



**S. E. Hampshire**

# Nature Notes

Week ending April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024.

## BIRDS

There was a male mandarin duck on Staunton Park lake on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

A dozen **eiders** and a **common scoter** were seen at Hill Head on 1<sup>st</sup>. On the same day 41 scoters flew east past Sandy Point.

A female **goosander** was off Southmoor on 2<sup>nd</sup> until spooked by a swan.

An **alpine swift** was seen in Mill Rythe Creek Hayling moving south from the marina on 7<sup>th</sup>. (Find pictures at <https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffab&q=Alpine+swift&iax=images&ia=images>.)

There was a **whimbrel** on the shore at Southmoor on 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the same day a **bar-tailed godwit** was seen at Farlington.

There were over 80 **turnstones** at Hill Head on 1<sup>st</sup>.

An adult **little gull** was on the Budds Farm sewage works on 2<sup>nd</sup> and an immature was seen early on 6<sup>th</sup> over the Bridge St floods, by midday over the Posbook floods and it was still around at 1700.

Around 400 **Mediterranean gulls** were reported from Farlington Marshes on 6<sup>th</sup>.

A winter plumage **guillemot** was off Hill Head on 1<sup>st</sup>.

Two **great northern divers** were seen from Sandy Point on 1<sup>st</sup> and later in the week in the bay.

There was an **osprey** on Long Island in Langstone Harbour on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> when it was in the usual trees on Long Island. On 6<sup>th</sup>

it caught a fish but dropped it when harassed by gulls and then resorted to Long Island.

A **marsh harrier** was seen from the Titchfield canal path on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Swallows** were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> at Farlington and on 6<sup>th</sup> on

Portsdown and the Titchfield canal path. (Photo: Ian Mears.)

Three **house martins** flew over Lovedean and one over Farlington on 6<sup>th</sup>.



A male **ring ouzel** was in the trees along the south end of Crooked Walk Lane Portsdown on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Redstarts** were seen on Old Winchester Hill and on Portsdown NW of Fort Southwick on 7<sup>th</sup>.

## BUTTERFLIES

Two **speckled woods** were seen on Farlington Marshes on 7<sup>th</sup>.

## WILD FLOWERS

Two **wayfarer trees** are in flower on Milton Common.

An **early purple orchid** was spotted on Farlington Marshes on 7<sup>th</sup>.

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