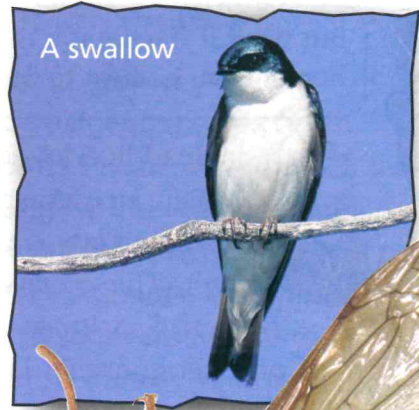


## Home sweet home

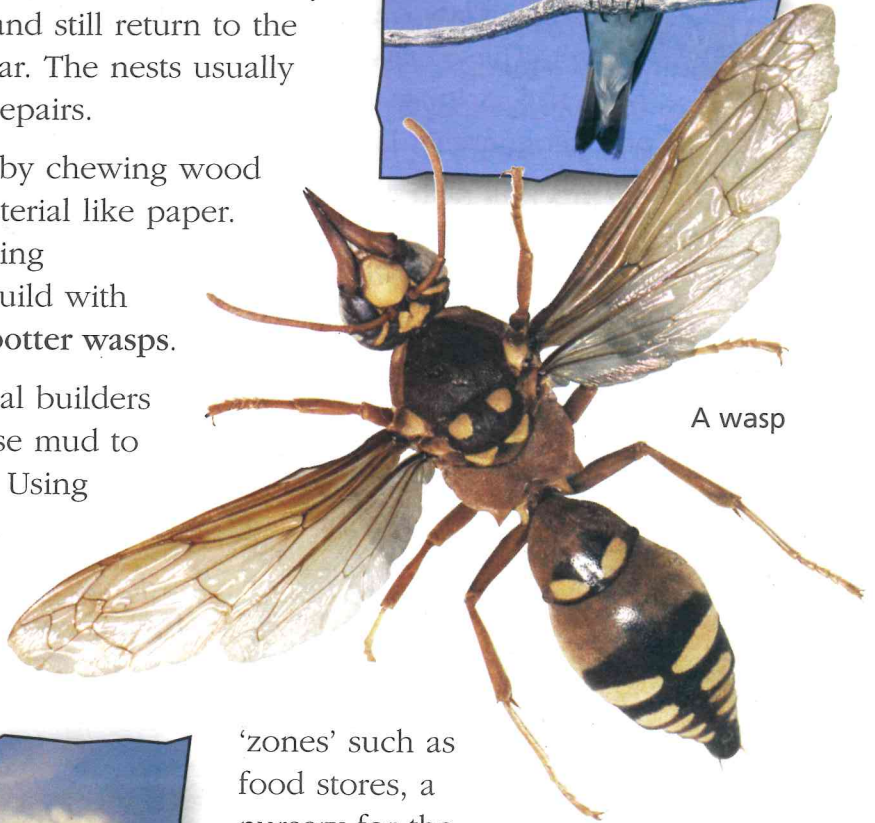
Most birds build nests out of twigs and feathers. Others prefer a sturdier structure! Swallows mix mud with grass and build their nests in the eaves of houses. The swallows fly for thousands of miles and still return to the same nest, year after year. The nests usually need only a few small repairs.

Wasps build their nests by chewing wood and turning it into a material like paper. They use this as a building material. Other wasps build with mud. These are called potter wasps.

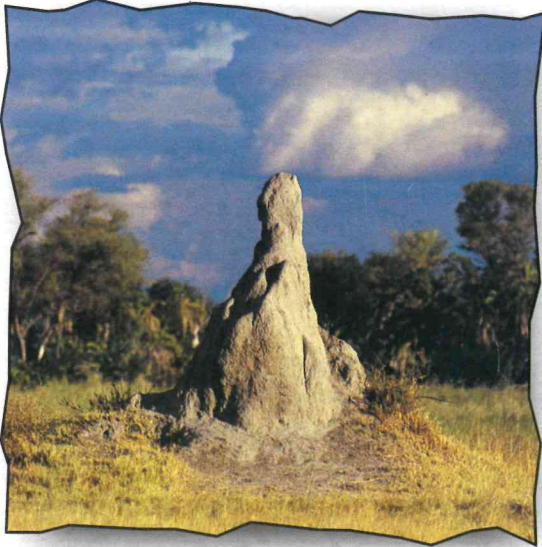
The most amazing animal builders are termites. Termites use mud to make a type of cement. Using this 'cement', they build complicated termite hills. These hills are organised into separate



A swallow



A wasp



Termite hills can reach six metres in height and house a colony of millions of termites

'zones' such as food stores, a nursery for the larvae or grubs and royal chambers where the queen lays her eggs. A queen termite may lay 30 000 eggs a day for several months. The entire structure is maintained at the right temperature by a complicated system of chimneys and air vents. You could say termites invented air conditioning long before we did!