

## INVESTIGATION

Putting up bird feeders in your garden is a great way to help birds. It's also a brilliant way of attracting birds so you can see them easier. Sending us records of these birds contributes to scientist's understanding of how they're doing. Let us know what you see here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/my-patch-from-record-lrc>

**INVESTIGATE** which foods your garden birds prefer.  
Let us know the results

### PREPARING FOR THE INVESTIGATION

#### Equipment:

Binoculars, stopwatch or other timer, pencil and paper (or print recording sheet)

3x bird feeders with different foods in them. This could be:

*Black sunflower seeds, Sunflower hearts, Nyger Seed, Peanuts, Fat (eg. with seeds in), mixed seed...*

#### Set up your feeders:

Fill up your feeders and hang them up outside. Put them somewhere where you can easily see them from a distance where you won't disturb the birds. Watching through a window is perfect.

#### Wait a while...

It often takes a while for garden birds to get used to new things. If you can, leave the feeders up for a couple of weeks beforehand.

### HOW TO DO IT

- 1 Set up in your birdwatching spot and watch the birds for a little while without recording, to check that you're not disturbing them

*How would you know if they were disturbed? .....*

- 2 Time for 15 minutes and watch the birds, using your binoculars if you need to

- 3 Every time a bird 'visits' a feeder, identify the species and write down what it's eating using a tally

*Add which types of food you're using to the recording table*

*A 'visit' counts as a bird landing, eating, then taking off. If the same bird comes back this counts as another visit*

*You could use our Top 10 Birds resource, the internet, or books to ID the species*

**Safety First...**Remember to keep things clean- Wash your hands after touching bird food or feeders and clean your feeders regularly to stop birds catching diseases.

Bird foods can contain allergen like nuts.





# GARDEN BIRD FEEDER INVESTIGATION

RECORD YOUR RESULTS HERE

BIRD	TALLY OF 'VISITS' TO...		
	.....	.....	.....
Chaffinch			
Woodpigeon			
Robin			
Blue tit			
Blackbird			
Great tit			
Dunnock			
Magpie			
Green Finch			
House sparrow			
Starling			
Collared Dove			
Gold Finch			
Other (note it down)			



## INVESTIGATION

Analyse your results - what do they tell you?

The most popular food was .....

The least popular food was .....

The total number of 'visits' altogether was .....

The bird species that made the most visits was .....

Work out the percentage of all visits that were made to each food:

FOOD	NUMBER OF VISITS TO IT	PERCENTAGE OF ALL VISITS
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

Try making a graphs or pie charts to show which foods were most popular and compare different species. What about:

Graphs for all 3 foods, showing the numbers / percentages of the different species that visited them

Graphs for each bird species, showing the visits to each of the foods



Do you think that different species prefer different foods? Why might this be?

