



Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds Wildlife Spotters Guide



BUGS

If you are collecting bugs to observe and identify, try not to handle them, but allow them to run into a small clear container and once you have identified your creature and had a good look at it, return it to the exact spot where you found it.

For flying insects like butterflies and moths, you will need a butterfly net. Never handle wings of flying insects, for they are incredibly fragile and easily damaged. Here are some creatures you should find in the sandbeds.

BUTTERFLIES



meadow brown
butterfly



common blue
butterfly



red admiral
butterfly



peacock
butterfly

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

Both dragonflies and damselflies have two pairs of transparent wings, but dragonflies are much larger and they are stronger fliers. Both are found near water as a rule for they both lay their eggs in water and the young, called nymphs, live underwater until they are old enough to turn into adults.



common hawker
dragonfly



common blue
damselfly

BEETLES

Along with all other insects, beetles have 6 legs. The ones you are most likely to see are ladybirds, including the invasive harlequin ladybird and violet ground beetles.



7 spotted ladybird



harlequin ladybird



violet ground beetle



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SPIDERS

All spiders have 8 legs. Some spin webs to catch their prey. Others chase their prey on the ground. A good time to look for spiders' webs is early morning when the dew is on them or after a frost.



house spider



garden spider



orb web

CREATURES WITH MANY LEGS

The creatures you may see are centipedes, millipedes and woodlice. If you get a chance to have a good look at these creatures, you will see that millipedes have 2 pairs of legs to each segment of its body, whereas centipedes have only 1 pair of legs per segment. Look under stones and logs for all 3 creatures.



centipede



millipede



woodlouse

CREATURES WITH NO LEGS

The most numerous of these are earthworms, slugs and snails. Earthworms do an important job by aerating and turning over the soil. Slugs are basically snails without a shell. Slugs and snails are nocturnal and prefer to feed on young plants and are a gardener and farmer's enemy number 1.



earthworm



slug



garden snail