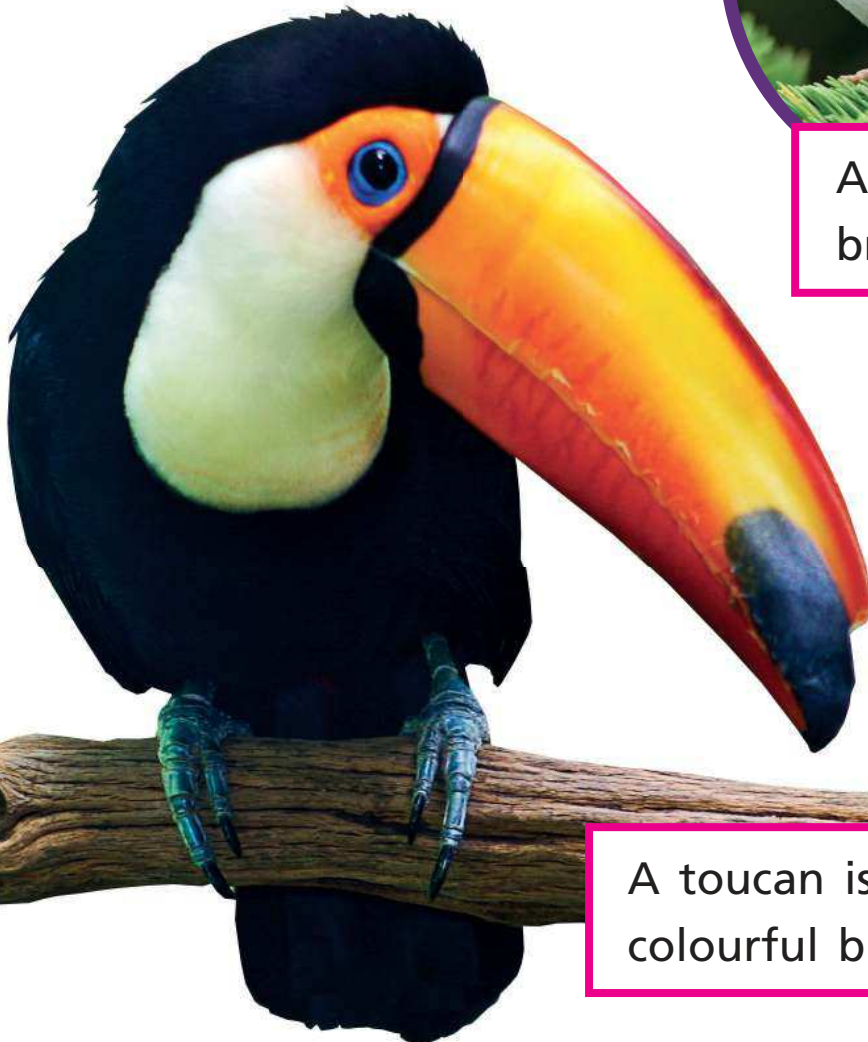


Birds and Colour

There are over 10,000 different kinds of birds in the world. Many of them have dull feathers of brown, grey or black. Some have very colourful feathers of blue, orange, yellow, red or green. This book explains why.



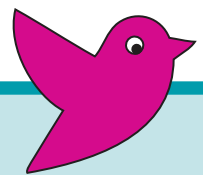
A sparrow has brown feathers.



A toucan is a very colourful bird.



A cuckoo's feathers are dull grey.



Did you know?

Birds are the only animals in the world to have feathers.

Sending Signals

Each kind of bird looks different. Birds use their colours and markings to tell other birds something about themselves. It's like sending a signal.

The signal might say, 'I'm the same **species** as you' or 'I'm female'.



This pheasant's bright feathers send a signal that says, 'I'm male.'

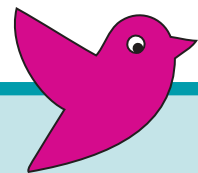
Many birds grow different new feathers at certain times of the year. This sends a different signal. It might say, 'I'm an adult', 'I'm healthy' and 'Shall we have chicks?'



This male goldfinch turns golden when it's time for the female to have chicks.



Did you know?



Birds have very good eyesight. They see each other's signals clearly.