



# Birds



Birds are warm-blooded, have wings, feathers, a beak, and their babies hatch from eggs. What one feature do birds have that no other animal has? Did you say FEATHERS, you are right!

Birds have two kinds of feathers, the feathers you see when you look at a bird are stiff but the feathers next to the bird's skin are soft feathers called *down*. These feathers help keep birds warm.

Birds lay eggs and baby birds hatch from those eggs. Baby birds grow inside an egg. When the baby is ready to hatch, they start moving around and use their tooth to crack open the egg. After they create a hole the baby bird wiggles out of the hole and into the world they enter.

All birds have wings. Some fly right out of the nest. They spread their wings and push themselves out of the nest, air pushes up on their wings and holds the bird up, they flap their wings, feathers on the ends of a bird's wings spread out and twist, and this pulls air under each wing and they are flying. But some birds do not fly. Their wings are too small to lift their bodies like ostriches, kiwis, and penguins.

Bird's beaks are special tools that are unique to each bird. They are shaped to help the bird get food. Some beaks are long and narrow, some work like tweezers, some work like hammers, and some like a chisel.

Birds are found everywhere in the world, live in many different habitats, and build a variety of nests. Can you find what birds live in your area? What do they eat? How do they use their beaks? Do they migrate? What kinds of nests do they build?