



BEESTON WILDLIFE GROUP

Amaze and bore your friends with your knowledge of bird song

It's not easy though. It's best to concentrate on the abundant sounds and learn to 'switch your hearing on' and learn what is on your doorstep. Great birdwatchers are permanently switched on. When you are tuned in, you can hear what is about without leaving your house!

Two species are calling all the time - they are very boring, but try and pick them out by their calls:

WOOD PIGEON has FIVE syllables. They say 'I think I love you' or 'My toe hurts betty'. [Listen to a Wood Pigeon](#)

COLLARD DOVE has THREE syllables they say 'United' continually or 'I love you' repeatedly. [Listen to a Collared Dove](#)



Go on give it a go.

When these are in your memory banks, you can move on to more species. When you can name everything that is calling around you, that's when you progress to Attenborough!!

Following on from our last post on the differences in the songs of a Wood Pigeon and Collared Dove, here are three more very common species that are easy to recognise. Listen many times to all songs to pick out the differences. It is like learning a song on the radio - eventually it becomes embedded and the differences are obvious. There is no substitute for hearing them out in the field - but all of these can be heard from your house if you have, or are near, gardens. Then when you've learnt these, the next time you go for a walk in the woods you'll be able to 'tune them out' so you can concentrate on the songs of other birds that are less familiar.

ROBIN: Sings all year round, night and day! A wistful, clear 'sad' tone, singing for long periods with changes of tempo. [Listen to a Robin](#)

DUNNOCK: Fast, high pitched squeaky short bursts lasting 2-3 seconds, repeating several times. No variation. [Listen to a Dunnock](#)

WREN: An excited, rattling vibrant warble ending with a trill. A very loud song for such a small bird. Song longer than Dunnock that has a similar tone. [Listen to a Wren](#)

BLACKBIRD: Slow, lazy, flutey mellow song, the second phase often having a chuckling quality. One of the most common and recognisable bird songs of the Spring. [Listen to a Blackbird](#)

SONG THRUSH: Similar tone to Blackbird but less rich, and always repeating phrases 3 to 5 times, pausing then repeating a new phrase. Although it's easily recognisable without, the repetition is the key to identification. [Listen to a Song Thrush](#)



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