



March

Breathing Places this month

✓ Do one thing

Set aside a corner of your garden for wild plants such as nettle and bramble. This will provide cover for small mammals and food for a variety of insects including butterflies.

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

i What to look for

Spring is in the air and many animals are coming out of hibernation. **Peacock, comma** and **brimstone butterflies** all fly on sunny days. Long-tongued **flower bees**, looking like small black or brown bumblebees, visit garden plants such as **lungwort**. And the **bee-fly**, which looks like a bee but with a long snout, searches for nectar among the blooms of **primrose, lesser celandine, butterbur** or **wood anemone**. These plants are important sources of food for **hoverflies** and **solitary bees**. Some birds are already breeding: noisy rooks in their treetop colonies and coastal **gannets**. The first **chiffchaffs** cash in on the insect supply and sing from willow bushes in sunny woods. On downland and coastal grassland, smart **wheatears**, fresh in from Africa, are flirting their white rumps on their way to upland breeding haunts. You may see young **rabbits** above ground for the first time in fields and roadside verges. It is a busy time for **voles** too, with families to feed; you may catch a glimpse of one in a hedgerow or field border. Now is a good time to look in streams for freshwater invertebrates, like **mayfly** and **stonefly**, as they prepare to emerge as adult insects.

Find out more at www.open2.net

? Did you know

There are more than 1,000 species of moth at the National Trust's Wicken Fen (the first ever nature reserve) in Cambridgeshire. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Habitat of the month

Freshwater, streams and ponds: Many invertebrates are getting ready to emerge at this time of year. Look for them as they are at their largest and most easily spotted. You don't need a net, lift up a rock and see what's there, but replace it carefully.

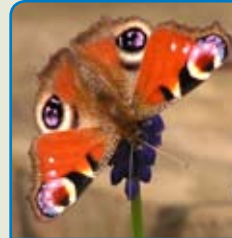
Photo opportunity

Ponds: It's amphibian breeding season so there are loads of frogs. Take photos whilst they are distracted with each other. Keep quiet, wear dull clothing and keep low down. Use a polarising filter to reduce glare from the water surface.

Photo opportunity



Have you seen this month



Peacock Butterfly

DATE:

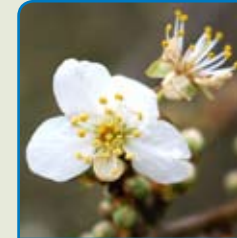
AMOUNT:



Wood Anemone

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Blackthorn

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Rook

DATE:

AMOUNT:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	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
31						