

KING



ISHER

Hampshire Ornithological Society Magazine
No 158 Spring 2018







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KINGFISHER

Hampshire Ornithological Society Newsletter

The Magazine for Hampshire Birdwatchers

Advertising rates

The Newsletter is produced 4 times a year and sent to 1,500 bird-watchers and naturalists primarily in and around Hampshire. Additional copies are sold at outlets. It is A5 format, with 52 pages. You can take a full page, half or quarter page advert, and have it in all four issues with or without photos/artwork.

The rates are £90 full page, £50 half page, £35 quarter page. If two or more issues are required, the rates are reduced by 20%. It may also be possible to do it as a loose insert. If necessary we can make up the advert, if given the required text and pictures.

Adverts can be sent on disc, or emailed direct as attachments, to photos@hos.org.uk



“WEAR THE KINGFISHER WITH PRIDE.”

Our HOS emblem appears on all our clothing – Polo Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Fleece and Baseball Caps.

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Sales Officers:- Bryan and Sandy Coates – telephone 02380 252960.
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DEADLINE FOR SUMMER 2018 KINGFISHER
KINGFISHER 1st April 2018

EDITORIAL

Thank you for all of the contributions to the this current issue of Kingfisher. This will be my penultimate issue as editor as Rob Sawyer has kindly offered to take over as Kingfisher editor.

I am very pleased with the number of articles this time. So many, in fact, that I was not able to include so many pictures this time. I have keep two articles for the next issue because I was unable to fit them in. One of these is a review of the wildlife trust reserves in Hampshire that are used by Hampshire birders, an article that will be worth looking forward too.

Please read pages 6 to 9 as there many important notices etc., in this section of Kingfisher. Please also find the leaflet on the Member's Day included with this issue of Kingfisher.

Phil Budd

Book Review:

One man's marshes by Ed Wiseman

I have recently received a copy of Ed Wiseman's new book: "One man's marshes – the birds of Lymington and Keyhaven". This is an absolutely superb publication, with fascinating sections on the history of people of the area going back to Colonel Hawker's hunting days in the 19th century, the development and decline of the salt extraction industry which helped shape the area we know today, a description of the habitats and their subsequent development as a nature reserve, an account of bird recording in the area from the 1950s to the present day, and of course a detailed systematic list of all the species recorded. The book, which has been designed and published by Dan and Rosemary Powell, features plenty of their excellent full colour artwork and a selection of photographs including several aerial views of the area. This is an essential purchase for anyone with an interest in the area or indeed the wildlife of The Solent and Hampshire. It can be obtained on line from <http://www.powellwildlifeart.com/> at £14.99.

A full review will follow in the next edition of *Kingfisher*.

John Clark

Notices

Sat 24 February - HOS Fieldworkers Meeting

A chance to hear about many of the bird surveys being carried out around Hampshire, with the opportunity to sign up for some if you are interested. 1000-1700 hrs, Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, near Winchester SO22 6QL. Free to all.

Sat 24 March - HOS Open Day (full details—see insert)

Our main annual meeting with talks by Chris Hewson on Cuckoos, Charlie Burrell on the Knepp Estate, and Ian Newton on Bird Migration. Chris Packham will chair the day if his BBC schedule allows it: 1200-1715 hrs, St Swithun's School, Alresford Rd, Winchester SO21 1HA (new venue with lots of parking!). Free to HOS members, £5 to non-members. See you there!

Keith Betton

Hampshire Swift Day 2018

Following the success of the Portsmouth Swift Day in 2017, Hampshire Swifts is organising a Swift Day on the 30th June 2018, to be held at Crosfield Hall in Romsey.

The event is generously sponsored by Hampshire Ornithological Society and there will be an interesting mix of exhibitors, Swift box building, videos and children's activities. We also hope to organise Swift walks in the evening.

In parallel there will be a good selection of speakers including Edward Mayer of Swift Conservation. Doors will open at 11am and the talks will start at approximately 2pm.

Further details will be provided in due course on: www.hampshireswifts.co.uk.

For information on opportunities for exhibitors at the event please contact Andy Broadhurst, andy@tali.me.uk or Tim Norriss, tim@kitsmail.com

Thanks, *Andy Broadhurst*

Young Birders Camp 2018

HOS together with the Cameron Bespolka Trust (with input from WNF) are delighted to announce the first Young Birders Camp to be held at the CET Beaulieu over the weekend of 1st to 3rd June 2018. This is generously funded by the Cameron Bespolka trust.

The event is aimed at young birders aged between 13 and 17 years of age and aims to provide an opportunity to take part in and experience a range of field based activities. From field survey techniques through to nest finding, Hawfinch and Nightjar ringing, wader and raptor identification, camera trapping and much more, with like-minded individuals in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

We will also have presentations covering a range of subjects focusing on how a passion for wildlife can be turned into a career.

Above all it will be a great fun weekend where most of the classic New Forest species should be seen. Full details can be found on the Cameron Bespolka Trust website at: www.cameronbespolka.com

Included for the weekend: meals, accommodation and transportation during the weekend. We do ask for a nominal contribution of £25 per person. You'll need to arrange your own travel to and from the Countryside Education Trust, Palace Lane, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7YG. Places are limited to 15 and these will be awarded to people demonstrating a keen interest in, and commitment to, nature conservation or ornithology.

Initially we will be advertising in Hampshire but the offer will be rolled out to a wider audience in the New Year so please get your applications in ASAP.

Marcus Ward

Request for Great Bustard sightings.....

I have been asked by Bob Baker, a friend who doesn't use social media, to pass on a message to Hampshire birders. Bob is a long-standing member of the Great Bustard Group. He has asked for any Great Bustard sightings to be notified to him stating date, time and location. Also, any ring details noted would be very helpful. You can contact Bob at timsburyuk2@gmail.com

Thank you,

Tony Wright

HOS Grants

For the last two years HOS has been using some of its financial reserves to support conservation and research projects, and it is anticipated that approximately £6,000 will be made available annually for this purpose for each of the next four years.

In 2015 we funded seven new rafts at Blashford Lakes for Common Terns and then in 2016 we helped the RSPB with the cost of a raft at West Hayling Local Nature Reserve. An impressive 47 Common Tern clutches produced 44 fledglings – a great result! We also helped to fund the ongoing Brent Goose and Wader surveys being undertaken by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. We are also funding the fitting of a satellite tracker to a Hampshire Cuckoo “Selborne” who is sending us regular signals from Gabon this winter.

In 2017 we decided to increase the funding to £9000 because of the high quality of the applications received. The successful projects were:

Hampshire Swifts - £1900 awarded

The money will be used towards the creation of a large swift tower at the Oates Museum in Selborne, the installation of six swift boxes on Selborne Church, and a contribution towards the costs of the 2018 Swift Day event.

HIWWT - Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy - £1500 awarded

This important work continues with survey teams monitoring movements along the Hampshire coast and identifying key areas for the birds at both high and low tides. With housing development proposals all along our coast it has never been more important to understand which areas are priorities for our geese and waders.

BTO - Tracking New Forest Wood Warbler migration - £2405 awarded

Wood Warblers are declining in most parts of their UK breeding range. This project will involve attaching geolocators to the birds that breed in the New Forest. Although these tiny trackers are only accurate to 100km they are ideal for use with long-distance migrants and will help us to understand where our birds are wintering and what migration routes they take. The study will run alongside similar projects elsewhere in the UK.

New Forest and Solent Curlew Project - £3200 awarded

Curlews are a rapidly declining breeding species in the New Forest and collection of data about them is considered very important. There were 40 breeding pairs in the area in 2017 compared with 70 in the late 1980s. The money will be used to attach highly accurate satellite tags to four birds to see where they travel to, within the New Forest and elsewhere.

HOS would like to invite individuals or organisations to apply for full or partial funding for projects that will research or conserve birds and/or their habitats in Hampshire.

Applications for grants of £250 or less can be made at any time of year but requests for amounts over £250 will be considered annually in the autumn. The Application Form can be downloaded from the HOS website along with Guidance Notes. Progress reports on these projects will be published in the Hampshire Bird Report in due course.

Keith Betton

HOS Dartford Warbler Survey 2018

HOS is planning a Dartford Warbler Survey this year, and we are looking for volunteers to take part, particularly in the New Forest.

The Dartford Warbler is an iconic heathland species largely restricted to the southern counties of England. The breeding population has varied, with repeated cold winters leading to near extinction in the 1960s, while recent milder winters have led to range expansion and a national population of above 3,000 pairs. The population level has been monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel since its establishment in 1972. In Hampshire, the main population centre is the New Forest, with a smaller population on the fragmented heathland of the north-east of the county, and a scatter of breeding records from coastal locations. Over the past sixty years, there has been a long history of Dartford Warbler study, with full county surveys in 1994 and 2006. HOS aims to cover all known breeding sites in 2018, to establish the current status of this important species, and allow us to monitor current heathland management in its core breeding sites.

While coverage in other parts of Hampshire has been good in recent years, there has been no full survey of the New Forest since 2006. Dartford Warblers have been recorded in around 180 square kms of the New Forest heathland in the past two surveys, so we need to cover a substantial area, with around fifty volunteer surveyors required. We need volunteers who are prepared to cover a minimum of two adjoining 1 km. Squares., with a minimum of three visits, preferably in settled weather between May 1st and June 30th with at least a week between visits. Singing males, birds carrying food and other Dartford contacts should be recorded on a map (which we will provide) after each visit allowing an assessment of the number of territories at the end of the survey period. You will need an OS map of your study area and a pair of binoculars. More detail of survey techniques will be given nearer the start of survey-work.

If you wish to be involved, please let us know, indicating your preferred part of the New Forest (areas well-known to you, or convenient for travel)

Please contact Rob Clements e-mail:
richard.clements3@virgin.net
Tel: 01590 718996

*Dartford
Warbler
Keyhaven
31.10.17
Mike Duffy*



Scilly Pelagic Trips: August 4th to 7th 2017 inclusive

I used to be an avid pelagic sea birder entailing regular trips to Cape Clear Island, County Cork, Ireland, during the seventies to mid-eighties. With this branch of birding neglected in recent years, I decided to rekindle my interest. A decision had to be made! Shall I visit a remote headland in Cornwall or SW Ireland? Too much of a wuss these days, so I opted for the easier option of trying to book a Scillies pelagic on the 'MV Sapphire' out of St Mary's. I was fortunate to get bookings for evening pelagics on the 4th & 7th August plus longer day pelagics on the 5th & 6th. With my Scillies accommodation booked, I eagerly looked forward to this August.

With reports coming daily during July and the first few days of August of unprecedented numbers of seabirds being recorded off the SW coast of Cornwall and Scilly plus SW Ireland, my expectations were high. During the crossing over to Scilly on Thursday 3rd August, I witnessed a massive feeding frenzy from the 'MV Scillonian III' about a half a mile north of me, between the Wolf Rock Lighthouse and the Isles of Scilly. Thousands of Manx, good numbers of large shearwater (2 Cory's identified), 'Sooties' etc. Unfortunately, I couldn't appreciate this spectacle fully as the voyage was rough and I was suffering a severe bout of sea sickness. That evening the fortunate birders on the evening pelagic witnessed the biggest feeding frenzy to date with 750+ Great, 300 Cory's, large numbers of 'Sooties' plus thousands of Manx Shearwaters. A double figure count of Wilson's Petrels was also noted.

The Friday evening pelagic left at 17:00 in sunny conditions but with a heavy swell. We were out for five hours, heading on a bearing of 205° for five miles. There is a technique to attracting sea birds close to the boat. On leaving harbour, as we steamed between the islands, bread and mealworms are thrown over the stern. This has the effect of attracting gulls. As they follow, the intention is to try to encourage other sea birds to investigate the melee. It didn't take long for Herring and Lesser Black Backed Gulls to take advantage. It was good to see a Mediterranean Gull follow for a while. Further out, Fulmars and Kittiwakes joined the throng. When Bob Flood, organiser, and Joe Pender, skipper, thought that they were in a good area, the boats engines were turned off. We drifted for a couple of hours and over the side was thrown 'rubby-dubby' and 'chum', fish offal and oil, respectively. The pungent smell has the effect of luring in petrels and shearwaters.





By recent pelagic standards, the evening was quiet. We noted 3 Great and a single Cory's Shearwater. An unprecedented flock of 200+ Arctic Terns flew past us, a couple of Bonxies and a Balearic Shearwater flew past close to us. Things were looking good. As I was becoming more sea sick due to the heavy swell and smell of the chum, Storm Petrels

started appearing, 20+ noted in two hours. Not long after we became ecstatic. Our first Wilson's Petrel appeared at 19:50. A little distant feeding at the edge of the chum after a second bird appeared at 20:05 joining the original bird. Some birders picked up a third but I didn't get onto it due to the swell and bad sea sickness. All of us were satisfied. Quarry nailed. Back to St Mary's.

I was extremely excited about the Saturday sailing, seven hours at sea. We departed at 11:00 with a return at 18:00 hours, again a heavy swell but sunny conditions and 18°C. Today we steamed 15 miles out to the Seven Stones Reef area. Each pelagic was different; species; number; views we obtained etc. Another quiet pelagic by recent standards. Far fewer Manx Shearwaters, two Great Shearwaters but no Cory's or 'Sooties' today. Three Bonxies flew by. We were accompanied by several Common Dolphins riding bow pressure wave, a beautiful sight. The usual couple of hours drifting with chum, lured in Storm Petrel in good numbers today, they were feeding very close to the boat giving excellent photo opportunities in the brilliant light conditions. At 13:55, a shout of "Wilson's off the stern". Today we were given a real treat with the Wilson's feeding close to us. The yellow webbing and distinctive pale ulnar bar were very obvious. Elation amongst us all. It fed with 'Stormies' for quite some time enabling us to note its different flight and feeding behaviour. It was also a little larger than its companions. Fantastic, what a day! An uneventful steam back to St Mary's followed.





Sundays pelagic was another seven-hour stint but with an 08:00 start and a 15:00 return. Today proved to be a day of great variety and a few surprises. Conditions were, thankfully, calmer today, sunny in the morning but cloudy in early afternoon. Great and Cory's, 5 of each seen; Manx today in good numbers. A single

Balearic Shearwater also noted. We had the unusual sight of a leucistic Fulmar taking advantage of the chum. 3 Bonxies were also noted. Chumming resulted in fewer Storm Petrel's today and they were also a little more distant. A Wilson's Petrel appeared at 13:20, but unfortunately, quite distant today. We drifted 6 miles out, just south-west of the Bishop's Rock Lighthouse. A cry of "Grey Phalarope" enabled us to get a fantastic close fly-by of the bird. A distant skua, about a mile away, looked unidentifiable but skipper, Joe Pender, excellent photographer and birder, took a photo. When blown up, it revealed to be an adult Long-tailed Skua with full tail streamers. I was delighted as this was only the second I have ever seen. On today's pelagic, we had the honour of 20+ Common Dolphins accompanying us, a wonderful sight. Shark surveying is conducted on the 'Sapphire' on behalf of the University of Southampton. Today a small and a medium Blue Shark were caught, duly photographed, measured, tagged then released. The first I have seen, a fine sight.

My expectations from these pelagics was to date more than fulfilled. But Monday evenings trip was just sensational. We departed at 17:00 (5 hours today), initially things started quietly. Very few 'Stormies' today and no Wilson's Petrels. Peter Moore, a Dorset birder, spotted a feeding frenzy some 1½ miles distant. Joe Pender started the engine and off we steamed. It soon became apparent that this was a big frenzy. Atlantic Blue Tuna were feeding. The resulting bait ball of small fish drew masses of birds and Cetaceans. In no time at all we were in the throng. Huge numbers of Manx Shearwaters, Great, 'Sooties' and Cory's were surrounding us. The sea was bubbling with activity.



Some shearwaters were very close to the boat.

A single Great Shearwater came so close rendering my telephoto lens obsolete! In all 150 Great, 80 'Sooties', 25 Cory's and literally thousands of Manx Shearwaters were noted. Also present were some Guillemots and Razorbills, and 3 Bonxies. If this wasn't enough of a spectacle, we had the additional bonus of 20+ Common Dolphins amongst the throng. Of great excitement was the sight of a Minke Whale and calf and a breaching Fin Whale. Pelagic watching can't get any better than that, can it?



To round off an unforgettable evening and trip, we had the most amazing rainbow over the sea as we steamed back to St Mary's and during a light shower.

I have had some brilliant sea watches sitting on the promontory of Blananarraun on Cape Clear. Unfortunately, the best days coincided with

appalling weather conditions. A sea bird pelagic is another ball game altogether. To get so close and personal with sea birds is just amazing. So, my appetite for sea birding has been restored. More decisions to make. A pelagic off SW Ireland, a visit to the 'Fea's Petrel' hot spot of Bridges of Ross in Co. Kerry or a Scilly pelagic again next year. Wherever I go, I shall not be disappointed.

To see some amazing photos of the Scilly pelagics, please visit Joe Pender's blog. Also, Rob Flood has some excellent video 'Heading Scilly Pelagics' on U-tube.

A sad post script to all this. I found out on my return that many dead and emaciated Great Shearwaters are landing up on the beaches of New York, Long Island etc. Something drastic has happened to the food chain off the western Atlantic seaboard. This, no doubt, has encouraged large shearwaters and petrels to seek feeding opportunities on this side of the Atlantic.

Michael G W Terry

Photos reproduced by kind permission of Joe Pender:

On page 10: Cory's Shearwater; page 11: Great Shearwater (above) and Wilson's Petrel (below); page 12: Sooty Shearwater (above) and Grey Phalarope (below); page 13—above: Fin Whale

Birds around our Tasmanian Garden

Follow down the eastern seaboard of Australia, cross Bass Strait, travel further south to Tasmania's capital, Hobart and follow the Derwent River further south again to its estuary. There, on a headland at the junction of the river, D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Storm Bay, you will find our garden. It is surrounded by farming land, grassy paddocks, grazing sheep and beyond, the Tinderbox Hills, covered in (mostly) dry sclerophyll eucalypt forest and some white gum open woodland.

Many birds of this natural habitat have found their way into our rambling garden. Many seabirds nest on the cliffs in front of us, and soar and dive around the garden most days. In nesting season, the local predator birds also visit, particularly checking their larder – the seabird rookeries.

One of our favourites is the **Striated Pardalote (right)**. There are 3 pardalote species in the area – the Striated, the Spotted and the Forty-Spotted. The Forty-Spotted is an endangered species and the



Tinderbox Hills has been one of its traditional habitats. I've seen them up there, but they only live in the white gums, so they don't venture into the garden. The Striated, however, normally digs a tunnel in the side of a bank. In recent years, they have discovered our hanging baskets. In the "upside down" hanging pots, they have industriously dug out the potting mix to create a tunnel, and have successfully raised families. Last year, they also discovered our self-watering hanging baskets. We have lost a few plants over the summer as the birds don't like us using the water channel. It is a tiny bird with a big voice. They are most identifiable by the streak of colour above the eye, yellow from eye to beak and white above the eye itself.

Honeyeaters are also very common in our garden, focussing on the nectar in the *Echiums*, *Fuchsia*, *Grevilleas*, *Callistemons*, etc. Mostly we see the New Holland Honeyeater, very visible with A black and white striped chest and a flash of yellow on the wings. But we also see the Yellow-Throated Honeyeater, the Black-Headed Honeyeater and the Eastern Spinebill and Yellow Wattlebird.

The most beautiful visitor would have to be the **Superb Fairy-wren (below)**. He is easily identified with his bright blue colours around the head, upper back and under the eye, and also with a blue-black tail. She is dusky brown over all, maybe with a bluish sheen on the tail. But you know it's a wren when you see a little round bird bouncing across the deck!



Robins also appear, the Scarlet with the upper breast bright scarlet; and the Flame with the entire breast and belly orange-red. We sometimes spot them fighting their reflections in the glass – so we leave salt-spray on our windows in breeding season; and put plastic bags over the wing-mirrors on the car. One of the

smallest birds we see is the White-eye, quite slim, olive green, and with a white ring around its eye. The Beautiful Fire-tail also occasionally visits. It's another small bird, of the finch family. The key to identification is the flash of bright red at the base of the tail when it flies off. European Goldfinches are more common in the garden.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos love the *radiata* pine. This is a big bird, with sulphur yellow under the tail and on the cheek. A flock will arrive to pull the pine cones to pieces, searching for the seeds. Another cockatoo we see frequently is the Galah, smaller than the Black Cockatoo, white crown, rose pink front, soft grey back. This is also a seed eater, and we often see them grazing grass seed in the paddock.

The Green Rosella and the Musk Lorikeet are the most frequent parrots in the area, often feeding on the seed of *Cotoneasters*, but also attacking any fruit which is approaching ripeness.

In the rookeries below the cliffs, there are Kelp Gulls and Pacific Gulls. These are very large gulls, with black backs and wings. The only way I can differentiate them is the Pacific Gulls have a “go-faster” stripe across the underside of the tail! They love to soar in the updrafts, and in breeding times, at least a couple of birds are always on patrol, watching for predators.



The White-Bellied Sea Eagle (left) has a nest further along the coast, but cruises along over our garden on most days. Often, he will perch in an *Allocasuarina* tree on the clifftop, waiting for a good moment. When he appears, the Gull Patrol sends an alarm call, and hundreds of birds

rise from the cliffs in a frenzy. The big gulls look tiny beside the eagle.

The **Wedge-Tailed Eagle (below)**, another endangered bird, with an immense wing-span, has one of its nests in the Tinderbox Hills, but often checks the larder down here. It's also a popular zone in which to teach Junior to hunt and to strengthen his wings. It can be funny to see the big baby sitting on a fence post resting, Mum and Dad dive-bombing him to persuade him to try again. A brown falcon is also a frequent visitor to the paddock, flying over the garden regularly and sitting in a white gum just outside.



The Australian Magpie is also a popular visitor. I believe he's similar in colour to the English one, but he has a very beautiful voice. Currawongs appear sometimes, the white on the tail and base of the wings to show they're not Ravens. And once or twice we've seen a Grey Goshawk, which despite its name, is all white.

Banded Lapwings (generally known as Plovers) nest in the paddock, as do Tasmanian Native Hens. Both have very cute chicks, being bundles of fluff on long legs. The Lapwings can be dangerous, as they nest in a scrape in the ground, often in places close to roads (or driveways.) Any approach (just walking up the drive) by a human will be met by a dive-bombing bird, which can inflict a nasty cut. The Native Hens on the other hand, are more likely to act like Road-Runner, and take off. They are flightless, quite large, with very strong legs. They venture into the garden if we leave a gate open.

Lately we've been watching a pair of Dusky Woodswallows. These adults look almost fluffy themselves. This is different to the Welcome Swallow, which arrives in summer, and swoops around with the long divided tail, looking for an eave to nest under. The Woodswallow is a chunkier bird, smoky in colour, with a white edge to the wings and tail, and a blue-grey bill.

Colin and Diana West

*Editor's Note: The pictures on page 14 and page 16 were taken by Colin and Diana West. The picture of a **Superb Fairy-wren (below)** and the picture of the same species on page 15 were taken by Raka Rava.*



Farming our Wildlife to Extinction

The recently published report that insect abundance in Germany has declined by 76% over the last 27 years corroborates what we already knew about the impoverishment of our environment; that the unrelenting pressure of intensive pesticide-based farming has destroyed much of our wildlife. While we don't have similar long-term insect studies for the UK, our experience tells us that they have declined steeply and we know from long-term monitoring that farmland bird numbers have declined by around 50% since 1970. Another recent study estimated a decline in bird populations across Europe by a staggering 421 million between 1980 and 2009. While there may be multiple reasons for bird declines, including habitat destruction, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the decline of insects, a vital food resource at the base of the food chain, is fundamental and that their continuous systematic eradication by agriculture is an ultimate cause of total wildlife decline.

The agro-chemical producers acting for their shareholders now have a tight control over world agriculture and along with farmers' groups they strongly oppose attempts to control the use of pesticides. Recent controversy has centred on neonicotinoids and glyphosate. As a result the use of some neonicotinoids was suspended by the EU in 2013 because of their damage to bees and other pollinators as well as to other species including birds. Recently Buglife reported (a) high levels of contamination in UK rivers including the River Test, raising fears for the effects on aquatic invertebrates. The UK government initially opposed but has recently supported the ban. Use of the herbicide glyphosate (b) (marketed by Monsanto as Roundup) has increased four-fold in UK farming over the past 20 years. By wiping out weeds it eliminates the plants needed by insects to complete their life-cycle. After a lengthy controversy the EU has recently re-licensed it for a further five years though some countries, including France who intend to phase it out over the next three years, dissented. A World Health Organisation study has declared glyphosate a 'probable carcinogen' and traces of it have been regularly found in tests of foodstuffs and human urine (Guardian, 27/11/2017). Of course the National Farmers Union insists these pesticides are not only safe and environmentally benign but vital to farmers which is, no doubt, what it advises government. History shows that agro-chemical companies don't have to prove pesticides are harmless to gain approval but environmentalists do have to prove they are harmful to get them banned and always after

years of their use in a chemical experiment on the natural world and the general public.

We need Governmental action to clean up our agriculture and end its pesticide dependence which has created virtual wildlife free zones across our countryside. France plans to cut pesticide use by 50% by 2025 following studies showing such reductions would not affect farm yields or profitability (c) but 'dirty' farming seems destined to continue in the UK. What we really need is organic agriculture with no use of synthetic pesticides. There is already a thriving UK organic sector and while it only covers around 3% of our total farmed area it could expand with consumer support. Organic farming uses only around 20 naturally derived pesticides which are used in a restricted way. A totally organic UK farming system would reduce total pesticide use by around 98%. Organic food is not always available and when it is some people shun it because of its higher price. But while food from chemical-based farming may be cheaper it also damages our wildlife and countryside so this is what consumers of 'cheap' food are choosing to support (d).

If it only takes 27 years for insect populations to plummet by 76% how long will it be before they are eradicated completely? And what kind of environmental chaos might that produce? Some environmentalists (e.g. George Monbiot, Guardian, 20/10/17) consider the stripping of non-human life forms from the land by farming to be as dangerous as climate change and the avoidance of a catastrophe calls for rapid and radical changes in our behaviour.

John Jones

(a) See Buglife website - <https://www.buglife.org.uk>

(b) Miles King – Some thoughts on the glyphosate saga (30 Oct 2017). <https://anewnatureblog.wordpress.com>

(c) British Wildlife. June 2017 p.378. See also the following website. http://www.innovationmanagement.co.uk/articles/france_reducing_pesticide_article.pdf

(d) The case for organic - see Kingfisher 142. Also see <https://www.soilassociation>

Hut Wood (Chandlers Ford) – a walk through 2017

Hut Wood (SU4218) is one of those places that many people know of, even drive past, but few venture inside and it remains a place of mystery. 75 acres of magical mystery, in fact, and home to some of the county's most ancient trees. Some of the yews are recorded as being over 300 years old!



The site is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission and is a working woodland – there was a significant 15-acre timber harvest for example, in winter 2015/16 and the area is still being replanted. Hut Wood has with 'permissive' (NOT public) access – there are no marked paths or any rights of way. Access is via a layby on the Bournemouth Road at the east end near Asda (where parking is now limited to 3 hours).

Apart from the commercial timber, Douglas Fir and mature Scots Pine, most of the site is mixed deciduous woodland with extensive and significant Holly understorey. There are significant stands of Alder, Beech and Silver Birch.

Winter

Between December and February, the main track which cuts a figure-of-8 shape round the Wood, can get very muddy and becomes almost impassable in places, even in wellies! Good numbers of thrushes, and finches, can be seen especially on the north side, which also affords views of gulls, pigeons and corvids over the neighbouring farmland. Hut Wood is on a 'roost route' for crows on their way to Allington Lane – 1000's of Rooks and Jackdaws pass over each evening, moving west to east. The wood was adopted as home by a pair of Ravens in 2017, and they will hopefully have returned to the site by the time you are reading this report.

Among the other more unusual birds you might see are Lesser Redpoll and Crossbill. I have recorded my only Grey Wagtail here in January. Sunny days in February awaken the resident passerines, and with luck you will encounter some of the many Firecrests in the Holly, as well as Treecreepers, Nuthatches and large groups (10+) of Bullfinches gathering in the tree tops.

Spring

This is the time when bumble bees, hHornets and the first butterflies take to the air, starting with Red Admirals in late February which stay on the wing well into October. The trees come to new life and the northern wayleave and tracksides are full of common songbirds. Hut Wood is not a great place for warblers though, which may come as a surprise. Chiffchaff and Blackcap are present in the highest numbers and in 2017 a pair of Willow Warblers bred. Otherwise, Whitethroat and Garden Warbler are best described as 'occasional' passage migrants.

Look out, at this time of year, for Comma butterflies, Peacocks and Brimstones while blues and whites will start to appear later in April. The end of that month is the time I start to visit the wood in the evenings, when it's a good place for Pipistrelle Bats and Noctule Bats, but especially rewarding are the roding Woodcocks that show superbly well over the area cleared of pines. This is one of the highlights of the birding year - it's possible to see 30 roding flights over an hour or so, as well as Roe Deer, Muntjac, foxes and Tawny Owls. Tree Pipit and Nightjars first return in the second half of May, and display until the end of June. The latter have moved to the cleared area of Hut Wood since nearby Great Covert became overgrown.

On the south side of the wood (near Chilworth) there is extensive growth of Rhododendron which puts on a spectacular display, when it comes into flower, followed by thousands of Foxgloves across the whole site. The trackside is a particularly good place, not only for plants, but also abundant skippers, Gatekeepers and Ringlets as May passes into June. Watch out for Orange Tip too – I've only seen one once, along the little stream that crosses the site.



Summer

In the middle of the year birds tend to go quiet and the interest of the naturalist turns to flying insects. Golden Ringed Dragonflies, Chasers and Skimmers are always delightful to watch and this year for the first time I found a pair of Beautiful Demoiselle around a hidden pond on the north side. Later in August and September there are Hawkers and Common Darter in reasonable numbers, and I have seen two species of Ichneumon Wasp. One of these stands out as a highlight of the year – a male *Anomalonia* dancing around at the west end in perfect sunshine. Seeing these on the wing it is very easy to understand where folklore is rooted - and to believe that there really are faeries in the wood!

Which brings me to mention the LARPers. Hut Wood is a long-established site for one of the most active Live Action Role Play societies in the south of England, and throughout spring and summer it is not unusual to come across groups of hooded archers or a garrison of elves at large. My first experience of these was in the summer of 2015 when I came across a 'maiden' wearing a long gown and a pointy hat, sitting on a tree stump in a clearing. Straight out of Tolkien!

Late summer through July is the window when another Hut Wood specialty is on the wing. I am new to butterflies, but White Admirals are one of my favourite things to see, more so because they are active for such a short period. Look out for the honeysuckle plants. Maximum of six in one place. Fantastic.

Autumn

Towards the end of September, through October and November, Hut Wood is at its most picturesque – and it really is a beautiful place. There is a tranquility and peace that I have never found anywhere else. It is both inspirational and reflective. There is a poetic reverence about the light, the trees, the bracken – the wood has a powerful sense of place and identity. The Yew trees are almost magical – sinister, dark and majestic.

As with any patch-watching, there are long periods of time when you will see little fauna of especial interest, but in getting to know a place well you come to appreciate the subtleties of mood, atmosphere and 'life'. You get to know commoner birds better, to understand their seasons and their part in a constantly changing ecosystem. When there are no birds to look at, you see flowers, insects. Trees, light... and reptiles. In 2017, the University of Southampton carried out a study of lizards in the wood and placed heat mats in strategic places. These enabled literally hundreds of Common Lizards to bask in the sunshine, and provided warm cover for some fabulous Slow-worms too. Hut Wood has a reputation for snakes, and historically has held good numbers especially of Adders. But I have yet to see any, which presents me something specific to work on next year.

Autumn is Flycatchers and Tit flocks along the firebreak that runs east-west and is now quite overgrown. This is my favoured walk at any time of year. Returning hirundines and, by the end of October, a build-up in numbers of thrushes and finches again. Ravens and Redpoll return. Active Firecrests too, ever present once you know where to look and get tuned in to their call.

During 2017, I recorded 68 species of bird in Hut Wood, out of a total patch list of 70 since I started keeping records the previous year. Last new addition was a Ring Ouzel on 29 October. One of the two species I did not see this year was Curlew, an exceptional record from September 2016 when one flew calling high eastwards up over the firebreak. I didn't get Hobby either, and the only one I have seen was on an August evening in 2016 though they did used to breed in the wood many years ago. Crossbills too were once resident, but now only occasionally pass through in spring and autumn. The most unusual single record is probably a Cormorant, which caught me out circling with Buzzards in a thermal one sunny day in July!



I have 'extended' the boundary of my patch to include the farmland to the north, which seemed a natural and reasonable progression as I walk the area so regularly. Pheasant, Meadow Pipit, Yellow and Pied Wagtails, Skylark and Red Kite.

Over the same period, I've managed to identify 18 species of butterfly, 8 Odonata, two bats and two deer and I am working on fungi and flowering plants. I know little about trees either, but have come to love the old yews and a splendid example of Weeping Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula'). This is a cultivar, so I do wonder how it came to be here – wonderful light filter in autumn. A tree full of stars.

There is much to learn, and I can't think of a better place to practice.

You can follow my wanderings in Hut Wood at my blog 'The Diary of a Place': hutwooddiaryblog.wordpress.com

Martin Smith – December 2017

HOS WALKS & EVENTS

MARCH TO MAY 2018

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO LEAD A WALK, PLEASE CONTACT
Ted Barnes

Ted Barnes: 07811049281 or 02380266774 or [ted.barnes@talktalk.net](mailto:tet.barnes@talktalk.net)

You do not need to be a birding expert
Remember: *Everyone* is invited to these walks,
whatever your age or knowledge

Please Note:

Strong footwear is advisable for all walks, as is clothing appropriate for the weather conditions
A packed lunch is recommended for walks that span mid-day. Participants are requested to inform the leader if leaving the walk early, or if they have a medical condition that might compromise their ability to complete the walk.

The distance covered is shown for each walk, together with a 'walk category', as follows:

A) Easy - a fairly short walk over relatively flat ground with no/few stiles.

B) A little more demanding - longer distance and/or gentle hills but with no/few stiles.

C) Medium difficulty - moderate distance and/or moderate hills and/or a moderate number of stiles.

D) Strenuous - long distance and/or steep hills and/or many stiles.

Do please take care and enjoy the walks programme, but remember, responsibility for personal safety lies with the individual, not the Society.

***Enjoy the free walks, the scenery, the company, the wildlife, the many pairs of eyes,
the shared knowledge, the flora and the birds.***

Saturday 17th March – Millyford Bridge for great Spotted Woodpeckers

Leader Rob Clements

8.00am until 11.00am

Meet at the Millyford Bridge car park (SU267078) for a walk looking at Lesser Spotted Woodpecker territories along with other woodland species (Hawfinch, Firecrest and Wood Warbler). Walk category A.

Sunday 25th March – Warblington Shore to Hayling Oyster Beds

Leader Kev. Stouse(07510 600808)

9.30 am until 1.30pm (3 miles)

Meet in The Warblington Church car park (SU728054) for this walk along the shore to Hayling Oyster Beds in search of migrant birds, waders and wildfowl. Hopefully Med. Gulls will be on the oyster bed islands. Bring coffee/lunch.

Walk category A.

Saturday 31st March – Lords Wood and Southampton Sports Centre

Leader Phil Budd (07748 236666)

10.00am until approx. 3.00pm (5 miles)

Meet at the Lords Wood Gardens car park (SU408154) for this walk seeking out the early spring birds and wildlife of both park and wood land. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category B.

Wednesday 4th April – Exton/Warnford walk

Leader Nick Wiley (01489 893886 or 07747 151160)

10.00am until 2.00pm (4 miles)

Park anywhere in Exton village and meet by the church gate at SU613211-OS Landranger 186 (post code SO32 3NT) for a walk along the old Meon Valley railway line towards Warnford and returning along the Monarchs Way looking for early migrants and resident species. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category B

Saturday 7th April – Inkpen Beacon

Leader Julian Moseley (02380 779850)

10.30am until 3.30pm

Meet in the car park at SU371620 (OS Landranger 174 – Newbury & Wantage) for this ramble around the North Downs. There are some steep gradients on this walk and it can be quite muddy. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category D.

Saturday 14th April – Bolderwood for Hawfinch.

Leader Marcus Ward (07749 375994)

8.00am until 11.00am

Meet at the Bolderwood car park (SU242086) for a walk looking for scarce New Forest woodland birds focussing on Hawfinch but we should also see Wood Warbler, Firecrest, Crossbill, Redstart etc. Walk category A/B.

Sunday 15th April – Migrant Birds at Farlington Marshes.

Leader Kev. Stouse (07510 600808)

9.30am until 2.00pm (3 miles)

Meet at Broadmarsh car park (SU699055) for this walk around the marshes in search of migrant birds – NB the new road layout means you have to do a u-turn to enter the car park as there is no right hand turn into the car park entrance – continue up Harts Farm Way and where it widens you can turn and come back to the car park entrance. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category A.

Saturday 21st April – Hill Head

Leader Richard Carpenter (01329 066856 or 07849 184316)

10.00am until 2.00pm (3-4 miles)

Meet at SU531023 – on the shore road near the west entrance to Titchfield Haven. We will look for late wintering waders and wildfowl and early spring migrants. If there has been recent rain, the paths will be muddy, bring lunch. Walk category B.

Wednesday 25th April – Kingsley

Leader Chris Piper (07711 506100)

10.00am until 2.00am (5.5 Miles)

Meet at SU788381 on the main Kingsley Road (B3004 between Alton and Bordon – nearest Post Code GU35 9ND). Park at either the Kingsley Pond car park or Kingsley Centre car park. This circular walk takes in common with heath land, a lake, mature hedgerows, disused railway line, farmland and the Straits Inclosure of Alice Holt forest. Potentially raptors Yellowhammer, Skylark and other farmland species are expected but as this is a new walk who knows what may turn up. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category C/D.

Saturday 28th April – Portland Bill

Leader Ted Barnes (02380 266774 or 078110 49281)

10.00am until approx. 3.30pm (4.5 miles)

Meet in the Cheyne Wares car park (SY694705 – OS Landranger 194) just off the Southwell road for this walk around the Portland Bill area looking for returning summer migrants, sea birds and nesting Auks. Bring lunch. Alternatively a reasonably priced meal/snack is available at the Lobster Pot Café at the Bill. Walk category C.

Sunday 6th May – Dawn Chorus at Farley Mount

Leader Julian Moseley (02380 779850)

4.00am until approx. 11.00am

Meet at Farley Mount the Hawthorns car park (SU416293 – OS Landranger 185) for this walk around the site which consists of chalk down land and FC managed enclosures, so a good mix of habitat. Disperse by 11.00am or thereabouts, or if people wish to stay they can. Walk category A.

Wednesday 9th May – Lucy Hill

See next page.

Wednesday 9th May – Lucy Hill

Leader Dave Munday (01489 576641)

9.00am until 1.00pm

Meet in the car park at SU227045 on the right of the Burley to Lyndhurst road alongside the Burley New Inclosure. Watch out for the car park sign. We will walk the heath and woodland looking for a variety of species to include Cuckoo, various warblers, Woodlark and woodpeckers. Good boots are a must. Walk category C.

Saturday 12th May – Worth Matravers

Leader Julian Moseley (02380 779850)

10.30am until 3.30pm

Meet in the village car park at SZ97575 – Note: parking fee payable. We will descend to the coast and amble westwards to the lighthouse before turning inland for the return leg. Guillemots/Razorbills, Swallows, Swifts, butterflies and bumblebees could be seen. Bring coffee/lunch. Walk category B/C.

Saturday 19th May – Holm Hill for Breeding Waders

Leader Russell Wynn

8.00am until 11.00am

Meet at the Whitefield Moor car park for a walk looking at breeding Curlew, Lapwing and Snipe. A good range of heath land species should also be seen including Dartford Warbler, Stonechat and Woodlark. Walk category A.



Reports of previous HOS walks

Portland Bill, Dorset: 1st April 2017

As mentioned, a reasonable selection of birds was encountered but did not include any Ring Ouzels at all! We started off with Robin, then Wren, Blue Tit, Greenfinch buzzed in the foliage, Chaffinch, seen, and eventually Dartford Warbler and Goldfinch. Skylark was singing overhead, Meadow Pipit were flushed from the heather, a small flock of Long –tailed Tits flitted past, some Swallows wafted through and Blackbirds were seen (unfortunately just Blackbirds).

Heather saw a female Reed Bunting and in the same sapling was a Chiffchaff. A couple of Pied Wagtails skittered about chasing insects, one Buzzard drifted over the assembled crowd and Carrion Crows and Jackdaw could be heard close by. I picked up Woodlark, then Green Woodpecker, followed by Nuthatch and what I think must have been a Small Heath butterfly but it didn't settle for long enough for me to be sure. A couple of Red Admiral butterflies also flew by during the rest of the day.

Julian Moseley.

Editor's Note: Another report of this same walk, by Ted Barnes, can be read on page 29 of issue number 156 (Autumn 2017)

No article for the HOS walk at Arne, Dorset on 29th October 2017 but below are a couple of pictures from this walk by Victor Humphrey (Robin and a Sika Deer):



Eyeworth Pond, New Forest: 9th December 2017

The day started well, bright sunshine, blue skies and a scattering of waterfowl on the pond which was three quarters frozen. Mostly Mallard, a solitary Moorhen and a couple of pairs of Gadwall but no sign at all of Mandarin. Grey Wagtail skittered around the puddles surrounding the car park, Blue, Coal, Great and Marsh Tits all turned up for the seeds, food balls and half coconuts which had been left out by the water. Wandering into the enclosures revealed Chaffinch with Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush and Carrion Crow on the pig pasture. Robin sang, Nuthatch called volubly and Redwing were eventually seen but not in the expected numbers as a lot of the available berries seem to have been consumed already. Long-tailed Tits passed through in feeding parties. Blackbirds seemed ubiquitous, there must have been twenty or more during the day and Great Spotted Woodpecker were heard in the enclosures.

During lunch not one, but two, Dartford Warblers launched themselves into the air and chased across ten metres or so of dead Bracken before diving back down. Goldcrest revealed their presence in conifers during the return leg and in Old Sloden pannage was under way as some pigs rooted through the top layers of vegetation and soil, churning up the surface as they did so. By the time the party arrived back at the pond, a cloud layer had slid across the sky reducing the light but without, sadly, improving the temperature or the species count.

Julian Moseley.



*Right:
Gadwall pair
Titchfield Haven
16.12.17
Dave Levy*

Testwood, Nursling and Lower Test: 27th December 2017



*"I think we will change the route"
Picture by Victor Humphrey*

A merry band of six gentlemen met at Testwood Lakes car park at 10:30am just two days after Christmas. There was a promising start with a female Goosander and three Great-crested Grebes on the main Testwood Lake and six Cormorants on the little lake. However as we crossed between the two lakes, we started feeling like Scott and his band of Antarctic explorers as we felt full northerly blast of the wind, at least the earlier slight snow fall had melted

by then.

However our troubles were only just beginning, as we arrived at the crossing over the River Blackwater we found that the bloated river had swallowed the footbridge and since we only had gum boots, and not waders, we were forced to change course. We headed for the more sheltered Testwood Park where somebody jokingly said "it almost seemed like spring" here.

Birding was dull until we reached the southern end of Testwood Park where we were entertained by a pair of Stonechat and examined a pile of feathers from a predated passerine, thought to be a Song Thrush from the patterning on the breast feathers. On Lower Test Reserve it was too cold for the Chiffchaff and singing Cetti's Warblers that were seen previously but as we lunched at the steel vandal-proof hide we were entertained by two Peregrines, one of which took off after a Collared Dove. Actually Collared Dove is not a bird one would normally expect to see on Lower Test Marshes.

On the return journey the usual pair of Goosander were seen on the river Test below Testwood Mill and a male Teal accompanied them. A Bullfinch was heard in the woods of Testwood Park. Our walk finished back at Testwood Lakes at 2pm and a Mistle Thrush singing distantly brought our day tally to 37 bird species. No butterflies though!

Phil Budd



Barred Warbler Photo Gallery

The well photographed berry loving Titchfield Haven bird.....





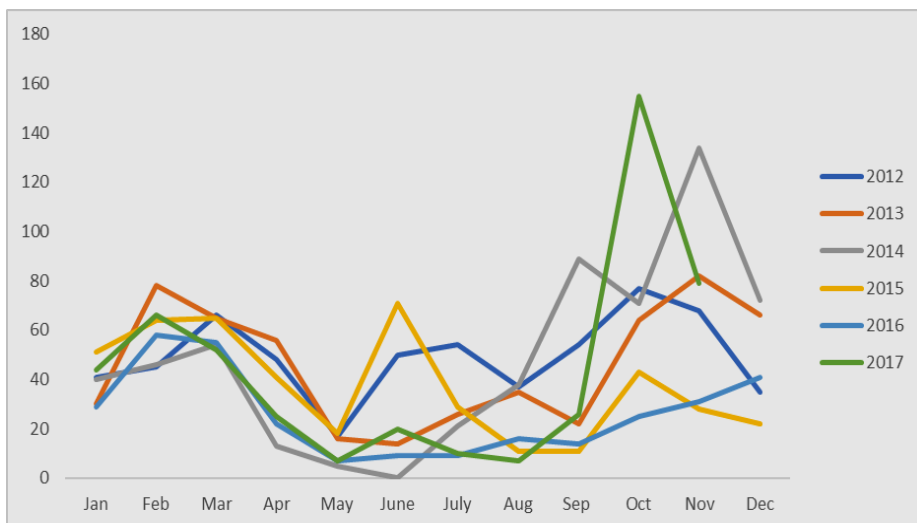
*For credits:
See page 51*

New Forest Hawfinch - 2017 update

Fieldwork continued throughout the year in the New Forest with most effort dedicated to roost finding and monitoring year-round as well as ringing between April and July.

In general, 2017 was a fairly good year for Hawfinch in the New Forest, an average Beech mast crop over the winter of 16/17 ensured good numbers remained in the Forest throughout the winter period. The breeding season was average at best but certainly more productive than 2016 though not a classic. A good number of youngsters were recorded both at the bait stations and in the roosts from mid-June. During the second half of the year recording became more exciting, yet challenging due to the influx of Hawfinch that was recorded across most of UK. Numbers fluctuated at the roosts with a peak count of 155 being recorded at one of my study sites. However, a poor Beech mast crop will ensure that few hang on for long locally. One of the highlights for me was recording Hawfinch in unusual locations including my central Lymington garden, Lymington town centre and the Lymington-Keyhaven Marshes but hard to beat hearing one from my office window in Hungerford, Berks!

The two core roosts at Blackwater Arboretum and Holm Hill were monitored fortnightly throughout the year while getting around as many of the other known roosts as time would allow.



Summary of monthly maxima at a central New Forest roost over a period of 5 years

At the time of writing I have found five new roosts this year bringing the total of known roosts in the New Forest up to 29, I believe I have another 8-10 main communal roost sites to pin down. One roost was unfortunately clear-felled, in Denny Wood. This, the third largest roost in the New Forest was adjacent to a significant breeding colony with no other suitable roost site for at least 1km in any direction. Although frustrating, it will be interesting to monitor what, if any impact this has on the colony and will provide a test case to further monitor the relationship between breeding, feeding and roost site



locations.

Adult male Hawfinch feeding on Black Sunflower seed.

Bait stations were established at three locations across the forest from January. The first Hawfinch were recorded feeding at the bait in late February, but the first Hawfinch wasn't caught until mid-April within the core study area. Elsewhere one of the bait feeders pulled in an impressive number of Brambling but failed to attract any Hawfinch. Meanwhile the third feeder did pull a reasonable number of Hawfinch but no attempt was made to catch birds here – lack of ringers available at the crucial time!

I concentrated on ringing at the main study site in the central New Forest managing to get out around three mornings per week between mid April and mid-July, catching a total of 48 new Hawfinch including 6 juveniles. Generally catching 1-3 new birds per session, the largest catch was of seven birds (5

*Right: Adult male Hawfinch
BC first ringed on 14th
April and subsequently
recorded at the bait station
on a further 20 dates up to
26th June*

.....

Using the cameras, we managed to record monogamy in Hawfinch with one pair (female AH and male AC) recorded both in 2016 and 2017 jointly feeding a freshly fledged juvenile at the bait station.

We have just three records of birds recorded away from Bolderwood, two came via photographers with an adult female recorded at Mercer Way, Romsey, a distance of 17.6km, and an adult male recorded in Mark Ash Wood, about 2km from the bait station. The second was a window strike just north of Brockenhurst, around 8km from the bait station. This bird was last recorded at the bait 4 days prior to hitting the window.

I have now made this site an RAS and plan to continue focussing all my attention here in 2018 though we will have bait stations established elsewhere and continue looking for a ringer to take them on.

Marcus Ward



Bird Trail 24th September 2017: Blashford Lakes Reserve

The 2017 Bird Trail, run in partnership with HIWWT, was another great success. We were fortunate with the weather conditions and, of course, our many volunteers, supporting organisations and the groups of young people. Our thanks go to all of these and the adults who gave up their time to bring the groups. Thanks also to Jim Day and HIWWT for jointly organising the day with us and providing an excellent venue and their volunteers, including accredited photographers.



Thank you to all of our HOS volunteers for their help on the day and throughout the year with the organisation of the event, including the BTO ringers, Graham and Marcus, both HOS members. Volunteers undertook a multitude of tasks.

Not only did each group have at least one HOS guide but volunteers supervised road crossings, carried out administration, registration and verification of the bird lists, being a guide in the hide and leading activities including owl pellet dissection, pond dipping, river dipping, moth trap

analysis and the bird ringing demonstration.

We are also very grateful to Bird Aware Solent, BTO ringers, Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, the Natural History Museum and Waders for Real for supporting the day with displays, information and interactive activities and, also, to South Downs National Park for providing the wild owl pellets.

We had some excellent prizes thanks to sponsorship from Birds of Poole Harbour, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group, Hampshire Swifts, In Focus, Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, Nutbags and Pearsons of Romsey.

Guided, chaperoned and instructed by HOS volunteers the groups set off at intervals on the route around the nature reserve to identify as many species of bird as they could and collect information on other aspects of nature. Fitting around their bird trail route they also had the opportunity to participate in the activities outlined above.





The winning team – 3rd Ringwood Beavers came top of the leader board on the day with over 50 species of birds. They won individual pairs of Opticron Vega binoculars (courtesy of *In Focus*) as well as individual tickets for each team member and an accompanying adult to join the *Birds of Poole Harbour* Christmas Birdwatching cruise.

Close behind, with 47 species, was Blashford's Young Naturalist group winning family tickets to Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, and in third place, with 42 species was Titchfield Haven Wildlife Explorers who won themselves a "*Nutbags*" sunflower heart filled bird feeder and a FSC guide to the Top 50 Garden Birds, courtesy of the *Hampshire Swift* Group.

All entrants were awarded with an embroidered "Bird Trail" camp blanket badge (sponsored by *Christchurch Ornithological Society*) and a certificate (printed by *Pearsons*) signed personally by Chris Packham himself.

Bird highlights this year included Goldcrest, Wheatear and tits in the hand at the ringing demonstration, and peregrine and Kingfisher sightings.

Our appreciation, as ever, goes to Chris Packham, President of HOS who, once again, supported us with his time by personally signing all the certificates in advance and spending over 2 hours with the young people on the day. He is certainly not a president in name only. As he told me in the weeks running up to Bird Trail "if I am in the country I'll be there". Chris is so encouraging to the young people and provides inspiration as a role model in his interactions with them and through his keynote speech. This year the focus of his talk, having only recently returned from Cyprus, concerned the actions being taken to stop the on-going slaughter of songbirds on the island for the restaurant and street market trade. He also supported the youngsters by referring to their activities in Bird Trail, especially the owl pellet dissection. Wild owl pellets are, obviously, the must have present for this Christmas and birthdays to come.

We feel that it is time for another Spring Bird Trail and, in order not to be too close to the 2017 one, are planning for Sunday 29th April 2019. This does avoid the School Holiday. Please note this in your diary.

Patricia Brown



Recent Reports

October-December 2017

Tom Jordan

Around 207 species were seen during the period. This summary focuses on larger counts, scarcer species and unexpected localities reported throughout the period (capitals indicating national rarities or species with less than annual occurrence in Hampshire). Most records are from Birdguides and Goingbirding websites: a much more complete picture will eventually appear in the Hampshire Bird Report. Regular site summaries appear monthly in *Birdwatching* magazine and on the HOS website. Sightings refer to single birds unless otherwise stated. Inclusion in this list does not indicate that sightings of rarities have been considered by the appropriate records committee.

Whooper Swan: Testwood Lakes 13/11

Bewick's Swan: Testwood Lakes 10SE 5/11

Pink-footed Goose: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 1-2 1/11 - 30/12

Barnacle Goose: Farlington Marshes 28 15/12, 42 16/12 - 30/12

Ruddy Shelduck: Ripley Farm Reservoir 17/11

FERRUGINOUS DUCK: Blashford Lakes 5/11 - 10/11

Scaup: Pennington Marsh 2 29/10; Hill Head/Brownwich 4 17/12, 2 18/12 - 23/12

LESSER SCAUP: Blashford Lakes 28/10 - 4/11

Long-tailed Duck: Langstone Harbour 9/11, 19/11, 3/12 - 12/12, 23/12; Weston Shore 19/11 - 28/12; Chichester Harbour 21/12

Common Scoter: Lepe 3W 6/10; Weston Shore 7/10, 14/12; Solent Breezes 3 21/10, 26/10; Milford-on-Sea 7 21/10; Pennington 20 22/10; Brownwich/Chilling max. 14 2/11 - 22/12; Stokes Bay 15/11; Langstone Harbour 3 18/12

Velvet Scoter: Langstone Harbour 2 18/11 - 24/11, 3/12

Red-throated Diver: Hill Head 29/10, 15/11, 22/12; Hurst Castle 18/11; Milford-on-Sea 1W 22/11; Pennington 3 22/12; Hook-with-Warsash 26/12;

Black-throated Diver: Chichester Harbour 2 14/11, 1-2 5/12 - 30/12; Milford-on-Sea 1W 22/11; Pennington/Oxey 24/11 - 26/11, 21/12 - 22/12; Hill Head 9/12

Great Northern Diver: Langstone Harbour 1-2 10/11 - 3/12; Chichester Harbour 16/11 - 17/11; Lepe 24/11, 1/12, 9/12; Pennington/Oxey Marsh 24/11 - 27/11; Sandy Point/Chichester Harbour 26/11 - 28/11, 1-3 5/12 - 30/12; Brownwich/Hill Head 1-2 2/12 - 9/12; Eastney 13/12; Cams Bay 17/12; St Deny's 22/12; Weston Shore 23/12, 31/12; Portsmouth 26/12; Park Shore 30/12

Leach's Petrel: Browndown 21/10

Shag: Weston Shore 3 25/11, 3/12; Eastney 13/12; Southsea 19/12, 2 26/12; Milford-on-Sea 24/12

Bittern: Pennington Marsh 19/10; Keyhaven 22/10, 9/12; Testwood Lakes 2 15/11, 17/11 - 11/12; Titchfield Haven 19/12; Fishlake Meadows 27/12

Cattle Egret: Pennington 2 5/11 - 17/11; Warblington 7/11, 28/12, Liss 30/11

Great White Egret: Edenbrook Country Park, Fleet 1SE 1/10; Fishlake Meadows 1 -2 1/10 - 23/10, 24/11, 22/12, 27/12, 28/12; Blashford Lakes 1/10 - 28/12; Avon Causeway 2/10, 24/10, 14/11, 28/11; Skidmore 10/10; Titchfield Haven 22/10, 27/10, 3N 28/10; Testwood Lakes 24/10 - 26/10, 9 27/10 - 28/10, 11 29/10, 3 31/10, 4-5 3/11 - 14/12; Lower Test 25/10; Farlington Marshes 7N 27/10; Weston Shore 2W 29/10; Lepe 30/10; Tundry Pond 14/11, 24/11; Southmoors 17/11; tbc.

Great White Egret (continued): Fleet Pond 19/11, 11/12; Bickton 19/11; Burgate Manor Farm 20/11; Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury 2N 20/11; Yateley Gravel Pit 22/11 - 23/11; Warnford 26/11; Eversley GP 3/12; Broadlands Lake 27/12

Glossy Ibis: Farlington Marshes 16/11; Avon Tyrell 19/11; Keyhaven 26/11

Spoonbill: Hook-with-Warsash 2W 1/10; /Keyhaven/Pennington 2/10, max. 4 13/11 - 29/11, 2 3/12, 8/12, 26/12, 30/12; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 15/10 - 16/10; Inchmery 8 1/12; Langstone Harbour 4 15/12; Lymington Estuary 6 16/12

Red-necked Grebe: Pennington/Oxey Marsh 21/12 - 22/12, 31/12

Slavonian Grebe: Keyhaven to Normandy 1-2 23/11 - 31/12; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 2 14/12; Hill Head 17/12; Weston Shore 17/12 - 23/12

Black-necked Grebe: Hill Head 15/10; Langstone Harbour max. 11 11/11 - 18/12; Ibsley Water 18/12 - 29/12

Marsh Harrier: Fishlake Meadows 1/10, 2 19/11, 21/12 - 29/12; Lepe 3/10, 31/10 - 1/11, 9/11 - 13/11, 2/12; Keyhaven/Pennington 3/10, 1-2 15/10 - 17/10, 1-2 27/10 - 28/12; Titchfield Haven 1-3 3/10 - 13/12; Woolmer Pond 14/10 - 16/10; Adanac Park 20/10; Lower Test 20/10, 3/12; Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour 8/11, 18/11, 26/11, 1-2 1/12 - 31/12; Hayling Island 14/11; Hook-with-Warsash 18/11; Ranvilles Lane 25/11; Alresford Pond 26/11, 9/12; Lymington Estuary 5/12

Hen Harrier: Shipton Bellinger 12/10; Bransbury Common 2 26/10, 27/10, 9/11, 24/11, 23/12; Matley Bog, NF 2/11; Longwood Warren 5/11; Ashley Walk/Black Gutter Bottom 10/11 - 22/11; Alresford Pond 16/11, 26/11, 30/11, 10/12, 12/12, 22/12; Ocknell Plain, NF 21/11; Fordingbridge 25/11; Keyhaven 3/12; Nether Wallop 10/12; Milkham Bottom, NF 16/12; Ibsley Common 16/12; Ocknell Plain, NF 18/12, 22/12; Slufers Inclosure, NF 22/12

Osprey: Leigh Park 7/10; Pennington Marsh 20/10; Normandy Marsh 22/10; Itchen Valley Country Park 22/10; Titchfield Haven 22/10; Hook-with-Warsash 22/10; Inchmery 26/10

Avocet: Keyhaven 17/10; Titchfield Haven 23/10, 28/10, 23/11 - 30/11, 6/12 - 8/12; Farlington Marshes max. 55 5/11 - 30/12; Normandy Marsh max. 15 7/11 - 30/12; Hook-with-Warsash 21/11; Chichester Harbour 8 27/11

Whimbrel: Keyhaven 22/10, 2 15/12; Portsmouth Harbour 30/11; Lymington Estuary 5/12; Langstone Harbour 18/12

Ruff: Titchfield Haven 3-5 1/10 - 2/10, 13/10 - 14/10, 19/10, 31/10, 19/11, 29/11, 2 15/12, 17/12; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 1/10 - 5/10, 17/10; The Vyne 2 2/10 - 5/10; Farlington Marshes 3/10 - 7/10, 7/11; Keyhaven/Pennington Marsh 2 19/10, 1 -2 27/10 - 6/11, 2-3 3/12 - 23/12; Hook-with-Warsash 28/10; Sturt Pond 3/11, 3 18/11, 2 25/11

Black-necked Grebe
Blashford Lakes
26.12.17
Jim Bennett



Curlew Sandpiper: Farlington Marshes 3/10 - 7/10; Normandy Marsh 16/10, 25/10; Black Point, Hayling Island 17/10; Bunny Meadows 12/12

STILT SANDPIPER: Farlington Marshes 7/11

Purple Sandpiper: Southsea Castle max. 16 29/10 - 29/12; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 7/11; Pennington Marsh 11/11, 1/12 - 31/12; Hurst Castle 18/11

Little Stint: Titchfield Haven 2 1/10 - 2/10; Pennington Marsh 2/10; Farlington Marshes 5/10; Hook-with-Warsash 6/10 - 7/10

Grey Phalarope: Pennington/Oxey Marsh 1/10 - 6/10, 25/10 - 11/11; Hurst Castle 22/10

Red-necked Phalarope: Pennington Marsh 20/10; Needs Ore 2/11

Common Sandpiper: Portsmouth Harbour 6/11, 20/12; Riverside Park, Southampton 5 9/11, 13/12, 29/12, 19/11; Fareham Creek 26/11, 1-2 22/12 - 28/12; Southmoors 5/12 - 8/12; Lower Test 3 9/12; Farlington Marshes 9/12

Green Sandpiper: Blashford Lakes 1-3 1/10 - 28/12; Hook-with-Warsash 2/10; Lower Test 2-4 3/10 - 6/10; Alresford max. 7 5/10 - 30/12; Lepe 6/10, 2 20/10; Badminton GP 1-3 9/10 - 27/10, 24/12; Highbridge 26/10; The Vyne 29/10; Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury 17/11; Soberton 18/11; Longparish 19/11; Petersfield 25/11; Efford Lake 25/11; Romsey 19/12; Woolmer Pond 22/12; Edenbrook CP, Fleet 22/12; Bedhampton 2 28/12

Spotted Redshank: Keyhaven/Pennington/Normandy Marsh max. 8 1/10 - 31/12; Farlington Marshes 5 7/10, 9/11, 17/11, 2/12, 6/12, 18/12; Emsworth 22/10; The Vyne 31/10

Jack Snipe: Ashley Hole 21/10; Backley Bottom, NF 16/12; Black Gutter Bottom, NF 17/12; Fishlake Meadows 18/12

Great Skua: Titchfield Haven 11/10; Milford-on-Sea 21/10; Park Shore 30/12

BLACK GUILLEMOT: Black Point, Hayling Island 23/11

Razorbill: Lepe 17/10, 1/11, 9/11; Hook-with-Warsash 20/10; Brownwich 15/11, 23/12; Hurst Castle 18/11; Milford-on-Sea 22/11, 24/12, 30/12; Southsea Castle 18/12; Chichester Harbour 19/12, 21/12, 30/12; Pennington 21/12, 30/12; Town Quay, Southampton 27/12; Calshot 27/12; Weston Shore 28/12

Guillemot: Milford-on-Sea 21/10, 2 22/11, 3 3/12; Hill Head 29/10; Southsea 7/11, 23/12; Chichester Harbour 16/11, 1-3 18/12 - 30/12; Hurst Castle 18/11; Hook-with-Warsash 26/12, 30/12; Calshot 27/12; Town Quay, Southampton 27/12, 31/12; Weston Shore 2 28/12, 31/12; Hythe 30/12

Little Auk: Hordle Cliff 17/11

Sandwich Tern: [Nov/Dec records] Hook-with-Warsash 3/11; Portsmouth Harbour max. 5 11/11 - 28/11; Fareham 11/11; Langstone Harbour max. 12 9/11 - 28/11; Chichester Harbour max. 31 16/11 - 14/12; Calshot 14/12; Oxey Marsh 2 31/12

Arctic Tern: Calshot 1/10; Weston Shore 7/10 - 14/10; Pennington Marsh 23/10

Grey Phalarope
Pennington
28.10.17
Andy Tew



Kittiwake: Pennington Marsh 6W 12/11; Lepe 2W 12/11; Milford-on-Sea 18 22/11; Southsea Castle 2W 23/11; Hill Head 1W 23/11, 13/12

Little Gull: Heath Pond, Petersfield 16/10; Sturt Pond 30/10

RING-BILLED GULL: Ibsley Water 10/12 - 30/12

Yellow-legged Gull: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 3 1/10, max. 14 28/10 - 30/12; Fleet Pond 18/11, 23/11, 11/12, 17/12; Southampton 24/11; Hill Head 15/12 - 16/12

Caspian Gull: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 5/11 - 30/12

Short-eared Owl: Pennington Marsh 17/10; Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour max. 3 18/10 - 9/12; Titchfield Haven 27/10, Leadenhall, NF 31/10; Bricksbury Hill 8/11; Oxy Marsh 12/11; Bransbury Common 25/11

Wryneck: Keyhaven 3/10

Merlin: Pennington Marsh 2/10, 16/10 - 21/10, 29/11, 25/12; Black Gutter Bottom 1-2 5/10 - 22/10, 12/12, 18/12, 2 27/12; Lepe 6/10; King's Somborne 8/10; Ranvilles Lane 15/10; Overton 24/10; Farlington Marshes 27/10, 16/11; Titchfield Haven 27/10, 29/10, 30/11, 17/12; Vales Moor, NF 5/11; Ober Heath, NF 12/11; Soberton 15/11; Broomy Plain, NF 19/11, 12/12, 18/12; Twyford Down 25/11; Slufers Inclosure, NF 29/11; Longwood Warren 9/12; Fishlake Meadows 17/12; Milkham Bottom, NF 18/12, Redenham Park 18/12

Ring-necked Parakeet: Southampton 1-2 4/10 - 25/11; Basingstoke 29/10; Nursling 24/11, 16/12; Woodmill 20/12

Great Grey Shrike: Vales Moor, NF 3/11 - 4/11; Milkham Bottom, NF 15/11 - 24/11, 12/12; Ocknell Plain, NF 2/12; Cranesmoor, NF 12/12; Strodgemoor Bottom, NF 16/12

Bearded Tit: Keyhaven/Pennington max. 21 1/10 - 3/12; Farlington Marshes max. 24 3/10 - 31/12; Fishlake Meadows 5 15/10; Hook-with-Warsash max. 10 25/10 - 19/12; Brownwich 7W 27/10; Lower Test 8/11; Titchfield Haven 20/12

Barn Swallow: [November records] Keyhaven 3/11; Pennington Marsh 2 8/11, 25/11

Yellow-browed Warbler: Keyhaven 4/10, 28/10; Basingstoke 5/10; Titchfield Haven 6/10, 8/10 - 10/10; Heath Pond, Petersfield 13/10, Whale Island, Portsmouth 13/10; IBM Lake (Cosham) 22/10; Bishopstoke 22/10; Lower Test 22/10

GREENISH/TWO-BARRED GREENISH WARBLER: Titchfield Haven 26/10

BARRED WARBLER: Titchfield Haven 19/11, 3/12 - 17/12 (see gallery on pages 32 & 33)

Waxwing: Deanleane End 4 12/12

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING: Pennington 8/10; Hook-with-Warsash 13/11

Merlin
New Forest
10.12.15
Martin Bennett



Ring Ouzel: Bricksbury Hill, Fleet 8/10, 9/10; Pennington 9/10, 2 17/10; Leadenhall/Ashley Walk, NF 1-5 9/10 - 22/10; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 10/10; Browndown 14/10; Old Winchester Hill 14/10; Budds Farm 4 14/10; Titchfield Haven 2 18/10, 25/10; Clay Hill, NF 21/10; Backley Plain, NF 22/10; Blackhalsley Hill, NF 22/10; Fritham Plain 2 26/10; Portsdown Hill 2 27/10; Hut Wood 29/10

Black Redstart: Pennington 17/10; Aldershot 19/10; Hayling Island 10/11; Fort Cumberland 24/11; Chandler's Ford 2/12; Netley Abbey 10/12 - 14/12; Hill Head 22/12 - 26/12; Hamble Cliff 28/12

Whinchat: [Late records] Hannington 16/10; Bransbury Common 2/11; Longslade Bottom, NF 26/11

Wheatear: [November records] Farlington Marshes 12/11

Water Pipit: Lower Test 1-2 26/10 - 11/1, 6 28/12; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 1-2 28/10 - 24/12; Tipner Lake, Portsmouth 3/11; Alresford Cress Beds max. 6 3/11 - 30/12; Farlington Marshes 2/12; Lepe 4/12; Pennington 8/12; Southmoors 9/12; Titchfield Canal Path 17/12, 2 20/12

Snow Bunting: Inchmery 29/11

PLEASE SEND RECORDS TO THE COUNTY RECORDER SO THAT THEY CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE HOS DATABASE AND HAMPSHIRE BIRD REPORT. SEND TO:

Keith Betton, 8 Dukes Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, GU9 0DR (Tel. 01252 724068) Email: keithbetton@hotmail.com

Records can be submitted as an email attachment using the Recording Form available from the home page of the HOS website: <http://www.hos.org.uk/>

Thank you

Tom Jordan

Water Pipit Blashford 25.11.17 David Cuddon



Hidden Possibilities: The Solution

Many thanks to all those who sent their answer to last quarter's puzzle (see pages 8-9 of issue no. 157); I hope it provided a little entertainment for everyone! The vast majority of entrants might now be kicking themselves when they realise that the introductory paragraphs actually formed part of the quiz! And if you spotted this, but didn't enter, then you also might wish that you had!

Congratulations to Tony Locke whose tremendous effort wins him the book. Tony managed to find every name except one: wren – which nobody spotted!

The solution is given below, with all bird names underlined, and italics used where names overlap. Names that were missed by the majority of entrants are shown in bold. Numerous additional names were suggested by a number of people, including hen, roc, pom etc., but these aren't included in the solution. You might also have noticed that the last word of the puzzle was mysteriously omitted – it should have been “wing-nuts!” and hence “redwing” – but at least everyone was in the same boat!

Hidden possibilities

Lost in these nonsensical, glib ramblings are a number of birds' names for you to find. To create a little more of a challenge, names can occur either forwards or backwards. You can underline, highlight or, of course, ring each answer. Following careful marking, the most complete solution, or in the event of a tie, the one received quickest, relative to other entries, will be deemed the winning entry.

The winner will be announced when this feature returns to next quarter's edition of 'Kingfisher', and will receive a copy of 'The RSPB Handbook of British Birds' as a prize (with a CASH bonus for anyone who finds all the hidden species!).

Send your solution to this address today: A. Johnson, 5/22 Bracklesham Road, Hayling Island, PO11 9SJ or email andyhaylingisland@hotmail.co.uk (note this is a '.uk' suffix, not '.com').

The puzzle deviser's decision is final, which leaves me with just one more thing to say: very good luck!!

She arose with that familiar feeling of being roused and alert. Episode eleven of her dating exploits followed ten spectacular knockbacks. On the last date, following an unforeseen arctic storm, she'd turned up looking like a drowned rat! Subsequently, once the bitterness had receded, and with the bar now lower than it had previously been, she hoped to establish a good outcome, especially with

tonight her only chance to impress. Deep down she was wanting to make them all ardent fans, perhaps even strike up love. Realistically though, ten nil remained the score.

They made a gleeful start to the evening; he brought her gifts, including five-star lingerie, a bohemian, elfin charm, and a ringlet with an ornate jewel rucked within. They started with drinks: an amalgam of cider and black, cocktails and Martini. Then to follow, he ate a random item chosen from the menu that changes every week. It extends to a second or third haphazard, unlined, overcrowded page in a loose-leaf book.

Cucumber, tomato, iceberg lettuce, crisp arrowroot, crab and avocado, smoked sprat in coleslaw, and a little stilton cheese were amongst the ingredients in their seafood salad, along with the most rich honey and mustard sauce in which to dip periwinkles. For after dinner relaxation, he'd brought some Verdigris mushrooms that he'd picked in the local woods, and piperoller's tobacco, otherwise known as 'puffing weed'; he'd taken a lot round earlier, being a forward planner.

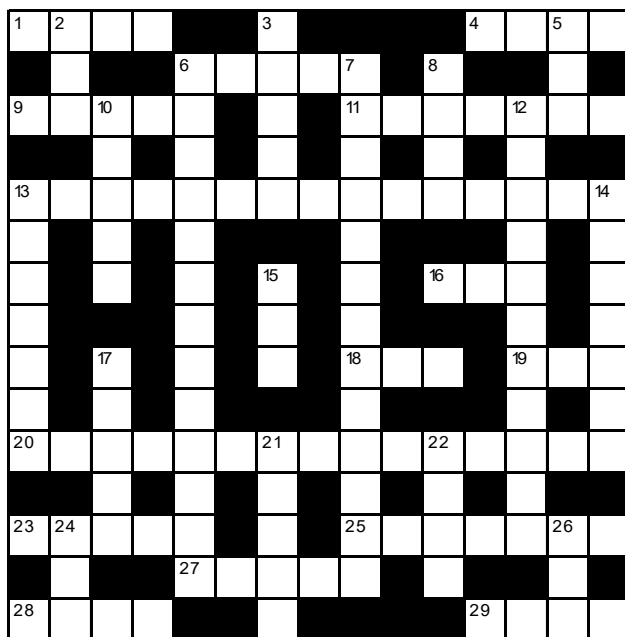
This is where proceedings took a little turn for the worse. It's fair to say that they would not have pleased God with their meagre attitude to health and safety, and this did not help his spleen, which, having chosen to ignore help, ruptured startlingly! It was hard to decide who turned the whitest, or kept fainting the most. One chat with the doctor and she was wallowing in self-pity, re-evaluating that this is kind of what happens with rushing to outwit each other. That much ought to have been obvious, especially with someone who is more than a little gullible, for goodness sake!

Rifling through her health, hardware and hygiene ('H') room, she came across billhooks, a pair of nut-crackers, a hunting dagger, a shovel, erasive detergent, a multi pipe-rack, a mop, a rake etc. Rakes and mops would have been useful to avert potential glitches in the first place, e.g. dirt rapidly accumulating, and the ensuing havoc etc. that had been caused. She was unable to use the dagger as a probing instrument since, in the auspices of criminal law, daggers contravene the rules. Subsequently, using the CB radio (her latest hobby!) to call for an ambulance was also a catastrophe, as antenna gave up working, due to the effectiveness of its now crooked coupling -pin tailing off. Some pins, when pushed further in, go useless rather swiftly, and knowing they can destroy alternative radios preyed on her mind. For future reference, and in the absence of further evidence, it's best to use paired wing-nuts!

Andy Johnson

HOS Cryptic Crossword No.1 by A. Johnson

This crossword (which is along the lines of the 'Telegraph Toughie') is specifically designed for Hampshire birders. Most of the answers are bird names, but rather than simply put 'bird' or similar as the meaning, many of the descriptions require rather more lateral thinking! Others are more or less birding-related, including some very specific Hampshire references.



Across

- 1, 10 & 24 Without time to manoeuvre, learned to glow in the dark? (4-5,3)
- 4 see 14
- 6 Sounds like the Queen is one's owner (5)
- 9 & 29 Pirate noises get on your nerves to run through (5,4)
- 11 Free, empty day in; parking's hard in Gosport (7)
- 13 Young pigeon follows beach, succeeding to maroon on the rocks (6,9)
- 16 When beheaded this produces 18 (3)
- 18 & 17 Illegal collector gets short time for good measure? (3,5)
- 19 Understand one hears a multitude of 6d here? (3)
- 20 Leggy election supporter cut short – is her French in half-line? (10,5)
- 23 What goes around comes around, right? Dartford's like that! (5)

- 25 Either way, his craft creates lots of disturbance in harbour! (7)
 27 Female – about the first... (5)
 28 & 15 Sounds like he missed his chance to keep tin-opener and bottle-opener?
 (4,3)
 29 See 9 across.

Down

- 2 What 25 needs at Beaulieu, by the sound of it (3)
 3 Singers activities (5)
 5 Alongside Jolson he'd make a majestic 4 (3)
 6 Banker has odd desires about getting down in the Arctic? (8,5)
 7 Lace bandages broken ankle; ran water at Blashford (9,4)
 8 Bunch of snipe (4)
 10 See 1
 12 Open runner-up on empty tables; left in the dark (7,4)
 13 Policeman up against difficult redhead (7)
 14 & 4 Flushed rarity took off even hastier, then ran (7,4)
 15 See 28
 17 See 18
 21 Finally see 9 is not a bad example of this! (5)
 22 Duck traps retiring son (4)
 24 See 1
 26 Vince must score runs in Australia (3)

Snipe
Titchfield Haven
 16.12.17
 Dave Levy



New members in 2017

We would like to welcome the following new members who joined HOS in 2017:

Mr & Mrs C G Allen, Southampton; **Mr N Alner**, Winchester; **Mr P A Barrow**, Wimborne; **Mr & Mrs K & C Bepolka**, Winchester; **Mr K Best**, Southampton; **Mr R J Bish**, Waterlooville; **Mr G Blachford**, Lyndhurst; **Mr J Blithe**, Fleet; **Mr & Ms J & S Brenton & Ireland**, Stockbridge; **Mr P M Brown**, Farnham; **Mr J Bruce**, Winchester; **Ms R Byrne**, Camberley; **Mr & Mrs B & V Catlin**, Southampton; **Mr & Mrs A Chandler**, Southampton; **Mr S M Clemons**, Southampton; **Mr & Mrs K Colcomb**, Southampton; **Mr & Mrs R Cooper**, Fleet; **Ms J Craddock**, Alresford; **Mr R A Croft**, Newbury; **Mr R W Cunningham**, Southampton; **Mrs D Dalton**, Andover; **Mr A Davis**, Romsey; **Mr S Dawson**, Portsmouth; **Mr M Day**, Southampton; **Ms L De Mello**, Southsea; **Mr S Dennis**, Salisbury; **Mrs JFO Drew**, Fareham; **Mrs J Drewett**, Worcester Park; **Mr & Mrs S & K Dudley**, Southampton; **Mr K Duncan**, Basingstoke; **Mr D C Durell**, Southampton; **Mrs M Eagles**, Crawley; **Mr P W H Ellcome**, Winchester; **Dr N Ferguson**, Camberley; **Mr P M S Ford**, Salisbury; **Miss C Fulker**, Southampton; **Mrs S C Gannon**, Romsey; **Mr. C Geary**, Southsea; **Mr D T Gilby**, Winchester; **Mr J D Glasgow**, Winchester; **Ms C Goodwin**, Shaftesbury; **Mr M Gould**, Bournemouth; **Mrs L Hemmings**, Lymington; **Mr & Mrs R Hewitt**, Portsmouth; **Mr A C Hines**, Emsworth; **Mr & Ms C & L Hocking & Payne**, Romsey; **Mr M L Hooper**, Southampton; **Mr K R House**, Romsey; **Mr A G Inder**, Southampton; **Ms & Mr J & N Josey & Dakin**, Farnborough; **Mr T Knowles**, New Milton; **Miss R Ladd**, Hayling Island; **Mr J W Lailey**, Alresford; **Mr A Lewis**, Basingstoke; **Ms S Loader**, Fordingbridge; **Ms S Lockhart**, Bath; **Mr J C Maltby**, Alton; **Mrs S Marshall**, Ringwood; **Mrs C Mason**, Fareham; **Mr & Mrs N & K Matthews**, Basingstoke; **Mr & Mrs A May-Miller**, Hook; **Miss & Mr M & B McCrea & Williams**, Southampton; **Miss E McVean**, Southampton; **Mr A P Murdock**, Eastleigh; **Mr T D Murray**, Winchester; **Mr J Nightingale**, Winchester; **Mr R A O'Dare**, Marlow; **Mr N Orson**, Southampton; **Rev J E Owen**, Petersfield; **Mr D Papworth**, Petersfield; **Dr S A Peters**, Southampton; **Mr M A Pirie**, Fleet; **Mrs C Prowse**, Petersfield; **Mr J A Reed**, Bournemouth; **Mr A Reynolds**, Southampton; **Mr D Robertson**, Waterlooville; **Mr C N Robinson**, Lymington; **Mr I Ross**, Romsey; **Mr B Scammell**, Guildford; **Mr & Mrs J F Scott**, Arlesford; **Miss L Sharpe**, Eastleigh; **Mr & Mrs T Sharpe**, Winchester; **Dr R D Sharpe**, Newbury; **Mr A Smith**, Southampton; **Dr & Dr K & L Smith**, Chichester; **Mr P M J Snell**, Christchurch; **Miss A Steel**, Alton; **Mr D C Stephens**, Southampton; **Mr R Stephens**, Aldershot; **Mr T Stevens**, Andover; **Mr R Stowe**, Alresford; **Mr N Tay**, Lee-On-The-Solent; **Mr R J Taylor**, Lymington; **Mr & Ms M & C Taylor & Sulston**, Newbury; **Miss & Mr C & S Teutscher & Noble**, Southampton; **Mr I Thumwood**, Winchester; **Mr A Timms**, Liss; **Mr J Toomer**, Bournemouth; **Mr D Tottie**, Southampton; **Mrs S Tucker**, Lymington; **Mr & Mrs B & T Vaughan**, Christchurch; **Mr & Ms D & J Wagland & Bray**, Emsworth; **Mr D Waltham-Hier**, Alton; **Mrs A Whitfield**, Romsey; **Mr & Mrs M Whitmarsh**, Southampton; **Mr B Williams**, Southampton; **Mr G Woodward**, Southampton; **Dr M & S Yelland & Bacon**, Lymington.

Kay Shillitoe

Membership Renewals 2018

If you wish to continue membership and have not paid your subscriptions yet, please write out a cheque (£12 for single/joint/family membership, £5 for under-18s) to Hampshire Ornithological Society and send to me as soon as possible (Kay Shillitoe, "Westerly", Hundred Acres Road, Wickham, Fareham, Hants PO17 6HY).

One-off payments may be made by internet banking, but we would prefer members to set up a Standing Order to go out on the 2nd of January each year, so now is the time to set one up if you have not already done so.

HOS's account details are:-

Lloyds Bank, Castle Street, Christchurch, sort code 30-92-02, account number 01182908.

They are also given on our web site: www.hos.org.uk.

We do not send out renewal letters to all members as a matter of course. When all the cheque payments and bank payments have been checked we send out a single reminder e-mail or letter (usually in March) to members that appear to have not paid their subscription. If you receive a reminder letter, please respond promptly and let us know your e-mail, if you have one.

Note that all 2017 members will receive the Spring 2018 Kingfisher, so if you don't receive the summer 2018 Kingfisher (published in May), but you think you have paid, then please contact me:

Kay Shillitoe, Membership Secretary.

kay.shillitoe@gmail.com

01329 833086

Membership Subscriptions & Renewals

Please contact the Membership Secretary:

Kay Shillitoe, 'Westerley', Hundred Acres Road, Wickham,
PO17 6HY. Tel: 01329 833086 E-mail: kay.shillitoe@gmail.com

All renewals and subscription enquiries should go to **Kay Shillitoe** at the address above. Please encourage your friends to join—see the **web site** for further details or contact Kay for an application form. Please include your name, or names, and address in any correspondence and send cheques with the appropriate subscription rates payable to **HOS**.

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Ordinary member: £12

Membership for household: £12

Junior members (under 18): £5

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www.hos.org.uk

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Kingfisher No. 158 Pictures

Front Cover Buzzard Anton Lake 27.10.17 Brian Cartwright

Page 2 (top) Coot Eastrop Park Basingstoke 17.11.17 Dave Levy; (bottom) Gadwall Anton Lake 20.11.17 Brian Cartwright.

Page 28 Goosander male Lower Test Reserve 9.12.17 Andy Tew

Page 33 Barred Warbler Titchfield Haven: (top) 12.12.17 Martin Bennett; (middle) 5.12.17 Gareth Rees; (bottom) 6.12.17 Martin Bennett

Page 34 Barred Warbler Titchfield Haven: (top) 16.12.17 Dave Levy; (middle) 17.12.17 Chris Rose; (bottom) 7.12.17 Jim Bennett.

Back Page Bearded Tit Pennington Marsh 13.11.17 David Cuddon

Note: Any otherwise non-credited photographs are by the authors of the respective articles

Please continue to send your articles and observations, by email or letters, however short or lengthy to: photos@hos.org.uk

All pictures could subsequently be sent to the Hampshire Bird Report and for future HOS publications. We welcome and enjoy all of your pictures and articles, even those we may not use immediately.

If possible, right click then 'rename' the jpeg file giving the species, where and when and do not forget your name.

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**DEADLINE FOR SUMMER 2018 KINGFISHER
KINGFISHER 1st April 2018**

