



RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

CHAPTER 22: WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN

QUESTIONS:

- What is your relationship to local wildlife? Are there species you love? Are there species you find particularly difficult? Do wildlife affect your gardening considerations?
- What are the most problematic pests to food growing in the local area? What strategies have group members tried to mitigate the problems? What has worked and what hasn't? Has anyone heard of any other techniques that no one in the group have tried yet? (If there are lots of pests, you might like to focus on a couple that are quite different, for instance cabbage moths, rats and rosellas)
- Do the pest problems in one member's system vary from others in the local area? Discuss the factors that might be making this difference.
- How do you feel about harvesting and eating overabundant wildlife? If it sits well with your ethics, have you got a practical means to do it?

ACTIVITIES:

- Observe the invertebrates in a garden – this could be done at home with the results brought to the group or as a group in the place you are meeting. Which can you identify? Do you know, or can you have an educated guess, about their lifecycle and feeding habits? Use the group's knowledge, books and internet resources. You might like to set some traps and/or look at different times of the day and evening.
- Plant some nectar-rich plants, particularly those with smaller flowers for the predatory wasps eg those from the unbelliferus family.
- Build an anti-aviary.

