

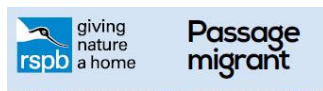
Dangers of migration

Migration has evolved to enable species to survive but birds may face many dangers on the way. These include:

- **Bad weather**, especially extreme events. Anything from sandstorms and wildfires to storms at sea can put birds in serious danger. New arrivals need to start feeding quickly, so bad weather at their destination, like late snowfall, can also spell disaster.
- **Birds can get lost**, despite their navigation skills. Youngsters on their first journey south can easily go astray, especially if they meet bad weather.
- **Collision course**. Tall man-made objects can be deadly to migrating birds. Skyscrapers with reflective glass walls are among the worst for migrating land birds. If power lines and wind turbines are placed along key migration routes, they can cause collision problems for larger soaring migratory birds such as large birds of prey, storks, cranes, etc.

Today we took part in the RSPB's Big School Birdwatch. After our assembly this morning, where we discussed migration and identified different species of birds (according to their characteristics), we then had a lesson on migration. We learnt what is meant by migration (and the difference between winter, summer and passage migration). We then discussed hazards to migrating birds (man-made and natural). After that, we then plotted migration paths of different birds, using world maps and atlases to help us.

We then finished our RSPB learning by going into the school grounds and carrying out our birdwatch – using the identification sheets to help. When we came back into class, we discussed our findings and played UK bird 'Top Trumps'.



Arctic tern

What did you see?
Can you find a way to make it easy for you to note down the highest number of each species that you see together at the same time? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.

Your name: _____

Migrates from: The Arctic to the Antarctic

Migration distance: 35,000km

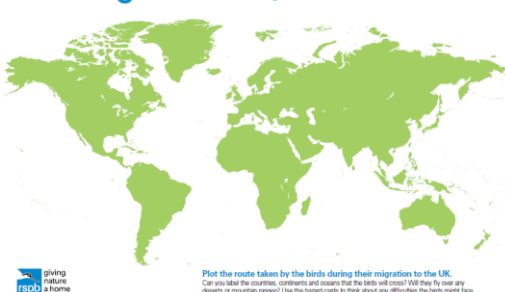
When it can be seen in UK: March to October

Habitat: Coastal

Favourite foods: Fish and insects



Bird migration map



<p>House sparrow</p> <p>Tell you little... A pair of sparrows once settled 60 metres down a mine shaft in Yorkshire.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 1</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 21</p> <p>Weight (grams): 28</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 6</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 5.9 million</p>	<p>Blackbird</p> <p>Tell you little... The blackbird's amazingly wide diet can include snakes, frogs, fish and mice.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 3</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 38</p> <p>Weight (grams): 12.5</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 6</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 6.1 million</p>	<p>Starling</p> <p>Tell you little... Starlings are such good mimics that they can imitate mobile phones and car alarms.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 5</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 38</p> <p>Weight (grams): 88</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 6</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 10.1 million</p>
<p>Blue tit</p> <p>Tell you little... Female blue tits choose their mates based on the brightness of the male's cap.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 4</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 18</p> <p>Weight (grams): 12.5</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 10</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 3.8 million</p>	<p>Robin</p> <p>Tell you little... Robins from other parts of Europe are much shyer and are less common around towns and cities.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 7</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 21</p> <p>Weight (grams): 21</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 6</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 6.7 million</p>	<p>Woodpigeon</p> <p>Tell you little... Woodpigeons are able to feed their babies on a kind of milk they make in their throats.</p> <p>Big Garden Birdwatch position: 6</p> <p>Wingspan (cm): 71</p> <p>Weight (grams): 64</p> <p>Maximum number of eggs: 5</p> <p>UK population (pairs): 6.4 million</p>

