

British Wildlife

Britain is home to many different types of wildlife. There are many birds, mammals and even reptiles.

Some animals usually come out at night - they are nocturnal. Some animals sleep through the winter - they hibernate. However, you can see many animals in your local park or garden if you put food out and wait.

Nocturnal Animals

Hedgehogs, badgers and foxes usually come out at night. In the daytime, they sleep in a nest, sett or den. At night-time, they come out to feed on earthworms, beetles and other small animals.

Owls are also nocturnal. There are six types of owls in Britain and one of the most common is the barn owl. It has a white body, a golden back and a heart-shaped face. Some people call it the screech owl because it can be very noisy.



What Are the Most Common UK Garden Birds?

The results of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in 2020 showed that the most common British bird was the house sparrow. Sparrows live together in big flocks and often make nests in house roofs.



house sparrow



Other common birds include the starling, blue tit, woodpigeon and blackbird.



starling



blue tit



blackbird



woodpigeon

Did You Know...?

- Hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter, often in a nest of leaves. This is called hibernation. When they wake up in spring, they are very thirsty and hungry.
- A hedgehog out in the daytime might be ill so take it to a rescue or vet to be checked.
- Hedgehogs are now at risk of extinction in the UK. This sadly means there aren't many left in the wild. You can help them by letting your grass grow long, making a pile of old leaves and leaving water or cat food out for them.



Questions

1. Which word describes animals that usually come out at night? Tick one.

- ☐ hibernate
☐ birds
☐ nocturnal

2. Fill in the missing word.

There are six types of British owl and one of the most common is the _____ owl.

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

Hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter, often in...	will help hedgehogs.
When they wake up in spring, they are very...	a nest of leaves.
If you make a pile of old leaves, it...	cat food.
You can feed hedgehogs...	thirsty and hungry.

4. Find and copy one word which tells you why hedgehogs waking up in spring want to drink water.

5. Which birds live in large flocks and often make nests in house roofs?

6. There is a hedgehog in your garden at lunchtime. Is the hedgehog OK?
Explain how you know.
