

# How Many Birds Left?

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The second-grade school teacher posed a simple enough problem to the class. “There are four blackbirds sitting in a tree. You take a slingshot and shoot one of them. How many are left?”

“Three,” answered the first 7-year-old boy with certainty.  
“One subtracted from four leaves three.”

“Zero,” answered the second 7-year-old boy with equal certainty. “If you shoot one bird, the others will fly away.”

