

# WILDLIFE WANDERINGS

## David Bailey

In this enchanting book David Bailey's lifelong love for nature is captured superbly with images and stories of hares suffering bad hair days, ballerina spoonbills, love bite adders, cheesy goats and members of the royal family – forty-seven UK species are featured in total.

Four years of dedicated work have resulted in this book of stunning photographs; accompanying the images are David Bailey's personal observations and vibrant stories from the light-hearted to the occasionally controversial. There are vivid descriptions – of elation when capturing a quality image after many hours of waiting, often in the freezing cold; to the frustration of the weather turning against him after spending weeks tempting pine martens using boiled eggs and strawberry jam! The four chapters follow the seasons, each section featuring the species you can expect to find during that period of the year, from winter migrants, those who hibernate or are nocturnal, to our all year-round residents. Easy reading for all ages and backgrounds, the images alone tell their own magnificent story, *Wildlife Wanderings* also includes occasional advice about field craft and camera techniques for the budding naturalist and photographer.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**David Bailey** was born into a New Forest family that bred the famous ponies and worked in the ancient woods. David has always had a love for the countryside and the creatures who make it their home.

David never really picked up the camera until he moved to the Brecon Beacons in Wales in 2006. Self-taught in photography, he was persuaded to turn professional in 2008, winning the Welsh Wildlife Photographic Award 2011.

He has worked as a wildlife consultant, cameraman, photographer and appeared on the BBC's Rhys Jones' *Wildlife-Patrol* series. David has also appeared on BBC's *Springwatch*, ITV Wales *Coast & Country* plus many radio programmes.

David also writes wildlife features for regional and national magazines including the *Countryman*, *Hampshire Life* and *Dorset Life*.

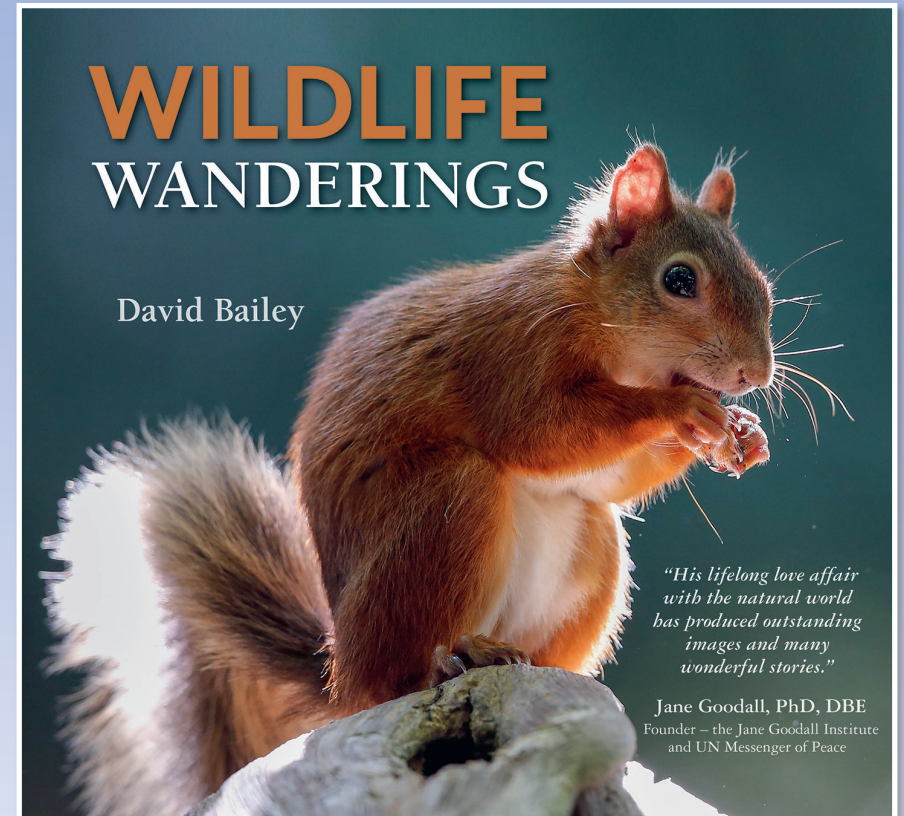
In 2016 he was presented with the Brandlaureate Personality Award (equivalent to a Grammy) by the Asia Pacific Brands Foundation, receiving the award – alongside Adele and Keanu Reeves – for being recognised as the world's best in his particular field.

*Wildlife Wanderings* is David's second book.

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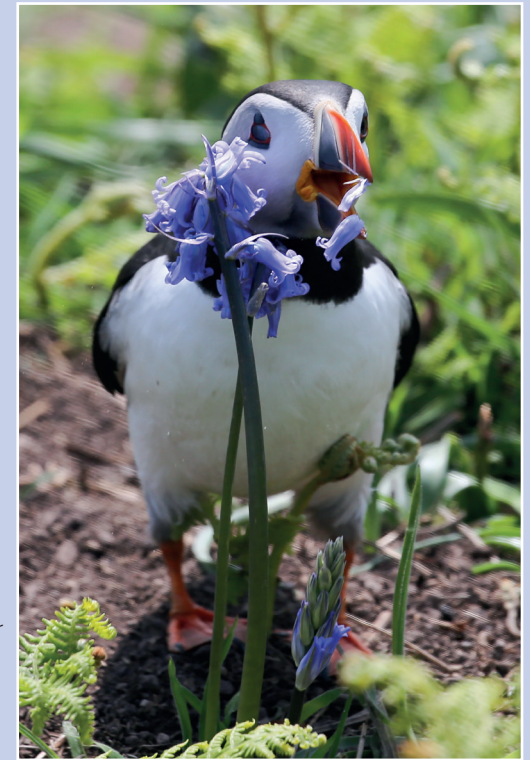
# WILDLIFE WANDERINGS



Above: One hare giving another a clip round the ear.



Above: Hungry kingfisher.



Right: Skomer Island, Puffin Metropolis.




Right: Garden hog.




Left: A red squirrel busy gathering up nuts and acorns.

**Kestrel**  
I had been visiting Portland Harbour the size of the 2012 Sailing Olympics on a cold windy December day walking round the harbour walls hoping to see with no success one of the three Bournemouth dolphins who had made the old Royal Navy base their home.

On driving back over the Chesil Causeway to my right I met a kestrel hunting, but without success. I could see my wing and I reached the Car Park by the Wildlife Trusts Visitor Centre, hurried payment at the ticket machine, was followed by swift assembly of camera with 500mm lens before crossing the busy road. It was a strong north wind so I knew by walking south towards the park I had seen the bird we should in theory see in the forest would be flying into the wind to hunt. This of course depended on the bird and not on me and not breaking off to take a new but within five minutes I could see a small black bird in the sky as I continued walking and the kestrel hunting the gap between us closed, the bird became larger as something gave wings there a tail before the detail of colour and markings became apparent to the naked eye. The problems I had to overcome, first I needed detailed images and tripod and tried a 2X extender to my camera giving me 1000mm. Second problem was more difficult to overcome was the rain, as walking south with the bird hovering in front of me the sun was behind me and without making it into a black shape in my image I may appear. Therefore, I had to walk my way round the bird to position the sun behind me and get the light with little or no shadow on my subject without frightening the beautiful bird. Gradually and very slowly I walked past the hovering bird when it swooped down close to the hovering sun you never off the ground, for a split second the light was perfect, that was all I required, snap went my camera!



**Winter fox**  
We'll visit a nice warm place to curl up during the winter, however the fox has not the luxury of a nice log fire or central heating, so given the chance to make it in the sun during the day and winter is always taken. The black-crowned night heron during January is better in early afternoon and that the fox is nestled under a fir tree, huddling against an evergreen to warm themselves by and oh, by the way, it's fantastic.




Below: Standing proud in Wales.

Example of a double-page spread.