

Our Vision:

A Parish and its people that are enriched by wildlife, where people enrich the natural world and help to safeguard it for the future.

Our aims are to:

Share knowledge of the wonderful wildlife in the Parish of Chudleigh.

Raise awareness through events and activities that involve and motivate the community.

Encourage positive action by local residents to attract and sustain more wildlife in the town and Parish of Chudleigh.

Conserve and enhance our existing wildlife and local habitats, features and species populations, through working together and with others.

Survey & record what we have, holding and sharing our wildlife records with others.

Advise groups and individuals on biodiversity and land management for wildlife.

Monitor development proposals that may result in damage to important wildlife.

Be environmentally and socially aware and responsible in what we do.

Interested in joining us?

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, are interested in joining the committee, or would like to volunteer, please contact info.chudleighwild@gmail.com



It's looking like it may be a cold winter this year



At this time of year, the RSPB advise putting out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed **twice daily** if you can: in the morning and in the early afternoon. Birds require high-energy (high-fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights.

See the RSPBs Ten Top Tips for feeding your birds on page 2, and the Chair's Chat for recommended bird foods on page 5.





The winter can be a tough time of year for birds, but you can give them a helping hand, whether you have a big garden or a small windowbox. Here are the RSPB's 10 bird feeding tips.

1. Know your birds

Different species eat different things. Sparrows and finches like seeds; tits like fat; and thrushes and robins like fruit and worms. Starlings will eat just about anything. Make sure you're providing the right menu for your diners - find out what to feed birds.

2. Look out for leftovers

Some of our own food can be good for birds – for example, **fruit cake or mince pies, dried fruit, unsalted nuts, or apples and pears past their best.** Try sprinkling grated mild cheese under trees and bushes for more timid birds like Wrens and Dunnocks.

3. But choose the right stuff

Birds probably won't eat your unwanted Christmas Day sprouts, and **putting out turkey fat is a big no-no** - it's so soft it'll stick to birds' feathers and stop them from keeping waterproof and warm. Avoid anything mouldy or salty (too much salt is poisonous to small birds).

4. Don't poison your pets!

Birds love dried fruit. But **if you have a dog, don't put grapes, currants, raisins or sultanas** within their reach. Vine fruits can be toxic to dogs (check the RSPCA's advice).

5. Keep water in bird baths and ponds unfrozen

Birds need to drink and bathe every day - even when it's really cold outside. A pond or bird bath is great, but even an upturned bin lid or plant saucer can give birds the water they need. We've got lots of useful tips on how to keep water from freezing.

6. Put out the right amount of food

Only put out what will get eaten during the day. This is important if you want to avoid rats and it'll also mean that there aren't big piles of mouldy food on your bird table.

7. Keep it clean!

Dirty bird feeders and bird tables can help spread diseases. Make sure you clean them regularly to keep your visitors healthy and happy. And always wash your hands after feeding the birds!

8. Location, location, location!

Keep your bird table or feeder somewhere quiet - where birds won't be disturbed; **safe and open** - to stop cat-ambushes and allow for a quick getaway; and **sheltered** - from harsh cold winds, rain or snow.

9. Enjoy!

You've got a thriving feeding station and garden full of hungry visitors. It's time to take a moment to watch and enjoy the happy birds feasting on the food you've provided!

10. Give yourself a pat on the back, you're a bird feeding hero!





Action on Climate in Teignbridge

Wildlife Warden Scheme award

Congratulations to Chudleigh Wild committee member Audrey Compton, creator of the Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme, who has won BBC Radio Devon's 'Make a Difference' Environment Award 2022.



Val Compton, Audrey Compton, John Whetman, and Kate Benham

Audrey, a Teign Valley farmer and environmental activist, won the Environment Award in recognition of her hard work in establishing the Wildlife Wardens Scheme under the umbrella of Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT). The scheme was set up in the autumn of 2020 with the aim of finding volunteers in each of the 53 Teignbridge parishes, who were keen to help wildlife survive and thrive in their communities.

There are now 94 Wildlife Wardens working in 37 parishes.

Wardens work on a variety of projects, depending on their strengths and interests. Some write for community newsletters and post on social media. Others carry out valuable work to survey birds, bats and plants, and monitor our streams and rivers for water quality. Others have been trained by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre to survey potential County Wildlife Sites, with the aim of protecting valuable habitats from development. Through the Wildlife Wardens Scheme many parishes have planted hedges, established wildflower verges and set up community projects, like Chudleigh Wild's 'Gardening for Wildlife' project.

ACT also provide guidance for other communities wanting to set up a [Wildlife Wardens Scheme](#).

If you are interested in joining ACT and/or being a Wildlife Warden, you can find more information [here](#) or email flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org.



Young people and nature

Across the world, young people are taking positive action for nature. There's never been a more important time to actively listen to and involve young people, ensuring that they feel empowered in the difference they can make for people and the planet.



Whilst looking online for ideas on how we might engage more of the young people in Chudleigh in 2023, I came across the John Muir Trust website and the above quote from their homepage.

Chudleigh Wild has had many accolades for the work they are carrying out, the inspiration for which has come from the many passionate and hard working people on our committee. In my latter years as a teacher, many of the older staff were referred to, affectionally, as 'crumbles' and that certainly describes me, and one or two others (no offence, I hope) in our group. You will therefore forgive me, if I state the obvious - **"we need to engage the next generations"**.

When it comes to finding out about how young people engage with nature, who better to hear it from than directly from them? This short film, compile by a young filmmaker in Scotland, was aimed at sharing what young people think with a wide audience: [Young people and nature \(johnmuirtrust.org\)](http://johnmuirtrust.org)

Much research has been carried out into how nature can help young people and all of us of course, proving that it:

- provides relaxation and stress alleviation
- reduces the symptoms of depression
- benefits the immune system
- improves concentration
- prompts social interaction and inclusion

If you have any ideas, or would like to get involved in our mission to connect with our young people in in 2023, please contact:

Sue at info.chudleighwild@gmail.com



Sue Smallshire



Chair's Chat

Last night brought a sprinkling of snow which produced a sudden rush of birds to our garden. Nice for us, but no doubt the result of over a week of more or less freezing weather: a stressful time for our feathered friends. As soon as our neighbour put out his daily dish of scraps the Herring Gulls moved in, but not just the usual dominant pair: today there were a dozen of them squabbling! More interesting for me was an accompanying Black-headed Gull, which eventually alighted on our patio to grab some bread—a species I rarely see in Chudleigh and a first for the garden. We had



Pied Wagtail

put out the stale end of a loaf along with dried mealworms, soaked raisins and a mix of small seeds aimed at those species that aren't attracted to hanging feeders. A modest 13 species came to feed during the day, but these included a Song Thrush, a rarity here these days, and a Pied Wagtail, which spent several hours with us. The ponds had started to thaw, providing drinking water, although a Blue Tit chose to eat snow instead!)



The table below summarises the preferred foods of the most common garden birds:

	Blackbird	Blue Tit	Chaffinch	Collared Dove	Dunnock	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	G S Woodpecker	Great Tit	House Sparrow	Long-tailed Tit	Robin	Siskin	Woodpigeon	Starling	Wren
Food																
Sunflower hearts	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Ground mix	X		X		X		X			X		X			X	
Ultimate mixes		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X			
Premium mixes		X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X	X		
Mixed seed		X	X	X	X		X			X			X	X		
Black sunflower seeds		X	X	X		X	X		X	X			X			
Wheat										X				X		
Oats					X							X				
Rolled oats	X															
Niger						X							X			
Sultanas												X			X	
Peanuts		X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X			
Chopped peanuts	X				X											X
Suet products	X	X		X	X			X	X		X	X			X	X
Live mealworms	X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X
Dried mealworms																X
Robin and friends mix												X			X	

Dave Smallshire

