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.

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 the capsule-like fruit. Also be on the look-out for Garlic Mustard in hedge-rows, 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 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.