

How can I attract wildlife?

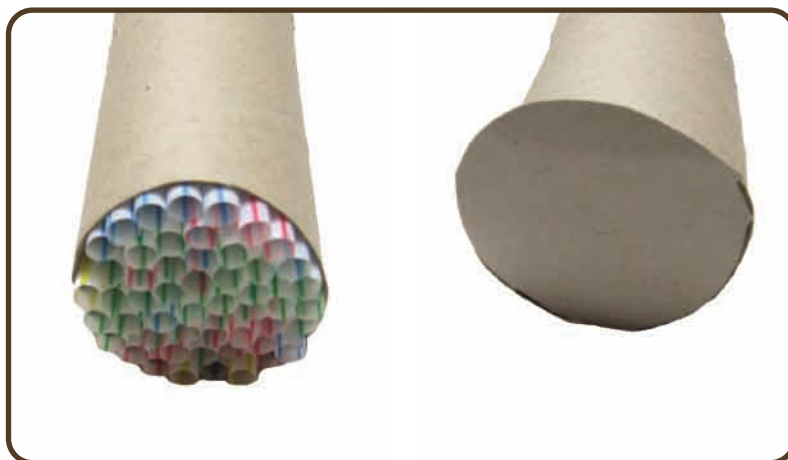


Britain is home to over 200 different types of birds. Research by the British Trust for Ornithology has shown that the House Sparrow, one of our most familiar birds, declined by 62% between 1980 and 2005. Numbers of the Starling, a common garden bird, dropped by 79% over the same period. This exercise aims to consider ways to help.

Pupil Activity	Learning outcome	Teacher input										
<p>In 15 minute time slots take turns to record what wildlife activity takes place in your school playground or field and plot it on the 'Monster Chart of Birds'.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Date</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Time</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>No. of Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Species if known</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>What are they doing?</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Date		Time		No. of Birds		Species if known		What are they doing?		<p>Observation, recording and an appreciation of wildlife and understanding of their habits.</p> <p>Think about how you could improve the wildlife habitat within your school or home.</p>	<p>Explain that different birds can be seen at different times of the year. A number of birds that breed here during our summer months migrate from Africa, such as the House Martin and the Cuckoo. The Redwing and the Fieldfare only come to the UK during the winter from northern and eastern Europe. By observing birds throughout the year these patterns can be seen. Some knowledge of food chains would be of use when looking for birds and thinking about what they need to survive.</p>
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Why not make a Lacewing house?

Lacewings are important to the garden because their larvae eat green fly. Lacewings need indoor homes in which to hibernate during the winter. Have a go at making some and then put it in a garden shed and see what moves in!



Tightly pack a used kitchen or toilet roll tube with straws. Using scissors trim the straws to fit the roll. Block one end with another piece of card to keep out any drafts and you are finished!

Bird watching



© Jill Pakenham/BTO

Duncock

A common garden bird that can be seen creeping mouse-like around and under shrubs searching for food.



© John Harding/BTO

Blackbird

The Blackbird has a beautiful song that is usually delivered from the highest point in the garden.



© John Harding/BTO

Starling

This is the bird that forms amazing patterns in the sky, as pre-roost flocks wheel around before plunging into their roost.



© John Harding/BTO

Greenfinch

Visits gardens in search of sunflower seeds and seed mixes. The bright yellow horizontal wing flash and outer tail makes the male unmistakable.



© John Harding/BTO

Robin

This bird needs no introduction. Both males and females are alike and both sing in their thin wispy song.



© Jill Pakenham/BTO

Song Thrush

The number of Song thrushes declined rapidly in the mid 1970's. They are partial to snails and can be seen breaking them open at a favourite 'anvil'.



© Jill Pakenham/BTO

Blue Tit

Regular garden visitors, coming to feed on a wide variety of foods, including peanuts, seeds and fat cakes. Blue Tits will also breed in gardens, using nest boxes with a 25mm entrance hole.



© Jill Pakenham/BTO

Great Spotted Woodpecker

This is the commonest woodpecker in Britain and is the one that is most likely to be seen in gardens feeding on peanuts in a hanging feeder. The male only has a red patch on the back of the head.



© Jill Pakenham/BTO

Wren

One of the smallest British birds, but it is also one of the loudest. Wrens seek out small insects, grubs and spiders from nooks and crannies in our gardens and parks.

Join the BTO/CJ Garden Bird Watch and record the birds that visit your garden throughout the year www.bto.org/gbw