

BIRD : from Oxford Collocations

How useful is this entry?

Oxford Collocations : **bird** *noun*

- ADJ. **wild** | **exotic, rare** | **game** | **predatory** | **migratory** | **land, sea** (also **seabird**), **tropical, wading, woodland** *Seabirds flocked above our heads.*
- QUANT: **flock**
- BIRD + VERB **flit, fly, glide, soar, swoop (down)** *We watched a bird of prey swoop down on a mouse.* | **flap its wings** | **flock** | **migrate** *The birds migrate in September.* | **chirp, sing, twitter, warble** | **peck** *birds pecking at the corn* | **build a nest, nest** *birds nesting on the roof of the church* | **breed, lay eggs** | **moult**
- BIRD + NOUN **call** | **sanctuary** | **life** *an area with a very varied bird life* | **watcher, watching**
- PHRASES **a bird of passage** (= a migratory bird), **a bird of prey** (= a predatory bird), **a breed/species/type of bird**

Make an exercise out of these data

(MP 10-02)

From ENCARTA Encyclopedia 2000: BIRDS

Scientists who study birds are known as ornithologists. These experts investigate the anatomy, behavior, evolutionary history, ecology, classification, and species distribution of both domesticated and wild birds...even flightless birds, such as ostriches and penguins, evolved from flying ancestors...birds develop from embryos in eggs outside of the mother's body...Birds are found

5 worldwide in many habitats but all birds must come ashore to raise their young.

Birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment, because the health of bird populations mirrors the health of our environment. The rapid decline in bird populations and the accelerating extinction rates of birds in the world's forests, grasslands, wetlands, and islands are therefore reasons for great concern

10 Birds vary in size from the tiny bee hummingbird, which measures about 57 mm (about 2.25 in) from beak tip to tail tip and weighs 1.6 g (0.06 oz), to the ostrich, which stands 2.7 m (9 ft) tall and weighs up to 156 kg (345 lb)...All birds are covered with feathers, collectively called plumage. Some birds have plumage that blends in with their surroundings to provide camouflage, helping these birds escape notice by their predators..Birds use their beaks to preen their feathers... Preening

15 removes dirt and parasites and keeps feathers waterproof and supple...feathers must be renewed periodically: Most adult birds molt—lose and replace their feathers—at least once a year. ...modern birds have toothless, lightweight jaws, called beaks or bills.

Most aquatic birds have webbed or lobed toes that act as paddles, which they use to propel themselves underwater

20 fish-catching birds can dive to great depths... Some ducks, swans, and geese perform an action called dabbling, in which they tip their tails up and reach down with their beaks to forage on the mud beneath shallow water.

Most birds are either carnivorous, meaning they eat other animals, or herbivorous, meaning they eat plant material. Many birds, including crows and gulls, are omnivorous, eating almost anything.

25 Most birds have a crop—a saclike extension of the esophagus, the tubular organ through which food passes after leaving the mouth. Some birds store food in their crops and transport it to the place where they sleep. Others use the crop to carry food that they will later regurgitate to their offspring.

Woodpeckers use their bills as chisels, working into dead or living wood to find insect larvae and

30 excavate nest cavities. Most birds are active during the day and sleep at night. Exceptions are birds that hunt at night, such as owls and nightjars. Birds use nests for sleeping only during the breeding season. The rest of the year, birds sleep in shrubs, on tree branches, in holes in trees, and on

the bare ground. Most ducks sleep on the water. Many birds stand while they sleep, and some birds sleep while perched on a branch—sometimes using only one foot. These birds are able to avoid falling over because of a muscle arrangement that causes their claws to tighten when they bend their legs to relax. The number of eggs in a clutch may be 15 or more for some birds... The eggs of many songbirds hatch after developing for as few as ten days, whereas those of albatross and kiwis may require 80 days or more.

Types of birds: Aquatic birds; Wading Birds ; Birds of Prey: The larger hawks and eagles prey on small mammals, such as rodents and other vertebrates; Running Birds ; Perching Birds With colonial expansion and the technological advances of the 18th and 19th centuries, humans hunted birds on an unprecedented scale. This time period witnessed the extinction of the great auk... In the 20th century..the major threats to birds have been the destruction and modification of their habitats...The relentless clearing of hardwood

rests outweighed even relentless hunting as the cause of the extinction of the famous passenger pigeon, whose eastern North American populations may have once numbered in the billions...Pesticides, pollution, and other poisons also threaten today's birds. These substances may kill birds outright, limit their ability to reproduce, or diminish their food supplies. Oil spills have killed thousands of aquatic birds...the

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)... went into effect in 1975. This treaty regulates or restricts the trade of endangered birds, including many parrots.... Treaties between the United States, Canada, and Mexico protect all migratory birds native to North America. Other means of protecting birds include the creation of sanctuaries and captive breeding programs. . In North America, some endangered birds are bred in settings such as zoos and specialized animal clinics and later released into the wild.