



# DOWN'S DIARY

## Your guide to watching wildlife

### June

In June, you may notice young birds that have recently fledged still begging for food from their harassed parents, particularly in species like **robins**, **tits** and **blackbirds**. The meadows are buzzing with wildlife as the grasses grow longer and flowers are abundant, attracting bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and many other animals. The **peregrine falcon chicks** will fledge this month. The Bristol Ornithological Club are running a peregrine watch weekend on **23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June**. Pop along to the **Peregrine Watch Point** to take a look.

6-spot burnet moth



The adult **6-spot burnet moths** fly on hot, sunny days from June to August and are attracted to a wide variety of flowers such as **knapweed** and **scabious** as well as the larval food plants **bird's-foot-trefoil** and **clover**. The forewings are dark metallic green with six vivid red spots (sometimes the spots are merged causing possible confusion with other species such as the 5-spot burnet).



Bird's-foot-trefoil

Bee orchid



The **bee orchid** mimics the shapes and smells of a female bee. These striking flowers are furry to the touch and are quite variable in their pattern and colouration. Also look out for **common spotted orchids**. Please do not pick them though!

The **bird's-foot-trefoil** has inspired people so much that it has collected over 70 nicknames, one of the most popular being 'eggs and bacon'. It is an important foodplant for the caterpillars of the common blue butterflies and 6-spot burnet moths.

Gate keeper



Common blue



Marbled white



Butterflies you'll see in June are the **gatekeeper**, **common blue**, **marbled white** and **meadow brown**.

Tell us about your wildlife sightings! Contact Mandy Leivers, 0117 9030609, [mleivers@bristolzoo.org.uk](mailto:mleivers@bristolzoo.org.uk)

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