

Nature Notes



Week ending January 3rd 2021

BIRDS

There were over 700 **Brent geese** on the pitch and putt field at Southsea on 30th. On 1st **light-bellied Brents** were seen on Farlington Marshes and on the playing fields behind the Hilsea bus depot.

Two **black swans** were at Broadmarsh on 1st.

A drake **mandarin duck** was present in Hill Head harbour on 3rd.

There were 82 **eiders** off Hill Head on 2nd.

There were 17 **common scoters** off Sandy Point on 1st and 24 off Hill Head on 3rd. A **velvet scoter** was among common scoters off Hill Head on 2nd.

Nine **goldeneye** were visible in Langstone Harbour from Budds Farm on 30th and 5 from Portchester Castle on 1st.

Water rails have been seen on the Stansted Park farmland bird winter feeding site and on 2nd feeding with moorhens in the flooded field opposite Langstone West Mill.

Nine black-necked grebes were off the Hayling Island oyster beds on 29th and 12 on 1st.

Two **avocets** were roosting off the marina at **Langstone Bridge/Northney** on 30th and 1 on 1st. On 3rd there were 38 at Farlington Marshes.

A flock of around 40 **black-tailed godwits** were on the Bridge Street floods by the **Titchfield Haven Canal Path** on 2nd.

Seventy **turnstones** and 45 **sanderlings** were at Fort Cumberland on 2nd.

Around 240 **knot** were counted on the rising tide to SW of Farlington Point on 2nd.

There were 7 **purple sandpipers** at Southsea Castle on 28th. On 30th there were 8 plus around 70 **sanderlings**.

Two **green sandpipers** were at Budds Farm on 3rd.

Sandwich terns were seen on 1st or 2nd in the Emsworth Channel, at Black Point Hayling Island and Titchfield Haven.

An **Iceland gull** was seen flying west at Eastney on 28th.

A **guillemot** was diving near the shore at Milton on 28th.

Five **red-throated divers**, 4 flying east and 1 on the sea, were off Sandy Point on 1st.

Up to 3 **great northern divers** have been present in Langstone Harbour this week and one was close to the rowing club and hovercraft terminal at Southsea on 30th. On 1st there were at least 4 off Sandy point.

Four **cattle egrets** were in one of the **Castle Farm Warblington** fields on 2nd and 5 on 3rd.

A **little owl** was in a square hole on the south facing wall of Fort Cumberland rampart **SZ683991** on 28th.

The Titchfield canal path **barn owl** was in its usual tree on 1st but not seen till 16:00 on 2nd when one was in the hole and a second hunting in fields both sides of the tree line at around 16:30. One was hunting around the same time next day.

There has been a **kingfisher** around the oyster beds and Langstone Bridge this week. Others were seen at Farlington and Staunton Country Park.

A male **merlin** was hunting over the Gypsy Plain fields north of Leigh Park on 31st.

A **chiffchaff** was seen on the Titchfield canal path on 3rd.

A **Dartford warbler** was **seen** in scrub near the fence behind the beach at Sandy Point Hayling Island **SZ747981** on 28th.

Firecrests were seen at Castle Farm Warblington and Titchfield canal path on 3rd.

A female **black redstart** was on a post, rocks or rubble behind a pond in Tipner ex-recycling ground Portsmouth from 22nd to 29th.

Redwings have been seen in horse fields at Purbrook, by the Posbrook floods and in a Havant garden.

Two **grey wagtails** flew over shops in Middle Park Way Leigh Park on 1st.

A **rock pipit** with a green ring on its right leg was seen at Farlington on 28th and one is frequently seen at Southsea Castle.



Garden Redwings
Photo: Jill Poole