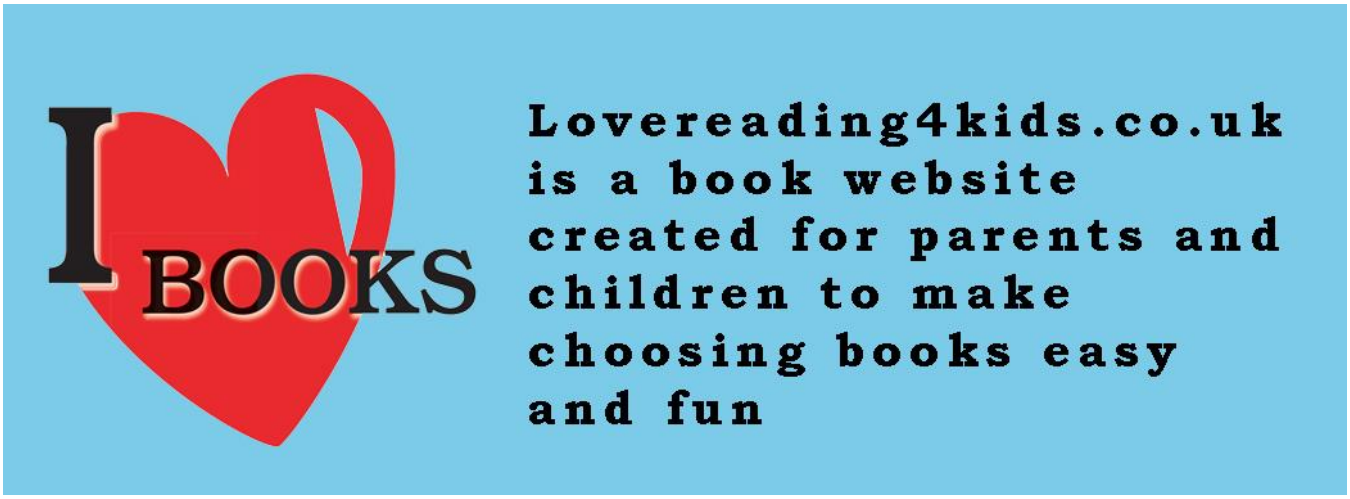


Opening extract from

The Big Bird Spot

Written & Illustrated by

Matt Sewell

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For Romy and Mae

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Introduction

Are you good at spotting birds? Have you ever dreamed of roaming the globe to see the amazing species of birds that live in each habitat? Well get ready to travel with this book – from meadows and woodlands to deserts and mountains, you'll visit them all. All kinds of bird life are hidden in these pages, but it's harder than you think – birds are good at hiding and camouflaging themselves; they have to be, to avoid predators.

On each double-page spread you'll be taken to a different part of the world, given a picture and description of the birds you'll be looking for and left to search the landscape. So what are you waiting for? Grab your passport and start spotting our feathered friends! And while you're scanning the pages, can you also find the binoculars that an absent-minded bird spotter has left on each spread? If it all gets too much, the answers for birds and binoculars are at the back.

Enjoy!

Matt Sewell



Deep in the jungle



Ring-necked parakeet

"SQWAAARK" is the giveaway sound when there are parakeets around. This bird is so perfectly coloured to blend in with the jungle that it is funny to think that there are now thousands of these noisy emerald parrots living in London. They don't mind the cold or traffic; in fact they seem to thrive in those conditions.

Can you spot **10** ring-necked parakeets in the dense tropical undergrowth?

Wild sea cliff

Little auk

Up on the wild sea cliffs, hidden amongst guillemots and their puffin cousins, you can find the dovekie, otherwise known as the little auk. This is indeed the littlest of all the seagoing auks, and perhaps the cutest too. Which is no easy feat considering they are up against murrelets, puffins and crested auklets. They are as cute as a mermaid's rubber ducky!

Can you spot **23** little auks on and around this cliff, warming themselves in the sun after a day on the ocean?



In the city

Tree sparrow

In Europe the tree sparrow, with chestnut cap and big sideburns, is normally a woodland and countryside bird (as you can imagine by the name). In Asia, massive colonies of them have been lured by bright lights and fancy living, and have moved to the city. You will find whole flocks busily window shopping, begging for scraps and foraging the city trees for their usual seed and nut-based snacks.

Can you find **27** of these feathered-city-folk as they go about their day!



The sunny Serengeti

Glossy ibis

With its sickle-like beak, the ibis is a distinctive bird found all over the world. Here in the Serengeti is the glossy ibis with its deep red metallic coat and long hooked bill. The beak is perfect for picking insects from the water's edge that the flamingos have failed to spot from their lofty height.

Can you spot **22** glossy ibises amongst the 125 pink flamingos?