



What to look for in January

In **January** the short winter days and low temperatures mean that much of our native wildlife is lying dormant, waiting for milder conditions. Most animals will have to venture out at some point however,



Lt: Badger track Rt: Fox

usually to find food. Snow and ice can provide a good opportunity to observe animal tracks. It can often be difficult to see wild animals such as **Badgers** in the flesh, you are more likely to see the tracks they leave



Roe deer track

behind which can be quite easily identified. Look out too, for where the tracks go. Badgers keep to regular trails, unlike **Foxes** whose tracks will be more random. Badger tracks have five digits, whilst fox tracks resemble a dog print. **Deer** will leave a very distinctive two-digit track, the pattern of their cloven hooves.



Bullfinch

January can also be a good time to look for birds. They are easier to spot than at other times of year because the trees are bare and, because food is scarce, they are more likely to be seen in the open



Long-tailed Tit

and on bird feeders. Birds such as the **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit** and the **Long Tailed Tit**, are a familiar sight. The harsh winter conditions may also bring less common birds such as the **Bullfinch** to garden bird tables. The male Bullfinch is easily recognisable from his bright red front and black head and tail.



Snowdrop

In woodlands, **Snowdrops** are usually the first flower to appear. The flowers will begin to emerge at the end of the month. Snowdrops have specially hardened tips to allow them to push through snow and hard winter soils.