



# Bristol Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity No. 235494

## Wildlife News: Week 16 – April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010

### Weather

Dominated by high pressure and NE winds, with an average temperature 14.6C, slightly warmer than last week, but with two frost nights, because it was an almost cloud-free week, with an average of 10 hours sunlight a day, double the normal average for April. Year-to-date, 8.1C and last twelve months 13.4C. A totally dry week- the last time any rain fell was April 4th, so a failure of April showers.

### Onset of Spring

There were 22 new events recorded on the Downs this week, and they had an average date of Day 88, compared with a recent average of Day 72 for the same events, so this spring is 16 days later than normal, and 21 days later than the early spring of 2007. New this week were Cuckoo Flower, Lilac, Laurel, Red Valerian, Cleavers, Herb Robert, Hedge Mustard, Wayfaring Tree, Spring Cinquefoil, and Great Celandine, as well as a number of trees reaching bud break. Some of these were up to 26 days later than the recent average date, others were five days early, stimulated presumably by the sunshine.

### To Look out for.

Species that are late are Bulbous Buttercup, usually out on March 13th, White Comfrey normally March 28th, Apple, and Honesty normally on April 1st, Cow Parsley, normally on 8th, Garlic Mustard, Rock Rose, Holly, Smooth Sowthistle, Ribwort Plantain and Black Medick all normally out by now.

Richard Bland  
[richardbland@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:richardbland@blueyonder.co.uk)