

Wild Birds



Herefordshire
Wildlife Trust

I've found a baby bird/ fledgling alone. What should I do?

If found near or below a nest it is best to leave them to give the parents, the best chance to find them.

However, if the fledgling is in immediate danger (for instance from traffic or predators), try placing them high up, near the nest, where the parents should be able to find them.

Over the past 50 years, many 'common' birds have dramatically declined. No-one knows for sure the reasons for the decline but changing agricultural practices and a lack of food in the summer and winter have taken their toll.

Summer feeding for birds should be their natural food which is most abundant however adverse weather conditions, either too hot or too wet, can cause a shortage of food. Therefore, providing food in your garden for birds all year round can benefit the local bird populations. The limiting factors to bird populations are nest sites and the availability of sufficient suitable food.

Injured or dead bird?

Diseased wild birds cannot be treated, and unfortunately once a bird is ill enough to be caught it is nearly always beyond recovery anyway. The situation regarding injured birds is more complicated: do be aware that simply trying to catch an injured bird may cause shock, as can careless handling.

See the following RSPB site for detailed advice on helping sick, injured or fledgling wild birds: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/health/index.asp>

The Garden Bird Health initiative is researching causes of disease in garden birds and invites the public to report dead garden birds or signs of disease in live birds by calling 0207 449 6685. See their website for up-to-date information on garden bird disease <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/gbhi.php>



How to make your own bird feeder

wildlife watch



What you need:

- dry ingredients
 - bird seed
 - dried fruit
 - cooked rice
 - breadcrumbs
 - grated cheese
 - chopped nuts
- hard cooking fat (lard or dripping)
- a fir cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot
- string

- 1 Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl
- 2 Add the fat and give it a good mix around
- 3 Choose your feeder
 - plaster all over a fir cone
 - put it round the inside of a coconut shell
 - press into a yoghurt pot
 - You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake
- 4 Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help

Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Nest boxes. Have you got them in the right place?

Nest boxes come in many shapes and sizes, but they should always be located:

- in a quiet place away from other boxes and feeding stations
- high up away from ground-based predators
- where they avoid heavy rain and strong sunlight, by facing between north and south-east.

Want to create your own fat balls? Here's how...

1. Melt some fat (lard, suet or the fat off the Sunday roast) and pour into a tub or half coconut shell.
2. Mix in any of the ingredients mentioned overleaf and allow to set.
3. Hang off a bird table or tree

Putting out food for wild birds in your garden

Most kitchen scraps will be welcome, however do not put out desiccated coconut as it swells in the stomach, and always moisten very dry bread. Scraps that are suitable:

- Cheese
- Unsalted peanuts
- Suet
- Baked potato
- Chopped bacon rind
- Sunflower seeds
- Porridge oats
- Pieces of apple
- Sultanas/ Raisins



If choosing a seed mix, look for one with a good variety of seeds and preferably a mix with a high content of black sunflower seeds as these are high in nutrients. Nuts should be unsalted and bear the British Trust for Ornithology's 'safe' kite mark. This will ensure nuts have not been sprayed with chemicals that can kill birds.

To maximise the number and diversity of birds visiting the garden, put out a variety of foods on the ground, in feeders, on bird tables and smeared in the cracks of trees. To avoid rats, only put small quantities of food on the ground in the morning and remove old/rotten food daily.

Feeding birds with your garden!

There are natural foods that you can add to your garden without the use of bird feeders or buying food; plants with berries or seeds can also help birds.

Plants with berries & hips Plants with seeds

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hawthorn• blackthorn• dog rose• field rose• guelder rose• yew• holly• juniper• rowan• cotoneaster• bird cherry• ivy• spindle• mahonia• crab apple• wild cherry• honeysuckle• pyracantha• raspberries• strawberries• gooseberries• apple• plum• cherry and pear trees• blackcurrants• red currants• mulberry• blackberries | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teasel• honesty• globe thistles• charlock• sunflowers• old man's beard• scabious• forget-me-not• cosmos• goosefoot• knotgrass• michaelmas daisies• spindle• grasses. |
|--|---|

You can also plant trees for food as well as shelter for nesting or for a nest box. Trees good for insects are:

- Oak
- birch
- hazel
- poplar
- willow
- rowan
- alder.

Extra safety for your birds.

- Do not hang feeders where cats can reach them. Try hanging them in prickly bushes or on thin twigs away from fences.
- Grass lawns provide good hunting grounds for blackbirds and song thrushes looking for worms.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust



Get Involved!

Join Today! Becoming a member is a great way to help your local wildlife.

Volunteer: we are always looking for people to join our work parties carrying out practical management on our reserves - but we have other opportunities in our offices and at events too.

Contact us:
enquiries@herefordshirewt.co.uk
01432 356872

Our vision is for a Herefordshire richer and more diverse in wildlife that is valued, and cared for, by its people to the benefit of all.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is a driving force for nature conservation in the county with over 5,000 members from across Herefordshire and beyond.

We're part of a national network of Wildlife Trusts. We campaign to protect wildlife and habitats both locally and nationally.

Together with our members and volunteers we work tirelessly to protect wildlife across Herefordshire, both on our 55 nature reserves and in partnership with other landowners.

**55 nature reserves**

**5,000 mem-**

**300 active volunteers**

**534 hectares of land for wildlife**

www.herefordshirewt.org