

The Bible and Birds

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A. A list of birds

Bittern ... Isaiah 14:23

I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

Cock ... Matthew 26:34,74

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice ... Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

Mark 14:30

And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice.

John 18:27

Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Luke 22:61

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice.

Cuckoo ... Leviticus 11:16

And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

Cormorant ... Leviticus 11:17

And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,

Crane ... Jeremiah 8:7

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but My people know not the judgment of the LORD

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Dove ... Genesis 8:8

Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;

Eagle ... Job 39:27

Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?

Hawk ... Job 39:26

Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?

Hen ... Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Heron ... Leviticus 11:19

And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

Lapwing ... Leviticus 11:19

And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

Ospray ... Leviticus 11:13

And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

Ostrich ... Job 39:13,18

Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich? What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider.

Owls ... Job 30:29

I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls.

— Desert Owl ... Psalm 102:6

I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

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— Great Owl ... Leviticus 11:17

And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,

— Little Owl ... Leviticus 11:17

And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl,

— Screech Owl ... Isaiah 34:14

The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.

Peacock ... 1 Kings 10:22

For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

Pelican ... Psalm 102:6

I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

Pigeon ... Leviticus 12:6

And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest:

Quail ... Numbers 11:31,32

And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

Raven ... Job 38:41

Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

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Sparrow ... Matthew 10:29-31

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Stork ... Psalm 104:17

Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house.

Swallow ... Psalm 84:3

Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.

Swan ... Leviticus 11:18

And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle,

Vulture ... Isaiah 34:15

There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

B. Features regarding birds

Created by God ... Genesis 1:20,21

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Named by Adam ... Genesis 2:19,20

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

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Clean, unclean ... Genesis 8:20

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Differ from animals ... 1 Corinthians 15:39

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds

Under man's dominion ... Psalm 8:8

The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

For food ... Genesis 9:2,3

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Belong to God ... Psalm 50:11

I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are Mine.

God provides for birds ... Psalm 104:10-12

He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

Luke 12:23,24

The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Can be tamed ... James 3:7

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind;

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Differ in singing ... Song of Solomon 2:12

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

Some migratory ... Jeremiah 8:7

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but My people know not the judgment of the LORD.

Solomon writes of Birds ... 1 Kings 4:33

And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

Clean birds used in sacrifices ... Leviticus 1:14

And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD be of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons.

Luke 2:24

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Worshiped by pagans (humanists) ... Romans 1:23

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

C. Birds figurative of

Escape from evil ... Psalm 124:7

Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

A wanderer ... Proverb 27:8

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.

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Snares of death ... Ecclesiastes 9:12

For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Cruel kings ... Isaiah 46:11

Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Hostile nations ... Jeremiah 12:9

Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

Wicked rich ... Jeremiah 17:11

As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

Kingdom of heaven ... Matthew 13:32

Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

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Fowler — One who catches birds

Law restricting ... Deuteronomy 22:6,7

If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way in any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones, or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young, or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young: But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days.

Figurative of false prophets ... Hosea 9:8

The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

Figurative of temptations ...

Psalm 91:3 ...

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence

Psalm 124:7 ...

Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.