

Pets in winter





Food for birds



Every winter birds need some help to survive it safely. We can help them doing simple things.

Something about suet :

Suet is a good choice for attracting insect-eating birds. Most suet is beef kidney fat, which is inexpensive and available at many meat counters. Suet also can be purchased as processed cake that includes seeds, berries, and other ingredients. Be careful if you offer suet in hot weather; it may become rancid if it has not been specially processed.



And other foods:

Several species, including jays, nuthatches, and woodpeckers, readily consume peanuts. Be creative and see what you can attract with a variety of foods. Try popped popcorn (without salt or butter), hulled sunflower seeds, peanut hearts, soaked raisins, pieces of fruit (oranges like oranges), fruit seeds (melons, apples), grapes, or mealworms.

Bird-feeding tips

Birds may be wary of new foods. If you add something new to your bird-feeding station, offer it in a familiar place.

If you buy a lot of seed, store it in a cool, dry place, in a rodent-proof, metal can.

Check the seed often for mold. Do not use seed that has been stored for an extended period of time. Dispose of any seed that is questionable.

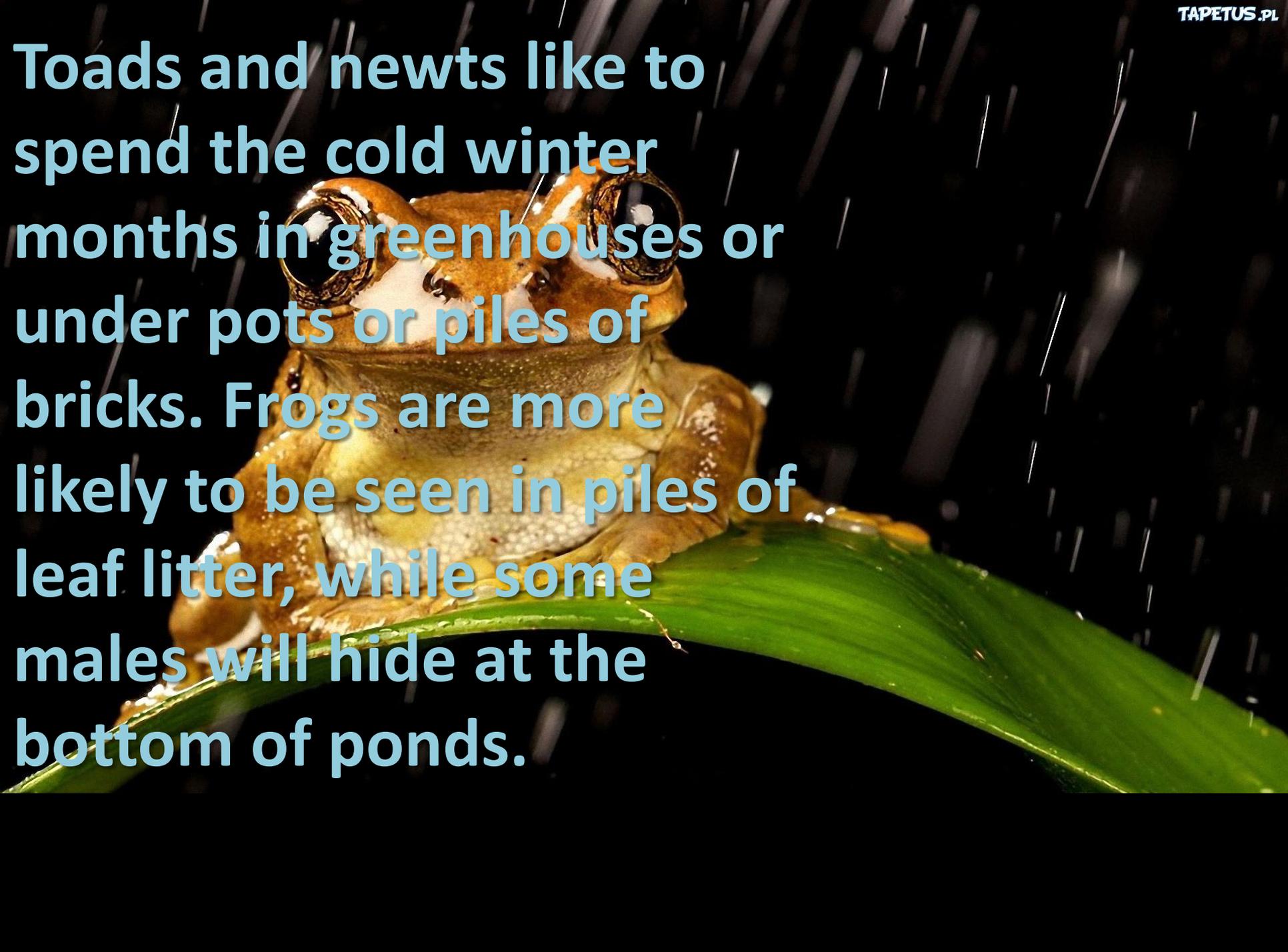




Peacock butterflies
and small
tortoiseshells hide
in shed corners
during the winter.
Try to avoid
disturbing them.



Toads and newts like to spend the cold winter months in greenhouses or under pots or piles of bricks. Frogs are more likely to be seen in piles of leaf litter, while some males will hide at the bottom of ponds.

A close-up photograph of a brown frog with large, prominent eyes, perched on a vibrant green leaf. The scene is set during a rain shower, with numerous vertical streaks of water falling around the frog. The frog's skin appears moist and textured. The background is dark, making the frog and the rain stand out.

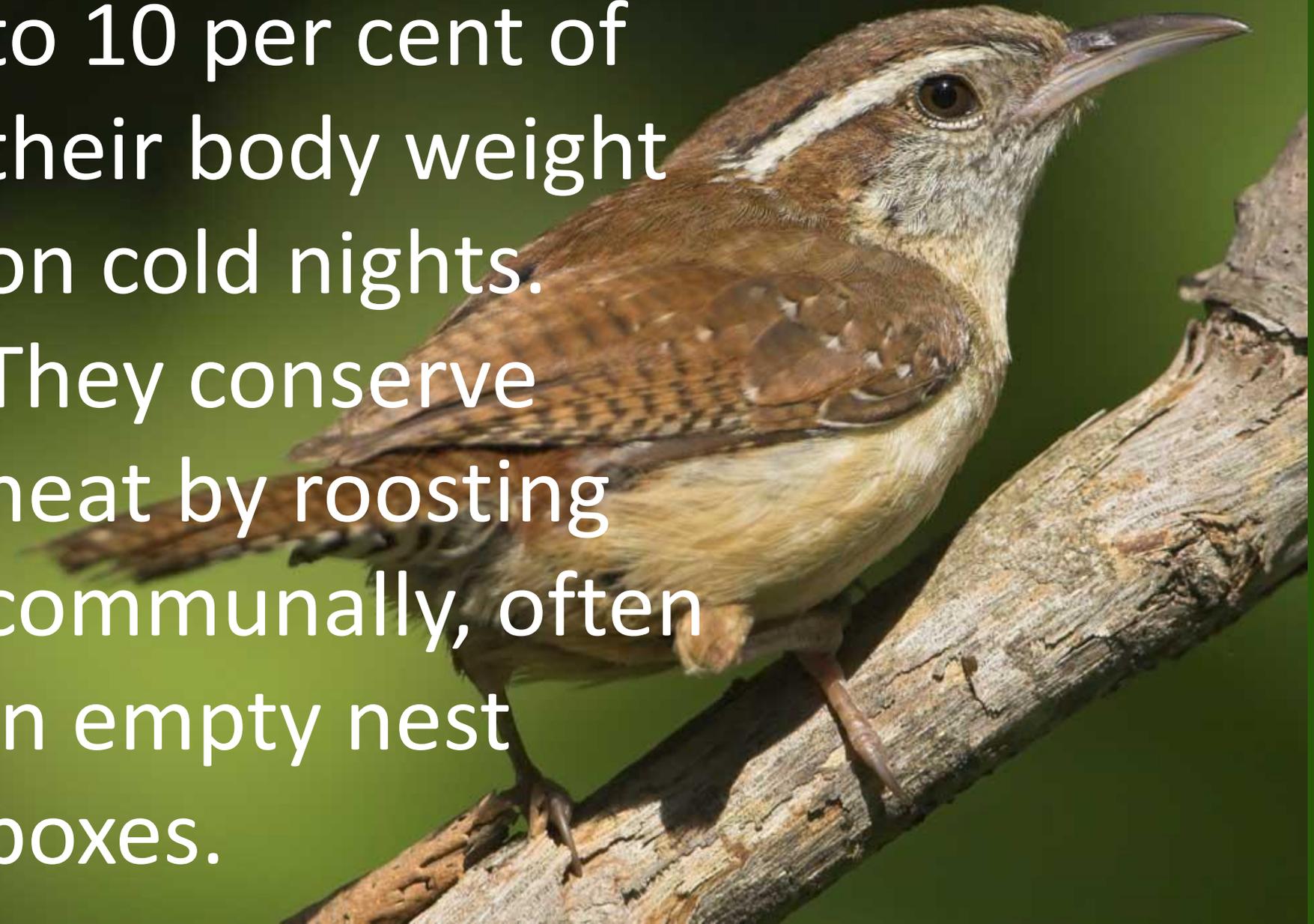
Violet ground beetles are one of the few insects that remain active throughout the winter. They can be seen out hunting for worms and other prey in leaf litter and flowerbeds.

**Ladybirds gather
in large clusters
to overwinter on
dead plant
stems,
particularly in
more sheltered
parts of the
garden.**



Wrens can lose up to 10 per cent of their body weight on cold nights.

They conserve heat by roosting communally, often in empty nest boxes.



Patchwork leaf-cutter bees use holes in dead wood as nest chambers, as do several other insects. Help them by drilling holes in a log or a block of wood left over from your DIY.

A close-up photograph of two dragonfly larvae (nymphs) clinging to a brown, textured tree branch. The larvae are brownish-grey with segmented bodies and prominent legs. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font with a black outline.

**Dragonfly larvae
stay active even
in midwinter, so
always clean
your pond with
care. They are
ferocious
predators.**



Spiders often overwinter as eggs – in the image above, a female *Zelotes latreillei* has just laid hers for the winter. So avoid digging your beds except when necessary.



Moths survive the winter in the soil as larvae or pupae (a prime example is the angle shades moth, a common species in gardens).



Preparing this presentation I used information
and photos from the Internet.