

THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW

BIRD SURVEY

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus



Eats insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts.

Great Tit

Parus major



Eats insects, seeds and nuts.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus



Eats insects and occasionally seeds in the autumn and winter.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater



Eats insects, seeds and nuts.

Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris



Eats insects and seeds.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs



Eats insects and seeds.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis



Eats seeds and insects in summer.

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula



Eats insects and seeds.



Not to be confused with:

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Key to symbols



Length (cm)



Weight (grammes)

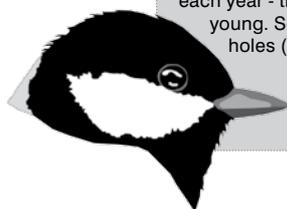


UK population (pairs)

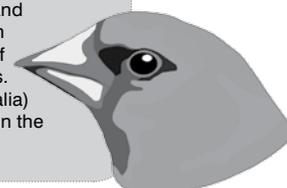
THE WILDLIFE ROAD SHOW BIRD SURVEY

Name	Description	Habitat & Ecology	Distribution
 Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	The Blue Tit is a colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green. Its blue crown and a dark line passing through the eye and encircling the white cheeks to the chin give the bird a very distinctive appearance.	It is a common woodland and garden bird, and can be found anywhere with trees and bushes. It feeds on insects (including many 'pest' species) along with seeds and nuts. Almost any garden with a peanut feeder will attract them and it will readily breed in nestboxes.	Common resident throughout the UK. World distribution: Europe, NW Africa and Near East.
 Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	The Great Tit is a distinctive bird, with a black head and neck, prominent white cheeks, green upperparts and yellow underside (with black band, wider in males). It is the largest UK tit and has a distinctive two-syllable song.	Present in woodlands, parks and gardens. It eats invertebrates (esp. butterflies, beetles) and spiders and in the winter, seeds and fruit. Like all tits it is a cavity nester, usually nesting in a hole in a tree.	Resident across the UK. Absent only from the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland. World distribution: Europe, NW Africa and Asia.
 Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	The Long-tailed Tit is easily recognisable with its tiny round body and very long, narrow tail.	These birds are gregarious and can be seen, usually in small flocks, in woodland, farmland hedgerows, scrubland, parkland and gardens feeding mainly on insects.	Found across the UK except for the far north and west of Scotland. It is also widespread throughout temperate northern Europe and Asia.
 Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	The Coal Tit has a distinctive grey back, black cap, and a white patch at the back of its neck.	It can be found in woodland, especially conifer woods, parks and gardens. Coal tits are regular visitors to most peanut feeders. They will take and store food for eating later.	Found across the UK except for the far north and west of Scotland. World distribution: Eurasia and NW Africa.
 Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	The Greenfinch is similar in size and shape to a House Sparrow, but is mainly green, with yellow in the wings and tail. The song contains distinctive wheezes and twitters.	It can be found in woodland, hedges farmland and gardens with relatively thick vegetation. Greenfinches are only absent from upland areas without trees and bushes. It feeds on seeds and will often visit bird tables for black sunflower seeds.	Resident across all of the UK, apart from NW Scotland, to which it may migrate in the Summer. World distribution: Europe, near East and N Africa.
 Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	The Chaffinch is the UK's second commonest breeding bird, and is one of the most colourful of the UK's finches. The breeding male is unmistakable, with reddish cheeks and underparts and a blue-grey cap.	It is found in woodlands, hedgerows, fields, parks and gardens across the UK. Chaffinches have the widest diet of all the finches mostly invertebrates during the Summer, otherwise mostly seeds.	Resident across all of the UK and is widespread through Europe, as well as NW Africa and W Asia.
 Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	The Goldfinch has a bright red face, black and white head, warm brown upperparts, white underparts and black and yellow wings.	It is found anywhere where there are scattered bushes and trees, rough ground with thistles and other seeding plants. They have long fine beaks allowing them to extract otherwise inaccessible seeds from plants such as thistles. They'll visit bird tables and feeders.	Resident across all of the UK, apart from NW Scotland. It is less common in upland areas and most numerous in southern England. World distribution: Eurasia.
 Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	The male Bullfinch is unmistakable with bright pinkish-red breast and cheeks, grey back, black cap and tail, and bright white rump.	It is found in woodlands, orchards and hedgerows. It mainly feeds on seeds and buds of fruit trees. It feeds its young with insects.	Resident across all of the UK, apart from NW Scotland. World distribution: Eurasia.

Tits are small, acrobatic birds with a gregarious nature. True tits (family Paridae) are generally similar in size and shape, with most having short legs and a sturdy bill, which suits their omnivorous diet, mostly of insects in the summer and a wide range of fruit and berries in the winter. Some species have adapted readily to man and are regular visitors to bird tables in Britain. Tits are distributed throughout Eurasia, Africa (except the Sahara) and North America. Most species nest in tree holes or similar, and lay 10-15 eggs in a clutch, but in a single clutch each year - timed for peak caterpillar abundance to feed their young. Some like the Great Tit will often nest in artificial tree holes (i.e. nest-boxes).



The **finches** form a large family. The bill shape of finches varies according to the main type of food, from short and rounded to rather long and sharp. Some species are agile and feed while perching on, or hanging from, plants, while others are essentially ground feeders, but most also take insects from foliage in the breeding season. Bill shapes range from the delicate bill of the Siskin adapted to removing seeds from alder and birch cones, through the unique crossed-bill of the Crossbill adapted for extracting seeds from pine and spruce cones, to the massive bill of the Hawfinch which can crack cherry stones. The Linnet is one of the few birds that feeds its young entirely on seeds. Finches occur throughout the world (except Australia) and many species are semi-nomadic, particularly in the non-breeding season, following the seed crop.



Information sources: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>, <http://www.bto.org/>, <http://www.garden-birds.co.uk>

Blue Tit (image 1), Great Tit (2) © Sławomir Staszczuk; Long-tailed Tit (3) © Chris Romeiks/vogelart.info; Coal Tit (4) © Aviceda;

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