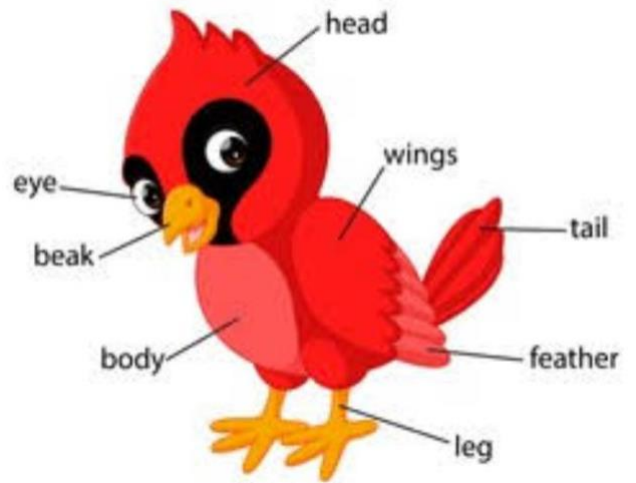


CHAPTER 4

BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

**Body parts of a bird:**

All birds have a beak, two wings and two legs. They have feathers on their bodies. The small fluffy feathers on their body keep them warm. Birds use their beaks and claws to get their food. The wings of the birds have long feathers. The long feathers help birds to fly. The feathers are attached to the strong muscles called flight muscles. These muscles help the wings move up and down.



**FEATHERS**

- The most basic function of bird feathers is protection.
- Birds need their feathers to protect their body. When it's cold, feathers help birds to keep them warm. When it's hot, they compress the feathers to increase air flow.
- Bird feathers also serve as raincoats.

**Types of Feathers**

We can group feathers into three types:

- Bird's body is covered with small feathers. These are called **body feathers**.

- The tail and wings of birds have another kind of feathers. These are long and flat. These help in flying and are called **flight feather**
- Some small and fluffy feathers found under the flight feathers are called **down feathers**.
- Many baby birds are covered with down feathers when they are born.



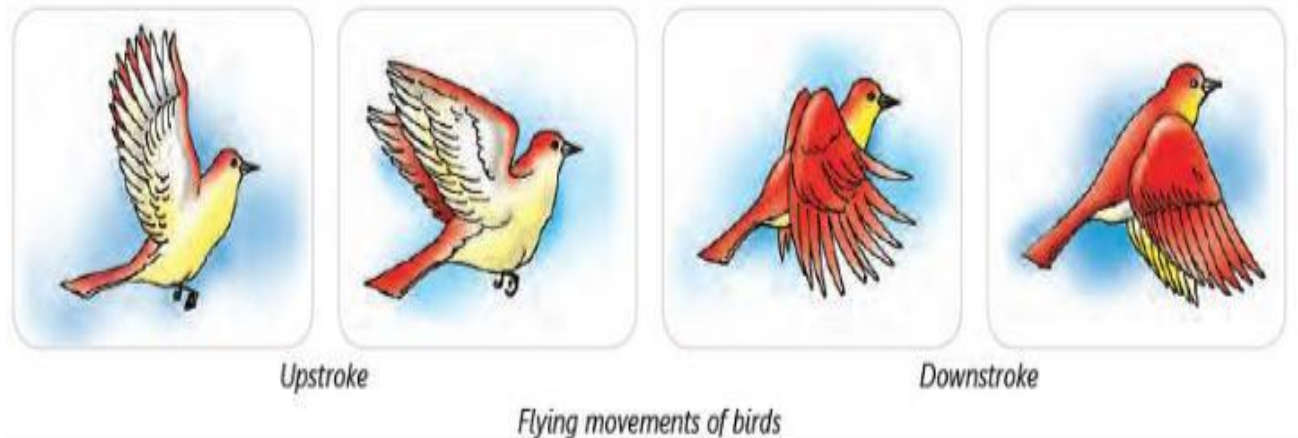
### **What Makes Birds Fly?**

- Birds have wings made of feathers which do the work of arms. The wings have strong muscles called flight muscles. The flight muscles help to move the wings.
- The body of a bird is boat shaped so that it can float in the air just like a boat floats on water.
- Bones of birds are thin, hollow and filled with air, which make the body light so that it can fly.
- It has a tail which helps the bird to change direction during flight. It is like the steering wheel of the car.

### **How Does A Bird Fly?**

- The bird first flaps its wings up and down to rise up in the air. When it reaches the desired height, it stops flapping its wings and simply glides through the air.
- The two types of flapping movements that birds show are:

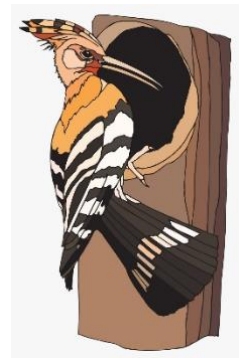
- Upstroke: When the wings move upward and backward.
- Downstroke: When the wings move downward and forward.



### **Nesting Habits Of Birds:**

- Birds build nests. They use twigs, grass, feathers, cotton, wool, leaves and sometimes even mud to build their nests.
- The nest acts as the shelter for the birds.
- It keeps them safe from bad weather.
- It protects them from their enemies.
- Birds lay their eggs in nests.

**Nests in holes:** A woodpecker makes a hole in a tree trunk with its beak. The hole is used as a nest.



**Nests in rocks:** Eagles make their nests on the higher branches of tall trees or on rocks.



**A woven nest:** A weaver bird uses grass, twigs, and leaves to weave a nest on a tree with its beak. The nest hangs from the branch of a tree. It pulls the grass in and out with its beak as it weaves the nest. There is a tunnel shaped opening for the bird to enter.



**A stitched nest:** A tailor bird makes its nest out of large sized leaves. It uses its beak like a needle to stitch the leaves together using cotton threads or threads from a spider's web. That is why it is called a tailor bird.



**Nests on open ground:** Penguins and partridges make their nests on the ground with a few stones or pebbles. This prevents the eggs from rolling away.

