

# What to look for: Birds

Woodland is a valuable feeding and breeding habitat for a wide variety of bird species. Each of the woodland nature reserves featured in this pack has a wide diversity of bird species. Many of the nearby houses provide food to the birds on bird-tables and hanging bird feeders. Woodland birds often fly to nearby gardens to make use of these bird feeders.

**Photo:** A blackbird nest hidden in a hedgerow



**Photo:** A jay taking advantage of peanuts provided at a nearby bird feeder.



**Photo:** A recently hatched blackbird egg

Bird nests are usually well hidden in thick bushes and can be very hard to find. If you do find a nest, take a quick look but then leave quickly. The parent birds may desert eggs or small chicks if they are kept away from the nest for too long.



**Photos:** A jay's wing feathers



A long-tailed tit



....and a blackcap warbler

Keep an eye out for other signs of birds, such as **moulted feathers**, or the **shells** of newly hatched eggs (the parents remove the empty shells from the nest, and drop them nearby).

Some of the birds that breed in Bridgend's woodlands live here all year (e.g. the long-tailed tit), but others (e.g. the blackcap warbler) are **migratory** and spend the winter in warmer parts of the world, such as Spain, or even Africa. We usually think of these migratory birds as Welsh birds visiting Africa for the winter, but you could also say that these are African birds visiting Wales to breed!