Para1

**Skeletal system**

*Main article:*[*Bird\_anatomy § Skeletal\_system*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_anatomy#Skeletal_system)

The skeleton consists of very lightweight bones. They have large air-filled cavities (called pneumatic cavities) which connect with the [respiratory system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respiratory_system).[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird#cite_note-89) The skull bones in adults are fused and do not show [cranial sutures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cranial_sutures).[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird#cite_note-Gill-90) The [orbital cavities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orbit_(anatomy)) that house the eyeballs are large and separated from each other by a bony [septum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septum) (partition). The [spine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertebral_column) has cervical, thoracic, lumbar and caudal regions with the number of cervical (neck) vertebrae highly variable and especially flexible, but movement is reduced in the anterior [thoracic vertebrae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thoracic_vertebrae) and absent in the later vertebrae.[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird#cite_note-91) The last few are fused with the [pelvis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelvis) to form the [synsacrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synsacrum).[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird#cite_note-Gill-90) The ribs are flattened and the [sternum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sternum) is keeled for the attachment of flight muscles except in the flightless bird orders. The forelimbs are modified into wings.[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird#cite_note-92) The wings are more or less developed depending on the species; the only known groups that lost their wings are the [extinct](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extinct) [moa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moa) and [elephant birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elephant_bird)