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Science

Science

Life Science

# All About Birds

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main Idea and Details</li><li>• Compare and Contrast</li><li>• Text Structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labels</li></ul>

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.2.5

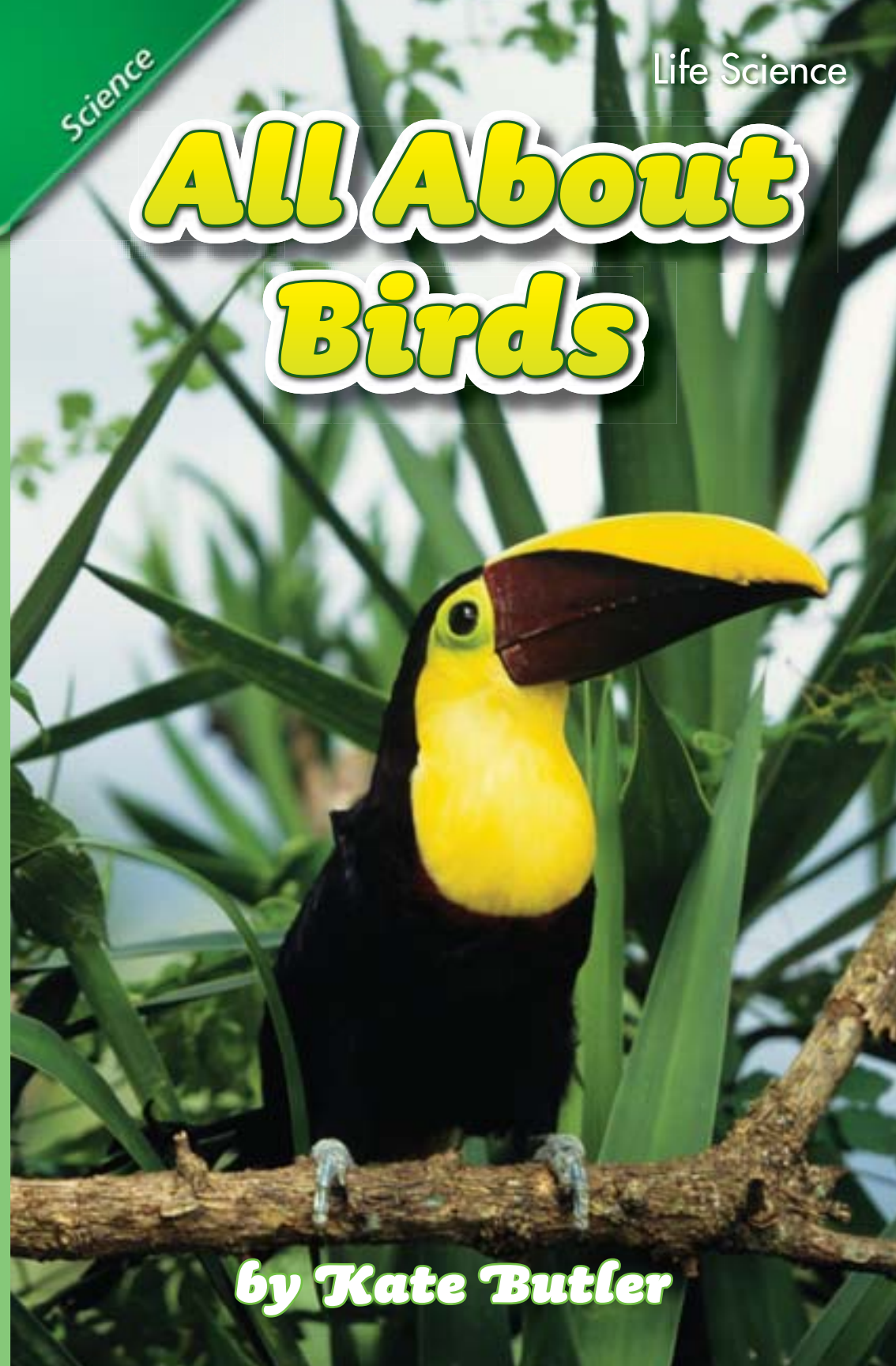
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by Kate Butler



## Vocabulary

bill

goo

hunters

materials

platform

ton

twigs

Word count: 441

# All About Birds



**by Kate Butler**

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.

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What is a bird? A bird is an animal with feathers and wings. Many birds can fly, but some cannot. Some birds can swim and dive. One thing is true for all birds: All birds lay eggs.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 V0G1 13 12 11 10 09



Flying birds



How big are birds? Birds are many different sizes.

The smallest bird is the bee hummingbird. It is about two inches long. It weighs a little less than two paper clips.



The biggest bird lives in Africa. It is the ostrich. An ostrich is about nine feet tall, and it weighs about 300 pounds.

An ostrich can't fly because it's too heavy. But it can run very quickly.



What do birds eat? Birds eat food that is easy to find.

Some birds eat seeds, fruits, insects, and earthworms. Other birds eat fish or small animals. Birds that hunt for their food are called birds of prey. Hawks, eagles, and owls are birds of prey, or hunters.

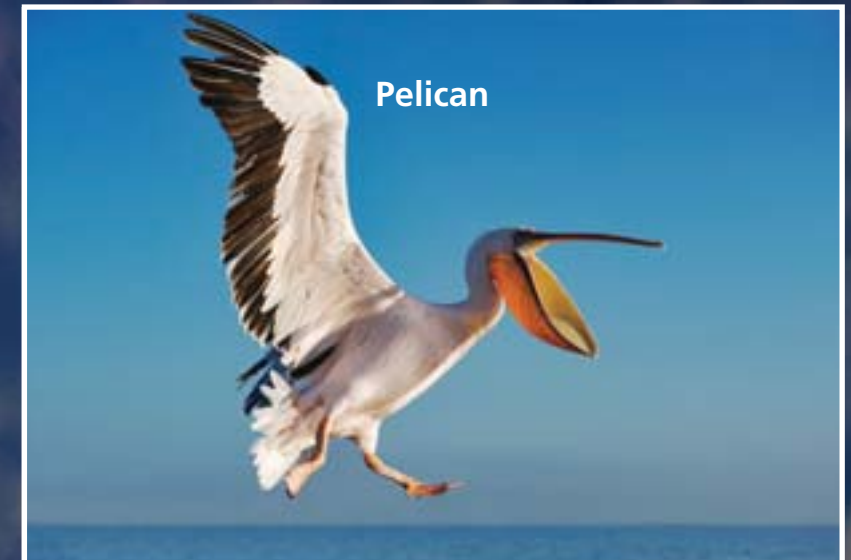
Birds do not have teeth. They have two light jaws that form a beak or a bill. Beaks or bills come in many shapes and sizes.

A pelican has a bill shaped like a basket. Its bill helps the pelican catch fish.

An owl has a strong, hooked beak. An owl uses its beak to tear apart its food.



A hawk catching a fish



Pelican



Owl



What do birds use to make nests? They use many different materials. Many birds use twigs and grasses. They may also use mud or other goo to hold their nests together.

Birds' nests need to be strong and warm. Nests keep eggs and baby birds safe.

Eagles use big sticks to make giant nests. One nest can weigh more than a ton. That's 2,000 pounds!

An eagle's nest has a wide, flat bottom. It is shaped like a platform. Eagles return to the same nest year after year.



A bird's nest with eggs



A bald eagle's nest



Where do birds live? Birds live all over the world.

Many penguins live in Antarctica. Antarctica is covered in ice and is very cold and windy. These penguins have special feathers that help keep them warm and dry. They cannot fly, but they are great swimmers. Penguins are also great at catching fish.

**An emperor penguin  
in Antarctica**



Toucans live in rain forests. Rain forests are hot and steamy. What do you notice first about this toucan? It has a giant, colorful bill that may scare away other birds such as hawks. Toucans live in trees and eat many kinds of food.



**A toucan in the rain forest**

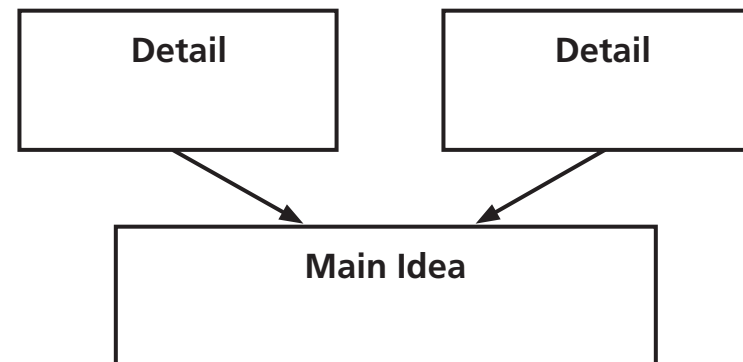
Birds are everywhere! You can find them in the air, on land, or in the water. They are big and small. Their nests come in all different shapes and sizes. They eat many different kinds of food.

What kinds of birds live near you?



## Reader Response

1. What is the main idea of this book? Using a chart like the one below, list two details that support the main idea.



2. Reread the question at the top of page 6. How did this question help you know what the rest of the page would be about?
3. Reread page 8. What does the word *materials* mean on this page? What kinds of materials do birds use to make nests?
4. What are three interesting facts you learned about birds from this book?