

# Nature News - June

Birds - Look out for birds taking caterpillars or insects to their nests. Most garden birds, feed their young on insects at this time of year. In hot weather, don't put out dry food like stale bread, as it can make the birds thirsty and dehydrated. Always chop nuts or use a feeder, as whole nuts can choke baby birds.

Birds need water for drinking and bathing. Water is important in dry, hot weather during the summer when water can be hard to find. Why not try making a bird bath?

Insects - Look out for butterflies (check out our butterfly spotter) and ...

Lacewing



Green shield bug



Hornet



Plants - Look out for...

foxgloves



red campion



ragged robin.



If you get tiny bugs such as aphids (greenfly) on your plants, avoid spraying, as pesticides also kill ladybirds and other helpful insects. Many birds will eat these bugs.

## Making a bird bath...

### You need

- A shallow, watertight bowl of some kind, such as an upturned dustbin lid or large circular plant tray (max depth of 10cm, and more than 30cm across)
- Some stones or gravel
- Bricks to raise the bowl up
- Rainwater or tapwater

### To make your bird bath.

1. Lay out four bricks on a piece of open lawn or border, where the birds will have a good view all around but can dart into the cover of bushes or trees nearby if they need to. If cats visit your garden, make sure there is nowhere they can hide within pouncing distance.
2. Then put your upturned dustbin lid on top of the bricks. Make sure it is stable.
3. **Is the bird bath slippery?** Feel if the inside of the bird bath is too smooth. If it is, the birds might slip into the water. Put some pebbles or rocks in the water to give them a better grip.



4.

**4. Fill with water and watch!** You need to keep the bird bath well topped-up in summer and ice-free in winter. In frosty weather, pour in warm (not hot) water, or gently knock the ice out and replace with fresh water from the tap.

5.

**What you'll see.** Blackbirds, robins, sparrows and starlings love a quick dip, while wood pigeons may just sit in the water to cool off! You'll even see bumblebees coming for a drink! Bathing helps birds keep their feathers in good condition.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=QT5kofLIDm8&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=QT5kofLIDm8&feature=emb_logo)



# British Butterflies

These butterflies can all be found in flight during July. How many will you see?



Speckled Wood



Painted Lady



Swallowtail



Red Admiral



Gatekeeper



Scotch Argus



Marbled White



Small Copper



Peacock

