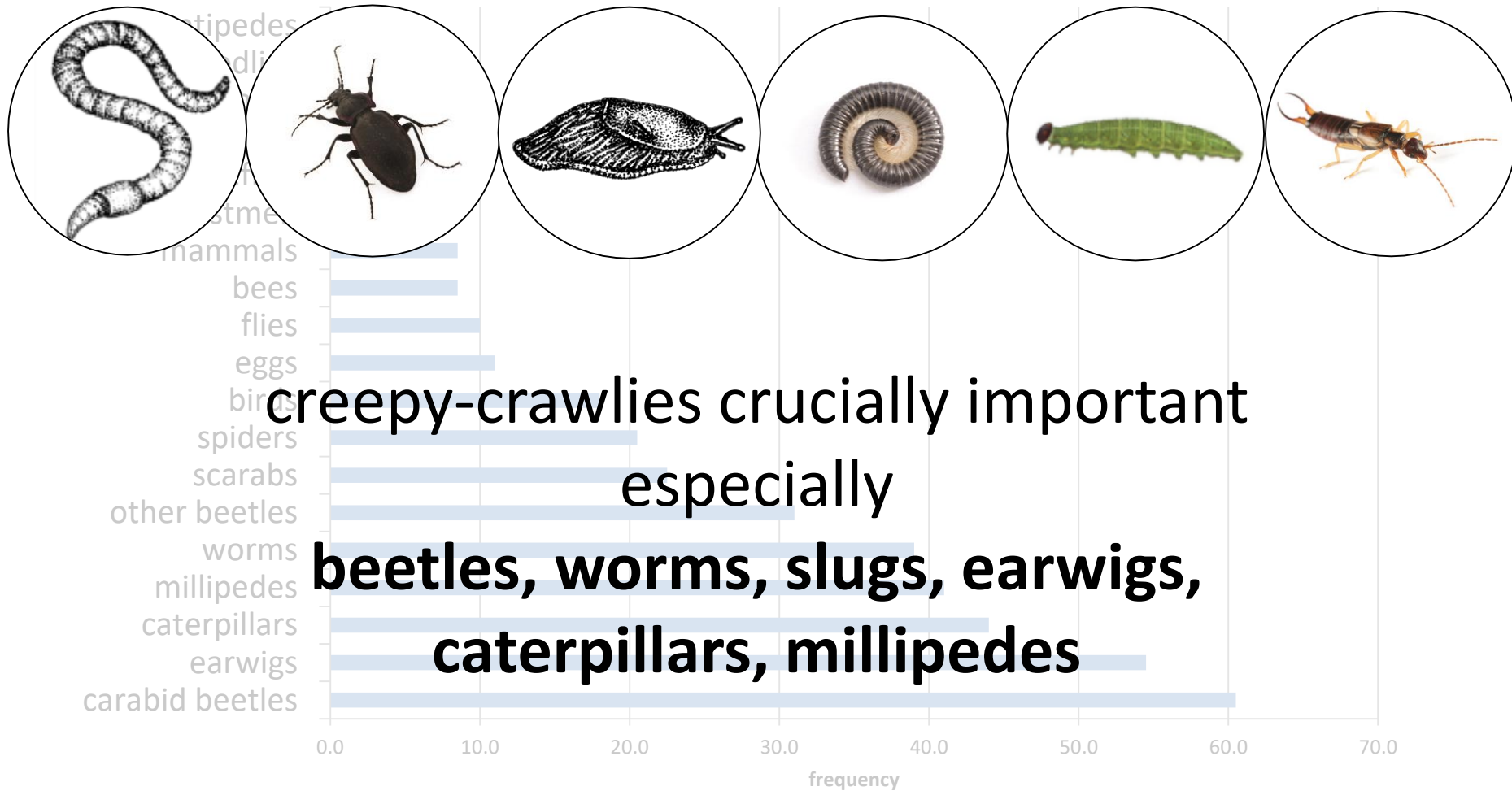




**Think 'hog:
Land management for hedgehogs**



Diet:



Behaviour

- nocturnal
- generally solitary, don't live in social groups
- non-territorial, rarely aggressive but do compete over food and females
- very reliant on smell and hearing, poor eyesight
- often noisy with a range of different sounds especially when courting
- Average litter size 4-5, maternal care lasts just a few weeks

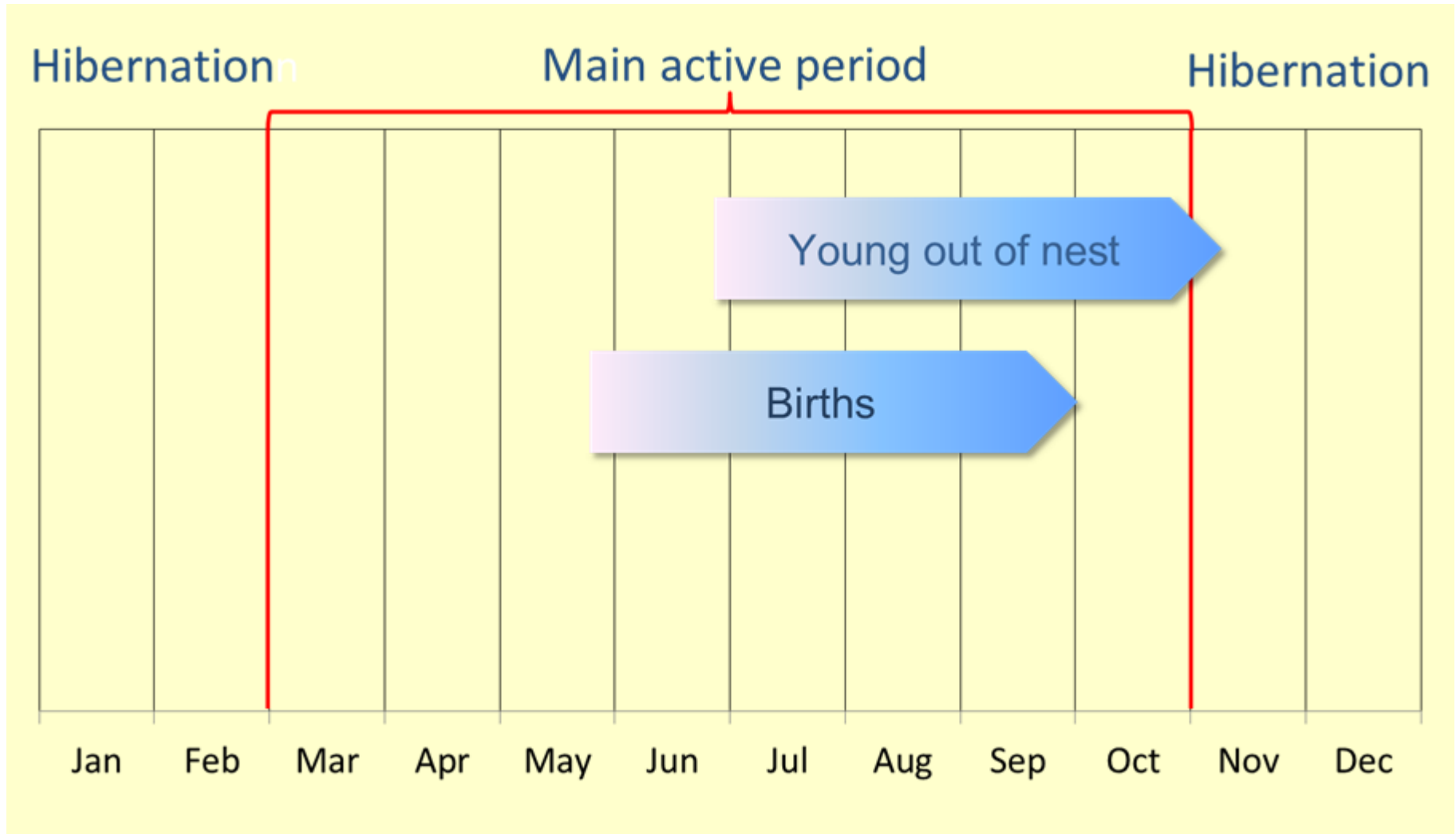


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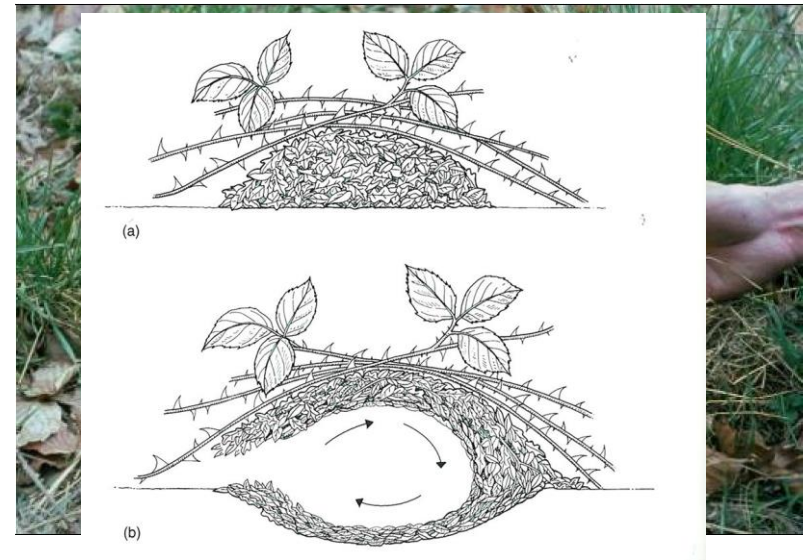
Behaviour: the hedgehog year



Nesting:

- 1) '**Daytime nests**': a day-time retreat during active season
- 2) '**Breeding nests**': for females and their dependent young
- 3) '**Hibernacula**': for periods of several months in hibernation during periods of bad weather or low food availability

Hedgehog need leaves and some kind of structure.



Population status in Britain

The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018

Emily Wilson and David Wembridge

Hedgehogs' unique appearance and proximity in gardens and suburban green spaces place them firmly in the public's affections. They're a wild mammal we can observe close-up and are a symbol of our natural heritage.

In 2015, *The State of Britain's Hedgehogs*, by People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), outlined the findings of four surveys recording hedgehogs in urban and rural areas, and showed a worrying decline. This new report updates those findings and describes the current status of Britain's hedgehogs a decade after they were made a priority species for conservation.

Where are hedgehogs found?

Hedgehogs are widespread and, in some areas, still common, but their numbers locally can vary a lot. They can be entirely absent in arable areas, but numerous in suburban habitats. Areas in and around towns and villages can be excellent habitats for hedgehogs, and hedgehogs often prefer them over farmland.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and solitary creatures, so counting numbers in the field is difficult. Only two reliable estimates of the population size exist and both acknowledge a lot of uncertainty in the figures. In 1999, and more recently in 2017, researchers have suggested a figure of about 1.5 million hedgehogs across England, Scotland and Wales collectively.

Are numbers changing?

In the early 1990s, Dr Pat Morris, at Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL), recruited volunteers to record hedgehog road casualties as a way of monitoring the population in the wider landscape. Ten years on, PTES relaunched the survey, part-funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and under the guidance of Dr Paul Bright, also at RHUL.

Figure 1. The distribution of hedgehog sightings in PTES and other surveys between 2012 and 2017. Most records are from urban areas, reflecting the distribution of records as well as that of hedgehogs. Organisations that kindly provided data are acknowledged on page 4.



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Urban numbers
appear to be
turning around

“numbers are plummeting in our countryside – with losses of over 50%”

“declines of a third in urban areas, but this decline is slowing, and may even be turning around”

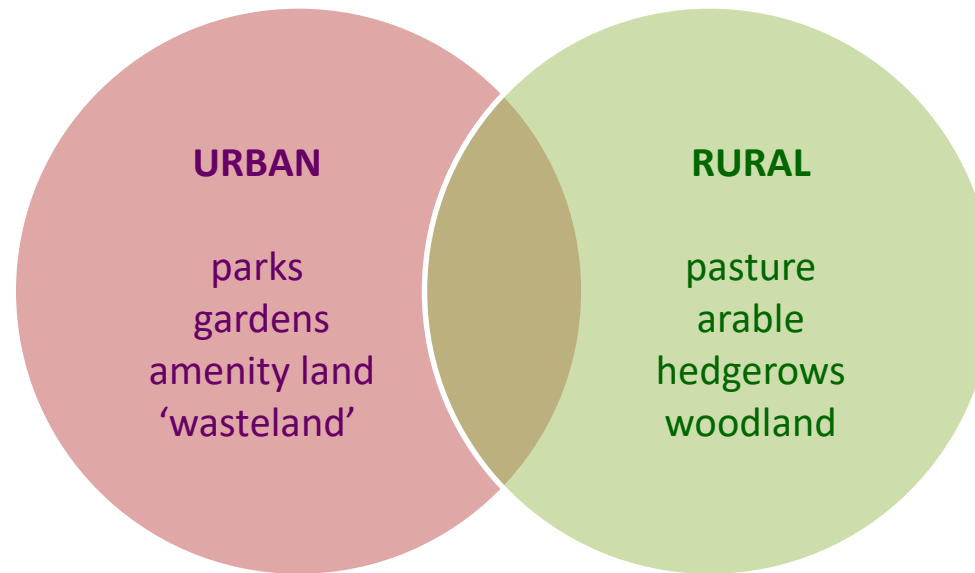
For a free copy visit:
hedgehogstreet.org/stateof

What are the threats and what can you do to mitigate for them?





Natural and anthropogenic threats:



impermeable boundaries

tidy gardening

slug pellets

bonfire burning

dangerous ponds

strimming

habitat fragmentation

fewer invertebrates

road traffic

refuse e.g. plastic

climate change

land use change

pesticides (indirect)

more badgers

Flailing or tilling

gamekeepers



Threats: roads



- Morris estimated a minimum of 15,000 hedgehogs are killed annually on roads in the UK (PTES *Mammals on Roads* data)
- This is probably an underestimate and is currently being reassessed
- Unclear how significantly impacts on the total population



Install signs or barriers e.g. Regents Park



- 300m of fencing in Zoo car park to stop hedgehogs from straying onto main road, channelling travel direction



Threats : machinery

- hedgehogs have no 'flight reflex' and this makes them especially vulnerable
- year-round nesting means that there is no 'good time' for cutting



One of the many strimmer victims



Strimmers



Always check before mowing or strimming





Threats: entanglement



©Pat Morris



©Hedgehog Street



©Pat Morris

Common culprits:

- six pack holders
- polystyrene cups
- tin cans
- netting – sports/garden
- elastic bands



©Pat Morris



Deal with netting and litter





Threats: drowning

Hedgehogs can swim, but can't climb out of smooth-sided ponds





Make your pond/lake safe

people's
trust for
endangered
species

British Hedgehog
Preservation Society



©Royal Parks



©Pat Morris



Threats: building/burning bonfires



©Pat Morris



©Pat Morris



©Pat Morris

No flight mechanism.



Always check for hedgehogs before lighting bonfires (or move it just before burning)





Threats: Simplification of the landscape – urban and rural



Intensive arable farmland in the Lincolnshire fens



- Little or no nesting or hibernation sites
- greater vulnerability to predation
- less invertebrate food
- fragmented habitat patches
- Fragmentation of greenspace – fences, roads, walls



Link your greenspaces wherever possible with Hedgehog Highways





Create a wild corner or maintain an area of scrub or dead wood

people's
trust for
endangered
species

 British Hedgehog
Preservation Society





Put out some food and water





Threats: Pesticide use

- large areas of farmland and gardens treated

Preferably avoid using poisons

- full effects unknown
- some products highly toxic
- many potential non-target species



© Nigel Reeve

**In general using chemical treatments results in
far fewer invertebrates = less food for hedgehogs**

Safe alternatives: salt, seaweed, egg shells or coffee grounds or citrus



Stop using chemicals

people's
trust for
endangered
species



©Oliver Wilks



Threats: predation – badgers, foxes and dogs



- Badgers are the only true natural predator of hedgehogs
- But, we believe that if there is enough food and nesting places, hedgehogs and badgers can coexist as they have done for thousands of years



Make a home of hedgehogs

people's
trust for
endangered
species

 British Hedgehog
Preservation Society



Alison Daykin, Hedgehog Champion from Surrey

Hedgehog ecology and management for Practitioners

- At PTES we will also be running our hedgehog ecology and management training days (3x lectures and 1 outdoor practical session), which you can read more about here – dates to be confirmed:

<https://ptes.org/get-involved/events/hedgehog-ecology-and-management-for-practitioners-training-course/>

- Later this year we will producing a free guide for land managers and a guide for developers and ecologists
- If you are interested in either of the above please get in touch with me at hedgehogs@ptes.org



10 tips for encouraging hedgehogs
in your neighbourhood

Contact



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