These are:

- Blue-winged Goose, *Cyanochen cyanopterus*
- Andean Goose, *Chloephaga melanoptera*
- Magellan Goose, *Chloephaga picta*
- Kelp Goose, *Chloephaga hybrida*

Ashy-headed Goose, *Chloephaga poliocephala*
Ruddy-headed Goose, *Chloephaga rubidiceps*
Orinoco Goose, *Neochen jubata*
Egyptian Goose, *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

The Spur-winged Goose, *Plectropterus gambensis*, is most closely related to the shelducks, but distinct enough to warrant its own subfamily, the Plectropterinae.

The three perching ducks in the genus *Nettapus* are named as pygmy geese, such as the Cotton Pygmy Goose, *Nettapus javanica*, but are true [ducks](#).

The unusual Magpie-goose is in a family of its own, the Anseranatidae.

Etymology

Goose in its origins is one of the oldest words of the Indo-European languages, the modern names deriving from the proto-Indo-European root, ghans, hence Sanskrit *hamsa* (feminine *hamsii*), Latin *anser*, Greek *khén* etc.

In the Germanic languages, the root word led to Old English *gos* with the plural *gés*, German *Gans* and Old Norse *gas*. Other modern derivatives are Russian *gus* and Old Irish *géiss*; the family name of the cleric Jan Hus is derived from the Czech derivative *husa*.

In non-technical use, the male goose is called a "gander" (Anglo-Saxon *gandra*) and the female is the "goose" (*Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)*)

See also

- [Domesticated goose](#), which includes cooking and folklore

Heron

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Ciconiiformes
 Family: **Ardeidae** Leach, 1820 Genera: See text.

The **herons** are wading [birds](#) in the **Ardeidae** family. Some are called egrets or bitterns instead of herons.

Within the family, all members of the genera *Botaurus* and *Ixobrychus* are referred to as bitterns, and—including the Zigzag Heron or Zigzag Bittern—are a monophyletic group within the Ardeidae. However, egrets are not a biologically distinct group from the herons, and tend to be named differently because they are mainly white or have decorative plumes.

The classification of the individual heron/egret species is fraught with difficulty, and there is still no clear consensus about the correct placement of many species into either of the two major genera, *Ardea* and *Egretta*. Similarly, the relationship of the genera in the family is not completely resolved. For example, the Boat-billed Heron is sometimes classed as a heron, and sometimes given its own family Cochlearidae, but nowadays it is usually retained in the Ardeidae.

Although herons resemble birds in some other families, such as the [storks](#), [ibises](#) and spoonbills, they differ from these in flying with their necks retracted, not outstretched.

The members of this family are all primarily associated with wetlands, and prey on fish, frogs and other aquatic species. Some, like the Cattle Egret, also take large insects, and are less tied to watery environments. Some members of this group nest colonially in trees, others, notably the bitterns, use reedbeds.

In February 2005, the Canadian scientist Dr. Louis Lefebvre announced a method of measuring avian IQ in terms of their innovation in feeding habits. Herons were named among the most intelligent birds based on this scale, reflecting a wide variety, flexibility and adaptiveness to acquire food.

- [1 Taxonomy](#)
- [2 References](#)

Taxonomy

Analyses of the skeleton, mainly the skull, suggested that the Ardeidae could be split into a diurnal and a crepuscular/nocturnal group which included the bitterns. From DNA studies and skeletal analyses focusing more on bones of body and limbs, this grouping has been revealed as incorrect (McCracken & Sheldon, 1998). Rather, the similarities in skull morphology reflect convergent evolution to cope with the different challenges of daytime and nighttime feeding. Today, it is believed that three major groups can be distinguished (Sheldon *et al.*, 2000), which are (from the most primitive to the most advanced):

- tiger herons and the boatbill

- bitterns
- day-herons and egrets, and night-herons

FAMILY ARDEIDAE

Subfamily Tigrisomatinae

- Genus *Cochlearius*
 - Boat-billed Heron, *Cochlearius cochlearius*
- Genus *Tigrisoma*
 - Bare-throated Tiger Heron, *Tigrisoma mexicanum*
 - Fasciated Tiger Heron, *Tigrisoma fasciatum*
 - Rufescent Tiger Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatum*
- Genus *Tigriornis*
 - White-crested Tiger Heron, *Tigriornis leucolophus*
- Genus *Zonerodius*
 - New Guinea Tiger Heron, *Zonerodius heliosylus*

Subfamily Botaurinae

- Genus *Zebrilus*
 - Zigzag Heron, *Zebrilus undulatus*
- Genus *Ixobrychus*
 - Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*
 - New Zealand Little Bittern, *Ixobrychus novaezelandiae* (extinct)
 - Cinnamon Bittern, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
 - Stripe-backed Bittern, *Ixobrychus involucris*
 - Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*
 - Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 - Schrenck's Bittern, *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*
 - Dwarf Bittern, *Ixobrychus sturmii*
 - Black Bittern, *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
- Genus *Botaurus*
 - American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosa*.
 - Great Bittern or European Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*
 - South American Bittern, *Botaurus pinnatus*
 - Australasian Bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Subfamily Ardeinae

- Genus *Zeltornis* ([fossil](#))
- Genus *Nycticorax*
 - Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax violaceus* or *Nyctanassa violacea*
 - Bermuda Night Neron, *Nycticorax carinocatactes* or *Nyctanassa carinocatactes* (extinct)
 - Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

White-backed Night Heron, *Nycticorax leuconotus* or *Gorsachius leuconotus*
 Rodrigues Night Heron, *Nycticorax megacephalus* (extinct)
 Réunion Night Heron, *Nycticorax duboisi* (extinct)
 Mauritius Night Heron, *Nycticorax mauritianus* (extinct)
 Ascension Night Heron, *Nycticorax olsoni* (extinct)

- Genus *Gorsachius*
 - Nankeen Night Heron or Rufous Night Heron, *Gorsachius caledonicus* or *Nycticorax caledonicus*
 White-eared Night Heron, *Gorsachius magnificus*
 Japanese Night Heron, *Gorsachius goisagi*
 Malayan Night Heron, *Gorsachius melanolophus*
- Genus *Butorides*
 - Green Heron or Green-backed Heron, *Butorides virescens*
 Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus* or *Ardea striatus*
- Genus *Agamia*
 - Agami Heron, *Agamia agami*
- Genus *Philherodias*
 - Capped Heron, *Pilherodius pileatus*
- Genus *Ardeola*
 - Indian Pond Heron, *Ardeola grayii*
 Squacco Heron, *Ardeola ralloides*
 Chinese Pond Heron, *Ardeola bacchus*
 Javan Pond Heron, *Ardeola speciosa*
 Madagascar Pond Heron, *Ardeola idae*
 Rufous-bellied Heron, *Ardeola rufiventris*
- Genus *Bubulcus*
 - Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis* or *Ardea ibis*
- Genus *Proardea* ([fossil](#))
- Genus *Ardea*
 - Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*
 - Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea*
 Goliath Heron, *Ardea goliath*
 Cocoi Heron, *Ardea cocoi*
 White-necked Heron or Pacific Heron, *Ardea pacifica*
 Black-headed Heron, *Ardea melanocephala*
 Madagascar Heron, *Ardea humbloti*
 White-bellied Heron, *Ardea insignis*
 Great-billed Heron, *Ardea sumatrana*
 Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea*
 Great Egret or Great White Egret, *Ardea alba*
 Pied Heron, *Ardea picata* or *Egretta picata*
 Intermediate Egret, *Ardea intermedia* or *Egretta intermedia*
 Swinhoe's Egret or Chinese Egret, *Ardea eulophotes* or *Egretta eulophotes*

- Genus *Syrigma*
 - Whistling Heron, *Syrigma sibilatrix*
- Genus *Egretta*
 - Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* or *Ardea garzetta*
Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula*
Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens*
Slaty Egret, *Egretta vinaceigula*
Black Heron, *Egretta ardesiaca*
Tricolored Heron or Louisiana Heron, *Egretta tricolor*
 - Tricolored Heron or Louisiana Heron, *Egretta tricolor*
 - White-faced Heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae* or *Ardea novaehollandiae*
Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*
Eastern Reef Egret, *Egretta sacra* or *Ardea sacra*
Western Reef Heron, *Egretta gularis*
- Genus undetermined
 - Easter Island Heron, Ardeidae gen. et sp. indet. ([prehistoric](#))

Other prehistoric and fossil species are included in the respective genus accounts.

The night herons could warrant separation as subfamily **Nycticoracinae**, as it was traditionally done. However, the position of some genera (e.g. *Butorides* or *Syrigma*) is unclear at the moment, and molecular studies have until now suffered from a small number of studied taxa. Especially the relationship among the ardeidine subfamily is very badly resolved. The arrangement presented here should be considered provisional.

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Ibis

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Threskiornithidae

Subfamily: **Threskiornithinae** Poche, 1904 Genera: *Threskiornis*, *Pseudibis*, *Thaumatibis*, *Geronticus*, *Nipponia*, *Bostrychia*, *Theristicus*, *Cercibis*, *Mesembrinibis*, *Phimosus*, *Eudocimus*, *Plegadis*, *Lophotibis*

Ibises are a group of long-legged wading birds in the family Threskiornithidae. They all have long downcurved bills, and usually feed as a group, probing mud for food items, usually crustaceans. Most species nest in trees, often with spoonbills or herons.

According to folklore, the ibis is the last form of wildlife to take shelter prior to a hurricane and the first to reappear after the storm passes. The ibis was also an object of religious veneration in ancient Egypt, particularly associated with the god, Thoth.

The name *ibis* comes from Greek borrowed from Ancient Egyptian *hīb*.

The ibis has gained notoriety in American collegiate football, where an ibis named Sebastian the Ibis is the official mascot of the University of Miami, one of the most successful collegiate football program of the past 25 years.

The ibis family is one of the families in the order Ciconiiformes, which also includes other wading bird families:

Species

- Genus *Threskiornis*
 - Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
 - Madagascar Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis bernieri*
 - Réunion Sacred Ibis, *Threskiornis solitarius* extinct
 - Black-headed Ibis, *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
 - Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*
 - Straw-necked Ibis, *Threskiornis spinicollis*
- Genus *Pseudibis*
 - Indian Black Ibis, *Pseudibis papillosa*
 - White-shouldered Ibis, *Pseudibis davisoni*
- Genus *Thaumatibis*
 - Giant Ibis, *Thaumatibis gigantea*
- Genus *Geronticus*
 - Northern Bald Ibis, *Geronticus eremita*
 - Southern Bald Ibis, *Geronticus calvus*
- Genus *Nipponia*
 - Japanese Crested Ibis, *Nipponia nippon*
- Genus *Bostrychia*

- Olive Ibis, *Bostrychia olivacea*
 Dwarf Olive Ibis, *Bostrychia bocagei*
 Spot-breasted Ibis, *Bostrychia rara*
 Hadada Ibis, *Bostrychia hagedash*
 Wattled Ibis, *Bostrychia carunculata*
- Genus *Theristicus*
 - Plumbeous Ibis, *Theristicus caerulescens*
 Buff-necked Ibis, *Theristicus caudatus*
 Andean Ibis, *Theristicus branickii*
 Black-faced Ibis, *Theristicus melanopis*
- Genus *Cercibis*
 - Sharp-tailed Ibis, *Cercibis oxycerca*
- Genus *Mesembrinibis*
 - Green Ibis, *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*
- Genus *Phimosus*
 - Whispering Ibis, *Phimosus infuscatus*
- Genus *Eudocimus*
 - American White Ibis, *Eudocimus albus*
 Scarlet Ibis, *Eudocimus ruber*
- Genus *Plegadis*
 - Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*
 White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*
 Puna Ibis, *Plegadis ridgwayi*
- Genus *Lophotibis*
 - Madagascar Crested Ibis, *Lophotibis cristata*

Kingfisher

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Coraciiformes
 Suborder: **Alcedines**
 Families: *Alcedinidae*, *Halcyonidae*, *Cerylidae*

Kingfishers are [birds](#) of the three families Alcedinidae (river kingfishers), Halcyonidae (tree kingfishers), and Cerylidae (water kingfishers). There are about 90 species of kingfisher. All have large heads, long, sharp, pointed bills, short legs, and stubby tails. They are found throughout the world.

The taxonomy of the three families is complex and rather controversial. Although commonly assigned to the [order](#) Coraciiformes, from this level down confusion sets in.

The kingfishers were traditionally treated as one family, *Alcedinidae* with three subfamilies, but following the 1990s revolution in bird taxonomy, the three former subfamilies are now usually elevated to familial level; a move supported by chromosome and DNA-DNA hybridisation studies, but challenged on the grounds that all three groups are monophyletic with respect to the other Coraciiformes; which leads to them being grouped as the suborder *Alcedines*.

The tree kingfishers have been previously given the familial name *Dacelonidae* but *Halcyonidae* has priority. This group derives from a very ancient divergence from the ancestral stock.

Kingfishers live in both woodland and wetland habitats. The Laughing Kookaburra, at 45 cm the world's largest kingfisher, is a woodland bird, while the European Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* is always found near fresh water.

Kingfishers that live near water hunt small [fish](#) by diving. They also eat crayfish, frogs, and insects. Wood kingfishers eat [reptiles](#). Kingfishers of all three families beat their prey to death, either by whipping it against a tree or by dropping it on a stone.

They are able to see well both in air and under water. To do this, their eyes have evolved an egg-shaped lens able to focus in the two different environments.

The Old World tropics and Australasia are the core area for this group. Europe and North America north of Mexico are very poorly represented with only one common kingfisher (European and Belted Kingfishers respectively), and a couple of uncommon or very local species each: (Ringed Kingfisher and Green Kingfisher in south Texas, Pied Kingfisher and White-breasted Kingfisher in SE Europe).

Even tropical South America has only five species plus wintering Belted Kingfisher. In comparison, the tiny African country of The Gambia has eight resident species in its 120 by 20 mile area.

The six species occurring in the Americas are four closely related green kingfishers in the genus *Chloroceryle* and two large crested kingfishers in the genus *Megaceryle*, suggesting that the sparse representation in the western hemisphere evolved from just one or two original colonising species.

Kookaburra

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Coraciiformes
Family: Halcyonidae
Genus: ***Dacelo*** Leach, 1815 Species: *Dacelo gaudichaud* , *Dacelo leachii* , *Dacelo novaeguineae* , *Dacelo tyro*

Kookaburras are very large terrestrial kingfishers native to Australia and New Guinea, the name a loanword from Wiradjuri guuguubarra, which is onomatopoeic of its call.

Kookaburras are best known for their unmistakable call which is uncannily like loud, echoing human laughter — good-natured, if rather hysterical, merriment in the case of the well-known Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*); and maniacal, almost insane, cackling in the case of the slightly smaller Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*). The call has been immortalized as the "ooh ooh AHH AHH AHHH AHH AHH" cry that is part of the background audio in countless jungle movies, regardless of where the jungle in the movie is located.

Classification and species

There are four known species of Kookaburra found in Australia, New Guinea and the Aru Islands.

Unusually for close relatives, the Laughing and Blue-winged [species](#) are direct competitors in the area where their ranges overlap. This suggests that the two species, though having common stock, evolved in isolation (possibly during a period when Australia and New Guinea were more distant — see Australia-New Guinea) and were only brought back into contact in relatively recent geological times.

Trivia

- "Olly" the Kookaburra was one of the three mascots chosen for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The other mascots were the Echidna Millie and the Platypus Syd.
- Australia has dedicated a series of coins to the Kookaburra since 1990.
- There is also a Kookaburra nursery rhyme in Australia.

Further reading

- Sarah Legge, *Kookaburra: King of the Bush*, CSIRO Publishing 2004, ISBN 0-643-09063-0

Macaw

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Psittaciformes
 Family: [Psittacidae](#)

Genera: *Ara*, *Anodorhynchus*, *Cyanopsitta*, *Propyrrhura*, *Orthopsittaca*, *Diopsittaca*

Macaws are large colorful New World parrots, classified into six of the many Psittacidae [genera](#): *Ara*, *Anodorhynchus*, *Cyanopsitta*, *Propyrrhura*, *Orthopsittaca*, and *Diopsittaca*. They are the largest birds in the parrot family in length and wingspan, though the flightless Kakapo is heavier.

Parrots are zygodactyl, like woodpeckers, having 4 toes on each foot – two front and two back.

Their native habitats are the forests, especially rain forests, of Mexico and Central and South America. They are called guacamayos in Spanish and araras in Portuguese.

- [1 Species in taxonomic order](#)
- [2 Status](#)
- [3 Birds in captivity](#)
- [4 Hybrids](#)
- [6 References](#)

Species in taxonomic order

- *Anodorhynchus*
 - *Anodorhynchus glaucus* : Glaucous Macaw
 - *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* : Hyacinth Macaw
 - *Anodorhynchus leari* : Indigo Macaw or Lear's Macaw
- *Cyanopsitta*
 - *Cyanopsitta spixii* : Little Blue Macaw or Spix's Macaw
- *Ara*
 - *Ara ararauna* : Blue-and-yellow Macaw
 - *Ara glaucogularis* : Blue-throated Macaw
 - *Ara militaris* : Military Macaw
 - *Ara ambiguus* : Buffon's Macaw or Great Green Macaw
 - *Ara macao* : Scarlet Macaw or Aracanga
 - *Ara chloroptera* : Greenwing Macaw or Red-and-green Macaw
 - *Ara rubrogenys* : Red-fronted Macaw
 - *Ara severa* : Chestnut-fronted Macaw or Severe Macaw
 - *Ara atwoodi* : Dominican Green-and-Yellow Macaw
 - *Ara erythrocephala* : Jamaican Green-and-Yellow Macaw

Ara gossei : Jamaican Red Macaw

Ara guadeloupensis : Lesser Antillean Macaw

Ara tricolor : Cuban Red Macaw

Ara autoctones : Saint Croix Macaw[1]

- *Orthopsittaca*
 - *Orthopsittaca manilata* : Red-bellied Macaw
- *Propyrrhura*
 - *Propyrrhura couloni* : Blue-headed Macaw
 - *Propyrrhura maracana* : Illiger's Macaw or Blue-winged Macaw
 - *Propyrrhura auricollis* : Golden-collared Macaw
- *Diopsittaca*
 - *Diopsittaca nobilis* : Red-shouldered Macaw or Hahn's Macaw

Status

The majority of macaws are now endangered in the wild. Five species are already extinct, and Spix's Macaw is now considered to be extinct in the wild. The Glaucous Macaw is also probably extinct, with only two reliable records of sightings in the 20th century. The greatest problems threatening the macaw population are the rapid rate of deforestation and the illegal trapping of birds for the bird trade.

Birds in captivity

Macaws eat nuts and fruit. They also gnaw and chew on various objects. They show a large amount of intelligence in their behaviour and require constant intellectual stimulation to satisfy their innate curiosity.

Bonding: Macaws have been said to live for up to 100 years; however, an average of 50 years is probably more accurate. The larger macaws may live up to 65 years. They are monogamous and mate for life. In captivity unmated macaws will bond primarily with one person – their keeper. Pet macaws thrive on frequent interaction, and a lack of this can lead to their mental and physical suffering.

Other sub-bondings also take place and most macaws that are subjected to non-aggressive behavior will trust most humans, and can be handled even by strangers if someone familiar is also alongside.

Captive pet macaws sometimes display difficult behavior, the most common being biting, screaming, and feather-plucking. Feather-plucking does not normally occur in the wild, strongly suggesting that it is the result of a neurosis related to life in captivity.

Most pet macaws had ancestors living in the wild just two or three generations ago, and are not truly domesticated by any reasonable definition. (This is unlike, for example, [dogs](#); some estimates put the domestication of [dogs](#) as far back as 40,000 years ago.)

All species of macaws have very powerful, large beaks and are capable of causing considerable harm to both children and adults. They tend to be extremely loud: their voices

are designed to carry over long distances. This makes macaws very demanding birds to keep as a household pet.

Hybrids

A common trend in recent years is hybridising macaws for the pet trade. Hybrids are typical macaws, with the only difference from true species being their genetics and their colors. They tend to have intermediate characteristics between the parents', though the appearance seems to be influenced more by the father's genes. As for their temperament and behaviour, they seem to inherit the best of both parents, assuming both parents are not aggressive. Common hybrids include Harlequins (*Ara ararauna* x *chloroptera*) and Catalinas (known as Rainbows in Australia, *A. ararauna* x *macao*).^[2]

References

1. ^ Forshaw, Joseph Michael (1973, 1981). *Parrots of the World*.
2. ^ [Macaws, Hybrid Names](#), and pages on individual hybrids
[ITIS 177653, 177659](#) as of 2002-07-15

Martlet

A **martlet** is a mythical [bird](#) often used in heraldry. A martlet looks similar to the [swallow](#), but has short tufts of feathers in the place of legs. ([Swifts](#) have such small legs that they were believed to have none at all.)

The inability of the martlet to land is often seen to symbolize the constant quest for knowledge and learning, as in the arms of McGill University and the University of Victoria (where the student newspaper is called The Martlet). It has been suggested that this same restlessness is the reason for the use of the martlet in English heraldry as the cadency mark of the fourth son: the first son inherited the estate, the second and third traditionally went into the Church and the Army, and the fourth had no well-defined place.

Centuries after his death, Edward the Confessor was assigned a coat of arms containing five golden martlets; Richard II of England combined this coat with the Plantagenet arms, and it later became the basis of the arms of Westminster Abbey and Westminster School.

The arms of the Valence earls of Pembroke were orled (bordered) with martlets, and subsequently these are also found in the arms of Pembroke College, Cambridge.

The shield of the county of Sussex, England contains six martlets, said to represent the six traditional rapes (administrative sub-divisions) of the county.

Source

A Complete Guide to Heraldry, Arthur Charles Fox Davies. Kessinger Publishing, 2004. ISBN 1417906308

Osprey

Conservation status **Least concern**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: **Pandionidae** Sclater & Salvin, 1873 Genus: ***Pandion*** Savigny, 1809 Species: ***P. haliaetus***

Binomial name: ***Pandion haliaetus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a medium large [raptor](#) which is a specialist fish-eater with a worldwide distribution. It occurs in all continents except Antarctica, but in South America only as a non-breeding [migrant](#). It is often known by other colloquial names such as **fishhawk**, **seahawk** or **Fish Eagle**.

An unusual bird with no close relatives, it is the only living species of the genus *Pandion*, which is in turn the only genus in the [bird](#) family Pandionidae.

[1 Description](#)

[2 Classification](#)

[2.1 Subspecies](#)

[2.2 Prehistoric species](#)

[3 Behaviour](#)

[3.1 Diet](#)

[3.2 Nesting](#)

[4 Conservation](#)

[5 Popular culture](#)

[6 References](#)

Description

The Osprey is 52-60 centimetres (20.5-23.6 in) long with a 152-167 cm (5-5.5 ft) wingspan. It has mainly white underparts and head, apart from a dark mask through the eye, and fairly uniformly brown upperparts. Its short tail and long, narrow wings with four long "finger" feathers (and a shorter fifth) give it a very distinctive appearance.

Juvenile birds are readily identified by the buff fringes to the upperpart plumage, buff tone to the underparts, and streaked crown. By spring, wear on the upperparts makes barring on the underwings and flight feathers a better indicator of young birds. Adult males can be distinguished from females from their slimmer bodies and narrower wings. They also have a weaker or non-existent breast band than the female, and more uniformly pale underwing coverts. It is straightforward to sex a breeding pair, but harder with individual birds.

In flight, Ospreys have arched wings and drooping "hands", giving them a diagnostic gull-like appearance. The call is a series of sharp whistles, *cheep, cheep*, or *yewk, yewk*. Near the nest, a frenzied *cheereek*!

Classification

The Osprey differs in several respects from the other diurnal birds of prey, and has always presented something of a riddle to taxonomists. Here it is treated as the sole member of the family **Pandionidae**, and the family listed in its traditional place as part of the order Falconiformes. Other schemes place it alongside the hawks and eagles in the family Accipitridae—which itself can be regarded as making up the bulk of the order Accipitriformes or else be lumped with the Falconidae into Falconiformes. The Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy has placed it together with the other diurnal raptors in a greatly enlarged Ciconiiformes, but this has more recently turned out to result in an unnatural paraphyletic classification.

Subspecies

There are four generally recognised subspecies, although differences are small, and ITIS only lists the first two.

P. h. haliaetus (Linnaeus, 1758) Eurasia

P. h. carolinensis (Gmelin, 1788), North America. This form has a paler breast than nominate *haliaetus*.

P. h. ridgwayi Maynard, 1887, Caribbean islands. This form has a very pale head and breast compared to nominate *haliaetus*, with only a weak eye mask. It is non-migratory.

P. h. cristatus (Vieillot, 1816), Australasia. The smallest subspecies, also non-migratory

Ospreys are unusual insofar as a single species occurs nearly worldwide. Even the few subspecies are not unequivocally separable. The reason is apparently that these birds are usually migratory, enabling individuals from populations which breed far apart to meet in the winter quarters, form pairs and thus exchange genetic information between populations. Furthermore, Ospreys are long-lived birds which take a considerable time to reach maturity, which slows down the rate of speciation.

Prehistoric species

There were several prehistoric species of osprey which have been described from [fossils](#):

Pandion sp. (Early Oligocene of Fayyum, Egypt)

Pandion homalopteron (Middle Miocene of California, USA)

Pandion lovensis (Late Miocene of Florida, USA)

Pandion sp. (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)

P. homalopteron was very similar to the living species and possibly even its direct ancestor. However, the biogeography of the fossil ospreys has not been researched well enough to suggest a place where the modern Osprey originated. The genus apparently first appeared in the Mediterranean region, but this is not certain.

Behaviour

Diet

The Osprey is particularly well adapted to its [fish](#) diet, with reversible outer toes, closable nostrils to keep out water during dives, and backwards facing scales on the talons which act as barbs to help hold its catch. It locates its prey from the air, often hovering prior to plunging feet-first into the water to seize a fish. As it rises back into flight the fish is turned head forward to reduce drag. The 'barbed' talons are such effective tools for grasping fish that, on occasion, an Osprey may be unable to release a fish that is heavier than expected. This can cause the Osprey to be pulled into the water, where it may either swim to safety or succumb to hypothermia and drown.

Nesting

The Osprey breeds by freshwater lakes, and sometimes on coastal brackish waters. The nest is a large heap of sticks built in trees, rocky outcrops, telephone poles or artificial platforms. In some regions with high Osprey densities, such as Chesapeake Bay, USA, most Ospreys do not start breeding until they are five to seven years old. Many of the tall structures they need to build nests on are already taken. If there are no nesting sites available, young Ospreys may be forced to delay breeding. To ease this problem, posts may be erected to provide more sites.

Ospreys usually mate for life. In spring they begin a five-month period of partnership to raise their young. Females lay 3–4 eggs within a month, and rely on the size of the nest to help conserve heat. The eggs are approximately the size of [chicken](#) eggs, and cinnamon colored; they are incubated for about 5 weeks to hatching.

The newly-hatched chicks weigh only 50-60 g (2 oz), but fledge within eight weeks. When food is scarce, the first chicks to hatch are most likely to survive. The typical lifespan is 20-25 years.

European breeders winter in Africa. American and Canadian breeders winter in South America, although some stay in the southernmost USA states such as Florida and California. Australasian Ospreys tend not to [migrate](#).

Conservation

Twenty to thirty years ago, Ospreys in some regions faced possible [extinction](#), because the species could not produce enough young to maintain the population. Since the banning of DDT in many countries in the early 1970s, together with reduced persecution, the Ospreys, as well as other affected [bird of prey](#) species have made significant recoveries.

Popular culture

The Osprey is the official bird of Nova Scotia in Canada and Sudermannia in Sweden. It is the official mascot and team name for the University of North Florida and the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The bird was depicted on the 1986 series Canadian \$10 note. The Osprey is also the mascot of the Christian Falangist Party of America

References

BirdLife International (2004). [*Pandion haliaetus*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 12 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern
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Mullarney, Svensson, Zetterstrom and Grant, *Collins Bird Guide* ISBN 0-00-219728-6

Partridge

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Galliformes
 Family: [Phasianidae](#)†
 Genera: *Perdix* , *Alectoris* , *Lerwa* , *Bambusicola* , *Ptilopachus* , *Rollulus* , *Haematortyx* , *Caloperdix* , *Arborophila* , *Xenoperdix* , *Melanoperdix*

†See also [Pheasant](#)

Partridges are [birds](#) in the [pheasant](#) family, [Phasianidae](#). They are a [non-migratory](#) Old World group.

These are medium-sized birds intermediate between the large pheasants and the small quails. The partridges are ground-nesting seed-eaters. Many species are hunted for sport or food as game.

Species list

Genus *Lerwa*

Snow Partridge, *Lerwa lerwa*

Genus *Alectoris*

Arabian Partridge, *Alectoris melanocephala*

Przevalski's Partridge, *Alectoris magna*

Rock Partridge, *Alectoris graeca*

Chukar, *Alectoris chukar* (National bird of Pakistan)

Philby's Partridge, *Alectoris philbyi*

Barbary Partridge, *Alectoris barbara*

Red-legged Partridge, *Alectoris rufa*

Genus *Ammoperdix*

See-see Partridge, *Ammoperdix griseogularis*

Sand Partridge, *Ammoperdix heyi*

Genus *Perdix*

Grey Partridge, *Perdix perdix*

Daurian Partridge, *Perdix dauurica*

Tibetan Partridge, *Perdix hodgsoniae*

Genus *Rhizothera*

Long-billed Partridge, *Rhizothera longirostris*

Genus *Margaroperdix*

Madagascar Partridge, *Margaroperdix madagascarensis*

Genus *Melanoperdix*

Black Wood-partridge, *Melanoperdix nigra*

Genus *Xenoperdix*

Rubeho Forest Partridge, *Xenoperdix obscuratus*

Udzungwa Forest Partridge, *Xenoperdix udzungwensis*

Genus *Arborophila*, the hill partridges

Common Hill Partridge, *Arborophila torqueola*

Sichuan Hill Partridge, *Arborophila rufipectus*

Chestnut-breasted Hill Partridge, *Arborophila mandellii*

Collared Hill Partridge, *Arborophila gingica*

Rufous-throated Hill Partridge, *Arborophila rufogularis*

White-cheeked Hill Partridge, *Arborophila atrogularis*

Taiwan Hill Partridge, *Arborophila crudigularis*

Hainan Hill Partridge, *Arborophila ardens*

Chestnut-bellied Partridge, *Arborophila javanica*

Grey-breasted Hill Partridge, *Arborophila orientalis*

Brown-breasted Hill Partridge, *Arborophila brunneopectus*

Orange-necked Hill Partridge, *Arborophila davidi*

Chestnut-headed Hill Partridge, *Arborophila cambodiana*

Bornean Hill Partridge, *Arborophila hyperythra*

Red-billed Hill Partridge, *Arborophila rubrirostris*

Green-legged Hill Partridge, *Arborophila chloropus*

Annam Hill Partridge, *Arborophila merlini*

Chestnut-necklaced Hill Partridge, *Arborophila charltonii*

Genus *Caloperdix*

Ferruginous Wood Partridge, *Caloperdix oculatea*

Genus *Haematortyx*

Crimson-headed Partridge, *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*

Genus *Rollulus*

Crested Wood Partridge, *Rollulus roulroul*

Genus *Ptilopachus*

Stone Partridge, *Ptilopachus petrosus*

Genus *Bambusicola*

Mountain Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola fytchii*

Chinese Bamboo Partridge, *Bambusicola thoracica*

The partridge in culture

The partridge is also the subject of a popular English [Christmas](#) song, the [Twelve Days of Christmas](#).

The Sanskrit term ***Kapinjala***, rendered as "francoline partridge" or "heathcock" by translators, appears as a mythical bird in the Rigveda (RV 2.42, 43) and is identified as an aspect of Indra.

Peafowl

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Galliformes
Family: [Phasianidae](#)
Genus: ***Pavo*** Linnaeus, 1758, ***Afropavo*** Chapin, 1936
Species: *Pavo cristatus*, *Pavo muticus*, *Afropavo congolensis*

The term **peafowl** can refer to any of three [species](#) of [bird](#) in the [genera](#) ***Pavo*** and ***Afropavo*** of the [pheasant family](#), [Phasianidae](#). They are most notable for the male's extravagant tail, which it displays as part of courtship. The male is called a **peacock**, the female a **peahen**. Although commonly used, **peacock** is an incorrect term to refer to both sexes.

The three species are:

Indian Peafowl, *Pavo cristatus* (Asiatic)
Green Peafowl, *Pavo muticus* (Asiatic)
Congo Peafowl, *Afropavo congolensis* (African)

- [1 Overview](#)
- [2 Taxonomy](#)
- [3 Food](#)
- [4 Habitat](#)
- [5 Plumage](#)
- [6 Behaviour](#)
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Overview

The Asiatic peafowl genus *Pavo* includes the familiar **Indian Peafowl** or **Indian Blue Peafowl** (*Pavo cristatus*) and the much rarer **Green Peafowl** or **Dragonbird** (*Pavo muticus*).

The **Congo Peafowl** is found in parts of Central Africa.

The **Green Peafowl** breeds from Myanmar east to Java. The IUCN lists the Green Peafowl as vulnerable to extinction due to hunting and a reduction in extent and quality of habitat.

Taxonomy

The two *Pavo* species will hybridize in captivity although their ranges in the wild are non-overlapping.

Some taxonomists believe that the endangered Green Peafowl is actually a complex of five distinct species although they are currently treated as one species with three subspecies [\[1\]](#).

The Congo species has many differences from the *Pavo* peafowl, but they are nevertheless its closest relatives.

Food

Peafowl are omnivorous and consume plant parts, flower petals, seed heads, insects, and other arthropods, as well as reptiles and amphibians.

Although possessing metatarsal spurs—"thorns" used for kicking, they are used only for defence against predators.

Habitat

Asiatic peafowl like the Indian Blue Peafowl and especially the Green Peafowl occupy a similar niche as the roadrunners, Secretary Bird, and Seriema. All of these birds hunt for small animals, minnows, and arthropods on the ground, in shallow streams and frequently in tall grass habitats. Small snakes and other reptiles are the preferred diet of wild peafowl.

Peafowl inhabit tropical savannah and riparian forests where they hunt for small animals in close social units of related birds that may span many generations.

Plumage

The male (peacock) has beautiful iridescent blue-green or green coloured plumage. The so-called "tail" of the peacock, also termed the "train," is in fact not the true tail but highly elongated upper tail coverts. The train feathers have a series of eyes that are best seen when the tail is fanned. Both species have a head crest.

The female (peahen) has a mixture of dull green, brown, and grey in her plumage. She lacks the long tail of the male but has a crest.

Females can also display their plumage to ward off danger to her young or other female competition.

Many of the brilliant colors of the peacock plumage are due to an optical interference phenomenon (Bragg reflection) based on (nearly) periodic nanostructures found in the barbules (fiber-like components) of the feathers.

Different colours correspond to different length scales of the periodic structures. For brown feathers, a mixture of red and blue is required—one color is created by the periodic structure, while the other is created by a Fabry-Perot interference peak from reflections off the outermost and innermost boundaries of the periodic structure.

Such interference-based *structural color* is especially important in producing the peacock's iridescent hues (which shimmer and change with viewing angle), since interference effects depend upon the angle of light, unlike chemical pigments.

Behaviour

The peafowl are forest birds that nest on the ground. The *Pavo* peafowl are terrestrial feeders but roost in trees. They are weak fliers.

Peafowl are considered to be polygamous. However in captivity, Green Peafowl and African Peafowl are monogamous, with males assisting in nest defense, chick rearing, and chick brooding. The male's bond with offspring may extend indefinitely. First-year chicks that have been weaned by their mothers generally join their father's social unit to forage and rest.

In Green Peafowl, it is impossible to distinguish juvenile and subadult green peafowls from their mothers and hence their polygynous nature is hard to establish. There is some anecdotal evidence suggesting that Green Peafowl may have very complex social lives that may include the adoption of one and two year old juveniles by their three and four year old sub-adult siblings.

Peafowl are unusual amongst the Galliformes in their capacity for sustained flight. All known genera of the peafowl family exhibit complex flight displays.

Each race of the Green Peafowl has its own respective wing shape and flight display behavior. Green Peafowls in Java are often observed flying out to sea where the birds gather on islets some miles from shore.

African Peafowl have unusually large wings in relation to their weight. The wings have a highly unusual shape as well. The African Peafowl or *Afropavo* wing is prominently marked in both sexes in striking patterns and colours.

All known species of peafowl perch on emergent trees that stand above the canopy. Chicks of Indian Peafowl are sometimes carried on the backs of the parent birds as they fly into the security of a tree to roost.

Courtship

Although peafowl are capable of reproducing at the age of 2, peacocks do not reach full maturity until one year later. At the age of 2, the feathers are not fully developed in length and density. While peacocks at that age are physiologically able to mate with peahens, they have very little chance of competing with older peacocks with larger feathers. At the age of 3, peacocks' feathers reach maximum length for their lives, aside from the new feathers that grow after they molt in the late summer.

Mating season starts in the early Spring and ends in the early Autumn. The peacock's courtship rituals include the display of its startling plumage and a loud call. Recent studies have shown that both the frequency and quality of sexual plumage displays by males are reliable indicators of the health status of an individual.

In the media

The US National Broadcasting Company (NBC) has used three variations of the rainbow peacock as its logo since 1956.

See also

References

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- Loyau, A., Saint Jalme, M., and Cagniant, C. (2005-05-03). "[Multiple sexual advertisements honestly reflect health status in peacocks \(*Pavo cristatus*\)](#)". *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* **58** (6): 552-557. ISSN 0340-5443 (Print); ISSN 1432-0762 (Online). Retrieved on 2006-09-27

Pelican

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: **Pelecanidae** Rafinesque, 1815 Genus: ***Pelecanus*** Linnaeus, 1758 Species: *Pelecanus occidentalis*, *Pelecanus thagus*, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Pelecanus rufescens*, *Pelecanus philippensis*, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

A **pelican** is any of several very large water [birds](#) with a distinctive pouch under the beak belonging to the [bird family](#) **Pelecanidae**. Along with the [darters](#), cormorants, gannets, boobies, frigatebirds, and tropicbirds, it makes up the order Pelecaniformes. Like other birds in that group, pelicans have all four toes webbed (they are totipalmate). Modern pelicans are found on all continents except Antarctica. They are birds of inland and coastal waters and are absent from polar regions, the deep ocean, oceanic islands, and inland South America.

Pelicans can grow to a wingspan of three meters and weigh 13 kilograms, males being a little larger than females and having a longer bill.

Pelicans have two primary ways of feeding:

Group fishing: used by white pelicans all over the world. They will form a line to chase schools of small fish into shallow water, and then simply scoop them up. Large fish are caught with the bill-tip, then tossed up in the air to be caught and slid into the gullet head first.

Plunge-diving: used almost exclusively by the American Brown Pelican, and rarely by white pelicans like the Peruvian Pelican or the Australian Pelican.

Rarely, pelicans will consume animals other than fish. In one documented case, a pelican swallowed a live [pigeon](#).^{[1] [2]}

Pelicans are gregarious and nest colonially, the male bringing the material, the female heaping it up to form a simple structure. Pairs are monogamous for a single season but the pair bond extends only to the nesting area; mates are independent away from the nest.

[1 Symbolism](#)

[2 Systematics](#)

[2.1 Species](#)

[3 References](#)

Symbolism

In medieval Europe, the pelican was thought to be particularly attentive to her young, to the point of providing her own blood when no other food was available. As a result, the pelican became a symbol of the Passion of Jesus and of the Eucharist. It also became a symbol in bestiaries for self-sacrifice, and was used in heraldry ("a pelican in her piety" or "a pelican vulning (wounding) herself"). Another version of this is that the Pelican used to kill its young and then resurrect them with its blood, this being analogous to the sacrifice of Jesus. Thus

the symbol of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) is a pelican, and for most of its existence the headquarters of the service was located at Pelican House in Dublin, Ireland.

For example, the emblems of both Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and Corpus Christi College, Oxford are pelicans, showing its use as a medieval Christian symbol {'Corpus Christi' - 'body of Christ'}.

This legend may have arisen because the pelican used to suffer from a disease that left a red mark on its chest. Alternatively it may be that pelicans look as if they are doing that as they often press their bill into their chest to fully empty their pouch.

The symbol is used today on the Louisiana state flag and Louisiana state seal, as the Brown pelican is the Louisiana state bird.

Systematics

Species

From the [fossil](#) record, it is known that pelicans have been around for over 40 million years. Prehistoric [genera](#) have been named *Protopelicanus* and *Miopelecanus*.

A number of [fossil](#) species are also known from the extant genus *Pelecanus*:

Pelecanus alieus (Late Pliocene of Idaho, USA)

Pelecanus cadimurka

Pelecanus cauleyi

Pelecanus gracilis

Pelecanus halieus

Pelecanus intermedius

Pelecanus odessanus

Pelecanus schreiberi

Pelecanus sivalensis

Pelecanus tirarensis

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^ "[Pelican swallows pigeon in park](#)", BBC News, 25 October 2006. Retrieved on 2006-10-25.

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Pheasant

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Galliformes
 Family: [Phasianidae](#)†
 Genera: *Ithaginis*, *Catreus*, *Rheinartia*, *Crossoptilon*, *Lophura*, *Argusianus*, *Pucrasia*, *Syrnaticus*, *Chrysolophus*, *Phasianus*
 † See also [partridge](#)

Pheasants are a group of large [birds](#) in the [order](#) Galliformes. In many countries they are hunted as game.

Pheasant are characterised by strong sexual dimorphism, with males being highly ornate with bright colours and adornments such as wattles and long tails. They are usually larger than the females. Males play no part in rearing the young.

There are 35 [species](#) of pheasant in 11 different [genera](#). The best-known is the Ringnecked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus torquatus*) which is widespread throughout the world in introduced feral populations and in farm operations. Various other pheasant species are popular in aviaries, such as the Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*).

Species in taxonomic order

This list is ordered to show relationships between species

Blood Pheasant (genus *Ithaginis*)
 Blood Pheasant, (*I. cruentus*)
 Koklass (genus *Pucrasia*)
 Koklass Pheasant, (*P. macrolopha*)
 Gallopheasants (genus *Lophura*)
 Kalij Pheasant, (*L. leucomelanos*)
 White-crested Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. hamiltoni*)
 Nepal Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. leucomelanos*)
 Black-backed Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. melanota*)
 Black Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. moffitti*)
 Black-breasted Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. lathami*)
 William's Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. williamsi*)
 Oates' Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. oatesi*)
 Crawford's Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. crawfurdi*)
 Lineated Kalij Pheasant, (*L. l. lineata*)
 Silver Pheasant, (*L. nycthemera*)
 (*L. n. nycthemera*)
 (*L. n. lewisi*)
 (*L. n. annamensis*)
 (*L. n. engelbachi*)
 (*L. n. beli*)

(*L. n. berliozi*)
 (*L. n. rufripes*)
 (*L. n. ripponi*)
 (*L. n. occidentalis*)
 (*L. n. beaulieui*)
 (*L. n. fokiensis*)
 (*L. n. whiteheadi*)
 (*L. n. omeiensis*)
 (*L. n. rongjiangensis*)
 Imperial Pheasant, (*L. imperialis*)
 Edward's Pheasant, (*L. edwardsi*)
 Swinhoe Pheasant, (*L. swinhoii*)
 Salvadori's Pheasant, (*L. inornata*)
 Crestless Fireback Pheasant, (*L. erythrophthalma*)
 Malayan Crestless Fireback, (*L. e. erythrophthalma*)
 Bornean Crestless Fireback, (*L. e. pyronota*)
 Crested Fireback Pheasant, (*L. ignita*)
 Lesser Bornean Crested Fireback, (*L. i. ignita*)
 Greater Bornean Crested Fireback, (*L. i. nobilis*)
 Vieillot's Crested Fireback, (*L. i. rufa*)
 Delacour's Crested Fireback, (*L. i. macartneyi*)
 Siamese Fireback, (*L. diardi*)
 Bulwer's Wattled Pheasant, (*L. bulweri*)
 Eared Pheasants (genus *Crossoptilon*)
 White-eared Pheasant, (*C. crossoptilon*)
 Brown Eared Pheasant, (*C. mantchuricum*)
 Blue Eared Pheasant, (*C. auritum*)
 Cheer (genus *Catreus*)
 Cheer Pheasant, (*C. wallichii*)
 Long-tailed Pheasants (genus *Syrmaticus*)
 Reeve's Pheasant, (*S. reevesi*)
 Elliot's Pheasant, (*S. ellioti*)
 Bar-tailed Pheasant, (*S. humiae*)
 Mikado Pheasant, (*S. mikado*)
 Copper Pheasant, (*S. soemmerringi*)
 True Pheasants (genus *Phasianus*)
 Green Pheasant (*P. versicolor*)
 Common Pheasant, (*P. colchicus*)
 Pheasant (*P.c. colchicus*)
 Ringnecked Pheasant (*P.c. torquatus*)
 Ruffed Pheasants (genus *Chrysolophus*)
 Golden Pheasant, (*C. pictus*)
 Lady Amherst's Pheasant, (*C. amherstiae*)
 Peacock Pheasants (genus *Polyplectron*)

Bronze-tailed Peacock Pheasant, (*P. chalcureum*)
Mountain Peacock Pheasant, (*P. inopinatum*)
Germain's Peacock Pheasant, (*P. germaini*)
Grey Peacock Pheasant (*P. bicalcaratum*)
Malaysian Peacock Pheasant, (*P. malacense*)
Bornean Peacock Pheasant, (*P. schleiermacheri*)
Palawan Peacock Pheasant, (*P. emphanum*)
Crested Argus (genus *Rheinartia*)
Crested Argus Pheasant, (*R. ocellata*)
Great Argus (genus *Argusianus*)
Great Argus Pheasant, (*A. argus*)

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Puffin

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: [Alcidae](#)

Genus: ***Fratercula*** Brisson, 1760 Species: *Fratercula arctica* , *Fratercula corniculata* , *Fratercula cirrhata*

For prehistoric species, see article text.

The common name **puffin** describes any of three [auk](#) species (or **alcids**) in the [bird](#) genus *Fratercula* (Latin: *little brother* - probably a reference to their black and white plumage which resembles monastic robes) with a brightly colored beak in the breeding season. These are pelagic [seabirds](#) that feed primarily by diving. They breed in large colonies on coastal cliffs or offshore islands, nesting in crevices among rocks or in burrows in the soil.

Puffins are chunky birds with large bills. They shed the colourful outer parts of their bills after the mating season, leaving a smaller and duller beak. Their short wings are adapted for flying under water. In the air, they beat their wings rapidly (up to 100 times per minute) in swift flight, often flying low over the ocean's surface.

Breeding

The male Atlantic Puffin builds the nest and exhibits strong nest site fidelity. Both sexes of the Horned Puffin help to construct their nest. The burrows of the Atlantic and Horned Puffin are usually only about 1 metre (3 feet) deep, ending in a chamber, but the tunnel leading to a Tufted Puffin burrow may be up to 2.75 metres (9 feet) in length. The Atlantic Puffin burrow is usually lined with material such as grass, leaves and feathers but is occasionally unlined. The eggs of the Atlantic Puffin are creamy white but can be occasionally tinged in lilac.

Unlike many animals, puffins form long-term pair bonds. The female lays a single egg, and both parents incubate the egg and feed the chick. The incubating parent holds the egg against their brood patch with their wings. The chicks fledge at night. After fledging, the chicks spend the first few years of their lives at sea, returning to breed after three to six years.

Like many auks, puffins eat both [fish](#) and zooplankton, but feed their chicks primarily with small marine fish. The puffins are distinct in their ability to hold several (sometimes over a dozen) small fishes at a time, crosswise in their bill. This allows them to take longer foraging trips, since they can come back with more energy for their chick than a bird that can only carry one fish at a time.

Species

Three species are recognized today:

Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*

Horned Puffin, *Fratercula corniculata*

Tufted Puffin, *Fratercula cirrhata*

The genus *Fratercula* probably evolved in the northern Pacific, like most lineages of auks. However, at least 2 undescribed prehistoric species are known to have occurred in the western Atlantic comparatively soon after the genus' emergence:

Fratercula sp. 1 (Yorktown Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)

Fratercula sp. 2 (Yorktown Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)

Another extinct species, Dow's Puffin (*Fratercula dowi*) was found on the Channel Islands of California until the Late Pleistocene or Early Holocene. It is possible that it became extinct due to overhunting and egg-collecting by early human settlers.

Rooster

A **rooster** is a male [chicken](#), the female being a [hen](#). A young cock is called a **rooster** or a **cockerel**. The term "rooster" is reputedly so used because the cock is said to roost over clutches of [eggs](#) to guard them. In fact, "roosting" is the action of perching aloft to sleep at night, and is done by both sexes. The cock is non-monogamous, and cannot guard several nests of eggs at once. He guards the general area where his hens are nesting, and will attack other roosters who enter his territory. During the daytime, he often sits on a high perch, usually 4-5 feet off the ground, to serve as a lookout for his flock. He will sound a distinctive alarm call if predators are nearby.

[1 Name](#)

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Name

"Cock" is the original name for the male and is still in use in parts of the English-speaking world, but has largely been dropped in North America and Australia in favor of "rooster." According to H. L. Mencken's *The American Language*, the euphemism "rooster" took precedence over "cock" in the United States during the Victorian era (and parts of the bird were similarly renamed, such as the "drumstick" for "leg") to avoid ostensibly sexually provocative language ("cock" is a coarse slang term for the penis). However, the term "cocky", an American slang adjective meaning "arrogant", and which is derived from the "proud" strutting walk of the bird, is still considered acceptable in polite conversation.

Male [Pheasants](#) are often called Roosters as well.

Crowing

The cock is often pictured in art as crowing at the break of dawn, and this is accurate. He can often be seen sitting on fence posts or other objects, where he crows to proclaim his territory. However, he will also crow during the rest of the day, and even sometimes on a bright moonlit night. He has several other calls as well, and can cluck the same as a hen.

The sound made by the cock is spelt (onomatopoeia) as "cock-a-doodle-doo" in English, but otherwise in some other languages, such as: Arabic kookookoo-koo, Bulgarian :C:C@83C (kukurigu) ,Catalan Co-co-ro-co, Chinese goh-geh-goh-goh, Danish kykeliky, Dutch kukeleku,

Esperanto kokeriko, Finnish kukkokiekuu, French cocorico, German kikeriki, Greek kikiriku, Hebrew ku-ku-ri-ku, Indonesian kukuruyuk, Italian chicchirichi`, Japanese ko-ke kokkoh, Korean k'ok'iyō, Lithuanian ka-ka-rie-ku, Latvian ki-ke-ri-gk, Norwegian kykkeliky, Polish kukuryku, Portuguese Co'co'ro'co'co', Romanian cucurigu, Russian ku-ka-rye-ku, Sanskrit >, Serbian ku-ku-ri-ku, Slovak kikiriki', Spanish qui-qui-ri-qui', Swahili KokoRikoo koo, Swedish kuckeliku, Gujarati kuk-de-kuk, Tamil ko-ka-ra-ko, Thai yeki-yeki-yek, Czech kykyriki', Turkish üü-ürü-üüü and in Urdu kuk-roo-koon or kuk-roo-kroon.

Cultural references

The Talmud refers to learning "courtesy from the rooster" (erubin 100b). This reference may be attributed to the behaviour of a cock when he finds something good to eat: he calls his flock to eat first. This call is distinctive from regular clucking or crowing. While giving this call, he will repeatedly pick up a morsel of food and drop it again to attract the attention of the hens. A mother hen uses a similar call and action to teach her chicks to feed.

At another place in the Talmud (êÛþŒÓ ÑÑÜÙ þáÛê ÑÛæÔ Óã Ö âþŒÓ Ð) it is said about the rooster: "[...] Everything that fulfills its task at daytime, is born at daytime - this is the rooster". ...

And again at another place in the Talmud (êÛþŒÓ ÑÑÜÙ þáÛê ÑèÛŒê Óã Ö âþŒÓ Ð) the rooster is seen as an indicator of the short moment in the day where God could be angry and would permit the cursing of a person by another: "[...] And when is he [God] angry? - Abaye says: In [one moment of] those first three hours of the day, when the comb of the cock is white and it stands on one foot. Why, in each hour it stands thus? - In each hour it has red streaks, but in this moment it has no red streaks at all. (However, this does not seem to apply to actual biology, because a cock's comb does not change color in the morning. It might be a literary hyperbole intended to say that God does not permit cursing others, since the moment described does not actually exist. And indeed, this next story supports that view):

In the neighbourhood of R. Joshua b. Levi there was a Sadducee who used to annoy him very much with [his interpretation of] texts. One day the Rabbi took a cock, placed it between the legs of his bed and watched it. He thought: When this moment arrives I shall curse him. When the moment arrived he was dozing. [On waking up] he said: We learn from this that it is not proper to act in such a way. ..." (The translation here is taken from the Soncino edition of the Babylonian Talmud)

Also the Greek philosopher Socrates has an interesting connection to a rooster: After he has already drunken the poison in his cell in Athens (at the end of the Platonic Dialogue Phaidon) his last words are: "O Kriton, we still owe a rooster to Asclepius".

Capons

A **capon** is a castrated rooster. In this procedure the testes of the cock are completely removed; a surgical procedure is required for this as its sexual organs are not external (most

birds, the cock included, do not possess a penis). As a result of this procedure certain male physical characteristics will develop, but stunted:

The comb and wattles cease growing after castration, so the head of a capon looks small.

The hackle, tail and saddle [feathers](#) grow unusually long.

Caponization also affects the disposition of the bird. Removal of the bird's testes eliminates the male sex hormones, lessening the male sex instincts changing their behaviour: the birds become more docile and less active and tend not to fight.

This procedure produces a unique type of poultry meat which is favoured by a specialised market. The meat of normal uncastrated cocks has a tendency to become coarse, stringy and tough as the birds age. This process does not exist in the capon. As caponized cocks grow slower than entire males they accumulate more body fat; the concentration of fat in both the light and dark areas of the capon meat is greater than in that of the uncastrated males; overall, it is often thought that capon meat is more tender, juicier and more flavorful than regular chicken.

Cocks as domestic pets

While it is not as common in cities as in small towns or farms, some people do keep domestic cocks. It's debatable whether or not this kind of environment is adequate for these birds. However, cocks are common in Hawaii. Some general tips for raising and keeping the well being of domestic cocks include:

Giving them a wide and open area to live and walk about, allowing them plenty of space to "roost"

At night, keep them in a simple but comfortable structure or bed, allowing them space to crow at dawn.

Try to keep their sleeping space dark. Cocks usually crow at the first sight of light, which could be annoying to neighbours.

Feed them cracked corn, sold at any live [poultry](#) house.

Clean their living space frequently.

Prevent interaction between cocks whenever possible.

Symbol of France

The cock is a national symbol of France and is used as an (unofficial) national mascot, in particular for sports teams (such as [football \(soccer\)](#) and rugby union). Its origin appears to be from the play on words between the Latin name for the bird (Gallus gallus) and Gaul (Gallia), the Roman name for most of what is now France. A rooster was chosen to be the mascot of the 1998 [FIFA World Cup](#).

Cockfight

A cockfight is a contest held in a ring called a cockpit between two gamecocks. Gamecocks are not typical farm chickens. The roosters are specially bred and trained for increased stamina and strength. The comb and wattle is cut off of a young gamecock because if left intact, it would be a disadvantage during a match. Sometimes they are given drugs to increase their stamina or thicken their blood, which increases their chances of winning. They possess an inherent aggression toward all males of the same species, and do not have to be trained to fight. It is a natural instinct and they will fight to the death with no training. Some people refer to *conditioning* as "training" and this has caused much confusion. **Conditioning** is giving an especially healthy diet and strengthening exercises to the gamecock before a contest. Cockfighting is considered a traditional [sporting event](#) by some, and an example of animal cruelty by others. Usually wagers are made on the outcome of the match, with the surviving or last-bird-standing being declared the winner.

Sources

P. Smith, *The Chicken Book* (North Point Press, 1982), passim.

Secretary Bird

Conservation status **Least concern**^[1]

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Falconiformes

Family: **Sagittariidae** R. Grandori & L. Grandori, 1935 Genus: ***Sagittarius*** Hermann, 1783 Species: ***S. serpentarius***

Binomial name: ***Sagittarius serpentarius*** (J. F. Miller, 1779)

The **Secretary Bird**, *Sagittarius serpentarius*, is an extraordinary [bird of prey](#). Endemic to Africa, this mostly terrestrial bird is usually found in the open grasslands and savannas of the sub-Sahara.[2] It is a large bird of prey in the order Falconiformes, which also includes many other diurnal [raptors](#) such as [kites](#), buzzards, [vultures](#), and [harriers](#), but it is so distinctive that it is given its own family, Sagittariidae. The Secretary Bird enjoys a certain fame in Africa, specifically Sudan and South Africa, where it serves as a prominent Emblem on both countries' Coat of Arms.

[1 General Appearance](#)

[2 Evolution](#)

[3 Habitat](#)

[4 Diet](#)

[5 Reproductive Strategies](#)

[6 Rearing of Young](#)

[7 Threats](#)

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General Appearance

The Secretary Bird is instantly recognizable as having an eagle-like body on crane-like legs which increases the bird's height to around 1.3 m (four feet) tall. This 140 cm long [bird](#) has an eagle-like head with a hooked bill, but has rounded wings.^[3] From a distance or in flight it resembles a crane more than a bird of prey. The tail has two elongated central feathers that extend beyond the feet during flight, as well as long flat plumage creating a posterior crest.[4] It likely gets its English name from its crest of long [feathers](#) which make it appear to be carrying quill pens behind its ears, as secretaries once did. A more recent hypothesis is that this is a French corruption of the Arabic *saqr-et-tair* or "hunter-bird."^[5]

The genus name, *Sagittarius* refers to the same feature, but in this case likened to an archer's arrows. *Serpentarius* reflects the fact that this is a specialist predator of snakes. Secretary Bird flight feathers and thighs are black, while most of the coverts are grey with some being white.^[6] Sexes look alike, although the male has longer head plumes and tail feathers. Adults have a featherless red face as opposed to the yellow colored facial skin in young.^[7]

Evolution

Recent cladistic analysis has shown Sagittaridae to be an older group than [Accipitridae](#) and [Falconidae](#), but a younger divergence than Cathartidae.^[8] Studies are still being conducted due to the peculiarity of the single species group and recent molecular biology techniques in taxonomic organization.

Habitat

Secretary Birds are endemic to sub-Saharan Africa and are [non-migratory](#) (although they may follow food sources).^[9] Their range is from Senegal to Somalia and south to the Cape of Good Hope.^[10] These birds are also found at a variety of elevations, from the coastal plains to the highlands. Secretary Birds prefer open grasslands and savannahs rather than forests and dense shrubbery which may impede their cursorial existence. While the birds roost on the local Acacia trees at night, they spend much of the day on the ground, returning to roosting sites just before dark.^[11]

Diet

The Secretary Bird is largely terrestrial, hunting its prey on foot, and besides the caracaras (such as *Polyborus plancus*) is the only bird of prey to do so habitually. Adults hunt in pairs and sometimes as loose familial flocks, stalking through the habitat with long strides.^[12] Prey consists of insects, small mammals, lizards, snakes, young birds, bird eggs, and sometimes dead animals killed in brush fires. Larger herbivores are not hunted, although there are some reports of Secretary Birds killing young gazelles.^[13]

Young are fed liquified and regurgitated insects directly by the male or female parent and are eventually weaned to small mammals and reptile fragments regurgitated onto the nest itself. The above foodstuffs are originally stored in the crop of the adults.^[14]

Secretary Birds have two distinct feeding strategies that are both executed on land. They can either catch prey by chasing it and striking with the bill or stomping on prey until it is rendered stunned or unconscious enough to swallow.^[15] Studies of this latter strategy have helped construct the possible feeding mechanisms employed by dinosaur-like terror birds that once walked the earth five million years ago.^[16]

Reproductive Strategies

Secretary Birds associate in monogamous pairs. During courtship, they exhibit a nuptial display by soaring high with undulating flight patterns and calling with guttural croaking. Males and females can also perform a grounded display by chasing each other with their

wings up and back, much like the way they chase prey. They usually mate on the ground, although some do so in *Acacia* trees.

Rearing of Young

Nests are built on top of *Acacia* trees, and are usually 5-7 m (15-20 feet) high. Both the male and female visit the nest site for almost half a year before egg laying takes place. The nest is around 2.5 m (eight feet) wide and 30 cm (one foot) deep, and is constructed as a relatively flat basin of sticks.

Secretary birds lay two to three oval, pale-green eggs over the course of two to three days, although the third egg is most often unfertilized. These eggs are incubated primarily by the female for 45 days until they hatch. The Secretary Birds are facultatively fratricidal.^[17]

The downy young can feed autonomously after 40 days, although the parents still feed the young after that time. At 60 days, the young start to flap their wings, and by day 65-80 are able to fledge. Fledging is accomplished by jumping out of the nest or using a semi-controlled fall via fervent wing flapping to the ground. After this time, the young are quickly taught how to hunt through expeditions with their parents and are considered independent soon after.^[18]

Threats

Young are predated by crows and [kites](#) as they are vulnerable in *Acacia* tree tops.^[19] As a population, the Secretary Bird is mainly threatened by loss of habitat and deforestation.^[20] In 1968 the species became protected under the Africa Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.^[21]

Cultural significance

The Secretary Bird is the national emblem of Sudan as well as a prominent feature on the Coat of Arms of South Africa. In Sudan, It is featured in the middle white strip of the Presidential Flag, as well as being the main object on the Presidential seal and featuring heavily in Sudanese military insignia. The Secretary Bird on the Presidential Flag and Seal has its head turned to the right, with its distinctive crest clearly visible and its wings spread out with a white banner between its outstretched wings reading 'Victory is Ours' - available at [1].

In South Africa, the Secretary Bird, while not the official bird of South Africa, is featured as a symbol on the national coat of arms, represents vigilance and military might, as well as the rise and pride of modern South Africa. [\[2\]](#)

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Snipe

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Charadriiformes
Family: [Scolopacidae](#)
Genera: *Coenocorypha* , *Gallinago* , *Lymnocyptes*

A **Snipe** is any of 18 very similar [wading](#) bird species characterised by a very long slender bill and cryptic [plumage](#).

They search for invertebrates in the mud with a "sewing-machine" action of their long bills.

Most have distinctive displays, usually given at dawn or dusk.

There are two southern snipe species in the genus *Coenocorypha*, 15 typical snipes in the genus *Gallinago* and the very small Jack Snipe, *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

Some snipe species have been hunted for food and sport since the invention of the shotgun. They can be extremely difficult targets, confounding even very skilled hunters with their erratic flight, their unexpected flushes, their excellent natural camouflage and the treacherous and difficult terrain they typically inhabit.

The elusive nature of the snipe is well-known among hunters. In the days of market hunting, the most skilled hunters of all would often bring many Common Snipe to market earning the moniker "sniper" as a badge of respect for the difficulty in shooting this amazing little bird. The term has evolved into the modern usage sniper, referring to a skilled antipersonnel sharpshooter. In addition, the often-unsuccessful nature of a snipe hunt lead to the [practical joke](#) of the same name.

Species are:

Chatham Snipe, *Coenocorypha pusilla*
Subantarctic Snipe, *Coenocorypha aucklandica*
Campbell Island Snipe, *Coenocorypha* sp.
Jack Snipe, *Lymnocyptes minimus*
Solitary Snipe, *Gallinago solitaria*
Latham's Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii*
Wood Snipe, *Gallinago nemoricola*
Pintail Snipe, *Gallinago stenura*
Swinhoe's Snipe, *Gallinago megala*
African Snipe, *Gallinago nigripennis*
Madagascar Snipe, *Gallinago macrodactyla*
Great Snipe, *Gallinago media*
Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*
The American race, *G. g. delicata* is sometimes considered a separate species, Wilson's Snipe.
South American Snipe, *Gallinago paraguaiae*
Noble Snipe, *Gallinago nobilis*
Giant Snipe, *Gallinago undulata*

Fuegian Snipe, *Gallinago stricklandii*
Andean Snipe, *Gallinago jamesoni*
Imperial Snipe, *Gallinago imperialis*

Spotted Eagle Owl

Conservation status Least concern

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Strigiformes

Family: Strigidae

Genus: *Bubo*

Species: ***B. africanus***

Binomial name: ***Bubo africanus*** Temminck, 1821

Spotted Eagle Owl (*Bubo africanus*) is a species of the Horned owls. It is a medium sized owl and one of the smallest of the Eagle owls. Its height is forty-five cm (18 inch) and its weight is from 480 to 850g (1 to 1.8 pounds). They have a 33cm (13 in) wing span. The facial disk is off white to a pale ochre and the eyes are yellow. They have prominent ear tufts and the upper body is dusky brown with lower parts off white with brown bars. Prior to 1999 the Spotted Eagle owl was classed as a subspecies with the Vermiculated Eagle Owl but is now classed as a separate species. They are carnivorous and their prey consists of small mammals, birds, insects and reptiles.

[1 Habitat](#)

[2 Reproduction](#)

[References](#)

Habitat

They inhabit most of Africa south of the Sahara desert away from dense forests. They are nocturnal hunters spending the day concealed in trees, rock ledges or abandoned burrows. They are found in areas with rocky outcroppings, scrub land open woods and semi deserts. Spotted eagle owls do not avoid populated areas. They will often hunt near roads and are often struck by vehicles. The major cause of death is pesticides used in agriculture for insect and rodent control.

Reproduction

Spotted eagle owls mate for life. They are able to breed at around one year of age. They make their nest on the ground and have been known to nest on window ledges of buildings. Breeding begins in July continuing to the first weeks February. The female lays two to four eggs and she does the incubation leaving the nest only to eat what the male has brought food. The incubation period lasts approximately thirty two days. The young owls can fly at around seven weeks of age. Five weeks later at twelve weeks the young owls leave the nest. They have a life span of up to ten years in the wild and up to twenty in captivity.

References

BirdLife International (2004). [*Bubo africanus*](#). *2006 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Database entry includes justification for why this species is of least concern

Stork

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Ciconiiformes
 Family: **Ciconiidae** Gray, 1840 Genera: See text.

Storks are large, long-legged, long-necked wading birds with long stout bills, belonging to the family **Ciconiidae**. They occur in most of the warmer regions of the world and tend to live in drier habitats than the related herons, spoonbills and [ibises](#); they also lack the powder down that those groups use to clean off [fish](#) slime. Storks have no syrinx and are mute, giving no bird call; bill-clattering is an important mode of stork communication at the nest. Many species are migratory. Most storks eat frogs, fish, insects, earthworms, and small birds or mammals. There are 19 [species](#) of storks in six [genera](#).

Storks tend to use soaring, gliding flight, which conserves energy. Soaring requires thermal air currents. Ottomar Anschütz's famous 1884 albumen photographs of storks inspired the design of Otto Lilienthal's experimental gliders of the late 19th century. Storks are heavy with wide wingspans, and the Marabou Stork, with a wingspan of 3.2 m (10.5 feet), shares the distinction of "longest wingspan of any land bird" with the [Andean Condor](#).

Their nests are often very large and may be used for many years. Some have been known to grow to over 2 m (6 feet) in diameter and about 3 m (10 feet) in depth. Storks were once thought to be monogamous, but this is only true to a limited extent. They may change mates after migrations, and migrate without them. They tend to be attached to nests as much as partners.

Storks' size, serial monogamy, and faithfulness to an established nesting site contribute to their prominence in mythology and culture.

[1 Etymology](#)

[2 Species](#)

[3 Symbolism of storks](#)

[4 Mythology of storks](#)

Etymology

The modern English word comes from Old English "storc", which is in turn related to "stark", probably in reference to the bird's stiff or rigid posture.

Originally from Proto Germanic *sturkaz (compare Old Norse storkr, and Old High German storah, all meaning stork). Nearly every Germanic language has a form of this proto language to indicate the stork; the Dutch exception, apparently originating in a euphemism, may signify the presence of a deep-seated taboo: compare "bear".

Language | Word used for "Stork"

Danish: *stork* German: *Storch* Low Saxon: *Stork* Dutch: *Ooievaar**

Norwegian: *stork* Swedish: *Stork** Dutch is an exception within the Germanic language group.

Old Church Slavonic *struku*, Russian *AB5@E* (pronounced *sterkh*, meaning Siberian White Crane), Lithuanian *starkus*, Hungarian *eszterag* (rarely used; commonly *gólya*) and Albanian *sterkjok* are all Germanic loan-words.

Rarely the word's origin is linked to Greek *torgos* meaning "vulture".

The fable that babies are brought by storks is mainly from Dutch and Northern German nursery stories, no doubt from the notion that storks nesting on one's roof meant good luck, often in the form of family happiness.

Species

Family **Ciconiidae**

Genus *Mycteria*

Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*)

Yellow-billed Stork (*Mycteria ibis*)

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Genus *Anastomus*

Asian Openbill Stork, *Anastomus oscitans*

African Openbill Stork, *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Genus *Ciconia*

Abdim's Stork, *Ciconia abdimii*

Woolly-necked Stork, *Ciconia episcopus*

Storm's Stork, *Ciconia stormi*

Maguari Stork, *Ciconia maguari*

Oriental White Stork, *Ciconia boyciana*

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Genus *Ephippiorhynchus*

Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Saddle-billed Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Genus *Jabiru*

Jabiru *Jabiru mycteria*

Genus *Leptoptilos*

Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Greater Adjutant, *Leptoptilos dubius*

Marabou Stork, *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Symbolism of storks

The white stork is the symbol of The Hague in the Netherlands and the unofficial symbol of Poland, where about 25 percent of European storks breed.

In Western culture the White Stork is a symbol of childbirth. In Victorian times the details of human reproduction were difficult to approach, especially in reply to a child's query of "Where did I come from?"; "The stork brought you to us" was the tactic used to avoid discussion of sex. This habit was derived from the once popular superstition that storks were the harbingers of happiness and prosperity.

The image of a stork bearing an infant wrapped in a sling held in its beak is common in popular culture. The small pink or reddish patches often found on a newborn child's eyelids, between the eyes, upper lip, and the nape of the neck, which are clusters of developing veins that soon fade, are sometimes still called "stork bites".

Vlasic brand pickles in North America use this child-bearing stork as a mascot.

Mythology of storks

Most of these myths tend to refer to the White Stork.

In Ancient Egypt the stork was associated with the human *ba*; they had the same phonetic value. The *ba* was the unique individual character of each human being: a stork with a human head was an image of the *ba*-soul, which unerringly migrates home each night, like the stork, to be reunited with the body during the Afterlife. [\[1\]](#)

The motto "Birds of a feather flock together" is appended to Aesop's fable of the farmer and the stork his net caught among the cranes that were robbing his fields of grain. The stork vainly pleaded to be spared, being no crane.

The Hebrew word for stork was equivalent to "kind mother", and the care of storks for their young, in their highly visible nests, made the stork a widespread emblem of parental care. It was widely noted in ancient natural history that a stork pair will be consumed with the nest in a fire, rather than fly and abandon it.

In Greek mythology, Gerana was an Æthiope, the enemy of Hera, who changed her into a stork, a punishment Hera also inflicted on Antigone, daughter of Laomedon of Troy (Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 6.93). Stork-Gerana tried to abduct her child, Mopsus. This accounted, for the Greeks, for the mythic theme of the war between the pygmies and the storks. In popular Western culture, there is a common image of a stork bearing an infant wrapped in cloths held in its beak; the stork, rather than absconding with the child Mopsus, is pictured as delivering the infant, an image of childbirth.

The stork is alleged in folklore to be monogamous although in fact this monogamy is "serial monogamy", the bond lasting one season: see above. For Early Christians the stork became an emblem of a highly respected "white marriage", that is, a chaste marriage. This symbolism endured to the seventeenth century, as in Henry Peacham's emblem book *Minerva Britannia* (1612) (see link).

Though "Stork" is rare as an English surname, the Czech surname "apek" means "little stork".

For the Chinese, the stork was able to snatch up a worthy man, like the flute-player Lan Ts'ai Ho, and carry him to a blissful life.

In Norse mythology, Hoenir gives to mankind the spirit gift, the óðr that includes will and memory and makes us human (see Rydberg link). Hoenir's epithets langifótr "long-leg" and aurkonungr "mire-king" identify him possibly as a kind of stork. Such a Stork King figures in northern European myths and fables. However, it is possible that there is confusion here between the White Stork and the more northerly-breeding Common Crane, which superficially resembles a stork but is completely unrelated.

In Bulgarian folklore, the stork is a symbol of the coming spring (as this is the time when the birds return to nest in Bulgaria after their winter migration) and in certain regions of Bulgaria it plays a central role in the custom of Martenitsa: when the first stork is sighted it is time to take off the red-and-white Martenitsa tokens, for spring is truly come.

A series of sightings of a mysterious pterodactyl-like creature in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley in the 1970s has been attributed to an errant giant stork that become lost during a migratory flight and wound up in an unfamiliar region (see Big Bird, Texas).

Swan

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Anseriformes
Family: [Anatidae](#)
Subfamily: [Anserinae](#)

Genera and species:

Cygnus Bechstein 1803

C. cygnus

C. buccinator

C. columbianus

C. (c.) bewickii

C. olor

C. atratus

C. (a.) sumnerensis

C. melancoryphus

Coscoroba Reichenbach 1853

C. coscoroba

Sarcidiornis

Sarcidiornis mauritania (mauritanus)

Swans are large water [birds](#) of the [family Anatidae](#), which also includes [geese](#) and [ducks](#). Swans are grouped with the closely related geese in the [subfamily Anserinae](#).

Swans usually mate for life, though "divorce" does sometimes occur, particularly following nesting failure. The number of eggs in each clutch is between 3–8.

The word is derived from Old English *swan*, akin to German *schwan*, in turn derived from Indo-European root **swen* (to sound, to sing), whence Latin derives *sonus* (sound). (Webster's New World Dictionary) Young swans are known as *cygnets*, from the Latin word for swan, *cygnus*. An adult male is a "cob", an adult female is a "pen".

[1 Coloration](#)

[2 Systematics and evolution](#)

[3 Role in culture](#)

Coloration

The Northern Hemisphere species of swan have pure white plumage, but the Southern Hemisphere species are patterned with black. The Australian Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) is completely black except for the white flight feathers on its wings, and the South American Black-necked Swan has a black neck. The Coscoroba Swan, also from southern South America, has black tips to the primary feathers.

The legs of swans are dark blackish grey, except for the two South American species, which have pink legs. Bill colour varies; the four subarctic species have black bills with varying amounts of yellow, and all the others are patterned red and black. The Mute Swan and Black-necked Swan have a lump at the base of the bill on the upper mandible.

Systematics and evolution

All evidence suggests that the genus *Cygnus* evolved in Europe or western Eurasia during the Miocene, spreading all over the Northern Hemisphere until the Pliocene. When the southern species branched off is not known. The Mute Swan apparently is closest to the Southern Hemisphere *Cygnus*; its habits of carrying the neck curved (not straight) and the wings fluffed (not flush) as well as its bill color and knob indicate that its closest living relative is actually the Black Swan. Given the biogeography and appearance of the subgenus *Olor* it seems likely that these are of a more recent origin, as evidenced by their modern ranges (which were mostly uninhabitable during the last ice age) and great similarity between the taxa. Also, the relationships of the *Coscoroba* Swan remain rather obscure; it apparently represents the most early divergence as it is in some aspects more similar to geese and shelducks.

Genus *Coscoroba*

Coscoroba Swan, *Coscoroba coscoroba*, South America

Genus *Cygnus*

Subgenus *Cygnus*

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*, is a common temperate Eurasian species, often semi-domesticated; descendants of domestic flocks are naturalized in the United States and elsewhere.

Subgenus *Chenopsis*

Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus* of Australia, and introduced in New Zealand.

New Zealand Swan, *Cygnus (atratus) sumnerensis*, an extinct subspecies of the Black Swan from New Zealand and the Chatham Islands.

Subgenus *Sthenelides*

Black-necked Swan, *Cygnus melancoryphus* of South America.

Subgenus *Olor*

Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus* breeds in Iceland and subarctic Europe and Asia, migrating to temperate Europe and Asia in winter.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* is a North American species very similar to the Whooper Swan (and sometimes treated as a subspecies of it), which was hunted almost to extinction but has since recovered

Whistling Swan, *Cygnus columbianus* is a small swan which breeds on the North American tundra, further north than other swans. It winters in the USA.

Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus (columbianus) bewickii* is the Eurasian form which migrates from Arctic Russia to western Europe and eastern Asia (China, Japan) in winter. It is often considered a subspecies of *C. columbianus*, creating the species Tundra Swan.

Genus *Sarcidiornis*

Mascarene Swan, *Sarcidiornis mauritania(mauritanus)* an extinct species which lived in the Mascarene Islands, last observed in Mauritius in 1668 [\[1\]](#).

The fossil record of the genus *Cygnus* is quite impressive, although allocation to the subgenera is often tentative; as indicated above, at least the early forms probably belong to the *C. olor* - Southern Hemisphere lineage. A number of prehistoric species have been described, mostly from the Northern Hemisphere. Among them were the giant Siculo-Maltese *C. falconeri* and *C. equitum* which were taller (though not heavier) than the contemporary local dwarf elephants (*Elephas falconeri*).

Fossil Swans

Cygnus atavus (Middle Miocene of Germany)

Cygnus csakvarensis (Late Miocene of Hungary) - formerly *Cygnanser*

Cygnus mariae (Early Pliocene of Wickieup, USA)

Cygnus verae (Early Pliocene of Sofia, Bulgaria)

Cygnus liskunae (Middle Pliocene of W Mongolia)

Cygnus hibbardi (?Early Pleistocene of Idaho, USA)

Cygnus sp. (Early Pleistocene of Dursunlu, Turkey)

Cygnus equitum (Middle Pleistocene of Malta and Sicily, Mediterranean)

Giant Swan, *Cygnus falconeri* (Middle Pleistocene of Malta and Sicily, Mediterranean)

Cygnus paloregonus (Pleistocene of Oregon, USA)

Cygnus sp. (Pleistocene of Australia)

Cygnus americanus

Cygnus lacustris

Cygnus matthewi

The supposed fossil swans "*Cygnus*" *bilinicus* and "*Cygnus*" *herrenthalsi* were, respectively, a [stork](#) and some large bird of unknown affinity (due to the bad state of preservation of the referred material).

Role in culture

Many of the cultural aspects refer to the Mute Swan of Europe. Perhaps the best known story about a swan is The Ugly Duckling fable. The story centers around a duckling who is mistreated until it becomes evident he is a swan and is accepted into the habitat. He was mistreated because real ducklings are, according to many, more attractive than a cygnet, yet cygnets become swans, which are very attractive creatures. Swans are often a symbol of love or fidelity, because of their long-lasting monogamist relationships. See the famous swan-related operas Lohengrin and Parsifal.

In the TV series LOST the formal name of the Hatch is "Station 3: The Swan", the swan is the Electromagnetic station of the DHARMA Initiative.

Swans feature strongly in mythology. In Greek mythology, the story of Leda and the Swan recounts that Helen of Troy was conceived in a union of Zeus disguised as a swan and Leda, Queen of Sparta. The Irish legend of the Children of Lir is about a mother transforming her children into swans for 900 years. Myths also exist about swans themselves. It was once

believed that upon death, the otherwise silent Mute swan would sing beautifully- hence the phrase swan song.

Swans are revered in many religions and cultures, especially Hinduism. The Sanskrit word for swan is hamsa or hansa, and it is the vehicle of many deities like the goddess Saraswati. It is mentioned several times in the Vedic literature, and persons who have attained great spiritual capabilities are sometimes called Paramahamsa ('Great Swan') on account of their spiritual grace and ability to travel between various spiritual worlds. In the Vedas, swans are said to reside in the summers in the Manasarovar lake and migrate to Indian lakes for the winter, eat pearls, and separate milk from water in a mixture of both. Hindu iconography typically shows the Mute Swan. It is wrongly supposed by many historians that the word hamsa only means a goose, since today swans are no longer found in India, not even in most zoos. However, ornithological checklists clearly classify several species of swans as vagrant birds in India.

One Chinese idiom about swans is how *"a toad wants to eat swan flesh!"*. This idiom is used derisively on men who desire women who are beyond their station in terms of wealth, social class or beauty.

Today swans are used symbolically or as brands. The Sydney Swans AFL Team uses a swan as its club emblem/mascot, and Swansea City A.F.C.'s mascot is a swan called Cyril the Swan. The Bonny Swans is a song on Loreena McKennitt's 1994 album, *The Mask and Mirror*.

Toucan

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Piciformes

Family: **Ramphastidae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: *Aulacorhynchus*, *Pteroglossus*, *Bailloni*, *Andigena*, *Selenidera*, *Ramphastos*

Toucans are near passerine birds from the neotropics. They are brightly marked and have enormous colorful bills. The family includes six genera and about 40 species.

Toucans range in size from 18 to 63 cm (7 to 25 in). A bit bigger than a crow, their body is short and thick and the tail is rounded. The tail varies in length from half the length to the whole length of the body. The neck is short and thick while at the base of the head is a huge, brightly-colored beak that measures in some large species, more than half the length of the body. A toucan's tongue is long, narrow, and singularly frayed on each side, adding to its sensibility as an organ of taste.

The legs of a toucan are strong and rather short. Their toes are arranged in pairs with the first and fourth toe turned backward. Both males and females are the same color. The feathers in the genus containing the largest toucans are generally coloured black, with touches of white, yellow, and scarlet. The underparts of the aracarís (smaller toucans) are yellow, crossed by one or more black or red bands, and the edges of the beak are saw-toothed. The toucanets have mostly green plumage with blue markings.

Toucans are frugivorous (fruit-eating), but will take insects and other small prey such as small lizards. However, many other birds consume these foods without the giant bill to help them. So what is the function of the beak in feeding? One likely use is to specialize on prey such as nestlings and bats in treeholes. In this view, the beak is an adaptation to allows the bird to reach deep into the treehole and thereby access food unavailable to birds that would otherwise compete for similar food resources.

They are arboreal and nest in tree holes laying 2–4 white eggs. The young hatched are completely naked, without any down. They are resident breeders and do not [migrate](#). Toucans are usually found in pairs or small flocks.

The name of this bird group is derived from Tupi *tucana*, via French.

[1 Toucans in advertising](#)

[2 Toucans in fiction](#)

[3 Species list](#)

Toucans in advertising

Toucans were used to advertise Guinness stout (using the slogan 'See what toucan do'), and many collectables such as postcards and models with Guinness toucans on them may be found. Toucan Sam is the mascot of Kellogg's Froot Loops cereal. Y107 in Nashville used a "Tookie Bird" as their mascot.

There is a European phone company called Toucan. Toucan is part of IDT Telecom, a subsidiary of global telecoms provider IDT Corp. They provide phone service, dial-up, and broadband internet service as well as mobile services in the Netherlands and the UK including Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, bringing state-of the art communications to Europe, USA, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. They have call centers in England, Ireland, India, and Israel.

Toucans in fiction

A humorous derivation of the name of the bird features in David McKee's children's book "Two Can Toucan".

Wulffmorgenthaler comic strip features a character named 'Toucan kid', who is an offspring of a human and a toucan.

Tookie Tookie, George's pet Toucan from George of the Jungle.

Species list

Aulacorhynchus

Emerald Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*

Groove-billed Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus sulcatus*

Chestnut-tipped Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus derbianus*

Crimson-rumped Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus haematopygus*

Yellow-browed Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus huallagae*

Blue-banded Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus coeruleicinctis*

Pteroglossus

Lettered Aracari, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*

Green Aracari, *Pteroglossus viridis*

Red-necked Aracari, *Pteroglossus bitorquatus*

Ivory-billed Aracari, *Pteroglossus azara*

Brown-mandibled Aracari, *Pteroglossus mariae*

Chestnut-eared Aracari, *Pteroglossus castanotis*

Black-necked Aracari, *Pteroglossus aracari*

Collared Aracari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*

Fiery-billed Aracari, *Pteroglossus frantzii*

Stripe-billed Aracari, *Pteroglossus sanguineus*

Pale-mandibled Aracari, *Pteroglossus erythropygius*

Many-banded Aracari, *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*

Curl-crested Aracari, *Pteroglossus beauharnaesii*

Baillonius

Saffron Toucanet, *Baillonius bailloni*

Andigena

Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, *Andigena laminirostris*

Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan, *Andigena hypoglaucha*

Hooded Mountain Toucan, *Andigena cucullata*
Black-billed Mountain Toucan, *Andigena nigrirostris*

Selenidera

Yellow-eared Toucanet, *Selenidera spectabilis*
Golden-collared Toucanet, *Selenidera reinwardtii*
Tawny-tufted Toucanet, *Selenidera nattereri*
Guianan Toucanet, *Selenidera culik*
Spot-billed Toucanet, *Selenidera maculirostris*
Gould's Toucanet, *Selenidera gouldii*

Ramphastos

Keel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos sulfuratus*
Choco Toucan, *Ramphastos brevis*
Citron-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos citreolaemus*
Channel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus*
Yellow-ridged Toucan, *Ramphastos vitellinus culminatus*
Red-breasted Toucan, *Ramphastos dicolorus*
Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, *Ramphastos swainsonii*
Black-mandibled Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguus*
White-throated Toucan, *Ramphastos tucanus*, includes
Red-billed Toucan, *R. t. tucanus*
Cuvier's Toucan, *R. t. cuvieri*
Toco Toucan, *Ramphastos toco*

Vulture

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Orders: *Falconiformes* (Fam. [Accipitridae](#) (part)), *Ciconiiformes* (Fam. *Cathartidae*)

Vultures are scavenging [birds](#), feeding mostly on the carcasses of dead animals. Vultures are found in every continent except Antarctica and Oceania.

A particular characteristic of many vultures is a bald head, devoid of [feathers](#). This is likely because a feathered head would become spattered with blood and other fluids, and thus be difficult to keep clean. This feature also allows quick cleaning in a nearby river.

Vultures fall into two groups. The [Old World vultures](#) found in Africa, Asia and Europe belong to the family [Accipitridae](#), which also includes eagles, [kites](#), buzzards and [hawks](#). They find carcasses exclusively by sight.

[New World vultures](#) and [condors](#) are not at all closely related to the superficially similar *Accipitridae*, but belong in the family *Cathartidae*, which is quite close to the storks. Several species have a good sense of smell, unusual for [raptors](#).

The similarities between the two groups are due to convergent evolution rather than a close relationship.

A group of vultures is occasionally called a *venue*. When circling in the air, a group of vultures is called a *kettle*.

[1 Feeding](#)

[2 Threat due to diclofenac poisoning](#)

[3 Vultures in culture](#)

[3.1 Ancient Egypt](#)

[4 See also](#)

Feeding

Vulture seldom attack a healthy living animal, but may kill the wounded or sick. Vast numbers have been seen upon battlefields. They gorge themselves when prey is abundant, till their crop forms a projection, and sit, sleepy or half torpid, to digest their food. They do not carry food to their young in their claws, but disgorge it from the crop. These birds are of great value as scavengers, especially in hot regions.

Threat due to diclofenac poisoning

The vulture population in India has declined by up to 95% recently and two or three of the species of vulture in South Asia are nearing extinction. The cause was found to be due to the practice of giving working animals the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)

diclofenac, which has a pain killing action. Diclofenac administration keeps animals that are ill or in pain working on the land for longer. Diclofenac accumulates in the animals' bodies; when the ill animals die, their carcasses will still contain the diclofenac. Farmers leave the dead animals out in the open, relying on vultures to tidy up. Diclofenac present in carcasses is also eaten by the vultures, but unfortunately vultures are very sensitive to diclofenac and suffer kidney failure and death as a result of diclofenac poisoning.

The decline has led to general hygiene problems in India as carcasses of dead animals now tend to rot, or be eaten by rats or wild dogs, rather than be tidied up by vultures. In addition, there are particular problems for certain human communities, such as the Parsi, that have sky burials where the human dead are put on the top of Towers of Silence where vultures eat and clean the bodies and leave only dry bones.

Meloxicam – another NSAID similar to diclofenac – has been found to be harmless to vultures and should prove to be an acceptable alternative. The Government of India has banned diclofenac, but it continues to be sold over a year later.

Vultures in culture

Ancient Egypt

In Southern Africa, the name for a Nubian Vulture is synonymous with the term applied to lovers, because these vultures are always seen in pairs, mother and child remaining closely bonded together. Pairing, bonding, protecting, and loving are essential attributes associated with a vulture. The vulture was thought to be close to the gods who resided in the sky because of its immense size and its ability to soar high up in the sky. The Egyptians considered the vulture to be an excellent mother, and its wide wingspan was seen as all-encompassing and providing a protective cover to its infants. The vulture hieroglyph

Western culture

In contrast to many other birds of prey, vultures have often been considered repulsive in Western culture, due to their association with death. Sensationalistic journalists looking for news about bloody crimes are sometimes called "vultures". Financial investors who look for indebted companies or countries to buy securities at low prices are known as vulture funds. Lawyers who profit off death, such as inheritance, wrongful death, or life insurance lawyers, may also be called "vultures". A prominent Spider-Man supervillain is known as the Vulture.

See also

"India's Vultures Fall Prey to a Drug in the Cattle They Feed On", New York Times, Amelia Gentleman, March 28, 2006.

Oology

Oology, or **oölogy** is the branch of zoology that deals with the study of [eggs](#), especially [birds'](#) eggs. It can also be applied to the hobby of collecting wild birds' eggs (which is now illegal in many jurisdictions). Oology includes the study of the breeding habits of birds, and the study of their nests. (The study of birds' nests is sometimes called caliology).

Birds' eggs are conveniently classified as marked or unmarked, according to the ground color. Birds which lay their eggs in holes in trees or in the ground almost always have white, unspotted eggs. Birds which build in trees generally have blue or greenish eggs, either spotted or unspotted, while birds that build in bushes, near the ground, are likely to lay speckled eggs.

Publications

Thomas Mayo Brewer, (1814-80), an American ornithologist, wrote most of the biographical sketches in the *History of North American Birds*, by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway (1874-84). He has been called "the father of American oölogy". He wrote *North American Oölogy* which was partially-published in 1857.

T. G. Gentry, *Nests and Eggs of the Birds of the United States*, (Philadelphia, 1885).

Oliver Davie, *Nests and Eggs of North American Birds*, (fifth edition, Columbus, 1898).

William Chapman Hewitson, *Illustrations of Eggs of British Birds*, (third edition, London, 1856).

Alfred Newton, *Dictionary of Birds*, (New York, 1893-96).

See also

[ornithology](#)

[Egg \(biology\)](#)

Egg

In most [birds](#) and [reptiles](#), an **egg** (Latin *ovum*) is the zygote, resulting from fertilization of the ovum. It nourishes and protects the embryo. **Oviparous** animals are animals that lay eggs, with little or no other development within the mother. This is the reproductive method of many [fish](#), amphibians and reptiles, all birds, the monotremes, and most insects and arachnids.

Reptile eggs, bird eggs, and monotreme eggs, which are laid out of water, are surrounded by a protective shell, either flexible or inflexible.

The 1.5 kg [ostrich](#) egg contains the largest existing single cell currently known, though the extinct *Aepyornis* and some dinosaurs had larger eggs. The bee hummingbird produces the smallest known bird egg, which weighs half a gram. The eggs laid by some reptiles and most fish are even smaller, and those of insects and other invertebrates are much smaller still.

The study or collecting of eggs, in particular bird eggs, is called [oology](#).

[1 Bird eggs](#)

[1.1 Shell structure](#)

[1.2 Shape](#)

[1.3 Predation](#)

2 Fish eggs

3 Mammal eggs

4 Reptile eggs

5 Amphibian eggs

[6 References](#)

[7 See also](#)

Bird eggs

Usually after fertilization, the bird egg is laid by the female and is incubated for a time that varies according to the species; then a single young hatches from each egg. Average clutch sizes range from one (as in [condors](#)) to about 17 (the Grey Partridge). Some birds lay

eggs even when not fertilized, and it is not uncommon for pet owners to find their lone bird nesting on a clutch of infertile eggs.

Shell structure

Eggs are usually smooth, but there are exceptions. A [cormorant](#)'s egg, for example, is quite rough and is very chalky. In contrast, tinamous have very shiny eggs, and [ducks](#) have oily and waterproof eggs. Another variation is the very heavily pitted eggs of [cassowaries](#).

There are tiny pores in the shells of eggs to allow the unborn animal to breathe. The [domestic hen](#)'s egg has around 7500 pores.

Shape

Most bird eggs have an oval shape, with one end rounded and the other more pointy. This shape results from the egg being forced through the oviduct. Muscles contract the oviduct behind the egg, pushing it forward. The egg's wall is still shapeable, and the pointy end develops at the back side. Highly conical eggs are often seen in cliff-nesting birds. They are less likely to roll off, tending instead to roll around in a tight circle, and thus are believed to have been selected for by evolution. In contrast many hole nesting birds have nearly spherical eggs.

Predation

There are numerous animals that feed on eggs. Principal predators of the Black Oystercatcher's eggs, for example, include raccoons, skunks, mink, river and sea otters, [gulls](#), [crows](#) and foxes.

The Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) and Long-tailed Weasel (*M. frenata*) steal ducks' eggs. Other mammals, like humans, also eat bird eggs. The egg-eating snakes (genera *Dasypeltis* and *Elachistodon*) specialize in eating eggs.

Brood parasitism also occurs in birds when one species lays its eggs in the nest of another. In some cases, the host's eggs are removed or eaten by the female, or expelled by her chick. Brood parasites include the cowbirds and many Old World cuckoos, most famously the Common Cuckoo.

References

[Marine Biology notes](#) from School of Life Sciences, Napier University.

[Speckles Make Bird Eggs Stronger, Study Finds](#) John Pickrell, National Geographic News, 11 Oct 2005.

Andrew Gosler, *Yet even more ways to dress eggs* in British Birds, vol 99 no 7, July 2006

See also

[Egg](#)
[Oology](#) - the study or collecting of eggs.

Ornithology

Ornithology (from the Greek *ornis* = bird and *logos* = word/science) is the branch of zoology concerned with the scientific study of [birds](#). Several aspects of the study of ornithology differ from closely related disciplines, perhaps because of the high visibility and the aesthetic appeal of birds. Most marked among these is the extent of field studies undertaken by amateur volunteers working within the parameters of strict scientific methodology.

[1 Fields of study](#)

[3 National associations and societies](#)

[3.1 Africa](#)

[3.2 Asia](#)

[3.3 Europe](#)

[3.4 North America](#)

[3.5 Oceania](#)

[3.6 South America](#)

[4 Publications and magazines](#)

[6 See also](#)

Fields of study

The areas of study that are included under ornithology are numerous and no list can attempt to be exhaustive. The following is a broad classification of some of the fields within contemporary ornithology.

Field Ornithology

Ecological studies

Studies of individuals

Studies of populations

Studies of communities

Behavioral studies

Laboratory Ornithology

Physiological studies

Genetic studies

The techniques used in ornithology are varied and changing. Early ornithological studies were based on specimen shooting and skins. Ornithology has subsequently become largely observation based. Optical instruments have been very important in ornithology; however approaches such as the use of radar and radio tracking are also used. Use of ringing and other marking techniques have helped in studies of migration and behavior.

Birds have served as important model organisms in the evolution of modern biological ideas. Key ideas include that of speciation, as noted by Charles Darwin from his observation of the [finches](#) on the Galapagos Islands. The first attempt to formally define the concept of biological species was also developed using birds as model organisms by Ernst Mayr. Birds

have also been the subject of numerous evolutionary studies that have helped in understanding the plasticity of species and the limitations of attempts to define species.

Many advances in ecology have also been made based on the study of birds. These include theories of island biogeography, models of extinction and species-area relationships.

Birds have also served as models for behavioural studies including studies of mate selection, territoriality, foraging behaviour and parental investment. Other aspects of special interest include their ability to navigate in migrations.

National associations and societies

Africa

South Africa

Asia

India

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS): Located at Mumbai (formerly Bombay), the oldest non-government Organization in the area of natural history in the Indian subcontinent.

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) Located near Coimbatore.

Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The government department meant to document and study the fauna of India.

Japan

The Ornithological Society of Japan (OSJ) - [\[1\]](#)

Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) - [\[2\]](#)

Japanese Society for Preservation of Birds (JSPB) - [\[3\]](#)

Yamashina Institute for Ornithology - [\[4\]](#)

Europe

Estonia

Estonian Ornithological Society - [\[5\]](#)

Ireland

Bird Watch Ireland

Lithuania

Lithuanian Ornithological Society - [\[6\]](#)

Slovenia

Society for Observation and Study of Birds of Slovenia (*Društvo za opazovanje in prou evanje ptic Slovenije*) (DOPPS)

United Kingdom
British Ornithologists' Club
British Ornithologists' Union
British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
The British Birds Rarities Committee
The Rare Birds Breeding Panel (RBBP)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

North America

Canada
Bird Studies Canada
[The Society of Canadian Ornithologists - Société des ornithologistes du Canada](#)
USA
[The Ornithological Council](#)
American Birding Association
American Ornithologists' Union (AOU)
[Association of Field Ornithologists](#)
[Cooper Ornithological Society](#)
National Audubon Society
[Wilson Ornithological Society](#)
[Pacific Seabird Group](#)
[Raptor Research Foundation](#)
[The Water bird Society](#)
Mexico
[CIPAMEX](#), La Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves, A.C.

Oceania

Australia
Birds Australia
New Zealand
Ornithological Society of New Zealand
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
South America
Brazil
[Brazilian Ornithological Records Committee - CBRO](#)
[Brazilian Ornithological Society - SBO](#)

Publications and magazines

Acrocephalus, DOPPS (Slovenia)

Ardeola, Sociedad Española de Ornitología (Spain) - [\[7\]](#)

Audubon Magazine (USA) - [\[8\]](#)

The Auk, American Ornithologists' Union (USA) - Post-1999 volumes [\[9\]](#); complete volumes 1-116 (1884-1999) as free DjVu and PDF files at SORA [\[10\]](#)

BirdingASIA (formerly OBC Bulletin), Oriental Bird Club - [\[11\]](#), OBC Bulletin [\[12\]](#)

Bird Study (UK) - [\[13\]](#)

Birds & Blooms - [\[14\]](#)

British Birds (UK)

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club (UK) - [\[15\]](#)

The Condor, Cooper Ornithological Society (USA) - Post-2000 volumes [\[16\]](#); complete volumes 1-102 (1899-2000) as free DjVu and PDF files at SORA [\[17\]](#)

'Elepaio, Hawaii Audubon Society (USA) - Free full-text access to last 2 volumes [\[18\]](#)

Emu, Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (Australia) - [\[19\]](#)

Forktail, Oriental Bird Club - [\[20\]](#)

Hirundo (Estonia) - [\[21\]](#)

Ibis, British Ornithologists Union (UK) - [\[22\]](#)

Irish Birds (Ireland)

Journal of Avian Biology, Nordic Society Oikos [\[23\]](#)

The Journal of Field Ornithology, Association of Field Ornithologists (USA) - Complete volumes 51-70 (1980-1999) and predecessor publication Bird-Banding as free DjVu and PDF files at SORA [\[24\]](#)

Japanese Journal of Ornithology (Japan) - [\[25\]](#)

Journal of the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology (Japan) - [\[26\]](#)

Kukila (Bulletin of the Indonesian Ornithological Society) - [\[27\]](#)

Marine Ornithology - Free full-text access to volumes 16 and later (1988-present) [\[28\]](#)

Ostrich (South Africa)

Ornithos (France) - [\[29\]](#)

Revista Brasileira de Ornitologia, SBO (Brasil) - [\[30\]](#)

Revista Ornitología Colombiana, ACO (Colombia) - Free full-text access [\[31\]](#)

Te Manu, Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie - Free back issues [\[32\]](#)

The Wilson Bulletin, Wilson Ornithological Society (USA) - Complete volumes 1-111 (1889-1999) as free DjVu and PDF files at SORA [\[33\]](#)

Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volumes 1-16 [\[34\]](#)

See also

[Bird migration](#)

[Birdwatching](#)

Poultry

Poultry is the class of domesticated fowl (birds) used for food or for their eggs. These most typically are members of the orders Galliformes (such as [chickens](#) and turkeys), and Anseriformes (waterfowl such as [ducks](#) and [geese](#)).

The word *poultry* is often used to refer to the meat of these birds. In a more general sense, it may refer to the meat of other birds, such as [pigeons](#) or [doves](#), or game birds like [pheasants](#).

Cuts of poultry

The meatiest parts of a bird are the flight muscles on its chest, called **breast** meat, and the walking muscles on the first and second segments of its legs, called the **thigh** and **drumstick** respectively.

In chickens and turkeys, the flight muscles, not adapted for sustained use, have less oxygen-carrying myoglobin than the walking muscles, and are thus lighter in color. This is the distinction between "white meat" and "dark meat". Waterfowl are adapted for sustained flight, and their breast meat is dark.

Seabird

Seabirds are [birds](#) that have adapted to life in the marine environment. Whilst seabirds vary greatly in lifestyle, behaviour and physiology, they often exhibit striking convergent evolution, as the same environmental problems and feeding niches have resulted in similar adaptations. The first seabirds evolved in the Cretaceous, and modern seabird families emerged in the Paleogene.

Seabirds live longer, breed later and have fewer young than other birds do, but they invest a great deal of time in those young that they do have. Most species nest in colonies, which can vary in size from a few dozen birds to many millions. They are famous for undertaking long annual [migrations](#), crossing the equator or circumnavigating the Earth in some cases. They feed both at the ocean's surface and below it, and even feed on each other. Seabirds can be highly pelagic, coastal, or in some cases spend a part of the year away from the sea entirely.

Seabirds and humans have a long history together: they have provided food to hunters, guided fishermen to fishing stocks and led sailors to land. Many species are currently threatened by human activities, and conservation efforts are underway.

[1 Classification of species as seabirds](#)

[2 Evolution and fossil record](#)

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[3.1 Adaptations to life at sea](#)

[3.2 Diet and feeding](#)

[3.2.1 Surface feeding](#)

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[3.2.3 Plunge diving](#)

[3.2.4 Kleptoparasitism, scavenging and predation](#)

[3.3 Life history](#)

[3.4 Breeding and colonies](#)

[3.5 Migration](#)

[3.6 Away from the sea](#)

[4 Relationship with humans](#)

[4.1 Seabirds and fisheries](#)

[4.2 Exploitation](#)

[4.3 Other threats](#)

[4.4 Conservation](#)

[4.5 Role in culture](#)

[5 Seabird families](#)

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Classification of species as seabirds

There exists no one definition of which groups, families and species are seabirds, and most definitions are in some way arbitrary. In the words of two seabird scientists, "The one common characteristic that all seabirds share is that they feed in saltwater; but, as seems to be true with any statement in biology, some do not."^[1] However, by convention all of the [penguins](#) and procellariiformes, all of the Pelecaniformes except the darters, and some of the Charadriiformes (the skuas, gulls, terns, auks and skimmers) are classified as seabirds. The phalaropes are usually included as well, since although they are waders ("shorebirds" in North America), two of the three species are oceanic for nine months of the year, crossing the equator to feed pelagically.

Loons and [grebes](#), which nest on lakes but winter at sea, are usually categorised as water birds, not seabirds. Although there are a number of [sea ducks](#) in the family *Anatidae* which are truly marine in the winter, by convention they are usually excluded from the seabird grouping. Many waders (or shorebirds) and herons are also highly marine, living on the sea's edge, but are also not treated as seabirds.

Evolution and fossil record

Seabirds, by virtue of living in a geologically depositional environment (that is, in the sea where sediments are readily laid down), are well represented in the fossil record.^[1] They are first known to occur in the Cretaceous era, the earliest being the Hesperornithiformes, like *Hesperornis regalis*, a flightless loon-like seabird that dove in a similar fashion to grebes and loons (using its feet to move underwater)^[2] but had a beak filled with sharp teeth.^[3]

While *Hesperornis* is not thought to have left descendants, the earliest extant seabirds also occurred in the Cretaceous, with a species called *Tyttthostonyx glauconiticus*, which has been placed in the Procellariiformes. In the Paleogene the seas were dominated by early Procellariidae, giant penguins and two extinct families, the Pelagornithidae and the Plotopteridae (a group of large seabirds that looked like the penguins).^[4] Modern genera began their wide radiation in the Miocene, although the genus *Puffinus* (which includes today's Manx Shearwater and Sooty Shearwater) dates back to the Oligocene.^[1] The highest diversity of seabirds apparently existed during the Late Miocene and the Pliocene. At the end of the latter, the oceanic food web had undergone a period of upheaval due to extinction of considerable numbers of marine species;^[5] subsequently, the spread of marine mammals seems to have prevented seabirds from reaching their erstwhile diversity.^[6]

Characteristics

Adaptations to life at sea

Seabirds have made numerous adaptations to living on and feeding in the sea. Wing morphology has been shaped by the niche an individual species or family has evolved, so that looking at a wing's shape and loading can tell a scientist about its life feeding behaviour. Longer wings and low wing loading are typical of more pelagic species, whilst diving species have shorter wings.[7] Species such as the Wandering Albatross, which forage over huge areas of sea, have a reduced capacity for powered flight and are dependent on a type of gliding called dynamic soaring (where the wind deflected by waves provides lift) as well as slope soaring.[8] Seabirds also almost always have webbed feet, to aid movement on the surface as well as assisting diving in some species. The Procellariiformes are unusual amongst birds in having a strong sense of smell (olfaction), which is used to find widely distributed food in a vast ocean,[9] and possibly to locate their colonies.

Salt glands are used by seabirds to deal with the salt they ingest by drinking and feeding (particularly on crustaceans), and to help them osmoregulate.[10] The excretions from these glands (which are positioned in the head of the birds, emerging from the nasal cavity) are almost pure NaCl.

With the exception of the [cormorants](#) and some terns, and in common with most other birds, all seabirds have waterproof [plumage](#). However, compared to land birds, they have far more feathers protecting their bodies. This dense plumage is better able to protect the bird from getting wet, and cold is kept out by a dense layer of down feathers. The cormorants possess a layer of unique feathers that retain a smaller layer of air (compared to other diving birds) but otherwise soak up water.[11] This allows them to swim without fighting the buoyancy that retaining air in the feathers causes, yet retain enough air to prevent the bird losing excessive heat through contact with water.

The plumage of most seabirds is less colourful than that of land birds, restricted in the main to variations of black, white or grey.[12] A few species sport colourful plumes (such as the tropicbirds or some penguins), but most of the colour in seabirds appears in the bills and legs. The plumage of seabirds is thought in many cases to be for camouflage, both defensive (the colour of US Navy battleships is the same as that of Antarctic Prions,[13] and in both cases it reduces visibility at sea) and aggressive (the white underside possessed by many seabirds helps hide them from prey below).

Diet and feeding

Seabirds evolved to exploit different food resources in the world's seas and oceans, and to a great extent, their physiology and behaviour have been shaped by their diet. These evolutionary forces have often caused species in different families and even orders to evolve

similar strategies and adaptations to the same problems, leading to remarkable convergent evolution, such as that between [auks](#) and [penguins](#). There are four basic feeding strategies, or ecological guilds, for feeding at sea: surface feeding, pursuit diving, plunge diving, and predation of higher vertebrates; within these guilds there are multiple variations on the theme.

Surface feeding

Many seabirds feed on the ocean's surface, as the action of marine currents often concentrates food such as krill, [fish](#), squid or other prey items within reach of a dipped head.

Surface feeding itself can be broken up into two different approaches, surface feeding while [flying](#) (for example as practiced by [gadfly petrels](#), frigate-birds and storm-petrels), and surface feeding whilst swimming (examples of which are practiced by fulmars, gulls, many of the shearwaters and gadfly petrels). Surface feeders in flight include some of the most acrobatic of seabirds, which either snatch morsels from the water (as do frigate-birds and some terns), or "walk", pattering and hovering on the water's surface, as some of the storm-petrels do.[12] Many of these do not ever land in the water, and some, such as the frigatebirds, have difficulty getting airborne again should they do so.[13] Another seabird family that does not land while feeding is the skimmer, which has a unique fishing method: flying along the surface with the lower mandible in the water—this shuts automatically when the bill touches something in the water. The skimmer's bill reflects its unusual lifestyle, with the lower mandible uniquely being longer than the upper one.

Surface feeders that swim often have unique bills as well, adapted for their specific prey. Prions have special bills with filters called lamellae to filter out plankton from mouthfuls of water,^[14] and many albatrosses and petrels have hooked bills to snatch fast-moving prey. Gulls have more generalised bills that reflect their more opportunistic lifestyle.

Pursuit diving

Pursuit diving exerts greater pressures (both evolutionary and physiological) on seabirds, but the reward is a greater area in which to feed than is available to surface feeders. Propulsion underwater can be provided by wings (as used by penguins, auks, diving petrels, and some other species of petrel) or feet (as used by cormorants, grebes, divers and several types of fish-eating ducks). Wing-propelled divers are generally faster than foot-propelled divers.[1] In both cases the use of wings or feet for diving has limited their utility in other situations: divers and grebes walk with extreme difficulty (if at all), penguins cannot fly, and auks have sacrificed flight efficiency in favour of underwater diving. For example, the razorbill (an Atlantic auk) requires 64% more energy to fly than a petrel of equivalent size.[15] Many shearwaters are intermediate between the two, having longer wings than typical wing-propelled divers but heavier wing loadings than the other surface-feeding procellariids, leaving them capable of diving to considerable depths while still being efficient long-distance travellers. The most impressive diving exhibited by shearwaters is found in the Short-tailed Shearwater, which has been recorded diving below 70 m.[16] Some albatross species are also capable of some limited diving, with Light-mantled Sooty

Albatrosses holding the record at 12 m.^[17] Of all the wing-propelled pursuit divers, the most efficient in the air are the albatrosses, and it is no coincidence that they are the poorest divers. This is the dominant guild in polar and subpolar environments, as it is energetically inefficient in warmer waters. With their poor flying ability, many wing-propelled pursuit divers are more limited in their foraging range than other guilds, especially during the breeding season when hungry chicks need regular feeding.

Plunge diving

[Gannets](#), boobies, tropicbirds, some [terns](#) and Brown Pelicans all engage in plunge diving, taking fast moving prey by diving into the water from flight. Plunge diving allows birds to use the energy from the momentum of the dive to combat natural buoyancy (caused by air trapped in [plumage](#)),^[18] and thus uses less energy than the dedicated pursuit divers, allowing them utilise more widely distributed food resources, for example, in impoverished tropical seas. In general, this is the most specialised method of hunting employed by seabirds; other non-specialists (such as gulls and skuas) may employ it but do so with less skill and from lower heights. In Brown Pelicans the skills of plunge diving take several years to fully develop—once mature, they can dive from 20 m (70 ft) above the water's surface, shifting the body before impact to avoid injury.^[19] It has been suggested that plunge divers are restricted in their hunting grounds to clear waters that afford a view of their prey from the air,^[20] and while they are the dominant guild in the tropics, the link between plunge diving and water clarity is inconclusive.^[21] Some plunge divers (as well as some surface feeders) are dependent on dolphins and tuna to push shoaling fish up towards the surface.^[22]

Kleptoparasitism, scavenging and predation

This catch-all category refers to other seabird strategies that involve the next trophic level up. Kleptoparasites are seabirds that make a part of their living stealing food of other seabirds. Most famously, frigate-birds and skuas engage in this behaviour, although gulls, terns and other species will steal food opportunistically.^[23] The nocturnal nesting behaviour of some seabirds has been interpreted as arising due to pressure from this aerial piracy.^[24] Kleptoparasitism is not thought to play a significant part of the diet of any species, and is instead a supplement to food obtained by hunting.^[1] A study of Great Frigatebirds stealing from Masked Boobies estimated that the frigatebirds could at most obtain 40% of the food they needed, and on average obtained only 5%.^[25] Many species of gull will feed on seabird and sea mammal carrion when the opportunity arises, as will giant petrels. Some species of albatross also engage in scavenging: an analysis of regurgitated squid beaks has shown that many of the squid eaten are too large to have been caught alive, and include mid-water species likely to be beyond the reach of albatrosses.^[26] Some species will also feed on other seabirds; for example, gulls, skuas and giant petrels will often take eggs, chicks and even small seabirds from nesting colonies. ^[27]

Life history

Seabirds' life histories are dramatically different from those of land birds. In general, they are K-selected, live much longer (anywhere between 20 and 60 years), they delay breeding for longer (for up to 10 years), and invest more effort into fewer young.[1][28] Most species will only have one clutch a year, unless they lose the first (with a few exceptions, like the Cassin's Auklet),[29] and many species (like the tubenoses and [sulids](#)), only one egg a year.[14]

Care of young is protracted, extending for as long as six months, among the longest for birds. For example, once Common Guillemot chicks fledge, they remain with the male parent for several months at sea.[15] The [frigatebirds](#) have the longest period of parental care of any bird, with the chicks fledging after four to six months and with continued assistance after that for up to 14 months.[30] Due to the extended period of care, breeding occurs every two years rather than annually for some species. This life-history strategy has probably evolved both in response to the challenges of living at sea (collecting widely scattered prey items), the frequency of breeding failures due to unfavourable marine conditions, and the relative lack of predation compared to that of land-living birds.[1]

Because of the greater investment in raising the young and because foraging for food may occur far from the nest site, in all seabird species except the phalaropes, both parents participate in caring for the young, and pairs are typically at least seasonally monogamous. Many species, such as gulls, auks and penguins, retain the same mate for several seasons, and many petrel species mate for life.[14] The albatrosses and procellariids which mate for life can take many years to form a pair bond before they breed, and the albatrosses have an elaborate breeding dance that is part of pair-bond formation.[31]

Breeding and colonies

Ninety-five per cent of seabirds are colonial,[1] and seabird colonies are amongst the largest bird colonies in the world, providing one of Earth's great wildlife spectacles. Colonies of over a million birds have been recorded, both in the tropics (such as Kiritimati in the Pacific) and in the polar latitudes (as in Antarctica). Seabird colonies occur exclusively for the purpose of breeding; non-breeding birds will only collect together outside the breeding season in areas where prey species are densely aggregated.

Seabird colonies are highly variable. Individual nesting sites can be widely spaced, as in an albatross colony, or densely packed as with a murre colony. In most seabird colonies, several different species will nest on the same colony, often exhibiting some niche separation. Seabirds can nest in trees (if any are available), on the ground (with or without nests), on cliffs, in burrows under the ground and in rocky crevices. Competition can be strong both within species and between species, with aggressive species such as Sooty Terns pushing less dominant species out of the most desirable nesting spaces.[32] The tropical Bonin Petrel nests during the winter to avoid competition with the more aggressive Wedge-

tailed Shearwater. When the seasons overlap, the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters will kill young Bonin Petrels in order to use their burrows.^[33]

Many seabirds show remarkable site fidelity, returning to the same burrow, nest or site for many years, and they will defend that site from rivals with great vigour.^[1] This increases breeding success, provides a place for returning mates to reunite, and reduces the costs of prospecting for a new site.^[34] Young adults breeding for the first time usually return to their natal colony, and often nest close to where they hatched. This tendency, known as philopatry, is so strong that a study of Laysan Albatrosses found that the average distance between hatching site and the site where a bird established its own territory was 22 m;^[35] another study, this time on Cory's Shearwaters nesting near Corsica, found that of nine out of 61 male chicks that returned to breed at their natal colony bred in the burrow they were raised in, and two actually bred with their own mother.^[36]

Colonies are usually situated on islands, cliffs or headlands which land mammals have difficulty accessing.^[37] This is thought to provide protection to seabirds, which are often very clumsy on land. Coloniality often arises in types of bird which do not defend feeding territories (such as swifts, which have a very variable prey source); this may be a reason why it arises more frequently in seabirds.^[1] There are other possible advantages: colonies may act as information centres, where seabirds returning to the sea to forage can find out where prey is by studying returning individuals of the same species. There are disadvantages to colonial life, particularly the spread of disease. Colonies also attract the attention of predators, principally other birds, and many species attend their colonies nocturnally to avoid predation.^[38]

Migration

Like many birds, seabirds often [migrate](#) after the breeding season. Of these, the trip taken by the Arctic Tern is the farthest of any bird, crossing the equator in order to spend the Austral summer in Antarctica. Other species also undertake trans-equatorial trips, both from the north to the south, and from south to north. The population of Elegant Terns, which nest off Baja California, splits after the breeding season with some birds travelling north to the coast of central California and some travelling as far south as Peru and Chile to feed in the Humboldt Current.^[39] The Sooty Shearwater undertakes an annual migration cycle that rivals that of the Arctic Tern; birds that nest in New Zealand and Chile and spend the northern summer feeding in the North Pacific off Japan, Alaska and California, an annual round trip of 40,000 miles (64,000 km).^[40]

Other species also migrate shorter distances away from the breeding sites, their distribution at sea determined by the availability of food. If oceanic conditions are unsuitable, seabirds will emigrate to more productive areas, sometimes permanently if the bird is young.^[41] After fledging, juvenile birds often disperse further than adults, and to different areas, so are commonly sighted far from a species' normal range. Some species, such as the auks, do not have a concerted migration effort, but drift southwards as the winter

approaches.[15] Other species, such as some of the storm-petrels, diving petrels and [cormorants](#), never disperse at all, staying near their breeding colonies year round.

Away from the sea

Whilst the definition of seabirds suggests that the birds in question spend their lives on the ocean, many seabird families have many species that spend some or even most of their lives inland away from the sea. Most strikingly, many species breed many tens, hundreds or even thousands of miles inland. Some of these species still return to the ocean to feed; for example, the Snow Petrel, the nests of which have been found 300 miles inland on the Antarctic mainland, are unlikely to find anything to eat around their breeding sites.[42] The Marbled Murrelet nests inland in old growth forest, seeking huge conifers with large branches to nest on.[43] Other species, such as the California Gull, nest and feed inland on lakes, and then move to the coasts in the winter.[44] Some cormorant, pelican, gull and tern species have individuals that never visit the sea at all, spending their lives on lakes, rivers, swamps and, in the case of some of the gulls, cities and agricultural land. In these cases it is thought that these terrestrial or freshwater birds evolved from marine ancestors.[7] Some seabirds, principally those that nest in tundra-like skuas and phalaropes, will migrate over land as well.

The more marine species, such as petrels, auks, and gannets, are more restricted in their habits, but are occasionally seen inland as vagrants. This most commonly happens to young inexperienced birds, but can happen in great numbers to exhausted adults after large storms, an event known as a wreck,[45] where they provide prized sightings for birders.

Relationship with humans

Seabirds and fisheries

Seabirds have had a long association with both fisheries and sailors, and both have drawn benefits and disadvantages from the relationship.

Fishermen have traditionally used seabirds as indicators of both fish shoals,[22] underwater banks that might indicate fish stocks, and of potential landfall. In fact, the known association of seabirds with land was instrumental in allowing the Polynesians to locate tiny landmasses in the Pacific.[1] Seabirds have provided food for fishermen away from home, as well as bait. Famously, tethered cormorants have been used to catch fish directly. Indirectly, fisheries have also benefited from guano from colonies of seabirds acting as fertiliser for the surrounding seas.

Negative effects on fisheries are mostly restricted to raiding by birds on aquaculture,[46] although long-lining fisheries also have to deal with bait stealing. There have been claims of prey depletion by seabirds of fishery stocks, and while there is some evidence of this, the

effects of seabirds are considered smaller than that of marine mammals and predatory fish (like tuna).^[41]

Some seabird species have benefited from fisheries, particularly from discarded fish and offal. These discards compose 30% of the food of seabirds in the North Sea, for example, and compose up to 70% of the total food of some seabird populations.[47] This can have other impacts; for example, the spread of the Northern Fulmar through the British Isles is attributed in part to the availability of discards.[48] Discards generally benefit surface feeders, such as gannets and petrels, to the detriment of pursuit divers like [penguins](#).

Fisheries also have negative effects on seabirds, and these effects, particularly on the long-lived and slow-breeding [albatrosses](#), are a source of increasing concern to conservationists. The bycatch of seabirds entangled in nets or hooked on fishing lines has had a big impact on seabird numbers; for example, an estimated 100,000 albatrosses are hooked and drown each year on tuna lines set out by long-line fisheries.[49] [50] Overall, many hundreds of thousands of birds are trapped and killed each year, a source of concern for some of the rarest species (for example, only 1,000 Short-tailed Albatrosses are known to still exist). Seabirds are also thought to suffer when overfishing occurs.

Exploitation

The hunting of seabirds and the collecting of seabird eggs have contributed to the declines of many species, and the extinction of several, including the Great Auk and the Spectacled Cormorant. Seabirds have been hunted for food by coastal peoples throughout history—one of the earliest instances known is in southern Chile, where archaeological excavations in middens has shown hunting of albatrosses, cormorants and shearwaters from 5000 BP.[51] This pressure has led to some species becoming extinct in many places; in particular, at least 20 species of an original 29 no longer breed on Easter Island. In the 19th century, the hunting of seabirds for fat deposits and feathers for the millinery trade reached industrial levels. Muttonbirding (harvesting shearwater chicks) developed as important industries in both New Zealand and Tasmania, and the name of one species, the Providence Petrel, is derived from its seemingly miraculous arrival on Norfolk Island where it provided a windfall for starving European settlers.[52] In the Falkland Islands, hundreds of thousands of penguins were harvested for their oil each year. Seabird eggs have also long been an important source of food for sailors undertaking long sea voyages, as well as being taken when settlements grow in areas near a colony. Eggers from San Francisco took almost half a million eggs a year from the Farallon Islands in the mid-19th century, a period in the islands' history from which the seabird species are still recovering.^[53]

Both hunting and egging continue today, although not at the levels that occurred in the past, and generally in a more controlled manner. For example, the Mori of Stewart Island/Rakiura continue to harvest the chicks of the Sooty Shearwater as they have done for centuries, using traditional methods (called kaitiakitanga) to manage the harvest, but now work with the University of Otago in studying the populations. In Greenland, however, uncontrolled hunting is pushing many species into steep decline.^[54]

Other threats

Other human factors have led to declines and even extinctions in seabird populations, colonies and species. Of these, perhaps the most serious are introduced species. Seabirds, breeding predominantly on small isolated islands, have lost many predator defence behaviours.[37] Feral cats are capable of taking seabirds as large as albatrosses, and many introduced rodents, such as the Pacific rat, can take eggs hidden in burrows. Introduced goats, cattle, rabbits and other herbivores can lead to problems, particularly when species need vegetation to protect or shade their young.[55] Disturbance of breeding colonies by humans is often a problem as well—visitors, even well-meaning tourists, can flush brooding adults off a colony leaving chicks and eggs vulnerable to predators.

The build-up of toxins and pollutants in seabirds is also a concern. Seabirds, being apex predators, suffered from the ravages of DDT until it was banned; among other effects, DDT was implicated in embryo development problems and the skewed sex ratio of Western Gulls in southern California.[56] Oil spills are also a threat to seabird species, as both a toxin and because the [feathers](#) of the birds become saturated by the oil, causing them to lose their waterproofing.^[57] Oil pollution threatens species with restricted ranges or already depressed populations.

Conservation

The threats faced by seabirds have not gone unnoticed by scientists or the conservation movement. As early as 1903, Theodore Roosevelt was convinced of the need to declare Pelican Island in Florida a National Wildlife Refuge to protect the bird colonies (including the nesting Brown Pelicans),[58] and in 1909 he protected the Farallon Islands. Today many important seabird colonies are given some measure of protection, from Heron Island in Australia to Triangle Island in British Columbia.

Island restoration techniques, pioneered by New Zealand, enable the removal of exotic invaders from increasingly large islands. Feral cats have been removed from Ascension Island, Arctic Foxes from many islands in the Aleutians,[59] and rats from Campbell Island. The removal of these introduced species has led to increases in numbers of species under pressure and even the return of extirpated ones. After the removal of cats from Ascension Island, seabirds began to nest there again for the first time in over a hundred years.^[60]

Seabird mortality caused by long-line fisheries can be massively reduced by techniques such as setting long-line bait at night, dyeing the bait blue, setting the bait underwater, increasing the amount of weight on lines and by using bird scarers,^[61] and their deployment is increasingly required by many national fishing fleets. The international ban on the use of drift nets has also helped reduce the mortality of seabirds and other marine wildlife.

One of the Millennium Projects in the UK was the Scottish Seabird Centre, near the important bird sanctuaries on Bass Rock, Fidra and the surrounding islands. The area is

home to huge colonies of gannets, puffins, skuas and other seabirds. The centre allows visitors to watch live video from the islands as well as learn about the threats the birds face and how we can protect them, and has helped to significantly raise the profile of seabird conservation in the UK. Seabird tourism can provide income for coastal communities as well as raise the profile of seabird conservation, for example the Northern Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head in New Zealand attracts 40,000 visitors a year.^[14]

The plight of albatross and large seabirds, as well as other marine creatures, being taken as bycatch by long-line fisheries, has been addressed by a large number of NGOs (including BirdLife International and the RSPB). This led to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, a legally binding treaty designed to protect these threatened species, which has been ratified by eight countries as of 2006 (namely Australia, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom).^[62]

Role in culture

Many seabirds are little studied and poorly known, due to living far out to sea and breeding in isolated colonies. Some seabirds have made the break into popular consciousness, most particularly, the [albatrosses](#) and [gulls](#). The albatrosses have been described as "the most legendary of birds",^[63] and have a variety of myths and legends associated with them, and today it is widely considered unlucky to harm them, although the notion that sailors believed that is a myth.^[64] This myth derives from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's famous poem, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner", where a sailor is punished for harming an albatross by wearing the dead bird around his neck. Sailors did, however, consider it unlucky to touch a storm-petrel, especially one that has landed on the ship.^[63]

Gulls are one of the most commonly seen seabirds, given their use of human-made habitats (such as cities and dumps) and their often fearless nature. They therefore also have made it into the popular consciousness, if only as the "flying rats" berated in Finding Nemo. They have been used metaphorically, as in Jonathan Livingston Seagull, by Richard Bach, or to denote a closeness to the sea, such as their use in the The Lord of the Rings, both in the insignia of Gondor, and therefore Númenor (used in the design of the film), and to call Legolas to, and across, the sea. Other species have also made an impact; pelicans have long been associated with mercy and altruism because of an early Western Christian myth that they split open their breast to feed their starving chicks.^[19]

Seabird families

The following are the groups of [birds](#) normally classed as seabirds.

Sphenisciformes (Antarctic and southern waters; 16 species)

Spheniscidae [penguins](#)

Procellariiformes (Tubenoses: pan-oceanic and pelagic; 93 species)

Diomedidae [albatrosses](#)

Procellariidae fulmars, prions, shearwaters, [gadfly](#) and other petrels

Pelacanoididae diving petrels

Hydrobatidae storm-petrels

Pelecaniformes (Worldwide; 57 species)

Pelecanidae [pelicans](#)

Sulidae [gannets](#) and boobies

Phalacrocoracidae [cormorants](#)

Fregatidae [frigatebirds](#)

Phaethontidae tropicbirds

Charadriiformes (Worldwide; 305 species, but only the families listed are classed as seabirds.)

Stercorariidae skuas

Laridae [gulls](#)

Sternidae [terns](#)

Rhynchopidae skimmers

Alcidae [auks](#)

For an alternative taxonomy of these groups, see also Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy.

See also [list of birds](#).

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Albatrosses

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: **Diomedidae** G.R. Gray, 1840 Genera: *Diomedea*, *Thalassarche*, *Phoebastria*, *Phoebastria*

Albatrosses, of the biological family **Diomedidae**, are large [seabirds](#) allied to the procellariids, storm-petrels and diving-petrels in the order Procellariiformes (the tubenoses). They range widely in the Southern Ocean and the North Pacific. They are absent from the North Atlantic, although fossil remains show they once occurred there too. Albatrosses are amongst the largest of [flying](#) birds, and the great albatrosses (genus *Diomedea*) have the largest wingspans of any extant birds. The albatrosses are usually regarded as falling into four genera, but there is disagreement over the number of species.

Albatrosses are highly efficient in the air, using dynamic soaring and slope soaring to cover great distances with little exertion. They feed on squid, fish and krill by either scavenging, surface seizing or diving. Albatrosses are colonial, nesting for the most part on remote oceanic islands, often with several species nesting together. Pair bonds between males and females form over several years, with the use of ritualised dances, and will last for the life of the pair. A breeding season can take over a year from laying to fledging, with a single [egg](#) laid in each breeding attempt.

Of the 21 species of albatrosses recognised by the IUCN, 19 are threatened with extinction. Numbers of albatrosses have declined in the past due to harvesting for feathers, but today the albatrosses are threatened by introduced species such as rats and feral cats that attack eggs, chicks and nesting adults; by pollution; by a serious decline in fish stocks in many regions largely due to overfishing; and by long-line fishing. Long-line fisheries pose the greatest threat, as feeding birds are attracted to the bait and become hooked on the lines and drown. Governments, conservation organisations and fishermen are all working towards reducing this by-catch.

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Albatross biology

Taxonomy and evolution

The albatrosses comprise between 13 and 24 species (the number of species is still a matter of some debate, 21 being the most commonly accepted number) in 4 genera. The four genera are the great albatrosses (*Diomedea*), the mollymawks (*Thalassarche*), the North Pacific albatrosses (*Phoebastria*), and the sooty albatrosses or sooties (*Phoebetria*). Of the four genera, the North Pacific albatrosses are considered to be a sister taxon to the great albatrosses, while the sooty albatrosses are considered closer to the mollymawks.

The taxonomy of the albatross group has been a source of a great deal of debate. The Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy places seabirds, [birds of prey](#) and many others in a greatly enlarged order Ciconiiformes, whereas the ornithological organisations in North America, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand retain the more traditional order Procellariiformes. The albatrosses can be separated from the other Procellariiformes both genetically and through morphological characteristics, size, their legs and the arrangement of their nasal tubes (*see Morphology and flight*).

Within the family the assignment of genera has been debated for over a hundred years. Originally placed into a single genus, *Diomedea*, they were rearranged by Reichenbach into four different genera in 1852, then lumped back together and split apart again several times, acquiring 12 different genus names in total (though never more than eight at one time) by 1965 (*Diomedea*, *Phoebastria*, *Thalassarche*, *Phoebetria*, *Thalassageron*, *Diomedella*, *Nealbutrus*, *Rhothonia*, *Julietata*, *Galapagornis*, *Laysanornis*, and *Penthirenia*).

By 1965, in an attempt to bring some order back to the classification of albatrosses, they were lumped into two genera, *Phoebetria* (the sooty albatrosses which most closely seemed to resemble the procellarids and were at the time considered "primitive") and *Diomedea* (the rest).^[u] Though there was a case for the simplification of the family (particularly the nomenclature), the classification was based on the morphological analysis of Elliott Coues in 1866, and paid little attention to more recent studies and even ignored some of Coues's suggestions.

More recent research by Gary Nunn of the American Museum of Natural History (1996) and other researchers around the world studied the mitochondrial DNA of all 14 accepted species, finding that there were four, not two, monophyletic groups within the albatrosses.^[2] They proposed the resurrection of two of the old genus names, *Phoebastria* for the North Pacific albatrosses and *Thalassarche* for the mollymawks, with the great albatrosses retaining *Diomedea* and the sooty albatrosses staying in *Phoebetria*. Both the British Ornithologists' Union and the South African authorities split the albatrosses into four genera as Nunn suggested, and the change has been accepted by the majority of researchers.

While there is some agreement on the number of genera, there is less agreement on the number of species. Historically, up to 80 different taxa have been described by different

researchers; most of these were incorrectly identified juvenile birds.^[3] Based on the work on albatross genera, Robertson and Nunn went on in 1998 to propose a revised taxonomy with 24 different species,^[4] compared to the 14 then accepted. This interim taxonomy elevated many established subspecies to full species, but was criticised for not using, in every case, peer reviewed information to justify the splits. Since then further studies have in some instances supported or disproved the splits; a 2004 paper analysing the mitochondrial DNA and microsatellites agreed with the conclusion that the Antipodean Albatross and the Tristan Albatross were distinct from the Wandering Albatross, per Robertson and Nunn, but found that the suggested Gibson's Albatross, *Diomedea gibsoni*, was not distinct from the Antipodean Albatross.^[5] For the most part, an interim taxonomy of 21 species is accepted by the IUCN and many other researchers, though by no means all — in 2004 Penhallurick and Wink called for the number of species to be reduced to 13 (including the lumping of the Amsterdam Albatross with the Wandering Albatross),^[6] although this paper was itself controversial.^{[3] [7]} On all sides, there is the widespread agreement on the need for further research to clarify the issue.

Sibley and Ahlquist's molecular study of the evolution of the bird families has put the radiation of the Procellariiformes in the Oligocene period (35–30 million years ago), though this group probably originated earlier, with a fossil sometimes attributed to the order, a seabird known as *Tyttthostonyx*, being found in late Cretaceous rocks (70 mya). The molecular evidence suggests that the storm-petrels were the first to diverge from the ancestral stock, and the albatrosses next, with the procellariids and diving petrels separating later. The earliest fossil albatrosses were found in Eocene to Oligocene rocks, although some of these are only tentatively assigned to the family and none appear to be particularly close to the living forms. They are *Murunkus* (Middle Eocene of Uzbekistan), *Manu* (early Oligocene of New Zealand), and an undescribed form from the Late Oligocene of South Carolina. Similar to the last was *Plotornis*, formerly often considered a petrel but now accepted as an albatross. It is from the Middle Miocene of France, a time when the split between the four modern genera was already underway as evidenced by *Phoebastria californica* and *Diomedea milleri*, both being mid-Miocene species from Sharktooth Hill, California. These show that the split between the great albatrosses and the North Pacific albatrosses occurred by 15 mya. Similar fossil finds in the southern hemisphere put the split between the sooties and mollymawks at 10 mya.^[8] The fossil record of the albatrosses in the northern hemisphere is more complete than that of the southern, and many fossil forms of albatross have been found in the North Atlantic, which today has no albatrosses. The remains of a colony of Short-tailed Albatrosses have been uncovered on the island of Bermuda,^[9] and the majority of fossil albatrosses from the North Atlantic have been of the genus *Phoebastria* (the North Pacific albatrosses); one, *Phoebastria anglica*, has been found in deposits in both North Carolina and England. See the genus accounts for more data on fossil species.

Morphology and flight

The albatrosses are a group of large to very large [birds](#); they are the largest of the procellariiformes. The [bill](#) is large, strong and sharp-edged, the upper mandible terminating in a large hook. This bill is composed of several horny plates, and along the sides are the two "tubes", long nostrils that give the order its name. The tubes of all albatrosses are along the sides of the bill, unlike the rest of the Procellariiformes where the tubes run along the top of the bill. These tubes allow the albatrosses to have an acute sense of smell, an unusual ability for birds. Like other Procellariiformes they use this olfactory ability while foraging in order to locate potential food sources.[10] The feet have no hind toe and the three anterior toes are completely webbed. The legs are strong for Procellariiformes, in fact, almost uniquely amongst the order in that they and the giant petrels are able to walk well on land.

The adult [plumage](#) of most of the albatrosses is usually some variation of dark upper-wing and back, white undersides, often compared to that of a [gull](#). Of these, the species range from the Southern Royal Albatross which is almost completely white except for the ends of the wings, to the Amsterdam Albatross which has an almost juvenile-like breeding plumage with a great deal of brown, particularly a strong brown band around the chest. Several species of mollymawks and North Pacific albatrosses have face markings like eye patches or have grey or yellow on the head and nape. Three albatross species, the Black-footed Albatross and the two sooty albatrosses, vary completely from the usual patterns and are almost entirely black (or dark grey in the case of the Light-mantled Sooty Albatross). Albatrosses take several years to get their full adult breeding plumage.

The wingspans of the largest great albatrosses (genus *Diomedea*) are the largest of any bird, exceeding 340 cm (over 11 feet), although the other species' wingspans are considerably smaller. The wings are stiff and cambered, with thickened streamlined leading edges. Albatrosses travel huge distances with two techniques used by many long-winged seabirds, dynamic soaring and slope soaring. Dynamic soaring enables them to minimise the effort needed by gliding across wave fronts gaining energy from the vertical wind gradient. Slope soaring is more straightforward: the albatross turns to the wind, gaining height, from where it can then glide back down to the sea. Albatross have high glide ratios, around 1:22 to 1:23, meaning that for every metre they drop, they can travel forward 22 metres. They are aided in soaring by a shoulder-lock, a sheet of tendon that locks the wing when fully extended, allowing the wing to be kept up and out without any muscle expenditure, a morphological adaptation they share with the giant petrels.[\[11\]](#)

Albatrosses combine these soaring techniques with the use of predictable weather systems; albatrosses in the southern hemisphere flying north from their colonies will take a clockwise route, and those flying south will fly counterclockwise.[12] Albatrosses are so well adapted to this lifestyle that their heart rates while flying are close to their basal heart rate when resting. This efficiency is such that the most energetically demanding aspect of a foraging trip is not the distance covered, but the landings, take-offs and hunting they undertake having found a food source.[\[13\]](#) This efficient long-distance travelling underlies the albatross's success as a long-distance forager, covering great distances and expending little

energy looking for patchily distributed food sources. Their adaptation to gliding flight makes them dependent on wind and waves, however, as their long wings are ill-suited to powered flight and most species lack the muscles and energy to undertake sustained flapping flight. Albatrosses in calm seas are forced to rest on the ocean's surface until the wind picks up again. They also sleep while resting on the surface (and not while on the wing as is sometimes thought). The North Pacific albatrosses can use a flight style known as flap-gliding, where the bird progresses by bursts of flapping followed by gliding.^[14] When taking off, albatrosses need to take a run up to allow enough air to move under the wing to provide lift.

Distribution and range at sea

Most albatrosses range in the southern hemisphere from Antarctica to Australia, South Africa and South America. The exceptions to this are the four North Pacific albatrosses, of which three occur exclusively in the North Pacific, from Hawaii to Japan, California and Alaska; and one, the Waved Albatross, breeds in the Galapagos Islands and feeds off the coast of South America. The need for wind in order to glide is the reason albatrosses are for the most part confined to higher latitudes; being unsuited to sustained flapping flight makes crossing the doldrums extremely difficult. The exception, the Waved Albatross, is able to live in the equatorial waters around the Galapagos Islands because of the cool waters of the Humboldt Current and the resulting winds.

It is not known for certain why the albatrosses became extinct in the North Atlantic, although rising sea levels due to an interglacial warming period are thought to have submerged the site of a Short-tailed Albatross colony that has been excavated in Bermuda.^[9] Some southern species have occasionally turned up as vagrants in the North Atlantic and can become exiled, remaining there for decades. One of these exiles, a Black-browed Albatross, returned to gannet colonies in Scotland for many years in a lonely attempt to breed.^[15]

The use of satellite tracking is teaching scientists a great deal about the way albatrosses forage across the ocean in order to find food. They undertake no annual migration, but disperse widely after breeding, in the case of southern hemisphere species, often undertaking circumpolar trips.^[16] There is also evidence that there is separation of the ranges of different species at sea. A comparison of the foraging niches of two related species that breed on Campbell Island, the Campbell Albatross and the Grey-headed Albatross, showed the Campbell Albatross primarily fed over the Campbell Plateau whereas the Grey-headed Albatross fed in more pelagic, oceanic waters. Wandering Albatrosses also react strongly to bathymetry, feeding only in waters deeper than 1000 m (3281 feet); so rigidly did the satellite plots match this contour that one scientist remarked, "It almost appears as if the birds notice and obey a 'No Entry' sign where the water shallows to less than 1000 m".^[8] There is also evidence of different ranges for the two sexes of the same species; a study of Tristan Albatrosses breeding on Gough Island showed that males foraged to the west of Gough and females to the east.

Diet

The albatross diet is dominated by cephalopods, fish and crustaceans, although they will also scavenge carrion and feed on other zooplankton.[12] It should be noted that for most species, a comprehensive understanding of diet is only known for the breeding season, when the albatrosses regularly return to land and study is possible. The importance of each of these food sources varies from species to species, and even from population to population; some concentrate on squid alone, others take more krill or fish. Of the two albatross species found in Hawaii, one, the Black-footed Albatross, takes mostly fish while the Laysan feeds on squid.

The use of dataloggers at sea that record ingestion of water against time (providing a likely time of feeding) suggest that albatross predominantly feed during the day. Analysis of the squid beaks regurgitated by albatrosses has shown that many of the squid eaten are too large to have been caught alive,^[17] and include mid-water species likely to be beyond the reach of albatross, suggesting that, for some species (like the Wandering Albatross), scavenged squid may be an important part of the diet. The source of these dead squid is a matter of debate; some certainly comes from squid fisheries, but in nature it primarily comes from the die-off that occurs after squid spawning and the vomit of squid-eating whales (sperm whales, pilot whales and Southern Bottlenose Whales). The diet of other species, like the Black-browed Albatross or the Grey-headed Albatross, is rich with smaller species of squid that tend to sink after death, and scavenging is not assumed to play a large role in their diet.

Until recently it was thought that albatross were predominantly surface feeders, swimming at the surface and snapping up squid and fish pushed to the surface by currents, predators or death. The deployment of capillary depth recorders, which record the maximum dive depth undertaken by a bird (between attaching it to a bird and recovering it when it returns to land), has shown that while some species, like the Wandering Albatross, do not dive deeper than a metre, some species, like the Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, have a mean diving depth of almost 5 m and can dive as deep as 12.5 m.^[18] In addition to surface feeding and diving, they have now also been observed plunge diving from the air to snatch prey.^[19]

Breeding

Albatrosses are colonial, usually nesting on isolated islands; where colonies are on larger landmasses, they are found on exposed headlands with good approaches from the sea in several directions, like the colony on the Otago Peninsula in Dunedin, New Zealand. Colonies vary from the very dense aggregations favoured by the mollymawks (Black-browed Albatross colonies on the Falkland Islands have densities of 70 nests per 100 m²) to the much looser groups and widely spaced individual nests favoured by the sooty and great albatrosses. All albatross colonies are on islands that historically were free of land mammals.

Albatrosses are highly philopatric, meaning they will usually return to their natal colony to breed. This tendency to return is so strong that a study of Laysan Albatross showed that the average distance between hatching site and the site where a bird established its own territory was 22 metres.^[20]

Like most seabirds, albatrosses are K-selected with regard to their life history, meaning they live much longer than other birds, they delay breeding for longer, and invest more effort into fewer young. Albatrosses are very long lived; most species survive upwards of 50 years, the oldest recorded being a Northern Royal Albatross that was ringed as an adult and survived for another 51 years, giving it an estimated age of 61.^[21] Given that most albatross ringing projects are considerably younger than that, it is thought likely that other species will prove to live that long and even longer.

Albatrosses reach sexual maturity slowly, after about five years, but even once they have reached maturity, they will not begin to breed for another couple of years (even up to 10 years for some species). Young non-breeders will attend a colony prior to beginning to breed, spending many years practicing the elaborate breeding rituals and "dances" that the family is famous for.^[22] Birds arriving back at the colony for the first time already have the stereotyped behaviours that compose albatross language, but can neither "read" that behaviour as exhibited by other birds nor respond appropriately.^[12] After a period of trial and error learning, the young birds learn the syntax and perfect the dances. This language is mastered more rapidly if the younger birds are around older birds.

The repertoire of behaviour involves synchronised performances of various actions such as preening, pointing, calling, bill clacking, staring, and combinations of such behaviours (like the sky-call).^[23] When a bird first returns to the colony it will dance with many partners, but after a number of years the number of birds an individual will interact with drops, until one partner is chosen and a pair is formed. They then continue to perfect an individual language that will eventually be unique to that one pair. Having established a pair bond that will last for life, however, most of that dance will never be used ever again.

Albatrosses are thought to undertake these elaborate and painstaking rituals to ensure that the correct partner has been chosen and to perfect recognition of their partner, as egg laying and chick rearing is a huge investment. Even species that can complete an egg-laying cycle in under a year seldom lay eggs in consecutive years.^[8] The great albatrosses (like the Wandering Albatross) take over a year to raise a chick from laying to fledging. Albatrosses lay a single [egg](#) in a breeding season; if the egg is lost to predators or accidentally broken, then no further breeding attempts are made that year. The "divorce" of a pair is a rare occurrence, usually only happening after several years of breeding failure.

All the southern albatrosses create large nests for their egg, whereas the three species in the north Pacific make more rudimentary nests. The Waved Albatross, on the other hand, makes no nest and will even move its egg around the pair's territory, as much as 50 m, sometimes causing it to lose the egg.^[24] In all albatross species, both parents incubate the egg in stints that last between one day and three weeks. Incubation lasts around 70 to 80 days (longer for the larger albatrosses), the longest incubation period of any bird. It can be an energetically demanding process, with the adult losing as much as 83 g of body weight a day.^[25]

After hatching, the chick is brooded and guarded for three weeks until it is large enough to defend and thermoregulate itself. During this period the parents feed the chick small meals when they relieve each other from duty. After the brooding period is over, the chick is fed in regular intervals by both parents. The parents adopt alternative patterns of short and long foraging trips, providing meals that weigh around 12% of their body weight (around 600 g). The meals are composed of both fresh squid, fish and krill, as well as stomach oil, an energy-rich food that is lighter to carry than undigested prey items.^[26] This oil is created in a stomach organ known as a proventriculus from digested prey items by most tubenoses, and gives them their distinctive musty smell.

Albatross chicks take a long time to fledge. In the case of the great albatrosses, it can take up to 280 days; even for the smaller albatrosses, it takes anywhere between 140 and 170 days.^[27] Like many seabirds, albatross chicks will gain enough weight to be heavier than their parents, and prior to fledging they use these reserves to build up body condition (particularly growing all their flight feathers), usually fledging at the same weight as their parents. Albatross chicks fledge on their own and receive no further help from their parents, who return to the nest after fledging, unaware their chick has left. Studies of juveniles dispersing at sea have suggested an innate migration behaviour, a genetically coded navigation route, which helps young birds when they are first out at sea.^[28]

Albatrosses and humans

Etymology

The name *albatross* is derived from the Arabic *al-câdous* or *al-laccs* (a [pelican](#); literally, "the diver"), which travelled to English via the Portuguese form *alcatraz* ("[gannet](#)"). The OED notes that the word *alcatraz* was originally applied to the frigatebird; the modification to albatross was perhaps influenced by Latin *albus*, meaning "white", in contrast to frigatebirds which are black.^[12] The Portuguese word *albatroz* is of English origin.

They were once commonly known as **Goonie birds** or **Gooney birds**, particularly those of the North Pacific. In the southern hemisphere, the name **mollymawk** is still well established in some areas, which is a corrupted form of *malle-mugge*, an old Dutch name for the Northern Fulmar. The name *Diomedea*, assigned to the albatrosses by Linnaeus, references the mythical metamorphosis of the companions of the Greek warrior Diomedes into birds.

Albatrosses and culture

Albatrosses have been described as "the most legendary of all birds".^[27] An albatross is a central emblem in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge; a captive

albatross is also a metaphor for the poète maudit in a poem of Charles Baudelaire. It is from the former poem that the usage of albatross as a metaphor is derived; someone with a burden or obstacle is said to have 'an albatross around their neck', the punishment given in the poem to the mariner who killed the albatross. In part due to the poem, there is a widespread myth that sailors believe it disastrous to shoot or harm an albatross; in truth, however, sailors regularly killed and ate them,[15] but they were often regarded as the souls of lost sailors. More recently, they have become part of popular culture, for example, in a Monty Python sketch, or the song "Echoes" by Pink Floyd. In the movie *Serenity*, the character River was referred to as an albatross by The Operative, reflecting the widespread adoption of the word as a metaphor.

Albatrosses are popular birds for birdwatchers and their colonies popular destinations for ecotourists. Regular birdwatching trips are taken out of many coastal towns and cities, like Monterey, Kaikoura, Wollongong and Sydney, to see pelagic seabirds, and albatrosses are easily attracted to these sightseeing boats by the deployment of fish oil into the sea. Visits to colonies can be very popular; the Northern Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head in New Zealand attracts 40,000 visitors a year,^[9] and more isolated colonies are regular attractions on cruises to sub-Antarctic islands.

Threats and conservation

In spite of often being accorded legendary status, albatrosses have not escaped either indirect or direct pressure from humans. Early encounters with albatrosses by Polynesians and Aleut Indians resulted in hunting and in some cases extirpation from some islands (such as Easter Island). As Europeans began sailing the world, they too began to hunt albatross, "fishing" for them from boats to serve at the table or blasting them for sport.[29] This sport reached its peak on emigration lines bound for Australia, and only died down when ships became too fast to fish from, and regulations stopped the discharge of weapons for safety reasons. In the 19th century, albatross colonies, particularly those in the North Pacific, were harvested for the feather trade, leading to the near extinction of the Short-tailed Albatross.

Of the 21 albatross species recognised by IUCN on their Red List, 19 are threatened, and the other two are near threatened.[30] Two species (as recognised by the IUCN) are considered critically endangered: the Amsterdam Albatross and the Chatham Albatross. One of the main threats is commercial long-line fishing,[31] as the albatrosses and other seabirds which will readily feed on offal are attracted to the set bait become hooked on the lines and drown. An estimated 100,000 albatross per year are killed in this fashion. Unregulated pirate fisheries exacerbate the problem.

Another threat to albatrosses is introduced species, such as rats or feral cats, which directly attack the albatross or its chicks and eggs. Albatrosses have evolved to breed on islands where land mammals are absent and have not evolved defences against them. Even species as small as mice can be detrimental; on Gough Island the chicks of Tristan Albatrosses are attacked and eaten alive by introduced house mice that are almost 300 times smaller than they are.[32] Introduced species can have other indirect effects: cattle

overgrazed essential cover on Amsterdam Island threatening the Amsterdam Albatross; on other islands introduced plants reduce potential nesting habitat.

Ingestion of plastic flotsam is another problem, one faced by many seabirds. The amount of plastic in the seas has increased dramatically since the first record in the 1960s, coming from waste discarded by ships, offshore dumping, litter on beaches and waste washed to sea by rivers. It is impossible to digest and takes up space in the stomach or gizzard that should be used for food, or can cause an obstruction that starves the bird directly. Studies of birds in the North Pacific have shown that ingestion of plastics results in declining body weight and body condition.[33] This plastic is sometimes regurgitated and fed to chicks; a study of Laysan Albatross chicks on Midway Atoll showed large amounts of ingested plastic in naturally dead chicks compared to healthy chicks killed in accidents.[34] While not the direct cause of death, this plastic causes physiological stress and causes the chick to feel full during feedings, reducing its food intake and the chances of survival.

Scientists and conservationists (most importantly BirdLife International and their partners, who run the Save the Albatross campaign) are working with governments and fishermen to find solutions to the threats albatrosses face. Techniques such as setting long-line bait at night, dyeing the bait blue, setting the bait underwater, increasing the amount of weight on lines and using bird scarers can all reduce the seabird by-catch.[35] For example, a collaborative study between scientists and fishermen in New Zealand successfully tested an underwater setting device for long-liners which set the lines below the reach of vulnerable albatross species.[36] The use of some of these techniques in the Patagonian Toothfish fishery in the Falkland Islands is thought to have reduced the number of Black-browed Albatross taken by the fleet in the last 10 years.[37] Conservationists have also worked on the field of island restoration, removing introduced species that threaten native wildlife, which protects albatrosses from introduced predators.

One important step towards protecting albatrosses and other [seabirds](#) is the 2001 treaty the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, which came into force in 2004 and has been ratified by eight countries, Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, Spain, South Africa, France, Peru and the United Kingdom. The treaty requires these countries to take specific actions to reduce by-catch, pollution and to remove introduced species from nesting islands. The treaty has also been signed but not ratified by another three countries, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Species

Current thinking divides the albatrosses into four genera. The number of species is a matter of some debate. The IUCN and BirdLife International among others recognise the interim taxonomy of 21 extant species, other authorities retain the more traditional 14 species, and one recent paper proposed a reduction to 13:

Great albatrosses (*Diomedea*)

Wandering Albatross *D. exulans*

Antipodean Albatross *D. (exulans) antipodensis*

Amsterdam Albatross *D. (exulans) amsterdamensis*

Tristan Albatross *D. (exulans) dabbenena*
 Northern Royal Albatross *D. (epomorpha) sanfordi*
 Southern Royal Albatross *D. epomophora*
 North Pacific albatrosses (*Phoebastria*)
 Waved Albatross *P. irrorata*
 Short-tailed Albatross *P. albatrus*
 Black-footed Albatross *P. nigripes*
 Laysan Albatross *P. immutabilis*
 Mollymawks (*Thalassarche*)
 Black-browed Albatross *T. melanophris*
 Campbell Albatross *T. (melanophris) impavida*
 Shy Albatross *T. cauta*
 Chatham Albatross *T. (cauta) eremita*
 Salvin's Albatross *T. (cauta) salvini*
 Grey-headed Albatross *T. chrysostoma*
 Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos*
 Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. (chlororhynchos) carteri*
 Buller's Albatross *T. bulleri*
 Sooty albatrosses (*Phoebetria*)
 Dark-mantled Sooty Albatross *P. fusca*
 Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *P. palpebrata*.

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Gannets

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: [Sulidae](#)

Genus: ***Morus*** Linnaeus, 1753 Species: *Morus bassanus* , *Morus capensis* , *Morus serrator*

Gannets are seabirds in the [family Sulidae](#), closely related to the boobies. The gannets are large black and white [birds](#) with long pointed wings and long bills. Northern gannets are the largest seabirds in the North Atlantic, with a wingspan of up to 2 meters. The other two species occur in the temperate seas around southern Africa and southern Australia and New Zealand.

Gannets hunt [fish](#) by diving from a height into the sea and pursuing their prey underwater. Gannets have a number of adaptations which enable them to do this: they have no external nostrils; they have air sacs in their face and chest under their skin which act like bubble-wrap, cushioning the impact with the water; their eyes are positioned far enough forward on their face to give them binocular vision, allowing them to accurately judge distances. Gannets can dive from a height of 30m, achieving speeds of 100 km/h as they strike the water, enabling them to catch fish much deeper than most airborne birds.

The gannet's supposed capacity for eating large quantities of [fish](#) has led to "gannet" becoming a disapproving description of somebody who eats excessively, similar to a glutton.

Mating and nesting

Gannets are colonial breeders on islands and coasts, which normally lay one chalky blue egg. It takes five years for gannets to reach maturity. First-year birds are completely black, and subsequent sub-adult plumages show increasing amounts of white.

The most important nesting ground for Northern gannets is the United Kingdom with about two thirds of the world's population. These live mainly in Scotland. The rest of the world's population is divided between Canada, Ireland, Faroe Islands and Iceland, with small numbers in France (they are often seen in the Bay of Biscay), the Channel Islands and Norway. The biggest Northern gannet colony is in the Scottish islands of St Kilda; this colony alone comprises 20% of the entire world's population. Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth is also famous for its large gannet population.

Systematics and evolution

The three gannet [species](#) are now usually placed in the genus *Morus*, Abbott's Booby in *Papasula*, and the remaining boobies in *Sula*, but some authorities consider that all nine sulid species should be considered congeneric, in *Sula*. At one time, the gannets were considered to be a single species.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* or *Sula bassana*

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* or *Sula capensis*

Australian Gannet *Morus serrator* or *Sula serrator*

Most fossil gannets are from the Late Miocene or Pliocene, a time when the diversity of [seabirds](#) in general was much higher than today. It is not completely clear what caused the decline in species at the end of the Pleistocene; increased competition due to the spread of marine mammals and/or supernova activity which led to mass extinctions of marine life are usually assumed to have played a role.

Interestingly, the genus *Morus* is much better documented in the fossil record than *Sula*, which on the other hand is more numerous today. The reasons are not clear; it might be that boobies were better-adapted or simply "lucky" to occur in the right places for dealing with the challenges of the Late Pliocene ecological change, or it could simply be that many more fossil boobies still await discovery. It is interesting to note, however, that gannets are today restricted to temperate oceans whereas boobies are also found in tropical waters, but that several of the prehistoric gannet species had a more equatorial distribution than their congeners of today.

Fossil species of gannets are:

Morus loxostylus (Early Miocene of EC USA)

Morus olsoni (Middle Miocene of Romania)

Morus lompocanus (Miocene of Lompoc, USA)

Morus vagabundus (Miocene of California)

Morus sp. (Temblor Late Miocene of Sharktooth Hill, USA)

Morus sp. 1 (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)

Morus sp. 2 (Late Miocene/Early Pliocene of Lee Creek Mine, USA)

Del Rey Gannet, *Morus reyanus* (Late Pleistocene of W USA)

Morus atlanticus - probably synonym of *loxostylus*

Morus magnus

Morus peninsularis

Morus peruvianus

Gulls

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: [Aves](#)
Order: Charadriiformes
Suborder: Lari

Family: **Laridae** Vigors, 1825 Genera: [Larus](#), *Rissa*, *Pagophila*, *Rhodostethia*, *Xema*, *Creagus*

Gulls are [birds](#) in the family Laridae. They are most closely related to the [terns](#) (family Sternidae), [auks](#) and skimmers, and more distantly to the [waders](#). Most gulls belong to the large [genus](#) *Larus*.

They are in general medium to large [birds](#), typically grey or white, often with black markings on the head or wings. They have stout, longish [bills](#) and webbed feet.

Most gulls, particularly *Larus* species, are ground nesting carnivores, which will take live food or scavenge opportunistically. The live food often includes crabs and small fish. Apart from the kittiwakes, gulls are typically coastal or inland species, rarely venturing far out to sea. The large species take up to four years to attain full adult plumage, but two years is typical for small gulls.

Gulls — the larger species in particular — are resourceful and highly-intelligent birds, demonstrating complex methods of communication and a highly-developed social structure. Certain species (e.g. the Herring Gull) have exhibited tool use behaviour. Many species of gull have learned to co-exist successfully with man and have thrived in human habitats. Others rely on Kleptoparasitism to get their food.

Two terms are in common usage among gull enthusiasts for subgroupings of the gulls:
Large white-headed gulls for the 16 Herring Gull-like species from Great Black-backed Gull to Lesser Black-backed Gull in the taxonomic list below

White-winged gulls for the two Arctic-breeding species Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull

Hybridisation between species of gull occurs quite frequently, although to varying degrees depending on the species involved (see Hybridisation in gulls). The taxonomy of the large white-headed gulls is particularly complicated.

In common usage, members of various gull species are often called *sea gulls* or *seagulls*. This name is used by laypeople to refer to a common local species or all gulls in general, and has no fixed taxonomic meaning.

[1 Species list in taxonomic order](#)

[1.1 Family Laridae](#)

[3 Reference](#)

Species list in taxonomic order

The American Ornithologists' Union combines Sternidae, Stercorariidae, and Rhynchopidae as subfamilies in the family Laridae.

Family Laridae

Genus *Larus*

Dolphin Gull, *Larus scoresbii*
 Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus*
 Belcher's Gull, *Larus belcheri*
 Olrog's Gull, *Larus atlanticus*
 Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris*
 Grey Gull, *Larus modestus*
 Heermann's Gull, *Larus heermanni*
 White-eyed Gull, *Larus leucophthalmus*
 Sooty Gull, *Larus hemprichii*
 Common Gull or Mew Gull, *Larus canus*
 Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii*
 Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*
 California Gull, *Larus californicus*
 Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*
 Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*
 Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*
 Western Gull, *Larus occidentalis*
 Yellow-footed Gull, *Larus livens*
 Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*
 Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*
 Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*
 Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*
 Heuglin's Gull, *Larus heuglini*
 American Herring Gull, *Larus smithsonianus*
 Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michahellis*

Caspian Gull, *Larus cachinnans*
 East Siberian Herring Gull, *Larus vegae*
 Armenian Gull, *Larus armenicus*
 Slaty-backed Gull, *Larus schistisagus*
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*
 Great Black-headed Gull, *Larus ichthyaetus*
 Brown-headed Gull, *Larus brunnicephalus*
 Grey-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*
 Hartlaub's Gull, *Larus hartlaubii*
 Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*
 Red-billed Gull, *Larus scopulinus*
 Black-billed Gull, *Larus bulleri*
 Brown-hooded Gull, *Larus maculipennis*
 Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*

Slender-billed Gull, *Larus genei*
Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*
Saunders' Gull, *Larus saundersi*
Andean Gull, *Larus serranus*
Mediterranean Gull, *Larus melanocephalus*
Relict Gull, *Larus relictus*
Lava Gull, *Larus fuliginosus*
Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*
Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*
Little Gull, *Larus minutus*

Genus *Rissa*

Kittiwake or Black-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*
Red-legged Kittiwake, *Rissa brevirostris*

Genus *Pagophila*

Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*

Genus *Rhodostethia*

Ross's Gull, *Rhodostethia rosea*

Genus *Xema*

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*

Genus *Creagrus*

Swallow-tailed Gull, *Creagrus furcatus*

Reference

Olsen, Klaus Malling & **Larsson**, Hans (1995): *Terns of Europe and North America*.
Christopher Helm, London. ISBN 0-7136-4056-1
[Gull videos](#) on the Internet Bird Collection

Larus

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Laridae

Genus: **Larus** Linnaeus, 1758 species: *Many, see list*

Larus is a large genus of [seabirds](#) to which most [gulls](#) belong. It has a world-wide distribution, and many of its species are abundant and well-known birds in their ranges.

They are in general medium to large [birds](#), typically grey or white, often with black markings on the head or wings. They have stout, longish [bills](#) and webbed feet.

The taxonomy of the large gulls in the Herring and Lesser Black-backed complex is very complicated, different authorities recognising between two and eight species.

List of species in taxonomic order

Dolphin Gull, *Larus scoresbii*
 Pacific Gull, *Larus pacificus*
 Belcher's Gull, *Larus belcheri*
 Olrog's Gull, *Larus atlanticus*
 Black-tailed Gull, *Larus crassirostris*
 Grey Gull, *Larus modestus*
 Heermann's Gull, *Larus heermanni*
 White-eyed Gull, *Larus leucophthalmus*
 Sooty Gull, *Larus hemprichii*
 Common Gull or Mew Gull, *Larus canus*
 Audouin's Gull, *Larus audouinii*
 Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*
 California Gull, *Larus californicus*
 Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*
 Kelp Gull, *Larus dominicanus*
 Glaucous-winged Gull, *Larus glaucescens*
 Western Gull, *Larus occidentalis*
 Yellow-footed Gull, *Larus livens*
 Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*
 Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*
 Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri*
 Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*
 Heuglin's Gull, *Larus heuglini*
 American Herring Gull, *Larus smithsonianus*

Yellow-legged Gull, *Larus michahellis*
 Caspian Gull, *Larus cachinnans*
 East Siberian Herring Gull, *Larus vegae*

Armenian Gull, *Larus armenicus*
 Slaty-backed Gull, *Larus schistisagus*
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*
 Great Black-headed Gull, *Larus ichthyaetus*
 Brown-headed Gull, *Larus brunnicephalus*
 Grey-headed Gull, *Larus cirrocephalus*
 Hartlaub's Gull, *Larus hartlaubii*
 Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*
 Red-billed Gull, *Larus scopulinus*
 Black-billed Gull, *Larus bulleri*
 Brown-hooded Gull, *Larus maculipennis*
 Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*
 Slender-billed Gull, *Larus genei*
 Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*
 Saunders' Gull, *Larus saundersi*
 Andean Gull, *Larus serranus*
 Mediterranean Gull, *Larus melanocephalus*
 Relict Gull, *Larus relictus*
 Lava Gull, *Larus fuliginosus*
 Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*
 Franklin's Gull, *Larus pipixcan*
 Little Gull, *Larus minutus*

Ring species

A classic example of ring species is the *Larus* gulls circumpolar species ring. The range of these gulls forms a ring around the North Pole. The Herring gull, which lives primarily in Great Britain, can breed with the American Herring gull (living in North America), which can also breed with the Vega Herring gull, which can breed with Birula's gull, which can breed with Heuglin's gull, which can breed with the Siberian lesser black-backed gull (all four of these live across the top of Siberia), which can breed with the Lesser Black-backed Gull back in Northern Europe, including Great Britain. However, the Lesser Black-backed gull and Herring gull are sufficiently different that they cannot interbreed; thus the group of gulls forms a ring species. A recent genetic study has shown that this example is far more complicated than presented here. For more information about this, see ["The herring gull complex is not a ring species"](#), D Liebers, P de Knijff, AJ Helbig, *Biological Sciences*, 2004 Volume 271.

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Pterodroma

Gadfly Petrels

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: Procellariidae

Genus: ***Pterodroma*** Bonaparte, 1856 Species: About 35, see text.

The **gadfly petrels** are [seabirds](#) in the [bird](#) order Procellariiformes. These medium to large petrels feed on food items picked from the ocean surface.

The short, sturdy bills of the ***Pterodroma*** [species](#) in this group, about 35 altogether, are adapted for soft prey taken at the surface; they have twisted intestines for digesting marine animals which have unusual biochemistries.

Their complex wing and face marking are probably for interspecific recognition.

These [birds](#) nest in colonies on islands and are pelagic when not breeding. One white egg is laid usually in a burrow or on open ground. They are nocturnal at the breeding colonies.

Species

The taxonomy of the gadfly petrels is being reformed at the moment. Several genera have been split off over time, as they are closer to the procellarine and Puffinus shearwaters. Some subspecies have been raised to full species rank. The arrangement given here is traditional, but annotates the changes proposed by Austin (1998) and Bretagnolle *et al.* (1998). For the current taxonomy, see also Brooke (2004).

Genus *Pterodroma*

Barau's Petrel, *Pterodroma baraui*

Herald Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana*

Juan Fernandez Petrel, *Pterodroma externa*

Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta*

Galapagos Petrel, *Pterodroma phaeopygia*

Hawaiian Petrel, *Pterodroma sandwichensis*

Henderson Petrel, *Pterodroma atrata*

Herald Petrel, *Pterodroma heraldica*

Phoenix Petrel, *Pterodroma alba*

Fea's Petrel, *Pterodroma feae*

Zino's Petrel or Madeira Petrel, *Pterodroma madeira*

Canary Islands Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (prehistoric) - possibly extirpated population of extant species

Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis*

Bermuda Petrel, *Pterodroma cahow*

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata*

Jamaica Petrel, *Pterodroma caribbaea* (probably extinct)
 Atlantic Petrel, *Pterodroma incerta*
 White-headed Petrel, *Pterodroma lessonii*
 Magenta Petrel, *Pterodroma magentae*
 Great-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*
 Providence Petrel, *Pterodroma solandri*
 Murphy's Petrel, *Pterodroma ultima*
 Mottled Petrel, *Pterodroma inexpectata*
 Pycroft's Petrel, *Pterodroma pycrofti*
 Stejneger's Petrel, *Pterodroma longirostris*
 Collared Petrel, *Pterodroma brevipes*
 Gould's Petrel, *Pterodroma leucoptera*
 Mangareva Petrel, *Pterodroma* cf. *leucoptera* (possibly extinct)
 Cook's Petrel, *Pterodroma cookii*
 Mas a Tierra Petrel, *Pterodroma defilippiana*
 Bonin Petrel, *Pterodroma hypoleuca*
 White-necked Petrel, *Pterodroma cervicalis*
 Falla's Petrel, *Pterodroma occulta*
 Black-winged Petrel, *Pterodroma nigripennis*
 Chatham Petrel, *Pterodroma axillaris*
 Chatham Extinct Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (prehistoric)
 Henderson Island Petrel, *Pterodroma* sp. (prehistoric)
 O'ahu Petrel, *Pterodroma jugabilis* (prehistoric)
 Now *Lugensa* (allied to *Puffinus*)
 Kerguelen Petrel, *Pterodroma brevirostris*
 Now *Pseudobulweria* (allied to *Puffinus*)
 Fiji Petrel *Pterodroma macgillivrayi*
 Tahiti Petrel, *Pterodroma rostrata*
 Beck's Petrel, *Pterodroma becki*
 Mascarene Petrel, *Pterodroma aterrima*
 St Helena Petrel, *Pterodroma rupinarum* (extinct)

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 Brooke, M. (2004): *Albatrosses and Petrels Across the World*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. ISBN 0-19-850125-0

Shearwaters

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: Procellariidae

Genera: *Procellaria*, *Calonectris*, *Puffinus*

Shearwaters are medium-sized long-winged [seabirds](#). There are more than 25 [species](#) of shearwaters, four large species in the [genus](#) *Procellaria*, three large species in the genus *Calonectris*, and 19 mostly smaller species in the genus *Puffinus*. Those in *Procellaria* are usually called "petrel", though they are thought to be more closely to the shearwaters than to the other petrels.

These birds are most common in temperate and cold waters. They are pelagic outside the breeding season.

These tubenose birds fly with stiff wings, and use a "shearing" flight technique to move across wave fronts with the minimum of active flight. Some small species, like Manx Shearwater are cruciform in flight, with their long wing held directly out from their bodies.

Many are long-distance migrants, perhaps most spectacularly Sooty Shearwaters, which cover distances in excess of 14,000 km from their breeding colony on the Falkland Islands (52°S 60°W) north to 65°-70°N in the North Atlantic Ocean off north Norway. Short-tailed Shearwaters perform an even longer "figure of 8" loop migration in the Pacific Ocean from Tasmania to as far north as the Arctic Ocean off northwest Alaska.

They are also extraordinarily long-lived. A Manx Shearwater breeding on Copeland Island, Northern Ireland, is currently (2003/2004) the oldest known wild bird in the world: ringed as an adult (at least 5 years old) in July 1953, it was retrapped in July 2003, at least 55 years old. Manx Shearwaters migrate over 10,000 km to South America in winter, using waters off southern Brazil and Argentina, so this bird has covered a *minimum* of 1,000,000 km on migration alone.

Shearwaters come to islands and coastal cliffs only to breed. They are nocturnal at the colonial breeding sites, preferring moonless nights. This is to minimise predation. They nest in burrows and often give eerie contact calls on their nighttime visits. They lay a single white egg.

They feed on fish, squid and similar oceanic food. Some will follow fishing boats to take scraps, notably Sooty Shearwater; these species also commonly follow whales to feed on fish disturbed by them.

Shearwaters are part of the [family](#) Procellariidae, which also includes fulmars, prions and petrels.

The Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy gives a radically different scientific arrangement for this group based on DNA studies.

List of species

Genus *Procellaria*

Grey Petrel, *P. cinerea*
White-chinned Petrel, *P. aequinoctialis*
Black Petrel, *P. parkinsoni*
Westland Petrel, *P. westlandica*
Genus *Calonectris*
Streaked Shearwater, *C. leucomelas*
Cory's Shearwater, *C. diomedea*
Cape Verde Shearwater, *C. edwardsii*
Genus *Puffinus*
Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *P. pacificus*
Buller's Shearwater, *P. bulleri*
Flesh-footed Shearwater, *P. carneipes*
Pink-footed shearwater, *P. creatopus*
Great Shearwater, *P. gravis*
Sooty Shearwater, *P. griseus*
Short-tailed Shearwater or Mutton bird, *P. tenuirostris*
Heinroth's Shearwater, *P. heinrothi*
Christmas Shearwater, *P. nativatis*
Fluttering Shearwater, *P. gavia*
Hutton's Shearwater, *P. huttoni*
Manx Shearwater, *P. puffinus*
Yelkouan Shearwater, *P. yelkouan*
Balearic Shearwater, *P. mauretanicus*
Black-vented Shearwater, *P. opisthomelas*
Townsend's Shearwater, *P. auriculatus*
Hawaiian Shearwater, *P. newelli*
Audubon's Shearwater, *P. lherminieri*
North Atlantic Little Shearwater *P. baroli*
Little Shearwater, *P. assimilis*

Skuas

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Charadriiformes
 Family: **Stercorariidae** Gray, 1871 Genus: **Stercorarius** Brisson, 1760

The **skuas** are [seabirds](#) in the family **Stercorariidae**. The three smaller skuas are called **jaegers** in North America.

The name *skua* comes from Faroese *skúgvur* [ÈsgjgvŠy] (*Stercorarius skua*), and the island of Skúvoy is renown for its colony of that bird. Jaeger is derived from the German word *Jäger*, meaning *hunter*.

Skuas nest on the ground in temperate and arctic regions and are long-distance [migrants](#).

Outside the breeding season they take fish, offal and carrion. Many are partial kleptoparasites, chasing gulls, terns and other seabirds to steal their catches; the larger species also regularly kill and eat adult birds, up to the size of Great Black-backed Gulls. On the breeding grounds they commonly eat lemmings, and the eggs and young of other birds.

They are in general medium to large [birds](#), typically with grey or brown plumage, often with white markings on the wings. They have longish bills with a hooked tip, and webbed feet with sharp claws. They look like large dark gulls, but have a fleshy cere above the upper mandible. They are strong, acrobatic fliers.

Skuas are related to [gulls](#), [waderns](#), [auks](#) and skimmers. In the three smaller species (all Holarctic), breeding adults have the two central tail feathers obviously elongated and at least some adults have white on the underparts and pale yellow on the neck, characteristics that the larger species (all native to the Southern Hemisphere except for the Great Skua) do not share. Therefore the skuas are often split into two genera with only the smaller species retained in *Stercorarius*, and the large species placed in *Catharacta*. However, there is no genetic basis for this separation. The Pomarine and Great Skuas' mitochondrial DNA (which is inherited from the mother only) is in fact more closely related to each other than it is to either Arctic or Long-tailed Skuas, or to the Southern Hemisphere species. Thus, hybridization must have played a considerable role in the evolution of the diversity of Northern Hemisphere skuas.

"Skua" is also a slang term at American Antarctic research stations such as the McMurdo Station or the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. It is named for the bird, and it means to salvage or scavenge for equipment or gear.

Species

Long-tailed Skua or Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*
 Arctic Skua or Parasitic Jaeger, *Stercorarius parasiticus*
 Pomarine Skua or Pomarine Jaeger, *Stercorarius pomarinus*
 Chilean Skua, *Stercorarius chilensis*
 South Polar Skua, *Stercorarius maccormicki*

Brown Skua, *Stercorarius antarctica*
Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Reference

Seabirds by Harrison, ISBN 0-7470-1410-8

Terns

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Suborder: Lari

Family: **Sternidae** Bonaparte, 1838 Genera: *Anous*, *Procelsterna*, *Gygis*, *Onychoprion*, *Sternula*, *Phaetusa*, *Hydroprogne*, *Gelochelidon*, *Larosterna*, *Chlidonias*, *Thalasseus*, *Sterna* z

Terns are [seabirds](#) in the family **Sternidae**, previously considered a subfamily (Sterninae) of the [gull](#) family Laridae (van Tuinen et al., 2004). They form a lineage with the gulls and skimmers which in turn is related to skuas and [auks](#). Terns have a worldwide distribution.

Most terns were formerly treated as belonging into one large genus *Sterna*, with the other genera being small, but analysis of DNA sequences supports the splitting of *Sterna* into several smaller genera (see list, below) (del Hoyo *et al.*, 1996; Bridge *et al.* 2005; Collinson 2006).

Many terns breeding in temperate zones are long-distance [migrants](#), and the Arctic Tern probably sees more daylight than any other creature, since it migrates from its northern breeding grounds to Antarctic waters. One Arctic Tern, ringed as a chick (not yet able to fly) on the Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast in eastern Britain in summer 1982, reached Melbourne, Australia in October 1982, a sea journey of over 22,000 km (14,000 miles) in just three months from fledging - an average of over 240 km per day, and one of the longest journeys ever recorded for a bird.

They are in general medium to large [birds](#), typically with grey or white plumage, often with black markings on the head. They have longish bills and webbed feet. They are lighter bodied and more streamlined than gulls, and look elegant in flight with long tails and long narrow wings. Terns in the genus *Sterna* have deeply forked tails, those in *Chlidonias* and *Larosterna* shallowly forked tails, while the **noddies** (genera *Anous*, *Procelsterna*, *Gygis*) have unusual 'notched wedge' shaped tails, the longest tail feathers being the middle-outer, not the central nor the outermost.

Most terns (*Sterna* and the noddies) hunt fish by diving, often hovering first, but the marsh terns (*Chlidonias*) pick insects of the surface of fresh water. Terns only glide infrequently; a few species, notably Sooty Tern, will soar high above the sea. Apart from bathing, they only rarely swim, despite having webbed feet.

Terns are generally long-lived birds, with several species now known to live in excess of 25-30 years.

Classification and species list

A recent study (Thomas *et al.*, 2004) of part of the cyt b gene sequence found a closer relationship between terns and the Thinocori, some species of aberrant waders. These results are in disagreement with other molecular and morphological studies (see Paton &

Baker, 2006) and are best interpreted to prove an extraordinary amount of molecular convergent evolution between the terns and these waders, or as retention of an ancient genotype.

According the mtDNA studies and review by Bridge *et al* (2005), the genera and species of terns are as follows:

Genera **Anous**, **Procelsterna**, **Gygis** - noddies. A tropical group, characterised by the notch-wedge shaped (not forked) tail; coastal and pelagic oceanic.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*

Blue Noddy *Procelsterna cerulea*

Grey Noddy *Procelsterna albivitta*

White Tern *Gygis alba*

Little White Tern *Gygis microrhyncha*

Genus **Onychoprion** - "brown-backed" terns

Grey-backed Tern *Onychoprion lunata*

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleutica*

Genus **Sternula** - little white terns

Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis*

Damara Tern *Sternula balaenarum*

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi* (formerly considered a subspecies of Little Tern)

Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (formerly considered a subspecies of Little Tern)

Yellow-billed Tern *Sternula superciliaris*

Peruvian Tern *Sternula lorata*

Genus **Phaetusa** - Large-billed Tern

Large-billed Tern *Phaetusa simplex*

Genus **Hydroprogne** - Caspian Tern

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Genus **Gelochelidon** - Gull-billed Tern

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Genus **Larosterna** - Inca Tern

Inca Tern *Larosterna inca*

Genus **Chlidonias** - marsh terns

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

White-winged Tern or White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Black-fronted Tern *Chlidonias albobstriatus* (ex-*Sterna albobstriata*)

Genus **Thalasseus** - crested terns

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

Greater Crested Tern or Swift Tern, *Thalasseus bergii*

Chinese Crested Tern *Thalasseus bernsteini*

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*
 Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
 Genus ***Sterna*** - large white terns
 Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Trudeau's Tern *Sterna trudeaui*
 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
 Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
 White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*
 Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*
 South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*
 Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata*
 Kerguelen Tern *Sterna virgata*
 Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
 River Tern *Sterna aurantia*
 Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* (possibly *Chlidonias*)
 White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa* (possibly *Chlidonias*)

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Shorebirds

Waders

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Suborder: **Charadrii**

Families: *Scolopacidae*, *Rostratulidae*, *Jacanidae*, *Thinocoridae*, *Pedionomidae*, *Burhinidae*, *Chionidae*, *Pluvianellidae*, *Ibidorhynchidae*, *Recurvirostridae*, *Haematopodidae*, *Charadriidae*

Waders, called **Shorebirds** in North America (where "wader" is used to refer to long-legged wading [birds](#) such as [storks](#) and herons), are members of the order Charadriiformes, excluding the more marine web-footed [seabird](#) groups. The latter are the skuas (*Stercoraridae*), [gulls](#) (*Laridae*), [terns](#) (*Sternidae*), skimmers (*Rhynchopidae*), and [auks](#) (*Alcidae*). Also, the pratincoles (*Glareolidae*) and the [Crab Plover](#) (*Dromadidae*), which look more similar to waders, are closely related to the seabirds.

This leaves about 210 species, most of which are associated with wetland or coastal environments. Many species of Arctic and temperate regions are strongly [migratory](#), but tropical birds are often resident, or move only in response to rainfall patterns. Some of the Arctic species, such Little Stint are amongst the longest distance migrants, wintering in the southern hemisphere.

The majority of species eat small invertebrates picked out of mud or exposed soil. Different lengths of bills enable different species to feed in the same habitat, particularly on the coast, without direct competition for food. Many waders have sensitive nerve endings at the end of their bills which enable them to detect prey items hidden in mud or soft soil. Some larger species, particularly those adapted to drier habitats will take larger prey including insects and small reptiles.

Many of the smaller species found in coastal habitats, particularly but not exclusively the calidrids, are often named as "Sandpipers", but this term does not have a strict meaning, since the Upland Sandpiper is a grassland species.

In the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, waders and many other groups are subsumed into a greatly enlarged Ciconiiformes order. However, the classification of the Charadriiformes is one of the weakest points of the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, as DNA-DNA hybridization has turned out to be incapable of properly resolving the interrelationships of the group. Formerly, the waders formed the suborder Charadrii, but this has turned out to be a "wastebin" taxon, uniting no less than four charadriiform lineages in a paraphyletic assemblage. Following recent studies (Ericson *et al.*, 2003; Paton *et al.*, 2003; Thomas *et al.*, 2004a, b; van Tuinen *et al.*, 2004; Paton & Baker, 2006), the waders may be more accurately subdivided as follows:

Suborder **Scolopaci**

Family [Scolopacidae](#): snipe, sandpipers, phalaropes, and allies

Suborder **Thinocori**

Family Rostratulidae: painted snipe

Family Jacanidae: jacanas

Family Thinocoridae: seedsnipe

Family Pedionomidae: Plains Wanderer

Suborder **Chionidi**

Family Burhinidae: thick-knees

Family Chionididae: sheathbills

Family Pluvianellidae: Magellanic Plover

Suborder **Charadrii**

Family Ibisornithidae: Ibisbill

Family Recurvirostridae: avocets

Family Haematopodidae: oystercatchers

Family Charadriidae: plovers and lapwings

In keeping more in line with the traditional grouping, the Thinocori could be included in the Scolopaci, and the Chionidi in the Charadrii. However, the increasing knowledge about the early evolutionary history of modern birds suggests that the assumption of Paton *et al.* (2003) and Thomas *et al.* (2004b) of 4 distinct "wader" lineages (= suborders) already being present around the C-T boundary is correct.

See also

[list of birds](#)

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Recurvirostridae

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: Recurvirostridae, Bonaparte, 1854 Species: *Recurvirostra avosetta* , *Recurvirostra americana* , *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* , *Recurvirostra andina* , *Himantopus himantopus* , *Himantopus mexicanus* , *Himantopus novaezelandiae* , *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*

Recurvirostridae is a family of [birds](#) in the [wader](#) suborder Charadrii. It contains two distinct groups:

The [avocets](#), with long legs and long up curved bills which they sweep from side to side when feeding in the brackish or saline wetlands they prefer.

The stilts, which have extremely long legs and long thin bills.

Recurvirostra

Avocets

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: Charadriiformes

Family: [Recurvirostridae](#)

Genus: **Recurvirostra**, Linnaeus, 1758 Species: *Recurvirostra avosetta* , *Recurvirostra americana* , *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* , *Recurvirostra andina*

The four species of **Avocets** are [waders](#) in the same [bird](#) family as the stilts. They are found in warm or hot climates.

They have long legs and long, thin, upcurved bills which they sweep from side to side when feeding in the brackish or saline wetlands they prefer. The [plumage](#) is pied, sometimes also with some red.

The avocets have webbed feet and they will readily swim. Their diet consists of aquatic insects and other small creatures.

They nest on the ground in loose colonies. In estuarine settings they may feed on exposed bay muds or mudflats.

The four species, all in the genus *Recurvirostra* are:

Pied Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta*

American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*

Red-necked Avocet, *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

Andean Avocet, *Recurvirostra andina*

Swifts

Kingdom: Animalia
 Phylum: Chordata
 Class: [Aves](#)
 Order: Apodiformes
 Family: **Apodidae** Hartert, 1897 Genera: Many; see text.

The **swifts** are [birds](#) superficially similar to [swallows](#) but are actually not closely related to those [passerine](#) species at all; swifts are in the separate order Apodiformes, which they formerly shared with the [hummingbirds](#).

The resemblances between the swifts and swallows are due to convergent evolution reflecting similar life styles based on catching insects in flight.

The family scientific name comes from the Greek ἀπούς, apous, meaning "without feet", since swifts have very short legs and never settle voluntarily on the ground, perching instead on vertical surfaces. The tradition of depicting swifts without feet continued into the Middle Ages, as seen in the heraldic martlet.

Swifts are the most aerial of birds and some, like the Common Swift, even sleep and mate on the wing. Larger species, such as white-throated needletail, are amongst the fastest flyers in the animal kingdom. One group, the Swiftlets or Cave Swiftlets have developed a form of echolocation for navigating through dark cave systems where they roost. One species, *Aerodramus papuensis* has recently been discovered to use this navigation at night outside its cave roost also.

Like swallows and martins, the swifts of temperate regions are strongly [migratory](#) and winter in the tropics.

Many swifts have a characteristic shape, with a short forked tail and very long swept-back wings that resemble a crescent or a boomerang. The flight of some species is characterised by a distinctive "flicking" action quite different from swallows.

The nest of many species is glued to a vertical surface with saliva, and the genus *Aerodramus* use only that substance, which is the basis for bird's nest soup.

Systematics and evolution

The treeswifts are closely related to the true swifts, but form a separate family, the Hemiprocnidae.

In the Sibley-Ahlquist taxonomy, the old order Apodiformes is split. Swifts remain in that order, but [hummingbirds](#) are put into a new order, Trochiliformes. This might be correct, but further research on the interrelationships and evolutionary history of the Apodiformes is necessary.

The taxonomy of this group is in general complicated, with genus and species boundaries widely disputed, especially amongst the swiftlets. Analysis of behavior and vocalizations is marred by common parallel evolution, while analyses of different morphological traits and of various DNA sequences have yielded equivocal and partly contradictory results (Thomassen *et al.*, 2005).

The Apodiformes diversified during the Eocene, at the end of which the extant families were present; fossil genera are known from all over temperate Europe, between today's Denmark and France, such as the primitive Scaniacypselus (Early - Middle Eocene) and the more modern Procypseloides (Late Eocene/Early Oligocene - Early Miocene). A prehistoric genus sometimes assigned to the swifts, *Primapus* (Early Eocene of England), might also be a more distant ancestor.

Species list: Family Apodidae

Tribe Cypseloidini

Genus *Cypseloides*

Chestnut-collared Swift, *Cypseloides rutilus*

Tepui Swift, *Cypseloides phelpsi*

Black Swift, *Cypseloides niger*

White-chested Swift, *Cypseloides lemosi*

Rothschild's Swift, *Cypseloides rothschildi*

Sooty Swift, *Cypseloides fumigatus*

Spot-fronted Swift, *Cypseloides cherriei*

White-chinned Swift, *Cypseloides cryptus*

White-fronted Swift, *Cypseloides storeri*

Great Dusky Swift, *Cypseloides senex*

Genus *Streptoprocne*

White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Biscutate Swift, *Streptoprocne biscutata*

White-naped Swift, *Streptoprocne semicollaris*

Tribe Collocaliini - swiftlets

Genus *Collocalia*

Glossy Swiftlet, *Collocalia esculenta*

Grey-rumped Swiftlet, *Collocalia (esculenta) marginata*

Cave Swiftlet, *Collocalia linchi*

Pygmy Swiftlet, *Collocalia troglodytes*

Genus *Aerodramus*

Seychelles Swiftlet, *Aerodramus elaphrus*

Mascarene Swiftlet, *Aerodramus francicus*

Indian Swiftlet, *Aerodramus unicolor*

Philippine Swiftlet, *Aerodramus mearnsi*

Moluccan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus infuscatus*

Mountain Swiftlet, *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*

White-rumped Swiftlet, *Aerodramus spodiopygius*

Australian Swiftlet, *Aerodramus terraereginae*

Himalayan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus brevirostris*

Indochinese Swiftlet, *Aerodramus rogersi*

Volcano Swiftlet, *Aerodramus vulcanorum*
 Whitehead's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus whiteheadi*
 Bare-legged Swiftlet, *Aerodramus nuditarsus*
 Mayr's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus orientalis*
 Palawan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus palawanensis*
 Mossy-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus salangana*
 Uniform Swiftlet, *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
 Palau Swiftlet, *Aerodramus pelewensis*
 Guam Swiftlet, *Aerodramus bartschi*
 Caroline Islands Swiftlet, *Aerodramus inquietus*
 Mangaia Swiftlet, *Aerodramus manuoi* (prehistoric)
 Atiu Swiftlet, *Aerodramus sawtelli*
 Polynesian Swiftlet, *Aerodramus leucophaeus*
 Marquesan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus ocistus*
 Black-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus maximus*
 Edible-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus fuciphagus*
 German's Swiftlet, *Aerodramus germani*
 Papuan Swiftlet, *Aerodramus papuensis* (probably a distinct genus)
 Genus *Hydrochous*
 Waterfall Swift, *Hydrochous gigas*
 Genus *Schoutedenapus*
 Scarce Swift, *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*
 Schouteden's Swift, *Schoutedenapus schoutedeni*

Tribe Chaeturini - needletails

Genus *Mearnsia*
 Philippine Spinetail, *Mearnsia picina*
 Papuan Spinetail, *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
 Genus *Zoonavena*
 Malagasy Spinetail, *Zoonavena grandidieri*
 Sao Tome Spinetail, *Zoonavena thomensis*
 White-rumped Needletail, *Zoonavena sylvatica*
 Genus *Telacanthura*
 Mottled Spinetail, *Telacanthura ussheri*
 Black Spinetail, *Telacanthura melanopygia*
 Genus *Rhaphidura*
 Silver-rumped Needletail, *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
 Sabine's Spinetail, *Rhaphidura sabini*
 Genus *Neafrapus*
 Cassin's Spinetail, *Neafrapus cassini*
 Bat-like Spinetail, *Neafrapus boehmi*
 Genus *Hirundapus*
 White-throated Needletail, *Hirundapus caudacutus*
 Silver-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus cochinchinensis*

Brown-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus giganteus*

Purple Needletail, *Hirundapus celebensis*

Genus *Chaetura*

Band-rumped Swift, *Chaetura spinicauda*

Lesser Antillean Swift, *Chaetura martinica*

Gray-rumped Swift, *Chaetura cinereiventris*

Pale-rumped Swift, *Chaetura egregia*

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*

Vaux's Swift, *Chaetura vauxi*

Chapman's Swift, *Chaetura chapmani*

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*

Ashy-tailed Swift, *Chaetura andrei*

Tribe Apodini - typical swifts

Genus *Aeronautes*

White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatalis*

White-tipped Swift, *Aeronautes montivagus*

Andean Swift, *Aeronautes andecolus*

Genus *Tachornis*

Tachornis uranocetes ([fossil](#); Late Pleistocene of Puerto Rico)

Antillean Palm Swift, *Tachornis phoenicobia*

Pygmy Swift, *Tachornis furcata*

Fork-tailed Palm Swift, *Tachornis squamata*

Genus *Panyptila*

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*

Great Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila sanctihieronymi*

Genus *Cypsiurus*

Asian Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

African Palm Swift, *Cypsiurus parvus*

Genus *Apus*

Apus gaillardii ([fossil](#))

Apus wetmorei ([fossil](#))

Alpine Swift, *Apus melba*

Mottled Swift, *Apus aequatorialis*

Alexander's Swift, *Apus alexandri*

Common Swift, *Apus apus*

Plain Swift, *Apus unicolor*

Nyanza Swift, *Apus niansae*

Pallid Swift, *Apus pallidus*

African Swift, *Apus barbatus*

Forbes-Watson's Swift, *Apus berliozi*

Bradfield's Swift, *Apus bradfieldi*

Madagascar Swift, *Apus balstoni*

Pacific Swift, *Apus pacificus*

Dark-rumped Swift, *Apus acuticauda*

Little Swift, *Apus affinis*

House Swift, *Apus nipalensis*
Horus Swift, *Apus horus*
White-rumped Swift, *Apus caffer*
Bates' Swift *Apus batesi*

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