



Number **10** Winter 2015

BIRD DETECTIVES

The magazine for Junior Members of BirdWatch Ireland



WHOOOP
FOR JOY

FOCUS ON
WINTER
THRUSHES

GARDEN CHART
TOPPERS

MAKE A BUG
HOUSE





Welcome!

We hope you enjoyed your summer holidays!

The weather was a bit mixed but, hey, the autumn season has been pretty awesome with leaves turning fiery shades of yellow and red, before drifting down to the ground, curtains for another season!

The winter season bring us many more birds, because our winter is milder than in Northern Europe and Iceland. The result is that birds migrate to us in huge numbers to escape the worst of the weather.

In this issue of *Bird Detectives* you can learn about some of the unique and exciting winter birds to be seen in Ireland. Whether you have a local marsh or estuary to visit, or plan to spend time looking out in the garden, you are looking out at a winter wonderland for birds.

Short-eared Owl



Shay Connolly

One of my favourite winter sights is a rare one indeed, but still seen every winter – Short-eared Owls. They come south to Ireland to winter with us and are often seen in areas of rough grazing or pastures around wet, marshy areas. The great thing about Short-eareds is that they fly and hunt by day, so you get a chance to observe their fabulous plumage and those big yellow eyes, staring back at you from a fence post perhaps.

Another winter scene is the gathering of Starling flocks at dusk. This roosting behaviour, often in huge numbers, is known as a 'murmuration'. Keep in touch with our Facebook pages and our branch network to find out if there is a gathering near you. Watch the flocks trace a massive Mexican wave across a sunset sky. Fantastic!



A murmuration of Starlings

Andrew Kelly

Starlings may well visit your garden by day. Even in small numbers they are noisy and chattering as they swoop in suddenly, invading a lawn or feeder. They join us in winter after a long journey that takes them south and west from countries like Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania and the Baltic states.

Why not take up the challenge and study the antics of your garden birds when taking part in the Garden Bird Survey? If you spend some free time this winter studying the birds in your garden, you may well have a project that is suitable for entry to the Young Scientist Exhibition the following winter! Check out our Chart Toppers article in this edition. I hope you are inspired to look more closely at our fantastic world of birds.

Shelduck Holmes

Editorial Address: Bird Detectives, Unit 20 , Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Edited by Oran O'Sullivan. Design by Michael O'Clery.

Cover pic: Short-eared Owl by Neil O'Reilly.

Activities

WILD GALLERY

All photos by Alf Harvey

BirdWatch Ireland Laois Branch teams up with Laois County Council, Irish Wildlife Trust and Portlaoise Men's Shed to demonstrate all things wild at Portlaoise Town Park.



Denise Rainey, Laois County Council, helps finish off the Mini Bug Hotel with her daughter Hannah.



Kids enjoying the Mini Bug Pot Build during Heritage Week at Portlaoise Town Park.



Up close and personal!
Kids collect bugs at Portlaoise Town Park.

Ricky Whelan, of BirdWatch Ireland Laois Branch, has a closer look at the captured creepy crawlies.



RETURN OF THE WILD SWANS

Whoop for joy!



Two of our largest and most beautiful winter visitors

Whooper and Bewick's Swans

Every autumn, the return of great flocks of waterbirds to our shores and loughs marks the change in season and is a highlight to look forward to, to brighten the long winter months ahead.

Known as 'Wild Swans', two swan species are winter visitors to our shores, Whooper Swan and Bewick's Swan. Whoopers come from Iceland and Bewick's from Arctic Siberia, but the Icelandic visitors are far more widespread in Ireland in winter than the Siberian Bewick's Swan.

They join our familiar Mute Swan – commonly seen in town parks and many lakes and ponds – which is with us all year round and doesn't migrate. Mute Swans were originally introduced to Ireland in the twelfth century as an ornamental bird in parkland and private lakes!

The biggest, and one of the most beautiful, winter visitors to Ireland is the Whooper Swan. Over 15,000 return to spend the winter with us, after completing a journey south from their breeding grounds in Iceland, about 1,300 kms away. These birds make this

journey in one flight, arriving on the north west coast of Ireland in only 14 hours in favourable conditions. They migrate in 'V' shape formations, with individual birds slipstreaming behind leaders to lessen the wind drag, and birds take turns at the front – just like long distance athletes!

The main arrival areas in Ireland are on Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle and, apart from the sanctuary of the loughs, the birds feed on grasslands and stubble fields around the shores. Numbers build up here before birds drift south and east to move into all the main wetland areas of Ireland, particularly the Midlands. The birds are particularly noisy when they arrive on the lakes. You can often identify family parties with the bright bills of adults and duller juveniles honking in small groups. The sound is one of the most haunting of calls, drifting on a cold, clear winters day across the water.



Did you know?

Whooper Swan is the national bird of Finland.

Bewick's Swans are named after the 18th century British naturalist, Thomas Bewick, who wrote 'A History of British Birds'.

M.O'Clery

Whooper Swan map



Where to watch wild swans

Lough Swilly in Donegal and Lough Foyle in County Derry are famous for their huge Whooper Swan flocks, but they are reasonably common on many wetland and grassland sites throughout Ireland, particularly the Midland lakes. Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and Tacumshin Lake hold a few Bewick's Swans as well as Whoopers.

Look for the rare Bewick's on sugar beet fields in late winter. Mute Swans are common in Ireland on most large ponds, rivers and lakes.

Bewick's Swans are now only rarely seen away from Co. Wexford

M.O'Clery

Birds of myth and legend

One of our best known fables is the Children of Lir. Belief that swans could take on the souls of people was strong in ancient times. Aoife, wife of Lir, was jealous of his love for his four children. She tried to kill them, but did not have the courage. Instead, she used her magic to turn the children into swans.

As swans, the children had to spend 300 years on Lough Derravaragh (a lake in Westmeath) near their father's castle, 300 years in the Sea of Moyle, and 300 years on the waters of Erris near to Inishglora Island, County Mayo. To break the spell, they would have to be blessed by a monk. While the children were swans, Saint Patrick converted Ireland to Christianity.



The Children of Lir

Much more recently, in 1917, the *Wild Swans of Coole*, by the poet William Butler Yeats described a perfect autumn day and a count of swans:

*The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky;*

*Upon the brimming water among
the stones
Are nine-and-fifty swans.'*

So, W.B. Yeats was one of the first wildfowl counters in this country, and his poem is a lot less scary than the Children of Lir fable!

Did you know?

A Whooper Swan egg is huge, weighing around 320 grammes - **FIVE TIMES** heavier than a hen's egg!



Whooper Swans greet each other with loud, trumpeting calls.
Can you spot which one is a Mute Swan?

Oran O'Sullivan

Dick Coombes



Bewick's Swan

Bewick's Swans

These are the other half of the wild swan partnership. They are a little smaller than Whooper Swans and migrate huge distances from Siberia. They are much scarcer in Ireland, for a number of reasons. Whilst migrating Whoopers would find Ireland and Scotland a natural winter home, Bewick's approach from the east and fly over land rather than over open sea and therefore have plenty of places to land for the winter *en route* west. Most will find winter refuge in countries such as Holland, Germany, Belgium and England and only a few – less than 100 – continue west to Ireland. These few wintering birds are found in county Wexford on the famous sloblands and coastal lagoons, and are now quite rare anywhere in Ireland away from that area.

Bewick's Swans have a shorter breeding season than Whooper Swans and are better able to take advantage of the rich feeding to be had during the short Arctic summer, high on the tundra of Siberia. Scientists think that recent warmer winters mean that Bewick's Swans can remain at sites east of Ireland in winter, where food is still plentiful and frosts are nowadays less severe, and they then are closer to their summer home when it comes time to fly east again in spring. They still have a massive journey to make back to Arctic Siberia but the distance is lessened by being able to winter further east in Europe.

Food for thought

Wild swans are attracted to wetlands and breed in them in summer. However, in winter they are as likely to be found grazing in fields as well as upending for pondweed in

shallow lakes. In some areas, like the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, fodder beet is left in the fields for wintering birds to provide a sugary winter feed, like a giant bird table for swans and geese. Because of their great size, swans like wide open spaces to feed in. The bigger the fields, the easier it is for them to land and take off.

Did you know?

Mute Swans are not mute, and can be quite vocal. However, the sound you can hear when they fly is not a call but a whirring of the wings which may help the flock to avoid collisions with each other!

Michael O'Clery



Mute Swan is resident in Ireland and is our largest bird species

Threats to wild swans

- All swans are at risk from overhead power line collisions, and wind farms can also pose the same threat, especially on or near coastal marshes.
- Although swans are protected by law, lead shot - the small lead balls used in shotgun cartridges - can build up in shallow waters where swans congregate. Once swallowed, they can accumulate in the swans body and cause lead poisoning, which is often fatal. This is why shooters now use non-lead filled ammunition when wildfowling in winter.

All swans remain as family groups for thier first winter



Oran O'Sullivan

- Habitat loss affects many of our wintering birds: Wild swans depend on undisturbed coastal and inland marshy and flooded ground, to roost in as well as in adjoining fields which provide feeding.

WINTER THRUSHES



Redwing: Dick Coombes

Redwings and Fieldfares – common winter visitors

FACT FILE

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Wingspan

33–34.5 cm

Weight

50–75 g

Irish winter population

Very common, perhaps 200,000 birds during cold spells

Food

Insects, fruit and berries in winter

Nesting

Nests in woodland in Iceland and Northern Europe

Fieldfare

Turdus pilarus

Wingspan

39–41 cm

Weight

95–105 g

Irish winter population

Common, perhaps up to 100,000 during cold spells

Food

Insects, worms, and fruit and berries in winter

Nesting

In summer, nests in Northern and Eastern European and Russian woodlands

Redwings and Fieldfares – Winter wonders

How far do you reckon birds travel to visit our gardens in winter?

Blackbirds are around the garden all year, pulling worms from the lawn and generally making themselves heard as well as seen. Have you noticed that in winter the number of Blackbirds visiting the garden can rise really quickly? That's because we have migrant Blackbirds visiting us too, together with others

such as Fieldfare and Redwing. They make up what we call the 'winter thrushes'. They all cross the North Sea from Scandinavia, into Britain and on to Ireland in great waves of migration. Some Blackbirds and Song Thrushes also make a shorter passage south from Scotland and the north of England to visit us in winter.



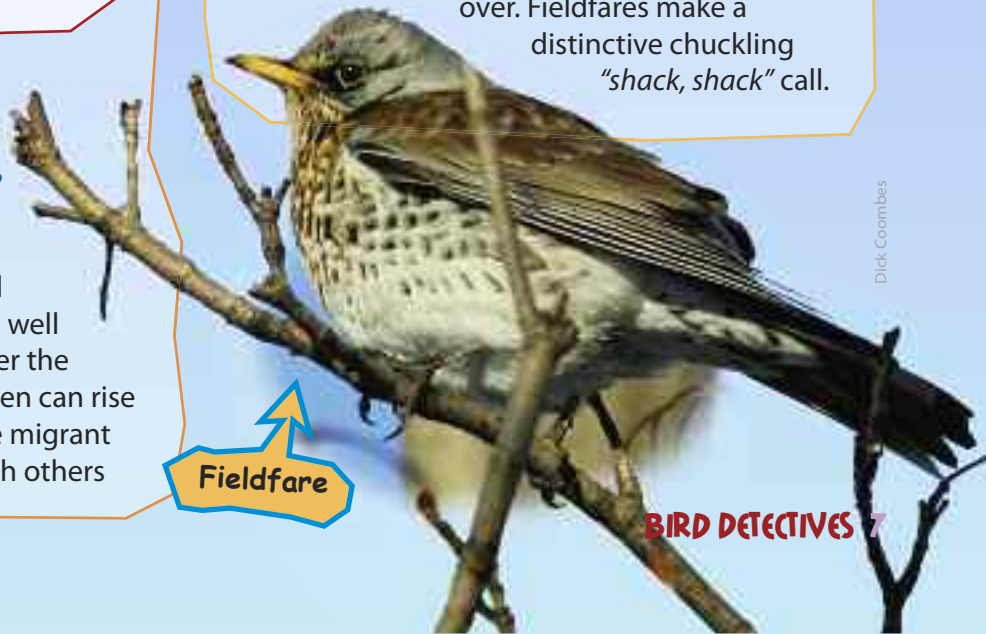
Liam Ryan

Blackbird

They are all leaving behind the soon-to-be-frozen Northern European climate to winter in the milder conditions in Ireland. Redwings also migrate to us in large numbers from Iceland.

Bird detective work

Like many other migrants, Redwings and Fieldfares tend to migrate at night. One of the best ways to witness the nighttime migration of Redwings and other thrushes is to stand out in the garden on calm, cold, starry evenings, after sunset in November. Listen for the soft but high pitched "seep" contact calls of Redwings passing over. Fieldfares make a distinctive chuckling "shack, shack" call.



Fieldfare

Dick Coombes



Shelduck Holmes

Michael Finn

A Mistle
Thrush –
big and
bold



Winter thrush

Eric Dempsey

Fieldfare – a great
show in the snow



M.O'Clery



**A Blackbird
looking for food**

Carl Morrow



**Fieldfare
in a field**

shes

John Fox



**A hungry
Redwing**

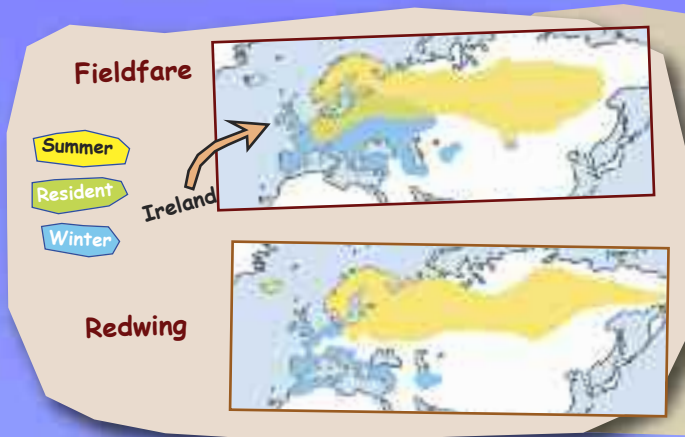
M.O'Clery



**A speckly
Song Thrush**



BirdWatchIreland
birdwatchireland.ie
protecting birds and biodiversity



How many are there?

Redwing and Fieldfare have a broadly similar world distribution and, thankfully, both species' populations are considered to be generally stable. The breeding Redwing population in Europe is between 6 and 21 million pairs, with up to another million pairs in Russia. The entire breeding population of Fieldfare is believed to be at least 30 million pairs – 60 million birds – perhaps even double that in a good breeding season – that's 120 MILLION Fieldfares! (source: HBW Alive).

The colder the weather, the more thrushes come to Ireland

Winter thrush threats

Like many birds, our winter thrushes are usually shy creatures, often wary of humans. However, their wariness disappears in extremely cold weather, as food becomes harder to find and survival becomes a priority. They most often visit gardens in times of very harsh weather in late winter, when fresh waves of birds head west to Ireland to find unfrozen ground to feed on.

The top priority for our wintering thrushes is to get through the winter and to be strong enough to be able to return north to breed. They need every bit of strength to survive snow and frosts and then to fly thousands of kilometres to their breeding areas in spring. Many won't make it, as we can learn from recoveries of ringed birds, which often meet an unfortunate end on migration.

What winter thrushes eat

All kinds of fruiting shrubs and trees are visited by feeding thrushes, though some of these can be depleted quite early in the winter. If you have any unwanted or bruised apples, or 'windfalls' from apple trees, this is perfect food for thrushes (and other birds) when food is often very scarce or



simply gone from the wider countryside. Hawthorn and Holly are the commonest hedgerow plants with berries and are also an important food. Fieldfares and Redwings will roam the countryside in mixed flocks, often with Song Thrushes and Mistle Thrushes for company and, as well as berries, they will take small animal matter from fields and leaf litter.

Top tip – listening for winter thrushes

Mr. Wolf had big ears, "...all the better to hear you with!"

Cup your hands around your ears so that they become like a wolf's big ear flaps. Notice how much clearer sounds become, as your hands act like an amplifier, gathering up sound waves and directing them into your ears. If you hear Redwing or Fieldfare calls, you can pinpoint the direction of the sound. If it's on the right-hand side, then drop the left hand. The remaining cupped, right hand will pinpoint the sound! You might be surprised by how many birds you hear in an hour!



Redwing

Dick Coombes



Garden Chart Toppers

Great Tit: Andrew Kelly

Have you noticed how the garden fills up with birds in winter? There are lots of fun things to study about garden birds, and now is the perfect time to take a good look and enjoy nature on your doorstep.

First, let's look at the **Top Ten Garden Birds** reported from last winter. Hundreds of BirdWatch Ireland members took part in the Garden Bird Survey, and listed all the birds they saw in their gardens for up to 13 weeks through the winter, from December to February.

Then see if you can match the top ten birds in the boxes below with **the food they prefer to eat**. Draw a line linking the bird to the food.

Are you sitting comfortably?

Make sure the feeders are topped up, then set yourself up in a comfortable viewing area indoors at a window. Watch where birds are in your garden? Are they all on the lawn or do some like to remain in the trees and bushes? Does the Wren swing on a peanut feeder? Where do Blackbirds like to feed? Study them and see if you can work out where their favourite feeding areas are.

Draw a line to match each of the Top Ten Garden Birds in the list below with where you are likely to see them.

Match the Top Ten Garden Birds to where you might see them

- 1 Robin
- 2 Blackbird
- 3 Blue Tit
- 4 Magpie
- 5 Chaffinch
- 6 Great Tit
- 7 House Sparrow
- 8 Coal Tit
- 9 Goldfinch
- 10 Wren

- Tops of trees
- Lawn
- Shrubs
- Flower beds
- House walls & roof
- Driveway
- Weedy border
- Vegetable patch
- Plant pots
- Hedge with fruit/berries



Blue Tit

Andrew Kelly

Top Ten Garden Birds & their food!

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 Robin | Mealworms |
| 2 Blackbird | Apples |
| 3 Blue Tit | Nuts |
| 4 Magpie | Mixed seeds |
| 5 Chaffinch | Fat Balls |
| 6 Great Tit | Berries |
| 7 House Sparrow | Nyjer seed |
| 8 Coal Tit | Bread |
| 9 Goldfinch | Scraps |
| 10 Wren | Worms |

Some birds adapt to the garden better than others and take a variety of foods. Goldfinches use their long, thin beaks for extracting seed from dandelions and thistles. Now they also use that beak to feed on bird feeders, on really fine nyjer seed, as well as peanuts and sunflower seed, all of



John Fox

Goldfinch

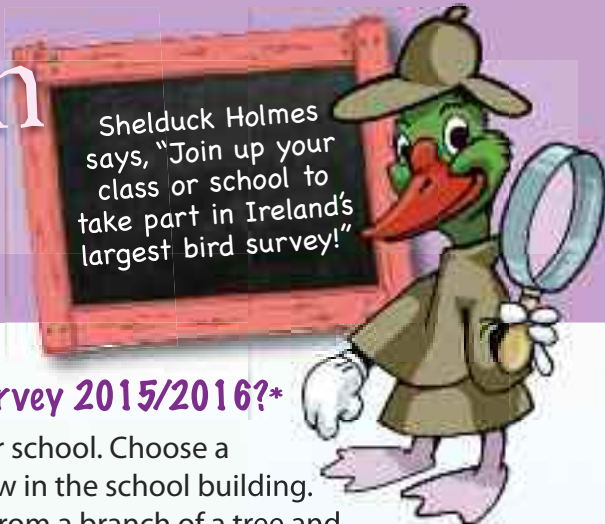
which are really nutritious and help them survive the winter. Now they have more options! They are much commoner now, showing how important gardens can be for some of our countryside birds.

How many of these birds have you seen in your garden? Why not take part in the Garden Bird Survey this winter. See your *Wings* magazine for the full results from last winter's survey.



Blue Tit: Jerry Cassidy

Schools Garden Bird Survey



Shelduck Holmes says, "Join up your class or school to take part in Ireland's largest bird survey!"

Why don't you take part in the Schools Garden Bird Survey 2015/2016?*

You can, simply by setting up a feeding station for birds at your school. Choose a place in the school grounds that is clearly visible from a window in the school building. Try and pick a safe space for birds where feeders can be hung from a branch of a tree and where birds have a safe area to approach and to retreat to. Then watch, and record what you see. Easy!

*The survey is designed for primary schools, you may also continue to take part in the original Garden Bird Survey, designed for private gardens (full details in *Wings* magazine).

School Garden details

Tell us some information about your school

The School Grounds, are they... (tick 'yes' or 'no')

Urban (in a town or city centre)? yes no

Suburban (on the outskirts of a town or city)? yes no

Rural (in or beside open country or farm land)? yes no

What size are they?

Half the size of a tennis court, or smaller yes no

Approx. tennis court size yes no

Larger than a tennis court yes no

An acre or larger yes no

Food available for birds...

Are berry bushes present? yes no

Do you provide...

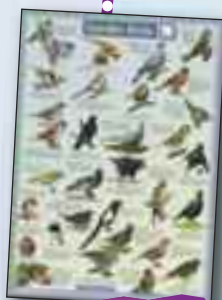
Peanuts in feeders? yes no

Seeds in feeders? yes no

Scraps? yes no

Fruit? yes no

Fat / bird cake? yes no



Free poster!

Fill out online, or return form to: BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Food for Birds: Some do's and don'ts

- Peanuts, sunflowers and mixed seed in mesh and plastic feeders are ideal for many small birds;
- Over-ripe or slightly spoilt fruit is ideal for Blackcaps and thrushes, either left on the ground or speared onto a branch.
- Some crumbs and stale cake will be mopped up by sparrows and larger birds. Bird cake recipe is available from BirdWatch Ireland. Check out our web pages at www.birdwatchireland.ie and go to 'Birdwatching' pages.
- Don't put out too much at a time as you may encourage some less welcome furry visitors. Loose food shouldn't be left out overnight.
- Try and provide some clean water. An upturned bin lid will do, as will any shallow container.
- Make sure the birds have a regular food supply. Fill the feeders on Fridays and top up during the following week as they empty.
- Try and continue feeding and watching birds right through the winter season, especially when it is cold.

Resources BirdWatch Ireland can provide your class with our new Garden Bird Poster, showing the top 30 species in gardens and schools. There are lots of useful tips too. Check out our website for downloadable Bird Profiles, www.birdwatchireland.ie. Get your teacher to e-mail gardenbirds@birdwatchireland.ie for a free copy of the Garden Bird Poster.

Song Thrush: David Dillon

We can also provide your class with a super **free gift** if your school joins BirdWatch Ireland. School membership includes 4 issues of *Wings*, 2 issues of *Bird Detectives*, specially for 7 to 12 year-old children, and a Welcome Pack that includes a DVD of *Garden Bird Songs and Calls*, and a copy of the best-selling book, *Ireland's Garden Birds*. Join online or telephone BirdWatch Ireland on 01-2819878.



What did you see?

Students should jot down any counts during the week in a jotter or notebook. Some birds you will see every day, some less frequently, or maybe just once in a flock.

At the end of the school week, go through the list with your teacher and take the largest single count for each bird species and enter it on the recording sheet below. If you have no count for a species or no counts at all, leave the boxes or column blank!

Example On Monday you count 3 Blue Tits on a peanut feeder and notice 1 waiting in a nearby bush, total = 4 birds. On Wednesday, just 2 on the feeder = 2 birds.

On Friday, 1 was seen all day and 2 first thing in the morning = 3 birds. So, record 4 Blue Tits on the form, the highest count of the week. If you see a bird that is not on the list below, just add it to the end of the form.

Top Ten garden birds

How many of these commonest 10 birds did you see?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Chaffinch | 6. Blue Tit |
| 2. House Sparrow | 7. Greenfinch |
| 3. Starling | 8. Jackdaw |
| 4. Goldfinch | 9. Blackbird |
| 5. Rook | 10. Great Tit |

Schools Garden Bird recording form

Participating school name

Address

Class

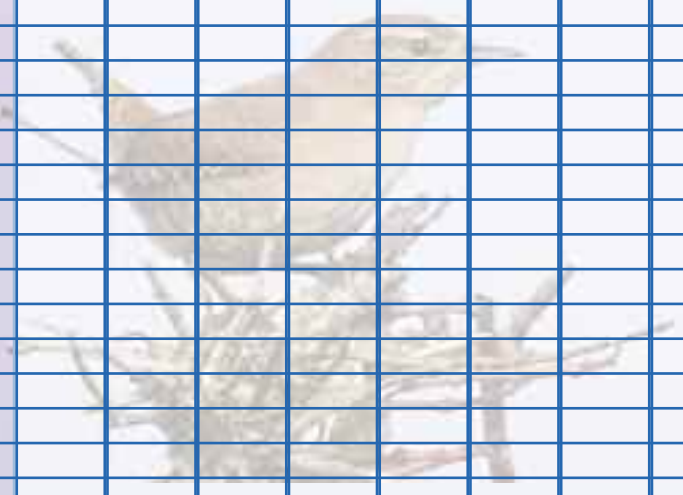
Teacher

E-mail address

Week beginning	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22
	Nov	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	Feb	Feb

	30 Nov	7 Dec	14 Dec	21 Dec	28 Dec	4 Jan	11 Jan	18 Jan	25 Jan	1 Feb	8 Feb	15 Feb	22 Feb
Sparrowhawk													
Feral Pigeon													
Woodpigeon													
Collared Dove													
Grey Wagtail													
Pied Wagtail													
Wren													
Dunnock													
Robin													
Blackbird													
Fieldfare													
Song Thrush													
Redwing													
Mistle Thrush													
Goldcrest													
Long-tailed Tit													
Coal Tit													
Blue Tit													
Great Tit													
Magpie													
Jackdaw													
Rook													
Hooded Crow													
Starling													
House Sparrow													
Chaffinch													
Greenfinch													
Goldfinch													
Siskin													
Bullfinch													
Redpoll													
Other species													
Other species													

School Holidays!



Wren: Michael O'Clery

Build a Bug Box

BirdWatch Ireland Site Foreman, Ricky Whelan, leads the Laois Heritage Week Bug Box builders



AirBnB or Grand Designs? Make a home for friendly insects

Make a Mini Bug Hut

Attract lots of wildlife to your garden by making a simple but effective Mini Bug Hut.

Bug huts provide warm, dry homes for insects to spend the winter months in and lay their eggs. They are small and easy to build and make a great addition to your garden. They are so compact you could even keep one on a windowsill or balcony.



You will need...

- Some assistance from an adult
- A small saw and scissors (ask an adult to help with cutting)
- A clean, empty tin can, with no sharp edges (beans, pet food or whatever is handy)
- 3 or 4 small garden bamboo canes
- string

1

Step 1

Cut your bamboo straws to the length of your tin can.

2

Step 2

Stack the bamboo straws upright in your tin can until they fit tightly.

3

Step 3

Cut a piece of string and tie around the can.

4

Finished!

Step 4

Hang outside somewhere that catches the sun (on a wall or tree) and wait for your new insect guests to arrive.

Super-size it!

If you have the space, you could always go for the Grand Designs version, a **Multi Story Bug hotel!**

You will need...

A Pile of Pallets You can get these for free from companies on business parks (like BirdWatch Ireland!), who get bulk deliveries and then have spare pallets. Aim to get the hotel up to 5 or 6 pallets high, and lay them out on top of each other (put the largest pallets on the bottom if they are different sizes). Be careful when lifting, and watch out for nails and sharp edges. You must have adult supervision!

Fit out at the Bug Bedding Department

Just like visiting a department store, you will need to shop around for natural materials, often available as scrap.

Logs & thin chunks of wood Borrow a few logs from the fuel stash around the house. These provide lots of shelter and are a great opportunity for burrowing insects – such as beetles – to burrow in. As the bark rots, more insects such as spiders, centipedes, millepedes and woodlice will come to bed down.

Bricks Red building bricks with holes are ideal for creating gaps and crevices for frogs.

Bamboo Canes Raid the Garden shed for these! Tubes of bamboo, cut to fit, are great for Solitary Bees which prefer thin tubes rather than a hive. Try and pick the warmest spot on the Bug Hotel for these – bees like the heat!

Leaf Litter Dried leaves and small twigs are great for small critters, including Ladybirds.

Cardboard Lacewings, which prey on Greenfly in summer, will love this micro-habitat. Roll up some corrugated cardboard and poke it into place, once you have insulated it from the wet by placing the roll inside a drinks bottle with the top and bottom cut off.



A Multi Story Bug Hotel. Pallets, logs, bricks, bamboo, leaves and cardboard – insect heaven!

Make a home for insects like this Buff-tailed Bumble Bee



Lois Heritage Week Kids group with leader Ricky Whelan and the Trioque Manor Bug Hotel



Shelduck Holmes

Competition Page

Competition 1

Answer five out of five questions
Get five correct answers to have a chance to win a **Prize** worth €20.00: a BirdWatch Ireland 2016 Calendar, and a copy of *My First Book of Irish Animals*, by Juanita Browne.



Q1 Grey Seals can dive to a depth of 70 metres.
TRUE or FALSE?

Q3 A male fox is called a 'boar'.
TRUE or FALSE?

Q2 Badger cubs spend the first 7 weeks of their lives underground in their sett.
TRUE or FALSE?

Q4 Sika deer are meat eaters, or carnivores.
TRUE or FALSE?

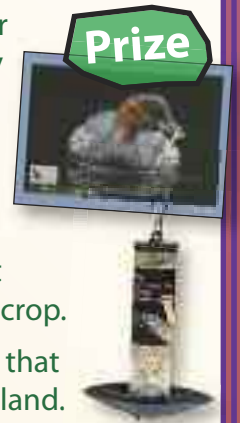
Q5 The Irish name for Harbour Porpoises is 'Muc Mhara', or Sea Pig.
TRUE or FALSE?

Competition 2

Find 6 foods for 6 garden birds in the Word Search puzzle and answer two questions

Solve the Word Search and answer the two questions below correctly to be in with a chance to win a **2016 Wildlife Calendar** and a **Pre-filled Scrummy Sunflower Hearts Feeder**, worth €14.00

Prize



Wacky Bird Word Search

S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	U	S
X	E	J	L	C	S	T	V	U	T
E	J	B	A	W	O	I	L	L	U
T	Y	H	E	R	W	T	O	E	N
I	N	B	M	E	A	E	O	A	A
T	L	E	T	N	S	U	E	T	E
T	O	R	A	Z	E	L	Y	A	P
A	S	S	O	E	G	B	I	R	T
E	F	C	N	B	R	L	M	G	F
R	T	E	G	N	I	W	D	E	R
G	O	L	D	F	I	N	C	H	B

Oatmeal, Goldfinch, Sultanas, Wren, Peanuts, Great Tit, Nyjer, Robin, Sunflowers, Redwing, Suet, Blue Tit

Q1 Name one food from the list that is grown in Ireland as a crop.

Q2 Name one bird from the list that is only a winter visitor to Ireland.

To enter

- Fill out your age, name and address on a blank sheet of paper.
 - Answer the questions, marking them Competition 1 and/or 2 (you can photocopy this page, or use another page, AND enter both competitions if you like).
 - Post it to: Bird Detectives Competitions, BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co Wicklow.
- Closing date is 30th November 2015.

The winner of the Spring 2015 **Competition 1** is Hugo McHugh, aged 6, Dalkey, County Dublin, who wins a copy of *My First Book of Irish Animals*.

The winner of the Spring 2015 Wacky Bird Word Search **Competition 2** – Adam Doyle, Fenit, County Kerry, who completed the word search and revealed the summer migrant: House Martin. Adam wins a Happy Bee Box.