

Species Champions show their support for Invasive Species Week

Invasive non-native species are now considered one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity, and their impacts are increasingly apparent here in the UK.

Geographic barriers such as oceans, mountains and deserts naturally restrict the mixing of wildlife in different regions. However humans are increasingly breaking down these natural barriers and moving species around, whether deliberately (e.g. plants for horticulture, exotic pets) or accidentally (stowaways with transported goods). When species are introduced into the wild outside of their native range they threaten the [environment](#), [human health](#), our [economy](#), and [the way we live](#).

Invasive Species Week, which this year took place from 27th March – 2nd April, is an opportunity to take a closer look at the impact of invasive species in Britain, and for everyone - government, businesses, conservation organisations, and individuals – to consider steps they can take to stop the spread. Several of our Species Champions were keen to take part, spreading the word amongst their constituents and supporters.

At the start of the week [Sarah Wollaston](#), Species Champion for the curlew, posted an article on her website calling for people to take steps to prevent invasive species spread, while [Kelly Tolhurst](#) pledged her support for the campaign as Species Champion for the nightingale. [Daniel Zeichner](#) (ruderal bumblebee) raised awareness via the local media with a press release, stating that “invasive species are...impacting on the species and places we all love. But we can all take easy steps to help wildlife like disposing of garden waste properly or reporting sightings of invasive species.” [Kerry McCarthy](#), Species Champion for the swift, rounded up the week by highlighting the damage that invasive Asian hornets could cause to native pollinators if allowed to establish in the UK.

To learn more about invasive species, their impacts, and ways that you can help, follow this link to visit the GB Non-native Species Secretariat website: <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/>



Invasive non-native mammals prey on the eggs and chicks of native birds, including several species championed by our MPs: clockwise from top left redshank (Andy Hay), puffin (Chiara Ceci), little tern (Chris Gomersall), Manx shearwater (Ed Marshall).