

Word Finder - bird record breakers

Read the facts and see if you can spot the bird record breakers in the grid below. The words you need to find are **CAPITALISED** in the facts. Words can be listed horizontally, vertically or diagonally; and can read forward or backwards.

P	K	V	C	N	R	E	T	C	I	T	C	R	A	E	R
E	O	D	E	S	R	Y	J	N	M	S	R	F	L	I	E
L	M	P	X	S	E	L	G	A	E	D	L	A	B	D	D
A	L	E	A	G	I	V	U	H	Y	S	A	B	A	E	I
G	P	R	S	A	D	B	I	C	J	R	S	Q	T	R	S
O	B	E	E	H	U	M	M	I	N	G	B	I	R	D	L
R	W	G	D	L	G	O	O	R	T	E	W	P	O	U	D
N	S	R	B	T	E	R	H	T	F	K	E	N	S	C	E
I	W	I	K	C	U	P	T	S	I	I	A	O	S	K	L
S	Q	N	F	R	A	B	H	O	W	W	G	X	S	L	I
S	T	E	X	T	N	T	U	A	S	T	I	L	T	R	A
A	F	F	V	S	T	I	M	E	N	P	Z	V	A	D	T
N	L	A	B	F	W	B	T	L	O	T	E	O	S	R	N
D	E	L	N	C	X	U	E	I	M	R	B	R	C	T	O
E	C	C	M	A	M	P	R	T	M	A	L	I	N	S	B
R	P	O	D	E	A	O	Q	S	O	S	T	Y	R	O	B
S	H	N	S	R	W	O	O	D	C	O	C	K	S	D	I
I	E	C	A	X	E	W	D	C	V	W	F	C	G	N	R



Bird record breakers - facts

The **BEE HUMMINGBIRD** is the **worlds smallest bird**. Found only in Cuba and on the Isle of Youth, the bird measures only 57mm and weighs just 1.6g.

The **COMMON SWIFT** holds the record for the **longest continuous flight**. Researchers at Lund University, using data trackers to log the birds' movement, recorded birds that did not stop flying for ten months!

The **PEREGRINE FALCON** is recorded as the **fastest flying bird**, reaching a speed of nearly 390 km/h during a stoop (diving from a great height), however...

... the **EIDER DUCK** is the **fastest flying bird in a straight line**. It has been recorded flying at nearly 76 km/h.

The **tallest bird ever to have lived** was the **ELEPHANT BIRD**. Now extinct, this bird which was found in Madagascar, reached a height of 3 meters and weighed around 730kg. It goes without saying that it was flightless.

The tallest bird alive today is the **OSTRICH** which stands about 2 meters high. A flightless bird which lives in Africa, it also lays the largest egg of any bird at 15cm long by 13cm wide.

No larger than a domestic chicken, the North Island Brown **KIWI** lays the **largest egg compared to body size** of any bird. The egg is roughly 12cm long with an 8cm wide, about six times larger than a chicken's egg! Consider the size of this bird's egg to the much larger ostrich.

The Wandering and the Southern Royal **ALBATROSS** have the **largest wingspans of any living birds**, measuring up to 3.65 meters.

The **largest known wingspan of any bird** belonged to the extinct **PELAGORNIS SANDERSI** (*Pelagornis sandersi*), a seabird which was identified from a fossil dated to 25 million years ago. It is estimated that its wingspan was between 6.1 and 7.4 meters.

Birds species in the **WOODCOCK** family are known to be the **slowest flying birds**. During their courtship flight they fly as slow as 8 km/h. There are 8 species in this family of wading birds.

The **longest distant migration** of any bird is undertaken by the **ARCTIC TERN**, some of which fly a round-trip of 90,000 km each year between its breeding grounds in Greenland and the Weddell Sea on the Antarctic coast.

The Kori Bustard and the Great Bustard are listed as the **heaviest flying birds** weighing 19kg and 18kg. However, an individual **MUTE SWAN** weighing in at 22.4kg holds the overall record. The usual weight of the Mute Swan is nearer 12kg, so it was unlikely that the record holder was actually able to fly.

Birds in the **STILT** family, such as the Black-Winged Stilt, have the **longest legs** in proportion to the body of any bird. Black-Winged stilts measure up to 40cm, their legs alone can be up to 24cm which is approximately 60% of the bird's total length.

A species of *Astrapia*, birds of paradise endemic to New Guinea has the **longest tail** in proportion to the body of any bird. The tail of the aptly named **RIBBON TAILED** *Astrapia* can be up to a meter long in the males with its body length (without the tail) being 35cm.

Guinness World Records states that the **largest birds nest** recorded was built by a pair of **BALD EAGLES** and measured 6 meters deep by 2.9 meters wide. It was estimated to weigh more than two tons.

I hope you have enjoyed this puzzle and it gives you the urge to find out more about the birds we share the planet with. Trust me, these are just a few fascinating facts – there is so much more for you to discover.