

Birds in Greenspaces Pilot 2025: Overview



Birds in Greenspaces is an exciting new UK wide citizen science project which will launch in spring 2026, and that we are piloting in spring 2025. The project aims to fill knowledge gaps on birds using greenspaces in built-up areas, while seeking to engage people from all backgrounds to engage with the wildlife in these spaces. The findings can then be used to provide guidance on how to make these spaces better for people and nature!

Why get involved

By getting involved in our pilot you can help us by providing vital feedback on our methods, while enjoying being in your local greenspace and connecting with its wildlife. The information collected will tell us about the issues affecting your local spaces with the view to providing recommendations for improvements.

Who, where, and when

The pilot is taking place between April and June 2025, and anyone can take part at public-access greenspaces across the UK. Registration will open shortly before the project starts, via the BTO website: www.bto.org/greenspaces

Ways to take part

There are two different components to the project and you can take part in either or both of these. The simplest way to get involved is to submit 'casual records' from any greenspace, but you can also take part in a more structured component. Having two different ways to participate broadens the opportunities for people to participate.

Casual recording

- No experience necessary
- No minimum time commitment
- Any time of day
- No binoculars needed

Structured survey

- Able to identify common birds
- Two or three visits of around one hour, one month apart
- Early to mid morning
- Binoculars optional

How to record

We are trialling the BirdTrack smart-phone app for the pilot and are seeking feedback on the benefits and potential barriers to using this to record birds. **If you do not have access to a smart-phone**, there are paper fieldwork sheets that you can use to record the birds that you see.

Target locations

As well as trialling the methods across the UK, we are also focusing pilot efforts at six towns and cities. These locations give us the opportunity to collect important feedback on other project elements, to ensure we include and engage with as many greenspaces and people as possible in the main survey year.

Resources and feedback

Pilot resources will be available on the Birds in Greenspaces Pilot 2025 web-page on the BTO website shortly before the pilot launch. Feedback forms will be made available from May 2025.

Contact information

Birds in Greenspaces, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU or email: greenspaces@bto.org



Birds in Greenspaces