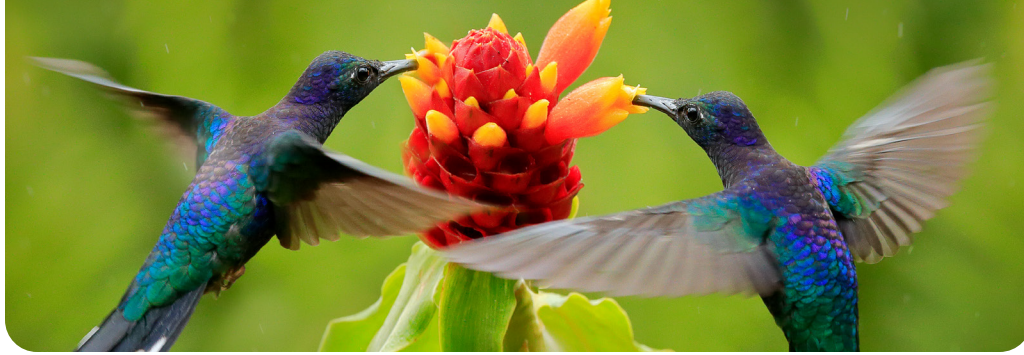


A group of vibrant sun conures, featuring bright yellow bodies and orange-red heads, are perched on a wooden branch. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with green foliage. A white rounded rectangle is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text 'Bird Bonanza'. Another white rounded rectangle is positioned at the bottom center, containing the 'beanstack originals' logo.

Bird Bonanza

 **beanstack originals**



Bird Bonanza

Take flight on a journey to meet some of the world's fastest, fanciest, and most fantastic birds.



From fierce birds of prey to tiny hummingbirds, birds are amazing animals. Learn all about our feathery friends while you get to know some of the coolest birds around the world.

Bird Basics

It might be hard to imagine, but when you see a bird, you're really looking at a dinosaur! How is that possible? Well, more than 200 million years ago, dinosaurs lived on Earth. Over long periods of time, some dinosaurs began to change—or evolve. Eventually, some flying dinosaurs known as avian dinosaurs began to appear. These were the very first birds.

Then, some 65 million years ago, an enormous space rock (called an asteroid) smashed into the Earth. This caused most of the dinosaurs to go extinct—meaning they died out—but not all of them! Some avian dinosaurs survived. Over time, they evolved into the birds you see today.

FUN FACT

Scientists don't know if dinosaurs were cold-blooded, like most reptiles, or warm-blooded, like today's birds.

The dinosaurs that birds came from were a type of animal known as a reptile. Today, scientists separate reptiles into a group based on



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their shared features, or characteristics. Reptiles have skeletons and scales, and they lay eggs. Reptiles are also usually cold-blooded. This means that they need to rely on warm things around them—like heat from the sun—to stay cozy. You have probably seen many reptiles, such as lizards or turtles—or even snakes!

Because birds come from dinosaurs, many scientists consider them to be reptiles, too. But birds are also very different from other reptiles. For one thing, birds are warm-blooded. This means that their own body helps keep them warm. Birds also have feathers and wings. And most birds can fly!



A peregrine falcon swoops down with its sharp talons outstretched for its prey.

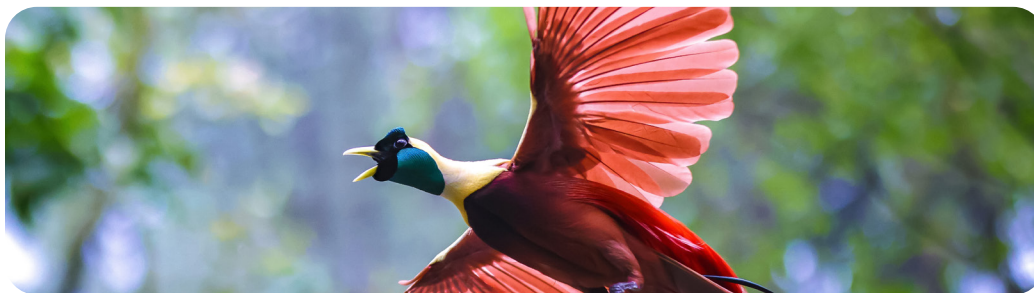
Birds of Prey

It may seem silly to think of a tiny sparrow as a fierce dinosaur. But if you spot a bird of prey, the dinosaur connection probably makes more sense! That's because birds of prey are birds that hunt other animals for food. Most birds of prey have strong beaks for eating meat. They also have long, sharp claws, called talons. And birds of prey are usually larger than other birds, too!

One amazing bird of prey is the peregrine falcon. These incredible birds live on every continent around the world except for Antarctica. Some peregrine falcons even make their homes on skyscrapers in big cities. But the most amazing thing about peregrine falcons? Their speed. When these birds dive to catch prey, they can zoom more than 200 miles an hour (321.9 km). That's about three times as fast as a cheetah can run!



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A multicolored bird of paradise spreads its wings and glides through the forest.

Beautiful Birds

If you've ever seen a bird feather up close, you know that birds come in many beautiful patterns and colors. But some are flashier than others! And some of the flashiest are known as the "birds of paradise." This group of birds lives in tropical places around the world and is known for having amazing colors and feathers.

DID YOU KNOW?

The superb bird-of-paradise dances to attract a mate.

Many birds of paradise have captivating coloring, such as bright red patches or neon blue feathers. Others have fantastic feathers in unusual shapes. One type of bird, the Wilson's bird-of-paradise, has unusually curly tail feathers. Another, the King of Saxony's bird-of-paradise, has extraordinarily long feathers that flow from its head, kind of like a bug's antennae!

Busy Birds

It doesn't take a big bird to be mighty! Some of the most important birds are also some of the smallest. Hummingbirds, which can be found across North and South America, are often tiny. The largest type of hummingbird is about the length of an adult's hand, but most are about as long as an adult's finger. And the smallest weighs less than an American dime! But no matter their size, the hummingbird has an important job.



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Hummingbirds are pollinators. A pollinator is an animal that helps new plants, especially flowers, grow. Hummingbirds feed on a sugary liquid made by plants. To reach this nectar, hummingbirds often stick their long, thin beaks into blooming flowers. When they do this, hummingbirds also get covered in something called pollen. Pollen is a powder made by plants. In order for plants to reproduce, or create new plants, the pollen from one plant must reach another. That is where the hummingbird comes in! When a hungry hummingbird feeds, it gets covered in pollen from one plant. Then, when it moves to a new plant to keep eating, it brings the pollen to that plant. Now the plant can reproduce!

Hummingbirds are proof that even tiny animals can have big impacts. From tiny hummingbirds to fierce falcons to flashy birds of paradise, birds are incredible!