

CAN ALL WILD BIRDS EAT THE SAME FOODS?

The range of wild birds that come flocking to our gardens is enormous and despite what some may think, they do not all eat the same foods. Each bird has different nutritional requirements and feeding styles based on elements such as: size, weather, season, habitats, and life-stage.



Birds are also very selective feeders; they know what they want and will throw other seeds out of the way in order to find the food they desire. The type of food available is one of the main factors in how a bird chooses its habitat.

SOME OF THE MOST COMMON SPECIES OF WILD BIRDS

BLACKBIRD

In the wild, the blackbird will eat both insects and plants, with much of their diet consisting of worms, beetles and spiders.

Due to their natural diet, the blackbird's instinct is to forage on the ground, digging through the undergrowth to find food, and won't come to hanging feeders. As well as insects, blackbirds are also keen on berries, seeds, and fruits. These take up more of the blackbirds' diet in Autumn and Winter when there are fewer insects about.



Birds with a similar diet include: Song Thrush

BLUE TIT

Blue Tits are omnivorous and will happily eat insects, seeds and nuts. However, they the winter moth. They also like beech mast and conifer seeds, which are abundant in their natural environment. Blue Tits will readily take from hanging feeders.

Birds with a similar diet include: Coal Tits and Great Tits.



ROBIN

Robins are naturally ground feeders, and will eat a variety of foods including worms, seeds, fruits, and insects. The majority part of the Robins' diet is often determined by the seasons, insects in spring, berries and fruits in summer and autumn and then in winter, Robins will often eat whatever food they can find.

Birds with a similar diet include: Dunnocks and Wrens.



GOLD FINCH

Goldfinches prefer a seed-based diet and are particularly fond of Nyjer, thistle and dandelion seeds. They are predominantly vegetarian, although in the spring they will forage for small insects to feed to their young. In order to get their favourite seeds, in the wild, they will hang from seed heads on grasses and so will happily take from a hanging feeder.

Birds with a similar diet include: Bullfinch, Chaffinch and Greenfinch.





IMPORTANCE OF WILD BIRD HYGIENE IN THE GARDEN

TREE SPARROWS

Tree Sparrows tend to live in open made up of the seeds of grasses and also feed on insects such as aphids and beetles. Although they can be fairly shy, Tree Sparrows will happily take from a bird table and feeder.

Birds with a similar diet include:
House Sparrows.



SEASONS AFFECT THEIR NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

At different times of the year, wild birds will go through a multitude of conditions which can be a strain on their energy. Nesting, breeding, the autumn moult and the harshness of winter can all be challenging for our wild birds and they require all the help they can get from our feeders.

For more information on what to feed wild birds through the seasons, visit our website at www.ukpetfood.org, scan the QR code below or download our Seasonality Poster shown opposite.

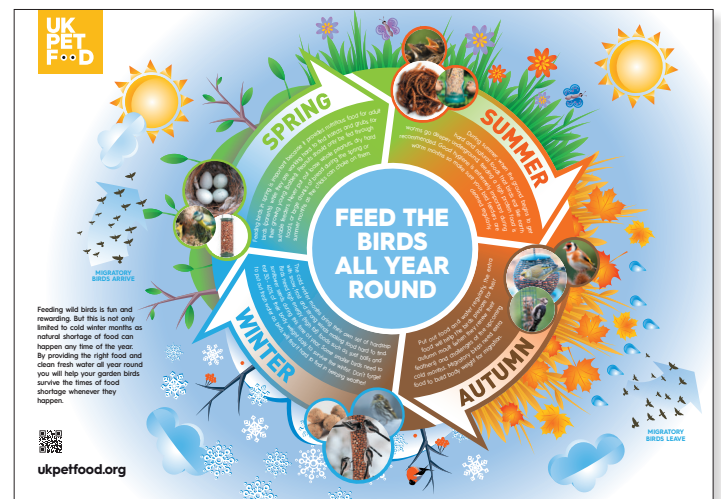


Find out more about Feeding Wild Birds here!

THE IMPORTANCE OF VARIETY

UK Pet Food members produce species-specific blends, as well as seasonal blends and standard blends that are suitable for most types of garden bird. However, it is important to make sure that the blend is suitable for the species of bird that is visiting your garden or the species that you are looking to attract.

Suet-based and other high-fat products are perfect for high-energy requirements and can be used to supplement the diet. These feeds are great for ensuring birds can get as much energy as possible. By putting out a variety of seed mixes and treats, you will be helping the birds get as many nutrients as they possibly can to help them thrive. However, it is important when choosing a seed blend, to make sure that the seed is clean and fresh.



Click the poster to download your own copy!



UK Pet Food members produce species-specific diets plus supplements and treats, to make it much easier to ensure wild birds receive a nutritionally balanced diet. Always look for high quality products from responsible outlets that can provide nutritional advice.

A list of UK Pet Food members that produce bird food can be found here www.pfma.org.uk/manufacturers-of-wild-bird-food