



# The **BIG** County Birdwatch

Celebrating over **70** years of bird recording in Essex

Here is a handy bird identification sheet to help you with some of the birds in your garden



## Robin

With a delightful trilling song and bright red breast the Robin is one of our most familiar garden birds.



## Blue Tit

If you put out fat balls or nuts you're sure to attract this cheeky little bird with a big attitude.



## Wood Pigeon

Big bully that hogs all the seed on the table (tip: wheat free seed gives the smaller birds a chance)



## Blackbird

Mr Blackbird is very smart with his yellow eye and beak although he always marries Miss Brownbird!



## Starling

Look closely and this is one of our prettiest birds, amazing plumage and great mimicry in its' song. Watch out for young birds with adult plumage coming through.



## House Sparrow

Unfortunately not as common as they used to be, a flock of chirping House Sparrows in the bushes will brighten anyone's garden.



### Blackcap

Look in leaf cover for this plain grey bird with a black cap (or brown on the female). It has a call that sounds like two pebbles being hit together.



### Great Tit

The bird with a thousand calls - our biggest, baddest tit has a black crown and bib to match.



### Wren

Usually found skulking in low level cover this tiny bird has an explosive song with a long trill at the end.



### Song Thrush

If you encourage snails in your garden you may be lucky enough to attract this spotty-breasted thrush. When singing, often repeats the same phrase 2 or 3 times.



### Dunnock

Sprinkle some food on the ground and you may find one of these secretive little birds with beautiful streaky brown plumage.



### Long-tailed Tit

The cutest bird you're likely to see in the garden, without its' tail the smallest UK bird. Listen for their delightful contact calls.



### Great Spotted Woodpecker

If you're lucky you may find one of these hanging from your feeders. The males have a red nape, the females black and young birds have a full red crown.



### Sparrowhawk

You normally know when you have a Sparrowhawk as everything else will disappear. Keep your feeders stocked and a Sparrowhawk's lunch will always be on hand!



### Goldfinch

A bright red face and a gold flash on the wing can only mean one thing. Listen for their flowing song and twinkling flight calls.



### Chaffinch

The handsome male chaffinch is unmistakable, the female is a bit like a sparrow with white wing bars. Listen for their 'pink pink' calls