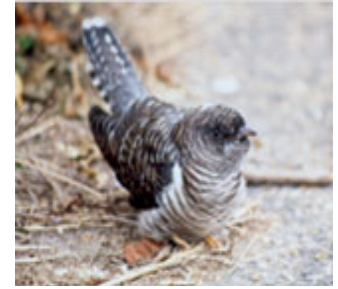




What to look for in May

In **May** listen out amongst the birdsong for **Cuckoos** calling in the woods. The cuckoo's familiar call makes it one of the best known, but least seen birds. It is the only British bird that does not raise its own young, but lays its eggs in the nests of other birds such as Dunnock.



Cuckoo



Woodlands will also be displaying large splashes of colour as

Bluebells come into flower. Although Bluebells are a common sight in the UK, they are rare elsewhere in the world and 30% of the global population is found in the British Isles. Meadow flowers such as **Cow Parsley** are a common sight in grassland and on road verges and in some fields you will also see



Yellow Rattle. When the seeds of this plant ripen, they rattle inside



Above: Yellow Rattle
Below: Orange-tip Butterfly

Above: Bluebells
Below: Cow Parsley

the capsule-like fruit. Also be on the look-out for **Garlic Mustard** in hedgerows, parks and gardens. This plant is an important one for **Orange-tip Butterflies**, which lay their eggs beneath the flowers. **Dragonflies and damsel-flies** start emerging from their larval form in May in ponds and streams. As adults they live only for a few weeks, but this is still longer than **Mayflies**, which also emerge



Cloeon dipterum
(female sub-imago)

Adult Mayfly

from the water this month but live as adults for just one day. When they emerge the adult Mayflies will mate, the female will lay her eggs underwater before both male and female die. There are 51 different species of Mayfly in the UK.