

## What's going on in your garden...

**Is that great tit a boy, or a girl?** Once you know, it's easy to tell. Male great tits have a much wider black stripe down the chest than females. RSPB surveys keep an eye on how well our garden birds are doing.

**How many wrens can you fit in a nestbox?** In winter, tiny birds like wrens sleep together at night for warmth. An incredible 63 were once found huddled in a single nest box.



Mike Langman (rspb-images.com)

## What's going on in the countryside...

**Where have all the lapwings gone?** In some areas 8 out of 10 lapwings have disappeared and research on RSPB reserves could help find out why. We work alongside farmers to help reduce the impact of modern farming techniques.

**Can ants adopt butterflies?** The beautiful and rare adonis blue butterfly needs ants' help to survive. Their caterpillars feed ants with honey glands, getting protection from predators in return.



Ray Kennedy (rspb-images.com)



Roger Wilmshurst (rspb-images.com)



Steve Austin (rspb-images.com)

## What the RSPB's doing to save wild places and wildlife...

**Saving the Flow Country.** When the unique peatlands of north Scotland looked like being lost to badly-sited spruce plantations, we stepped in and are working towards rescuing 68 square miles for wildlife. We're now involved in the biggest restoration project any wildlife charity has ever undertaken.

**Protecting wild marshes from concrete.** When the Government suggested putting an airport on Cliffe – one of the most important wintering grounds for Europe's wild birds – we fought, and won. Your membership puts strength into our campaigning.

There's an

# extraordinary

world of wildlife all around you.



Bill Paton (rspb-images.com)

## Which bird builds elastic nests?

The long-tailed tit makes a tennis ball-sized nest out of moss and spiders' webs. As the fluffy nestlings grow, the nest expands around them.

## Why are robins so friendly?

Though small, robins venture surprisingly close to us, hoping we'll turn over soil and expose a tasty grub. They are also one of the few birds where the female sings too.



Mike Read (rspb-images.com)



## Who nicked the knickers?

Red kites often steal scraps they see lying around for their nests: crisp packets, plastic bags and bits of cloth. A pair of frilly knickers recently turned up in a kite nest, so watch your undies. Red kite numbers are increasing, thanks to RSPB and others' efforts. It's just one of the many wildlife victories that RSPB membership helps pay for.



M. Hamblin (rspb-images.com)

## Which bird has 360 degree vision?

Probing its long bill deep into boggy ground to feed, the woodcock needs to stay alert for enemies. With eyes positioned at opposite sides of its head, this bird has the amazing ability to look behind itself without turning round.

## Which bird sheds its bill?

In winter the puffin loses its amazing multicoloured 'clown's nose'. This outer casing is shed to leave a small, dull grey bill. A new, brilliant sheath is grown next spring.



Chris Gomersal (rspb-images.com)





for birds  
for people  
for ever



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for people  
for ever

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