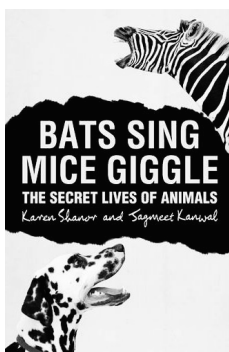


Tekst 5

- 1p 14 Welke van de volgende beweringen is waar volgens deze boekrecensie?
- A Dieren zijn in vele opzichten volkomen anders dan mensen.
 - B Dit dierenboek is te wetenschappelijk voor de gemiddelde lezer.
 - C Kanaries fluiten zo mooi omdat ze lang hun adem kunnen inhouden.
 - D Mollen hebben een heel bijzonder communicatiesysteem.

Why canaries sing so well



**Bats Sing, Mice Giggle:
Revealing the Secret Lives
of Animals**
by Karen Shanor and Jagmeet
Kanwal £14.99

Since reading *The Wind in the Willows* at the age of seven I've had a soft spot for moles. Friends once built a fake 'mole hill' outside my door with a birthday card on it. So it was with delight that I discovered more about moles in *Bats Sing, Mice Giggle*.

Moles live alone in tunnels. They don't like other moles and if they bump into another, a fight starts. They only get together to mate and the female stays with its pups for 12 weeks. After that the pup seals its connection to the maternal tunnel and digs its own. Then the two keep in touch via 'mole telephone'. One mole bangs the top of its head against the roof of the tunnel and the other picks up the vibratory message by pressing its cheek and lower jaw against the wall.

I now also know why canaries sing so well: they take 30 mini-breaths per second and these breaths are synchronised with each syllable or note enabling the canary to sing effortlessly for several minutes. This book goes deeper than offering titbits of behaviour. It makes you question what we mean by the phrase 'human nature' by offering evidence that our abilities to perceive, think, feel, sing, dance, giggle and solve problems emerge from and are shared by other animals.

The two Washington-based scientists draw upon the work of many other scientists to reveal animal secrets. They have produced a study which is both accessible to the lay reader and acceptable to the scientific community.

Linda Christmas