



October

Breathing Places this month

✓ Do one thing

Make a hedgehog home for hibernation or leave a woodpile to create natural crevices. Don't forget to check for hedgehogs before lighting bonfire piles.

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

i What to look for

Autumn is here. The scarlet berries of **black bryony** string the hedges and luminous **red berries of guelder rose** glow in damp woods. Other colours provided by late flowers include the yellow of **ragwort** and the soft purple of **water mint**. Fungi are at their best, so look under birch trees for the distinctive **fly agaric** with its red cap and white spots, and the red, purple and yellow **russulas**. On rocky coasts, **grey seals** are breeding. On muddy estuaries, wader numbers are building up. **Curlews** and **godwits** mingle with **oystercatchers** and **redshank** on the mudflats around Britain. At night listen out for the soft sighing of **redwings** as they arrive into our countryside; you can often hear their calls even above night traffic. Watch out for **red deer** and **fallow deer** in parks and woods and see the males fighting each other for access to groups of females. In the garden, **hedgehogs** are looking for hibernation spots and fat **orb spiders** sit in their spiral webs. Look out for the **22-spot ladybird**, which is a vegetarian and active long after others have gone to sleep for the winter.

Find out more at www.open2.net

? Did you know

The giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) can reach sizes of up to 150cm and weigh in at 20kg. A large specimen might contain up to 7 trillion spores!

Find out more at www.britmycolsoc.org.uk

Habitat of the month

Woodland: A last burst of activity with leaves turning colour and berries ripening. Many animals are busy stocking up for the winter so keep an eye out for birds feeding on the ripened berries and looking for invertebrates in the leaf litter.

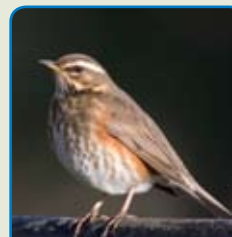
Photo opportunity

Fungi: Many types of fungi send up their fruiting bodies at this time of year. Get down on your elbows to get up close. A small tripod is useful to keep the lens steady, especially as the light can be low. Be careful and don't touch as some fungi can be poisonous.

Photo opportunity



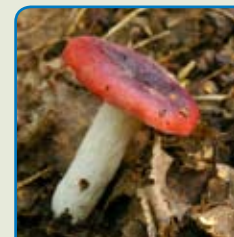
Have you seen this month



Redwing

DATE:

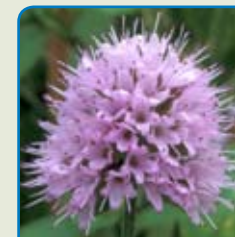
AMOUNT:



Russula

DATE:

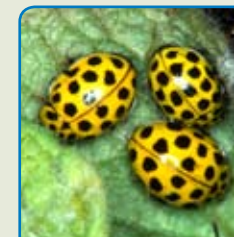
AMOUNT:



Water Mint

DATE:




AMOUNT:



22 Spot Ladybird

DATE:

AMOUNT:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1  Woodland Trust: Red October	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21  Common Ground: Apple Day	22	23	24	25  RSPB: Feed the Birds Day	26
27	28	29	30	31		