



Have you ever heard the mysterious call of a cuckoo bird high up in the trees? These birds are a real sight to behold with their slender bodies, long tails, and strong, pointed wings. Depending on the species, their feathers can range from soft gray, brown, or even a vibrant green! And their most distinctive feature? Their beady eyes which are always on the lookout for a hearty meal.

Speaking of meals, you might be curious about what fills up a cuckoo bird's tummy. These little feathered friends are quite the hunters! They enjoy a diet of insects, caterpillars, and even other bird's eggs! Now, doesn't that make them sound like quite the adventurous eaters?

Their adventurous eating habits tie into their unique lifestyle which is pretty fascinating. Cuckoos don't build nests like most birds, instead, they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, a behavior called 'brood parasitism'. When the baby cuckoo hatches, it pushes the other eggs out of the nest to get all the attention from the unsuspecting foster parents! They've truly mastered the art of 'work smarter, not harder', haven't they?



Now, how do these clever birds interact with us humans and other animals? Well, humans have been fascinated by cuckoos for centuries, their calls marking the arrival of spring in many cultures. As for other animals, cuckoos have a mixed relationship. Some birds unknowingly become foster parents to cuckoo chicks, while others have learned to recognize and reject cuckoo eggs. So, as we've seen, cuckoos are not just another bird, they're clever, adaptable, and truly one of a kind!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What colors can a cuckoo bird's feathers be?
 - A. Bright blue and orange
 - B. Dull yellow and brown
 - C. Black and white only
 - D. Soft gray, brown, or even a vibrant green

- 2) What behavior is unique in cuckoo birds?
 - A. Migrating in winter
 - B. Brood parasitism
 - C. Building nests on the ground
 - D. Hunting at night

- 3) What is unique about how cuckoo birds lay their eggs?
 - A. They lay their eggs in fast moving water
 - B. They lay their eggs in the nests of other birds
 - C. They build a nest for each egg they lay
 - D. They bury their eggs in a hole in the ground

- 4) What do some birds do when they recognize cuckoo eggs?
 - A. Adopt the eggs
 - B. Reject the eggs
 - C. Move them to another nest
 - D. Hide the eggs

- 5) What is special about cuckoo calls in many cultures?
 - A. They help predict upcoming rain
 - B. They help lead hunters to trapped prey
 - C. They are considered good luck
 - D. They mark the arrival of spring

- 6) Which do cuckoo birds not eat?
 - A. Grains
 - B. Other bird's eggs
 - C. Insects
 - D. Caterpillars

- 7) What do baby cuckoo birds do after they hatch?
 - A. Leave the nest immediately
 - B. Share the food with other chicks
 - C. Push the other eggs out of the nest
 - D. Help foster parents feed other chicks

- 8) What best describes the tail of the cuckoo bird?
 - A. Wide tails
 - B. Long tails
 - C. They have no tail
 - D. Short tails

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 9) "Our slim bodies allow us to glide through the air swiftly."
- 10) "We smart cuckoos trick other birds into raising our chicks, while some birds have gotten wise and can tell us apart."
- 11) "My feathers are only gray."
- 12) "After I hatch from my egg, I make sure I get all the attention by pushing other eggs out. It's survival of the fittest here!"



- 13) "Guess what? We cuckoo birds don't build our own nests. We like to keep things simple and use the nests others have made."
- 14) "From tiny insects to caterpillars, my diet is quite diverse!"
- 15) "All birds love to be my foster parents."
- 16) "We cuckoos even love a good egg from another bird's nest. Yummy!"
- 17) "My feathers come in all kinds of colors. Even green."
- 18) "I eat only caterpillars."
- 19) "My calls mark the beginning of winter."
- 20) "Yes, it's true that I lay my eggs in other birds' nests. Some call it 'brood parasitism', I just call it smart!"
- 21) "Don't be fooled by my small size, I have sharp eyes to spot a hearty meal from afar."
- 22) "I eat plants and fruits."
- 23) "I build my nest high in trees."
- 24) "We cuckoos humans have been fascinated by for centuries, our calls mark the start of spring in many cultures."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 25) The call of a cuckoo bird signifies the arrival of spring in many cultures.
- 26) It's interesting to know that the calls of cuckoos mark the arrival of spring in many cultures.
- 27) When cuckoo birds hatch, they push other eggs out of the nest.
- 28) Cuckoo birds are really bold to lay their eggs in other bird's nest.
- 29) Cuckoo birds can have feathers that are gray, brown, or green.
- 30) The call of a cuckoo bird is the most beautiful sound in nature.
- 31) Some birds can recognize and reject cuckoo birds' eggs.
- 32) Cuckoo birds do not build their own nests, they use the nests of other birds.
- 33) Cuckoo birds are really beautiful with their long tails and pointed wings.
- 34) Cuckoos are very clever for making other birds look after their chicks.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 35) Cuckoo birds do not build nests.
- 36) In many cultures the call of the cuckoo marks the arrival of winter.
- 37) Cuckoo birds will eat other bird's eggs.
- 38) Cuckoo birds are vegetarian and only eat plants.
- 39) When a cuckoo bird hatches, it pushes the other eggs out of the nest.
- 40) Cuckoo birds build their nests using twigs from the oak tree.
- 41) When cuckoos hatch, they help take care of the other eggs in the nest.
- 42) Cuckoo birds often raise other bird's chicks.
- 43) Some birds unknowingly become foster parents to cuckoo chicks.



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| 1. <u> D </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> | 51. <u> interrogative </u> |
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| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> true </u> | |
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| 22. <u> false </u> | 47. <u> D </u> | |
| 23. <u> false </u> | 48. <u> A </u> | |
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