

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



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



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



Average Height = 24cm
Average Wingspan = 36cm
Diet = Mainly insects, fruit & berry
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

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

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

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!

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

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

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