

## Biodiversity Guidance for Wildlife Photography Competition in London

Welcome to the vibrant world of London's wildlife! Despite its bustling urban landscape, London is teeming with diverse flora and fauna waiting to be discovered and captured through your lens. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, here's your guide to where and when to spot different animals and birds throughout the year.

### January: Snowdrops and Marine Life

- Chelsea Physic Garden: Witness the delicate beauty of snowdrops, signaling the arrival of spring.
- Thames River: Explore the rejuvenated Thames, home to a thriving marine ecosystem including seals, porpoises, and occasionally even dolphins and whales.



### February: Crocus and Foxes

- Kew Gardens: Admire clusters of wintering crocuses, adding vibrant hues to the landscape.
- Urban Areas: Listen for the calls of foxes as they navigate the city streets, offering unique photography opportunities.



### **March: Daffodils and Kingfishers**

- Royal Parks: Marvel at the sea of daffodils blooming across London's gardens.
- Wetlands: Seek out kingfishers in their waterside habitats at Walthamstow Wetlands and London Wetlands Centre.



### **April: Goslings, Ducklings, and Rhododendrons**

- Kew Gardens, Kenwood House, Isabella Plantation: Capture the colorful blooms of rhododendrons.
- Walthamstow Wetlands: Spot adorable goslings, ducklings, and other waterfowl amidst a variety of bird species.



### **May: Bluebells and Dawn Chorus**

- Chalet Wood, Wanstead Park: Wander through enchanting bluebell woods for ethereal photo opportunities.
- International Dawn Chorus Day: Experience the magical symphony of birdsong at dawn, with robins, blackbirds, and more joining in.



### **June: Wisteria and Ring-necked Parakeets**

- Kensington, Chelsea, Notting Hill: Witness the stunning bloom of wisteria adorning London's houses.
- Kensington Gardens, St James's Park: Encounter the vibrant ring-necked parakeets in their urban habitat.



### **July: Woodland Walks and Bat-spotting**

- Highgate Wood, Hackney Downs, Sydenham Hill: Lose yourself in lush greenery and discover hidden woodland gems.
- Alexandra Palace Boating Lake: Observe common pipistrelle bats in flight over the water at dusk.



## **August: Lavender and London Wildlife Festival**

- Mayfield Lavender Farm: Immerse yourself in fields of fragrant lavender just outside the city.
- Walthamstow Wetlands: Celebrate London's wildlife at the annual London Wildlife Festival.



## **September: Mushroom-hunting and Deer Rut**

- Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, Wimbledon Common: Join guided walks to explore London's fungal diversity safely.
- Bushy Park: Witness the spectacle of red and fallow deer during the rutting season.



## **October: Leaf-peeping and Peregrine Falcons**

- Richmond Park: Capture the breathtaking colors of autumn foliage amidst roaming deer herds.
- South Bank: Learn about and observe peregrine falcons nesting on Tate Modern's chimney.





### **November: Foraging and Starlings**

- Various Locations: Join foraging walks to discover edible treasures hidden in London's green spaces.
- Battersea, Vauxhall Bridges, Hyde Park: Look out for mesmerizing murmurations of starlings, a declining but still captivating sight.



### **December: Seasonal Trees and Little Owls**

- Kew Gardens: Explore the Pinetum and enjoy the winter wonderland of conifers.
- Hyde Park: Keep an eye out for charming little owls perching on tree branches in broad daylight.



**Photography Tips:**

- Patience is key: Wildlife photography requires time and observation to capture the perfect shot.
- Respect wildlife: Maintain a safe distance and avoid disturbing animals in their natural habitats.
- Be prepared: Pack essential gear such as a telephoto lens, tripod, and weatherproof camera gear for outdoor shoots.

London's wildlife offers endless opportunities for photographers to connect with nature and capture its beauty year-round. From the tranquil gardens to the bustling urban parks, each season brings new wonders waiting to be discovered through your lens. So grab your camera, explore the city's green spaces, and let the magic of wildlife photography unfold before you.