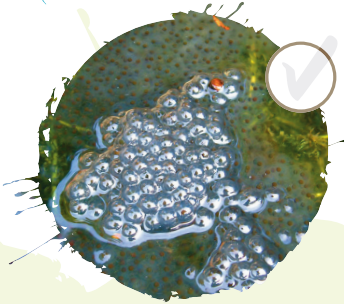


**Ready to get detecting?**  
 Look for the first signs that spring is on its way




**Bird song**

Listen for birds like the song thrush tweeting that spring is on the way.



**Frogspawn**

Look for balls of jelly in ponds, ditches and slow-moving streams. The black specks are eggs.



**Hazel catkins**

These are the male flowers of the hazel tree. They're sometimes called lambs' tails.



**Snowdrops**

One of the earliest bulbs to flower. Look out for them in damp woods and by streams.

**First signs of spring**



**Birds building nests**

Keep your eyes peeled for birds carrying materials for nest-building.



**Bluebell shoots**

These pop up early to get as much light as possible before the tree canopy closes over.



**Lesser celandine**

Look out for shiny yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves covering woodland floors.



**Primrose**

Primroses like damp and shade; spot them in woods, meadows and hedgebanks.



**Elder budburst**

The elder is one of the first trees to sprout leaves. Look out for its dark red buds bursting open.

**Keep your eyes peeled during January and February – spring's not as far off as it seems.**

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