

Interesting facts about birds (Some fact about the hoopoe)

1. How many species are there of hoopoes?

There are three species of hoopoes that are found in distinct parts of the world. These include the African hoopoe, the Eurasian hoopoe, and the Madagascar hoopoe.

The African hoopoe: The average size of the African hoopoe varies from 25 to 29 cm, and weight varies from 38 to 67 g. The wingspan varies from 44 to 48 cm. Their crest is chestnut-colored. Coloration varies between males and females; males are chestnut, while the females are grey. In both males and females, there are black and white stripes on the wing. They have a long, narrow, and somewhat down-curved bill. They are found in countries such as South Africa, [Namibia](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Zambia](#), [Malawi](#), [Tanzania](#), [Lesotho](#), Mozambique, Eswatini, Angola, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Eurasian hoopoe: The average size varies from 25 to 32 cm, and the weight varies from 46 to 89 gm. They have a wingspan of 44 to 48 cm. These are cinnamon-colored birds that have black and white wings with a tall crest. They have long and tapering bills. They are mainly found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. There are eight subspecies of Eurasian hoopoe.

The Madagascar hoopoe: These have a size of about 32 cm, and weight varies from 57 to 91 g. They have brown-cinnamon-colored plumage. They have a long and decurved bill. These are found exclusively in Madagascar.

2. Do you know what's unique about hoopoes?

The hoopoe has several unique features. These include a crest, defensive secretion, butterfly-like flight, and a fan-like crown, as well as their nest. They have a crown, which consists of a crest of feathers. The crown can be raised or flattened, indicating the hoopoe's mood. Their long wingspan and flight resemble that of a giant butterfly. They are habitual sunbathers, spreading their wings and tail on the ground. A foul-smelling chemical substance is produced by the female hoopoes' preen glands and applied to feathers and eggs to protect them from predators. They build their nest in tree hollows, cliffs, and walls.

3. Why was it named the hoopoe?

The hoopoe bird's name is obtained from the distinctive oop-ooop-ooop or hoo-hoo-hoo sound it creates.

4. Is the hoopoe bird featured on postage stamps of any country?

Yes, the hoopoe bird is featured on postage stamps of Germany, Estonia, Gibraltar, Sharjah, Hungary, and Guinea-Bissau.

References

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoopoe>.
- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/hoopoe>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_hoopoe
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madagascar_hoopoe