



Collective Animal Names



Parade of Elephants



Herd of Sheep



Conspiracy of Lemurs



Pack of Wolves



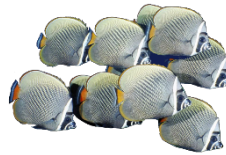
Parliament of Owls



Murder of Crows



Army of Frogs



School of Fish



Risk of Lobsters



Business of Flies

From social butterflies to solitary scavengers, virtually all animals gather into groups at some point in their lives, the main reason being **herd immunity**, as groups of prey are harder to attack. Another reason, though, is the sharing of **collective wisdom** to make better decisions*. Anyway, whatever the reason that brings them together, something odd usually happens when individuals gather up: their groups go under bizarre, **whimsical names**. These group nouns are rarely used by scientists, but they provide an interesting insight into our relationships to other fellow animals. Some groups are even attached a different name depending on whether they're moving or not: for example, when a **flock of geese** is not in flight, it is called a '**gaggle**'. Generally speaking, however, **birds** gather in **flocks**, **fish** in **schools**, **insects** in **swarms** and mammals in **herds (herbivores)** or **packs (carnivores)**.

* See the Topic of the Month, devoted to animal intelligence