

Nature's Calendar

SPRING 2025

Welcome

Hello and welcome to your first Nature's Calendar newsletter!

Within these newsletters we will share project updates or news, insights into your records, reminders of what to look out for and any highlights from our blog. We plan to send quarterly newsletters (one for each season) but may occasionally send an additional message should any other exciting opportunities related to Nature's Calendar arise.

We are here to support you in your role, if you have any questions at any point, you can ask us via our project inbox:

naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk



Photo credit: Anita Nicholson WTML

We hope you are enjoying seeing the first signs of spring, the warmer and brighter days and we look forward to receiving your records!

Best wishes,
The Nature's Calendar team.

Your new volunteer platform, Assemble

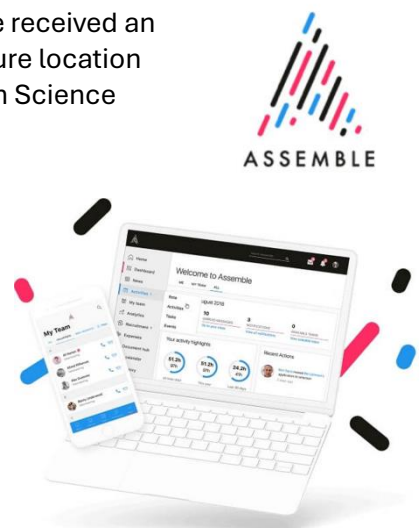
Assemble is the Woodland Trust's new volunteer website, you will have received an email last week inviting you to log into the platform. Assemble is a secure location where all volunteering information is now kept- including for our Citizen Science volunteers who record for Nature's Calendar.

All communication about your volunteering role with Nature's Calendar will now come from the Woodland Trust through Assemble.

Please note that recording of seasonal signs will still take place on the [Nature's Calendar website](#) as before.

Since you are a citizen science volunteer you have the freedom to volunteer as much or as little as you want. We don't pay expenses for this type of volunteering since it should be something you can do easily as part of your everyday life.

Why not visit our new Nature's Calendar forum on Assemble where you can chat directly with the team and other volunteers on topics of interest. Simply log in and follow the links on the left-hand navigation where it says "forum".



What to look out for in the coming months

In April and May almost every species included in Nature's Calendar has an event to look out for, here's a few suggestions:

- First leaf on an elder, hawthorn, silver birch or pedunculate oak tree (these records will contribute to the [State of UK Climate report](#))
- First flower on a hawthorn or horse chestnut tree (these records contribute to the UK [spring index](#))
- First seen orange-tip butterfly or swallow (these records contribute to the UK [spring index](#))
- First flowering bluebell
- First seen juvenile blackbird
- And lots more!



Photo credit: Margaret Barton WTML

[Download our phenology calendar here](#) to see the full list of species to look out for based on the time of year.

Your records



Photo credit: Luke Dray WTML

Twice a year we publish seasonal reports based on your records.

Can you remember what the weather was like this time last year and how plants and animal were responding? Did snowdrops flower earlier than usual and did the trees hold onto their leaves for longer than usual last autumn?

Our seasonal reports, which [are downloadable from our website](#), help to answer these questions, and shed light on any emerging trends within the Nature's Calendar dataset or any record-breaking spring and autumnal dates.

Here's a summary of the [spring 2024 report](#):

2024 was a warm and wet spring, with the warmest February on record since 1779 and the sixth wettest April on record since 1836. The consistently warm temperatures from January-May led to many species' events being observed early. 87 of the 94 events that are recorded in spring had average dates that were earlier than the benchmark year. 2024 also saw some of the earliest average tree flowering and leafing dates on record, plus the earliest average dates for the presence of frogspawn and tadpoles

You can also keep track on the records in real time as they [appear on our live maps](#), and when logged into the Nature's Calendar website, your record will appear as a red dot on the map!

Blog highlights

[Identifying and recording trees with Nature's Calendar.](#)

Catch up on this interactive webinar to gain the skills and confidence needed to identify the tree species included in the Nature's Calendar project.



[Volunteer spotlight: Anna](#)

Nature's Calendar is a citizen science project. Anyone can volunteer to become a citizen scientist, and every single Nature's Calendar volunteer adds vital information to the database. Here we shine a spotlight on some of our most dedicated volunteers.



Photo credit: John Bridges WTML

