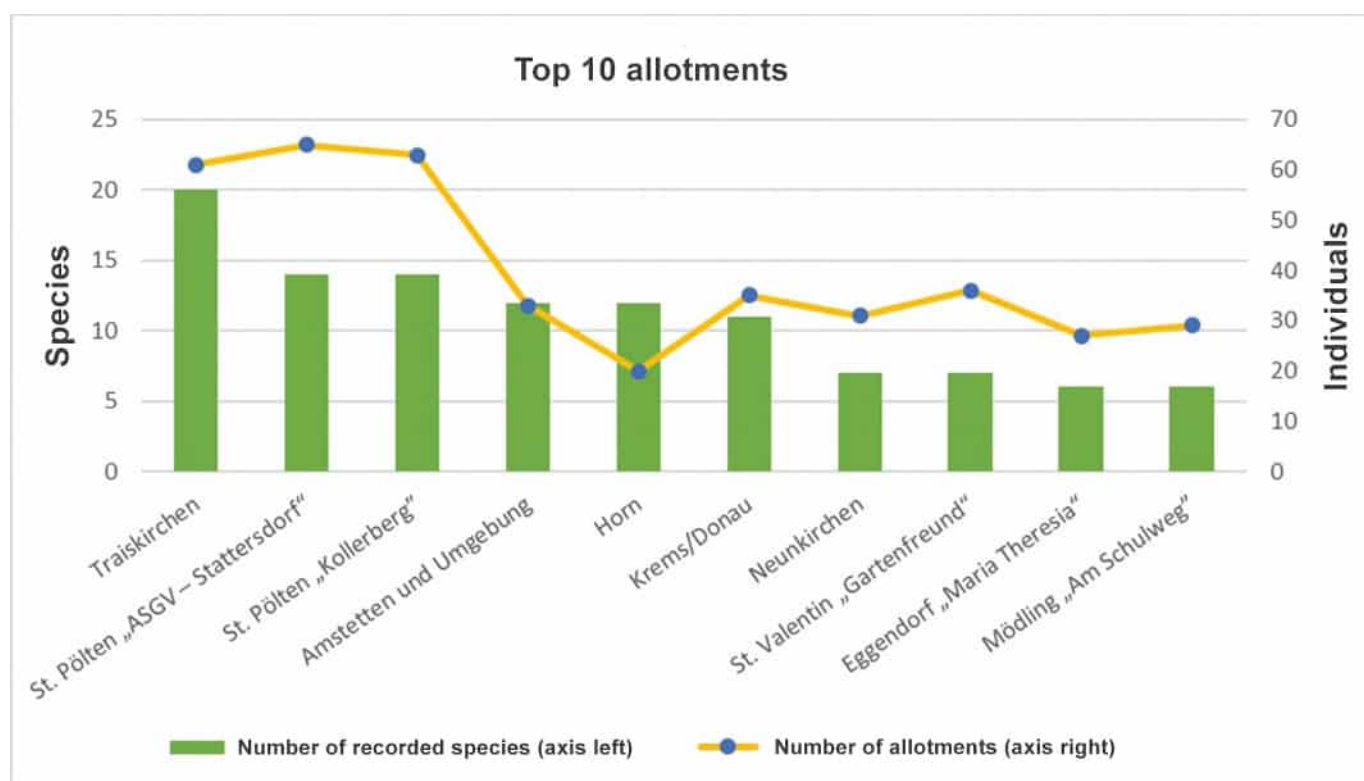


# Feathered guests in Lower Austrian allotment gardens

The successful initiative of the Lower Austrian association called “Counting birds in the allotment garden” entered its second round in 2018 and has been well received in the Lower Austrian allotment garden associations. BirdLife Austria, an organisation for bird protection, again took a closer look at the results of the counting.

At the end of April, 19 allotment garden associations followed the call to count the birds in their allotment gardens. That’s a great success, because in comparison to last year, the participating associations nearly doubled. “Birds are indispensable for allotment gardens”, described chairman Franz Riederer the big success of the initiative.

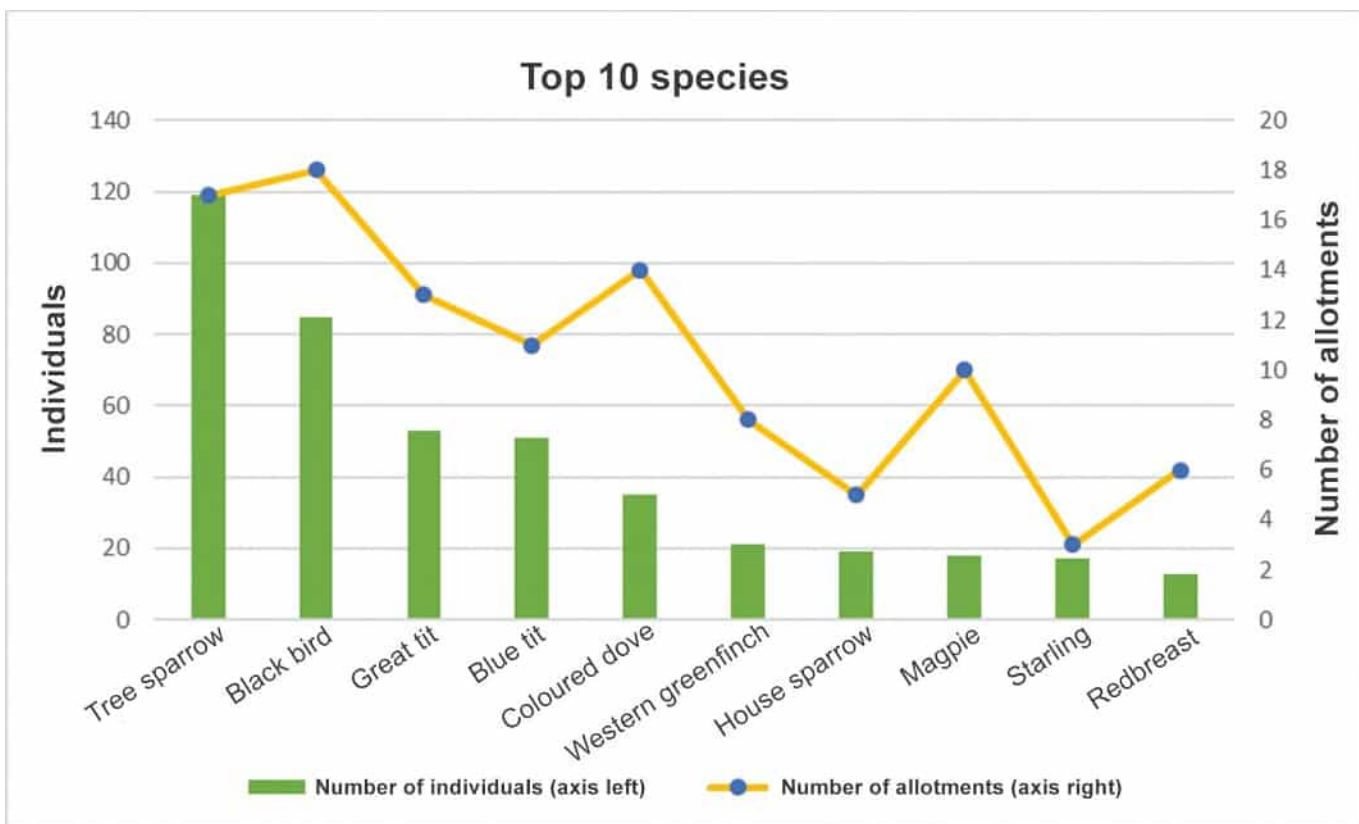
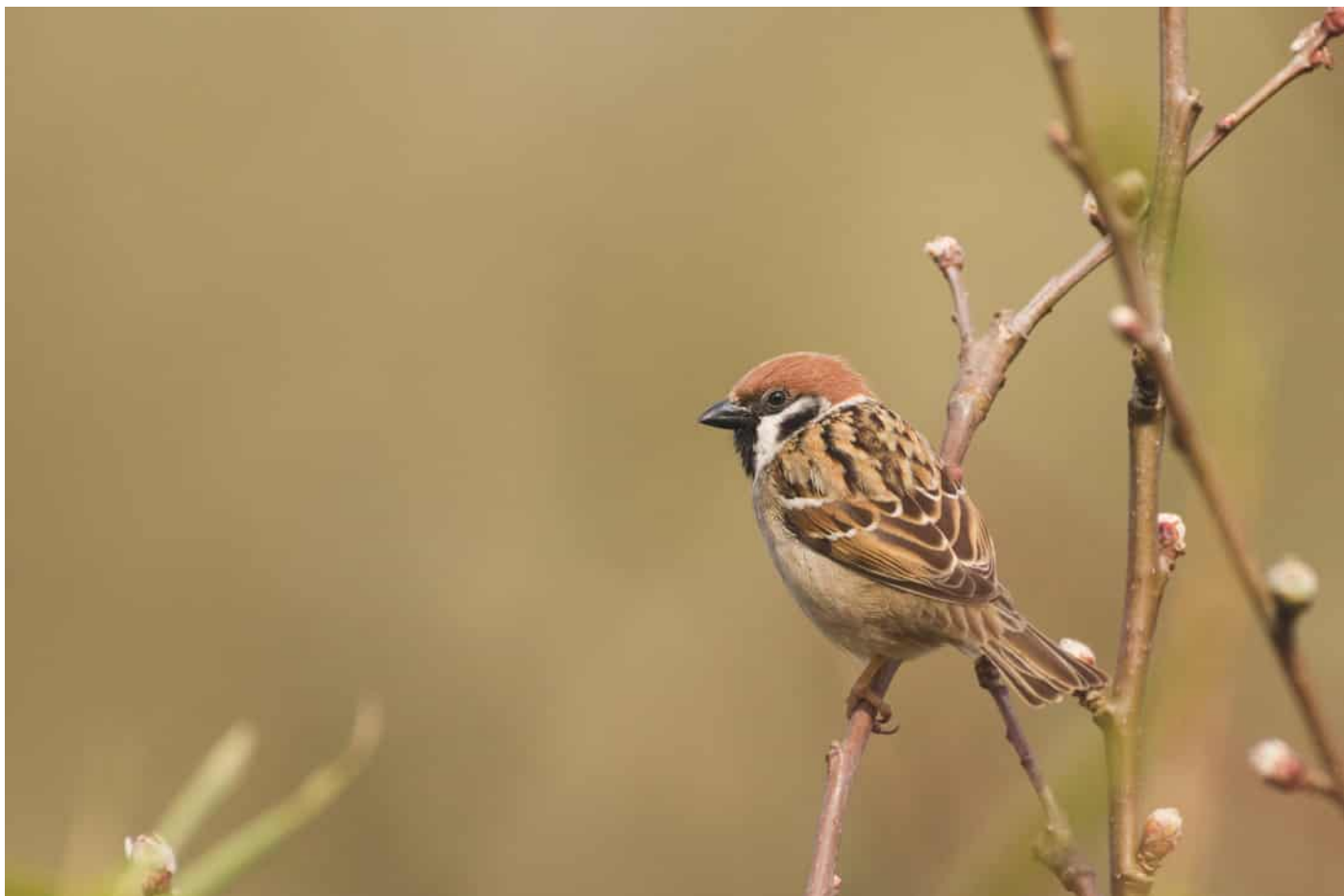


## The tree sparrow takes the lead

As in the previous year the tree sparrow, the blackbird and the Great Tit have been the most seen in the Lower Austrian allotment gardens. The Blue Tit, collared dove and the Western Greenfinch have also been diligently reported by the bird counters. “The findings fit perfectly into the picture of Austrian gardens – these very common garden birds could be found in the allotment gardens too” according to Benjamin Seaman, bird watcher from BirdLife.

## Green living room for garden birds

The birds especially fly to the allotment gardens of the associations Traiskirchen, St. Pölten-ASGV-Stattersdorf and St. Pölten-Kollerberg”, because there the highest biodiversity was observed. In Traiskirchen you even find 20 different bird species! A special “eye candy” were the five goldfinches there – with their colourful feathers they are always an absolute eye-catcher. These flashy birds are also called “thistle finch” because of their food preference for thistles. They feel especially comfortable in gardens that have many wild herbs and shrubs. But generally speaking, birds are always an indicator for an intact environment. “The more bird species are observed in the allotment garden, the more valuable it is for the fauna”, BirdLife says.



### Bird's paradise in the allotment garden

With a few measures one can aim to attract birds to one's allotment garden and enjoy them the whole year around. Our animal "subtenants" fly to natural, diverse gardens with many native shrubs, hedges and fruit trees. Also, nesting boxes can be attached and in winter a bird feeding station can be put up. That way the bird watching from your own garden door is possible all year long.

