



# Vertebrate Evolution

## Bird

- **Kingdom: Animalia**
- **Phylum: Chordata**
- **Subphylum: Vertebrata**
- **Clade: Sauropsida**
- **Class: Aves**

The evolution of birds began in the Jurassic period around 150-165 million years ago, with the earliest birds derived from a clade of theropod dinosaurs named Paraves. *Archaeopteryx lithographica* from Late Jurassic Period is considered to have been the earliest bird. Four distinct lineages of bird survived the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event 66 myo, giving rise to ostriches and relatives, waterfowl, ground-living fowl and “modern birds”.