

S. E. Hampshire Nature Notes

May 28th to June 3rd 2018



BIRDS

Mandarin ducks have been seen at 2 local sites this week. A drake was on the deeps at Farlington Marshes on 1st and 1 of unspecified gender at Staunton CP on 3rd.

A drake **long-tailed duck** in adult summer plumage was offshore near Monk's Hill car park at Hill Head at 16.00 on 31st. A **common scoter** flew east also in the Hill Head area.

Two **red kites** were hunting low over a field next to the A272 west of Petersfield on 31st. Wednesday's Trust walk found **Mediterranean gulls** and a **buzzard** on ploughed fields east of Racton Farm and one possibly two **nightingales** were heard by those who hung on in Marlpit Lane till later at the end of the walk.



There was a **short-eared owl** at Sandy Point Hayling Island on 2nd. Single adult and juvenile **tawny owls** were seen on the east side of Titchfield Haven opposite the pond on 3rd.

Also on 3rd **cuckoos** were heard at Titchfield Haven north of the Spurgin hide and on the Titchfield canal path where it was also seen.

Ten **swifts** were seen over Cosham train station on 28th and 3 over Jessie Road Southsea on 1st. But the best report this week was on 30th of a large flock, guessed at 50+, over the west end of Portsdown.

Four **stonechats** and 2 **yellowhammers** were on fields off Beckford Lane Denmead on 4th. A **Cetti's warbler** was singing on the Hermitage Stream in Leigh Park on 3rd.

BUTTERFLIES

A very fresh **painted lady** was seen between the car park and oyster beds on Hayling island on 28th.

On 1st in the unmown field adjacent to the top of Farlington Avenue there was a very fresh Painted Lady and a good number of **burnet companion** moths. A surprise small blue was on the grass 'island' opposite The George. There are many of these further west on Portsdown and particularly in the Paulsgrove chalk pit.

PLANTS

A **common spotted orchid** has appeared in a Waterlooville garden hanging basket. (Pictures at <http://www.havantnature.net/wildlifepictures.html>)

Bee orchids are in flower in the Paulsgrove chalk pit.

Common broomrape was seen in the unmown field at the top of Farlington Avenue this week. **Knapweed broomrape** is widespread on Portsdown.

Winter cress and **caper spurge** (*right*) were among the wild flowers seen on Wednesday's Trust walk.



OTHER WILDLIFE

A **hedgehog** has been a welcome new visitor in a Portsdown garden on three nights this week.

'**Dog vomit**' **slime mould** was seen this week on wood chips in Bound Lane Hayling.

