



**Blairvadach
Bytes**

Common Garden Birds



Winter can be a difficult time for our garden birds, but with a little helping hand from us we can attract a variety of different species.

Using different types of foods such as fat balls, seeds, and nuts will give plenty of choice to attract the fussiest of eaters!

Placing your feeders high up away from predators is important, but it's also worth scattering some food on the ground to allow the bigger species, such as Collared doves and Wood pigeons, to get their share.

What you can spot and identify depends on where you live, but there are around 20 different species that will make an appearance at different times of the year. Here's a handful of the most common here in Scotland. Can you identify each one and any of its distinguishing features?

- 1. Robin**
- 2. Blue Tit**
- 3. Goldfinch**
- 4. Chaffinch**
- 5. House Sparrow**
- 6. Long tailed Tit**
- 7. Dunnock**
- 8. Coal Tit**
- 9. Goldcrest**
- 10. Nuthatch**



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**Click here to see the
YouTube video**

- Robins have been associated with Christmas since Victorian Times. Their annual appearance on Christmas cards came from the postmen in that era, who were known as Robin red breasts due to their red waist coats!**
- Blue Tits tend to flock in groups in the winter to search for food, to feed their large families called broods.**
- Some species such as the Goldfinch migrate to warmer climates during the winter months and have been found as far away as Spain!**
- The Wood Pigeon is the UK's most common pigeon and is also the largest!**
- Although once a common site, the House Sparrow is in serious decline in some parts. Amazingly, it's beak changes colour to a yellow brown in the Winter and turns black in the summer!**
- The long-tailed tit is what's known as a 'gregarious' bird, which means they normally live in large groups. Long tailed tits will regularly have Mums, Dads, Brothers, Sisters, Aunties and Uncles, all found in the same group to help search for food to feed their chicks.**

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