**Nature’s Vision**

**What animals see . . . or don’t: Vultures – spot dying animals a mile away; Black Rhinos – can see 25 yards; Peregrine falcons – spot pigeons 5 miles away;’ Giraffes – see humans a mile away; Swallows – see insects too tiny for human eyes. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Peaceful grazing animals have their eyes set on the sides of the head to give them 180-degree vision as protection against predators. Predators, on the other hand, have eyes set in front, the better to hunt and to give depth perception for killing*. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 117)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Some ants have eyes, some don’t. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**At birth barnacles look like waterfleas. In the next stage of their development they have three eyes and twelve legs. In their third stage they have twenty-four legs and no eyes. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 186)***

**Two vampire bats wake up in the middle of the night, thirsty for blood. One says, “Let’s fly out of the cave and get some blood.” “We’re new here,” says the second one. “It’s dark out, and we don’t know where to look. We’d better wait until the other bats go with us.” The first bat replies, “Who needs them? I can find some blood somewhere.” He flies out of the cave. When he returns, he is covered with blood. “Where did you get the blood?” asks the other bat. The first bat takes his buddy to the mouth of the cave. Pointing into the night, he asks, “See that black building over there?” “Yes,” the other bat answers. “Well,” says the first bat, “I didn’t/” *(Ron Dentinger, in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Chronicle)***

**A beaver dam might be even more a masterpiece of engineering if the beavers could see what they were doing. They build by sound, not sight. Flow of water indicates where each log goes. They work the night shift. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Bees can recognize human faces. A group of scientists trained honeybees with a sugar-water reward; two days later, some of the insects could still pick out a specific photo from a lineup. *(Discover magazine)***

**The only two animals that can see behind themselves without turning their head are the rabbit and parrot. *(Kids’ Pages)***

**Eagles see better than humans on clear days; humans see better than eagles on foggy days. *(Uncle John’s Best Bathroom Reader, p. 104)***

**Memo to bird watchers: The bird sees you eight times better than you see the bird. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Don’t forget, a caterpillar has 12 eyes. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Cats’ eyes have big pupils to take in as much light as possible. They have a reflecting layer inside their eyes which also helps them see in dim light. *(Kim Taylor, in Light, p. 7)***

**To those who raise chickens, the notion of fitting them with eyeglasses – goggles, actually – is not so amusing. In 1903, Andrew Jackson Jr. of Munich, Tennessee, received a patent for chicken spectacles. He was tired of seeing his birds blinded by pecking. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Embedded in the crocodile’s eyes are thousands of tiny crystals that collect all possible light, giving him amazing sight underwater, even at night. *(Gordon Gaskill, in The Living World of Nature, p. 180)***

**A duck has a spare lens in its third eyelid. This eyelid works like a skin diver’s ground goggles. The duck sees through it when under water. In the middle of the third lid is a lens-shaped window, a sort of contact lens, that lets them see underwater. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Are bald eagles good hunters? Their sharp eyesight allows them to spot a rabbit hopping in a meadow two miles away. Scientists say that when bald eagles look at something, they see it about eight to ten times better than most people do*. (Jessica Mueller, in Frontier magazine)***

**A falcon sees less with both eyes focused together than with either eye focused alone. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The Anableps fish has four eyes: two to see underwater, two to see above the surface. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 10)***

**It’s said fish see the various colors of red far better than other critters do. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Your pet’s veterinarian breaks the news that sends shivers up the spine of everyone who owns a fly: It needs glasses. How many lenses will be required? A fly’s compound eye has 4000 different facets. *(Parade magazine)***

**A goose can’t look straight forward without turning its head. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A honeybee has five eyes. Two of the eyes have a large number of lenses. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 84)**

**Insect eyes, like the horsefly’s, are made up of many tiny eyes clustered together like a honeycomb. Each lens sees a different part of the scene, so the insect can see in many directions at once.  *(Kim Taylor, in Light, p. 6)***

**Horses have the largest eyes of any land mammal. Their field of vision is more than 350 degrees. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 166)***

**You can’t stand out of sight behind a mallard duck. There is no out of sight. It sees in 360 degrees. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Moles can hardly see anything at all. They do not need to see well because they spend almost all their time in darkness under the ground.  *(Kim Taylor, in Light, p. 6)***

**You can’t tell a male pigeon from a female pigeon just by looking at it. But a pigeon can. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Double vision: A rabbit’s eyes are positioned so that it can see objects in front of it and behind it at the same time. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 92)***

**If you have a predilection for beautiful blue eyes, then you’ll like the scallop. The scallop’s eyes are a deep, bright blue, all 35 of them.**  
***(Valmarie Carson, in Tidbits of Tri-County)***

**Arboreal snakes have better eyesight than burrowing snakes. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 151)***

**The rarely seen spookfish dwells in dark ocean depths, where bioluminescent flashes from other creatures can be the only light. When scientists this past year caught a live spookfish for the first time in the South Pacific, they found its two elaborate eyes are positioned to capture light from both above and below. Stranger still, reflective crystals focus light onto the retina – making the spookfish the only vertebrate whose vision is based on mirrors. *(Abigail Tucker, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The 2.5-ton, fifty-five-foot-long giant squid has the largest eyes of any animal on earth, each being more than a foot in diameter. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 46)***

**Starfish have anywhere from three to 50 arms – and one eye at the end of each arm. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 10)***

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