



Things to make and do

# Join the Big Garden Birdwatch

Take part in one of the UK's biggest citizen science projects.

## BIRD BINGO

The birds shown opposite are the ones seen most often during last year's Big Garden Birdwatch. How many of them can you spot this year?

### What you need

- A device connected to the internet
- An hour (between 29 and 31 January 2021)
- A view over a garden or park
- A bird identification guide
- Pencil and paper
- Drinks, snacks and warm clothing if you will be sitting outdoors

**1** First, you need to register with the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. You can do this by following the instructions at [tinyurl.com/SN-Birdwatch](https://tinyurl.com/SN-Birdwatch)

**2** Find a one-hour slot between 29 and 31 January that works for you and anyone else in your household who wants to take part. Find a place where you can sit without disturbing the birds.

**3** If you have a garden or balcony and some bird feeders or a birdbath, then make sure you fill them up to attract more birds. If you haven't got a bird feeder, try putting out some leftover bread or fruit – ideally on a raised table.



**4** Have your bird guide and pencil and paper handy. Don't count every bird you see, just the largest number of each species you see at one time. This method ensures that you don't count the same bird several times.

**5** The survey also asks you to keep track of all wildlife that visits, including other animals such as foxes or frogs, so keep a sharp look out.

**6** Once the hour is up, go back to the RSPB website and fill in the online form. Enter the animals you saw and those you didn't see, and include details of the location where you were watching.

### How does it work?

Each year, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) asks people across the UK to join its survey of garden birds. The Big Garden Birdwatch is one of the country's biggest citizen science projects, where members of the public become scientists and gather data.

After the Birdwatch is over, experts at the RSPB sift through the information submitted by people who took part. The experts compile a catalogue with hundreds of thousands of sightings across the country.

Scientists can compare the complete survey with previous years to see which species are doing well and which might need extra protection. The findings are released to the public, so that people across the country know how best to support their local wildlife.







1 House sparrow



2 Starling



3 Blue tit



4 Wood pigeon



5 Blackbird



6 Goldfinch



7 Great tit



8 Robin



9 Long-tailed tit



10 Magpie



11 Chaffinch



12 Collared dove

