



Wood Mouse

Despite their name, wood mice prefer hedgerows to woods. They leave a trail of obvious items, like twigs or seeds, to help them find their way.

Common name: wood mouse

Scientific name: *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Size: 90 mm (3.54 inches) long

Diet: prefer seeds but also insects and berries

Nest & young: built out of plants. Four pups per year.

Nocturnal: yes

Hibernates: no

Where: Europe and northwest Africa

Habitat: hedgerows, woods, fields



Hedgehog

Hedgehogs are friendly visitors to our gardens – with their stumbling walk, often stopping to sniff the air. If a hedgehog feels threatened it rolls into a ball to protect itself with its spines. In most of Europe there are a good number of hedgehogs, but in the UK hedgehogs are at risk of extinction.

Common name: European hedgehog

Scientific name: *Erinaceus europaeus*

Size: 260 mm (10 inches) long

Diet: insects, mainly worms

Nest & young: under bushes. Four to six hoglets per year, in May to June.

Nocturnal: yes

Hibernates: yes

Where: Europe, Russia, New Zealand

Habitat: woodland, grassland, gardens and parks



Rabbit

Sometimes called bunnies or bunny rabbits or conies, their tail is white underneath, and you can see that bobbing up and down when they run.

Common name: European rabbit

Scientific name: *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Size: 400 mm (16 inches) long

Diet: mostly grass

Nest & young: a series of burrows called warrens. Five to eight kits, up to 12 times per year.

Nocturnal: no

Hibernates: no

Where: every continent except Antarctica

Habitat: grassland



Grey Squirrel

Red squirrels are native squirrel to Europe, but they have been mostly displaced by the grey. Grey squirrels can make several thousand hoards of food in one season and hide them in different places. They use their excellent memory to find them again.

Common name: grey squirrel

Scientific name: *Sciurus carolinensis*

Size: 230-300 mm (9.1-11.8 inches)

Diet: seeds, flowers, tree bark, nuts

Nest & young: makes a nest, called a drey, in the fork of a tree. One to four kits, once or twice per year.

Nocturnal: no

Hibernates: no

Where: native to parts of USA and Canada, spread to UK, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, Australia

Habitat: woodland – urban and rural



Fallow Deer

The male fallow deer is called a buck, the female is a doe, and the young a fawn. Only the buck has antlers. Fallow deer can run at up to 50 km/h (30 mph) and can also jump up to 1.75 m (5 ft 9 in) high!

Common name: fallow deer

Scientific name: *Dama dama*

Size: 130–160 cm (51–63 inches) long

Diet: grass, leaves, bark, nuts and berries

Nest & young: the doe gives birth in a secluded area.

One fawn per year.

Nocturnal: no

Hibernates: no

Where: native to Turkey but now widely spread worldwide

Habitat: broadleaved woodland, grassland, and parkland



Weasel

The weasel is a creature known in ancient myths. Ancient Macedonians believed that seeing a weasel brought you good luck. Ancient Greeks thought that the weasel was the only creature that could kill the mythological basilisk!

Common name: common weasel

Scientific name: *Mustela nivalis*

Size: 115 to 260 mm (4.5 to 10 inches) long

Diet: mainly small rodents

Nest & young: uses pre-existing burrows. Six kits, once per year

Nocturnal: yes

Hibernates: no

Where: Northern Hemisphere

Habitat: fields, woodland, parks and gardens



Red Fox

Foxes are excellent hunters. They hunt at dusk and dawn and can hear a squeaking mouse at 100 metres (330 feet). They can jump over a 2 metre (6.5 foot) fence and can also swim. A male fox is called a dog, and the female a vixen.

Common name: red fox

Scientific name: *Vulpes vulpes*

Size: body is 45–90 cm (18–35 inches) long, tail length is 30–55 cm (12–22 inches)

Diet: mainly small rodents

Nest & young: burrow in a steep hillside or bank. Four to six kits, once per year in Spring.

Nocturnal: yes

Hibernates: no

Where: Northern Hemisphere, Australia

Habitat: woodland, fields and urban areas



Badger

Badgers have strong legs which they use to dig out the tunnels and chambers where they live. These can be over 50 m (164 ft) long, with several entrances. Generations of badgers add to the tunnels and their homes, or 'setts', are sometimes hundreds of years old.

Common name: European badger

Scientific name: *Meles meles*

Size: 90 cm (36 inches) long

Diet: mainly earthworms and insects

Nest and young: a burrow called a 'sett'. One to five cubs born between January and March

Nocturnal: yes

Hibernates: no

Where: Europe, with related species in North America, Africa and Asia

Habitat: woodland and open country

Mammals