

Teacher's notes to accompany Powerpoint presentation

'What do birds eat?'

| Slide no. | Suggested points to be made for some of the slides (The presentation is animated to allow children time to discuss questions raised) |
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| 1. | Do birds eat pizza?! No – but they may enjoy a bit of the cheese. |
| 2. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These are common garden and hedgerow birds.• Ask the children to try and identify the birds –<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ blue tit, robin, blackbird - they like to eat insects and blackbirds like worms.○ chaffinch and goldfinch – they like to eat seeds○ these birds live near lots of plants with seeds and where there are lots of insects on the plants. |
| 3. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask the children to try and identify the birds - Heron, mallard and black headed gull.• The birds live near water because it has the food they like.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ herons eats fish and frogs○ the mallard eats weed○ the black headed gull will eat almost anything – they often steal from other birds. |
| 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Woodpecker – ask the children what this bird does. It eats insects that it finds on trees and has a very, very long tongue that it can poke into the holes on trees – you can hear woodpeckers hammering on trees. It lives in woodland because it is dependent upon trees.• Tawny Owl – this bird only flies when it is dark and lives on mice that it catches. It has very good eyesight so that it can see, and very good hearing so that it can hear the mice, and it flies very very quietly. It lives near open areas with grass where it can search for mice. |
| 5. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garden birds feeding in spring and summer, blue tit with caterpillar, blackbird with worm and goldfinch with dandelion seed.• The blackbird has very acute hearing and tracks the worms by |

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| | <p>listening – that’s why you see them on the grass cocking their head from one side to the other as they listen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue tits have keen eyesight and pick very tiny insects off tree branches as well as the big caterpillars that they like to feed their chicks. They hang upside down on the branches of trees as they look for insects. • Goldfinches pull the seeds from plants, crack them open to eat the soft kernel and then discard the shell. |
| 6. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In winter birds find it difficult to find food. There are very few insects and the seeds may not last if the weather is bad. Frozen water causes problems for species like ducks. • Birds must eat a lot of food to keep warm during cold weather – most birds eat constantly during daylight hours. |
| 7. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some birds migrate to other countries where it is warmer and there is the food they like. In late summer the martins collect on the telephone lines before flying off. • It is very dangerous for birds to migrate thousands of miles. They have to be very fit. |
| 8. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can leave the seeds on plants and plant some things in gardens that have berries – the birds will eat these during the winter • Birds come to where humans live to try and find food. We can help them by putting out food. Tree sparrows and goldfinches on a seed feeder and blue tits eating peanuts • Ask children if they have gardens that provide food for birds or if they feed birds. |
| 9. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds need water to drink and also to bathe in. Bathing helps to keep their feathers clean so that they are more effective at insulation. |
| 10. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about what everyone can do to help birds. • Could they leave some places in the garden for birds to feed and nest? • Could the school put up some bird boxes? Could we start a feeding station? |