



BLACKBIRD (*Turdus viscivorus*)



Male blackbird

The blackbird is a familiar garden bird and has the habit of raising its tail on landing. The blackbird is a member of the thrush family, and the male and female look quite different.

If you hear a blackbird singing, it will be the male as they are superb singers.

Look out for a blackbird collecting nest material or food. Was it a male or female?



Female blackbird



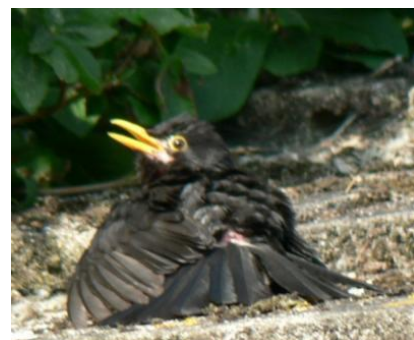
Young blackbird

Look out for young birds being fed.

The young have streaky brown feathers and are noisy when calling for food. You will need to be very careful not to upset the mother bird. Do not touch the nest or the young.

Have you seen a blackbird sunbathing?

They lie very still on the ground, cooling off, with wings spread and beak wide open.

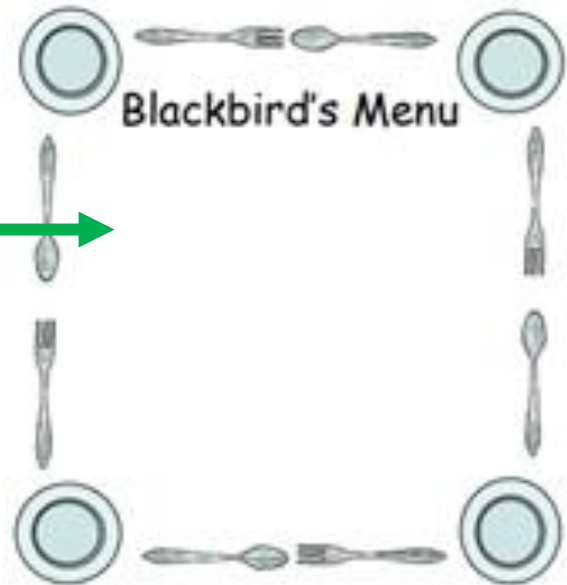




Blackbirds will search for insects, worms and spiders on the ground and berries and fruit in the bushes.

Draw something you think blackbirds like to eat.

They will search among leaves for food, flicking the leaves aside with their bills.



Collect natural materials, twigs and grass to make a nest. Can you weave the grass in like the birds do?

When you see blackbirds record on the form below how many you saw, when you saw them, what they were doing and what the weather was like.

Behaviour	Date	How many	Sunny, rainy or cloudy?	Windy or calm?
Male singing				
Female looking for food				
Young being fed				
Two males fighting				

Have you seen a blackbird with some white feathers? This can be common in blackbirds.

My notes
