



September

Breathing Places this month

✓ Do one thing

Create a compost heap to recycle kitchen waste, provide a hibernating space for many animals and produce rich compost material for gardening.

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

i What to look for

September is a fruitful month as plants and animals feast on nuts and berries and prepare for lean times ahead. Look out for **berries** of **elder**, **woody nightshade**, **hawthorn**, **sloe** and **blackberry**. Keep an eye out too for **acorns** and **conkers**. **Wood mice** gnaw **hazelnuts**, carving deep grooves in them, and fill up nest-boxes with crab-apples! In grassy areas brightly coloured **waxcap mushrooms** are making an appearance, their red and yellow colours standing out against the grass. Ivy is a valuable source of nectar and attracts **droneflies** and other **hoverflies**, late **bumblebees** and **red admiral butterflies**. **Devil's-bit scabious** is also very popular with insects in woodland rides and clearings. On trees and shrubs look out for the striking colours of the **pale tussock moth caterpillar**. Many dragonflies are still on the wing including the **migrant hawk** and **common darter**. In some rivers, **salmon** are travelling upstream to breed. On wires, **swallows** and **house martins** gather before their epic journey to central and southern Africa. On lakes and reservoirs, drake **mallards** and other ducks begin moulting into their bright winter feathers.

Find out more at www.open2.net

? Did you know

On average, there are 10,000 million insects per square kilometre of habitable land - that's 10,000 per square metre.

Find out more at www.royensoc.co.uk

Habitat of the month

Seashore: Growth of seaweeds is at its height at this time of year. The water is at its warmest and many marine organisms are busy. Look in rock pools for crabs, shrimps, periwinkles, limpets and sea anemone.

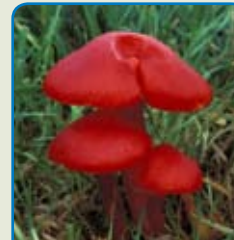
Photo opportunity

Rock-pools: There is a wealth of biodiversity in these tiny ecosystems. Get down close, but make sure your shadow doesn't fall across your subject. A polarising filter is useful to cut glare from the water surface.

Photo opportunity



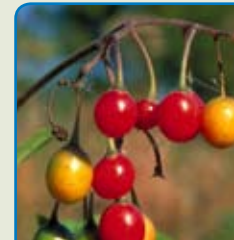
Have you seen this month



Waxcap Mushroom

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Woody Nightshade

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Conker

DATE:

AMOUNT:



Blackberry

DATE:

AMOUNT:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12  Wales Mammal Conference	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23  The Tree Council: Start seed gathering	24	25	26	27	28  Wildlife Trust: Red Squirrel Week
29	30					