



February - it's all about to start!

As we're already mid-month for this newsletter it may be more of a 'things that might have happened' rather than 'things that may happen' vibe.

The first stirrings of spring are here! I always try not to get too ahead of myself this time of year, February is aptly named Fool's Spring. Still, I have snow drops in my garden and it is time to start getting outside on those warmer days. There's still time to plant trees, shrubs and hedges and now is a great time to put up bug hotels and bird boxes. If there's any hedge trimming that needs doing I believe February is your month for it ahead of bird nesting that usually occurs in March.

Queen bumble bees can make an appearance as early as this month and considering how mild it's been I wonder if any of you have already spotted them? You can find out more about their life cycle [here](#).

The milder weather could also mean frogs leaping out of hibernation and the possibility of early frogspawn. I know some of our members have active ponds in their gardens so please do keep us updated. Countryfile have a [helpful article](#) that answers a lot of Frog/Toad FAQs.

And finally, in my quest for content I found myself on the [Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust's](#) website and discovered they have a 'Species of the Month' going back to 2008. They cover a different British species each month and it's well worth a read.

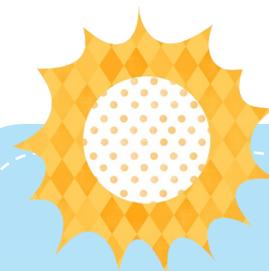
Wildlife to Look For

- [Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly](#)—it's a bit of a longshot but in light of the milder weather it's not totally out of the realms of possibility.
- [Mistle Thrush](#)—one of the earlier breeders they can lay eggs as early as late February.

Take action for Wildlife

Putting together a log pile will create a village for all things creepy and crawly. In turn, this busy community will attract birds, hedgehogs and frogs looking to snack on a tasty morsel. Perhaps the most spectacular garden deadwood denizen is the 50 mm-long stag beetle, which is found in light soils south of a line from the Wash to Bristol. Stag beetle larva stays in old wood for up to six years before emerging as an adult, ready to mate!

[How to make a log shelter](#)



Spotted!

Since our last newsletter..

In your gardens

Stonechats
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
 Jackdaw
 Grey Wagtail
 Starlings
 Mice
 Fox

Keep sharing your sightings

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