

Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

Each month, the **iWatchWildlife** Project choose a wildlife species that we'd like to know more about. We ask people to tell us when they spot that species, so we can then make it into a Species Record. Species records are important because the more we know - the better we can protect our local wildlife.

In **March**, we will be collecting records of **Brown Hare**.



Brown Hare by Nick Edwards



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How to spot a Brown Hare:

- it's very tricky - they are shy and very fast!
- larger than rabbits with longer, powerful hind legs and longer ears with black tips.
- golden-brown colour with a pale belly and white tail
- the top deck of a bus is a good place to look out for them in fields next to the road
- most openly active in early Spring on farmland or open grassland before crops grow too high

About Brown Hare:

- they have dramatically declined by over 80% in the UK
- they are Britain's fastest mammal capable of reaching speeds of 35-45mph.
- hares box each other in early spring as part of their breeding courtship
- on the Island: Brown hares have certainly declined, but they are still regularly seen in a few places, particularly in the West Wight.

Tell us about your observations and share your pictures [@iWatchWildlife](#) on Facebook or email iwatchwildlife@gmail.com