

# The British Nature Guide



Our world is worth saving - so let's save it!

Winter 2020 e-magazine



**WINTER ON THE WIRRAL**

a MAGICAL TIME  
FOR BIRDS

INSIDE

Special feature

FOCUS ON THE FULMAR

Nature as inspiration



For fun, for knowledge and for nature. Our 'all in one place' magazine for children, families, teens and adults



**Welcome to the latest British Nature Guide e-magazine**

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 tour 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 it inspires you to get out and spend quality time with nature.



**Cover photo:** Knot and Dunlin along the Wirral coast in winter.

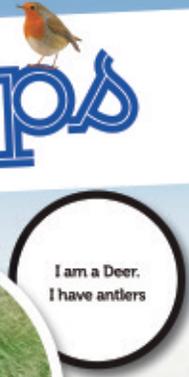
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Interesting facts for younger children

# first steps

into nature



I am a Wildflower.  
I have five petals



I am a Deer.  
I have antlers



I am a Wildflower.  
I have six petals



I am an Owl.  
I hunt at night

# highlights



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## NINE THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN JANUARY

On this sheet you will find nine things to look for in January. When you find one, tick the name in the box in the corner of the picture. At the bottom of the page say how many you found during January, say which you liked the best, and say why you liked them so much.

Fieldfare

# The British Nature Guide



Snowdrops



Robin in the snow



Lesser Celandine



Jelly Ear Fungi



Grey Squirrel



Goldeneye



Catkins



Bracket Fungi on trees

How many did you find?

My favourites were ...

Why I liked them ...

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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.



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- **Butterfly identification for Children**

## SPRING 2021

For adults & older children : Fill in the missing letters

# Nature Crossword



A prickly garden visitor	H				H			
A reptile with four legs and long tail				Z			D	
A bird - never far from a pirate's shoulder			R			T		
A type of fruit named after it's colour		O			G			
Like a Weasel or a Stoat					R	R		
A type of wild dog			F					
A water bird with a very large beak			P					N
A plant that climbs up walls					V			
A large, long-legged bird that eats fish			E		N			
A large antelope in Africa				N				
A small brown garden bird		R	E					
Black and white, looks like a bear			A					
A plant with shiny and prickly leaves					L			
A bird which sings high in the sky			R					
A whale with long horn like a Unicorn					W			L
A mammal which flies at night			T					

**Have you filled in all the letters? Well done.** Now all you need to do is find these three words hidden in the answers on the page, **Elephant, Giraffe and Lion.** Finished? Now go to page 43 to check your answers

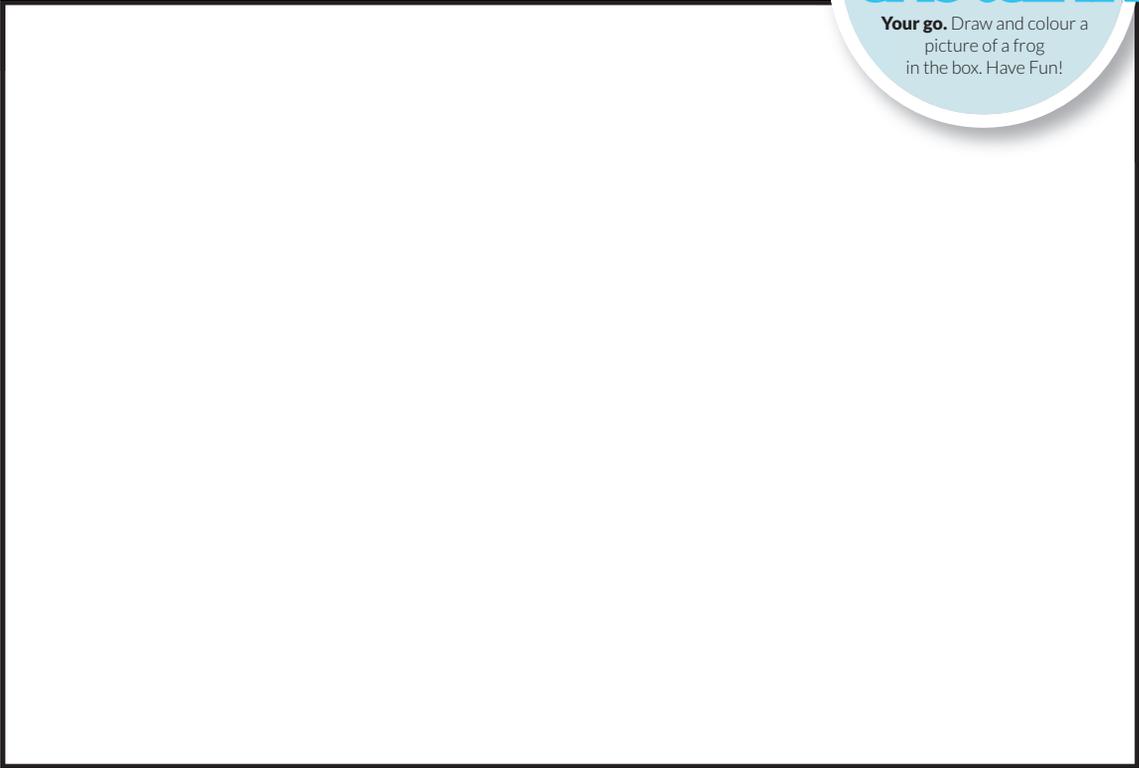
- I am a frog.
- I have green skin.
- I can hop.
- I am a good swimmer.
- Baby frogs are called tadpoles.



# I am a frog

Draw  
a blank

**Your go.** Draw and colour a picture of a frog in the box. Have Fun!





# Mini Quiz

Can you identify the bird in the photo above?

## Something beginning with 'W'

I can think of a Wolf.

How many animals, plants, insects and birds can you think of with names that begin with the letter W?

Write them down on a piece of paper. If you can think of more than five you have done very well.

**There are a few more that I have thought of on page 43. Perhaps you have thought of some others.**

## What's in a name?

**1:** What is the more common name for the antelope which is also called a Gnu in Africa?

**2:** These are all members of a type of animals which carry their young in a pouch.

Tasmanian Devil, Kangaroo, Bandicoot, Opossum, Wombat, Sugar Glider, Cuscus

What is this type of animal called?

**3:** Four species of swan can be seen in the UK. Two are winter visitors, the other two are here all year round. One of the species you might see is not a European species it is an Australian species. These birds have not flown here themselves. They have been brought here to display in zoos and wildfowl collections, some have escaped and now breed in the wild. Can you name our four species of swan?

**4:** Where would you be in the world if you were watching a Kiwi in the wild?

**5:** Loach, Wrasse and Schelly are all types of what?

**6:** How many bird species have been seen in the UK?  
535, 635 or 735

**7:** Real or imaginary creatures? Which of the creatures below are not actual wild animals?

Aye-aye, Phoenix, Roc, Echidna, Axolotl, Kinkajou, Fossa, Babirusa, Unicorn, Hellbender, Gerenuk, Colugo, Yeti, Bilby, Saiga and Markhor.

(Go to page 43 to check your answer, and find out what they all are)

Look. . read. . copy

# first steps

into nature



**LOOK**

**READ**

**COPY**



**Rabbit**



**Ladybird**



**Daisy**



**Duck**



**Spider**



# HOW MANY LEGS. . . DOES A CATERPILLAR HAVE?



## **Brimstone Moth caterpillar**

- Prolegs on abdomen and clasper at rear of body
- True legs on thorax

## **Buff-tip Moth caterpillar**

- Prolegs on abdomen and clasper at rear of body
- True legs on thorax

## **CATERPILLARS ARE INSECTS AND ALL INSECTS HAVE SIX LEGS.**

A caterpillar's true legs are all at the front of the body on the thorax just behind the head.

To help them to cling on to leaves and twigs caterpillars have evolved stumpy prolegs on the abdomen, and a clasper at the rear of the body. Caterpillars have between one and four pairs of prolegs, depending on the species.

Look at the Brimstone caterpillar picture and you can clearly see the true legs, one pair of prolegs, and the rear clasper.

On the Buff-tip caterpillar you can see the four sets of prolegs in the middle of the body.

When caterpillars are fully grown they turn into a pupa. A moth develops inside the pupa. When the moth is fully formed it emerges from the pupa. Moths do not have prolegs.



Above is a Brimstone moth, and below is a Buff-tip moth. As you can see, they look nothing like their caterpillars. Nature really is amazing.



What colour are these wildflowers? Fill in the missing letters.

# Wildflower

colours for younger children



p \_ r \_ l \_



w \_ i \_ e



r \_ d



y \_ l \_ o \_



p \_ n \_



o \_ a \_ g \_



b \_ u \_



## Bird table birds



# Guess Who?...

How many of the bird table birds pictured below can you identify?

Some are more difficult than others. Write your answers in the boxes under the pictures. Answers on page 44



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

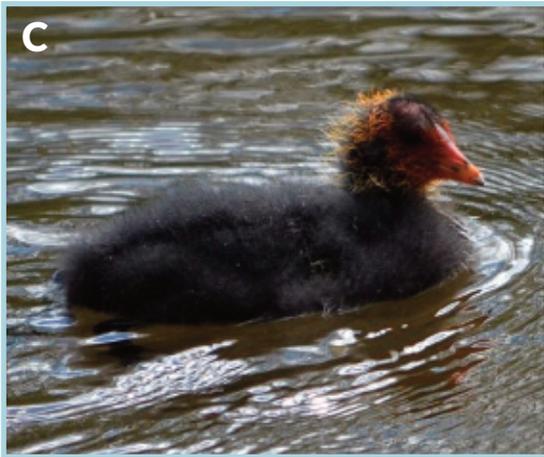


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# Adults & Chicks

## for young birdwatchers

Can you match the chicks at the top to the adult birds in the pictures below?



As you can see from these photos, young birds do not always look like adults. Can you tell which chick will grow into which adult? The answers are below.

**C and 1 are Coots D and 2 are Mallards B and 3 are Mute Swans A and 4 are Moorhens**

# Butterflies

The parts of a butterfly for older children



A butterfly has four wings, two forewings at the front and two hindwings at the back.

It has two long antennae sticking out from the head. It uses the antennae to detect the scents of flowers and other butterflies in the air.

It has a body made up of a thorax and an abdomen which is covered in hair.



A butterfly has three legs on each side of the body and large eyes on the side of the head.

The head, wings and legs are all connected to the thorax, which is at the front of the body.

The thorax contains powerful muscles to work the wings.

The abdomen is the back part of the body and it is connected to the thorax.

The male and female butterflies join together at the end of their abdomens to fertilize the female's eggs.



## All you have to do is fill in the missing words

Below are 8 words with alternate letters missing. Fill in the missing letters to complete the words. The words below are parts of a butterfly and they can all be found in the text above. You will find the answers on page 44.

1: a \_ d \_ m \_ n

2: h \_ a \_

3: e \_ e \_

4: l \_ g \_

5: a \_ t \_ n \_ a \_

6: t \_ o \_ a \_

7: f \_ r \_ w \_ n \_ s

8: h \_ n \_ w \_ n \_ s



# Missing their heads

Another test for young birdwatchers. Can you identify the species on this page? You will find the answers below.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L

**ANSWERS:** A - Little Egret, B - Shelduck, C - Swallow, D - Cormorant, E - Ring-necked Parakeet, F - Pheasant, G - Lapwing, H - House Sparrow, I - Moorhen, J - Starling, K - Nutcracker, L - Redshank.



# first steps

into nature



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## NINE THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN JANUARY

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# The British Nature Guide



Snowdrops



Robin in the snow



Lesser Celandine



Jelly Ear Fungi



Grey Squirrel



Goldeneye



Catkins



Bracket Fungi on trees



How many did you find?

My favourites were ...

Why I liked them ...



# Squirrel

Facts for children

There are two types of Squirrels in Britain. Red & Grey



● The red ones have always lived here. The greys were brought here from America 140 years ago.

● The Grey Squirrel is much bigger than the Red. Sometimes Grey Squirrels can look quite red in colour. Both types eat seeds and nuts. They really like peanuts.

● During the autumn they collect nuts and bury them.

● In the winter they dig them up again to eat. They do not hibernate during the winter.

● The Red Squirrel is quite rare in England and Wales, but more common in Scotland.

● The pictures on the top row are all Red Squirrels. The pictures on the bottom row are Grey Squirrels.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR

# Waders

It is not easy to tell the size of a bird from a photo. On this page there are 9 waders, you just have to name them and arrange them in order, largest to smallest by length from tip of bill to tip of tail. Answers are at the bottom of the page. Cover them up so as not to spoil the fun.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I

Below are the names of the species pictured on this page. They can all be seen in the UK.

A = Ruff, B = Black-tailed Godwit, C = Turnstone, D = Green Sandpiper, E = Ringed Plover,  
F = Dunlin, G = Redshank, H = Avocet and I = Oystercatcher

The sizes of the species are shown on the list below. Congratulations if you got them in the right order.

**Avocet** - 42-45cm **Oystercatcher** - 40-45cm **Black-tailed Godwit** - 40-44cm **Ruff (male)** - 26-30cm  
**Redshank** - 27-29cm **Turnstone** - 22-24cm **Green Sandpiper** - 21-24cm **Ringed Plover** - 18-20cm **Dunlin** - 16-20cm

# WINTER IN THE UK

**The UK is in the Northern Hemisphere of the world. In the winter months the Northern Hemisphere gets cold. The leaves fall from the trees leaving them looking like bare skeletons, and many of our birds leave to spend the winter in Africa. At Christmas the ground in the UK might be covered in snow, the temperature might be well below zero, and everyone might be inside trying to keep warm.**

While the Northern Hemisphere is gripped by the winter the Southern Hemisphere is enjoying summer weather.

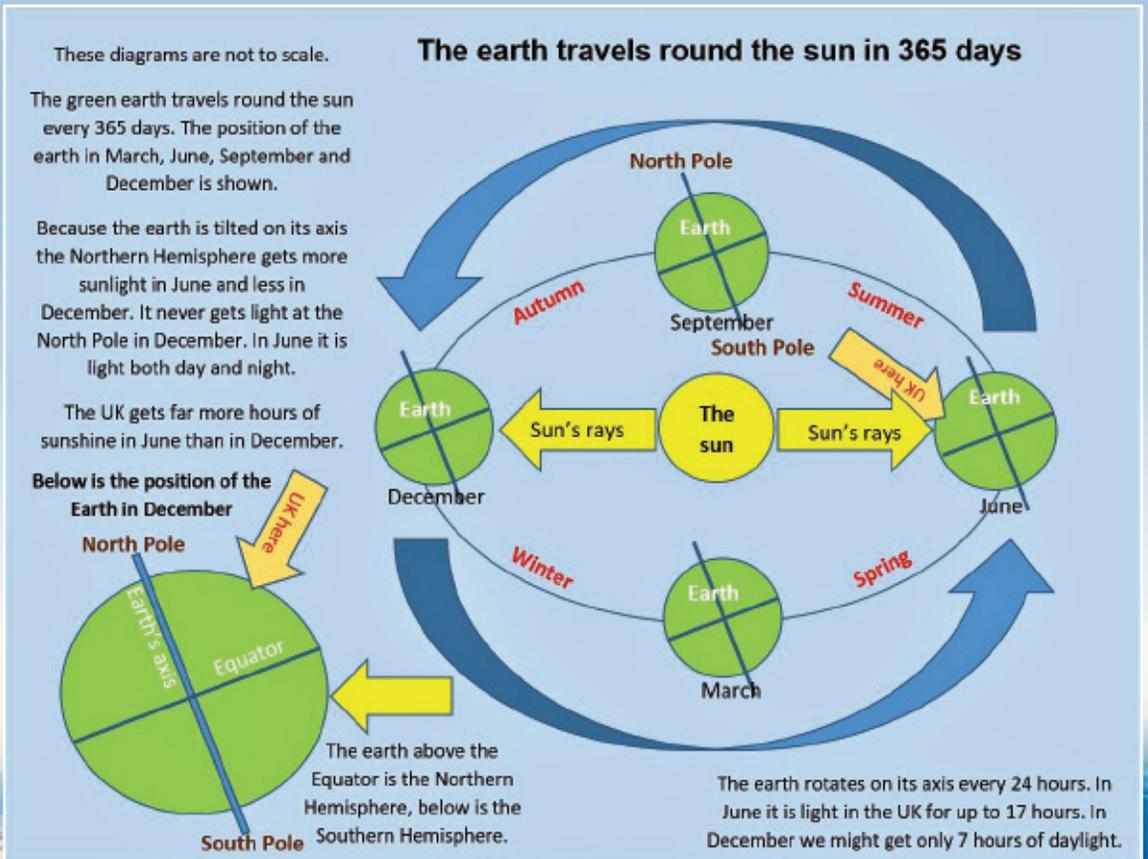
The last thing you might think of doing at Christmas would be going to the beach for a barbecue, but on the other side of the world in Australia, that is exactly what people are doing

December to February are considered the winter months in the UK, and the summer months in the Southern Hemisphere. So people living in the north and the south of the world experience spring, summer,

autumn and winter, just not at the same time. Someone living on the equator sees little seasonal change during the year. Almost as if it was summer all year round.

### So why do we have seasons?

We have seasons because the earth orbits the sun. It takes a year to complete one orbit. The earth is tilted to one side. This means that the Northern Hemisphere gets less hours of direct sunlight in the winter, than in the summer. Have a look at the diagram below to see why this makes a difference.





# Teen Teasers

A test of your wildlife knowledge.

## Half and Half

Can you identify the two butterfly species merged together above? Both can be seen in the UK.



## INSECT ID

Can you identify the beetle species pictured above, usually seen in May or June?

1. If someone is a Lepidopterist, what do they study?
2. Where on a bird would you find the primaries and secondaries?
3. Can you name two species of Skua which breed in the UK?
4. Whales, dolphins and porpoises are marine mammals. What are they known as collectively?
5. The Dodo was hunted to extinction in 1681. On which island did it live?
6. Are sharks fish or mammals?
7. In which country would you find the Daintree rainforest?
8. What is the largest animal to have ever lived?
9. In which continent would you find the Serengeti National Park?
10. Which big cat has the greatest recorded weight? The Lion, Tiger or Jaguar?
- 11: What is an endemic species?

**Answers for all the questions on this page can be found below.**

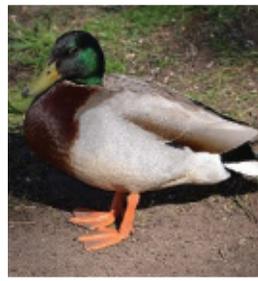
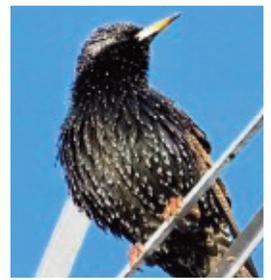
## ANSWERS

- 1: A Lepidopterist studies butterflies and moths.
  - 2: The Primaries and secondaries are feathers on the wing of a bird.
  - 3: The Great and Arctic Skuas breed in the UK.
  - 4: Whales, dolphins and porpoises are known collectively as cetaceans.
  - 5: The Dodo lived on the Island of Mauritius.
  - 6: Sharks are fish.
  - 7: The Daintree rainforest is in Australia.
  - 8: The largest animal that has ever lived is the Blue Whale.
  - 9: The Serengeti National Park is in Africa.
  - 10: The Tiger has the greatest recorded weight.
  - 11: An endemic species exists in only one place. It could be found over a whole continent, or just on a single island.
- Half and Half:** Small White Butterfly on the left, Clouted Yellow on the right.
- Insect ID** Cockchafer or May Bug.

# Bird Identification

for children : Part one

On this page are photos of 16 birds which can be seen in the UK in the winter months. How many can you identify? Their names are the next page if you need any help. If you print out these two pages, you can cut out the picture and stick it in the correct box on the next page.



Why not see if you can spot all of these species over the winter?

# Bird Identification

for children : Part one

These are the names of the species shown on page 20. They are in the same order as the photos. The Mute Swan is the biggest of these birds and the Blue Tit is the smallest. Look carefully at these birds and you will see that they have beaks of different shapes and sizes.

**Canada  
Geese**

**Collared  
Dove**

**Chaffinch**

**Carrion  
Crow**

**Woodpigeon**

**Magpie**

**Blue Tit**

**Goldfinch**

**Nuthatch**

**Mute  
Swan**

**Great  
Tit**

**Starling**

**Greenfinch**

**Blackbird**

**Mallard**

**Robin**

How many have you seen in your garden, local park and school?

# Nature in black & white



The national animal of Botswana is the Burchell's Zebra. Look carefully and you will see the shadow stripes between the main stripes at the rear end of the animal.



The Argemone moth. A nationally scarce day flying species seen only in May and June. Look for them on damp moorlands and mosses.



The Pied Wagtail, a common bird over much of Britain. Often congregates in towns in the winter months. It feeds on insects and it often wags its tail.



The Marbled White butterfly. Fairly common in southern parts of England and Wales. Look out for them from June to August



The Spotted Chafer is a large beetle found over much of Europe. Found from spring to summer with peak numbers in June.



The Magpie inkcap. Found over much of southern Britain between May and November, often in deciduous woodland. Photo by L Lambert.

# Water Voles need our help



**Our largest Vole, the Water Vole is often mistaken for a Brown Rat.**

## So how do you tell them apart?

- First look at the shape of the face. The Water Vole has a rounded face. The Brown Rat has a stretched face.
- Then look at the ears. The Water Vole has small ears, almost hidden in the fur. The Brown Rat has large obvious ears.

- Finally look at the tail. Both species have hairless tails. The Water Vole's tail is short, only about half the length of its body. The Brown Rat has a tail which is nearly the same length as its body.

Both species live in similar habitats and can often be seen near waterways with well vegetated banks.

The Brown Rat is only slightly larger than the Water Vole, so trying split the species by size alone is not easy.

## Where to look for Water Voles



Search for them in areas where there is plenty of waterside vegetation. Look out for their burrows in the banks. Water Voles are not likely to be found in areas where the vegetation has been cut short, or has been trampled by animals or people. If you find a likely looking spot near to slow moving water, the best thing to do is to watch and wait quietly.

If you are lucky you will see one running along well used tracks near the water's edge, or even feeding or collecting grass to take back to its burrow. If a Water Vole sees you, before you see it, it will 'plop' into the water and swim under the water to escape from view. Water Voles do not hibernate, but they are less active during the colder months, so not seen as often.

## Water Vole - *Arvicola amphibius*

The British population is thought to be between a quarter and three-quarters of a million animals. This might sound like a lot, but it is only about 10% of the population in 1950.

Numbers started to decline due to changes in farming practices which destroyed habitat and polluted the water. The arrival, and rapid expansion in range, of the American Mink decimated many populations, even in areas where suitable habitat remained.



# Butterflies

## Females of the species - part 3

**In the third part of a running feature on the characteristics which distinguish female from male butterflies, we look at the whites with a focus on three species which can be found throughout the butterfly season.**

While once generally referred to by the generic term “cabbage whites” due to their being considered a nuisance by gardeners for damage done by their caterpillars to vegetable patches, we will see how each of the three species have definably different markings when they pause to allow a closer view.

### Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

**The most numerous of the whites, this species can be seen during sunny interludes from late March through well into October and is a common garden visitor.**

While the females are noticeably smaller in size than their Large White equivalents and have less extended black borders, they share the two prominent black dots on the forewings which distinguish them from males.

### Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

**Despite outward similarities to its smaller relative, the Large White female is a striking butterfly at close quarters with bold black borders and forewing spots (which the smaller male lacks).**

Like the Small White its numbers are often boosted by an influx from the continent though at times it can be more elusive in the south-east based on this observer’s experience.

### Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

**An adaptable species found at higher altitudes than its close relatives, the Green-veined White is most easily identified by the mottled scales on the underside of its hindwing.**

As with her equivalents above, the female also usually has a pair of black forewing spots. As this species favours damp vegetation where the wild crucifers it feeds on are found, it tends to be a less frequent visitor to our gardens.



Small White - female



Small White - male



Large White - female



Large White - male



Green-veined White - female



Green-veined White - male

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIRDS

■ The most abundant wild bird species in the world is the Red-billed Quelea of sub-Saharan Africa. Numbers fluctuate depending on breeding success each year, but the population is estimated to be around 1.5 billion birds.

Having a large population is no reason for conservationists to be complacent. Prior to the arrival of European settlers in North America the Passenger Pigeon was thought to have had a population in excess of 5 billion birds. This species is now extinct, the last confirmed record of a wild bird was of one shot in 1901.

The most abundant bird species in the world is the domestic chicken with a population of around 25 billion.

## ■ **Bendy bills**

Did you know that in some wader species the upper mandible of the bill is not rigid, and the tip can be flexed upwards? This ability is called Rhynchokinesis. It allows the bird to grasp their prey with the tip of their bill while keeping the rest of the bill tightly clasped together. This feature is most obvious in longer billed waders like Godwit, Oystercatcher and Snipe.

Even in 2020 bird species which are new to science are still being discovered and described by ornithologists. An expedition to Taliabu, Peleng and Batudaka, three remote Indonesian islands to the east of Sulawesi found five new species of songbirds. Peleng Fantail, the Peleng Leaf Warbler, the Taliabu Grasshopper Warbler, the Taliabu Myzomela and the Taliabu Leaf Warbler.

Many birds have eyes at the side of their heads. This gives them a much wider field of view than people with both eyes at the front of their heads. This makes it far more difficult for predators to approach unnoticed.

The main drawbacks for birds with eyes to the side of the head are that they have very little binocular vision, and if either eye is damaged they lose a huge area 'of' vision. The Woodcock has eyes so far back on its head that it actually has a 360 degree field of view, meaning that it doesn't have to turn its head to see what is happening behind it. Just imagine trying to process all of the information being provided by eyes that could see forwards, backwards and to both sides at the same time

## ■ **Red Kite**

Until the 16th century the species was common all over the UK, even in the cities. From then on they suffered relentless persecution, becoming extinct in England in 1871 and in Scotland in 1879.

Just 50 years ago the UK population of Red Kites amounted to a handful of birds in a remote area of Wales. A concerted effort was made to conserve the remaining birds, but the population increased very slowly and remained vulnerable to extinction. In 1989 a reintroduction programme started, bringing birds from Spain. The programme has been so successful that the UK population is now around 2000 breeding pairs, almost 10% of the world population.

The keel on the lower bill of a gull (where it juts down slightly) is known as the gonys.

Hence, the red mark on the lower mandible is called the Gonys Spot.

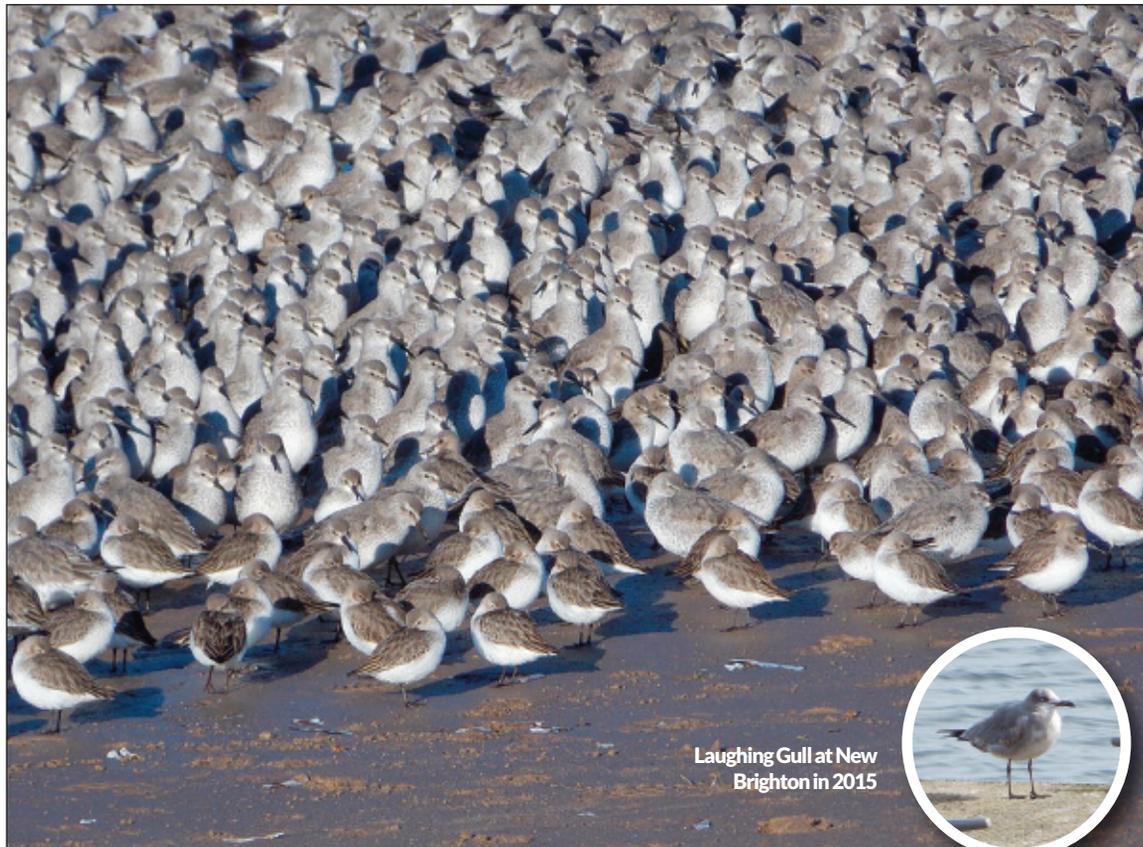


The heaviest flying bird in the world is the Kori Bustard with males reaching nearly 20kg in weight. Weighing up to 15kg the Andean Condor is the largest bird of prey



# The Wirral coast and Dee estuary in Winter

**Below:**  
Dunlin in the foreground  
Knot behind them



Laughing Gull at New  
Brighton in 2015

● There are lots of birdwatching spectacles to enjoy around the Wirral in the winter. Waders abound, with tens of thousands of Knot and Dunlin, along with good numbers of Grey Plover, Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher, Turnstone, Ringed Plover and Redshank.

● If you like avian predators you will not be disappointed. You should check the sky and the roosting posts on the estuary for Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Peregrine, Merlin, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl and Sparrowhawk.

● Time spent scanning the seashore, over the estuary, and the lagoons at Burton Mere RSPB will reward you with large numbers of swans, geese and ducks. Look out for Mute Swan, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Greylag, Canada Goose, Shelduck, Mallard, Shoveler, Pintail, Teal, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye,

Gadwall, Wigeon, Common Scoter, Eider and Red-breasted Merganser.

● Twenty years ago the only heron species you would have expected to see would have been the Grey Heron. Since then things have changed. Little Egrets are everywhere and hard to miss, Great White Egrets and Cattle Egrets are seen regularly, and Spoonbills are no longer rarities

● If you go to the Wirral to look for waders this winter check the tide tables beforehand. Plan to arrive a couple of hours before high tide.

● Every winter seems to bring a new rarity to the Wirral. Who knows what will turn up this winter. Perhaps your trip might coincide with a visit by a Laughing Gull, a Surf Scoter, a Snow Bunting, or a Great Northern Diver.



# WORD Search

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

There are 19 endangered species hidden in the grid below. Some you will have heard of, others you might not. They can be spelt forwards or backwards, and they can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. All you have to do is find them. If you need any help, the species you are looking for are in the box below. You can find a little more about these species on the next page.

A	G	U	L	E	B	C	U	P	I	J	E	O	D	L
C	H	U	R	E	T	Y	J	A	G	U	A	R	T	S
P	A	C	G	Y	E	L	A	T	I	U	Q	A	V	K
L	R	T	E	R	F	J	P	L	H	N	A	N	R	C
F	I	R	N	T	N	A	H	P	E	L	E	G	O	T
P	A	N	G	O	L	I	N	R	A	R	I	U	G	H
R	L	E	R	L	U	K	D	L	X	O	S	T	M	B
E	S	T	I	R	S	L	O	T	H	O	P	A	T	A
I	B	R	Y	M	A	A	R	T	E	T	C	N	H	K
N	O	S	E	U	S	E	K	A	K	A	P	O	L	A
G	U	B	R	T	I	W	O	B	W	T	R	E	I	F
A	D	H	O	L	E	P	I	M	E	G	I	P	H	I
M	F	E	P	N	I	X	F	U	H	M	A	G	Z	S
U	K	D	U	G	O	N	G	N	O	K	R	I	E	L
G	O	W	R	T	B	B	I	V	O	L	O	T	E	R

- Beluga  Sloth  Saola  Vaquita  Orangutan  Bonobo  Dugong  Tiger  Jaguar  Macaw,
- Gorilla  Pangolin  Elephant  Gharial  Kakapo  Sifaka  Dhole  Numbat  Okapi

**Words hidden in wordsearch above You will find the answer sheet for the wordsearch on page 44.**

# ENDANGERED Species

Information about the species hidden in the endangered species wordsearch (previous page)



## **Beluga**

This small white whale is found only in arctic and sub-arctic seas. They are threatened by hunting, and pollution washing down the rivers into the sea. Many have been captured and displayed in aquariums, but hopefully that will soon be a thing of the past.

## **Sloth**

There are 6 species of Sloth living in North, South and Central America, as well as on some Caribbean islands. They are all either two or three toed. The Pygmy Sloth has a population of less than 100, and deforestation is the main threat to this species.

## **Saola**

Found in Vietnam and Laos, this species has only been known to science since 1992. Its nearest relatives are wild cattle and buffaloes. It has never been studied by a biologist in the wild. Critically endangered, threatened by poaching.

## **Vaquita**

This porpoise lives in the Gulf of California. It is the smallest cetacean species in the world, and also the rarest with a population possibly as low as 10 individuals. This species is on the brink of extinction.

## **Orangutan**

There are 3 species of Orangutan, the Bornean is endangered, the Sumatran and Tapanuli are critically endangered. Up to 3000 are killed each year as their forests are cut down.

## **Bonobo**

Until 1929 Bonobos were considered to be the same species as Chimpanzees. Found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo where numbers are reducing due to poaching and deforestation. As few as 10,000 may remain in the wild.

## **Dugong**

The Dugong is a large aquatic mammal, very similar in appearance to the Manatee. They are found in the warm

seas around the northern half of Australia, around the coasts of the tropical Pacific Islands, western India and the east coast of Africa. They are considered vulnerable to extinction, with a population of around 30,000 spread over a huge geographical area.

## **Tiger**

Until very recently there were 9 sub-species of Tiger. The Bali, Caspian and Javan sub-species are now extinct. The Sumatran, Indo-Chinese, Malayan and South China sub-species are critically endangered. The Siberian and Bengal sub-species are both endangered. The main hope for the survival of tigers in the wild is in India. There are far more Tigers in captivity in the world than there are left in the wild.

## **Jaguar**

Found mainly in South America, although they can be found as far north as the border with the USA. The third largest wild cat in the world. Numbers decreasing due to deforestation and poaching.

## **Macaw**

Macaws are large, colourful New World parrots with long tails. There are about 20 different species of which two, the Glaucous Macaw and Spix's Macaw may already be extinct in the wild.

## **Gorilla**

There are two species of Gorillas in Africa, the Eastern and the Western. Each species is split into several sub-species. Both species are endangered. The famous Mountain Gorilla sub-species of central Africa, numbers only around 1000 individuals.

## **Pangolin**

Pangolins are mammals with scaly skins. They eat termites and ants. There are 8 species, living in Africa and Asia and they are all vulnerable to extinction due to illegal hunting and poaching.

## **Elephant**

There are 3 species, the African Bush

Elephant, the African Forest Elephant and the Asian Elephant. The world's largest land mammals. African Elephant numbers have gone down from 10 million to 400,000 over the last century.

## **Gharial**

This unusual crocodile with a long snout is a specialist fish eater. Only about 800 remain, scattered among the upper tributaries of the River Ganges in India. There is a captive breeding programme, which along with other conservation efforts may save this species.

## **Kakapo**

A large ground living, flightless parrot. It is nocturnal and lives in New Zealand. Only about 200 exist in the wild. As well as being the heaviest parrot species in the world, it is also the longest lived. It is thought to live for up to 90 years.

## **Sifaka**

Sifakas are large Lemurs which are only found on the island of Madagascar. There are several species, and all are threatened. They eat leaves and flowers. Good jumpers and excellent climbers.

## **Dhole**

An Asian wild dog, which used to be common over a huge range. It is now thought that only around 2500 adults remain in fragmented populations from India to Java. The population of this species continues to decline.

## **Numbat**

The Numbat is an Australian insectivorous marsupial. They have long sticky tongues which they use to probe for termites. Also known as Banded Anteaters. Fewer than 1000 survive in the wild, where they cannot compete with feral cats and dogs.

## **Okapi**

Found in the tropical forests of Central Africa. It is endangered because of logging, human encroachment and hunting for meat. A relative of the Giraffe, first described by scientists 120 years ago.

# focus on

## the Fulmar - *Fulmarus glacialis*



**The Fulmar is often referred to as a tubenose, because of the tube over the beak.**

The Fulmar takes in a lot of salt with its food, far more than its body needs. It expels the excess as a salty liquid through the tube.



It is a member of the Petrel family. Even though it looks like a gull, it is actually related to the small Storm Petrels and larger albatrosses.

The Fulmar is on the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List.

It is still a reasonably abundant bird around our coasts with around 500,000 breeding pairs, but numbers have started to decline. The numbers in some colonies in the north and west have been dramatically reduced and it is likely that some breeding colonies might be lost.

Fulmars pick up most of their food from the surface of the sea. Because of this they regularly ingest large amounts of plastic and other pollutants. As a consequence, the species suffers high levels of breeding failure, with hungry chicks being fed large quantities of plastic.

If something is not done to reduce the amount of plastic waste reaching the oceans, this species is likely to suffer a severe population decline

Fulmars are rarely seen around the British coasts in the winter months. Once the breeding season is over the adults and young disperse widely over the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Birds which have bred in the UK might winter as far away as the coasts of the USA

Charles Darwin considered the Fulmar to be the most abundant sea bird in the world.

One of the first breeding records for the Fulmar in Britain was of a pair nesting on St Kilda in 1697. It was nearly 200 years later, in 1878, before it became established as a breeding bird in the Shetlands. Since then it has rapidly expanded its range and can now be seen breeding as far south as Cornwall. It is a bird of the open sea, coming to the coastal cliffs to breed in the summer months. It is rarely encountered inland.

The Fulmar has a very stiff winged flight. It glides, seemingly effortlessly, only occasionally resorting to flapping.

As it banks and glides over the sea the contrast between the grey upperparts and white underparts is very evident

The Fulmar starts breeding in May, although it is often seen on the breeding cliffs well before that time. Its nest is not elaborate, perhaps just a few twigs or pieces of grass on a cliff ledge. One egg is usually all that is laid. The egg is oval shaped to prevent it rolling off the breeding ledge. The egg takes about seven weeks to hatch and the chick another seven weeks to fledge, with both parents taking their share of the brooding and feeding duties.

It is best not to get too close to a Fulmar, if disturbed they can accurately spit foul-smelly stomach oil anything up to four feet.

This unpleasant trait led to it being given its name which comes from two old Norse words, literally translated as foul gull.



## British Nature Guide



# On Tour:



Familiar birds in unfamiliar places

Sanderling, Turnstone and Grey Plover on the beach, and Osprey soaring overhead. All species with large geographical ranges. These photos could have been taken in the UK, but they were in fact taken on the coast of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico



# British Nature Guide and friends on tour

## British and European Fritillaries

More than 40 species of fritillary butterflies occur in Europe. 8 species can be found in the UK, but most are rare, have very restricted ranges and short flight seasons. If you want to see them you need to time your trip carefully, even then success is not guaranteed as weather can easily intervene.



Argynnis paphia (Silver-washed Fritillary)



Clossiana dia (Violet or Weaver's Fritillary)  
Photo by Richard K Lambert



Melitaea trivia (Lesser Spotted Fritillary)



Argynnis aglaja (Dark Green Fritillary)



Melitaea athalia (Heath Fritillary)



Melitaea cinxia (Glanville Fritillary)



Boloria euphrosyne  
(Pearl-bordered Fritillary)



Brenthis daphne (Marbled Fritillary)  
Photo by Richard K Lambert



Hypodryas maturna (Scarce Fritillary)  
Photo by Richard K Lambert



Melitaea diamina (False Heath Fritillary)  
Photo by Richard K Lambert



Just a reminder that not all fritillaries are butterflies.  
Above is a photo of the Snake's-head Fritillary.

## A North London experience

In the last issue, the focus was on the butterflies and moths found during lockdown at two North East London sites, Walthamstow Wetlands and Tottenham Marshes. Other insects also made a strong showing so good reason to turn attention to dragonflies, damselflies and beyond this time around.

While elusive as ever, patrolling Emperor Dragonflies made their presence known from late May onwards, allowing occasional close views and eventually rewarding patience by pausing for photographs. Moving into June, Black-tailed Skimmers also came to the fore with both adult and immature males present at Walthamstow Wetlands. As the summer reached its height, numerous Brown Hawkers emerged both on site and some distance away with this most active of species prepared to roam widely in search of females or the small insects it feeds on. A plethora of Migrant Hawkers flew around the wetlands throughout September, outnumbering even Common Darters.



Black-tailed Skimmer  
(immature male)



Black-tailed Skimmer  
(adult male)



Emperor Dragonfly  
(immature male)



Emperor Dragonfly  
(adult male)



Brown Hawker



Ruddy Darter



Migrant Hawker



Red-eyed Damselflies

Damselflies also had a strong presence with the first Banded Demoiselles emerging in May and remaining numerous from then on. Common Blue Damselflies were easily found on both marshes and wetlands and after a long wait for this observer, male Red-eyed Damselflies were located in a secluded spot at the edge of Low Maynard reservoir engaged in battles over their favoured water lily leaves.



Banded Demoiselle (male)



Banded Demoiselle (female)



Common Blue Damselfly (male)



Common Blue Damselfly (female)

Amidst the lepidoptera and ordonata, there was no shortage of other colourful insects to catch the eye including two distinctive hoverflies, the harmless mimic 'hornet' and the pleasingly marked 'batman'.



Common Carder Bee  
(*Bombus pascuorum*)



Hornet Hoverfly  
(*Volucella zonari*)



'Batman' Hoverfly  
(*Myathropa florea*)



Common Wasp  
(*Vespa vulgaris*)

# Undercover Butterflies

Butterflies make use of their colours and patterns in every aspect of their existence. Their elaborate upperwing markings can be used either to attract a mate or to distract predators (luring them to the outer wings where they can do least damage) while their underwings often serve the opposite purpose of enabling them to blend in with their background. Here we see how even three of our most colourful species are equipped to hide in open view.



**Small Tortoiseshell** While dazzling in its beauty, this species can perch with its spectacular upperside entirely concealed. The mottled underside is worth a close look though for the subtle and pleasing echo it provides of the striking upperwing patterns.



**Comma** This species is a true wonder of nature, its symmetrical wing patterns resembling jigsaw pieces in shape. This confuses predators drawn to the colourful upperside and enables a resting Comma to perch upright in perfect imitation of a leaf. Note also the white lower wing 'comma' shown left.



**Peacock** A wonderfully eye-catching large butterfly whose early spring appearance is a sight to behold when patrolling at high speed. In repose though another species that lowers its profile with an underwing pattern that can appear jet black unless caught in the sun.



# British Nature Guide

## On Tour:



Mammals of the Okavango Delta in Botswana

**Botswana is home to 170 different species of mammal. Only one is considered critically endangered, the South-central Black Rhinoceros.**

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve is the second largest game reserve in the world. At 52,800 square kilometres, it is larger than Switzerland



African Elephant



African Buffalo



Bushbuck



Tsessebe



Wildebeest



Southern Giraffe



# British Nature Guide and friends on tour

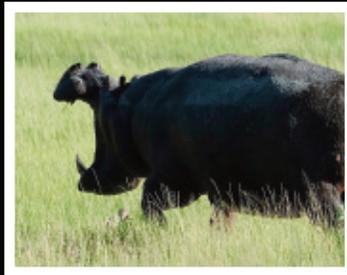
## Mammals of the Okavango Delta in Botswana

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The Cheetah, Lion and Leopard face a high risk of extinction in the wild. Botswana is one of their last strongholds. In most of Africa predators are being pushed into isolated reserves, often surrounded by human towns and farms. With wild animals, people and domestic livestock living in such close proximity, conflicts are inevitable.



Side-striped Jackal



Hippopotamus



Common Waterbuck



African Lion



Leopard

*Halcyon senegalensis*  
(Woodland Kingfisher)



# British Nature Guide

# On Tour: Botswana

A few splashes of avian colour from Botswana



*Coracias caudatus*  
(Lilac-breasted Roller)



*Cossypha heuglini*  
(White-browed Robin-chat)



*Halcyon albiventris*  
(Brown-hooded Kingfisher)



*Merops persicus* (Blue-cheeked Bee-eater)



*Mycteria ibis* (Yellow-billed Stork)

The power station in Morro Bay closed in 2014 and its fate remains uncertain.



## British Nature Guide

# On Tour: USA



A winter's day in Morro Bay, California

**It might not look like a good place for wildlife, but in Morro Bay's case looks really are deceptive. Visit if you can.**

The birds and animals are so easy to approach. Within a few minutes of arrival we had seen dozens of species, including California Sea Lions, Sea Otters, Western Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Willet, Black Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Brown Pelican, Eared Grebe, Brant Goose, House Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, House Finch, Heermann's Gull, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Common Loon, Pacific Loon and Surf Scoter. Plus the species pictured here and more.



Brewer's Blackbird



Western Gull



Ground Squirrel



Great Egret



The huge rock in the bay is a volcanic plug

# BIRDSONGS

nature as inspiration

## Bluebird (Paul and Linda McCartney)

**“Late at night when the wind is still, I’ll come flying through your door”**

During 1974 the Band on the Run album by Wings returned Paul McCartney to a Beatles level of success, topping the US and UK album charts and selling six million copies worldwide by the year’s end.



Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*) photographed in California

While spawning two major hit singles (Jet and the title track), the album also featured the subtly lilting Bluebird which would come to prove one of its most enduring tracks. Thought to have been composed by McCartney on a holiday in Jamaica in 1971, the song was very much a companion piece to the Civil Rights anthem Blackbird (featured in our summer 2020 issue) and likewise expressed a yearning for freedom though this time on a more personal level.

### **“Fly away through the midnight air, as we head across the sea”**

While the song describes an escape to far-flung shores, Bluebird also reflects McCartney’s post-Beatles domestic contentment which may explain the co-writing credit.

As with Blackbird the Bluebird serves as a metaphor though this time for a blissful journey with a loved one, the plaintive lyric

complemented by Howie Casey’s memorable soaring saxophone solo which conveys the two birds taking flight. The thematic echoes of the Walter Kent/Nat Burton 1941 composition (There’ll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs of Dover may or may not be intended though McCartney would undoubtedly have been familiar with the popular Vera Lynn wartime version.

While never quite receiving the wide exposure of other McCartney compositions, Bluebird has grown in stature through subsequent decades with Rolling Stone Magazine ranking it as his 14th greatest post-Beatles song, citing “a bittersweet melody only McCartney could have written”.

### **“At last we will be free, Bluebird and me”**

The Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*) and its Eastern equivalent (*Sialia sialis*) are

colourful small thrushes whose behaviour, other than a tendency to gather in small flocks, has similarities with the European Robin (a chat from the flycatcher family) in dropping swiftly from perches to catch flies and being fiercely territorial.

Bluebirds have a quiet distinctive song, somewhat staccato but beautiful, and can be drawn to feeders with mealworms. Those in northern regions of the United States migrate southwards each winter, some as far as Mexico, while those in the south remain as year-round residents.

For those fortunate enough to have encountered these delightful songbirds, it is easy to see why they served as inspiration for a songwriter celebrated for his love of nature.

# The British Nature Guide

## Bird names we have lost, might lose or could gain

In the past, when people seldom travelled far from their place of birth, birds were given different names in different parts of the UK. A bird might have a dozen or more different names.

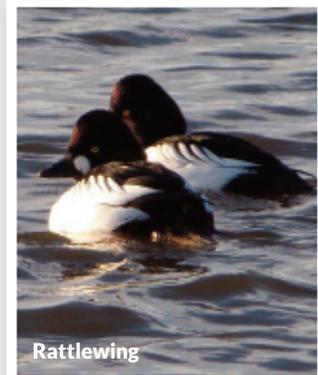
Over the last hundred years, as people moved to different parts of the country, most of these local names have been lost. Just a few are still in common usage, and these may soon disappear.

Below are some of the names I have heard used in my time as a birdwatcher.

- Dunnock/Hedge Sparrow
- Dabchick/Little Grebe
- Lapwing/Peewit
- Mistle Thrush/Stormcock
- Great Skua/Bonxie
- Black Guillemot/Tystie
- Green Woodpecker/Yaffle
- Song Thrush/Throstle
- Gannet/Solan Goose
- Nightjar/Goatsucker
- Little Auk/Dovekie

### Lost names for birds

In the last century the Goldeneye was known as the Rattlewing in parts of Britain because of the loud noise made by its wings.



Is this photo of a Dunnock, Hedge Sparrow, Shufflingwing, or Hedge Accentor? You decide.

A few names we have lost, that it might be nice to bring back.

- Goldfinch/Thistlefinch
- Bittern/Boomer
- Black Grouse/Heath-hen
- Great Tit/Ox-eye

Two names that will never be used again by a birdwatcher to identify a bird sighting.

- Great Auk/Garefowl
- Eskimo Curlew/Doughbird

### Lost names for birds

The Avocet was known as the Clinker in some parts of Britain up to the middle of 20th Century because of its call, which was said to sound like glasses clinking together.

In recent times, some birdwatchers have developed accepted abbreviations for bird names. In time these might come into common usage and could even replace existing names.

- Spotskank/Spotted Redshank
- Hoodie/Hooded Crow
- Barwit/Bar-tailed Godwit
- Gropper/Grasshopper Warbler
- Manxie/Manx Shearwater
- Mipit/Meadow Pipit
- Sprawk/Sparrowhawk
- Oyk/Oystercatcher

Here are eight alternative names which were still in use in some parts of the UK in the second half of the last century. Some older birders have used them when they first took up the hobby.

- Cushat
- White Owl
- Reed-Pheasant
- Rainbird
- Sea-Parrot
- Dunter
- Corn-bill
- Land-Rail

Go to page 44 to find out what these birds are commonly called now.

# recommended nature reserve

# Wanstead Flats



**Location:** Wanstead, East London  
**Size:** 187 hectares  
**Management:** Corporation of London  
**Opening times:** free access all year round  
**How to get there:** a short walk from Wanstead Park (Gospel Oak to Barking Line)

The southernmost stretch of Epping Forest – a haven for a wide range of resident and migrant species. While on the edge of East London, Wanstead Flats attracts a wide range of species not usually associated with urban birdwatching due to the wide range of habitats it provides.

The presence of playing fields alongside scrub and woodland creates an almost shire-like environment especially favoured by gulls (see Common Gull above left) and Jackdaws (a species largely absent from London's parks where Carrion Crows predominate). During the year there are likely to be



opportunities to find numerous noteworthy species such as Wheatear, Linnet, Spotted Flycatcher, Redpoll, Siskin, Redstart, Firecrest, Lesser Whitethroat, Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtail while the generous spirited local birdwatchers @wansteadbirding are quick to spread word of visiting rarities and their location (a Rustic Bunting in 2018 being a memorable example). The two lakes on the flats attract a wide range of resident and visiting waterfowl.



During spring Skylarks (1) are often seen in the brooms or singing overhead with close views sometimes rewarding a careful approach, while Whinchats (2) are annual visitors that can be tracked down with due perseverance.

For both of these red list (highest conservation priority) species this has proven an important site. Green Woodpeckers (3) have been remarkably successful breeders on the flats where these colourful birds often feed and call in plain sight amidst the shrub and numerous anthills. Ring Ouzel (4) is another red list species drawn to the flats during the spring and autumn migration despite normally favouring uplands habitat.



Clouted Yellow

Brown Argus

Green Hairstreak

Small Heath

**Other wildlife:** Other wildlife: During the warmer months visitors may be fortunate enough to encounter a wide range of butterflies, day-flying moths and other insects around the flats. This includes a colony of Green Hairstreaks (to be found during their brief May-June flight period), Brown Argus, Small Copper, Essex Skipper and occasional Clouted Yellows.

# Pollinators

given Royal stamp of approval

The act of pollination involves transferring pollen from the male part of a plant (stamen) to the female part (pistil) which enables plants to reproduce.

Insects are invaluable in this process as they pollinate plants by feeding on the nectar, their role having been recognised this autumn in a series of Royal Mail stamps (featuring illustrations by wildlife artist Richard Lewington) celebrating the six species on this page.



Common Carder Bumblebee



Painted Lady

## Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Sadly a species that has not enjoyed a happy migration to these shores this year with most butterfly watchers reporting very few sightings, so all the more appropriate it has been commemorated as a symbol of our fragile ecosystem. Feeds on thistles, mallows and common nettles and can be found on more continents than any other butterfly, while its remarkable annual migration from North Africa to Europe is one of the wonders of the natural world.

## Common Carder Bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

Easily identified amidst other common bumblebees by its fluffy, ginger thorax, this species can be seen from early spring through to late autumn in a wide range of habitats. Highly regarded by farmers and gardeners as a pollinator of crops and flowers including green alkanet, yellow archangel and white dead nettle. Its long tongue is ideally designed for nectaring on flowers or gaining sustenance from honey.



Marmalade Fly

## Marmalade Fly (*Episyrphus balteatus*)

A widespread species of hoverfly in flight throughout the year which can be found in parks, hedgerows and on the edge of woodlands. A frequent visitor to gardens where its abundance makes it an effective pollinator, favouring ragwort, tansy and cow parsley. Also a pest controller as its carnivorous larvae feeds on aphids, this hoverfly also migrates from the continent and can be found on coastal flowers.

## Longhorn Beetle (*Rutpela maculata*)

Named for its long antennae, this species is seen from May through to August, being common in England and Wales but scarcer further north. An active pollinator found in hedgerows and at woodland edges (the larvae live on rotten wood), usually seen on hawthorn, oxeye daisies and hogweed. It is also often drawn to gardens where it feeds on celery, carrot, parsley flowers and rose blossom.



Elephant Hawk-moth

## Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*)

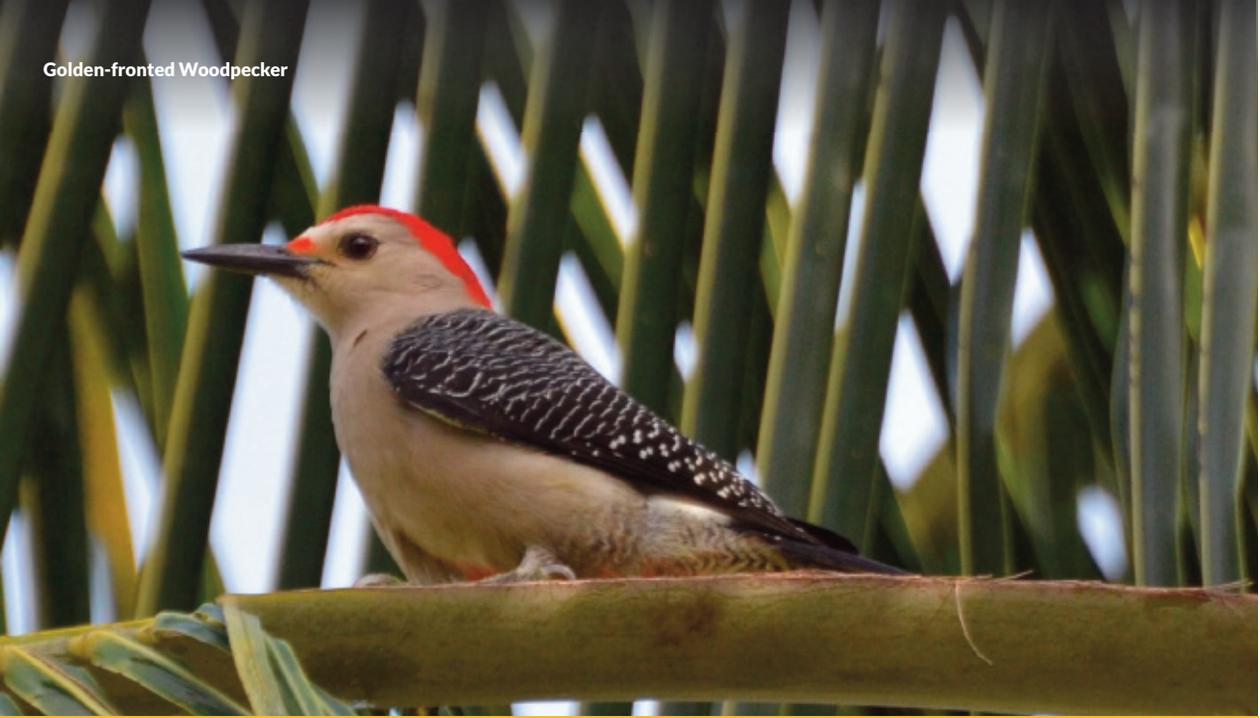
Named thus as the caterpillar resembles an elephant's trunk, this nocturnal species can see colours in the dark, enabling it to feed on night opening flowers and attract suitors. The most common and widespread of the UK's hawk-moths, emerging as an adult between May and July, can sometimes be found resting on fuchsias and willowherbs in gardens with its bright pink markings blending in.

## Ruby-tailed Wasp (*Chrysis ignita*)

Found in rocky habitats like walls and quarries, this cuckoo species has armoured plating and can roll into a ball which provides protection when invading the nests of host bees and wasps. This beautiful insect glitters in the sunlight and is harmless to humans, though it does have a (non-venomous) sting. In flight from April to September and a pollinator of all kinds of plants and fruit trees.



Ruby-tailed Wasp



# The British Nature Guide

## A look at Woodpeckers

The Magellanic woodpecker is found in southern Chile and Argentina. It is the largest woodpecker in South America and can be found right down to the bottom of the continent.

There are 43 species of woodpecker in South-east Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam) including the Greater Slaty Woodpecker which is the largest species in the world. This species is vulnerable to extinction, depending on undisturbed forests for food and breeding. Large areas of suitable habitat have been logged over recent years.

The smallest woodpecker in southern Africa is the African Piculet. This species is only 8cm in length. It is small enough to climb twigs and grass stems. This species has a stable population.



Cuban Green Woodpecker

The species with the largest global distribution is probably the Great Spotted Woodpecker. It can be found across Europe, Russia, China, India and North Africa. It is the most commonly seen species in the UK.

It is a matter of some dispute, but it is generally accepted that there are over 300 species of woodpecker in the world.

The collective noun for a group of woodpeckers is a descent.

Most species of woodpecker have zygodactyl feet, meaning that two toes point forwards and two toes point backwards, making it easier for them to grip tree trunks.

Piculets, Flamebacks, Flickers and Sapsuckers are all types of woodpeckers. The smallest of these are the Piculets.

Woodpeckers can be found over much of the world. They are missing only from Australasia, Madagascar and Antarctica.

10 species of woodpeckers breed in Europe. 9 are resident species, and the other, the Wryneck leaves Europe to winter in Africa. Only the Great Spotted, the Lesser Spotted, the Green and the Wryneck occur in the UK. The Wryneck is now only a rare visitor, having once been a quite widespread breeding species in England.

North America is home to 23 species of woodpecker. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is the most numerous with a population of 15 million birds. With less than 5000 birds left, the Arizona Woodpecker has the smallest population. In North America some woodpecker species are called Sapsuckers because they drill small holes in trees and feed on the sap the tree exudes.

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker of North America and the similar Imperial Woodpecker of Mexico share the unenviable distinction of being either critically endangered or extinct. There have been no confirmed sightings of either species in the last 60 years. Searches continue for both species.

# the answers



● Page 3: Nature Crossword

A prickly garden visitor	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G	
A reptile with four legs and a long tail			L	I	Z	A	R	D	
A bird - never far from a pirate's shoulder		P	A	R	R	O	T		
A type of fruit named after its colour		O	R	A	N	G	E		
Like a Weasel or a Stoat			F	E	R	R	E	T	
A type of wild dog	W	O	L	F					
A water bird with a very large beak			P	E	L	I	C	A	N
A plant that climbs up walls				I	V	Y			
A large, long-legged bird that eats fish		H	E	R	O	N			
A large antelope in Africa		E	L	A	N	D			
A small brown garden bird	W	R	E	N					
Black and white, looks like a bear			P	A	N	D	A		
A plant with shiny and prickly leaves			H	O	L	L	Y		
A bird which sings high in the sky		L	A	R	K				
A whale with long horn like Unicorn			N	A	R	W	H	A	L
A mammal which flies at night	B	A	T						

● Page 6: Mini-Quiz

● Something beginning with W

Here are a few more animals, plants, insects and birds with names that begin with a W. **Whale, Wombat, Wren, Walnut and Willow.** Well done if you got all of the ones named above, and congratulations if you have thought of any others.

● **Name the Bird:** The bird pictured is a Black Redstart

● **1:** The more common name for the Gnu in Africa is the Wildebeest.

● **2:** The Tasmanian Devil, Kangaroo, Bandicoot, Opossum, Wombat, Sugar Glider and Cuscus are all types of MARSUPIAL. They live in Australasia, North America and South America.

● **3:** The Whooper Swan and the Bewick's Swan are winter visitors to the UK. The Mute Swan and the Black Swan live here all year round. The Black Swan can be found in the wild in Australia.

● **4:** If you were watching a Kiwi in the wild you would be in New Zealand.

● **5:** Loach, Wrasse and Schelly are all types of fish.

● **6:** 635 bird species have been seen in the UK. This number is changing every year.

● **7:** The Unicorn, Roc, Phoenix and Yeti are not real animals. In legend the Unicorn is a horse with a single long horn on its forehead. The Roc is a legendary bird of prey. The Phoenix is

a mythical bird that rises from fire. The Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, is a large hairy animal rumoured to live in the Himalayas.

The animals named below all exist in the wild, somewhere in the world.

The Aye-aye is a rare Lemur living in Madagascar.

The Echidna is a spiky, egg-laying Mammal, found in Australasia.

The Axolotl is an endangered Salamander, also known as the Mexican Walking Fish. Lives in a small area near Mexico City.

The Kinkajou is a mammal living in the tropical rainforests of South and Central America.

The Fossa is a carnivorous cat-like mammal found only in Madagascar.

The Babirusa is a wild pig with horns like a deer, living on several Indonesian islands.

The Hellbender is a giant aquatic Salamander living in the central and eastern states of the USA.

The Gerenuk is a long-necked Antelope living in Africa.

The Colugo is an arboreal mammal living in the forests of Southeast Asia. It can glide from tree to tree like a Flying Squirrel.

The Bilby is a small marsupial with rabbit-like ears living in Australia.

The Saiga is a strange-looking antelope found from the European Carpathian Mountains in the west to Mongolia in the east.

The Markhor is a large goat with long spiral horns living in Central Asia.

● **Page 10: Bird Table Birds**



**Bullfinch**



**Great Tit**



**Chaffinch**



**Nuthatch**



**Long-tailed Tit**



**Coal Tit**



**Goldfinch**



**Robin**



**Blue Tit**

● **Page 12 Missing parts of the Butterfly**

Abdomen, head, eyes, legs, antennae, thorax, forewings and hindwings.

● **Page 27 Wordsearch** First letter of each word is highlighted



● **Page 39 Old names for Bird species**

- Cushat - Woodpigeon
- White Owl - Barn Owl
- Reed-Pheasant - Bearded Tit
- Rainbird - Green Woodpecker
- Sea-Parrot - Puffin
- Dunter - Eider
- Corn-bill - Corn Bunting
- Land-Rail - Corncrake

**COULD YOU CHOOSE?**

Conservationists do not have the resources to save all of the species that are facing extinction in the world.

Over the coming decades they will have to make some very difficult decisions. If you could only afford to save the Sumatran Orangutan, the Sumatran Tiger or the Sumatran Rhinoceros, which would you choose?

Could you decide which species deserves to live and which should be doomed to extinction?

**A VERY SAD FACT TO END WITH:**

Poachers kill around 100 African Elephants every day.



**Our World needs our help.**



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

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