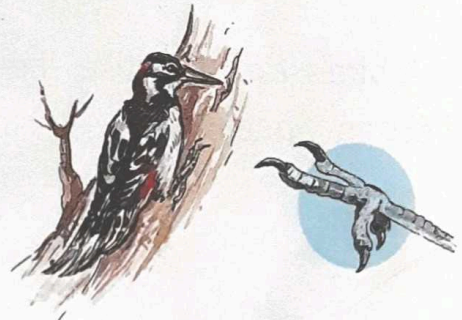


Climbing birds

Birds like woodpeckers and parakeets have **two toes which point upwards** and **two which point downwards**. These toes help them to climb trees and to cling on to them.



7.11 Toes of a woodpecker

Swimming birds

Water birds have **webbed feet**. They have **three toes in front** and **one toe at the back**. The three front toes are joined by skin which is called a web. This skin helps them to push water back while swimming.



7.12 Toes of a duck

Wading birds

Birds like cranes and herons are **long-legged** with **spread-out toes**. They can wade through muddy water without getting wet.

A Word to Know
WADE:
walk through water



7.13 Toes of a heron

Oral Questions

Choose the correct answer.

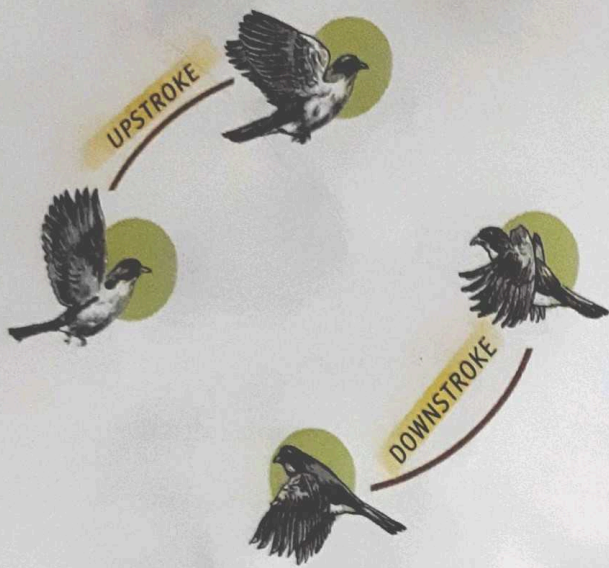
1. Strong and chisel-shaped beaks help birds to (tap the bark of trees / climb trees / crush grains and seeds).
2. The broad and flat beak of a (parakeet / hoopoe / duck) has tiny holes on the sides.

HOW DOES A BIRD FLY?

A bird has a very **light body** made up of hollow bones and thin plates. The body has a strong framework of bones. Most of the bones have a special shape. Also, the body is shaped like a boat. This shape helps it to cut through air.

Just as we have arms, a bird has **wings**. These wings have feathers which help it to fly. The wings are attached to the bird's body with strong muscles. These muscles help it to move the wings up and down or forward and backward.

A bird's tail acts like the rudder of a boat. It helps the bird to change its direction while flying.



7.14 A bird in flight



WING



DOWN FEATHER



FLIGHT FEATHER

7.15 Feathers of birds

Wing movement

A bird does not fly by simply flapping its wings up and down. The wings have two types of movements.

UPSTROKE: The wings move upward and backward.
DOWNSTROKE: The wings move downward and forward.

Feathers of birds

A bird's body is covered with small and fluffy feathers to keep it warm. These are called **down feathers**. The long, flat feathers attached to the wings and tail help the bird to fly. These are called **flight feathers**.

Would you like to fly like a bird? Well, you will need wings and a tail to fly! Your body will have to be covered with feathers.

Oral Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A bird has a very (heavy / light) body made up of (hollow / solid) bones and (thick / thin) plates.
2. In the downstroke movement, the wings move (upward and forward / downward and backward / downward and forward).

NESTING HABITS

Birds build nests to lay eggs. They choose places which are safe from enemies and bad weather. Birds use material like twigs, dry leaves, cotton, thread, wool, feather, hair, pieces of cloth, paper and pebbles to build their nests. The eggs are laid in the nests. After some time the eggs hatch and baby birds

IT'S A FACT!

The ostrich is the largest and the heaviest living bird. It cannot fly but it can run at a speed of 70 km per hour!