

据最新估计，世界上至少有 500 亿只野生鸟类。

Counting the number of wild birds in the world is no easy **task**. Scientists turned to a database, known as eBird, where **birdwatchers** record sightings of everything from **woodpeckers** to **herons**, to **ospreys**.

统计世界野生鸟类的总数并非易事。科学家们求助于一个名为“eBird”的数据库，观鸟者在数据库记录下观察到的啄木鸟、鹭、鸮等鸟类的信息。

The researchers **came up with** an estimate of 50 billion individual wild birds currently living on the planet. That's about six birds for every human being.

研究人员们估计，目前生活在地球上的野生鸟类有 500 亿只，相当于地球人口的六倍左右。

The house sparrow tops the charts, followed closely by the European **starling**, the ring-billed **gull**, and the barn **swallow**.

其中，家麻雀数量位居榜首，紧随其后的是欧椋鸟、环嘴鸥和家燕。

1. 词汇表

task	差事, 任务
birdwatchers	观鸟者
woodpeckers	啄木鸟
herons	鹭
ospreys	鸢, 鱼鹰
came up with	得出了
starling	椋鸟
gull	海鸥
swallow	燕子

2. 阅读理解: 请在读完上文后, 回答下列问题。(答案见下页)

1. Who are the people that record sightings of birds in the eBird database?
2. True or false? *The study includes all birds on the planet.*
3. How many wild birds are there for each human?
4. Which wild bird is the most common, according to the study?

3. 答案

1. Who are the people that record sightings of birds in the eBird database?
Birdwatchers record sightings in the database.

2. True or false? *The study includes all birds on the planet.*
False. It only includes wild birds, and not those in captivity.

3. How many wild birds are there for each human?
There are around six wild birds for every human.

4. Which wild bird is the most common, according to the study?
The house sparrow tops the charts.