



Nuthatch by Darin Smith

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape.

### Wildcall

Tel: 01273 494777  
email: wildcall@sussexwt.org.uk



Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Woods Mill  
Henfield  
West Sussex  
BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630

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Web: www.sussexwt.org.uk

# January

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- Hang bird feeders and put out food on the ground and bird table
- Make sure the bird bath is topped up and not frozen

- Regularly clean the bird bath and table
- Make sure the pond does not freeze over by floating a tennis ball on the surface

- Trim back berry carrying shrubs and trees once the wildlife has eaten all their crop
- Plant berrying deciduous trees - a mixture of native and non-natives works well

- Make a log and/or rock pile to create areas of shelter for wildlife
- Build a compost bin for the coming spring

- Plan a wild flower meadow for spring sowing or planting
- Buy or make a bee nesting box and site it in your garden



Compost by Elli Saunders



Nest box by Elli Saunders

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# February

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- Put up nesting boxes for birds
- Keep bird feeders topped up and continue to put out food on the ground and bird table

- Avoid foods that could cause choking in young fledglings
- Keep the bird bath topped up
- Regularly clean the bird bath and table

- Plant new berrying trees and shrubs – a mix of natives and non-natives works well
- Put out log and/or rock piles to create areas of shelter for wildlife

- Plan and dig a wildlife pond
- Build a compost bin

- Prepare the ground for a wild flower meadow
- Make and hang a insect nesting box





# March

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- Put up nesting boxes for birds
- Top up bird feeders and put food out on the ground and bird table

- Avoid putting out loose peanuts and other chunky foods that might cause young fledglings to choke
- Keep the bird bath topped up

- Regularly clean bird baths and tables
- If your pond has steep sides ensure there are logs and stones that allow wildlife to get in and out of the pond easily.

- Put out log, twig and/or rock piles to create shelter for wildlife
- Build a compost bin while you still have time!

- Sow or plant a wildflower meadow



Meadow by Darin Smith

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# April



Wildflower Meadow by Richard Cobden

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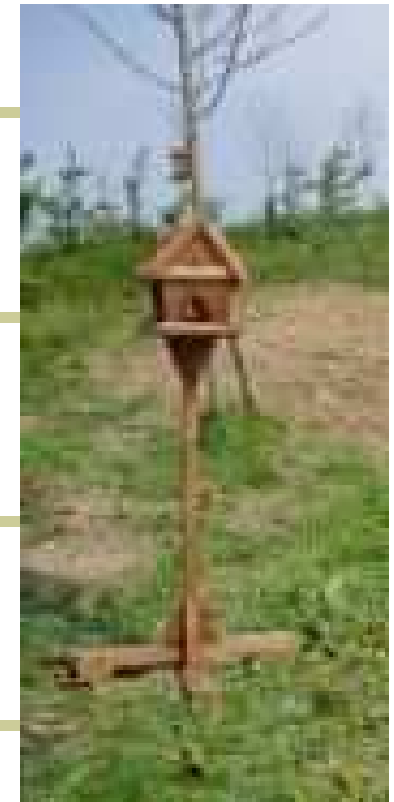
SUN

- Top up bird feeders and put out food on the ground and bird table
- Avoid chunky foods that could choke young fledglings

- Keep the bird bath topped up
- Regularly clean the bird bath and table

- Plant annuals and perennials to attract insects
- Put out log, twig and/or rock piles to create shelter for wildlife

- Sow or plant a wildflower meadow, and mow newly established meadows



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Swallow by Alan Price, Gatehouse

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# May

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- Put out nesting boxes for migrant birds arriving in the UK
- Take care not to disturb nesting birds in garden shrubs and hedges
- Top up bird feeders and put out food on the ground and bird tables

- Avoid chunky foods that could choke young fledglings
- Keep the bird bath topped up
- Regularly clean out the bird bath and table

- Make a log, twig and/or rock pile to create shelter for wildlife
- Choose annuals and perennials to attract insects



Great tit family in nest box

- Leave informal hedges un-trimmed for a while to provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Leave nesting birds undisturbed in garden shrubs and hedges

- You can still use plug plants to plant a wildflower meadow
- Mow recently established perennial meadows - but not annual cornfield meadows



# June

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Rosehip by Alan Price

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- Top up bird feeders and put out food on the ground and bird tables
- Avoid chunky foods that could choke young fledglings

- Keep the bird bath topped up & regularly clean bird baths and tables
- Put out log, twig and/or rock piles to create shelter for wildlife

- Plant annuals and perennials to attract insects
- Trim shrubs less frequently to allow wildlife to shelter and feed

- Leave nesting birds undisturbed in garden shrubs and hedges
- Use wildlife-friendly slug pellets if chemical slug control is needed
- Leave roses that produce hips without dead-heading them

- Mow spring flowering meadows once bulb foliage has died down
- Mow recently established perennial meadows to control weeds
- Leave annual meadows un-mown



Bumble bee by Alan Price



Toad by Maddy Davidson

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# July & August

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- Top up bird feeders and put out food on the ground and bird tables
- Avoid chunky foods that could choke young fledglings
- Keep the bird bath topped up & regularly clean the bird bath and table

- Plant marigolds around the vegetable patch to attract hoverflies
- Make piles of logs, twigs and/or rocks to create shelter for wildlife
- Go bat-watching on a summer evening!



Pipistrelle bat by Hugh Clark

- Construct a hedgehog hibernation box
- Watch out for adult frogs and toads leaving the pond this month
- Plant annuals and perennials to attract insects

- Trim hedges less frequently to allow wildlife to shelter and feed in them
- Leave nesting birds undisturbed in garden shrubs and hedges
- Cut spring meadows once bulb foliage has died down

- Mow recently established perennial meadows to reduce weeds
- Annual meadows do not need mowing, but summer meadows may be ready for cutting
- Leave roses that produce hips without dead-heading
- Recently established perennial meadows need mowing to control weeds



Hedgehog by Hugh Clark

# September & October

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## September and October

- Clean out birdbaths & keep water levels topped up
- Replenish birdfeeders. The breeding season is not yet over, so avoid large chunks and peanuts
- Leave some seed-heads standing, rather than cutting them back, to provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Give meadows a final cut before the winter, aiming for 7.5cm (3in) height, and letting the clippings lie for a couple of days before raking (to allow wildlife to crawl back into the sward).

## October Only

- Replenish birdfeeders. All feeds, including peanuts, are safe, as the breeding season is now over.
- Make a leaf pile for hibernating mammals and ground-feeding birds overwintering in the UK.
- Try building a hedgehog hibernation box



Oak leaves by Laurie Jackson

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Robin by Alan Price, Gatehouse

# November & December

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- Hang bird feeders
- Fill the birdbath and keep it clean and free of ice
- Leave some berries on plants such as holly - they are food for wildlife
- Coppice hazels and coppice or pollard other suitable trees
- Leave perennials un-cut for as long as possible - they provide food and shelter
- Incorporate a few native trees and shrubs into new, more exotic plantings
- Build a compost heap
- Feed hedgehogs with proprietary feeds, or with tinned dog food (not bread and milk)
- Create overwintering sites for a range of insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals
- Dig a wildlife pond and allow it fill naturally with rain water over the winter



Holly Berries by Alan Price

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