

# Birds

Birds are found everywhere in the world. There are more than 8 000 types of birds. They come in all shapes, sizes and colours. All birds have feathers. Their feathers help to keep them warm. Most birds use their feathers to fly. The ostrich and the penguin are examples of birds that cannot fly. Ostriches are designed to run. Penguins are designed to swim. Birds eat everyday and often spend most of the day searching for food. Birds are warm blooded. Their body temperature remains constant. This allows them to be active. The beak of a bird has no teeth. Birds have very good eyesight and hearing. All birds have ear holes in the sides of their heads. Some birds, like owls, use their hearing more than their eyesight to search for food. Birds' eggs come in many colours and sizes. The shape (oval or circular) and colour of the egg is related to the size and type of bird. Birds have some of the same characteristics as reptiles. They both have young born from eggs, and an egg tooth is used by young birds to break open their shells. Birds have scales on their legs. One difference between birds and reptiles is that most birds take very special care of their young while baby reptiles take care of themselves.