



Bristol Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity No. 235494

Wildlife News: Week 26 – June 30th 2008

The year is on the turn, and the minutes of daylight are growing less daily, even though the temperature is likely to increase. Last July was miserably cold, and created problems for many fledgling birds; let us hope that this July is better.

Weather in June.

Average temperature 18.6C, colder than the average since 1881 of 19.3, colder than last year and the coldest since 2002. The June climate (ie 30 year average) fell steadily from a peak of 19.7C in 1961 to a low of 18.6C in 2000. It has begun to increase, and stands at 18.9 at present. The hottest June ever was in 1887 at 25.9C, the coldest 1991 at 15.3C. It was also a dry month (a contrast with last year) with 45mm, as opposed to the average since 1853 of 63mm. In climate terms June has been getting steadily wetter since 1941 when the average was 51mm. Today it is 66mm.

The week's weather.

A warmer week, average 19.6C, dominated by southerly winds and low pressure to the west and north. Year to date reached 12.9C, and the last twelve months increased slightly to 14.19.

It was a cloudy week, with much less sunshine, and 16mm of rain. 534mm have fallen so far this year, 100mm more than average for the date. The last twelve months has seen 1039 mm fall.

Spring events.

This week has seen 18 new species come into flower- and a report of an exceptionally early ripe Blackberry. On the Downs 101 species were in flower, an increase on last week, and more than the recent average of 95 for the week. The average date for 163 spring events since Jan 1 is four days behind last year, but five days ahead of the average of the past five years. However a lot of the new species coming into flower now are three weeks behind last years dates, partly because June this year was colder than last.

Plants that may come into flower this week.

Chicory, Rest Harrow, Upright Hedge Parsley, Basil, Red Bartsia, Traveller's Joy, Musk Thistle, Small-leaved lime, Hoary Ragwort, Golden Rod, Keeled garlic, Nettle-leaved Bellflower, Mugwort, Tansy, Dwarf Thistle. 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.

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