



Starling

Gets its name from the tiny white stars that gleam against its dark feathers. Able to imitate other bird calls. Were introduced to combat agricultural pests. By 1880s, starlings were regarded as pests.



Waxeye / Silvereye

This small bird has olive-green plumage with a white circle around the eyes. A self-introduced bird from Australia and is protected as a native New Zealand species.



Blackbird

Blackbirds sing after rain. Some say the song Sing a Song of Sixpence, from 1700s was a code used to recruit crew for the pirate Blackbeard. Payment was sixpence a day and a pocket of rye was whiskey.



Fantail

Known for its friendly 'cheet cheet' call and energetic flying antics. Our footsteps disturb insects resting in leaf-litter, giving fantails an easy meal. Due to a genetic anomaly, one of five in the South Island have an entirely black tail.



Goldfinch

Young goldfinches lack the red face of the adult, known as grey pates. Used to be known as goldie, gold linnet, redcap and King Harry. Was a symbol of fertility and resurrection in medieval paintings.



Thrush

Introduced to NZ in 1862, they are one of the most common garden birds. They have a speckled belly and are smaller than a blackbird. Juveniles have similar colouring but the speckling underneath is less distinct.



COLOURED BY: _____

GARDEN BIRDS IN SOUTH CANTERBURY

AGE: _____

Colourful Facts

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