













'Talking Duck'

Water birds species have developed language to chase off rivals and attract mates: gestures, sounds... In fact, people and water birds do similar things when they want to find a mate.

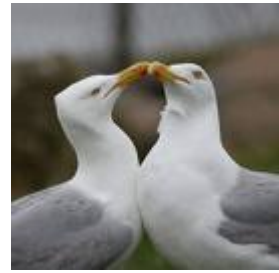
- Cut these cards and ask pupils to match them in pairs

<p>People wear fashionable clothes and dress up for a date.</p>		 <p>Water bird males take breeding colours and plumage.</p>
<p>People show off, dance, attract attention.</p>		 <p>Water birds have especial behaviours to show their state.</p>
<p>People touch and fuss over each other.</p>		 <p>Water birds preen / use social grooming.</p>
<p>People show who's in charge.</p>		 <p>Water birds show dominating behaviour.</p>
<p>People are led or bossed around.</p>		 <p>Water birds show submissive behaviour.</p>

<p>People exchange gifts.</p> 	 <p>Water birds feed their mates.</p>
<p>People compete.</p> 	 <p>Water birds fight off rivals.</p>
<p>People ask for a date.</p> 	 <p>Water birds produce courtship sounds.</p>
<p>People go out together.</p> 	 <p>Water birds pairs bond and live together.</p>
<p>People find a place to live.</p> 	 <p>Water birds build a nest.</p>

- Water birds communicate with each other using sight, sound and touch signals. Find examples while birdwatching:

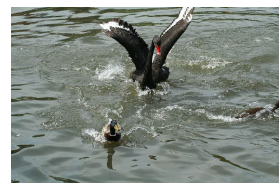
Courtship displays: derived from everyday activities like drinking, preening and bathing.



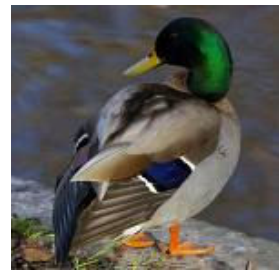
Flocking: better chances of spotting danger and finding mates and food.



Go away: birds chasing off rivals and defending territories.



Choose me!: bright breeding patterns of male ducks act as adverts to attract females.



Hide and seek!: camouflage colours.

