

Glossary

bill ... The hard parts of the mouth of the bird, sometimes called a beak.

cavity ... An empty space inside a solid object, like a hole in a tree.

chick ... A young bird, especially one that is newly hatched.

communal nesting ... Occurs when more than one pair of birds builds their nests together in the same place.

conservation ... The protection and wise use of natural resources (including plants and animals and their habitats).

cooperative breeding ... Occurs in birds when chicks are raised not just by their parents, but their brothers and sisters and other relatives.

endangered species ... Species whose total population is declining to low numbers such that, if the decline continues, it will result in extinction.

endemic ... A species found only in a particular place. For example, one island (like Guadeloupe) or a group of islands (like the Lesser Antilles).

evolution ... A very slow process that results in one species giving rise to others that are better adapted to the places where they live.

extinct ... When there are no more left in the wild.

flock ... A group of birds of one kind feeding, resting, or traveling together.

forests ... A large area covered by trees. There are many types of forests like wet and dry forests (which receive different amounts of rain), montane forests (in the mountains), and mangrove forests (which are made up of mangrove trees).

habitat ... The place where a plant or animal lives. Good habitats provide the weather conditions, food, and cover that they need to live and breed.

habitat loss ... Occurs when the place where an animal or plant lives is destroyed or extremely changed. For example, habitat loss of forests happens when the trees are cut down and the land is used for something else, like farming or building homes or businesses.

mangrove ... Tropical and sub-tropical trees that grow in saltwater.

nape ... The back of the neck.

native species ... A species that occurs naturally in an area.

nectar ... A sugary liquid that comes from plants, usually inside the flower.

nest ... A structure or place that a bird uses for laying eggs and raising chicks.

non-native species ... A species that has been brought into a geographical area where it never lived before. They are also called introduced, exotic or alien invasive species and they often harm local species by taking over their habitats or preying on them.

pollinate ... The process that allows plants to reproduce (have babies).

roost ... A place where birds regularly rest.

species ... A group of the same kind of animal (or plant) that shares common traits like size, color, habitat, and even the sounds they make.

wetland ... Places that are wet, soggy or flooded by fresh or salt water permanently or from time to time. They include mangroves, swamps, ponds, lagoons, marshes, and mudflats.