

## **BIRD FACT**

- **Birds are the world's most numerous legged vertebrates of the class Aves.**
- **There are about 9,956 species known worldwide.**
- **Birds are endothermic, or warm blooded.**
- **They are the only animals with feathers (made of keratin), beaks (no teeth), wings and all lay eggs.**
- **Most but not all bird species can fly, at least for short distances.**
- **The fastest bird is the peregrine falcon: 117 miles per hour (188 kilometers per hour) in a steep dive.**
- **The male bee hummingbird is the smallest bird which is 2.25 inches (5.7 centimeters) long and weighs 0.056 ounces (1.6 grams). Its equivalent to the size of a large bumblebee.**
- **The ostrich is the largest bird, which can weigh up to 340 pounds (154 kilograms).**
- **The bird with the most feathers is the tundra, or whistling swan, with more than 25,000 feathers.**

## PIED CROW



**Scientific name:** *Corvus albus*

**Conservation status:** Least concern (LC)

**Description:** Black with a broad white collar across base of hind neck, chest to upper belly white, rest of plumage glossy black. All sexes are alike.

**Habitat:** Forests, wooded scrub, but most common near towns, cities and farms

**Fun fact:** known to be the most intelligent of all birds!!!

## WATER THICK KNEE



**Other Names:** Stone Curlews, Dikkops

**Scientific Name:** *Burhinus vermiculatus*

**Conservation Status:** least concern

**Description:** Nocturnal creature with large yellow eyes and legs. The knee joint is larger than most birds.

**Habitat:** Riverbanks, estuaries, mangrove swamps, undisturbed sheltered beaches, coastal creek shore and islands but occasionally forages more than 1 km from water.

## BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



**Scientific name:** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Description:**

- **Black stout bill, crimson colored eyes with yellow-green legs and glossy black cap that extends down the upper back, with a white ashy-grey color at the mid section. They have short legs, short neck and are moderate in size.**

**Habitat:**

- **Fresh, brackish and salt-water, from rivers, lakes and swamps to lagoons.**

**Fun Fact:**

- **Black-crowned Night-Heron will breed with any chick that is placed in its nest.**

## GREAT EGRET



**Scientific name:** *Ardea alba*

**Conservation status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Description:** As the name implies, it's white in color with orange beak. They are smaller than a Great Blue Heron; larger than a Snowy Egret.

**Habitat:** found along freshwater, streams, ponds brackish and marine wetlands.

**Fun facts:**

- They have a wingspan of 130 cm.
- They do not eat at night and forage in day by standing motionless in the water prey.
- Fun facts: fearless creatures and can be seen sometimes on top of alligators!

## WESTERN REEF HERON



**Scientific name:** *Egretta gularis*

**Conservation status:** Least Concern (LC)

**Description:** mostly dark slaty-grey plumage and a white throat

**Habitat:** quiet lagoons, mangrove swamps, rocky or sandy shorelines, coastal wetlands

**Fun fact:**

- Have been known to choke to death by attempting to swallow fish too large for their long, S-shaped necks

## GREY HERON



**Scientific name:** *Ardea cinerea*

**Other names:** common heron, crane

**Conservation status:** Least Concern

**Description:** The Grey Heron is a large grey heron having white and black accents, a white crown with black plumes, black belly and white thighs.

**Habitat:** They are typically found in and around shallow water, generally along watercourses and shorelines, and usually in locations having roost trees nearby. They may occur in inland fresh waters, along estuaries or in marine habitats. Shallow water

**Fun fact:**

- Grey herons usually live about 5 years
- They are expert fishers As their counterparts blue herons
- They are in fact the same species as the blue heron

## LITTLE CURLEW



**Other names:** Little Whimbrel, Pygmy or Baby Curlew

**Scientific name:** *Numenius minutus*

**Conservation status:** Least Concern

**Description:** smallest of the curlews with long thin neck. The small head has a short, slender down curved bill at the tip and pink on the underside. The body is generally light brown in color

**Habitat:** found in large flocks on coastal and inland grasslands near swamps and flooded areas.

**Fun fact:**

- When alarmed, they either stand tall and erect or crouch in the grass.

## BLACK KITE



**Scientific name:** *Milvus migrans*

**Conservation status:** Least concerned

**Description:** The plumage is dark brown, with light brown and rufous markings, particularly on the head, neck and under parts. The tail is forked and barred with darker brown. This feature gives the bird its alternative name of Fork-tailed Kite. The eye is dark brown and the bill is black with a yellow area of skin around the nostrils.

**Habitat:** Black Kites have a wide habitat tolerance, with their only requirement being large, mature trees in which to build nests

**Fun Fact:**

- They are slightly smaller than the red kites
- Black kites eat anything, lizards, birds, small mammals and insects. They even scavenge at garbage dumps.

## **BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER**



**Other names:** common kingfisher

**Scientific name:** *Alcedo meninting*

**Conservation status:** Least concern

**Description:** About 16cm in length with blue feathers covering the ears, darker and more intense cobalt-blue upperparts with richer under parts. A white patch is found just below the beak at the neck region and also at the neck which disappears with adulthood.

**Habitat:** shaded forest and small streams.

**Fun fact:**

- Identical to the common kingfisher
- Seem to sleep with their eyes open

## **FERAL ROCK PIGEON**



**Scientific name:** *Columbia livia domestica*

**Conservation status:** least concern

### **Fun fact:**

- **There are over 300 different species of pigeons that can be found all around the world (except in the Sahara desert, on the Antarctica and Arctic)**
- **They fly at the altitude of 6000 feet.**
- **Pigeons are highly intelligent animals. They are able to recognize themselves in the mirror; they have the ability to recognize same people on two different pictures and to recognize all letters of the English alphabet.**
- **These birds have very sensitive sense of hearing. They are able to detect distant storms, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.**
- **They are the only birds in the world that do not lift their heads to swallow water.**

## **BLUE PEACOCK**



**Other names:** peafowl, peahen

**Botanical name:** *Pavo cristatus*

**Conservation status:** least concern

**Fun fact:**

- Only the males are called peacocks while the females, peahen
- A family of peafowl is called a "bevy." Luckily, every year after the mating season, they shed their feathers.
- Their feathers are made of microscopic crystal-like structures that reflect different wavelengths of light resulting in bright fluorescent colors.

## WHITE-FACED WHISTLING DUCK



**Scientific name:** *Dendrocygna viduata*

**Conservation status:** Least concern

**Description:** A long-legged duck with a conspicuous white face and neck patch. The rest of the body is black while the breast area is dark brown in colour.

**Habitat:** fresh water wet lands, lakes, rivers, ponds, swamps

**Fun fact:**

- They feed on grass, seeds, and aquatic mollusks.
- These birds have broad wings.
- They are fast swimmers but do not dive except for food.
- When alarmed, these ducks stand straight and freeze

## RED-EYED DOVE



**Scientific name:** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

**Other names:** turtle dove, rock dove

**Conservation status:** least concern

**Description:** the red-eyed dove is a stocky pigeon of 34cm with light brown-gray head, neck and chest with brown /pale yellow feathers on its wings and dark-brown blotched patch on the side of its neck. They have red eyes and salmon-colored feet.**Habitat:** They live on woodland and alien tree plantation

**Fun Facts:**

- They are mainly seed-eaters, not insect –eaters.
- Red-eyed doves are a little way smaller than pigeons but with longer tails
- They have no gall bladder but do produce bile.
- Their life span in the wild is 1 – 5yrs.

## HOODED VULTURE



**Scientific name:** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

**Conservation status:** Critically endangered

**Description:** hooded vulture is scruffy-looking vulture with dark brown in color, long thin bill, bare / bald head which is usually white, bare face and fore-neck. The bald head flushes red once it's agitated. It has got broad wings for soaring and short tail feathers.

**Habitat:** These vultures live in forest clearings with high rainfall, coastal marshes, lagoons, along dumps and slaughter houses, savannahs, grasslands.

**Fun facts:**

- There are 23 species of vultures in the world and 14 species are considered threatened or endangered.
- They have sharp sense of smell and sight to locate or a dead animal from a mile away.
- They urinate on their legs and feet to cool off on hot days, process called urohydrolysis. It also helps kill off bacteria or parasites picked up during scavenging.
- First Saturday in September is celebrated as International vulture awareness day

- They also offer environmental service (sanitation) worth over 2.3million naira during its life time.

## WOODLAND KINGFISHER



**Scientific name:** *Halycon senegalensis*

**Other names:** Tree Kingfisher

**Conservation status:** Least concern

**Description:** the woodland Kingfisher is a medium-sized kingfisher, 20-23cm in length. They have a bright blue color with black patch on its feathers and tail end. Pale brown-grey forehead, crown, nape. They have a red upper mandible and black lower mandible, white belly with red legs.

**Habitat:** savanna habitats, streams, rivers or lakes, parks, gardens and farmland.

**Fun facts:** it is actually a non-fishing kingfisher group; they feed on insects and small invertebrates such as snakes, frogs and even small birds.

## **BLACK CRAKE**



**Scientific name:** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

**Description:** black plumage, with a brown olive tone on the wings and upperparts. They have red eyes, yellow bill and their feet and legs are red.

**Habitat:** freshwater marshes, wetlands, estuaries

**Conservation status:** least concern

**Fun fact:** They feed on aquatic invertebrates, small frogs and tadpoles, insects, small fish and the eggs of some birds.