

# THE SPRING SPOTTING CHALLENGE!

Don't miss a thing this Spring, with our spotting ticklist compiled by the experts at the Wildlife Trusts. How many points can your rack up on your walks this month?

**SPOTTING POINTS EXPLAINED:**

Q = Fairly easy spot    QQQQQ = Very lucky find!

▶ Cut out or download from [livefortheoutdoors.com/springticklist](http://livefortheoutdoors.com/springticklist)

**(Drumming)**

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** □

**Where to spot it:** Listen out for them in broad-leaf woodlands, gardens and parks  
**I never knew that:** Woodpeckers have even drummed on lampposts, to amplify their sound Q



**(Boxing) Brown Hare** □

**Where to spot it:** Spot them on rolling farmland, arable fields and open grassland  
**I never knew that:** As the breeding season approaches, the females box away the amorous males QQ

**(Pungent) Wild Garlic** □

**Where to spot it:** Search it out in woodlands  
**I never knew that:** Wild Garlic, also known as Bear's Garlic, is a forager's dream; the white flowers and broad leaves are edible and give off a pungent aroma QQQ



**(Booming) Bittern** □

**Where to spot it:** Listen for the boom of the Bittern echoing across reedbeds  
**I never knew that:** You'll be lucky to see one, but this loud, trumpeting 'boom' will announce them QQQQ

**(Patches of) Wild Daffodils** □

**Where to spot it:** They're no longer common, but can be found in some woodland nature reserves  
**I never knew that:** They're also known as the Lent lily, since they bloom during the Lent period QQQQ



**(Skimming) Sand Martin** □

**Where to spot it:** Watch as they arrive back in flocks to wetlands, reservoirs and rivers  
**I never knew that:** Sand Martin are one of our first breeding 'hirundines' to return to the UK QQ



**(A carpet of) Bluebells** □

**Where to spot it:** At the end of March, look out in a woodland near you (the older the better)  
**I never knew that:** The UK is home to more than half the world's population of common bluebells Q



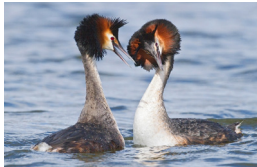
**(Nesting) Long-tailed Tit** ■

**Where to spot it:** On nature reserves, brownfield sites, woodlands, towns, parks and gardens  
**I never knew that:** Long-tailed Tits are known as bumarrels due to their tear-drop shaped nests QQ



**(Splashing) Water Voles** □

**Where to spot it:** Look out on the short grass, mud or logs down river banks and canals  
**I never knew that:** Once highly endangered, Water Voles are recovering in some areas now due to great conservation work QQQQ



**(Swaying) Great-crested Grebes** □

**Where to spot it:** Look out in the early mornings on lakes, reservoirs and wetlands  
**I never knew that:** Their springtime ritual sees them pair up in an elegant dance, head plumes spread wide QQ



**(Basking) Grass Snakes** □

**Where to spot it:** Watch out on sunny, south-facing patches of heathland, wetland and grassland  
**I never knew that:** Grass Snakes will usually hibernate until April, but warm sunshine might wake them up early QQQQ

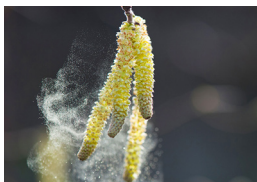


**(Dancing) Smooth Newts** □

**Where to spot it:** Search by moonlight or torchlight in ponds  
**I never knew that:** In spring, the male assumes a breeding costume and performs a ritual dance display to attract a mate QQQ

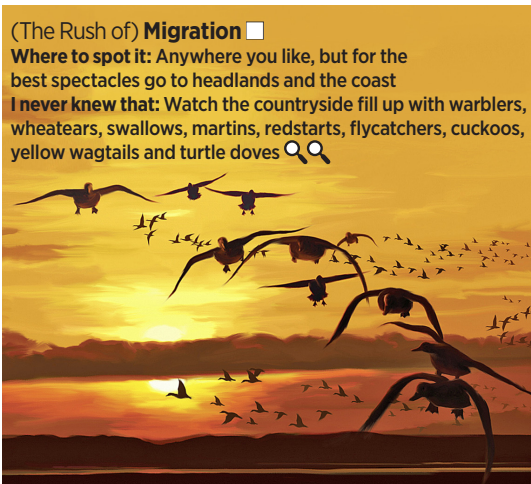
**(Colonies of) Herons** ■

**Where to spot it:** Herons are easily disturbed, so a nature reserve is the best way to view them nesting.  
**I never knew that:** When not courting, they are fighting with the neighbours, stealing twigs from each other's nests or even setting their sights on their neighbour's partner QQ



**(Hanging) Hazel Catkins** □

**Where to spot it:** Hazel is widespread, so look for it in woodland, parks, hedgerows and gardens  
**I never knew that:** Hazels are associated with magic! The catkins are the male part of the tree, whilst the flowers are female Q



**(The Rush of) Migration** ■

**Where to spot it:** Anywhere you like, but for the best spectacles go to headlands and the coast  
**I never knew that:** Watch the countryside fill up with warblers, wheatears, swallows, martins, redstarts, flycatchers, cuckoos, yellow wagtails and turtle doves QQ

**(Parachuting) Skylarks** □

**Where to spot it:** On crisp sunny days, listen out for Skylarks singing above farmland and meadows  
**I never knew that:** They float up high, call out their tuneful melody and parachute down to the fields below QQ



**(Buzzing) Queen Bees** □

**Where to spot it:** On a warm sunny day scan flowerbeds and hedgerows  
**I never knew that:** Queen Bees wake up early and will be searching for sweet spring nectar QQ



**(Tuneful) Chiffchaffs** □

**Where to spot it:** This unobtrusive warbler might be spotted in the tops of bushes and trees  
**I never knew that:** Chiffchaffs are named for their delicate and simple yet nostalgic song QQ



**(Fluttering) Brimstones** □

**Where to spot it:** Spot this distinctive butterfly in grasslands, hedgerows, gardens and meadows browsing for a nest site.  
**I never knew that:** You'll need a warm day to spot a butterfly, but Brimstone do grace our countryside early QQ

**(Rays of) Celandine** □

**Where to spot it:** Lesser Celandine will flower in woodlands, hedgerows and possibly gardens  
**I never knew that:** Celandine is a wildflower much like a buttercup; they are a reminder that the warmth of spring and summer is on the way QQQ



More nature facts, wild havens, activities and top wildlife experiences at [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)  
**HOW DID YOU DO?** We'd love to hear from you (see all contact points on page 69)