



How to get involved with wildlife surveys



BIG
BUTTERFLY
COUNT

Michael Craven
Trustee, Trent Dementia
19th July 2021

**HEDGEHOG
STREET**

CITY OF WILDLIFE



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What are public wildlife surveys?

- Monitoring species and numbers of wildlife

Can be regular, seasonal or one-off recording



The most well-known garden surveys are of Birds, Butterflies & Bees

- Involves the general public in collecting data

Most are run by charities dedicated to conservation



Why are surveys useful?

Conservation

“16 of Britain’s top 20 garden birds have declined in number” – RSPB 2021 report

Detrimental effects of farming practice, persecution, climate change ...

Example

House sparrow has seen a 53% decline since 1979 – data from Big Garden Birdwatch (2020 report)

Small increase in recent years but still on the ‘Red list’

→ Survey is also used to encourage environmentally friendly practice Including wildlife gardening



RED LIST?

Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or longer-term period

Severe (at least 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.

Why are surveys useful?

Citizen science

Creating wildlife maps e.g. Hedgehog street

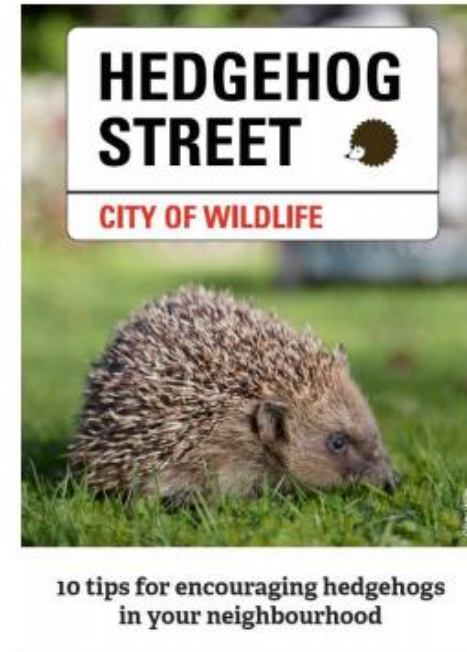
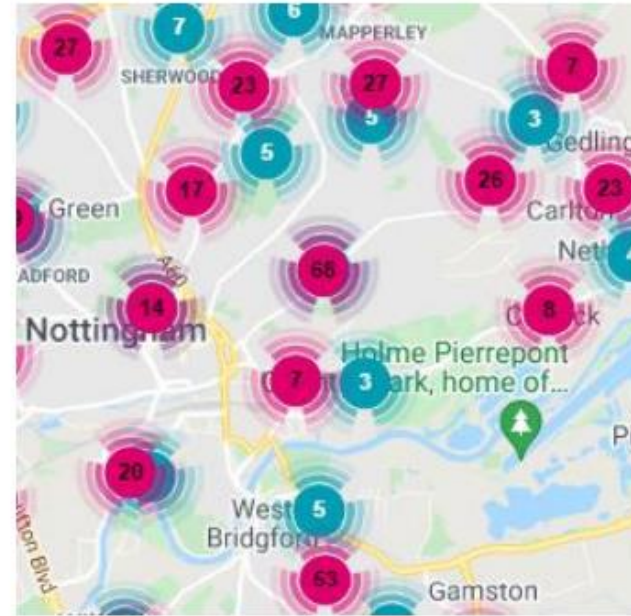
This helps to create awareness and a community approach to conservation

Data for global warming research

“Does climatic variation affect the fruit ripening pattern of the deciduous trees species in the UK?” – Woodland Trust Nature’s Calendar.

Studying migration

“Is supplementary feeding in gardens a driver of evolutionary change in a migratory bird species?” – BTO paper using Garden Birdwatch (2015)



Since the 1950s, [Blackcaps](#) breeding in southern Germany and Austria have increasingly migrated in a north-westerly direction, heading towards Britain for the winter rather than taking the traditional south-westerly route to wintering grounds in southern Spain.



What types of survey are there?

Annual events – RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (around January)

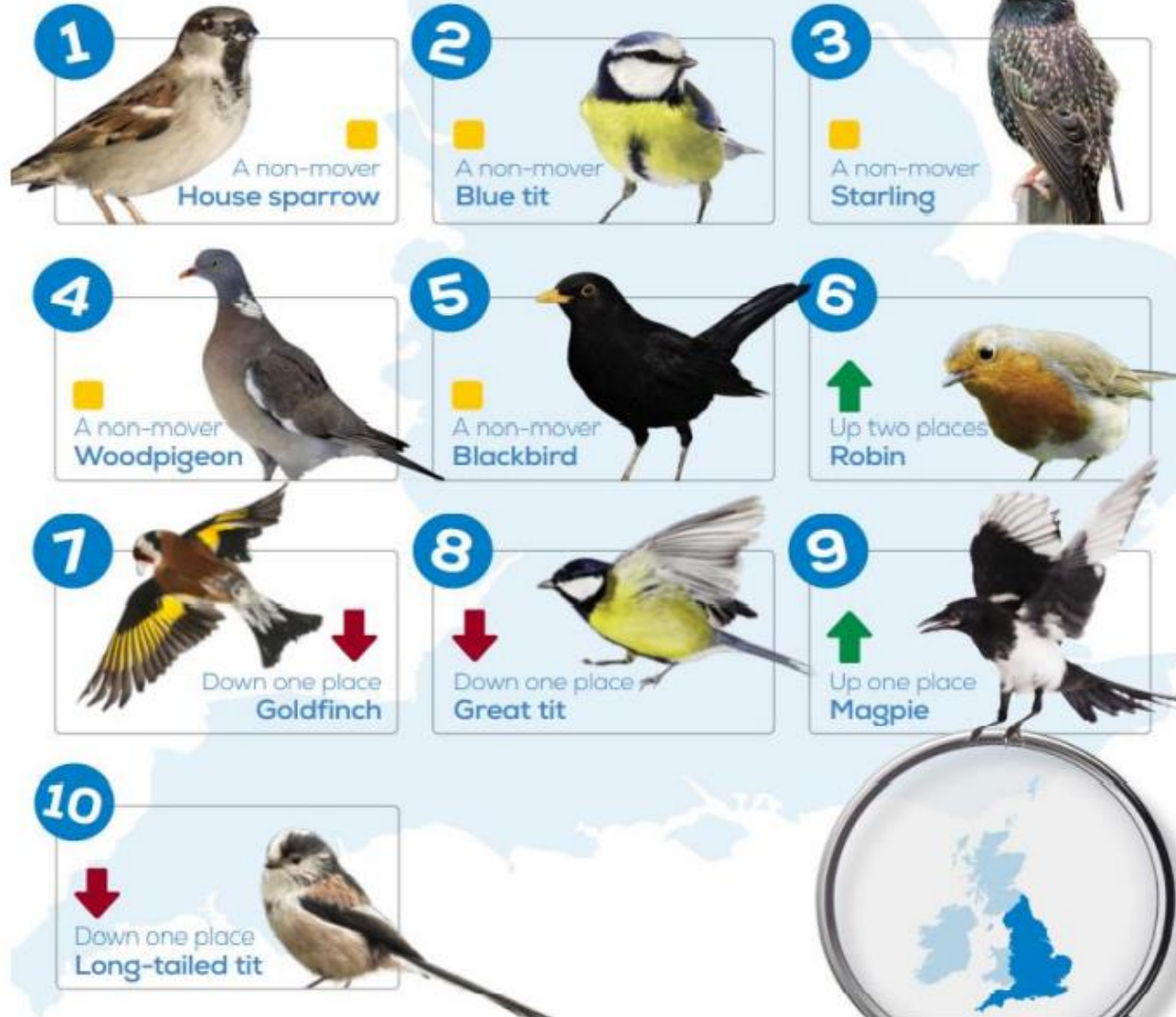


England

A whopping **869,999** people in England counted a phenomenal **14,141,497** birds.

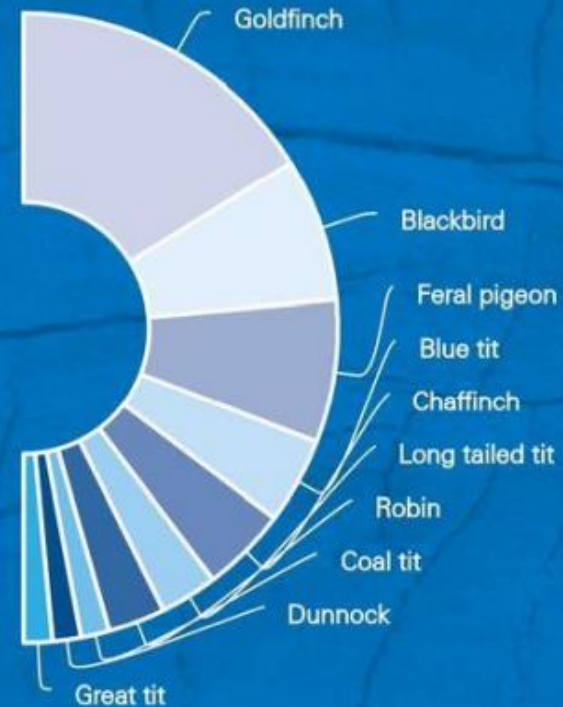
Annual events – results for England

Top ten 2021



Big
Garden
Birdwatch
Results 2021

Your top 10 birds:



YOUR TOP 10 BIRDS

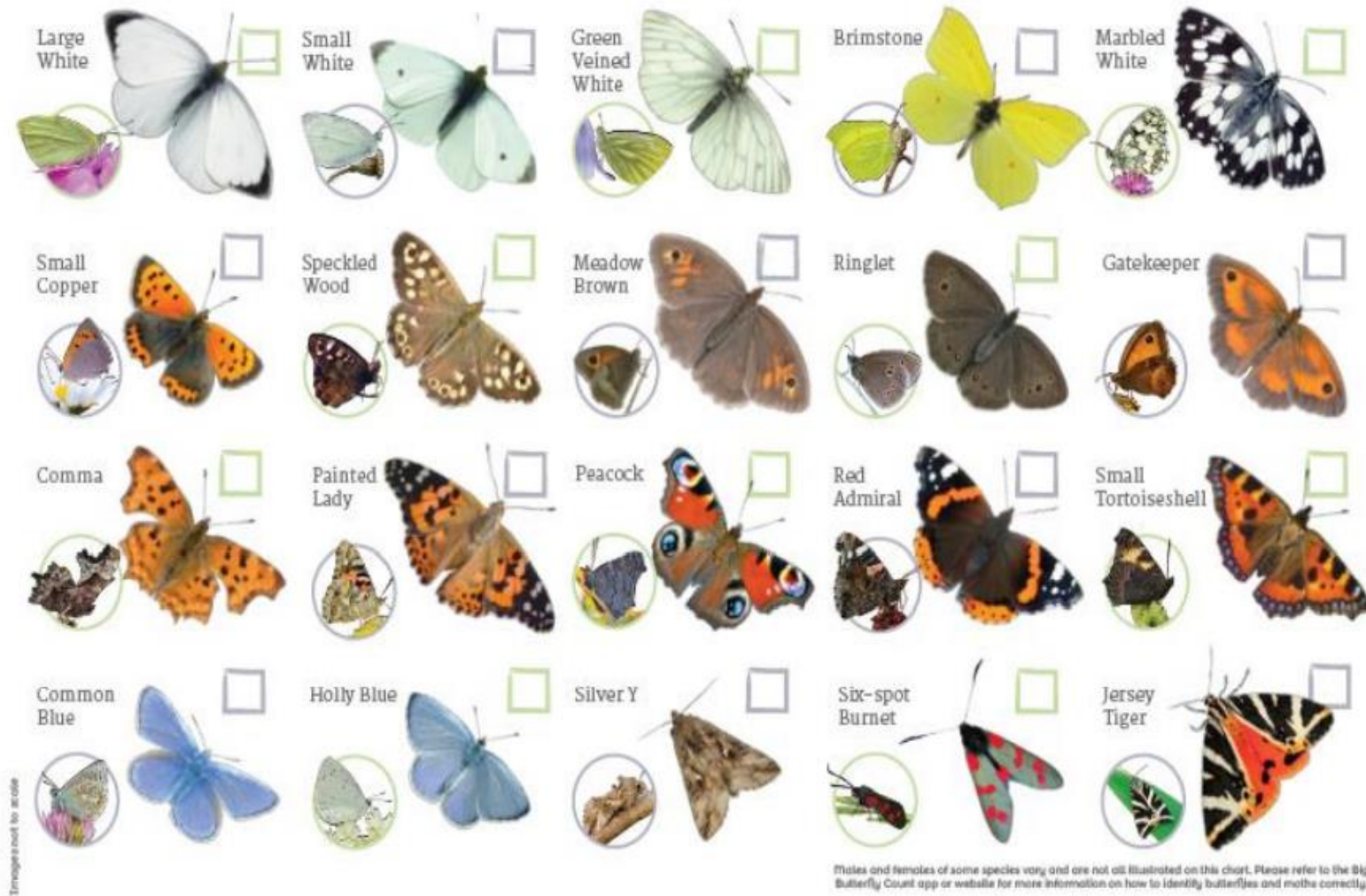
Seasonal surveys



16th July to the 8th
August (Now!)

Spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot.

Use chart to note how many of each species
you see. Then submit your sightings at
www.bigbutterflycount.org or download
our free app



Regular surveys - Garden Birdwatch

- Garden BirdWatch was **launched in 1995** by the British Trust for Ornithology
- Aims to find out how, when and why birds and other animals use our gardens.
- Links between changes in wildlife **populations** and garden management, food, weather etc.
- Participants send in **weekly lists** of garden birds & other wildlife.
- Data is analysed by BTO urban and garden ecology research scientists
- Currently **free to participate** (usually annual admin fee of £17)



BTO

British Trust for
Ornithology



Garden Birdwatch

Identify & count each week

Birds + (optionally) butterflies, bees,
dragonflies, frogs & newts, mammals.



For me - 1 hour on a Sunday- but any regular weekly session of 20 mins is fine

Data entry

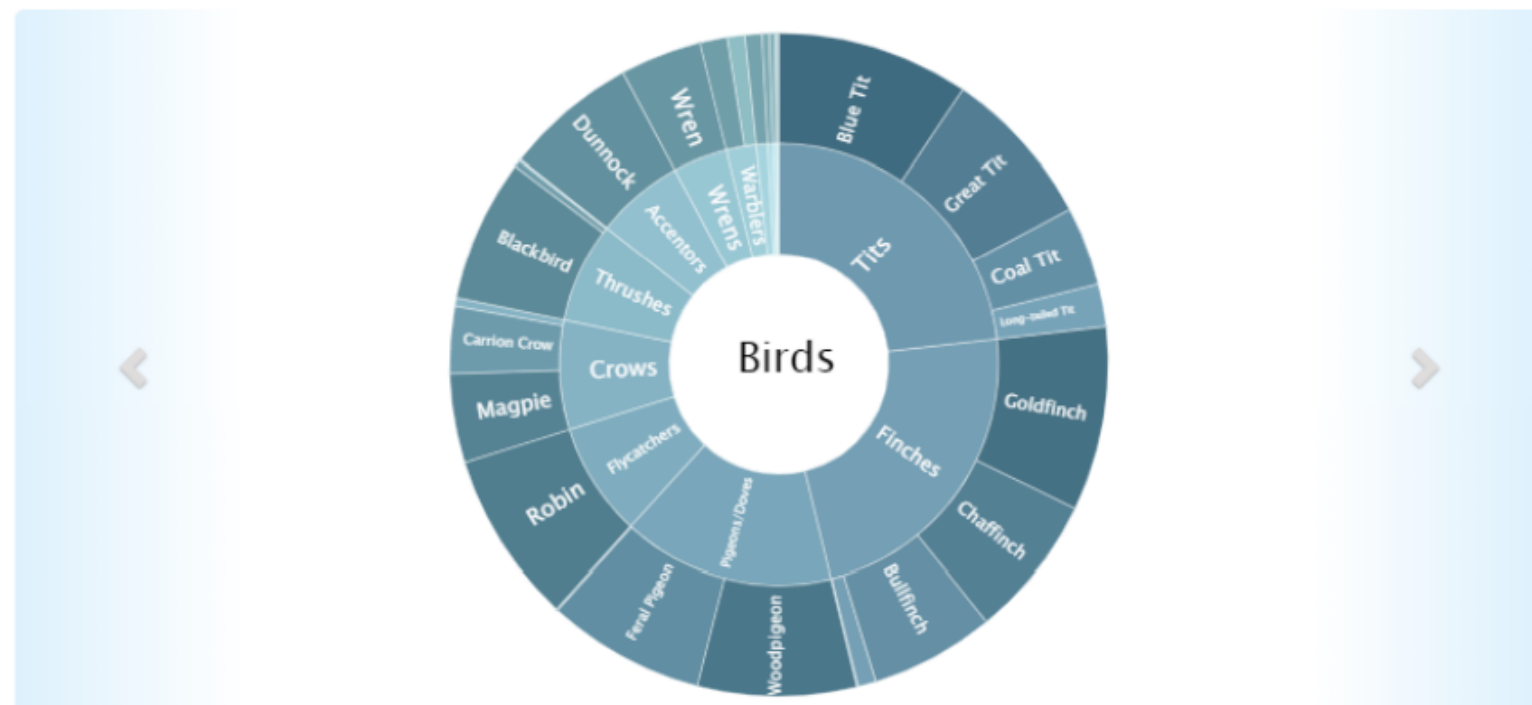
GBW Data Home

Welcome to the brand new GBW online system! We hope you like the updates. These changes will make it easier to enter your weekly counts on phones and tablets and will allow us to better understand the other wildlife records.

For more information please see our [FAQ guide](#), and do not hesitate to email us (gbw@bto.org) or give us a call (01842 750050).

BTO and Covid-19 - Read our guidance for survey participants and fieldworkers during the Coronavirus pandemic [here](#).

Communities of common birds and other wildlife in your garden



This sunburst shows the reporting rate of the communities of common birds and other wildlife recorded in your garden. Click on the labelled slices to open up the community within each category or click on the centre circle to return to the top level.

MICHAEL CRAVEN

GBW Number:

[View/Edit My Details](#)

YOUR OPTIONS

[+ Enter count](#)

[View/Edit weekly counts](#)

[View all my records](#)

[Enter/View garden details](#)

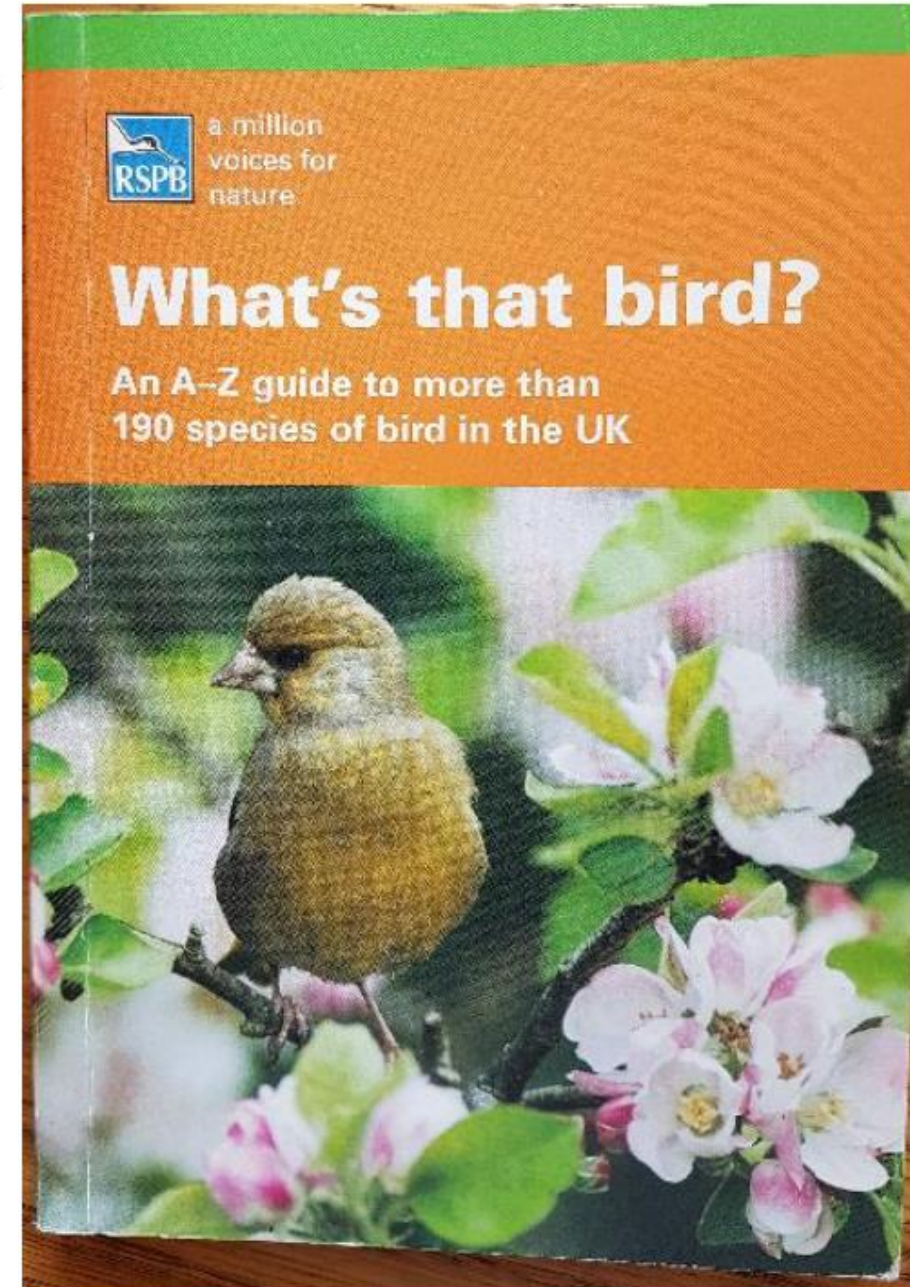
[Renew membership](#)

[Contact GBW Organiser](#)

Tip: It is best to enter data weekly online. But you can also post a form, quarterly.

How to get involved with GBW

- Go to the website and register.
- You will need, each week:
 - A little time – 20 minutes to an hour
 - Pen and paper for noting what you see
 - Computer to enter the data at the end of the week (Sunday)
 - Field guide (a basic one is fine)
 - Binoculars (but not really necessary)



Demonstration

Enter count

Using this form you can enter your garden bird records for a single week. The date should be the Sunday at the start of the week. Records of other wildlife are welcomed, but optional.

1. Start date of counts (Sunday to Saturday)

2020							2021													
J	A	S	O	N	D		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
5	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	7	4	2	6	4	1	5	3	7	5			
12	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12			
19	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	19			
26	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28				
	30			29		31				30			29		31					

Click on the calendar dates (start date of the week) to select that week for submission (hovering over each date provides more info). **Green** squares are weeks already completed.

Selected Date:

2. Your garden wildlife

▼ Birds

Please tick 'Present' for any birds you saw and enter a count if known, or tick that you did not see any. *You can change how this list is ordered under My Details.*

I did not see any birds this week ☐

Species	Present	Count	Species	Present	Count	Species	Present	Count
Black-headed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Great Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Reed Bunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Blackbird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Green Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Ring-necked Parakeet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Blackcap	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Greenfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Blue Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Herring Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Rook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Brambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	House Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Siskin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Bullfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	House Sparrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Song Thrush	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Carriion Crow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Jackdaw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Sparrowhawk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Chaffinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Jay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Starling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Chiffchaff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Lesser Redpoll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Stock Dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Coal Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Long-tailed Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Swallow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Collared Dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Magpie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Tawny Owl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Duncock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Marsh Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Tree Sparrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Feral Pigeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Mistle Thrush	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Treecreeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Fieldfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Nuthatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Woodpigeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Goldcrest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Pheasant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Wren	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Goldfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Pied/White Wagtail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yellowhammer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

Nesting Neighbours

Record Nests and Nest Boxes

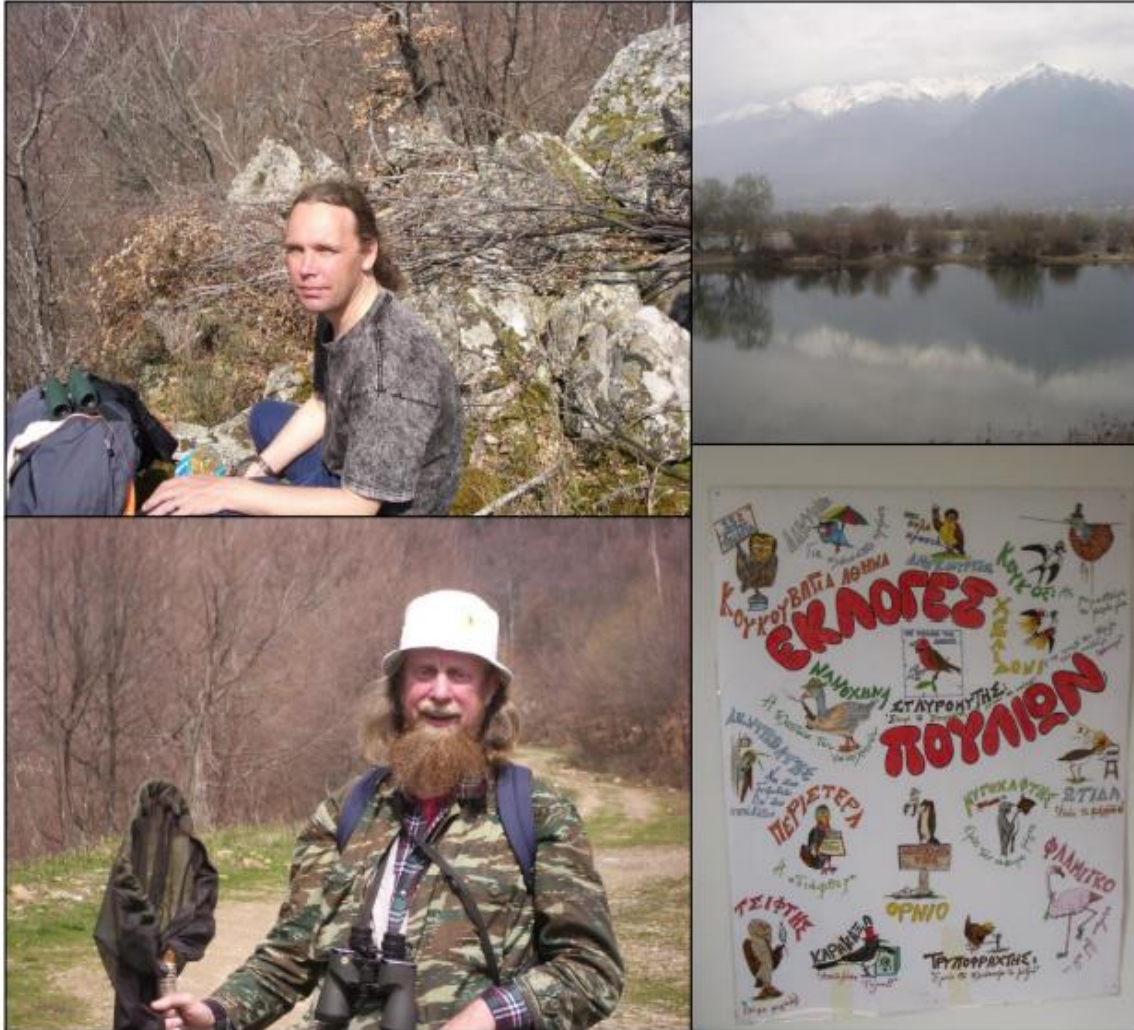
- Watch the behaviour of birds in your garden and local area
 - Robin carrying moss
 - Blackbird with worms
 - Blue Tits investigating a nest box?
- Next you need to locate the nest.
 - Blue Tits in a box,
 - Blackbird in a shrub
 - House Martins under the eaves
- Check the nest at regular intervals and then record what you see online.



2021 highlights, so far



Volunteering memories



Lake Kerkini **two week bird survey**, Northern Greece, Spring 2006



Kingston Harbour monthly seabird survey, Jamaica, 2000-2



Langford Lowfields 'Bittern Gardening', monthly **volunteer reedbed creation project**, nr. Newark, 2007-8

Links to further information

- BTO Garden Bird Watch (weekly) & Nesting Neighbours (nesting season)
<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw> & <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/nesting-neighbours>
- RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (around January each year)
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>
- **Big Butterfly Count (16th July to the 8th August) – Now!** <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>
- Hedgehog Street (add a sighting anytime) - <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>
- Blooms for Bees - <http://www.bloomsforbees.co.uk/>
- Nature's Calendar (Spring & Autumn) - <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

See also: Frog Life, The Great British Bee Count, Wildlife Trusts,
Eakring Birds (Notts), Nature Spot (**Leicestershire and Rutland**)