



What to look for in August

In **August** late flowering meadow plants are blooming - **Harebell**, **Knapweed** and **Devil's-bit Scabious**, are providing late summer nectar for many invertebrates. Devil's-bit Scabious is a member of the teasel family and is usually found in damp areas of meadow or woodland.



You still see **Poppies** flowering in August, a familiar sight on farmland and road verges. The poppy, or corn rose, was long thought to have a connection to a good harvest. It

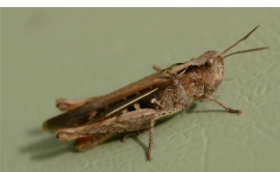


Poppies in bloom

grows well on disturbed ground (such as recently ploughed fields) when the seeds, which can lay dormant for decades, are brought up to the surface where they are able to germinate. In grassland areas you can clearly hear the sound of **Grasshoppers and Crickets**. Adult male grasshoppers attract females with their chirping song which they make by rubbing their back legs against their forewings during daylight.

Above: Devil's-bit Scabious

Below: Harebell



Grasshopper

Crickets make a higher pitched sound by rubbing one wing over the other and generally 'sing' in the evening and at night. Grasshoppers and crickets look similar, but can be distinguished by the length of the antennae, which are much longer on a cricket. Sharp eyes will spot **Bats** flying in the evening, often around ponds. Bats emerge from their roosts at dusk to hunt for insects, which they catch and eat in mid-air. Young bats will be around 6 weeks old and starting to hunt insects for themselves.



Pipistrelle Bat

Gradually the summer maternity colonies will start to disperse and bats will move to their autumn mating roosts. There are 18 species of bat in the UK, the species you are most likely to see in Bromley are Pipistrelle, Serotines and Daubentons.