

Review Assignment #4 – Bird Diversity - Report on an Order 1

Biological Sciences 102 – Animal Biology

This assignment is worth 15 points and is the fourth review assignment.

Using your textbook or a reliable Internet reference, answer the following questions. You may wish to review several websites or sources to verify your answers.

Submission Directions

You may print out this assignment and type and print out the answers on another sheet(s) of paper or you may copy and paste the questions into an MS Word document (or other word processing software), type out your answers between the questions and submit them in printed form.

Answer these questions:

1. What bird order were you assigned? Give multiple examples of the general types of bird found in this order (common names). Cite some specific scientific names of examples of bird in this order (minimum of three different species).
2. What are the basic body plan characteristics of birds in this order? For example: plumage color, body size, neck length, wing size, wing shape, bill morphology (shape), foot morphology, etc.
3. Describe the typical ecology of birds in this order. Are the birds terrestrial, aquatic, more arboreal, etc? In what biome are they typically found? What is the specific food supply for these birds and are the omnivores, carnivores or herbivores? What is the global distribution?
4. Briefly describe the life history of a typical bird from this order. Do these birds migrate and if so when and where? When and where do they breed/reproduce? Briefly describe their courtship ritual. How long is their gestational period? How many eggs are typically laid? Where do they nest and what type of nest do they build? Do both parents participate in parental care? Are they monogamous, polygamous or polyandrous?
5. Any information regarding the evolution of this order of bird. When and where is there evidence that they first evolved (if known). What evidence is there in the fossil record for birds in this order? To what other bird orders is this order closely related?