

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Every year the RSPB conduct the world's biggest wildlife survey. Results are used to help spot problems. But, more importantly, they are the first step towards putting things right.

This year the survey is taking place between the 29th - 31st January. You can sit and watch the birds in your garden, from a window or even in your local area at any point over the weekend and record your findings and submit them online.

To sign up for a free pack, head here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

Before you go take part in the survey you could spend some time brushing up on your bird identification skills.

Why not research some of the birds you have spotted in your garden? You could create fact files with pictures and super interesting information about the birds you are likely to see. That way, when it comes to recording your Birdwatch results you'll be able to identify all the birds you see!



Make a Bird Feeder

To encourage more birds to visit your garden (perhaps in preparation for your big garden birdwatch) you could make them their very own cake! During the winter there is very little food for our birds, so we need to help them as much as we can.

Ideal ingredients

- sunflower hearts
- peanut pieces and other bird seed mixes
- dried fruits softened with water
- crumbled or grated cheese
- cooked rice and other leftovers
- breadcrumbs

Method

- Combine your chosen ingredients in a bowl and add softened lard or dripping
- Mix together into a firm paste. For best results you'll need to get your hands in there - a great activity for kids, if a bit messy!
- Pierce the bottom of a clean yoghurt pot and poke a length of string through
- Knot securely on the inside of the pot so that it hangs upside down like a bell
- Fill with the fat mixture and hang outside

Perhaps you could research some other bird feeder recipes or projects and try them out!

Identifying Winter Trees

Trees in Winter are much trickier to identify because most trees have lost all their leaves. It means that in order to identify which tree we are looking at we have to look very closely at their bark and branches, and see if there is anything else growing on them that can help us.

Take a walk around your garden or your local area and look very closely at the trees you spot. Are you able to name any of the trees you find? You could take some bark rubbings or sketch the things you see and then come home and see if you can discover the trees you have found.

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_twig_spotter_sheet.pdf

Look out for buds on the twigs, as well as seeds and berries as these will help you to identify your tree.



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