

Birds!



University of Illinois
College of Veterinary Medicine
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Why Birds Are Awesome: Fun Facts

- The fastest animal recorded is the peregrine falcon, with diving speeds of up to 240 mph!
- Some birds have incredible stamina - the albatross can fly as much as 500-600 miles per day and can fly all the way around the earth in only 46 days!



More Avian Fun Facts!

- The chicken is the closest living relative to the *Tyrannosaurus Rex*!



- Some birds, like ravens and many species of parrot, are good at mimicking human speech.



Tall and Small

- The smallest species of bird, the bee hummingbird, measures at ~ 2 in and weighs only 1.5 grams. That's about as heavy as a jumbo paperclip! The largest species is the common ostrich, which can weigh up to 320 lbs. That's almost 100,000 times as heavy!



Awesome Anatomy!

- Birds have many flight adaptations that help them fly, including hollow bones and fused vertebrae and pelvic bones.
- The hollow bones serve double duty, because in addition to helping the bird remain light in flight, they also function as a part of the birds respiratory system whenever they breathe!



Fancy Feathers & Colors!



- Penguins have two layers of feathers, an inner layer to keep them warm and an outer layer for waterproofing. They are also the only species of bird that stands completely upright!
- The males of many avian species have adapted brilliantly colored plumage to help them attract the attention of a female!

