

S. E. Hampshire

Nature Notes



Week ending May 7th 2023.

Birds

A few **Brent geese** are still around or passing through our area. There were 28 at Hill Head on 4th.

Swifts have been seen at Farlington Marshes, up to 30, and around 40 over the Titchfield Bridge Street floods.

Cuckoos (*right*)

were on Old Winchester Hill, Farlington Marshes and Butser this week.

At least 30

whimbrels were scattered in small

groups in Langstone Harbour on 2nd. Seven were on the marshes next day. On 4th 23 were seen at Hill Head.

There were 2 **ruffs** at Farlington Marshes on 3rd

A **green sandpiper** dropped onto the Titchfield Haven scrapes on 4th.

There were 3 **common sandpipers** on the Hermitage Stream at Bedhampton on 1st and 1 at Titchfield Haven on 6th.

Four **little terns** were near the Farlington Marshes car parks on 2nd and that evening there were **Sandwich terns** at the Hayling oyster beds. Two Sandwich terns and a little tern were seen at Farlington next day.

Last week's **barn owl** was still at Fort Cumberland on 1st.

Two **hobbies** were heading up the river south of the Posbrook floods on 3rd and one maybe 2 were on the canal path on 4th.

There were 2 **bearded tits** visible from the



roadside viewpoint by the harbour at Titchfield Haven on 3rd.

Two **ravens** were at Farlington on 2nd and 2 at Titchfield haven on 4th.

Six **sand martins** and around 50 **swallows** flew in off the sea at Hill Head on 4th.

Wheatears are still moving north through our sites. Three were at Old Winchester Hill and 3 at Farlington on 1st.

A **white wagtail** was with a pied on a Farlington Marshes puddle on 1st.

Butterflies

A **small copper butterfly** was on the Lower path between Thorney Great and Little Deeps 1st.

On 2nd a few **grizzled skippers**, a solitary **Duke of Burgundy** and a **dingy skipper** were seen on Butser Hill.

On 3rd there were **green hairstreaks** on Portsdown.

Plants

Early purple orchids are flowering well on Butser Hill among the many cowslips.

New flowers on Portsdown on 3rd were **sanicle** and **milkwort**.

A walk on Butser Hill

Join us on **Wednesday 10th at 7 p.m.** to see the cowslips and orchids. We may also find some birds.

Park and meet in Lime Kiln Lane on the approach to Butser hill top car park (SU710198) at 7 p.m. Don't use the car park as it may be closed by the time we finish the walk. We will be looking (and listening) for flowers and birds. There will be some slopes but we will avoid the very steep and paths.