

SUBTOPIC: VERTEBRATES.  
LESSON 5: GROUPS OF BIRDS.

*Birds of prey*

**These are birds that hunt and kill their own prey.**

*Examples of birds of prey*

- ✓ **Eagle**
- ✓ **Owl**
- ✓ **Kite**
- ✓ **Hawk**
- ✓ **Falcon**
- ✓ **Secretary bird**

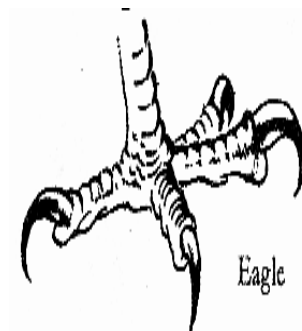
*Characteristics of birds of prey*

- ❖ **Have strong sharp hooked beak for tearing their prey**
- ❖ **Have strong curved talons for easy gripping of their prey.**
- ❖ **Have a strong eye sight to locate their prey.**

*A Beak of a bird of prey*



*A foot of a bird of prey*



*Scavenger birds.*

- ❖ **Are birds which feed on carrion(decaying flesh)**

*Importance of scavenger birds*

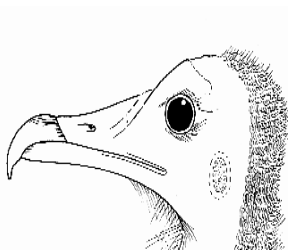
- they clean the environment by feeding on carrion**
- they reduce bad smell the environment by feeding on carrion**

*Examples of scavenger birds*

- ✓ **crows**
- ✓ **vultures**
- ✓ **marabou storks**

*Diagram showing a beak and foot of scavenger bird*

*Beak*



*Foot*



Note: **scavenger birds have beaks similar to the birds of prey.**  
*Compare the beaks of a bird of prey and a scavenger bird*

*Learners' Activity*

**1. State any one example of a scavenger birds.**

---

**2. State the way a scavenger bird differs from a preying bird**

---

**3. How useful are scavenger birds in our environment**

---

**4. Apart from birds, name any other example of scavenger animals**

---

**5.State the meaning of the term scavenger birds.**

---

**6. What are birds of prey?**

**7.Name any two examples of birds of prey.**

i). \_\_\_\_\_

ii). \_\_\_\_\_

**8.Give one adaptation of birds of prey.**

**9.why is a kite called a bird of prey.**

---

*Perching birds:*

✓ **These are birds that perch on branches of trees.**

✓ **Have one toe pointing backwards and three toes pointing forward**

*The diagram showing the foot and head of a perching bird*

**Structures showing a robin and sparrow birds.**



**Note: Perching birds are grouped according to their habits and feeding.**

*Groups of perching birds*

- ✓ **Seed eaters**
- ✓ **Insect eaters**
- ✓ **Nectar suckers**
- ✓ **Fruits eaters**

*Seed eaters:* **these have short conical beaks for easy splitting of seeds.**

**Examples include, pigeons, dove, weaver birds, finches**

*Insect eaters:* **These have short narrow beaks for easy picking up of the insects from barks of trees.**

**Examples include robins, sparrows, swift, swallows.**

*Note: Insect eaters have the ability to catch their prey on flight.*

**Structures showing a robin and sparrow birds.**



Robin

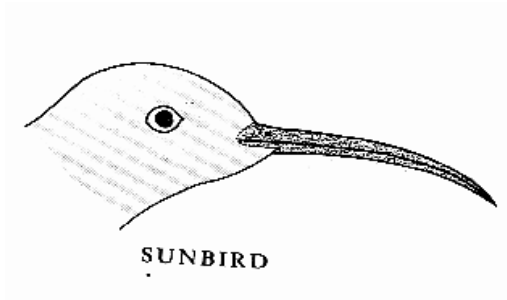


Sparrow

*Nectar suckers;* **these have long slender beaks for easy sucking of nectar from flowers.**

**Examples are; the sun bird and humming bird.**

**An illustration showing a beak of a sun bird.**



*Fruits eaters:*

**These have long stout /strong beaks for collecting fruits from trees.**

❖ **They are also called foresters and help in seed or fruit disposal.**

**A horn bill is the best example of a fruit eater**

*A diagram showing the head of a horn bill*

### **ACTIVITY**

**1. Give one example of a perching bird.**

**2. Give one adaptation of perching birds.**

**3. Give an example of each of the following groups of perching birds.**

**a) seed eaters**

**b) insect eaters**

**c) nectar suckers**

**d) fruit eaters**

*4. How is a sun bird adapted to feeding on nectar?*

*5. How is a hornbill adapted to eating fruit*

*Scratching birds*

❖ **These are birds which scratch earth to find their food.**

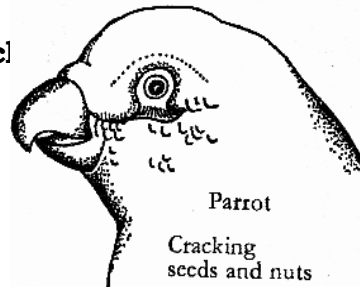
- ❖ **Such birds get worms, small insects and seeds from soil.**

*Characteristic of scratching birds.*

- ❖ **They have strong feet with thick toes and blunt talons for scratching the ground**
- ❖ **They have strong pointed beaks for picking up food from the ground.**

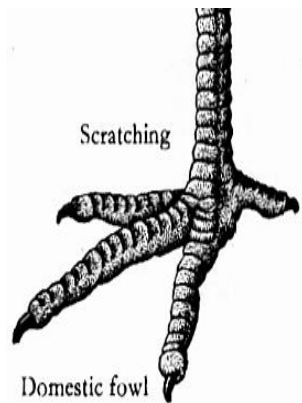
*Examples of scratching birds*

- ✓ **Chicken**
- ✓ **Guinea fowl**
- ✓ **Turkey**
- ✓ **Crested francolin**



*An illustration showing a beak and foot of a scratching bird.*

**Strong foot thick toes and blunt claws**



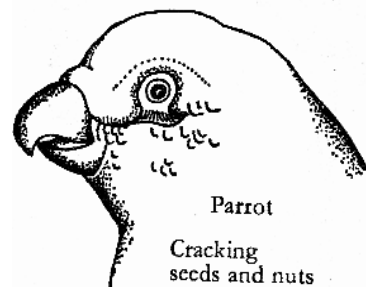
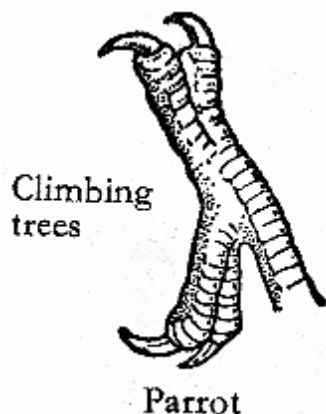
**Strong short pointed beak for picking up food from soil**



*Climbing birds*

- ❖ **These are birds with two toes pointing forward and two pointing backwards.**
- ❖ **The toe arrangement helps them to climb trees looking for seeds and insects.**
- ❖ **They commonly live in trees and run about on branches of trees.**

**An illustration showing the toes of a climbing bird.**



*A structure of a head of a parrot*

**Two toes pointing forward and two toes backwards.**

*Examples include*

- ✓ **Parrots and wood pecker.**

*Learners' Activity*

**1. Give one example of a climbing bird.**

---

**2. State one adaptation of climbing birds**

---

**3. Give one example of a scratching bird**

---

**4. Write one adaptation of scratching birds**

---

**5. Name one food eaten by scratching birds**

---