

Bird watching made easy

Dot Blakely

Some people have said to me, they don't know any birds. My answer to that is, look out your window, there will be a bird, you just haven't noticed it. So, I am going to go through just some of the garden birds which are easiest to identify. First at this time of the year we have a lot of different sounds going on in the garden. Blackbirds, robins, are the first to start singing in Spring, the blackbirds song is loud; full, fluty warbling. I hear it as 'wee birdie, wee birdie'. By contrast, the robin sings in short warbling verses, but to me he sticks his red chest out, says to himself, 'I don't need to sing a lot, I am beautiful. Robins nest first because of their food. They like worms, spiders, etc. which -with our weather - a good bit of rain, a wee bit of sun, is a perfect climate. Another great singer is the great tit, he says 'Teacher, Teacher, Teacher'. That is just one of his many loud and clear calls. By April the blue tit and great tit will be renting your nest boxes. But, remember, no peeking or they might abandon the nest. They will be waiting for the greenflies, ants, etc. which reminds me to tell you, look and listen before you cut your hedge for nesting birds, once found, they must be left alone, 'by law'. Get to know your garden and what lives in it. Take a note of what is going on. The more you look the more you will see and enjoy.

Dot

Now try Dot's easy bird quiz.

Garden birds.

What bird has a red breast?

Why does the blackbird nest early in the Spring?

Why do birds like our climate?

What does the great tit call?

What bird will use your nest box?

What must you not do at a nest box?

What must you do before you cut a hedge?

If you find a nest what do you do?



name the bird



name the bird