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Recommend a nature  
reserve – Titchwell  
RSPB Norfolk

Our world needs  
your help – Don't  
do nothing!



British Nature  
Guide on tour  
in Mexico &  
Southern Spain



For fun, for knowledge  
and for nature

The  
waterfalls of  
Iceland

Adults and teens e-magazine #3 – Autumn 2019

# Welcome to the British Nature Guide e-magazine for adults and teens

Our aim is to encourage a wider appreciation of nature in all of its forms. You will find topical features about British wildlife, as well as articles about threats to our natural environment.

For those who like to see wildlife abroad, the British Nature Guide on our pages will include profiles of some of the species our team have seen and information about the places we have visited.

We hope that you discover something new in the magazine, but most of all we hope that you enjoy reading it and that it inspires you to get out and to spend quality time with nature.

Whether politicians choose to call it global warming, climate change, or extreme weather, there is no denying that it affects us all and it is getting worse.

This year alone there have been devastating floods, wildfires raging even inside the Arctic Circle, permafrost melting, talk of mass extinctions, coral reefs bleaching and rainforests being destroyed.

What kind of world is going to be left for future generations?

There is still time to reverse much of the damage. But we need to act now. We all need to ask ourselves these two questions.

What changes could I make to my lifestyle to help to save the planet?



What changes am I willing to make to my lifestyle to help to save the planet?

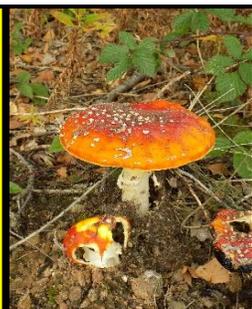
The two answers are unlikely to be the same, but please remember our world needs your help - Don't do nothing!

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Cover photo  
Fly Agaric  
taken at Little  
Budworth  
Country Park  
in Cheshire in  
October 2017



In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century in Britain this species of bird was still commonly known as a Goatsucker.

What is the species? To find the answer go to page 23.

## What you will find in this issue

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# Fantastic Autumn Fungi



Orange Peel Fungus



Shaggy Inkcap



Turkeytail

A bright day in autumn is a great time to go out looking for fungi, but many of the species can be found all through the year.

It is best not to touch any that you find, because some species, like the Fly Agaric (pictured left) are very poisonous. There are several species which are very similar in appearance and even experts find it hard to tell the difference.

You can find out a lot of interesting information about fungi from books or the internet, but the best way to learn more about them is to go on an organised fungi foray with a local expert.



Fly Agaric



Amethyst Deceiver



Sulphur Tuft



Parasol



Jelly Ear



Cladonia sp.



Common Puffball



Entomophthora muscae

Hopefully this page will inspire you to spend some time looking for fungi. They all have their own habitat preferences, so do not expect to find them all in the same place.

Fungi come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Many are not easy to recognise as a fungus and most do not have a commonly used name. For example, if you see a dead fly clinging to the underside of a leaf it is likely to have been infected by the pathogenic fungus *Entomophthora muscae*.

There are more than 15,000 species in Britain. If you want to do any serious research you will have to get used to using the scientific name.



# Ivy in the autumn



Red Admiral



Tapered Drone Fly



Honey Bee

## Please don't cut your ivy back in the autumn.

It will deprive our butterflies, moths, hoverflies, bees and flies of a vital late nectar source. It isn't just insects that depend on Ivy, birds such as Robins and Wrens feed on the insects that are attracted to the Ivy, and others like Blackbirds and Song Thrushes eat the berries.



Comma



Myathropa florea Hoverfly



Noon Fly

Holly Blue butterflies lay their eggs on Holly in the spring and on Ivy in autumn. Their green caterpillars feed on the Ivy buds. Butterflies that feed on Ivy in the autumn include some of our most colourful, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Peacock, Meadow Brown. Comma. Speckled Wood and Small Tortoiseshells.

Another advantage of not cutting back your Ivy in autumn is that you will see lots of wildlife. When the tiny flowers are out and the sun is on them there is constant insect and bird activity around the plant.

Many of our autumn Moths feed on Ivy nectar. Most of us never see them, but if you get out at night with a torch you might see Merveille du Jour, Angle Shades, Red-green Carpet, Dotted Chestnut, Satellite, Silver Y, Green-brindled Crescent, Yellow-line Quaker and dozens of others.



Ivy buds



Holly Blue

# Recommend a nature reserve - Titchwell (RSPB)

Titchwell Reserve, Main Rd, Titchwell PE31 8BB

There is a really good visitors' centre, café and car park. (free for RSPB members) There are no train stations nearby, but there is a bus stop on the main road just outside the reserve.

There are nature trails with viewing points and hides overlooking the best parts of the reserve.

Titchwell is a great reserve to visit at any time of the year. In the early autumn while the weather is still good and migration is in full swing it is hard to think of a better place to be if you like wildlife. There are freshwater, brackish and salt marshes, extensive reed beds, a woodland, a beach and the North Sea.

A few of the special birds to look for in the autumn

Avocet

Curlew Sandpiper

Gadwall

Red-crested Pochard

Little Stint

Marsh Harrier

Ruff

Spoonbill

Bittern

Bearded Tit

Golden Plover

Sanderling

Jack Snipe

Eider

Red-throated Diver

Lesser Redpoll

Brent Goose

Barn Owl

Bar-tailed Godwit

Goldcrest



Little Stint



Common Blue Damselfly



Spoonbill



Small Tortoiseshell



Bloody-nosed Beetle



Curlew Sandpiper



Common Darter



Growth caused by Thistle Gall Fly



Avocet



Fleabane



Bittersweet berries - poisonous



Ruff



White Deadnettle

There are still plenty of invertebrates in early autumn, and if the weather does not turn too cold some butterflies and dragonflies can linger on into November.

The autumn sees the end of the flowering season for most of our wildflowers, but until the frosts set in there is still a little colour to be found for those who take the trouble to look.

# Interesting facts about our wildlife

A familiar species in the UK, the Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) found in Europe, Asia and Africa was split from its North and South American counterpart the Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) in July 2011.



Due to the adaptability of these two companion rail species, both are thriving in their favoured habitat around marshes, ponds, canals and streams where they can find ample food at the water's edge and refuge amidst the dense vegetation. While virtually identical in appearance, the species' division reflected a striking difference in their respective calls.



Despite the name, the Essex Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*) has significantly expanded its range in recent decades to cover the southern half of Britain with the first sighting in Wales recorded in 2000. Similarly flourishing in North America under the name European Skipper, this species was first introduced to Ontario in 1910 and has gradually become the most abundant skipper in the Great Lakes region. Distinguished from the closely related Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) by its black tipped antennae which requires persistence and a close view.

## Micro moths

As the name implies micro moths are small, indeed some are less than 5mm in length. There are a lot of species in Britain. Try to guess how many there are. The answer is on page 22.

Some are extremely colourful and rival anything you might find in a rainforest for beauty. Find a moth book, or look on the internet for *Oecophora bractella* to see what I mean.

Even if you rarely see micro moths themselves, you might see evidence of their existence more often than you think. Some are leaf-miners and their larvae live and feed inside leaves. Leaves are thin, so that gives a good idea about how small a larva is. Where they feed the leaf goes brown. Have a look for the Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner. This species only came to Britain about 20 years ago, but now you hardly see a Horse Chestnut tree that isn't infested by them.

# Migrant birds in Autumn

As the summer comes to an end many of our birds fly south for the winter. As these birds leave they are replaced by new arrivals from the north who move here to escape from the Arctic winter.



Swallows  
leave



Brent Geese arrive



Fieldfares  
arrive

Many of the birds we see in Britain are long distance travellers as you can see below.

Where some of the birds that leave Britain in the autumn will go

Swallow - southern Africa

Swift - central Africa

Nightingale - western Africa

Redstart - western Africa just south of Sahara

Spotted Flycatcher - coastal western Africa

Ring Ouzel - Iberia and northern Africa

Arctic Tern - Antarctic and Australia seas

Manx Shearwater - coasts of Brazil

Where some of the birds that arrive in Britain in the autumn come from

Whooper Swan - Iceland

Brent Goose - Russia and Canada

Velvet Scoter - Arctic Russia

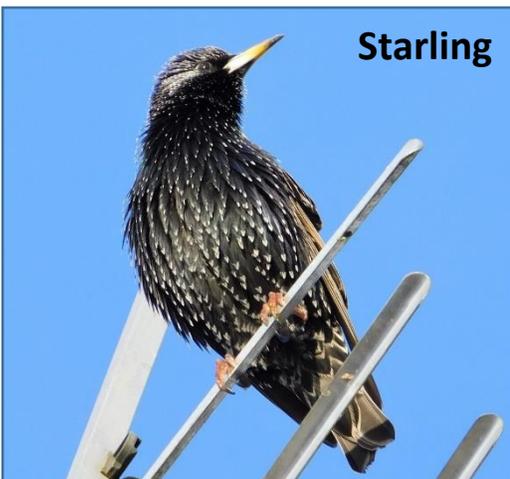
Fieldfare - Iceland and Scandinavia

Redwing - Scandinavia and Siberia

Waxwing - eastern Europe and Scandinavia

Snow Bunting - Greenland and Canada

Knot - northern islands of Canada



Starling

Unexpected migrants

Starlings live in Britain all year round, but in the winter hundreds of thousands from Scandinavia migrate here.

Some of our Robins migrate to Spain for the winter and others come here from northern Europe.



Robin

# Moth trapping news – Cheshire

## What to expect from September - November

### What to look out for in September

A wide range of species to be seen, including Common Marbled Carpet, Dingy Footman, Dusky Thorn, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Large Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Flounced Rustic, Flame Shoulder, Brimstone, Garden Carpet, Copper Underwing, Green Carpet, Common Wainscot, Straw Dot, Silver Y, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Pale Mottled Willow, September Thorn, Common Rustic, Brindled Green, Green-brindled Crescent and Pink-barred Sallow.

### What to look out for in October

Numbers start to go down in October, but there are still some nice moths to be found, including Garden Rose Tortrix, Silver Y, Red-green Carpet, Common Marbled Carpet, November Moth, Large Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Red-line Quaker, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Figure of Eight, Large Wainscot, Merveille du Jour, Light Brown Apple Moth and Straw Dot.

### What to look out for in November

A quiet month for moths in Cheshire with some nights producing no moths at all. Still a chance of a few moths including Red-green Carpet, Light Brown Apple Moth, Large Yellow Underwing, Winter Moth and December Moth.



Winter Moth



Straw Dot



Green Carpet



Dusky Thorn



Brimstone



Pink-barred Sallow



Red-line Quaker



Dingy Footman

### Responsible moth trapping

If you do try your hand at moth trapping please make every effort to release the moths unharmed. Research the type of trap that would best suit you best on the internet. Do not use it every night. Please record what you find and share your records with your county moth group.

To discover what else has been trapped in Cheshire by our team over the last few years go to <http://www.britishnatureguide.com/moths>

# Recommend a nature reserve – Denbies Hillside Surrey

**We have included this site because we know that people like to plan their butterfly, wildflower and dragonfly trips in advance for the coming year.**

Denbies Hillside (National Trust)

Location: Dorking, Surrey

Directions by public transport:

Dorking Central Station (Southern line) is around twenty minutes walk from the site. Walk straight ahead on leaving the station and take the underpass beneath the A24 before heading right a short distance and then left on to Ashcombe Road. Follow the road straight down until Ranmore Road, at which point you will see the entrance to the woodlands path opposite which leads towards the hillside.

Alternatively Dorking West Station (North Downs line) is barely a stone's throw away from the entrance to the woodlands path (turn left out of the station and walk a short distance down Ranmore Road) but can involve a less direct train journey changing at Redhill (Southern line).

Butterflies

Denbies Hillside is a haven for uncommon butterfly species from spring (Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Adonis Blue) through midsummer (Chalkhill Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled White) to late summer (Silver-spotted Skipper). During July Chalkhill Blues grace the hillside in large numbers and are a sight to behold.

Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady provide a reliable migrant contingent while all the standard species can also be found, ensuring a high butterfly count on any extended visit during the summer months.



Adonis Blue



Grizzled Skipper



Chalkhill Blue

Moths

An equally impressive range of daytime moths can be found during the season including localised species such as Speckled Yellow and the rare and delicate Lace Border. Other species to look out for include Five-spot Burnet, Speckled Yellow, Silver Y, Mother Shipton, Powdered Quaker and Mint Moth.



Lace Border



Speckled Yellow



Five-spot Burnet

## Denbies Hillside (continued)

### Other wildlife

A wide range of other insects can be seen including southern based species such as Summer Chafer and Black-headed Cardinal Beetle. Dragonflies can sometimes be found resting in the hedgerows including Migrant Hawker.



Migrant  
Hawker

The many colourful wildflower species on the slopes include Bee Orchid, Horsehoe Vetch, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Cowslip, Rose of Sharon, Traveller's Joy and Robin's Pincushion.



Robin's Pincushion



Traveller's  
Joy



Rose of Sharon



Buzzard

Gazing skywards can bring outstanding views of Buzzard, Red Kite, Kestrel and the occasional Raven. Other birds to look out for are Yellowhammer, Whitethroat and Green Woodpecker which can be seen and heard in the hedges and grassland areas.

Our world needs your help -

**Don't do nothing!**

### Pros and cons

Denbies Hillside features in the National Trust's Top 20 butterfly sites and more than merits its inclusion. While joggers and dogwalkers use the path above the hillside there are few disturbances on the slopes below. Treading carefully through the more secluded areas during the season means being rewarded with a myriad of eye-catching insects at every turn.

For those who enjoy their wildlife in miniature, few outings can compare with a summer's day on Denbies Hillside.

# Photo identification quiz

Fifteen species to identify



All of the above species occur in Britain.

Go to page 22 where you will find the answers.

## Hedgehogs getting ready for winter

Hedgehogs like to find a dry spot to sleep during the day, make a nest to raise young and also to hibernate over winter. They will hide under logs or leaves. If you are having a bonfire at any time of year please check carefully before lighting it. Better still do not build the bonfire until the day.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal so finding one during the day probably means it needs help.

A hedgehog out in the day can be either a sick/dying hog or a mum. A sick hog might wander aimlessly, a dying hog may appear to be sunbathing and seeking the warm of the sun; both need urgent help. A mum will keep herself hidden as much as possible keeping to the shade and undergrowth. She will move with purpose; get herself some food or water but will want to get back to her babies.

If you are concerned about a Hedgehog and want advice see [helpwildlife.co.uk](http://helpwildlife.co.uk)

### Hedgehogs need our help

Hedgehogs need to build up their weight and be at least 600g before they hibernate. If you want to help, please put out a small bowl of dried kitten/cat food and some fresh water. Making a cat proof/rain proof feeding station is simple. Have a look on the Wildlife Trust website to find out how. Remove any uneaten food in the morning to avoid contamination by slugs. Dried cat food is preferable because it attracts fewer flies.

It is hard to say how many Hedgehogs used to live in Britain. A hundred years ago there were certainly many millions. Now there are thought to be less than a million left and their numbers are still going down. The reasons include loss of habitat, increased use of pesticides, plummeting insect numbers, intensive farming and climate change. Why not turn your garden into a mini nature reserve. Even a tiny log pile in a patch of weeds will soon be home to beetles and earwigs and the hedgehogs will thank you.



**Hedgehog rescues and hospitals, such as [hedgehogcabin.info](http://hedgehogcabin.info), play a vital role. Please look for your local one and do whatever you can to support their work.**

**Please do not put out mealworms, peanuts or sunflower seeds. Eating these foods can prove fatal to hedgehogs.**

In the wild a hedgehog's diet consists mainly of beetles, caterpillars, larvae and other insects. They only eat slugs, snails and worms if they are starving and these often carry either the lungworm or fluke parasite, which is fatal to hogs unless treated with medication.



If you build or buy a Hedgehog house then you will need to find a sheltered and quiet spot in your garden to put it. The best bedding for them is hay, easily obtained from pet shops/garden centres. Put a thick layer of newspaper down first and then fill with hay. (They like to put their own stamp on their nests so you could leave a little hay outside the box too!)

A lot of Hedgehogs get injured or even killed by people using electric strimmers.

Please check that there are no Hedgehogs hidden in the long grass before you start work.

Hedgehogs like to be on the move; they can and do travel up to 2 kilometres a night. They need to be able to get between gardens to find food and meet other hedgehogs during the mating season. If your neighbours do not mind you could make CD sized holes in the bottom of the fences between your gardens. This will allow the animals to move safely from one garden to the next.



# British Nature Guide on tour



British Nature Guide

A look at wildlife and wild places outside Britain



Until 2015 the Purple Swamphen which ranged from Europe to Australia was considered to be one species, it was then split into six species. In Europe (picture above) it became known as Western Swamphen, but retained the original scientific name of *Porphyrio porphyrio*. In Australasia (picture below) it is now known as the Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*.

It is going to take some time for the new names to catch on.



Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Just a few decades ago the Little Egret was a real rarity in Britain.

Birdwatchers would have gone to the Mediterranean especially to see them and been thrilled by the sight. If one turned up in Britain people would have flocked from miles around to see it.

They are still a pleasure to see, but with nearly a thousand pairs breeding in Britain now they are much easier to find.



Canary Islands Speckled Wood (*Pararge xiphioides*)

This species and the similar British species *Pararge aegeria* clearly evolved from a common ancestor, but after being separated for thousands of years they developed into completely different species.



Young Green Iguana Mexico



Adult Green Iguana Mexico

# British Nature Guide on tour

## Wildlife of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico

The Yucatan Peninsula is made up of three states, Quintana Roo, Campeche and Yucatan. Forests still cover much of the area, and because of this there is plenty of wildlife to be found. Tourist developments are starting to have an impact on the coastal areas. On the positive side many hundreds of thousands of hectares are protected as Federal and State reserves and there are large World Heritage sites in both Quintana Roo and Campeche.



### Mayan sites

The pyramids and temple complexes in the Yucatan have survived for centuries hidden from the outside world by deep forest. They are well worth a visit. The areas now protected to preserve the Mayan sites are also sanctuaries for a wide array of wildlife.



### Reptiles

We didn't see any snakes on our trip, even though we did venture out into some quite wild areas. We did see plenty of lizards with the Green Iguana being the largest and perhaps the easiest to find around the hotel gardens.



**Birds and Butterflies are featured on the next two pages of this e-magazine.**

### Mammals

Although you are unlikely to see a Jaguar on a trip to the Yucatan you can expect to see a wide variety of mammals. Howler Monkeys, Spider Monkeys, Agoutis, Collared Peccaries, Yucatan Squirrels and Coatis are all quite widespread.



Iguana

### Invertebrates

There are so many fascinating invertebrates to be found in the Yucatan. Below are three of the species I saw, most of which I have still not identified. On the next page you will find some of the sixty-six species of butterflies I did manage to identify.



Coati



Unknown bee/wasp



Spiny-backed Orb-weaver Spider



Unknown Hawk-moth

# British Nature Guide on tour

## Birds of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico



American Flamingo



Laughing Falcon

If you like seeing lots of colourful birds you will not be disappointed by a trip to the Yucatan. There are lots of exotic species, and most are quite easy to approach.



Brown Pelican



Magnificent Frigatebird

Birds of prey include Grey Hawk, Turkey & American Black Vulture, Laughing Falcon, Common Black-Hawk, Crested Caracara, Roadside Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Osprey & Bat Falcon.



Olive-throated Parakeet



Great-tailed Grackle



Bronzed Cowbird



Social Flycatcher

Hérons and egrets include Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricoloured Heron, Reddish Egret & Great Blue Heron.



White-winged Dove



Roseate Spoonbill

Migrant warblers include Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Northern Parula & Magnolia Warbler



Brown Jay



White Ibis



Royal Tern



Golden-fronted Woodpecker

Orioles include Black-naped, Altamira, Orange, Hooded, Orchard & Black-cowled.

You should also look out for Green Jay, Brown Jay & Yucatan Blue Jay.



Laughing Gull

If you are staying at a hotel along the Riviera Maya you will not have to leave the resort to see plenty of good birds. If you want to explore a little further afield I would recommend that you use a bird guide who knows the area and can take you to the best sites. A little research before you travel can pay dividends.

# British Nature Guide on tour

## Butterflies of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico



Banded  
Peacock

Over 1200 species of butterfly and moth are known to occur in the Yucatan. As more research is done that figure will undoubtedly increase considerably.



Carolina Satyr



Eastern  
Tailed Blue



Belus  
Skipper



Cloudless  
Sulphur

Photos taken during a fortnight's holiday on the Riviera Maya in Quintana Roo state, with one trip north to the wetland area of Ria Largas in Yucatan state.



Fine-lined  
Stripe Streak

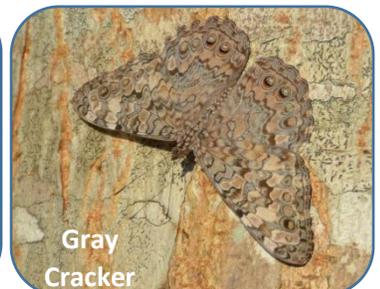


Cassius  
Blue

The fields in the rural areas are not intensively farmed and because of that roadside verges are excellent places to find all sorts of wildflowers and butterflies.



Four-spotted  
Sailor



Gray  
Cracker



Common  
Mestra



Giant  
White

The hotels in the Riviera Maya all have gardens within their grounds, adding colour for the tourists and attracting butterflies from surrounding forest areas.



Yucatan  
Pipevine  
Swallowtail

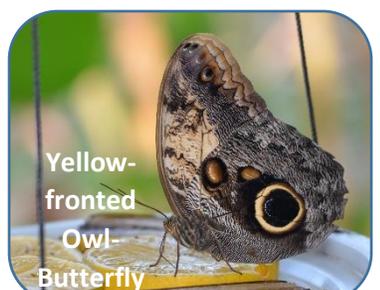


Dark-spotted  
Polythrix

There are several good field guides covering the butterflies of Central America and this part of Mexico. I found the Swift Guide by Jeffrey Glassberg very useful.



Regal Greatstreak



Yellow-  
fronted  
Owl-  
Butterfly

Even with a good field guide it's not easy to immediately identify every species that you see settled or flitting past. Several species, especially the yellows, are very similar in appearance. ID is much easier if you can get some photos to study later, but even then it is inevitable that some will be unidentifiable.

# British Nature Guide on tour

## Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*): an appreciation



***“Few hawks will attempt to approach the Farm-yard while the King-bird is near. Even the cat in a great measure remains at home” (John J. Audubon)***

Although a species smaller than an American Robin, the remarkable bravery of Eastern Kingbirds in defending their territory more than justifies their regal name. In protecting their young they have no hesitation in engaging with birds of prey up to thirty times their own bodyweight, using their superior speed and mobility to gain an element of surprise in launching attacks from above. Securing a hold on the broader back of their opponent, they use their formidable bills to inflict enough harm to send even the largest and most fearsome hawk, crow or vulture into retreat, all the time knowing that even a slightly mistimed assault could bring their own demise.

Eastern Kingbird distribution has become far more widespread than their name suggests, stretching to the far western states including Washington and Oregon, and as far northwards as central Canada. In the winter they migrate to South America, usually settling in the western Amazon basin. September 2016 brought the first ever sighting in Britain when a solitary kingbird arrived and remained overnight on Barra in the Outer Hebrides.

Kingbirds breed once a year with a brood of 2-5 eggs. Their aggressive defence of their territory during the breeding season extends to not tolerating other kingbirds in their vicinity, while they also come into conflict with America’s leading brood parasite the Brown-headed Cowbird (who usually discovers that choosing a tyrant flycatcher as foster parent was not the wisest option). From the late summer however, they become more sociable with other kingbirds, congregating in flocks in which they remain during and after migration.

As tyrant flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds usually adopt a prominent perch from which to feed on a wide range of insects including grasshoppers, beetles, bees, wasps and flies. During the winter they expand their diet to include fruit and berries. While kingbirds are not the most fluid of songsters their combination of short high-pitched calls serves to confirm a domineering presence they have already established in their preferred open habitat.

All photographs in this feature taken in Escanaba, Michigan in August 2018



***“The little warrior, fearless as the boldest Eagle” (John J. Audubon)***

With reports of Eastern Kingbirds having taken to the air when light aircraft have flown over their territory, this indomitable species continues to redefine its reputation for bravery. At present they remain in the Least Concern category, despite a slow decrease in number due to a dwindling supply of insects. As befitting their species name *Tyrannus tyrannus*, they remain a king amongst kingbirds and long may they reign.

Iceland has some of the world's greatest waterfalls and, while some are popular attractions during the summer months, their remote location means the number of visitors is on nothing like the scale of some of the natural wonders to be seen elsewhere in the world. This also means it is possible to get remarkably close and enjoy some truly breathtaking views. Here we feature some of the most celebrated Icelandic waterfalls awaiting a traveller set on adventure.



**Gullfoss** in southwestern Iceland is a highlight of the Golden Circle tour and the largest waterfall by volume of water in Europe. Saved from becoming a hydroelectric plant through the heroic campaigning efforts of former owner's daughter Sigríður Tomasdóttir, the falls became a nature reserve in 1979. A spectacular double falls around 240 metres wide and plunging into a 32 metre crevice, the combination of light and spray in bright conditions can produce countless rainbows, a truly unforgettable sight.



With an astonishing 500 cubic metres per second hurtling over its 100 metres width, **Dettifoss** in northeast Iceland is the most powerful waterfall in Europe. Awe inspiring at close quarters with an otherworldly quality that led to its featuring in the opening scene of Ridley Scott's science fiction film *Prometheus*, this thunderous waterfall is the finest of a series set within the dramatic environment of the Jokulsargljufur canyon and an unmissable stop on the Diamond Circle tour (from Akureyri).



**Godafoss** in northeast Iceland has a rare beauty owing to the dazzling appearance of its blue-green glacial waters. Its name "waterfall of the gods" is thought to derive from the myth of Viking chieftain Thorgeir Thorkelsson hurling his pagan idols into the falls after Iceland's belated conversion to Christianity in 1000AD (in anger the Norse gods are said to have divided the falls in two). Also part of the Diamond Circle tour.

For information on visiting the waterfalls in this feature, <https://www.inspiredbyiceland.com/> is a good starting point. During the warmer months the Golden Circle Tour runs regularly from Reykjavik providing a gateway to the rugged beauty of Iceland. Gullfoss is consistently ranked amongst the top ten waterfalls in the world and provides inspiration to explore further afield.



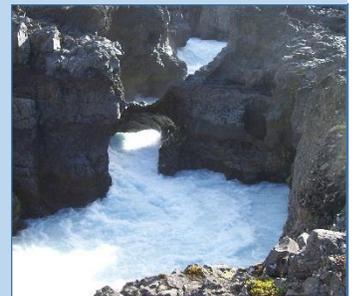
Within the Golden Circle but with far fewer visitors than descend on the much larger Gullfoss, **Faxafoss** offers a peaceful alternative around 12 kilometres away. Almost 80 metres wide with a 7 metre drop, this serene waterfall is situated on the Tungufljot river which is renowned for fishing due to the large salmon and sea trout in its midst (the former's journey aided by a fish ladder alongside the falls). Mystifyingly once named Vatnsleysufoss ("the waterfall with no water") but more evocatively renamed Faxi ("horse's mane").



A series of waterfalls stretching around 900 metres, **Hraunfossar** ("lava falls") in western Iceland comprises endless rivulets of subterranean water emerging through lava. Stemming from the vast Langjokull glacier which is visible from the viewpoint, the falls are celebrated for their glorious turquoise blue waters and have held National Monument status since 1987.

Nearby the small but enchanting **Barnafoss** (below) takes its name "children's waterfall" from a tragic saga about two boys perishing in an attempt to cross the natural arch that once spanned the falls.

Its most striking feature is the foaming rapids that surge from the Hvita river through its midst.



Situated near the south coast and arguably Iceland's most picturesque waterfall of all, **Seljalandsfoss** (left) can be fully encircled via a path behind the falls if due care is taken. With its origins in Eyjafjallajokull volcano glacier, the waterfall has a 60 metre drop while its waters cascade into a delightful wildflower meadow below. A perfect ending to any tour of the remarkable waterfalls in the Land of Fire and Ice.



# British Nature Guide on tour

## Southern Spain

### Part one – The wildlife

You will certainly find some butterflies in southern Spain all through the autumn. In a ten day holiday I saw Clouded Yellow, Geranium Bronze, African Grass Blue, Common Blue, Painted Lady, Southern Brown Argus, Mallow Skipper, Red Admiral, Long-tailed Blue, Small Copper, Speckled Wood and Large White.



**Tiger Beetle**



**Curlew**

The autumn months can be a great time to visit the coastal areas of Andalusia in southern Spain. The wetlands attract large numbers of migrating birds and there is plenty of other interesting wildlife around, including some late wildflowers, reptiles, moths and butterflies.

The weather can of course vary in the autumn. It can get windy and there can be heavy rain, (I say this from experience) but with luck there can be quite a few warm and sunny days.

If you would like to see more photos from the area I visited follow the link below.

[www.britishnatureguide.com/southern-spain-species-gallery.html](http://www.britishnatureguide.com/southern-spain-species-gallery.html)



**Geranium Bronze**



**Crimson Speckled Moth**

### Birds

Many of the birds that live in southern Spain and arrive in the autumn will be familiar to British birdwatchers, but some such as the Spotless Starling and the Waxbill seen below will be completely new.

Birds to look out for in the autumn include Fan-tailed Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, White Stork, Hoopoe, Kentish Plover, Greater Flamingo, Azure-winged Magpie, Serin, Caspian Tern, Spoonbill, Lesser Kestrel and Crested Lark.



**Spotless Starling**



**Spanish Oysterplant**



**Waxbill**



# *British Nature Guide on tour*

## **Kos**

### **A Dodecanese island**

A taster of what can be found on a holiday to the Greek island of Kos

(More to come from Kos in future magazines)

**Black-eared  
Wheatear**



**Swallowtail**



**Clouded  
Yellow**



**Poppies**



**Shieldbug  
instar**



**Swallow**



## British Nature Guide on tour in Texas

Photos from Andalucia

Photo identification quiz

In our winter e-magazine

Recommend a nature reserve – Brockholes

Winter birds

More butterflies and birds from Mexico

### Information about the British Nature Guide website

[www.britishnatureguide.com](http://www.britishnatureguide.com)

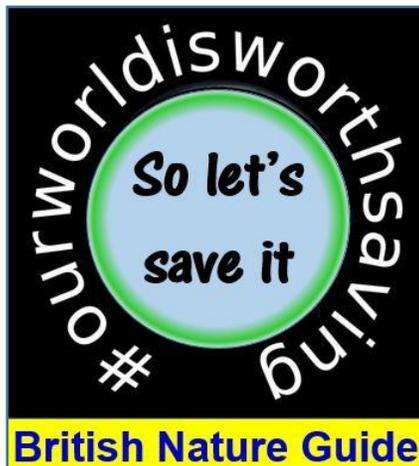
If you have enjoyed reading this e-magazine then you might like to check out our website. It is a photographic record of the wildlife seen by our team, focusing mainly on British species, but also including some species seen on trips abroad.

More than 1800 species of British invertebrates, birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, fungi and amphibians are featured.

There are moth trap record pages, photographic site reports for some great places to see wildlife, photo quizzes and individual species pages for all of the species we have seen in this country.

To encourage children to develop a love for nature we have set up a Resources for Children section where you will find photographs, fact sheets and activity sheets about mini-beasts, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and plants. This section is aimed mainly at children from 4-12 years old. All of the resources are free to enjoy, download and to use for non-profit purposes by teachers, childminders, parents and all other child-carers.

All of the photographs in this e-magazine are © Nature Apps UK



Answer to quiz on page 2

The Nightjar was once known as a Goatsucker. Do you remember hearing the name?

Answer to micro moths question on page 6

There are more than 1600 species of micro moths in Britain.

### Answers to photo quiz on page 11

Garden Tiger	Love-in-a-Mist	Little Ringed Plover
Grizzled Skipper	Norfolk Hawker	Chocolate-tip
Musk Mallow	Painted Lady	Cinnabar
Oystercatcher	Azure Damselfly	Poplar Hawkmoth
14 Spot Ladybird	Common Gull	Lords & Ladies

Thank you from all of our team for taking the time to read this e-magazine.

If you have enjoyed it please tell your friends about it.

Our world needs your help – Don't do nothing!