



Wildlife of the World Newsletter

June 2025



Common Frog (Rana temporaria) in my garden pond

Hi ,

Welcome to the latest newsletter from a rather damp Wales this time... no bad thing from the point-of-view of the frogs in my pond! It's five years now since I converted the bare, desolate patio at the back of my house into a wildlife garden during Covid... and the results have far exceeded my expectations. In addition to the frogs and newts in the pond, there are dozens of different species of dragonflies, butterflies, bees, grasshoppers, etc. all breeding in the garden, as well as regular visits from foxes, badgers and a lovely little grass snake.

The Wildlife Trust have published an article about it which you can read here if you're interested: <https://www.welshwildlife.org/blog/matia/paving-slabs-paradi...> and there's also a report on my website with photos,

videos and lists of the different species: <https://www.hughlansdown.com/html/home/070-wildlife-garden.h...>

Wildlife-watching Sites

Tangjiehe National Nature Reserve, China

My featured site this month is located deep in the remote mountains of Sichuan province, in central China. It's not an easy place to get to but definitely worth the trouble, with strange animals like hog-nosed badgers, tufted deer, snub-nosed monkeys and my favourite the scary, endangered, golden takin. Distant relatives of mountain goats, but with the size and temperament of an angry prize bull... they've been known to attack unwary photographers, so I was careful to keep my distance from this chunky fellow!



Takin (Budorcas taxicolor)

Tangjiehe is a great place for birds too, with over 100 different species including fish owls, parrotbills and both laughing and whistling thrushes. There are also several different pheasants including the ridiculous golden pheasant... looking like an imaginary bird invented by a bored artist trying to use up all the spare paint!



Golden Pheasant (Chrysolophus pictus)

The Books

The second edition of *Wildlife of the World - China* will be on sale in shops and on Amazon in a couple of weeks, but in the meantime I have a few **free review copies** available. If you're interested just reply to this email to let me know and I can send out either a paperback or eBook copy for free. All you have to do is write a short honest review of what you think of it somewhere like Amazon, Google Play, Apple Books or Goodreads.

Best Wishes,

Hugh



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