

Usborne Nature Cards



Birds



Blue cap on head

Black eye-stripe

Blue wings

Yellow front

Blue tail

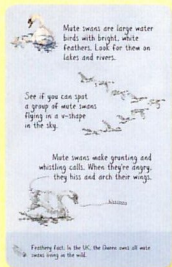
Usborne Nature Cards



Birds

These colourful, fact-filled cards show 30 common birds to spot and identify.

Charming pictures on the front of the cards make it easy to recognize each bird.



On the back, there are bird facts and detailed sketches.

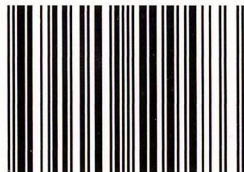
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Blue tit

Bright blue
cap on head

Black eye-stripe

Blue wings
and tail

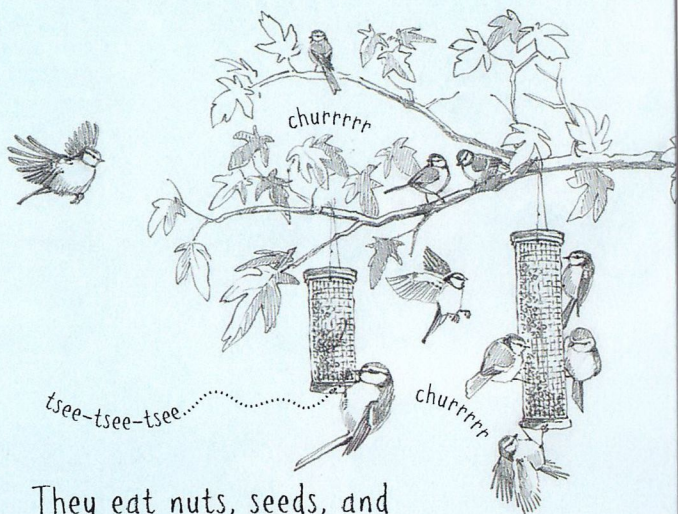
Yellow
front






Blue tits often live in noisy flocks. Listen for their 'tsee-tsee-tsee' and 'churrrrr' calls.

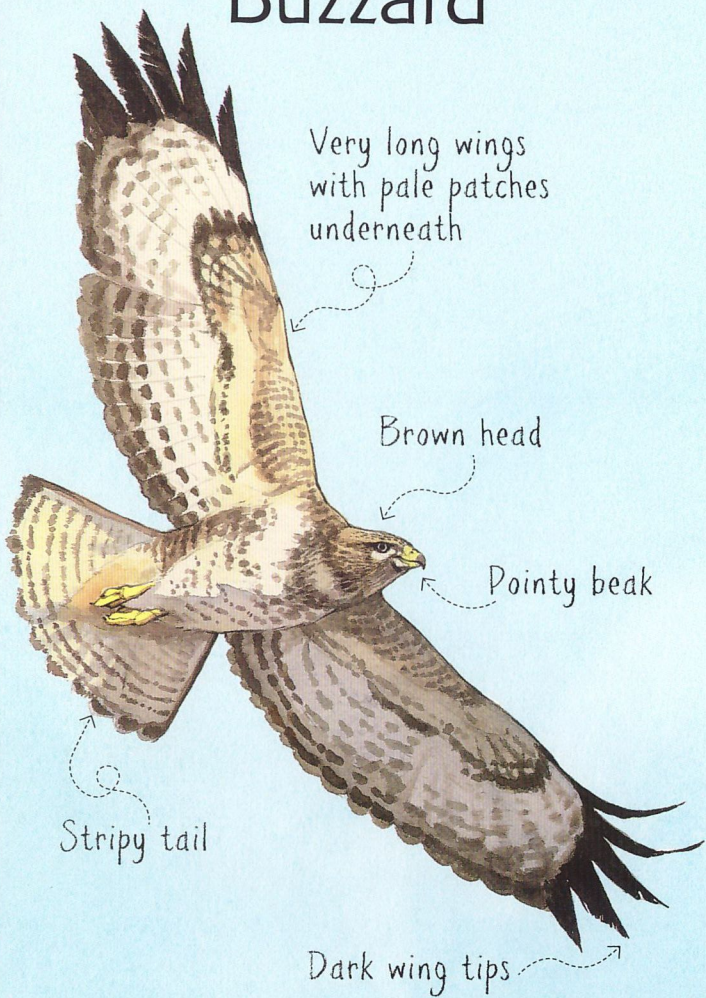
Look for them on bird feeders, or flitting around hedgerows and trees.



They eat nuts, seeds, and small insects.

 Feathery fact: Blue tits can feed their chicks up to 1000 caterpillars a day.

Buzzard



Very long wings
with pale patches
underneath

Brown head

Pointy beak

Stripy tail

Dark wing tips



Buzzards are big birds. You can see them soaring over farmland, hills, moors and woods.

Look out for them perching on tall trees or fence posts.

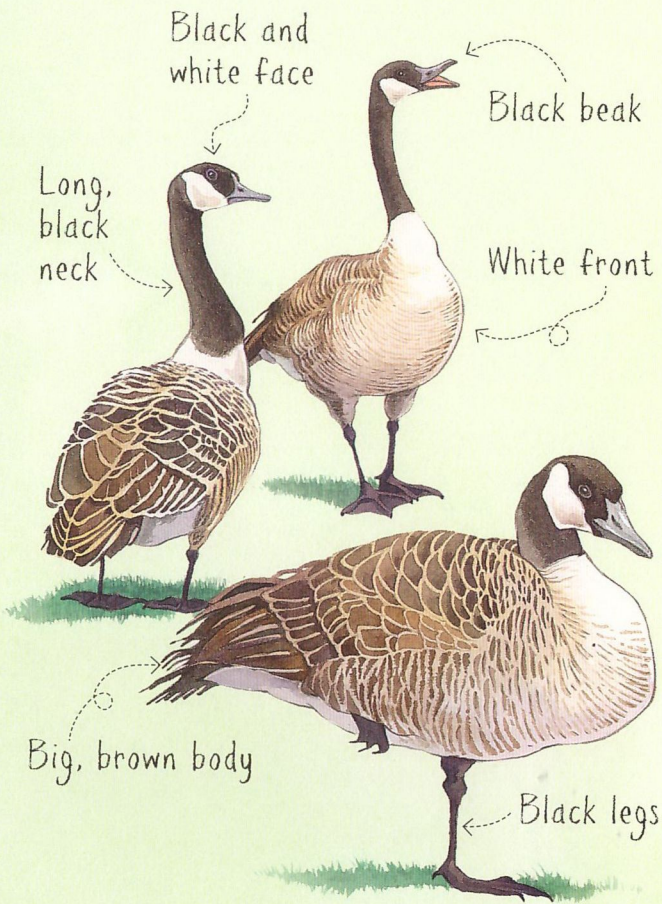
Listen for their crying 'mew' call while they are flying.

They swoop down to the ground to catch rabbits and other small animals.



Feathery fact: To impress a female, the male buzzard flies high up in the air, then spirals down to the ground.

Canada goose

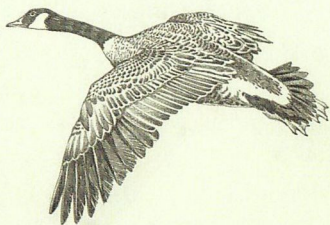




Canada geese are big water birds.

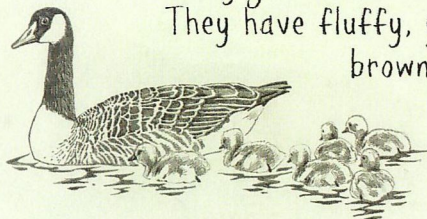
You're likely to see them in flocks on lakes and rivers, or grazing in grassy fields.

honk, honk.....



Listen for their noisy, honking calls, especially while they're flying.

Baby geese are called goslings. They have fluffy, yellow and brown feathers.



Feathery fact: Canada geese haven't always lived in the UK. They were brought here as a present for the king more than 300 years ago.

Chaffinch

Brown head
and body

Female

White stripes
on wings

Blueish-
grey head

Male

Pink front





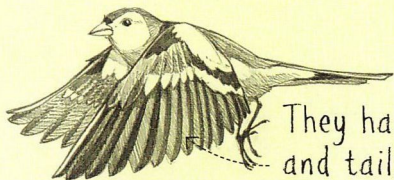
You can see chaffinches in gardens, parks, woods and farmland.

chirichiri-cheeip


Listen for their loud 'pink-pink' and 'chirichiri-cheeip' calls.



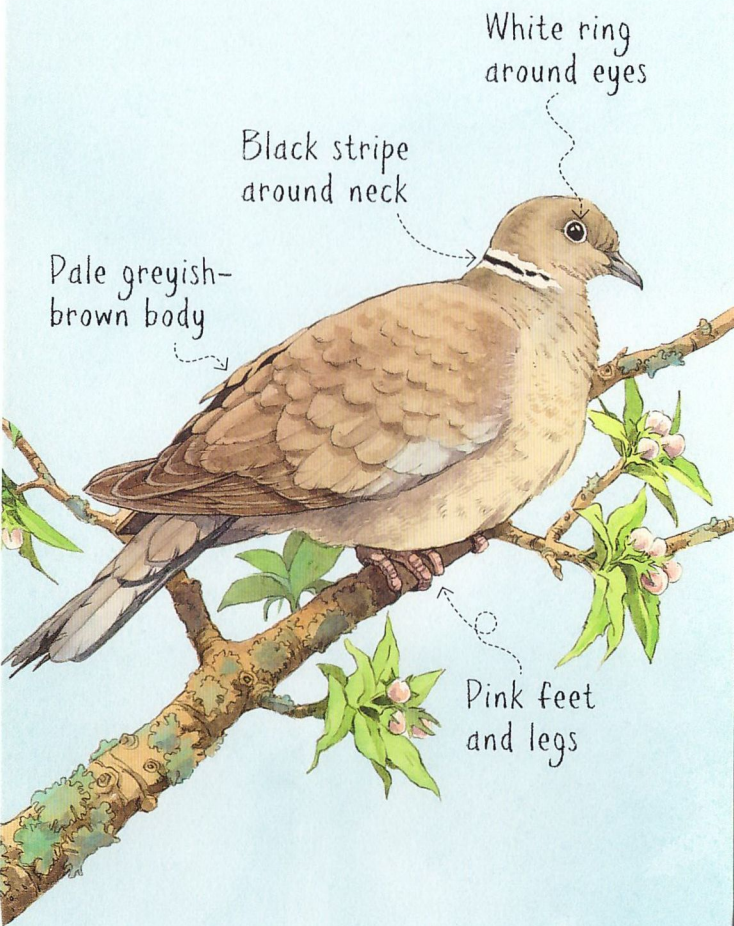
Male chaffinches are easy to spot. Look out for their colourful blue and pink feathers.



They have stripy wings and tails, too.

 Feathery fact: Male and female chaffinches split up during the winter and live in separate flocks.

Collared dove



White ring
around eyes

Black stripe
around neck

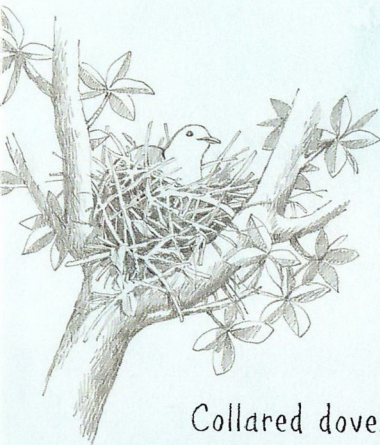
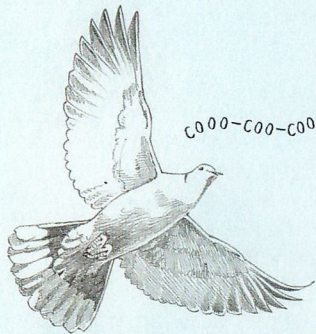
Pale greyish-
brown body

Pink feet
and legs



Look for collared doves walking along the ground in parks and gardens.

You might also see them flapping and gliding in the sky.



Listen for their loud 'cooo-coo-coo' call. They sing it again and again.

Collared doves make messy, loose nests from piled-up twigs.



Feathery fact: Collared doves get their name from the black stripe on their neck that looks like a collar.

Carrion crow

Curved, black beak

Black face

Shiny, black body

Square tail

Long, grey legs



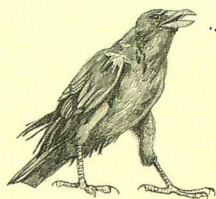


Look out for crows in parks, fields, woods and moors. They are usually on their own or in pairs.

Try to spot them soaring and gliding in the sky. The ends of their wings look like fingers.



Crows eat lots of things. You might see them picking at scraps by the roadside.



.....kraa-kraa

They have a deep, harsh 'kraa-kraa' call.



Feathery fact: Crows are clever birds. They have been seen opening sea shells by dropping them from the sky onto rocks below.

Coot

Glossy, black
body and head

Shiny, white
forehead and beak

Red eye

Short
tail

Big, greenish-grey
legs and feet

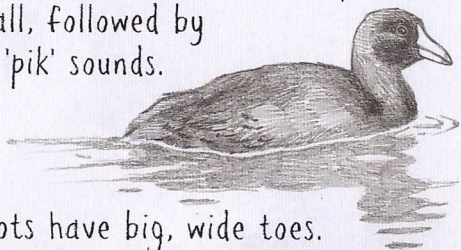




Coots are water birds.
You can see them on
lakes and rivers.

Listen for their loud
'kwok' call, followed by
squeaky 'pik' sounds.

kwok.....
.....pik



Coots have big, wide toes.
This helps them to swim.



Before they take
off, coots run across
the water, splashing their
feet and flapping their wings.

Feathery fact: Male coots often fight each other
using their big feet.



Cuckoo



Grey head

Stripy front

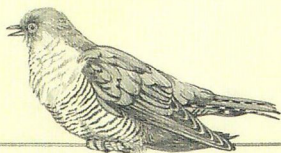
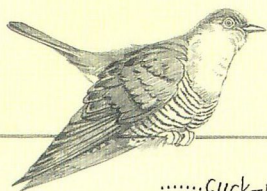
Long tail

Pointy wings



You're more likely to hear a cuckoo than see it. Listen for their familiar 'cuck-coo' call in summer.

They live in woods, moors and boggy places.



.....cuck-coo, cuck-coo.....

Look for cuckoos on telephone wires or flying from tree to tree.

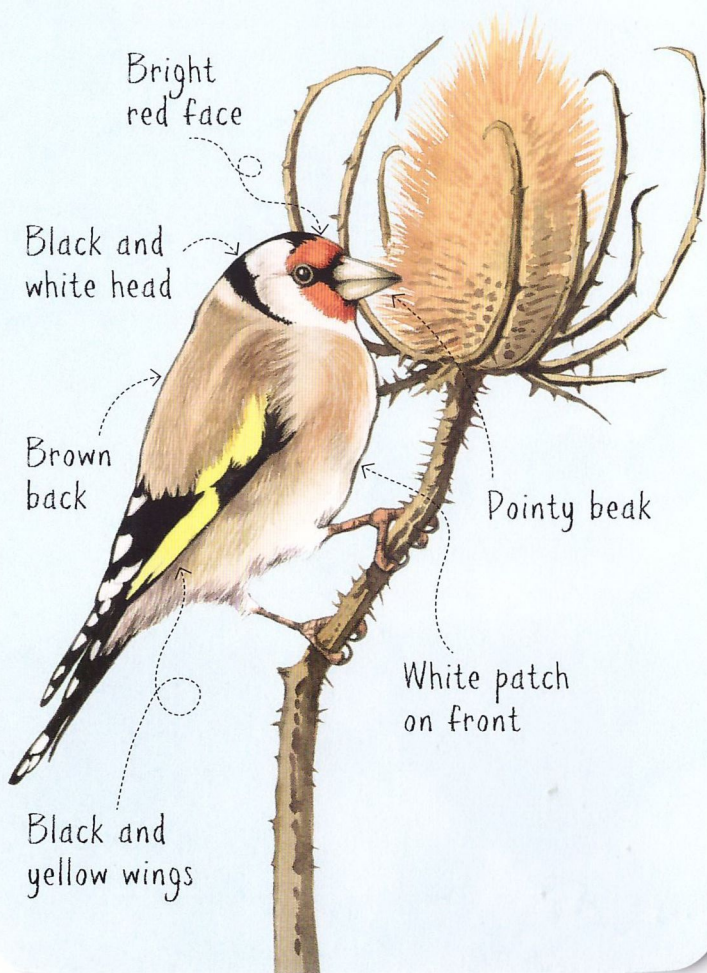


They drop to the ground to feed on insects.



Feathery fact: Cuckoos lay their eggs in other birds' nests and leave other birds to bring up their young.

Goldfinch





Goldfinches are colourful birds. Look out for their bright red and gold feathers.

They have a bouncy, skipping flight.



Listen for their twittering and trilling song.

Goldfinches feed in large flocks. You might see them on garden bird feeders.



Feathery fact: People used to keep goldfinches as pets because they liked their song.

Great tit

Thick black stripe on front

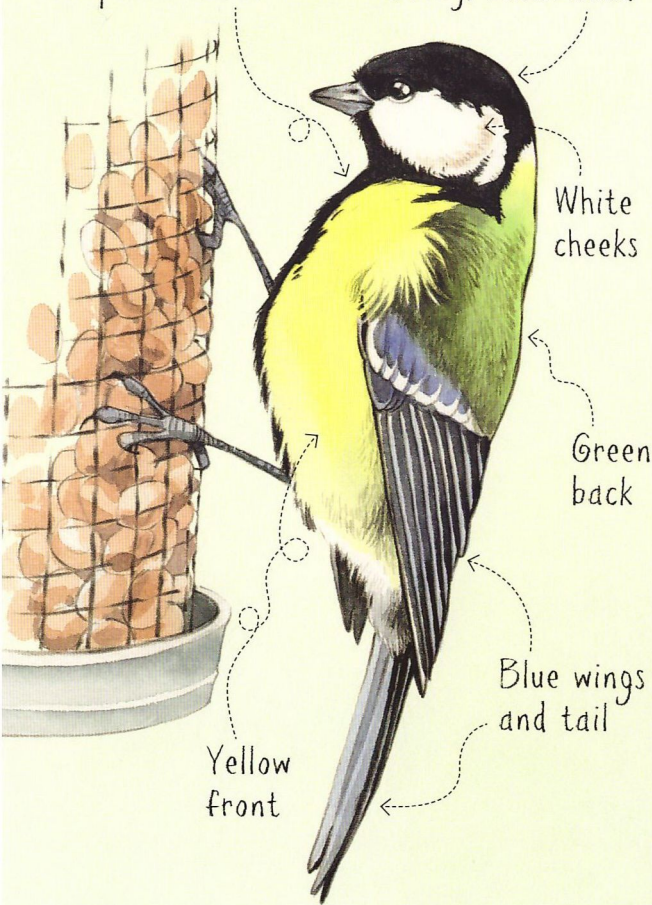
Shiny, black head

White cheeks

Green back

Blue wings and tail

Yellow front

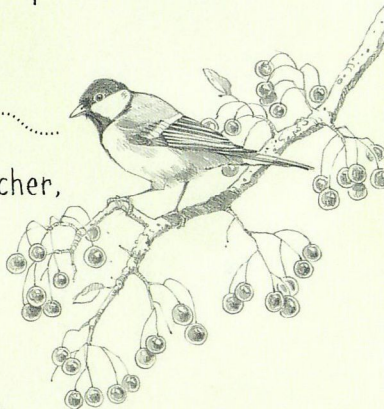




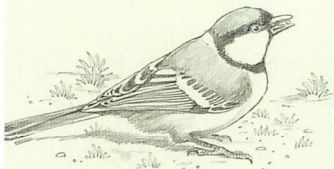
Great tits live in flocks in gardens, parks and woods.

tea-cher, tea-cher.....


They have a 'tea-cher, tea-cher' song.



Look out for great tits budging smaller birds out of the way on bird feeders.



They eat insects, seeds, berries and nuts, often feeding on the ground.

 Feathery fact: A flock of great tits can sing up to 40 different songs.

Great spotted woodpecker





Look for great spotted woodpeckers clinging to tree trunks or branches.



They make nests by digging holes in trees with their beaks.

They catch insects with their long, sticky tongues.

You might see them flying, too. They have a flapping, bouncing flight.



Feathery fact: Great spotted woodpeckers have very strong feet and sharp claws for climbing up trees.

Grey heron



Black stripe
on face

Wispy, black
feathers on
back of head

Sharp,
yellow
beak

Long,
hunched neck

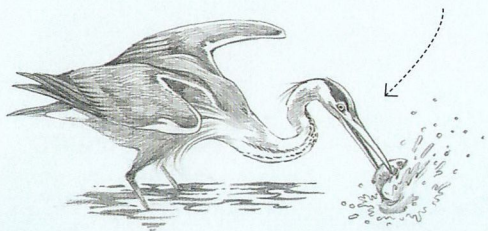
Long,
spindly legs

Shaggy,
pale grey
feathers
on body



You can see herons standing in boggy fields or wading through water.

They catch fish by stabbing them with their sharp beaks.



You might see a heron flying. Look out for its long wings and dangling legs.

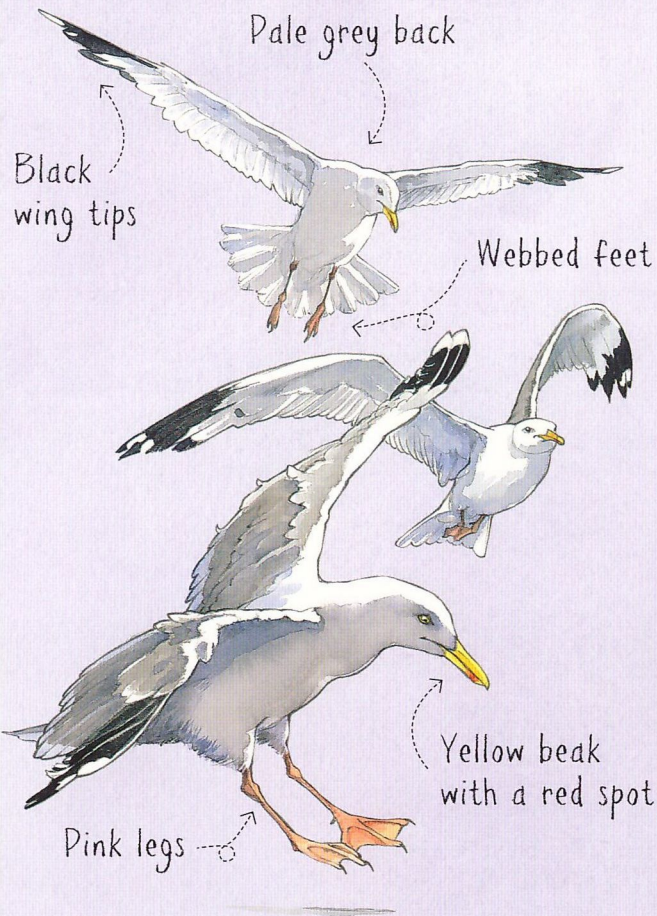


They have a loud, harsh 'fra-ank' call.



Feathery fact: Herons can stand completely still in shallow water for hours, waiting for their prey.

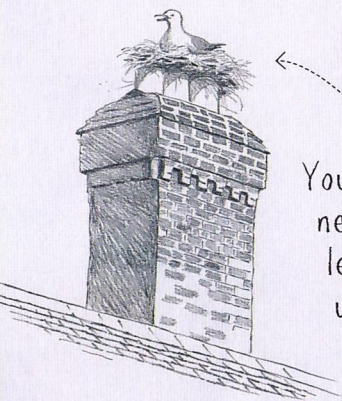
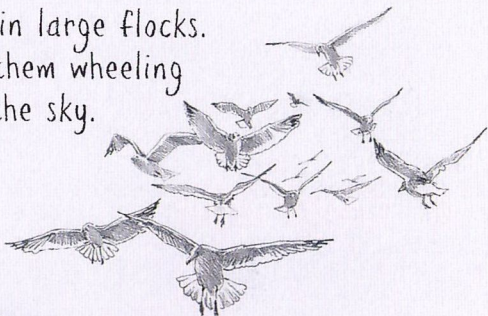
Herring gull





Herring gulls are noisy birds. Listen for them squawking around the seaside, and over lakes and farmland.

They live in large flocks. Look for them wheeling about in the sky.



You can see gulls nesting on cliff ledges, or anywhere up high, like rooftops and chimney pots.



Feathery fact: Herring gulls will eat almost anything - fish, other birds, even food from rubbish dumps.

Jay

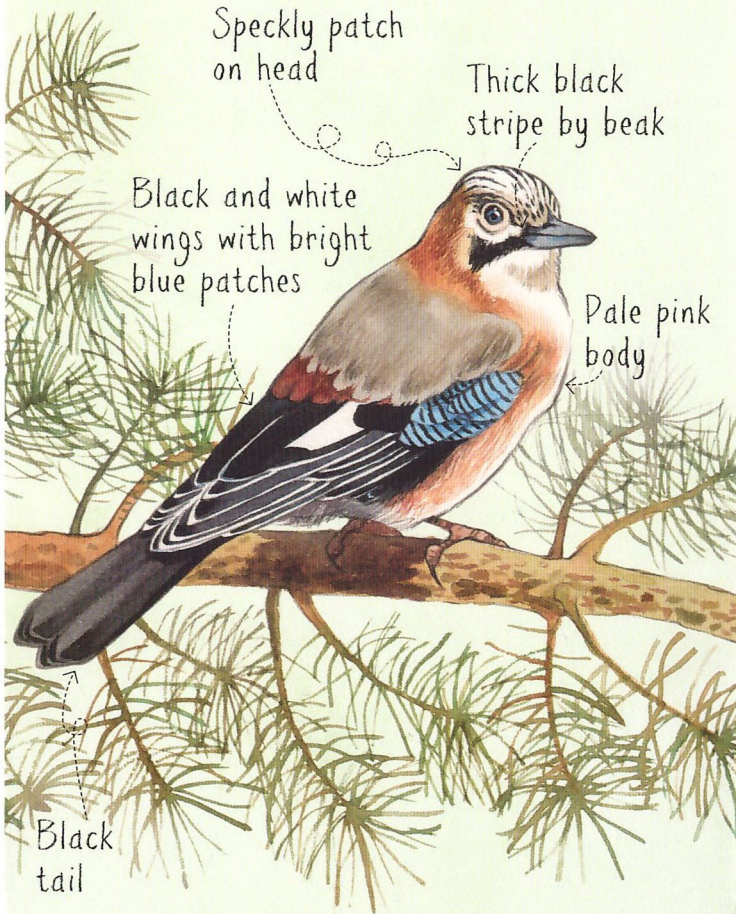
Speckly patch
on head

Thick black
stripe by beak

Black and white
wings with bright
blue patches

Pale pink
body

Black
tail



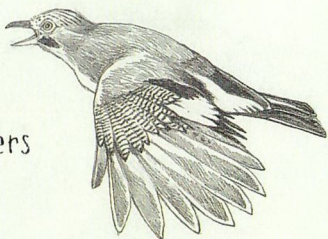


Jays often hide in garden trees and woods, so you're more likely to hear than see them.

Listen for their loud 'skairk' call.

skairk.....

Look out for the bright white feathers on their rumps.



You might spot jays on the ground in autumn, burying nuts to eat in the winter.

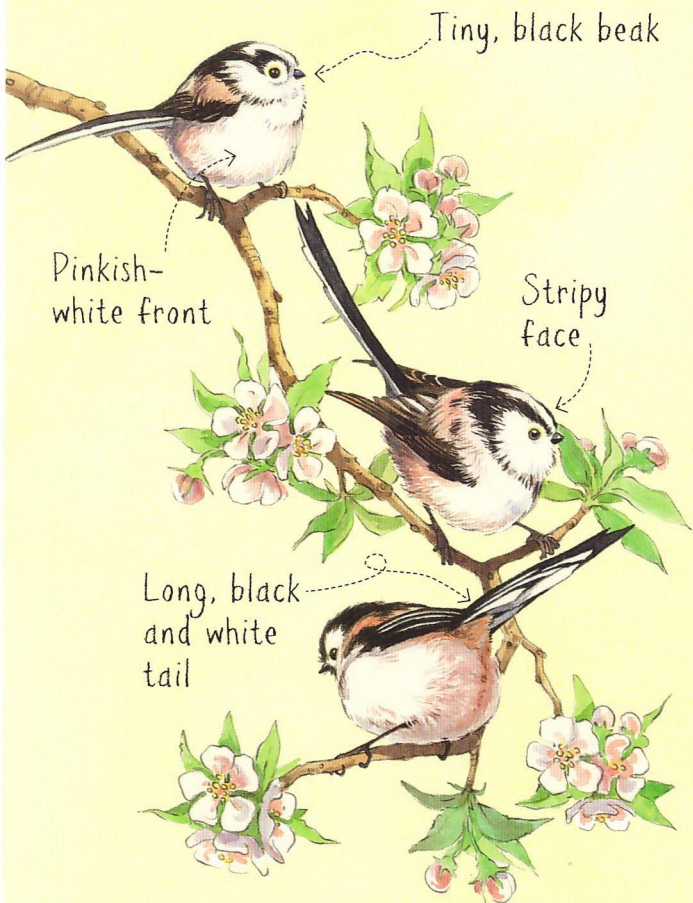


They can carry lots of acorns in a pouch under their throat.



Feathery fact: Jays let ants crawl over their feathers. This is probably because the ants help to clean them.

Long-tailed tit

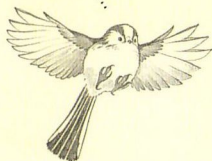




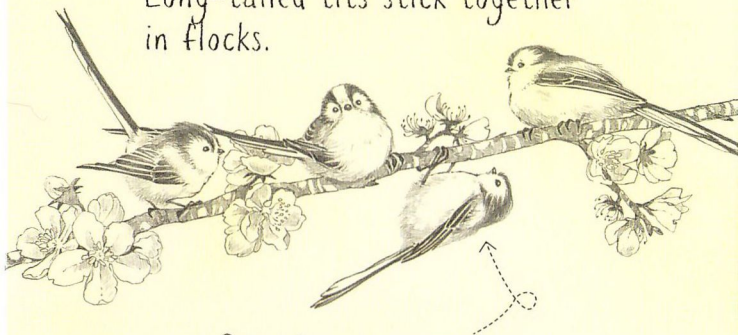
Long-tailed tits are tiny birds with long tails. Try to spot them flitting around trees and hedgerows.

tsee, tsee, tsee.....

Listen for their chattering 'tsee, tsee, tsee' call.



They're rarely on their own. Long-tailed tits stick together in flocks.



See if you can spot one hanging upside-down.



Feathery fact: Long-tailed tits build stretchy nests out of moss and animal hair, bound together with cobwebs.

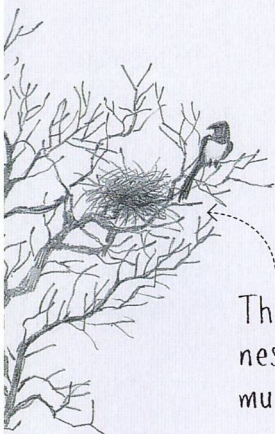
Magpie





Look for magpies by the roadside, and in parks, gardens, farmland and woods.

Magpies are easy to spot while they are flying. They have a long, trailing tail.



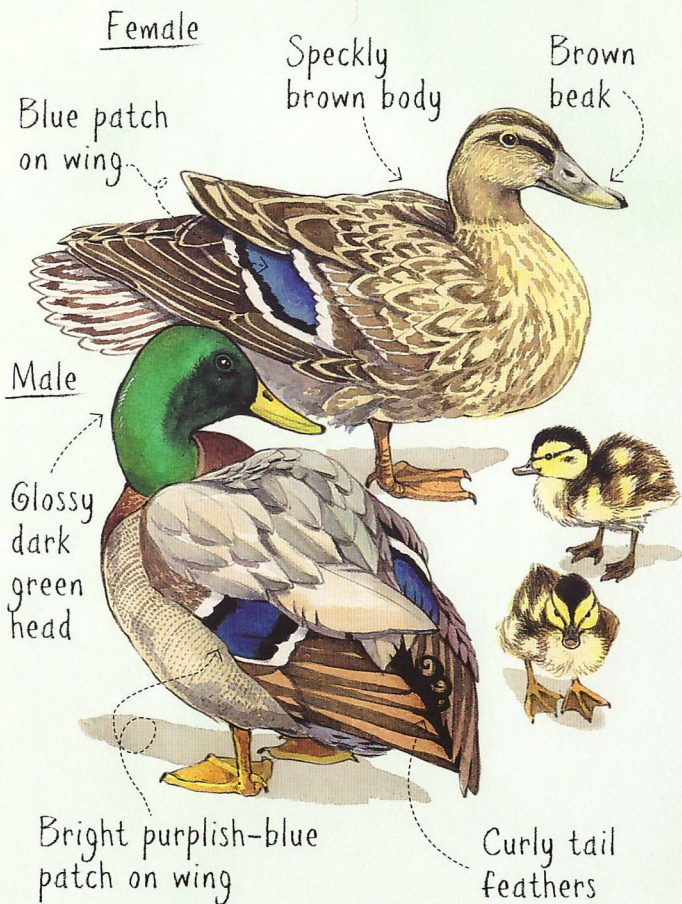
Magpies have a noisy, 'chacker-chacker' call.

They build big, messy nests from twigs and mud high up in trees.



Feathery fact: Magpies often hide food. They can remember their hiding places for months afterwards.

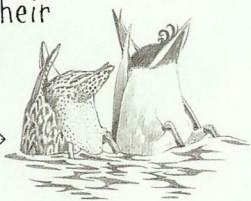
Mallard



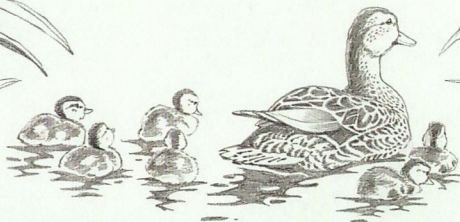


Mallards are a type of duck.
You can find them on rivers,
ponds and lakes.

Look for them dipping their
heads into the water to
reach for food.



This is called dabbling.



Ducklings can go into the
water as soon as they hatch.

Only the females can say 'quack'.
The males make a quiet 'raab' sound.



Feathery fact: In summer, male mallards lose their
colourful feathers and look like the females.

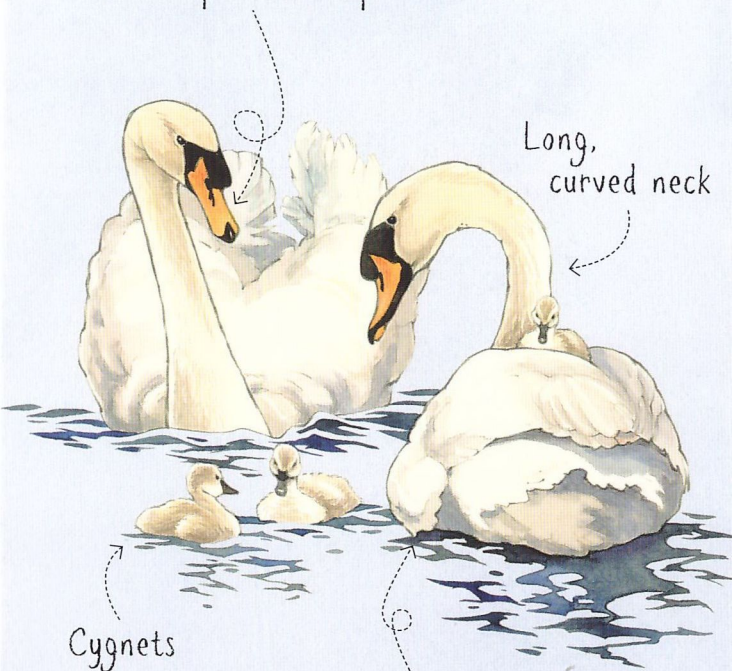
Mute swan

Bright orange beak with
black bump at the top

Long,
curved neck

Cygnets

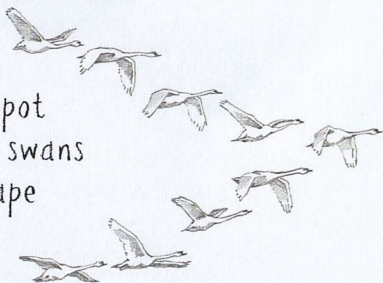
White body





Mute swans are large water birds with bright, white feathers. Look for them on lakes and rivers.

See if you can spot a group of mute swans flying in a v-shape in the sky.

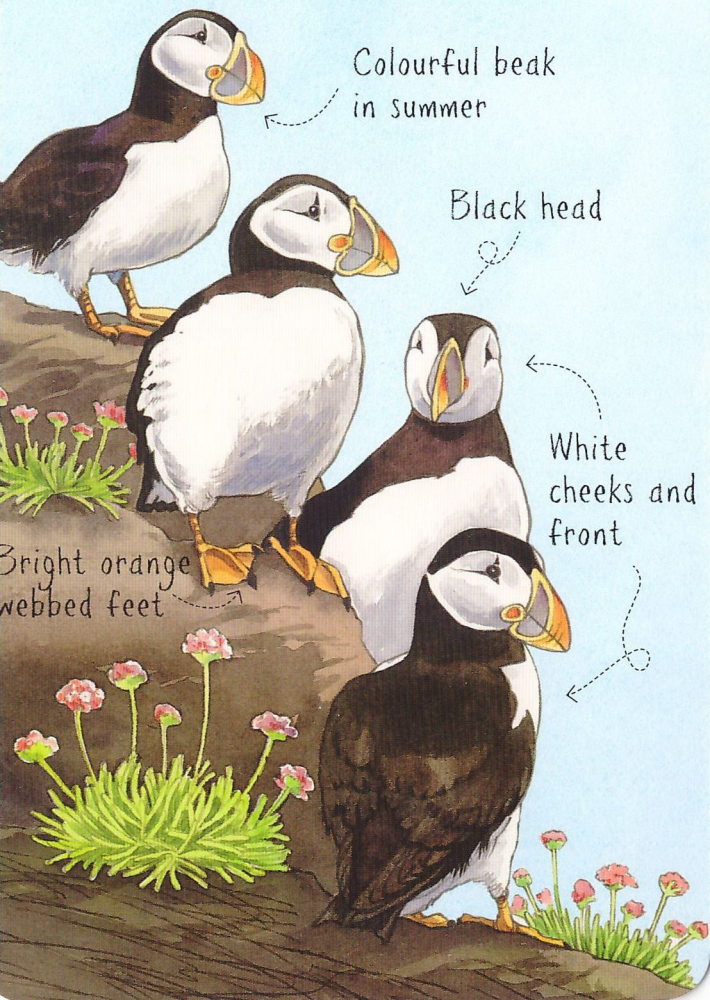


Mute swans make grunting and whistling calls. When they're angry, they hiss and arch their wings.



Feathery fact: In the UK, the Queen owns all mute swans living in the wild.

Puffin



Colourful beak
in summer

Black head

White
cheeks and
front

Bright orange
webbed feet



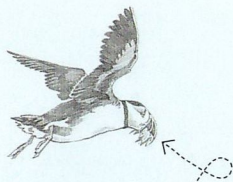
The best time to see puffins is in spring and summer, when they come ashore to nest.

Look for them high up on sea cliffs, where they nest in burrows or in cracks between rocks.

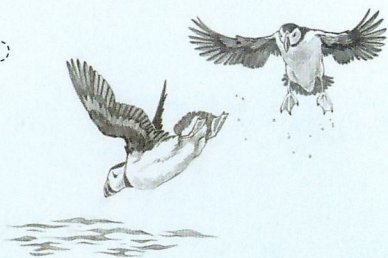
Listen out for their growling, grunting noises.



You might also see them diving for fish at sea.



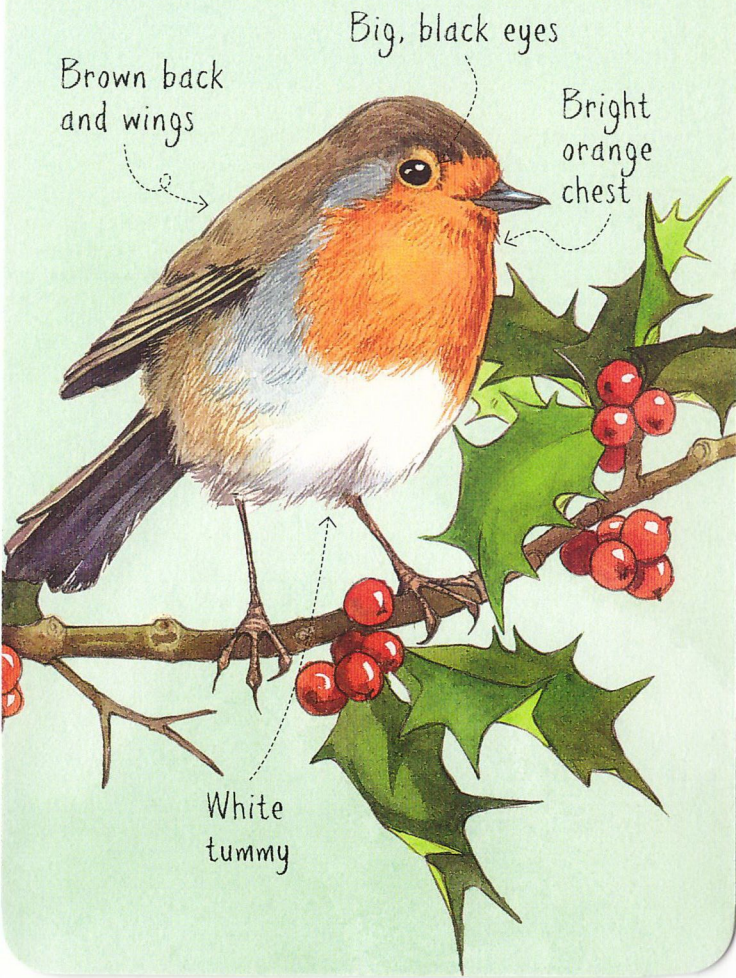
Puffins can carry up to 60 fish in their beaks at once.



Feathery fact: Young puffins are called pufflings.



Robin



Big, black eyes

Brown back
and wings

Bright
orange
chest

White
tummy

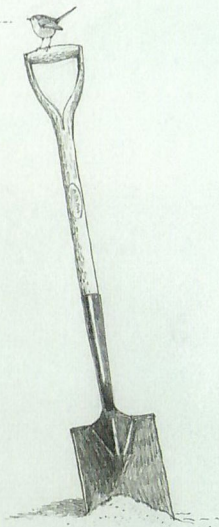


Robins have a loud, high, warbling song. You can sometimes hear them calling at night, too.

They make their homes in gardens, woods and fields.

You might see them swooping to the ground, looking for food.

If two robins get too near each other, they are likely to fight.



Feathery fact: Robins often follow gardeners, picking up worms from freshly dug soil.

Song thrush

White ring
around eye

Strong,
pointy beak

Dark wings

Speckly,
brown and
white front

Long, pinkish-
brown legs

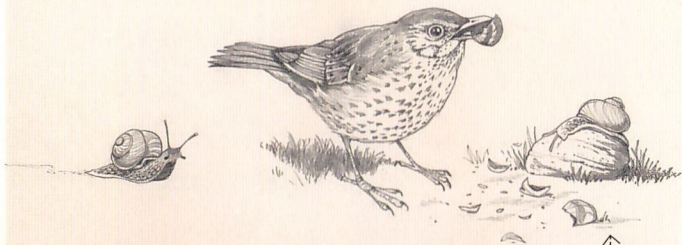




You can see song thrushes in gardens and woods. Look out for their speckly tummies.

They have a loud, warbling song.

You might see song thrushes running along the ground, then standing still, listening for worms.



Song thrushes also eat snails. They open the shells by smashing them against a stone.



Feathery fact: A song thrush sounds a bit like a blackbird. You can tell them apart as the song thrush repeats the same few notes again and again.

House sparrow

Female

Brown head

Pale brown
body

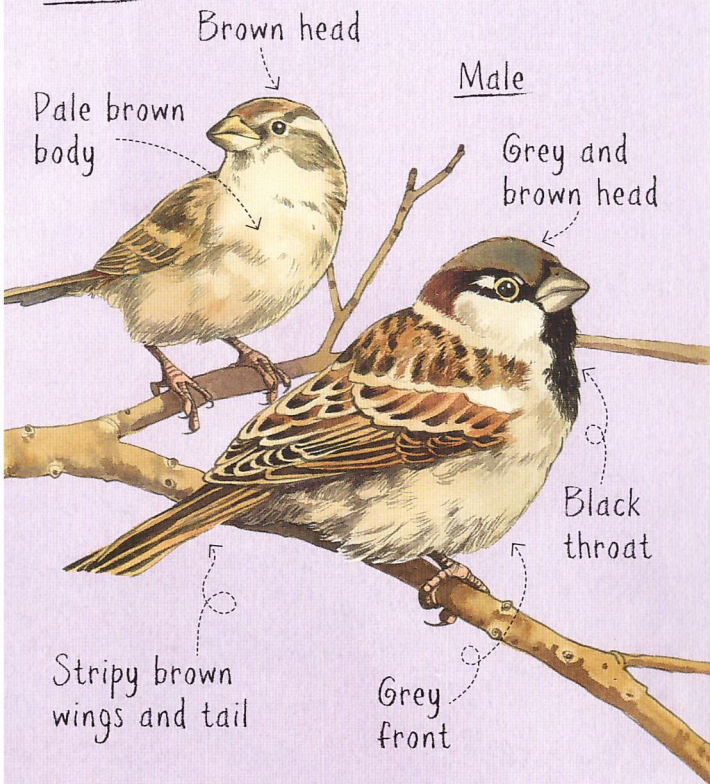
Male

Grey and
brown head

Black
throat

Stripy brown
wings and tail

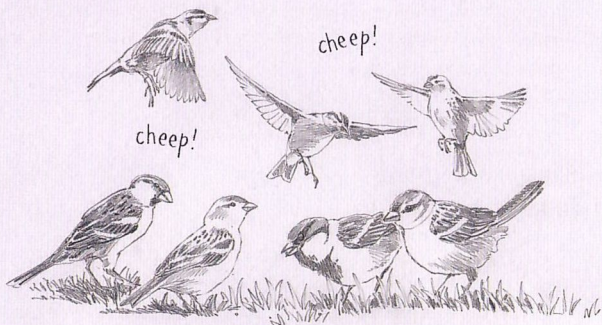
Grey
front





House sparrows live wherever there are people. You can see them in towns, and in nearby woods and fields.

They are noisy birds. Listen for their 'cheep cheep' call.



Look for sparrows feeding in flocks. They eat all kinds of things - seeds, insects and food people leave behind.

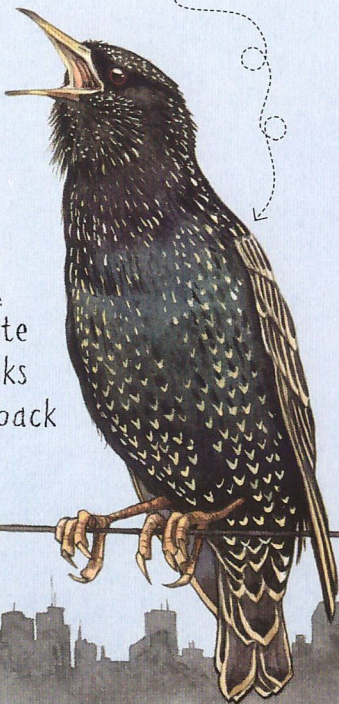
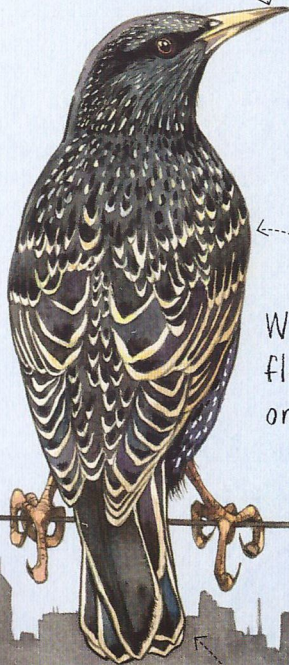


Feathery fact: Pairs of house sparrows stay together for life.

Starling

Sharp,
yellow beak

Glossy, black and
greenish-purple body



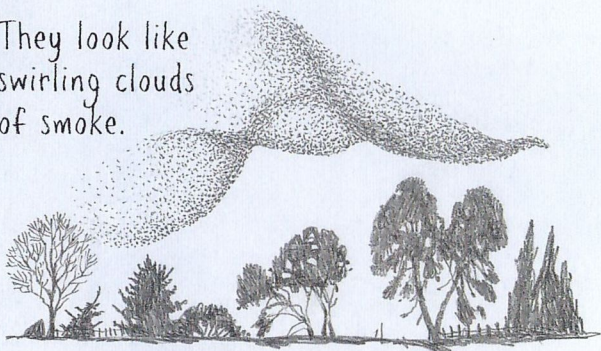
White
flecks
on back

Short, square tail

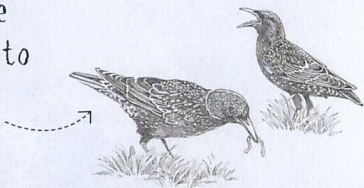


Starlings live in cities, gardens, woods and farmland. You might see them flying in big flocks at dusk.

They look like swirling clouds of smoke.



Starlings poke their beaks into the ground to find food.



Listen for their noisy, chattering call, with a mixture of squeaks, clicks and whistles.



Feathery fact: Starlings copy the calls of other birds, animals, and even sounds such as phones and car alarms.

Tawny owl

Big, round face surrounded by a dark ring

Big, black eyes

Speckly, light and dark brown body

Big feet with sharp claws

Short tail



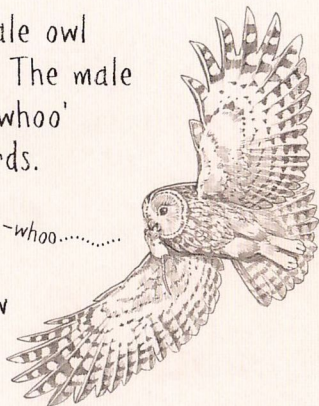


Tawny owls fly around at night, so you are more likely to hear than see them.

Listen for a female owl hooting 'tu-whit'. The male answers 'hoo, tu-who' straight afterwards.

hoo, tu-who.....

Tawny owls swallow their prey whole.



They bring up the bones and hair of their prey in pellets, like these.

In the daytime, you might spot a tawny owl sitting in a tree, asleep.



Feathery fact: Tawny owls have very good hearing. They can find prey in the dark just by hearing it move.

Woodpigeon

White patches
on neck

Grey
back

Bright yellow
and black eyes

Dark pink
tummy



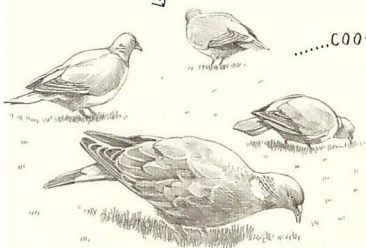


Wood pigeons live in gardens, parks, woods and farmland.

Listen for their cooing call. Their wings also make a loud clapping sound when they take off.




You might see wood pigeons waddling along the ground picking up shoots and seeds.



.....COO-COO-cu, cu-COO, cook.....

They are bigger than most other garden birds.

 Feathery fact: Wood pigeons bring up a runny paste to feed their young, called 'pigeon milk'.

Wren

Short,
upright tail

White stripe
over eye

Stripy wings

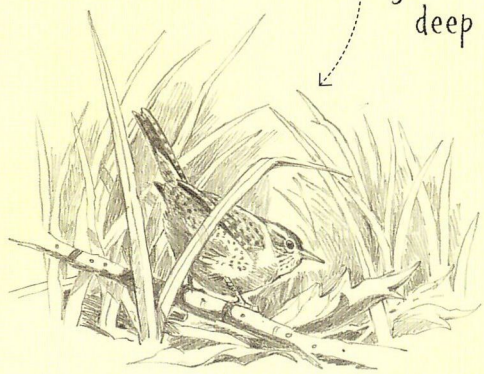
Round, speckly,
brown body





Wrens are some of the smallest garden birds.

You have to look very carefully to see them. They scuttle around deep in bushes.



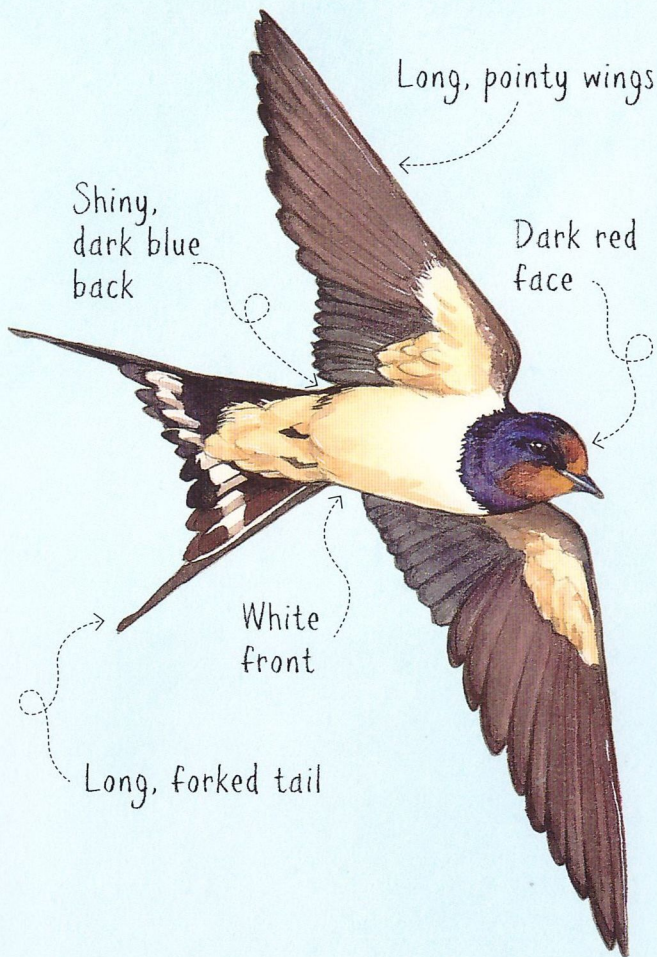
Listen for their loud, warbling song with fast, low trills.

Wrens live almost anywhere, from gardens, parks and woods, to cliffs and moors.



Feathery fact: On winter nights, wrens huddle together in groups to keep warm.

Swallow



Long, pointy wings

Shiny,
dark blue
back

Dark red
face

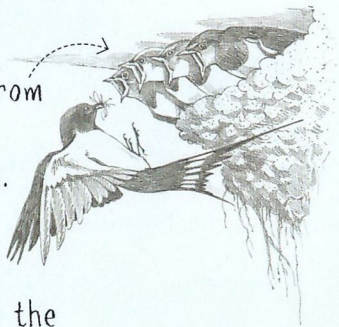
White
front

Long, forked tail

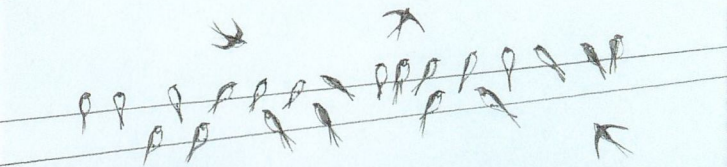


You can see swallows in summer, twisting and turning in the sky as they hunt insects.

They build nests from mud on ledges, or inside old buildings.



They come back to the same nests every year.



Swallows fly to warmer countries in the winter to find food. Before they go, they gather in big flocks.



Feathery fact: Swallows can fly up to 200 miles (320km) a day.

Blackbird

Yellowy-orange
beak

Female

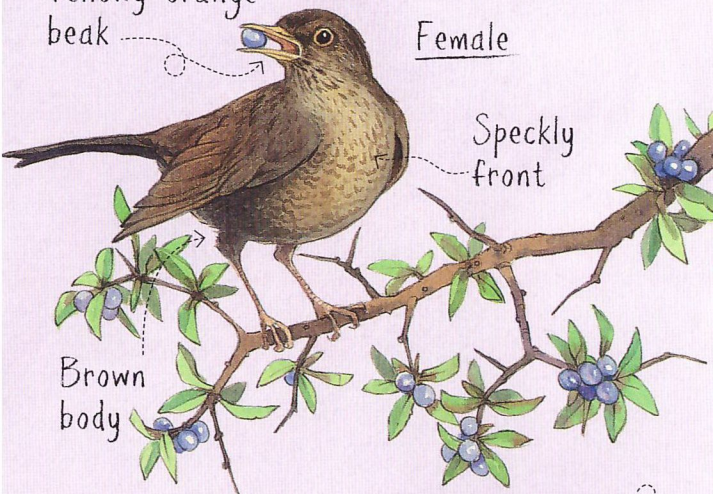
Speckly
front

Brown
body

Bright orangy-yellow beak

Male

Shiny, black body






You can see blackbirds in gardens, woods and parks. The females are actually brown.

Male blackbirds have a loud, tuneful song. They often sing at sunrise and sunset.

You usually see blackbirds alone. They bow and run at other birds to scare them away.



You might also see them on the ground, looking for worms and insects to eat.

 Feathery fact: Blackbirds can raise up to three families in one year.

Pheasant

Female

Speckly, pale brown
body and head

Red eye patch

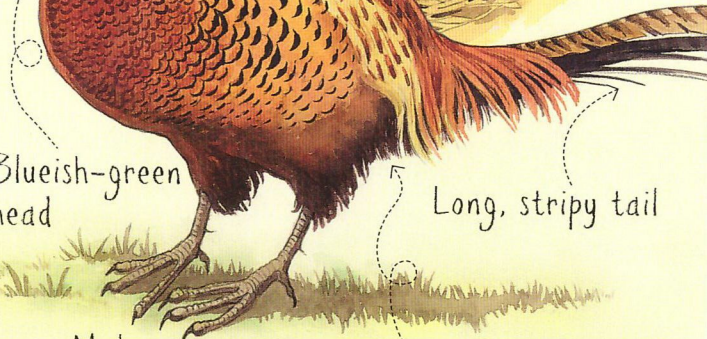


Blueish-green
head

Male

Shiny, brown body

Long, stripy tail





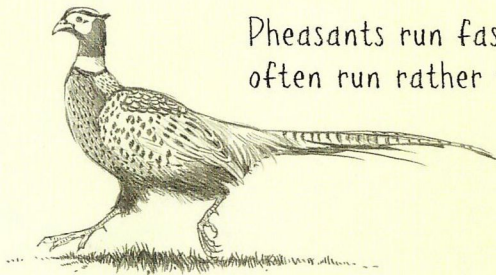
Look out for colourful male pheasants in farmland and woods. Females are pale brown.

kok, kok, kok

When startled, pheasants rocket into the air, whirring their wings and calling 'kok, kok, kok'.



Pheasants run fast and often run rather than fly.



Feathery fact: Pheasants are called game birds because people hunt them as a sport.

Barn owl

Light brown, speckly
head and back

Big, black eyes

White
underwings

White, heart-shaped face

Big feet
and claws





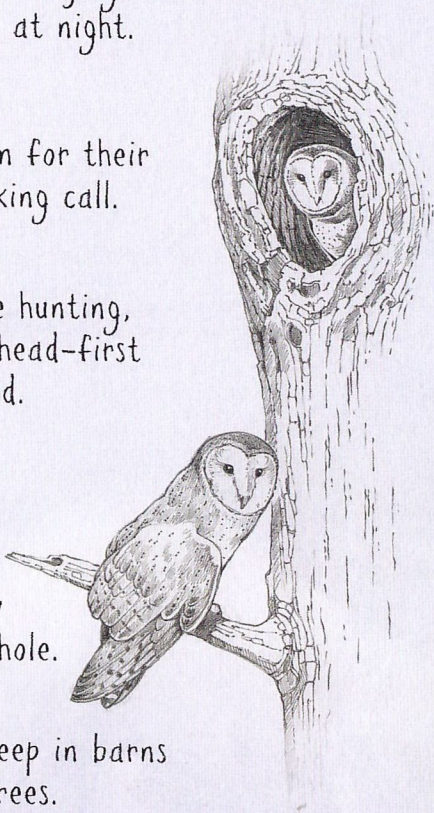
You can see barn owls
flying low over fields
at night.

Listen for their
shrieking call.

When they're hunting,
they plunge head-first
to the ground.

They swallow
their food whole.

Barn owls sleep in barns
and hollow trees.



Feathery fact: A barn owl has huge eyes which help it
to see prey when it's very dark.