



Birds

Beaks and Feet

The shapes of birds' beaks (whether straight, curved, blunt or hooked) show the kind of food the bird eats. The feet often tell you about how the bird lives.

Try to match the beaks and feet with its description!

- Slender curved beak to get nectar from flowers. Feet for perching.
- Beak and feet for tearing flesh.
- Long legs and bill for wading.
- Flat bill for sifting mud & webbed feet for swimming.
- Strong curved beak for cracking seeds and feet for holding.



Bird Shapes

Here are some shapes of birds that you may see. Watch carefully to see where they are, what they do, and how they obtain their different foods. *Circle the birds that you have seen.*

Predators of small mammals and reptiles/scavengers	Insect eaters	Seed, nectar and/ or fruit eaters	Water birds - fish, frog and insect eaters
Hawks 30-95 cm	Wrens 10-12 cm	Finches 11-16 cm	Terns Gulls 23-65 cm
Kookaburra Kingfisher 20-43 cm	Cuckoos 15-30 cm	Parrots 16-65 cm	Cormorants 58-80 cm
Magpie Lark 25-28 cm	Pardalotes 9-11 cm	Honeyeaters 14-37 cm	Ibis Heron 22-90cm
Crows Magpies Ravens 28-47 cm	Swallows 13-20 cm	Thrushes 10-12 cm	Water birds - water plant eaters
	Robins Fantails 11-20 cm	Pigeons Doves 30-35 cm	Ducks Swans 40-100 cm
			Waterhen 17-55 cm



Bird Addresses

Where did you see your birds?

Write the names of the birds you have seen next to the places where you saw them.

in low bushes _____ on the beach _____
on the ground _____ soaring in the sky _____
in the tops of trees _____ on the water _____



Bird Colours

Often a bird's colouring matches the colours in the bush or area where they live. Like other animals, birds live in places where they blend in with their surroundings as it helps them hide from predators such as snakes, cats and other birds. How many different colours can you spot on the birds in your area? Do the colours on the birds you have seen match with anything in the area you saw them?

Look at the birds that live in your area. Write the colours of the bird and its name (if you know it) in the space below. Then look around the place you saw the bird and fill in what matches with the bird's colour.

Bird Name	Colour of Bird	Colour in the Area
<i>Parrot</i>	<i>red on wings yellow belly</i>	<i>red on gum leaves wattle flowers</i>



A Bird's Life

Imagine you are a bird you have seen in your park. What sort of bird are you? What colours do you have and do you match with anything nearby? What do your beak and feet look like? *Draw a picture and write a short story about your life as a bird.*