Children act as citizen scientists, sharing their school's robin sightings.

Robin Watch 2



Keywords

outdoors • nature observation • record keeping • Science • Art

1. Spotting Robins at school
Robins often appear in urban areas, especially where there are gardens or street trees. From October to March, most schools will host at least one robin spending the winter on our islands. Remind the children what a "*Robin's song*" sounds like by playing the recording from the Downloadable Materials.

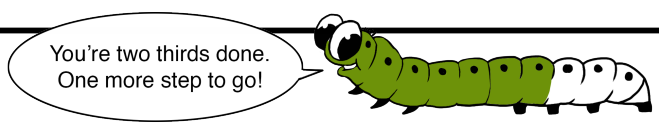
2. Listening for your school robin
This activity helps children practise careful observation. Take them outside and listen for the robin's song in your school grounds, especially if you have at least one tree. It's best to try to hear it yourself before the class activity. Early mornings are ideal, as birds are most active then, while afternoons tend to be quieter. Even if your school has no garden, robins can sometimes be heard singing from nearby street trees.

3. Find the Robin's favourite spot
Once you confirm your school has a robin, choose the best place to listen, perhaps under a tree in the yard, or even from your classroom window. If you're lucky, you might also see the robin hopping among branches or flying from tree to tree. Encourage the children to make this a quick daily routine: a few minutes to pause and enjoy your robin's song.

4. Invite Robins closer
One of the simplest ways to observe robins up close is with a bird table. Place birdseed on it daily, just like in the story in "Robin Watch 1", to help your school birds keep warm through wi nter (see "*Bird Table Menu*" - Downloadable Materials). BirdLife Malta may be able to provide a bird table, but if not, use shallow containers on a low wall as feeding stations.

5. Become Citizen Scientists (extra)
Record your observations on your Dinja Waħda activities feedback page. Your children will be part of BirdLife Malta's first citizen science project on urban robins in schools! Together, you can follow the interactive map as it grows with everyone's results. Even if your school has no robins, that's still valuable data, so be sure to enter it.

Note
If your school doesn't have robins, consider an outing to Buskett, where robins are plentiful,



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especially in the first term. You can also connect this activity with a Nature Watch outing to Simar or Għadira Nature Reserves (October–March).

Tip
Not sure if the call you hear is really a robin? Download the free app BirdNet on your smartphone, it will confirm if you're listening to a robin.

Send photos of

☐ Children listening to the robin singing in your schoolyard ☐ Children putting food for the birds

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Bird table (optional) - (may be available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);

- Seeds;

