

The famous Alexanderplatz in Berlin is a nice place to study animal behaviour: The urban species are used to humans and don't care at all about us. So they show no negatively impacted behaviour during their daily life by human presence. *Well there is one exception: when you have food (for yourself, or for them) than they go crazy.*

We have several bird species which are competing for fried potatoes. Kebab or burger leftovers from the tourists:

feral pigeons, Hooded crows, sparrows, black headed gulls, sea mew/common gull, and: STARLINGS.

During your stay at Alexanderplatz and / or surroundings **(3 hours atleast to get a half day excursions)** try to answer following question (you can observe as many species you want):



Who sees a new food source first? How do the conspecific react?

How will other species see it and react?

Who is the fastest to exploit the source?

Will there be fights for some very attractive food?

When you approach them, can you get closer with food in your hand or without food?

Which food is preferred? Will there be leftovers, which don't get any attraction at all?

(a personal example: I saw a tomato-slice which was ignored all the time but dropped fries were „caught“ immediately).

How do they react, if someone with a dog appear?

Bonus: Can you spot the peregrine falcons at alex?

They are breeding there (nesting boxes at Rotes Rathaus) but i personally never managed to see one there.

Document your stay with some notes and photos, to prove that you were there and send them to me (Jonathan Neumann)

You can also have a coffee and sitting there while observing the animals (edutainment at its best)

Disclaimer: I don't want to explicitly promote animal feeding here, but if you want to, it's your own responsibility and please use „natural food“ e.g. oat flakes, berries or earthworms, and not processed food. Even they will probably prefer the processed food.

As an example: I realized that the starlings will come to your hand when you offer them a croissant (oily → energy rich). For oat flakes they won't land on your hand that readily.