



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough



This summer, 105 garden owners across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough took part in the Wildlife Trust's GardenWatch survey.

Between 6th and 12th June, an amazing 2,561 wildlife sightings were recorded.

Here are the highlights...

The humble blackbird topped the charts again this year and was spotted in 89% of gardens. Robins and blue tits were close runners-up also seen in many gardens. The yellowhammer (right) was a new species for this year and was mainly recorded in more rural areas or places with a good network of hedges. These chirpy birds can often be seen singing from the tops of hedges. The GardenWatch period yielded fewer moths and butterflies than earlier in the year. There were however some brightly coloured sightings in the form of the elephant hawkmoth (below). These moths can often be seen feeding from fuchsia flowers.



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GardenWatchers in Bedfordshire reported sightings of midwife toads. This species is originally from mainland Europe and has a very restricted distribution in England. The species gets its name from the males that carry strings of eggs wrapped around their back legs. Common frogs continue to live up to their name and were the most recorded amphibian, being seen in 37% of gardens.

The curious looking bee fly made its GardenWatch debut. This fly has a furry body like a bumblebee and a long proboscis that it uses to drink from flowers.

The most popular shrub was buddleia. Often called the Butterfly Bush, this plant produces many flowers that are a favourite with butterflies and other insects. 45% of the gardens had an area of wildflowers which will also be of great benefit to insects.

Many gardeners are taking a wildlife-friendly approach to pest control and using beer traps and organic slug pellets. Over half of the gardens surveyed benefit from home-made compost. All those compost heaps will also provide shelter for amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and invertebrates .



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Thank you for taking part in GardenWatch 2011.

We hope you enjoyed taking a closer look at the wildlife in your garden. Gardens are an important piece of the landscape jigsaw and provide vital green corridors across towns and cities. They can also create links between nature reserves and green spaces.

With your help, the Wildlife Trust will continue to discover more about our environment and the creatures within it. GardenWatch 2012 will be launched soon and we look forward to receiving more of your records.



Local wildlife needs you

The Wildlife Trust relies on loyal supporters to enable us to continue protecting our beautiful local wildlife and countryside. If you are already a member of your local Wildlife Trust, thank you so much for your support.

If you are not already a member and would like to find out how you can get involved in supporting the Trust's vital conservation work in this area, or if you would like information about Trust nature reserves close to you, then please contact us:

Visit **www.wildlifebcnp.org**

E-mail membership@wildlifebcnp.org

Telephone: 01954 713543

Post: The Wildlife Trust, The Manor House, Broad Street,
Great Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6DH



Be part of Britain's newest nature reserve!

Register your garden to receive customised advice, hints and tips on gardening for wildlife and to connect with other gardeners in your area.

You can also enter your garden into the national competition. There are six categories so it doesn't matter how large or small your patch is.

With over 3,400 gardens registered so far, you too can be part of the Wildlife Trust's Big Wildlife Garden.

www.bigwildlifegarden.org.uk