



WILDLIFE SURVEY 2009

Wanted! Wildlife spotters to count creatures on canals and rivers



British
Waterways

Yours to enjoy anytime

Tell us what you spot at waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey

Welcome to British Waterways' Wildlife Survey 2009

British Waterways' 2,000 miles of canals and rivers are enjoyed by 11 million visitors every year and provide valuable habitats for an amazing array of plants and animals.

There are 200,000 mega litres of water in our waterways – enough to fill 80,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools – and with 600 miles of hedgerows, 2,000 miles of towpath and more than 1,000 nature sites, you won't be surprised to learn that the inland waterways are teeming with bugs, beasts and other canalside critters!



All year round, British Waterways' ecologists work hard to ensure that the beautiful biodiversity continues to thrive in and around our canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs.

And this is where you come in. Next time you are visiting your local waterway – and more than half of you live within five miles of one – we need you to tell us what creatures you've counted and where.

Wherever you go, there's wildlife waiting to be seen. You can spot insects such as darting dragonflies and busy bumblebees – the special guest star of this year's survey. You might find a frog and should keep an eye out for the blue flash of a kingfisher. And if you're lucky, you could see a timid water vole or elusive otter – just two of our endangered species.

Whether you're a seasoned otter spotter or a nature novice, everyone can take part. Simply take this leaflet with you, make a note of what you've spotted and feed your 'spots' into the online survey at **www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey**.

The majority of Britain's waterways are included in the survey and there's no limit to how many times you can take part.

As usual, we're asking you to count all insects, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles you find – but have a special focus on the bumblebee. Find out more overleaf...



Tips for top wildlife spotters:

- Dusk and dawn are the best times to see an otter or water vole
- Insects such as dragonflies, butterflies and bumblebees thrive on hot summer days
- Bats are often seen shortly after dusk – skimming the water for insects and in warm sheltered areas that are bound by trees and hedges
- Hush! Look out for water wildlife such as swans, mallards and coots that may silently swim past as you sit quietly on the banks

Checklist

- ☐ This leaflet or a notebook
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Camera to enter our photography competition
- ☐ Remember to take binoculars or a magnifying glass if you want to spot hidden animals
- ☐ Log onto www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey to record your findings

There's a buzz on the waterways...

The hardworking humble bumblebee is not only one of our most beautiful insects, it's also one of the most important!

As prolific plant pollinators, bumblebees are vital in bringing food to our tables including runner beans, tomatoes, peppers, raspberries and strawberries.



Buff-tailed bumblebee

Busy bees

Bumblebees work longer hours than other bees and are active in colder weather but over the past 60 years, the UK has lost more than 98% of the flower-rich habitats that they love. As a result, bumblebee populations have tumbled.

If they continue to disappear there will be gradual but sweeping changes to our countryside, including the disappearance of crops, wildflowers and rare plants that rely on bumblebee pollination.

These changes will have catastrophic knock-on effects for other wildlife. Because of this, bumblebees are a conservation priority.



Early bumblebee



Get busy spotting bees!

Bumblebees are among the most lovable and familiar of our insects – and they need your help. With bee-friendly habitats in decline, Britain's waterways provide much needed corridors of hedgerows, flowers and grasses that attract our stripy friends. During this year's survey, we want to hear about **all** the canalside creatures you spot – but we especially want you to tell us when and where you spot a bumblebee.



Common carder bumblebee

What bee did I see?

There are approximately 250 different species of bee in Britain, including 25 types of bumblebee, the honeybee and lots of small, solitary species. Check if it was a bumblebee that you saw at www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk



Garden bumblebee

Did you know?

- Bumblebees can sting – but they hardly ever do (not like wasps!)
- Chances are, each tomato you eat was pollinated by a busy bee
- Bees = tomatoes = baked beans and ketchup!
- Bumblebees, honeybees, wasps and ants are all social insects: they live in a colony with a queen and her daughters (the workers)

Wonderfully wild competitions

Adults

For a chance to win £100, keen photographers are urged to get outdoors and capture an original photo of a busy **bumblebee** taken near to a canal or river. Amateurs and professionals alike are welcome.

Children

Children aged 14 and under can win £50 worth of vouchers by either taking a photo or drawing a picture of **any** wildlife they spot on the waterways. There will be prizes for the best photo and the best drawing.

Visit www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey to find out more.



Go Wild Over Waterways

Find games, learning and fun things to do at www.wow4water.net — a great place for children to discover the waterways and for grown ups to access **FREE** resources or plan a safe visit.

wow
wild over waterways



Want to do more?

For all you budding ecologists, there are plenty of ways to get involved and support canalside creatures. As part of this year's survey there will be **guided wildlife walks**, including some led by experts from the British Dragonfly Society and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. For more information, visit www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey, where you can also find out how to **support bumblebees in your own garden** or even **build a bee box**.



What to look out for on your local canal or river

When you visit the waterways, take this guide with you. Make a note of what creatures you spot and how many in the white boxes under each picture. Then visit www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey to tell us what you've seen. You can record sightings on the online form as many times as you like – right up until 31 October 2009.

Amphibians and Reptiles



☐ Common Toad



☐ Frog



☐ Grass Snake



☐ Terrapin



☐ Newt

☐ Other

Insects



☐ Bumblebee



☐ Damselfly



☐ Dragonfly



☐ Grasshopper



☐ Hornet



☐ Ladybird



☐ Pondskater



☐ Waterboatman

☐ Other

Fish



☐ Carp



☐ Perch



☐ Pike



☐ Roach



☐ Stickleback



☐ Trout

Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water – Stay Away From the Edge

Birds



☐ Barn Owl



☐ Buzzard



☐ Canada Goose



☐ Coot



☐ Cormorant



☐ Heron



☐ House Sparrow



☐ Kingfisher



☐ Lapwing



☐ Mallard



☐ Moorhen



☐ Robin



☐ Starling



☐ Swan



☐ Other

Mammals



☐ Badger



☐ Bat



☐ Fox



☐ Grey Squirrel



☐ Hare



☐ Hedgehog



☐ Mink



☐ Otter



☐ Rabbit



☐ Stoat



☐ Water Vole



☐ Other

Photography Credits
Common Toad – George Pennington
Grass Snake – Peter Wakely
Newt – Jill Pakenham
All Bumblebees – BBCT
Damselfly – Charlie McCartney
Dragonfly – Mark Pike
Grasshopper – Jason Gallier
Hornet – Paul Keene
Ladybird – Stuart Shore
Pondskater – Paul Keene
Waterboatman – Ray Kellett
Buzzard – Vic Parsons
Canada Goose – Paul Keene
Coot – Adrian Langdon
Cormorant – Paul Glendell
House Sparrow – Paul Keene
Kingfisher – Carlton Gater
Lapwing – Colin Smith
Mallard – Jack Bucknall
Robin – Keven Law
Starling – Dave Bevan
Badger – Dr Richard Yarnell
Fox – Paul Glendell
Grey Squirrel – Crispin Swan
Hare – Paul Keene
Hedgehog – Dave Bevan
Mink – Terry Whittaker
Rabbit – Jeremy Porter
Stoat – Andy Sands