

## Kinds of Beaks

### What are Beaks?

Beaks are the mouthparts of birds.

**Birds use their beaks for:**

- Eating (seeds, fruits, insects, nectar, meat)
- Feeding their young
- Drinking water
- Collecting nesting materials
- Grooming (scratching) their bodies

### Types of Beaks and Their Uses

#### i. Cone-shaped Beak

**Birds:** Pigeon, sparrow, peacock.

**Shape:** Strong, short, and hard.

**Purpose:**

- Cracks nuts and seeds.
- Helps the bird eat hard food.

#### ii. Curved Beak

**Birds:** Parrot, parakeet.

**Shape:** Hooked and curved.

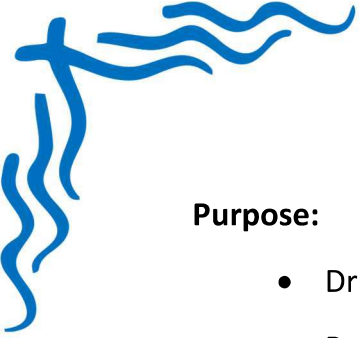
**Purpose:**

- Helps crack open nuts.
- Used for eating fruits and seeds.

#### iii. Chisel or Drilling Beak

**Birds:** Woodpecker, hoopoe.

**Shape:** Long, tapered, and sharp.



**Purpose:**

- Drills holes in tree trunks.
- Pulls out insects to eat.

**iv. Tubular-shaped Beak**

**Birds:** Hummingbird, sunbird.

**Shape:** Thin, long, and pointed.

**Purpose:**

- Sips nectar from flowers.
- Helps in pollination.

**v. Sharp Hooked Beak**

**Birds:** Owl, eagle, vulture, hawk.

**Shape:** Deeply hooked and sharp.

**Purpose:**

- Rips and tears meat.
- Helps catch and eat prey.

**vi. Straining Beak**

**Birds:** Duck, swan, goose.

**Shape:** Flat with tiny holes on the sides.

**Purpose:**

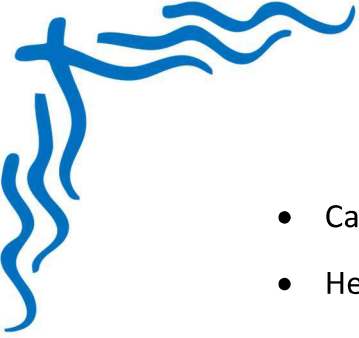
- Filters plants, insects, and worms from water.
- Helps in wetland feeding.

**vii. Spear-shaped Beak**

**Birds:** Heron, egret, kingfisher.

**Shape:** Sharp and pointed.

**Purpose:**



- Catches fish.
- Helps in hunting aquatic animals.

### Bird Beak Summary Table

Bird	Shape of Beak	Purpose of Beak
Eagle	Sharp and hooked	Catches and tears meat
Parrot	Sharp and curved	Cracks nuts and seeds, tears fruits
Duck	Flat and broad	Catches fish and worms from water
Sparrow	Small and pointed	Picks small grains
Hummingbird	Straw-like, long, slender	Sucks nectar from flowers

### Tip for Students:

To identify birds by their beaks:

**Hooked** = Meat eaters

**Flat** = Water filterers

**Pointed** = Insect or nectar eaters

**Strong and hard** = Seed eaters