

This topic's home learning is a bit different to the previous grid tasks. Instead of a selection of tasks, we have two activities that the children need to complete and bring in by **Friday 7th July**.

During our Wildlife Action topic we are going to work towards the **RSPB Wildlife Action Award**. This is where over the topic we will do a selection of activities which will earn us points, we will then send all of the work off to the RSPB who will then send each child their own Wildlife Action Award. As we are hoping to get the silver award, we need to complete 12 tasks.

We can't complete all of the tasks at school so we need your help with two.

# 1.4 Counting butterflies and moths

## Keeping safe

You may be able to find butterflies in your garden. If you go further afield, make sure your parent or guardian knows where you are, and when you'll be back.



## What it's about

**Identifying** butterflies and moths and counting them.

## What you need

- **A guide to butterflies and moths** (see recommendations on page 19)
- **Paper and pencil**
- **Clipboard or other hard surface to lean on**

## Getting started

- 1 First, find an area with plenty of butterflies or moths. In late summer, buddleia – also called the butterfly bush – is particularly good for attracting butterflies. This plant has purple or white flowers. You can also find butterflies on other flowers, like lavender (which also has purple flowers), and in long grass, on thistles and on brambles.
- 2 Try to identify all the butterflies and moths you see. Be patient. It will get easier the more you try. Move slowly and steadily to get close enough to the butterflies to see them without scaring them away.

- 3 Look at their markings and colours, photograph, make a note of what you see or try drawing the butterflies or moths and see if you can find them in a book.

Summer

**TOP TIP:** ■ Try not to cast your shadow on the butterfly or moth.  
 ■ You could try attracting moths to your garden using beer and treacle or light. Visit [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) for more information.

- 4 Write down the name of all the butterflies and moths you identify, and how many of each type you see.
- 5 If you can, visit the same area, or same buddleia that you looked for butterflies in the day, in the evening and see what else you can find. Try to identify all the moths you can see.

■ **Note:** Some moths fly during the day. There are only about 60 species of butterfly you can see regularly in the UK, but there are around 2,500 species of moths. Moths come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and colours, and are found all year round from the shoreline to the mountain-tops.

## What to send us

Tell us where and when you looked at butterflies and moths. Send us the list of what you found, and how many of them you spotted.

## Under 8s activity

Count and draw butterflies.



**Identifying** – this means working out what a plant or animal is called. This can be done by using keys or identification books.

## 1.6 Go birdwatching



Anytime

### Keeping safe



You may be able to look at birds in your garden. If you go outside your garden, make sure an adult knows where you are going, and when you'll be back.



### What it's about

Watching birds closely to improve your identification skills.

### What you need

- **Binoculars are useful, but not essential**
- **Paper and pencil**
- **A good bird identification guidebook**  
(see book recommendations on page 19)

### Getting started

- 1 Find somewhere to do your birdwatching where you will see some birds. This might be your garden if you're a beginner, or a nature reserve, local wood, park or lake. Stand or sit where you can see the birds without disturbing them. The less you disturb the birds, the more you are likely to see.
- 2 Look closely at each bird you want to identify. Drawing a sketch is an excellent way to make sure you really look at it all over. Try to note on your sketch as much detail as you can about all the different parts of the bird.

Look at:

- the size compared to other birds you know
- the shape of the bird – is it duck shaped, or sparrow shaped...
- the colour of all the different parts
- the size and shape of the beak
- the length and shape of the tail
- what it's doing
- where it is (wood, farm, lake, river or seashore, etc).

Be patient and keep at it. Every time you sketch a bird, you will be improving your identification skills.

- 3 Use your bird book to try to identify each bird.

### What to send us

Send us your sketches and bird identification notes.



### Under 8s activity



Watch and draw birds.



If you would like to find out more information about the Wildlife Action Award follow this link: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/families/children/makeanddo/do/actionawards/>