

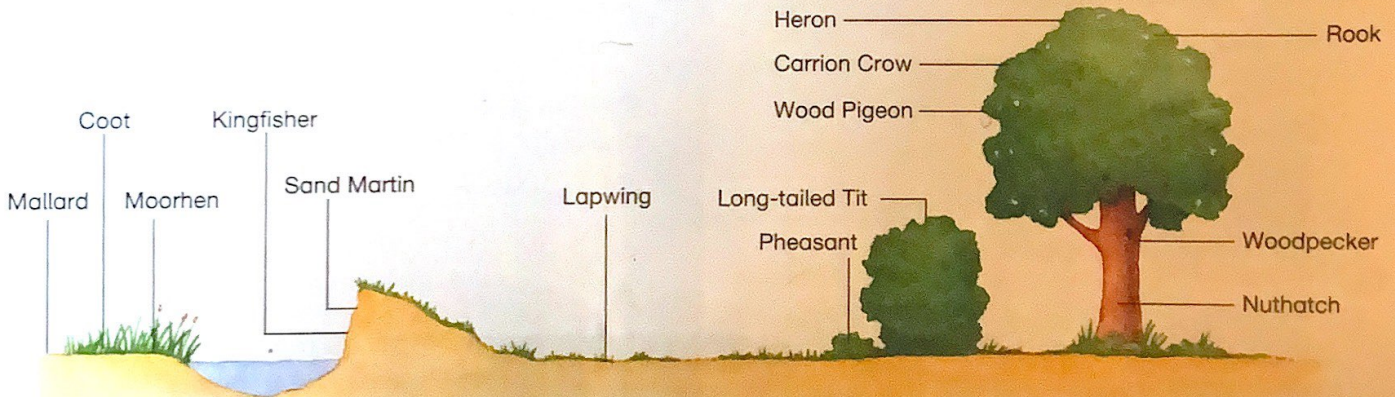
Nesting Birds

The nesting season is a time of great activity for all birds. First they have to find a place where they can build their nests and feed. This area then becomes their territory. When they have found a mate they have to build a nest, lay eggs and rear their young. With all this going on, it is not difficult to find out when and where a bird is building its nest or feeding its young. A bird carrying something in its beak is the most common sign.

The Song Thrush builds its nest in a bush. There are usually four or five eggs. Both parents feed the young birds with worms and snails.

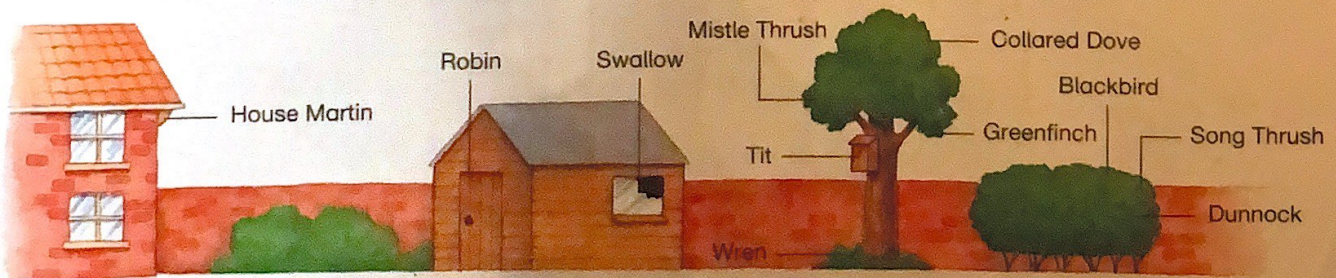
The adult bird arrives at the nest with food. It pushes the food into the mouth of one of the young birds, removes any droppings from the nest and flies off to collect more food.

When a parent bird approaches the nest, the young birds beg for food with wide, open mouths.



In the country, birds nest in many different places. They use trees and hedges, the shelter of steep banks and holes in trees.

Some birds, like the Lapwing, make hardly any nest at all. They lay their eggs in a shallow hole in the ground.



Many birds nest in gardens but only in sheltered places, safe from cats and dogs. They use thick bushes, trees, ivy-covered

walls and sheds as well as nesting boxes. Some birds, like the House Martin, even build under the roof.