

Blackbird



I am a male blackbird and am a shiny black colour with a yellow beak.

Can you see my yellow beak and the yellow rim around my eye?

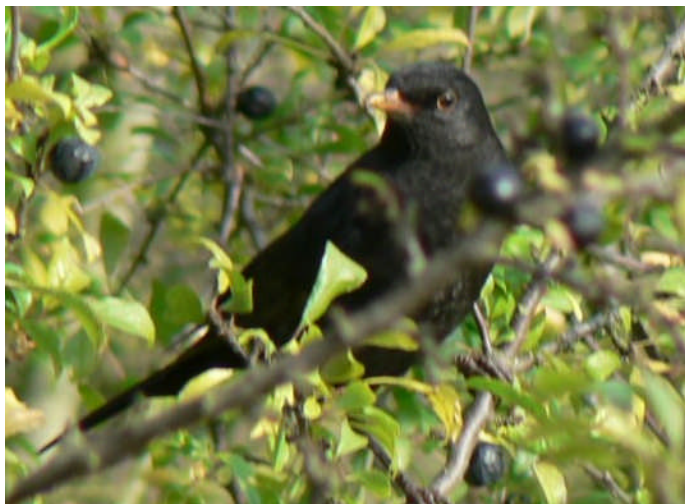
Females are a dark brown colour.

Perhaps they should have been called brownbirds.



When I was young I was brown in colour.

I like to eat earthworms and also like seeds, berries and fallen fruit.



I will search among leaves for food flicking the leaves aside with my beak.

I also use my foot to scratch the leaves backwards.

Why do you think a blackbird does not use its tail to move leaves?

In March I was hatched from an egg.

I had one brother and two sisters.

How many young blackbirds were there?

My nest was built in a bush from stems, grass, moss and small twigs, plastered with mud.

The inside was lined with grass.

As soon as my feathers had grown I crept out of the nest.

I could not fly so I hopped around keeping close to cover.

My father kept a very close eye on me.

How would a father warn a young blackbird of danger?

Within a week I could fly.

I can sing many different tunes and can even copy sounds such as a ringing telephone.

Sunbathing

On warm days I like to bathe in water.

I will then lie on the ground, spread my feathers out and sunbathe.



Can you copy this position, stretching your legs and arms out and with your mouth wide open?

I also like to bathe in ants.

I will allow ants to run over my body and squirt their fluids onto me. This helps keep me healthy.

How would you feel if you had to take ant baths?

See if you can find the following words:

Black, bird, fly, tune

B	B	I	R	D
T	L	T	I	O
U	A	O	F	G
N	C	Y	L	O
E	K	B	Y	T

How many points can you get?

Task	Tick	Points
Have you seen a male blackbird?		1
Did you notice its yellow bill?		3
Have you seen a female blackbird?		3
Total points		

Please try to answer these questions:

What colour is a female blackbird?

How does a blackbird search for food amongst leaves?

What do they like to eat?

Why do blackbirds allow ants to crawl over them?

Why do you think young blackbirds and females are brown and not black?