Quack, quack! Hoo-hoo-hoo

Bird calls are all around us. Can you hear the difference between their songs? Birds call and sing for many reasons; to attract a mate, warn other birds of a predator, or to establish territory.

Well, what do I say? See if you can name these birds. What do their calls sound like?

Great Horned owls - Hoo-hoo-hoo-hooo-hooo
Mallards say - quack quack quack
Blue jays say - ‘thief-thief’
Robins cheerily, cheer up, cheerily cheer up
Canada goose honk, honk, honk

Why do birds sing and call? Circle the reasons why birds might sing and call.

- Impress and attract a mate
- Declare territorial boundaries
- Convey information about food
- Identify family members
- Announce the presence of a predator

Answers:

Did you circle all the answers? You are right! Birds make sounds for all of these reasons!
How do birds learn to sing? Draw a line matching each term to its definition.

These birds, usually songbirds, have to **learn** how to sing their song during a “sensitive period”. A sensitive period is when the bird learns best, usually right after the fledgling (or baby bird) leaves the nest.

**Copy** the sounds and songs of different birds and animals, then use the sounds to make songs. Some birds are so good at copying different songs and sounds they can trick other animals!

Some birds are born with the **ability** to sing their species song. They inherit the ability to sing from their parent.

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Can you spot these birds? Check the boxes of birds you have seen.

- **American Robin**
- **Mallard Duck**
- **Red-winged Black Bird**
- **Downy Woodpecker**
- **Canada Goose**
- **Black-capped Chickadee**
What makes birds special?
All birds have wings, beaks, feathers, and lay eggs. But which of these makes them unique from other animals?

**Wings?** No! Other animals have wings too. Can you name something else with wings?

**Beaks?** No! Other animals have beaks. Can you name an animal other than a bird that has a beak?

**Laying eggs?** No! Can you name another animal that lays eggs?

**Feathers?** Yes! Other animals have beaks, wings, and lay eggs, but ONLY birds have FEATHERS!

What do birds eat? Can you find any food for birds on your walk?

- Mosquitos
- Moths
- Seeds
- Worms
- Nectar
- Insect larva
Create your own bird!
Imagine that you’re an ornithologist (a person who studies birds) who just discovered a new bird species. Draw your discovery in the space below. Give your bird a name and record its special characteristics.

Name of bird: ____________________________

This bird eats ____________________________

This bird’s habitat is ______________________

Its call sounds like: _______________________

Special traits or abilities: __________________