Week Two

Observation Skills - Animal Behaviour

Sit still for 10 minutes in the park, garden or on your doorstep and wait to see if any birds appear. Watch what they are doing. Are they collecting twigs for their nests, or eating insects on the tree branches? Or are they looking for food on the grass or amongst leaves?

If there are no trees outside your house look at the ridge of the roofs or around the gutters.

Watching a birds’ behaviour can help you work out what bird it is. For example, blackbirds look for food on the ground and long tailed tits eat insects on trees.

Identification skills

The first lady birds are coming out in the Sun

Can you spot any ladybirds? Can you identify what type they are? This guide will help.

<http://www.surfbirds.com/ladybird-guide.html>

**Wildlife tip; ladybirds, lacewings and some moth and butterfly caterpillars shelter in hollow stems over winter, so try not to tidy them till after the last danger of frost (Mid April in Newcastle). Other insects over winter amongst dead leaves at the base of plants so avoid tidying these too.**