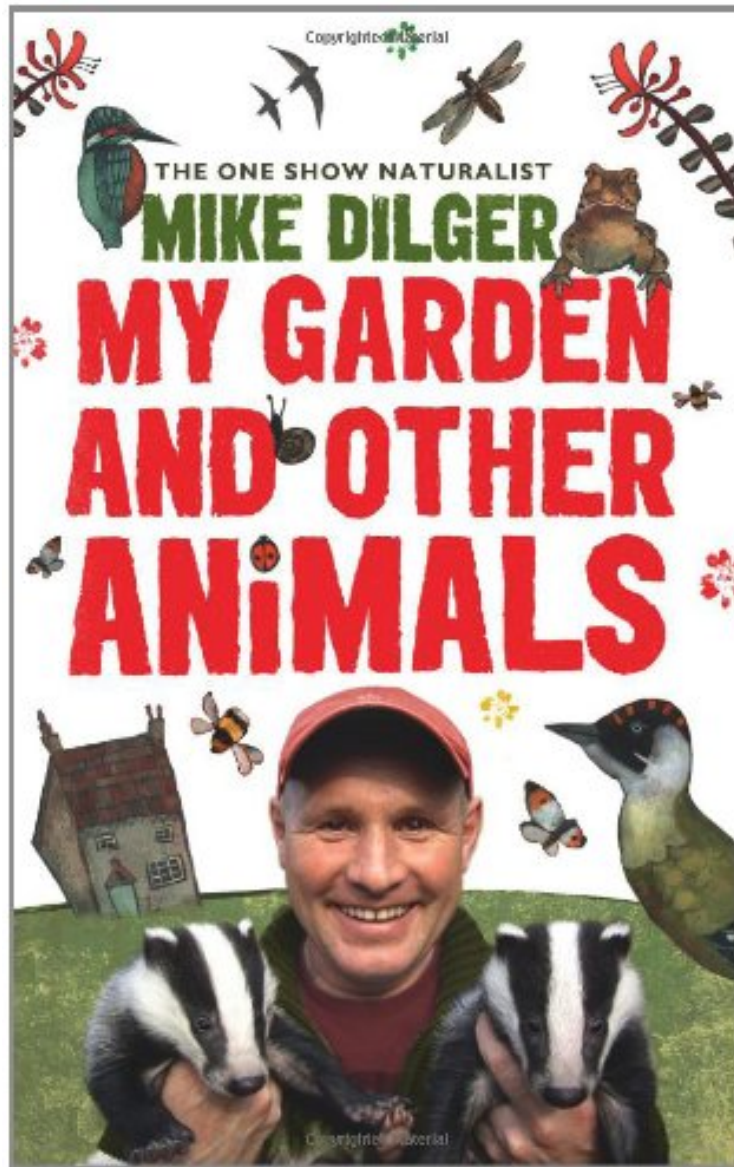


## My Garden and Other Animals

Mike Dilger

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**Mike Dilger : My Garden and Other Animals** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Garden and Other Animals:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Year in the Life of Mike Dilger By Brett HMike Dilger has written this book about his new house in Bristol aka his wildlife sanctuary. The house itself is a rather unprepossessing ex council house, but the attraction to Mike and his partner, Christina, was the large garden running down to a brook.

This volume describes the first year of their occupation, a chapter for each month, and covers both the renovation of the garden, his numerous natural observations, both animal and plant and his interaction with the good folks of Chew Stoke. Mike is one of the world's great enthusiasts and is definitely a 'glass half full' man. A blackbird singing, wonderful. A fox in the garden, exciting. An otter swimming along the brook, fantastic - actually he is right about the last! I think you have to share the author's love of all things natural to enjoy this book, but that would apply to many if not most people. His great enthusiasm for everything he comes across does rather dilute his message, since the really outstanding events do not stand out from the more everyday sights. When I started this book it quickly became obvious that Mike is actually quite a witty writer as he sets the scene in the first chapter, describing both the house and garden, and his meetings with his new neighbours. However, as the book goes on there is the occasional slightly funny observation, but he seems to become fixated on what he has observed and in that respect the narrative becomes rather drier and more of an objective journal. As in any garden, the months of March to June are probably the most exciting as the animals and plants respond to the coming of Spring and Summer. Later in the year the author continues his observations at the same pace, but frankly spotting his fifth type of dragonfly of the year is, perhaps, not right up there with the otter sighting. This is a book which I enjoyed, though I did feel that it lagged a bit in places. However, as this is a factual account, it could not really be helped. Incidentally I also learned quite a lot about species of animals and insects which I thought I already knew quite well!

After the best part of forty years spent either living under his parents' roof, in the tropical rainforests of three continents, a vast array of student digs or most recently a one-bedroom flat, The One Show's Mike Dilger has at last bought a house - and with it, a (potentially) glorious garden... 'Potential' was definitely the word that sprang to mind the very first time Mike and his partner Christina viewed their new 'house-and-garden-to-be' in a small rural village some eight miles south of Bristol. And so begins their year-long journey to create their very own wildlife sanctuary. From otters to badgers, chickens to hedgehogs, an orchard, a pond and compost bins, to the best birdlife imaginable, what began as a straightforward mission soon became the adventure of a lifetime. Illustrated throughout with beautiful black-and-white line drawings by Christina Holvey, Mike Dilger's partner-in-crime, this light-hearted nature tale with a twist will appeal to wildlife enthusiasts and keen gardeners alike.

'Anyone who has ever fed the birds, watched wildlife in their garden, or simply enjoyed getting closer to nature will find this book funny, uplifting and ultimately very moving.' Daily Mail 'Those who have seen Dilger on The One Show will know what to expect: bounce, enthusiasm, knowledge and a cheery acceptance of nature's caprices.' The Independent, featured as a Natural History book of the year 2012 About the Author Mike Dilger is an enthusiastic naturalist and freelance presenter. He spent four years as a research biologist in the tropics of Ecuador, Tanzania and Vietnam and is a regular presenter on nature programmes. Having birded, botanized and entomologised in a huge range of countries, he has accumulated an encyclopaedic knowledge of British and South American wildlife and a strong familiarity with the nature of Vietnam and Tanzania. Mike is also a member of many wildlife charities and has trained as a PADI open water diver.