

The RSPB Garden Birdwatch

The RSPB Garden Birdwatch is coming up at the end of **January**. I thought it might be good to do at home and we could then share what we are seeing in our gardens on the comments section of our class Blogs.

Suitable foods

The first thing we need to do is encourage birds into our area by providing some food. You do not necessarily need to buy food for birds, you can use kitchen scraps (if you have any!). Just a **little** food at a time and keep feeding them every day and hopefully different types of birds will begin to appear. Suitable foods are: stale/dry bread pre-soaked in water, crackers, cookies, hard cheeses but not mouldy or rancid cheese, leftover cooked plain pasta, seeds and vegetables (even from a soup tin), bacon rind, apple cores and fruit, stale or leftover cereal, crushed nuts, peanut butter, crushed eggshells. Make sure the food you put out is chopped up into small pieces for the birds.

How to feed scraps to birds

The easiest way to feed scraps to birds is by sprinkling the food on a platform feeder or just a safe area around your house. The scraps can also be cut up to mix into a speedy bird cake recipe.

Speedy bird cake recipe - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-speedy-bird-cake/>

Please clear away any rotten or uneaten foods as you don't want to be visited by any rodents!

Of course, if you already have bird food available then this is the best type of food to feed the birds as they will be getting all the good things they need to keep them healthy.

To start off I would like you to take notes of what the birds look like. Start by looking at their colour and their size. Get to know what the birds look like that are visiting your garden area. If you have binoculars you could use them, if not you could make some out of cardboard tubes or even just make a telescope!

Happy birdwatching!