



Teacher's guide

These notes accompany the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch 2010 (18 January to 1 February). They are for teachers or group leaders who are preparing to submit their results online.

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Before the big day

Encourage birds to your school grounds by setting up feeders in convenient places near your classroom windows or around your school grounds. You should then get plenty of birds to count on the day.

Get your class familiar with the birds that they are likely to see during their count. Stick up the poster from your pack and look at the *Learn about birds* section of the Big Schools' Birdwatch website:

www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch



On the day: the birdwatch

Photocopy the counting sheet from your pack. Each child can then keep a record of the birds seen.

When should we do our birdwatch?

Morning is usually the best time of day. After break can also be a good time, with birds coming to pick up dropped crumbs from the playground. You can do your birdwatch any day between 18 January and 1 February 2010.

How long should we count for?

An hour

How to count

Keep count of how many birds of the same kind are seen at the same time. Don't worry about counting birds that fly over.

On the day: Submitting your results

Once your hour is up, go to our website to submit your results:

www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

Click on the *Submit your results* link to get started.

If you registered online

Login with your e-mail address and password. Everything can then be done using your interactive whiteboard.

Lost your password? Don't worry - you can easily retrieve it from the login page.

If you haven't registered online

You can still submit your results online but it will take slightly longer, and may not be 100% whiteboard-friendly as you will be asked to type your details into a form.

www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

Submit your results

[Help](#)

Please sign in if you have a Big Schools' Birdwatch PIN number. If not, please Register.

Sign in
If you have already registered online, use your e-mail address and Big Schools Birdwatch PIN number to sign in.

E-mail address
The e-mail address you registered with

PIN number
From your registration e-mail

[Forgot your PIN?](#)

Sign in

Or, register here
If you do not have a personal reference number or a Homes for Wildlife account, please register to submit your results for Big Schools' Birdwatch.

Register

Register

Figure 1: Login or register to submit your class' results

What does the results page look like?

Once you've logged in or registered, you'll be taken to a whiteboard-friendly results submission page (see figure 2).

There are two pages covering the most commonly seen birds in school grounds. A third page lets you tell us about other birds you saw (page three requires keyboard entry).

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

The screenshot shows the 'Class 3C's results' page. At the top left is the 'BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH' logo. Below it is the title 'Class 3C's results' and a 'Help' button. A text box explains: 'To enter your results, click a bird to select it and then click the plus and minus buttons to enter your number. If you saw a bird that isn't on pages 1 or 2, you can tell us in the Other birds section.' Below this are three tabs: 'Page 1', 'Page 2', and 'Other birds'. A grid of 21 bird species is displayed, each with a name, a count of '0', and a small illustration. The 'Carrion crow' is selected, with its count changed to '1' and a red minus button and a green plus button visible. At the bottom of the grid are 'Back' and 'Submit results' buttons. A cartoon bird character is at the bottom of the page.

Blackbird	Blk-head gull	Blue tit	Carrion crow	Chaffinch	Coal tit	Collared dove
0	0	0	- 1 +	0	0	0
Common gull	Duncock	Feral pigeon	Goldfinch	Great tit	Greenfinch	Herring gull
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2: Adding carrion crow results – click the plus and minus arrows to change the number

On the day: interactive data handling

Once you've submitted your results online, you can continue to the interactive data handling activities. You can choose from a bar chart, pie chart, pictogram and block graph.

You'll be able to use your class' results or some sample data (just in case your results aren't suitable). The activities are designed to be easy to use on a whiteboard. They are also printer friendly.

BIG SCHOOLS' BIRDWATCH

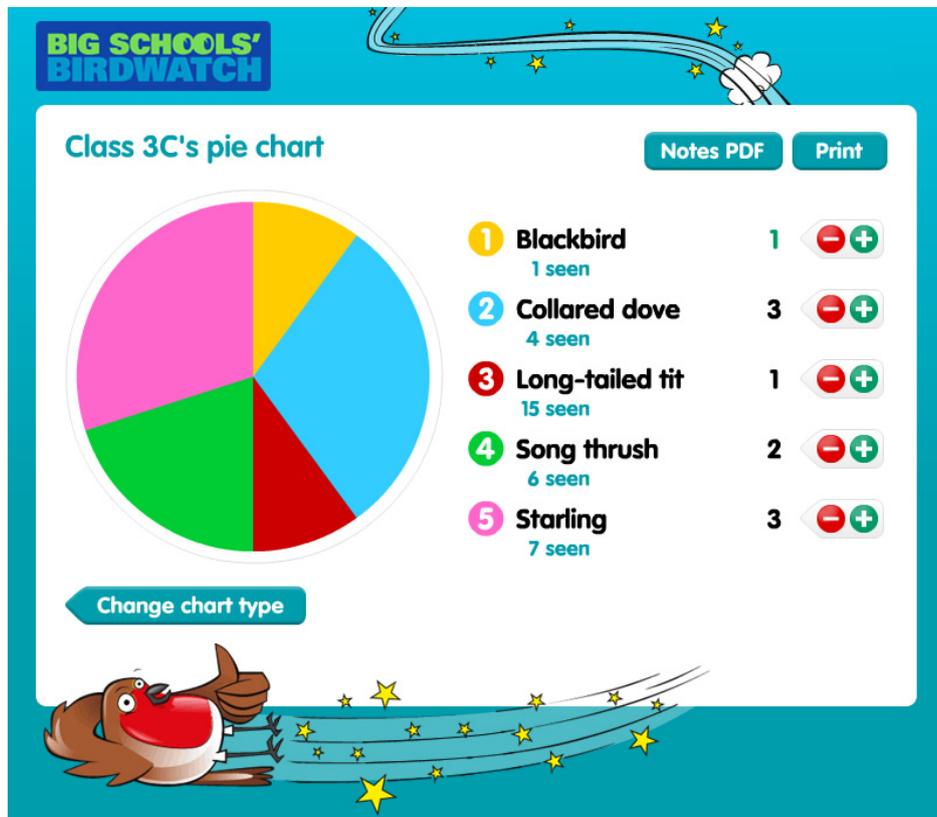


Figure 3: The pie chart activity

Questions for your class

Help your class interpret their data shown on their graphs. The following questions can be adapted to suit your class results.

1. Which bird was most commonly seen during your birdwatch?
2. Which bird was the least common during your birdwatch?
3. Did you see more starlings than robins? If so, how many more?
4. Were blackbirds the most popular birds seen at your school?
5. Which was the second most common bird seen in your school?
6. According to your graph, how many birds were seen in total?
7. Which were the three least common birds seen?
8. Why do you think there might be more of certain species of birds than others?



Return to the data handling anytime

Although you can only submit your results once, you can use your login to access the data handling activities at any time. They will be live until late 2010.

After Big Schools' Birdwatch: Extension activities

If your class enjoyed Big Schools' Birdwatch, why not try some of these follow up activities?

- Compare your graphs with those from other classes in your school. Were the results the same? If not, why could that be? Weather? Time of day?
- Print the graphs and compare your results with the national averages - this data is released in March. Identify and discuss any differences or similarities.
- Make the birdwatch an ongoing survey in your class. Repeat the activity once a month to spot any changes to the numbers and species of birds that visit your school throughout the year.
- Identify ways to encourage more birds to your school grounds. Information on www.rspb.org.uk/advice will help you.

Note on screenshots

All screenshots are from development versions of the Big Schools' Birdwatch activity and may be subject to change.