

All Kinds of Birds

6 Articles

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Learning about Birds

By ReadWorks

There are many kinds of birds all over the world. Maybe you've seen a seagull at the beach. Maybe you've seen pigeons in the city. Birds are amazing animals.

Birds lay eggs. Some eggs are pointy. Some eggs are round. Baby birds grow in the eggs. The babies come out of the eggs when they are big enough.



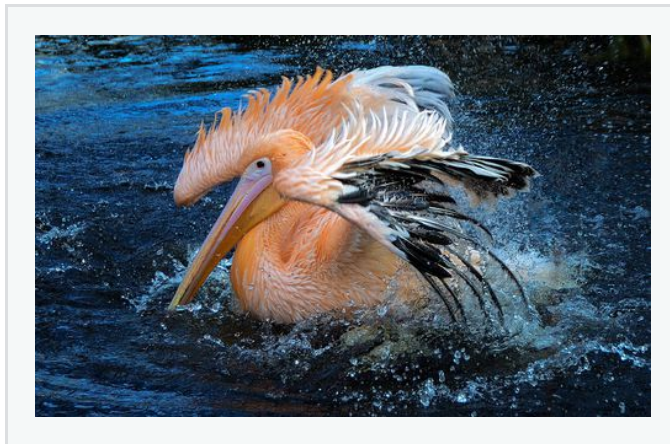
Ostriches lay the biggest bird eggs.

Birds have feathers. Feathers help birds fly. Feathers also help birds stay warm. Some birds live in very cold places. They fluff their feathers. This helps them stay warm.



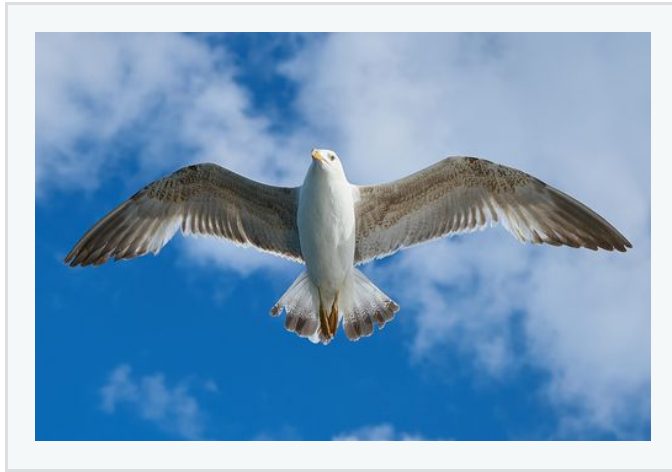
Peacocks have beautiful feathers.

Birds have beaks. Some birds have long beaks. Other birds have short beaks. Birds can use their beaks to help them eat.



Pelicans have long beaks.

Birds have wings. Many birds use their wings to fly. Up, up, and away they go!



A seagull flies.

Birds of the Night

By ReadWorks

What bird is shown here?



It's an owl!

Owls have big eyes. There are different kinds of owls. They can be different colors, like brown and white.

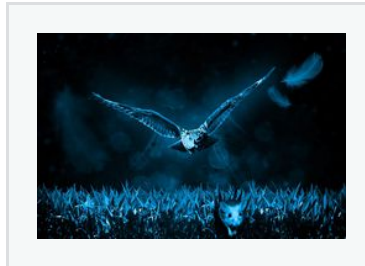
Owls look for food at night. They eat small animals. Some owls eat insects. Some owls eat mice. Some owls even eat other owls!



Great horned owls eat other owls.

Owls fly quietly. This helps them catch other animals. The animals can't hear the owls coming. Owls use their claws to grab the animals.

Be careful, small animals! There might be owls looking for dinner at night!



Birds that Cannot Fly

By ReadWorks

Many birds can fly. But some birds can't fly. Here are three kinds of birds that can't fly.

Penguins can't fly. But they can swim. They can also walk. Their walk looks kind of funny. Most penguins live in very cold places.



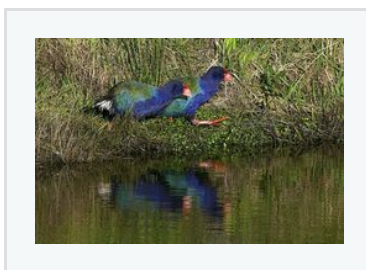
Penguins

Ostriches can't fly. But they can run very fast. They can even kick really hard. Ostriches are the biggest birds on earth. They live in dry, hot places.



An ostrich

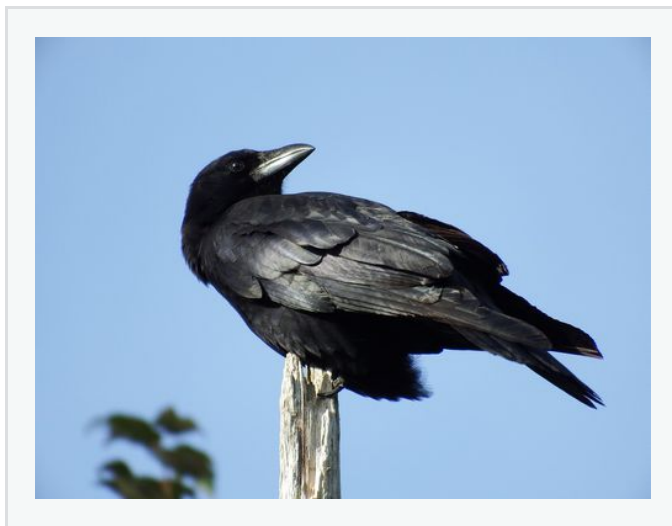
Takahē can't fly. But they do have wings they show off. They have bright blue and green feathers. These birds have big red beaks. They live in mountains.



Takahē

A Smart Bird

By ReadWorks



A crow

Have you ever seen or heard a crow? Adult crows have black feathers. They look shiny. Crows make a loud cry. This cry is called a caw. Sometimes they caw to let other crows know where they are.

Crows have big brains for their bodies. They are very smart. Crows can remember people's faces. Crows will stay away from people who have tried to catch them. They will even yell at the people. Other crows learn to stay away from these people, too.

Crows also like to play. People have seen a crow sled down a roof. It used a small lid to sled. Crows are very cool birds!

One Sneaky Bird

By ReadWorks

Do you know of any sneaky birds? One sneaky bird is the cuckoo! Here's what they do.

A mama cuckoo bird finds a nest. There are eggs but no birds in the nest. The eggs were laid by another kind of bird. The mama cuckoo bird swallows one of the eggs. She then lays one of her own eggs in the nest. The mama cuckoo bird flies away.

The birds come back to their nest. They don't know what the mama cuckoo has done! The baby cuckoo hatches from the egg. The baby cuckoo wants all the space and food. So it pushes out any other babies or eggs from the nest. The birds take care of the baby cuckoo. They feed it a lot of food. The baby cuckoo is hungry!



A cuckoo

Birds Help Us

By ReadWorks

Birds are very important animals. They help us in many ways. Here are some ways they help.

Farmers grow crops for people to eat. Some insects eat these crops. Some birds eat these insects. This keeps the insects from eating our crops. Thanks, birds!



Farmers grow crops like apples.

People drive cars on roads. Sometimes an animal will go onto a road. A car hits and kills the animal. Birds called vultures eat the bodies of the dead animal. This helps our roads stay clean. Good work, birds!



A vulture

Hummingbirds help plants make seeds. The seeds grow into new plants. Some of these plants grow in our gardens and parks. Nice job, hummingbirds!



A hummingbird