

August 13 – 19



Before you go outside, have you got a notebook and pen ready? In it, note the date, time and where you are. What can you smell?

This week we focus on butterflies. In the butterfly on the left, can you see orange shading with two delicate tails on the hindwing, and another orange patch on the fore wing? This is a female brown hairstreak butterfly. Its stronghold is the Burren but it is found near Lough Derg in Tipperary, parts of Galway and Mayo. Easiest seen in the morning, or evening, watch for adults nectaring on bramble. If you spot it, log your record with the National Biodiversity Data Centre <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie>



This is a good time of the year to spot small copper butterflies (image on right). The wings may also have bright blue dots on them. Adults lay eggs singly on larval foodplants: common or sheep's sorrel. Eggs are tiny, pitted domes in shape. If you spot it, log your record with the National Biodiversity Data Centre <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie>



August 20 – 26



Sit and breathe, and think back to when you were last out. What three things did you smell? Describe your experiences and capture these memories.



Have you spotted a strange fantastically woven structure that seems to be attached to dog rose? Watch out for these unusual hairy growths. Richly coloured, they are formed by rose bedeguar gall wasps, *Diplolepis rosae*, when their larvae secrete chemicals which causes 'Robin's pincushion' structures to develop. Find out more here: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/galls/robins-pincushion>



Keep an eye on ox-eye daisies, to see if you can spot a striking plant bug, the rose spotted plant bug. Find out more about them here https://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Miridae/calocoris_roseo_maculatus.html.