

Wildlife Gardening: monitoring your wildlife garden



Monitoring in your garden

By keeping good records of the wildlife in your garden and comparing them year to year you can build up valuable information. It will help you find out how well you are doing but also tell you if your neighbourhood is improving too. It can encourage your friends and neighbours that it is worthwhile to look after wildlife in their gardens. Also, many professional ecologists are becoming increasingly interested in the distribution of garden wildlife as this can help to measure any decline or increase in animals and birds that are indicators of a healthy environment.

Monitoring in London

There is a growing call to measure the health of London's wildlife and natural open spaces. The Mayor has commissioned London Wildlife Trust to carry out a rolling programme of comprehensive surveys of London boroughs. Other organisations such as the London Natural History Society, Natural England, the Royal Parks and local borough councils are also doing their bit. London Wildlife Trust has been running a project for over five years to bring this information together. We need your survey results too so we can complete the picture.

What should you record?

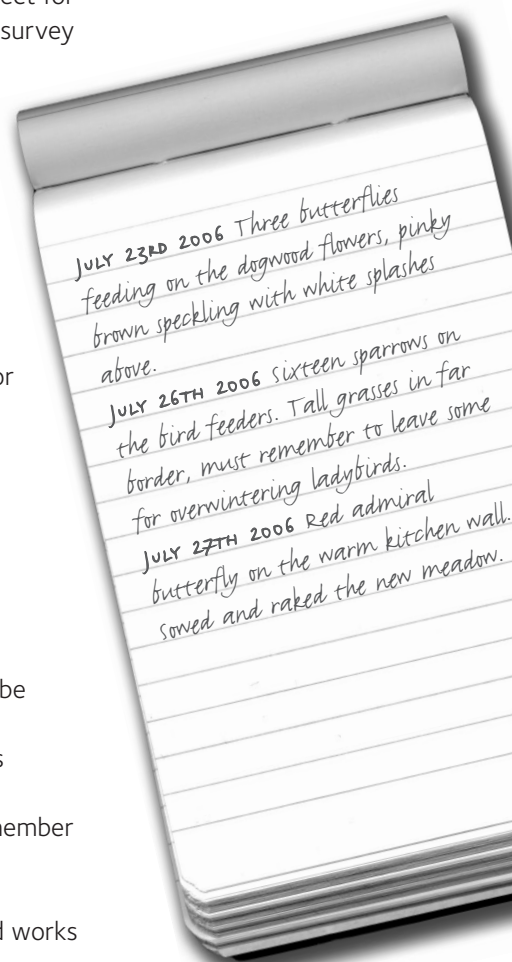
In an ideal world, everything! But if you don't have time for this, choose a few themes to run with -

- Numbers of regular animals
- Visits of occasional animals
- Invertebrates and plants you don't know
- Dates you first see occurrences each year
- Dates you do things like starting new projects, pruning plants or sowing seed
- Products you use in your garden, and how successful they are
- Locations you carry work out in - especially in a large garden
- Animals or plants in public surveys
- Weather, rainfall, wind direction
- Ideas and plans for the future

How should you record?

Any way you feel comfortable with, although it is a good idea to be consistent - here are some ideas to choose from:

- Keep a nature notebook, with records, drawings, pressed plants and sketches
- Keep a simple wildlife watching book and fill it in when you remember
- Make a home page for others to visit, add your daily or weekly observance
- Take photos of fixed points in the garden, unusual beasties, and works in progress. Date them and compile a scrapbook
- Keep a desk diary and insist on writing something in every day - even if it is the view from the window
- Use the dated pages to write tasks ahead of time
- Make a map of your garden, photocopy four copies for the year, use one to record your plans for the year, one for your long term plans, one to keep as it is and one to record the work you carry out. At the end of the year redraw the base map and start again for the next year.



London Wildlife Trust's garden survey











The London Wildlife Trust are looking for clues to the richness of wildlife in London's gardens...

There is an amazing variety of wildlife that uses our gardens. This survey is your contribution to the London Wildlife Trust's Garden Survey. We need to know about a number of key species in YOUR backyard in order to discover how well our gardens, balconies and walls are doing in providing a home for wildlife. If you live anywhere in Greater London, please help us by filling in this form and sending it to the London Wildlife Trust, Skyline House, 200 Union Street, London SE1 0LX or by visiting www.wildlondon.org.uk

Have you seen any of the following?

Please tick any of the following you have seen in your back garden in the last year

Tick yes or no as appropriate

	House sparrow <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Stag beetle <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Blackbird <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Frog <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Robin <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Hedgehog <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Long tailed tit <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Ivy (climbing) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Wren <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Tree (over 3m) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

You must enter your name and full postcode for your report to be accepted.

Name:

Email Address:

Postal Address

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Full Post Code:

Do tell us about any other wildlife that uses your garden:

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This survey is being carried out by the conservation charity, the London Wildlife Trust. Please tick here if you are already a member.

Tick here if you do not want to receive news about this survey or other London Wildlife Trust campaigns. (We will not pass on your name and address to other organisations for commercial purposes).

Tick here if you want us to send you information on becoming a member of the London Wildlife Trust. (Please make sure you have entered your full postal address).



In partnership with



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