

## 4 . Extreme Abilities

### What Makes a bird A Bird?

Birds were able to become flying machines largely through the evolutionary gifts of feathers, powerful wings, hollow bones, warm blood, a remarkable respiratory system, and a large, strong heart. Falcons have excellent eyesight and can see their prey up to 1 mile away. The birds dive, or stoop, at more than 185 mph and catch their prey by surprise, catching it in midair, so the speed kills the prey instantly. Unlike owls, falcons hunt during the day. The largest mammal might be hidden away under the sea, and the largest snake might keep it to itself, but you can not miss an ostrich wandering over the African Savanna. It can't miss you either because its eyes are five times bigger than yours, the largest of any vertebrate. There is a bird that can sleep for 100 days, and another that can fly without stopping for a minimum of four years.



← European Bee Eaters, especially, catch insects in flight, in sorties from an open perch. Before eating a bee, the European bee-eater removes the sting by repeatedly hitting the insect on a hard surface. It can eat around 250 bees a day.



1961-Health Stamps  
New Zealand Falcon  
Imper Pair, mounted on board.

**Health stamps** are a long-running series of charity stamp issued by New Zealand which include a premium for charitable causes in addition to the charge for postal service. Health stamps were issued annually from 1929 to 2016.



1961- Health Stamps New Zealand Falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) MS



2000-Definitive - European Bee Eater - Multiple Errors, Marginal Block of 20