

Feeding Garden Birds



Now that we humans have taken over most of the land in the UK for housing, industry and intensive farming, the majority of natural food supplies for birds have declined. As a result, it is important for us to provide a source of food in our gardens. Feeding all year round not only provides entertainment for you, but will also make sure that during the Winter, birds do not face starvation and during the Summer they can raise healthy chicks who are much likely to survive and become breeding adults themselves. In fact, there is evidence to show that the feeding of garden birds during the Winter months drastically improves their breeding success in Spring and for our declining birds especially, that has to be a wonderful thing.

Follow our bird guide below to find out which foods will attract which birds: -

FEEDERS

- **Hanging Bird Feeders attract** Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Long Tailed Tit, Sparrow, Starling, Woodpecker
- **Ground Feeders attract** Blackbird, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Greenfinch, Pied Wagtail, Starling, Thrush
- **Bird Table Feeders attract** Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Robin, Sparrow, Starling, Thrush, Wood Pigeon, Wren,

FOOD

- **Peanuts** –loved by the Tit family but also taken by Starlings, Sparrows and Greenfinches
- **Sunflower seeds and Hearts** – especially loved by Greenfinches and Chaffinches
- **Mealworms/Insect Mix** – The dried variety can be soaked if you are squeamish about live food, good in the breeding season for Robins, Wrens, Thrushes and many more
- **Niger Seeds** – especially loved by Goldfinches
- **Fat cake** – All Tits, Blackcaps, Starlings
- **Table seed** (mixed corn/wheat/pinhead oats) – Popular with Chaffinches, Collared Doves, Dunnocks, Great Tits, Sparrows, Starlings
- Also make good use of your kitchen scraps: - Cooked Rice, Potatoes, Cake, Bread, Fruit, Cheese and Bacon Rinds will be loved by your garden birds

MAGPIES

We have been testing a theory for 4 years now that if you feed magpies separately, they will leave fledglings alone!! The results? Our magpies couldn't be less interested in fledglings when they can visit their feed station for pasta, potatoes, meat scraps and dog food.

Set up a separate area for magpies and see the results for yourself!

The bottom line is that garden birds need our help now more than ever. In the last 25 years numbers of Blackbirds and Thrushes have plummeted as have Dunnocks and even the once common Starling. So go ahead and feed birds. It's beneficial for them and also great fun for you.

TRICHMONIASIS

This protozoan affliction causes a growth in the bird's throat which makes it difficult to swallow and even breathe. We have seen this infect garden birds, doves and even birds of prey and it is usually fatal if not caught early. The cause of spread in garden birds is via feeding stations, so hygiene is extremely important or it could be said that by feeding birds, the public is just aiding the spread of disease.