

FREE!

**GREY SEAL
POSTER**



**NATURE'S
NOISES**

Maddie Moate explores
the sounds of winter

**ANCIENT
ANIMALS**

Meet some
100-year-old wildlife



Issue 100 **Winter 2021**

wildlife watch



MAGAZINE

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100

ISSUE



100 ISSUES OF WILDLIFE WATCH!

This is a super special edition of *Wildlife Watch*. It's our 100th issue! We're so excited to be sharing it with you.

The very first issue of *Wildlife Watch* came out in spring 1973 – that's almost 49 years ago! Back then, there were no mobile phones and no World Wide Web – can you imagine that? The world has changed a lot since then, and so has the magazine! It looks very different, as you can see from the photo on the right.



Even the name has changed – when the magazine first started, it was called *Watch Word*. But even after 100 issues and all those years, *Wildlife Watch* is still very special. And what makes it special, is you!

We love sharing weird and wonderful wildlife with you, but what we like even more is everything you share with us. We love to see your amazing artwork, and read about all the animals you've seen on your adventures. We especially love hearing about all the incredible work *Wildlife Watchers* do to help the planet, from

litter picks to giving up single-use plastic. There are lots of problems for nature and our planet at the moment, but we know the future is in safe hands with you!

To celebrate our 100th issue, we wanted to share some of the amazing wildlife success stories that have happened since issue number one – discover these on page 6! We're also setting a challenge for all our wonderful *Wildlife Watchers*: can you find 100 species next year? Turn to page 12 for ideas on which wildlife to look

out for each season. And if you think *Wildlife Watch* is old, wait until you meet the ancient animals on page 12!

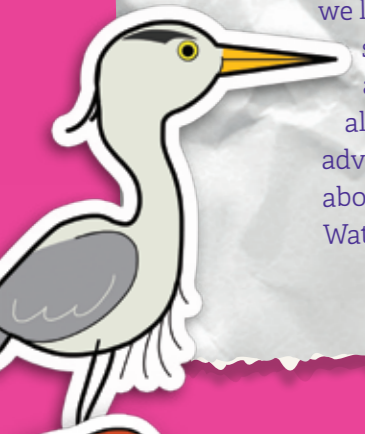
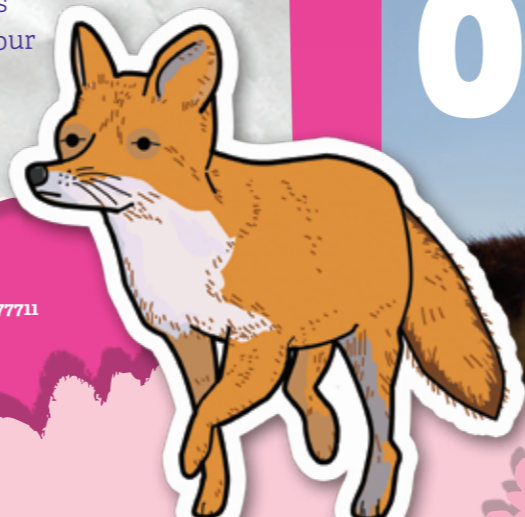
To make this issue extra special for you, we asked some of our famous friends if they could write a couple of features. We've got *CBeebies* and *Springwatch* presenter Maddie Moate sharing the sounds of winter, and adventurer and nature expert Sophie Pavelle introducing wild ways to discover wildlife. With all of this and more, we hope you enjoy your winter issue of *Wildlife Watch*!

TOM HIBBERT
Editor, *Wildlife Watch*



GET IN TOUCH
Email us at: watch@wildlifetrusts.org Ring us on: 01636 677711
Write to us at: **Wildlife Watch, The Kiln, Mather Road Newark, Notts, NG24 1WT**

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WILDLIFE WATCH 100
Editor: Tom Hibbert
Editorial Team: Ashleigh Carter, Joanna Richards, Leanne Smart, Mike Watson, Charlotte Varela

Check out wildlifetrusts.org/privacy-policy to find out how we keep your information safe.

What's Wildlife Watch?
Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts. Join *Wildlife Watch* and start your nature adventure. Prices start from £30 for a family membership, but please bear in mind prices may vary depending on which Wildlife Trust you join. You'll receive a starter pack and four issues of *Wildlife Watch* magazine a year. This is packed full of amazing pictures, posters and competitions. We also have a really wild website and e-newsletter full of wild ideas and nature-spotting tips. Plus you get access to local events and groups. Go to wildlifewatch.org.uk to find out more.

KEEP WATCHING!

Murmuration © Danny Green / 2020VISION

Fish by Watch reader, Alex

Otters © Danny Green / 2020VISION

Cover illustration: Rachel Hudson Illustration Cover pics: Badger © Mark Davison, Common cuttlefish © Julie Fletcher, Daubenton's bat © Dale Sutton / 2020VISION, Emperor dragonfly © Ross Hoddmott / 2020VISION, Fox © Luke Massey / 2020VISION, Gannet © Chris Gomersal / 2020VISION, Osprey and red squirrel © Peter Cairns / 2020VISION, Puffin © Mark Hamblin / 2020VISION, Red admiral © Guy Edwards / 2020VISION, Short-snouted sea horses © Alexander Mustard / 2020VISION, Swallow © Alan Williams / naturepl.com

The Science Section

In every issue this year we'll be bringing you a fact-packed science section, sharing recent discoveries about weird and wonderful wildlife and explaining the meaning of some scientific words.

WILD WORDS

Impress your friends with new words from the world of wildlife science!

PELAGE

(pel-ij)
The hairy, furry, or woolly coat of a mammal. Many mammals grow a thicker pelage in winter to stay warm!

NOCTURNAL

(nock-tur-nul)
Used to describe animals that are active at night, like many moths.



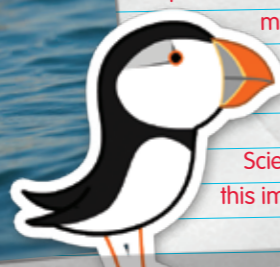
TORPOR

(tor-puh)
When animals go into a kind of deep sleep, with a lower body temperature, breathing rate and heart rate to save energy if it's cold or there's not much food. It's like a mini version of hibernation!

RECENT DISCOVERIES



© Margareth Holland



SEABIRD SANCTUARY

A new safe space for seabirds has been created in the North Atlantic Ocean! This special part of the sea, which is the size of France, will be protected to make sure the millions of seabirds that travel there to feed will have plenty to eat. Scientists discovered this important area

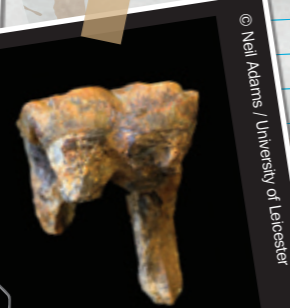
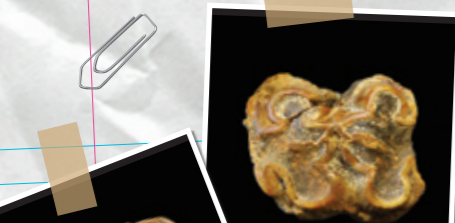
by putting small tracking devices on seabirds and recording where they went. Birds from many different countries visit the area, including puffins and kittiwakes from the UK. This special place has been given the long name of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount Marine Protected Area – or NACES MPA for short!

HIPPO HISTORY

Scientists have discovered a fossilised hippo's tooth in Somerset that's more than one million years old. This is the oldest hippo fossil ever found in the UK! The tooth belonged to an extinct species of

hippo called *Hippopotamus antiquus*. By comparing it to other hippo teeth, they identified it as an upper molar – a chewing tooth. Hippos lived in Britain during warm periods between ice ages, but have been extinct here for over 100,000 years. This tooth was found in an old cave in a quarry in Somerset.

© Neil Adams - University of Leicester



WILD THINGS

News from our Wildlife Watchers



LITTER PICK LEGEND



Five-year-old Jensen from Derbyshire convinced his parents to get some litter pickers. Every morning before school he collects litter to take home and throw away properly.

ANIMAL ARTIST



Evangeline (aged 8) from Lancashire made this cool creature-filled collage, including drawings of the animals that she saw on Shetland! She also made her own hedgehog house.

WASTE WARRIOR



Nine-year-old Mae from Oxfordshire does all she can to save the planet. She puts up posters about littering in school and goes on lots of litter picks. She used all the plastic lids she collected to make this amazing artwork to highlight the problem of plastic waste.

DUCK DEFENDER

Seven-year-old Jackson from Scotland loves birds and does lots to help them. He even gave a talk to his class on feeding ducks duck food instead of bread.



RIVER RESCUERS



Natalia (aged 9) and her brother Reuben (aged 5) went litter picking along a river in Suffolk. They picked up lots of rubbish that could hurt wildlife. They also saw lots of animals, including a crab fighting with a gull!



INSECT INSPECTOR

Five-year-old Connor from Staffordshire found this gorgeous lesser stag beetle in his garden. We'd be excited too!

Do you want to write for the magazine? Send your stories and ideas to watch@wildlifetrusts.org

CELEBRATING WILDLIFE WINS

by Joanna Richards



Nature's great big fight back

Open up any issue of *Wildlife Watch* from the last 48 years and you'll find weird, wonderful and downright fascinating stories of wildlife living right here in the UK. But just how much have those stories changed over time? With towns and cities growing and changes in farming over the last 100 years, wildlife has often lost out – but thanks to amazing people, projects, and wildlife itself, there have also been some great success stories...

First issue of *Watch Word*, which would later be renamed *Wildlife Watch*.

1973

WATCH WORD



1990

CITY SLICKER

Who feels like pigeon tonight? Perhaps not... but for our superfast peregrine falcons, which can reach speeds of more than 200 miles per hour, pigeons are number one on the menu. This amazing bird of prey used to take up residence on cliff ledges, but more recently decided to try the city life, nesting on the soaring towers of city cathedrals or in the case of the clever pair in the East Midlands, on top of Nottingham Trent University building where they can listen in on a lesson or two!

"CHOUGHED" TO SEE YOU

Legend has it that when he died, the mighty King Arthur turned into this dapper bird from the crow family, which is easy to spot thanks to its bright red legs and bill. Its fortunes, however, have been mixed – once common around the coast, it became extinct in England in 1973 when the last chough died in Cornwall. But in 2001, they made their comeback, with three birds turning up on the Lizard in Cornwall and setting up home! They've been breeding ever since and lots of people are looking out for them, hoping that they'll stay for good.

2001



© Janet Packham

© Mike Snelle

2009

BEAVER FEVER

Believe it or not, beavers used to be found all over Great Britain! But in the 16th century, these tree chewing charmers were hunted for their fur and meat, sadly leading to their extinction. Many people, including The Wildlife Trusts, wished to see them return and in 2009, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and partners were the first to reintroduce wild beavers back to the UK. The beavers continue to live in Knapdale Forest, and others have since been released into enclosures in both England and Wales too!



© David Parkyn / Cornwall Wildlife Trust



© Nick Upton / Cornwall Wildlife Trust

OTTERLY MARVELLOUS

These sleek swimmers can be difficult to spot, but you've a much better chance now than kids growing up in the 1950s! That's because our rivers were so polluted at the time, that there wasn't enough food for these fish-lovers to survive. Efforts to clean up our rivers helped numbers to bounce back, so that today they can once again be found in every county in the UK. That's something to celebrate!

2011



© Andy Rouse / 2020VISION

2015

THE RETURN OF THE POOL FROG

What goes "ribbit ribbit"? Well, the northern pool frog for one – but you'd be lucky to hear their chirpy call. They are our rarest amphibian – and were in fact extinct here in the 1990s – but can now be found in Norfolk, after being reintroduced in 2015 by Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. The male frogs inflate two huge pouches on either side of their head to call out to the ladies. Fingers crossed they continue to find them, and this quirky creature's numbers grow!



Joanna Richards

Some of my first memories include pond dipping with my Dad and little brother Matthew, clutching onto our jam jars to inspect our findings, or sitting in the garden watching ants march back and forth. I've loved wildlife ever since – and luckily for me, managed to get a job at The Wildlife Trusts where I can share my passion with anyone that will listen!



© William Osborn / naturepl.com



© Darryn Green / 2020VISION

CANOE DOWN A RIVER

Get closer to the water by trying out a canoe. It's so much fun paddling down a river! If you stay quiet and float gently along, you can get up close to some of our amazing water-loving wildlife. Look out for ducks, and in summer dragonflies. You could even spot a kingfisher zipping past you! There are lots of places you can rent canoes or kayaks to paddle around on a river or lake – just make sure you wrap up warm, take plenty of snacks, and follow all safety instructions, including wearing safety equipment such as a buoyancy aid.

EXPLORE THE COAST ON A PADDLEBOARD

What's SUP? No, I'm not asking how you're doing – a SUP is a stand-up paddleboard! It's like a giant surfboard that you push along with an oar. We have some amazing coasts in the UK, with lots of wildlife like seals, dolphins and seabirds to discover. There are plenty of places you can take boat rides to get a better look, but for a real adventure try renting a stand-up paddleboard. It's fun, good exercise and much quieter than a boat, so wildlife might come even closer! You can use them on rivers, too. Make sure you check the weather, go with an adult, find a nice calm section of water and follow all safety instructions from the rental shop!

Always give nature some space. Let the wildlife come closer to you!

Sophie Pavelle is an adventurous nature lover and an ambassador for The Wildlife Trusts! Follow her on Instagram @sophiepavs



Explore the UK's wildlife in style with Sophie Pavelle!

WILD ADVENTURES

Everyone loves a good adventure story! But did you know you don't need to leave the UK to have your very own wild adventure? You could climb mountains, canoe down a river or even swim with sharks without ever getting on a plane. Let me show you some **AWESOME** activities!

WANDER ALONG YOUR LOCAL ESTUARY

Did you know that a river estuary is one of the BEST places for birdwatching in winter? Every year, the UK welcomes tens of thousands of migrant birds from Arctic countries to spend the winter months feeding on our rich estuary mud! Dress warmly, take some binoculars and head down to your local estuary. Look out for brent geese, lapwings, curlews, wigeons and spectacular starling murmurations as you near sunset. With so many birds it can get very noisy! The Wildlife Trusts has many nature reserves you can visit to see this winter feast – you don't want to miss out!

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

This is one of my FAVOURITE things to do. Every time you go camping it feels like a mini adventure, even if it's only in your back garden! It's also a great way to get closer to nature. As it gets dark, lots of hidden wildlife starts to appear. You can hear tawny owls hooting from the trees, or in summer watch bats swooping through the air. Then you can just lie back and look at the stars twinkling above you. The whole sky is like one giant dot-to-dot – what shapes can you make?

You don't always have to travel far to see amazing wildlife. **EVERY ISSUE THIS YEAR** we're taking a look at some of the natural treasures that can be found close to home.



NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP



WINTER WONDERS

Winter can seem quiet compared to the other seasons, but there's still plenty of wildlife to spot. Some animals are easy to see as they move around in search of food, but finding others takes a bit of searching!

HERE ARE SOME WILD WONDERS TO LOOK OUT FOR...

Blackbird



You're probably very familiar with this common garden bird! But did you know that many of the blackbirds you see in your park or garden in winter are here on holiday? Each autumn, thousands of blackbirds travel to the UK from Scandinavia and other countries in mainland Europe. Our winters aren't quite as cold as theirs, and there's more food around. They spend the winter scoffing berries with your local blackbirds, before travelling home again in spring.

Winter moth



Winter nights can be freezing cold, but a few hardy moths are tough enough to come out and fly through them. One that you might find outside your house is the winter moth. This small, smudgy grey moth has special chemicals in its blood that stop it from freezing! Winter moths are attracted to lights, so you may spot one bumping into a window or resting by an outside light.

Grey squirrel



These bushy-tailed mammals are a common sight in many parks and large gardens. In winter, they spend a lot of time in their nest, which is called a drey. It's a football-sized bundle of sticks, filled with moss and other soft materials. Every so often, they will wander out to find food. Grey squirrels bury lots of nuts in autumn and dig them up to eat in winter. Grey squirrels are fun to watch, but sadly they're bad news for our rare red squirrels, as they can't live together.

Ivy



This wonderful plant thrives in many parks and gardens. It's a climber, which means it grows by clinging onto trees, walls or other structures, though it can spread across the ground too. It has dark, glossy green leaves that can be seen at any time of year. In winter it grows black clusters of berries that birds love to eat.



Goal tit

These teeny birds like to be prepared for cold weather. They stash food in lots of different hiding places, so they have a supply for when things get tough!



100 SPECIES TO SPOT

Are you as excited about the 100th issue of Wildlife Watch as we are? Then why not take our **100 species challenge** and try to spot at least 100 different plants and animals in 2022! Test your knowledge, improve your identification skills and have fun exploring the wild as you race to your goal.

Most of these species can be spotted in other seasons, too!

You don't have to find all 100 on our list, there are lots of other species you could spot instead!

Look for them stashing seeds and nuts

© Adam Jones

These winter thrushes love bushes full of berries

WINTER

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Redwing | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Common gorse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Robin | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Snowdrop | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Tufted duck | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 Mistletoe | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Mallard | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 Primrose | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Long-tailed tit | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Yew tree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Pied wagtail | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 Scots pine | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 House sparrow | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 Grey seal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Song thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 Grey squirrel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Starling | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Pochard | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 11 Mute swan | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 12 Canada goose | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 13 Blackbird | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 14 Rook | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 15 Holly | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 16 Ivy | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

They like to hang out in large flocks

SPRING

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Chiffchaff | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Green shieldbug | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Great crested grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Garden snail | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Sand martin | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Bluebell | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Swallow | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 Daffodil | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Skylark | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 Cowslip | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Great spotted woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Hawthorn | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Blue tit | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 Stinging nettle | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 Cow parsley | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Orange-tip | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 Three-spined stickleback | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Peacock (butterfly) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 Common frog | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Brimstone (butterfly) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 12 Large white (butterfly) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 13 Holly blue | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 14 Small tortoiseshell | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 15 St. Mark's fly | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Listen for it singing "chiff chaff, chiff chaff"

SUMMER

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Swift | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 Common blue (butterfly) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Common tern | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 Meadow brown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Herring gull | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 Red admiral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Common red soldier beetle | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 Ringlet | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Black garden ant | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 Speckled wood | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Common darter | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 Garden bumblebee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Four-spotted chaser | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Large black slug | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Common blue damselfly | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Common spotted orchid | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Blue-tailed damselfly | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Foxglove | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 19 Oak tree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 20 Bracken | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 21 Pipistrelle bat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 22 Harbour porpoise | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 23 Rabbit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 24 Shore crab | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 25 Bladder wrack seaweed | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Listen for their screaming calls

AUTUMN


- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Jay | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 Bluebottle fly | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Nuthatch | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 Garden woodlouse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Woodpigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 Common centipede | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Chaffinch | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 Red deer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Goldfinch | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 Hazel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Cellar spider | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 Crab apple | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Cranefly | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 Beefsteak fungus | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 House spider | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 Fly agaric fungus | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Common harvestman | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 Horse chestnut | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Zebra spider | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 Dog rose | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Garden spider | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 Bramble | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 7-spot ladybird | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 13 Common earwig | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 14 Common field grasshopper | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Gently lift up logs and rocks

Males are on the move as they look for love!

Want even more of a challenge? Try to find 100 species in a single season!

GALLERY

Send in your photos, poems, artwork and letters for your chance to feature in the gallery. If your work is picked as the star entry you'll win your very own drawing kit!  The perfect starter set for any budding wildlife artist.



1 



2



7



8



3



4



9



10



11



5




6



12

HOW TO ENTER

Email watch@wildlifetrusts.org with the subject line 'Gallery entry' or write to us at:
Wildlife Watch Gallery
The Wildlife Trusts
The Kiln, Mather Road
Newark
Notts NG24 1WT

1) Hedgehog by Alice, aged 9 
 We love the way the different shades of brown make this hedgehog look super spiky!

2) Fish by Alex, aged 6
 Just look at this fabulous 3D fish! You can almost see it swimming.

3) Wasp nests by Theo, aged 7
 These incredible model wasp nests look just like the real thing!

4) Pheasant by Isabelle, aged 6
 Pheasants are so common, it's easy to forget how beautiful they are.

5) Butterflies by Jennifer, aged 11
 Jennifer did a great job photographing these two common blue butterflies.

6) Long-tailed tit by Isabella, aged 9
 The pose on this little bird is perfect – it looks ready to spring into flight!

7) Great crested grebe by Carys, aged 15
 This model grebe is amazing! We're super impressed.

8) Hare by Eva, aged 8
 Eva has made wonderful use of charcoal to bring this hare to life.

9) Bee by Tess, aged 8
 You can almost hear this brilliant bee buzzing!

10) Hobby by Eleni, aged 9
 The use of black and white really makes this fast falcon stand out.

11) Otter by Ben, aged 10
 This otter looks so happy as it peers around the rock!

12) Bees in lavender by Elsie, aged 9
 Elsie has created a beautiful scene of busy bees.



If we feature your work we will need your first name and your age, so don't forget to include them. We might also share it on our website and social media.

WEIRD NATURE



THIS ISSUE: CHRISTMASSY CREATURES by Pete Dommett

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE



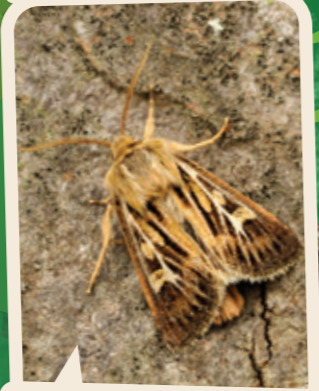
Finding this partridge in a pear tree – as mentioned in the famous carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas* – is pretty unlikely as they don't tend to perch in trees. You're much more likely to see a group (or 'covey') of these farmland birds scurrying about on the ground.

ROBIN



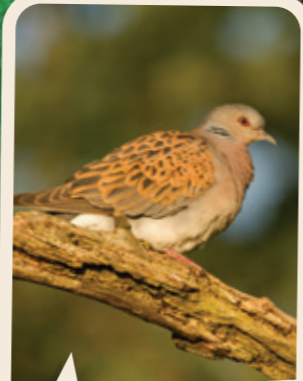
Robins are a common sight at Christmas – in gardens, parks and on Christmas cards! The Victorian postmen that delivered the first festive cards were nicknamed 'robins' because they wore bright red uniforms. Unusually, both male and female robins sing all through the winter.

ANTLER MOTH



Flying antlers? Not Santa's reindeers, but a moth named after the strange, antler-shaped markings on its wings. After spending the winter as an egg, the moth larva grazes on grass (just like Rudolph) before taking to the wing in summer!

TURTLE DOVE



Seeing two turtle doves at Christmas time would be seriously surprising as these birds live in West Africa during the winter! They migrate to the UK in spring to breed, but you'd still be lucky to spot one as sadly it's our fastest-declining bird.

HOLLY BLUE



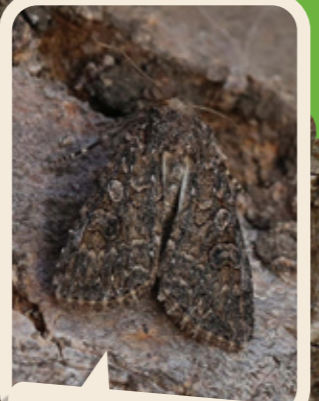
This common butterfly lays its eggs on two Christmassy bushes – the holly and the ivy! Its caterpillars feed on both plants before spending the winter pupating in cosy cocoons. The bright blue adults are one of the first butterflies to appear in spring.

BLACKBIRD



The original version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* mentions four colly birds, not calling birds as we usually sing. Colly means coaly or black... in other words, four blackbirds! Millions more blackbirds fly to the UK from northern Europe in winter to escape the colder climate. Brrrrrr!

NUTMEG MOTH



Nutmeg is the flavour of Christmas! This brown spice is found in lots of festive food and this moth looks like it's been sprinkled with it too! Nutmeg larvae burrow underground for the winter and emerge as adult moths in May.

MUTE SWAN



It should be easy to spot seven swans a-swimming because there are thousands of these big white birds in the UK! Mute swans are the most common species and live here all year, but whooper and Bewick's swans also visit in winter.

Make a glitter-free snow globe



Traditionally, glitter is made up of shiny microplastics that are really damaging to the environment and animals, especially in our seas. Try this glitter-free snow globe for an eco-friendly alternative!

- You will need**
- A glass jar with a lid
 - Unused small Christmas decorations
 - Craft glue
 - White tissue paper, cotton wool or moss
 - White paint and long brush
 - Decorations from nature
 - Twigs
 - Pine cones
 - Holly leaves
 - Acorns



Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2020

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk For more activity ideas



Join **MADDIE MOATE** on an audio adventure!



THE SOUNDS OF WINTER



© Jan Meaus

When was the last time you just closed your eyes and listened to the world around you? Winter is the perfect time to let your ears take the lead, with lots of noises to discover – from rain dancing on windows to chattering flocks of geese. So bundle up and get ready to explore the sounds of winter!



MADDIE MOATE is obsessed with science! She hosts the CBeebies show *Maddie's Do You Know?* and shares the wonders of noise on her podcast, *Maddie's Sound Explorers*. She is also an ambassador for The Wildlife Trusts!

© Danielle Dolson

THE RAIN DANCE

I love the sound of rain on my window. It's so soothing, almost like a piece of music. A tap dance for mice? Or maybe a samba for centipedes! We all know rain comes from clouds, but how does it get there? Well, the air around us is full of an invisible gas called water vapour. This water vapour rises up into the sky and sticks to little bits of floating material, like specks of dust or pollen. We call these specks cloud seeds. As it clumps together, the water vapour turns back into drops of liquid water and clouds are formed. More water drops join the cloud, until it gets too heavy and the water falls to earth as rain!

© Sadie McStorie



SNOW SILENCE

We don't often get much snow, but if it does fall you might notice something strange when you go outside. Shhh, can you hear it? The world seems a little bit quieter. Fresh, fluffy snow absorbs sound, so noises don't travel as far. This is because snowflakes have lots of tiny gaps between them. The sound waves from noises like traffic and people get trapped in the tiny gaps, so they don't travel as far. But once the snow starts to melt, these tiny gaps disappear and sounds get louder again.

Both male and female robins sing!

pink-footed geese © David Tipping / 2020VISION



GOSSIPING GEESE

Geese are incredibly noisy. I bet you've heard them honking in your local park! The reason they make so much noise is because they like to hang out in big flocks. The honks you hear help family groups stay together within the flock. All this chatter also lets the geese share other information, like when the flock is about to take off. In winter, thousands of geese can gather in one place to create one of nature's most spectacular sounds!

A group of geese is known as a gaggle.

© Annee Fairbank-Brown



SINGING SKILLS

Robins are famous for singing all winter, when most birds stay quiet. When a robin sings in winter, it's saying to all the other robins that the food in this area belongs to me! But how do birds make such complicated songs? The secret is a special voice box called the syrinx. Just like our voice box (called a larynx), the syrinx makes sound as air passes through it. The difference is, the syrinx is found at the bottom of the windpipe, where it forks to carry some air to each of the bird's two lungs. This means it basically has two voice boxes, one for each lung, that can both make different sounds at the same time. So a bird can duet with itself!

For our 100th issue, we're introducing some 100-year-old wildlife!

NATURE'S SENIOR CITIZENS

by Beth Churn



The UK is home to some old, wise, creatures that are experts in anti-ageing and avoiding being eaten. They have mastered slow living, often growing only a few millimetres per year. Many of them save their energy by moving very slowly and not having kids until they are really old!

Parasites can attach themselves to the shark's eyes making them blind. But they don't see much anyway in the deep dark depths of the sea!



Orange roughy

These are big, bright orange fish with spiny fins and tails. They can be found in deep seas around the UK. They were once called slime-head fish because slimy mucus oozes from their big heads! Their name was changed because fishermen didn't think this sounded very tasty. Counting the number of layers on the fish's ear bone will tell you how old it is. The oldest orange roughy was 230 years old. Orange roughy are in danger from overfishing, because they take so long to grow – so it's best not to eat them!



Cold-water coral

Did you know that corals don't just live in warm, tropical seas? They're also found in chilly, UK seas! Lots of tiny animals called 'polyps' live together in large groups. They build a shared skeleton-like house around themselves for protection. Over time, the hard skeletons grow and create a coral reef. The polyps themselves don't live that long, but the cold-water coral reefs they build can be 1000s of years old, and the oldest is thought to be over 8000!



Greenland shark

These are very mysterious creatures, staying in the deep, dark, cold seas that humans rarely explore. They're very slow swimmers, moving at less than half the pace of a walking human, despite being four times bigger! Females wait until they are an ancient 150 years old before having babies. Greenland sharks live to at least 250 years old and could possibly live to over 500, making them the longest living vertebrate (animals with backbones) on the planet!



Ocean quahog

(pronounced 'ko-hog' or 'kwah-hog').

This large clam lives buried in sandy seafloors. Like a tree, counting the number of growth rings on its shell tells its age. Scientists can also study the clam's shell to find out how warm and salty the sea was hundreds of years ago. The oldest recorded ocean quahog was 507 years old, so was alive when Henry VIII was king! It was nick-named 'Ming' as it was born during the rule of the Ming dynasty in China.



Yew trees

The most ancient trees in the UK are the Foringall Yew (Scotland), the Defynnog Yew (Wales), and the Crowhurst Yew (England). These are estimated to be 2000-5000 years old, meaning they may have started growing long before the Roman Empire began! As the world changes around it, the yew tree stands strong, rooted in the same spot. Imagine the things it has seen and the stories it would tell if it could speak!

The oldest recorded human in the UK was a woman who lived to 115 years and 228 days!



Freshwater pearl mussel

These mussels live in rivers and streams. Young mussels latch onto the gills of passing fish like salmon and trout. They stay here until they are big enough to survive on the riverbed. Few animals eat the adult mussels because they are protected by thick, hard shells. The oldest freshwater pearl mussel was 280 years old. They are endangered animals and their location is kept top secret to stop them from being illegally taken for their pretty pearls.

BROWN CENTIPEDE



© Alex Hyde / naturepl.com

For our 100th issue, we chose a feature creature famous for having 100 legs... well, sort of!

HOW MANY LEGS?

Centipedes are often thought to have 100 legs because of their name, which comes from the Latin words for 100 (centum) and feet (pedes). But centipedes don't actually have 100 legs! There are many different species of centipede, which can have as few as 30 legs or over 200 of them. The number of pairs of legs is always odd, so it's impossible for a centipede to have 100 legs – unless it loses a few! A fully grown brown centipede only has 30 legs.

© Niall Benvie / 2020VISION

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Scientific name

Lithobius forficatus

Size

Up to 3cm long

Amazing fact

Centipedes use their long antennae and legs to feel their way around.

GARDEN HUNTERS

Centipedes are fierce predators that use large venomous claws to hunt other minibeasts, including spiders and slugs. Brown centipedes are also known as common centipedes, because they're found across the UK in forests, fields and gardens. They spend the day hiding under stones and logs, then come out at night to hunt. If you carefully lift up a log or stone you might spot one underneath – but be sure to put it down gently so you don't squash them or any other creatures!

CENTIPEDE OR MILLIPEDE?

At first glance, it might seem tricky to tell a centipede from a millipede. They both have lots of legs! Counting the legs doesn't always help, but looking at where they're placed can. Their bodies are made up of lots of armour-like sections joined together. Millipedes have two pairs of legs on each section of their body, but centipedes only have one pair on each section. Millipede legs also point straight down to the ground, whilst centipede legs often stick out to the side. There are over 40 species of centipede in the UK, which are very difficult to tell apart.

WHAT'S A MURMURATION?

by Lauren Booth

Swirling and swooping, starlings gather together in huge flocks on winter evenings. They soar and dive and spin, creating enormous dazzling patterns in the sky as the sun goes down. This is called a murmuration. **But why do they do it?**

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Nobody really knows for sure why a murmuration forms, but there are lots of theories! Most experts think that starlings join a murmuration for protection. Predators, like sparrowhawks, like to hunt starlings. A single starling is easy to chase, but they find it confusing and very hard to pick out one bird to chase when it mixes in with a huge spinning flock of thousands.

WARM AND SNUGLY

Another theory is that a murmuration acts as an invitation. When starlings find a nice safe roosting site to spend the night, they form a murmuration to invite other nearby starling flocks to join them. The more starlings that join, the bigger the flock, so when the starlings settle down as the sun sets, they can huddle together in huge numbers and keep warm. This is very important to help them survive in winter.

The name murmuration comes from the murmuring sound of thousands of wingbeats



© Chris Speller

HOW TO SEE ONE!

A starling murmuration can happen almost anywhere in the UK, from wild nature reserves to the middle of towns and cities. The best places to see them though are often near reedbeds and piers, their favourite roosting sites.

A murmuration usually happens at sunset between October and March, just before the starlings settle down to sleep. At this time of year our resident British birds are joined by lots of starlings visiting from Europe to escape freezing winter temperatures farther north. This means flocks can be hundreds of thousands strong!

You'll need a bit of patience to see a murmuration. Try to arrive at least half an hour before sunset so that you can find a good place to watch as the starlings start to gather. Pick somewhere where you can see the sky and their roosting site for the best views. And remember to wrap up warm! It can get very chilly watching a murmuration, but it's a magical experience you'll remember forever!

Discover our top spots for seeing them at wildlifetrusts.org/murmurations

© Danny Green / 2020VISION



COMPETITIONS



WIN

ENDANGERED ANIMALS BINGO



This family-friendly bingo game by Laurence King Publishing is packed with astonishing and beautiful creatures from all over the world.

What unites them all? They are under threat, but there's still time to save them! Mark each species off on your card as it's called and be the first to shout BINGO!!

We've got **THREE** to give away.

Buy online at: wtru.st/animal-bingo RRP: £19.99

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

Just tell us which amphibian was reintroduced to the UK in 2015, after going extinct in the 1990s. (The answer is in the magazine!)



WIN

A BUG BOX KIT



Build your own bug box and create a handy hiding spot for bees, beetles and other minibeasts to spend the winter in your garden. This easy-to-assemble kit comes with pre-cut panels, nails and screws, so all you'll need is a hammer, screwdriver and some adult supervision to put it all together! Then just forage for sticks and cones to fill it.

We've got **SIX** kits to give away!

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FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

JUST ANSWER THIS QUESTION!

What is the name for a group of geese?

- a) A gaggle
- b) A chattering
- c) A charm

WIN

THE BLUE GIANT



This beautifully illustrated story follows Meera and her mum at the seaside, as they meet a blue giant that asks for help to save the seas. It's the perfect book to introduce young readers to the issues of pollution, waste and the ocean.

PAVILION

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FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN:

Draw your favourite sea creature.



COMPETITION RULES

Send your competition entries to us: **By email** watchcomps@wildlifetrusts.org **By post** Wildlife Watch, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT
Don't forget to include your name, age and a way of contacting you about your entry! **DEADLINE: 28 February 2022**

Competition entries may be used on our website and social media channels.