



Downs Diary

Your guide to watching wildlife

August

This is an exciting month of abundance, with juicy berries ripening all over the Downs. The birds go a bit quiet at this time of year as many of them moult their feathers, however **robins** can be heard quietly singing their autumnal song, hidden in dense bushes. **Swifts** start their long migration back to Africa. Part of arriving safely involves forecasting the weather and making good use of favourable winds. Pretty amazing!

Swift



Wasp

Queen wasps will lay eggs from which males and new queens hatch. These will fly off to mate. The males die and the new queens look for places to hibernate for the Winter. The old queen then dies and the papery wasp's nest is abandoned.



Harebell



Blackberries



Elderberries

Harebells makes an appearance with their beautiful purple bell-shaped flowers. **Blackberries** and **elderberries** can be seen all over the Downs - birds, insects and mammals will be joining in the feast! Look out for fox poo, which will be full of partly digested blackberries!

Tell us about your wildlife sightings by contacting
Mandy Leivers on (0117) 9030609 or email mleivers@bristolzoo.org.uk
www.avongorge.org.uk www.facebook.com/avongorge

Written by Denice Stout