

## CLASSIFICATION OF BIRDS

Based on a common ancestor and basic anatomical markings, birds are nowadays considered by scientists to be closely related to reptiles.

The number of bird species that have been described by now exceeds **ten thousand**. We present here the traditional taxonomic classification, since they differ from other vertebrates in important anatomical features (their bodies are covered with feathers, they have a toothless beak, they reproduce with solid-shelled eggs).

The class of birds (Aves) is divided into two subclasses:

- **Paleognathae**, ratite birds
- **Neognathae**, carinate birds. These include about 400 species of birds, half of which are known to breed regularly in Hungary. These birds are divided into 19 orders and 58 families. The order Passeriformes is the largest with 23 families.