giving nature a home

Big card Birdwatch

How to play

1. Shuffle your cards. Deal them out face down to all players. The cards must be shared as equally as possible.
2. Each player only looks at their top card.
3. The player to the dealer's left reads out one of the facts (for example, "weight 125 g") from their top card.
4. The other players then read out the same fact and score from their top cards. See "Which bird wins?" below to find out more about each fact category, and to decide which card wins.
5. The winning player takes all the losing cards from the other players and puts them at the bottom of their pile.
6. The winner of the first round then looks at their next card and picks a fact to read out (for example, "Wingspan, 25 cm"), and the game repeats.
7. If two or more players share the same top score then all the cards from that round are placed in the middle and the player who chose the fact picks another to read out.
8. The winner of that fact round takes the other players' losing cards, as well as the cards from the middle.
9. The game continues. Players who lose all their cards are out. The person with all the cards at the end is the Big Card Birdwatch winner!

Which bird wins?

Choose your score carefully to beat your rivals.

- **Big Garden Birdwatch position**. The smallest number is the winner here. The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch has been held for more than 30 years now! Every January we get a snapshot of which birds are seen in the nation's gardens. The lower the score the more common the bird was in last year's Big Garden Birdwatch.
- **Wingspan.** Biggest wingspan is the winner in this category. There's quite a difference in the size of our garden birds. Being small might be helpful if you want to squeeze into a nestbox, but in Bird Card Birdwatch, being big is better!
- **Weight.** Big birds are the winners here. How heavy is your bird?
- **Maximum number of eggs.** The birds that lay the most eggs are champions in this game. The biggest birds don't necessary lay the greatest number of eggs. Small birds will be among the winners here – species like blue and coal tits can lay lots of eggs, but so can some large birds.
- **UK population**. The most common bird (biggest number) is the winner. How common is the bird on your card?

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House sparrow

Did you know... A pair of sparrows once nested 60 metres down a mine shaft in Yorkshire.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	1
Wingspan (cm)	21
Weight (grams)	38
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	5.3 million



Blackbird

Did you know... The blackbird's amazingly wide diet can include snakes, frogs, fish and mice.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	3
Wingspan (cm)	36
Weight (grams)	125
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	5.1 million



Starling

Did you know... Starlings are such good mimics that they can imitate mobile phones and car alarms.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	2
Wingspan (cm)	39
Weight (grams)	90
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	804,000



Blue tit

Did you know... Female blue tits choose their mate based on the brightness of the male's cap.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	4
Wingspan (cm)	18
Weight (grams)	12.5
Maximum number of eggs	16
UK population (pairs)	3.6 million



Robin

Did you know... Robins from other parts of Europe are much shyer and are less common around towns and cities.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	7
Wingspan (cm)	21
Weight (grams)	21
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	6.7 million



Woodpigeon

Did you know... Woodpigeons are able to feed their babies on a kind of milk they make in their throats.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	5
Wingspan (cm)	78
Weight (grams)	614
Maximum number of eggs	2
UK population (pairs)	5.4 million



Magpie

Did you know... In winter magpies often come together to "roost" at night – in groups that can be as many as 200 birds!

Big Garden Birdwatch position	11
Wingspan (cm)	57
Weight (grams)	272
Maximum number of eggs	6
UK population (pairs)	600,000



Great spotted woodpecker

Did you know... If you hear a loud drumming in the woods, it's likely to be a great spotted woodpecker trying to attract a mate.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	21
Wingspan (cm)	37
Weight (grams)	100
Maximum number of eggs	6
UK population (pairs)	140,000



Collared dove

Did you know... Collared doves are now common, but they only began breeding in the UK in 1955.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	10
Wingspan (cm)	42
Weight (grams)	180
Maximum number of eggs	2
UK population (pairs)	990,000



Great tit

Did you know... The thicker the black stripe down his front, the more attractive a male is to a female great tit.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	8
Wingspan (cm)	23
Weight (grams)	22
Maximum number of eggs	9
UK population (pairs)	2.5 million



Song thrush

Did you know... If you find lots of smashed snail shells by a rock, they could have been left by a song thrush.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	29
Wingspan (cm)	35
Weight (grams)	75
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	1.1 million



Goldfinch

Did you know... A flock of goldfinches is called a "charm"!

Big Garden Birdwatch position	9
Wingspan (cm)	23
Weight (grams)	19
Maximum number of eggs	6
UK population (pairs)	313,000



Carrion crow

Did you know... The crow family is thought to be among the cleverest of birds. They can solve problems.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	15
Wingspan (cm)	100
Weight (grams)	650
Maximum number of eggs	4
UK population (pairs)	1 million



Black-headed gull

Did you know... This gull has a brown head during the spring and summer, which turns white for the rest of the year.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	20
Wingspan (cm)	105
Weight (grams)	285
Maximum number of eggs	3
UK population (pairs)	140,000



Chaffinch

Did you know... The chaffinch has the widest diet of any European finch, including seeds and insects.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	6
Wingspan (cm)	27
Weight (grams)	29
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	6.2 million



Feral pigeon

Did you know... Feral pigeons are descended from rock doves, which live in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	14
Wingspan (cm)	66
Weight (grams)	370
Maximum number of eggs	2
UK population (pairs)	100,000



Red kite

Did you know... Red kites are primarily scavengers, and were thought of fondly for their role in clearing up dead animals from the streets in medieval times.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	39
Wingspan (cm)	155
Weight (grams)	1,025
Maximum number of eggs	4
UK population (pairs)	1,600



Sparrowhawk

Did you know... Female sparrowhawks are often 25% larger than and up to twice as heavy as males.

Big Garden Birdwatch position	40
Wingspan (cm) – female	70
Weight (grams) – female	280
Maximum number of eggs	5
UK population (pairs)	35,000