

Make your garden wildlife friendly for the winter months

Think about shelter the next time you're planting your garden

Like us, birds look for shelter to keep warm. Evergreens are a good source of shelter and will offer them some comfort in the cold weather.

Some ornamental conifers offer good cover as do privets, laurels and Pyracantha. Holly and ivy provide great cover and can be a saviour for many small birds.

Making a windbreak can be an effective way of keeping an area of your garden clear from drifting snow and bitter winds, allowing the birds access to feeders during the winter.



An old Christmas tree, or a pile of branches and other foliage can be placed on the ground.

Adding a sheet of plywood to serve as a wall will drastically reduce the wind.

Behind the contraption, on the sheltered side you can clear the snow from the ground and either scatter seed or use ground feeders.

Providing a place for birds to hide near to a feeding station should encourage them to come as it means it's only a short distance to the food and water which allows them to expend as little energy as possible to reach their meals. This way they have more energy to stay warm!

How to help more wildlife in your garden this winter

- Leave undisturbed wild areas in your garden – piles of leaves or brushwood can make the perfect nest in which animals can hide, rest and hibernate.
- If you have a compost heap, this will become a welcome habitat for toads, and even grass snakes and slow-worms.
- If your garden pond freezes over, ensure you make a hole in the ice. Toxic gases can build up in the water of a frozen pond, which may kill any fish or frogs that are hibernating at the bottom.
- Never break the ice with force or tip boiling water onto a pond, as this can harm or even kill any fish and other wildlife that live in it.

If you have some useful feeding tips you'd like to share
Why not join and post in our Facebook group to
let other bird lovers learn from you?
www.facebook.com/groups/songbirdfriends

Learn more about National Robin Day, Ruby Robin and what
you can do to help all birds and wildlife at:

www.songbird-survival.org.uk/national-robin-day



National Robin Day
The awareness day
for SongBird Survival

