

TARGET SPECIES—JANUARY

Help us create records for locally significant
and under-recorded species each month

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SHELDUCK (*TADORNA TADORNA*)

- Larger than a mallard, smaller than a goose
- Found on coasts and estuaries feeding on crustaceans and invertebrates
- Males and females look similar with distinctive green and brown markings

Image: B Hall, RSPB images. Information: rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife



BEARD LICHENS (*USNEA SP.*)

- Pale green tangles found on tree branches
- Can range in size from a few millimetres up to 20cm in length
- Larger specimens are an indicator of good air quality

Image: Plantlife Information: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/67747-Usnea>



JELLY EAR FUNGUS (*AURICULARIA AURICULA JUDAE*)

- Found growing on dead elder trees and other hardwood
- Individual fruit bodies 3—10cm across
- Colour ranges from tan brown to a purplish tinge; spore prints are white

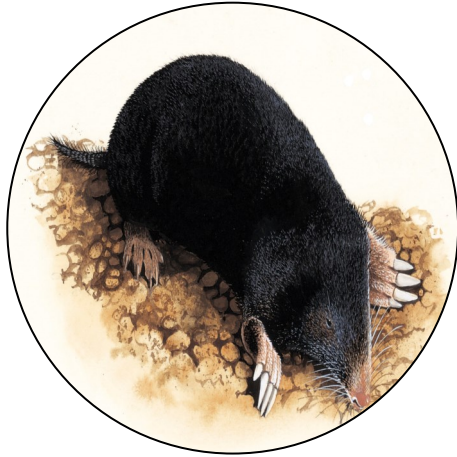
Image: Adam Ross, IFLI, Information: <http://www.first-nature.com/fungi/auricularia-auricula-judae.php>

TARGET SPECIES—FEBRUARY

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EUROPEAN MOLE (*TALPA EUROPAEA*)

- Feed primarily on earthworms but will also eat lizards and snakes.
- Although rarely spotted, their mounds of earth are often seen on grassy areas.

Image: Amy Lewis. Information: <http://www.mammal.org.uk/species-hub/full-species-hub/full-species-hub-list/species-mole/>



SONG THRUSH (*TURDUS PHILOMELOS*)

- Found in parks, gardens and woodland.
- Brown wings and back, with a white belly covered in dark, drop-shaped markings.
- Has a loud, melodic song and sings certain phrases repeatedly.

Image: Chris Gomersall, RSPB Images Information: <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/species/song-thrush/>



SCARLET ELF CUP (*SARCOSCYPHA SP.*)

- Many similar species
- Grow in clusters on dead wood and often found under leaf litter.
- As the spores explode out, makes a puff noise.

Image & Information: <http://www.wildfooduk.com/mushroom-guides/scarlet-elf-cup-mushroom/>

TARGET SPECIES—MARCH

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COMMON TOAD (*BUFO BUFO*)

- Olive brown with warty, bumpy skin
- Found in freshwater habitats such as ponds, streams and bogs
- Moves by crawling rather than hopping. Less agile than its frog relative!

Image: RSPB images. Information: <http://www.froglife.org/amphibians-and-reptiles/common-toad-2/>



SMALL TORTOISESHELL (*AGLAIS URTICAE*)

- Can be seen emerging from hibernation in gardens, park and woodlands
- White spot on wing tip defines it from the much rarer Large tortoiseshell butterfly
- Wingspan 4.5—6 cm across

Image: S Batty Information: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/679-754/small-tortoiseshell.html>



BUFF-TAIL BUMBLEBEE (*BOMBUS TERRESTRIS*)

- Commonly found in parks and gardens
- Queens have a light, buff colour tail while workers' tails are white with a buff strip
- Workers can be seen with orange pollen baskets on hind legs

Image: D Palmar, Photoscot Information: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/buff-tailed-bumblebee>

TARGET SPECIES – APRIL

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10 SPOT LADYBIRD (*ADALIA 10-PUNCTATA*)

- Found in woodlands and gardens
- Small & variable. Does not always have 10 spots, as colouring can take time to develop
- Has orange legs, making it easier to ID

Image: Sue Kennedy/ RSPB Images. Information: <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/10-spot-ladybird>



ADDER (*VIPERA BERUS*)

- Length: 65cm
- Found in woodland, heathland, moorland
- Usually grey or red-brown with distinctive dark zig-zag pattern on back
- Venomous! But of little danger to humans

Image: Ben Andrew/ RSPB Images. Information: <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/species/adder/>



COLTSFOOT (*TUSSILAGO FARFARA*)

- Develops a fluffy, dandelion-like seed head
- Found along gravel paths, ditches, streams
- Square, pinkish stems with scales
- Large heart shaped leaves develop after flower

Image: Guy Rodgers/ RSPB Images. Information: <http://www.first-nature.com/flowers/tussilago-farfara.php>

TARGET SPECIES – MAY

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ORANGE-TIP BUTTERFLY (*ANTHOCHARIS CARDAMINES*)

- Found in gardens and hedgerows
- Males have orange wing tips, females have grey tips - both have mottled underwing

Image: B Dawson/ BBCT Information: <http://butterfly-conservation.org/50-606/orange-tip.html>



CUCKOO (*CUCULUS CANORUS*)

- Dove sized bird, summer visitor
- Blur grey upper parts, head and chest - white barred under parts
- Parasite the nests of other birds, especially meadow pipits, dunnocks & reed warblers

Image: RSPB/RSPB Images. Information: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/c/cuckoo/>



COMFREY (*SYMPHYTUM OFFICINALE*)

- Hairy plant, grows up to 1 metre in height
- Found in damp areas, along rivers, road-sides, ditches and on waste ground
- Drooping, tubular pink/ purple flowers
- Hybrids are common

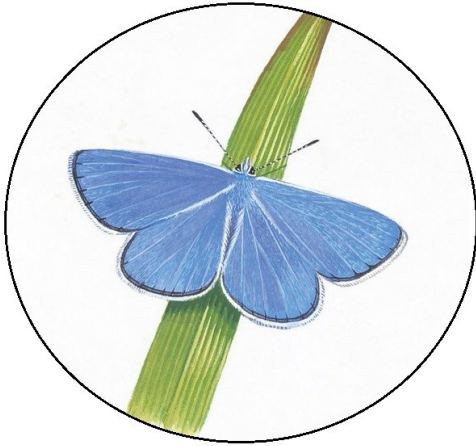
Image: Paul Barclay. Information: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/comfrey>

TARGET SPECIES—JUNE

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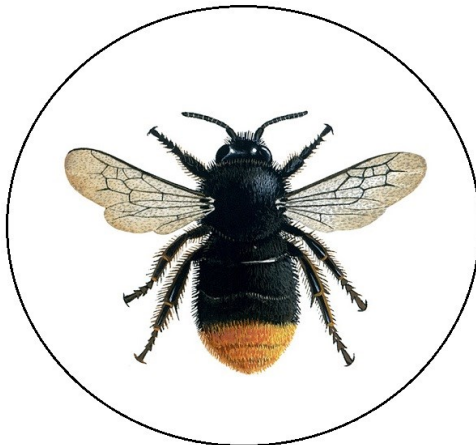
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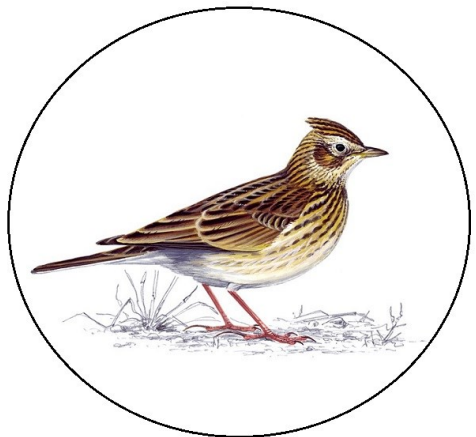
COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY (*POLYOMMATUS ICARUS*)

- Found in grassland and meadows
- Only the males are completely blue
- Females are brown with a blue dusting



RED-TAILED BUMBLEBEE (*BOMBUS LAPIDARIUS*)

- Feeds on any flower-rich habitat
- Queens and workers are black with red tail
- Males have additional yellow markings



SKYLARK (*ALAUDA ARVENSIS*)

- Found on farmland and moors
- Crest helps distinguish from meadow pipit
- Very recognisable display flight and song

TARGET SPECIES—JULY

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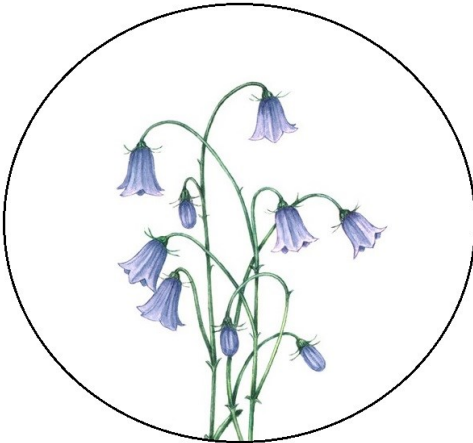
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SMALL PEARL-BORDERED FRITILLARY (*BOLORIA SELENE*)

- Found on plants such as thistles & brambles
- Flies close to the ground
- Very similar to Pearl-bordered Fritillary but more common



HAREBELL (*CAMPANULA ROTUNDIFOLIA*)

- Traditionally known as Scottish bluebell
- Has small, club-shaped leaves
- Appears from July onwards



ZEBRA JUMPING SPIDER (*SALTICUS SCENICUS* & *S. CINGULATUS*)

- Look on walls, rocks and tree trunks
- Common in urban areas including houses and gardens
- Can jump up to 10cm

TARGET SPECIES—AUGUST

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BROWN-LIPPED SNAIL (*CEPEAE NEMORALIS*)

- Distinctive brown rim to shell opening
- The rest of shell can vary in colour/pattern
- Distinguished from white-lipped snails



HEDGEHOG (*ERINACEOUS EUROPAEUS*)

- Mostly nocturnal
- Look near hedges and undergrowth
- Listen for rustling and males grunting



PURPLE HAIRSTREAK (*FAVONIUS QUERCUS*)

- Active in late afternoon
- Found in oak woods
- Often flies in the tree canopy

TARGET SPECIES—SEPTEMBER

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KESTREL

(*FALCO TINUNCULUS*)

- Size of up to 40cm, wingspan of 76cm
- Often seen hovering by road sides or perched on telegraph wires
- Common in many habitats other than dense woodland or bare wetland

Image: Carl Jones RSPB Images. Information: <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/species/kestrel/>



DEVIL'S BIT SCABIOUS (*SUCCISA PRATENSIS*)

- Growing up to 75cm, found in damp meadows, hillsides, riverbanks
- Flowerheads are round and flat, varying from pink to blue. Long oval leaves
- Food plant of various bees and butterflies

Image: Lizzy Cairns, IFLI. Information: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/>



BLACK DARTER

(*SYMPETRUM DANAЕ*)

- Adults are around 33mm in length, found in damp bogs, heaths, moorland, ponds
- Females display yellow down the body while males are completely black
- Fly from June to October

Image: Guy Rodgers RSPB Images. Information: <https://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/species/black-darter>

TARGET SPECIES—CTOBER

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BARN OWL

(*TYTO ALBA*)

- Best seen flying at dawn or dusk over fields, roadsides and open country,
- Calls are eerie, screeching and hissing
- Feeds on small mammals, particularly Field voles in the UK

Image: Ben Andrews RSPB Images. Information: <http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/>



FLY AGARIC

(*AMANITA MUSCARIA*)

- Cap grows up to 20cm at maturity, changing from convex to flat or even concave
- Found near birch, pine, spruce and other hardwood trees
- Gills underneath cap produce white spores

Image: Andy Hay, RSPB Images Info: <http://www.first-nature.com/fungi/amanita>



DADDY LONG LEGS SPIDER (*PHOLCUS PHAL-ANGIOIDES*)

- Abdomen is between 6-8mm, with long spindly legs; light brown in colour
- Found hanging upside down in their webs in houses and outbuildings
- These spiders will whirl around violently if disturbed; feed on household pests

Image: Olaf Leillinger, Wikipedia Information: <http://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/daddy-long-legs-spider>

TARGET SPECIES—NOVEMBER

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CURLEW

(NUMENIUS ARQUATA)

- Largest European wading bird.
- Found around the coastline of the Forth.
- Long downcurved bill and long legs.



FORK-PALPED HARVESTMAN

(DICRANOPALPUS RAMOSUS)

- Distinctive resting position with legs held straight out to either side.
- body 4-6mm in length with long legs.
- Most obvious at rest on fences/walls.

Find out more at britishspiders.org.uk



REDWING

(TURDUS ILIACUS)

- Winter migrants arriving from Scandinavia.
- Distinctive orange-red flank patches.
- Found across the countryside feeding in fields and hedgerows.

TARGET SPECIES—DECEMBER

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ROBIN (*ERITHACUS RUBECULA*)

- Adults (M&F) have red breast whilst young have spotted golden brown breast.
- Robins sing all year round.
- Feed on worms, seeds, fruits and insects.

Image: RSPB images. Information: [rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife)



OAK-MARBLE GALL (*ANDRICUS KOLLARI*)

- Hard woody balls up to 2cm in diameter.
- Found in clusters on oak twigs.
- Galls are growths found on plants after they have been invaded by another organism such as insects, mites, viruses & fungi.

Image: Amy Lewis. Information: [wildlifetrusts.org/species/oak-marble-gall](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/species/oak-marble-gall)



HOLLY LEAF-MINER (*PHYTOMYZA ILICIS*)

- Yellowish-white / yellowish-purple blotches on upper surface of older leaves.
- Caused by larvae of a small fly feeding inside holly leaves. Record holly bushes that have been targeted in this way.

Image & Information: [rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=531](https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=531)