

Thank you very much for taking part in BioBlitz 2025!

Thanks to your commitment, curiosity and hard work, we were able to achieve impressive results during the 24-hour BioBlitz. Together, experts, interested members of the public and children have demonstrated just how valuable collaborative research is for nature conservation.

Results – Biodiversity

A total of **378 different species** were recorded. The majority were from the animal kingdom, with **294 animal species** (around 81%), followed by **93 plant species** (just under 19%). Even a fungus was discovered – a fine example of just how diverse even intensively farmed agricultural landscapes can be.

Almost **half of all observations were insects** (Figure 1). These included, amongst others, **13 different ant species** and **34 spider species**. Amongst the vertebrates, birds played a particularly significant role: a total of **48 bird species** were recorded. The range of species was complemented by **nine mammal species** as well as numerous plant species, particularly from the group of flowering plants.

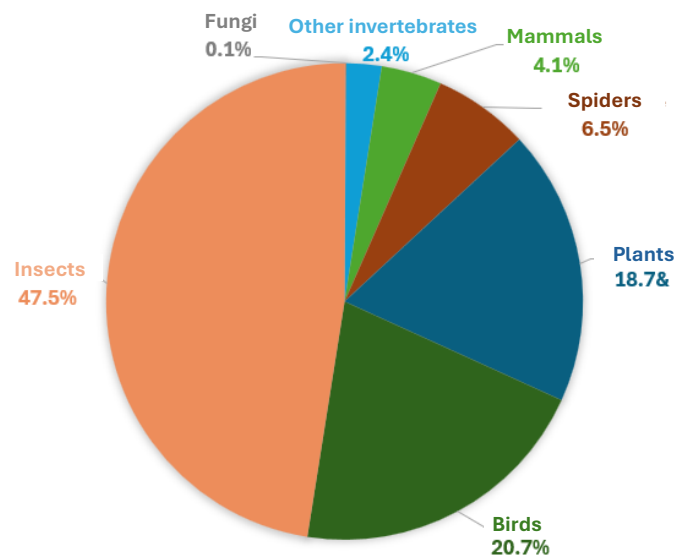


Figure 1: Proportion of animal and plant groups as well as fungi

The species recorded during the BioBlitz were cross-referenced with the Red Lists and the German Breeding Bird Atlas and include **several endangered or strictly protected species**. Bird species classified as endangered include the skylark (*Alauda arvensis*, Figure 2a), the starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) and the wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*), whilst the tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and the barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) are on the near-threatened list. Among the mammals, the European hare (*Lepus europaeus*, Figure 2b), which is classified as endangered in Germany, was recorded. In addition, several bat species (including *Myotis myotis* and *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were observed, all of which are strictly protected under EU law and the Federal Nature Conservation Act. Notable insect finds include endangered species such as the small buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus humilis*), the four-spotted ant (*Dolichoderus quadripunctatus*) and the Alexis blue (*Glaucopsyche alexis*, Figure 2c). Among the plants, the presence of the strictly protected, locally rare Bocks' lizard's-tongue (*Himantoglossum hircinum*, Figure 2d) was of particular conservation significance.



Figure 2: Examples of animals and plants observed during the BioBlitz 2025. a) Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (Photo: NABU/Manfred Delpho), b) European brown hare *Lepus europaeus* (Photo: Martin Dürr), c) Alexis's blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche alexis*) (Photo: Thomas Netter), d) Bock's lizard orchid (*Himantoglossum hircinum*) (Photo: F. Fraaß).

The results clearly demonstrate the importance of structurally rich elements in agricultural landscapes. Hedgerows, flower strips and orchard meadows proved to be particularly valuable habitats and contributed significantly to the high level of biodiversity. These areas not only made biodiversity visible, but also brought it to life.

Results – Social Science Perspective

In addition to the ecological data, the BioBlitz was also a success from a social perspective. Many participants reported that they had learnt new things about species, habitats and nature conservation.

A voluntary survey conducted during the BioBlitz captured key aspects of the participants' socio-ecological background, including their attitudes towards nature and biodiversity, their knowledge of species and ecological relationships, and their personal connection to nature in everyday life. In addition, socio-demographic data and information on motivation, the experience of taking part and expectations of the BioBlitz were collected. Using this data as a basis, the study examined the extent to which participation in the BioBlitz influenced participants' knowledge, attitudes and motivation regarding biodiversity and nature conservation. The aim was to assess both the educational impact and the relationship between personal background and specific biodiversity outcomes.

A total of **84 people** took part in the survey. 61% of the participants were female, 37.8% were male and 1.2% identified as non-binary. The largest age group was the 18–24-year-olds (40.2%), followed by the 25–34-year-olds (36.6%) and the 35–44-year-olds (15.9%). Older age groups were less well represented, each accounting for 3.7%. The gender distribution was broadly similar across the age groups (Figure 3), although women were more strongly represented in the younger age groups. The majority of participants lived in urban areas (75.3%), whilst 24.7% came from rural areas or villages.

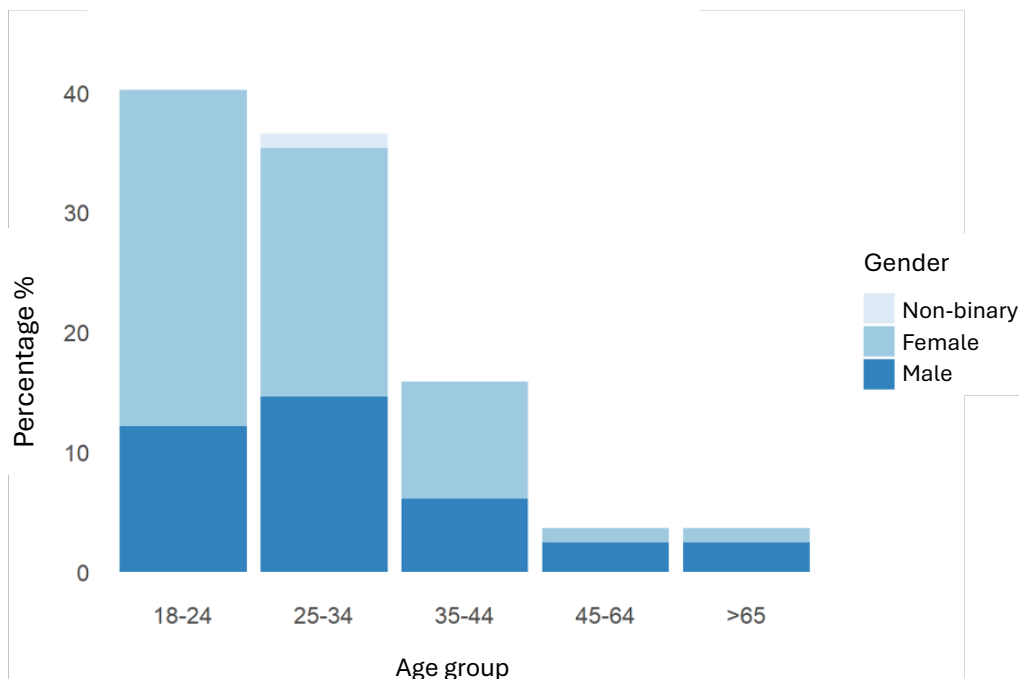


Figure 3: Gender distribution of BioBlitz participants by age group

The BioBlitz is an effective platform for knowledge transfer and engagement. Through their participation, participants gained knowledge and developed a greater awareness of nature conservation issues. Around **50 per cent of participants and 30 per cent of experts** had a moderate or even significant increase in knowledge (Figure 4). Socio-economic factors such as level of education and contact with nature influenced attitudes towards nature conservation.

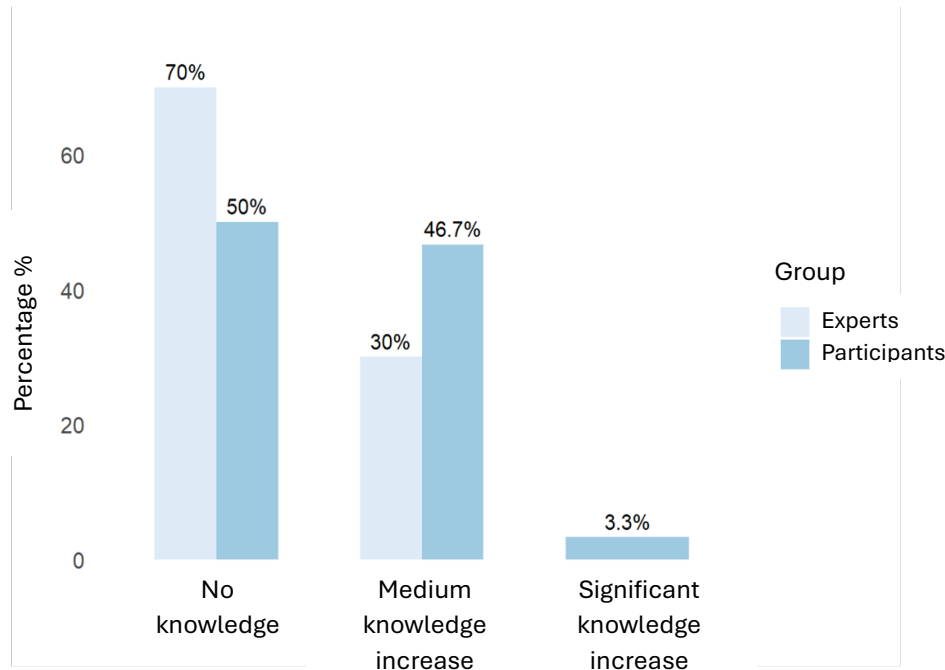


Figure 4: Increase in knowledge among BioBlitz participants and experts

In the survey on knowledge of species and ecological relationships, participants in the post-BioBlitz survey provided a wider variety of different answers (Figure 5), which further highlights the BioBlitz's role in helping participants absorb new information.

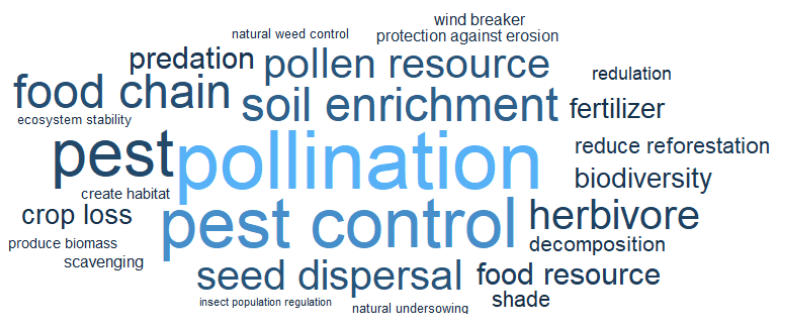


Figure 5: Responses from all respondents to the question 'What are the functions/roles of wild animal and plant species in agricultural systems?'

Participatory approaches such as the BioBlitz can bridge the gap between science and society. They provide reliable ecological data (see above) and are an effective means of promoting ecological knowledge and long-term support for nature conservation. It was particularly wonderful to see how children, young people and adults from very different backgrounds carried out research together and learnt from one another.

Many thanks to everyone who took part – by observing, identifying species, asking questions, discussing and inspiring others. Without you, this project would not have been possible!