

#### Review

# Avian influenza: A new threat to wild bird conservation?

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#### CITATION

Garcês A, Pires I. Avian influenza: A new threat to wild bird conservation? Probe - Plant & Animal Sciences. 2024; 6(1): 2262. https://doi.org/10.18686/ppas.v6i1.22 62

#### ARTICLE INFO

Received: 26 September 2024 Accepted: 27 November 2024 Available online: 5 December 2024

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Abstract: Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, significantly threatens wild bird populations and global biodiversity. As wild birds are natural reservoirs for various strains of the influenza virus, they have a crucial role in the epidemiology of the disease, which has profound implications for both wildlife conservation and public health. The emergence and dispersion of highly pathogenic avian influenza strains, particularly H5N1, have resulted in large-scale mortality events in wild bird populations, disrupting ecosystems and threatening endangered species. The conservation of wild birds in the context of avian flu involves several critical actions, including surveillance, rapid response to outbreaks, habitat management, and minimizing human-wildlife interactions that facilitate virus transmission. Studying avian influenza's impact on wild bird populations is crucial due to its dual importance in wildlife conservation and public health. Wild birds, as natural reservoirs of the virus, play a central role in its spread, with highly pathogenic strains like H5N1 causing devastating mortality events that disrupt ecosystems and endanger species. Effective management, including monitoring, rapid outbreak response, and habitat protection, is essential to mitigate these effects. Collaboration among experts is vital to protect biodiversity, sustain ecological balance, and reduce risks to human health, ensuring the long-term survival of wild bird populations.

Keywords: birds; avian influenza; pathology; wildlife

#### **1. Introduction**

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a viral infection that largely affects birds, though certain strains can also infect humans and other animals [1,2]. It is caused by the *Alphainfluenzavirus influenzae (*influenza A) virus, which circulates naturally among wild aquatic birds (e.g., ducks, geese, swans) [3]. While many avian influenza viruses cause slight or no symptoms in birds, certain strains can be highly pathogenic, leading to severe illness and death [1].

Various influenza viruses are maintained within wild bird populations, with over 1100 species from 15 orders identified as carriers [3]. The first isolation of avian influenza virus in wild birds occurred in 1961 from Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) in South Africa. Increased surveillance in the 1970s highlighted ducks and geese as key reservoirs, though the prevalence of the virus is strongly linked to the birds' association with fresh or marine water [4,5]. While passerine (dryland) birds can also carry influenza viruses, they are less commonly involved in outbreaks [2,4]. Seasonal patterns have been observed, with the highest virus prevalence in late autumn and winter. Younger birds, especially juvenile mallards, are more likely to be infected before migrating south for the winter. Waterfowl, through both direct and indirect contact, are often linked to avian influenza outbreaks in domestic birds. Water bodies

serve as a significant medium for virus transmission, as the virus can remain viable in freshwater for days or even months, especially in colder temperatures [4,6,7]. Research suggests an environmental role in the virus's persistence. Birds in the high Arctic shed the virus into cold water and frozen ground, where it survives through the winter. Migrating birds in spring may encounter the virus in thawing ponds or ice, leading to reinfection, thereby continuing the cycle of avian influenza transmission in wild bird populations [1,2,4].

This review aims to briefly review the influenza virus in wild birds and discuss its impact on wild bird populations.

#### 2. Pathogeny and transmission

Influenza viruses are single-stranded RNA-enveloped viruses, pleiomorphic, with a size ranging from 80–120 nm of the family Orthomyxoviridae [1]. Three types (A, B, and C) are recognised [4], with only influenza A and B viruses occurring in highly pathogenic forms. The subtypes are based on two types of surface proteins: hemagglutinin ("H") and neuraminidase ("N") [6]. There are 16 types of H proteins (H1–H16) and 9 types of N proteins (N1–N9), and the various combinations of these proteins result in different subtypes of the virus. Each subtype can contain different strains, known as lineages. This means there are 144 possible combinations of H and N proteins (16H  $\times$  9N), each representing a different avian influenza subtype (**Figure 1**). However, not all of these combinations are common in birds [8]. Some subtypes such as H5, H7, and H9, have demonstrated the ability to overlap the species barrier and infect mammals, such as swine and humans [9].



Figure 1. Subtypes of avian flu, Adapted from [10].

Aquatic birds, especially waterfowl, serve as natural reservoirs for all subtypes of avian influenza viruses [9]. These viruses multiply in the gastrointestinal tracts of birds, producing large amounts of viruses, typically without causing illness. In contrast, infections in poultry or non-natural hosts can range from minor to severe, depending on the virus [4].

They are classified as either low pathogenic (LPAI) or highly pathogenic (HPAI) based on their genetic nature and how severe the illness is [1,11]. Low-pathogenic avian influenza viruses usually cause little to no symptoms, though they may lead to mild respiratory or reproductive issues. They are commonly found in many wild bird species [4]. HPAI can cause severe illness, with mortality rates approaching 100% in affected poultry. Although wild birds are not primary carriers of HPAI, these viruses have occasionally been isolated from wild birds during domestic poultry outbreaks [4].

Transmission among wild birds occurs primarily through direct and indirect contact, especially in environments where birds congregate, such as wetlands, lakes, and coastal areas (**Figure 2**) [4,12]. The virus is commonly spread via contaminated water, as infected birds shed the virus in their faeces, saliva, and nasal secretions [3,13]. Waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds are particularly susceptible due to their close association with aquatic habitats, where the virus can stay viable for extended periods, especially in cold water or frozen conditions [8,14]. Migratory patterns also play an important role in the spread of avian influenza. Infected birds can carry the virus across vast distances during seasonal migrations, introducing the virus to new areas. Juvenile birds, which have weaker immune systems, are often more susceptible to infection before their winter migrations. The virus can persist in the environment, particularly in cold water and ice, allowing it to be reintroduced to bird populations when they return to breeding grounds in the spring (**Figure 2**) [3,6].



Figure 2. Avian influenza transmission in wild populations.

Anatomical location of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) infection versus low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) infection.

Avian influenza spreads rapidly among birds through inhalation or ingestion of viral particles from infected birds' nasal secretions, respiratory fluids, or faeces. In chickens, the incubation period is 1-7 days. HPAI causes systemic disease by spreading through the bloodstream and lymphatics, leading to damage in organs such as the heart, brain, and pancreas [8]. This damage, caused by a cytokine storm, can result in cardiopulmonary failure and multi-organ failure. The pathogenicity of this virus is determined by the sequence of basic amino acids at the cleavage site of the hemagglutinin (HA) protein [15]. Highly pathogenic strains like H5 and H7 contain pairs of basic amino acids that enable the virus to infect multiple organs, whereas low pathogenic strains only infect respiratory and digestive tissues due to fewer basic amino acids at the cleavage site. Influenza viruses are replicated in intestinal and respiratory tracts, but HPAI can also spread to blood vessels, causing necrosis in various organs. Infected birds produce neutralizing antibodies within 3-7 days, with levels peaking in the second week and persisting for up to 18 months [8]. Mortality is high with HPAI, while low pathogenic strains cause variable death rates depending on environmental factors and the presence of secondary pathogens. AI does not persist in individual birds but spreads slowly across a large population. Full eradication requires depopulation and thorough disinfection of infected facilities [8].

#### 3. Hosts and distribution

It has a global distribution and can be found in many regions, with variations in the virus's spread depending on the strain (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Map where outbreaks of avian influenza were reported in wild birds between 2015 and 2020 (data sources: ADNS and OIE).

Many bird species, such as waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and raptors, undertake long-distance migrations between their breeding and non-breeding grounds [14]. These migrations allow birds to take advantage of seasonal food supplies in productive habitats during breeding seasons while escaping less hospitable areas during colder months. Migratory routes, known as "flyways," help guide conservation

efforts, as they include the full range of a species' movements, from breeding to nonbreeding sites [1,13]. Some species such as waterfowl are natural hosts for avian influenza viruses, and their migrations can play a role in the spread of low pathogenic avian influenza viruses. *Anatidae* family, are the primary reservoir of all 16 hemagglutinin and 9 neuraminidase subtypes of avian influenza viruses [5,9].

However, their role in spreading the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus is less clear. Initially, the spread of H5N1 in Southeast Asia (2003–2004) was linked to poultry trade rather than wild birds. But by 2005–2006, outbreaks in wild birds across Europe suggested that migratory movements, possibly influenced by harsh weather [3], might have contributed to the virus' spread. [16].

According to the European Food Safety Authority (2022), Europe experienced its largest outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) during 2021–2022, impacting 46 million birds. Additionally, there were 2733 detections in wild birds across 36 European countries. Between 16 March and 10 June 2022, most wild bird cases were reported in Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. The virus appears to be persisting in wild bird populations, suggesting it may now be endemic in Europe. The health risk to humans and wildlife remains constant throughout the year, peaking in autumn and winter [16].

Wild birds can contract both high and low pathogenic forms [17]. High pathogenic stirps like H5N1 have been most frequently detected in wetland birds (such as ducks, swans, gulls, and storks) [13]. In Appendix, presents a list of wild species where the virus has been detected. **Figure 4** is a graphic based on the information available in the Appendix, showing the number of species where was detected avian influenza for which order. It is possible to conclude that Charadriiformes (n = 113), Anseriformes (n = 93), Passeriformes (n = 54) and Accipitriformes (n = 52), were the orders more affected [16].



Figure 4. Graphic with the number of species by order affected by avian influenza according to FAO IN 2024 [16].

Order Anseriformes presents infection rates between 10 to 30% of LPAI in ducks during migration and wintering seasons. The mortality rates exceed 70% for some geese and swans. These species are often asymptomatic carriers of LPAI, allowing long-distance transmission [18]. The use of shared water bodies increases exposure to viral particles [19]. Some examples are the Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [20] with high LPAI prevalence (around 20%) and Mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) [21] with high HPAI mortality (> 60% in outbreaks). Order Charadriiformes has infection rates of LPAI between 10 to 25% in gulls and shorebirds, HPAI mortality rates can vary widely [22]. The high exposure of these animals is due to congregation in large colonies during breeding [23]. And migratory connectivity that facilitates global viral dissemination. Some examples are the Black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [24] which are LPAI carriers (20% prevalence) and the Ruddy turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) [25] with an LPAI prevalence of 25%, with high exposure during coastal stopovers.

Orders Accipitriformes and Falconiformes present low infection rates (5%-15%), but high mortality rates (> 70%) with HPAI strains. They can contract the virus through the consumption of infected prey or scavenging [26]. Although the solitary behavior reduces transmission it can make individuals vulnerable to isolated outbreaks. Some examples are the Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) [27] with mortality up to 80% upon infection with H5N1, and the Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) [28] that are frequent victims of secondary exposure via waterfowl prey.

Order Procellariiformes, presents infection rates between 5 to 20% during outbreaks in colonies, but mortality rates in some colonies exceed 50%. The infections occur due to the high-density nesting colonies that facilitate the rapid viral spread and the exposition of infected carcasses in marine environments [29]. Some examples are the Northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [30] with 10% infection rates observed and the Black-browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) with high susceptibility in breeding colonies [31]. Order Gruiformes (including species such as cranes and rails) can present HPAI mortality that can exceed 70% during outbreaks [32]. The wetland species with close contact with infected waterfowl populations, and the aggregative behavior of the species during migration increases exposure to the virus. One example is the Common crane (*Grus grus*) that presented 80% of mortality rates in H5N1 outbreaks in Serbia [33].

Wild animals from the Order Galliformes have a LPAI prevalence (< 5%), but high mortality (90%) in HPAI outbreaks [34]. These animals have lower natural resistance compared to waterfowl and are often infected via proximity to domestic poultry farms. One example is the Wild turkeys (Meleagris *gallopavo*) that showed extremely high mortality (95%) when infected with H5N1 [35]. The Order Sphenisciformes, commonly known as penguins, are rare in wild populations, though outbreaks in managed colonies report infection rates of 10 to 15 [36]. Their susceptibility is likely due to immunological naïveté and close colony proximity an example is the mortality associated with H5N8 in African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*) [37] managed settings in Namibia, and H5N1 in Humboldt penguins (*Spheniscus humboldti*) in Chile [38]. **Table 1** presents a summary with the infection rate, mortality rate, and key traits by different wild bird orders regarding avian influenza.

Order	Typical infection rate (%)	Mortality rate (HPAI) (%)	Key traits
Anseriformes	10–30 (LPAI)	60-80	Asymptomatic carriers, wetland dwellers
Charadriiformes	10–25(LPAI)	Up to 50	Colony breeders, global migrants
Accipitriformes	5–15	70–90	Scavengers/predators, isolated outbreaks
Procellariiformes	5–20	50	High-density colonies
Gruiformes	Rare	70–80	Wetland aggregation
Galliformes	<5	90	Proximity to poultry
Sphenisciformes	Rare	50-70	Immunological naïveté

Table 1. Infection rate, mortality rate, and key traits by different wild bird orders regarding avian influenza.

### 4. Strains of avian influenza in wild birds

Some of the most pathogenic strains in wild birds are H5N1, H5N6, H5N8, H5Nx. H5N1 is the most prominent highly pathogenic avian influenza strain, causing widespread mortality in wild birds and domestic poultry [39]. It is associated with mass die-offs in waterfowl, raptors, and seabirds, and poses a zoonotic potential poses public health risk. Detected globally, with notable outbreaks in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas [40].

H5N6 showed high mortality rates in geese, swans, and cranes; ecological consequences for wetland habitats [41]. Predominantly observed in Asia but spreading westward [42].

H5N8 has been associated with large-scale outbreaks in wild birds, with high mortality among waterfowl and scavengers feeding on carcasses. This strain has been observed in Europe, Asia, and Africa [43].

H5Nx is a strain that results from the genetic mixing of H5 strains with other subtypes, creating novel variants (e.g., H5N2, H5N3) [44,45]. Can cause significant mortality and spread rapidly among migratory birds and has a global distribution due to migratory patterns [46].

Some of the low pathogenic strains in wild birds are H7N9, H7N3, H7N7, H9N2, H6N1, and H10N8. H7N9 is low pathogenic and there are limited reports on wild bird infections, but with significant potential for spillover. Predominantly found in Asia [47]. H7N3 and H7N7 have variable pathogenicity, often associated with regional outbreaks. The strains have been detected in North America, Europe, and Asia [48]. H9N2 is predominantly low pathogenic but widely prevalent in wild birds. It is often asymptomatic in wild birds but contributes to viral evolution. This strain has been detected in Asia, Europe, and Africa [49]. H6N1 is common in wild birds and rarely causes significant disease but contributes to viral diversity. It has been isolated in North America, Europe, and Asia [50,51].

H10N8 has limited mortality reported in wild birds, but potential zoonotic risk. It has been detected in Asia [52].

It seems that the dominant subtype in Europe is H5N8 and H5N1, and the species associated with their introduction and spread are the Barnacle goose, Greylag goose, Eurasian wigeon, Black-headed gull, European herring gull and Mallard. The viral spread was associated with autumn migrations from northern Asian breeding grounds [53,54].

### 5. Clinical signs, postmortem and diagnosis techniques

The first symptoms can appear within a few hours after exposure, or up to 3 days later and can vary significantly depending on the strain of the virus. When wild birds serve as carriers of low pathogenic avian influenza they show no visible signs of illness. These birds can harbor and shed the virus without being affected, which makes them effective reservoirs for its spread [1,13]. Wild birds are infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, particularly may exhibit noticeable clinical signs. The symptoms in affected wild birds can include: lethargy, weakness, neurological signs (tremors, uncoordinated movements, or inability to fly), hyperaemia and oedema of the eyelids, trachea and conjunctiva, respiratory distress (coughing or difficulty breathing), ruffled feathers, swollen heads, congestion and/or cyanosis of the comb and wattles, diarrhoea and sudden death in severe cases without prior signs of illness [3,6,55].



Figure 5. *Post mortem* lesions observed in birds infected with avian influenza: (A) *Melanitta negris* corpse found dead; (B) *Larus michaellis* corpse found dead; (C) Congestive lung; (D) Necrose in the liver.

In peracute infections of avian influenza, where death occurs within one to two days of infection, poultry typically show no visible gross lesions. However, certain strains, such as H5N1 and H5N2, can cause severe lung congestion, haemorrhage, and oedema, resulting in the tissue exuding fluid and blood upon excision. Brain oedema has also been reported in some cases [56] (**Figure 5**). During acute infections, where death occurs between days three to five, affected chickens may exhibit ruffled feathers, congestion, and cyanosis of the comb and wattles, with swollen heads due to subcutaneous oedema around the eyes and lower jaw. Some viruses cause hyperemia and oedema of the eyelids, conjunctiva, and trachea. In chickens that die, generalized congestion and hemorrhage are common, particularly in the comb and wattles, where petechial-to-ecchymotic haemorrhages, swelling from oedema, and necrotic areas from vascular infarction can be seen. Subcutaneous haemorrhages and oedema may also appear on the hocks, shanks, feet, and occasionally on feathered skin across the body. Certain pathological strains cause skin thickening in the legs due to gelatinous oedema. Hemorrhages can occur in various visceral organs, including the heart,

intestines, abdominal fat, and skeletal muscles. Primary lymphoid organs, like the cloacal bursa and thymus, may show severe atrophy, while the spleen can either remain normal, enlarge, or develop necrotic white foci. The pancreas often shows mottling, and in laying hens, ruptured ova with "yolk peritonitis" is sometimes observed.

Histological lesions vary in severity and location but typically include necrosis, haemorrhage, and inflammation in numerous visceral organs. The severity and distribution of these lesions depend on the virus strain and the bird species [57]. As the disease progresses, inflammation becomes more prominent, while necrosis or apoptosis (cell death) becomes less evident. The most affected organs include the brain (lymphohistiocytic meningoencephalitis with vasculitis and areas of tissue rarefication), heart (lymphohistiocytic myocarditis with hyaline necrosis of muscle fibers), pancreas (caseous necrosis), skin (dermal vasculitis with thrombosis and tissue infarction) and lymphoid tissue (severe lymphocytic apoptosis) [57,58].

Diagnosis of avian influenza in wild birds typically involves a combination of clinical observation, laboratory testing, and surveillance efforts. Since many wild birds, especially waterfowl, can carry the virus without demonstrating symptoms, routine testing and sampling are often necessary to detect the presence of the virus. Isolation of influenza viruses has been achieved by direct inoculation of 9–11 old embryonated chicken eggs with homogenates of the lung, trachea, faeces and internal organs of infected animals. Other methods of diagnosis include Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Serology and Antigen Detection [7,13].

There is no specific treatment for avian influenza in wild birds [59]. Management focuses on prevention and control rather than direct intervention. Infected wild birds are generally not treated, as capturing and medicating wild populations on a large scale is impractical. Instead, efforts are aimed at monitoring and controlling outbreaks through the following measures: quarantine of infected animals, culling of infected populations, and biosecurity measures to prevent contamination from domestic to wild birds and vice versa. Vaccination is not commonly used in wild birds due to logistical challenges, but it may be considered in domestic flocks to reduce transmission risk [58,60].

#### 6. Avian influenza and its impact on wild populations

The impact of avian influenza, particularly HPAI, on wild bird conservation is substantial and multifaceted [57]. Managing this virus in wild bird populations is extremely difficult. Traditional control measures like culling or vaccination are impractical for free-ranging wild birds, particularly migratory species [13]. As a result, conservation efforts are often reactive, focusing on monitoring and managing outbreaks rather than preventing them [59]. Migratory birds are natural reservoirs for AI, particularly LPAI, and can spread the virus over long distances as they travel between breeding and wintering grounds. This long-distance transmission is difficult to control and can introduce the virus into new populations and regions, potentially infecting other wildlife and domestic poultry, increasing the risk of further outbreaks [5,61].

HPAI outbreaks have resulted in mass die-offs of wild birds. Species like ducks, geese, swans, raptors, and shorebirds are particularly vulnerable. These mass mortality events can have severe consequences for species with already declining populations (especially those already facing other threats such as habitat loss or climate change) or those considered endangered. For example, in Peru, the first case of H5N1 was detected in dead Peruvian pelicans (*Pelecanus thagus*) on November 13, 2022. The virus quickly spread along the Peruvian coast, and by mid-March 2023, the impact on bird species was alarming. At least 100,485 wild birds from 24 species, including some threatened species, were found dead due to the virus. This situation is of significant conservation concern, as the virus killed around 20% of the pelican population in marine protected areas in Peru [5].

Wildbird species already endangered or with small population sizes are particularly at risk. Introducing HPAI into these populations can cause rapid declines, pushing some species closer to extinction [62]. Recent outbreaks of HPAI, caused by H5 subtype viruses, have significantly impacted the population of endangered hooded cranes (*Grus monacha*) and white-necked cranes (*Grus vipio*) in the Izumi plain of Kagoshima Prefecture [62]. Since April 2023, HPAI has caused death for 21 California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in northern Arizona, a critically endangered species. This led to the approval from the US Government for the vaccination of the species to protect them [63].

Avian influenza besides mortality has other negative impacts in wild populations that are not so direct. Wild birds play crucial roles in ecosystems as predators, prey, and pollinators. Significant mortality due to avian influenza can disrupt these ecological roles, leading to cascading effects on other species and ecosystem processes [64]. For example, the loss of predatory birds could lead to an overpopulation of certain prey species, while a decline in seed-dispersing birds might affect plant regeneration in certain habitats [65]. Recurrent outbreaks of avian influenza can reduce genetic diversity in affected bird populations. Suppose large numbers of individuals from a population die in an outbreak. In that case, the surviving population may have reduced genetic variation, making them less resilient to future environmental challenges, including disease outbreaks or habitat changes [61].

Significant die-offs due to avian influenza can reduce biodiversity, leading to fewer birdwatching opportunities, thereby negatively impacting local economies related to ecotourism or birdwatching [66].

#### 7. Conclusions

The presence of avian influenza in wild bird populations has profound implications for biodiversity, ecological stability, and public health. Here's why this work is critical. This virus, particularly highly pathogenic strains like H5N1, poses a dire threat to bird species, including those already endangered. Large-scale mortality events can disrupt entire ecosystems, as birds play crucial roles in their maintenance (e.g., predator-prey relations, pollinators, nutrition cycles, and seed dispersion). Wild birds act as natural reservoirs for influenza viruses, facilitating the spread of the disease across regions and species. Understanding and managing avian influenza dynamics in wild birds helps prevent spillover into domestic poultry and even humans, reducing the risk of zoonotic outbreaks that could escalate into pandemics. Efforts to monitor and control avian influenza in wild birds are important not only to safeguard these populations but also to align with public health goals. By controlling the disease at its source, the risk of outbreaks in agriculture and the emergence of new, more virulent strains that could threaten human health is minimized. Addressing this threat requires increased monitoring, research, and collaboration between conservation organizations, governments, and health authorities to mitigate the impacts of avian influenza on wild bird populations and the ecosystems they inhabit. It is important an integrated approach to managing avian influenza that highlights the interdependence of wildlife conservation, ecosystem stability, and global health.

**Funding:** This work was supported by the projects UIDB/CVT/00772/2020 and LA/P/0059/2020, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) (Pro-ject UIDB/CVT/0772/2020).

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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# Appendix

## Table A1. Wild bird species affected by avian influenza according to FAO IN 2024 [16].

Anseriformes	Galliformes	Psittaciformes
<ul> <li>Aix galericulata (Mandarin Duck)</li> <li>Aix sponsa (Wood Duck)</li> <li>Alopochen aegyptiaca (Egyptian Goose)</li> <li>Anas bernieri (Madagascar Teal)*</li> <li>Anas carolinensis (American green- winged Teal)</li> <li>Anas clypeata (Northern Shoveler)</li> <li>Anas crecca (Common Teal)</li> <li>Anas discors (Blue-winged Teal)</li> <li>Anas falcata (Falcated Duck)</li> <li>Anas flavirostris (Andean Teal)</li> <li>Anas formosa (Baikal Teal)</li> <li>Amas acuta (Northern Pintail)</li> <li>Anas americana (American Wigeon)</li> <li>Anas penelope (Eurasian Wigeon)</li> <li>Anas poecilorhyncha (Indian spot-billed duck)</li> <li>Anas querquedula (Garganey)</li> <li>Anas rhynchotis (Australasian Shoveler)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Alectoris rufa (Red legged partridge)</li> <li>Centrocercus urophasianus (Greater sage-grouse)</li> <li>Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)</li> <li>Coturnix coturnix (Common Quail)*</li> <li>Cracidae (incognita)*</li> <li>Meleagris gallopavo (Turkey)</li> <li>Alectura lathami (Australian bushturkey)</li> <li>Bonasa umbellus (Ruffed grouse)</li> <li>Callipepla californica (California Quail)</li> <li>Numida meleagris (Common Guineafowl)</li> <li>Pavo cristatus (Peacock)</li> <li>Perdix perdix (Grey Partridge)*</li> <li>Phasianus colchicus (Common Pheasant)</li> <li>Syrmaticus reevesii (Reeves's Pheasant)</li> <li>Cyrtonyx montezumae (Montezuma Quail)</li> <li>Gallus gallus domesticus (Chicken)</li> <li>Lagopus lagopus (Willow Grouse)</li> <li>Lophura nycthemera (Silver Pheasant)</li> <li>Charadriiformes</li> <li>Alca torda (Razorbill)</li> <li>Alle alle (Little auk)</li> <li>Arenaria interpres (Ruddy Turnstone)</li> <li>Arenaria melanocephala (Black turnstone)</li> <li>Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris nauri (Red Knot)</li> <li>Calidris alpina (Dunlin)</li> <li>Calidris alpina (Dunlin)</li> <li>Calidris alpina (Dunlin)</li> <li>Calidris ferruginea (Curlew sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris ferruginea (Curlew sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris ferruginea (Curlew sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris ferruginea (Curlew sandpiper)</li> <li>Calidris discicollis (White-rumped Sandpiper)</li> <li>Charadrius alexandrinus (Kentish Plover)</li> <li>Charadrius mongolus (Lesser Sand Plover)</li> <li>Charadrius nivosus (Snowy plover)</li> <li>Charadrius nivosus (Snowy plover)</li> <li>Charadrius pulidus (Chestnut-banded Plover)</li> <li>Chidonias lybrida (Whiskered Tern)</li> <li>Chlidonias hybrida (Whiskered Tern)</li> <li>Chlidonias hybrida (Whister-turn)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ara macao (Scarlet Macaw)*</li> <li>Ara militaris (Military macaw)*</li> <li>Aratinga auricapillus (Golden-capped Parakeet)</li> <li>Brotogeris versicolurus (White-winged Parakeet)</li> <li>Agapornis personatus (Yellow-collared Lovebird)*</li> <li>Agapornis roseicollis (Rosy-faced Lovebird)*</li> <li>Ara cloropterus (Green and red macaw)*</li> <li>Cacatua ducorpsii (Solomons Corella)*</li> <li>Cyanoliseus patagonus (Burrowing Parrot)</li> <li>Diopsittaca nobilis (Northern Redshouldered Macaw)</li> <li>Amazona farinosa (Southern mealy amazon)</li> <li>Psittacula eupatria (Alexandrine Parakeet)*</li> <li>Psittacula krameri (Rose-ringed Parakeet)</li> <li>Psittacus erithacus (Grey Parrot)</li> <li>Pycnonotus zeylanicus (Straw-headed bulbul)</li> <li>Amazona farinose (Amazon Parrot)</li> <li>Amazona ochrocephala (Yellow-crowned Parrot)*</li> <li>Amazona oratrix (Yellow-headed amazon)</li> <li>Ara ararauna (Blue-and-yellow macaw)</li> <li>Enicognathus ferrugineus (Austral Parakeet)</li> <li>Enicognathus leptorhynchus (Slenderbilled Parakeet)</li> <li>Melopsittacus undulatus (Budgerigar)</li> <li>Nymphicus hollandicus (Cockatiel)</li> <li>Psittacula derbiana (Lord Derby's Parakeet)</li> <li>Falco cherveg (Saker Falcon)</li> <li>Falco subbuteo (Eurasian hobby)*</li> <li>Falco subbuteo (Eurasian hobby)*</li> <li>Falco tinnunculus (Common Kestrel)</li> <li>Falco columbarius (Merlin)</li> <li>Falco orusticolus (Gryfalcon)</li> </ul>

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Anseriformes	Galliformes	Psittaciformes
Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus (Brown- headed gull)	• Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus (Brownheaded gull)	• <i>Milvago chimango</i> (Chimango Caracara) Accipitriformes
<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i> (Grey Headed Gull)	• <i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i> (Grey Headed Gull)	<ul> <li>Accipiter atricapillus (American goshawk)</li> <li>Accipiter brachyurus (New Britain</li> </ul>
<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i> (Hartlaub's Gull)	Chroicocephalus hartlaubii (Hartlaub's Gull)	<ul> <li>Sparrowhawk)</li> <li>Accipiter cooperii (Cooper's Hawk)</li> </ul>
<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i> (Brownhooded gull)	Chroicocephalus maculipennis (Brown- hooded gull)	• Accipiter gentilis (Northern Goshawk)
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Common Gull- billed Tern)	• <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Common Gull-billed Tern)	<ul> <li>Accipiter gularis (Japanese Sparrowhawk)</li> <li>Accipiter nisus (Eurasian Sparrowhawk)</li> <li>Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)</li> </ul>
Haematopus ater (Blackish Oystercatcher)	• <i>Haematopus ater</i> (Blackish Oystercatcher)	
Haematopus moquini (African Black Oystercatcher)	• <i>Haematopus moquini</i> (African Black Oystercatcher)	<ul> <li>Aquila audax (Wedge-tailed Eagle)</li> <li>Aquila rapax (Tawny Eagle)*</li> </ul>
Haematopus ostralegus (Eurasian oystercatcher)	• <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Eurasian oystercatcher)	<ul> <li>Buteo buteo (Common Buzzard)</li> <li>Buteo jamaicensis (Red-tailed Hawk)</li> </ul>
Chroicocephalus ridibundus (Black-headed Gull)	• <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> (Black-headed Gull)	<ul> <li>Buteo japonicus (Eastern buzzard)</li> <li>Buteo lagopus (Rough-legged Hawk)</li> </ul>
Fratercula arctica (Atlantic Puffin)	• Fratercula arctica (Atlantic Puffin)	• Aquila chrysaetos (Golden Eagle)
Gallinago gallinago (Common Snipe)	Gallinago gallinago (Common Snipe)	• Aquila fasciata (Bonelli's eagle)
Gallinago stenura (Pin-tailed Snipe)	• Gallinago stenura (Pin-tailed Snipe)	• Aquila heliaca (Eastern imperial eagle)
Haematopus palliatus (American oystercatcher)	• <i>Haematopus palliatus</i> (American oystercatcher)	<ul> <li>Aquila nipalensis (Steppe Eagle)*</li> <li>Buteo lineatus (Red-shouldered Hawk)</li> </ul>
Himantopus himantopus (Black-winged Stilt)	• <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Black-winged Stilt)	<ul> <li>Buteo magnirostris (Roadside Hawk)</li> <li>Buteo platypterus (Broad-winged Hawk)</li> </ul>
Hydrocoloeus minutus (Little Gull)	• Hydrocoloeus minutus (Little Gull)	<ul> <li>Buteo polyosoma (Red-backed Hawk)*</li> </ul>
Hydroprogne caspia (Caspian Tern)	• Hydroprogne caspia (Caspian Tern)	<ul> <li>Buteo polyosoma (Red-backed Hawk)</li> <li>Buteo regalis (Ferruginous Hawk)</li> </ul>
Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus (Pallas's Gull)	• Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus (Pallas's Gull)	<ul> <li>Buteo regails (Ferruginous Hawk)</li> <li>Buteo rufofuscus (Jackal Buzzard)</li> </ul>
Ichthyaetus melanocephalus (Mediterranean Gull)	• <i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i> (Mediterranean Gull)	• Buteo swainsoni (Swainson's Hawk)
Larosterna inca (Inca tern)	• Larosterna inca (Inca tern)	Buteogallus urubitinga (Great Black Haw
Larus argentatus (Herring Gull)	• Larus argentatus (Herring Gull)	Cathartes aura (Turkey Vulture)
Larus armenicus (Armenian Gull)	• Larus armenicus (Armenian Gull)	• Circus aeruginosus (Western Marsh Harr
Larus atricilla (Laughing Gull)	• Larus atricilla (Laughing Gull)	• <i>Circus assimilis</i> (Spotted Harrier)
Larus audouinii (Audouin's Gull)	• Larus audouinii (Audouin's Gull)	• <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Hen Harrier)
Larus belcheri (Belcher's Gull)	• Larus belcheri (Belcher's Gull)	• <i>Circus hudsonius</i> (Northern Harrier)
Larus brachyrhynchus (Short-billed Gull)	• Larus brachyrhynchus (Short-billed Gull)	• Circus pygargus (Montagu's Harrier)
Larus brunicephalus (Brown-headed Gull)	• Larus brunicephalus (Brown-headed Gull)	• <i>Clanga pomarina</i> (Lesser Spotted Eagle)
Larus cachinnans (Caspian Gull)	Larus cachinnans (Caspian Gull)	Geranoaetus polyosoma (Variable Hawk)
Larus delawarensis (Ring-billed Gull)	• Larus delawarensis (Ring-billed Gull)	• <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> (Bearded vulture)
Larus dominicanus (Kelp Gull)	• Larus dominicanus (Kelp Gull)	• <i>Gyps africanus</i> (White-backed vulture)*
Larus fuscus (Lesser Black-backed Gull)	• Larus fuscus (Lesser Black-backed Gull)	• <i>Gyps fulvus</i> (Griffon Vulture)
Larus genei (Slender-billed Gull)	• Larus genei (Slender-billed Gull)	• Haliaeetus albicilla (White Tailed Eagle)
Larus glaucescens (Glaucous-winged Gull)	• Larus glaucescens (Glaucous-winged Gull)	Coragyps atratus (American Black Vultur
Larus glaucoides (Iceland Gull)	• Larus glaucoides (Iceland Gull)	Geranoaetus melanoleucus (Black-cheste
Larus californicus (California Gull)	Larus californicus (California Gull)	buzzard-eagle)
Larus canus (Mew Gull)	• Larus canus (Mew Gull)	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Larus crassirostris (Black-tailed Gull)	• Larus crassirostris (Black-tailed Gull)	Haliaeetus pelagicus (Steller's Sea Eagle)
Larus hyperboreus (Glaucous Gull)	Larus hyperboreus (Glaucous Gull)	• Parabuteo unicinctus (Harris's Hawk)
Larus ichthyaetus (Pallas's Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus ichthyaetus (Pallas's Gull)</li> </ul>	• Sagittarius serpentarius (Secretary Bird)
Larus marinus (Great black-backed Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus marinus (Great black-backed Gull)</li> </ul>	• Spilornis cheela (Crested Serpent Eagle)
Larus michahellis (Yellow-legged Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus michahellis (Yellow-legged Gull)</li> </ul>	• <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i> (African Fish Eagle)
Larus novaehollandiae (Silver Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus novaehollandiae (Silver Gull)</li> </ul>	• <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> (Bonelli's Eagle)
Larus occidentalis (Western Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus occidentalis (Western Gull)</li> </ul>	• <i>Milvus migrans</i> (Black Kite)
Larus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	<ul> <li>Larus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)</li> </ul>	
Larus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Guil)	Larus philadelphia (Bonaparte's Gull)	

• Larus pipixcan (Franklin's Gull)

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Larus pipixcan (Franklin's Gull)

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Anseriformes	Galliformes	Psittaciformes
Anseriformes         Tadorna ferruginea (Ruddy Shelduck)         Tadorna tadorna (Common Shelduck)         Gaviiformes         Gavia immer (Common Loon)         Gavia stellata (Red-throated Loon)         Sphenisciformes         Eudyptes chrysocome (Southern Rockhopper Penguin)         Spheniscus magellanicus (Magellanic Penguin)         Spheniscus demersus (Jackass Penguin)         Spheniscus humboldti (Humboldt Penguin)         Ciconiiformes         Leptoptilos javanicus (Lesser Adjutant)*         Mycteria americana (American Wood Stork)         Mycteria leucocephala (Painted Stork)         Ciconia boyciana (Oriental Stork)         Ciconia nigra (Black Stork)         Procellariiformes         Ardenna gravis (Great Shearwater)         Ardenna grisea (Sooty Shearwater)         Ardenna tenuirostris (Short-tailed Shearwater)         Phoebastria irrorata (Waved Albatross)         Procellaria aequinoctialis (White-chinned Petrel)         Fulmarus glacialis (Northern Fulmar)         Fulmarus glacialis (Southern Fulmar)         Macronectes giganteus (Southern Giant Petrel)         Macronectes halli (Northern Giant Petrel)         Pterodroma macroptera (Great-winged Petrel)         Puffinus gravis (Great Shearwater)         Hetrodroma macroptera (Gr	Galliformes•Larus ridibundus (Black-headed Gull)•Larus schistisagus (Slaty-backed Gull)•Larus scopulinus (Silver Gull)•Larus smithsonianus (Arctic Herring Gull)•Larus thayeri (Thayer's gull)•Leucophaeus atricilla (Laughing Gull)•Leucophaeus pipixcan (Franklin's Gull)•Numenius arquata (Eurasian Curlew)•Numenius arquata (Eurasian Curlew)•Pagophila eburnean (Ivory Gull)•Phalaropus lobatus (Red-necked phalarope)•Phuvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)•Numenius squatarola (Grey Plover/Blackbellied Plover)•Numenius phaeopus (Whimbrel)•Recurvirostra avosetta (Pied avocet)•Rissa tridactyla (Black-legged Kittwake)•Scolopax rusticola (Eurasian Woodcock)•Stercorarius antarcticus (Brown skua)•Stercorarius chilensis (Chilean Skua)•Stercorarius chilensis (Chilean Skua)•Stercorarius parasiticus (Arctic Skua)•Stercorarius parasiticus (Arctic Skua)•Sterna dougallii (Roseate Tern)•Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)•Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)•Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)•Sterna labifrons (Little Tern)•Thalasseus acuflavidus (Cabot's Tern)•Thalasseus degans (Elegant Tern)•Thalasseus sandvicensis (Sandwich Tern)•Thalasseus sandvicensis (Sandwich Tern)•Thalasseus sandvi	Psittaciformes         • Milvus milvus (Red Kite)         • Nisaetus nipalensis (Mountain Hawk Eagle         • Pandion haliaetus (Osprey)         • Spizaetus nipalensis (Mountain hawk-eagle         • Vultur gryphus (Andean condor)*         Cathartiformes         • Gymnogyps californianus (California Condor)         • Sarcoramphus papa (King Vulture)         Strigiformes         • Aegolius acadicus (Northern Saw-whet Owl)         • Asio flammeus (Short-Eared owl)         • Bubo bubo (Eurasian Eagle-Owl)         • Bubo scandiacus (Snowy Owl)         • Asio otus (Long Eared Owl)         • Athene noctua (Little Owl)         • Bubo virginianus (Great Horned Owl)         • Megascops asio (Eastern Screech Owl)         • Strix nebulosa (Great grey owl)         • Strix varia (Barred owl)         • Megascops choliba (Tropical Screech-owl)         • Megascops (Scops Owl)         • Tyto alba (Common Barn-Owl)         • Megascops (Scops Owl)         • Tyto longimembris (Eastern Grass-owl) *         Caprimulgiformes         • Columba guinea (African rock pigeon)         • Columba guinea (African rock pigeon)         • Columba alumbus (Common Wood-Pigeon)         • Columba alumbus (Common Wood-Pigeon)         • Columba palumbus (C
<ul> <li>Suliformes</li> <li>Fregata magnificens (Magnificent Frigatebird)</li> <li>Fregata minor (Great Frigatebird)</li> <li>Leucocarbo atriceps (Imperial Shag)</li> <li>Leucocarbo georgianus (South Georgia Shag)</li> <li>Microcarbo coronatus (Crowned Cormorant)</li> <li>Morus bassanus (Northern Gannet)</li> <li>Morus capensis (Cape Gannet)</li> <li>Nannopterum auritum (Double-crested Cormorant)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tringa melanoleuca (Greater Yellowlegs)</li> <li>Tringa ochropus (Green Sandpiper)</li> <li>Tringa semipalmata (Willet)</li> <li>Vanellus chilensis (Southern Lapwing)</li> <li>Vanellus spinosus (Spur-winged Lapwing)</li> <li>Vanellus vanellus (Northern Lapwing)</li> <li>Tringa totanus (Common Redshank)</li> <li>Uria aalge (Common Murre)</li> <li>Uria lomvia (Thick-billed Murre)</li> <li>Xema sabini (Sabine's Gull)</li> <li>Podicipediformes</li> <li>Aechmophorus occidentalis (Western Grebe)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dove)</li> <li>Piciformes</li> <li><i>Dendrocopos major</i> (Great spotted woodpecker)</li> <li><i>Ramphastos cuvieri</i> (white-throated toucan)*</li> <li><i>Zenaida macroura</i> (Mourning Dove)</li> <li><i>Pteroglossus castanotis</i> (Chestnut-eared aracari)*</li> <li>Trogoniformes</li> <li><i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i> (Red-headed Trogon)</li> <li>Passeriformes</li> </ul>

Pelican)

Anseriformes	Galliformes	Psittaciformes
Cormorant) Nannopterum brasilianum (Neotropical Cormorant) Phalacrocorax auritus (Double-crested Cormorant) Phalacrocorax bougainvillii (Guanay Cormorant) Phalacrocorax magellanicus (Rock Shag) Phalacrocorax neglectus (Bank Cormorant) Phalacrocorax neglectus (Bank Cormorant) Phalacrocorax punctatus (Spotted Shag Phalacrocorax pygmaeus (Pygmy Cormorant) Sula capensis (Cape Gannet) Sula capensis (Cape Gannet) Sula leucogaster (Brown Booby) Sula nebouxii (Blue-footed Booby) Sula sula (Red-footed Booby) Sula sula (Red-footed Booby) Sula sula (Red-footed Booby) Sula variegata (Peruvian Booby) Urile penicillatus (Brandt's Cormorant) Pelecaniformes Ajaia ajaja (Roseate Spoonbill) Ardea cinerea (Grey Heron) Ardea cocoi (Cocoi heron) Ardea melanocephala (Black-headed Heron) * Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)	<ul> <li>Podiceps grisegena (Red-necked Grebe)</li> <li>Podiceps major (Great Grebe)</li> <li>Podiceps nigricollis (Eared Grebe)</li> <li>Podilymbus podiceps (Pied-billed Grebe)</li> <li>Tachybaptus ruficollis (Little Grebe)</li> <li>Tachybaptus ruficollis (Little Grebe)</li> <li>Struthio camelus (Ostrich)*</li> <li>Rheiformes</li> <li>Struthio camelus (Ostrich)*</li> <li>Rhea americana (Greater rhea)*</li> <li>Casuariiformes</li> <li>Dromaius novaehollandiae (Emu)*</li> <li>Phoenicopteriformes</li> <li>Phoenicopterus chilensis (Chilean flamingo)*</li> <li>Phoenicopterus minor (Lesser flamingo)</li> <li>Phoenicopterus roseus (Greater Flamingo)</li> <li>Phoenicopterus ruber (American Flamingo)*</li> <li>Gruiformes</li> <li>Anthropoides virgo (Demoiselle Crane)</li> <li>Antigone canadensis (Sandhill Crane)</li> <li>Antigone vipio (White-naped crane)</li> <li>Gallinula chloropus (Common Moorhen)</li> <li>Grus grus (Common Crane)</li> <li>Grus grus (Common Crane)</li> <li>Grus leucogeranus (Siberian crane)</li> <li>Balearica regulorum (Crowned crane)</li> <li>Fulica americana (American coot)</li> <li>Fulica armillata (Red-gartered Coot)</li> <li>Fulica atra (Common Coot)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Acridotheres cristatellus (Crested Myna)</li> <li>Agelaius phoeniceus (Red-winged Blackbird)</li> <li>Calamospiza melanocorys (Lark Bunting)</li> <li>Carduelis carduelis (European goldfinch)</li> <li>Carduelis chloris (European Greenfinch)</li> <li>Chondestes grammacus (Lark Sparrow)</li> <li>Coloeus monedula (Eurasian Jackdaw)</li> <li>Corvus cornix (Hooded Crow)</li> <li>Corvus corone (Carrion Crow)</li> <li>Corvus corone (Carrion Crow)</li> <li>Corvus frugilegus (Rook)</li> <li>Corvus macrorhynchos (Large-billed Crow)</li> <li>Corvus macrorhynchos (Large-billed Crow)</li> <li>Corvus monedula (Western Jackdaw)</li> <li>Copsychus saularis (Oriental Magpie-robin</li> <li>Corvus brachyrhynchos (American Crow)</li> <li>Corvus corax (Common Raven)</li> <li>Corvus corax (Common Raven)</li> <li>Corvus corax (Common Raven)</li> <li>Corvus corax (Common Raven)</li> <li>Corvus splendens (House Crow)</li> <li>Cyanocitta cristata (Blue Jay)</li> <li>Cyanocorax chrysops (Plush-crested Jay)</li> <li>Fringilla coelebs (Common chaffinch)</li> <li>Garrulus glandarius (Eurasian Jay)</li> <li>Hirundo rustica (Barn Swallow)</li> <li>Junco hyemalis (Dark-eyed Junco)</li> <li>Laniidae (incognita)</li> <li>Lonchura striata (White-rumped Munia)</li> <li>Motacilla alba (Pied Wagtail)</li> <li>Passer domesticus (House Sparrow)</li> <li>Pycononotus sinensis (Light-vented Bulbul)</li> <li>Pyconotus sinensis (Light-vented Bulbul)</li> <li>Pyconotus sinensis (Light-vented Bulbul)</li> <li>Pyconotus sinensis (Light-vented Bulbul)</li> <li>Pyconotus sinensis (Light-vented Bulbul)</li> <li>Pycania (Back-billed Magpie)</li> <li>Pica hudsonia (Black-billed Magpie)</li> <li>Pica hudsonia (Black-billed Magpie)</li> <li>Pica pica (Common Magpie)</li> <li>Picanota (Southern Masked-Weave</li> <li>Pyconotus jocosus (Red-whiskered Bulbu)</li> <li>Quiscalus mayior (Boat-tai</li></ul>

Anseriformes	Galliformes	Psittaciformes
<ul> <li>Pelecanus philippensis (S Pelican) *</li> <li>Pelecanus rufescens (Pin Pelican)</li> <li>Plegadis falcinellus (Glo</li> <li>Threskiornis aethiopicus</li> <li>Threskiornis melanoceph headed Ibis)</li> </ul>	k-backed ssy Ibis) (Sacred Ibis)	<ul> <li>Turdus migratorius (American Robin)</li> <li>Turdus pilaris (Fieldfare)</li> <li>Tyrannus verticalis (Western Kingbird)</li> <li>Zosterops japonicus (Warbling white- eye)</li> <li>Turdus pallidus (Pale Thrush) Turdus philomelos (Song Thrush)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Pelecanus thagus (Peruv</li> <li>Platalea leucorodia (Eur Spoonbill)</li> <li>Platalea minor (Black-fa Plegadis chihi (White-faced II)</li> </ul>	asian ced Spoonbill)	