



How are birds' bills adapted for feeding on different food items?

Below are six pictures of British farmland and hedgerow birds. Using arrows, match the bird to their preferred food items in the separate boxes below. (You may find other clues in the pictures to help you, such as bird size, ability to fly - think of more.)

Wren	Spotted flycatcher	Bullfinch	Grey partridge	Barn owl	Hawfinch

Fruits stones and large seeds.	Shrews, mice, voles, brown rats, moles, small birds, beetles, moths, frogs, and sometimes bats and fish.	Tree seeds, weeds and berries.	Mainly seeds of grasses and weeds, but also snails and caterpillars.	Flying insects such as crane flies, butterflies and wasps.	Small insects and their larvae, a few spiders and small seeds.

What type of food item do you think each 'bill type' is adapted for? Why?

- Thin and delicate
- Short, stout and stubby
- Short and hooked
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Organisms that feed on different food items, and so do not compete with each other for food, are said to have different feeding 'niches'.