



The Blickling Estate Wildlife Watch

Recording nature at Blickling

We've been gathering data on the species that call Blickling home for the past few years. It's important work as it tells us lots of information about the success or otherwise of the work we're doing to manage habitats at Blickling as well as what's going on in the wider world about climate change. We survey birds and butterflies throughout the summer and bats in hibernation over the winter.

In these unprecedented times it's more important than ever to record the wildlife of Blickling. It would be difficult to attribute any changes directly to the lower visitor numbers but we can possibly draw some conclusions – even if it's just that birdsong is easier to hear when there are no cars on the road. Any evidence gathered can help us think about what a 'return to normal' looks like at our places in the future, and what this means for wildlife.

How you can help

We're always looking for help with this vital work so if you're a budding naturalist or just fancy learning more about the wildlife in and around Blickling please do get in touch and when this is all over we'll see if we can help each other out.

For now, it would be interesting to know what wildlife is visiting your gardens during this time, so if you're looking for something to occupy your time please do record – in whatever way you find easiest – what birds, butterflies and other insects you see and share this with us. If you see anything interesting or unusual we would be keen to know!

Any unusual spots or sharing of records can be sent to Stuart Banks, our Countryside Manager: Stuart.Banks@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Some helpful resources

- The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has great resources for understanding birds, and you can even join the Garden Birdwatch Community for free and contribute to important data collection. <https://www.bto.org>
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has a lot of great resources online for learning (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/>). You can also find out six things to give nature a home in your garden with their quick online tool. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/>
- For little and big kids alike, there are some great wildlife spotting sheets here: <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets>