



DOWN'S DIARY

Your guide to watching wildlife

May

May is a colourful and busy month. Flowers are in bloom, birds are nesting and butterflies are feeding. The trees are looking wonderful with their fresh foliage. Look out for blossoms such as **horse chestnut**, **whitebeam**, **elder** and the beautiful **hawthorn**. The hawthorn really outshines the others when it comes to the sheer amount of blossom it can produce. But don't be fooled - the flowers may look magical, but the smell they produce is anything but! They make a chemical that resembles the smell of rotting flesh to attract flies to pollinate them.

Peregrine falcons are nesting in the Avon Gorge where they have been successfully raising chicks since 1990. The perfect place to spot the **peregrine falcons** is at Peregrine Watch on Circular Road. They are the fastest animal on the planet being able to fly at 200 mph!

Peregrine falcon chick



Male adult peregrine falcon

Butterflies you can see this month include **holly blues**, **common blues**, **speckled woods** and wonderful **orange-tips**. **Swifts** have also returned on their migration from Africa which means that warmer weather is soon on its way.

If you get a chance to get close to a **horse chestnut candle**, have a good look at its flowers as they are delicate and understated. They start out pink, but turn yellow once they are pollinated! How amazing is that?!

Horse chestnut candle



Holly blue



Speckled wood



Orange tip



Long-horned moth



Tell us about your wildlife sightings! Contact Mandy Leivers, 0117 9030609, mleivers@bristolzoo.org.uk

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