

Domain **Eucarya**

Kingdom **Animalia**

Phylum **Chordata**

Subphylum **Vertebrata**

Class **Aves**

Subclass **Sauriurae**

extinct, includes *Archaeopteryx lithographica* and the Enantiornithines

Subclass **Ornithurae**

extant birds: 29 orders, 187 families, 2050 genera, 9648 species. Extinct forms include Hesperornithiforms and Ichthyornithiforms

Superorder **Palaeognathae**

the ratites and tinamous. These orders share unique bones of the palate. The ratites (Dinornithiformes, Struthioniformes, Rheiformes, Casuariiformes) are all flightless, and lack a carina (keel) on the sternum. Tinamous (Tinamiformes) are weak flyers, and have a small carina.

Superorder **Neognathae**

all the other remaining extant orders are in this group

Of the 2050 genera, about 42% (~861) have only 1 species (Science. 2004. 303:643)