

Citizen Science Activities

Wildlife-based citizen science is when members of the public find, identify, and record living organisms (plants, animals, fungi, etc). They send this information to a wildlife conservation organisation. The records help scientist understand patterns in the natural world and work out which species need help. Here are three activities that will give you a taste of what citizen science is about.

ONE: Learn a new bird song

- Learning bird song is great because you don't need to see the bird to know what it is.
- There are bird songs you can listen to online. Your local library might also have books or CDs that can help.
- Some songs are so distinctive you might be able to recognise them from a description. Go for a walk in summer. Can you hear a Chiffchaff? It sounds like it is singing its name: "chiff, chiff, chaff chaff, chiff, chiff..."

TWO: Submit a wildlife record

Wildlife records contain the following information about your discovery of a plant, animal, fungi or other organism in your local area:

- WHO saw the organism
- WHERE did you see it?
- WHEN did you see it? Include the date and time.
- WHAT did you see? Can you identify the organism?
- Submitting records using the iNaturalist website (www.inaturalist.org) is a great way to get your data directly to the scientist who need it!

THREE: Plan to take part in a citizen science survey

There are many surveys for beginners. Why not look ahead on the calendar and plan to take part in one of them. Deciding to participate is a great way to motivate yourself to brush up on your identification skills.