



S. E. Hampshire

Nature Notes

Week ending 15th March 2020

BIRDS

There was a **long-tailed duck** close to the Frater shore of Portsmouth Harbour p.m. on 13th and 14th. There was also one off the Hayling oyster beds on 14th.

There were also over 50 **red-breasted mergansers** close to the Frater shore of Portsmouth Harbour.

Four **great northern divers** were in the harbour entrance at Sandy Point Hayling Island at dusk on 10th.

There were also 3 **Slavonian grebes** off Sandy Point Hayling Island at dusk on 10th and eight **black-necked grebes** were together west of the oyster beds on 14th.

A **grey partridge** was a totally unexpected patch and Hayling tick at Sandy Point at midday on 13th.

A **red kite** flew over the London Road at Cowplain, close to the Queen's Inclosure, on 12th.

A **yellow-legged gull** in cracking plumage was on a grass area with a flock of Brent geese at Fort Cumberland on 9th.

A **barn owl** was seen on Portsdown hunting along a hedgerow just past Bedhampton at 19:40 on 12th.

A female **merlin** was viewed from the north east wall at Farlington hunting over marshes on 14th.

On 11th a **peregrine** was on the usual pylon in Paulsgrove chalk pit.

There were 3 **ravens** being mobbed by crows at Denmead on 9th.

A **firecrest** was seen between Port Creek and the moat west of the railway bridge on Hilsea Lines Portsmouth on 14th.

Skylarks have been evident on the Portsdown top field, the one between the Route 66 burger bar and the Radar site, for a few weeks now with a dozen or more birds displaying.

Wheatears have arrived. Two males were feeding in the hay field at Farlington Marshes on 15th.

PLANTS

Fritillaries are flowering in the little copse behind the bus stop lay by at Langstone.

BUTTERFLIES

Brimstones have been seen in Fareham on 11th, a Cosham garden and on 12th in Havant Thicket.

There were also **red admirals**, a **small white** and 2 **commas** in a Cosham garden.

OTHER WILDLIFE

Three **necklace shell egg cases** (*right*) were on Eastney beach on 9th. On a very low tide the next day there were dozens of **Pacific oysters** and 1000s of **mussels** under the Southsea pier. A big change on recent times.



There have been over 140 **toads** in an east Cosham garden this week. Gardens there and on Portsdown have more toad spawn than in recent years. A Portsdown garden also had **palmate** and **smooth newts** this week.

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

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