

**KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL**

Creating space for wildlife

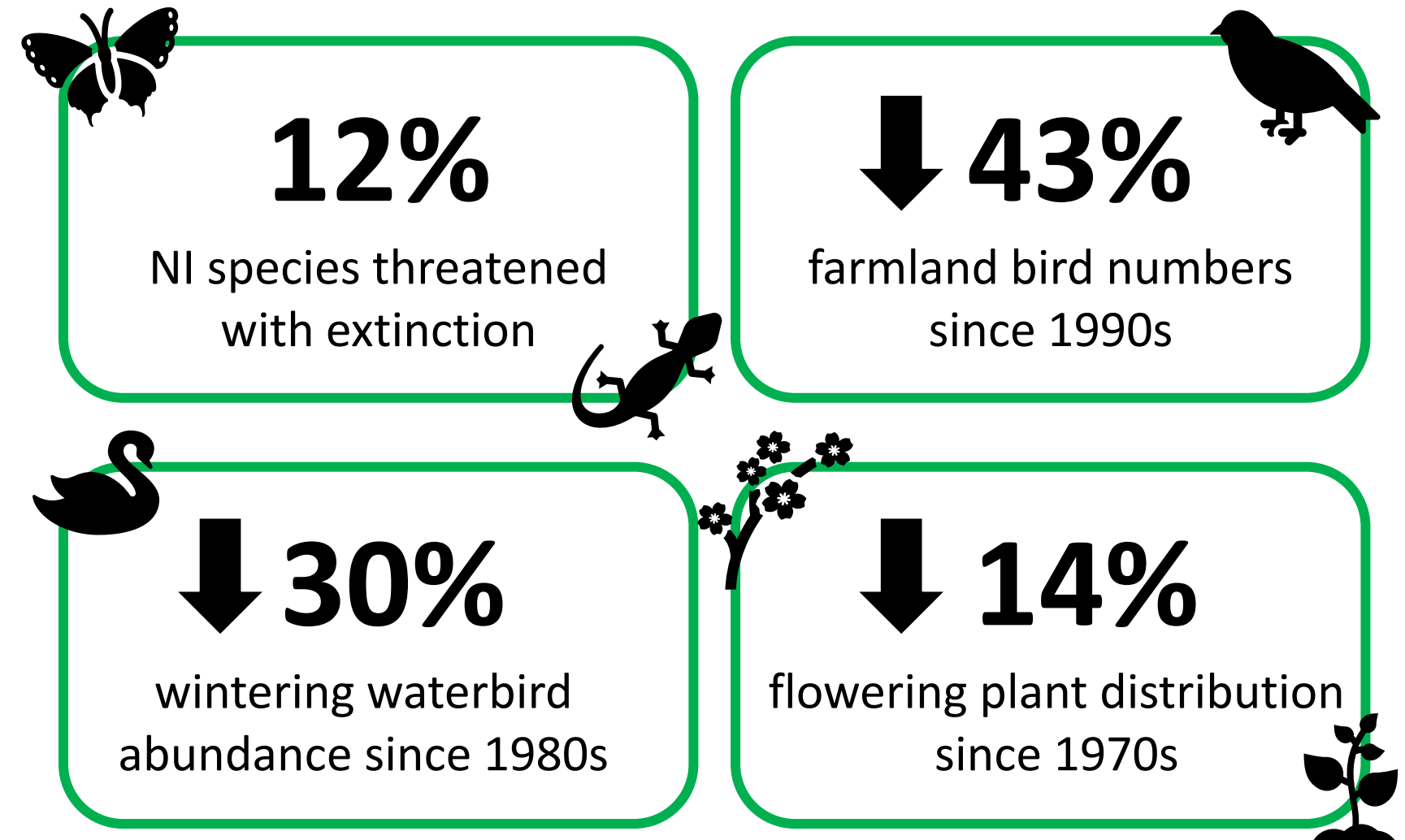
Emily Taylor
Biodiversity Recovery Coordinator



**LIVE
HERE
LOVE
HERE**

Northern Ireland's Wildlife

- Northern Ireland is the **12th worst country in the world for biodiversity loss.**
- We have lots of unique and important habitats here.
- We also support a lot of globally important species.
- It's worth protecting them!

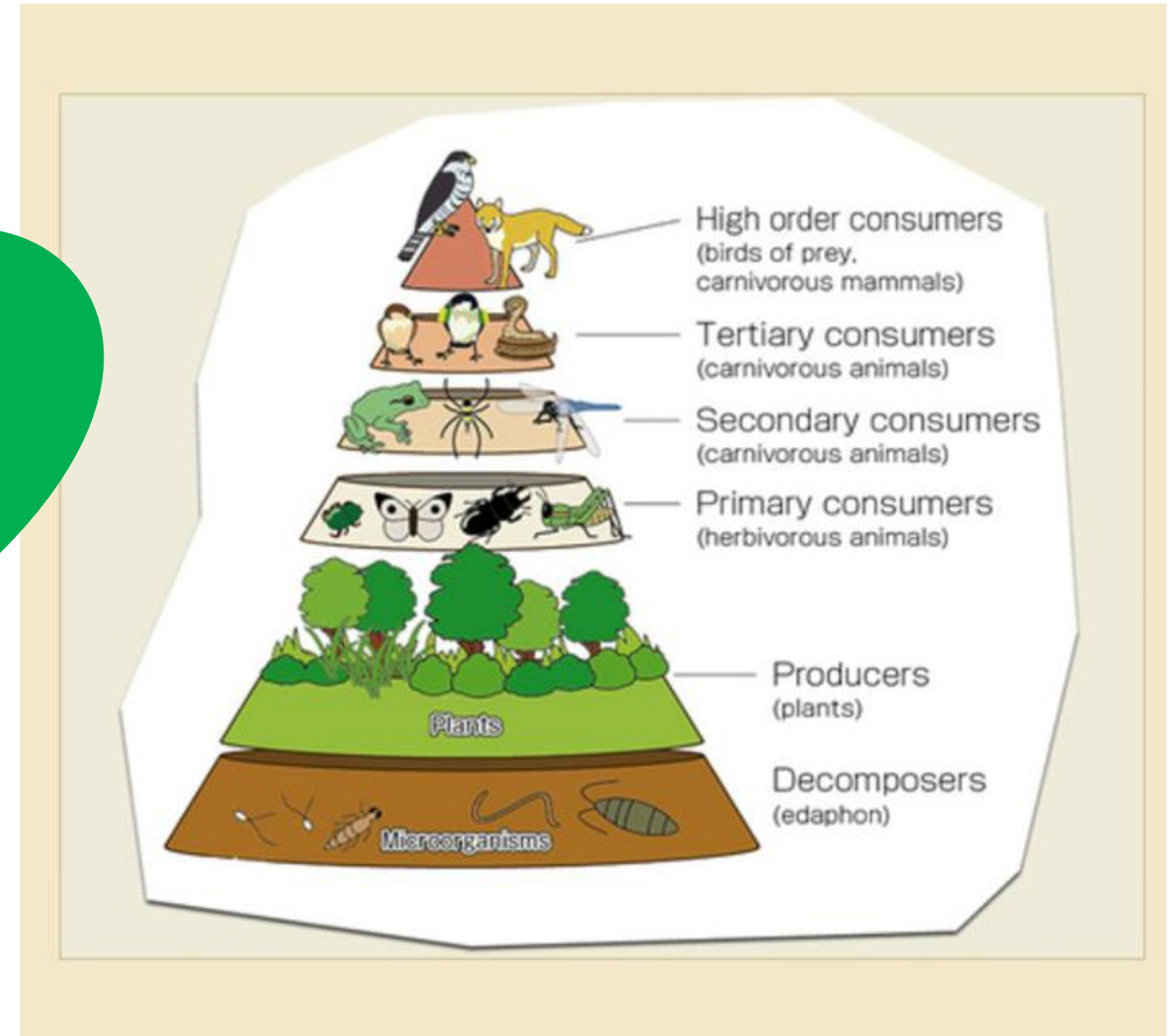


Why small actions can have big impacts....

Creating habitat for one group of animals (pollinating insects for example) will by default create ideal habitat for other creatures.

For example, leaving unmown grassy or meadow areas for bees and other insects will improve the soil biology of that area, encourage worms, attract birds which feed on the worms and insects, encourage small mammals and amphibians, thereby attracting larger predatory birds or mammals.

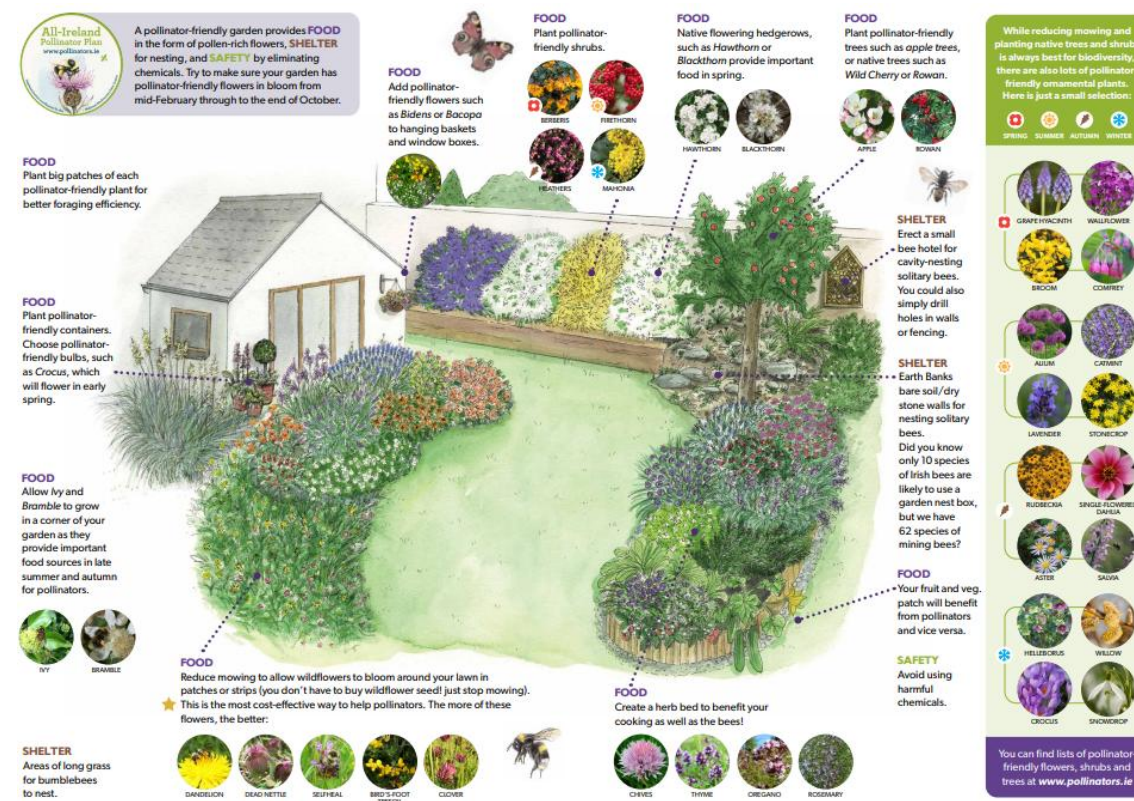
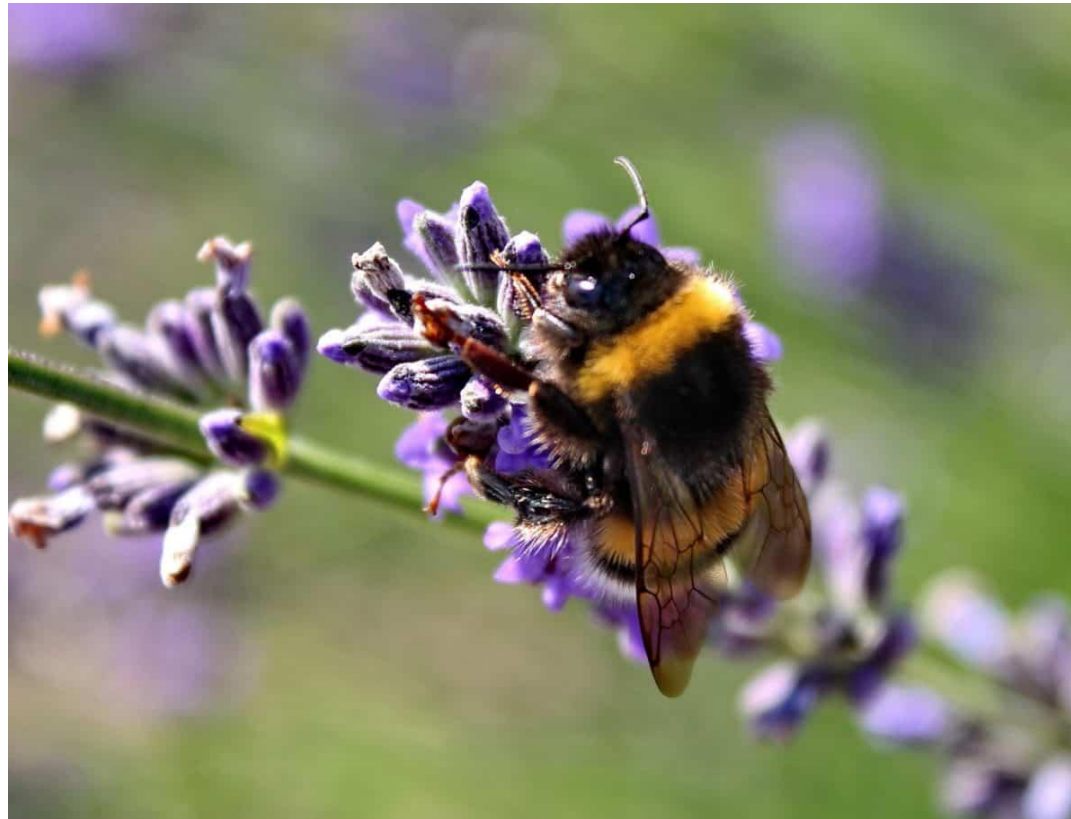
Before you know it, you've got a whole ecosystem going on!



It's all connected.....

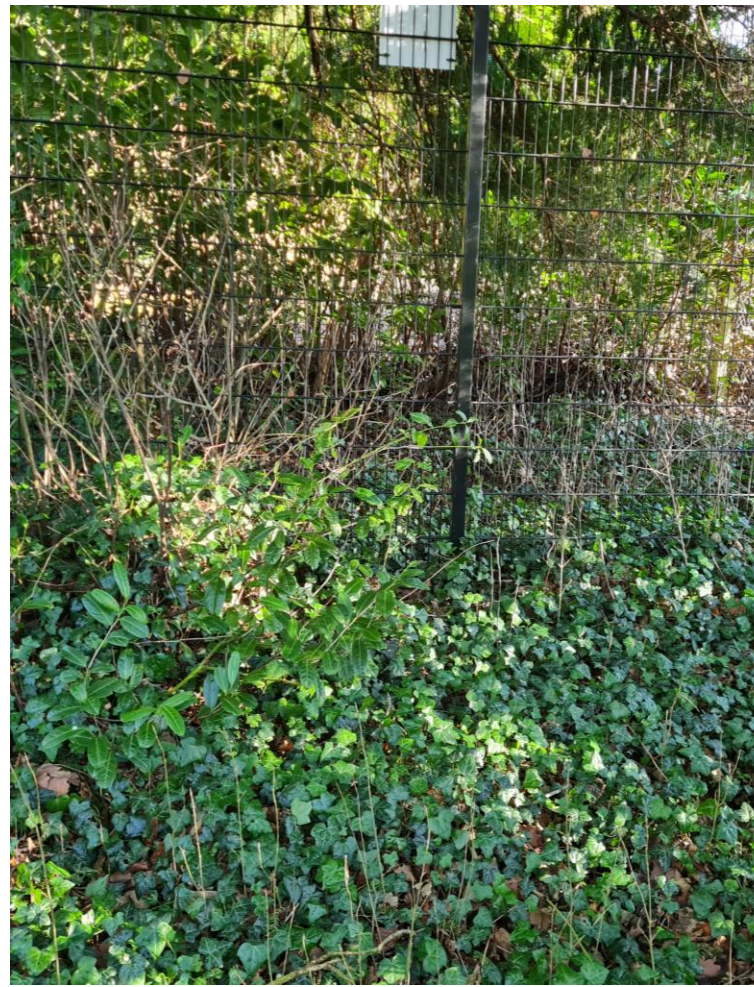
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

- You can be part of helping our native pollinator populations thrive!
- There are many actions you can take in your school, your garden, sports club and local community.
- Check out the AIPP website for how-to-guides, posters, signage and more!



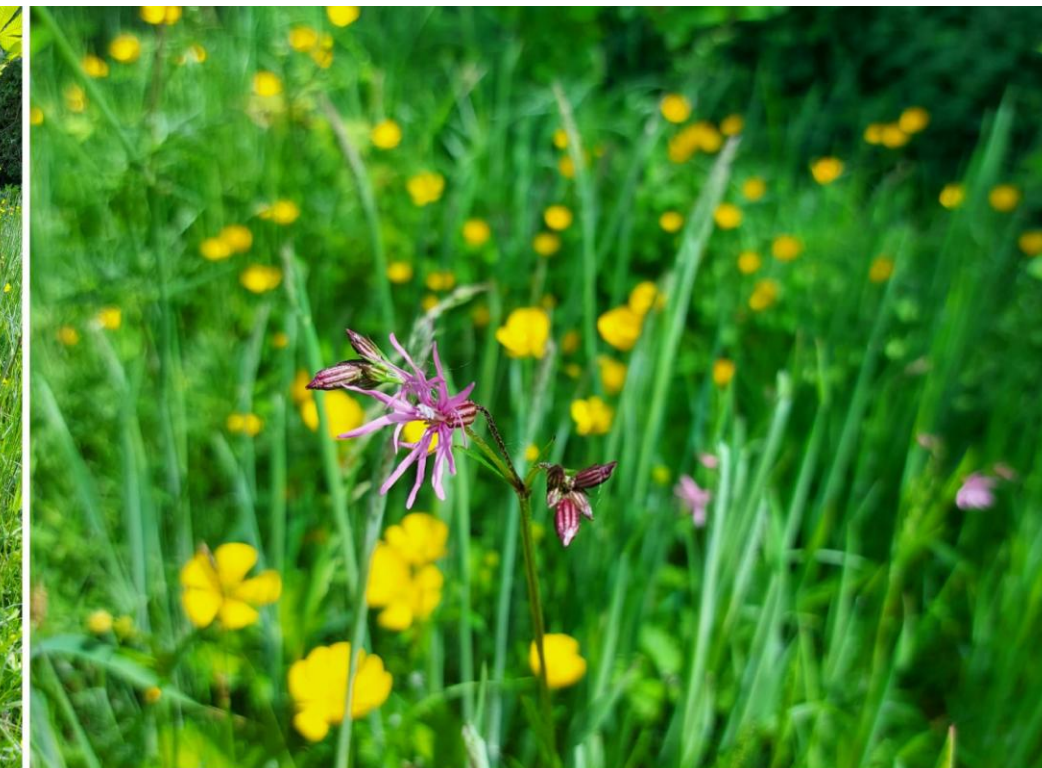
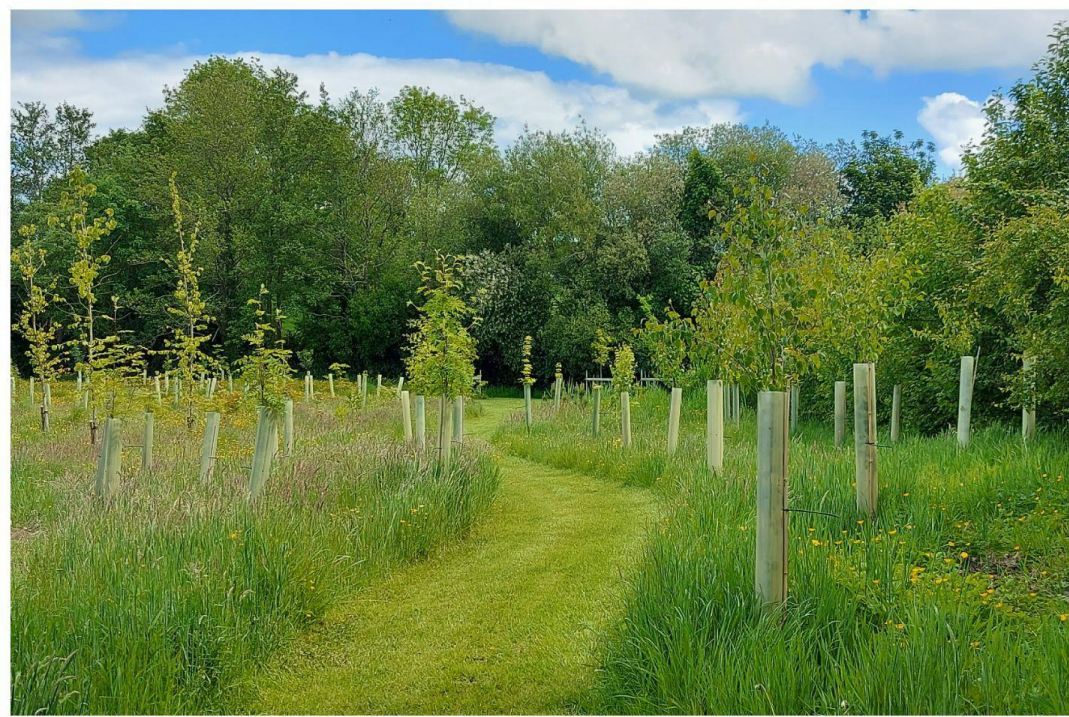
Protect what's there

- If there is existing valuable habitat in your space, protect and enhance it – don't change it!
- Long grass, native wildflowers, ivy, native trees, hedgerows, verges and wild corners are all valuable habitat.
- Do a quick biodiversity audit of your space to determine this before making any changes.



Don't Mow, Let It Grow!

- Letting the grasses grow with mown paths means less work and a much more interesting space which is good for wildlife
- Ragged robin, red clover, buttercup, birds-foot trefoil, vetches, oxeye daisy, red campion and dandelions are examples of wildflowers that may appear



Grow Food



Make Compost



Plant native trees & hedges

- Hedges – hawthorn, ivy, blackthorn, dog rose, bird cherry, wild pear, elder, hazel, willow, crab apple, blackberries.
- Trees – Sessile oak, Pedunculate oak, hazel, downy birch, silver birch, rowan, wild cherry, crab apple, alder, Scot's pine, native willow.

Plant fruit trees and bushes



- Our climate is perfect for productive orchards – so many different varieties of apples, pears, plums and soft fruit.
- Make sure to plant native heritage fruit trees to support wildlife as best you can!

No pesticides or herbicides

- Use manual removal as an alternative to herbicide application or simply let "weeds" bloom!
- Ensure your garden has as much variety as possible – the more complex your garden, the more resilient it is to pests.

[Chemical-free organic gardening](#) – Wildlife Trusts



Pesticide-free Zone

Managed for Wildlife

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Enhancing nature's value

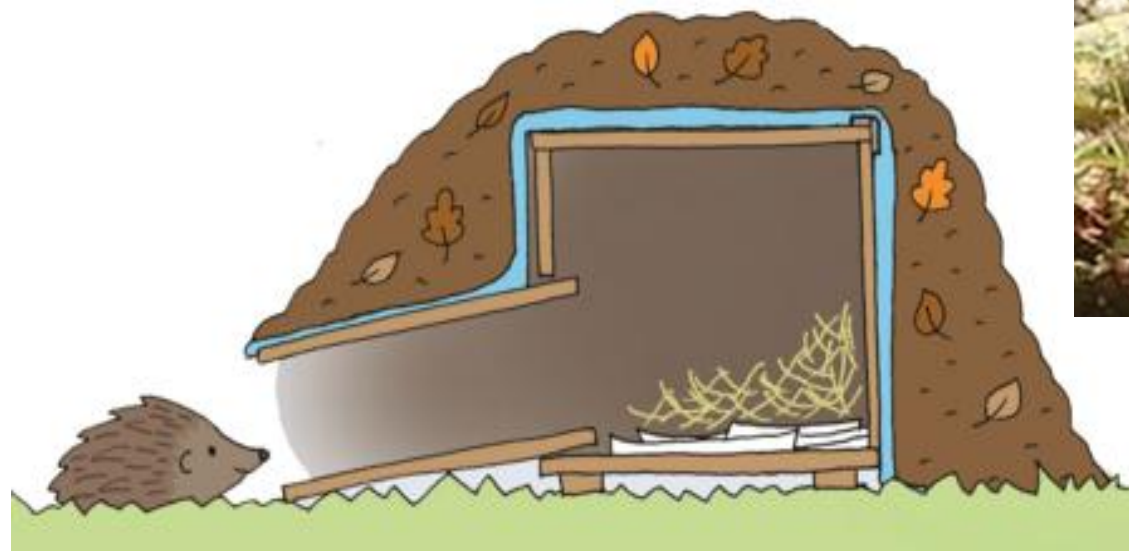


Use peat-free compost

- This protects our peatlands which are important habitats in supporting wildlife and capturing carbon



Create homes for wildlife



- Log piles left to rot down provide homes to so many species – insects and invertebrates, but also mammals, lizards and fungi.
- Leaving piles of leaves or grass cuttings in one area (not where you want wildflowers to grow!) can provide shelter for hedgehogs and other mammals as well as invertebrates.
- Creating bird boxes, bat boxes, insect hotels, hedgehog homes and even ponds can provide support in certain areas too.

[Our ultimate guide to nest boxes](#) - RSPB

[Putting up your box - Bat Boxes](#) - Bat Conservation Trust

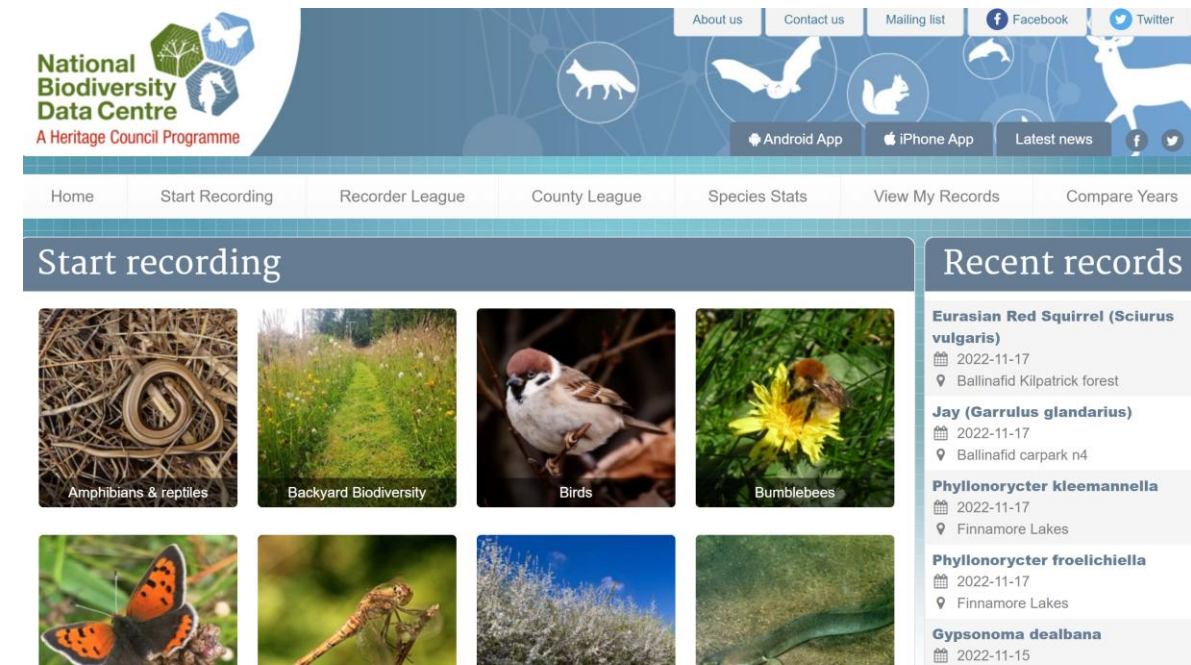
[Building an Insect Hotel](#) - The Wildlife Trusts

[How to Build a Hedgehog Home](#) - The Wildlife Trusts

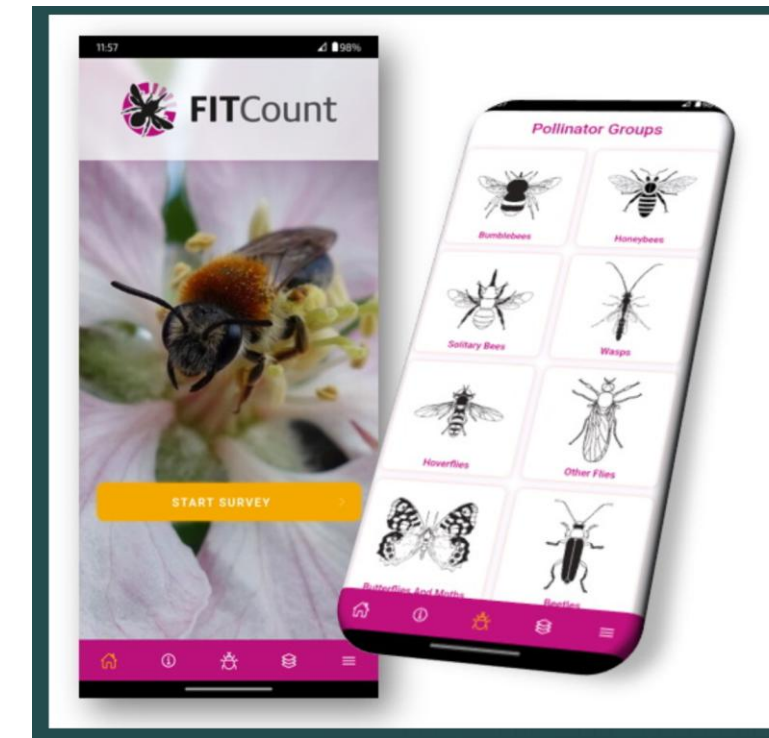
[How to Make a Wildlife Pond](#) - RSPB

Monitoring your site

- Start to learn to identify butterflies, moths, bees, other insects, birds and report what you find.
- It is so important to the organisations who monitor the different species and can inform local and national policy.
- It's called citizen science and you don't have to be an expert.
- Use photos and apps.



[Recording System :: Start recording \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](https://biodiversityireland.ie)



[Sign up | Garden Butterfly Survey](#)



[Welcome to the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme \(PoMS\) | PoMS \(ukpoms.org.uk\)](https://ukpoms.org.uk)



BirdTrack Apps

[Welcome to the British Trust for Ornithology | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](https://www.bto.org.uk)

