

Spring is one of the easiest times to spot birds, because the leaves on trees and bushes are not fully open and adult birds are actively singing to each other. Each type of bird makes a different sound.

Listen out for singing birds.

Where is the sound coming from? If you can see the bird that's making the sound, describe what it looks like to others.

Using your voice, can you mimic (copy) the sound?

Listen to the 'bird impressions' others are making – do you recognise any of them?

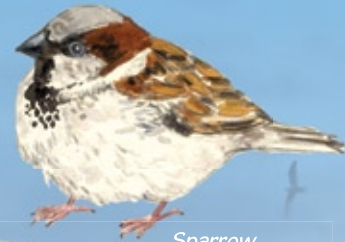
Blue Tits



Robin



Sparrow



Pigeon



Think about how many bird sounds you come across on your journey. Was your route 'noisy' or 'quiet' with bird sounds?

Are there just as many bird sounds on your way home as there is on your way to school?

If you want to, find out more about the birds you've seen on the internet or from a book.

Try this out on your way to or from school!

Birds are particularly 'noisy' in Spring. A bird 'sings' to attract a companion and to tell other birds "this is my home". A bird 'calls' to pass on information to others. These calls might mean "There's danger", "I'm still here, are you?", "Go away" or "There's food here!".

Listen out for various bird calls and songs on your journey and look out for the bird that's making the sound.

If you were to write down the sound, how would the sound be spelt?

What do you think the bird is trying to communicate?

Is there one part of your route that is particularly good for bird sounds? Why do you think that is?

Some people use birds as part of conversation, to help them explain what they mean. "Birds of a feather flock together" means "similar types of people usually get together".

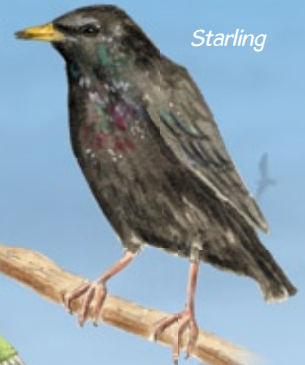


Wren

TIC-TIC-TIC!



Great Tit



Starling



Blackbird

Take a look at these phrases. Do you know what they are trying to say? Discuss your thoughts with your walking companions.

- The early bird catches the worm
- Kill two birds with one stone
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
- One beats the bush, another takes the bird

If you want to, think of a brand new saying when you get home. Test it out on others!