

PROTECTION OF BIRDS

"We should protect our birds not just with words, not even with cries, but with action!"

This quote from the polyhistor Ottó Herman, who died in 1914, is even more relevant today than it was in his time.

What can we do individually to protect birds?

How can we make the area near our family homes, schools, kindergartens a home for birds?

Winter feeding, year-round watering

Feeding from about November to March. If possible, put out calorie-rich - especially oily seeds. It is important not to feed the birds during the breeding season! At this time, the birds can already find food in the wild, and the seeds are not digestible by the chicks, which may die.

The aim is to attract and keep birds in our environment, thus helping to naturally eradicate pests and rodents, and to remove weed seeds.

It is important to ensure continuous feeding. **Never feed them with bread! And don't feed aquatic birds at all!**

Providing breeding place for birds

If possible, arrange your garden so that species nesting in trees and shrubs also find an optimal nesting place, and you can place different types of nesting boxes for species nesting in boxes.

Types of artificial nesting boxes

The entrance opening of the various artificial nesting boxes is usually round, with variations in the size of the opening and the size of the inside space.

"Type A, "sparrow-free" nesting boxes are the smallest. The narrow opening prevents sparrows from entering. It thus provides suitable breeding places for blue, marsh, coal and crested tits.

The diameter of the entrance opening of the most common type „B” nesting box is only 6 mm larger, 34 mm, than that of type „A”. The box is used to house and protect great tits, house sparrows, Eurasian tree sparrows, Eurasian wrynecks, Eurasian nuthatches, collared flycatchers and European pied flycatchers, but Type „A” species also prefer to move into Type „B” boxes.

Type „D“ has the most variations and, depending on the size of the entrance, it can serve as a nesting place for a range of species from sparrow-sized birds to tawny owls. The basic variety is for common starlings.

The former are preferably placed on trees, while the „C“ type is rather placed on the walls of buildings.

Nesting box type „C“ is designed primarily for species that nest in river walls and in the crevices of cliffs to provide a suitable breeding place for these species in the absence of natural ones. These boxes do not have a rounded opening, but a semi-open front.

Menacing dangers

The house cat is a natural hazard. When placing bird feeders, be careful to ensure that the predator does not get up there. You can put up a thicket of twigs to prevent the cat from approaching the feeder, or put up rattling, jingling objects to alert the birds to the cat's approach.

Artificial hazards arise from everyday human activities, such as electrocution or illegal poisoning.

Medium-voltage transmission poles can be protected by installing insulators on the poles to prevent birds from flying up the pole and closing the circuit with their bodies. However, the installation of such insulators must be carried out exclusively by the electricity supply company's specialists.

Poisoning: deliberate poisoning of predators is always illegal. Secondary poisonings occur when poisoned rodents are eaten and the poison enters the body of the bird of prey, killing it. Chemicals used in agriculture, such as insecticides, can cause disease and death if they enter the animal's body.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), **more than 45,300 species are currently** (August 2024) **threatened with extinction on its Red List**. Of these, around 1,300 are bird species. **To present day, 164 bird species have disappeared.**