

Garden BirdWatch Using GBW Online



www.bto.org/gbw



Magpie, by Gary Haigh / BTO

What is GBW Online

Think of GBW Online as an online notebook or diary into which you enter your weekly Garden BirdWatch counts. As well as being able to enter your records into GBW Online, you can also view, amend and summarise them. Here is a simple guide to get you started with entering your data online.

When you joined Garden BirdWatch online you will have set up a username and password; this will give you access to the online system. You can access the GBW online system by going to www.bto.org/gbw and clicking on the **Go to Data Entry** button, or bookmark the link at app.bto.org/gbw.

If you cannot remember your password, then please press the **'Reset Password'** button on the login page shown below. If you have any problems, please get in touch with your GBW Supporter Team who will be happy to help.

Your 'GBW Data Home' page

Once you have logged in you will be presented with your GBW Data Home page, with various following options (**circled**):

The screenshot shows the GBW Data Home page. The page has a navigation menu at the top with links for Home, About GBW, Birds & Gardens, Results & Maps, and GBW Participants. The main content area is titled 'GBW Data Home' and includes a welcome message and a list of options for users. A blue circle highlights the 'YOUR OPTIONS' menu, which includes: Enter count, View/Edit weekly counts, View all my records, Enter/View garden details, My other gardens, Renew membership, and Contact GBW Organiser.

These options are:

View/Edit my details: Update your personal details and select your user preferences.

Enter count: Enter your weekly observations.

View/Edit weekly counts: Look back on previous weeks' counts and correct errors.

View all my records: Explore your data - compare your sightings by weeks and years.

Enter/View garden details: Tell us about your garden when you first login.

My other gardens: Record simple information about your garden.

Renew Membership: A quick link to the renewal page.

Contact GBW Organiser: If you have any queries or comments about GBW.

You will also see a **summary of your observations** (once you have submitted some) in the form of your personal sunburst. This shows the reporting rate of the communities of common birds and other wildlife recorded in your garden. Click on the labelled slices to open up the community within each category, or click on the centre circle to return to the top level. Click on the left and right arrows to move between the different species groups you can record in Garden BirdWatch.

How to enter your counts

To start entering your observations click on **Enter Count**

Select the appropriate date for your week's count. Each Garden BirdWatch week starts on a Sunday. **You will only be able to enter counts once the week has ended.** For example, the earliest you could enter a count for the current week would be the following Sunday.

1. Start date of counts (Sunday to Saturday)

2024							2025											
J	A	S	O	N	D		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5	2	7	
14	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	14	
21	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	21	
28	25	22	27	24	22	26	23	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	26	23	28	
		29			29			30			29		31			30		

Click on the calendar dates (start date of the week) to select that week for submission (hovering over each date provides more info). **Green** squares are weeks already completed.

Selected Date:

If you select a date that is in future, or for which you have already entered observations, a warning message is displayed. Check that you have the right week and try again. Remember, you cannot enter counts for a given week until that week is finished.

Enter the birds you have seen, either using the tick box to denote that a species was present, or enter a count of the maximum number of individuals seen at any one time within your garden recording area. You will find listed the species most commonly encountered in gardens nationally.

2. Your garden wildlife

Birds

Please tick 'Present' for any birds you saw and enter a count if known, or tick that you did not see any. *You can change how this list is ordered under My Details.*

I did **not** see any birds this week

Species	Present	Count	Species	Present	Count	Species	Present	Count
Pheasant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Coal Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Blackbird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Feral Pigeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Marsh Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Fieldfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Stock Dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Blue Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Woodpigeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Great Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Tree Sparrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Collared Dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Swallow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	House Sparrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Black-headed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	House Martin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Duncock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Herring Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Long-tailed Tit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Pied/White Wagtail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Sparrowhawk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Chiffchaff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Chaffinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tawny Owl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Blackcap	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Brambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Goldcrest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	Bullfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you cannot find the species you have seen listed, as it is **less commonly seen** in gardens, you can still enter these in the boxes below. Begin typing the name to select from the options available.

Please add counts for any rarer birds you saw (start typing the species into the species field then select from the list). Enter a count, or leave blank to signal just that the species was present but you did not record a count.

Species	Count	Species	Count
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Then tell us if you looked for other wildlife in your garden by selecting either 'Yes', 'No' or 'I didn't look' for each group. If the answer is 'Yes', click on the relevant drop-down(s) to provide details. If you don't want to record other wildlife or particular groups, you can avoid answering this question each time by changing your default answer in **User Preferences**.

All the species lists are maintained by BTO, and if you find that the species you wish to enter is not available, please let us know and we will determine whether it can be recorded or not. **Please note, we do not record every species**, as some are difficult to identify or are recorded by other organisations. For example, we only record one species of moth (Hummingbird Hawk-moth).

Tell us about the health of your garden wildlife

Please tell us **if you have seen any diseased or dead birds or other wildlife** during the week. If you do, please consider taking the time to record more detail about these observations where prompted. These will be automatically submitted for you to the Garden Wildlife Health project website.

Health
Were sick or dead wildlife present in your garden? Yes No I didn't look

I did not see any disease/mortality incidents this week

If you saw any individuals showing the following symptoms, tick any relevant boxes (you can tick more than one), or indicate that you did not see any. [Click Here](#) for a description of the different symptoms (PDF, new window).

Sick or diseased bird(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dead bird(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Sick or diseased amphibian(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	Dead amphibian(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Sick or diseased reptile(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	Dead reptile(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
Sick or diseased mammal(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	Dead mammal(s) <input type="checkbox"/>

Bird(s) killed by hitting window <input type="checkbox"/>	Bird(s) with growths on leg <input type="checkbox"/>
Bird(s) with plumage abnormality <input type="checkbox"/>	Bird(s) looking fluffed up and lethargic <input type="checkbox"/>
Bird(s) with tick <input type="checkbox"/>	Bird(s) with growth on head/body <input type="checkbox"/>
Bird(s) having difficulty swallowing <input type="checkbox"/>	Bird(s) killed by cat <input type="checkbox"/>
Bird killed by Sparrowhawk <input type="checkbox"/>	Amphibian(s) killed by cat <input type="checkbox"/>
Reptile(s) killed by cat <input type="checkbox"/>	Mammal(s) killed by cat <input type="checkbox"/>
Fox with mange <input type="checkbox"/>	

Food
Did you provide any food or water in your garden this week? Yes No

4. Garden Wildlife Health submission (optional)

As you recorded information on diseased or dead wildlife in your garden, please consider taking the time to record more detail about these observations in this section, which will be automatically submitted for you to the [Garden Wildlife Health project website](#).

If you have photos you would like to submit with your record, please go directly to the [Garden Wildlife Health project website](#) and submit your record there. This can be done at any time, so you can finish your Garden BirdWatch submission before doing this.

Record details for the Garden Wildlife Health project? Yes No



Garden Wildlife Health (GWH) is a collaborative project between the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), BTO, Froglife and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) which aims to monitor the health of, and identify disease threats to, British wildlife.

Food Provision

Please tell us if you have provided any food or water in your garden and if so, what. **You do not have to put any food out to take part in Garden BirdWatch.**

Please add counts for any rarer birds you saw (start typing the species into the species field then select from the list). Enter a count, or leave blank to signal just that the species was present but you did not record a count.

Species	Count	Species	Count
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Submitting your observations

Once you have entered all the week's details, **you can add any notes in the comments box**. This is not routinely reviewed and is for your use only (making this a bit like an online notebook). Then click 'Submit Count'. This will upload everything to the database. **Please note, it will only submit your count if all bars for garden wildlife, health and food are GREEN or GREY.**

Our software will check your records, highlighting any counts that are unusual (because of quantity, location or time of year). We do this to help you spot typing errors. For example, if you enter 11 Green Woodpeckers when you only meant to enter one, the system will report back that '11' is a rather high count for this species, and will provide the opportunity for you to make a correction. **If you are happy that the figure you entered is correct, even if flagged by the system, then you can disregard the message and accept the figure.**

You will then see a summary screen. **If you notice any errors click on View/Edit this count to make corrections.** GBW Data Home page. Otherwise, you can either enter more counts or return to the GBW Data Home page.

Setting your user preferences

From the GBW Data Home page click on **View/Edit my details**. User Preferences will be visible. Here you can choose how you want your species lists presented. For the order species are listed, choose either alphabetically or taxonomically. For the direction species are listed, choose either horizontal or vertical. If you are usually using a tablet or mobile phone to enter counts, you may find it more useful to have the list direction set to vertical.

You can also decide which other wildlife groups you do or don't want to regularly look for. You can change these default settings at any time.

Need more help? Get in touch

If you have any problems, queries or comments please get in touch with your GBW Supporter Team: gbw@bto.org

