

# Birds

There are about 10 thousand living kinds, more than half of which are usually passerine, or "perching" birds. Birds possess wings whose development varies according to species; the sole known groups without wings will be the extinct moa and elephant birds. Wings, which usually evolved from forelimbs, gave birds the ability to fly, although more evolution has led to the losing of flight in some birds, including ratites, penguins, and diverse endemic island species. The particular digestive and respiratory systems of parrots are also exclusively adapted for flight. Some bird varieties of aquatic conditions, particularly seabirds and some waterbirds, possess further evolved for swimming.

Birds are descendants of the particular primitive avialans (whose members include Archaeopteryx) which first appeared about 160 million years ago (mya) in China. In accordance with DNA evidence, contemporary birds (Neornithes) developed in the Cretaceous to Late Cretaceous, and diversified considerably around the time of the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event sixty six mya, which murdered off the pterosaurs and non-avian dinosaurs.

Many social types give knowledge throughout generations, which is usually considered a kind of lifestyle. Birds are cultural, communicating with aesthetic signals, calls, and even songs, and playing such behaviours as cooperative breeding and hunting, flocking, plus mobbing of possible predators. The vast the greater part of bird species are socially (but not necessarily sexually) monogamous, usually for one breeding time at a moment, sometimes for years, but rarely for life. Other kinds have breeding systems that are polygynous (one male along with many females) or, rarely, polyandrous (one female with many males). Birds produce kids by laying eggs which are fertilised through sexual processing. They are normally laid inside a hole and incubated by simply the parents. Most birds have a great extended period of parental care after hatching