



# The World of Birds

*Jonathan Elphick*

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**The World of Birds** Jonathan Elphick

The ultimate illustrated, authoritative reference to the avian world.

Written by a highly regarded ornithologist and natural history expert and sumptuously illustrated throughout with photographs and illustrations, *The World of Birds* is a comprehensive and authoritative guide to every aspect of bird life and a concise survey of the world's orders and families.

Jonathan Elphick begins by defining the distinguishing features of birds before going on to describe their evolution since the age of the dinosaurs. With the aid of fact boxes and clear photographs, he then explores in greater detail each of the significant elements of bird life.

Topics include:

- bird biology including anatomy, walking and swimming, plumage, calls and songs
- flight techniques and styles
- food and feeding
- bird lifestyles and social relationships
- breeding, growth and development
- bird geography and habitats
- the mysteries of migration.

He also considers human attitudes towards birds through the ages.

The book contains a comprehensive survey of the world's birds (including extinct species), detailing every one of the 29 orders and each of the approximately 200 families. Reflecting the latest classification changes to the Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World, it explains how birds are classified and provides an outline of the system of classification.

With special photography from award-winning wildlife photographer David Tipling, this book is a unique insight into the world of birds and essential reading for all ornithologists, bird watchers and natural history enthusiasts.

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