



# Ladybird survey



## Why record ladybirds?

Ladybirds are bright, attractive creatures that play an important role as insect predators in nature. By sending in records of ladybirds, you are contributing to our knowledge of how well invertebrates are coping with the fast pace of change in the modern world.

Use a recording form to compile your records from each locality. There are three types available from Holly Hayes:



*Ladybird Recording Form* for visiting nature reserves and other interesting places,



*Garden Ladybird Recording Form* for ladybirds spotted at home,



*Beetle Recording Form* for odd sightings and sending in specimens or photographs.

The colour key for identifying Ladybirds in Leicestershire & Rutland (also available from Holly Hayes) will be helpful for putting names to ladybirds that you find.



## Where to find ladybirds

Ladybirds overwinter as adults, so they can be found all year round, but the best time to see them is in the spring when they are most active. Their bright colours make them easy to spot, when you are out for a walk. Many more can be discovered by using a sweep net or beating tray. They are found in a wide range of habitats.



## Parks and gardens

Five species frequently come into gardens: the *2-spot*, *14-spot*, *22-spot* and the familiar *7spot* can be found low down on herbage, while the *10-spot* often climbs higher into bushes and trees. The *11-spot* is also a garden species, but much less common. The *Adonis* is something of an urban creature, but prefers waster ground.



## Conifers

Six species are more or less confined to conifers where they feed on particular species of aphids or scale insects. The *pine ladybird* sometimes comes onto exotic conifers in gardens. The *larch ladybird* occurs widely in conifer plantations. The *eyed*, *striped* and *18-spot ladybirds* are seen less often and take some finding. The *cream-streaked ladybird* is a relative newcomer to Britain that is found on conifers.



## Natural habitats

Several species prefer good quality natural habitats:

Cream-spot, Kidney-spot, Orange	Broad-leaved woodland
16-spot, 24-spot	Grassland, meadows
Heather, Hieroglyphic	Heathland
Water	Wetland



## Newcomers

The *Adonis*, *orange*, and the *cream-streaked ladybirds* have all arrived in Leicestershire and Rutland in the last twenty years. Look out for the latest British colonist, the *harlequin ladybird*.



