

BIRD SPOTTING GUIDE



THE
WILD
BIRD
BANQUET

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.



Average Height: 14cm

Average Wingspan: 26cm

Diet: Insects and seeds

Habitat: Woodland, farmlands and gardens



Average Height: 24cm

Average Wingspan: 36cm

Diet: Mainly insects, fruit and berries

Habitat: Woodlands, gardens and parks

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.



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House Sparrow

Found in most parts of the world, the chattering of House Sparrows is part of the soundtrack of many of our lives.

About

The House Sparrow is a small but sturdily built bird with a stout bill designed for eating seeds. Adult males are distinctive, with black bibs, black eye masks and brown heads with grey caps. Females and young are mostly brown. House Sparrows make a wide range of chirping and chattering sounds.

Breeding

House Sparrows breed between March and July. They typically lay two to three broods containing 4-5 eggs. Eggs are white with brown speckles.

DID YOU KNOW?

The UK House Sparrow population has declined by 70% since the late 1970's.



Average Height: 14cm
Average Wingspan: 24cm
Diet: Seeds, berries
Habitat: Anywhere that people live!



Robin

Unmistakable with its red breast and beautiful song, the Robin is one of our most popular garden visitors.

About

The red breast of adult Robins is instantly recognisable, making this species one of the most straightforward to identify. Being territorial all year-round means that Robin song can be heard throughout the winter months, and they can often be heard singing at night.

Breeding

Robins breed between March and June. They typically lay two broods containing 4-5 eggs. Eggs are creamy white with brown speckles.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the Robins we see in the UK will have travelled here from Scandinavia and Finland.



Average Height: 14cm
Average Wingspan: 21cm
Diet: Insects, fruit and seeds
Habitat: Woodland, forest and gardens

Great Spotted Woodpecker

The Great 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.

Average Height: 24cm

Average Wingspan: 36cm

Diet: Mainly insects, larvae, seeds and nuts

Habitat: Woodlands areas



DID YOU KNOW?

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

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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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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



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.



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

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.



Average Height: 12cm

Average Wingspan: 19cm

Diet: Insects and small seeds

Habitat: Woodlands and gardens

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 a Goldfinch, you can rest assured that there will be a whole jolly troop on its way.

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.



Average Height: 12cm

Average Wingspan: 24cm

Diet: Small seeds and some insects

Habitat: Woodland, farmland, open countryside and gardens

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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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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.



Average Height: 14cm

Average Wingspan: 24cm

Diet: Insects, seeds and fruit

Habitat: Woodland, gardens and urban areas



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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.



Average Height: 14cm

Average Wingspan: 18cm

Diet: Insects and small seeds, they also like suet based products

Habitat: Woodlands and gardens

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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.



Average Height: 12cm

Average Wingspan: 18cm

Diet: Insects, seeds and fruits

Habitat: Woodlands and gardens

