

Encouraging birds into the garden



It is always wonderful to see birds in the garden and there are simple things you can do to encourage them. Like all living things they need food, water and a safe place to live. You can provide natural food by growing plants which have

berries and by leaving seed heads on plants during the winter, tidy them up in the early spring. If you have a good variety of food in your feeders you will get lots of different birds using them.

Birds need fat in the autumn and winter but avoid it in spring and summer as young birds can choke on it. Always remove the mesh bag from bird food and clean out the feeders often to prevent disease.



If you have a pond make a shallow beach area or provide a sloping stone or log at one

end to make a place for birds to bath and drink. You can also have a bird bath or just a tray of water, again with a way for birds, and frogs, to get to the water. In very cold weather a supply of unfrozen water is needed by birds.



Nesting sites can be natural, in trees and shrubs, or man made. Different designs of nest box will attract different birds but take care to site them correctly. For instance, tits like an open route to the box but robins like boxes in

undergrowth. Remember that any pesticides will get into the food chain and affect birds.

Bird photos courtesy of Julian Fountain.

