

# Bird Orders, Families, Common Names

Orders end in –formes

Families end in -idae



# Gaviiformes

- spear-shaped beak
- laterally compressed tarsi
- tail very short and stiff
- 3 toes fully webbed
- legs at the back of the body (helps with diving)
- Can reach depths of 240 feet, underwater 8 minutes

- Gaviidae



# Podicipediformes

- lobed (lobate) toes
- tarsi laterally compressed
- short legs far back on body
- eat their own feathers



- Podicipedidae



# Pelecaniformes

- gular pouch (collects food, dissipates heat)
- Fish-eating
- totipalmate feet (4 toes joined by webbing)
- nest in colonies

- Pelicanidae

- bill greater than 12 inches
- very large gular pouch



<http://www.ascabird.org/awpel.jpg>

- Phalacrocoracidae

- long, stiff tail (balance when perching)
- hooked bill



<http://birdsofsanibel.free.fr/Images/2005/Double-crested%20Cormorant.jpg>

# Ciconiiformes

- long neck
- long legs
- long, pointed bill
- wade in shallow water



[http://h1.ripway.com/Scouts463/Birds/great\\_blue\\_heron.jpg](http://h1.ripway.com/Scouts463/Birds/great_blue_heron.jpg)



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- Ardeidae



# Anseriformes

- 11 primary flight feathers
- feathered oil gland
- “Waterfowl”



- Anatidae
  - flat bill, rounded at the tip
  - combed serrations at edge of bill
  - 3 front toes fully webbed (palmate)
  - short tail

# Falconiformes

- hooked beak
- sharp, curved talons
- “Diurnal raptors”



- Cathartidae

- head and neck bare
- flat feet (for walking)

- Accipitridae

- woodland and soaring raptors
- wings rounded



- Falconidae

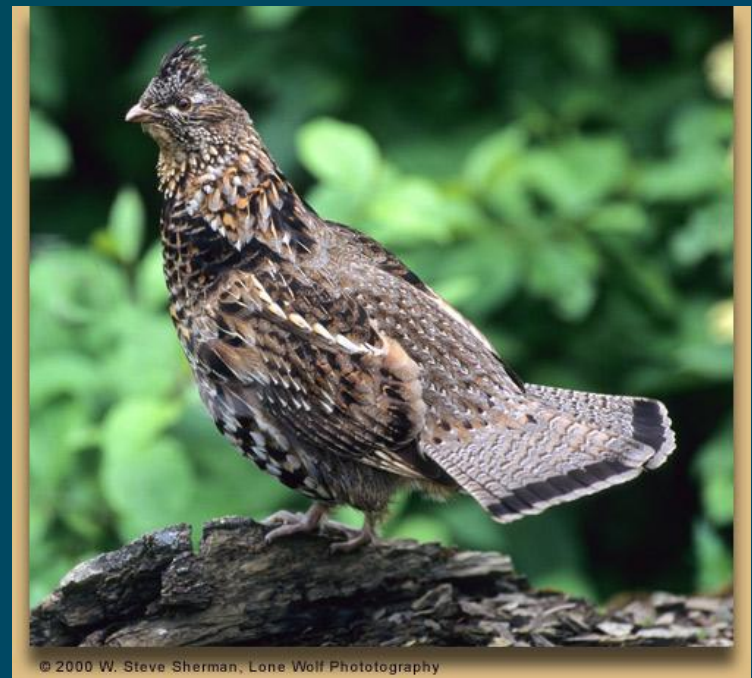
- beak tooth
- pointed, stiff wings



# Galliformes

- large breast
- short, rounded wings
- short bill with arched culmen (top part of bill)
- muscular gizzard (granivore – eats seeds)

- Phasianidae





# Gruiformes

- no crop (enlargement of the esophagus)
- marsh birds
- elevated hind toe

- Rallidae

- laterally compressed body
- partially lobed toes



- Gruidae

- long neck
- long legs
- long bill



# Charadriiformes

- “shore birds”



- Scolopacidae

- long, slender bills that are straight or down curved
- hind toe usually present
- longish neck



- Charadriidae

- short bills, swollen at tip
- hind toe absent or vestigial



- Laridae

- webbed feet
- long, pointed wings
- typically gray and white with a small amount of black

# Columbiformes

- plump
- short legs
- muscular gizzards
- crop secretes pigeon's milk (feed to young containing enzymes and grain)

- **Columbidae**

- lay 2 eggs

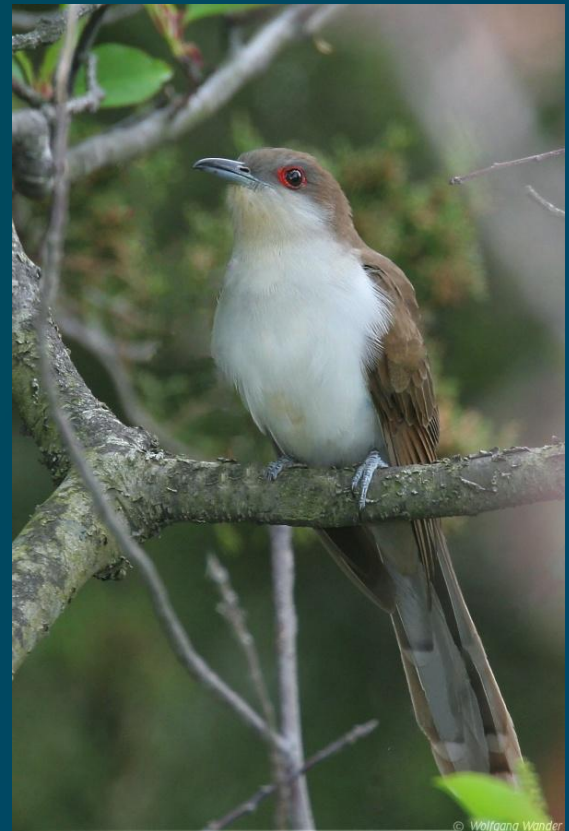


# Cuculiformes

- long tail
- decurved bill
- sometimes a brood parasite
- 2 toes forward, 2 back
- eats hairy caterpillars (Forest tent caterpillar, aka Armyworm)



- Cuculidae







# Strigiformes

- large, rounded head
- big eyes that face forward
- eyeballs fixed
- roughly 270 degree rotation of the head
- facial disk (concentrates sound)
- ears not symmetrical
- “nocturnal raptors”

- **Strigidae**

- Round facial disc (fyi- heart shaped in family Tytonidae)





# Caprimulgiformes

- short legs
- small, weak bill
- very large mouth opening
- bristles around mouth (insect sensing)
- nocturnal



- Caprimulgidae
  - extremely long, pointed wings
  - large eyes
  - comb on middle toe

# Apodiformes

- small feet
- generally small birds



- Trochilidae

- nectivore
- bee-like
- hover
- long bill
- “hummingbirds”



- Apodidae

- reversible toe
- body less than 9 inches
- no bristles at mouth

# Coraciiformes

- stocky, large head
- large bill
- fish-eating



- Alcedinidae

# Piciformes

- 2 toes forward, 2 back
- stiff tail
- chisel-like beak
- barb tipped tongue (for removing insects)
- “woodpeckers”



- Picidae

# Passeriformes (HUGE order)



- perching birds
- 3 toes forward, 1 back
- “songbirds”

- Tyrannidae

- bristles around mouth
- broad, flat bill with hook at tip
- upright posture
- pointed head



[http://image14.webshots.com/15/2/15/42/2812215420069324912qUYbHV\\_fs.jpg](http://image14.webshots.com/15/2/15/42/2812215420069324912qUYbHV_fs.jpg)

- Vireonidae

- sturdy bill with hook at tip
- less active than wood warblers



- Laniidae

- hooked bill
- masked
- carnivore





- Corvidae

- generalist foragers
- powerful bill
- intelligent (problem solving)

- Alaudidae

- 'horns'
- long hind claw



<http://www.birdsasart.com/Lindas-horned-lark.jpg>



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- Paridae

- gregarious (flock)
- stubby bill



- Hirundinidae

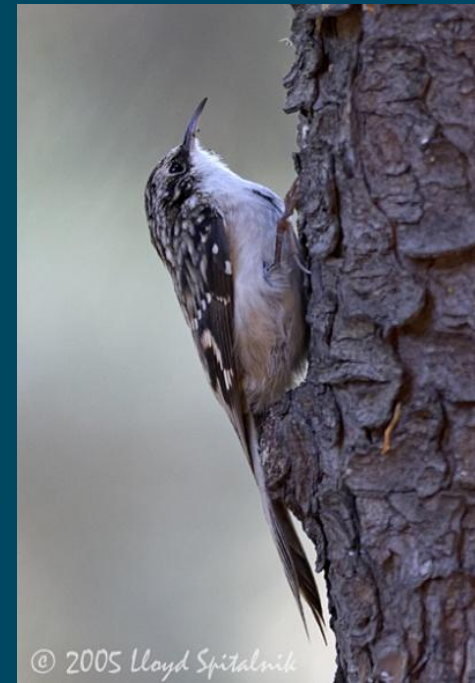
- pointed wings longer than body
- forked or deeply forked tail



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- Sittidae
  - often move headfirst down trees
  - bark gleaners
  - short tail

- Certhiidae
  - cryptic brown
  - long tail
  - move circularly up trees
  - decurved bill



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- Troglodytidae
  - upright tail
  - white or buffy eyebrow line



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- Regulidae

- short, thin, sharp bill
- wing bars
- crown brightly colored



- Turdidae

- round appearance, especially head and breast
- very melodic songs
- “thrushes”

- Mimidae

- mimics with long, complicated songs
- long tail
- decurved bill





- Sturnidae
  - mimic other birds
  - introduced species
  - wings look fixed in flight

- Bombycillidae

- waxy secondary feathers
- yellow tipped tail
- crest on head



- Parulidae
  - thin, pointed bill
  - very diverse family



- Thraupidae

- thick bill
- colorful



<http://www.ownbyphotography.com/Scarlet-Tanager.jpg>



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- Emberizidae

- conical bill
- strong feet
- “Sparrows”

- Cardinalidae

- short, very thick bill



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- Icteridae

- long, conical, point bill



<http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/rsgis2/images/Photos/coccvesp.jpg>

- Fringillidae

- seed-eating
- undulating flight pattern
- “finches”



- Passeridae

- introduced species
- shorter legs and thicker bill than native sparrows

