



S. E. Hampshire

Nature Notes

Week ending March 31st 2024.

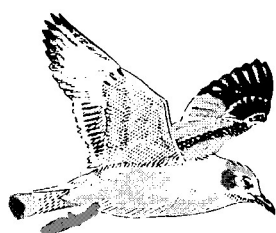
Birds

A **mandarin duck** was on the pond on Pigeon House Lane Purbrook on 25th and a pair was on the Staunton Country Park lake on 29th.

There were 7 **eider** in the regular Sandy Point group on 26th.

A female **goosander** on the river at Titchfield Haven on 26th.

There were just 2 **avocets** at Farlington Marshes on 31st.



On 29th **little gulls** were seen at Titchfield Haven, Farlington Marshes, and in Hayling Bay. Two were still over the scrapes at Titchfield Haven on 30th & 31st when one few east past Sandy Point..

On 24th over 4,000 **Mediterranean gulls** were counted flying into Langstone Harbour between 1600 and 1830. On 28th a flock of over 100 was seen in flight over Crookhorn golf course and later on the Ft Widley pony fields.

An **Arctic skua** flew east past Hill Head and Hayling bay on 26th.

A **guillemot** was close in drifting west at Lee-on-the-Solent and later off Titchfield Haven, also close in, on 29th. A sick looking bird was seen next day in the Chichester Harbour entrance and one was in Langstone Harbour close to the lake viewpoint on 31st.

There was also a **black-throated diver** in the Chichester Harbour entrance. Three **great northern divers** were in Hayling Bay on 26th.

Nine **sand martins** were seen over Titchfield village on 25th.



Photo by Eric Eddles

Fire and gold crests were seen together at Warblington cemetery on 26th.

There was a female **wheatear** on the grass between the pier and Southsea Castle on 31st.

WILD FLOWERS

Green alkanet is in flower on Portsdown and on the Billy Trail at Langstone.

There is a good showing of **fritillaries** under the trees behind the bust stop lay-by at Langstone.

In the coppices along the stream at Hookheath

opposite-leaved golden saxifrage is flowering well in the very wet areas close to the stream.

Other flowers in the woods included **ramsons, bluebells (native), wood anemone, barren strawberry and wood spurge.**



BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER INSECTS

Butterflies seen in the woodland around Titchfield Haven this week included 7 Peacocks, 4 Brimstones (all male), 2 Commas and a small unidentified white one that flitted by very quickly.

At least 35 male Brimstones and 2 females, plus 12 Peacocks, 9 Commas and 2 Speckled Woods Were seen in Havant Thicket on 30th.

OTHER WILDLIFE

A **badger** continued to visit a Portsdown garden this week appearing as early as 1930 on 26th.

Friends of Portsdown Meeting.

A short business meeting will be followed by a talk by Richard Jones PCC Countryside Officer.

Portsdown Reviewed.

7.30 p.m. April 9th

Refreshments will be available.



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

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