

S. E. Hampshire

Nature Notes



December 17th to 30th 2018

BIRDS

A flock of over 150 **barnacle geese** flew over Langstone Harbour on 26th and split with 50 landing on South Binness Island and the rest flying towards North Hayling.



Last week's **ferruginous duck** (left) was still on the mill pond at Bedhampton (SU704064) on 30th.

Eiders were seen west of the oyster beds and

off Southsea on 24th.

Two redhead **goosanders** were off the Hill Head sailing club on 24th & 27th.

There were 2 **red-throated divers** off Hill Head on 24th and 3 flew east.

A **great northern diver** was off Hayling Island Sailing club in Chichester Harbour on 17th. Up to 3 were seen at Hill Head from 24th to 27th and 1 was at Southsea on 24th.

On 28th a single **shag** flew east past Southsea Castle at dusk.

Six **black-necked grebes** were seen North West of the oyster beds on 24th and 2 **Slavonian grebes** off Hill Head on 25th. Another Slavonian was close offshore just west of the shingle bank at Hill Head on 19th and out from the sailing club with a crested grebe on 20th.

There was a **marsh harrier** over the reed beds at Farlington Marshes on 21st and one was seen from the roadside at Titchfield Haven on 24th.

There were 35 **avocets** on the lake at Farlington Marshes on 21st and a similar number on 24th.

There were small groups of **purple sandpipers** at Southsea Castle from 19th but on 28th and 29th 9 and 10 were seen.

Two **razorbills** were in the Langstone Harbour Entrance on 29th.

A flock of over 500 **herring gulls** were all along the beach at Southsea, probably attracted by a starfish wreck although they seem to have problems dealing with them.

A **short-eared owl** was on the point field at Farlington on 21st.

Merlins were seen at Eastoke Hayling Island on 24th and Posbrook Floods on 26th.

A female or immature **black redstart** landed on the fence-line between the road and the river at Hill Head (SU532022) on 27th before being flushed by a car.

A **goldcrest** somehow managed to get shut in in the Head Forrester's van at Stansted Park on 17th. It flew off quite happily after an hour or so incarceration.

A late **swallow** flew east over Farlington Marshes on 21st.

There was a **Dartford Warbler** in gorse on the west side of the chalets at Hill Head (SU526026) Seen from beach side looking north.



There was a **rock pipit** at Southsea Castle on 19th and a **water pipit** at the back of the lake at Farlington Marshes on 21st. On 29th 4 water pipits were in a partly flooded meadow just S of Hammonds Bridge on the Titchfield Haven Canal Path and at least 2 additional birds further up the path.

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