

**Gloucestershire Ornithological Co-ordinating Committee**

**GARDEN BIRD SURVEY** **2026**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **name:** |  | **phone:** |  |
| **address:** |  | **postcode:** |  |
| **6 figure grid reference:** |  |
| **email:** |  |
| **survey preference:** | For next year’s survey (Jan 2027) please tick which you would prefer:**Paper only, by post** [ ]  **Receive and send form by email** [ ]  **Enter results online** [ ]  |

Tick which category, size and main surrounding land type apply to the garden you’re surveying:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| garden category: | RURAL |  | SUBURBAN |  | URBAN |  | *See below for help with which categories to tick for your garden!* |
| garden size: | SMALL |  | MEDIUM |  | LARGE |  |
| main surrounding land use: | AGRICULTURE |  | WOODLAND |  | HOUSING |  | COMMERCIAL/OTHER BUILT ENVIRONMENT |  |

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| *Guide to garden categories:* |
| *Rural* | *mainly countryside* |
| *Suburban* | *mainly houses and gardens, with some trees and open spaces.* |
| *Urban* | *higher density housing, few trees, and small gardens or open spaces*  |
| *Small* | *from window box up to half a tennis court in area.* |
| *Medium* | *between half and two tennis courts* |
| *Large* | *over two tennis courts.* |

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| does your garden have a pond or running water?  | YES |  | NO |  |

**GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE SURVEY**

* The 9 week survey will run this year from **Sunday 28thDecember to Saturday 28th February 2026**.
For each week, record the *maximum* number of each species seen *at any one time.* This is the **peak count** and should be entered in the appropriate week number column for that species. For example, for House Sparrows, if you see none on Sunday, Thursday and Friday, 1 on Monday, 6 on Tuesday, 4 on Wednesday and 2 on Saturday, **the peak count for that week is 6**.
* Only birds USING the garden area, its trees or on your house, should be counted i.e. landing in the garden, on the house or, for birds of prey, chasing other birds in your garden. Birds only flying over or perched beyond your garden should **not** be included. Please count **all** the birds of a species in your garden at any one time, and not just those using feeding stations.
* If you record a rare bird or one which doesn’t normally visit gardens, please give details of **how you identified rare birds** or those which don’t usually visit gardens.
* Participants can devote as little or as much time to the survey as they like: hence if you are unable to record for a few weeks during the survey period, simply leave those weeks blank.
* If you add extra species, please give their full name (e.g. ‘gull’ or ‘partridge’ are not sufficient).
* **Please don’t forget to fill in your name & address (with postcode), otherwise we can’t use the results!**

Please return the survey forms before the end of March, either by post or email or online form to:

GCER, Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX

Email: gcer@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Phone: 07485307227

Online form: <https://arcg.is/01m8zu>

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|  | **Data protection:** please tick here to indicate that you agree to us keeping your contact details for use with future Garden Bird Survey correspondence. Contact GCER if you’d like us to update, amend or delete your details from our contacts list and database at any time. |

**WEEKLY PEAK COUNTS:**

**Please see guidance on how to fill in the form on the front page.**

**Remember, only record birds using your garden.**

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| **Week Number:** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| Starting on Sunday: | 28 Dec | 4 Jan | 11 Jan | 18 Jan | 25 Jan | 1 Feb | 8 Feb | 15 Feb | 22 Feb |
| Blackbird |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blackcap |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blue Tit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carrion Crow |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chaffinch |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Coal Tit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Collared Dove |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dunnock |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Feral Pigeon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goldfinch |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great Tit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greenfinch |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| House Sparrow |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jackdaw |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long tailed Tit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Magpie |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nuthatch |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pied Wagtail |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Redwing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Robin |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Song Thrush |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Starling |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Woodpigeon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wren |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Pease give descriptions below of what aspects of the bird’s appearance you used to identify any rare or scarce birds or those that do not usually visit gardens, including:

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Firecrest, Peregrine, Raven, Hawfinch, Tree Sparrow with any relevant factors, e.g. ‘large field bordering garden’, ‘seen in the top of a tall tree in a large garden’ etc. *Note: For gulls, please give species, Herring etc. otherwise don’t record them.*

**Lastly: HAVE YOU FILLED IN YOUR NAME, ADDRESS and EMAIL & GRID REFERENCE (if known)?! Thank you!**