

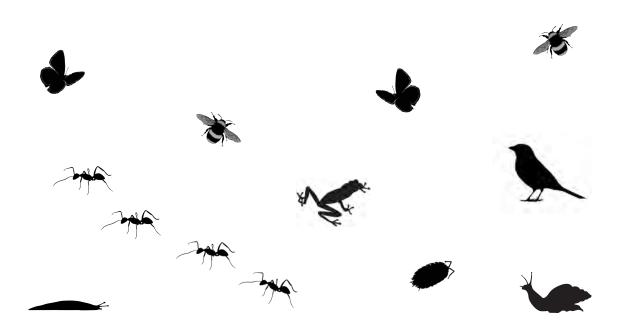
Open Your Window Bingo!

Take a look out your window everyday and see what wildlife you can spot.

Record the species you see and collect points for each one. Rarer species will earn you more points.

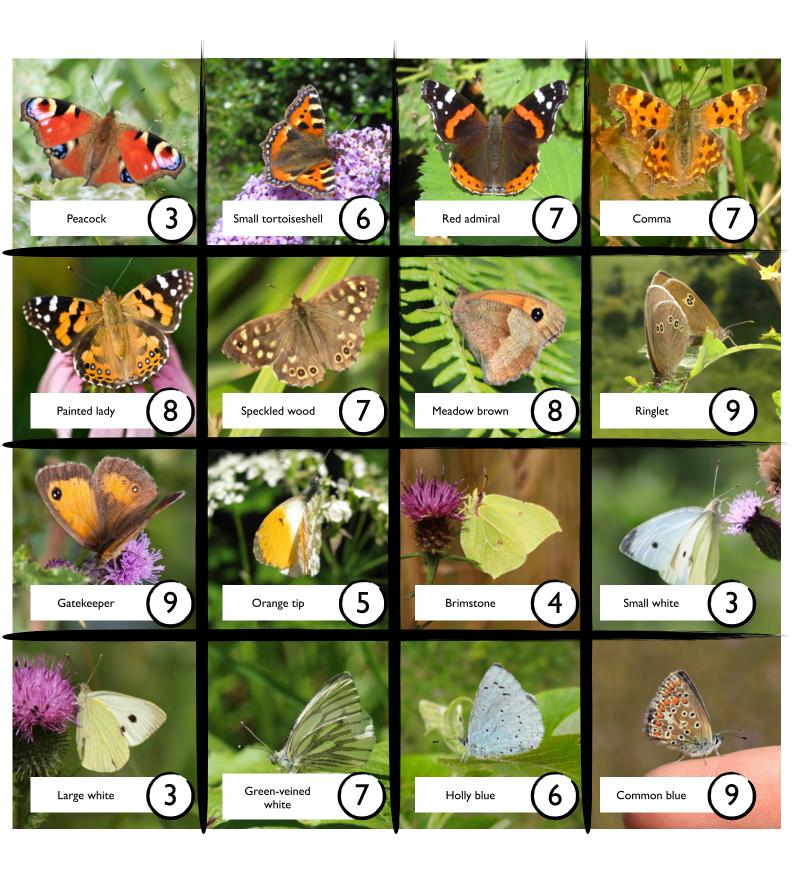
Fill in your daily points total at the back.

Let us know how you get on via social media using #OpenYourWindowBingo





Butterflies





Peacock

Look at those beautiful eyespots on their wings. These are used to scare off potential predators.

Small tortoiseshell

The undersides of their wings are brown, providing good camouflage.

Red admiral

Female red admirals lay their eggs on the leaves of nettles during the summer months.

Comma

Commas feed on the nectar of wildflowers, such as thistles, and on ripe blackberries.

Painted lady

These butterflies aren't usually seen in Britain until late May, when they migrate back from northern Africa after spending the autumn and winter there.

Speckled wood

Speckled woods like shady woodland or taller vegetation. Adults feed on aphid honeydew, a sticky sweet liquid. This is excreted by aphids as they feed on plant sap.

Meadow brown

These butterflies aren't on the wing until June, when they can be seen in large numbers on grasslands and parks throughout the UK.

Ringlet

Ringlets can be seen from mid-June. Watch out for their trademark bobbing flight.

Gatekeeper

Adults emerge at the end of June and can be seen patrolling woodland edges and hedgerows.

Orange tip

The orange wing tips warn predators that these butterflies don't taste nice. Females don't have orange tips - their wings have black tips to them.

Brimstone

Female brimstones lay their eggs on the leaves of alder trees. Their pale green wings provide great camouflage.

Small white

There are two broods of small whites: a spring brood, which emerges in April, and a summer brood, which emerges in July.

Large white

This butterfly, along with the small white, claims the title 'cabbage white'. They have this name because the larvae can eat through crops of cabbages.

Green-veined white

Green-veined whites can be distinguished from other white butterflies by the grey-green stripes on the underside of their wings.

Holly blue

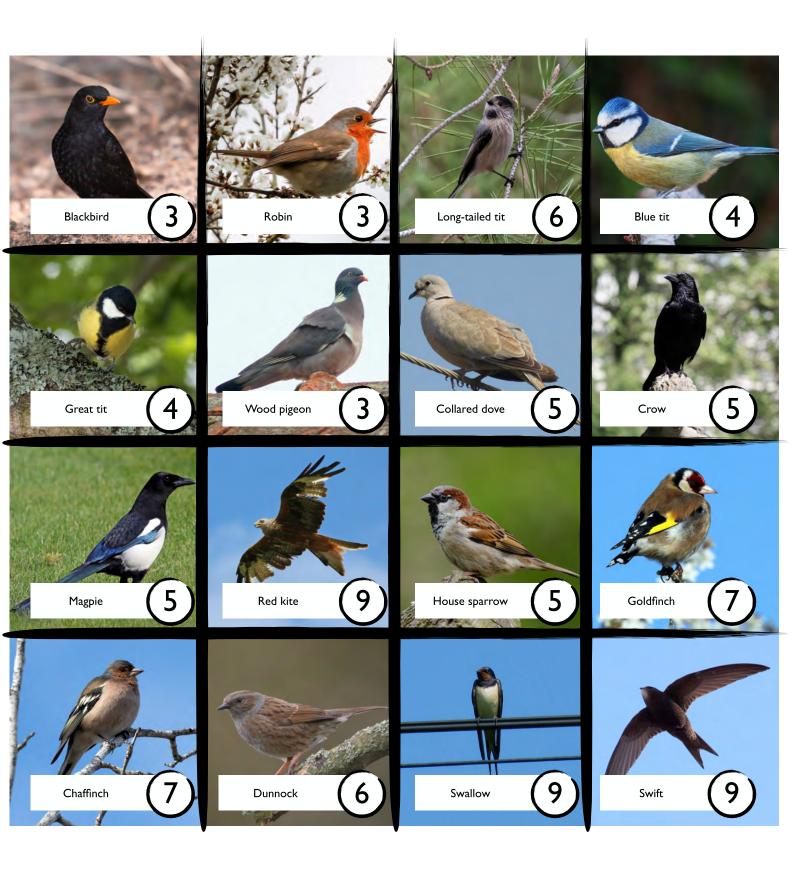
These butterflies can be seen higher up on bushes, basking in the sunshine.

Common blue

Whilst males have bright blue upper sides to their wings, the amount of blue on the females' wings is very variable. Common blues generally aren't seen until mid-May.



Birds



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Blackbird

A blackbird foraging on the ground for insects and worms is a common sight in gardens across the UK. Whilst males are indeed black, females and juveniles are brown.

Robin

Robins, with their famous red breast, can be seen and heard throughout the year.

Long-tailed tit

Long-tailed tits travel around in large groups of up to 20 excitable birds. They are instantly recognisable by their tails, which are longer than their bodies.

Blue tit

These birds bring a flash of colour into gardens across the UK as they frequent bird feeders.

Great tit

Another familiar visitor to garden bird feeders, these are the UK's largest tit. You might be able to hear their call - it sounds like a squeaky wheel.

Wood pigeon

You always know when a wood pigeon is around by its loud wing flaps and characteristic cooing call. These are large grey birds with white patches on their wings and neck.

Collared dove

Collared doves first bred in Britain in the 1950s after moving over from western Asia. They often travel around in pairs.

Crow

These are all-black, solitary birds well known for their problem-solving skills.

Magpie

Magpies have a distinctive noisy chatter. Although they look merely black and white from afar, up close you can see sheens of blue and green on their black feathers.

Red kite

These birds of prey are now flourishing after being re-introduced to parts of England and Scotland. They have a distinctive forked tail in flight.

House sparrow

House sparrows travel in large, noisy groups. They do well in urban and rural areas. You can tell the males from the females by the black bib the male has under its chin.

Goldfinch

You might hear these birds before you catch sight of them. They are very talkative and twitter to each other as they forage for seeds.

Chaffinch

Chaffinches are often seen on the ground beneath bird feeders. Whilst the males are brightly coloured with a pink breast and blue crown, females are brown.

Dunnock

The dunnock is small, plain brown and quiet, so it often goes unnoticed. They forage along the edges of bushes and flowerbeds.

Swallow

The sight of these birds in the sky means spring is here. We usually start to see them in March. You can spot them by their deeply forked tail.

Swift

Swifts are darker than swallows with a shorter tail. These birds start to arrive in April.



Plants



For a bonus point, can you spot the camouflaged spider hiding on one of these flowers?



Dandelion

Although many gardeners think of these as weeds, dandelions provide an important early source of pollen and nectar for many insects.

Lesser celandine

These small yellow flowers are a common sign of spring in woodlands, hedgerows and parks. They are another important early source of nectar for insects.

Primrose

Primroses flower close to the floor throughout spring in woodland clearings. They are the food plant of the caterpillars of the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

English Bluebell

A carpet of blue is a characteristic sight in British woodlands around April and May. Whilst the native English bluebell is protected, the Spanish bluebell is invasive.

Daffodil

The bright yellow trumpets of daffodils are a happy spring sight. True wild daffodils are only found in Wales or areas of northern or southwest England.

Blackthorn blossom

White blossom appears before the leaves on blackthorn trees. This is one of the earliest signs of spring, and it supports butterflies, bees and birds.

Daisy

Seen all year round, their yellow centres are actually made up of lots of tiny flowers.

Cowslip

Closely related to the primrose, these flowers are another early sign of spring.

Yarrow

Yarrow doesn't flower until June. Its distinctive leaves are feathery and dark green.

Forget-me-not

These bright blue flowers stand out along woodland edges and hedgerows from April.

Bramble

The pretty flowers of bramble appear in July, but you have to wait until autumn for their delicious blackberries. Feel how the leaves are hairy, but watch out for the prickly stems.

Nettle

Nettle leaves are important for many UK butterfly species, such as the red admiral, the peacock, the small tortoiseshell and the comma. The stinging hairs are only on the undersides of the leaves, so you can happily stroke the tops of the leaves without getting stung.

Cow parsley

When you crush the leaves between your fingers, they produce a strong scent.

Buttercup

There are several kinds of buttercup, including meadow, creeping and bulbous.

Speedwell

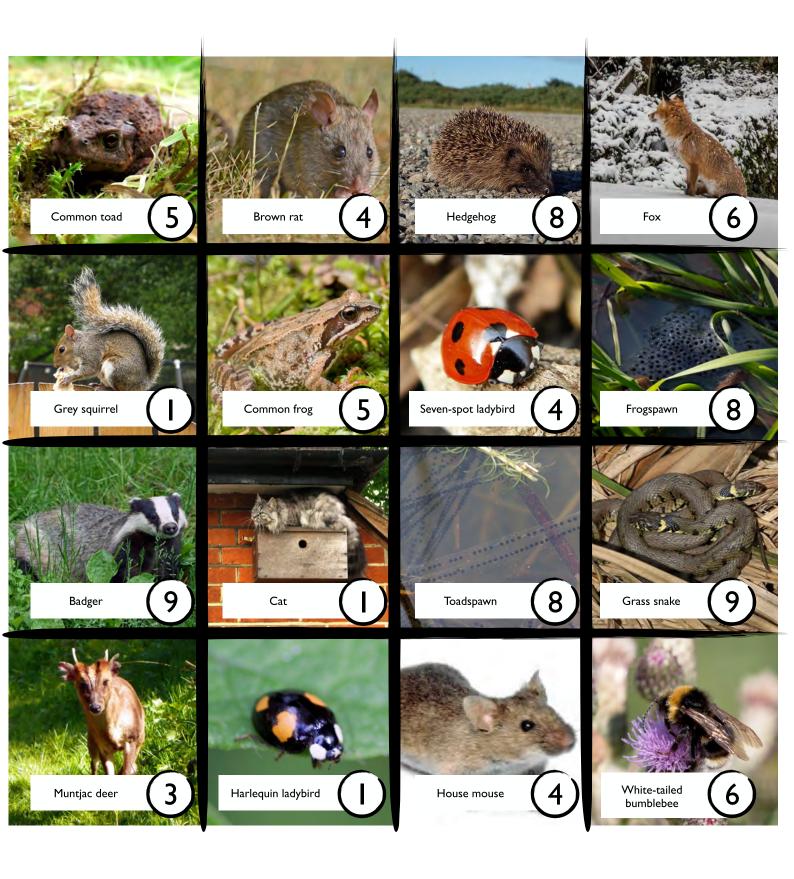
These low-growing plants grow along roadsides and down country lanes. The flowers appear on upright stems.

Himalayan balsam

This invasive species flowers from July. It crowds out native species along riverbanks and ditches. It is fast growing and spreads easily.



Extras





Common toad

Toads are very variable in colour. They have warty skin and wide bodies. They spend their time away from water, apart from when mating.

Brown rat

Brown rats are able to adapt to almost any habitat. Although they have a bad reputation, they live alongside us without any problems.

Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are active at night, when they feast on all sorts of invertebrates. Favourite foods include slugs, beetles, earthworms and left-over cat food.

Fox

Foxes are one of Britain's best known mammals. They do equally well in urban and rural areas since they are very adaptable.

Grey squirrel

One of the UK's most famous and ubiquitous invasive species, grey squirrels have pushed red squirrels out of most of their native territory.

Common frog

The colouring of frogs is highly variable, although they tend to have irregularly-shaped dark patches. Their skin is smooth, and they are smaller than toads.

Seven-spot ladybird

This is the most familiar ladybird in the UK, inhabiting most gardens and parks. They feed on aphids and so provide useful pest control in gardens.

Frogspawn

Frogspawn can be seen in ponds from February or March. Frogs lay their eggs in large masses of jelly-like eggs. Once hatched, it takes about 14 weeks for a tadpole to develop into a frog.

Badger

Badgers live in large family groups and emerge from their underground setts at night.

Cat

Although popular as a pet, domestic cats can decimate bird populations.

Toadspawn

Toadspawn is made up of long ribbons of eggs rather than a large mass, like frogspawn. Toad tadpoles take slightly longer to develop into the adult form.

Grass snake

Grass snakes can be found basking in the sun near ponds, hiding in compost heaps or swimming. Although they are the UK's longest snake, they are harmless.

Muntjac deer

Although cute, Muntjac deer are an invasive species which can damage woodland through browsing.

Harlequin ladybird

Another invasive species, these ladybirds eat the eggs and larvae of native ladybirds. They are very variable in appearance but always have a small white triangle on their head.

House mouse

Whilst there are several species of wild mouse in the UK, including field and harvest mice, you are most likely to spot a non-native house mouse.

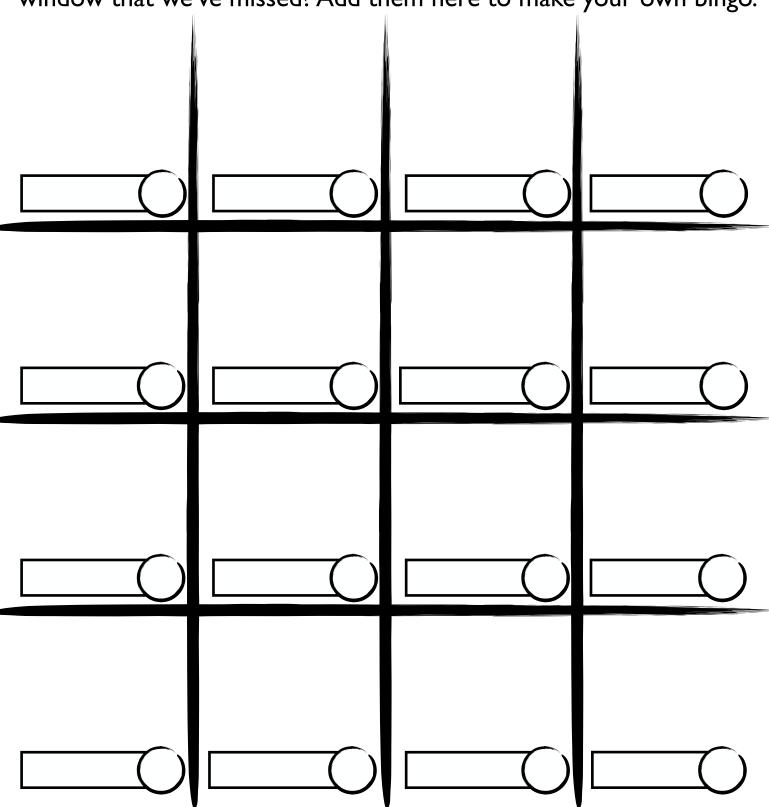
White-tailed bumblebee

With a bright white tail, this is one of the earliest bumblebees to emerge in spring.



Add Your Own

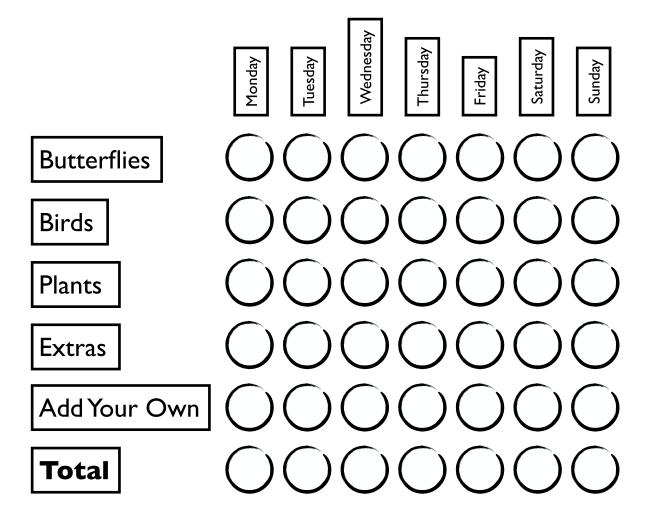
Are there some plants or animals which you can see from your window that we've missed? Add them here to make your own bingo.





How did you do?

Record your daily points totals here.



If you would like more information on any of the species listed here or would like to discover more for yourself, we recommend the following websites:

Butterflies - https://www.butterfly-conservation.org

Birds - https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/

Plants - https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species

Extras - https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer

Let us know how you got on via social media using #OpenYourWindowBingo



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