

HOW DOES THE RED-BACKED SHRIKE STORE ITS PREY?

- A: It burrows it under the earth in old mouseholes.
- B: It looks for abandoned woodpecker nests and puts it there.
- C: It skewers its prey to the thorns of bushes.
- D: It hides it in the deadwood of deceased trees.



Please use the grey stamp!



The **GOLDCREST** is the smallest bird in Europe. It is only approximately 9 cm long.

Please use the white stamp!



The red-backed shrike **SKEWERS** a stock of food up for itself!



“ The red-backed shrike does not venture deep into the forest. It prefers open areas like the edge of the forest. Hedges and thornbushes are its favourite nesting places. Skewering the prey it has already bagged to thorns serves to stockpile food for less propitious times. Its prey includes large insects, butterfly caterpillars, earthworms, but also small mammals such as mice. ”

“ THE ORCHESTRA OF THE FOREST ”

INVISIBLE SINGERS

The treetops of the forest offer a well-hidden habitat. Many small birds feel right at home here. They sit hidden in the leaf canopy and trill their songs. The chirping of the songbirds is their way of communicating with each other. Each melody sends a specific message to their own conspecifics. Many male birds try to convince potential female partners of their worth by making particularly beautiful sounds.

In healthy forests such as the Hollabrunn Forest, there is a large variety of songbirds. It is not always easy for the human ear to tell the different singers apart purely from their singing, and you only very rarely actually see them. Here you will have the unique opportunity of getting to know four representatives of the forest orchestra.

Take a look at them and listen to their singing!



Although we songbirds are small, we do have loud voices, however. Just imagine a forest where there is no chirping. Wouldn't that be dreadful? We like to hide in the branches of the high trees so that we don't give our hunters a chance of catching us. As a result, we are as good as invisible. Use the Hammock Forest between the silver firs. Close your eyes to listen to the sounds of the forest in peace.



GREAT TITS have a large repertoire of different sounds and melodies. What's more, the chirping of a great tit differs from that of its other conspecifics. We humans cannot discern the nuances in the vocals. For the great tits themselves, however, they contain a broad range of information which helps them when selecting partners and when looking for a suitable territory. That is why female great tits seek out those partners whose singing is most unlike their fathers' singing.



MISTLE THRUSHES are one of the first birds to start singing in spring. Their song consists of short, melodic verses. It is similar to that of the blackbirds but is not so sustained and varied. They sing with immense dedication in storms, cold and heat. The volume with which they broadcast their songs to the world is also impressive. Often you can still hear the chirping of the mistle thrushes around midday.



The **JAY** is a master of imitation. It is capable of imitating the singing of other birds with deceptive authenticity. Thus, it can sound like a buzzard or mimic the call of a grey heron such that you cannot tell the two apart. Even experienced birdwatchers have fallen for the jay's great cover versions once or twice. Only of course until they actually catch sight of it, because then the deception is over. Its own unique distinctive alarm call is known to all birds of the forest.



The drumming of the **BLACK WOODPECKER** is far better known than its call. This is used not only to build a breeding burrow or to search for food, but also to delimit territories, look for partners and establish contact with conspecifics. When the black woodpecker raises its voice in song, it echoes through the forest with clear audibility. In favourable weather conditions, its sounds travel for more than a kilometre. With the exception of the late breeding and feeding period, you can hear woodpeckers practically the whole year round in the forest.



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