

THE GREAT

# TWITCH

DETECTIVE CHALLENGE!



OUT  
NOW

**SOLVE THE CASE OF  
THE MYSTERY BIRD!**

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WALKER  
BOOKS

**Whisper  
Snapper**  
Keeping Kids Entertained

# TWITCH

CAN A BIRDWATCHER OUTWIT AN ESCAPED CONVICT?



**“Find your nest, curl up and enjoy.”** *Children’s Book of the Week, The Times*

From bestselling writer **M. G. LEONARD**, comes a brand new book featuring an unlikely hero, who will soon become every reader’s favourite young detective.

Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching.

On the first day of the summer holiday he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere. A convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood.

Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching in the hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot?

**SCAN HERE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK!**



[www.twitchersclub.com](http://www.twitchersclub.com)

## YOUR ESSENTIAL STARTER GUIDE TO BEING A TWITCHER

To solve the case of the mystery bird, you need to become a fellow twitcher (that’s a birdwatcher who collects sightings of rare birds), by following the steps on this page!

First, collect the items on your Twitcher’s Toolkit which are scattered through this booklet. Check them off as you find them.

Next, let’s make some Bird Seed Balls to attract birds to your garden!

### TWITCHER’S TOOLKIT

- Light Backpack
- Notebook
- Binoculars
- Pen or Pencil



#### What you will need:

- Lard
- Pine Cone(s)
- Birdseed
- Twine/String

### Bird Seed Balls Recipe

1. Leave your lard out to warm to room temperature
2. Clean the pine cone(s), then tie a long piece of string around the base of each one
3. Mix the birdseed with lard until it all sticks together
4. Push the mixture between the pine cone scales to create your seed ball
5. Pop them in the fridge until the lard has set hard
6. Hang the seed balls in a quiet, sheltered area

Using your Bird Seed Balls, try to spot the birds below in your garden or local park.

- STARLING
- BLUE TIT
- WOOD PIGEON
- ROBIN
- HOUSE SPARROW
- BLACKBIRD
- MAGPIE
- CROW

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# BIRD FACT FILE!



**Name:** Starling

**Fun fact:** During the winter you may be lucky enough to see a starling murmuration. These flocks gather in the evening and perform amazing aerobatic displays which are one of the most beautiful and enchanting natural sights in the UK!



**Name:** House Sparrow

**Fun facts:** House sparrows have lived alongside humans since the Stone Age and the oldest known wild house sparrow lived for nearly two decades. Sparrows have also been recorded breeding in an English coal mine 640 m (2,100 ft) below ground.



**Name:** Magpie

**Fun facts:** Magpies are closely related to crows and ravens and are one of the most intelligent birds. It is also thought that magpies recognise their own reflection in the mirror, which is amazing as only a few other species have demonstrated this ability!



**Name:** Robin

**Fun facts:** Robin eggs are light blue! They are very loyal to their food sources. The Robin you see in your garden is most likely the same one each time. Although they may look the same, each Robin has a completely unique red breast pattern.



**Name:** Blue Tit

**Fun facts:** Blue tits are one of the most attractive and easily recognisable garden visitors in the UK due to their bright colourings of blue, yellow, white and green. They also hang upside down from branches and feeders to find food!

**Name:** Crow

**Fun facts:** Crows are extremely intelligent birds and they are known for their problem-solving skills. Amazingly research has shown that crows don't forget a face! A group of crows is called a 'murder' and when a crow dies they will surround the body to find out what killed their member.



# THE GREAT BIRD DETECTIVE QUIZ!



## Test your bird knowledge.

1. What is another name for a birdwatcher?

- A. Twitter      B. Twitcher      C. Tweeter

2. You'll find lots of this common bird around Nelson's Column in London.

- A. Woodpecker      B. Parrot      C. Pigeon

3. A bright blue and orange bird usually found near water.

- A. Kingfisher      B. Robin      C. Cuckoo

4. A domestic bird we collect eggs from for breakfast.

- A. Budgie      B. Swan      C. Chicken

5. From March to July you can hear this in the morning.

- A. Breakfast Melody      B. Morning Song      C. Dawn Chorus

6. A tiny brown bird with a remarkably loud voice.

- A. Magpie      B. Wren      C. Swallow

7. This bird can walk both up and down a tree, it also eats hazelnuts, acorns and other nuts and seeds.

- A. Nuthatch      B. Dove      C. Seagull

8. A bird that is named after its ability to sing.

- A. Singer      B. Warbler      C. Tuner

9. The males of this species of bird are the same colour as their name suggests.

- A. Blackbird      B. Redbird      C. Yellowbird

10. One of Britain's most common birds, they are often found in urban areas.

- A. Barn owl      B. Buzzard      C. Sparrow

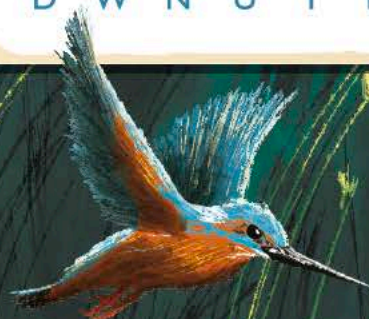


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## Bird Words

Can you help Twitch find the answers from the quiz in the word search below?

D	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	B	Q	G	X	I	N	W
W	O	P	P	I	G	E	O	N	T	R	S	L	W	X
G	A	K	O	C	I	B	T	V	E	T	P	E	I	C
H	M	R	O	H	Q	L	S	D	M	H	A	I	S	Y
O	B	D	B	F	T	S	H	X	N	R	R	U	K	W
Y	T	G	H	L	O	P	Y	Z	T	T	R	R	G	E
B	R	T	O	L	E	Z	W	F	W	O	O	D	J	E
L	X	N	D	R	H	R	K	I	H	R	W	D	I	P
A	M	R	N	N	C	G	T	C	J	W	R	E	N	X
C	D	H	B	K	P	C	N	A	X	W	S	X	I	B
K	I	D	P	Y	H	W	X	S	I	Y	D	C	J	B
B	F	M	M	E	A	W	E	V	H	M	O	Y	R	Q
I	G	W	R	D	K	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	E	R
R	B	N	N	L	F	C	I	K	Q	I	D	B	E	H
D	W	N	U	T	H	A	T	C	H	T	B	A	Q	Z



**ANSWERS**  
The Great Bird Detective Quiz

1. Twitcher
2. Pigeon
3. Kingfisher
4. Chicken
5. Dawn Chorus
6. Wren
7. Nuthatch
8. Warbler
9. Blackbird
10. Sparrow.

Bird Words

## Footprint Evidence

Can you work out which birds these tracks belong to?  
Unscramble the letters below if you need a hint.




P S R A W O R




H C I K E N C




G P E I N O




G E A E L




U D K C




W O L



**SOLVE THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY BIRD TO WIN A  
WILDKIDSCOMPANY.COM EXPLORER KIT PLUS A COPY OF TWITCH  
AND A TWITCHERS CLUB BADGE AND BOOKMARK!**

Using everything you've learnt in this booklet, try working out which bird is being described below.

- This bird is **VERY INTELLIGENT**
- They are related to **RAVENS**
- They **DON'T FORGET A FACE**



Once you've worked out what the mystery bird is, head on over to:

**WHIPPERSNAPPERKIDS.COM/TWITCH**

Competition closes 30/09/21. Terms and conditions apply, see website for more details.