

## Activity 4

# THE SCIENCE BIT



**Thank you for helping me with my birds curiosity challenge!**

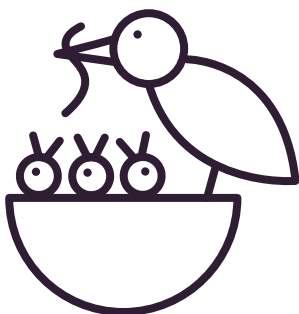
**I loved learning about birds, I hope you did too!**

Before we say goodbye, here's some more fun facts about our feathered friends!

### WHAT ARE NESTS?

Nests provide a safe, warm place for birds to look after their eggs and chicks, hidden from predators and protected from bad weather.

They can be huge, patterned and beautiful and made of many different materials; they can be holes in rocks, burrows dug into the ground or great mud-domes. Some of my favourites are built by sociable weaver birds, bee hummingbirds and kingfishers.



### CAN YOU IDENTIFY A BIRD?

Some types of birds can look very similar, like marsh and willow tits, so figuring out the group of birds it belongs to is a great start!

If there are a few species that your bird might be, it might help to look at where the bird is normally found by using the RSPB's maps.



### WHAT ARE BIRDS TRYING TO SAY?

Birds use song to communicate. They could be talking to their babies in the nest, calling to their partner (or trying to impress one), scaring other birds out of their territories or giving off warning calls if they see a predator.

Interestingly, birds are not born with the ability to sing, they learn it in the nest. Birdsong varies a lot – from the chiffchaff, which sings only two notes, to other birds which learn over 2000 songs! In some species, males and females will sing duets together.

