

The blackbird is a popular garden bird. You may have seen one in your garden looking for worms and other insects. They often follow gardeners around waiting for them to dig up some tasty worms to eat.



The male and female birds look quite different from each other. The male is black all over, with a bright orange-yellow beak and ring round his eye. The female black bird is brown and her beak tends to be a dull yellow-brown colour. Blackbirds are quite large birds, up to 25 cm long, and they can weigh up to 125 g.

Blackbirds build their nests in hedges or bushes. The nest is in the shape of a cup and made of grass and twigs held together with mud and finer grasses.

Blackbirds lay between 3 and 5 eggs, and can lay 2 or 3 clutches in a year. The eggs are light green-blue in colour, with reddish-brown spots. The female sits on the eggs until they hatch and then the baby birds are looked after by both parents for up to 20 days until they are ready to leave the nest.



Baby blackbird

After they have left the nest it takes them about a week to learn to fly so they stay close by in the undergrowth.

1. Where might you see a blackbird?

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2. What are blackbirds looking for in the garden?

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3. What does the male blackbird look like?.....

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4. What does a female blackbird look like?.....

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5. Name three things that blackbirds use to build their nests.

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6. Why do you think they build their nests in the shape of a cup?

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7. How long does it take the baby blackbirds to learn to fly?

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8. Draw a picture of a
blackbird with a yellow beak.



Answers

1. You might see a blackbird in the garden.
2. Blackbirds are looking for worms and insects to eat.
3. The male blackbird is black with a bright orange-yellow beak
4. A female blackbird is brown with a dull yellow-brown beak.
5. Three things a blackbird uses to build its nest are: (3 of the following: grass, twigs, mud and finer grasses).
6. An answer along the lines of: I think that they build their nests in the shape of a cup to stop the eggs falling out or to make it more cosy.
7. It takes the baby blackbirds about a week to learn to fly.