Blackbird Diary



Heather Hammonds

Flying Colours

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Chapter 1

Blackbirds in the Garden

There are blackbirds in our garden. I see them hunting for worms on the lawn each day.

Mum fills the bird bath with water and they like to splash in it.

In the morning and evening, a male blackbird sings in the trees. He always sings a beautiful song!



Preview Only

Last spring a pair of blackbirds built a nest in some bushes outside my window. I decided to keep a diary of what happened. I wanted to see how long it took for the blackbirds' eggs to hatch, and the babies to grow.

This is my blackbird diary.



In some countries these birds are called European blackbirds. This is because they are **native** to the continent of Europe.

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Chapter 2

Nest-building

Day 1

Today I saw some blackbirds building a nest in the bushes. The nest is made from grass, twigs and other plant materials. It is stuck together with mud.

Day 4

The blackbird nest is growing bigger. The female blackbird builds most of it, while the male blackbird chases other birds away from the bushes.



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Day 8

This morning I saw the female blackbird **lining** the inside of the nest with lots of soft, dry grass. The soft grassy lining will help keep her chicks warm after they have hatched.



Day 12

At last the nest is finished. When will the female blackbird lay her eggs?

A blackbirds' nest looks like this:



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Chapter 3

Eggs in the Nest

Day 14

The female blackbird sat quietly on the nest today. It was very hard to see her because she was almost the same colour as the nest.

When the female blackbird flew out to get some food and water, I saw an egg in the nest!



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The male blackbird continued to keep other birds away from the bushes. If a bird got too close, he hopped around and chirped at it angrily until it flew away. Then he flew into a nearby tree and sang loudly.



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Many birds sing beautiful songs. They sing to let other birds know where their **territory** is.