

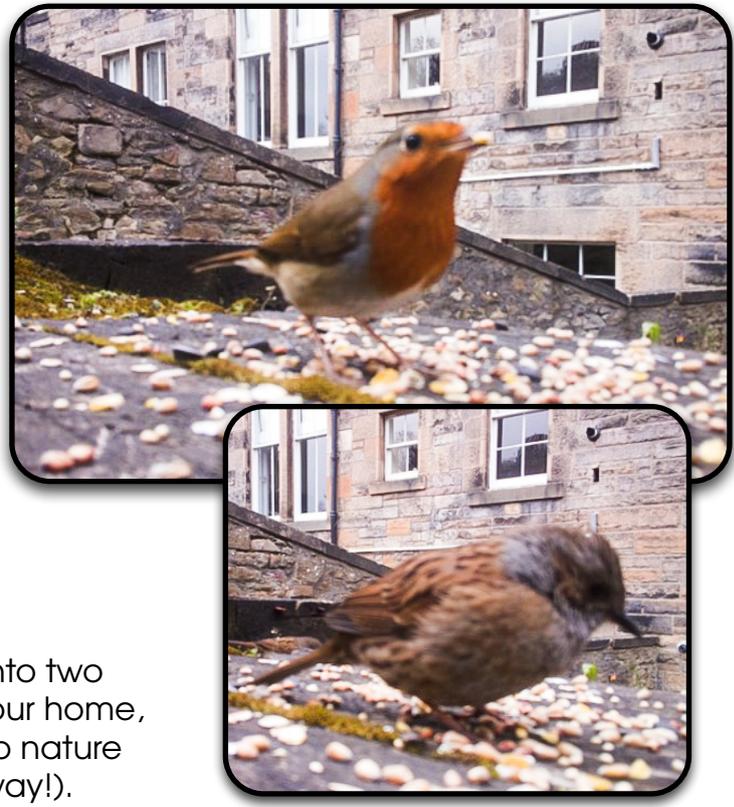
# Nature Spotting & Citizen Science

Heading into the garden or watching wildlife from a window is a wonderful way to relax and pass the time.

But there are lots of ways we can turn our free time into incredibly valuable information for science research through citizen science projects!

The idea behind citizen science is to use the power of volunteer researchers working together to explore or collect huge amounts of information, far bigger than a team of scientists would be able to achieve by themselves.

We've separated the citizen science projects into two categories – projects you can do from inside your home, and projects which require you to head out into nature (although that often doesn't need to be far away!).



*Images of Edinburgh-local birds, captured using a camera trap!*

## Citizen Science from the comfort of your home

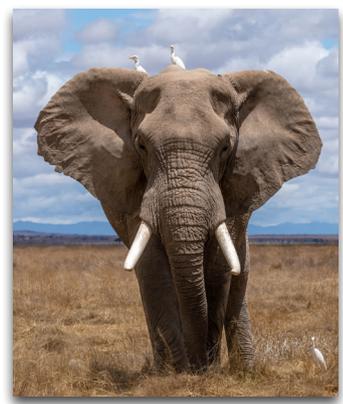


### [Penguin Watch](#)

Using photos from camera traps located in some of the most remote areas in the world, help scientists count penguins and understand their lives and environment.

### [Snapshot Elephants for Africa](#)

This project is researching African savannah elephant social behaviour and group dynamics. Help the scientists by identifying how many elephants are in a scene and their approximate age.



*Image credits: Penguin - Kanjanapa Srisuwan on Unsplash; Elephant - Nam Anh on Unsplash*



### [Earthquake Detective](#)

Very sensitive devices called seismometers are used to detect earthquakes around the world. But sometimes the data they collect can be difficult to interpret. In this project you will listen to seismic signals and work out whether they were caused by an earthquake.

### [Garden BirdWatch](#)

Stay connected to nature, learn about your garden wildlife and contribute to important scientific research without leaving you home. Garden BirdWatch from the British Trust for Ornithology lets you keep track of the birds visiting your garden and help the scientists learn about how the birds use the food, shelter and other resources in our gardens.

## Citizen Science while out and about



### [The Great British Bee Count](#)

Contribute to the national Pollinator Monitoring Scheme – the first major health check of Britain’s bees and other pollinators – by heading outside and spotting which bees are visiting your garden.

### [Big Butterfly Count](#)

Tracking butterflies can be a great way to monitor air quality, the climate and check the overall health of the nature around us. Learn about butterflies in the process too!

### [Nature’s Calendar](#)

What effect has recent weather had on wildlife? Does climate change affect timings in nature? Contributing your sightings to Nature’s Calendar helps scientists answer those important questions.

### [UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme](#)

The Pollinator Monitoring and Research Partnership aims to establish how insect pollinator populations are changing across Britain. Help them keep track of changes by heading into your garden or local area and keeping note of what you spot.



*Image credits: Bee - Fabian Keller on Unsplash;  
Butterfly - Gary Bendig on Unsplash*