



Primrose



Brimstone



Wheatear

Photos: Roger Hamling

# Bystock Pools Spring 2025

## Reserve management

Over the winter months the work parties have been busy clearing Birch, Hawthorn and Willow from the meadow. This will allow light to reach the many low-growing flowers that are found in this area. Some scrub was left as dormouse nests were discovered. Work has been carried out on the west side of the Valley where Holly and Birch has encroached the heath.

## What's been happening

Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been drumming in the Copse and around the Meadow and a pair of Green Woodpeckers are calling over the reserve. Song Thrushes, Mistle Thrushes and Blackbirds are establishing territories. A pair of Stonechats have been seen in the Meadow occasionally throughout the winter and may be holding territory.

## Flora and fauna to look for in spring

The north end of the Copse produces a lovely display of Bugle and Wild Strawberries. Marsh Violets can be seen in the wet areas near the Wright's Lane entrance.

Migrant birds such as Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap will still be returning up to mid May. Spotted flycatchers arrive from late May to early June to take advantage of large numbers of emerging insects. Firecrests have held territories around the Wright's Lane entrance and the reservoir dam since 2020.

Large Red Damselflies and Hairy Dragonflies fly from mid-April and Downy Emerald dragonflies from mid-May. Early flying butterflies include Brimstone, Comma, Red Admiral and Peacock.

On warm days, from early May, Small Heath and Common Blue butterflies can be seen flying in the Meadow. Look out for Green Hairstreak butterflies and Green Tiger Beetles on the heathland areas.

Nightjars arrive back in late April to early May. Listen for their churring at dusk and dawn.



Please  
Keep  
Dogs  
on  
Leads