



Top 10 Bird facts

- * Birds' skeletons are usually very strong but incredibly light, which enables them to fly.
- * The chicken is the most common species of bird found in the world.
- * Many species of bird annually migrate great distances, and many more perform shorter irregular movements.
- * Bird eggs are usually laid in a nest and incubated (kept warm) by the parents.
- * 75% of wild birds die before they are 6 months old.
- * Birds make popular pets and include budgerigars, canaries, cockatoos, parrots, and macaws. Macaws can even mimic human speech!
- * There are over 2000 birds listed on the endangered bird list; disease, environmental waste, marine pollution, global warming and deforestation have all contributed to the decline in numbers of many species of birds.
- * Some bird species, such as the crow, are intelligent enough to create and use tools!
- * Birds' diets are varied and often include nectar, fruit, plants, seeds, the carcasses of other animals, and various small animals, including other birds. Because birds have no teeth, their digestive system is adapted to process food items that are swallowed whole.
- * People who study birds are called 'Ornithologists'





Did you know?

- * Birds seek out places that have warmth, food and are safe for breeding.
- * During the long days of the northern summer, birds have more hours to feed their young on the abundant insect population. As the days shorten in the north in autumn and food supplies become scarce, the birds migrate south.
- * Birds are very social animals, communicating with visual signals, calls, and songs, and participating in such social behaviours as cooperative breeding and hunting, flocking, and mobbing of predators.
- * The woodpecker can peck 20 times per second, that's 1200 pecks per minute.
- * The largest and heaviest bird on the planet is the ostrich. It can run up to a speed of 70 km/h with its extraordinary long legs.
- * Most birds have quite a long period of parental care after hatching, feeding their young to keep them healthy and then showing them the skills they need to survive. One bird which doesn't follow this rule is the cuckoo. Each season, a female cuckoo will lay between 12 and 22 eggs, all in different birds' nests. The birds will then raise the cuckoo chick as their own! A female cuckoo will generally lay her eggs in a nest belonging to the same species of bird that reared her.
- * Man makes use of different birds in many different ways. For example, birds such as chickens, geese or game birds like pigeons and pheasants supply us with food. We also use feathers from birds such as ducks and geese as filling for bedding and fancier feathers are even used in fashion as decorations on hats or trims on clothing.