

AVES, THE BIRDS is the wildlife group that people most frequently encounter. With over 10,000 species worldwide, these animals are part of our everyday experience. They are also the focus of intense research, and their management and conservation is a subject of considerable effort throughout the world. But what are the defining attributes that make a bird a bird?

Aimed at undergraduate and graduate students, *Ornithology* provides a solid modern foundation for understanding the life and development of birds. Written by renowned experts and leading academics from around the globe, this comprehensive textbook draws on the latest research to create an innovative learning experience. Moving

beyond bones, muscle, and feathers, it provides the core information needed to "build" the bird, linking anatomy and physiology with ecology and behavior.

As it reviews the major orders of birds, the book highlights their wide diversity and critically evaluates ornithological concepts and theories. Incorporating brief biographies of leaders in the field, the text describes their contributions in the context of key historical events in bird science. Each chapter ends with a summary of the material covered, a discussion of potential management and conservation applications, and suggested study questions that will stimulate thought and discussion.

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