

Common Woodland Wildlife

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

This guide looks at common animals in Leicestershire woodlands - see the Woodland Wildflowers guide for flora species. There are many species that have evolved to live in woodland – a habitat that provides shelter, food, humidity and breeding opportunities. Spring is a great time to visit, before the leaves unfurl to make it harder to see birds and mammals. Flying insects often favour sunny spots in woodland where they can benefit from solar warmth, so rides, clearings and the outer edges are often the best places to look. Other invertebrates need high humidity so can be found under logs and in leaf litter. *When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.*



Badger – *Meles meles*

ID: To 75cm. Grey/black with white head stripes. Sett holes c25cm and large soil heaps. Prints with 5 toes.

Where: Woodlands with deep soil.

Similar: None.



Jay – *Garrulus glandarius*

ID: Small crow. Pink-brown with blue wing patch. Shy but noisy. Butterfly-like flight showing white rump.

Where: Oak woodlands. Feeds extensively on acorns.

Similar: None.



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

ID: Blackbird-sized. Black & white with red vent. Males with red neck. Drums in Spring. Bouncy flight pattern.

Where: Woods, parks solitary trees.

Similar: None (Lesser Spotted no longer in Leics).



Spotted Longhorn Beetle – *Rutpela maculata*

ID: To 20mm. Yellow and black variable pattern. Long banded antennae.

Where: Flowers along woodland rides/edges.

Similar: None.

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other common Leicestershire wildlife to check out:

[Grey Squirrel](#), [Treecreeper](#), [Wasp Beetle](#), [Harlequin Ladybird](#), [Purple Hairstreak butterfly](#)



Muntjac – *Muntiacus reevesi*

ID: Our smallest deer. Brown with orange/black face and short antlers.

Where: Well wooded areas with dense cover.

Similar: Roe Deer (larger, black nose, white rump).



Nuthatch – *Sitta europaea*

ID: Robin-sized. Grey back, chestnut front and black eye-stripe.

Where: Woodlands. Typically forages down the trunk.

Similar: None.



Speckled Wood Butterfly – *Pararge aegeria*

ID: Brown with cream spots and black eye-spots

Where: Woodland rides/edges. Hedgerows. Apr-Oct.

Similar: None.



Forest Bug – *Pentatoma rufipes*

ID: To 14mm. Shield-shaped with pointed 'shoulders'. Brown with orange central spot. Red legs.

Where: Well wooded areas.

Similar: None.



Hoverfly – *Xylota segnis*

ID: 9mm. Orange abdomen with black tip. Feeds on pollen and honeydew from leaves. June-Sept.

Where: Woodland rides and edges. Scuttling on leaves.

Similar: None.



Tree Slug – *Lehmannia marginata*

ID: To 90cm. Pale with light grey blotches. Hides during the day then climbs trees to feed on algae.

Where: Under logs. If damp may be on tree trunks.

Similar: None in woodland.

Find more Leicestershire
Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



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County Council**

