



Take part at www.naturescalendar.org.uk
The website is for anyone interested in noting the natural signs of the seasons. Records can be entered and viewed online, using live maps showing the progress of sightings across the UK.

Live map showing that frogspawn records are first received in the south and west



Recording the signs of the seasons

Nature's Calendar is the home for thousands of volunteers who record the signs of the seasons where they live, in places like parks, gardens and woodland.

In spring this could mean noting insect or bird activity, the leafing of trees or plants flowering. In autumn it could be departing migratory birds, or autumn fruits and leaf colours.

This is known as the science of 'phenology' but you don't have to be an expert to take part and lots of help is given, including a species guide booklet that you receive when you register.

Recording nature's calendar has moved from being a harmless hobby to a crucial source of evidence as to how our wildlife is responding to climate change. With data from as far back as 1684, it is the longest

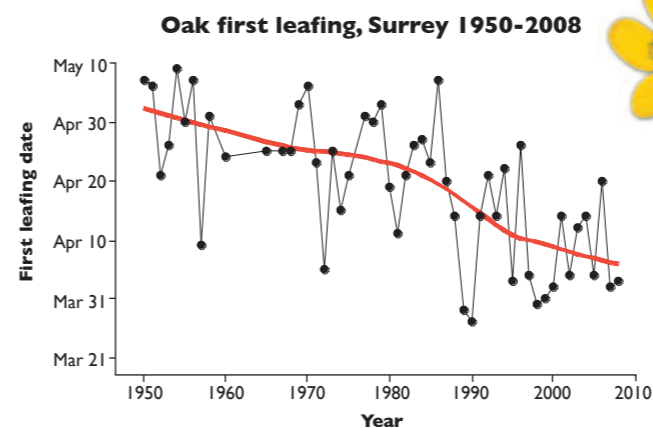
written biological record of its kind. Continued monitoring is becoming ever more crucial and we need everyone to help.

We have found that in spring, compared to 30 years ago, insects are being seen three weeks earlier, plant growth is up to two weeks earlier and bird activity is a week earlier. As the climate warms, the growing season is also extending into late autumn. The Trust is particularly concerned about the effect of these changes upon our precious ancient woodland, the UK's equivalent of the rainforest.

Nature's Calendar is regularly featured in the national media and our data has been used in over 30 scientific articles, reports for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and by the UK government. It also provides powerful evidence to help the Woodland Trust lobby politicians to demand more action on climate change.



Climate change in your garden is an interactive online resource that tells some of the stories that our research has uncovered
<http://frontpage.woodlandtrust.org.uk/garden>



Nature's Calendar is a project run in partnership between the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – a UK government research institution.

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