



10 SPECIES FACING EXTINCTION IN WANSTEAD

And how to help save them



Many creatures that were once a regular sight in Wanstead are becoming rare. The Wren Wildlife Group, London Wildlife Trust and Wild Wanstead have identified 10 species under threat of extinction in Wanstead unless we act to save them. Some of these species are in trouble across the UK. Others are common species that are locally endangered because of how we treat our gardens and outdoor space. The UK is already one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. But it's not too late to stop the decline of wildlife in Wanstead. If we create the right habitats in our gardens and parks, it will help populations recover and nature will have a chance to thrive on our doorsteps – now and in the future. Here's how you can help.

Hedgehog

THE PROBLEM Loss of connected green spaces where hedgehogs can safely forage for food and wild areas where they can hibernate in peace.
HOW TO HELP Have a wild area in your garden with long grass and a pile of logs or leaves. Never use slug pellets or other garden pesticides. Switch fence panels for a hedge, or make 13cm x 13cm hedgehog highways between neighbouring gardens. Offer supplementary food and water if you have hedgehogs (ideally non-fish cat food). Ensure ponds have escape ramps.



House sparrow

THE PROBLEM Removal of the places sparrows forage and nest like hedges, bushes, ivy and gaps and crevices in buildings. Lack of insects to feed chicks. High nitrogen dioxide levels from traffic pollution. **HOW TO HELP** Notice where they live and protect the site. Install sparrow nest boxes. Put out food and water during the breeding season (April to August), ideally meal or wax worms. Make your garden a haven for insects with dense foliage and pollinator-friendly flowers. Plant trees, hedges and shrubs to provide shelter and foraging habitat.

Tawny mining bee

THE PROBLEM Loss of habitat as lawns are paved, built on and swapped for plastic grass. Urban bee keeping, which creates competition for limited food resources. **HOW TO HELP** If you see nests in your garden or the park (little mounds of soil with a small hole), leave them be. Plant the flowers tawny mining bees love such as salvia, echinacea, cosmos, verbena, fruit trees and wildflowers. Never use pesticides or weedkillers. Switch plastic grass and paving for a wild lawn. Leave a small earthy bank in a south-facing part of your garden for wild bees to build their nests.

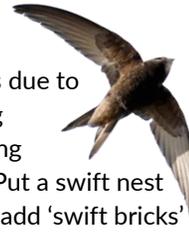
Common pipistrelle bat

THE PROBLEM Decline of flying insects, their food. Development of wooded areas, ponds and open green spaces where bats hunt. Loss of roosting sites due to removal of mature trees and modern construction/insulation methods reducing gaps and crevices in buildings. **HOW TO HELP** Nurture old trees and plant new ones. Make your garden an oasis for flying insects; fill with dense foliage and pollinator-friendly plants, don't use pesticides, install a wildlife pond and create a long grass area. Always switch off garden lights at night. Put up bat boxes.



Swift

THE PROBLEM Loss of nesting sites due to modernisation of buildings removing hollows and crevices. Decline of flying insects, their food. **HOW TO HELP** Put a swift nest box under the eaves of your roof or add 'swift bricks' to new developments (nest holes integrated into masonry). Ensure building work doesn't disturb existing nests. Make your garden an oasis for flying insects; fill with dense foliage and pollinator-friendly plants, install a wildlife pond and have a wild lawn.



Common toad

THE PROBLEM Removal of ponds and wild areas. Fragmentation of green spaces, which means more toads are being killed by traffic as they migrate to and from their breeding ponds. **HOW TO HELP** Build a wildlife pond. Create a wild corner such as a long grass area with a pile of old wood or leaves in a shady place. Help mini-beasts thrive in your garden to provide food for toads – aim for dense foliage and a wild area. Never use slug pellets or other pesticides.

Common blue butterfly

THE PROBLEM Loss of vegetated land as gardens are paved over and built on. **HOW TO HELP** Plant birds-foot trefoil, rest harrow and clover in your garden for caterpillars. Create a Butterfly Border packed with flowers loved by adult butterflies such as ox-eye daisy, verbena, lavender and aster. Leave a wild corner where caterpillars and other insects can shelter during winter. Don't use pesticides. Grow ivy over fences – butterflies and insects love the flowers. If you're building on your garden opt for a green roof or green driveway.



Stag beetle

THE PROBLEM Reduction of habitat due to loss of native broad-leaf woodland and removal of old decaying wood to make things look tidy. **HOW TO HELP** When out and about, leave old stumps and deadwood alone. Build a half-buried log pile in your garden. Create an area of wild lawn. Email your local Councillors and ask them to make 20% of each park a wild area for nature, including long grass and woodpiles/stumperies.



Smooth newt

THE PROBLEM Loss of habitat, particularly the removal of ponds, and the fragmentation of green spaces as more land is developed. **HOW TO HELP** Build a wildlife pond. Help insects and mini-beasts thrive in your garden with dense foliage and pollinator-friendly plants. Create a wild corner such as a long grass area with a pile of old wood or leaves in a shady place. Never use slug pellets or other garden pesticides.

Skylark

THE PROBLEM Wanstead Flats is home to the only breeding population of skylarks in inner London, but their numbers are falling because of disturbance to their nest sites. **HOW TO HELP** Stick to the paths and keep dogs on a lead in the marked areas on Wanstead Flats between March and the end of August. Oppose plans that would create increased disturbance on the Flats, and support stricter controls on people and pets in the main breeding areas.

