

Garden Birds

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

Over 300 bird species have been recorded in Leicestershire. Many species of bird visit gardens, especially if there are feeders and shrubs/trees to provide cover. The 10 species below are some of the most common garden visitors. Seed, peanut and fat feeders will help you attract more birds and bring them nearer to view.

When viewing online, simply *click on the species name to find out more*.



[Blue Tit - *Cyanistes caeruleus*](#)

ID: All-yellow front, black eye-stripe, blue head cap.

Where: Common on feeders / trees.

Similar: Great Tit (larger, black breast stripe).

Fact: Hole-nester with a large brood (average 12).



[Great Tit - *Parus major*](#)

ID: Yellow front with black mid-line, black head cap.

Where: Common on feeders / trees.

Similar: Blue tit (no breast stripe).

Fact: Another hole-nester, but needs a larger hole!



[Robin - *Erithacus rubecula*](#)

ID: Orange breast and head (both male and female).

Where: Feeds mainly on the ground.

Similar: None.

Fact: Follows large animals (including human gardeners) looking for disturbed food.



[Dunnock - *Prunella modularis*](#)

ID: Brown/grey, sparrow-sized, thin beak.

Where: On the ground, close to cover.

Similar: House Sparrow (thick beak).

Fact: Misleadingly called the Hedge Sparrow when it is the only UK member of the 'accentor' bird family.

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other Leicestershire garden birds to check out:

[Chaffinch](#), [Greenfinch](#), [Magpie](#), [Wren](#)



House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*

ID male: (left) – grey front, black bib, grey cap.

ID female: (right) – brown cap, pale eye-stripe.

Where: Bushes, feeds on the ground.

Similar: Dunnock (thin beak).

Fact: Red-listed due to huge population crash.



Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris*

ID: Oily black, purple/green sheen, spots in winter.

Where: Grassland, usually in large flocks.

Similar: None.

Fact: In the 1980's around 3 million Starlings roosted in Abbey Park, Leicester.



Blackbird - *Turdus merula*

ID: Males all black, yellow bill; females dark brown.

Where: Feeds mainly on the ground.

Similar: Song Thrush (cream front with spots).

Fact: Many of the Blackbirds we see in winter are migrants from north eastern Europe.



Woodpigeon - *Calumba palumbus*

ID: Grey back, pink breast, white neck patch.

Where: Trees, fences, rooflines.

Similar: Collared Dove (black neck collar).

Fact: Can breed at all times of year where there is plenty of food, builds twiggy nests in trees.



Goldfinch - *Carduelis carduelis*

ID: Ginger-brown, red face, black/yellow wings.

Where: Tops of trees, feeders.

Similar: None.

Fact: Has a very fine beak to extract flower seeds.



Long-tailed Tit - *Aegithalos caudatus*

ID: Pink & white with black. Tiny bill, very long tail.

Where: Trees and feeders, usually in winter flocks.

Similar: None.

Fact: Builds a globe nest using lichens and spider silk.

Find more Leicestershire Wildlife

ID Guides at:

www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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