



**S. E. Hampshire**

# Nature Notes

Week ending September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

## BIRDS

Two **dark-bellied Brent geese** were seen this week in Langstone Harbour SE of the point at Farlington. **Wigeon** were present in the harbour and on the Lake at Farlington on 30<sup>th</sup>.

On 26<sup>th</sup> there were 17 **tufted ducks** on the stream at Farlington and next day the regular **barnacle goose** was with the Canadians and 8 **goosanders** flew over the lake and away to the east.

There was a **whimbrel** off Castle Shore Park Portchester on 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were 13 **greenshanks** on the scrape south of the lake at Farlington Marshes on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Over 150 **ringed plovers** were on the side of Russell's Lake in Langstone Harbour on the rising tide. Most left east towards the oyster beds as tide rose.

There were over 300 **black-tailed godwits** on the flooded Southmoors on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Four **green sandpipers** were seen on the Posbrook floods p.m. on 30<sup>th</sup>.

A **common sandpiper** was on Farlington Marshes at midday on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Five **greenshanks** were the only waders on the lake at Farlington at high tide on 26<sup>th</sup> due to the on-going uncontrolled water level of the lake.

A **glossy ibis** was on the Posbook flood from mid-morning till at least 2 p.m. on 30<sup>th</sup>. A **great white egret** was seen early a.m. There were 2 great white egrets on Thorney Island on 1<sup>st</sup>.

There have been up to 6 **cattle egrets** among the cattle on Farlington Marshes this week.

An **osprey** was on one of the North Binness trees early on 29<sup>th</sup> and mid-afternoon on 30<sup>th</sup>. On 1<sup>st</sup> there were 3, 2 fishing and one on a fence post on the east side of Thorney Island.

Two **white-tailed eagles** circled over a Fareham garden before flying east on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Three **marsh harriers** were on Thorney Island on 1<sup>st</sup>.

A **kingfisher** was on the southwest corner of the lake at Farlington on 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were 3 **ravens** over Farlington Marshes on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Around 100 **swallows** flew over Baffins Pond

Portsmouth in about 10 minutes at dusk on 27<sup>th</sup>. A raptor not much bigger than the swallows was mobbed among them. There were over 40 flying along the coast at Hill Head with a few **sand martins** on 30<sup>th</sup> and 'hundreds' over Milton Common on an unspecified date.

Three **lesser whitethroats** were in the bushes between the car-park and the kissing gate at Farlington on 29<sup>th</sup>.

A **spotted flycatcher** was in scrub next to Fort Southwick on 28<sup>th</sup>. The previous day a **pied flycatcher** was in a hedge with warblers opposite the car-park at Northney.

**Whinchats** were seen south of the lake on 26<sup>th</sup> and in the point field at Farlington on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>.

A **reed bunting** and 42 **linnets** were seen at Farlington on 27<sup>th</sup>.

A **tree sparrow** was seen near Sparks Marina on Hayling Island on 26<sup>th</sup>.

On the southern end of Thorney Island there was an impressive flock of 120 **Greenfinch's** on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Yellow wagtails** were seen in the Sandy Point area of Hayling, among the Farlington cattle and on Portsdown on 26<sup>th</sup>. More were at Castle Farm Warblington on 28<sup>th</sup> and around 400 arrived in flocks to roost at Titchfield Haven on 29<sup>th</sup>. Flocks of up to 40 were at Northney on 1<sup>st</sup>.

## BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies on Old Winchester Hill on 30<sup>th</sup> included common and chalkhill blues, **meadow browns**, **small heaths**, brimstones, a solitary **speckled wood** and 3 silver spotted skippers.

There were 3 **painted ladies** nectaring on fleabane on Thorney Island on 1<sup>st</sup>.

Also on 1<sup>st</sup> a female **brown hairstreak** was seen laying eggs on Portsdown

## OTHER WILDLIFE

A **brown hare** was in scrub next to Fort Southwick on 28<sup>th</sup>.

A **harbour seal** bobbed up in the swimming area off Eastney Beach one day this week.

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