

BIRD BEHAVIOUR CHALLENGE

Birds use our gardens for all sorts of things. We challenge you to *investigate* what your feathery neighbours are up to in *Your Patch*. Let us know how you get on, and don't forget to tell us which types of birds you've spotted here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/my-patch-from-record-lrc>

You'll need:

- A window where you can see your garden or a hidden outside position where you can watch birds secretly
- Pen & paper (or print out of this guide)
- Binoculars if your birds are far away
- Something to time with - like a watch, phone or stopwatch

CHALLENGE 1 - Quick survey

Time for 10 minutes and watch your garden birds carefully... can you spot any of these behaviours? Tick them off when you see them.

Having a bath



Singing



Feeding



Flying



Collecting nest material



Perching



Drinking



Interacting



Looking after young





CHALLENGE 2 - Thinking about animal behaviour

The study of animal behaviour is called ETHOLOGY.

Observing animal's behaviour can help scientists to understand lots about them. This includes finding out about:

- How they use their habitat
- Whether this is a good habitat for them
- How they interact with other animals of their own species or different
- If different species behave differently

Think about each of these bird behaviours - *if you saw a bird doing this, what might it tell you?*

Picking up twigs

Scaring another bird away from the food

Sitting at the top of a tree and singing loudly

Make some predictions...

Which behaviour do you think your garden birds will do most often?

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Which type of bird will do the most...

- Eating

- Flying

- Interacting



GARDEN EXPLORERS BIRD BEHAVIOUR CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE 3 - Garden Bird Behaviour Study

Set yourself up in your birdwatching area with all the equipment you need. You could try working with a partner or in a small group and share out the tasks. Time for 10 minutes. Each minute, have a look at all the birds you can spot and tick which behaviours you can see them doing.

TIME	Feeding	Having a bath	Flying	Drinking	Collecting nest material	Perching	Looking after young	Singing	Interacting
1:00									
2:00									
3:00									
4:00									
5:00									
6:00									
7:00									
8:00									
9:00									
10:00									





CHALLENGE 4 - What have you found out?

Use your results from Challenge 3:

List the behaviours in order of how often you saw them:

.....

.....

Did the most common behaviour match your prediction?

YES NO

Why do you think this is?

.....

Try making a graph or a pie chart to show how often the birds did each behaviour (ie the numbers of ticks on your table)

CHALLENGE 5 - Extra investigations

You could...

- 1) Repeat Challenge 3, but only watch 1 species of bird. Try this with 3 different species then compare the results - what differences and similarities are there between how the different birds behave?
- 2) Try challenge 3 on a day with different weather. How does the weather affect your results?
- 3) Try putting food out for the birds, or giving them different food to normal. Does this affect their behaviour?

