

CHILD'S BOOK OF

Garden Birds



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**Garden
Birds**

Welcome to the World of Garden birds.
If you sit quietly in your garden, woodland
or parks you will see many different
types of birds, animals, butterflies
and flowers.

This book will help you to identify
some of the birds, their colours, where
they nest and the food they eat.

The Goldfinch

The Goldfinch is a very colourful bird with a bright red head and golden yellow wings. It usually flies into the garden in small groups to feed on niger seed and sunflower hearts.





Goldfinch in cherry blossom tree

Jenny Wren

The Wren is one of the smallest birds to be found in the garden.

It is often called a “Jenny Wren” and although tiny has a very loud and melodic song. The male builds several small round shaped nests from moss, cobwebs and feathers and then the female Wren chooses the nest she likes.





wren singing on rusty tap

The Barn Owl

The Barn Owl can be seen flying at night or late evening. It has special feathers in its wings so that it can fly very quietly. It catches mice and small voles in the fields and meadows and builds its nest in barns, old hollow trees and churches.





Barn Owl in rusty, ivy clad window

The Blue tit

The Blue tit is a very busy acrobatic little bird which swings from branch to branch, searching for grubs and insects to eat.

They are in most gardens and can be attracted in by placing bird feeders filled with peanuts or fatballs.





Blue Tit in red berry tree

Long-tailed Tit

The Long-tailed tit is a very busy little bird that has a long tail. It is an acrobatic bird often seen hanging upside down when searching for insects in trees or bushes.

In the winter they will come into your gardens to feed on suet balls or peanuts.

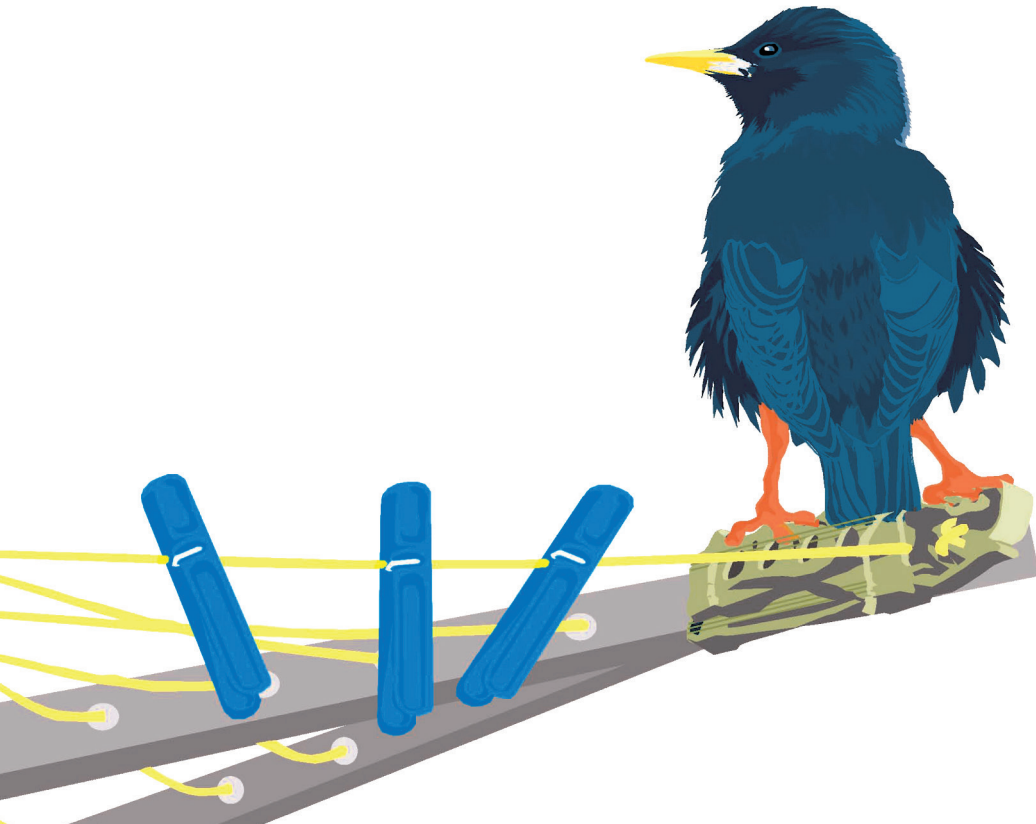




Long-tailed Tit in cherry blossom tree

The Starlings

The Starling is a noisy, aggressive bird, often seen squabbling over food. They will eat almost anything, including insects, fruit and any waste food from your kitchen. In the late Autumn they flock in large numbers and perform spectacular aerial displays called “murmurations”





Starling on rotten tree stump

Wood Pigeons

The Wood Pigeon has only in the last few years come into gardens to feed. They are usually in pairs and stay together for life. Some Pigeons are kept as racing birds and flown in competitions. They make a "Cooing" sound. A similar bird is the Dove. They feed mainly on grain.





Wood Pigeon on fence

Thrushes

The Blackbird, Redwing, Ring Ouzel, Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush are all members of the Thrush family. They eat berries, apples, worms and also snails which they smash open on a stone so they can eat the snail inside.

The Song Thrush and Blackbirds can be heard singing early in the morning and late evenings.





Song Thrush on fallen tree

The Kingfisher

The Kingfisher is a colourful bird that will visit your garden if you have a pond or river near by. It eats small fish which it catches by diving into the water. It builds a nest in a hole in the bank of a river. Usually all you see is a flash of turquoise blue as it flies up and down the river.





Female Kingfisher in spindleberry tree

The Nuthatch

The Nuthatch is a woodland bird which will sometimes come into gardens to feed on peanuts or fatballs especially in the winter. It builds its nest in a hole in a rotten tree, although it will also use a nesting box in your garden.





Nuthatch on silver birch tree

House Sparrow

House Sparrows build their nests in the roofs of houses and old buildings. They are very noisy little birds that squabble over food. They eat corn, seeds and fruit and will feed from bird feeders, especially in the winter.





House Sparrow feeding young with cherries

The Robin

The Robin is one of the friendliest birds in the garden. It is sometimes known as the “Gardeners friend” and will take food from your hand if you keep quiet and still. It is a small, brown bird that is easy to spot due to its bright red breast.





Robin on ivy clad fork handle

Woodpeckers

The Great Spotted & Green Woodpeckers are both woodland birds that also come into the gardens to feed if you put out feeders with fatballs or peanuts in them. In the wild they drill into rotten trees to find grubs and insects with their pointed beaks. The Green Woodpecker also eat ant-eggs and beetles which it finds in your lawn.





Green Woodpecker drilling hole in tree

The Blackbird

Blackbirds are found in most gardens and are easy to spot with their bright yellow beak and jet black body. They are members of the thrush family and eat worms, fruit, grubs and any kitchen scraps. The female blackbird is usually lighter, almost dark brown.





Blackbird on barbed-wire fence

Where do birds live

Most birds build nests in the Spring where they lay their eggs, The nests are usually cup shaped and made from feathers, moss, cobwebs and small twigs and are in trees or bushes.

Other birds like the Long-tailed Tit build their nests in the shape of a tiny rugby ball made from woven lichen and cobwebs. Owls, Nuthatch and Blue tits make nests in holes in rotten trees.

The Robin and Jenny Wren build their nests in strange places like hanging baskets or like the picture below an old metal kettle.



Equipment

To help you see the birds better you could buy a pair of childrens binoculars.

When watching for birds make sure you are sitting comfortably and if possible in a area where the birds can't see you.

Make sure you have a pen and a note book to record what you have seen.

You can also get birds to come into your garden to feed by putting out bird feeders with peanuts, sunflower seeds, fatballs or bread in them.

If you are visiting a park or woodland be sure to take a drink and a snack if you intend to stay there for some time.





Peter Preece would like to thank
'The Heart of England Forest'
for giving him permission to photograph
birds on the estate which he has illustrated
and shown in this book.

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This book contains 31 full colour illustrations of birds that can be seen in gardens, parks and woodland of Great Britain.

Each illustration is shown with a general description of the birds feeding and behavior that will help children to identify them.



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