

birds of the heath

Birds of the heath are a fascinating group of avian species that have adapted uniquely to the open, often nutrient-poor environments of heathland habitats. These birds are not only vital indicators of the health of these ecosystems but also a delight for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts alike.

Heathlands, characterized by low-growing woody plants such as heather, gorse, and bracken, provide a distinctive environment that supports a diverse array of bird species. In this article, we will explore the various birds of the heath, their ecological roles, identification tips, and how to observe them responsibly.

Understanding Heathland Habitats

Heathlands are transitional ecosystems found across Europe, North America, Australia, and parts of Asia. They are typically found in areas with poor, acidic soils where only hardy, low-growing vegetation can thrive. These environments are often maintained through natural processes like grazing and controlled burning, which prevent succession to woodland.

Heathlands are crucial for biodiversity, offering habitat for specialized plants and animals. Birds are among the most visible and vocal inhabitants, often adapting to the open terrains and shrubby cover.

Common Birds of the Heath

The heath supports a variety of bird species, many of which are adapted to the open, shrubby landscape. Some of the most notable include:

1. Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

- Appearance: Small, with dark grey upperparts and a distinctive rusty-red tail.
- Habitat: Prefers gorse and heathland with dense shrub cover.
- Behavior: Often seen flitting through bushes, singing a melodious song.
- Conservation: Once rare, now recovering due to habitat management.

2. European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

- Appearance: Mottled grey and brown plumage that provides excellent camouflage.
- Habitat: Open heathlands with sparse trees and shrubs.
- Behavior: Nocturnal; known for their churring calls at dusk and dawn.
- Notes: Their cryptic coloration helps them blend into the ground during resting periods.

3. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

- Appearance: Black head, white collar, with orange-brown chest and wings.
- Habitat: Heathlands, gorse bushes, and rocky areas.
- Behavior: Perches prominently on shrubs, singing from vantage points.

- Diet: Insects and small invertebrates.

4. Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)

- Appearance: Light brown with a distinctive crest.
- Habitat: Dry, open heathland with sparse vegetation.
- Behavior: Known for its melodious song and ground-nesting habits.
- Notes: Its aerial display during breeding is a highlight for birdwatchers.

5. Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

- Appearance: Slim, streaked brown with a pale underside.
- Habitat: Heaths, grasslands, and moorlands.
- Behavior: Flits across the ground and sings from perches.
- Diet: Mainly insects and seeds.

Specialized and Rare Species

Heathlands also support rarer, specialized species, such as:

- **European Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*):** Known for its powerful and beautiful song, often heard at dawn.
- **Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*):** Frequently found in the scattered trees of heathlands.
- **Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*):** Similar to meadow pipits but prefers more wooded areas within the heath landscape.

These species often require targeted conservation efforts to maintain their populations.

Bird Identification Tips for Heathland Enthusiasts

Identifying birds in the heath can be challenging due to their similar plumage and behaviors, but certain tips can help:

Observe Behavior and Habitat

- Note whether the bird is singing, perching, or foraging on the ground.
- Recognize preferred plants or shrubs they frequent.

Pay Attention to Size and Shape

- Use binoculars to assess body size, tail length, and bill shape.
- Compare with field guides for precise identification.

Listen to Songs and Calls

- Many heathland birds have distinctive vocalizations.
- Record sounds if possible for later comparison.

Seasonal Patterns

- Some species are migratory or only breed during certain times of the year.
- Recognize breeding plumage and behaviors.

Conservation and Management of Heathland Birds

Many bird species of the heath depend on the preservation and management of their habitat. Threats include:

- Urban development and land conversion
- Overgrowing vegetation due to cessation of traditional management practices
- Invasive plant species altering habitat structure
- Climate change impacting migration and breeding patterns

Effective conservation includes:

- Maintaining traditional management like grazing and controlled burning.
- Protecting large tracts of heathland from development.
- Creating buffer zones to reduce human disturbance.

How to Observe Birds of the Heath Responsibly

For bird enthusiasts eager to see these species in their natural habitat, consider the following tips:

- Visit nature reserves and protected areas dedicated to heathland conservation.
- Use binoculars and a field guide to minimize disturbance.
- Keep noise levels to a minimum and stay on designated paths.

- Record your sightings and contribute to citizen science projects.
- Respect nesting sites, especially during the breeding season (spring and early summer).

Conclusion

The **birds of the heath** represent a unique and vital component of heathland ecosystems. From elusive nightjars to colorful stonechats, these species offer a window into the complex ecological web of open, shrubby landscapes. Protecting their habitats ensures the survival of these remarkable birds and the health of the entire ecosystem. Whether you're a seasoned ornithologist or a casual birdwatcher, observing and appreciating these species contributes to their conservation and deepens our understanding of nature's richness.

By understanding their habits, habitats, and identification markers, enthusiasts can enjoy meaningful and responsible interactions with the birds of the heath. Conservation efforts, habitat management, and responsible observation are key to ensuring these avian inhabitants continue to thrive for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the most common bird species found in heathland habitats?

Common bird species in heathlands include the Dartford Warbler, European Nightjar, Stonechat, Meadow Pipit, and the Woodlark. These birds are specially adapted to thrive in the open, shrubby environments of heathlands.

How do birds of the heath contribute to the ecosystem?

Birds of the heath play vital roles such as controlling insect populations, pollinating plants, and dispersing seeds. They also serve as indicators of the health of heathland ecosystems and support biodiversity.

What are the main threats facing birds of the heath today?

Main threats include habitat loss due to land development and agriculture, invasive plant species that alter the native vegetation, climate change impacting their breeding and feeding patterns, and disturbance from human activities.

How can conservation efforts help protect birds of the heath?

Conservation efforts such as habitat restoration, creating protected areas, controlling invasive species, and promoting sustainable land management practices help preserve and enhance the habitats crucial for these birds' survival.

When is the best time to observe birds of the heath?

The best times for birdwatching in heathlands are during the spring and early summer months (April to June), when many species are breeding and more active. Autumn can also be good for observing migration-related species.

Are there any specific behaviors or calls unique to birds of the heath?

Yes, many heathland birds have distinctive calls and behaviors. For example, the European Nightjar is known for its churring call at dusk, while the Stonechat exhibits a characteristic 'chat' call and perched hunting behavior, making them identifiable to bird enthusiasts.

Additional Resources

Birds of the Heath: A Closer Look at Nature's Hardy Inhabitants

birds of the heath are among the most intriguing and resilient avian species that thrive in one of the most challenging yet ecologically vital habitats—the heathland. These open, often acidic landscapes are characterized by low-growing vegetation, nutrient-poor soils, and a distinctive mosaic of flora and fauna. Despite their seemingly sparse appearance, heaths are bustling ecosystems that support a diverse array of bird species, each uniquely adapted to survive and flourish in these conditions. Understanding these birds not only offers insight into their ecological roles but also underscores the importance of conserving these fragile habitats in an era of rapid environmental change.

The Heathland Environment: An Ecological Overview

Before delving into the bird species that inhabit the heath, it's essential to appreciate the environment they call home. Heathlands are found predominantly in Europe, North America, and parts of Australia, often occupying areas of poor, acidic soils with low fertility. These habitats have been shaped over centuries by natural processes and human activities such as grazing, burning, and land management, which maintain their open structure and prevent forest encroachment.

Key characteristics of heathlands include:

- Dominance of low shrubs such as heathers (*Calluna vulgaris*), gorses (*Genista* spp.), and crowberries.
- Presence of specialized plant species adapted to acidic and nutrient-poor soils.
- Periodic disturbances like controlled burning to promote biodiversity.
- A mosaic of open spaces, dense shrub patches, and patches of bare ground, creating diverse microhabitats.

This unique environment offers an array of ecological niches, supporting a variety of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles, and, notably, a distinctive assemblage of bird species.

Adaptations of Birds in the Heath

Birds inhabiting the heathland are often characterized by their specialized adaptations, which allow them to thrive amid challenging conditions. These include:

- Camouflage and cryptic coloration: Many species blend seamlessly with the heath's shrubbery and ground cover.
- Foraging behaviors: Adapted to extract food from sparse vegetation, such as insects hidden in low foliage or seeds from hardy bushes.
- Breeding strategies: Using dense shrubbery or ground nests to avoid predators.
- Mobility and agility: To navigate the uneven terrain and access dispersed food resources.

Understanding these adaptations provides insight into their survival strategies and their roles within the heath ecosystem.

Iconic Birds of the Heathland

Several bird species are emblematic of the heath, each with distinctive behaviors and ecological significance. Here, we explore some of the most notable.

1. The Eurasian Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

Appearance and Behavior

The Eurasian Nightjar is a nocturnal bird renowned for its cryptic plumage that resembles the bark and lichen of trees and shrubs, providing excellent camouflage during the day. It is chiefly active at dusk and dawn, when it hunts for flying insects.

Ecological Role

Nightjars help control insect populations, especially moths and beetles, and their presence indicates healthy insect biodiversity. Their ground-nesting habits make them vulnerable to habitat disturbance, emphasizing the need for conservation.

Habitat Preferences

They favor open, heathland areas with sparse shrub cover, where they can easily hunt and access nesting sites.

2. The Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

Appearance and Behavior

Small and active, the Dartford Warbler is characterized by its slate-grey plumage and distinctive song. It often perches conspicuously on low bushes, singing to defend territories.

Ecological Role

As an insectivore, it helps control pest populations and is a good indicator of heathland health, as it

relies on dense, gorse-filled habitats.

Habitat Preferences

It prefers gorse scrub and dense heather patches, which provide both cover and food sources.

3. The Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Appearance and Behavior

Known for their melodious, soaring songs, skylarks are ground-nesting birds that often sing while flying high above open landscapes.

Ecological Role

Their nesting on the ground makes them sensitive to habitat management practices. They contribute to the ecosystem by controlling insects and serving as prey for raptors.

Habitat Preferences

Open, grassy areas with low vegetation—common in heathlands—are ideal for skylarks.

4. The Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

Appearance and Behavior

Small, with a distinctive black head and white collar, the Stonechat perches on shrubs and wires, scanning the ground for insects.

Ecological Role

They are important insect predators, helping maintain ecological balance.

Habitat Preferences

Heathlands with scattered bushes, especially gorse and heather, provide perfect perches and hunting grounds.

Less Common but Ecologically Significant Heath Birds

While the aforementioned species are iconic, the heathland also supports a range of less conspicuous birds that play crucial roles.

1. The Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)

A ground-nesting songbird, the woodlark prefers open, sparse vegetation to breed and forage.

2. The Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)

Known for its distinctive insect-like reeling song, it favors dense grass and reeds within heath areas.

3. The Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

A passerine that often nests in rocky or bare ground patches, it feeds on insects and is noted for its striking plumage.

Ecological and Conservation Challenges

Despite their resilience, the birds of the heath are increasingly threatened by human activities and environmental changes.

Major threats include:

- Habitat loss: Urbanization, afforestation, and agricultural intensification reduce available heathland areas.
- Rewilding and afforestation: Introducing trees into heathlands can lead to habitat succession, displacing open-area species.
- Climate change: Altered weather patterns can impact breeding timing and food availability.
- Overgrazing or undergrazing: Both can disrupt the delicate balance of vegetation structure that many species depend upon.

Conservation efforts focus on maintaining traditional land management practices such as controlled burning, grazing, and habitat restoration to preserve the complex mosaic that supports these specialized bird species.

The Importance of Heathland Bird Conservation

Preserving the birds of the heath is more than safeguarding individual species; it's about maintaining a vital ecological network. These birds serve as bioindicators, reflecting the health of the entire ecosystem. Their presence signifies a balanced habitat with rich invertebrate populations and healthy plant diversity.

Conservation initiatives often include:

- Designating protected areas and nature reserves.
- Promoting sustainable land management practices.
- Engaging local communities in habitat stewardship.
- Monitoring bird populations through surveys to inform adaptive management strategies.

Public awareness campaigns also play a role in highlighting the importance of these habitats and their avian inhabitants.

How Birdwatchers and Enthusiasts Can Contribute

Birdwatching is a popular activity that fosters appreciation and understanding of heathland birds. Enthusiasts can contribute by:

- Participating in citizen science projects and bird surveys.
- Reporting sightings to conservation organizations.
- Practicing responsible birdwatching to minimize disturbance.
- Supporting habitat preservation efforts through donations or volunteer work.

Conclusion: A Call to Protect the Hardy Inhabitants

The birds of the heath are emblematic of resilience and adaptability. Their survival in these challenging landscapes highlights their importance within the broader ecological fabric. As threats mount, concerted conservation efforts are vital to ensure that these species continue to grace the open, windswept expanses of our heathlands for generations to come.

By understanding their behaviors, ecological roles, and the threats they face, we can better appreciate these hardy birds and the delicate habitats they call home. Protecting the birds of the heath is, ultimately, a testament to our commitment to preserving biodiversity in all its forms—resilient, vital, and irreplaceable.

Birds Of The Heath

birds of the heath: The New Sporting Magazine , 1836

birds of the heath: **Life Histories of North American [birds].: Gallinaceous birds** Arthur Cleveland Bent, 1932

birds of the heath: Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds Arthur Cleveland Bent, 1932

birds of the heath: *Birds of Maine* Peter D. Vickery, Charles D. Duncan, Jeffrey V. Wells, William J. Sheehan, 2020-11-03 A comprehensive and beautifully illustrated overview to the birds of Maine The first comprehensive overview of Maine's incredibly rich birdlife in more than seven decades, *Birds of Maine* is a detailed account of all 464 species recorded in the Pine Tree State. It is also a thoroughly researched, accessible portrait of a region undergoing rapid changes, with southern birds pushing north, northern birds expanding south, and once-absent natives like Atlantic Puffins brought back by innovative conservation techniques pioneered in Maine. Written by the late Peter Vickery in cooperation with a team of leading ornithologists, this guide offers a detailed look at the state's dynamic avifauna—from the Wild Turkey to the Arctic Tern—with information on migration patterns and timing, current status and changes in bird abundance and distribution, and how Maine's geography and shifting climate mold its birdlife. It delves into the conservation status for Maine's birds, as well as the state's unusually textured ornithological history, involving such famous names as John James Audubon and Theodore Roosevelt, and home-grown experts like Cordelia Stanwood and Ralph Palmer. Sidebars explore diverse topics, including the Old Sow whirlpool that draws multitudes of seabirds and the famed Monhegan Island, a mecca for migrant birds. Gorgeously illustrated with watercolors by Lars Jonsson and scores of line drawings by Barry Van Dusen, *Birds of Maine* is a remarkable guide that birders will rely on for decades to come. Copublished with the Nuttall Ornithological Club

birds of the heath: *The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts* William Brewster,

birds of the heath: *The Heath Hen* Alfred Otto Gross, 1928

birds of the heath: *Hope Is the Thing With Feathers* Christopher Cokinos, 2009-05-14 A prizewinning poet and nature writer weaves together natural history, biology, sociology, and personal narrative to tell the story of the lives, habitats, and deaths of six extinct bird species.

birds of the heath: The Birds of London Andrew Self, 2014-02-27 The first comprehensive avifauna for the London area ever published covering the status, distribution and history of every species on the regional list in rich detail. The parks, reservoirs, rooftops and gardens of London – here defined as the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral – have a surprisingly rich avifauna, including a healthy population of one of Britain's rarest breeders, the Black Redstart. The region also has a remarkable list of rarities – in recent years Canary Wharf has proven to be a magnet for vagrants, while one of the very few British records of Tengmalm's Owl hails from Plaistow – an unfortunate bird stoned to death by local urchins in 1877. Some species, like the Peregrine Falcon, Black-headed Gull and Ring-necked Parakeet, have seen their fortunes soar over recent decades; others, such as House Sparrow, have suffered a population collapse. While as recently as a century ago, the London area had breeding populations of birds such as Wryneck and Red-backed Shrike, which are now nationally extinct. The County Avifauna series provides detailed information on the range and status of bird species at county level.

birds of the heath: Birds in London W. H. Hudson, 2023-09-18 Birds in London by W. H. Hudson. Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten—or yet undiscovered gems—of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

birds of the heath: Bird-lore , 1909

birds of the heath: Bird, New Edition DK, 2022-04-05 Bring the diversity and drama of the bird world to life with this encyclopedic new edition. A must-have for every avian enthusiast, this catalogue showcases thousands of bird species pictured in their native environment. Shot by photographers around the globe, the vivid images are accompanied by in-depth introductions to all 40 of the world's newly reclassified bird orders. Compiled by a team of experts and revised by BirdLife International, Bird provides the most up to date and comprehensive photographic tour of the wondrous world of birds. Dive in and you will find: -A bird by bird catalogue of more than 1,280 species, each with a description, data file, and distribution map -An introduction describing bird biology in beautiful visual detail. -Feature spreads showcasing the planet's most impressive sites for birdwatching -Photographic essays that display the best in bird photography Discover the world of the skies! Unrivalled in scope for a single-volume reference work, Bird's photographic catalogue features species from hummingbirds to monkey-eating eagles, organised in taxonomic order. Immerse yourself in the life of birds; read about their migrations, anatomy, feeding and breeding. All this, and special features on the world's most sought after bird watching locations, make this A must-have reference for every bird enthusiast - BBC Wildlife Magazine. Whether you're an avian expert who knows your Accipitriformes (birds of prey) from your Falconiformes (falcons and caracaras), or are simply a nature lover wanting to learn more, you won't find a more detailed or comprehensive photographic bird book than this. What's new? After a major reclassification of all birds, this new edition is the only guide currently in print covering the new system of 40 bird orders and 140+ families, including an updated catalogue with newly discovered species. Reviewed by the experts at BirdLife International, you can be sure that you are getting the latest knowledge of bird biology and classification.

birds of the heath: Extinct Birds Julian P. Hume, 2017-08-24 A comprehensive review of the hundreds of bird species that have become extinct over the last 1,000 years of habitat degradation, over-hunting and rat introduction. Extinct Birds has become the standard text on this subject,

covering both familiar icons of extinction as well as more obscure birds, some known from just one specimen or from travellers' tales. This second edition is expanded to include dozens of new species, as more are constantly added to the list, either through extinction or through new subfossil discoveries. The book is the result of decades of research into literature and museum drawers, as well as caves and subfossil deposits, which often reveal birds long-gone that disappeared without ever being recorded by scientists while they lived. From Great Auks, Carolina Parakeets and Dodos to the amazing yet almost completely vanished bird radiations of Hawaii and New Zealand via rafts of extinction in the Pacific and elsewhere, this book is both a sumptuous reference and astounding testament to humanity's devastating impact on wildlife.

birds of the heath: *Game Breeder and Sportsman* , 1922

birds of the heath: **Farm and School Problems for High Schools and Normals** Henry Louis Goll, 1915

birds of the heath: **Boys' Life** , 1994-02 Boys' Life is the official youth magazine for the Boy Scouts of America. Published since 1911, it contains a proven mix of news, nature, sports, history, fiction, science, comics, and Scouting.

birds of the heath: **The zoologist** , 1858

birds of the heath: **Zoologist** , 1858

birds of the heath: *The Zoologist* Edward Newman, James Edmund Harting, William Lucas Distant, Frank Finn, 1858

birds of the heath: **The Game Breeder** Dwight Williams Huntington, 1927

birds of the heath: Country Life , 1900

Related to birds of the heath

Birds - National Geographic Kids Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) and are the only animals with feathers. Although all birds have wings, a few species can't fly

50 Birds, 50 States - National Geographic Kids 50 Birds, 50 States Barry the bald eagle soars from coast to coast to meet state birds and learn about their homes. Each episode is an animated rap music video focusing on the big cities,

New Bird of Paradise Species Confirmed in New Guinea The team expects to find more birds of paradise species in New Guinea's biodiverse forests, which are so isolated and remote that human development has not

Superb Birds - National Geographic Kids Owls, ospreys, and more! Sea eagles have a pretty amazing way of fighting off intruders! Watch them whirl in this video

Arctic tern, facts and photos | National Geographic Courtship for these monogamous birds also takes place in flight. Their mating ritual begins with a "fish flight," which is when a male Arctic tern swoops over a migratory camp carrying a fish

Why do birds sing so loudly in the morning in spring? It's the 'dawn' Why is it a 'dawn' chorus? But why birds sing in the early morning is still "an open question," says Mike Webster, an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Eastern Bluebird | National Geographic Kids An eastern bluebird perches on a branch, patiently watching the ground below. Suddenly it spots a beetle. The bird spreads its bright blue wings, flies to the ground, and gobbles up the small

These birds form mesmerizing clouds in the sky. Scientists may For centuries, researchers have pondered how starlings travel in those gorgeous shape-shifting clouds. The answers continue to surprise them

American Crow | National Geographic Kids American crows range from southern Canada throughout the United States. As an adult, this bird is entirely black from bill to tail, except for its brown eyes. Adult crow feathers have a glossy

Peregrine Falcon - National Geographic Kids A common bird of prey (a group of hunting birds that includes such birds as hawks and eagles), the peregrine is an adaptable falcon that can be

found in almost any habitat. Peregrines live

Birds - National Geographic Kids Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) and are the only animals with feathers. Although all birds have wings, a few species can't fly

50 Birds, 50 States - National Geographic Kids 50 Birds, 50 States Barry the bald eagle soars from coast to coast to meet state birds and learn about their homes. Each episode is an animated rap music video focusing on the big cities,

New Bird of Paradise Species Confirmed in New Guinea The team expects to find more birds of paradise species in New Guinea's biodiverse forests, which are so isolated and remote that human development has not

Superb Birds - National Geographic Kids Owls, ospreys, and more! Sea eagles have a pretty amazing way of fighting off intruders! Watch them whirl in this video

Arctic tern, facts and photos | National Geographic Courtship for these monogamous birds also takes place in flight. Their mating ritual begins with a "fish flight," which is when a male Arctic tern swoops over a migratory camp carrying a fish

Why do birds sing so loudly in the morning in spring? It's the 'dawn' Why is it a 'dawn' chorus? But why birds sing in the early morning is still "an open question," says Mike Webster, an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Eastern Bluebird | National Geographic Kids An eastern bluebird perches on a branch, patiently watching the ground below. Suddenly it spots a beetle. The bird spreads its bright blue wings, flies to the ground, and gobbles up the small

These birds form mesmerizing clouds in the sky. Scientists may For centuries, researchers have pondered how starlings travel in those gorgeous shape-shifting clouds. The answers continue to surprise them

American Crow | National Geographic Kids American crows range from southern Canada throughout the United States. As an adult, this bird is entirely black from bill to tail, except for its brown eyes. Adult crow feathers have a glossy

Peregrine Falcon - National Geographic Kids A common bird of prey (a group of hunting birds that includes such birds as hawks and eagles), the peregrine is an adaptable falcon that can be found in almost any habitat. Peregrines live

Birds - National Geographic Kids Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) and are the only animals with feathers. Although all birds have wings, a few species can't fly

50 Birds, 50 States - National Geographic Kids 50 Birds, 50 States Barry the bald eagle soars from coast to coast to meet state birds and learn about their homes. Each episode is an animated rap music video focusing on the big cities,

New Bird of Paradise Species Confirmed in New Guinea The team expects to find more birds of paradise species in New Guinea's biodiverse forests, which are so isolated and remote that human development has not

Superb Birds - National Geographic Kids Owls, ospreys, and more! Sea eagles have a pretty amazing way of fighting off intruders! Watch them whirl in this video

Arctic tern, facts and photos | National Geographic Courtship for these monogamous birds also takes place in flight. Their mating ritual begins with a "fish flight," which is when a male Arctic tern swoops over a migratory camp carrying a fish

Why do birds sing so loudly in the morning in spring? It's the 'dawn' Why is it a 'dawn' chorus? But why birds sing in the early morning is still "an open question," says Mike Webster, an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Eastern Bluebird | National Geographic Kids An eastern bluebird perches on a branch, patiently watching the ground below. Suddenly it spots a beetle. The bird spreads its bright blue wings, flies to the ground, and gobbles up the small

These birds form mesmerizing clouds in the sky. Scientists may For centuries, researchers

have pondered how starlings travel in those gorgeous shape-shifting clouds. The answers continue to surprise them

American Crow | National Geographic Kids American crows range from southern Canada throughout the United States. As an adult, this bird is entirely black from bill to tail, except for its brown eyes. Adult crow feathers have a glossy

Peregrine Falcon - National Geographic Kids A common bird of prey (a group of hunting birds that includes such birds as hawks and eagles), the peregrine is an adaptable falcon that can be found in almost any habitat. Peregrines live

Related to birds of the heath

Snake species thriving after slithering into heath (4d) A project to reintroduce the non-venomous species in Pebblebed Heaths in east Devon has seen numbers consistently hit new

Snake species thriving after slithering into heath (4d) A project to reintroduce the non-venomous species in Pebblebed Heaths in east Devon has seen numbers consistently hit new

How wildlife is returning to heathland (BBC17d) A new study of recently restored heathland has found species are returning faster than expected. The specialist habitat will take decades to fully establish but the project has identified more than 70

How wildlife is returning to heathland (BBC17d) A new study of recently restored heathland has found species are returning faster than expected. The specialist habitat will take decades to fully establish but the project has identified more than 70

32 of the most colorful birds on Earth (Live Science1y) Birds are some of the most colorful animals on Earth, with a palette of rainbow tones to feast your eyes on. Here are our picks for some of our most flamboyant feathered friends. When you purchase

32 of the most colorful birds on Earth (Live Science1y) Birds are some of the most colorful animals on Earth, with a palette of rainbow tones to feast your eyes on. Here are our picks for some of our most flamboyant feathered friends. When you purchase

Related Articles

- [the way we were movie](#)
- [horoscope and lucky numbers](#)
- [the three body problem books](#)

[Back to Home](#)