

# Bird Classification

There are more than 30 Groups or Orders of Birds with more than 10,000 different species worldwide. Below are a sampling of some 14 Orders of birds. The different orders are separated by different traits. See if you can tell how the following orders of birds are similar and different.

## **Birds Groups - Orders**

**Struthioniformes** — Cassowaries, Emus, Kiwis, Ostriches and Rheas

**Galliformes** — Grouse, Quails, Pheasants and Turkeys

**Anseriformes** — Ducks, Geese, and Swans

**Psittaciformes** — Mawcaws and Parrots

**Strigiformes** — Owls

**Trochiliformes** — Hummingbirds

**Coraciiformes** — Kingfishers

**Falconiformes** — Hawks, Eagles, and Vultures

**Gaviiformes** — Loons

**Piciformes** — Woodpeckers

**Charadriiformes** — Sandpipers and Seagulls

**Ciconiiformes** — Herons

**Columbriformes** — Doves and Pigeons

**Passeriformes** (Songbirds or Perching Birds) — Buntings, Cardinals, Catbirds, Chats, Chickadees, Crossbills, Crows, Dippers, Finches, Flycatchers, Goldfinches, Gnatcatchers, Gnateaters, Jays, Kinglets, Larks, Magpies, Martins, Mockingbirds, Nuthatches, Ovenbirds, Pipits, Pittas, Robins, Ravens, Shrikes, Sparrows, Starlings, Swallows, Tits, Thrushes, Waxwings, Weavers, Woodcreepers, Woodwarblers, Wrens, and Vireos.

Look at the Bird Orders on the sheet\* below. Can you see what makes the birds in each group alike? Can you see how one group differs from another?

\*Note that there is a color guide for K-3, 3-6 and 7th grade and up.

# Birds

There are many groups (classes) of animals. Birds are in one group. There are many different groups (orders) of birds. All birds share some traits.

strong, hollow-boned skeleton

lay eggs

beak

care for their young

warm-blooded

feathers

wings

most can fly

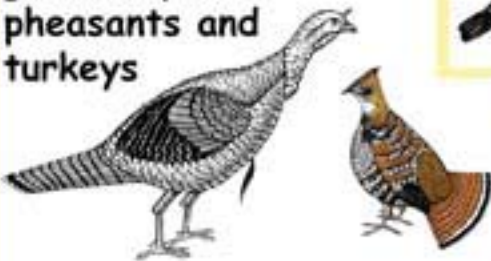


emus, rheas, ostriches, and kiwis, cassowaries

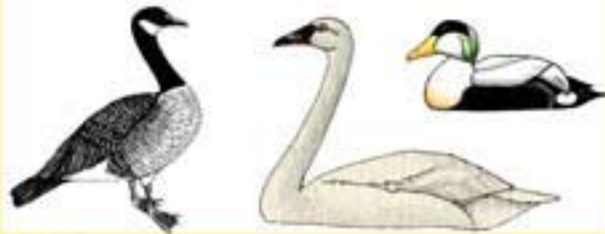


macaws and parrots

grouse, quails, pheasants and turkeys



geese, swans and ducks



doves and pigeons



woodpeckers



hummingbirds



songbirds



herons

owls



hawks, eagles, and vultures



sandpipers and seagulls



loons

kingfishers



# Birds

There are many groups (classes) of animals. Birds are in one group. There are many different groups (orders) of birds. All birds share some traits.

- 1) Birds **lay eggs** and **care for their young**.
- 2) Birds have a **strong, hollow-boned skeleton**.
- 3) Birds have a **stiff beak** adapted for their eating habits.
- 4) Birds have **feathers, wings** and **most can fly**.
- 5) Birds are **warm-blooded** vertebrates.



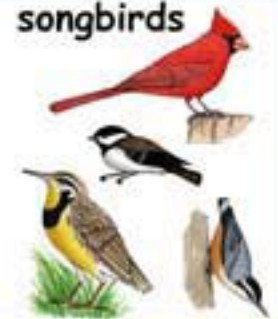
kingfishers



hummingbirds



songbirds



woodpeckers

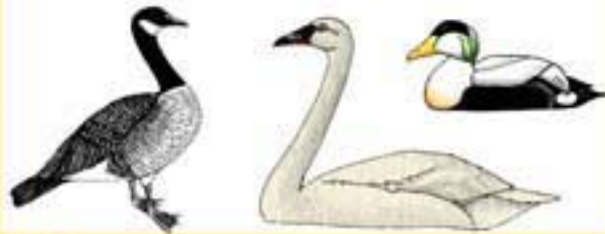


emus, rheas, ostriches, and kiwis, cassowaries



macaws and parrots

geese, swans and ducks

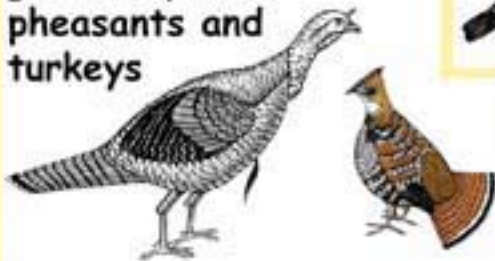


owls



hawks, eagles, and vultures

grouse, quails, pheasants and turkeys



doves and pigeons



sandpipers and seagulls



# Orders of Birds

**Strigiformes**  
owls



**Passeriformes**  
songbirds



**Coraciiformes**  
kingfishers



**Gaviiformes**  
loons



**Struthioniformes**

emus, rheas, ostriches, and kiwis, cassowaries

**Columbiformes**  
doves and pigeons

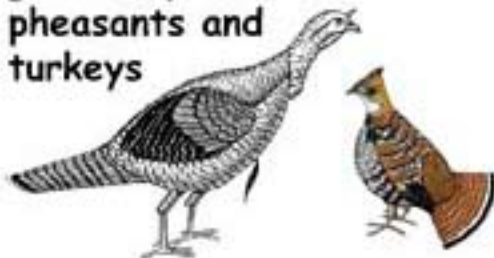


**Ciconiiformes**  
herons

**Piciformes**  
woodpeckers



**Galliformes**  
grouse, quails,  
pheasants and  
turkeys



**Psittaciformes**  
mawcaws and  
parrots



**Falconiformes**  
hawks, eagles,  
and vultures



**Trochiliformes**  
hummingbirds



**Charadriiformes**  
sandpipers and  
seagulls



**Anseriformes**  
geese, swans and ducks

