



Number 14 Winter 2017

BIRD DETECTIVES

The magazine for Junior Members of BirdWatch Ireland

FOCUS ON
SWANS

SCHOOLS' GARDEN
BIRD SURVEY

TOP
PREDATORS

WHY DO
SWALLOWS
LEAVE?





Welcome!



Winter migrants are on their way!

Winter is a very exciting season for birdwatchers in Ireland.

Although the days are short and the weather can be chilly, it is the time of year when we have more birds than any other. Big flocks of waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks) and waders migrate here, and lots of songbirds, especially thrushes, fly in too.

We might think that Ireland is a very cold place in the winter, but in fact as far as our winter migrants are concerned it is positively balmy! Think about it: many of these birds nest during the summer in the Arctic, which by this time of year is very cold indeed. Ireland must seem like a tropical paradise by comparison.

Winter thrush - a Redwing



Omar Runkliffson: Wiki Commons

Winter is also the season when our garden birds have the toughest time, so any help we can give them can make a big difference. If you can, please put out food and water for them. You can find lots of bird-feeding tips and suggestions on the BirdWatch Ireland website, www.birdwatchireland.ie, as well as on page 17 of the Winter 2017 issue of *Wings* magazine, which you will have received with this issue of *Bird Detectives*.

If you are looking at birds in your garden, around your school or in your local park this winter, you might as well take part in our **Garden Bird Survey**. It helps us to protect Ireland's birds, but it's also a lot of fun! See pages 12 and 13 for all the details.

Finally, I'd like to introduce you to my good friend

Barney the Barn Owl,

who you can see here. Barney will be telling you all about his fellow birds of prey here in the pages of *Bird Detectives*, starting with this issue.

Barney Owl

Shelduck Holmes



Michelle Kavanagh

Rory at BirdWatch Ireland HQ in his bright red Hell & Back Junior T-shirt, alongside staff members (l-r) Alain Gatel, Niall Hatch, Fintan Kelly and Steve Newton... and a giant Puffin!

Well done, Rory!

Everyone at BirdWatch Ireland would like to say a very special thank you to one of our members, Rory Maguire, aged 9. In June, Rory took part in **Hell & Back Junior** (Ireland's toughest physical and mental endurance challenge for children – sounds terrifying!) and very kindly collected sponsorship money for BirdWatch Ireland. In all, Rory raised an amazing €100, which he then came to our office in Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow to give to us, which is absolutely brilliant. The money will be used to protect birds.

Rory says that he really loves birds and that it was his dad that gave him the idea to raise money to help them... so well done to dad too!

Editorial Address: Bird Detectives, BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 RW83.
Edited by Niall Hatch, with special thanks to our contributors this issue: Ricky Whelan, Niamh Fitzgerald and John Lusby. Design by Michael O'Clery.
Cover pic: Whooper Swan by Ben Hall (RSPB-Images).



Interview: Eva O'Sullivan



One of Eva's photos of a Swallow

Eva is a wildlife and bird photography nut!

Bird Detectives interviews Eva O'Sullivan

Hi Eva! Tell us a bit about yourself. How old are you, where are you from and how did you become such a wildlife/bird photography nut?

My name is Eva O'Sullivan, I am 10 years old and I live in Co. Laois.

I like watching the birds at the feeders in our garden. My parents gave me an old camera when I was small (maybe three?) and I've always liked taking photos in the garden. I guess that's how it started.

You're getting into photography big time. What do you like to photograph, and where do you go to get your pictures?

In winter, when I'm bored and sitting at the kitchen table, I wait for the birds to come to the feeder. When we go out for walks and it's a nice sunny day, I bring my camera because there'll be lots of butterflies out and about. I particularly like taking close ups of butterflies, birds and insects.

A Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, by Eva

Eva O'Sullivan



Eva holds a real, live Kingfisher!

Ricky Whelan

Getting good photos sounds tough! What advice would you give a young wildlife photographer that was interested in getting started? How would you recommend they get into wildlife photography?

Borrow a reasonably good camera, try not to drop it on the floor (so use the strap!), go in the garden or somewhere that you think you will find what you want to photograph. For example, if



Here, Eva takes a photo of one of her favourites, a Dipper!



you have lavender in the garden, there might be butterflies. Or you could put a bird feeder in a place where you can watch them easily. Try a forest, or a park, or the Botanical Gardens, or Lough Boora, for example. Try to get close to what you want to photograph, hold steady, and make sure your photo is in focus. Take your time. And keep practising.



Another one of Eva's beautiful photos, of a Ringlet butterfly

What species would you say is your favourite, and what is it about that species that appeals to you?

I've always wanted to get a photo of a Kingfisher but they never seem to turn up when I look for them! I like the Kingfisher because I think it is a really beautiful bird. I was very lucky – I was able to watch a Kingfisher being ringed and then I was able to hold it and release it. I also like taking photos of butterflies because they are so beautiful.

You're a kid: do you think that limits where and what of you take photographs? If you were not limited by age or money, what locations and species would you like to see?

Yes and no. Yes, because you can't just go everywhere you want. No, because everywhere you go is the same no matter whether you are a child or not. I'd go to Chicago Botanical Gardens because they have amazing hummingbirds and really pretty flowers.

Finally, the world is a bit of a mad place, and there are a lot of pressures on birds and other wildlife. How would you recommend to young people that they help protect these for the future?

Raise awareness of how beautiful and important nature and wildlife are. For example, trees - we couldn't live without them, right? If everyone does their part in helping to protect endangered species it will go a long way.



SWANS

Colum Clarke

Mute Swan



Ireland's three species of swan

FACT FILE

English name	Irish name	Latin name	Population
Mute Swan	Eala bhalbh	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	10,000 (resident year-round)
Whooper Swan	Eala ghlórach	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	15,000 (migrate here for the winter)
Bewick's Swan	Eala bewick	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	only 21 (migrate here for the winter)

Ireland is home to three different species of swans. The most familiar one, and the only one that is found here throughout the whole year, is the Mute Swan, which doesn't migrate. Each autumn, these are joined by thousands of Whooper Swans, which migrate here with their new families from their nesting grounds in Iceland. The third swan to visit us, the Bewick's Swan, which is now extremely rare in Ireland, looks like a smaller version of the Whooper Swan and migrates here from Siberia.

Swans belong to the same family as ducks and geese, and like most other members of that family they have long necks, webbed feet and are very good at swimming.

Male swans are called cobs and female swan are called pens. Pairs usually stay together for life, which is quite unusual in the bird world. Swan chicks are known as cygnets. They stay with their parents for much longer than most other young birds. Young Whooper Swans make their first migration flight from Iceland to Ireland with their parents, and they stay together in family groups throughout the winter.

Swans are white, right?

Recognising that a bird is some kind of swan is usually pretty easy: all three species that occur are very large, extremely long-necked and, at least as adults, have completely white plumage. Cygnets are grey and downy, and when they become juveniles (which means that they have grown their first set of proper feathers) they are brownish-grey rather than white.

Whooper Swans in particular often have a rusty-red colour on their heads and necks. This is because their feathers have become stained by iron-rich mud while they have been feeding.

Telling them apart

Telling the difference between our three Irish swan species can be a little trickier. The easiest way to do this is to look at their beaks. The next time you are in the park and see a swan, have a look at the colour and shape of its beak. If you

are in a park, I'm willing to bet that the species you are looking at will be a Mute Swan, and you should be able to notice that it has an orange beak with a



Mute Swans

Two Bewick's and one Whooper Swan



The Children of Lir

You have probably heard the ancient Irish myth of the *Children of Lir*. Their story goes that four children were turned by magic into swans and stayed like that for 900 years.



Mute Swan

In many books, there are illustrations showing the *Children of Lir* as Mute Swans, with curved necks and black knobs on the tops of their beaks. These illustrations are probably incorrect, however. At the time the story is set, Mute Swans would have been extremely rare in Ireland, and people would have been much more familiar with Whooper Swans and Bewick's Swans – or “wild swans”, as they were often called – and it is far more likely that it was one of these species that was intended. It's only a story, though – we probably shouldn't get too worked up about it!

large black bump, or knob, at the top, right where the beak joins the face.

Both Whooper Swans and Bewick's Swans have quite different beaks to this. They aren't orange, for a start: they are a combination of yellow and black. They also don't have any knob, so their beaks look much straighter and more streamlined. Both species look extremely similar, but you can usually tell the difference between them by comparing the amount of yellow to the amount of black on the beak. Whooper Swans generally show more yellow than black, whereas Bewick's Swans have more black than yellow.

A good way to tell the two species apart, especially in flight, is by sound. Whooper Swans make a loud honking call, rather like the sound of a trumpet, while Mute Swans don't make any calls at all: “mute” means “unable to speak” or “lacking a voice”: Mute Swans,

however, do have specially-shaped flight feathers which whistle when they flap their wings, something that Whooper Swans' wings don't do.

There are other differences between the three species, though they can be harder to spot. Mute Swans often hold their long necks in a curved shape: think of those photos that are often printed on cards and in newspapers around St. Valentine's Day showing two swans facing each other with their necks curved to make a heart shape. Whooper and Bewick's Swans usually hold their necks much straighter and more upright than this.

Whooper Swans look pretty much the same size as Mute Swans, but they are a bit lighter in weight. All three species are large birds, but Bewick's Swans are a little smaller than the other two and don't stand quite so tall. If you are lucky enough to see a Bewick's Swan alongside either a Whooper or a Mute Swan then the difference in size is often quite obvious.



Bewick's Swan

Mega-Chan: WikiCommons

Back in 1843 a Danish author called Hans Christian Andersen published a children's story called “*The Ugly Duckling*”. The story is about a little duckling that hatches out in a farmyard. He looks different to all of his brothers and sisters, however, and they make fun of him and call him ugly. He leaves the farm and eventually grows up to realise that he is really a swan, one of the most beautiful birds of all. He was never actually a

The Ugly Duckling



Dick Coombes

duckling to begin with – he was actually a cygnet whose egg somehow ended up with the duck eggs in the farmyard.

Now, it is obvious that a little cygnet looks quite different to a little duckling, especially in colour, but it is rather unfair to call it ugly, don't you think? Most people would probably agree that they look extremely cute indeed!



Black Swans – well named!

Other swans around the world

Adult swans in Ireland have completely white plumage. This is not true of swans all over the world, however. In Australia they have the Black Swan, which – you guessed it – is entirely black rather than white. It also has a bright red beak. South America is home to the Black-necked Swan, and although it has an all-white body just like our swans do, its long neck and its head are black.



Black-necked Swan, with, yes, a black neck!

Why are swans so tame?

Well, not all swans are tame by any means. Mute Swans can indeed be very tame around humans, and they will often approach people in parks and other public areas in the hope of being fed. This is because they have learned to associate people with food. Many pairs are also quite happy to nest in very public areas, where people walk close by.

Whooper and Bewick's Swans are usually much warier of people than Mute Swans are, however, and it is far more difficult to get close to them. They very much like to graze on grass, and herds (yes, that is the correct name for a group of swans!) of them can be seen in lakeside fields all over Ireland: from a distance these large white birds can look surprisingly like flocks of sheep! If they feel threatened, they will often swim out onto the lake, where they feel much safer.

Food

Swans love to eat bread, right? Not so fast! Mute Swans in parks who are used to being fed by people will certainly eat bread, but it is not a very suitable food for them at all. Their natural diet consists mainly of plants that grow in the water; they also eat small snails and other creatures and also sometimes like to eat grass. Bread is sort of like junk food for

them: it might fill them up, but it lacks many of the vitamins and minerals they need in order to keep themselves healthy. It is also quite low in protein, which they need to build up their muscles and grow their feathers.

Another problem with bread is that it soon gets soggy and then sinks to the bottom of the pond.

Here it can quickly go rotten and mouldy, which can lead to all sorts of nasty bacteria and fungi growing in the water. These can cause serious health problems for swans and other aquatic animals, and in

extreme cases can even cause the swans' feathers to fall to bits.

Rather than feed your local swans bread, it is a much better idea to give them plant material. Cabbage leaves, carrot and celery tops and even potato peelings are much healthier for them, and the swans absolutely love them too.

As Whooper and Bewick's Swans live in much wilder areas and are far more frightened of humans, it is unlikely that you will be able to feed them yourself. Like Mute Swans, they love water plants and grass, and they will also eat waste potatoes and grain in fields.



Paddy Dwan

A Whooper Swan (left) and a Mute Swan



Mute Swan flock



Shelduck Holmes



**A magnificent male
Mute Swan – the
largest bird in Ireland!**

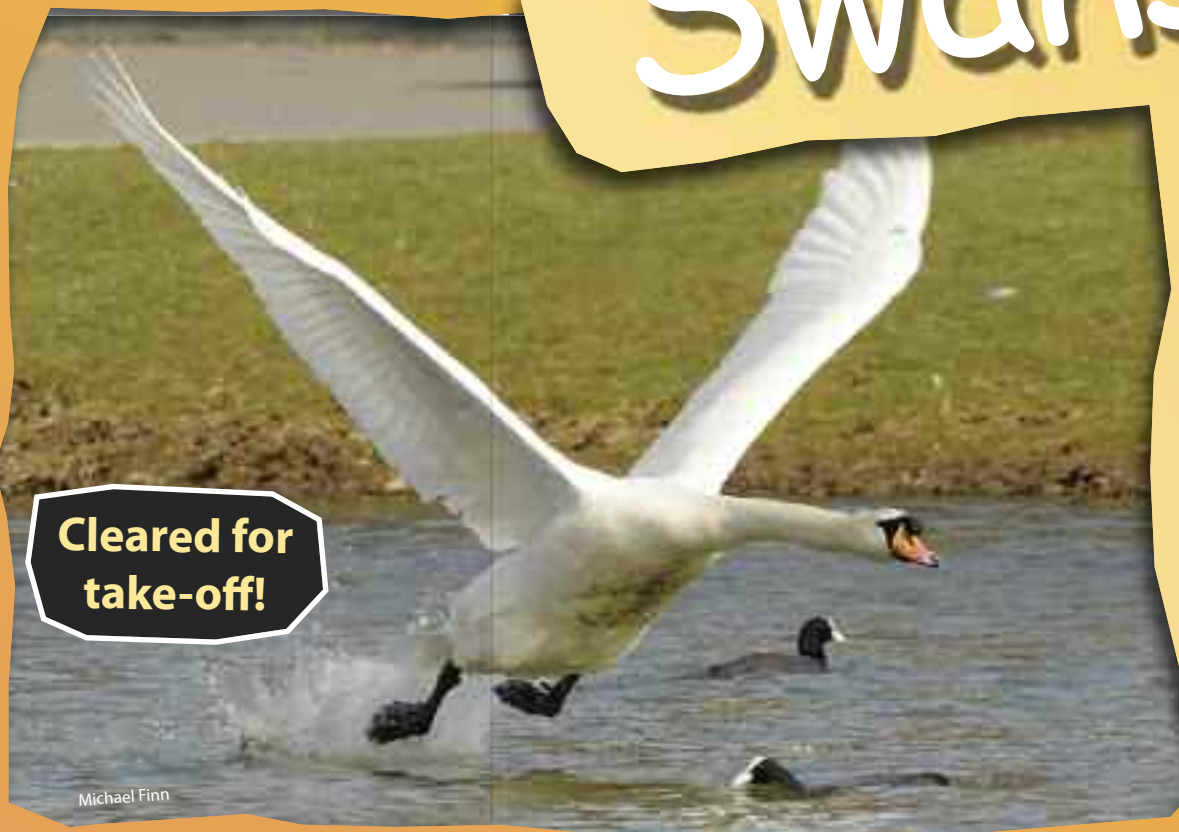
Michael Finn

Dick Coombes



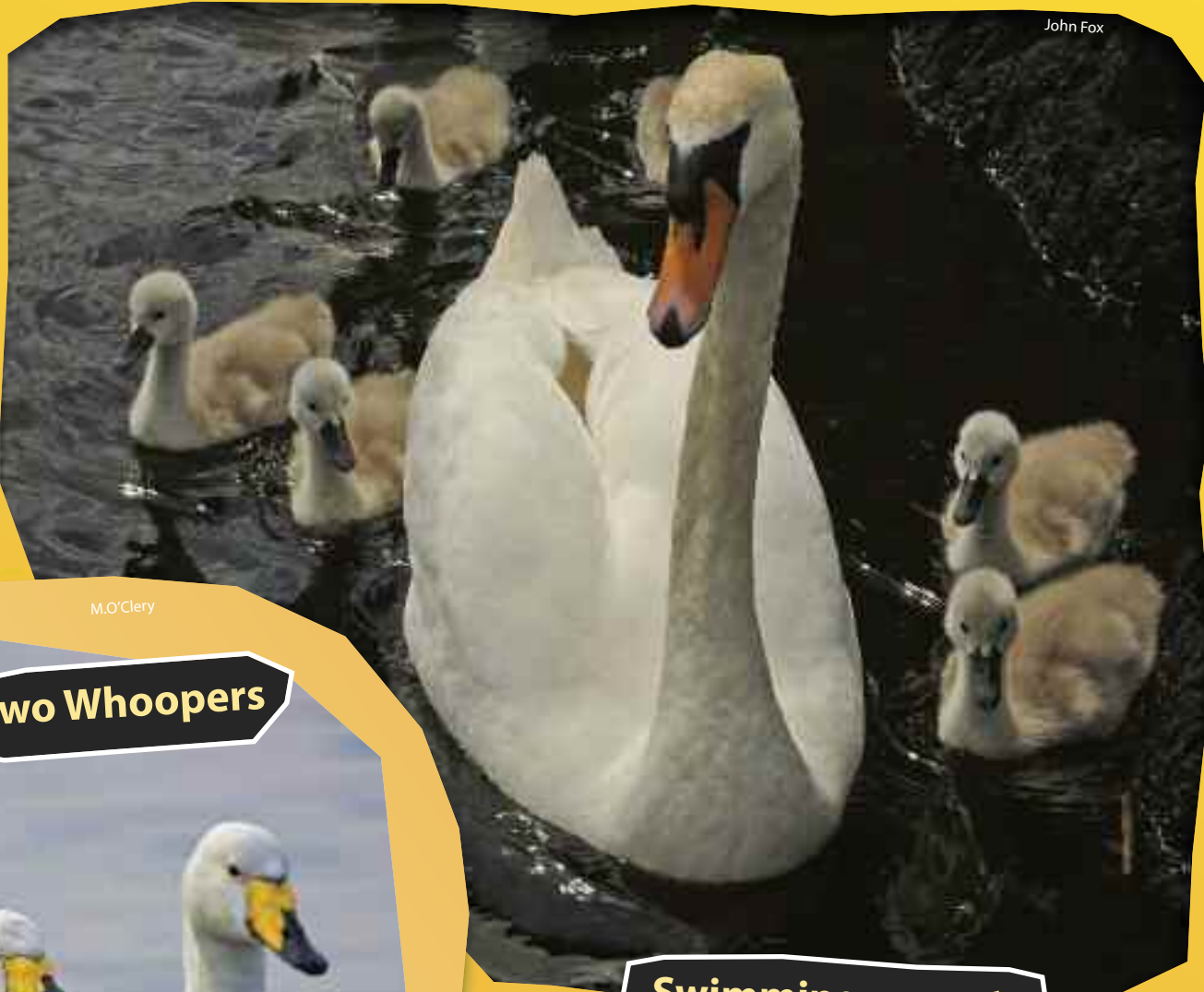
**Brilliant
Bewick's**

Swans



**Cleared for
take-off!**

Michael Finn



John Fox

M.O'Cleary

Two Whoopers



Ben Hall (RSPB-images.com)

Swimming cygnets



High in the sky

Ben Hall (RSPB-images.com)



BirdWatchIreland
birdwatchireland.ie
protecting birds and biodiversity



Why do Swallows leave Ireland for the winter?



Swallow: Daragh Owens

The Minutahiti Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa

We all know Swallows go to Africa in winter, but... why?

Each autumn, Ireland's entire Swallow population sets off on migration. These tiny birds travel an enormous distance between Europe and Africa, facing many perils on the way, including thirst, hunger and becoming somebody's lunch! But why do Swallows go through all the hassle? Why not stay in Europe or Africa year round?

Swallow: Clive Timmons



To undertake their incredible journeys, birds like Swallows need a huge amount of energy and a good strategy. During the warm summer months, migrating birds fill up on enough food to see them through their migration. Swallows are insect-eaters and will often be seen on a warm summer day chasing flying insects round fields and meadows.

In the winter months the temperature in Ireland and other European countries drops, the trees lose their leaves and many insects hide away and begin hibernating. For the Swallows, which only eat small flying insects, this means that if they stayed behind here they could easily starve to death. Instead, they leave for southern Africa, where they can have a second summer and the temperature is much warmer: perfect for insects! You might then wonder why the Swallows bother to come back. One theory is that this may be due to the number of predators in Africa. In tropical regions, where it is warmer, there are more species of animal than in Europe and therefore a high number of species that could hunt young

Swallows. By nesting in Europe, Swallow families face less of a threat of being killed by predators, and this increases the number of chicks each pair can raise.



By the time you receive this issue of *Bird Detectives* in the post, the Swallows that left Ireland this autumn will already have crossed the Mediterranean and will be well on their way to southern Africa. You can follow their journeys on our Spring Alive website (www.springalive.net). Children all over Africa are logging their observations of these tiny birds as they head south. The website will also tell you all about what "our" birds do in Africa while it is winter in Europe, and then you can log your own observations when you spot them returning to Ireland in the spring.

Best beaks for the job

Ever wonder why birds have so many different kinds of beaks?

From Curlew to Coal Tit, Bullfinch to Buzzard, each bird has a beak (or bill if you prefer) which is adapted to help it eat its favourite food.

Here is a selection of some of the different beak types that Irish birds have, as well as what they are used for.

Sand Martin -
insect-catching



Teal - filtering



Crossbill - extracting
seeds



Oystercatcher -
chiselling



Grey Heron -
stabbing



Reed Bunting -
cracking



Wren - pecking/
probing



Sparrowhawk - tearing



Curlew - probing



Look at the beaks below. Which one do you think would be best for cracking seeds?

The answer is on the bottom of the back page.

☐ Turnstone



☐ Bullfinch



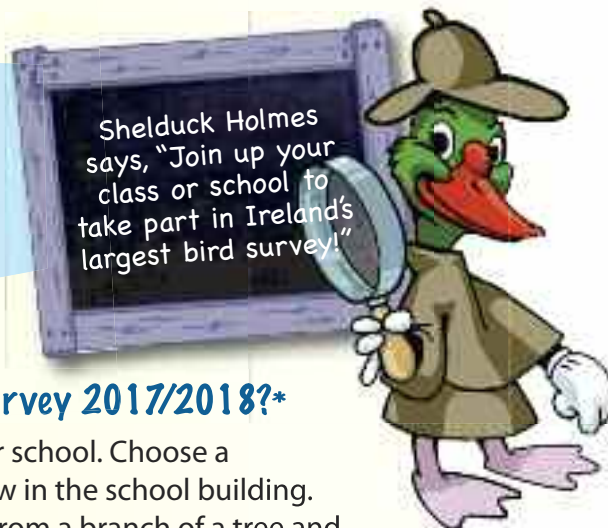
☐ Kingfisher





Feral Pigeon: M.O'Clery

Schools' Garden Bird Survey



Why don't you take part in the Schools' Garden Bird Survey 2017/2018?*

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...

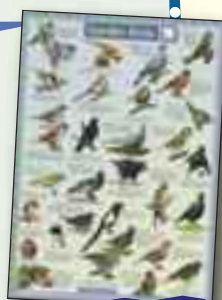
Peanuts in feeders? ☐ yes ☐ no

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, A63 RW83.

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 info@birdwatchireland.ie for a free copy of the Garden Bird Poster.

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 copy of the best-selling book, *Ireland's Garden Birds*.

Join online or telephone
BirdWatch Ireland
on 01-2819878.



Grey Wagtail: Michael O'Clery

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 which was joined by 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 our 10 most common garden 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	4 Dec	11 Dec	18 Dec	25 Dec	1 Jan	8 Jan	15 Jan	22 Jan	29 Jan	5 Feb	12 Feb	19 Feb	26 Feb
Sparrowhawk				School Holidays!									
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													

Top Predators

It's all connected

Hi! I'm Barney Owl!

I'm a raptor, and I want to tell you more about us raptors.

Raptors are top predators, which means we sit at the top of the **FOOD CHAIN**. Here's an example, for my friend, the Hen Harrier

Hen Harrier's Food Chain

Hen Harrier

Birds, small mammals

Insects, worms, snails

Grasses, flowers, and other plants

Hen Harrier

Meadow Pipit

Blackbird

Pygmy Shrew

Orange-tip Butterfly

Beetle

Centipede

Earthworm

Garden Snail

Ribwort Plantain

Marram Grass

Lady's Bedstraw

Sea Rocket

Cranesbill

Wild Garlic

Eyebright

It's all connected!

Every living plant and animal needs energy. Plants rely on the soil, water and sun for energy. Animals need to get their energy from food. Some animals rely on plants for food, whilst other animals (like raptors) rely on other animals for food. Everything is connected!

Take a look at a **food chain**. The plants are at the bottom, then insects feed on the plant matter, and small mammals and birds feed on the insects, which are then caught by raptors and other predators.

Catching other animals might seem cruel, but raptors need to do this to survive... and this needs to happen in nature. It keeps the environment in balance. Raptors might seem invincible because they are powerful hunters, but actually it is the opposite. Because they sit at the top of the food chain, they can be very vulnerable.

If there are problems at the lower levels of the food chain, this will affect the raptors at the top. This means that if there are no raptors in the countryside it is a sign that there are problems in the environment, but if raptors are doing well then it is a sign of a healthy environment. In this way raptors are good **environmental indicators**.

Raptor workbooks for primary schools were produced in association with Clare, Galway and Tipperary County Councils and funded by the Heritage Council.

To view the workbooks visit:

<https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/raptors>



Top Predators

What's on the menu?

From beetles and worms, to rabbits, foxes and other birds, let's look at some of the different prey that each raptor hunts.

Can catch fish, but also scavenges, and steals from other birds and animals. Can sit for days, just waiting, looking out for its next meal!

Uses its hearing for hunting, just like an owl, and even looks like an owl with its facial disc.

Hen Harrier



The facial disc of a Hen Harrier



Barn Owl



Has very good eyesight, much better than ours... especially when it's dark, but hunts mostly by hearing, homing in on tiny squeaks and rustles of small mammals

White-tailed Eagle



Fish
such as Mullet



Small birds

Including Meadow Pipits, Pied Wagtails, Starlings and more



Big birds

Crows, Woodpigeons and ducks



Bats

Hard to catch, so very rarely eaten!



Insects

Including beetles and other large insects



Pygmy Shrew

Wood Mouse

Small mammals

Bank Vole

House Mouse

Brown Rat

Kestrel



It can see in the ultra violet spectrum, which means it can see the urine trails of small mammals! Very useful to narrow down the search!

Rabbit



Buzzard



Will catch live prey, but also scavenges for dead animals.

Peregrine Falcon



Rises up really high in the sky, then when it sees a suitable opportunity below it tucks its wings in and dives like a bullet through the air at over 320 km per hour!

Hen Harrier, Mike Brown. Kestrel, M.O'Clery. Small mammals, R.T. Mills, George Shuklin: Wiki Commons. David Perez: Wiki Commons. Rabbit and Beetle, Wiki Commons. White-tailed Eagle, Jacob Spinks: Wiki Commons. Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Buzzard, Peregrine, Mallard, Woodpigeon, M.O'Clery. Barn Owl, RSPB-images.com. Bat, Wiki Commons.

Shelduck Holmes Competition Page

Competition

Win a **My Naturama Nature Journal!** value €15.00

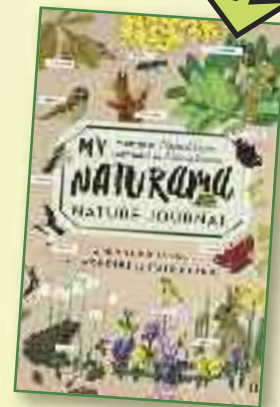
Prize

Find the birdy words, 13 in total!

Gardenbirds
Feeders
WhooperSwan
Ducks

BrentGoose
GoldenPlover
Flock
Swans
Floods

Geese
Ice
Starling
Fieldfare



Bird Word Search



To
enter

- Fill out your age, name and address on a blank sheet of paper.
- Find all the Birdwords in the Word Search (you can photocopy this page if you prefer).
- Post it to:
Bird Detectives Competitions,
BirdWatch Ireland,
Unit 20, Block D,
Bullford Business Campus,
Kilcoole, Greystones,
Co. Wicklow A63 RW83.

Closing date is
30th January 2018.

ANSWER, for question on page 11: Bullfinch

The winner of the Spring 2017 Springtime Crossword Puzzle was Rhett Long, aged 5,
from Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

The winner of the Spring 2017 Pollinator Word Search was Jamie Leslie, aged 10, from Churchtown, Dublin 14.

Why not check out the Kids' Zone on www.birdwatchireland.ie for lots more fun activities.