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Kingfishers are one of the most striking birds in the UK, but did you know that the blue feathers are actually brown? The brilliant blue colour is created by the refraction of light through the microsculpture of the feathers.

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The common rudd is a freshwater fish which prefers clear water with plenty of aquatic plants and invertebrates to feed on.

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This case with a common whitethroat on the left and a lesser whitethroat on the right was prepared by JL Knapp, Bristol 1831 and is one of the earliest taxidermy cases in our collection

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Although common, moles are not often seen as they spend most of their time underground feeding on earthworms and other invertebrates. Their shovel-like feet are used to shift large amounts of soil while burrowing.

A life underground in complete darkness means that the mole has very poor eyesight, so relies mostly on its sense of touch and smell.

Some people see them as pests but they're working hard to aerate the soil and feed on many unwanted grubs.