



## Act 1 - Your garden

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that wildlife conservation can only be undertaken in large nature reserves by the state or national charities. Certainly these play an important role – but it's important to realise that as individuals we can also make a real contribution in preserving the biodiversity of Britain.

Even what were once considered common birds such as Black Birds and House Sparrows now need our assistance to ensure their long-term survival and everyone who has a garden can play a minor - but crucial role – in a collective effort to preserve such threatened species.

In the short period between 2015-2015 some 25 species of British birds witnessed population declines – including Starlings by -10%, Blue Tits -7%% and Black Birds -2%. The House Sparrow suffered a decline of -4% across England and a shocking -73% in London.<sup>1</sup>

**“Even some of our once common species are becoming not-so-common.”<sup>2</sup>**

Such declines are caused by human activity<sup>2</sup> including urban development, industrial farming, loss of habitat<sup>2</sup> reduced foraging and lack of nesting sites.<sup>1</sup>

You may think installing a bird box or feeding a table to be trivial. But if we all assisted in the survival of just one Blue Tit or Starling that could result in an additional 66 million wild birds in the UK. Surely that's something to aim for - something to play a part in?



The real point is that a great deal can be achieved when millions of us with gardens, and millions more with access to a balcony or windowsill, plays our part. As Ghandi declared:

**“Whatever you do may seem insignificant to you, but it is most important that you do it.”**

So, take action and let your garden play its role in the conservation of wildlife in Britain. As individuals we can only make small acts – but collectively we can make an enormous difference.

We need to act to save British birds.

*Don*

## REFERENCES

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BTO Research Report British Trust for Ornithology. Thetford. UK

2 Du Feu (2005)

*Nest Boxes*

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