

Food for Birds

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape.

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WildCall receives many enquiries from the public who want to offer supplementary food to birds in addition to their natural resources in their garden. The table below offers some advice below offers some advice on the food they like to feed on.



Species	Food	Feeding method
Blackbird	Berries, apples, raisins, mealworms, peanut, breadcrumbs, grated cheese, etc. Earthworms; other invertebrates.	Ground feeder
Blackcap	Apples, bread, cheese. Invertebrates, berries.	Ground feeder
Black-headed gull	Scraps. Invertebrates, plant material.	Ground feeder
Bullfinch	Sunflower hearts, black sunflower seed, seed blends. Ash, elm and other tree seeds; flower buds of fruit trees; seeds of nettle, dock, dog's mercury and of fleshy fruits; insects.	Hanging feeder
Blue tit	Peanuts, fatty treats, blue tit seed mix, sunflower hearts, black sunflower seed. Caterpillars, aphids.	Hanging feeder
Brambling	Peanut granules, seed mixes. Tree seeds, esp. beech mast and conifer seed; fruit.	Ground/hanging feeder
Chaffinch	Seed blends, sunflower hearts, peanut granules. Caterpillars, flies, a wide variety of seeds.	Bird table / ground feeder
Carrion crow	Scraps. Grain, carrion, eggs and young birds, invertebrates.	Ground feeder
Chiffchaff	Mainly insects, some fruit.	Trees, ground feeder
Coal tit	Peanuts, fatty treats, seed blends, sunflower hearts, black sunflower seed. Tree seeds, caterpillars.	Hanging feeder



Species	Food	Feeding method
Collared dove	Seeds, bread, fruit. Cereal grain, insects.	Bird table / ground feeder
Dunnock	Nyjer seeds, peanut granules and seed blends, grated cheese. Invertebrates, small seeds.	Ground feeder
Feral pigeon	Omnivorous; grains.	Ground feeder / bird table
Fieldfare	Apples, berries, earthworms, insects.	Tree and ground feeder
Goldfinch	Nyjer seeds, sunflower hearts, peanuts. Small seeds eg those of alder, birch, dandelion, ragwort, groundsel.	Hanging feeder
Goldcrest	Cheese, bread, peanut cake. Tree seeds, invertebrates.	Bird tables
Great spotted woodpecker	Peanuts, meaty scraps. Moth larvae and other invertebrates, seeds, eggs and young birds.	Hanging feeder, trees
Great tit	Peanuts, fatty treats, seed blends, sunflower hearts. Caterpillars, acorns, beech mast.	Hanging feeder
Green woodpecker	Mealworms, fruit. Ants	Ground feeder
Greenfinch	Sunflower hearts, blacks sunflower seed. Large seeds, for example those of rosehips, elm, dog's mercury and seeds of crucifers, daisy family.	Hanging feeder
House martin	Small flying insects including aphids.	Aerial feeder
House sparrow	Sunflower hearts, mealworms. Seeds, invertebrates.	Bird table
Jackdaw	Scraps, fruit. Moth larvae, flies, carrion, seeds.	Bird table / ground
Jay	Peanuts, scraps, bread. Invertebrates, acorns and other seeds, nestlings and eggs.	Bird table / ground / hanging feeder
Kingfisher	Scraps (when desperate!) Small fish, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates.	Bird tables; normally feeds in shallow water
Long-tailed tit	Peanuts and peanut cake, grated cheese, fat balls. Spiders and other small invertebrates.	Hanging feeder / bird table
Magpie	Scraps. Invertebrates, young birds and eggs, small mammals, fruit, seeds, berries, carrion.	Ground feeder
Marsh tit	Nuts. Insects, spiders, seeds, berries and fruit.	Hanging feeder / bird table
Mistle thrush	Berries, eg those of holly, mistletoe, cotoneaster etc, insects.	Tree and ground feeder

Species	Food	Feeding method
Nuthatch	Peanuts. Insects, spiders, acorns, beech mast, hazel nuts.	Hanging feeder / trees
Pheasant	Seed mixes with cereals. Berries, seeds, insects.	Ground feeder / bird table
Pied wagtail	Fat, seeds, bread, nyjer seed. Midges and other flying insects, seeds.	Bird tables, ground feeder / aerial feeder
Redwing	Apples, fresh or dried fruit, berries insects.	Tree and ground feeder
Reed bunting	Seeds, insects.	Ground feeder
Ring-necked parakeet	Seeds, peanuts. Fruit and other plant material.	Bird table, hanging feeder
Robin	Mealworms, peanut granules, sunflower hearts, grated cheese, bread-crumbs, fat balls. Earthworms, larvae, other invertebrates.	Ground feeder / bird table
Rook	Scraps. Earthworms, larvae, beetles, grain.	Ground feeder
Siskin	Peanuts. Seeds of alder, birch, evergreen conifers.	Hanging feeder
Song thrush	Fruit, raisins, mealworms. Caterpillars, earthworms, snails, slugs.	Ground feeder
Sparrowhawk	Birds up to the size of wood pigeons.	Bird table (!), ground
Spotted flycatcher	Insects, woodlice, snails, fruit.	Aerial feeder, trees
Starling	Seed blends, fatty treats, peanut cake. Earthworms, leatherjackets, seeds.	Bird table/ground feeder/hanging feeder
Swallow	Flying insects.	Aerial feeder
Swift	Flying insects, airbourne spiders.	Aerial feeder
Tawny owl	Small mammals, earthworms, frogs, beetles.	Ground feeder
Treecreeper	Fat balls, suet. Insects, spiders, tree seeds.	Trees; bird tables
Whitethroat	Insects, fruits.	Shrubs and trees
Willow tit	Invertebrates, seeds.	Hanging feeder / bird table
Woodpigeon	Bread, seed mixes with cereal grains. Wide range of plant material including seeds and berries.	Ground feeder
Yellowhammer	Seeds of grasses and cereals.	Ground feeder
Wren	Grated cheese, mealworms, peanut granules, fatty treats. Small beetles, spiders, moth larvae and other invertebrates.	Ground feeder



Images:
Coal tit, Goldfinch & Marsh tit by David Ball;
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