

## Wildlife

Contributed by admin  
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### Wildlife at Harpers Lane

Due to many plot holders using organic gardening methods and growing a variety of beneficial native flowers and plant, Harpers Lane Allotments is fast becoming a safe habitat for many exciting and interesting species of Butterflies and Moths, Insects and Birds.

Harpers Lane plot holders have reported the sightings of the following:

Hummingbird Hawk Moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*)

A summer visitor migrating from the South of France. The Hummingbird Hawk Moth is a day flying species. It hovers like a Hummingbird in front of flowers inserting its long tongue into the flower.

Wingspan: 4.5cm

### Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillar

A very large caterpillar, it has two false eyes to frighten off predators. When disturbed it can retract its head into its body and can swell up, enlarging the false eyes. It will also raise its head and move from side to side to deter the predator.

Length: 8cm

### Bats

Not sure if these are Natterer's or Pipistrelle Bats. Quite common on the allotment at dusk.

### Barn Owl (*Tyto Alba*)

A predatory nocturnal bird having a white, heart-shaped face, buff-brown upper plumage, and pale underparts. Often seen and heard on the allotment site.

For more information on wildlife and it's benefits for a healthy environment please click here to visit [The Wildlife Trust](#).