

Ask Bird Brain

The Bird Advice Column

Dear Bird Brain,

*I am very tired. A bird woke me up.
The bird was loud. The bird sang for
hours. The bird sang lots of songs.
The bird sang all night. Don't birds
sleep at night?*

**Best,
Sleepy in Seattle**



Dear Sleepy,

Most birds sleep at night. But not mockingbirds. Mockingbirds sing both day and night.

Mockingbirds are small but loud. Mockingbirds can sing like other birds.

Only the boy sings. He sings to find a mate. He sings to keep other birds away.

Mockingbirds are known to keep people awake. I heard about one in Brooklyn. The bird woke the whole block. The bird sang for hours. The bird sang each night. The bird did this for weeks.

One man had to stop it. The man got a hose. The man sprayed the bird. The bird got scared. It flew away and never came back. The people were happy. The man was very happy.

**Best,
Bird Brain**

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Dear Bird Brain,

I am very tired today. A bird woke me up in the night. The bird sang for hours. The bird sang lots of tunes. The bird was really loud. Why was this bird awake? I thought birds sleep at night.

**Best,
Sleepy in Seattle**



Dear Sleepy,

You are right. Most birds sleep at night. You heard a mockingbird. They sing both in the day and in the night. They are loud. They sing lots of tunes. They can also sound like other birds.

Mockingbirds are small. But don't be fooled by their size. They sound like a large bird.

Only the male mockingbird sings. He sings to find a mate. He sings to mark his territory. If you're another bird and you can hear him, you're in his territory. So go away.

Mockingbirds often keep people awake. I heard about one bird in Brooklyn. It kept a whole block awake at night. The bird sang from 12:00 to 4:00 each morning. It kept everyone awake for weeks. Finally, one man decided to do something. He sprayed the bird with a hose. It scared the bird away. The bird never came back.

**Best,
Bird Brain**

Ask Bird Brain

The Bird Advice Column

Dear Bird Brain,

I am very tired today because a bird kept me up all night long. It started around midnight and went on for hours and hours. It sang a lot of different, really loud songs. Why wasn't it sleeping? Aren't birds supposed to sleep at night?

**Best,
Sleepy in Seattle**



Dear Sleepy,

You're right; most birds do sleep at night. The bird you probably heard is called a mockingbird. They sing both in the day and in the night. Mockingbirds have very loud voices and sing a variety of tunes. They can also mock, or imitate the call of other birds.

Mockingbirds are small. They only weigh around 3 ounces, which is about as much as a lime. But don't be fooled by their size—mockingbirds have the voice of a much larger bird.

Only the male sings. He does this for two reasons: to try to attract a female and to mark his territory. If you're another bird and you can hear him, you're in his territory. So go away.

Mockingbirds are known to keep people awake. I heard about one bird that was terrorizing an entire city block in Brooklyn. The bird kept everyone awake from 12:00 to 4:00 each morning. After several tired weeks, someone finally decided to do something. He scared the bird away by spraying him with a hose.

**Sincerely,
Bird Brain**