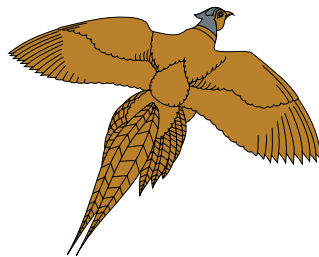


Can you identify a bird?

A **branching database** program allows you to create a 'key' to identify birds. Give the children a set of pictures and let them use them to build up a key on the computer. See the section on branching databases for details of how to run this excellent activity.



IT: Handling information



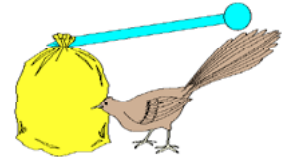
When do birds like their lunch?

You can get the children to watch birds at a bird table - an exercise in recording and analysing data. They can use a kitchen timer to remind them to check the bird table every 30 minutes. They might record how many sparrows are at the table and then use a **spreadsheet** to store the data. Later they can draw a bar graph of the bird activity during the day: what times of day do birds like to feed. You may be able to note that sparrows feed first thing in the morning, then at lunch and then towards the end of the day.

IT: Handling information

Do birds have a favourite colour?

Computer sensors allow children to record events at a bird table automatically instead of having to check it all through the day. For example, you can attach a bag of red-dyed nuts to a spring and a **position sensor** and record how many times it moved during the day. The next day you might try again but with green-dyed nuts. The computer screen will show a series of blips and the children can be asked to use this to get a measure of how many birds have visited.



IT: Measuring