



# MAMMAL SPECIES OF THE DAY

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



**HEDGEHOGS** are very popular with gardeners as they eat 'pests' like slugs and snails. Their favourite foods however, are **beetles, caterpillars and earthworms**, making up 2/3 of their diet. Hedgehogs also eat bird eggs and other small mammals. One way to help hedgehogs in gardens is to leave out a shallow bowl of **water** plus some **cat food & biscuits**. Other fun facts include: they roll up into a **ball** when threatened; they love to **climb** and their spines act as a **cushion** when falling down; they can squeeze through tiny gaps; and they can swim (but make sure any water features have sloping sides or ramps to help them get out!) You're lucky if you spot a hedgehog in your garden as numbers have **fallen drastically**. We only have **829 records** for 2010 onwards.

**EUROPEAN MOLES** are very **elusive** creatures, spending almost all their lives underground and leaving only **MOLE HILLS** as evidence. **BUT** they are very hard workers, typically working in patterns of 4-hour shift cycles. The reason they can dig so well is because they are '**polydactyl**' - they have an extra digit, for moles this comes in the form of a sickle-shaped 'spare' thumb! We'd love to know if you spot any Molehills. Add 'Molehill' in the '**Record Type**' then count them up and add this to '**abundance**'. Surprisingly enough, you can't tell the '**sex**' or '**stage**' of a mole just from the hill, so just leave this blank! We have **1777 records** of moles (or their signs) since 2010



The **RED FOX** is the only wild member of the dog family in the UK. Did you know... foxes live in a burrow system called an '**earth**'. Their territorial borders are **scent-marked** with urine to create a very strong and recognisable odour – perhaps you've smelt this before?! They also have **scent glands** on their feet which they use to mark trails whilst foraging, helping to find their way back at night. There are only **900 records** in our database (last 10 years)

**BADGERS** are an iconic UK species and unmistakably recognisable by their black and white stripes. Although badgers mainly live mainly in woodlands, farmlands and grasslands, they can also turn up in your garden! Badgers are the UK's **largest land predator** and belong to the '**mustelid**' family, which includes otters, stoats and weasels. They're equally as common as the red fox but tend to be more **nocturnal**. We're lucky enough to hold 4934 badger records (last 10 years), making it our **MOST RECORDED mammal species**. Lots of these records come from our brilliant **partner organisations** – thank you everyone





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Although widespread in the UK, the **EUROPEAN RABBIT** is a non-native species that has become naturalised due to the time that it has been here. They belong to a taxonomic order called 'lagomorphs', which means 'hare-like'. A really good way of recording European rabbits is by looking out for their **poo!** Poo's are easy to recognise - a pile of tiny brown balls (that apparently smell like **digestive biscuits** (!)). This is a fairly wide-spread species; however, we only hold **2557 records** from the past 10 years. Non-native species records are just as important to us as native ones so please help us add to this by recording in your garden

The **EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL** is another non-native species, introduced in the 1870s. Its well-known for affecting populations of our native **red squirrels**. However, it's very important to record this species as it will aid **conservation** efforts to help protect red squirrels in their remaining habitat pockets. We expected this species might have the highest number of records, but surprisingly it only comes in 3rd place with **2561**. Grey squirrels often turn up in gardens so please let us know about any that visit yours to help us **map their distribution** better.



**STOATS** are small, slender carnivores and another member of the 'mustelid' family. Although similar to weasels, stoats are larger and have a **black-tipped tail**. In the north, (eg. Scotland), they turn completely white (apart from the tip of the tail) in the winter months to camouflage in their snowy surroundings. As they're so **elusive**, one of the best ways to record stoats is via **camera traps** - has anyone had any luck in their garden? For stoats we expected a very low number of records, but to only see **130 records** in the last 10 years came as a bit of a shock! You can help by adding your garden records.



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-lrc.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

