

SILVERLAKE WILDLIFE CALENDAR



SILVERLAKE
DORSET

— DISCOVER THE WILDLIFE ON THE ESTATE BY MONTH —

JANUARY

- Flocks of Blue, Great & Long-tailed Tits, Chaffinches and Goldcrests feed on wildflower seed heads
- Woodlarks can be spotted (*a recovering species*)
- Stonechats, Black redstart and Dartford warbler (*both Amber listed*) can be found
- Great crested grebes, Pochard, Shoveler, Gadwall, Shelduck, Pintail, Wigeon, Lapwing & Mute swan and large flocks of Meadow pipit and Linnet can be seen over the next couple of months
- Starling murmurations at their greatest
- Ponies grazing year round
- Badgers will be pregnant



FEBRUARY

- Snipe and Woodcock found in good numbers
- Goosander and Little grebe can be spotted on the lakes
- Scaup (*Red-listed*) occasionally spotted
- Badger cubs will be born



MARCH

- Chiffchaffs start singing, welcoming in spring
- Peregrine falcons may start to nest on site
- Bird breeding season starts
- Great crested newts start congregating in breeding ponds for mating
- Barn owls start nesting in our boxes
- Tawny owls start nesting



APRIL

- Badger cubs appear above ground for the first time
- Late April-May: Nightjar (*Amber listed*) arrive from Africa to breed at Silverlake. Unique nocturnal birds who make a wonderful 'churring' noise at night
- Dormice come out of hibernation and become active at night
- Sand Martins and Swifts arrive from Africa



MAY

- May-June Sika deer young are born
- May-August young dormice will be born
- Tawny owl young start to fledge



JUNE

- Heath spotted orchids bloom on Outer Heath
- Rare Heath lobelia flowers appear on Lobelia Heath
- Young barn owls start to hatch



JULY

- Silver-studded blue butterflies start to fly on Outer Heath
- Woodlarks can have 2-3 broods of young so may still be breeding in July
- Sand martin activity is frantic as they fill the skies collecting insects to feed their young
- July-Sept young Great crested newts start to leave ponds



AUGUST

- Nightjar leave to return to Africa
- Dragon and damselflies in good numbers all over the Estate



SEPTEMBER

- Sept-Nov rutting season for Sika deer. Males will roar at each other with some eerie sounding calls!
- Thousands of fieldfares leave Scandinavia and Russia to spend the winter in the comparatively mild UK. The birds typically begin to arrive in September and nearly all will have left by late April.



OCTOBER

- Dormice start to hibernate again and will be asleep for around half the year
- Great crested newts go into hibernation



NOVEMBER

- Otters often visit waterbodies around Wakeling Island at this time of year



DECEMBER

- Stonechats and Woodlark can be seen
- Wigeon, Gulls, Geese in great numbers in the area to be the Knighton Reserve

