



Downy Emerald



Common Spotted Orchid  
and Birds-foot Trefoil



Small Red Damselfly

Photos: Roger Hamling

# Bystock Pools Summer 2026

### Wildlife news

Spring brought two migrating Wheatear to the meadow. Brimstone butterflies were numerous in the reserve along with several Common blue and small copper butterflies. Three Small Pearl-bordered fritillaries have been reported.

Downy Emerald dragonflies are doing well. There were fewer Hairy Dragonflies. Red-eyed damselflies have been seen for the third year.

### Wildlife to look for

Golden-ringed Dragonflies, Keeled Skimmers, Emperors, Four-spotted Chasers, Common Darters, Southern and Migrant Hawkets will be on the wing along with Beautiful Demoiselle, Common Blue, Large Red and Azure Damselflies. Small-red Damselflies can be found around the Long Ponds (mid June to mid-August). Look for them resting on the surrounding vegetation (they are all red - thorax, abdomen and legs).

Common Spotted Orchids flower during June and early July.

Green Hairstreak, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large and Small Skippers can be seen in both the copse and the meadow along with Silver-washed Fritillaries. In addition to these species, Marbled White butterflies can be found in the meadow. In mid-summer white admirals can be seen around the edges of the meadow and in the Copse.

Nightjars will be churring at dusk throughout June, July and into August. Look for them hawking over the open heath and the reservoir as the light fades. When it's really dark, look for glow-worms in the vegetation.

### Beavers

Our beavers have been busy with their extension of the reservoir dam, resulting in water overflowing the path. It is intended to alleviate this with a bypass. The work cannot take place whilst breeding is possible.



Please  
Keep  
Dogs  
on  
Leads