



INVERTEBRATE SPECIES OF THE DAY



Here is a little bit of information about a few of the invertebrate species that might be found in gardens



There are **46 species** of ladybird in Britain. 26 of these are 'conspicuous' ladybirds which are brightly coloured, the rest are small and 'inconspicuous'. The **7-SPOT LADYBIRD** is one of our most recognisable ladybirds with its red wing cases and **7 black spots**. The 7-spot Ladybird is the **2nd most recorded ladybird species** with 1,540 records (last 10 years). The top spot is taken by the invasive **Harlequin Ladybird**.

The **DARK-EDGED BEE FLY** is a cute, fluffy species which is becoming an increasingly common sight in gardens across Cheshire in the spring. Their **long tongue** is used for drinking nectar & is totally harmless. You might spot them at flowers or basking in the sun. Find out about their interesting (& gruesome) **lifecycle** & other bee fly species [here](#). The dark-edged bee-fly is the only species we hold Cheshire records for since 2010 and even then there are only **37 records!**



We tend to think of bees as bumblebees or honeybees, but the UK has around **250 solitary bee species!** The **TAWNY MINING BEE** is commonly found nesting in garden lawns. Look out for their distinctive **soil 'volcanoes'**. Find out more here. We only have **174 records** of the Tawny Mining Bee making it our 10th most recorded bee species.

Did you know...the UK has **57 resident butterfly species?** With its spectacular eyespot markings, the **PEACOCK BUTTERFLY** is one of our **most easily recognisable** butterflies. They overwinter as adults (sometimes in houses) and are one of the first butterflies to be seen in spring. We hold **8818 peacock records** and makes it our 4th most recorded butterfly species in the last 10 years.





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(c) Mel Bellingham

Although often overlooked, moths are numerous & widespread with over **2,500 species** in Britain. The **BRIMSTONE MOTH** is night flying & can be found in gardens between April & October, sometimes just before dusk. It's similar in appearance to the Brimstone Butterfly but has distinctive red-brown markings on its wing edges. The caterpillars feed on Hawthorn, Blackthorn & Rowan. We only hold **337 records** for this species, making it our 8th most recorded moth.

Woodlice aren't insects; they're crustaceans & are related to crabs & lobsters! There are about **30 species** in the UK. The **COMMON SHINY WOODLOUSE** likes to hide out in damp places such as under rocks & in compost heaps and can be identified by its smooth, shiny, grey 'armour' with yellow patches & lighter grey edges. Although the **2nd most recorded** woodlouse species, only 77 records of the Common Shiny Woodlouse have been passed on to us in the last 10 years.



(c) Steve McWilliam

We have over **100 species** of snail in the UK! The **COMMON GARDEN SNAIL** has a large, brown or yellowish shell with paler flecking & darker, spiralling bands. They love damp conditions so you're likely to find them out & about in the garden **after heavy rainfall** or under rocks when it's dry. If conditions become too dry they're able to seal up their shells & remain inside for several months! The Common Garden Snail is the **most recorded species of land snail/slug**; however, we only hold 247 records for the last 10 years.



For the #MyPatch campaign we're looking for any records of garden wildlife, or wildlife seen out your window. There are a few ways you can send us this information...



- 1** Sign up to iNaturalist and become a member of the project. Add observations through the app or website and any which fit the criteria will automatically be added to the campaign
- 2** Email us with what you've seen: info@record-irc.co.uk. Make sure you include all the details. Or send us paper records.
- 3** If you already use Rodis, iRecord or other recording platforms you can carry on with these if you'd like and we will pick up your records as we normally do

