



S. E. Hampshire

# Nature Notes

March 25th to 31st 2019

## BIRDS

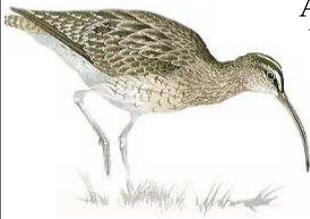
Last week's **garganey** was still in the area on 31<sup>st</sup>. Six **eiders**, 5 males and a female were close in on the sea by the sailing club at Hill Head at the end of the week.

A **cattle egret** was on the north scrape at Titchfield Haven on 31<sup>st</sup> until mid morning when it flew off.

On 27th a **spoonbill** was briefly seen from the canal path flying above the frying pan at Titchfield Haven. Two were seen the next day and one on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Red kites** have been seen this week over Thorney Island, Waterlooville, Portsdown, Portchester, Cams Bay and the Titchfield Haven Canal Path.

Three **purple sandpipers** were at Southsea Castle on 26<sup>th</sup>.



A **whimbrel** flew in from harbour and landed on main area behind the stream at Farlington Marshes on 27<sup>th</sup>.

There was a **green sandpiper** in the ditch east of the hut at Farlington Marshes

on 28<sup>th</sup> and on the stream and scrape on 30<sup>th</sup>.

On 3 days this week there was a **spotted redshank** and 2 **greenshanks** on the lake at Farlington Marshes.

A **woodcock** was flushed from a wet corner of what was an asparagus field at Posbrook on 30<sup>th</sup>.

There were **jack snipes** at Farlington on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and 15 **snipe** on the lake on 30<sup>th</sup>.

A **Sandwich tern** spent most of the day on 31<sup>st</sup> at the Port Solent Marina.

Four **lesser black-backed gulls** were at their nesting site at Burrfileds Copnor on 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Fort Cumberland **little owls** were still there and active on 30<sup>th</sup>.

There was a **tawny owl** in the top of an oak tree at Sandy Point Hayling Island hooting away until 04.37 on 25<sup>th</sup> when he flew off. Another was present on the Titchfield Haven Canal Path on 30<sup>th</sup>.

A **ring-necked parakeet** landed in a tree near the Hayling Island lifeboat station then vanished on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Nuthatches** are singing well now in many places. Two were seen in Frogmore Lane Lovedean on 28<sup>th</sup>.

There was a **firecrest** in Lowton's Copse Clanfield on 28<sup>th</sup>.

A male **bearded tit** was seen on Thorney Island on 24<sup>th</sup>. Six were seen flying low over the reed-bed in the centre of the Farlington Marshes reserve on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two **marsh tits** were at SU698194 Clanfield on 25<sup>th</sup>. Eight **sand martins** were seen from the Titchfield Haven Canal Path on 30<sup>th</sup> and 60 on 31<sup>st</sup>. There was also 6 **swallows** and 20 **house martins** on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Willow warblers** were seen at Sinah Warren Hayling and Fort Cumberland on 31<sup>st</sup>.

A **black redstart** was on sea front rocks at Sandy Point Hayling on 31<sup>st</sup>.

A **common redstart** was in the gorse north of Fort Cumberland on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Large numbers of **wheatears** have been arriving at Farlington Marshes, Sandy Point & Sinah on Hayling Island, Fort Cumberland and Hill Head.

At least 18 **water pipits** were in the fields along the Titchfield Haven Canal Path on 28<sup>th</sup>. One was at Farlington Marshes on 30<sup>th</sup>.

## BUTTERFLIES

Several **commas**, **up to 3 at the same time**, frequented a Lovedean garden 25<sup>th</sup>

A **small tortoiseshell**, **brimstones**, a **comma** and **peacocks** were seen in the Alver Valley CP Gosport on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Orange tips** were seen above the Paulsgrove chalk pit on Portsdown on 26<sup>th</sup> and 1 further west on 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Cosham garden has had 9 butterfly species this week with the species mentioned above plus **holly blue**; **small, large** and **green-veined whites**.

## INSECTS

**Dotted** (*below right*) and **dark-edged** (*below left*) **bee flies** were seen this week in Lovedean, Horndean and Portsdown gardens. (*Photos P Hogan*)

