



American Flamingo 1

Phoenicopterus ruber

- The name Flamingo comes from the Latin word flamma, which means flame.
- Flamingos can live for 50 years in captivity, and only 20-30 years in the wild.
- A group of Flamingos is called a flamboyance, a term that directly relates to the word flamboyant, meaning 'having a stylish and exuberant look or personality that attracts attention.'
- Flamingos, surprisingly, are born grey and acquire their famous pink color from the natural pink dye called canthaxanthin, which they obtain by consuming certain foods.
- As you can see from the picture above, a flamingo's knees bend backward. Well, you'd think they were knees, but in reality, they are the flamingo's ankles!



Wild Turkey 1

Meleagris gallopavo

- A Turkey's bald head can turn different colors with different emotions. Its head can turn the patriotic colors of red, white, and blue. (But can also turn pink.)
- There are 6.5 million Turkeys in the U.S alone.
- You can tell the gender and age of a Turkey by its droppings! If the poop is j-shaped, is it a male. If the poop is spiral, is it a female. You tell the Turkey's age by how wide the diameter of the dropping is. The wider it is, the older the bird.
- Most people are unaware of the fact that these birds can fly! They walk most of the time, but can fly for short distances, reaching flight speed of 55 mph.
- Every year, two Turkeys are officially 'pardoned' by the president around Thanksgiving. There are differing stories on how this tradition started.



Rose-Breasted Grosbeak 2

Pheucticus ludovicianus

- Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks are not endangered, but are very difficult to find.
- Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks possess a singing ability unlike any other bird. 20th century birdwatchers often characterize their calls as indescribable and superior to any bird's.
- Both parents take turns sitting on their eggs. When it is time to swap places, the birds will sing to each other.
- The honor of being 'oldest grosbeak' goes to two males who lived to the age of 14 years and 11 months. In captivity, though, the average lifespan for a grosbeak is 24 years!
- Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks do not have great nest-making abilities. They are so thin, you can see the eggs from the bottom of the nest.



White Throated Sparrow 2

Zonotrichia albicollis

- White Throated Sparrows have more than one color type. They can have white and black stripes or brown and tan stripes.
- Interestingly, the white and black striped birds are more aggressive than their brown and tan counterparts.
- Once breeding season is over, though, these birds return to their naturally friendly temperament, and form flocks in their community for the purpose of foraging with their friends.
- Strangely, the White Throated Sparrow chooses to build her nest on or near the ground. They do not reuse old nests.
- White Throated Sparrows have a pretty, thin call that seems to say, 'oh-sweet-canada-canada', or 'old Sam, Peabody, Peabody.'



3

**Caroline Turtle Dove
(Mourning Dove)**
Zenaida macroura

- Mourning doves can live up to 5 years, the oldest Carolina Turtle Dove being 31 years and 4 months old.
- These birds are actually very fast, reaching speeds of 55 mph.
- The Mourning Dove has an enlarged part of their esophagus called a crop that they can store food in.
- Mourning doves can be found in North Carolina and SouthEast Alaska. They nest in areas of California and Southern Canada.
- If you see a dove in the Wintertime, you have most likely spotted a male. Some male doves do not migrate like most of the females and young do.
- Mourning doves mate for life.



3

Mockingbird
Mimus polyglottos

- Mockingbirds are the state bird of Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi.
- In captivity, a mockingbird can live up to 20 years. In the wild, they live up to eight.
- They can mimic many sounds, including car sirens and dogs. They are not limited to only bird songs.
- Mockingbirds are very smart. They can even remember individual humans.
- These birds are very territorial, and studies have shown the individuals (man or beast) they best recognize are the creatures who have disturbed them in the past.
- They move south occasionally due to harsh weather, but live mainly in North America.



4

Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus

- Surprisingly, Red Headed Woodpeckers are omnivores, and will eat eggs and fledglings of other birds.
- The Red Headed Woodpeckers numbers are decreasing, and they are at risk of becoming endangered.
- This bird is the Cherokee Indian symbol for war.
- The oldest Red Headed Woodpecker was 9 years and 11 months old.
- One distinctive trait of this species of woodpecker is the fact that they tend to reuse nest cavities for several years in a row.



4

**White-headed Eagle
(Bald Eagle)**
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

- Amazingly, these majestic birds can see small creatures, including fish, from over a mile away!
- These loyal eagles mate for life.
- Interestingly, eagles do not have an impressive screech. Movie producers actually use a different bird call in Bald Eagle scenes.
- These birds have a huge wingspan, averaging 6-7.5ft long!
- Eagles have many tactics for attaining food. They will either hunt for themselves, steal from others, or eat already deceased prey.
- A Bald Eagle's lifespan is 20 years. The oldest
- Bald Eagle recorded was 38 years old.