



Week 1: What Makes a Bird a Bird?

Classification of birds within the animal kingdom
Defining features of birds
The role of birds in ecosystems

Week 2: Built for the Sky

Adaptations in skeletal structure for flight
Specialized digestive & respiratory systems
Flight muscles and sternum design

Week 3: Feathered for Flight

Types of feathers and their functions
Molting & feather maintenance
Detailed feather anatomy

Week 4: Beaks, Feet, and Bird Tools

Beak and foot structures for feeding and locomotion
Tools for climbing, swimming, hunting, and digging
Behaviors linked to tool use and environmental adaptation

Week 5: Birds that Talk and Dance

Differences between birdsong and calls
Bird dances and mating displays
Flocking behavior

Week 6: Wings Across the World

Why birds migrate
Major types of migration and
How birds travel across continents and elevations

Week 7: Home Sweet Nest

- Types of bird nests and how structure meets function
- How birds use tools and materials to build
- Nesting locations, timing, and reproduction
- Parental care and development of chicks

Week 8: Exam

Week 9: Waders, Swimmers, and Shoreline Stalkers

- Adaptations for wetland and shoreline habitats
- Specialized legs, bills, and feet for feeding and movement
- Aquatic feeding strategies: dabbling, diving, grazing, and filtering
- Shared traits: feather waterproofing and salt-removal glands

Week 10: Fierce Fliers of the Sky & Night

- Shared characteristics of birds of prey
- Differences between diurnal and nocturnal raptors
- Specialized adaptations for hunting by day and by night
- Ecological roles: apex predators and scavengers

Week 11: Birds that Sing

- Classification and defining traits of songbirds
- How songbirds produce complex vocalizations
- Vocal learning, dialects, and the cultural transmission of birdsong

Week 12: From High-Flyers to Fast Peckers

- Movement and feeding adaptations in swifts, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers
- Unique body structures that support movement
- Specialized features: pamprodactyl and zygodactyl feet, shock-absorbing skulls, and nectar-sipping tongues

Week 13: Birds with Big Brains

- Cognitive abilities of parrots, corvids, and pigeons
- Brain structures linked to intelligence and learning
- Tool use, memory, navigation, and mimicry in birds

Week 14: Flightless Wonders

Characteristics of flightless birds and how they still fit Class Aves

Clues for identifying flightless birds based on anatomy and behavior

Scientific classification from Kingdom to Species using real bird examples

Adaptations in five key species

Week 15: Fading Feathers: Extinct Birds and on the Brink

Causes of bird extinction and endangerment

Case studies of extinct and endangered birds

The role of conservation in protecting vulnerable species

Biblical call to stewardship and care for creation

Week 16: Exam