

## ORNITHOLOGY



**Ornithology** is a branch of [zoology](#) that concerns the "methodological study and consequent knowledge of [birds](#) with all that relates to them."<sup>[1]</sup> Several aspects of ornithology differ from related disciplines, due partly to the high visibility and the aesthetic appeal of birds.<sup>[2]</sup> It has also been an area with a large contribution made by amateurs in terms of time, resources, and financial support. Studies on birds have helped develop key concepts in biology including evolution, behaviour and ecology such as the definition of [species](#), the process of [speciation](#), [instinct](#), [learning](#), [ecological niches](#), [guilds](#), [island biogeography](#), [phylogeography](#), and [conservation](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

While early ornithology was principally concerned with descriptions and distributions of species, ornithologists today seek answers to very specific questions, often using birds as models to test hypotheses or predictions based on theories. Most modern biological theories apply across life forms, and the number of scientists who identify themselves as "ornithologists" has therefore declined.<sup>[4]</sup> A wide range of tools and techniques are used in ornithology, both inside the laboratory and out in the field, and innovations are constantly made. Most biologists who recognise themselves as "Ornithologists" study specific categories, such as Anatomy, Taxonomy, or Ecology lifestyles and behaviours. Though this can be applied to the range of all biological practises.<sup>[5]</sup>

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