

# Top tips to attract birds to your garden

## 1. Provide natural food sources

Feeding birds with supplementary foods is very useful but it's important to provide natural food, too. Berries and seeds are especially important. Lawns are a feeding ground for many birds, including robins, blackbirds and song thrushes. Find out how to grow your own bird food.



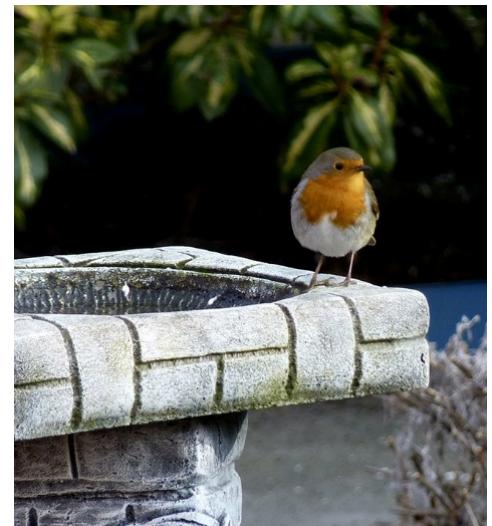
## 2. Provide shelter

Birds need shelter from the cold, especially on cold, winter nights. Dense, evergreen conifers, trees and shrubs are especially good, as is mature ivy. Some birds, including tits and wrens, will shelter in empty nest boxes, snuggling together for warmth.



## 3. Provide water

Birds need a supply of water at all times, to drink and to bathe in. Bathing is especially important in winter – it makes feathers easier to preen, keeping them waterproof and insulating. Shelter it from predators and keep it clean and fresh. Ensure it doesn't freeze over in winter and defrost if needed with some hot water from a kettle. Find out how to make a bird bath.



## 4. Provide supplementary food

Feeding birds in winter is essential – it helps them conserve energy and get through cold nights. But food shortages can happen at any time, so keep feeders topped up all year round – birds will rely on them. Put up a mix of foods to attract a range of species. Discover which foods suit different birds and our round-up of the best bird feeders.

## 5. Use quality bird food

Buy good quality bird food. It'll cost a little more, but is well worth choosing bird seed from reputable brands. Cheaper mixes will contain 'fillers' such as millet or wheat, which are loved by pigeons but that most garden birds won't or can't eat.

## 6. Provide nesting sites

Put nest boxes in a sheltered spot, away from predators.

## 7. Protect from cats and other predators

Birds won't visit if they don't feel safe. They like to be able to check for predators like cats and sparrowhawks, and need somewhere to retreat to quickly. Put feeders next to some cover, such as a tree, hedge or climber-covered fence. A prickly shrub beneath a bird feeder can help to deter cats. Move your bird feeders from time to time to break up the routine of predators like sparrowhawks.



## 8. Practice good hygiene

Be sure to clean bird feeders, tables and baths regularly, to avoid a build up of bacteria and fungal spores that could kill visiting birds. Don't let bird food go off. If your feeders are taking an age to go down, just put out small amounts of fresh food at a time and keep the rest in airtight containers.



If you have some helpful tips you'd like to share  
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let other bird lovers learn from you?  
[www.facebook.com/groups/songbirdfriends](https://www.facebook.com/groups/songbirdfriends)



Learn more about National Robin Day, Ruby Robin and what you can do to help all birds and wildlife at:

[www.songbird-survival.org.uk/national-robin-day](https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/national-robin-day)



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