

**Cherry ( *Prunus avium* )**  
The wild cherry seen (right) with its unripened fruit and (below) blossoming in early April. The two types of blossom on the same tree (bottom left) is a curious hybrid with a Japanese cherry.

The cherries were planted behind the walled garden here when the Nature Reserve was created



**Yew ( *Taxus boccata* )** These evergreen trees were planted to mark the driveway to Woodslee, the victorian mansion

The tree produces leaves and seeds that are poisonous. The fruit is enveloped in a fleshy red coloured berry looking 'aril'. Yews are one of the longest living trees. These are not yet 200 years old. The yew at Eastham is over 1000 years old.

## Woodslee Tree Trail -Part One

Meet the trees of Woodslee which is part of Brotherton Park (and also Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve). This two part trail explores some of the trees that were planted to landscape what was once a victorian estate. There are accompanying notes that give more detail about the trees. More information can be obtained from the Ranger's Office. Tel 0151 334 9851



Bark of the yew tree-the trunk less than a metre in girth (left).

Leaves of the yew (far left) The male flowers are produced in small cones.

**The Horse Chestnut ( *Aesculus hippocastanum* )**



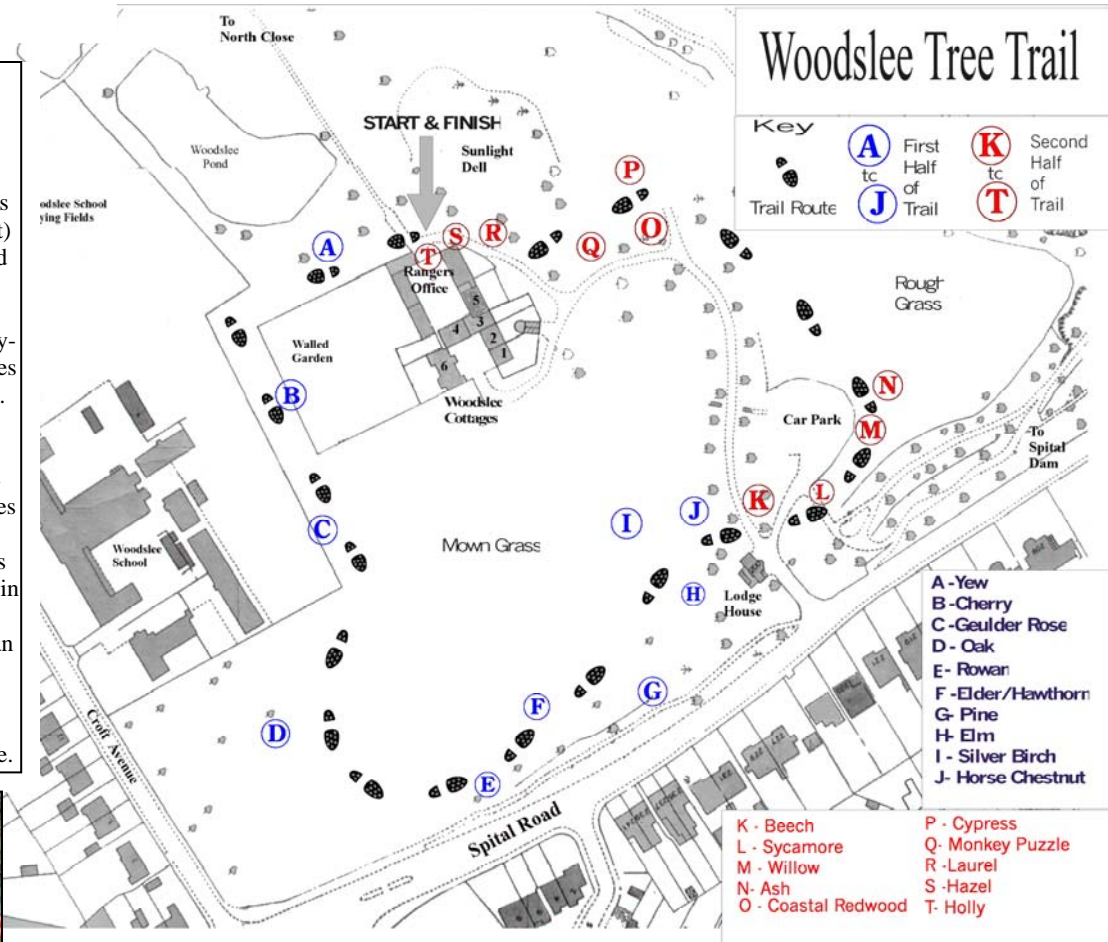
Flowers (top left)  
Sticky bud (above)  
Canopy (left)  
Fruit - 'conker' (below)

The spreading chestnut trees of Woodslee



**Guelder-rose ( *Viburnum opulus* )**

The flowers of May (left) are followed by heavy clusters of waxy, sticky-juiced berries (below left). This small tree rarely grows more than 3 metres high. The lobed leaves turn scarlet in the autumn. Planted as an attractive screen against the school fence.



**Silver Birch ( *Betula pendula* )**  
Sometimes known as the 'Lady of the Woods' because of its graceful arching branches.

Birches are often successful new colonisers of land. They germinate freely from wind blown seed in a wide variety of poor conditions that other trees find too difficult to grow in.



Profile of the trees in winter (left)

The silver bark (right)  
The leaves (below)



**Rowan ( *Sorbus aucuparia* )** Also known as the Mountain Ash, these small trees have been widely planted as street trees. The limey green young leaves (above left) compliment the pale 'lined' bark behind. The show of white flowers produces wonderful heads of bright red / orange berries in late summer. These are greedily eaten up by birds, especially blackbirds and thrushes.



**Hawthorn ( *Crataegus monogyna* )** The hawthorn is a valuable wildlife tree with its blossom (above centre) and berries (right). As a cut hedge, it provides cover for wildlife. The Cockspur Thorn can also be found close to the corner of the walled garden. It has larger thorns and berries.

**Elm ( *Ulmus Glabra* )** 'Wych Elm' and the other species of this tree have been severely affected by 'Dutch Elm Disease', the virus of which is carried from tree to tree by small beetles. The disease has killed large numbers of these large trees. Here, behind the Lodge House, the new branches are growing from the dead stump



**The Sessile Oak ( *Quercus petraea* )**  
The two main types of oak - English Oak and Sessile Oak - bear their acorns in slightly different ways. Here (below) the sessile oak has acorns with no stalks. The flowers of the oaks (left) are seen under the emerging young yellowy leaves. The coarse grooved bark (bottom left) is the well known 'trade mark' of the tree. The oak is one of the best trees for the variety of wild life it is able to support. The acorns are favoured by jays and squirrels, the leaves by numerous insects.



**Common Elder ( *Sambucus nigra* )**  
Elderberry (bottom left) and elderflower (top left) are both parts of this small tree that make it valuable to man. The fruit and flowers are both edible and are commonly used to make 'country wines'. The tree will grow to 10m high. Its bark is corky, grey brown with a whitish pith. It flowers from June and sets its purple fruit by late August. The seed is carried by birds who feast on the berries. It is a particular favourite of wood pigeons. Here in Dibbinsdale, the elder often forms large sprawling bushes with many different trunks. It can tolerate poor light conditions under larger trees.



The fruit and seeds can be seen (left)  
The winter tigs and buds are bottom left.

**Wirral Wildlife**



**Black Pine ( *Pinus nigra* )** This row of evergreen pine trees on Spital Road have been planted ornamentally. The orangy bark of the Scots Pine can be seen close to the driveway to Woodslee Cottages.







**Beech.** (*Fagus sylvatica*) The grey smooth bark (above) and heavy shading canopy help ID this tree. There are also 'copper beeches' (with purple leaves) planted along the drive to Woodslee House (demolished in the 1940's)



The autumn colours of the beech leaves (left) are very impressive. These mature trees were planted in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Victorian estate was being built.

## Woodslee Tree Trail Part Two

There are accompanying notes that give more detail about the trees.



**Holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*) This holly bush is in the courtyard of Woodslee Cottages. It produces berries (right) on female plants. The male plants produce only small flowers. Holly will grow into mature trees over 20 metres high. There are variegated hollies with white and cream markings on the leaves close to the main car park.



**Hazel** (*Corylus avellana*) Hazel often forms a tree with many stems or trunks. Here outside the courtyard the tree is, 'coppiced' or cut back to a stump or 'stool'.



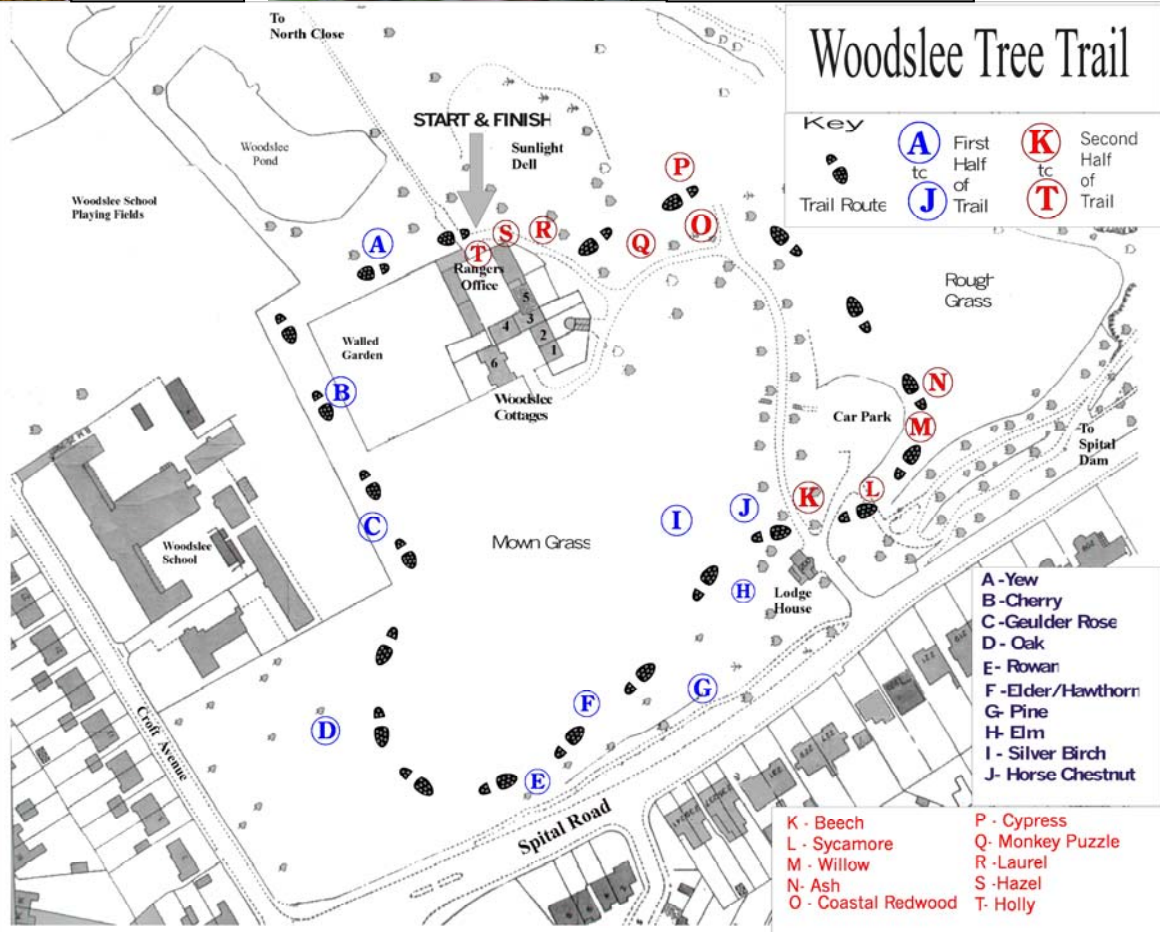
This encourages it to produce tall straight stems from the cut stump. (above) Hazel produces yellow catkins (left) which are the trees flowers.

Hazel nuts are the fruit that forms over the summer months

**Sycamore** (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) This is a very successful tree in the Dibbinsdale woodland. Its seeds are wind born (the well known 'helicopters') and it grows well in a variety of conditions. The sycamore is very early to leaf and its heavy shading canopy results in a weed-like dominance of the woods – it is invasive.



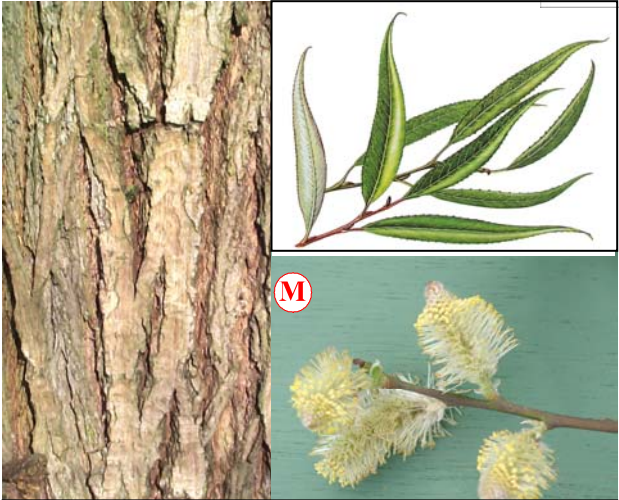
The green buds (above) give way to florets of yellow tassle-like flowers. The smooth grey bark (top right) is also distinctive. The leaves have a 'palmate', or hand-like form (left)



The area adjacent to the Ranger's Office has been named Sunlight Dell. Here the laurels have been cut back to allow more light into the glade. Other ornamental trees have been planted



**Laurel** (*Prunus laurocerasus*) The 'cherry laurel' is a very common garden shrub. It has purplish black berries and is poisonous. The thick glossy leaves (above top) smell of almonds when scratched because they contain prussic acid, or arsenic. The laurels were planted here in Dibbinsdale to screen the back garden of Woodslee House. (above) They have become straggling trees – their branches 'layer' into new trees when they root into the ground. In Spring the laurel flowers produce an attractive show with their florets of white scented flowers.



**Willow** (*Salix* var) The willow has many varieties – from goat willow to weeping willow. The catkins (above) are of 'pussy willow' or goat willow. Willows all share their love of wetlands and damp soils. The 'crack willow' is the most common form in the river valley.



**Coastal Redwood** (*Sequoia sempervirens*)

This towering red spongy barked giant is merely a baby. Its American cousins are the tallest trees in the world – 366 feet high. With some growing yet to go this tree is about 150 years old. It will become the tallest tree in Dibbinsdale and possibly the Wirral (The first seed was brought to England in 1843)



**Ash** (*Fraxinus excelsior*) The black buds (below), flowers (left) and seeds, or 'keys' (below left) make the ash a very easily recognised tree. The young ashes planted at the back of the car park will mature to form very large trees up to 40 metres tall.



**Cypress** (*xCypressocyparis*) A very rapid growing conifer. It creates dense shade and is one of the most popular trees used for hedging. The tree is a hybrid with its origins in North America. Bark (below), Leaves and cones (bottom)



'It would puzzle a monkey upon how to climb it'. The scale-like branches and leaves are an oddity



**Monkey-puzzle** (*Araucaria araucana*) The Chilean Pine can be seen at the top of the drive that once led to Woodslee House. It was planted as a feature close to the house's main entrance.

The trunk is very straight and banded.





which **leaves** can you find?



WOODLAND  
TRUST



☐ Alder



☐ Ash



☐ Beech



☐ Birch



☐ Elder



☐ Field maple



☐ Hawthorn



☐ Hazel



☐ Holly



☐ Horse chestnut



☐ Oak



☐ Rowan



☐ Sycamore

Have you found any other leaves? Draw or stick them here and find out their names:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you follow the tree trail around the walled garden you will see most of these tree leaves. Which ones will you not find? Can you find any other leaves not on the sheet?



Metropolitan  
Borough of Wirral

# Leaves

Field maple

Holly

Lime

Blackthorn

Bramble

Oak

Hawthorn

Ivy

Dog  
rose

Elder

Alder

Horse  
chestnut

Rowan

Beech

Ash

Hazel

Elm

Birch

Sycamore



discover and investigate

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# AUTUMN TICKLIST

## Tree leaves, fruits and seeds



Bramble



Dog rose



Silver birch



Oak



Beech



Rowan



Field maple



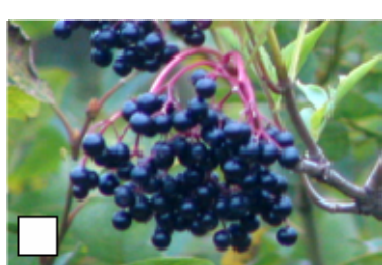
Ash



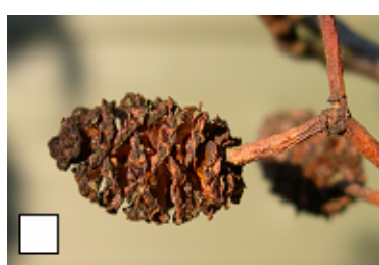
Horse chestnut



Elder



Alder



Hawthorn



Ivy



Hazel



Blackthorn



Holly



Sycamore



European larch



# IDENTIFICATION

## Winter twigs



Ash



Field maple



Birch



Alder



Elder



Hazel



Beech



Horse chestnut



Rowan



Oak



Lime



Lilac



Hawthorn



Blackthorn



Larch



Sycamore



Dog rose

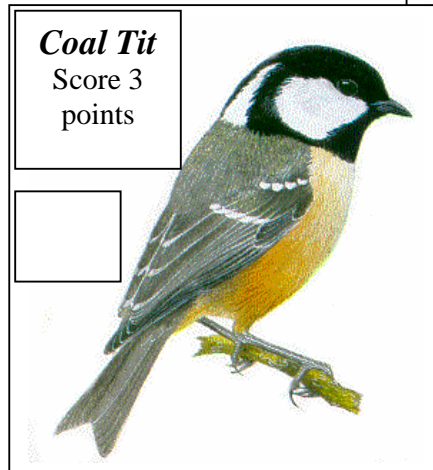
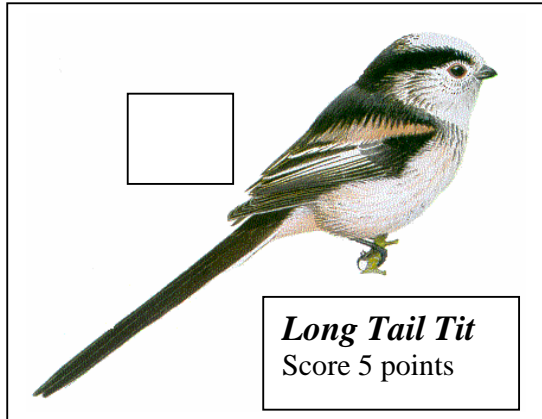
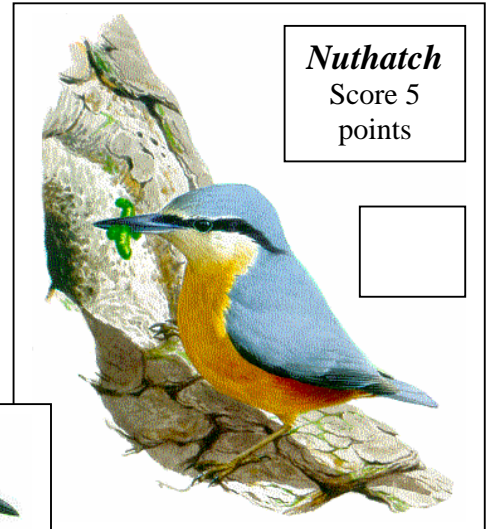
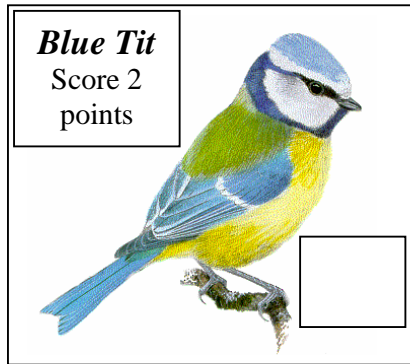
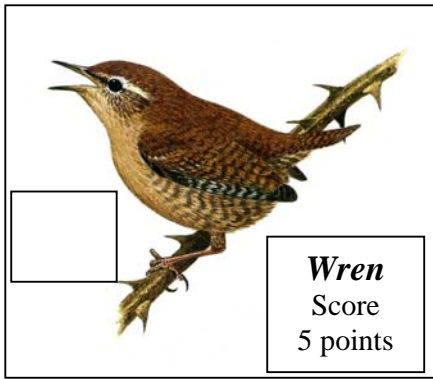


Elm

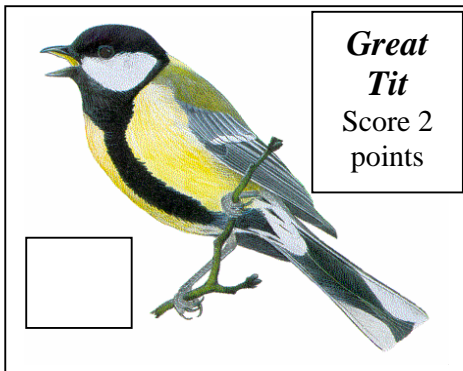


# I SPY Bird Spotting for South Wirral

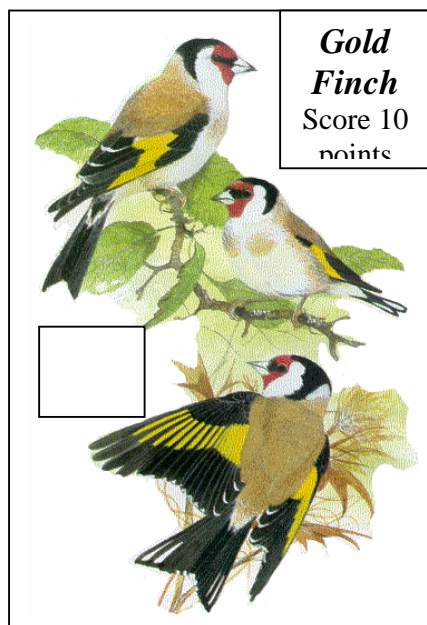
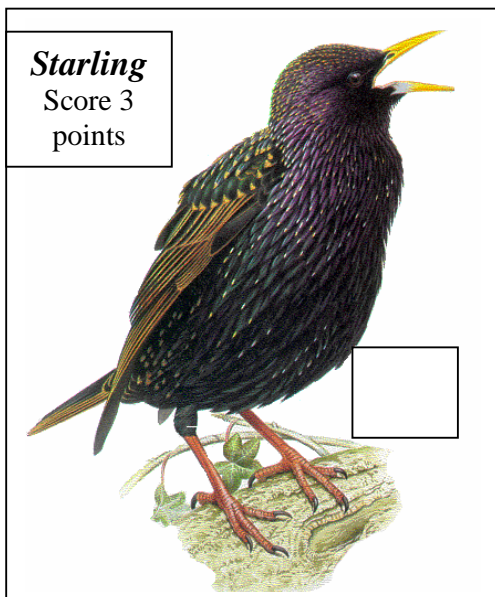
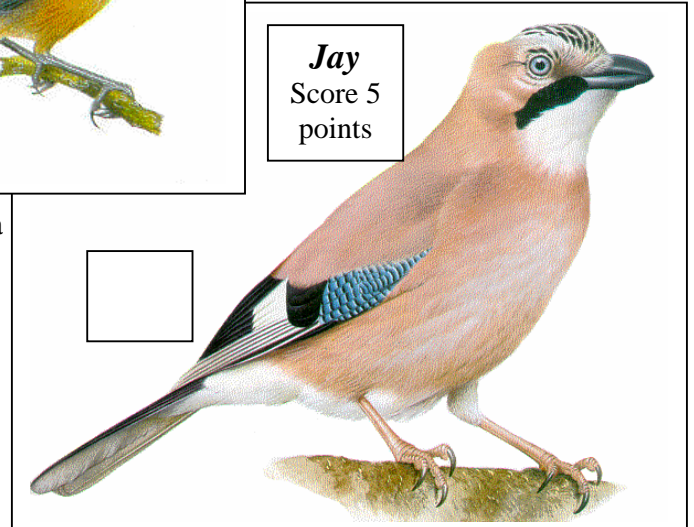
My name is :-



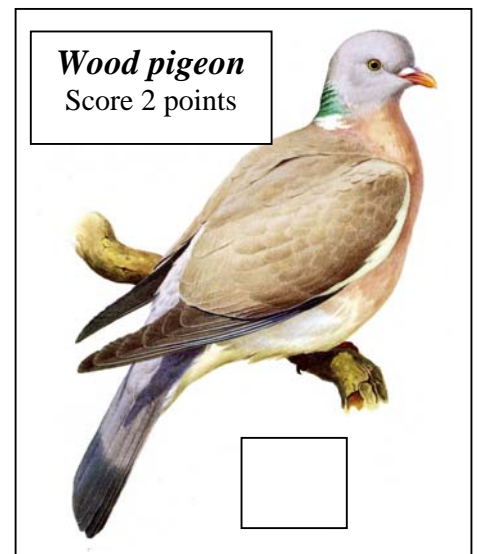
Tick each box if you see any of these birds. Count your score at the end



Give yourself an extra 2 points if you see any of these:-  
**Blackbird, Chaffinch, Hedge Sparrow, Robin**  
10 points for anything else



Write down the name of any other birds you spot on the back



My Total for I Spy is

points.

My favourite bird is