

KS2 Monthly Maths Challenge -

Big Garden Birdwatch Maths – January 2026

Can you turn bird spotting into brilliant maths?

The Challenge

Take part in your own mini Big Garden Birdwatch!

Spot birds for a short time and use your maths skills to record and present what you find.

Maths Task: Create a Poster Chart

- **Title requirement:** Give your chart a clear, catchy title (e.g., "My Big Garden Birdwatch Count").
- **Chart options:** Choose one way to show your data:
 - Bar chart (using blocks or colored paper)
 - Tally chart (neatly drawn tally marks)
 - Pictogram (using small bird drawings as symbols)
- **Labels needed:** Label the axes (e.g., "Number of Birds", "Type of Bird") and add a key for a pictogram.
- **Example maths sentences:** Write 2-3 sentences about your findings, like: "I saw 3 more Robins than Blackbirds." or "The Sparrow was the most common bird."

Extra Challenge (Optional)

Can you find the total number of birds you spotted all together? Or try estimating the distance of the furthest bird?

What to Do

1. **Watch for Birds:** Spend a 15-30 minute session quietly looking for birds in your garden, from a window, or a local park.
2. **Count birds at one time:** Count the *maximum* number of each type of bird you see landing at the same moment (not the total over time).
3. **Choose 5 Common Birds:** Focus on these five friends: Blackbird, Sparrow, Robin, Pigeon, Blue Tit.
4. **Record results with tally marks:** Use a notebook to make tally marks (e.g., ||||) for each bird you see at once.

Maths Skills Being Used

- Counting
- Tally marks
- Interpreting data
- Comparing amounts
- Presenting information

Making It Display-Ready

Use bright colors, make your writing neat and clear, and add your own bird drawings! Ensure it's easy for others to read.