**Garden Birdwatch**

Spend an hour watching your garden and use our bird counting checklist to record the birds you see. Record the highest number of each bird species that you see at the same time (to avoid counting the same bird twice) and then compare notes in the forum – what did you see?

Here is our checklist of common garden birds to keep an eye out for – although maybe you’ll be the one to spot a rare species. I saw a most unusual bird (of the plastic variety) when I tried!

Common Garden Birds Checklist:

Blackbird

Blue Tit

Chaffinch

Coal Tit

Collared Dove

Dunnock

Goldfinch

Great Tit

Greenfinch

House Sparrow

Long-Tailed Tit

Magpie

Robin

Starling

Woodpigeon

Try putting out some food in bird feeders or on a bird table to encourage the birds to come and visit you during your hour of birdwatching. Possibilities include: sunflower hearts, suet balls, dry porridge oats, sultanas, currants, mild grated cheese or cake crumbs.

It’s a good idea to leave them something to drink too, some water in a shallow bowl is ideal.

Other wildlife to look out for:

Grey squirrel

Red squirrel

Hedgehog

Common toad

Bumblebee

7 spot Ladybird

Common frog

Common snail

Butterflies:

Peacock

Red Admiral

Holly Blue

Cabbage White

Comma

Speckled Wood

Brimstone