

Spring

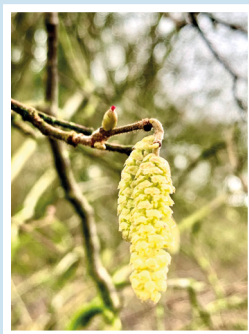
Birch leaves attract aphids, providing food for ladybirds and other species further up the food chain. Woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds often nest in the trunk.

Hawthorn flowers are eaten by dormice and provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects.



Spring flowers that provide an early source of nectar and pollen especially for bees include:
 ▶ **Rowan** ▶ **Spindle** ▶ **Cherry** ▶ **Crab Apple**.

Hazel flowers provide early pollen as a food for bees.



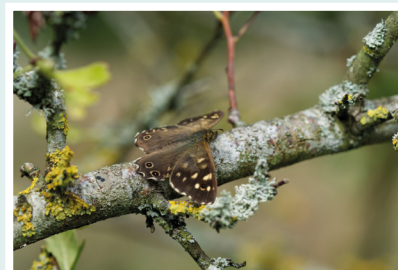
© Ben Martynoga

Early flowering **Blackthorn** provides a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees.

Gelder rose flowers are especially attractive to hoverflies.

Summer

Field maple is attractive to aphids and their predators, including many species of ladybird, hoverflies and birds. Lots of species of moth feed on its leaves. The flowers provide nectar and pollen sources for bees and birds, and small mammals eat the fruits.



© Ben Challis

Hazel leaves are a good source of caterpillars, which dormice eat.

Early fruit from **cherry** sustains birds, including blackbird and song thrush; as well as mammals, such as badger and mice.

Spindle leaves are eaten by caterpillars (moths). The leaves also attract aphids and their predators, such as hoverflies, ladybirds and lacewings, as well as house sparrows and other species of bird.

Autumn

Berries are produced by many of the hedgerow species providing food for birds, insects and mammals through autumn and winter: ▶ **Elder** ▶ **Holly** ▶ **Dogwood**.

Birds feast on the **blackthorn's** sloes.



In autumn, mammals such as squirrels, badgers and deer feed on **acorns**.

Birch seeds are eaten by siskins, greenfinches and redpolls.

Hazel Nuts eaten by dormice fattening up for hibernation; also by woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, wood pigeons, jays and small mammals.

Rowan berries are a rich source of autumn food for birds.

Hawthorn is rich in antioxidants with the haws eaten by migrating birds as well as small mammals.

Berries from the **Gelder rose** are an important food source for birds.

Ivy flowers in autumn provide late nectar.

Hollow **Elder** stems provide shelter for overwintering insects.



Dog Rose hips last through the winter providing food for birds.

Winter

Crab Apple is eaten by mammals and birds, such as mice, voles, foxes and badgers into the winter.



Willow blossom From January to March (before the leaves grow) this is an important source of early nectar and pollen for bees and other insects.