

Out this month — August

Wildlife to look for in and around Dumfries · 294 species

☐		Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	The tree that holds the riverbank together — and the only broadleaf here with little woody cones.
☐		American Mink <i>Neogale vison</i>	Escaped from fur farms, and the single biggest reason the water vole has all but gone.
☐		Angle Shades <i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Rests with its wings rolled and creased so it looks exactly like a withered leaf.
☐		Arctic Charr <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>	An ice-age relic marooned in deep, cold lochs when the glaciers left — and each loch's fish are their own.
☐		Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Sooty-black buds in winter — and a tree now facing a disease that may take most of them.
☐		Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Leaves the Nith as a fish the length of your hand and comes back years later from Greenland.
☐		Azure Damselfly <i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Tell it from the common blue by a small black U on the shoulder segment.
☐		Badger <i>Meles meles</i>	The striped face is famous; the sett beneath it may be centuries old and dug by generations.
☐		Bank Vole <i>Myodes glareolus</i>	Blunt-nosed and chestnut-red — the vole most likely to appear under a Dumfries bird feeder.
☐		Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	A ghost-pale hunter that quarters rough grassland at dusk on silent wings, and often by day in hard winters.
☐		Beautiful Demoiselle <i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Metallic blue-green with dark wings, fluttering over a fast burn like a butterfly.
☐		Bird's-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Eggs and bacon — yellow flowers streaked red, and seed pods splayed like a bird's foot.
☐		Biting Stonecrop <i>Sedum acre</i>	A mat of gold on a wall top in June — and the leaves are peppery enough to sting the tongue.
☐		Black Darter <i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Britain's smallest dragonfly, and a specialist of acid peat bogs and moorland pools.
☐		Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	The small gull whose hood is actually dark chocolate-brown, and only there for half the year.
☐		Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	The rich, unhurried song from a rooftop at dusk — the sound of a Dumfries spring evening.

☐		Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	A rich, tumbling song from deep in the scrub, and a cap that is black on males and warm brown on females.
☐		Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Flowers on bare black twigs before any leaf — a cold snap during it is still called a blackthorn winter.
☐		Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue cap, yellow breast, no fear of anything — the acrobat of every feeder in town.
☐		Blue-tailed Damselfly <i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Almost entirely black, with a single bright blue segment near the tail — like a lit match head.
☐		Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Possibly the most widespread plant on earth, and a single clone can cover a hillside.
☐		Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Not one species but hundreds of near-identical microspecies — and the best free food there is.
☐		Broad Buckler-fern <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Dark scales with a black stripe down the middle — the surest way to name it.
☐		Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Spends its whole life in one burn, never feeds as an adult, and dies within weeks of spawning.
☐		Brown Hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Long black-tipped ears, golden eyes and a flat-out sprint that no rabbit could manage.
☐		Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Ears nearly as long as its body — and it hunts so quietly it is known as the whispering bat.
☐		Brown Rat <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Introduced, adaptable and genuinely clever — and never as far from you as you think.
☐		Brown Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	A native river fish that shelters in gravel-bed pools of the Nith and its burns.
☐		Buff-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Our biggest bumblebee, and increasingly seen on flowers in the middle of winter.
☐		Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A soft, mournful piping from inside a hedge, then a flash of white rump as it slips away.
☐		Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	All head and no tail, wedged under a stone — and the male guards the eggs himself.
☐		Butterbur <i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Flowers first on bare pink spikes, then grows leaves big enough to have wrapped butter.
☐		Caddisfly larva <i>Limnephilus lunatus</i>	Builds itself a portable case out of sand, twigs and snail shells, and carries it everywhere.
☐		Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	Introduced from North America three centuries ago, and now thoroughly at home on the town pond.

☐		Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	All black, all business, and usually on its own — the crow that is not a rook.
☐		Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	An accelerating rattle that ends in a flourish — and a different accent depending where you are.
☐		Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Named after its own song — a flat, insistent 'chiff-chaff' from high in a bare March tree.
☐		Chub <i>Squalius cephalus</i>	Big-mouthed, thick-set and famously wary — it will eat almost anything that falls in.
☐		Cinnabar Moth <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Slate-grey with crimson stripes and spots — the adult of the black-and-orange ragwort caterpillar.
☐		Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar <i>Tyria jacobaeae caterpillar</i>	Black-and-orange stripes that mean exactly what they say — don't eat me.
☐		Cladonia Cup Lichen <i>Cladonia fimbriata</i>	Tiny grey-green golf tees standing up out of the moss — miniature and easily missed.
☐		Coal Tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	The smallest of our tits — grabs a seed and vanishes, hiding it somewhere for later.
☐		Cockchafer <i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	The 'maybug' that blunders into a lit window on a warm May evening with a considerable thud.
☐		Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Unknown in Britain before the 1950s — it walked here from the Balkans in a single human lifetime.
☐		Comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Ragged-edged and named for a single white mark under the wing, shaped exactly like a comma.
☐		Common Blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	The male is violet-blue; the female is mostly brown, which catches almost everybody out.
☐		Common Blue Damselfly <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	One of several near-identical blue damselflies — this one wears a mushroom on its shoulder.
☐		Common Bream <i>Abramis brama</i>	Deep, slab-sided and bronze, and coated in a slime that comes off on everything.
☐		Common Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Feeds butterflies magnificently and wrecks masonry thoroughly — both at once.
☐		Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	The plaintive mewing overhead — now the commonest bird of prey in Britain, and back from near-extinction here.
☐		Common Carder Bee <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	The gingery bumblebee — the only common one here with a wholly brown thorax.
☐		Common Carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Farmed by monks, moved around Europe for centuries, and capable of living for decades.

☐		Common Comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Knitbone — and short-tongued bumblebees simply bite a hole in the back of the flower.
☐		Common Dab <i>Limanda limanda</i>	Rough as sandpaper to the touch, with a sharp kink in the lateral line above the pectoral fin.
☐		Common Darter <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	The dragonfly still flying in late October, returning again and again to the same warm fence post.
☐		Common Froghopper <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	The insect inside the cuckoo spit — and, for its size, the best jumper on earth.
☐		Common Goby <i>Pomatoschistus microps</i>	The tiny fish in the rockpool that vanishes the instant your shadow falls on it.
☐		Common Green Grasshopper <i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	The long, accelerating sewing-machine whirr from a damp meadow on a July afternoon.
☐		Common Haircap Moss <i>Polytrichum commune</i>	One of the tallest mosses in the world, and it has something close to plumbing.
☐		Common Hawker <i>Aeshna juncea</i>	A big hawker of moorland pools that patrols tirelessly and hardly ever settles.
☐		Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Holds its head perfectly still while the rest of it works hard to hang in the wind.
☐		Common Knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Hardhead — a thistle-like flower with no prickles at all, and the best nectar on the verge.
☐		Common Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>	The sting is a hypodermic needle made of glass — and four of our best butterflies depend on it.
☐		Common Orange Lichen <i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	The bright orange crust on a wall or gravestone — and it thrives on nitrogen pollution.
☐		Common Polypody <i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Grows along the tops of walls and out of tree branches, with no soil to speak of.
☐		Common Pond Skater <i>Gerris lacustris</i>	Stands on the water without breaking it, and feels for struggling insects through the ripples.
☐		Common Ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Poisonous to horses, and indispensable to a great many insects — both things are true.
☐		Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	A deep, resonant 'cronk' from overhead, and a bird far bigger than any crow has a right to be.
☐		Common Red Soldier Beetle <i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Orange-red with black wing tips, and almost always found in pairs on a hogweed head.
☐		Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Never quite still — the rust-red tail shivers constantly, even when the rest of the bird does not.

☐		Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A small, bobbing wader of upland rivers and lochs, gone again by autumn.
☐		Common Shrew <i>Sorex araneus</i>	Must eat every few hours or die — a life lived at a pace nothing else here can match.
☐		Common Stonefly <i>Perla bipunctata</i>	Needs cold, fast, clean, well-oxygenated water — which is why its presence is such good news.
☐		Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A 'sea swallow' — long tail streamers, a hovering pause, and then a clean vertical plunge.
☐		Common Valerian <i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	The root smells so strongly of old socks that cats react to it like catnip.
☐		Common Wasp <i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	Spends the summer as a useful predator of garden pests, then turns up at your picnic in September.
☐		Common Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Bursts out of a bramble, sings a scratchy phrase into the air, and drops straight back in.
☐		Common Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	The heavy clatter of wings from a hedge, and a five-note coo that always seems to stop one note early.
☐		Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	Sooty black with a white bill and forehead shield — and spectacularly bad-tempered with its neighbours.
☐		Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	A big, black, primeval-looking fisher often seen holding its wings out to dry.
☐		Cow Parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Queen Anne's lace — the froth of white that fills every verge in May.
☐		Cuckooflower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Lady's smock — it flowers when the cuckoo arrives, and feeds the orange-tip's caterpillars.
☐		Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	The bubbling song over spring moorland, and the long downcurved bill — Britain's biggest wader, and in serious trouble.
☐		Dace <i>Leuciscus leuciscus</i>	A slim silver dart of the fast water, with concave fins and a yellow eye.
☐		Dark Green Fritillary <i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	A big, fast, powerful orange butterfly — and the green wash is on the underside, not the top.
☐		Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	A low, fast flier that skims insects straight off the water's surface.
☐		Devil's Coach Horse <i>Ocypus olens</i>	Curls its tail up like a scorpion when cornered — all bluff, but convincing bluff.

☐		Devil's-bit Scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Named for a root that looks bitten off — the devil, allegedly, being annoyed at how useful it was.
☐		Dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	The only songbird in Britain that walks underwater, hunting the riverbed for grubs and larvae.
☐		Dog Rose <i>Rosa canina</i>	Pale pink, faintly scented, and armed with hooked thorns that climb by hanging on.
☐		Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	A dull green carpet with a rank smell — and thoroughly poisonous.
☐		Drone Fly <i>Eristalis tenax</i>	A honey bee lookalike whose larva breathes through a snorkel in liquid filth.
☐		Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	Flocks that turn as one over the mudflats, flashing dark then silver-white in the same second.
☐		Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	The quiet grey-brown bird shuffling under the feeder — overlooked, and with a startlingly complicated love life.
☐		Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	Every eel in the Nith was born in the Sargasso Sea, and every one will go back there to die.
☐		Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Grows anywhere the ground has been disturbed, and gives two harvests a year.
☐		Elephant Hawk-moth <i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Pink and olive-green like nothing else here — and the caterpillar is named for its trunk.
☐		Emperor Dragonfly <i>Anax imperator</i>	Britain's bulkiest dragonfly, and it eats its catch without ever landing.
☐		Emperor Moth <i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	The male flies by day in a fast zig-zag, tracking a female's scent from a mile away.
☐		Fairy Foxglove <i>Erinus alpinus</i>	A pink-flowered wall specialist, no bigger than a fingertip.
☐		Field Vole <i>Microtus agrestis</i>	The animal that feeds half the region's predators — kestrels, owls, foxes and stoats all run on voles.
☐		Flounder <i>Platichthys flesus</i>	The flatfish that comes up the river — you can catch one in fresh water miles from the sea.
☐		Four-spotted Chaser <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Count the dark spots — two on each wing, halfway along the leading edge.
☐		Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	The source of the heart drug digoxin — and lethally poisonous straight off the plant.
☐		Freshwater Shrimp <i>Gammarus pulex</i>	Not an insect and not really a shrimp — but it is what half the burn's food chain runs on.

☐		Garden Bumblebee <i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Has the longest tongue of any British bumblebee — long enough to reach the base of a foxglove.
☐		Garden Spider <i>Araneus diadematus</i>	The white cross on its back gives it away — and it rebuilds its whole web most mornings.
☐		Garden Tiger <i>Arctia caja</i>	Cream and chocolate above, scarlet beneath — and the caterpillar is the original woolly bear.
☐		Giant Hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Its sap causes severe burns that recur in sunlight for years. Do not touch it.
☐		Goat Willow <i>Salix caprea</i>	The pussy willow — silver-grey buds that turn into the first real bee food of the year.
☐		Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	Britain's smallest bird, weighing about the same as a ten-pence piece.
☐		Golden-ringed Dragonfly <i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	Britain's longest dragonfly — black with gold rings, and a hunter of acid hill burns.
☐		Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	A red face, gold wing bars and a tinkling call — a charm of goldfinches is worth the name.
☐		Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>	A big, elegant sawbill duck that nests up quiet rivers in summer and gathers on open water once the cold sets in.
☐		Gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	'When gorse is out of blossom, kissing's out of fashion' — because it is never entirely out of flower.
☐		Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	A bird you'll almost certainly hear before you ever see — its reeling song sounds more like an insect or a fishing reel than a bird.
☐		Grayling <i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	'The lady of the stream' — and that huge sail of a dorsal fin is unmistakable.
☐		Great Diving Beetle <i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>	Carries its own air supply under its wing cases, and will take on a newt or a small fish.
☐		Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	That short, hard burst of drumming in March is not feeding — it is a bird announcing itself.
☐		Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	The black stripe down a yellow chest, and a two-note 'tea-cher' that carries right across the garden.
☐		Great Willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Codlins-and-cream — soft-hairy all over, with notched purple-pink petals and a white centre.
☐		Green Drake Mayfly <i>Ephemera danica</i>	Two years in the riverbed, then a single day in the air — the mayfly proper.

☐		Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	The laugh — a loud, ringing 'yaffle' — carries across a field long before you find the bird.
☐		Green-veined White <i>Pieris napi</i>	The white butterfly that is not eating your cabbages — look for the smoky green veining underneath.
☐		Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Stocky, olive-green and heavy-billed — and much scarcer at the feeder than it used to be.
☐		Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Stands in the shallows without moving for twenty minutes, then strikes faster than you can follow.
☐		Grey Squirrel <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Introduced from North America, and the main reason the red squirrel is in retreat.
☐		Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	A slim, tail-bobbing bird of fast water that flashes lemon-yellow underneath, despite the drab-sounding name.
☐		Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	The ancestor of the farmyard goose — and the one that actually sounds like a goose.
☐		Gudgeon <i>Gobio gobio</i>	A small bottom-hugging fish with a barbel at each corner of the mouth and a row of dark blotches.
☐		Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	The bluebell of Scotland — and nothing at all to do with the woodland bluebell.
☐		Harlequin Ladybird <i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Arrived in Britain in 2004 and is now the fastest-spreading invasive insect on record here.
☐		Hart's-tongue Fern <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	The only common fern here with undivided strap-shaped fronds — no lacework at all.
☐		Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	The may tree — and the hedge that encloses most of the fields around Dumfries.
☐		Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Lambs' tails in January, and nuts in autumn that half the wood is waiting for.
☐		Hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	A gap the size of a CD cut in a garden fence is the single most useful thing you can do for one.
☐		Hemlock Water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Probably the most poisonous plant in Britain — and it looks like celery.
☐		Herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Ferny leaves that turn bright red in poor ground, and a smell most people dislike.
☐		Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	The classic 'seagull' — a bulky, silver-backed gull equally at home on cliffs, harbours and rooftops.
☐		Himalayan Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Fires its seeds several metres when touched — which is exactly why it owns the riverbank.

☐		Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Coarser and later than cow parsley — and its sap can still blister you in sunshine.
☐		Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Only the female trees carry berries — and the upper leaves often lose their prickles entirely.
☐		Holly Blue <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	The blue butterfly flying around the tops of hedges rather than down in the grass.
☐		Honey Bee <i>Apis mellifera</i>	The only bee here whose whole colony overwinters — by shivering to keep the hive warm.
☐		House Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	The mud cup under the eaves — built one beakful at a time, and often reused for years.
☐		House Mouse <i>Mus musculus</i>	Greyer, smaller-eyed and mustier than a wood mouse — and it came here with the first farmers.
☐		House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	The noisy, squabbling bird of hedges and eaves that we only noticed once it started disappearing.
☐		Hummingbird Hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	People report it as a hummingbird every year — and it does hover, hum and feed exactly like one.
☐		Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	Flowers when almost nothing else does, and fruits when the birds most need it.
☐		Ivy-leaved Toadflax <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	A tumble of tiny lilac snapdragons spilling from cracks in old stone walls.
☐		Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	The small grey-hooded crow with pale eyes that nests in your chimney and knows exactly what you are doing.
☐		Japanese Knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Almost every plant in Britain is female, and genetically one single clone.
☐		Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Our most colourful crow, and the reason a good many oak trees are where they are.
☐		Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A dart of electric blue along the river — usually heard before it's ever seen.
☐		Lady Fern <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Finer, softer and more delicate than male fern — and one of the first to collapse in autumn.
☐		Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A crested farmland plover famed for its tumbling display flight and huge winter flocks.
☐		Large Red Damselfly <i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i>	The first damselfly of the year — often on the wing before the end of April.
☐		Large White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	The 'cabbage white' proper — and its caterpillars really will strip a brassica bed.

☐		Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Slate-grey back and yellow legs — the herring gull's darker cousin, and once a bird that always left for winter.
☐		Lesser Redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	A tiny, red-capped finch that spends summer quietly in birch woodland and winter hanging acrobatically from the thinnest twigs.
☐		Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	A dazzling all-white heron, a recent and still-spreading arrival in south-west Scotland.
☐		Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	A tiny, dumpy diving bird that vanishes underwater at the first sign of trouble.
☐		Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	A flying teaspoon — and never alone: where there is one, there are a dozen close behind.
☐		Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	Black and white at a glance — but catch the light and the tail is bottle-green and violet.
☐		Maidenhair Spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	A miniature fern that thrives where almost nothing else can take root.
☐		Male Fern <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	The classic shuttlecock fern of a shady bank — and named only in contrast to the 'female' lady fern.
☐		Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	The everyday duck of ponds and rivers everywhere, and the ancestor of nearly every domestic duck breed.
☐		Marmalade Hoverfly <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Double black bands on orange, no sting whatsoever, and its larvae eat aphids by the hundred.
☐		Marsh Marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>	Kingcups — big glossy gold flowers in the wet, and one of our oldest surviving natives.
☐		Meadow Brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	The most abundant butterfly of British grassland, and it will fly on a dull day when nothing else will.
☐		Meadow Buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i>	The gloss on the petals is a mirror — which is why it really does shine under your chin.
☐		Meadow Grasshopper <i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Our only native grasshopper that cannot fly — the wings never finish growing.
☐		Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	The small brown bird that flushes from the grass in front of you, calling thinly as it goes.
☐		Meadowsweet <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	The plant that gave aspirin both its chemistry and, indirectly, its name.
☐		Minnow <i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	The shoal of little fish darting over gravel in the shallows — and the males turn scarlet in May.

☐		Mole <i>Talpa europaea</i>	You will see the molehills long before you see the mole — most people never see one at all.
☐		Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	A red-billed, white-flanked bird that jerks its way across ponds and riverbanks, as at home walking as swimming.
☐		Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	Orange bill with a black knob at the base — the swan that is here all year, and not silent at all.
☐		Natterer's Bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Gleans insects straight off leaves and bark, and can take a spider out of its own web.
☐		Navelwort (Wall Pennywort) <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Round fleshy leaves dimpled in the middle like a navel — a succulent growing out of a wall.
☐		Nine-spined Stickleback <i>Pungitius pungitius</i>	Slimmer and shyer than its three-spined cousin, and the breeding male goes black, not red.
☐		Noctule bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	The UK's biggest bat, cutting fast and high overhead on summer evenings.
☐		Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	The only British bird that routinely walks head-first down a tree trunk.
☐		Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage <i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	A low golden-green mat on wet, shaded ground — and its flowers have no petals at all.
☐		Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	A sleek, whiskered hunter that slips along the Nith and Solway shore mostly unseen.
☐		Ox-eye Daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	The moon daisy — a big white daisy that glows on a verge at dusk.
☐		Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Black, white and loud, with a carrot-orange bill built for opening shellfish.
☐		Painted Lady Butterfly <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	A butterfly that's flown here from the edge of the Sahara.
☐		Peacock <i>Aglais io</i>	Four enormous eyespots, and a hiss if you disturb it — this butterfly is built to bluff.
☐		Pedunculate Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	Acorns on long stalks, leaves on almost none — the mirror image of the sessile oak.
☐		Pellucid Hoverfly <i>Volucella pellucens</i>	One of our largest hoverflies — black, with a broad ivory-white sash across the middle.
☐		Peppered Moth <i>Biston betularia</i>	The textbook example of evolution watched happening — and the story ran through Britain's industrial towns.

☐		Perch <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Tiger-striped, red-finned and spiky-backed — one of the handsomest fish in the region's lochs.
☐		Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	The fastest animal on earth — and increasingly likely to be nesting on a building rather than a crag.
☐		Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A crisp black-and-white summer visitor to the oakwoods — and a reliable taker of nest boxes.
☐		Pied Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Runs across the supermarket car park in short bursts, tail pumping the whole time.
☐		Pipistrelle bat <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	The UK's commonest and smallest bat, flickering over gardens and hedgerows at dusk.
☐		Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	The orange spots give it away — the only Solway flatfish marked quite like that.
☐		Poplar Hawk-moth <i>Laothoe populi</i>	Rests with its hindwings pushed out in front of the forewings — no other moth here sits like that.
☐		Primrose <i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Comes in two forms — pin-eyed and thrum-eyed — so a flower can never pollinate itself.
☐		Purple Hairstreak <i>Favonius quercus</i>	Lives in the tops of oak trees and feeds on honeydew — which is why almost nobody sees one.
☐		Purple Loosestrife <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Tall magenta spikes along the water's edge — and three different flower forms in one species.
☐		Pygmy Shrew <i>Sorex minutus</i>	Britain's smallest mammal — an adult weighs less than a two-pence coin.
☐		Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Brought here by the Normans as livestock, escaped, and reshaped the British countryside.
☐		Rainbow Trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	A North American Pacific fish, stocked into fisheries here and almost never breeding wild.
☐		Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	A migrant from the Mediterranean that has started, in mild winters, to simply stay.
☐		Red Campion <i>Silene dioica</i>	Male and female flowers on separate plants — and only the females make seed.
☐		Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Only long-tongued bumblebees can reach the nectar — which is why they matter to farming.
☐		Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	The scream on a January night is not distress — it is a vixen advertising for a mate.
☐		Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Deeply forked tail, constantly twisting — a bird brought back to Galloway deliberately, and now breeding here.

☐		Red Squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Dumfries and Galloway is one of the last strongholds in Britain — and holding the line takes active work.
☐		Red-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Jet black with a blazing orange-red tail — and the males look like a different species entirely.
☐		Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	The noisy 'sentinel of the marsh' whose alarm call sets every wader on the mudflat to flight.
☐		Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Black hood, white collar and a song so unhurried it sounds like the bird has forgotten how it ends.
☐		Reed Canary-grass <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	The tall grass that takes over a riverbank — greener, earlier and looser than common reed.
☐		Ringlet <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Almost black when freshly emerged, with a row of small gold-ringed eyes underneath.
☐		River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	A jawless fish older than dinosaurs, with a rasping sucker instead of a mouth.
☐		Roach <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Red eye, reddish fins, silver flank — the fish that taught most anglers to fish.
☐		Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	The gardener's shadow — bold, orange-breasted and singing on the darkest days of the year.
☐		Roe Deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	The deer you are most likely to meet around Dumfries — small, neat, and gone in three bounds.
☐		Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Never alone: rooks live, feed and nest in company, in the clattering treetop colonies called rookeries.
☐		Rosebay Willowherb <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Fireweed — it swept across bombed cities and burnt ground within a single generation.
☐		Rowan <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Planted by doorways for centuries to keep witches out — and stripped by thrushes every autumn.
☐		Ruby Tiger <i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Dull pinkish-brown until it opens up and shows a crimson body and hindwings.
☐		Rudd <i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Golden-flanked with blood-red fins, and an upturned mouth built for feeding at the surface.
☐		Rustyback Fern <i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Turn a frond over and the underside is covered in rust-coloured scales.
☐		Sand Eel <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i>	Dives into wet sand to hide — and half the seabirds in the Solway depend on it.
☐		Sand Goby <i>Pomatoschistus minutus</i>	Almost invisible against clean sand — and a critical link in the estuary food chain.

☐		Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	The first summer migrant back each spring, nesting in noisy colonies of burrows dug straight into the riverbank.
☐		Scotch Argus <i>Erebia aethiops</i>	A butterfly of damp Scottish hillsides that will only fly when the sun is actually out.
☐		Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Britain's only native pine — orange bark in the crown, and needles in neat pairs.
☐		Sea Bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	Silver, spiky-finned and pushing steadily further north as the sea warms.
☐		Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	The largest of our lampreys, marbled like old stone, and a sight that stops people mid-walk.
☐		Sea Trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>	The same species as the brown trout — it simply chose to go to sea and came back bigger.
☐		Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	A scratchy, never-repeating song pouring out of the reeds — one of the surest signs that a wetland has come back to life for summer.
☐		Selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Survives mowing by simply flowering lower — you will find it in the middle of a lawn.
☐		Sessile Oak <i>Quercus petraea</i>	The oak of the western hanging woods — acorns sit tight to the twig, leaves have long stalks.
☐		Seven-spot Ladybird <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	The archetypal ladybird — three spots on each side and one shared across the middle.
☐		Signal Crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Introduced from North America, and it brought a plague that wiped out our own crayfish.
☐		Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	White bark, weeping twigs, and the first tree back on any patch of bare ground.
☐		Silver Y <i>Autographa gamma</i>	Named for a silver letter Y on each wing, and it flies here from southern Europe every year.
☐		Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	A streaky yellow-green finch that hangs upside down from the tips of branches, and turns up at garden feeders in force once winter bites.
☐		Six-spot Burnet <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	A moth that flies in bright sunshine, and can make its own cyanide.
☐		Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Song pouring down out of an empty sky from a bird too high to see.
☐		Small Copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	A small scrap of burnished copper, and startlingly aggressive for its size.

☐		Small Heath <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Never once seen with its wings open — it always settles closed, and always tilted towards the sun.
☐		Small Tortoiseshell <i>Aglaia urticae</i>	The butterfly that wakes up in your bedroom in February, having quietly overwintered in the curtains.
☐		Small White <i>Pieris rapae</i>	The other cabbage white — smaller, with greyer wingtips and solitary green caterpillars.
☐		Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	A superbly camouflaged wetland wader best known for the eerie 'drumming' sound of its display flight.
☐		Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Sings every phrase two or three times over, as if making sure you heard it.
☐		Soprano Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Identical to the common pipistrelle by eye — it took a bat detector to prove it was a separate species.
☐		Southern Hawker <i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Inquisitive to the point of rudeness — it will hover a foot from your face to look at you.
☐		Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Comes through the garden low and fast, round the corner of the house, and is gone before you register it.
☐		Speckled Wood <i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Owens a sunny gap in the trees, and will spiral upwards with any male that tries to take it.
☐		Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Sits bolt upright on a fence post, flies out, snaps up a fly, and returns to exactly the same perch.
☐		Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Black at a distance, iridescent purple and green close up — and capable of imitating a car alarm.
☐		Stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i>	The black tail-tip is the whole identification — a weasel has no such thing.
☐		Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	A tidy, iridescent-necked pigeon that nests in tree holes and old buildings, easily overlooked next to its brasher cousins.
☐		Stone Loach <i>Barbatula barbatula</i>	Six barbels around the mouth, and a habit of spending the entire day underneath a stone.
☐		Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Perches on the very top of a gorse bush and scolds you with a sound like two pebbles knocked together.
☐		Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Glossy blue-black and forked-tailed, skimming low over fields and farmyards — the clearest sign that summer has properly arrived.
☐		Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	A sooty, scythe-winged flier that eats, sleeps and even mates in the air — and is only ever seen for a few frantic summer weeks.

☐		Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	The classic 'twit-twoo' owl of Dumfries gardens and woodland, actually a male's hoot answered by a female's sharp call.
☐		Tench <i>Tinca tinca</i>	Olive-green, thick-set and red-eyed, with fins so rounded they look padded.
☐		Thick-lipped Grey Mullet <i>Chelon labrosus</i>	Grazes algae off harbour walls, and is notoriously difficult to persuade to take a bait.
☐		Three-spined Stickleback <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	The fish everyone catches first — and one of the most studied animals in all of biology.
☐		Tree Bumblebee <i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	Arrived in Britain in 2001 and has spread the length of the country since.
☐		Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Like a house sparrow drawn more carefully — chestnut cap, and a black comma on a white cheek.
☐		Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	A scrap of bark that turns out to be a bird, spiralling steadily up a tree trunk in search of hidden insects.
☐		Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Black and white, golden-eyed, with a drooping ponytail — and forever disappearing underwater mid-sentence.
☐		Violet Ground Beetle <i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Black until the light catches the rim of its wing cases, which glow violet and gold.
☐		Wall Brown Butterfly <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	A sun-basking butterfly named for its favourite perch.
☐		Wall Rue <i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	A fern so small it's easy to mistake for a patch of moss.
☐		Water Forget-me-not <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	The flower spike uncoils as it opens, like a scorpion's tail — hence the name.
☐		Water Mint <i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Walk along a wet ditch in August and you will smell it before you see it.
☐		Water Shrew <i>Neomys fodiens</i>	Britain's only venomous mammal, and it swims with a silver skin of trapped air.
☐		Water Vole <i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	'Ratty' from The Wind in the Willows — and Britain's fastest-declining wild mammal.
☐		Weasel <i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Britain's smallest carnivore — small enough to hunt a vole down its own tunnel.
☐		Whirligig Beetle <i>Gyrinus substriatus</i>	Spins in frantic circles on the surface — with each eye split in two, half above water and half below.
☐		Whiskered Bat <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	So similar to Brandt's bat that for two centuries nobody realised they were two species.

☐		White Clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>	The clover in your lawn — and the one people search for a fourth leaf on.
☐		White-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	Yellow, pink or brown, striped or plain — and the white rim of the shell mouth is the giveaway.
☐		White-tailed Bumblebee <i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Brighter yellow bands and a clean white tail — but honestly, even experts need a microscope.
☐		Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	A slimmer cod relative with no chin barbel and a black smudge at the base of the pectoral fin.
☐		Wild Teasel <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Its paired leaves hold a cup of rainwater — and goldfinches work the seedheads all winter.
☐		Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A soft, descending cascade of notes that fades away at the end — the sound of April birchwoods.
☐		Wood Avens <i>Geum urbanum</i>	Also called herb bennet — and its burred seedheads are how it gets around.
☐		Wood Mouse <i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	Huge black eyes, enormous ears and a habit of getting into the shed every autumn.
☐		Wood Sorrel <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Shamrock-shaped leaves that fold down flat at night and in bright sun.
☐		Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Britain's commonest bird, and one of its smallest — a brown scrap with a startlingly loud voice.
☐		Wych Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Our only certainly native elm, and Scotland still holds mature trees that England largely lost.
☐		Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Feathery leaves and flat white flower heads — a battlefield wound herb since antiquity.
☐		Yellow Flag Iris <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Almost certainly the flower behind the fleur-de-lis.
☐		Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	'A little bit of bread and no cheese' — sung from a hedge top through the heat of a July afternoon.

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