

# S. E. Hampshire Nature Notes

May 7th to 12th 2018



## BIRDS

Twelve **common scoters** flew east past Stokes Bay on 7<sup>th</sup>.

A **shag** was on the sea close to the shore at Southsea on 11<sup>th</sup>.

A **spoonbill** flew south over Titchfield Haven at 1134 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

A quiet sea watch at Hayling Bay on 12<sup>th</sup> was enlivened by a **purple heron** seen flying towards the Isle of Wight.

Two **red kites** flew over the Havant Colt factory heading north west on 8<sup>th</sup>.

On 9<sup>th</sup> an **osprey** was seen being harassed by crows over the landing lights at Thorney Island and one caught a fish in Langstone Harbour before flying north over Leigh Park. another flew west at Hill Head on 10<sup>th</sup> and on 13<sup>th</sup> one flew down Fareham Creek and then drifted eastwards.

Three **hobbies** were hawking over a meadow at Titchfield Haven on 10<sup>th</sup>.

Three **ruffs** were at Titchfield Haven on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; and 2 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

There were still 2 **purple sandpipers** at Southsea Castle on 8<sup>th</sup>.

A **little gull** was on the south scrape at Titchfield Haven on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandwich, common and little terns** were seen from the mound at Budds Farm Sewage Farm on 8<sup>th</sup>. A **roseate tern** flew casually south past the lifeboat station and round the corner past Sandy Point NR on 10<sup>th</sup>.

A **little gull** was seen flying round the tern raft in the Budds Farm Sewage Farm lagoons on 8<sup>th</sup>. There was also one at Titchfield Haven on the south scrape on 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Sea watching off Sandy Point Hayling Island on 11<sup>th</sup> yielded 42 **manx shearwaters**, 16 **arctic** and 6 **pomarine skuas**. A group of 4 pomarines first picked up at Hill Head were tracked as far east as Seaford before they landed on the sea at 19:30. At Southsea on 11<sup>th</sup> 3 **black terns** and a **great skua** were seen.

There were 7 **swifts** at Titchfield Common on 7<sup>th</sup>, just 2 days later than last year. The next day there were also 7 at existing nest sites in Old Portsmouth. Ten were seen circling high overhead at West Leigh, Havant on 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **sand martin** and 6 **house martins** were seen over the Thorney island sewage works on 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **nightjar** flew west at sea really low and really slow! It was in view from Sandy Point without moving the scope for 10 minutes or so before being lost from view.

There were 3, maybe 4, **cuckoos** calling round the farms north of Southwick on 8<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday's Trust walk we saw 1 and heard 2. One flew over Leigh Park on 10<sup>th</sup>.

A **wheatear** has been on Milton Common for around two weeks - is it staying?

Three **stonechats** were seen in Havant Thicket on 9<sup>th</sup>. **Lesser and common whitethroats** were present at Budds Farm Sewage Farm on 8<sup>th</sup>.

A **serin** was reported in West Leigh Havant on 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **willow tit** was reported from Havant Thicket on 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **ring-necked parakeet** was calling over Sandy Point Hayling Island, and then flew off west, before appearing to drop down.

## BUTTERFLIES

On 7<sup>th</sup> there was a single **dingy skipper** just inside the entrance at Chalton Down.

A **green hairstreak, common and small blues** were seen in Portsdown on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Brimstones, small whites, holly blues and speckled woods** have been widespread this week.

Butterflies on the Butterfly Conservation Butser Hill Field Trip on 10<sup>th</sup> included 52 **Duke of Burgundy** 1 **red admiral** 5 **green hairstreak** 26 **grizzled skipper** 3 **dingy skipper** 5 **cinnabar moth** 1 **speckled yellow** 1 **ermine moth** 1 **orange-tip** 2 **green-veined white**

A similar ranges of species plus **small copper** were seen on Oxenbourne Down on 11<sup>th</sup>.

## PLANTS

An **early purple orchid** has appeared in Compartment 3 on Portsdown after around 20 years since one last flowered there.

