

RED ROBBINS



INTRODUCTION

Red Robbings are a very common bird species in the UK.

They are unusual birds in many ways – from their distinctive red chests to their song schedule.

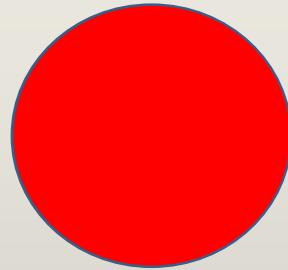
Despite their small size, they are incredibly fierce when it comes to defending their territory.

RED CHEST

A red robin is born without a red chest. The uses for its chest differs between the males and females:

To settle territory disputes, red robins use their chest as a way to solve the dispute. They perch high up and show off their chest.

As each year passes, a male's chest gets bigger. So robins use their chests to show off their age, therefore their better ability to survive. Age is always a good thing to be able to show off about.



Red robins also use their chest to attract mates.

BREEDING

Red robins have a very high mortality rate. Luckily, they are very productive breeders. They produce between three to five broods yearly, each containing four or five eggs.



Mating time is around January. At this time, new couples also go look for appropriate nesting sites.

They nest almost anywhere safe. Commonly, they nest slightly off the ground, in not too visible areas (to protect their babies from predators).

Red robins usually hatch after 13 days.

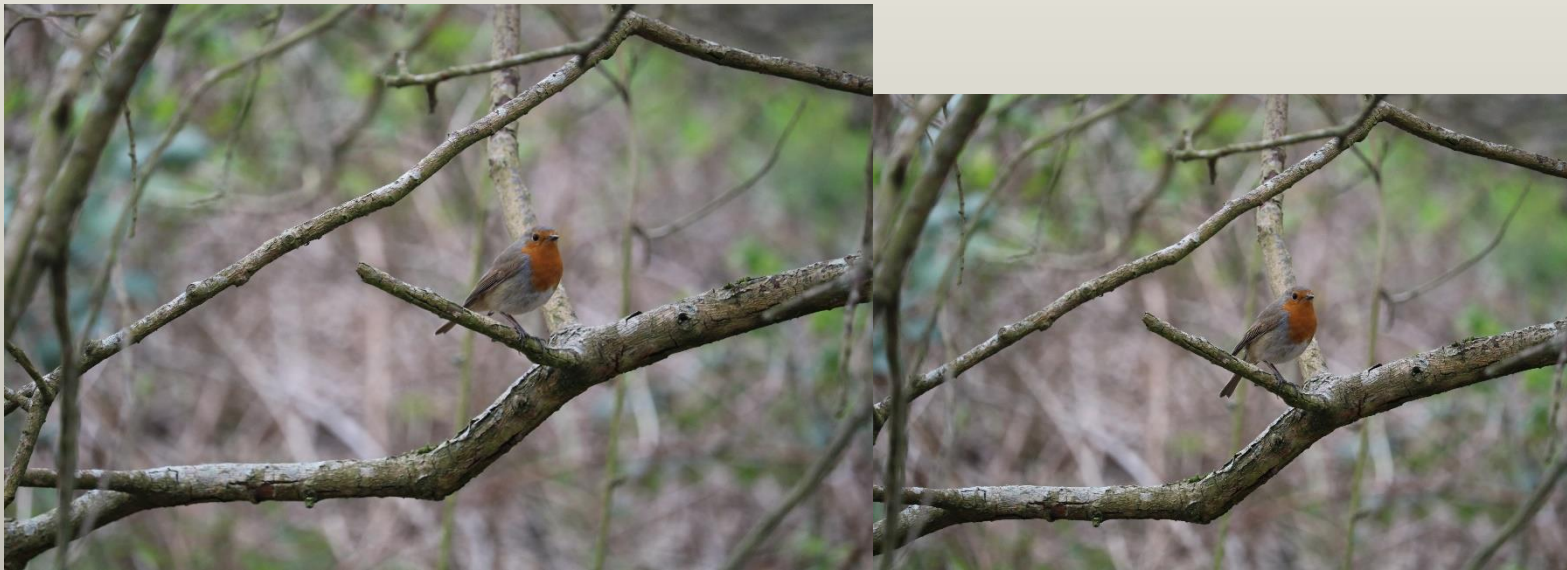
They usually breed in march, but if the weather is mild they may start earlier.

For each new brood there will be a brand new nest.

MIGRATION AND TERRITORY DEFENSE

MIGRATION

Red robins do not usually migrate. However, a few of them go to warmer places for winter. But this is rare. Red robins are quite good with colder weather.



Instead of migrating, red robin find their own territory.

TERRITORY DEFENCE

Having a personal territory means needing to defend it. Robins are known to be very fierce when it comes to protecting home. It will start with warning song and show off, but it sometimes descends into a proper fight. This can result into injury, and even death.

These photos were taken by me whilst on walks. I have other photos taken on different days, but they are on another camera at home. I can add them when I go!

SONG

Red robins sing throughout most of the day, starting earlier and ending earlier than most birds.

Song is also used to attract mates.

As said before, song is used as territory defence mechanism. It is used to warn other birds, and is also used to battle.

Recording of red robin's song:

FEEDING

WHAT THEY EAT:

- . – beetles
- Mealworms
- Invertebrates

These are red robin's favourite foods. However, they do eat lots of other foods.

They do around half of their feeding before noon, and the other half after noon.

Red robins find it hard to eat seeds, as their beaks are not adapted for them.



PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

FRIENDLINESS:

I have often heard that red robins are not very scared of humans. Strangely, I have found the opposite. They are very curious, I think, but fearful. They will observe from up on a branch, where one cannot reach them.

I mainly find red robins in more discrete – but not obscure- Places in the woods. This backs up my idea that they are at least a bit scared of humans!

Just like many other birds and animals, I find that red robins love a sunny, warm day. These last 2 – 2.5 months I have found that they have been around lots. I think it is because it is their nesting season – I did find a red robin with sticks in its beak!