

# Classification of Birds-III

Degree-I

Classification of Birds

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## Order 7. Tinamiformes

1. Small, terrestrial. essentially cursorial with poor power of flight
2. Wings are short and rounded
3. Sternum is keeled
4. Tail feathers and pygostyle are reduced
5. Eggs with extremely glossy shells
6. Vegetarian



Figure 6 Tinamus

Examples: *Tinamus*, *Rhynchotus*

## Superorder 1.11-NEOGNATHAE

1. Modern, usually small flying birds
2. Skull neognathus, i.e., short vomer and palatines extending posteriorly
3. Teeth absent
4. Feathers having interlocking mechanism
5. Wings well developed
6. Sternum has a well-developed keel
7. Tail vertebrae are 5 or 6
8. Pygostyle present
9. Fingers in the wings

## Order 1. Sphenisciformes

1. Flightless aquatic birds
2. Feathers scale-like and cover the entire body
3. Wings are paddle-like adapted for swimming
4. Webbed feet
5. Metatarsus incompletely fused, 4 toes, directed forward
6. Much compressed bones

7. Thick fat layer beneath the skin

Example : *Aptenodytes* (Penguin)

#### Order 2. *Gaviiformes*

1. Legs are short and at the end of the body
2. Tail comprises 18--20 short stiff feathers
3. Completely webbed Toes
4. Patella reduced
5. Powerful in flight

Examples: *Gavia immer* (Common loon)

#### Order 3. *Podicipitiformes*

1. Fresh water divers
2. Legs are far back on the body
3. Feet lobed
4. Tail is made up a tuft of down feathers
5. Large patella
6. Compressed tarsus

Examples *Podiceps*, *Podilymbus*

#### Order 4. *Procellariiformes*

1. Tubular nostrils
2. Horny sheath of bill consisting of several plates
3. Large nasal glands
4. Hind toe - vestigial or none
5. Feathers have oily texture



Figure 7 *Diomedea*

6. Long and narrow wings

7. Strictly marine

Examples: *Diomedea* (Albatrosse), *Puffinus* (Petrels)

#### Order 5. Pelecaniformes

1. Aquatic fish-eating

2. colonial nesters

3. Nostrils - vestigial or absent

4. Gular pouch on throat

5. Four toed webbed foot

6. Beaks are long with wide gapes for catching and swallowing the struggling prey.



Figure 8 Pelecanus

Example: *Pelecanus* (Pelican)

#### Order 6. Ciconiiformes

1. Long necked

2. long legged

3. decorative Feathers

4. Beaks abruptly decurved at middle in flamingos

5. Toes webless

6. Young born naked

7. Food - comprises fish and other aquatic animals



Figure 9 Phoenicopterus

Examples: *Ardea* (Great blue heron), *Phoenicopterus* (Flamingo)