

# All you need to know about the Birdwatch

## What time of day should you do it?

Any time is fine, although you'll see more birds first thing. The time of day won't affect the overall results, as the differences in bird numbers are evened out by the large number of gardens surveyed.

## What about the weather?

The weather varies each year and across the UK during each Birdwatch weekend. It doesn't affect the results in the long-term.

## What happens if you don't see any birds?

Surveys are as much about what's missing as what's there. So if you don't see anything at all, it's still really important that you send in your results.

## Why is the Big Garden Birdwatch in winter?

It's often the best time of year for watching garden birds, as cold weather brings birds into our gardens, looking for food and shelter.

## Why does the RSPB want to know about other wildlife?

The RSPB is about far more than just birds. We protect threatened birds, other wildlife and the places where they live, so they will always be there for us and future generations. We've included non-native wildlife in the survey too, so we can see where it is found.

## Can schools or youth groups take part?

Yes. If you want to do the birdwatch as a school or youth group activity, we have some great things to help you. Visit [rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch) to download your pack.

## How do I send in my results?

Go online at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch), or post the paper form. You can also take part using your laptop, tablet or even your phone!

Please use CAPITAL letters.

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

First name

Last name

Address

Town

County/Council area

Postcode

Telephone

Mobile

E-mail (over 18s only)

Date of birth if under 18  /  /

### How many people took part?

Adults  Children

We respect your privacy and will not sell your personal data to any third party. The RSPB and RSPB Sales Ltd will use your details to tell you about our conservation and fundraising, to run your membership, to conduct analysis and to contact you for research purposes. If you do not wish to receive marketing information in the following ways, please tick the relevant box:

Mail  Telephone  E-mail  Text

For further information on the full range of our activities and your privacy choices, please go to the Privacy Policy on our website [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk) or contact Supporter Services on 01767 693680.

Please return your completed form by **14 February 2014** to: Freepost RSTS-ZZCC-KJXU, The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, Halifax Road, Melksham SN12 6YY

If you'd rather tell us what you saw online, visit [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) and use code BE06

The survey results will be announced in March and will be summarised on our website and in *Nature's Home* magazine.

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. 460-1051-13-14 CR112 4185 IN01

BWENR20012



## Count the wildlife that's counting on you

Nature needs your help for just one hour. Take part in the world's largest wildlife survey and tell us who's at home in your patch.

# Nature needs your help – and it starts at home

Since the Birdwatch started 35 years ago, the results have shown we are seeing **83%** fewer starlings and **63%** fewer house sparrows in our gardens.

How do we know? Because people like you, over half a million at the last count, have spent an hour counting their birds and telling us what they see.

Here's your chance to get involved. Spend an hour counting the birds in your garden or park on the weekend of **25–26 January 2014** and let us know what you see. This year, we also want to hear about some of the other wildlife that's at home in your garden or park during the year.

## Here's how to do it:

- 1 Watch the birds in your garden or local park for one hour. The more people watching, the better – so why not invite your family and friends?
- 2 Record the highest number of each bird species you see at the same time – not the total over the hour, as birds may visit more than once.
- 3 Only count the birds that land in your garden or park, not those flying over.
- 4 Once your hour's up, fill in the details for other wildlife that visits your garden or park during the year.
- 5 Tell us what you've seen! Even if you don't see any birds, we still need to know, as it's really useful information.
- 6 Either return this form (FREEPOST), or enter your results at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

## How many of these birds did you see in your hour?

Please write the number of the **most you see at any one time** in the box. Where we don't show male and female, the sexes are similar, though not always identical.

## Other birds and wildlife seen in your hour

## Birds



Blackbird (your number should combine males and females)



Blackbird (your number should combine males and females)



Blue tit



Chaffinch (your number should combine males and females)



Chaffinch (your number should combine males and females)



Coal tit



Collared dove



Dunnock



Goldfinch



Great tit



Greenfinch



House sparrow



House sparrow (your number should combine males and females)



Long-tailed tit



Magpie



Robin



Starling



Woodpigeon

## Other wildlife



Badger



Hedgehog



Grey squirrel



Red squirrel



Muntjac deer



Roe deer



Frog



Toad

## How often do you see other wildlife in your garden or park?

You may not see these creatures in your hour watching (especially frogs, toads and hedgehogs, which are hibernating now), but we'd like to know if any of them visit your garden or park and, if so, roughly how often.

Please put the appropriate letter from the key in the box next to the animal.

Thank you for helping us find out more about garden wildlife.

## Key

- A** daily
- B** weekly
- C** monthly
- D** less than monthly
- E** never
- F** don't know

Cover by Andy Hay and Genevieve Leaper, male blackbird by Chris Gomersall, female blackbird by Nigel Blake, blue tit by Ray Kennedy, male chaffinch by Ray Kennedy, female chaffinch by Andy Hay, coal tit by Chris Gomersall, collared dove by Andy Hay, dunnock by Ray Kennedy, goldfinch by John Bridges, great tit by Ray Kennedy, greenfinch by Nigel Blake, male house sparrow by Ray Kennedy, female house sparrow by Ray Kennedy, long tailed tit by John Bridges, magpie by Steve Round, robin by Ray Kennedy, starling by Ray Kennedy, woodpigeon by Andy Hay, badger by Danny Green, hedgehog by Nigel Blake, grey squirrel by Ray Kennedy, red squirrel by Chris O'Reilly, muntjac deer by David Norton, roe deer by Jeroen Stel, frog by Mark Hamblin, toad by Genevieve Leaper (all rspb-images.com).