



S. E. Hampshire

Nature Notes

February 18th to 24th 2019

BIRDS

Last week's **black swans** on Heath Pond Petersfield were still there on 20th.

There was a **red-necked grebe** in the Hampshire end of Chichester Harbour on 18th.

There were 18 **black-necked grebes** at Hayling oyster beds on 22nd.

A **shag** was feeding close to the shore on 19th and 20th and 3 were there on 24th at Southsea Castle.

There was a single **cattle egret** at Warblington on 21st and 4 on 24th.

Ten **little egrets** were in corn stubble at North Boarhunt on 23rd. Eight were roosting in trees at 14:50.

A **spoonbill** was seen in the distance behind the main lake from viewing benches at Farlington Marshes on 24th.

Red kites were seen over Warnford and Bedhampton on 20th, Deanlane End on 21st, Titchfield Haven on 23rd and Bartons Green, Havant on 24th.

Flocks of **buzzards** have been seen over farms north of Southwick mid-week and at the week end over Bartons Green Havant and a Cosham garden.

There were 16 **avocets** on the north and south scrapes at Titchfield Haven on 24th.

Forty **sanderlings** sheltered from the wind on the shingle spit at Hill Head at high tide on 23rd. A dozen were at Fort Cumberland the same day.

Two **common sandpipers** were at Fareham Creek on 18th. One was along the margin of the golf course pool and a second half an hour later beside the Cams Restaurant. There were 2 common sandpipers and 3 **jack snipes** at Farlington Marshes on 22nd.

Up to 11 **purple sandpipers** have been seen this week at Southsea Castle.

A **great skua** was seen on the beach at Sandy Point Hayling on 20th

Razorbills were seen on 19th at Black Point Hayling and east of the Northney Hayling marina. The latter bird was off Warblington on 21st and one was at Sandy Point on 23rd.

There were 2 **Mediterranean gulls** on Heath Pond (Petersfield) on 20th but around 300 were counted at the oyster beds on 23rd. Fifty were on playing fields in Havant earlier that day.

The Titchfield Haven Canal Path **barn owl** was in its usual tree south of the Bridge Rd car-park on 21st. A **little owl** was sitting in a gun hole in the fort wall at Fort Cumberland on 21st and 22nd. It was seen from sea wall fence at the very south east point of Eastney point / Fort Cumberland looking North. Two were around on 23rd.

A **peregrine** was resting on the small oaks on North Binness Island in Langstone Harbour on 24th.

On 21st a **merlin** flew low over the reed bed at Farlington.

A **firecrest** was seen north of the lock gate on the Titchfield Haven Canal Path on 19th.

Three **bearded tits** flew over the reeds at Farlington Marshes on 21st - hopefully evading the merlin! One flew across the lake the next day and again on 24th.

Four **Cettii's warblers** were recorded round the ponds on Milton Common Portsmouth on 24th.

A **chiffchaff** was showing and singing well at the rear of Sunningdale Road Portchester on 19th.

A **black redstart** was at the east side of main buildings around a concrete and rubble pile at Fort Cumberland on 21st. It was still present the next day.

Male and female **siskins** were seen on feeders at Deanlane End on 21st.

PLANTS

Lots of **lesser celandine** are flowering in Hulbert Rd Waterlooville and one or two in a Portsdown garden. Cherry plum is in full bloom in Wade Lane Havant.

BUTTERFLIES

Brimstones were seen in Portsdown and Lovedean gardens on 22nd and were widespread by the week end. **Peacocks** were present on Hayling Island on 21st and Broadmarsh on 23rd.

Also at the week end **commas** and **red admirals** were seen in Clanfield and Cosham gardens.

OTHER WILDLIFE

A dead **pigmy shrew** was found on a Wade Court Havant garden path on 21st.



Send information for these notes to john@havantnature.net. The notes are usually produced on Mondays.

Contact : John Goodspeed, Phone 023 9222 1361 E Mail: John@havantnature.net

Web Page: www.havantnature.net