

# Shropshire Hills Young Rangers WILDLIFE TRACKER – WINTER EDITION

**RECORD SHEET** Send your completed form to [shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk)

Name:

Age:

Area where I live:

Email address:



<b>Category – Easy (10 Points)</b>	<b>Details (Enter 1. Time and date, 2. Location and 3. Observations in the box below)</b>
<p><b>1. Robin</b></p> 	
<p>The Robin is probably the UK's most easily recognised bird. Seeing one during winter undoubtedly lifts the spirits! One of the few birds that sing over winter, Robins defend their territories all year round. They'll even sing after dark under streetlights, long after every other songbird has settled down for the night.</p>	
<p><b>2. Snowdrops</b></p> 	
<p>Snowdrops commonly appear as patches or 'drifts' and start to emerge throughout January to March. They contain a natural anti-freeze to survive the winter and are one of the first flowers to bloom – a sign that Spring is not far around the corner.</p>	

## Shropshire Hills Young Rangers WILDLIFE TRACKER – WINTER EDITION

### 3. Grey Squirrel



Grey squirrels were introduced to Great Britain in the late 19th to early 20th century from the United States of America. Grey squirrels spend more time on the ground than red squirrels, particularly in autumn and winter when they are to be seen burying nuts and acorns.

### 4. Animal tracks (bonus 10 points if NOT in the snow)



Winter is a great time to find wildlife tracks and signs, especially in fresh snow! The hard part is finding out what may have made them, but with a little bit of detective work you should be able to find out. Was it what you thought?...

### Category – Medium (25 Points)

### Details

(Enter 1. Time and date, 2. Location and 3. Observations in the box below)

### 5. Hazel catkins and flowers



Distributed all over the UK, the first hazel flowers of the year typically appear in January, before the leaves. Hazel trees are 'monoecious' which means male and female flowers occur on one tree. Look out for the yellow male catkins glowing in the low winter sunlight, and then get up close and search for the beautiful and tiny pink female flowers.

## Shropshire Hills Young Rangers WILDLIFE TRACKER – WINTER EDITION

### 6. Great-spotted woodpecker



Great spotted woodpeckers will visit peanut feeders during the winter. You may start to hear them drumming on trees. The thumping sound echoes out across the forest and is the start of the woodpeckers establishing breeding territories and trying to attract a mate.

### 7. Frog Spawn



Frogspawn begins to appear in ponds from January onwards and as Spring progresses can be seen right across the UK. Frogspawn and toadspawn are different – frogspawn is formed in large, glutinous clusters, whereas toads produce spawn in long strings of eggs.

### Category – Hard (50 Points)

### Details

(Enter 1. Time and date, 2. Location and 3. Observations in the box below)

### 8. Elf cups



The bright red Scarlet Elf Cup can be seen growing among leaf litter on decaying sticks in damp, shady spots on the woodland floor. It can be seen in late winter through to early spring.

## Shropshire Hills Young Rangers WILDLIFE TRACKER – WINTER EDITION

### 9. Over-wintering butterflies



Some butterflies, including Peacocks, Red Admirals and Tortoiseshells, survive the cold winter months by hibernating. Look closely in unheated sheds, garages and attics – you may find one! Red Admirals are even occasionally active on selected days, so technically Dormant, rather than hibernating through winter.

**Category – Very Hard  
(100 Points!)**

**Details**

**(Enter 1. Time and date, 2. Location and 3. Observations in the box below)**

### 10. Roe deer



Deer are notoriously timid and elusive but if you are very quiet (and lucky enough) you might just catch glimpse of one. Seeing through dense woodlands is easier in winter, but then deer will more easily spot you too!

**MY TOTAL**

### **My wildlife encounter** (Up to 50 bonus points available)

What else have you seen, touched, or heard?

- In the box below, enter a description of a wildlife encounter and tell us why it was special.
- **Email** a photo (if you have one) along with your completed form to:  
[shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk)
- **Share** your favourite moments on our Instagram page:  
<https://www.instagram.com/shropshirehillsaonb> / #ShropHillsYoungRangers for a chance to win one of our special prizes!