

January - Nature Spotter Sheet



← **Sleeping Beauties** - Keep an eye out for butterflies such as this Small Tortoiseshell, or other insects (e.g. ladybirds) which hibernate over winter in sheds and other dry sheltered spaces. You might even find them indoors at home or at school!

↓↓ **Invasive Alien Species** are animals, plants or pathogens that would not naturally occur in Ireland but are here because of human activity. They cause negative impacts on their new environment. Visit www.invasives.ie to see how to recognise and report their presence, and to learn what actions to take, to prevent their further spread.



Winter Heliotrope is an invasive species that is easy to recognise at this time of year, when it is in bloom.



The fluffy seed heads of the climber "**Old Man's Beard**" (also invasive) are easy to notice at this time of year when many other plants are bare.

→ **Flocks of Migratory Song Birds** - At this time of year, you might notice large mixed flocks of Thrush species landing and feeding en masse in greens and fields in suburban and rural areas during the daytime. These flocks are often made up of birds that have travelled from more northern (colder!) parts of Europe, such as Scandinavia. The flocks typically include thrush species such as **Redwing** and **Fieldfare** which migrate here each year, from around October to March, to take advantage of the *generally* milder, and more favourable feeding conditions that are available in Ireland during the winter months.

