

Interesting facts about birds (some facts about the white-throated needletail bird)

1. What are the characteristics of the white-throated needletail bird?

The white-throated needletail has long and arched wings and a white-colored U-shaped patch on its throat, while the remaining body has a dark, brown-green coloration. The body looks like a cigar with a stubby tail. Their flanks have a distinctive horseshoe-shaped mark. They have small and square-shaped tails with needle-like spines, which is why they are called white-throated needletail birds. They belong to the genus [Hirundapus](#). They are able to fly at speeds of up to 170 km per hour.

2. Where are white-throated needletail birds found?

They are found in [Siberia](#), [Mongolia](#), China, Korea, Japan, and the Himalayan foothills. In the cold season, they relocate to Australia, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, and the Indian subcontinent. They are found in distinct habitats such as forests, grasslands, and savannas.

3. What is the average lifespan of a white-throated needletail bird?

They have an average lifespan of about 5 to 8 years.

4. What are the unique characteristics of the white-throated needletail birds?

The white-throated needletail is one of the quickest birds, and is able to fly at a speed of about 170 km per hour. They live most of their lifespan in the air, and they eat insects, flies, bees, and moths as well as drink water in the air. At the time of migration, they fly from high altitude. They build their nests in tree hollows and cliff cracks.

5. What are the benefits of the white-throated needletail birds to humans?

The white-throated needletail bird plays a crucial role in the maintenance of the ecosystem. They act as pest-controlling agents as they eat various insects in the air, such as beetles, flies, bees, moths, termites, locusts, and grasshoppers. Their appearance is the signal of a healthy and balanced environment.

References

- [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-throated_needletail**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-throated_needletail)
- [**https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Hirundapus-caudacutus**](https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Hirundapus-caudacutus)
- [**https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/species/whtnee/cur/introduction**](https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/species/whtnee/cur/introduction)