

# Discover Winter Birds

Orangey/red face and chest.

Pale stripe above the eye and thin curved beak.

Pale white underneath.

Brown back and tail.

## Robin

Robins like being around people. They will watch us at work in case a juicy worm or grub is dug up! Their old name is 'ruddock' because of their red chest. In Britain we love them so much you will see them on many Christmas cards.

## All together now - collective nouns

There are fun words to describe groups of animals like 'a herd of cows'. Can you match the fun 'collective nouns' for each of our birds.

A scold (a harsh shout)

A blush (red cheeks!)

A cloud (a black cloud)

A spiral (moving around)

A zephyr (a soft breeze)

A wake (a wave of air)

Blackbirds

Jays

Robins

Buzzards

Treecreepers

Long-tailed tits

of

## Did you know?

Birds can puff up their feathers with air which is warmed from their body heat. A bit like wearing a duvet!

How many acorns can you spot on your sheet?



Hi, I am Kit.

I am a Junior Volunteer with the NYMR and I love wildlife. This winter I have been learning about 6 new birds that I can find in our stations and on the lineside. Can you try too? Tick each bird when you have seen it.

## Look up, down and all around!

To find all 6 of our birds you will need to look everywhere! Match the birds below to their shadows and discover the best place to spot them.



Jay



Treecreeper



Buzzard



Robin



Long-tailed tit



Blackbird

Now that the leaves have fallen from most of the trees it is easier to see the birds around us.

Follow Kit and friends in the NYMR Activity Book and learn more about the railway, engines and our wildlife.

Answers: A scold of jays, a blush of robins, a cloud of blackbirds, a spiral of treecreepers, a zephyr of long-tailed tits and a wake of buzzards.

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## Long-tailed tits

I see long-tailed tits flitting among the branches in a group, calling to each other as they fly. A kind of 'si, si, si, si' sound.

They are very chatty and always seem busy! They are really tiny, so huddle together to keep warm on a cold winter's night.

White patches on the wing and rump can be seen when they fly.

Very long tail!

Find and circle the odd one out on the branch!

Pink, white and black body with a white stripe on their head.

Female is all brown.

Yellow beak.



Male is black.

## Blackbird

The male is all black apart from a yellow beak and yellow eye ring. The female and young birds are all brown which helps keep them better camouflaged. You will spot them on the ground pulling up worms and in the shrubs, eating berries.

**Did you know?**  
In 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', '4 colly birds' means 4 birds as black as coal, what we now call the blackbird!

Share what you find with us at:

 @NYMR  North Yorkshire Moors Railway

## Jay

Jays love oak woodlands and although they are not small birds, they are hard to see because they are shy. Keep an eye out for a white rump patch as they fly between trees and listen out for their loud shouting!

Guide the jay to the acorns, but beware of the mice and squirrels who are also trying to find them!

Start

Blue wing patch.

Light pink with a black tail and white patches.



### Did you know?

Jays store up to 5,000 acorns for the winter! They sometimes forget where they all are, leaving the acorns to sprout into new oak trees.

Wide wings with feathers that stick out (called 'fingertips').

## Buzzard

Look up high to see the buzzards. They are big birds which soar calling out a squeaky 'pijaah'. They get a perfect view from high in the sky where they can look out for food like voles and rabbits, or animals that have recently died (nothing goes to waste in nature)!

Short and rounded tail.

Brown and pale patches all over.

A hooked beak means they are a bird of prey!



Finish

