

S. E. Hampshire Nature Notes

June 4th to 10th 2018



BIRDS

A **hobby** was seen at Titchfield Haven on 4th and one flew high to the south over Hill Head on 10th.

There were 57 **sanderlings** at Sandy Point Hayling Island at high tide on 5th and 43 on 6th.

Ten **woodcocks** were an amazing sight at Botley Wood on 6th.

Four **little terns** were on the Southmoors shoreline on 4th.

A dark morph **arctic skua** was chasing terns on the morning of 4th at Sandy Point Hayling Island,

A **tawny owl** with 3 owlets was by the boardwalk on the left side of Titchfield Haven on 5th.

The only **cuckoo** report this week was of one at Titchfield Haven.

There were 2 **nightjars** at Browndown South on 5th and at least 4 were present in Botley Wood on 6th.

Two **grey wagtails** were feeding next to standing water at the Portsmouth University Eldon Building SZ640999 on 7th.

Seven **swifts** were seen over Leigh Park on 4th.

Two adult **mistle thrushes** were feeding a juvenile on cherries in a Denmead garden on 10th.

INSECTS

Large red and **azure damselflies**, **broad-bodied chaser dragon flies** and a **beautiful demoiselle** were seen in Havant Thicket on 6th. Male and female broad-bodied chasers and an **emperor dragonfly** were in a Portsdown garden on 8th.



BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies and moths recorded in Havant Thicket on 6th included **speckled wood**, **brimstone**, **holly blues**, **large skipper**, **common blue**, **meadow brown**, **small heath**, **green-veined**, **large** and **small white**, **red admirals**, **speckled yellow**, **silver Y** and a **brown silver-line**.

Most of the above species were also seen on Chalton Down plus **brown argus**, **small blues**, **peacock**, **grizzled** and **dingy skippers** and **burnet companion**, **cinnabar** and **six spot burnet moths**.

On Portsdown **common** and **small blues** appear to be having a good year; and **silver Y** and **mother Shrimpton moths** have been seen.

The best butterfly news this week is of at least 4 **white letter hairstreaks** at the IBM/Lakeside complex on 9th – one day earlier than last year.

PLANTS

Creeping buttercup, **American willow-herb**, **Japanese honeysuckle** and **field rose** were found on a walk round the Legion Field and Tournerbury Lane Hayling this week. At the east end of Hawthorne Grove the roadside grass had a patch of **scented mayweed**. Along Tournerbury Lane **shining cranesbill** was seen.

On Portsdown **pyramidal** and **common spotted orchids** are now widespread although the show below Fort Purbook is below par. In the field between the roundabout and the radar research site there is an abundance of **common broomrape** (right).

