

Learning from Birds

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land*
Song of Solomon 2:12

Since we have heard about how the Raven helped Elijah, we are now going to see what we can learn from birds.

While this series appears to be geared towards getting our little children involved, there will be plenty for us adults to learn from these birds, too.

Introduction:

Song of Solomon 2:12

Job 12:7-9

The kids named and squeezed each Audubon bird and will be doing short fact reports for each bird over the next few weeks.

Some Common Questions About Birds

What is the largest living bird? The ostrich, at more than 8 feet (2 meters) and 345 pounds (155 kilograms), is the tallest and heaviest, but it does not fly. Of the flying birds the wandering albatross has the greatest wingspan at over 11 feet (3 meters); the great bustard, at 46 pounds (21 kilograms), and the mute swan, at 30 pounds (13.6 kilograms), are the heaviest flying birds.

What is the smallest living bird? The Cuban bee hummingbird, at 2 1/4 inches (6 centimeters) and 0.07 ounce (2 grams).

How far do birds fly? The arctic tern makes an annual round-trip of 11,000 miles (17,700 kilometers) between the Arctic and the Antarctic. Warblers make the longest, more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers), nonstop flights.

How fast do birds fly? Most birds average 20 to 40 miles (32 to 64 kilometers) per hour in normal flight. They can almost double this speed for escape or pursuit. The champion is the peregrine falcon. It strikes its prey while diving at an average of 112 miles (180 kilometers) per hour.

How fast do birds run? The ostrich, 60 miles (97 kilometers) per hour; wild turkey, 30 miles (48 kilometers) per hour; California roadrunner, 26 miles (42 kilometers) per hour; common pheasant, 21 miles (34 kilometers) per hour.

How high do birds fly? The highest-flying bird in the world is Ruppell's griffon vulture, a specimen of which collided with a commercial aircraft at 37,000 feet (11,300 meters)

over Western Africa. Another notable specimen is the whooper swan, which a pilot spotted flying at 27,000 feet (8,200 meters) over the Inner Hebrides.

How long do birds live? The wild bird with the longest recorded lifespan is the royal albatross, which exceeds 58 years. The wandering albatross, however, is suspected to live more than 80 years in the wild. The longest-lived captive bird is the sulfur-crested cockatoo, which can live more than 80 years. Some general figures are available.

Which are the most intelligent birds? The green heron shows a remarkable ability to learn to respond to sight and sound cues. Members of the family Corvidae--crows, ravens, jackdaws, magpies, jays--appear to learn rapidly as well.

How many kinds of birds are there in the world? About 30,000 varieties, divided into some 8,600 to 8,900 species.

Source: Excerpted from Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia and copied from "Annie's Bird Page."

In the Bible, birds are referred to as:

- Fowls of the air - **Genesis 7:3**
- Fowls of the mountain - **Psalms 50:11**
- Fowls of heaven - **Job 35:11**
- Fowls of the heaven - **Jeremiah 19:7**
- Feathered fowl - **Ezekiel 39:17**
- Winged fowl - **Deuteronomy 4:17**
- Birds of the air - **Matthew 8:20**

We read a few facts about the Great Bustard bird.

Great bustard is a bird in the bustard family. It breeds in open grasslands and farmland from northern Morocco, South and Central Europe, to temperate Central and East Asia. European populations are mainly resident, but Asian populations migrate farther south in winter.

Portugal and Spain now have about 60% of the world's population. It became extinct in Great Britain when the last bird was shot in 1832. Recent attempts to reintroduce it into England have met with some success^[3] and there is a population of 40 birds on Salisbury Plain, a British Army training area.

Let us look into the King James Bible - the Word of God - the words of God about birds:

- Created by God - **Genesis 1:20,21 & Genesis 2:19**
- Created for the glory of God - **Psalms 148:10**
- Herb given as food to - **Genesis 1:30**
- Differ in flesh from beasts and fishes - **1 Corinthians 15:39**
- Dominion over given to man - **Genesis 1:26**
- Names given to, by Adam - **Genesis 2:19,20**
- Instinctively fear man - **Genesis 9:1-3**
- Inferior to man's reason - **Job 35:11**
- Lessons of wisdom to be learned from - **Job 12:7**
- Given as food to man - **Genesis 9:2,3**
- The blood of, not to be eaten - **Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 7:26**

- The property of God - **Psalms 50:11**
- God provides for - **Psalms 104:1-12; Matthew 6:26 & Luke 12:23,24**
- Often suffered for man's sin - **Genesis 6:7; Jeremiah 12:4; Ezekiel 38:20; Hosea 4:1-6**
- Solomon wrote about birds - **1 Kings 4:33**

The Great Supper FOR the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven!

- Instead of people eating birds, these birds eat the people!
- **Revelation 19:17-21**