



BGE Outdoor learning Jan 2021 RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch

John Muir Award – School and Household award

From January 5th to February 22nd

schools across the country take part in the Big Birdwatch

You can watch birds outside, from your window or balcony. You can watch the birds in your garden, communal outside space or in a local park.

If you are completing school work at home, you can do these activities at a time that suits you. You do not need to complete at the same time as students at school.

<p><u>Week 1</u> beginning Monday 25th January</p>	<p><u>Getting Ready for the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose where you would like to watch birds ready for the survey next week. <p>Spend some time in different spaces or looking out of different windows. You will need to wait for birds to come back, if they have been disturbed. If you have made lots of noise, you will need to stand or sit quietly until they get used to you again.</p> <p>Think about where you are most likely to see lots of birds. What do birds like? Trees? Bird feeders? Open spaces? Near roads?</p> <p>You can practice recognising different birds this week. Did you see a Pied wagtail or a Magpie? What does a Robin look like?</p> <p><u>Other things to think about:</u> What can you see? What can you hear? What is the same? What is different? Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Did you see and identify a bird not shown on your sheet?</p>
---	---

Week 2
beginning
Monday 1st
February

Carrying out the RSPB Big Schools Bird watch

- If you are doing this outside, please wear appropriate clothing so that you stay dry and warm for this activity.
- Go to the area that you have chosen to do your bird survey
- Wait a few minutes so the birds get used to you being there.
- RSPB ask you to watch the space for an hour, but watch and count the birds for as long as you can, especially if you are outside. Don't get too cold!
- Record on the sheet which birds, and how many of each, that you see.
- If you are doing this at home, you can submit your results on the RSPB website from the 29th January <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>
- If you are doing this at school, please submit your results as a class with your teacher here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

You can use this sheet during the week beginning Monday 25th January to help you practice identifying birds and decide which site you would like to use.

Garden Birds Sighting Checklist

Bird	Sighted <small>Have you seen this bird? Tick the box for yes or leave it blank for no.</small>	Where? <small>Where have you seen this bird?</small>
 Robin		
 Magpie		
 Sparrow		
 Blackbird		
 Blue tit		
 Goldfinch		













Use this sheet for when you do your survey during the week beginning 1st February

When counting the birds, ignore any that are in flight.

What did you see?

Can you find a way to make it easy for you to note down the highest number of each species that you **see together at the same time**? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.

Your name

 Woodpigeon	 Blackbird
 Carrion crow	 House sparrow
 Starling	 Black-headed gull
 Magpie	 Blue tit
 Robin	 Feral pigeon
 Great tit	 Chaffinch

Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Or perhaps you managed to see and identify a bird not shown here? If so, note these things in the space below or on a separate sheet. Don't forget you can get help from rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier

For more information, visit: rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037854. Drawings by Mike Langman. 327-0089-20-21



RSPB Wildlife Explorers and RSPB Phoenix are the junior and teenage memberships of the RSPB.

Extension Activities

These are only if you have time and would like to do these activities.

For the John Muir award, you need to know a little bit about who John Muir was. This is great to do when the weather may not be so suitable for being out in.

Who was John Muir?

- What interesting information can you find?
- How will you show your findings?
- Will it be a picture made from natural materials?
- Will it be a poster? Or a collage? Or a cartoon?

To help you get started here are a couple of clips:

<https://vimeo.com/94332429>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBvPuaMvfrU>

Make an Earwig Hide



Earwigs are fast moving and belong to a group of bugs that are 'thigmotactic' meaning that they prefer small, cramped spaces like cracks or crevices. This can make them hard to catch, but making this hide should help.

Female Earwigs are the only UK insect to look after her babies. Earwigs eat small insects so they help protect plants from damage. They are also great food for birds.

You will need:

- Plastic flowerpot or yoghurt pot or other suitable pot
- Short bamboo cane or stick
- Straw or collect some leaves and grass

Step 1

Block up the holes in the flowerpot and stuff it loosely with straw or the leaves and grass that you have collected.

Step 2

Push a short cane or stick into the ground near a compost heap or a flowerbed. Position the upturned flowerpot on top of the cane.

Watch and wait

Check the hide after about a week. There should be several earwigs inside, and you'll be able to get a good look at them without losing them down a small space. Remember to let them go after you've had a good look at them.

British Birds

u n s w i f t j v g c c
t a z m k q c f p p i h
w x j a c k d a w i w a
o i w v s p a r r o w f
o w w n o b s c g e o f
d x b l a c k b i r d i
p g o l d f i n c h m n
i g c y u c v t w t a c
g u r a x t p n q r g h
e r o b i n w u k j p u
o z w t f b l u e t i t
n b s t a r l i n g e u

jackdaw

swift

blue tit

robin

sparrow

blackbird

magpie

wood pigeon

crow

starling

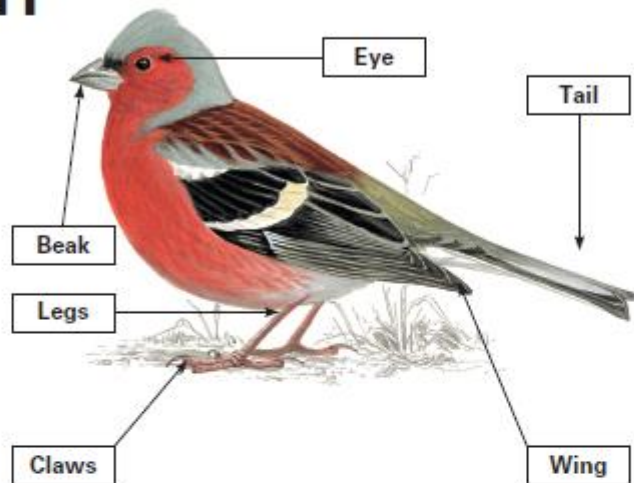
goldfinch

chaffinch

The parts of a bird

Chaffinch

- 1 Look at the words in the boxes. These are the names of the different parts of the bird.
- 2 Now cover them up.
- 3 See if you can name the parts of the robin shown below.
- 4 How many did you put in the right place?
- 5 Colour the robin below. The back and wings are brown, the tummy is white, and its face and chest are red.



Robin

Wing Beak Legs Eye Tail Claws

