



February

Breathing Places this month

✓ Do one thing

Put up a nestbox or clean out and maintain an existing one ready for nesting birds.

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

i What to look for

The first **bumblebees** emerge on sunny days obtaining nectar from garden plants such as crocuses. Most are large **queen bees**, which have hibernated over winter and are on the lookout for places to start a new family. They like untidy corners and often build their nests in the old nests of mice. **Ladybirds**, including **two spot** and **seven spot**, will sun themselves in milder spells. In woods, **bluebell leaves** are pushing through the soil and under hedges, leaves of **wild arum** are unfurling. Long maroon and yellow **catkins** appear on **alder trees** along rivers and streams. **Sparrowhawks** and **buzzards** begin to establish territories by soaring over woods on clear days. Birdsong begins to grow louder as **chaffinches**, **song thrushes** and **blackbirds** become more vocal and **great spotted woodpeckers** drum. On wintry evenings the local reservoir may produce a blizzard of **gulls** as thousands of the birds fly in to roost.

Find out more at www.open2.net

? Did you know

The Normans introduced the pheasant into Britain in the 11th century. There are thought to be around 8 million birds in the countryside over winter, many reared from chicks by game-keepers. Nearly half are shot and the others die from natural causes.

Find out more at www.birdguides.com

Habitat of the month

Urban areas: Animals come to towns because it's warmer and food is sparse in the countryside. Watch for wildlife in parks and gardens and help out by putting up a bird feeder in your garden.

Photo opportunity

Bird-feeders: With food in short supply your bird feeder is an ideal place to photograph wild birds. Your house makes an ideal hide – photograph through an open window and the birds will not notice you. A telephoto lens is useful to get good close-up shots but you may find a tripod useful to keep the lens steady.

Photo opportunity



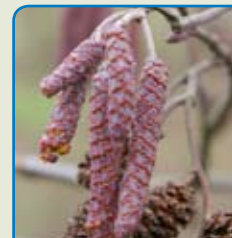
Have you seen this month



Bumblebee

DATE:

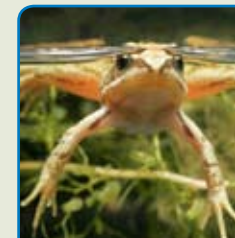
AMOUNT:



Alder

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Frog

DATE:

AMOUNT:



7 Spot Ladybird

DATE:

AMOUNT:

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