

Spotted flycatcher

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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Nest-site necessities

The majority of nests are built against a tree or wall. Otherwise, they may use an open hole, or nest in a climber on a tree trunk or even in a hanging basket. However if an open front nest box is free and on offer they will happily use it. To help this bird you can put a garden bamboo cane in front of the potential site, as a perch to use on the way in.

Building materials

Both birds are involved in the building of the nest. The nest is a cup made of grass, thin twigs, lichen, and spiders' webs, and lined with feathers and hair.

Chick care

The parents catch flies and other large insects for their young. You can do your bit by having a good compost heap with some perches around it for birds to use.



Spotted flycatcher / Darin Smith

Special dietary requirements

Spotted Flycatchers feed on flying insects, such as bees and butterflies.



They sit quite upright on an exposed branch, flicking the tail and watching for insects flying past. Consequently, you often see them flying out from a tree and back again in a circular path. Make sure you do not use insecticides in your garden, as this will deplete their food source.

Night shelter

This late roosting bird favours foliage such as creepers, the female roosting on the nest while there are eggs or chicks.

The ideal territory

This bird favours woodland and park habitats but is also seen happily in gardens. They will have up to 10 favourite feeding perches some 10 – 20 metres apart, which allow the bird good all round visibility.

When it's all happening

A late migrant, not arriving back from Africa until early May. Two broods may be raised from mid-May to the end of August.



Spotted flycatcher / Stefan Johansson

Breeding Starts: May

Number of Clutches: 1-2

Number of Eggs: 4-5

Incubation Days: 11-15

Fledge Days: 12-14

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