



David Tipling / BTO

## Eastern England confirmed as Hedgehog hotspot

Hedgehogs are believed to be showing worrying declines, especially in rural areas, but it's hard to monitor the populations of nocturnal animals.

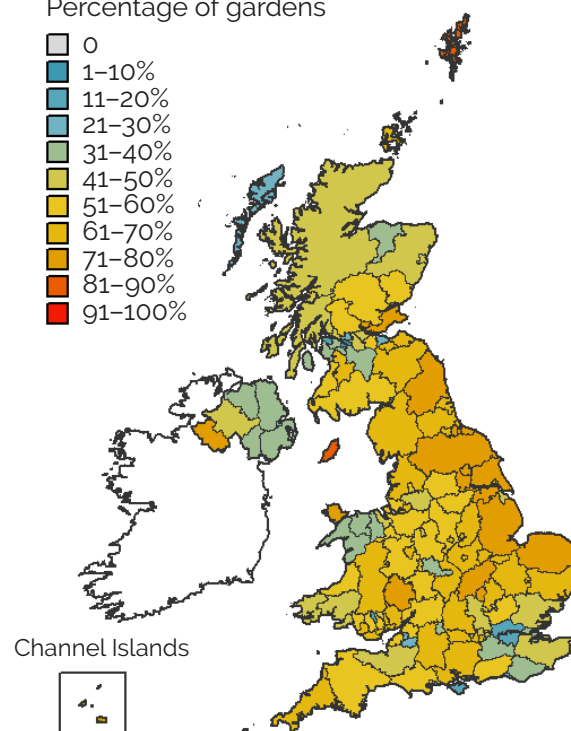
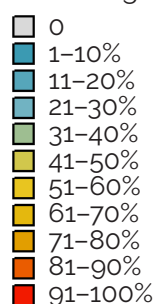
Gardenwatch is the most comprehensive stock-take of UK garden wildlife to date, and has given us the best-ever overview of the distributions of Hedgehogs in gardens.

The highest percentage of gardens reporting Hedgehogs are along the east coast of England, particularly Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Gardens in these areas recorded the lowest numbers of Badgers and Foxes, and it has been suggested that this lower pressure from predators could be helping Hedgehogs to thrive in these suitable areas.

Fewest Gardenwatch gardens reported Hedgehogs in urban areas, including London, Birmingham and Glasgow, and the percentage of gardens reporting Hedgehogs were also low in Northern Ireland and parts of North Wales.

### Hedgehogs in gardens

Percentage of gardens



For other maps visit [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)

Maps by Kate Plummer, BTO

***"Hedgehogs were reported in 53% of the 33,566 gardens that participated in the Mammal Detective Mission."***

Gardenwatch was the UK's biggest ever garden wildlife audit, running during Springwatch in May 2019. The complete set of maps can be found at: [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)

# What you can do to help

In cold winters Hedgehogs will hibernate from November to March, though in warmer weather they may be active during these months.

They hibernate in leaves under log piles or dense vegetation. They breed in similar habitats between May and September.

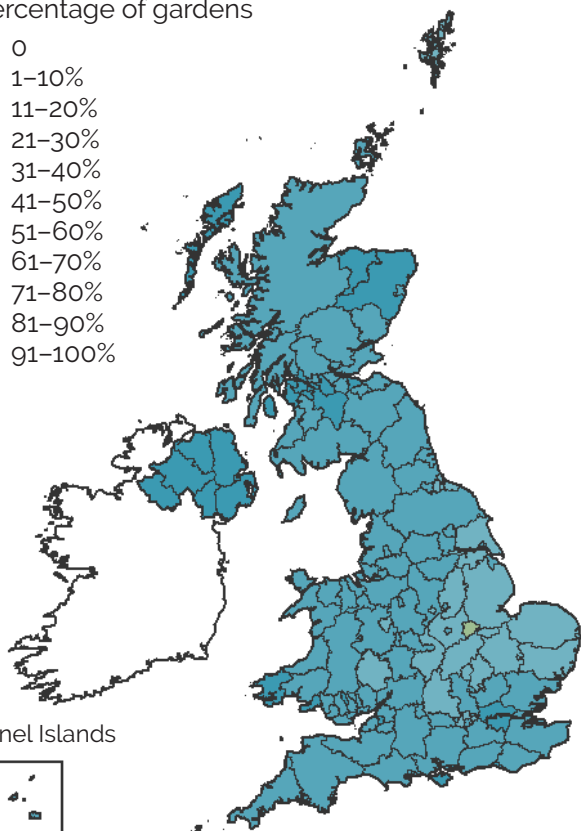
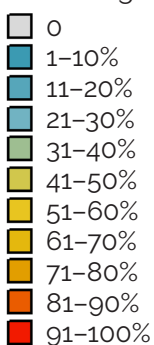
Building log piles, brush piles and leaving dead leaves in your garden will provide habitats for Hedgehogs to hibernate and nest. You can also build or buy a Hedgehog house.



Moss Taylor / BTO

## Hedgehog houses in gardens

Percentage of gardens



Channel Islands

Hedgehogs feed on invertebrates, including worms, beetles and caterpillars, and they can range several kilometres a night to find food. Dense vegetation, compost heaps, leaf litter and un-dug soil will all help support healthy populations of invertebrates in your garden, which in turn provide food for Hedgehogs.

Don't use insecticides such as slug pellets, which will kill invertebrates and can also poison Hedgehogs. Leave gaps in your boundary, such as holes in fences, to allow access to Hedgehogs. Consider providing water and appropriate food (meat-based cat or dog food, or food sold specifically for Hedgehogs).

For more information on how to help the wildlife in your garden, please visit: [bit.ly/bto-wildlife-gardening](http://bit.ly/bto-wildlife-gardening)

## Help monitor Hedgehogs

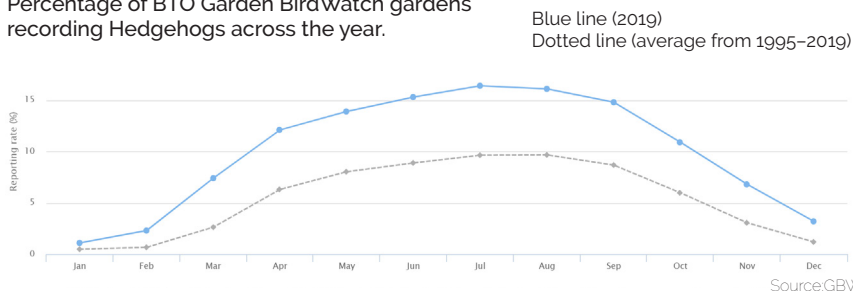
RECORD THE WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN

FOR BTO GARDEN BIRDWATCH [www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)



You can record the wildlife visiting your garden through the BTO's Garden BirdWatch. Keeping simple lists of the birds and other animals that visit your garden over a week will help with national research into the importance of gardens for wildlife.

Percentage of BTO Garden BirdWatch gardens recording Hedgehogs across the year.



Find out more about Gardenwatch and what we discovered: [www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results](http://www.bto.org/gardenwatch-results)