

# Window on wildlife launched

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AN INITIATIVE that aims to highlight the vast array of wildlife that can be seen from the train was launched in Perth on Saturday.

The Nature on Track project hopes to help rail passengers get more out of their journeys between Perth and Montrose, spotting everything from deer and buzzards to seals and even white-tailed sea eagles.

A guide to spotting the wildlife has been created as part of Tayside Biodiversity

Festival and it was handed out to travellers of all ages at the weekend.

BigBuzz performer Anneliese Emmans Dean and internationally-acclaimed viola player John Rayson travelled with a special ScotRail train on Saturday and Sunday to raise the profile of the project and of Anneliese's own Buzzing project, which celebrates garden creepy crawlies.

A spokesman for ScotRail said, "The railways are a

rich and valued haven for wildlife.

"The number of creatures of all shapes and sizes that can be seen from many of our trains is extraordinary."

After leaving Perth Station, the train made its way to Carnoustie, Arbroath and Montrose for further launch events feature "buzzing poetry" and live music.

On Sunday there were multi-media events at the Scottish Wildlife Trust's

Montrose Basin Visitor Centre before the train made the journey back to Perth.

Tayside Biodiversity coordinator Catherine Lloyd said the unusual event had been a fitting culmination to the month-long Tayside Biodiversity Festival.

She added, "The festival has offered a huge array of events from walks, talks, workshops and tours, to the co-comedy by the Perth Youth Theatre

Collective, The Tree.

"Dundee has been enjoying its BBC Breathing Places Wild Day Out events at Dundee Sensation and Sunday's BioBiltz at the Troattick Ponds.

"The Angus Ranger Service has been extremely busy offering a variety of events—many of them linking to the garden wildlife theme being celebrated with this unusual two-day travelling event on the trains between Perth and Montrose."

Covered 20/05/10



PEOPLE WITH an interest in orchards were given the opportunity to join a team of experts yesterday, as they explored one of the best in the Carse of Gowrie.

As part of the Tayside

Biodiversity Festival, informal tours of Megginch Castle orchard and walled garden were led by lichenologists John Douglass and Peder Aspen, who pointed out the lichens living on the fruit trees.

Another expert, David Bell, of Abernethy, identified plants, insects and birds, and explained the variety of wildlife that use orchards. The festival runs until the end of the month.

● Mr Aspen, Mr Bell, Mr Douglass, orchard adviser Andrew Lear, biodiversity officer Catherine Lloyd, McManus Galleries entomologist David Lampard and SCRF's Gavin Ramsay.