



Children become citizen scientists as they send records of robins in their school.

Robin Watch 2



Keywords

school grounds • nature observation • record keeping

- 1 Robins often visit urban areas especially if there are gardens or street trees. Most schools will have a robin or two from October to March, when they spend the winter in our islands. Remind the children what a robin song sounds like, from the recordings in the **Resource File**.
- 2 Through this activity your children will learn to observe robins in your school. Listen for the robin song in your school grounds, especially if you have at least one tree (see **Tip**). Ideally, as the teacher, you will have a listen for the robin before you do this with your class. The best time is as early in the morning as possible, as birds are most active at this time and quiet in the afternoon. Some schools may have no nature within their grounds, but are located in a street with trees. You may be able to hear the robin singing there.
- 3 Once you have got a feel of whether your school has a robin, find out the best place to stay in the ground – or maybe even from your classroom itself – to listen to the robin singing. You may even be able to spot it, moving among the branches, or flying to another tree. Once your children have got used to your school robin's whereabouts, make it a quick daily habit to spend some time listening to its beauty.
- 4 One of the best ways to see a robin close is to have a bird table and make sure you put bird food on it daily (see "*Bird Table Menu*" - Downloadable Materials). This way, like the story, you will be keeping your school birds warm through winter. You may check with BirdLife if there are any bird tables for you.
- 5 Enter your result on your DW activities feedback page. Your children will be participating in BirdLife's first citizen science project about urban robins in our schools and you will be able to view the interactive map as it slowly builds up. If you have no robins at school, enter this as your result.

Note

If your school does not have a robin, you may wish to organise an outing to Buskett, where you will surely hear many singing, ideally in the first term.

Tip

If you're in doubt whether the call you're hearing is a robin or not, there's a free app called **birdnet** that you can download to your smart phone. It will tell you if what you're hearing is a robin.

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- ☐ children listening to the robin singing in your schoolyard.

