

# Methodological Study of Birds

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## Opinion Article

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### ABOUT THE STUDY

The methodological study and subsequent knowledge of birds with all that relates to them are the focus of the zoology subfield known as ornithology. Ornithology differs from similar fields in a number of ways, in part because of how well-known and beautiful birds are. It has also been an area where amateurs have contributed significantly in terms of their time, materials, and financial backing. Important biological ideas, such as the definition of species, the process of speciation, instinct, learning, ecological niches, guilds, island biogeography, phylogeography, and conservation, have all been influenced by studies on birds.

While the main focus of early ornithology was on species descriptions and distributions, ornithologists now-a-days concentrate on discovering answers to very specific questions, frequently using birds as models to test ideas or hypotheses. The number of scientists who call themselves "ornithologists" has decreased as a result of the fact that the majority of contemporary biological theories apply to all forms of life. Ornithology employs a wide variety of instruments and methods, both in the field and in the lab, and new developments are frequently developed. The majority of scientists that identify as "ornithologists" focus on certain fields, like anatomy, taxonomy, or ecology lifestyles and behaviours. However, this is applicable to a wide range of biological practices.

Biological history and the histories of numerous other scientific fields, such as ecology, anatomy, physiology, paleontology, and more recently, molecular biology, are all heavily reflected in the history of ornithology. Trends include the alteration from discussing specific phenomena to identifying patterns and, ultimately, explaining how these patterns are produced.

The methods and equipment used in ornithology are varied, and fresh ideas and methods are quickly adopted. Although the methods may be roughly categorised as those that are used in the laboratory and those that are used

in the field, many analysis methods can be employed in both settings and may even call for a combination of field and laboratory methods.

Oology, or the study of eggs, was one of the oldest methods used in modern bird research. While many amateurs took up egg collecting as a hobby, the labels attached to these early egg collections rendered them unreliable for the purpose of a scientific examination of bird breeding. A tiny hole was created, and the eggs' contents were retrieved to preserve them. When the blow drill was developed, this method became the norm around 1830. Although egg gathering is no longer common, historical museum collections have proved useful in establishing the physiological consequences of pesticides like DDT. The bird collections in museums are still a valuable source for taxonomic research.

A feature of systematic ornithology has been the use of bird skins to record species. When making bird skins, the important bones from the skull, wings, and legs are kept in place together with the skin and feathers. In the past, arsenic was applied to them to protect them from fungus and insect attack. Borax was used in place of the poisonous arsenic. After becoming aware with these skinning methods, amateur and professional collectors began shipping their skins to museums, some of them from a great distance away. Due of this, massive collections of bird skins have been amassed in museums throughout Europe and North America.