

Ravenshill Nature Rangers



HELLO Nature Rangers

Well, here we are once again rapidly getting towards half-term and spring. Most of the people we work with are complaining about the snow but we think it has been absolutely beautiful. Winter has been bright and crisp but oh so very cold. We wonder how the wildlife has been coping with such a long, very cold spell. We shall see when spring eventually arrives.

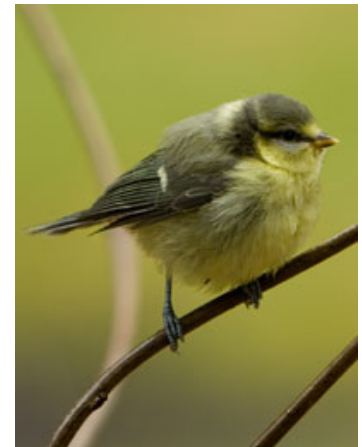
You may have some clues if you did the Great Garden Birdwatch last weekend. Bring your bird lists to the meeting

A quiz for you, see if you can fill in the gaps where we have put question marks:

Gimme Five... fascinating facts about British Garden Birds

1. ????? ?????? plumage tends to be looser than many other species; this accounts for their scruffy appearance. Sweet though.
2. ?????? are notoriously greedy birds that tend to swoop for food as a flock and leave next to nothing for other birds. One in, all in, eh mates?
3. ??? ???? love to feed their young on caterpillars which is why many prefer to live in woodland over gardens. More caterpillars - yum.
4. Male ?????? are black in colour with a distinctive yellow eye ring and bright bill. Females are more of a reddish-brown colour.
5. The ?????? builds one of the most elaborate nests of all the species which, as well as being well-constructed, is also highly camouflaged and difficult to locate. Their call is instantly recognisable.

Read more information about common British garden birds at www.wildlifegardener.co.uk



Juvenile Blue Tit

Extra biscuits for those with all of the right answers at our meeting on Sunday (yum, chocolate coloured writing!)

We missed so many of you when we had our January meeting – we hope you weren't too ill but if you were that you are all better now.

Oh golly, it was so cold when we went on our walk but Nature Rangers are tough. We were looking at winter twigs, trying to identify trees by the twigs, buds and anything else that we could find on the tree. We then tried to make a cast of our favourite twig. However, that didn't quite work so now we have got the right plaster for doing the job. We hope those that have already tried this are happy to have another go and to help those who haven't done it before.

We should find some of these:



This weekend we hope will be slightly warmer but please make sure you are wearing lots of layers, good warm gloves, socks and boots.

We have now put together our programme for 2010 and hope that you will find what we have arranged as exciting as we do.

7 February Trees in Winter	7 March Croak Croak - Ribbit Ribbit With a special guest	4 April An Eggstra special day
SATURDAY 1 May 6:30 - 9:30 pm A Great Bat Hunt	6 June The Great Outdoors With a special guest	4 July Arty Crafty With a special guest
1 August Come Shake a Tree	12 September Camouflage	3 October An Apple a Day Or Visit to Bodenham Arboretum
7 November Bird Boxes	5 December 'Tis the season of goodwill to all	


Have any of you been looking out every Friday for Shaun's Nature Detectives challenge here:

<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/club/free>

There's a different challenge every Friday - has anyone joined the Club yet?

Bye for now Rangers

Trevor, Annette and Pauline

	<p>We will meet on the first Sunday each month from 10.30 – 12.30 At Ravenshill Woodland Reserve, Lulsley, WR6 5QP 01886 821661 or email rnr@ravenshillwood.org.uk Email us your questions or tell us what you have seen in your garden, on your way to school or out in the park, the woods or wherever.</p>
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