

# Welcome to Wildlife in..... Dumfries & Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is a region rich in wildlife and a rewarding place for the careful observer. It has a long, varied coastline, extensive upland areas and numerous lochs, rivers, wetlands and woodlands. All of these places have their characteristic plants and animals and there are many wildlife spectacles to be seen.

aren't found further north. For example, black-throated divers and azure hawker dragonflies reach their southern limits in Dumfries and Galloway and natterjack toads, Leisler's bats and nightjars reach their northern ones - this combination of species won't be found anywhere else in Britain.

The region is home to many of Scotland's specialities - wildlife thought of as typically Scottish. Golden eagles, red grouse, red deer, otters and mountain hares can all be found here in Dumfries and Galloway. The region is also special due to its range of wildlife - it has unique combinations of plants and animals with some that reach their southern limits here and others that

This booklet gives an introduction to the wildlife of Dumfries and Galloway and highlights some sites and walks which are good for wildlife-watching. This is only a small selection from the many places across the region where wildlife can be seen. Use this booklet as a starting point from which to make further explorations - much more awaits you out there!



*Yellow flag-irises with the rounded summit of Criffel in the background*



*Pictured above, mountain hares may be glimpsed in the region's uplands, their coats turn white over snowy winters.*



*The black-throated diver reaches its southern limit in Dumfries and Galloway; it could be seen swimming out on Loch Ryan.*

*Below. The red deer - a characteristic Scottish animal*



## Key to abbreviations used

- FCS — Forestry Commission Scotland
- NNR — National Nature Reserve
- NTS — National Trust for Scotland
- RSPB — Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- SNH — Scottish Natural Heritage
- SWT — Scottish Wildlife Trust
- WWT — Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust