

Avian Taxonomy



Accipiters



- ❧ For clinical purposes: hawk, eagle or accipiter
- ❧ Order **Falconiformes**: eagles, hawks, accipiters and falcons
 - ❧ Family **Accipitridae** (eagles, hawks and accipiters)
 - ❧ Family **Falconidae** (falcons and caracaras)
 - ❧ **Accipitriformes?** (AOU)
 - ❧ Not owls; order **Strigiformes**
 - ❧ 'Raptors'
 - ❧ birds of prey (clawed feet, sharply curved beaks, eat meat)
 - ❧ diurnal vs nocturnal raptors

Accipiters



- ❧ Eagles tend to be big, hawks smaller and falcons even smaller
 - ❧ Long, broad, rounded wings vs. long, pointed wings
 - ❧ Accipiter: shorter necks/ wings and longer tails than hawk
 - ❧ juvenile yellow eyes vs. adult red-orange eyes
 - ❧ Heavy powerful hooked beaks vs. short hooked beaks
 - ❧ Falcons: long and thin toes with knobby nodules; less substantial talons
 - ❧ Tomial tooth
 - ❧ Malar stripe



vs.





vs.





Psittacines



- ❧ Order **Psittaciformes**
- ❧ 'Parrots'
- ❧ Three superfamilies
 - ❧ Psittacoidea ("true parrots")
 - ❧ Cacatuoidea (cockatoos)
 - ❧ Strigopoidea (New Zealand parrots)



Psittacines



⌘ Not to be confused with cetaceans!!!



Passerines



Order Passeriformes

- ✧ 'Perching birds', 'songbirds' or 'oscines'
- ✧ Toe arrangement (three point forward, one points back)
- ✧ Accounts for more than half of all bird species!



Corvids



❧ Order **Passeriformes**

❧ Family **Corvidae**

❧ Technically 'passerines'; referred as corvids

❧ Blue jays, cardinals, ravens, crows and magpies

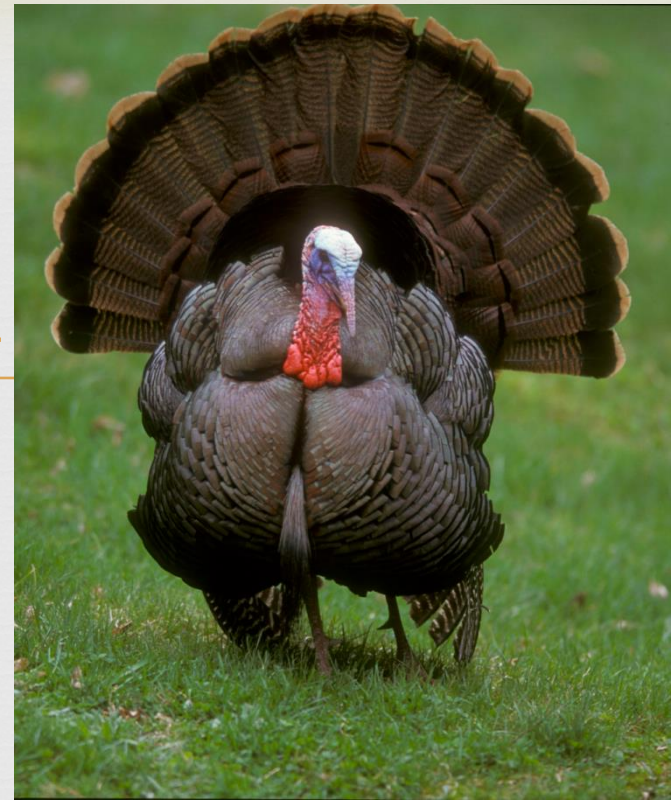


Galliforms



Order Galliformes

- ‘Gallinaceous birds’ or ‘gamebirds’
- Heavy-bodied, ground-feeding birds
- Turkeys, chickens, fowls, pheasants



Other birds



- ❧ Sphenisciformes
 - ❧ penguins
- ❧ Columbiformes
 - ❧ doves and pigeons
- ❧ Piciformes
 - ❧ woodpeckers
- ❧ Phoenicopteriformes
 - ❧ flamingos
- ❧ Apodiformes
 - ❧ swifts and hummingbirds
- ❧ Anseriformes
 - ❧ ducks, geese and swans

Other birds



❧ Ratites???

❧ Order **Struthioniformes**

❧ Large flightless birds

❧ Emus, ostriches, kiwis, etc.



Questions?



Resources



- ❧ <http://www.themodernapprentice.com/birds.htm>
- ❧ <http://www.raptorresearchfoundation.org/education/raptor-world#4>
- ❧ <http://www.differencebetween.net/science/nature/difference-between-eagle-and-hawk/>
- ❧ <http://www.norcalblogs.com/birds/2012/09/03/hawks-eagles-and-falcons/>
- ❧ <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>
- ❧ Google images

A very special thanks to:

