

# The Birds – Our Teachers

Grace Bringans, Singapore/Malaysia/Myanmar Territory.  
Adapted for Cedar Springs

**P**salm 104 is a Psalm of praise to God, an invitation to worship. Both this Psalm and Psalm 103, begin and end with “Praise the Lord, O my soul”. Psalm 104 celebrates the greatness of God in creation, establishing Heaven, earth and sea and sustaining their creatures with life and food. Verses 12 and 17 make reference to birds or the air.

“In the beginning God created...” says Genesis 1: 1. In verse 2 it says that the earth was without form, empty and dark but the “*Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*”. This is our first word-picture of the Spirit of God hovering like a great bird with wings outstretched, ready to change the world.

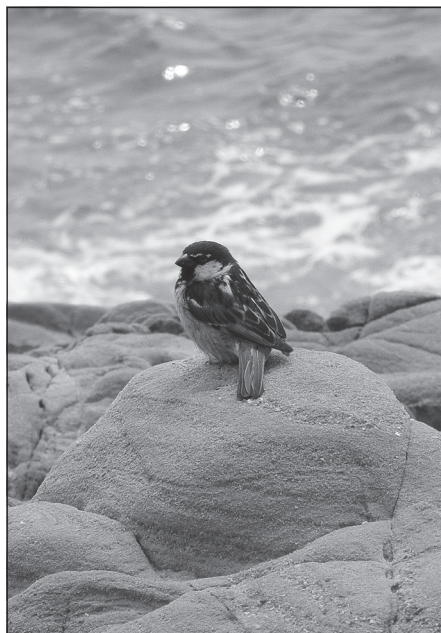
**V. 3 & 4** Remind us that God created light so we could enjoy daylight and night.

**In V. 6 - 8** He separated the sea and sky

**In V. 9** He formed dry ground and called it land.

**In V. 11 - 13** The land was made to produce vegetation and plants and all kinds of trees.

**In V. 14 - 19** He put the sun, moon and stars in their places.



**In V. 20 - 23** He created the teeming creatures of the sea and the birds to fly above the expanse of the earth.

**In V. 20 - 25** God created the animals of all kinds. He saw that all He had made was good.

**In V. 26 - 28** He created man and woman.

**Are you a bird-watcher?** If not you might become more interested as you learn of some birds, beautifully designed both in colour, size, ability and strength, for you cannot help but think of their Creator and how much He loved us to bless us with such creatures.

It is estimated that there are over 9,000 different species of birds in our world. We only have time to learn from just a few of these. Birds are found in every part of the globe — from desert to tropical rain forest and even in the bitter cold of the North and South poles. Birds come in all shapes and sizes, they have different feathers, from browns and grays to glorious bright colours. They have different diets, habits and habitats — where they live.



A big bird like the flightless ostrich can weigh up to 200kg. The tiniest bird is the Bee Hummingbird, found in Cuba. From the tip of its beak to the tip of its tail it is just 2.25 inches long — 1 inch without beak or tail and weighs .56 ounces. There are 320 species of Hummingbird all found in North, Central and South America. Most of these active birds have brightly coloured, iridescent feathers and are most well known for their flight. They have long, thin beaks and feed on the nectar of flowers and eat insects. They can manoeuvre themselves so skillfully they can fly upwards and downwards, backwards and forwards, sideways and even upside down. They can do loops, whilst holding their body almost motionless. The sound, as they beat their wings 80-200 times a second, is like someone humming. They don't walk or

hop but move only by flight, feeding drinking and bathing as they do so. They are so active they need to consume half their body-weight in sugar each day.

The largest flying bird is the Albatross, with wingspans of 12 – 14 feet. These birds are huge and glide on the wind currents in the southern oceans. Their long narrow wings spread out so they can fly immense distances and stay in the air for long periods of time — even weeks. They sleep while gliding — with their wings locked in place by an in-built mechanism. They only come to land to breed.

While the largest flying bird in the world is the Albatross, the Sparrow is one of the smallest. It lacks colourful feathers, chirps but cannot sing. Other bigger birds often intimidate it and chase it away from any food it is trying to gather. The sparrow while often regarded as being useless doesn't fight, because it knows it won't win. The sparrow, a small common, usually insignificant bird was specifically mentioned by Jesus as important to God. Many people around us feel unwanted and unloved. Have you ever wondered, why God loves YOU? It is because He knows you — even by your name — you are important to Him.

In the words of an old gospel song that says: "His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me".

Our worth to God is great for He sent His Son Jesus to die on the Cross for me that I might be saved from sin, live a fulfilling life and one day spend eternity in Heaven. God cares! He cares and He prepares, for YOU.



*"God sees the little sparrow fall, it meets His tender view,  
if God so loves the little birds, I know He loves mee too!"*