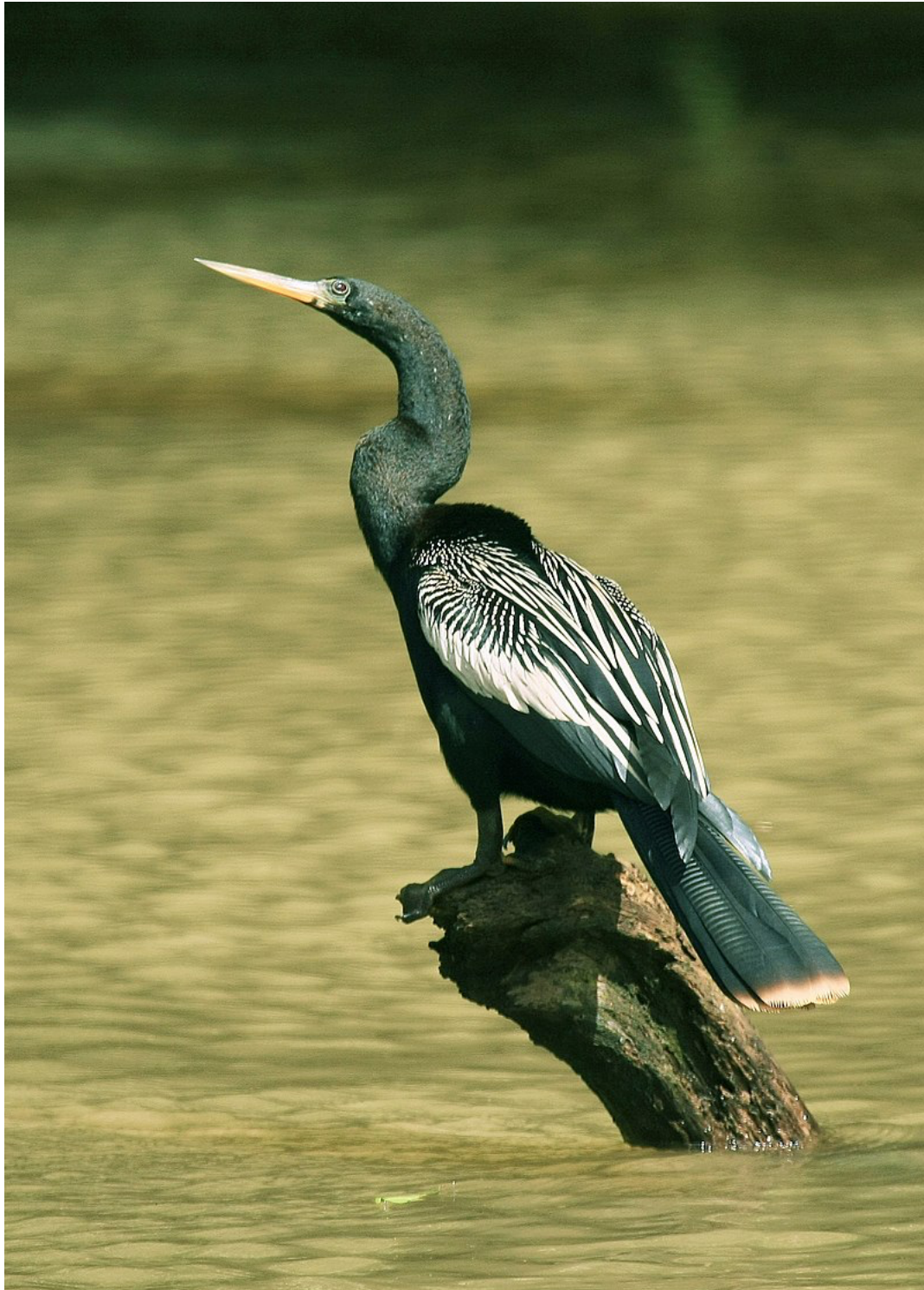


Snake-necked bird



Description

Serpents are birds in the family **Anhingidae**. Snakenecks are large birds. Males have black or dark brown plumage, an upright crest on the head and a larger bill than the female's. Females have lighter plumage, especially on the neck and lower parts. Both males and females have gray spots on the long shoulder feathers and the facial feathers on the wings. Sharp beak with serrated edges. The legs are webbed, short and near the end of the body. Their plumage is absorbent, similar to that of cormorants , so they have to shake their wings to dry after swimming. Their vocalizations include chirping or very noisy calls when they fly or perch. During estrus, the adults sometimes make a crow -like whistling sound .

Distribution

Snakenecks live around the equator, in the tropics and subtropics. They live in freshwater or brackish environments and can be found in lakes, rivers, swamps, estuaries, bays, lagoons and wetlands . They tend to congregate in herds sometimes up to 100, but have a rather high territoriality during the breeding season. Most are sedentary and non-migratory, however large populations can be migratory.