

WATERWAYS WILDLIFE SURVEY 2010

Become an otter spotter or a kingfisher counter



British
Waterways

Yours to enjoy anytime

Tell us what you spot at waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey

British Waterways' Wildlife Survey

We need your help. Between now and the autumn, we'd like you to visit your local canal, river, reservoir or dock and tell us what creatures you see.

Each sighting you record will help monitor, protect and preserve the amazing biodiversity found on our waterways.

Britain's canals and rivers provide valuable habitats for thousands of animals and plants, including the star of this year's survey – the magnificent kingfisher. Last year, people taking part in the wildlife survey reported more than 42,500 sightings including nearly 300 different species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, fish and waterway mammals.

Whether you are in the middle of a city or somewhere more remote, a seasoned otter spotter or a nature novice, you are almost guaranteed to see some exciting wildlife on the waterway. Look a little closer and you might even see something rare or unusual.

Everyone can take part. Use this leaflet to make a note of what you've spotted and where, and then record your sightings at www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey. It's easy to do and can be a great day out. What's more, because the information you'll be collecting is so important, there's no limit to how many times you can take part.



Wonderfully Wild Competition

While you're out spotting canal-side critters, why not capture them on camera and send it to our wonderfully wild photography competition? Any original photo of wildlife can be entered as long as it was taken on or next to a canal, river, reservoir or dock in the UK.

The best photo will win **£100**, whilst there's **£50** of vouchers up for grabs for the best photo taken by those under 14.

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

The Kingfisher – yours to protect

The star of this year's wildlife survey is the kingfisher.

The beautiful kingfisher is instantly recognisable and often only seen as a small blue flash rapidly skimming near the surface of the water as it hunts for food.

They are found all over the UK, however, pollution and land management issues over the last 40 years have meant that they are now a highly protected visitor to our waterways.

Kingfishers love clean water that is still or slow moving, which means that canals get their royal seal of approval. Every day they try to eat more than their own bodyweight in small fish and aquatic insects. They keep a vigilant watch from specially chosen perches at the waters edge before swiftly diving to catch their unsuspecting prey.



Pairs of kingfishers nest by burrowing into a soft, vertical bank directly above the water, this helps them to avoid predators. They can have up to three sets of young in one year.

To find out more about this miniature marvel visit www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey



Wildlife Appeal 2010

The Waterways Trust is raising money to improve habitats for waterway birds.

Canals and rivers provide precious habitats for many birds, including several threatened species – kingfisher, grey wagtail, bittern, reed bunting and barn owl.

The waterways, banks, grassy towpaths, trees and hedgerows offer a rich array of places for nesting, feeding and protection from predators, but they need your help to protect and enhance these special habitats for our beautiful waterway birds.

The Waterways Trust is raising money now to carry out vital habitat improvements including:

- installing special nest boxes for grey wagtails nesting near lock gates
- preserving perches and providing nesting tunnels for kingfishers
- providing precious reedbed habitat alongside canals and in reservoirs for threatened birds such as the bittern and reed bunting
- installing wooden tern rafts at key nesting sites
- erecting new nesting boxes for barn owls.

Go Wild Over Waterways

There are many resources, games and activities for children aged 7-11 years and their teachers, group leaders and families to discover at www.wow4water.net



The
Waterways
Trust

The Waterways Trust is working with British Waterways and other

organisations to help some of the most threatened waterway birds, but they need your support.

To donate to the Waterway Birds Appeal please visit their website

www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/wildlife

or call **0845 0700 710**

[9am-5pm, Monday-Friday].

Supporting biodiversity



2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. Look out for more

ways to get close to nature throughout the year at www.waterscape.com/biodiversity

Keep watch

Share your photos of wildlife on Flickr at the 'British waterways wildlife' group.

flickr

On your marks...

use this guide to make a note of what you've seen and how many.

Get set...

make a note of where you've made your sighting – the more accurate the better.

Go spotting...

remember to log your findings at www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey

Amphibians and Reptiles



Common Toad



Frog



Grass Snake



Terrapin



Newt

Other

Fish



Carp



Perch



Pike



Roach



Stickleback



Trout

Insects



Bumblebee



Butterfly



Damselfly



Dragonfly



Grasshopper



Ladybird



Pondskater



Waterboatman

Other

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
 Bumblebee – Richard Palmer
 Damselfly – Charlie McCartney
 Dragonfly – Mark Pike
 Grasshopper – Jason Gallier
 Butterfly – Chloe Vigus
 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
 Bat – Paul Keene