

About the Game . . .

The Bird-Table Game has been developed to help you get more pleasure from watching birds by increasing your knowledge of what you see.

Although all the information provided in the descriptions and the illustrations is as accurate as Ed-U-Games can make it, the game is intended to be *fun* for anyone who plays — irrespective of their knowledge of the birds of Britain.

Don't feel embarrassed if you can't answer the easiest questions the first few times you play — all the answers are to be found in the bird descriptions on the inside of the box lid or in the information printed alongside this text.

You'll be surprised how quickly you learn as you play . . . and how much more you'll soon be noticing about your garden birds!

When you are confident of answering all the 5 point questions correctly (eg point to a Robin, Blue Tit, Chaffinch etc) change them for the 17 extra cards which score 15 points each and will increase your knowledge further.

Playing the game . . .

The 10 simple rules are printed on the board — but feel free to modify some of them if you wish!

For example, you may find it an advantage *not* to allow backward moves when there are more than three players. With four or more players it is exceedingly difficult to get to the 'Finish' before the points run out, and it doesn't pay to dawdle round the detours in the hope of landing on a high score square.

The winning strategy is judging *just* the time to arrive at the 'Finish' before the points run out!

There are three 'nasty' penalty cards included amongst the Grey(?) Cards as well as several high scoring cards (requiring no special knowledge) to provide the unexpected!

Positioning a Bird-Table . . .

Choose a reasonably open space, a safe distance from any cover which might hide a lurking cat. But don't isolate it *too* much — birds like to be able to perch safely in a nearby hedge or tree to observe the situation, before deciding to come down to feed.

They also like to be able to return quickly to a position of safety not too far away, when temporarily frightened by a sudden movement, or disturbed by passers-by etc.

- 1 House Sparrow
- 2 Tawny Owl
- 3 Sparrowhawk
- 4 Red-legged Partridge
- 5 Pheasant
- 6 Jackdaw
- 7 Rook
- 8 Crow
- 9 Jay
- 10 Magpie
- 11 Great Tit
- 12 Long-tailed Tit
- 13 Blue Tit
- 14 Coal Tit
- 15 Marsh/Willow Tit
- 16 Blackcap
- 17 Mistle Thrush
- 18 Song Thrush
- 19 Redwing
- 20 Fieldfare
- 21 Pied Wagtail
- 22 Goldcrest
- 23 Goldfinch
- 24 Bullfinch
- 25 Brambling
- 26 Chaffinch

- 27 Greenfinch
- 28 Siskin
- 29 Green Woodpecker
- 30 Great Spotted Woodpecker
- 31 Nuthatch
- 32 Treecreeper
- 33 Collared Dove
- 34 Woodpigeon
- 35 Rock Dove (feral pigeon)
- 36 Blackbird
- 37 Starling
- 38 Grey Heron
- 39 Mallard
- 40 Herring Gull
- 41 Black-headed Gull
- 42 Reed Bunting
- 43 Yellowhammer
- 44 Linnet
- 45 Redpoll
- 46 Waxwing
- 47 Wren
- 48 Robin
- 49 Dunnock
- 50 Tree Sparrow

Foods to help Birds survive the Winter . . .

Fresh food put out regularly, in the same place, is the secret of success, and will soon attract a variety of birds to your garden.

It is *not* essential to use a bird-table — indeed many species prefer to feed on the ground!

Once you have started feeding, it is **very important to keep on feeding regularly throughout the Winter**. Many birds will become dependent on your help, and could easily die without that help during severe conditions.

YOU MUST REMEMBER TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER FOR DRINKING AND BATHING.

Plenty of people throw out household scraps for the birds to find, but very few make sure that vital fresh water is available during a prolonged freeze-up!

NUTS, FATS, FRUIT, SEEDS, GRAIN-BASED FOODS & COOKED MEATS AND BONES are all beneficial.

Peanuts — whole or shelled are a favourite especially with the Tits, Greenfinches, Siskins, etc (but *never* give salted peanuts).

Suet is always welcome (but avoid salty bacon fat or rind).

Fallen Apples & Pears and almost any dried fruit (as long as you soak it well first) attract the Thrush family including Redwings and Fieldfares.

Household scraps especially wholemeal bread, stale cakes and biscuits are all well-liked and are taken by virtually any species.

Commercial Bird Seed is very convenient and corn and oatmeal in any form are all accepted especially by the Finches.

Cooked Meats are OK, and Bones are appreciated by Woodpeckers.

However, please stop putting out food in the Spring when birds begin feeding their young.

Nestlings require a balanced diet of natural foods for their correct development, and are often unable to digest 'un-natural' foods (e.g. peanuts) which have been supplied to their parents by well-meaning humans!

Dangerous Foods to be avoided . . .

- 1) Don't provide anything SALTY (e.g. salted peanuts) or anything highly spiced or seasoned.
- 2) Desiccated or Ground Coconut is VERY dangerous. It swells up inside the birds' stomachs with fatal results. (Fresh coconut in the shell is O.K.)
- 3) Don't put out Orange Peel, Lemon Peel or Banana Skins.
- 4) Raw meat is best avoided. It will probably attract vermin, foxes etc before it attracts the birds you wish to encourage.