

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

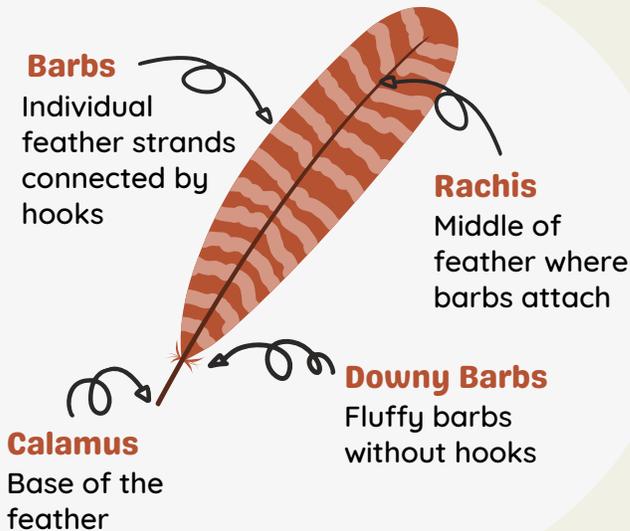
There are over 10,000 species of birds that live in different habitats all over the world. Although each species is different all birds lay eggs and have feathers and most build nests and can fly. Read on to learn more about our fine feathered friends.



Feathered Friends

Feathers aren't just for flying. Birds use their feathers to attract a mate, keep warm, stay dry, and even sense nearby objects. Songbirds have around 3,500 to 5,000 feathers while waterbirds may have up to 12,000 feathers!

With so many important jobs, feathers must be kept clean. Birds have different ways of looking their best. Many repair and clean their feathers with their beaks by preening and removing unwanted pests while other birds take water or dust baths.



Fill the Bill

Birds do not have teeth. They do not need to chew their food, they swallow it whole instead! The size and shape of a bird's beak help it forage for and eat its own specialized diet. Many birds eat seeds, nuts, and berries while others sip nectar from flowers or eat insects, small mammals, and amphibians.



Best Nest

Bird nests come in all shapes in sizes. Bald eagles build the largest nests which can measure more than 9 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Hummingbirds build the smallest nests, measuring a little over one inch in diameter. Birds build their nests on the ground, in trees or bushes, on cliffs, and even on our homes!

Birds build nests to have a safe place to raise their chicks and incubate their eggs. Eggs hatch after 4-12 days and birds can lay anywhere from 1 to 15 eggs in one clutch. A clutch is the number of eggs laid in one nesting attempt.

