

## **Gilbert White youth winner**

**James McCulloch's** interest in wildlife began through bird watching in his garden and at local nature reserves and he now regularly submits records to Birdtrack and Sussex Ornithological Society. He is 12 years old.

However his interests now extend well beyond birds. He joined the Pan-species Listing web site (<http://www.brc.ac.uk/psl/?q=home> ) during 2015 and has already recorded almost 1000 species across virtually all the non-marine taxonomic groups.

James writes a blog about his wildlife experiences at <https://jiainmac.wordpress.com/> detailing not only what he has seen but provides background information about the ecology, distribution and identification of the species.

He has been an extremely active member of iSpot since December 2012, contributing over 2200 observations and over 2500 identifications. He has acquired over 6000 social points. He has also originated a dozen projects on iSpot ranging from Longworth trapping to Bryophyte identification.

As well as enjoying recording species of all kinds, James is passionate about passing on his knowledge and enthusiasm for nature. He is beginning to share his observations through short Youtube videos in which he is intending to feature as many species in his garden as possible:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIcf6NwBlIk>

**Gilbert White** (1720 – 1793) is remembered in these awards because his name is synonymous with biological recording. He was one of the first English naturalists to make careful observations of his surroundings and record these observations in a systematic way. He transformed the way we look at the natural world and is recognised as one of the fathers of ecology.