

Birds nesting early in the year will appreciate thorny trees like hawthorn and blackthorn, which will give protection before the leaves grow back on deciduous trees after winter. They also produce berries during early winter.

BERRY GOOD PLANTS FOR BIRDS

The plants in your garden can help provide local birds with shelter, fruit, and a supply of tasty invertebrates.

Different plants bring different insects, fruit, and types of shelter. Each will benefit different birds depending on their needs. Choose your plants carefully if there's a specific local bird that you want to see in your garden.

Leave an area of lawn unmown to allow the grass and wildflowers to flower and seed. This feeds the birds and the invertebrates some birds live on.

Dense plants like hedges are great places for birds to build a nest where predators can't easily reach

Birds favour plants that grow berries with colours that are found naturally in the local area, like dog-rose, juniper, or wild cherry. The black and red colouring is an indicator that birds use to tell the fruit is ripe.

Ivy can provide the perfect shelter for different nesting birds and the insects that they eat

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WHAT TO PLANT

There are many plants that help local wildlife, but the best ones to plant are native species. Native plants come in all shapes and sizes, so choose one to suit your area. You don't need to have a towering oak to support birds!

A few great plants for UK birds are named below, but if you know a native plant that can provide them with fruit, shelter, or support the insects that they eat, then that would be a great addition too! .

Holly

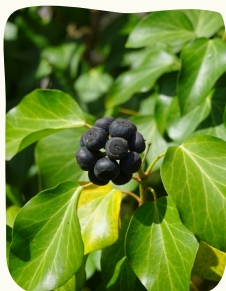


Year-round cover, berries



Thrushes

Ivy



Year-round cover, berries



Tits, robins, wrens, other small birds

Hawthorn



Blackthorn



Dense thorny cover, haws, and sloes



Thrushes, migrators, insect eaters

Hazel



Nuts



Woodpeckers, nuthatches, jays, tits, pigeons

Rowan



Berries



Thrushes, waxwing, redstart

Teasel/thistle



Seeds



Goldfinch and close relatives

Wild cherry



Cherries



Thrush

Honeysuckle



Berries



Thrushes, bullfinch, warblers, insect eaters

Stinging nettles feed the caterpillars of over 30 UK butterfly species. Great for the caterpillars but also great for the birds that eat them too!

