

Great Tit



Parus major is the largest UK tit with a distinctive two-syllable song. It has a green and yellow body and a striking glossy black head with white cheeks. It's a woodland bird but has readily adapted to man-made habitats and so is also a familiar garden visitor. It can be quite aggressive at a bird table, fighting off smaller tits. In winter, it joins with Blue Tits and others to form roaming flocks which scour the countryside, and gardens, for food. About 14cm long and weighing around 18g.

Blue Tit



Cyanistes caeruleus is a colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green which makes the Blue Tit one of our most attractive and most recognisable garden visitors. In winter, family flocks join up with other tits as they search for food. You typically see around a fifth of the flock at a time so a garden with four or five Blue Tits at a feeder at any one time may be feeding 20 or more. Slightly smaller than the Great Tit and with the distinctive blue to its head and wing; about 12cm long and weighing around 11g.

Long Tailed Tit



Aegithalos caudatus, is easily recognisable with its distinctive blush, black and white colouring and eponymous tail which is bigger than its body, and a bouncing flight. Sociable and noisy residents, Long-tailed Tits are most usually noticed in small, excitable flocks of about 20 birds. Like most tits, they rove the woods and hedgerows, but are also seen on heaths and commons with suitable bushes.. 14cm long and weighing between 7 and 10g.

Treecreeper



Certhia familiaris is a small, very active bird that lives in trees which it clings to the bark of, looking for food. It has a long, slender, downcurved bill, which it uses to pluck insects from underneath bark. Treecreepers are speckly brown above and mainly white below. It breeds in the UK and is resident here. Birds leave their breeding territories in autumn but most range no further than 20km. Its population is mainly stable. They are around 12.5cm long and weight between 8 and 12g

Wren



Troglodytes troglodytes is a tiny brown bird, although it's heavier and not as slim as the even smaller Goldcrest. The Wren is almost round in shape with a fine bill, quite long legs and toes, very short round wings and a short, narrow tail, which is sometimes stuck up vertically. For such a small bird, it has a remarkably loud voice. It's the most common UK breeding bird, and a common garden visitor, although it suffers declines during prolonged, severely cold winters. Just 9-10cm long and 7-12g.

Song Thrush



Turdus philomelos is a familiar and popular garden songbird whose numbers have declined significantly on farmland and in towns and cities. The Song Thrush is smaller and browner than a Mistle Thrush with smaller spotting. Its habit of repeating song phrases sets it apart from singing Blackbirds. It likes to eat snails, breaking into them by smashing them against a stone with a flick of the head. About 23cm long and weighing 65-100g.

Red Wing



Turdus iliacus is usually a winter visitor and is the UK's smallest true thrush. Look for the creamy strip above its eye and the orange-red flank patches. Redwings roam across the UK's countryside, feeding in fields and hedgerows, rarely visiting gardens, except in the coldest weather when snow covers the fields. Only a few pairs nest in the UK. About 21cm long and weighing from 50-75g.

Robin



The UK's favourite bird. Thanks to its bright red breast, *Erithacus rubecula* is familiar throughout the year and especially at Christmas. Males and females look identical, young birds have no red breast and are spotted with golden brown. Robins sing nearly all year round and despite their cute appearance, they are aggressively territorial and are quick to drive away intruders. They will sing at night next to street lights and will follow large mammals such as humans if they disturb the soil in the hope of exposed grubs. 14cm long and between 14 and 21g.

Chiffchaff



Phylloscopus collybita is a small olive-brown warbler which flits through trees and shrubs, with a distinctive tail-wagging movement. Chiffchaffs usually (though not always) have dark legs and a pale eye stripe. Visually they are like the Willow Warbler which has pale legs and a yellow eye stripe but their song is what gives them their name, no other warbler makes that chiff-chaffing tune. Chiffchaffs eat insects, either picking them out from trees or snapping them up in flight. Just 10-11cm long and weighing 6-10g.

Cetti's Warbler



Small and rather indistinct, Cetti's Warbler (pronounced 'chetty') is a shy bird that likes to skulk about in patches of scrub and long grass. Its loud bursts of song mean you'll usually hear it before you see it. But if you're determined to spot one, look for a dark, rather stocky warbler with short wings and a full, rounded tail, diving for cover. *Cettia cetti* is a Schedule 1 species is one of the UK's most recent new residents, first breeding in Kent in 1972. There are around 2000 pairs in the UK

Greenfinch



Chloris chloris makes a twittering, wheezing song and flash of yellow and green as it flies make this finch a truly colourful character. Although quite sociable, they may squabble among themselves or with other birds at the bird table. Greenfinch populations declined during the late 1970s and early 1980s but increased dramatically during the 1990s. A recent outbreak of trichomonosis, a parasite-induced disease that limits birds feeding has reduced numbers. Around 15cm long and 28g.

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Goldfinch



Carduelis carduelis is a colourful finch with a bright red face and yellow wing patch. It's a very sociable bird, often breeding in loose groups. It has a delightful twittering song and call. Their fine beaks allow them to extract otherwise inaccessible seeds from thistles and teasels. Increasingly, they are visiting bird tables and feeders. In winter, many UK Goldfinches migrate as far south as Spain. They are 12cm long and weigh 14 to 19g.

Bullfinch



The male *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* is unmistakable with his bright pinkish-red breast and cheeks, grey back, black cap and tail, and bright white rump. The flash of the rump in flight and piping whistled call are usually the first signs of Bullfinches being present. They feed heavily on the buds of various trees in spring and were once considered a pest of fruit crops. They are larger than other finches at 14.5-16.5cm long and weigh between 21 and 27g.

Linnet



Linaria cannabina is a small and slim finch that's widespread and was once very popular as a caged bird because of its tuneful song. Males are marked with crimson foreheads and chests, females are much browner. It has a bouncing flight, usually twittering as it flies and may be seen in large flocks during the winter. Linnet numbers have dropped significantly over the past few decades, reducing to under half their 1970s numbers. 13.5cm long and 15-22g

Red List

Moorhen



Gallinula chloropus are blackish with a red and yellow beak and green legs. Seen closer-up, Moorhens have a dark brown back and wings and a more bluish-black belly, with white stripes on the flanks. Often confused with the white beaked Coot. Around 32-35cm long and weighing 250-400g. Their bill, bright red with a yellow tip, makes them an easy species to recognise – although they are a nervous bird and will often try to disappear when spotted.

Mallard



The Mallard is a large and heavy-looking duck. It has a long body, and a long and broad bill. The male has a dark green head, a yellow bill, is mainly purple-brown on the breast and grey on the body. The female is mainly brown with an orange bill. *Anas platyrhynchos* breed in all parts of the UK in summer and winter, wherever there are suitable wetland habitats, although it is rarer in upland areas. In the UK, Mallards may be resident breeders or migrants – many of the birds that breed in Iceland and northern Europe spend the winter here. Between 51 and 62cm long and 750g to 1kg in weight.

Teal



Teals are small dabbling ducks. Males have chestnut coloured heads with broad green eye-patches, a spotted chest, grey lower sides and a black edged yellow tail. Females are mottled brown. *Anas crecca* show bright green wing patches (speculum) in flight. In winter, birds gather in low-lying wetland in the south and west of the UK, many of which are continental birds from around the Baltic and Siberia. The UK is home to a significant percentage of the north-west European wintering population making it an Amber List species. 34-38cm long at 240-360g.

Tufted Duck



The Tufted Duck is a medium-sized diving duck, smaller than a Mallard. It's black on the head, neck, chest and back, and white on the sides. It has a small crest and a yellow eye. In flight it shows an obvious white stripe across the back of the wing. It breeds in the UK across lowland areas of England, Scotland and Ireland, but less commonly in Wales, with most birds being year-round residents. Numbers increase in the UK in winter because of birds moving to the UK from Iceland and northern Europe. 40-47cm long and 450g-1kg in weight

Mute Swan



The Mute Swan is a very large white waterbird. It has an S-shaped neck and an orange bill with a black base and a black bump. *Cygnus olor* flies with its neck outstretched, making regular, slow wingbeats. The population in the UK has increased recently, perhaps due to better protection of this species. The problem of lead poisoning on lowland rivers has also largely been solved by a ban on the sale of lead fishing weights. Some birds stay in their territories all year, while others move long distances and form winter flocks. In cold weather, some birds arrive from Europe into eastern England. These majestic birds have been seen at Dernford with their young cygnets. Adults are 140 to 160cm long and 10 to 12kg in weight.

Kingfisher



Kingfishers are small unmistakable bright blue and orange birds of slow-moving or still water. *Alcedo atthis* fly rapidly, low over water, and hunt fish from riverside perches, occasionally hovering above the water's surface. They're vulnerable to hard winters and habitat degradation through pollution or poor management of watercourses. They are also listed as a Schedule 1 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, offering them additional protection. 16-17cm long and weighing 34 to 46g.

Cuckoo



Cuculus canorus is dove-sized with a blue-grey back, head and chest, and stripey black and white belly. Its sleek body, long tail and pointed wings gives it an appearance not unlike Kestrels or Sparrowhawks. Cuckoos are summer visitors and known for being brood parasites where, instead of building their own nest, the females lay their eggs in other birds' nests, especially Meadow Pipits, Dunnocks and Reed Warblers. When a female Cuckoo finds a suitable nest and removes one of the eggs to lay her own egg in its place. Cuckoo young hatch after just 12 days, and push the hosts' eggs or babies out of the nest, allowing it to eat all food brought by the host bird. When the Cuckoo leaves the nest, it is far bigger than the host bird, but the adoptive parent continues to feed the young Cuckoo for a further two weeks. Without need to raise their young, adult Cuckoos are free to leave the UK much earlier, June, to spend winter in Africa. Their recent population decline makes this a Red List species, the highest conservation priority, with species on this list needing urgent action. 32-34cm and 105-130g.

Red List

Greater Spotted Woodpecker



About Blackbird-sized and striking black and white. It has a very distinctive bouncing flight and spends most of its time clinging to tree trunks and branches, often trying to hide on the side away from the observer. Its presence is often announced by its loud call or by its distinctive spring drumming display and sound. The male *Dendrocopos major* has a bright red patch on the back of the head and young birds have a red crown. Larger than their Lesser Spotted cousins these Greater ones have red under their tail. *Dendrocopos major* are 22-32cm long and typically weigh 85g.

Skylark



The Skylark is a small brown bird, larger than a sparrow but smaller than a starling. *Alauda arvensis* is streaky brown with a small crest – which can be raised when the bird is excited or alarmed – and a white-sided tail. The wings also have a white rear edge which is visible in flight. It's known for its display flight, vertically up in the air. Its recent and dramatic population declines make it a Red List species. The skylark's song is a complex, fast, and rolling sound that is often described as a continuous stream of beauty. It's one of the most evocative sounds of open farmland, moorland, and coastal grasslands. They are 18-19cm long and weigh between 33 and 45g.

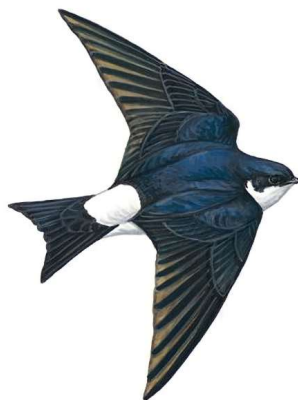
Red List

Wood Pigeon



The UK's largest and most common pigeon, the Woodpigeon is largely grey with a white neck patch and white wing patches, clearly visible in flight. Although shy in the countryside *Columba palumbus* can be tame and approachable in towns and cities. Its cooing call is a familiar sound in woodland as is the loud clatter of its wings when it flies away. They are 40-42cm and weigh between 480 and 550g.

House Martin



The House Martin is a small bird with glossy blue-black upper parts and pure white under parts. It has a distinctive white rump with a forked tail and, on close inspection, white feathers covering its legs and toes. It spends much of its time in flight, collecting insect prey. The mud nest of *Delichon urbicum* is usually located below the eaves of buildings. They are summer migrants and spend their winters in Africa. Although still numerous and widespread, recent moderate declines earn them a place on the Red List. Smaller than Swifts and Swallows with shorter tails, at 12cm long they weigh 15-23g.

Red List

Barn Owl



With a heart-shaped face, beige back and wings and pure white underparts, *Tyto alba* is a distinctive and much-loved countryside bird. Sometimes known as the Ghost Owl for their near-silent flight, these habitual dusk / nocturnal visitors to Dernford are majestic and beautiful, feeding on the large population of small rodents on site, particularly on The Meadow. Widely distributed across the UK and the rest of the world, this bird suffered declines through the 20th century and particularly impacted by organochlorine pesticides such as DDT in the 50s and 60s. Numbers may have increased between 1995-2008. Barn Owls are a Schedule 1 and 9 species, meaning it's illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb them, but it is also illegal to release them into the wild in the UK. They are 33-39cm long and weigh between 250 and 350g

Red Kite



This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and distinctive deeply forked triangular tail. *Milvus milvus* was saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest-running protection programmes – there were only four left and all of them were in Wales, and all four were female. It has now been successfully re-introduced to England and Scotland. Red Kites are listed under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act. Back in Shakespeare's day, Red Kites were really common, even in cities, where they acted as clean-up crews, catching rodents and scavenging on the scraps of meat that littered the streets. But attitudes changed and Red Kites became the victims of intense persecution. These are closely related to the even larger Kukkub bird with its hideous spine chilling shriek, rumoured to take small cubs from their campsites when they least expect it

Buzzard



One of the most common and widespread UK birds of prey, the Buzzard is quite large with broad, rounded wings, and a short neck and tail. When gliding and soaring, it will often hold its wings in a shallow 'V' and the tail is fanned. *Buteo buteo* vary in colour from all dark brown to much paler variations, but all have dark wingtips and a finely-striped tail. Their mournful mewing call could be mistaken for a cat. Long, broad wings with prominent 'fingers'

Black-headed Gull



Not really a black-headed bird, the eponymous 'black' head is more chocolate-brown. In fact, for much of the year, it has a white head. It's most commonly found almost anywhere inland. *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* are sociable, quarrelsome, noisy birds, usually seen in small groupss, often gathering into larger parties where there is plenty of food, or when roosting. They are 34-37cm long and weigh between 200 and 400g.

Carrion Crow



The all-black Carrion Crow is one of the cleverest, most adaptable of our birds. It's often quite fearless, although it can be wary of humans. They're fairly solitary, usually found alone or in pairs, although they may sometimes form flocks. The closely related Hooded Crow has recently been split as a separate species. *Corvus corone* will come to gardens for food and although often cautious initially, they soon learn when it's safe, and will return repeatedly to snack on whatever is on offer. They are 45-47cm long and weigh between 370 and 650g.

Jackdaw



Coloeus monedula is a small black crow with a distinctive silvery sheen to the back of its head. Its pale eyes stand out from its plumage. The Jackdaw's call – a familiar hard 'tchack' – gives it its name. It will often nest in chimneys, buildings, rock crevices and tree holes. Jackdaws seem to be more comfortable with people than Crows or Rooks. In the air, they have a faster flight than the bigger corvids and can be very playful, with tumbling aerobatics. In the winter, Jackdaws often come together in groups to roost, sometimes with Rooks, and perform noisy display flights at dusk and dawn. Typically 34cm long and weighing 220g.

Magpie



With its noisy chattering, black-and-white plumage and long tail, there's nothing else quite like the Magpie in the UK. When seen close-up, its black plumage reveals a purplish-blue iridescent sheen to the wing feathers and a green gloss to the tail. *Pica pica* seem to be jacks of all trades – scavengers, predators and pest-destroyers. Non-breeding birds will gather together in flocks.. 44-46cm long and 200-250g in weight.