

3

Animals : Birds

We'll cover the following key points:

- Common Indian birds
- Body parts of bird
- How birds fly
- Food habits
- Nesting habits of birds
- Some interesting fact about birds
- Looking after the young ones
- Caring for birds



Hi, I'm EeeBee

Do you Remember:

Fundamental concept in previous class.

In class 2nd we learnt

- Birds

Still curious?
Talk to me by
scanning
the QR code.



Learning Outcomes

By the end of this chapter, students will be able to:

- Recognize common Indian birds and learn how to identify them by their appearance, calls, and habitats.
- Understand how birds fly by exploring their special body parts like wings, feathers, and hollow bones.
- Discover the nesting habits of birds and how they build safe homes for their eggs.
- Learn how birds care for their young ones, from hatching eggs to feeding chicks.
- Explore the body parts of a bird and their functions, like the beak, claws, and tail.

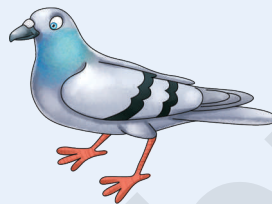
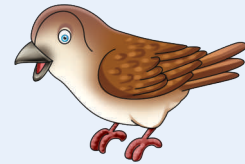
Guidelines for Teachers

The teacher can start the chapter by introducing the topic of Animals: Birds and highlighting the amazing diversity of birds in India. Discussions can focus on identifying common birds and understanding their unique body features that help them fly, eat, and live.

Activities can include exploring the nests and nesting habits of birds, their role in nature, and how they look after their young ones. The teacher can also emphasize the importance of caring for birds and respecting their habitats to help preserve them for future generations.



Name these birds.



Fun Fact



Crows are one of the smartest birds in the world! Crows have the largest brain in relation to their body size of any birds. They can recognize faces, solve puzzles, and even use tools to find food. These clever birds also have a special way of communicating with each other through different sounds. Isn't that amazing?

Birds are beautiful animals that can fly. Their body is divided into three parts: – head, trunk and a tail. They have two pairs of limbs – the legs and the wings. Birds have legs, but no hands. Their wings are covered with feathers. Many birds can fly with the help of their wings. The mouth of a bird is called a beak. But they don't have teeth. Following are the features that distinguish birds from other animals and themselves too.

- ✦ Feathers
- ✦ Beak
- ✦ Feet and Claws

Birds are found everywhere. Each bird lives in its own **habitat**. There are a variety of local birds found in India. Common myna, sind sparrow, rock pigeon, Asian koel , tailorbird, coppersmith barbet, Indian chat, laughing dove, parakeet, red vented bulbul, spot billed duck, Indian robin, etc. are some common birds found in India.

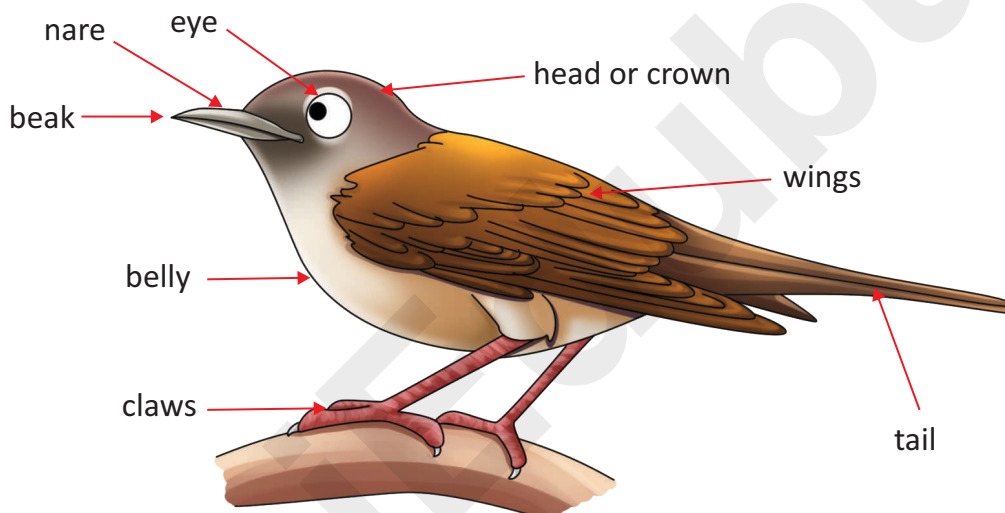
Body Parts of a Bird

The body of a bird consists of a head, a pointed or curved beak, eyes, wings, legs, feet and a tail. They have two pairs of limbs. The front limbs are modified into wings. Their feet have claws for catching and holding things.

Did you know ?

People who study birds are called ornithologists.

Birds have feathers all over their body. Their mouth is called beak but they do not have teeth at all. They have two holes called nares (nostrils) located on their beaks through which they breathe. They have hollow and light bones which makes their body light. This helps them to fly. Birds have strong flight muscles to which their wings are attached. These muscles help the wings to move up and down. Body is **streamlined** that help them to fly.



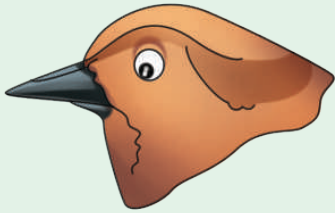
Let us learn about different types of birds and their beaks, feet and claws and their feathers.

Beaks

Since birds have no teeth, their beak shapes vary depending on the type of food they eat. Birds use their beaks to:

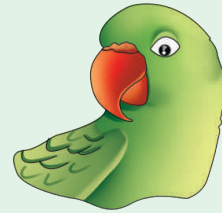
- ✦ Gather food
- ✦ Tear food into pieces
- ✦ Tidy their feathers
- ✦ Feed their young
- ✦ Drink water
- ✦ Collect-nesting materials

Kinds of Beaks



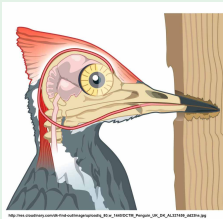
Cone Shaped Beak

Birds such as pigeon, sparrow and pea cock eat nuts and seeds. They have strong, short and hard beaks that are used for cracking seeds they eat.



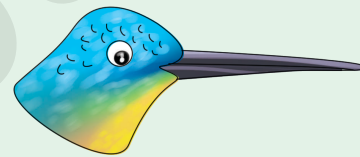
Curved Beak

Birds such as parrots and parakeets have hooked beaks that help them to crack open their nuts and other hard fruits like walnuts.



Chisel or Drilling Beak

Birds such as woodpecker and hoopoe have long tapered beaks used for drilling holes in the hard trunk of trees and pull out insects to eat.



Tubular Shaped Beak

Birds such as hummingbird and sunbird have thin, long and pointed beaks used for sipping nectar from flowers.



Sharp Hooked Beak

Owls and birds of prey such as eagle, vulture and hawk have deeply hooked beaks used for ripping and tearing meat.



Straining Beak

Birds such as hummingbird and sunbird have thin, long and pointed beaks used for sipping nectar from flowers



Spear Beak











Birds like herons, egrets and kingfishers have spear shaped beaks adapted for fishing.




Take a Task




Watch Remedial

Bird	Beak	Shape of the beak	Purpose of the beak
Eagle 		It has a strong, sharp and hooked beak.	This shape helps eagle to catch animals as it flies.
Parrot 		It has a sharp and curved beak.	This shape helps crack nuts and seeds and to tear fruits.
Duck 		It has a flat and broad beak.	This shape helps it to catch fish and worms in the water.
Sparrow 		It has a small pointed beak.	This shape helps it to pick small grains.
Hummingbird 		It has a straw-like, long and slender beak.	This shape helps it to suck nectar from flowers.

Check 'N' Mate



Critical Thinking

Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

1. Birds' front limbs are modified into wings.
2. Pigeon, sparrow and peacock have strong, short and hard beak.
3. Hummingbird has tubular-shaped beak.
4. Pelicans use their beaks to scoop up fish.
5. Woodpecker and hoopoe have sharp hooked beaks.

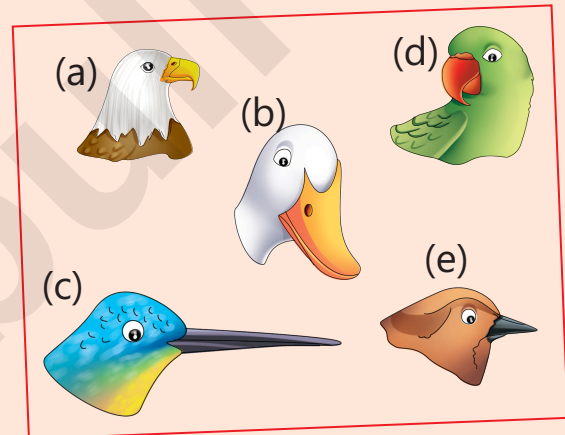
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Activity

Creative Learning

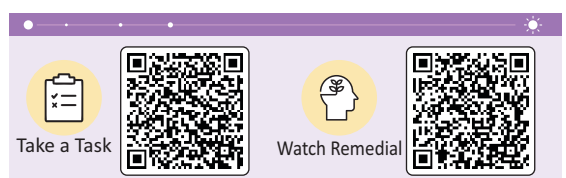
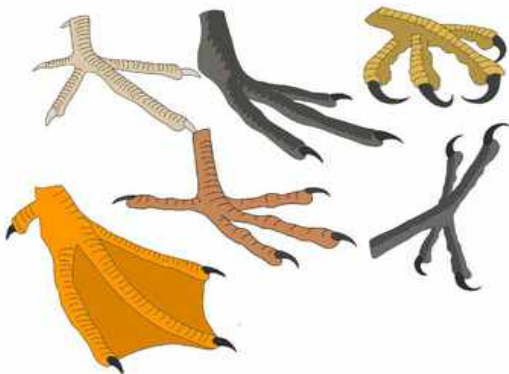
Match each bird's beak given below to its use:

1. Hammering into trees
2. Grabbing small animals
3. Cracking seeds
4. Straining food from the lake bottom
5. Sipping nectar from flowers

☐
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Feet and Claws

All birds have two feet and four toes. The feet and claws help the bird walk, hop, run and perch, swim, wade through water and catch food. They also provide protection to the birds from their enemies. Different birds have different kinds of feet to help them live in their surroundings or gather food.



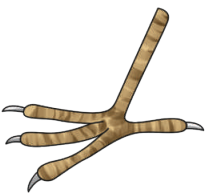
Did you know ?

The hummingbird can fly backwards, but it can't walk.
 Condor shells are so thick; it can take a chick a week to break out from its shell.

Kinds of Feet and Claws

Perching Birds

Birds such as crow, sparrow, parrot and mynah use their feet for perching and walking or hopping. Three toes pointing forward with one opposing toe helps them grasp their perch.



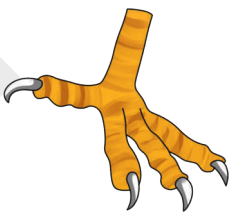
Climbing Birds

Birds such as woodpecker and parrot have four toes, two pointed forward and two pointed backward. This arrangement helps them grasp tree bark and climb up.



Flesh-eating Birds

Hawks, eagles and owls have strong feet with long claws or talons to help them capture, grasp and kill their prey.



Scratching Birds

Birds such as hen and roosters have strong feet with three toes in front and one toe at the back with hard and sharp claws that help them scratch and dig the ground in search of seeds and worms.

Wading Birds


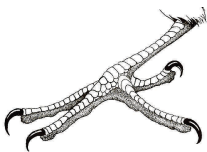
Wading birds such as cranes and herons have long toes to help them walk through soft bottoms in wetlands in search of food.

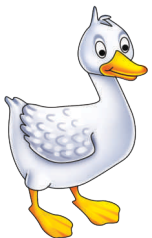




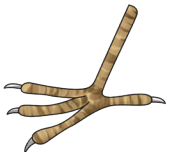


Swimming Birds

Swimming birds such as ducks and geese have webbing between their toes to help them paddle in water and to move forward.



Different Kinds of Feet and Claws

Bird	Types of feet	Purpose of the feet
Woodpecker 		It has two toes in front and two at the back It has long curved claws This shape helps them to climb and hold on the trees.

Duck 		<p>It has three toes that are webbed together. It has a little toe at the back. This shape helps them to swim as they use their feet to push against the water and move forward.</p>
Vulture 		<p>It has four toes with sharp claws. The claws help to catch small animals.</p>
Sparrow 		<p>It has three toes in front and one at the back to hold on to the branches tightly.</p>
Crane 		<p>It has long legs and the four toes are spread. This helps them to walk near the banks of the rivers and lakes to eat fish.</p>

Feathers

All birds grow feathers, making them different from all other animals. The different types of feathers help a bird survive. Feathers not only help a bird to fly or swim, they also:


- ✦ Protect its sensitive skin.
- ✦ Help attract mates.
- ✦ Serve as insulators to trap body heat.
- ✦ Serve as camouflage.

Feathers are held together and in place by a hollow tube called the shaft or rachis. The shaft is made of a very hard material called keratin.


Each bird has different kinds of feathers that help it do different things.


There are following three kinds of feathers:

- ✦ **Flight feathers** – Flight feathers help birds to fly. They are found on the wings and the tail.




Take a Task





Watch Remedial



Did you know ?

An ostrich can run as fast as 43 miles per hour and grow as tall as 9 feet.
Blue birds can't see the colour blue.

- ✦ **Body feathers** – Body feathers are coloured feathers, which cover the body of the bird.
- ✦ **Down feathers** – Down feathers are the soft and fluffy feathers found close to the body of a bird. They help birds to keep their body warm.



How Birds Fly

The body of a bird is designed in such a way that it can fly easily. They have small feathers covering their whole body. The following features help it flying:

- ✦ A pair of wings.
- ✦ Strong flight muscles.
- ✦ Light hollow bones.
- ✦ Streamlined body (thin in the front and broad in the middle).
- ✦ Feathers in the body and tail.



It has strong flight muscles attached to its hollow bones which give power to the wings. There are two special types of strokes of the wings that allow the birds to fly. They are :

Upstroke – The upward and backward movement of wings.

Down stroke – The downward and forward movement of wings.

The tail of a bird helps it to change directions while flying.



Fill in the blanks with correct words.

1. The crow, sparrow, parrot and mynah are _____ (perching/climbing) birds.
2. The cranes and herons are _____ (swimming/wading) birds.
3. _____ (Flight/Down) feathers help birds to fly.
4. _____ (Downstroke/Upstroke) is upward and backward movement of wings.

Nesting Habits of Birds

Birds are among a few other animals that build their own homes. Different birds make different types of nests. Their nesting places also vary. They build nests to lay eggs in and raise their young ones. The nests are built in safer places.

Let us now study about the nests of some of the birds.

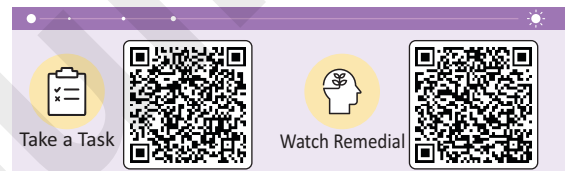
The **sparrow and pigeon** make their nests with grass, leaves, feathers, etc. They make them on trees or in houses, at any safe place.

A **bulbul's nest** can be found in hedges and bushes. The nest is cup-shaped. This prevents eggs or baby birds from falling out.

The **weaver bird** uses dry twigs, grass, fine pieces of straw to make a very big and strong nest by pulling the grass in and out. The nest hangs from the branch of a tree. The bird enters and comes out through a tunnel-like opening at the end of the nest.

The **tailor bird** makes their nests with long leaves. They stitch two large leaves together with bit of thread, straw and dry twigs. The nest is lined with material like cotton, wool, grass and hair to keep the nest cosy.

The **swallow bird** builds its nest using its own spit. The nest is made attached to rocks or wood and resembles the shape of a vase.



The **woodpecker** makes holes in the trunks with their chisel-like beaks to make their nests. They use chips of wood to make their nests warm and cosy.



Cuckoos are lazy birds. They do not build their own nests. They lay their eggs in nests of other birds.

The **penguin** too, does not build a nest. It lays its eggs on a platform of stones on the ground. The male penguin then holds the egg between its feet and lower belly and hatches.

The **koel** is a clever but very lazy bird. It does not build its own nest. It lays its eggs in the nest of a crow when the crow is away. The crow takes care of these eggs thinking that they are its own eggs. It even feeds the baby birds on hatching.

Birds take care of their young ones

Once all the eggs are laid, the parents guard the nest. Soon, baby birds hatch out of the eggs. They are tiny, weak and without feathers. The process by which the shell of the egg breaks and a baby bird comes out is known as hatching. The parents feed them and protect them from enemies and bad weather. The baby birds grow very fast, develop feathers and become strong. They learn to fly and look for food either from their parents or on their own.



Caring for birds

Like other animals, birds too need to be looked after, especially during hot summer months. Placing bird baths in open places around the houses or gardens are one way of helping thirsty birds. Birds drink water, bathe and cool themselves in these bird baths.



Along with bird baths, we should place bird feeders containing seeds to feed the hungry birds.

Pets that you have at home should also be taken good care of. Feed them regularly. Clean and bathe them. Be kind to them and take them to a **veterinary** doctor to vaccinate them or when they are sick.



In a Nutshell

- † A bird's body is divided into three parts : head, trunk and a tail.
- † They have two pairs of limbs : the legs and the wings. Birds have legs, but no hands.
- † Their forelimbs are modified into wings and are covered with feathers. Many birds can fly with the help of their wings.
- † The mouth of bird is called a beak which is used to eat insects, seeds, nuts, grains and fruits.
- † All birds have two feet and four toes. The feet and claws help the bird walk, hop, run and perch, swim, wade through water and catch food.



Key Words

Improving Vocabulary

- Habitat : Natural home of animals.
- Streamlined : To shape something so that it can move as effectively and quickly as possible through air or water.
- Perch : Sit or rest on something.
- Veterinary : Animal doctor.



Time to Recall

Remembering and Analysing

Recall and complete the following tables:

Beaks of Birds

Strong, short and hard beaks	Sparrow and pigeon
	Woodpecker
Strong, sharp and hooked beaks	
	Duck and Goose
	Sunbird and humming bird

Feet and Claws of Birds

Perching birds	Hold on to tree branches
Scratching birds	
Climbing birds	
Wading birds	



Gap Analyzer™
Take a Test



EXERCISE

That turn curiosity into confidence—let's begin!



A. Objective Type Questions:

- How do birds give birth?
(A) Laying egg (B) Direct birth of babies
(C) Both (D) None of these
- Which of these birds stitches leaves together to make nest?
(A) Parrot (B) Tailor bird
(C) Weaver bird (D) Humming bird
- Which of these birds makes hanging nest by tying dry grass and sticks into knot?
(A) Eagle (B) Woodpecker
(C) Pigeon (D) Weaver bird
- Bodies of birds are covered with these:
(A) Hair (B) Feathers
(C) Scales (D) Claws

B. Fill in the blanks:

- Water birds have _____ feet to help them swim in water.
- Wings of birds are joined to the body with the help of strong _____.
- _____ feathers are fluffy and soft to keep the body warm.
- A _____ bird uses its beak like a needle to sew leaves.
- Nests are built for _____ and _____ the young birds.
- _____ are scavenging birds and keep our environment clean.

C. Circle the odd one out:

- Duck, peacock, pigeon
- Crow, heron, stork
- Parrot, hen, rooster
- Tailor bird, weaver bird, penguin
- Hawk, sparrow, vulture
- Kiwi, humming bird, ostrich

D. Match these birds with their food:

Name of birds

- A. Vulture
- B. Eagle
- C. Woodpecker
- D. Parrot
- E. Pigeon

Favourite food

- I. Guava and green chilli
- II. Dead animals
- III. Insects
- IV. Grains
- V. Mice

E. Short Answer Questions:

1. Name the different types of feathers in birds.
2. What kind of a beak do the ducks have?
3. What are the two strokes of wings used in flying by the birds?
4. Which type of birds have webbed feet?
5. Why do birds build nests?
6. What is hatching?
7. What are talons? What are they used for?
8. What is a bird bath and a bird feeder?

F. Answer the Following Questions:

1. How does the body of a bird help it to fly?
2. Explain with examples how different birds have different beaks depending on the food they eat?
3. How do feathers help birds?
4. Why a tailor bird is named so? How does it make its nest?
5. What is the special feature of the feet of water birds?
6. Write a note on the food habits of various birds?



Time to Apply

Applying and Creating

One bird does not behave in the same way as another. Take a notebook with you when you go for bird watching. Note down information about the bird: size, colour, shape of beak, kinds of sound they make and how they move about.



Time to Discuss

Pondering and Communicating

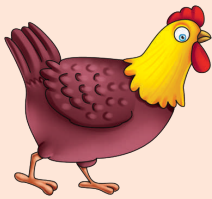
1. What would happen if eagles did not have curved claws?
2. What would happen if all the toes of a woodpecker pointed in one direction?
3. Name a non-living thing that has a streamlined body.
Why does it have this shape?



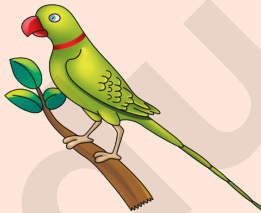
Time to Observe

Observing, Critical Thinking, Analysing

Name the birds shown here by filling in the missing letters.



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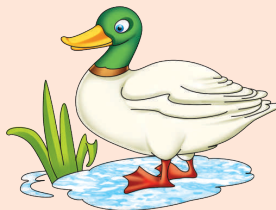
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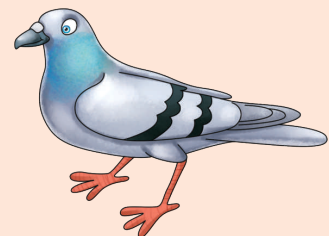
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Time to Create

Creating and Collaborating

Most states in India have a state bird. Find out the name of your state bird. What are its habits? Where does it nest? Collect pictures of birds and paste them on drawing sheet. For example, the state bird of Odisha is peacock.