



# Bristol Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity No. 235494

## Wildlife News: Week 24 – June 16<sup>th</sup> 2008

### Weather.

The weather has been dominated by a huge area of high pressure dominating the Atlantic, spreading from Greenland to the Azores, and this has created a northerly flow of air across Britain, with no active weather fronts, and often little wind. This has meant a cooler week, average 18.0C, nearly two degrees below the recent average for the week. Year to date is 12.5C, similar to 2004, but well below last year. The past twelve months has fallen a little to 14.16C. We think of last year's summer as cold and wet- but the temperature so far this summer has been very similar- though of course we have not had the rain.

There was 10mm of rain only, so that we have had 504mm so far this year, 105mm above average for the date, and 1009mm in the past twelve months.

### Spring events.

A rush of new flowers this week. Twelve new species in flower on the Downs, and 31 new first flower dates. My predictions for the week were very accurate, partly because this year's dates are now very close to the average. The difference between this spring and last remains three days later than last year, but six days earlier than average. There were 85 species in bloom on my Downs walk, including Enchanter's Nightshade, Great Lettuce, Black Horehound, Vervain, Common Lime, Ragwort, Ladies and Hedgerow Bedstraw, Madder, Parsley, and both Great and Common Knapweed. The Downs Meadows are looking magnificent at present with Common Spotted and Bee Orchids, Yellowwort, Kidney Vetch, and the first Marbled Whites appearing.

### Plants that may come into flower this week.

Musk Mallow, Silverweed, Creeping Jenny, RoseBay Willowherb, Agrimony, Himalayan Balsam, Evening Primrose, Chicory, Wood Sage, Rest Harrow, Crow Garlic, Upright Hedge Parsley, Basil, Celery, Great Plantain. These predictions are based on last year's dates. Each week I take the previous week's list, delete those plants I have found in flower, and add from last year's dates. It does help to know what to look for.

### Autumn

The first cherries are being eaten by Blackbirds- though it seems to be a poor crop, and Mespil berries are still unripe. Currents and Raspberries are ripening in gardens.

### Peregrine triumph.

Five juvenile Peregrine chicks are on the point of fledging- the largest clutch we have ever had. There is a special Peregrine watch next weekend, which should see some spectacular flying as the adults try to teach the young the tricks of the trade

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