



Common name: Barn Owl

Binomial: *Tyto Alba*

Number in UK: 110-220,000 pairs

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: Field edges and grass strips next to woodland and watercourses

Common food sources: small rodents, mice, voles, shrews

In culture: In South Africa, barn owls are often associated with witchcraft and are persecuted, but in Hinduism, the barn owl is considered the species of owl to be the mount and symbol of Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and fortune

Barn owl queerness: Barn owls regularly exhibit same-sex intercourse and co-parenting of their eggs. They also team up in same-sex pairs to hunt.

Reference: Bagemihl (1999) pages 632-5



Common name: Common Pipistrelle

Binomial: *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Number in UK: 1,280,000

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: Trees and woodland with access to open fields

Common food sources: All insects are fair game

In culture: Western cultures have generally regarded bats with superstition and fear; but in China, expressed in art and handicrafts, the bat has achieved respectability as a symbol of happiness and good luck.

Pipistrelle queerness: Pipistrelles enjoy same-sex mounting, masturbation, play, mutual grooming, and cross-species sex. They frequently raise the young of other bats together as a community, or adopt young bats from other couples.

References: Riccucci M (2011). "Same-sex sexual behaviour in bats". *Hystrix It. J. Mammal.* **22** (1): 139–47.



Common name: Wood mouse

Binomial: *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Number in UK: 39,600,000

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: forests, grasslands, and cultivated fields, tending to seek out more wooded areas in winter

Common food sources: Seeds and berries

In culture: In Hebrew folklore, the mouse is a symbol of separation, division, and judgment. In Bulgarian folklore, the mouse is seen as a tiny spirit from which they cannot escape except by pleasing it.

Wood mouse queerness: Over half of wood mice show same-sex behaviour. Lower neurotransmitter levels (serotonin) in a mouse mean it is more likely to prefer same—sex interaction and offspring rearing.

references: Ryan Remedios et al, Social behaviour shapes hypothalamic neural ensemble representations of conspecific sex, *Nature* (2017)



Common name: Common dog violet

Binomial: *Viola riviniana*

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: woodland edges, grassland and shady hedge banks

Plant ID: Growing to 10 cm tall and 50 cm broad, this perennial has dark green, heart-shaped leaves and produces multiple violet coloured flowers in May and June.

Violet queerness: Lesbian Sappho's surviving fragments of 7th century poems feature gardens, glades, and crowns of purple violet blooms, capturing the queer imagination. Violets are perfect flowers, with egg and pollen producing organs.

*“Many crowns of **violets**, roses and crocuses...together you set before more and many scented wreaths made from **blossoms** around your soft throat...with pure, sweet oil...you anointed me, and on a soft, gentle bed...you quenched your **desire**...no holy site...we left uncovered, no grove...”*



Common name: White mulberry

Binomial: *Morus alba*

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: Temperate regions, thought to originate from China.

Plant ID: On older trees, the leaves are generally unlobed, cordate at the base and serrated on the margins.

Mulberry queerness: Normally dioecious, meaning there are separate pollen producing and receiving trees. Some mulberries in certain conditions are monoecious, meaning that they both produce and receive pollen. So they're both male and female. Mulberries also change sex quite frequently. Frequently used for street trees, pollen-receiving (berry producing) mulberries are avoided due to mess, but pollen-producing mulberries are prolific pollen (& allergy) producers - the tree's revenge!

References: Atsumi, R., Nishihara, R., Tarora, K., Urasaki, N. and Matsumura, H., 2019. Identification of dominant genetic markers relevant to male sex determination in mulberry (*Morus alba* L.). *Euphytica*, 215, pp.1-13



Common name: Leek Moth

Binomial: *Acrolepiopsis assectella*

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: Thrives in temperate regions, originally from Northern Europe

Common habitats: gardens, woodland areas, agricultural farmland

Common food sources: Members of the allium family – including wild garlic

In culture: Causes significant allium crop losses by ‘leaf mining’ – where the caterpillar eats away at plant tissues.

Leek moth queerness: Frequently homosexual behaviour with same sex, use pheromones to induce monogamy. Has distinct two-phase lifestyle, as a caterpillar which then pupates (complete transformation) into a moth.

Reference

Renou, M., Descoins, C., Priesner, E. Gallois, M. and Lettère, M. (1981). A study of the sex pheromone of the leek moth, *Acrolepiopsis assectella* (Lepidoptera: Acrolepiidae). *Entomol. Exp. Appl.* **29**, 198–208



Common name: Splitgill mushroom

Binomial: *Schizophyllum commune*

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: Thrives on dead and decaying wood in woodlands. Found in every continent.

Common food sources: As above

In culture: It is a known human pathogen too, but extremely rarely causes any troubles. Its mycelium was found in several parts of the human body, but we have less than a hundred cases worldwide since it was first discovered in late 80s

Splitgill queerness: Has over 25,000 distinct genetic sexual identities. Uses a special kind of structure called a clamp connection for reproduction, which allows them to exchange their cell's genetic information. This keeps reproduction simple and means that a potentially huge number of sexes is possible

References: Casselton, L.A. and Kües, U., 2007. The origin of multiple mating types in the model mushrooms *Coprinopsis cinerea* and *Schizophyllum commune*. *Sex in fungi: Molecular determination and evolutionary implications*, pp.283-300.



Common name: Mallard duck

Binomial: *Anas platyrhynchos*

Conservation concern? No

Common habitats: fresh- and salt-water wetlands, including parks, small ponds, rivers, lakes and estuaries, as well as shallow inlets and open sea within sight of the coastline. Birds avoid areas more than a few metres deep

Common food sources: Omnivorous - favours insects

In culture: In Hebrew folklore, ducks represent immortality, and in Finnish myth, the universe was hatched from a duck's egg.

Mallard queerness: Up to 19% observed mallards engage in regular homosexual mating, bonding, and pairing. Same-sex partners also "defend" their mate from the approach of other Mallards.

References: Casselton, L.A. and Kües, U., 2007. The origin of multiple mating types in the model mushrooms *Coprinopsis cinerea* and *Schizophyllum commune*. *Sex in fungi: Molecular determination and evolutionary implications*, pp.283-300.