



# BIRD SPOTTING GUIDE



## Chaffinch

Pretty, cute and very common, but too shy to come and say hello.

### About

Male chaffinches have a striking appearance and can be identified by their pinkish breast and underparts, blue crown, chestnut back and yellow tinted feathers. Females have more brown colouring and paler wings.

### Breeding

Chaffinch breeding season is between April and July. They typically lay one brood containing 4-5 eggs. Eggs vary in colour and can be blue/green or red/brown.

### Did you know?

In the UK there are 6.2 million breeding pairs of Chaffinches



Chaffinch

**Average Height** = 14cm  
**Average Wingspan** = 26cm  
**Diet** = Insects and seeds  
**Habitat** = Woodland, farmlands and gardens

## Blackbird

Like their song, the Blackbirds are bold characters, with soundtrack for all the comings and goings in the garden.

### About

Males are almost completely black with the exception of a yellow bill and ring around their eye. Despite their name females are actually predominantly brownie-red in colour.

### Breeding

Can lay up to five broods of 3-4 eggs between March and September. Nests are usually formed of grass and twigs and located in the fork of a tree or bush. Eggs are green/blue in colour with red blotches. The incubation period usually lasts between 13 and 14 days.

### Did you know?

Blackbirds love to sunbathe with their wings spread out



Blackbird

**Average Height** = 24cm  
**Average Wingspan** = 36cm  
**Diet** = Mainly insects, fruit & berry  
**Habitat** = Woodlands, gardens and parks



## Wren

A tiny, busy and hardy bird. For such a small bird it has a remarkably loud voice.

### About

Wrens are very small birds which are mostly brown in colour.

### Breeding

Wrens will usually lay and raise two broods between March and August. Nests are made from moss and grass and are usually positioned in a hole close to the ground. Eggs are white in colour with faint brown specks.

### Did you know?

Tiny birds like Wrens sleep together at night for warmth. 63 Wrens were once found in a single nest box!

## Wren



**Average Height** = 10cm

**Average Wingspan** = 15cm

**Diet** = Insects and small seeds

**Habitat** = Woodlands and areas with lots of undergrowth

## Song Thrush



**Average Height** = 23cm

**Average Wingspan** = 34cm

**Diet** = Insects and fruits

**Habitat** = Woodlands, farmland and shrubberies of gardens

## Song Thrush

A Song Thrush only sings one song, but it's always a pleasant song to hear.

### About

Song thrushes are brown in colour with a speckled breast.

### Breeding

Breeding season is between March and September. Song Thrushes will lay between two and four broods each containing 3-5 pale blue eggs. Incubation is 14-15 days.

### Did you know?

Song Thrushes love eating snails, so they are always a welcome visitor for gardeners

## Greater Spotted Woodpecker

The Greater Spotted Woodpecker, although distinctive in colour, likes to keep himself to himself, which makes spotting him an even bigger treat!

### About

Great Spotted Woodpeckers can be identified by their black and white plumage and red under tail. Males and females can be identified because males have a red marking on their nape whilst the females do not have this.

### Breeding

Breeding season takes place between April and July. These birds will excavate a hole in a tree to lay their eggs, which are white in colour. Each season, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, will typically lay one brood containing 4-6 eggs. The incubations period is 14-16 days.

### Did you know?

Woodpeckers can peck up to 20 times per second, sometimes getting into the region of 8,000-12,000 a day!

## Greater Spotted Woodpecker



**Average Height** = 22cm

**Average Wingspan** = 36cm

**Diet** = Insects, some seeds, peanuts and suet

**Habitat** = Woods, suburban woodland and gardens



## Bullfinch

This shy, petite bird has a striking contrast of pinky red breast to black-as-night head makes for an enchanting sight in the garden.

### About

Male Bullfinches can be easily identified by their bright pink breast and grey back, whilst the females can be identified by their pale pinkie/orange breast.

### Breeding

Bullfinch breeding season takes place between April and

September. Nests are made of twigs and rootlets and tend to be positioned in a secure location, under thick cover. Bullfinches can lay up to three broods in a season with each containing 4-5 eggs. Eggs are blue with even darker blotches. The incubation period is 14-16 days.

### Did you know?

A Bullfinch's heart beats 400 times a minute. That's 5 times faster than a humans!



**Bullfinch**

**Average Height** = 16cm

**Average Wingspan** = 26cm

**Diet** = Seeds, fruits and shoots

Parents also feed insects to young birds

**Habitat** = Woodland, farmlands, also gardens but they tend to hide under cover

## Coal Tit



**Average Height** = 12cm

**Average Wingspan** = 19cm

**Diet** = Insects and small seeds

**Habitat** = Woodlands and gardens

## Coal Tit

Coal Tits prefer to spend time in flocks, fluttering between woodland, gardens and orchards.

### About

Coal Tits have a black cap, white cheeks, black and white back and pinkie/orange underparts.

### Breeding

Coal Tit breeding season takes place between March and July.

Nests are typically made of moss, hairs and wool and are located in tree hollows or nest boxes. These birds can lay up to two broods in a season, each containing 9-10 white eggs with brown speckles. Incubation lasts 14-16 days.

### Did you know?

Coal Tits are great at hiding food, but they aren't very good at remembering where they've left it!

## Goldfinch

If you see one, you can be sure there will be a whole charm of them soon. A delight to watch, with the gold flash wing and red face, they're easy to spot darting around the garden branches.

### About

Goldfinches can be recognised by the distinctive yellow flashes on their wings and red white and black markings on their faces.

### Did you know?

Goldfinches decorate the outside of their nests with colourful flowers

### Breeding

Breeding season is from April to September. Goldfinches will lay up to three broods in a season, each with 4-6 eggs. Goldfinch nests are made from moss, roots and spider silk. They are usually positioned within a bush or tree. Eggs are pale blue with red markings and incubation takes between 13 and 15 days.



**Goldfinch**

**Average Height** = 12cm

**Average Wingspan** = 24cm

**Diet** = Small seeds and some insects

**Habitat** = Woodland, farmland, open countryside and gardens



## Great Tit

They may not be very big, but that doesn't stop him bossing around the other birds. Proud and loud, with a hymn book full of songs.

**About**

Great Tits have black and white heads, a yellow breast with a black stripe and a green back.

**Breeding**

Breeding takes place between March and July. Nests are made from grass, moss, wool, hair and feathers. Great Tits will lay one brood of 7-9 eggs which are white with brown specks. Incubation takes 13-15 days.

**Did you know?**

In winter Great Tits join with Blue Tits and others to form roaming flocks which scour gardens and countryside for food



Great Tit

**Average Height** = 14cm  
**Average Wingspan** = 24cm  
**Diet** = Insects, seeds and fruit  
**Habitat** = Woodland, gardens and urban areas

## Long Tailed Tit



**Average Height** = 14cm  
**Average Wingspan** = 18cm  
**Diet** = Insects and small seeds, they also like suet based products  
**Habitat** = Woodlands and gardens

## Long Tailed Tit

Most often seen moving in groups in Autumn. A unique and pretty sight.

**About**

Can be identified by their fluffy plumage which is mostly black and white and their very long tail.

**Breeding**

Breeding season takes place between March and June.

They typically lay just one brood of 6-8 eggs which are either completely white or marked with little red specks. Nests are impressive as they are mostly enclosed with a small opening near the top. They are constructed from moss, cobwebs and feathers. Incubation takes 15-18 days.

**Did you know?**

A Long Tail Tit's tail is bigger than its body

## Blue Tit

Gutsy and resourceful, a regular at your bird table and happy to make your garden their home.

**About**

Blue Tits have a mostly white face with blue and green plumage and yellow underparts.

**Breeding**

The Blue Tit breeding season takes place between March and July. Nests are made of moss,

grass, hair and feathers and are usually located in a tree hollow or a nest box. They usually lay one brood containing 1-10 eggs, which are white with small brown/red blotches.

The incubation period is 13-15 days.

**Did you know?**

Blue Tit parents may visit their nests up to 900 times a day to feed their young



Blue Tit

**Average Height** = 12cm  
**Average Wingspan** = 18cm  
**Diet** = Insects, seeds and fruits  
**Habitat** = Woodlands and gardens





# BIRD SPOTTING SURVEY

Count the number of birds visiting your garden each day & record your results in the table. For more help identifying the birds in your garden, check out our **Bird Spotting Guide**.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	TOTAL
<i>Example</i>						0		17
Blackbird								
Blue Tit								
Bullfinch								
Chaffinch								
Coal Tit								
Goldfinch								
Greater Spotted Woodpecker								
Great Tit								
Greenfinch								
House Sparrow								
Long Tailed Tit								
Robin								
Song Thrush								
Wren								
Other								

