

# Big Garden Weigh-in



Access the survey at [blx1.bto.org/bgwi](http://blx1.bto.org/bgwi)

## Background to the survey

The total biomass of birds visiting gardens is larger than ever before and we are asking householders to calculate the weight of their garden bird communities in order that we can examine how these communities vary according to region, garden type and surrounding habitat. The survey will run over a five-day period and observers are asked to note down the birds using their garden over the course of one hour, recording the maximum number of individuals of any given species recorded at one point in time. These observations are then be entered through a web-based system, with interactive results pages reporting initial 'live' findings. We'll report back some of the initial findings on SpringWatch the following week and, longer term, we will produce a peer-reviewed paper for scientific publication. **If you don't have access to the internet, please complete and return this form to us at 'Big Garden Weigh-in, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.**

## How to take part

The aim of the Big Garden Weigh-in is to gather information on the birds using your garden and the resources that it provides. This means that you should only count those birds actually using resources within your garden - these could include birds feeding on your bird table, seen sitting in your trees or nesting on your house. Do not include those birds that are simply flying over your garden on their way somewhere else, or seen outside of your garden's boundary.

### Where to record

Start by defining your recording area. For most people this is their whole garden but for some it might be just their back garden or (if they are fortunate enough to have a large garden) just that part of it that can be seen easily from the house.

### When to record

We would like you to keep a count of the birds using your garden during a single hour (ideally sometime between 6am and 10am) on one day between 31st May and 5th June, inclusive).

### What to record

We are interested in the structure of the core avian community in your garden, so we need counts for each of the 60 species shown on our recording form (species list and paper recording form available here). Do not make counts for species not on this list. For each species, please record the maximum number of individuals that you see together in your garden at any one time during the one-hour recording period. If you see two Blue Tits together at the start of the hour, three together part way through and five together towards the end, then your count for the hour is 'five'.

Even if you know that more than one individual of a particular species is visiting your garden (perhaps because you are visited by one male Blackbird on its own and later one female on her own), the count recorded should be 'one'. This is because not all species can be aged or sexed effectively and while one recorder might be able to separate the male and female of a particular species, another may not.

## Your details

Your name and address

Is your garden....

Small?  Urban?

Medium?  Suburban?

Large?  Rural?

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For each of the listed species, please enter a count of the maximum number of individuals seen together at any one time during your one-hour recording period. If you see three Blackbirds together on your lawn but later in the hour see just a single Blackbird, your count is "3". Do not treat the different sexes separately, even if you can identify them. If you see three male Blackbirds together on your lawn but later in the hour see just a single female Blackbird, your count is "3" and not "4".

Black-headed Gull	<input type="text"/>	Blackbird	<input type="text"/>	Blackcap	<input type="text"/>
Blue Tit	<input type="text"/>	Bullfinch	<input type="text"/>	Carrion Crow	<input type="text"/>
Chaffinch	<input type="text"/>	Chiffchaff	<input type="text"/>	Coal Tit	<input type="text"/>
Collared Dove	<input type="text"/>	Dunnock	<input type="text"/>	Feral Pigeon	<input type="text"/>
Goldcrest	<input type="text"/>	Goldfinch	<input type="text"/>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<input type="text"/>
Great Tit	<input type="text"/>	Green Woodpecker	<input type="text"/>	Greenfinch	<input type="text"/>
Grey Heron	<input type="text"/>	Herring Gull	<input type="text"/>	Hooded Crow	<input type="text"/>
House Martin	<input type="text"/>	House Sparrow	<input type="text"/>	Jackdaw	<input type="text"/>
Jay	<input type="text"/>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<input type="text"/>	Lesser Redpoll	<input type="text"/>
Long-tailed Tit	<input type="text"/>	Magpie	<input type="text"/>	Mallard	<input type="text"/>
Marsh Tit	<input type="text"/>	Meadow Pipit	<input type="text"/>	Mistle Thrush	<input type="text"/>
Moorhen	<input type="text"/>	Nuthatch	<input type="text"/>	Pheasant	<input type="text"/>
Pied Wagtail	<input type="text"/>	Raven	<input type="text"/>	Red Kite	<input type="text"/>
Red-legged Partridge	<input type="text"/>	Reed Bunting	<input type="text"/>	Ring-necked Parakeet	<input type="text"/>
Robin	<input type="text"/>	Rook	<input type="text"/>	Siskin	<input type="text"/>
Song Thrush	<input type="text"/>	Sparrowhawk	<input type="text"/>	Spotted Flycatcher	<input type="text"/>
Starling	<input type="text"/>	Stock Dove	<input type="text"/>	Swallow	<input type="text"/>
Swift	<input type="text"/>	Tree Sparrow	<input type="text"/>	Treecreeper	<input type="text"/>
Whitethroat	<input type="text"/>	Willow Tit	<input type="text"/>	Willow Warbler	<input type="text"/>
Woodpigeon	<input type="text"/>	Wren	<input type="text"/>	Yellowhammer	<input type="text"/>