

Upland Species – Graham Simpson MSP

Hello, I am Graham Simpson, Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Central region, and I am the Nature Champion for both the Ash tree and the Bilberry Bumblebee.

As a keen hillwalker, I'm delighted to champion the bilberry bumblebee, also known as 'the mountain bumblebee', which thrives in colder upland areas and lives in species-rich moorlands.

Scotland's mountains and uplands are home to some of our most distinctive and threatened of wildlife.

Head to Scotland's moorlands in the spring and you may be greeted the playful call of the Curlew, a gentle chuckle from a red grouse, or, if you're lucky, perhaps you will catch a glimpse of hen harriers as they perform their acrobatic skydance.

Visit Scotland's mountains and you may see a darting mountain hare, a hardy ptarmigan, a herd of red deer or even a golden eagle soaring above you.

But it's not just the larger species that deserve attention. Many of our most precious and threatened upland and montane species are often the smallest, like rare money spiders and other invertebrates, or flowering plants, lichens, mosses and fungi.