How to attract bullfinches to your garden

Despite their bold appearance, bullfinches are shy and often wary of humans. But they can still be attracted to gardens. Here are some tips for encouraging these beautiful birds to visit your patch.

**Smooth newt**
The natural diet of bullfinches is dominated by tree buds, shoots and flowers in spring, with seeds becoming more important in summer to winter.

**How and when do bullfinches nest?**
It's unusual for bullfinches to nest in gardens. As a shy species they prefer to build their nest in thick cover and rarely use nest boxes. But if your garden has areas of dense vegetation and is close to woodland, there is a chance bullfinches could use it as a nesting site.

**How to identify bullfinches**
- **Colour:** Male bullfinches have a bright pink-red breast and cheeks, a black cap and grey wings. Females have a duller grey-pink breast. Both sexes have a white rump that is visible in flight.
- **Beak:** bullfinches have a short, powerful-looking beak.
- **Size:** bullfinches are relatively stocky for small birds and are a little larger than a robin.

Tree planting in Pullabrook woods

For the fifth year in a row, we along with our customers and the Woodland Trust returned to the stunning Pullabrook Wood in Dartmoor; to plant and maintain native woodland in the area.

Around 40 people met at 9am in Pullabrook Woods for some hot drinks and freshly made breakfast sandwiches before heading out into the trees. The team cleared the area of brush and debris before planting around 100 saplings; an understory of hazel, hawthorn, cherry and rowan. Once the last tree had been planted the team set about installing chestnut stakes around the perimeter, providing fencing to keep out deer whilst the saplings grow!

To learn more about Pullabrook Woods visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk