



Marsh violet



Firecrest



Large Red Damselfly

Photos: Roger Hamling

Bystock Pools Spring 2023

Reserve management

Over the winter the wardens and work parties have been clearing the undergrowth from the top (north) end of the Copse. Large areas of the Meadow have also been cleared of bramble, birch and hawthorn. This will allow light to reach the many low-growing wild flowers that are found in these areas.

What's been happening

Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been drumming in the Copse and around the Meadow and a pair of Green Woodpeckers are calling over the reserve. Song Thrushes, Mistle Thrushes and Blackbirds are establishing territories. A pair of Stonechats have been seen in the Meadow occasionally throughout the winter and may be holding territory. A Tawny Owl has been heard calling during the day.

Flora and fauna to look for in spring

The scrub clearance in the Copse should result in a lovely display of Bugle and Wild Strawberries. Marsh Violets can be seen in the wet areas near the Wright's Lane entrance.

Migrant birds such as chiffchaff, willow warbler and blackcap will still be returning up to mid May. Spotted flycatchers arrive from late May to early June to take advantage of large numbers of emerging insects. Last year, four singing firecrests were heard.

Large Red damselflies and Hairy dragonflies fly from mid-April and Downy Emerald dragonflies from mid-May. Early flying butterflies include Brimstone, Comma, Red Admiral and Peacock.

On warm days, from early May, Small Heath and Common Blue butterflies can be seen flying in the Meadow and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries flying along the margins. Look out for Green Hairstreak butterflies and Green Tiger Beetles on the heathland areas.

Nightjars arrive back in late April to early May. Listen for their churring at dusk and dawn.



Please
Keep
Dogs
on
Leads