



Why Don't Birds Comb Their Hair?

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Why don't Bulbuls comb their hair?
It looks like a little wave.




If I had a Bulbul's hair,
I would wear clips.



Why don't Hoopoes comb their hair?
It looks like a frilly fan.



If I had a Hoopoe's hair,
I would push it back with a band.

An illustration of a Spoonbill bird and a young girl with braided hair standing on a branch against a blue background. The bird is on the left, facing right, with its long, thin, white plumes fanned out like a paintbrush. The girl is on the right, facing left, wearing a yellow shirt, white shorts, and sandals. She has her hair braided and is looking at the bird. The background is a solid blue color with some green leaves scattered around.

Why don't Spoonbills comb their hair?
It looks like an old paintbrush.

If I had a Spoonbill's hair,
I would plait it all together.

Why don't Monals comb their hair?
It looks like a tiny broom.



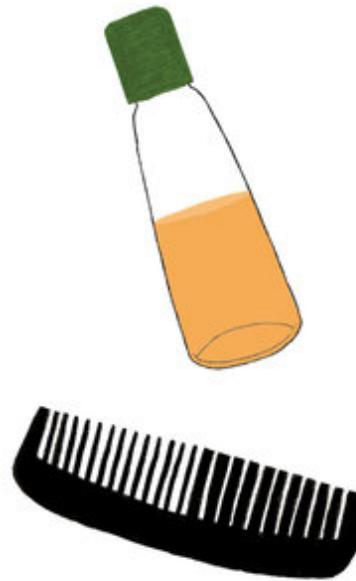
If I had a Monal's hair,
I would tie it up with ribbons.

Why don't Fish-Owls comb their hair?
It looks like two furry worms.



If I had a Fish-Owl's hair,
I would make two ponytails.

Why don't Drongos comb their hair?
It looks like a messy mop.



If I had a Drongo's hair,
I would rub oil and brush it down.



Why don't Hornbills have hair to comb?
They look like they are wearing helmets.



If I had a Hornbill's helmet,
I would ride around all day.

Why don't Vultures have any hair?
They look so bald.



If I had a Vulture's head,
I would never have to comb my hair!

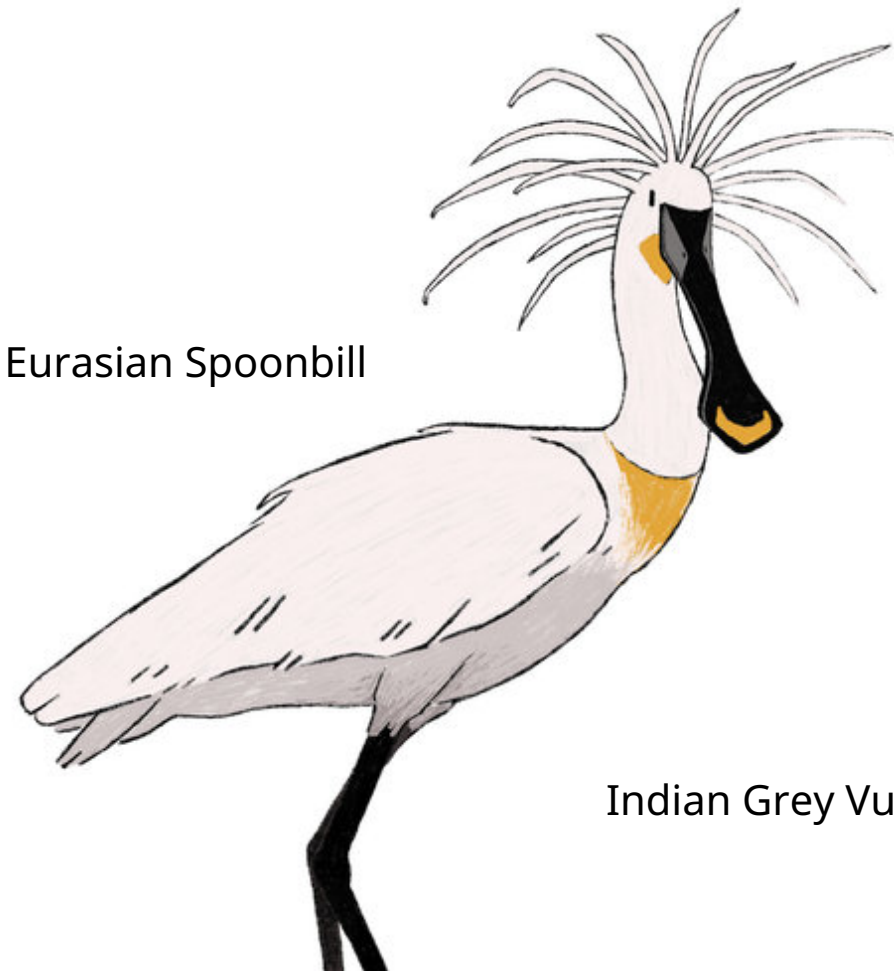
Meet The Birds That Have Funny Hair



Himalayan Monal



Common Hoopoe

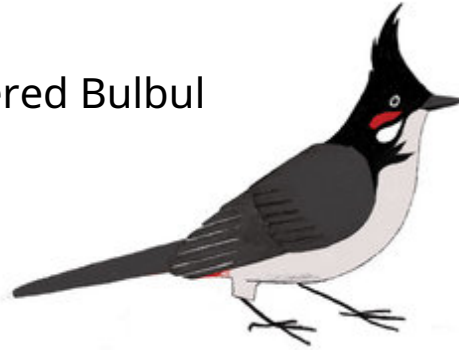


Eurasian Spoonbill



Indian Grey Vulture

Red-whiskered Bulbul



Great Indian Hornbill



Brown Fish Owl



Racket-tailed Drongo

Do birds really have hair?



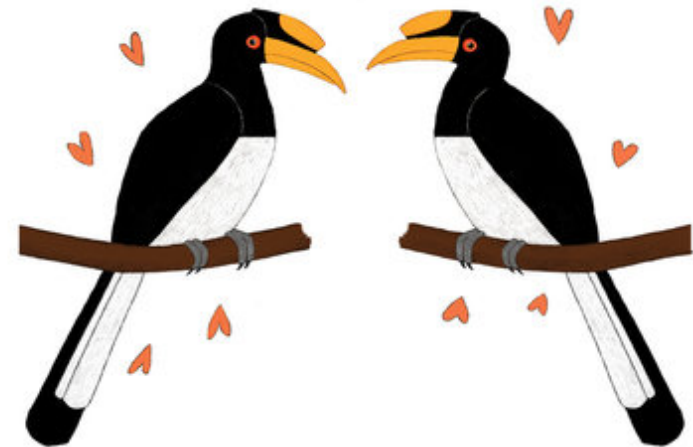
Some birds *look* like they have hair on their heads. But their hair is not like ours. Instead, each hair is just a very thin feather. A group of such feathers is called a **crest**.

Crests are useful in many ways. They make birds look attractive. Some birds can open and fold their crests to send signals to other birds. Some open their crests when they want to frighten away other birds and animals.



The furry worms on the owl's head are called ear-tufts. They are not really ears, just bits of skin covered with feathers. These help owls hide more easily, making them look like they are part of a tree. The ear-tufts also help them look attractive (to other owls) or scary (to other birds and animals).

The hornbill's helmet is called a casque (rhymes with mask). Like ear-tufts and crests, casques make hornbills look good. This helps them find mates. A hornbill's casque also makes its beak stronger. With a strong beak, hornbills can pick and eat fruits more easily.





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Why Don't Birds Comb Their Hair?

(English)

Some birds have hair that sticks out in funny ways. What would you do if you had hair like that? Read this book to meet some fascinating birds.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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