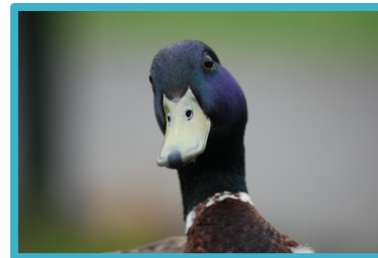
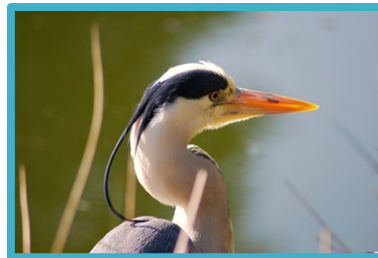


British Wildlife: Odd One Out

Birds



British Wildlife: Odd One Out

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) and The Nature Collection

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[The Nature Collection](#) is an extraordinary collection of animal bones, skeletons, feathers, antlers, skins and photographs and was created by Susanna Ramsey.

Several of the photos were taken at the [British Wildlife Centre](#) in Surrey.

We are grateful to Dr Ralf Britz and Ritva Roesler for their assistance in creating this resource.

Guidance for using British Wildlife: Odd One Out

This resource is designed to encourage children to observe closely and to stimulate talk about the features of local birds and their habitats.

There are five **Odd One Out** activities in this slideshow. Each activity has four images of **birds** shown on one slide. All are commonly seen in the UK.

Each **Odd One Out** activity reflects a notable characteristic or behaviour (described in the slide notes). This may be useful when deciding which activity to use. We suggest that you share only one Odd One Out activity at any time. You can revisit the other activities another time.

Running the activity:

Choose a slide. Ask – **How are these animals similar? How are these animals different?**

Listen to children's suggestions. Encourage children to notice special features of each animal such as their different body parts, the colour (are they camouflaged?), how they move, where they might be found (different habitats).

Possible questions to prompt thinking & talking:

- What special body parts can you see? (wings, beak, feathers, webbed feet, etc.)
- What colour is the animal? Is the animal easy to see? It is camouflaged?
- Where do you think the animal lives? (in a tree, in water, on land, in a web)
- How do you think the animal moves? (running, walking, crawling, flying, swimming) How do you know this?

Then ask everyone to decide **which is the Odd One Out** and **WHY**.

Encourage a reason for every answer given. There is no wrong answer here!

Background science:

The slide notes below each slide provide detailed information about the characteristics of each of the birds shown. This is intended to support teachers' subject knowledge. We are not suggesting that all children should be taught all these facts.

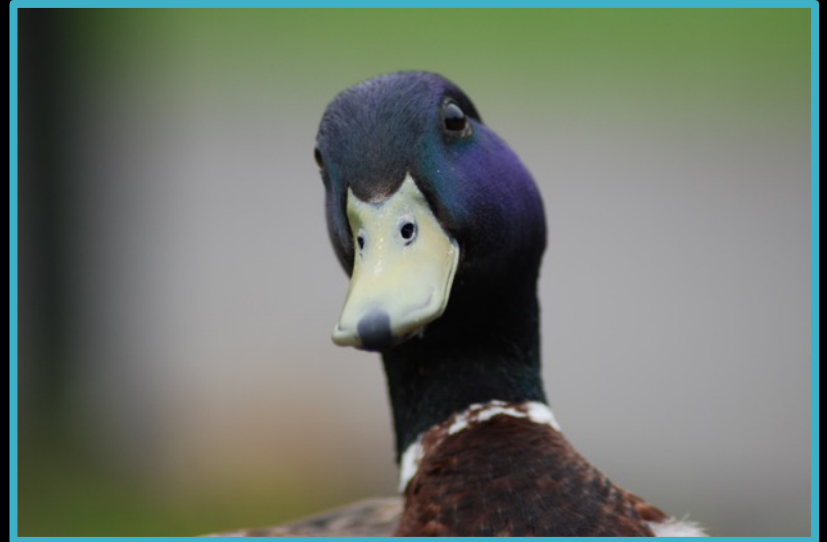
British Wildlife: Odd One Out

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11	Beak colour	parakeet, blackbird, gull, swans
13	Singing	woodpecker, starling, goldfinch, robin



woodpeckers



duck



heron



blue tit

Possible theme: Beak Shape

Duck has a rounded beak to collect insects and plants in the water. The others have pointed beaks. **Woodpecker** has a long, pointed beak for drilling holes in tree trunks to reach the beetles and larvae living inside. **Heron** has a very long, pointed beak to catch fish, frogs, snails and insects in the water and mud. **Blue tit** has a short, pointed beak to pick up insects and spiders on tree leaves and branches.

Other possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Beak Colour: Heron and duck have orange/yellow beaks. The others are grey/black.

Heads: Heron has a tuft of long, black feathers on the back of its head. Male woodpecker has a tuft of red feathers at the back of its head. Woodpecker chick has a tuft of red feathers on top of its head, like a cap. Blue tit has a blue patch on top of its head. Duck's head is all one colour.

Eye Position: Duck has eyes very high up on its head, so it can watch out for danger. The others have eyes lower down, in line with the beak, which is good when searching for food. Duck feels for food underwater, rather than looks for it.

Eye Colour: Heron has gold eyes. The others have black.

Neck: Heron has the longest neck. It has very long legs and needs a long neck, to reach down to the ground.

Feet: Duck has webbed feet. Others have separate toes to grip the branches.

Habitat: Heron and duck live on the water. The woodpecker and blue tit live in the woods, parks and gardens.

Nest site: Woodpecker digs out a nest hole inside tree trunks. Blue tit also nests inside trees. Heron uses branches to build a nest in the treetops. Duck nests on the ground beside a pond.



swan



duck



Canada goose



Egyptian goose

Possible theme: Necks

Duck has a much shorter neck than the other three. It tips up to feed on the surface of the water. Swan has the longest neck. It reaches down underwater to feed. Canada goose has a black neck with a white chin strap. Egyptian goose has a brown neck. The geese graze on land.

Other possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: Swan has completely white feathers. The female duck is mottled brown with a blue wing flash. The geese have patches of colour.

Eyes: Egyptian goose has pink eyes. Others have black. Duck has a dark brown stripe through the eyes.

Beak shape and diet: Swan and duck have a rounded beak to collect insects and plants in the water. Geese have shorter beaks. They eat mainly plants.

Beak colour: Swan and Egyptian goose have an orange beak. Canada goose has black. Duck has brown, with some orange.

Nail: All have a hard tip to the beak, called the 'nail'. In the swan and Egyptian goose, the tip is a different colour.

Legs and feet: Duck has orange legs and feet. Egyptian goose has pink legs and feet. The others have black. All have webbed feet. Duck has shortest legs.

Size: The duck is much smaller than the other three.

Different males and females: Male and female duck have different colour feathers. Males and females in the other birds, are all the same colour.

Call: Ducks quack. The others make different sounds!

Habitat: All live by the water.

Diet: Swan eats aquatic plants, tadpoles, snails and insects. The geese eat mainly grass and plants on land.

Duck eats aquatic plants, insects and frogs.



barn owl



little owl



tawny owl



peregrine

Possible theme: Nocturnal

Peregrine hunts by day and the others are mainly nocturnal. Little owl starts hunting before it is dark. The other owls prefer to hunt when it is totally dark.

Other possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Owls: Peregrine is not an owl. It is a falcon.

Face shape: The owls have flat, rounded faces surrounded by a ring of stiff feathers, which funnel the sounds into their ear holes, which are just behind the eyes.

Eyes: Little owl has yellow eyes with black pupils. The others have black eyes. Peregrine has bare, yellow skin around the eyes. All have eyes close together, looking forwards to search for **prey**. They are all **predators**.

Beak colour: Little owl and peregrine have a bright yellow beak. They all have a hooked beak to hold down prey and tear up larger prey animals.

Perch: Peregrine is standing on a pigeon. Little and tawny owl are on a branch. Barn owl is on a fence.

Feet: Peregrine has yellow legs and feet. They all have sharp talons to grip and kill their prey.

Colour: Peregrine is grey with striped feathers on the legs and tail. Barn owl is golden brown on top and white underneath. The others are dark brown and white. They all have mottled patterns for camouflage.

Caught it: Barn owl and tawny owl have caught a mouse. Peregrine has caught a pigeon. Little owl has nothing and looks cross!

Hunting method: Peregrine catches birds in the air. The others mainly hunt small mammals on the ground and smaller birds. Little owl and tawny owl also eat worms and beetles.

Wild or Captive: Peregrine and barn owl have straps and rings on their legs because they are captive animals. Tawny owl does too but you can't see it in the photo. They live at the British Wildlife Centre in Surrey, which is open to the public and to schools. Little owl is a wild bird.



parakeet



blackbird



gull



swans

Possible theme: Beak colour

Gull has a yellow beak with a red spot. The gull chicks peck on this spot, when they want food. Parakeet has a red beak, swan has orange and black and blackbird, yellow.

Other possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Beak shape: Parakeet has a short, hooked beak to break open nuts and seeds and pick off berries and fruit. Blackbird has a medium, pointed beak to pull up worms. Gull has a long, hooked beak to catch fish and food in the water and to scavenge on land. Swan has a long, rounded beak to pull up vegetation and insects under the water.

Eyes: Parakeet has pale blue eyes with a black pupil. Blackbird and swan have black eyes. Gull has yellow eyes with a black pupil. All have eyes which face sideways, to watch for danger.

Eye ring: Blackbird has a yellow ring around the eyes. Gull has a red eye ring. Parakeet has a pink eye ring. Swan has no eye ring.

Colour: Gull has black and white feathers. The others are all one colour.

Feet: Gull and swan have webbed feet. Others have separate toes and claws to grip the branches. Gull has yellow feet, swan has black, blackbird dark brown and parakeet pale cream.

Legs: The gull has long, yellow legs. Swan has long, black legs and feet. They spend their time on water or on the ground. Parakeet and blackbird have shorter legs. They are perching birds which live in the trees.

Size: Swan is the biggest bird and has the longest neck. (The two swans are making a heart shape with their necks. This is part of the mating ritual.) Next biggest is the gull, then the parakeet. The blackbird is the smallest.

Habitat: Gull and swan live by water. The others live in woods, parks and gardens.



woodpecker



starling



goldfinch



robin

Possible theme: Singing

They are all singing except for the woodpecker. Woodpecker drums on tree trunks to mark out territory and attract a female. The others use song. Starling also mimics the calls of other birds (e.g. owls) and other sounds like car alarms or ring tones. Robins are unusual because they sing all year round. Goldfinches have a beautiful, twittering song. Victorians kept them as caged birds because of their song.

Other possible reasons for being the Odd One Out:

Colour: Starling has glossy black feathers, tipped with white dots, like stars in the night. The others have patches of bright colour. Woodpecker and goldfinch both have white spots on their black wing feathers.

Red patch: Woodpecker, goldfinch and robin all have a red/orange patch of feathers. Starling does not.

Beak shape: Woodpecker has a long, pointed beak, great for digging holes in tree trunks to search for beetles and their larvae. Also, to dig out a nest hole. Goldfinch has a short, pointed beak to pick up seeds. The others have pointed beaks for picking up insects and pulling up worms.

Beak colour: Goldfinch has a cream beak. The others have a dark grey beak.

Eyes: They all have black eyes on the sides of the head so they can watch out for danger from all directions.

Claws: They all have bare legs and claws to grip onto the tree branches.

Size: Woodpecker is biggest, then starling, robin and goldfinch.

Diet: Goldfinch eats seeds and the others all eat invertebrates.

Habitat: They all live in woods, parks, gardens or fields.

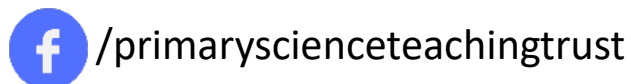
Perch: They are all perching on trees except for the starling which is on a bird bath.

Nest site: Starling and woodpecker nest in tree holes. The others build a nest in the branches of a tree.

For more information on the Primary Science Teaching Trust and access to a large selection of PSTT resources, visit our website:



pstt.org.uk



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wowscience.co.uk

and we regularly provide further suggestions on how to use these in the classroom through social media platforms:

