

British Garden Birds

What Are Garden Birds?

Garden birds are birds that visit gardens regularly for food and shelter. The population of some species of garden birds has declined recently due to a number of factors, such as farming and habitat loss. Gardens are extremely important places to help wildlife develop.



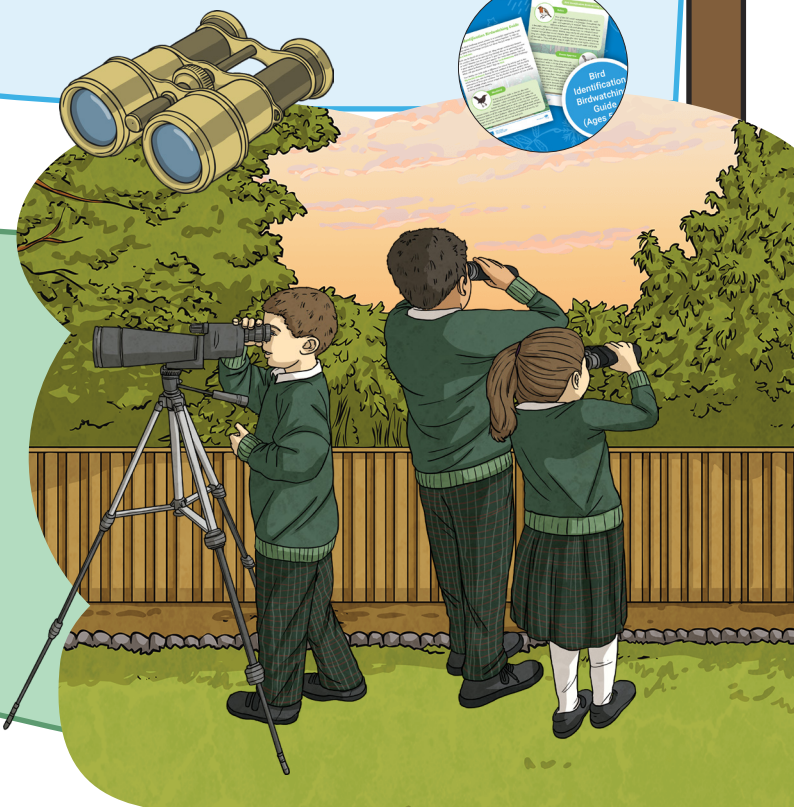
Why Are Birds Important?

Birds scatter seeds, which help plants develop in different places. They are also important in controlling the levels of insects as many birds eat them. Some birds eat dead, rotting animals that could otherwise cause diseases.



The Big Garden Birdwatch

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charity that helps look after birds and it is also known as the RSPB. They hold the Big Garden Birdwatch every year where they encourage people to take part in birdwatching and report which species they see.



What Birds Are Found in British Gardens?

British Garden Birds

House Sparrows



House Sparrows are the most widely spotted bird in the UK. They are small, noisy birds that are around 15cm long. Both male and female House Sparrows have brown feathers but male House Sparrows have a small, black patch on their front and the top of their head is grey. House Sparrows will feed on a variety of food, such as nuts, grains and scraps.

Robins

Robins are around 13cm long and they have slightly curved beaks. This helps them eat insects, **larvae**, worms, berries and nuts. Adult Robins have a bright red breast while young Robins are brown. They like to spend a lot of time on their own and can be quite aggressive when defending their area.



Magpies



Magpies have a loud, chattering cackle and are easily identified due to their black and white feathers. They use their powerful, curved bills to dig up insects, pick fruit and cut the flesh of dead animals.

Blue Tits

Blue Tits have bright yellow, blue, green and white feathers and are around 12cm long. They feast on seeds, nuts, insects and caterpillars and are regular visitors to garden bird feeders.



Glossary

larvae: An insect that has just hatched from an egg and looks like a short worm.

Questions

1. Which are the most widely spotted birds in the UK? Tick one.

- ☐ House Sparrows
- ☐ Robins
- ☐ Magpies
- ☐ Blue Tits

2. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- ☐ Robins like to spend a lot of time on their own.
- ☐ Birds scatter seeds, which help plants develop in different places.
- ☐ The Big Garden Birdwatch is held every year.
- ☐ House Sparrows are around 15cm long.

3. Draw **four** lines to complete each sentence.

Garden birds are
birds that...

They are also important
in controlling the...

Adult Robins have a
bright red breast while...

Blue Tits have bright
yellow, blue, green and
white...

young Robins are brown.

feathers and are around
12cm long.

visit gardens regularly for
food and shelter.

levels of insects as many
birds eat them.

4. What do Blue Tits eat? Tick **two**.

- ☐ caterpillars
- ☐ rats
- ☐ insects
- ☐ other small birds

5. What is the name of the charity that looks after birds?

6. Fill in the missing word.

House Sparrows will feed on a _____ of food, such as nuts, grains and scraps.

7. How do you think someone could encourage birds to come to their garden?

Answers

1. Which are the most widely spotted birds in the UK? Tick one.

- ☒ **House Sparrows**
- ☐ Robins
- ☐ Magpies
- ☐ Blue Tits

2. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 4** Robins like to spend a lot of time on their own.
- 1** Birds scatter seeds, which help plants develop in different places.
- 2** The Big Garden Birdwatch is held every year.
- 3** House Sparrows are around 15cm long.

3. Draw **four** lines to complete each sentence.

Garden birds are birds that...		young Robins are brown.
They are also important in controlling the...		feathers and are around 12cm long.
Adult Robins have a bright red breast while...		visit gardens regularly for food and shelter.
Blue Tits have bright yellow, blue, green and white...		levels of insects as many birds eat them.

4. What do Blue Tits eat? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **caterpillars**
- ☐ rats
- ☒ **insects**
- ☐ other small birds

5. What is the name of the charity that looks after birds?

The name of the charity that looks after birds is called the RSPB or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

6. Fill in the missing word.

House Sparrows will feed on a **variety** of food, such as nuts, grains and scraps.

7. How do you think someone could encourage birds to come to their garden?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think someone could encourage birds to come to their garden by hanging bird feeders and providing fresh water for the birds to drink or bathe in.

British Garden Birds

What Are Garden Birds?

Garden birds are birds that visit gardens regularly for food and shelter. The population of certain species of garden birds has declined recently due to a number of factors, such as farming practices and habitat loss. Therefore, gardens are extremely important places to help wildlife develop.



Why Are Birds Important?

Birds help the environment in a number of ways. As they scatter seeds, they are crucial in helping plants develop in different places. They are important in controlling the levels of insects as many birds eat them. Additionally, some birds eat dead, rotting animals that could otherwise cause diseases.

The Big Garden Birdwatch

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charity that helps safeguard birds and it is otherwise known as the RSPB. Every year, they hold the Big Garden Birdwatch where they encourage people to take part in birdwatching and report which species they see. The information is collected to see whether there are any changes in bird populations.



What Birds Are Found in British Gardens?

British Garden Birds

House Sparrows



According to previous results of the Big Garden Birdwatch, House Sparrows are the most widely spotted bird in the UK. House Sparrows are small, noisy birds that are around 15cm long. Although both male and female House Sparrows have brown feathers, male House Sparrows have a small, black patch on their front and the top of their head is grey. House Sparrows will feed on a variety of food, such as nuts, grains and scraps.

Robins

Robins are around 13cm long and they have slightly curved beaks. This helps them eat insects, **larvae**, worms, berries and nuts. Adult Robins have a bright red breast while young Robins are brown. As they are territorial birds, they like to spend a lot of time on their own and can be quite aggressive when defending their area.



Magpies



Magpies have a loud, chattering cackle and are easily identified due to their black and white feathers. They use their powerful, curved bills to scavenge for leftover food, dig up insects, pick fruit and cut the flesh of dead animals.

Blue Tits

One of the most recognisable garden birds is the Blue Tit due to its bright yellow, blue, green and white feathers. At approximately 12cm long, they are small birds and they lay eggs between the end of April and May. Blue Tits feast upon seeds, nuts, insects and caterpillars and are regular visitors to garden bird feeders.



Glossary

larvae: An insect that has just hatched from an egg and looks like a short worm.

Questions

1. How do birds help the environment? Tick **two**.

- ☐ they make nests
- ☐ they scatter seeds
- ☐ they help control the level of insects
- ☐ they visit gardens

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that the population of some birds has reduced.

The population of certain species of garden birds has declined recently due to a number of factors, such as farming practices and habitat loss.

3. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- ☐ Robins are around 13cm long.
- ☐ Some birds eat rotting animals.
- ☐ The RSPB is a charity that helps look after birds.
- ☐ Gardens are extremely important places to help wildlife develop.

4. Draw **four** lines to match the sub-heading with the corresponding sentence.

What Are Garden Birds?	At approximately 12cm long, they are small birds and they lay eggs between the end of April and May.
The Big Garden Birdwatch	Garden birds are birds that visit gardens regularly for food and shelter.
House Sparrows	The information is collected to see whether there are any changes in bird populations.
Blue Tits	According to previous results of the Big Garden Birdwatch, they are the most widely spotted bird in the UK.

5. Fill in the missing word.

They use their _____, curved bills to scavenge for leftover food.

6. Look at the sub-heading **Blue Tits**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'eat a lot'.

7. Why do you think the RSPB wants to encourage people to take part in birdwatching?

8. **Magpies have a loud, chattering cackle...**

What do you think the author means by the use of the word 'chattering'?

Answers

1. How do birds help the environment? Tick **two**.

- ☐ they make nests
- ☒ **they scatter seeds**
- ☒ **they help control the level of insects**
- ☐ they visit gardens

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that the population of some birds has reduced.

The population of certain species of garden birds has declined recently due to a number of factors, such as farming practices and habitat loss.

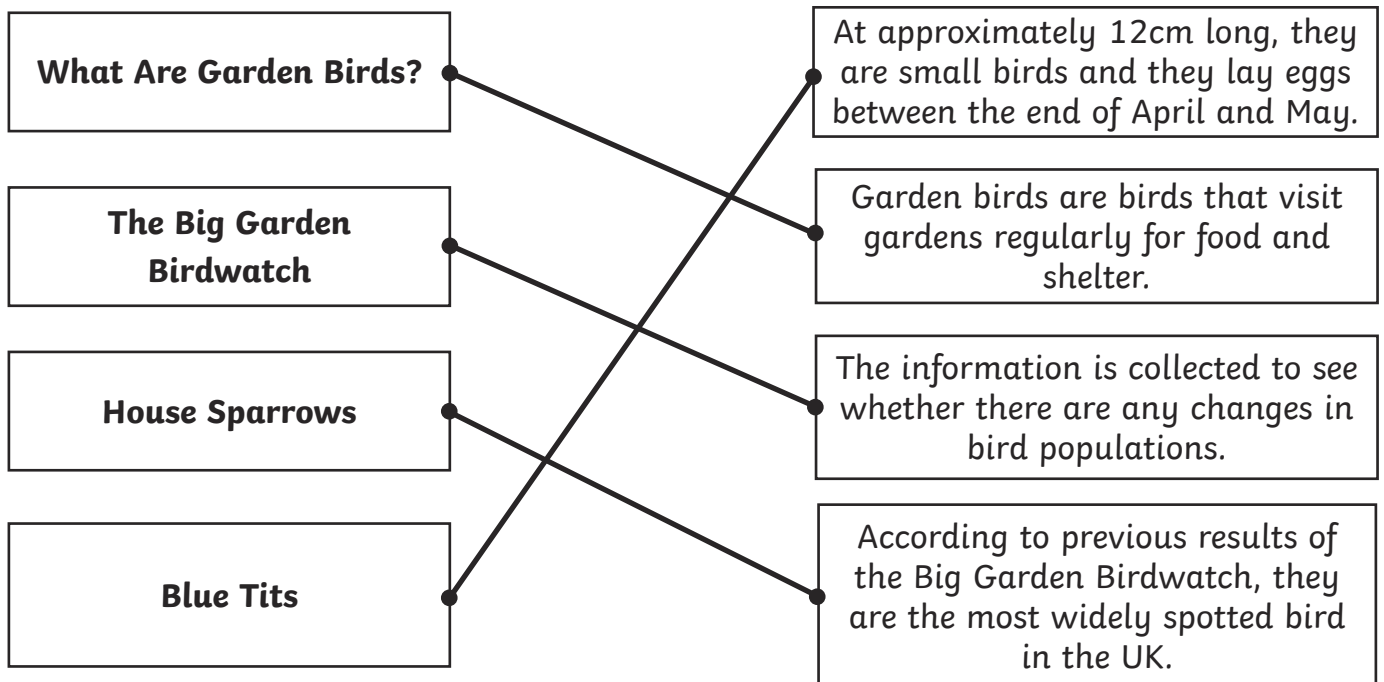
Award 1 mark for:

- **declined**

3. Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 4** ☐ Robins are around 13cm long.
- 2** ☐ Some birds eat rotting animals.
- 3** ☐ The RSPB is a charity that helps look after birds.
- 1** ☐ Gardens are extremely important places to help wildlife develop.

4. Draw **four** lines to match the sub-heading with the corresponding sentence.



5. Fill in the missing word.

They use their **powerful**, curved bills to scavenge for leftover food.

6. Look at the sub-heading **Blue Tits**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'eat a lot'.

feast

7. Why do you think the RSPB wants to encourage people to take part in birdwatching?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the RSPB wants to encourage people to take part in birdwatching because it helps people learn about different species of birds and gets them outside enjoying nature.

8. **Magpies have a loud, chattering cackle...**

What do you think the author means by the use of the word 'chattering'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author means that Magpies make short, quick sounds by the use of the word 'chattering'.

British Garden Birds

What Are Garden Birds?

The UK has many species of garden birds: they are any birds that visit gardens regularly for food and shelter. Additionally, they can also be found in parks and other green spaces. The population of certain species of garden birds has declined recently due to a number of factors, such as intensive farming practices, habitat loss and the development of buildings. For example, House Sparrows have declined significantly since the 1970s. Therefore, gardens are extremely important places to help wildlife develop and move freely.



Why Are Birds Important?

Birds help the environment in a number of vital ways. As they scatter seeds, they are crucial in helping plants develop in different places. They are important in controlling the levels of insects as many birds eat them. In addition, some birds consume dead animals; Magpies and Crows are species that eat rotting creatures that could otherwise cause diseases.

The Big Garden Birdwatch

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charity that helps safeguard birds; it is otherwise known as the RSPB. Every year, they hold the Big Garden Birdwatch where they encourage people to take part in birdwatching and report which species they see. The information is gathered and analysed to see whether there are any changes in bird populations.



What Birds Are Found in British Gardens?

British Garden Birds

Many different species of birds can be found in British gardens, with some types being more common than others.

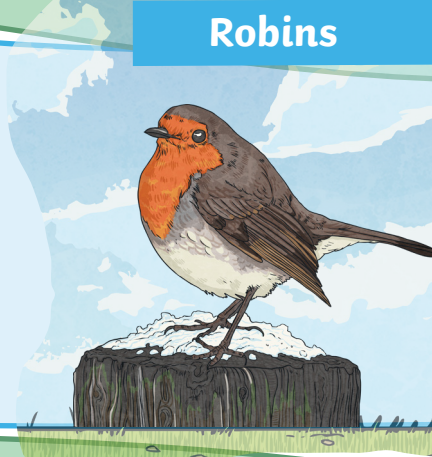
House Sparrows



House Sparrows are small, noisy birds that are approximately 15cm long. Male and female House Sparrows are distinguishable from each other due to their appearance. Although both have brown feathers, male House Sparrows have a small, black patch on their front and the top of their head is grey. House Sparrows are opportunistic birds and will feed on a variety of food, such as nuts, grains and scraps. According to previous results of the Big Garden Birdwatch, House Sparrows are the most widely spotted bird in the UK.

Robins

Robins are around 13cm long and they have slightly curved beaks. This helps them eat insects, **larvae**, worms, berries and nuts. Adult Robins have a bright red breast while juvenile Robins are brown. As they are territorial birds, they like to spend a lot of time on their own and can be quite aggressive when defending their area.



Magpies



Magpies have a loud, chattering cackle and are easily identified due to their black and white feathers. They use their powerful, curved bills to scavenge for leftover food, dig up insects, pick fruit and cut the flesh of dead animals.

Blue Tits

One of the most recognisable garden birds is the Blue Tit due to its bright yellow, blue, green and white feathers. At approximately 12cm, they are small birds. Between the end of April and May, Blue Tits lay eggs and join together with other Blue Tit family flocks to find food. Known as frequent visitors to garden bird feeders, Blue Tits feast upon seeds, nuts, insects and caterpillars.



Glossary

larvae: An insect that has just hatched from an egg and looks like a short worm.

Questions

1. Which species of birds have declined significantly since the 1970s? Tick one.

- ☐ House Sparrows
☐ Robins
☐ Magpies
☐ Blue Tits

2. **As they scatter seeds, they are crucial in helping plants develop in different places.**

Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word 'crucial'? Tick one.

- ☐ unimportant
☐ fast
☐ slow
☐ key

3. Name **three** things that Robins eat.

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. Fill in the missing words.

The information is gathered and _____ to see whether there are any changes in bird _____.

5. Look at the sub-heading **House Sparrows**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'identifiable'.

6. Why do you think Robins can be territorial?

7. **House Sparrows are opportunistic birds...**

What do you think the author is trying to show about House Sparrows with the use of the word 'opportunistic'?

8. Compare Magpies with another bird. Explain one way they are similar and one way they are different.

Answers

1. Which species of birds have declined significantly since the 1970s? Tick one.

- ☒ **House Sparrows**
- ☐ Robins
- ☐ Magpies
- ☐ Blue Tits

2. **As they scatter seeds, they are crucial in helping plants develop in different places.**

Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word 'crucial'? Tick one.

- ☐ unimportant
- ☐ fast
- ☐ slow
- ☒ **key**

3. Name **three** things that Robins eat.

Accept any three of the following: insects; larvae; worms; berries; nuts.

4. Fill in the missing words.

The information is gathered and **analysed** to see whether there are any changes in bird **populations**.

5. Look at the sub-heading **House Sparrows**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'identifiable'.

distinguishable

6. Why do you think Robins can be territorial?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Robins can be territorial because they might be caring for and feeding their young.

7. **House Sparrows are opportunistic birds...**

What do you think the author is trying to show about House Sparrows with the use of the word 'opportunistic'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author is trying to show that House Sparrows will eat all sorts of different things that they find around them, whenever they find might them, by the word 'opportunistic'.

8. Compare Magpies with another bird. Explain one way they are similar and one way they are different.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Magpies are similar to Robins because they eat insects. They are different from Robins because Magpies also eat rotting animals.