

## **CLASSIFICATION OF BIRDS**

### **Classification of birds**

This is the grouping of birds according to their common characteristics.

#### **State two factors considered when classifying birds**

- Type of the beak
- Ability to fly
- Type of feet or claws
- Type of food they eat.
- Feeding mode

#### **Name six classes/groups of birds**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Climbing birds</li><li>- Flightless birds</li><li>- Scratching birds</li><li>- Perching birds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Birds of prey (preying birds)</li><li>- Scavenger birds</li><li>- Swimming birds</li><li>- Wading birds</li></ul>
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## **BIRDS OF PREY**

### **What are birds of prey?**

- These are birds which hunt and kill other small animals for food.
- These are birds which hunt and kill their prey.

### **What is a prey?**

- A prey is an animal which is hunted and killed by another one for food.
- This is an animal which is fed on by another animal.

#### **Name four examples of birds of prey**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Eagles</li><li>- Owls</li><li>- Hawks</li><li>- Falcons</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kites</li><li>- Buzzards</li><li>- Secretary birds</li><li>- Kestrel</li></ul>
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#### **Mention examples of animals eaten by birds of prey.**

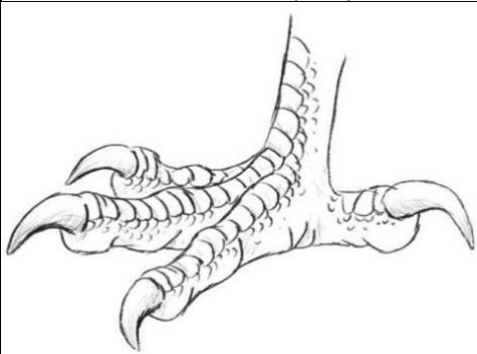
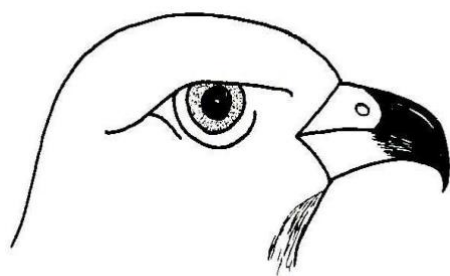
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- rats</li><li>- mice</li><li>- fish</li><li>- lizards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- geckos</li><li>- frogs</li><li>- chicken</li><li>- snakes</li></ul>
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**State three characteristics of a bird of prey**

- They are carnivorous birds/they feed on flesh.
- They have strong sharp hooked beaks.
- They have strong sharp curved claws (talons)
- They have strong eyesight
- They are powerful/They have powerful wings.

**Give the importance of the following features to birds of prey**

<b>Claws/talons</b>	Enable them to holding their prey firmly Enable them to grip and kill their prey
<b>Beaks</b>	Enable them to tear the flesh of their prey
<b>Eyesight/vision</b>	Enable them to spot their prey from far Enable them to see their prey from far.
<b>Strong feet</b>	Used to carry their prey for long distances

<b>Feet of a bird of prey</b>	<b>Beak of a bird of prey</b>
	

**Give two dangers of birds of prey**

- They eat people's chickens and rabbits
- Some can harm people

**SCAVENGER BIRDS**

**What are scavenger birds?**

- These are birds which feed on flesh of dead animals left over by predators.
- They feed on flesh already killed animals.
- They have beaks and talons (claws) similar to those of birds of prey.

**Mention four examples of scavenger birds.**

- Vultures
- Crows
- Marabou storks

**How are scavenger birds important in the environment?**

- They clean the environment by eating flesh/meat of dead animals that would rot and smell.

**Name two places where scavenger birds are commonly found.**

- Abattoirs
- Rubbish heaps
- Dustbins

## **SWIMMING BIRDS**

**What are swimming birds?**

- These are birds which are good at swimming.

**Why are swimming birds called so?**

- They are good at swimming.

**State two characteristics of swimming birds.**

- They have webbed toes/They have webs between toes.
- They have broad breastbones.
- They have many oil glands.
- They have spoon-shaped beaks.
- They have flat beaks with serrated edges (small cross plates on the margins)

**Give the importance of the following features to swimming birds.**

<b>Webbed toes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- They act like paddles</li><li>- They enable them to swim easily in water</li></ul>
<b>Breastbone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enables them to reduce body weight</li></ul>
<b>Oil glands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Produce oil which protect their body against cold water.</li></ul>
<b>Spoon shaped beak</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enables them to get food from water or mud.</li></ul>
<b>Beak with small cross plates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enable them to sieve food from mud/muddy water</li></ul>

Beak of a swimming bird	Foot of a swimming bird
