



April

Breathing Places this month

✓ Do one thing

Make a bat box to encourage roosting bats into your garden.

Find out more at www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces

i What to look for

Millions of migrant birds will be flooding into Britain from south of the Sahara. **Cuckoos, swallows, house martins** and delicate **willow warblers** arrive on the south and east coasts. Among our resident birds, the nesting season is well under way. **Great tits, blue tits** and **long-tailed tits** are rearing young and **robins, song thrushes** and **blackbirds** are fledging. It's breeding time in the water too; watch out for **sticklebacks** in ponds and rivers; the red-bellied males will be busy tending their nests of sticks and vegetation. **Smooth newts** float in their spring finery like miniature dragons in garden ponds. The first **bats** are emerging from hibernation; look out for our smallest, the **pipistrelle**, and our largest, the **noctule**. In woods, tides of **bluebells** are a magnificent sight. Look out for other spring woodland flowers like **dog violet, yellow archangel** and **greater stitchwort**. On heaths, **gorse** and **broom** are flowering and in marshy areas, **lady's smock**, the food plant of the **orange-tip butterfly**. Keep an eye out for some early invertebrates on foliage such as the **hawthorn shield bug** or **green shield bug**.

Find out more at www.open2.net

? Did you know

Bats in the UK eat only insects (such as midges, moths and mosquitoes), which they catch in flight or pick off water, foliage or the ground. The pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 midges in one night – one-third of its body weight!

Find out more at www.bats.org.uk

Habitat of the month

Riverbanks: Under willows and hazel near water look for the pale parasitic flowers of toothwort. In the clear waters you may see trout, stickleback, roach and chub.

Photo opportunity

Woodland flowers: In the woods, many plants are coming into bloom. Get down low and use a small tripod to keep your lens steady. Try using a piece of white card to reflect some extra light on to your subject.

Photo opportunity



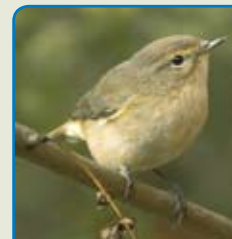
Have you seen this month



Brown Long-eared Bat

DATE:

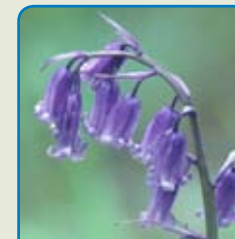
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Chiffchaff

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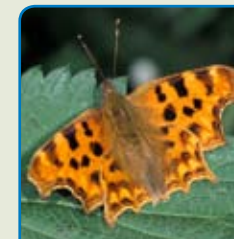
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Bluebell

DATE:

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Comma Butterfly

DATE:

AMOUNT:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1  BTO: Breeding bird survey	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				