

S. E. Hampshire Nature Notes



April 2nd to 8th 2018

BIRDS

There were 18 **common scoters** off Stokes Bay a.m. on 2nd and 5 off Sandy Point Hayling Island on 7th. One was east of Long Island in Langstone Harbour on 5th when 3 and 17 **aiders** were off Southsea. The **velvet scoter** and **scaup** off Farlington Marshes were mid channel from the point looking east towards RSPB Island on 3rd and still around on 8th.

Two **black-throated divers** flew east past Stokes Bay on 2nd and 2 **great northern divers** were feeding east of Long Island on 5th. Up to 3 **black-throated** and 6 **red-throated divers** were reported from Sandy Point Hayling on 7th.



Photo: M Vanner

An **osprey** flew west over Portsdown at lunch time on 5th and a **red kite** over Hill Head on 7th.

There was still a **spoonbill** at Farlington Marshes on 3rd. Two were reported on 5th.

Ten **purple sandpipers** were at Southsea Castle on 3rd.

Over 300 **black-tailed godwits** were at Titchfield Haven on 5th.

Three **ruffs** were at Farlington Marshes on 8th including a white male that had previously been at Keyhaven.

A **whimbrel** flew over Farlington Marshes on 7th.

Arctic skuas have been seen off Hayling Island, Stokes Bay and Hill Head this week. A **gannet** flew past Stokes Bay on 2nd.

Sandwich terns are now being seen widely along the coast. There were also 6 **common terns** off Stokes Bay and 50 were off Sandy Point on 7th.

Three **short-eared owls** were at Farlington Marshes on 2nd including a dark plumage bird. One was around on 5th. A **tawny owl** was calling in the Widley area on 5th.

Selbourne, the Hampshire tagged **cuckoo**, is now in southern France on his way north.

A **water pipit** was present on the area of cut reeds by the lake at Farlington on 5th.

Swallows have been seen in many places including 20

with **house** and **sand martins** at Heath Pond (Petersfield). There were also 3 sand martins at Farlington Marshes on 8th.

Two male **wheatears** were on Farlington Marshes on 7th and a female on 8th.

Chiffchaff are now widespread and there has been a significant influx of **blackcaps**. Ten were at Farlington Marshes on 8th and 12 have been present in a Cosham garden.

There was a **sedge warbler** singing from reeds at the west end of the IBM Lake (Cosham) on 3rd and 1 was in reed beds on the Titchfield Haven Canal Path on 7th. Two **Cetti's warblers** were calling from the reeds on Milton Common Portsmouth.

Two redpolls at Petersfield on 2nd were thought to be **mealy redpolls**. Identification of redpolls is difficult.

BUTTERFLIES

Peacocks and **brimstones** were out in the sun on 5th and 6th.

At Monks Walk, Frater Fields & Woods, Gosport on 6th 4 **commas**, a **small tortoiseshell**, and a female **small white** were seen. There were also small whites in Cosham and Portsdown gardens.

A first **holly blue** was in a Cosham garden this week.

In Havant Thicket on 5th on the main track and in Bell's Copse there were 5 male **brimstones**.

PLANTS

In St Mary's churchyard Hayling Island there is a mass of **wild strawberries** in flower and a smaller colony of **wood anemones** still restricted to one grave plot.

OTHER WILDLIFE

A **weasel** ran across the A272 west of Petersfield on 3rd.

