

This is an Elephant Hawkmoth. They visit flowers for nectar at night, including Red Valerian in this photo, and Honeysuckle.

# NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES

Daytime in the park offers spectacular stonping grounds, countless activities and opportunities for fun whatever the weather. If you stay with us overnight, then a whole new world of adventure opens up as nocturnal wildlife comes out. Immerse yourselves and your family in the sights and sounds of nighttime nature with a truly memorable animal detective experience.

The Beacons is home to an abundance of bird life, insects, amphibians and mammals that love the dark thanks to the diversity of our habitats. There are so many places to explore our park's nocturnal world – we've put together just a few to get you started.

## 1. Llangorse Lake

Llangorse Lake is a very special place for nocturnal wildlife spotting. As South Wales's largest natural lake, it's rich in biodiversity and a renowned stopover for migrating birds in spring and autumn. In summer you'll find its shores alive with dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies.

There's a huge variety of wildlife here to track, spot, see, hear and smell. You may even be lucky and catch a glimpse of an elusive owl. Keep an ear out for their distinctive calls, which differ between species. For example tawny owls are famous for their 'twit two', while barn owls screech.

Visit Llangorse as night is falling and you're likely to see swans taking off and landing, with powerful wings beating against the air. From September onwards into winter, head over to Llangorse Common at dusk where murmurations of starlings in huge numbers rise and fall. It's an unmissable spectacle and the sound of the birds as they call and feed on the wing is incredible.

Bats also forage over the waters of the lake and surrounding fields, including the European protected lesser horseshoe bat. Watch out for Llangorse's bats as they hunt for their insect prey, flying fast and sometimes low. Bat detectors allow you to listen in on their 'warbles' as they use their echolocating abilities to dive and dodge through the darkness of the night. A very basic detector is inexpensive and well worth the investment.

Moths come out at dusk too, including brightly coloured Hawk Moths, which you might see collecting nectar among the flowers. Llangorse Lake supports a wide variety of wildflowers, so it's a popular foraging ground for many types of moth. Certain plants are even adapted to pollination by different moth species.

Moths are attracted to light, so they're a regular sight near accommodation and campfires. They come in an amazing diversity of colours and sizes – why not come along to a moth-trapping event or have your own moth-spotting evening with a torch?

**GREAT FOR:**  
water-based birds, bats,  
moths and the odd elusive owl

**NEAREST VILLAGE:**  
Llangorse

**FIND OUT MORE:**  
[www.breconbeacons.org/poi/  
town-village-llangorse](http://www.breconbeacons.org/poi/town-village-llangorse)

# BRECON BEACONS

OUR NATIONAL PARK

Just before dusk, small groups of starlings from the same area come together above a communal roosting site.

## Other fun things to do at Llangorse Lake

- o Hire a kayak, Canadian canoe, pedalo or stand-up paddleboard and head out across Llangorse Lake.
- o Take a look at the reconstructed ancient crannog – a wooden lake dwelling – originally built during the Dark Ages as a palace for Brychan, the king of Brecknock (and the park's namesake).
- o Try out the energetic 12 mile circular walk starting on Llangorse Common. This family-friendly route has been made popular through the yearly 'Bwlch with Altitude' walking event, and offers panoramic views of the lake.

## NUTS ABOUT CLUES

Keep your eyes peeled for the signs of small rodents, who love to nibble hazelnuts in quite particular ways.

**Dormice** leave a smooth inner rim with toothmarks at an angle to the hole on the nut surface. These often look a little like a clog.

**Wood** mice leave toothmarks both on the inner rim of the nut and also on the surface, around the edge of the hole.

**Voles** leave toothmarks across the inner rim of the nut, but don't leave any marks on the surface, around the edge of the hole.

## FIND OUT MORE.



[www.breconbeacons.org/poi/town-village-llangorse](http://www.breconbeacons.org/poi/town-village-llangorse)



## Brecon Beacons National Park Wildlife Locations

1. Llangorse Lake
2. Llangasty Bird Hide
3. Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre
4. Brecon Promenade
5. Talybont Reservoir Bird Hide



Moths: Keith Noble  
Starlings: Drew Buckley