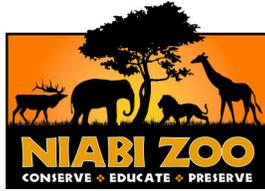


Birds and Beaks – What do they eat??



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Have you ever wondered who eats what in the bird world? A bird's beak can tell the whole story! Use these clues to find out which birds eat what in the Niabi Zoo aviary.

I use my strong, hooked beak to crack open hard nuts and seeds that I find in the rainforests of Mexico and South America. Interestingly, I can eat toxic berries that would prove to be fatal to other birds. They think that because I eat clay, I am immune to their poison. Who am I?



I use my long narrow beak to probe the soil in marshy wetlands in Africa for worms and other invertebrates. I also love to snack on fish, frogs, and even smaller birds. The ancient Egyptians used me as a symbol of Thoth, the god of wisdom and the inventor of writing! Who am I?



My rather large beak is unique in that it is fused to the rest of my skull. I eat mostly fruit but I do munch on lizards, snails, and other small birds. When we find a mate, we stay together for life. When the female is nesting, the male will go out and bring back food for her and if she doesn't like it, she'll send him out to get something else! Who am I?



I am a carnivorous bird, meaning that I only eat meat. There aren't very many birds like this in Australia so that helps cut down the competition for food. My jaw and beak are quite strong which is good for when I am hungry for lunch. I will thrash my head around until the snake or lizard no longer tries to wiggle away then I swallow it whole! Who am I?



I am a large bird from Central and South American lowland rainforests. I feed on carrion, which is the word for already dead animals. I don't kill anything myself. I use my keen eyesight to find my meals. I use my razor sharp beak to tear into the meat. My tongue is rasp-like, like a cat, which helps me lick the meat right off the bone! Who am I?



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I am a nocturnal raptor that can be found in the wooded forests of North America. I use my powerful talons to grab prey, which can be anything from mice to skunks! (We don't have a very good sense of smell) My sharp beak is great for tearing into the meat. If my meal is small enough, I will swallow it whole. I am the only raptor that can fly while carrying prey equal to my own body weight. Talk about taking your food to go! Who am I?



Like my feathered friend above, I am also a raptor from North America. I use my talons to catch my prey and my beak to rip them apart. I am great at reducing rat populations seeing as how 90% of my diet consists of small rodents. Who am I?



I am a three-foot tall bird from Central and South America. I am similar to a chicken in that I rely more on my feet for running away from danger instead of my wings for flying. I am omnivorous meaning that I eat both plants and small mammals. I like to take advantage of fruits and seeds that have fallen from trees to the ground. Also like a chicken, I will scrape the ground when looking for food. Who am I?



My small beak is ideal for eating seeds, but those aren't the only things I eat. I also feed on berries, leaves, fruits and insects. The zookeepers here at Niabi feed me a nice handful of lettuce on top of my seeds, which I very much appreciate! Who am I?



I am a large, silly looking bird. I can't fly but I make up for that by being able to run really fast! I use my long legs to travel around to where food is easiest to get to in the open grasslands of Africa. I eat seeds, grasses, bushes, and munch on trees for forage. To make sure my diet is balanced, I throw in some insects and invertebrates, too. Wherever my feet take me, I need to make sure I stay nearby water because I need one and half gallons per day! Who am I?