

BIRDS

BEAKS

& ADAPTATIONS

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Straight, thin beaks

Insect Eaters
Bee eaters, Robins
1968. Yellow-crowned Gonolek
Composite, Imperf, color trials

Birds are a class of vertebrates with more than 18000 different species. Of the various features that are common to all birds, perhaps the most characteristic is their beak. All birds have one beak. But it has evolved differently in each species to improve its functions in response to its environment. These functions include feeding themselves and their young, defending themselves, grooming their feathers, mating, regulating their body temperature or building nests. **But what exactly is a beak?** In biological terms, it is a type of mouth in which the jaws have no teeth and are covered by a horny layer of a protein called keratin (like the nails or horn of a rhinoceros).

Generally, bird beaks are categorized according to their shape and function. There are several different kind of bird beaks, as illustrated here below.

Spatulate beaks - Storks, Herons - Carrion eaters, mollusks, fishes

1993. Pacific Reef Heron specimen



2001. Painted Stork - Definitive-Error Right Stamp Perforation shifted down. No Denomination



Multifunctional beaks

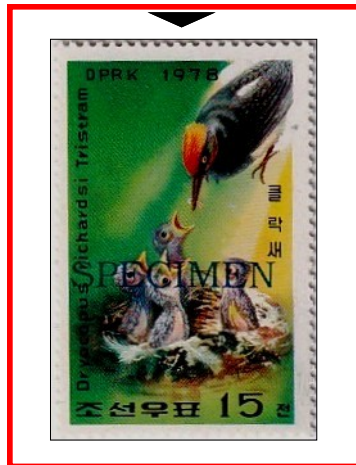
Courtships, defence & food collection.
1987. Keel-billed Toucan



Hooked beaks - They are usually meat eaters Birds of Prey
1964. Ornate Hawk-Eagle



Cone shaped beaks - Seed Eaters - Finches, sparrow
1978. White-bellied Woodpecker - Specimen

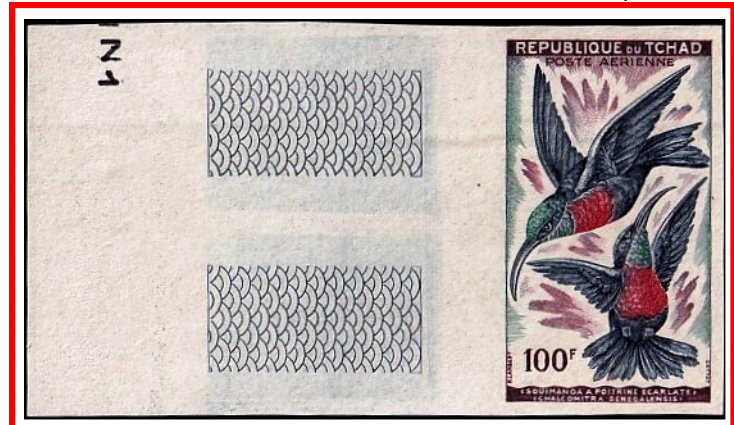


Large, long, and strong beaks

1998. Fish eaters - Brown



Long, thin, needle-like beaks - Nectar feeders Sunbirds, Hummingbirds
1961. Scarlet-Chested Sunbird



Bent, Wide filter beaks (Roman Nose) - Filter feeders

1960. Greater Flamingo - progressive color trials - composite strip of 5 - Definitive



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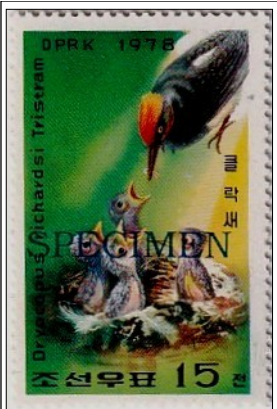
But what exactly is a beak? In biological terms, it is a type of mouth in which the jaws have no teeth and are covered by a horny layer of a protein called keratin (like the nails or horn of a rhinoceros).

What are the different types of beaks?

Generally, bird beaks are categorized according to their shape and function. There are several different kind of bird beaks, as illustrated here below.

Cone shaped beaks

Seed Eaters -Finches, sparrow
1978.White-bellied Woodpecker
Specimen

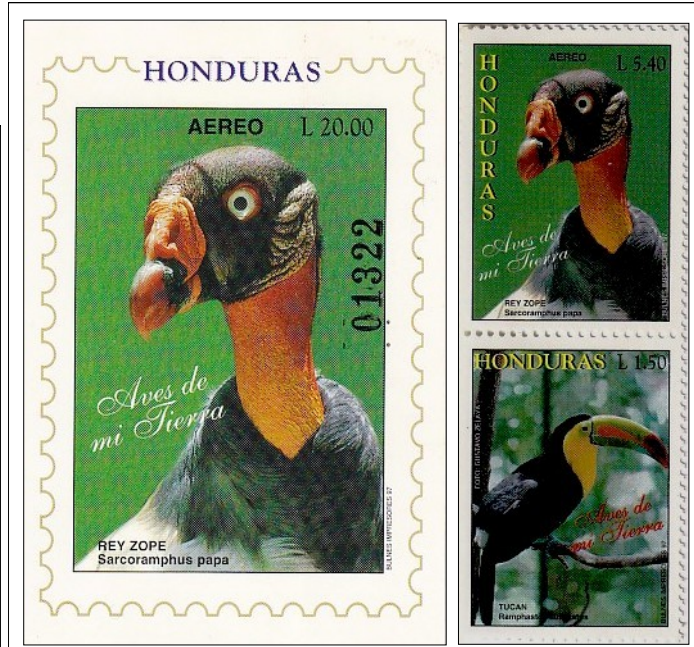


2000. Golden Eagle -Stamps Booklet

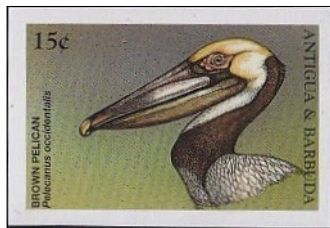


Hooked beaks

They are usually meat eaters Birds of Prey



Nut Cracker Beaks
1993. Blue-and-yellow Macaw
Imperf Proof -Brasiliانا '93



Large, long, and strong beaks
1998. Fish eaters - Brown Pelican



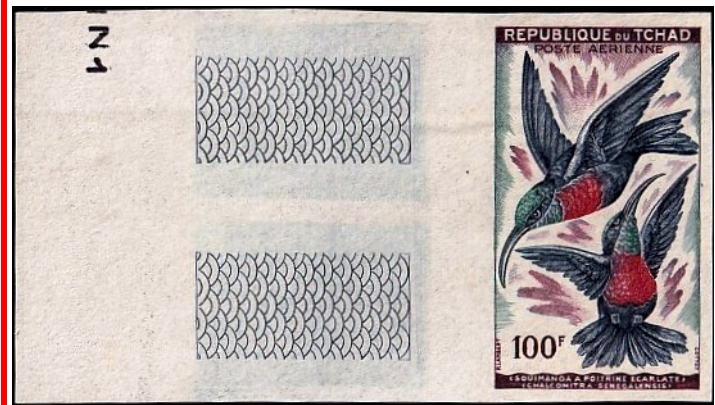
Spatulate beaks
Painted stork-Error-Definitive

1997
King Vulture MS
A limited Issue
With a se-tenant pair

Multifunctional beaks
Courtships,
defence & food
collection.
1987.Keel-billed
Toucan



Long, thin, needle-like beaks - Nectar feeders Sunbirds, Hummingbirds
1961. Scarlet-Chested Sunbird



Bent, Wide filter beaks (Roman Nose) - Filter feeders 1960.Greater Flamingo - progressive color trials - composite strip of 5 -Definitive



Whales play an amazing role in an **ecosystem** that keeps every creature on Earth alive, including you! Whales play a vital role in the marine ecosystem where they help provide at least half of the oxygen you breathe, combat climate change, and sustain fish stocks.

