

Wildlife Watch

WINTER WILDLIFE



Many bird species migrate to the UK to spend winter. Believe it or not, this is because the places where they breed during summer have much colder winters than ours!

So to escape from places like the Arctic or Russia, birds fly south in large flocks to find food and shelter here in Gloucestershire.



Go Birdwatching!

So winter is upon us and much of our wildlife is hunkering down to survive the long, dark months ahead... But hang on, there are a whole load of species to be spotted even during the coldest season, so put on your hat and gloves, make up a nice warm flask and get your family out and about this winter!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you like what you read here,
why not join our

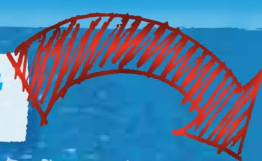
wildlife watch

club, for only £1.50 a month!
Call 01452 383333 or visit
www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk



Don't forget your binoculars! They're not essential, but a real help to identify the birds if you do have them. A bird identification book, such as the Collins Complete Guide to British Birds is ideal – it has great pictures to help you decide which birds you are looking at.

Don't Forget



In winter there aren't any leaves on the trees, so you are very visible to birds. Try not to stand out too much by wearing dark clothes and by keeping below hedge lines so that the birds can't see your silhouette.

Always keep to marked paths and never stray into areas where birds are gathering. Remember they are cold too and are constantly looking for food to survive, so do not need to be disturbed by humans!

Don't forget your wellies – it can get really muddy!

Birds You Might See



teal



lapwing



pintail



wigeon

Lapwing
A wading bird, also called green plover or peewit because of the call it makes during summer breeding.
Listen here: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/l/lapwing/index.aspx>

Pintail
A beautiful majestic long tail as its name suggests.

Wigeon
These birds make a fantastic "whistling sound characteristics of large flocks of winter ducks. Listen here:-
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/w/wigeon/index.aspx>

Teal
A tiny duck with a conspicuous green and brown eye stripe

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Places to Visit



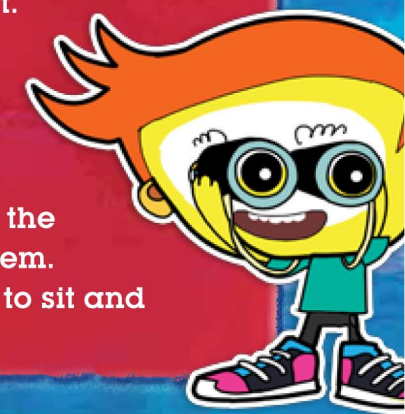
The hide at Coombe Hill Nature Reserve

Coombe Hill & Ashleworth Ham Nature Reserves are the best places to go during the winter.

The large fields and areas of open water (known as scrapes) are ideal for massive flocks of ducks and geese.

For directions see www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/coombehill and www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/ashleworthham

Whilst you're there, check out the bird hides – they're not for birds but for people to go in and watch the birds without disturbing them. They're also a great place to sit and eat your lunch!



For more winter wildlife activities visit www.wildlifewatch.org.uk