



## Wildlife Club Challenge - 26/11/10

### The Big Garden Birdwatch

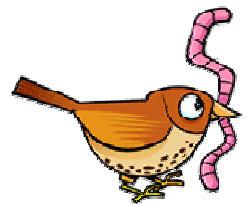
For over 30 years, the RSPB have been asking people to count the birds in their garden for one hour on one day. Results from some 280,000 gardens have helped create a 'snapshot' of bird numbers in each region. They've been able to see that some of our birds are disappearing in scary numbers, but it isn't all doom and gloom - these surveys might help us spot problems, but more importantly, they are also the first step to help aid a species recovery. This year's Big Garden Birdwatch is on the weekend of the Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.



### What can you do?

If you want a successful survey in January you need to make your garden "bird friendly". So here's your challenge:

1. Spend one hour spotting, identifying and counting how many types of bird (not how many individual birds!) land in your garden (any flying over don't count). There's an ID sheet to help you at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/), or ask the Science Dept for a copy.
2. Set up some feeders and keep them topped up so that the birds get used to them. There's a really helpful guide to download from: <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/images/feedabirdguide.pdf> and advice on feeding birds at [www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/feeding/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/feeding/).
3. After a few days carry out another survey to see if more birds are starting to visit. It may take a while for some birds to notice your feeders so be patient!



### Want help identifying birds?

The RSPB have an online 'Bird Identifier' which is easy to use. Just follow the link below and keep an eye out for our feathered friends!

[www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier/form.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier/form.aspx)

