

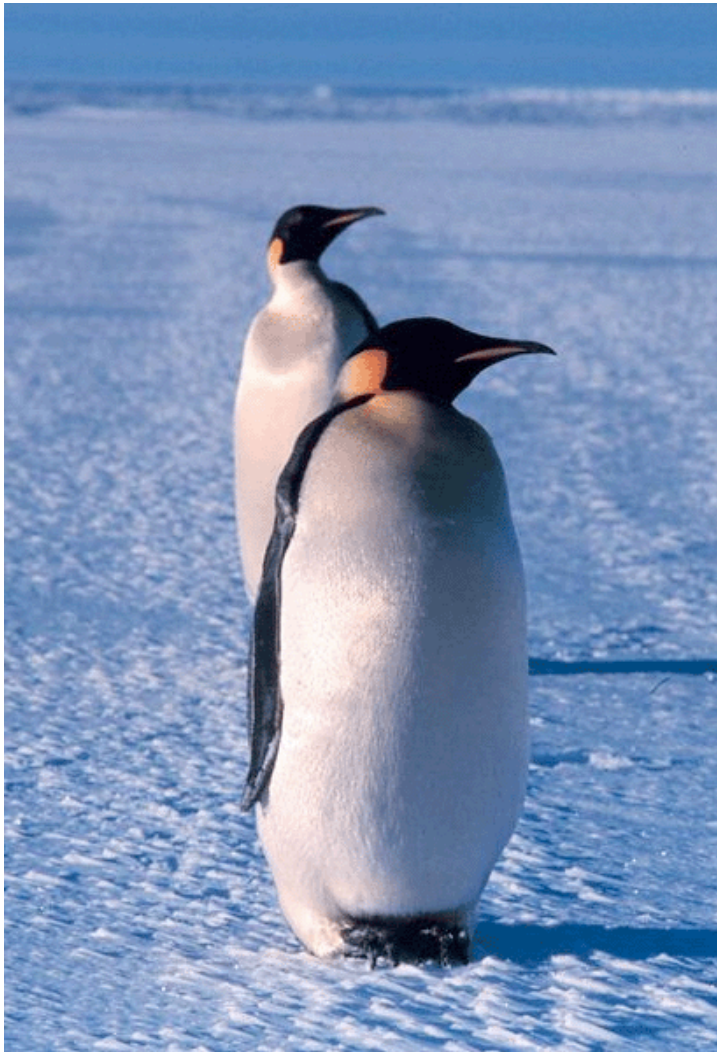
FEATHERS



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Birds have many different types of feathers.
The wing feathers are usually stiff and strong.
Stiff feathers push against the air to help these
seagulls fly.



Soft feathers keep birds warm, even when it is very cold outside. Penguins live in icy places, but their soft thick feathers keep them warm.



Feathers help keep birds dry when they swim and dive. This Western Grebe dives under water to catch fish. Oil in her feathers makes the water roll off and she stays dry.



Birds wear fancy feathers to attract a mate. This peacock's tail is so beautiful! He struts proudly to show it off, and spreads his tail out like a fan.



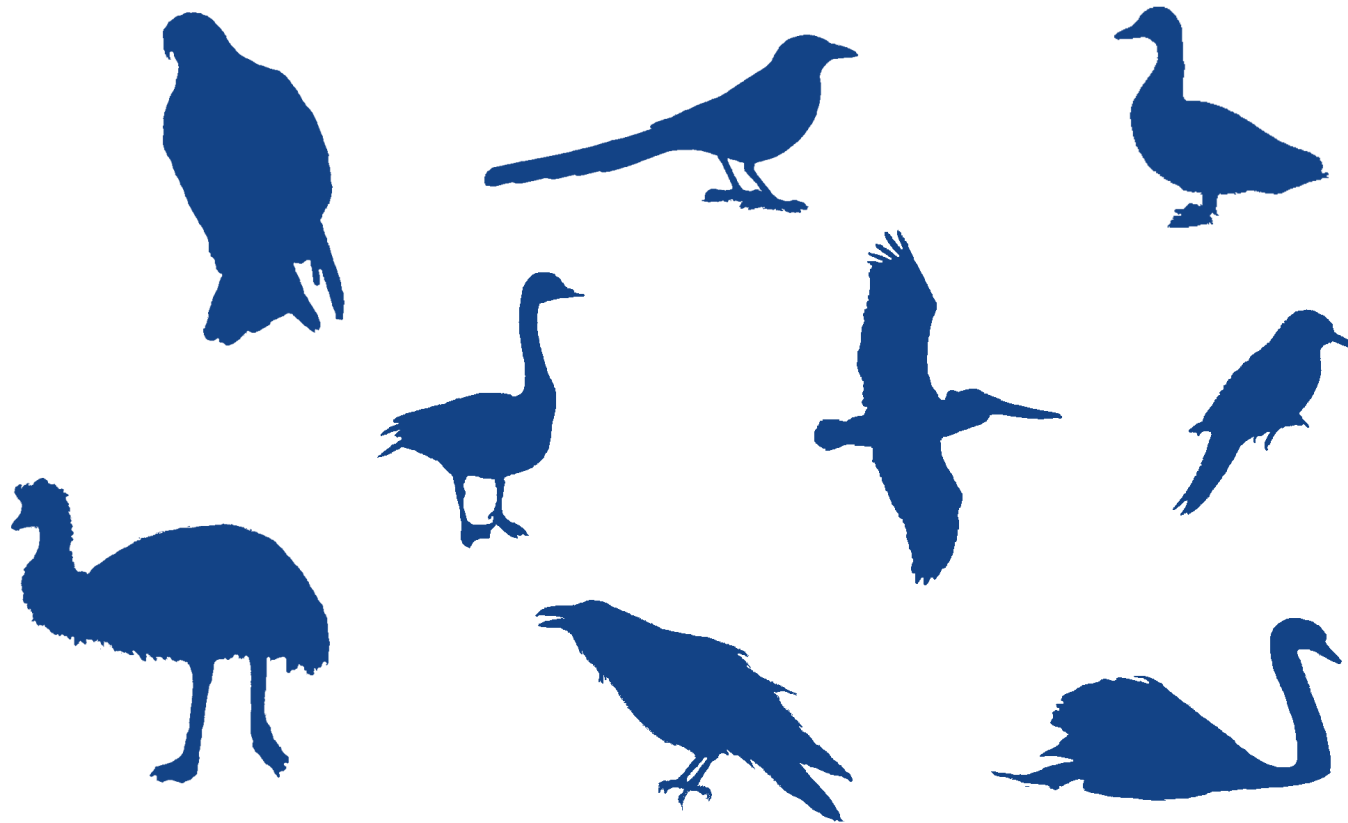
People do not use feathers to fly, but they do stuff soft feathers called "down" into jackets, hats, and comforters for beds. A down jacket will keep you warm on a snowy day. A down comforter will keep you warm while you sleep.



Like the peacock, people sometimes wear fancy feathers when they want to be noticed. Here are two chiefs, one from Hawaii and one from Montana. Both wear special clothes made of feathers.



People once wrote with feathers, too. They made a point on the end of a feather, dipped it into some ink, and wrote just like we do with a pen. A feather pen is called a quill pen.



Stiff feathers, soft feathers, dark feathers, light feathers, fuzzy feathers, fancy feathers. Different kinds of feathers for different kinds of birds! Keep reading to see these birds and their feathers.



Red-Tailed Hawk



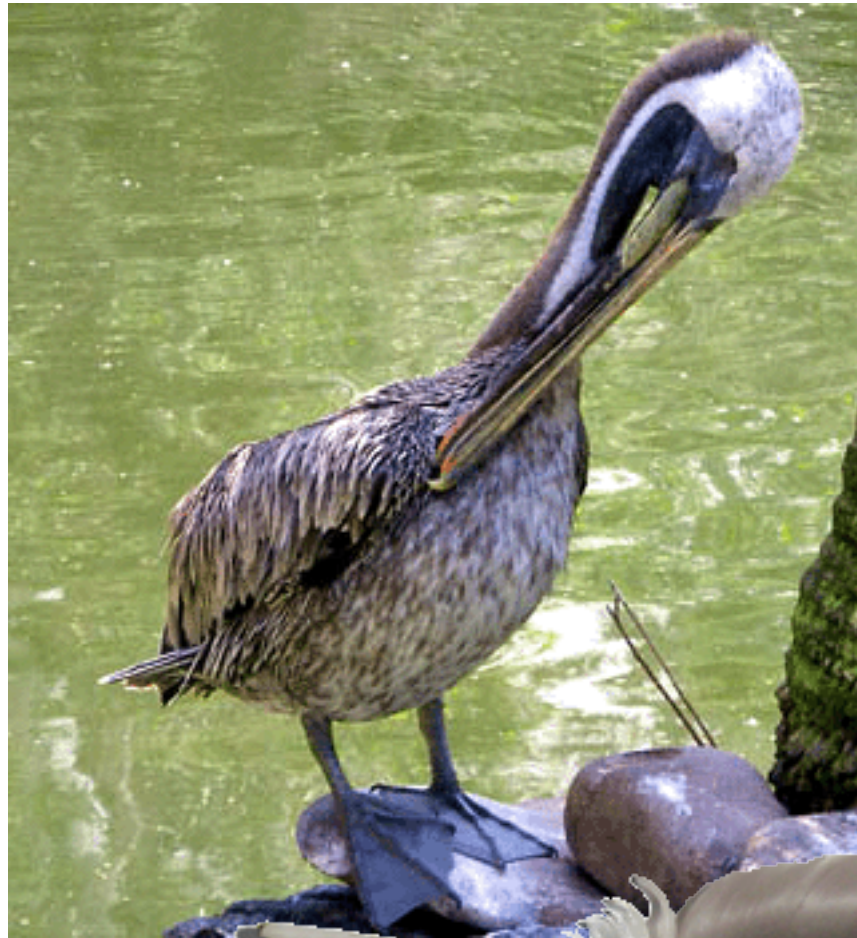
Magpie



Mallard Ducks



Canadian Goose



Brown Pelican



Yellow-Shafted Flicker



Emu



Raven



Swan



THE END
THE END



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Feathers were photographed by Ann Brundige. Videos and were taken by Ann Brundige in various places. For example, the raven was hopping around in Death Valley, the grebe was in a harbor in Santa Barbara, the gulls were in Texas, the magpie and flicker were in my yard in Utah, and the ducks, geese, swan, and hawk were on the golf course. Yes, now and then I remember to play golf! Photos and other still images are by Ann Brundige, except for the following:

A Piegan War-Bonnet Credit: Northwestern University Library, Edward S. Curtis's "The North American Indian," 2003. <http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/curtis/> (fair use only)

www.humboldt.edu/~rwj1/HI/hi007s.html Hawaiian chief in feather cloak

<http://www.jasa.net.au/quillpen.htm> Jane Austen Society of Australia engraving of Voltaire at his desk.

http://fwp.mt.gov/FieldGuide/detail_ABNCA04010.aspx Western Grebe Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Park website

Source: NOAA Photo Library, <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/corps/corp2566.htm> Photographer: Michael Van Woert, 1999 Emperor Penguins

Canadian Goose photo by Patti Rea