



## Seasonal spotter guide on the Cuckoo Trail

There are lots of plants and animals to spot on the Cuckoo Trail throughout the year.  
**See how many you can find!**

# Spring

### Cuckoo:



Date:

A rare, greyish coloured bird with yellow legs and eyes, swept back wings and a long tail which spends the winter in Africa. Extra bonus points if you spot (or hear one) as this bird gave the trail its name!

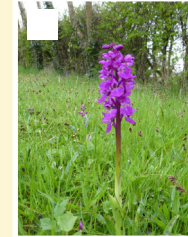
### St. Mark's fly:



Date:

A very small, black, shiny fly which can be seen around St. Mark's day-on April 25th. They have dangly legs and can often be seen hovering in the air in a group.

### Early purple orchid:



Date:

Look for spikes of purple pink flowers up to 40cm tall. The leaves have very distinctive black spots on them. Also known as dead man's fingers!

### Frogspawn:



Date:

A jelly-like substance found in ponds and wet areas. Female frogs normally lay 3000 eggs in one go. The black dot in the centre of each egg will turn into a tadpole, which will then then grow legs and change into a frog.

### Bluebell:



Date:

Carpets of these beautiful, protected flowers, also known as fairy flowers, can be spotted in wooded areas. Bees rely heavily on the flowers' nectar in the spring. Sometimes they 'steal' it by biting a hole in the bottom of the bell. Extra points if you can find a rare "albino" or white bluebell!

### Blackthorn blossom:



Date:

Blackthorn is one of the first shrubs (small trees) to flower in the spring. The flowers are creamy-white, star-shaped and have 5 petals and the bark is almost black in colour.

### Wild garlic:



Date:

You will probably smell this plant before you see it. It has starry-white flowers, can be found in damp areas and is related to the onion. Cats really dislike this plant!

Make a list here of other interesting things you have seen or draw a picture.

For more information see:  
[www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)



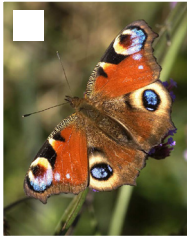


## Seasonal spotter guide on the Cuckoo Trail

There are lots of plants and animals to spot on the Cuckoo Trail throughout the year.  
**See how many you can find!**

# Summer

### Peacock butterfly:



Date:

One of the largest butterflies in the country. It is mainly red in colour but has beautiful purple eye-spots when its wings are open.

### Ox-eye daisy:



Date:

This looks like a giant lawn daisy. The flowers are so bright that they appear to 'glow' in the evening. This daisy is a "hot-spot" for bees, hoverflies and butterflies as it produces lots of nectar for them to feed on.

### Dragonfly:



Date:

They have sharp teeth, are fierce hunters and have been on earth for 300 million years! They have 360° vision and can fly at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour.

They come in a variety

of colours, shapes and sizes.

### Elderflower blossom:



Date:

Large clusters of creamy-white flowers can cover this shrub. They can be used to make cordial and champagne. The wood from elder is prized to make some musical instruments.

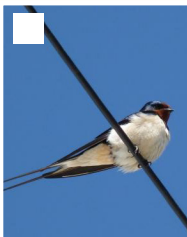
### 6 spot burnet moth:



Date:

A striking, glossy black moth with six red spots on each forewing. It flies during the day with a slow, fluttering pattern.

### Swallow:



Date:

These birds make an incredible journey to the UK from Africa every year and can fly in a loop-the-loop motion. They drink and eat insects on the wing and can fly up to 200 miles per day when migrating.

### Lizard:



Date:

A reptile with mainly brownish-grey dry, scaly skin between 10 and 15cm in length. Lizards are cold-blooded so look for them on warm days basking in sunny

spots. They are also excellent climbers.

Make a list here of other interesting things you have seen or draw a picture.

For more information see:  
[www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)





## Seasonal spotter guide on the Cuckoo Trail

There are lots of plants and animals to spot on the Cuckoo Trail throughout the year.  
**See how many you can find!**

# Autumn

### Acorn:



Date:

Eaten by a wide variety of creatures including birds, mice, squirrels, boar, deer and badgers. If an acorn germinates into an oak tree, the tree can live for 1000 years. Fairies are rumoured to use acorn “cups” to eat and drink from.

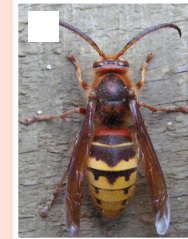
### Grass snake:



Date:

Can grow up to 1.8m long and prefer damp ground. They can also swim. They are not venomous and are olive-green to brown in colour with black markings spaced evenly down their sides. They are very flexible and can even tie themselves in knots!

### Hornet:



Date:

Very similar to a common wasp but chestnut-brown in colour and much larger, growing up to 2.5cm in length. Despite their scary reputation they are quite docile and rarely sting.

### Garden orb spider:



Date:

They have a large white cross shape of spots on their abdomen and spin large, roughly circular silk webs. They sit in the centre of the web waiting for an insect to become trapped, then rush to wrap it in sticky silk. They then kill their victim with a venomous bite!

### Mushroom/fungi:



Date:

Can be seen growing from the earth or clinging to trees. They spread via tiny spores-and can produce up to 2.7 billion per day! Do not touch as some are poisonous. Extra points if you spot a classic red and white toadstool called a fly-agaric.

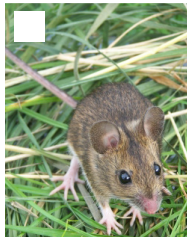
### Bright red or yellow leaf:



Date:

Many leaves turn fantastic, bright colours before they drop of the trees in autumn. Types of trees and shrubs which produce bright red or yellow leaves are rowan, field maple, spindle and guelder rose.

### Wood mouse:



Date:

A small mammal with sandy-brown fur, large eyes and ears and a long tail which lives in an underground burrow. They provide food for many other animals including foxes, weasels and owls.

Make a list here of other interesting things you have seen or draw a picture.

For more information see:  
[www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)





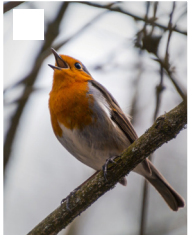


## Seasonal spotter guide on the Cuckoo Trail

There are lots of plants and animals to spot on the Cuckoo Trail throughout the year.  
**See how many you can find!**

# Winter

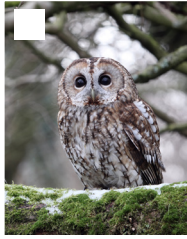
### Robin:



Date:

Chirpy, cheeky and almost fearless of humans. They are territorial (protective of the area that they live in) and easy to spot due to their red breast.

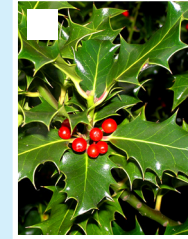
### Tawny owl:



Date:

Like to nest in holes in trees. Not often seen during the day so extra points if you spot (or hear) one, especially as they blend in well with the trees. Both the male and female make the characteristic “hoo hoo-hoo hoo” noise and fly silently.

### Holly berries:



Date:

A valuable food source for birds and a symbol of Christmas. Only the female tree produces bright red berries. Watch out for the spiny leaves which help protect the tree from being eaten.

### Bird nests:



Date:

As the leaves have now fallen from the trees, bird and squirrel nests (dreys) may be spotted on bare tree branches or in the crook of a tree.

### Grey squirrel:



Date:

Originally from North America and considered a pest by some. They can be very active, jumping along branches from tree to tree using their bushy grey tails to help them balance. They can also be seen on the ground, often burying nuts.

### Fox:

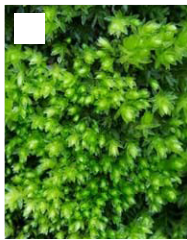


Date:

A distant relative of the wolf with a rich red-brown coat. They are mainly carnivores (eat other animals) and hunt by stalking and pouncing on their prey. They have excellent hearing and can

run up to 30 miles per hour.

### Moss:



Date:

They have stems and leaves but not roots and grow together in clumps or mats in damp areas. They are often bright green in colour and fuzzy. They are only tiny but absorb a lot of water, like a sponge.

Make a list here of other interesting things you have seen or draw a picture.

For more information see:  
[www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)

