

# The King of the Birds

Adapted by Dr. Mike Lockett  
Copyright 2009

A long time ago all of the birds were gathered together for a big meeting. There were birds of all sizes. There were tiny birds, small birds, medium sized birds, larger birds and huge birds. There were birds that ate seeds, birds that ate insects and worms, birds that ate small animals, birds that ate fish, and birds that ate other things too. There were warm weather birds and cold weather birds. There were birds that lived in the same place all year long and birds that traveled when the season changed. All of the birds had wings. Most of them could fly, but a few stayed on or close to the ground.

The birds were noisy! Some cackled. Some chirped. Some peeped. Some crowed. Some screamed. Some hissed. Some gobbled. Some warbled. They all made their noises at the same time. Everyone wanted to talk, and no one wanted to listen until, "ROAR!"

The roaring of the Lion quieted them all. The Lion was the king of the beasts. He ruled over all the animals that lived on the ground. It had become quite clear to him that there was no way for him to also rule over the skies. This is why he called them to this big meeting. The birds needed to select their own king. The very idea is what caused all of the birds to talk at the same time.

"You must find a way to select who will be king," said the Lion. "Perhaps a contest of some kind?" he suggested.

The Nightingale said, "We could hold a contest to see who sings the most beautifully. But, after I sing my first note, everyone will want me to be king, so the contest would not be fair. I would lose all my friends."

# 鳥中之王

很久以前的某一天，所有的鳥兒們聚在一起開個很重要的會議。這些鳥兒們有不同的體型。有些是迷你鳥、有些是小鳥、中型鳥、大鳥或超大型鳥。有些鳥吃種子、有些鳥吃昆蟲或蚯蚓、有些鳥吃小動物、有些鳥吃魚、有些鳥吃其他的東西。在場的鳥兒有熱帶鳥也有寒帶鳥。有些鳥長年住在同一個地方，有些鳥會在季節變更時旅行。所有的鳥兒都有翅膀。大部分的鳥兒都會飛，只有少部分的鳥待在地面上。

這些鳥兒非常的吵！有些聒聒叫。有些啾啾叫。有些吱吱叫。有些咕咕叫。有些尖叫。有些嘶嘶叫。有些咯咯叫、有些鳴叫。牠們都同時發生聲音。每隻鳥都想發表意見，但是沒有鳥想要聽別隻鳥的意見。突然牠們聽到一聲巨大的“吼！”

獅子的吼叫聲讓所有的鳥都安靜下來。獅子為萬獸之王，牠統治所有住在陸地上的動物。牠也很清楚牠不可能同時統治在天上飛的動物。這就是為什麼牠請所有的鳥來參加會議的原因。鳥兒們需要選一位牠們自己的國王。這個想法讓所有的鳥都同時想要發表自己的意見。

「你們必須找出選國王的方法，」獅子說：「也許我們可以有個比賽？」

夜鶯說：「我們可以來比賽看誰歌唱得最好聽。但是如果我一開口唱，大家都會要我當國王，那這個比賽就不公平，我也會因此失去所有的朋友。」

Falcon sat quiet. He would like to be king of the birds. He knew if there was a contest to see who could fly the highest that he would win and become king. But he did not say this to the whole group. He also wished to keep his friends. Falcon turned to a tiny bird that sat next to him and whispered, "The Creator gave us all wings. Perhaps our king should be the bird that can fly the highest. Our king should be able to easily fly over everyone to watch over the kingdom."

Little Bird flew to the center of the gathering. Falcon was delighted when Little Bird said, "Fellow birds, the Creator gave us all wings! Our king should be a bird that can fly over us all to watch over us. Our king should be the bird that can go the highest in the sky."

Even the birds that could not fly agreed, "Our king should be the bird that can go highest in the sky." But none of the birds saw Little Bird leave the center of the gathering and fly back to where the Falcon perched on a branch. Nor did they see him climb onto the Falcon's back.

The Falcon was so excited dreaming about becoming the king that he did not feel the weight of the tiny bird, who was lighter than a sparrow, as Little Bird grabbed tightly to the Falcon's feathers.

Birds began to fly towards the sky. Falcon flew above the canopy of the trees. He circled to let the other birds catch up. Each time the birds caught Falcon, he climbed higher. He went higher and higher until at last no other bird could climb as high in the sky. He thrilled as he heard the birds below him begin to say, "Falcon should be our king. Falcon went the highest!"

All the birds began to fly back towards the earth. Falcon was the last to leave the sky to perch on his branch once more. Just as he landed, the birds saw Little Bird let go of the feathers on Falcon's back and fly up into the air. Little Bird landed in the center of the gathering and sat quietly. Little Bird did not say a word. He just smiled.

獵鷹安靜的坐著。牠想要當鳥中之王。牠知道如果有個比賽看誰飛得最高，牠一定會贏得這個比賽並成為國王。但是牠沒有把這個想法告訴大家。牠同時也想要保有牠的朋友。於是獵鷹轉向坐在牠旁邊的小鳥低聲的說：「造物者賜給我們翅膀。也許我們的國王應該是能夠飛得最高的鳥。我們的國王應該是能夠輕易的超越大家在空中飛翔，並且在上面守護著我們的王國。」

小鳥飛到會議的中央。獵鷹很高興聽到小鳥說：「造物者賜給我們翅膀！我們的國王應該是能夠輕易的超越大家在空中飛翔，並且在上面守護著我們。我們的國王應該是能夠位居於空中的最高點。」

即使是不能飛的鳥也附和這個提議：「我們的國王應該是能夠位居於空中的最高點。」但是沒有任何一隻鳥注意到小鳥離開會議的中央，飛回獵鷹棲息的樹枝上。牠們也沒有看到小鳥爬到獵鷹的背上。

在小鳥緊緊抓住獵鷹的羽毛同時，獵鷹太興奮的夢想著成為國王，而沒有感覺到比麻雀還要輕的小鳥。

鳥兒們開始在空中飛翔。獵鷹飛過樹叢的頂端。牠在空中繞圈圈讓其他的鳥跟上。每次只要有鳥跟上獵鷹，獵鷹就飛得更高。牠越飛越高直到沒有任何一直鳥可以飛得一樣高。當牠聽到在牠下面的鳥兒開始說「獵鷹應該成為我們的國王。獵鷹飛得最高！」的時候，牠變得很興奮。

所有的鳥開始往地上飛。獵鷹是最後一個飛離天空，往牠棲息的樹枝上飛去。當牠抵達時，鳥兒們看到小鳥放開獵鷹的翅膀往空中飛去，小鳥停在會議的中央安靜的坐著。小鳥一句話也沒有說，只是微笑的坐著。

Then one bird said, "Falcon flew the highest. He should be our king."

But another bird reminded everyone, "The contest was not to see who flew the highest, but the see who could go the highest in the sky. Little Bird went the highest, and he did not even have to fly. He used his brains and let Falcon do the flying. Little Bird was on Falcon's back. So he went higher than Falcon."

Even Falcon had to admit that clever Little Bird did go the highest.

This is how Little Bird, became king of all the birds.

然後一隻鳥開口說：「獵鷹飛得最高，牠應該成為我們的國王。」

但是另外一隻鳥提醒大家：「這個比賽不是在比誰能飛得最高，而是看誰能夠位居於空中的最高點。小鳥是位居於空中的最高點的鳥，牠甚至不需要飛。牠用牠的智慧利用獵鷹來飛。小鳥在獵鷹的背上，所以牠比獵鷹還高。」

即使是獵鷹也必須承認聰明的小鳥是位居於空中的最高點。

小鳥因此成為鳥中之王。