

Greenfinch

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

Wildcall

Tel: 01273 494777
email: wildcall@sussexwt.org.uk



Sussex Wildlife Trust
Woods Mill
Henfield
West Sussex
BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630
email: enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk
Web: www.sussexwt.org.uk

Nest-site necessities

Home is often where there are other Greenfinches as they mostly nest in loose colonies, with half a dozen nests in the same area of Hawthorn



scrub or garden shrubbery. The presence of a good feeding area within a kilometre or two is the most important factor.

Building materials

The nest is neat and free-standing and often hidden in dense cover, the nest is based on twigs and roots with a moderately deep cup. Dog fluff or pieces of wool may be taken for the lining.

Chick care

From the very start, mashed-up seeds form a large proportion of the diet. Offering supplementary food in your garden seems to get the females into condition to breed early and help rear their young. Even if the nests are several hundred metres away, the parents will bring their young along as soon as they fledge.

Image: Greenfinch / www.natureconservationimaging.com
- Jeremy Early

Special dietary requirements

Lots of seed is taken throughout the year. The best food seem to be black sunflower seeds. You may notice more intense feeding in May and June, when young are being fed and natural seeds are not readily available.

Ensure you keep your bird feeders clean as Greenfinches have been vulnerable to disease spread via bird saliva on bird feeders.



Greenfinch / Dave Kilbey

Night shelter

Outside the breeding season Greenfinches roost communally often several hundred at a time, usually in Rhododendrons or other evergreens.

The ideal territory

Although they may not always nest in gardens they will often chose a site within a couple of kilometres of a doting garden bird feeder.

When it's all happening

Greenfinches normally nest from May to September, but may be on eggs early in April if you are feeding them well enough.



Greenfinch / Alan Price, Gatehouse

Breeding Starts: April

Number of Clutches: 2-3

Number of Eggs: 3-8

Incubation Days: 12-14

Fledge Days: 13-16

Copyright Sussex Wildlife Trust December 2009

WildCall Factsheet disclaimer: All information contained within Sussex Wildlife Trust WildCall factsheets is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate at the time of printing. The Sussex Wildlife Trust will not accept any responsibility or liability for any losses or damage resulting from following the advice given. Registered Charity No. 207005. Registered in England. Company Number 698851