



What to look for in June

In **June** meadows take over from woodlands as the best place to see colourful wildflowers. On chalky grasslands look out for the many different species of orchid just coming into flower. The **Early Purple Orchid** is the most commonly seen, with its small purple flowers and spotted leaves, whilst the Common Spotted Orchid is distinctive for the markings on its lower petals. Whilst out in the meadows, be on the look out for other grassland flowers such as



Above: Oxeye Daisy
Below: Common Spotted Orchid

Bird's-foot Trefoil and **Oxeye Daisy**. Bird's-foot Trefoil is a member of the pea family and its roots are inhabited by a nitrogen-fixing bacteria that enriches the soil it grows upon.



Common Brown Carder Bee

The blooming meadow flowers provide a source of pollen and nectar for many

pollinating insects. Charles Darwin was one of the first to show that cross-pollination by insects produced better quality seeds and plants. Butterflies, moths, beetles and bees are all



Birds-foot Trefoil

common plant pollinators. The most common species of bumblebee, such as **white-tailed bumblebees** and **buff-tailed bumblebees** are generalists that can feed off a wide range of different flowers and are often seen in gardens. The **brown carder bees** are the last bumblebees to emerge, they are not usually seen until late June or July. June is the last month to hear the dawn chorus, as birds stop singing as the mating season comes to a close.



Yellowhammer

Farmland birds such as **Yellowhammer** add their voices; these are small birds, with the males distinctive for their yellow heads.