



Wildlife Sanctuary

There is a fantastic world on your own doorstep. It's a remarkable place, a kingdom of incredible plants, of vibrant colour and unique forms, a world of weird, wonderful creatures, of heroes and villains, hunters and hunted, where life and death dramas are taking place every second.

In the natural world outside the boundaries of your garden, wildlife and their habitats are in decline. Some species that were relatively common 20 or 30 years ago are becoming rare or disappearing from areas of the country. Species like the House Sparrow, Swift, Common Toad and of course there is the plight of our wild honey bees.

So the world within your garden is growing increasingly important as a sanctuary for wildlife.

THAT WORLD IS YOUR GARDEN

Maybe you know it well, it's somewhere you spend time every day, maybe its a mysterious world you rarely visit. Maybe you are just beginning to get to know it.

With the issues of climate change and loss of wildlife around the planet, your garden can be very important for plants and wildlife, while at the same time countering some of the affects of climate change. Spending time outdoors in your garden can also improve your health and well-being, relaxing you, providing more oxygen for your body and much more.



In recent years a growing number of bird species are visiting our gardens, in fact over **100** have been identified in our gardens. Of course which gardens particular species visit, depends on the nature of the gardens and where they are.

Where they are in the country and where they are in relation to other habitats. Having parks and other green spaces nearby, or a river or stream can mean more species in your garden.

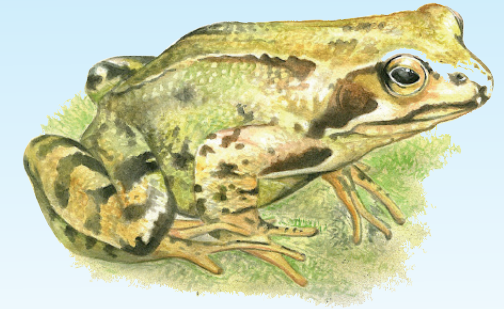


But even in the centre of large cities, there will likely be some birds visiting your garden. They may be familiar (Robin, Blue Tit, Blackbird) but they need your help. Provide space for these commoner birds and the more unusual species may visit also.



Many of these are important pollinators of plants. These plants would disappear but for the insects feeding on them. It's not just bees or butterflies, but hoverflies, beetles, bugs and wasps.

Once the insects are other invertebrates are present, they attract the birds, the amphibians, the mammals.



Insects are everywhere around us. Sadly not in the numbers they once were. However, you might still be surprised at the diversity of species to be discovered on your own doorstep.

All creatures need the same basic things - food, shelter, somewhere to breed, to lay eggs and/or raise their young.

