

KINGFISHER

Hampshire Ornithological Society Magazine

The magazine for Hampshire birders

Spring 2026 Issue 184

**Willam Price Green
Bequest**

**Members' Day
Intinery**



HOS Contacts



Hampshire Ornithological Society

Registered Charity 1042309

President: Chris Packham

Chair: Keith Betton

Honorary Sec: Dave Palmer

County Recorder: Martin Pitt

Website: www.hos.org.uk

 @HOSbirding

 Hampshire Ornithological Society

Membership forms

www.hos.org.uk/membership-form

Membership Sec: Kay Shillitoe

 kay.shillitoe@gmail.com

Westerly, Hundred Acres Road
Wickham

PO17 6HY

01329 833086

HOS Sales: Esther Stannah

 HOSSales26@icloud.com

HOS Walks: Di Warner

 warner838@btinternet.com

Kingfisher Editor: Peter Little

 hoskingfisher@outlook.com

Picture Editors:

Claire Melville & Steve Laycock

Design: Rob Farnworth

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Picture credits

Front cover

Kestrel by Sheila Williams

Centre spread

White Fronted Geese by Scott Usher

Back cover

Crossbill by Helen Wood



From the Editor



Sanderling by Chris Rose

Welcome to this issue of Kingfisher

Welcome to the 184th edition of Kingfisher magazine. This issue has two very important notices within it. The first is the Members' Day/AGM information with announcements on guest speakers and programme. The second is a guide to a rule change so that you have a clear understanding of the proposal. For those of you who have enjoyed Kingfisher during the last 3 to 4 years you are not going to see many changes with my editorship, why break what works! This month's content includes an article by Keith Betton highlighting a bequest given to us by the family of William Price Green, with some fabulous images taken in the 1920's he was obviously the gifted film photographer.

The standard of images in the magazine highlights the high quality and quantity of images we receive, we try to be as diverse as possible in whose images are used, please remember to include your name in the file name and where it was taken, if possible.

If you would like to submit an article to Kingfisher please feel free to contact me via the email provided on page 2 or approach me at the Members' Day. Please note; we have limitations such as approx. 250 words per page to allow any images to be included which must be of a reasonable quality, clearly defined and in focus.

Regards,
Peter Little

HOS Members' Day

Saturday 28 March Don't miss out!

This year's HOS Members' Day is not far off now, and we'd love to see as many of you as possible at St Swithun's School in Winchester for what promises to be a great day. Last year around 450 people attended, making it the largest single-day bird event in the UK in 2025! We have a packed programme of speakers, and the day also includes the HOS AGM which is a perfect opportunity to find out what your Society has been up to over the last 12 months.

9.30 am Exhibition opens
10.30 am Chris Packham: President's Address

HOS Annual General Meeting

11.15 am Nigel Matthews: HOS House Martin Project
11.30 am Break
11.45 am Sid Stannah: through the eyes of a young birder
12.00 pm Gill Perkins: Brilliant Bumblebees -
12.30 pm Steve Laycock: Hampshire's Amazing Wildlife
1.15 pm Exhibition open/Free time
2.45 pm Roy Dennis: A lifetime of rewilding
3.30 pm Break
3.45 pm Question Time: Guy Michelmore
4.45 pm Close

The day is an amazing chance for you to win great prizes in our raffle, meet fellow birders and HOS members and to do a bit of bird-related shopping. You will be able to browse our two exhibition halls and chat to exhibitors, including artists, photographers, wildlife organisations and travel companies and, by popular demand, optics suppliers.

You can also get your Spring reading material from the HOS bookstall with low prices because everything is pre-loved. You can also buy HOS clothing and accessories.

There is parking on site, but with over 400 members attending, if you can car share it will ease the pressure on space. Please follow the directions of our parking marshals so everyone gets a space.

Once again there will be coffee and food to buy on site. Some people prefer to bring their own provisions; which is fine and reduces queues.

Make sure you have Saturday 28 March in your diary and we will look forward to seeing you there!

Members' Day

Speakers

Nigel Matthews

Nigel has taken part in numerous bird surveys, led many bird walks (often focusing on recognising bird songs and calls). Nigel worked for Kent Wildlife Trust



for 16 years and then the New Forest National Park Authority (as Head of Recreation Management and Learning) for 15 years until he retired in 2021. Nigel joined HOS's Scientific Committee in 2023 and has organised all the recent species surveys in the New Forest. Currently he is co-ordinating our work on House Martins.

Sid Stannah

Sid became a HOS Young Member in 2023 when he was aged 11, and since then he has taken part in 22 HOS events, which we are sure is more than any other HOS member (including your hard-working committee!). To learn more about bird ecology he has been helping with HOS organised farm surveys in the Test Valley. He will talk about these and share some of his best birding experiences to date.



Gill Perkins

After honing her leadership skills in the business world, Gill found her way back to her first passion of conservation as

Chief Executive of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2016. She led the Trust for nine years and is now an ambassador



for their work. An enthusiastic vegetable gardener and amateur botanist, Gill knows we can all help reverse the decline in bumblebees by taking small actions and she will guide us all on how to know these terrific bees better, and how to improve their chances.

Steve Laycock

Steve started photography in his early teens. The first of his photos to be



published were in a local newspaper and later in the first Birdquest brochure in the 1980s. In 2007 Olympus used his underwater photographs to promote the Olympus E-330 camera. Steve is a keen conservationist and now uses his photos to help promote conservation in Hampshire and particularly the New Forest National Park.

Roy Dennis

The word "legend" should only be used for people like Roy. Having grown up in Hampshire in the 1940s he worked at several bird observatories,



and particularly Fair Isle. His career in Scotland dates to 1959, much of it as the RSPB's Highland officer. Among his many achievements he has been instrumental in reintroducing White-tailed Eagles, Red Kites and Beavers. The White-tailed Eagle reintroduction on the Isle of Wight was his idea, and he made the case for it to happen through the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation. A prolific author, his latest book is on Capercaillies.

Guy Michelmore

In a former life Guy was a newsreader and presenter with BBC News and Current Affairs, but today he is an award-winning composer of music for films. He is a lifelong birder and HOS member. He has been doing Breeding Bird Surveys for BTO for over 12 years, largely focussed around his home patch in West Sussex, but he frequently comes over the border to the New Forest, Test Valley and beyond.



The Cameron Bepolka Trust was set up in memory of Cameron. He loved nature. We create and sponsor outdoor events for young people from every background to help them discover that same passion for all things wild and natural.

Cameron's Cottage in the New Forest has recently opened. It is our joint venture with the RSPB, providing a residential base from which young people can explore and connect with nature.

Please get in touch if you are an organisation that creates opportunities for groups of young people; we may be able to help with funding and provide access to Cameron's Cottage.

Visit our website to see the range of activities we engage in and the organisations we cooperate with to deliver our aims.

www.cameronbepolka.com info@cameronbepolka.com

Tech Review

Vortex Diamondback 8x42 HD Binoculars

These latest Diamondback HD models, introduced by Vortex in 2019 were my first purchase after having used a set of Meade astronomy binoculars 10 x50 for a couple of years.

The latest Diamondback models have the same HD glass (not ED) glass as their spotting scopes. HD (high density) glass, To all intents and purposes the HD glass has the same effect as ED (extra-low dispersion) glass, in that it reduces chromatic aberration or colour fringing. As with the spotting scope of the same family the view is clear and bright but chromatic aberration does appear at the longest distances and in certain situations on a very bright background. What struck me initially when testing in a retail environment was the colour reproduction.

The Diamondback HD binoculars have of course properties from the previous generation, such as BAK-4 prisms, fully multi-coated glass, phase correction and dielectric mirror coatings. Altogether, these elements create a crisp, vibrant, bright image, even on a typically wet and miserable day. The especially wide field of view on the 8x32 and 8x42 is amongst the very best in this price bracket.

The binoculars are Argon gas purged, which prevents internal fogging in almost any usable temperature. Being O-ring sealed also means the binoculars are completely waterproof, so don't fret



if you get caught out in the rain. This is something I'd expect from a £200 binocular, but the added bonus with the Diamondback HD models is what Vortex call ArmorTek coating on the exterior lenses, which repels unwanted build up of water, dirt or oily finger prints.

On to the accessories; the same padded strap is supplied for each model. You can purchase a Vortex harness should you wish, but the supplied lanyard should provide adequate comfort for most people. You also receive a rainguard, tethered objective lens covers and a basic cleaning cloth. As with all Vortex products you get covered by the Vortex Unlimited Lifetime Warranty.

Bird ringing at Titchfield Haven



Sunday the 26th of October finally saw our Titchfield bird ringing event go ahead. Two dates before had been thwarted by unsuitable weather conditions. No such problems today as the sun shone and the wind and rain were absent there was a chilly feel to the early morning start.

It was inevitable that some of our young members were unable to attend after being postponed twice but we were joined by Amy, Holly, Fredrick & Sid and the ringing team Barry, Trevor, Duncan Tommy and of course Maggi.

It was very much a redpoll day. I saw more redpoll's than i have ever seen before. Males females and juveniles. The spectacular male with the pink blush on it's chest was such a treat. There were of course other birds. Robin, Wren, Blackcap, Goldcrest, and the star, probably, was a Firecrest.



The ringing team went to great lengths to explain how the shape and condition of the feathers determined the age of the bird. They showed us a Redpoll that had had feather mite and explained the scar line across the feathers that had been affected. As always, we give huge thanks to the volunteers who give their time to hos young members. I am certain it is experiences such as bird ringing that will shape the future of all those who attend Small Mammal Trapping.

On the 9th of November we were lucky enough to have John Buckley and his team run another small mammal trapping event. Located at Itchen Valley Country Park, this is a very popular event with the Young Members experiencing seeing the small mammals up close and being shown how to safely handle them. Some of the older children who are studying at college were allowed to weigh and

measure the creatures and the data will be included in the records submitted by John and his team. 104 traps were set and on our event day 85 traps contained a mammal. The totals were 17 Bank Vole, 12 Field Vole, 41 Wood Mouse, 15 Harvest Mouse. It was interesting comparing totals with the previous year where we had only one Harvest Mouse but 3 types of Shrews where there were none this year.

Bird ringing at Blashford Lakes

The last Bird ringing of the year was on the 20th of December. The preceding week was very wet leaving many roads flooded so it was a huge relief to see the sun shining for us. As always Brenda and Kevin were on hand to not only give a ringing demonstration but engage with the children giving them a fun and educational experience. Brenda had



a quiz set out which kept the children amused while the nets were being checked. The most common bird for the day was Blue Tit but others included Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Robin, Nuthatch and the bird(s) of the day Great Spotted Woodpecker. Two of these were caught on this day and both had been ringed

before. On checking the ring numbers, it was noticed that the numbers were sequential. This does not confirm that they were Nest Mates but it is a realistic conclusion to come to. Two of the ringing team helpers were Florrie and Dimitri. These two young people have been in HOS for many years, it was wonderful to see them showing the birds to the young members of today. We are pleased that the enthusiasm for birds and nature have stayed with them.

Young Member Walks for the Autumn and Winter have been led by Kev Stouse, two September walks and another in November to Budds Farm Sewage Works and Langstone Harbour and Warblington Shore. Ian Packer led a walk to Normandy Marsh. Tom Parsons led a walk to Moor Green Lakes

As always, we say a big thank you to our walk leaders, Bird ringing demonstration teams and the Mammal trapping team. You give the young people so much more than just belonging to a club.



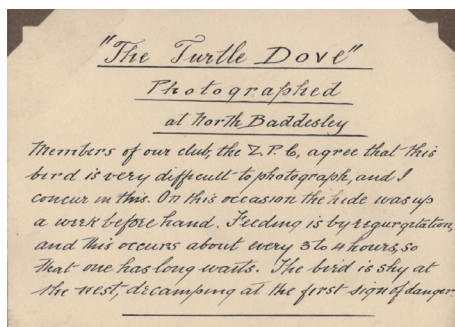
William Price Green

A Hampshire bird photographer from the 1920's

In the 1920s there were very few bird photographers in the UK. The cost of equipment was prohibitive to most people, and the effects of the First World War were still being felt. However, some professional photographers such as Eric Hosking took bird photographs in their spare time. They were few, but most joined the Zoological

nearby also on trips to the New Forest, and we believe most of these were taken around the 1920s when he would have been in his 40s or 50s.

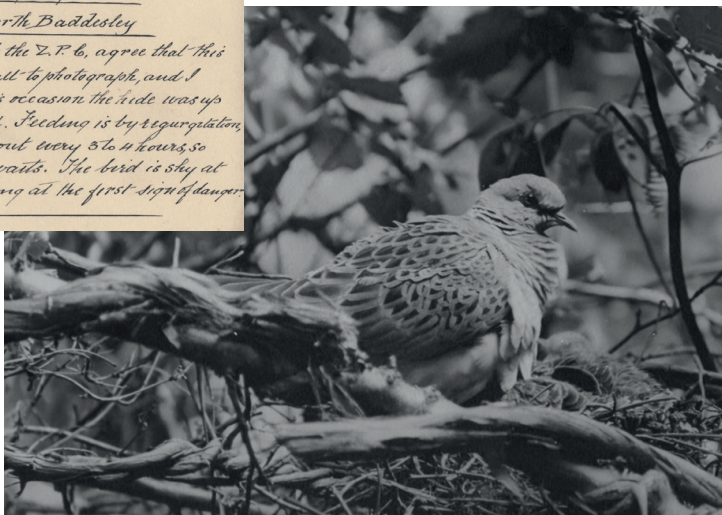
We were absolutely delighted when his grandson, Nicholas Green, asked if HOS would be willing to add an album of William's photographs to our archives. We have agreed to do this, but in addition, HOS member, Steve Laycock has kindly scanned in all the original photographs, and we are pleased to present some examples here along with William's notes. Of course, today there are important restrictions on photographing many of the species at the nest, but in the 1920s you could do what you liked.



Photographic Club, which had been founded in 1899.

One of those early photographers, and a member of that club, was

William Price Green (1876-1941). William lived all his life in Hampshire and worked as a land agent on the Cranbury Park Estate near Otterbourne. He lived on the estate in what was possibly tied housing. He took photographs of birds at the nest

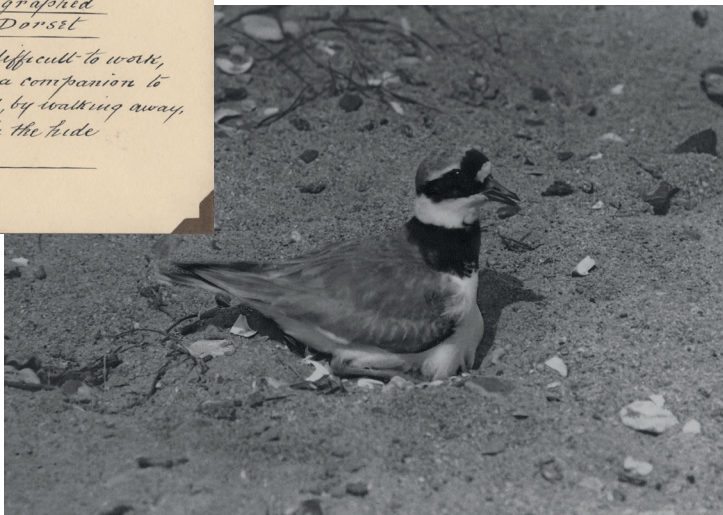


We are planning to load the remaining photos by William Price Green onto the HOS website so that a wide audience can appreciate his work, which was of exceptional quality for the 1920s.

"The Ringed Plover"

Photographed
in Dorset

*This bird was difficult to work,
although I had a companion to
deceive the bird, by walking away,
 whilst I was in the hide*



"The Norfolk Plover"

Photographed
in

*Hampshire. This bird is a summer migrant,
arriving sometimes by the middle of March, returning
south in September or October. It frequents open
stony wastes, downs, and sometimes fields bordering
the latter. It lays its two eggs in a mere
depression of the ground, and both birds share
the process of incubation, which lasts 28 to 29 days.*

"The Grasshopper Warbler"

Photographed

at Brambridge, Hants

This bird has a rapid trilling song, resembling the chirping noise made by the grasshopper. I have found it come readily to the net, the site of which often makes good photographic results very difficult.



"The Dartford Warbler" "male"

Photographed

in the New Forest

This is one of our rarer British birds, and is extremely local. The nest is often where some tall heather joins fens with gorse, and is difficult to find. It is a charming little bird. Probably a hard winter takes a heavy toll of them.



"The Nightingale"

*Photographed
at Otterbourne, Hants.*

*One of our best known Summer
migrants, but comparatively few
of us have found her nest composed
of dead leaves and moss containing
the olive-brown eggs.*



Montagu's Harrier





Above: Red-backed Shrike

Below: Mistle Thrush





Above: Little Owl

Below: Woodlark



Walk the Walk

If you want to come on a HOS walk you generally don't need to book. However, there are some exceptions, so please check on the HOS website at hos.org.uk.

If booking is required please call or text HOS Walks Co-ordinator Di Warner on 07883 344724 or email warner@btinternet.com. Please don't just turn up where a booking is required as you will not be able to join the walk.

We have only put the dates and times of the walks here. There is more detailed information on the HOS website and do please check to make sure there have been no changes since Kingfisher was published, or to see if any new walks have been added. If you can't get to the website please contact Di.

Walks are for HOS members but non-members are welcome. For general queries about HOS walks contact Di. Contact the walk leader (details on website) for specific walk information.



Redwing by Rob Porter



Redpoll by Peter Hyde

March 2026

Sunday 8 March

Warblington Shore to Hayling Oyster beds
Leader: Kevin Stouse (07510 600808)
9.30am - 1.30pm (3 miles)

Sunday 22 March

Acres Down, near Lyndhurst
Leader: Tina and Brian Vaughan
(07801 967997 & 07752 473333)
9.30am - 12.30pm (2-3 miles)

Sunday 29 March

Keyhaven
Leader: Ian Packer (07505 084123)
9.30 am - 2:00 pm (5 miles)

April 2026

Wednesday 1 April

River Itchen Circular Walk
Leader: Nick Wiley
(07747 151160 & 01489 893226)
10.00am - 1.30pm (6 miles)

Sunday 11 April

Hamble Shore, Common & Airfield,
Victoria Country Park and Westfield
Common
Leader: Phil Budd (07849 185896)
10:30 - 15:30 (4 miles)

Saturday 18 April

Edenbrook Country Park, Fleet

Leader: John Blithe (07966 391297)

10:00 am - 12:30 pm (3 miles)

Sunday 19 April

Farlington Marshes

Leader: Kevin Stouse (07510 600808)

9.30am - 2pm (6 miles)

Sunday 26 April

Portland Bill

Leader: Ian Packer (07505 084123)

10:00am - 3.00pm (4 miles)



Water Rail by Rob Porter

May 2026

Saturday 2 May

Worth Matravers, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset

Leader: Julian Mosely (07900 381051)

10.30am - 3.30pm (5 miles)

Saturday 9 May

Broxhead Common

Leader: Keith Betton (07809 671468)

9.00 am - 12.00 pm (2 miles)

Saturday 16 May

Sway Heathland & Setley Plain

Leader Chris Roseveare (07789 276101;
roseveare48@btinternet.com)

9.30 am - 12.30 pm (followed by lunch at
the Hare and Hounds pub for those who
wish to join) (4 miles)

Sunday 24 May

Buriton for farmland birds

Leader Kevin Stouse (07510 600808)

9.00 am - 3.00 pm (7miles).

Sunday 31 May

Normandy Lagoon & Oxey Marshes

Leader: Ian Packer (07505 084123)

9.30 am - 2.00 pm (3 miles)

June 2026

Wednesday 3 June

Cheriton – Gander Down walk

Leader Nick Wiley

(07747 151160 or 01489 893226)

10.00 am - 2:00 pm (4 miles)

Sunday 7 June

Magdalen Hill Down Butterfly Reserve.

Leaders: Dave and Anna Stewart

(07772300271 or 07920113131)

10.00pm - 1.00pm (1-2 miles)

Saturday 20 June

Burton Common Night Walk

Leader: Bob Groves (07934 010098)

8.30 pm - 10.00 pm (1-2 miles)

Sunday 21 June

Blashford Lakes HIIWT Reserve

Leader: Ian Packer (07505 084123)

09.30 am - 2.00 pm (2 miles)

Saturday 27 June

Martin Down

Leader: Keith Betton (07809 671468)

9.00 am - 12.30 pm (2-3 miles)

Focus on Southsea Castle



Southsea Castle

Habitat

Southsea Castle is situated on a low headland overlooking the coastal waters of Spithead and the approaches to the eastern Solent. Behind the shore, the municipal gardens of Southsea Common comprising trees, scrub and a large open area of grassland extends north-west towards Clarence Pier and Old Portsmouth. To the east lies South Parade Pier beyond which Southsea Canoe Lake is situated, within the confines of a small park. Most of the shoreline is shingle. Work has been started on reinforcing the sea defences here. As part of this project the shoreline currently favoured by the Purple Sandpipers was rebuilt and it is great that the ecologists on the project created a new rocky area for the birds. They have focused on this precise spot since the 1960s so it is an important site locally.

Species

This is mainly a site for winter birdwatching. Southsea Castle is the most reliable site in Hampshire for Purple Sandpipers. Numbers are typically small, usually 5-10 birds but occasionally more such as 21 in March 2025. The Purple Sandpiper flock favours the concrete sea defences immediately in front of Southsea Castle.

Good numbers of Sanderlings and Turnstones often occur along the shoreline, while the offshore waters sometimes attract seaduck, divers, Great Crested and the rare winter grebes, Shags and the common auks. Small flocks of Dark-bellied Brent Geese and Oystercatchers feed on Southsea Common. Mediterranean Gulls are regular visitors and mingle with the large numbers of commoner gulls, which are well worth scrutinising for more unusual

species. For example, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls have been seen several times. A few Rock Pipits frequent the



Southsea Canoe Lake

shoreline and at least one pair remains to nest at Southsea Castle most years. Both Southsea Castle and nearby Old Portsmouth are good areas to look for Black Redstarts in autumn and winter. Southsea Castle is another good vantage point to observe coastal and seabird passage through the eastern Solent in spring and autumn. The variety of birds and the pattern of movements are likely to be similar to those observed off nearby Gilkicker Point and Hill Head further to the west. Autumn gales have produced reports of Grey Phalarope and Sabine's Gull.

Timing

Avoid high tide when looking for Purple Sandpipers as the flock moves off to roost elsewhere.

Spring seawatching is most reliable in the early morning between mid-April and mid-May when winds are onshore (SW to SE) in direction. If conditions are particularly good, movements may persist all day.

Access

From junction 12 of the M27 take the M275 south signposted to West Portsmouth and ferries and at the end of the motorway follow the signs through the city to the seafront. On reaching Southsea take Pier Road south-west towards Clarence Pier and then follow the road around to the left and turn left into the Esplanade car park (pay). This is 4.0 miles from junction 12 on the M27. There is additional parking (pay) at Southsea Castle and along the length of Clarence Esplanade between Clarence Pier and the junction with South Parade. There is public access to the entire seafront south-east from Clarence Pier to Southsea Castle and then east to South Parade Pier and Southsea Canoe Lake beyond. There is also public access to Southsea Common, the grounds of Southsea Castle and associated park areas.

OS grid ref: SZ 636989

Facilities Car park (pay)

Calendar

All year

Rock Pipit.

November – March

Dark-bellied Brent Goose, seaduck, divers, Great Crested and rarer winter grebes, Shag, Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper (see note above), Turnstone, Mediterranean Gull, the common auks.

April–May

Up-channel coastal and seabird passage.

News from the Ladybirders



On 16th November the lady birders were treated to an exclusive walk by Martin Pitt, our Hampshire County Recorder. around his local patch, the Lodden and Lyde Valley which lie in North Hampshire just above Basingstoke.

We met early in Sherfield-on-Lodden village on a cool, grey but fortunately dry Autumn Day. After a slightly precarious crossing across the busy A33 (the main road that links the M4 and M3), we were soon walking across a floodplain meadow next to the River Lodden, an important chalk stream globally and which Martin explained was diverted in Tudor times for mills such as the Longbridge Mill, now a pub. We enjoyed our fist birds, grey and pied wagtails, by the river edge and long-

tailed tits threading through berry-laden hedgerows. Pylons in this area can be a good spot for peregrines, but sadly none present today. Martin also explained that the Lodden Valley forms part of an important bird migration axis from East to South England, which helps to explain the area's bird abundance. For example, over the day we tallied up over 800+ wood pigeon perhaps freshly arrived from the continent.

We continued our 10km circular route across meadows and farmland towards Hartley Wespall where both the Lodden and river Lyde, another important chalk stream river, flow. Indeed, recognising the importance of such rivers locally, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council recently passed a "Rights of the River



declaration”, only the second council to do so; let’s hope this offers protection from over development. As we walked, we heard the “zip zip” of our first thrushes of the day, red wings soon followed by “cluck cluck” of fieldfares flocking high in the trees. The day was very fruitful for thrushes; soon joined by mistle thrush and song thrush. We also saw our first raptors, red kite which are in high numbers in this area (over 30 seen through the day) and buzzard.

Weaving our way through woodland and never straying far from the Lyde or Lodden, we observed treecreepers, nuthatch, siskin, goldcrest, greater spotted woodpecker and greenfinch as we made our way towards Wildmoor. A cut across the golf course yielded Egyptian and Canada geese, herring gull and several cormorant. We eventually reached our target water meadow, which is a hotspot for newly arrived snipe. Sure enough, we managed to flush common snipe as we walked joined by stone chat, reed buntings and a small flock of lapwing had gathered. This is also a

good area for jack snipe but the waters weren’t quite high enough just yet for them.

After the excitement of the snipe, we needed lunch. A bridge of the Lodden was a great place to picnic, chat and get to know new people, before starting to loop back to Sherfield-on-Lodden. Our return route provided meadow pipits, moorhen, yellowhammer, kestrel, green woodpecker and stock dove. Near the end of the walk and a highlight for me, we passed through a field near Lance Levy Farm, which the farmer had left full of sunflowers heads and other meadow flowers and unsurprisingly this was magnet for birds providing us a mixed flock of chaffinch, red poll and brambling. Not a bad way to end!

In total, we totted up an impressive 52 species. We were truly thankful to Martin for sharing his passion and historical knowledge of the area. I enjoyed connecting with new birders, finding new spots locally and importantly I hope this encourages more HoS members up North!

Did you know?

Breeding Strategies for Success

Small birds only live for a few years, so many of these will partner with a different bird each year simply because something like 20–30% of the population



Peregrine Falcon by Keith Betton

Within a month we will start to see the early signs of breeding as birds start to pair up, but it's not always as simple as we think. Keith Betton explains.

Staying together

Approximately 90% of bird species are monogamous during the breeding season, with females typically choosing their mates based on appearance and song. For example, many older males sing more complex songs than younger birds, and to a female the older bird may be more attractive as it will be more experienced and so a better choice.

dies each year. In larger birds such as raptors and storks, the pair stays together while both are still alive.

Or mixing it up?

But some monogamous birds engage in extra-pair copulations while maintaining their primary partner, and this is known as social monogamy. Peregrines are known to do this, with the female taking the initiative to engage with an extra male to mix up the gene pool. Similarly, in any Skylark nest, a clutch of eggs may have been fertilised by more than one male, and in the summer some of the

males that hover above our farm fields don't have mates and are simply on the lookout to mate with females who are already paired up. But if you want to consider extreme promiscuity, then the Aquatic Warbler takes the gold medal, with multiple males and females mating interchangeably, resulting in clutches with offspring of up to five males! Some species are polygamous and have multiple partners. A good example is the Corn Bunting. Each male will mate with several females – indeed, in dense populations they can mate with up to 18. Each female has a nest with eggs in her male's territory, and he will strongly defend that area against other males but



Corn Bunting by Keith Betton

plays little part in feeding the chicks until they are quite well grown.

Female choice

Males are not the only ones to take extra partners. The Dunnock has often been described as dull or boring. But the truth is somewhat different. Females often form relationships with two males. One of these will be her alpha male who gets to fertilise her eggs, while the beta male stays in the background. When the alpha is absent for a short while, the beta will mate with the female. He therefore thinks some of the chicks are going to be his,



Dunnock by Keith Betton

so he will help to feed them when alpha is not present. However, after mating with him, the female excretes his sperm, so he is actually going to help rear another male's chicks.

Female mimicry

When we see Ruffs, it is usually in winter, and rarely do we see the males in their colourful breeding plumage. However, it is not always as it seems, and about 1% of males resemble females and are much smaller than other males. However, these small males pack a stronger punch than you might expect and have testicles more than twice the size of typical males. They play a submissive role in the display grounds where brightly-coloured males parade in front of females. These pseudo-females have a main aim, and that is to mate with some of the females but remain undetected by the males! So they stay around the edge of the display ground, trying to remain unnoticed. Their disguise as females is so good that they actually end up being mounted by several males during the process.

Role reversal

There are a few species where the female takes the lead in defending the nesting territory and is more brightly-



Red-necked Phalaropes by Keith Betton

coloured than the male. The Red-necked Phalarope that nests on the remote islands of Scotland is a good example. The female is larger than the male, and she will be the one who is dominant in any displays. Of course, the female lays the eggs, but the male incubates them and raises the chicks. The female will then abandon the male and may seek out a new male to mate with. Something similar happens in Short-eared Owls, although the female does take the lead in chick rearing for the first two weeks. In some cases, the female will abandon the male at this point and seek a new male to breed with before the summer is over. In one case, a female in Scotland left the male in charge of the chicks and moved all the way to Norway, where the season is a bit later, and she paired up with a new male and reared a second brood.

It is easy to look at these relationships and reflect on our own values as humans. Much of what birds do would be totally unacceptable behaviour to us, but for them, it's all about success. They do whatever they can to pass on their genes to the next generation efficiently. Remember, many birds are only here for a few years, so the pressure is on, and they do what works for them.

Keith Betton

Tech Review

Vortex Diamondback 20–60x85 Scope

This is the second iteration of the Diamondback spotting scope which I purchased in 2023, now with a rugged aluminium chassis, all-over full-body protective rubber armouring, Argon gas purging to prevent internal fogging and are fully waterproof. All Diamondback HD scopes come complete with protective eyepiece and objective lens covers, a neoprene stay-on-scope case and covered by the Vortex Unlimited Lifetime Warranty.

I found the image from the eyepiece to be clear and reasonably detailed especially for a budget scope, but chromatic aberration is noticeable viewing birds at long distance and at certain angles against a light source. Vortex do not state the use of ED glass but compromise with HD coatings instead.

Features include adjustable eyecup which twists up and down to precise 'click-stop' settings for comfortable viewing with or without spectacles. Helical / Barrel focus new dual geared focus system allows for fast yet precise adjustments, a pull-out sunshade reduces glare and shields the objective lens from rain and snow. A rotating tripod collar allows for the rotation of the eyepiece to a comfortable position for most user heights.

Here is the trade off, for around £400 I did not expect this to match anything in the £700 to £1000 with ED glass



but it is not far off in terms of overall quality, with that unlimited lifetime no quibble warranty it certainly is worth consideration.

Specification

Magnification: 20-60x
Objective Lens Diameter: 85mm
Linear Field of View: 32.9-18m
Eye Relief: 20.3-18.3mm
Length: 406mm
Weight: 1730g







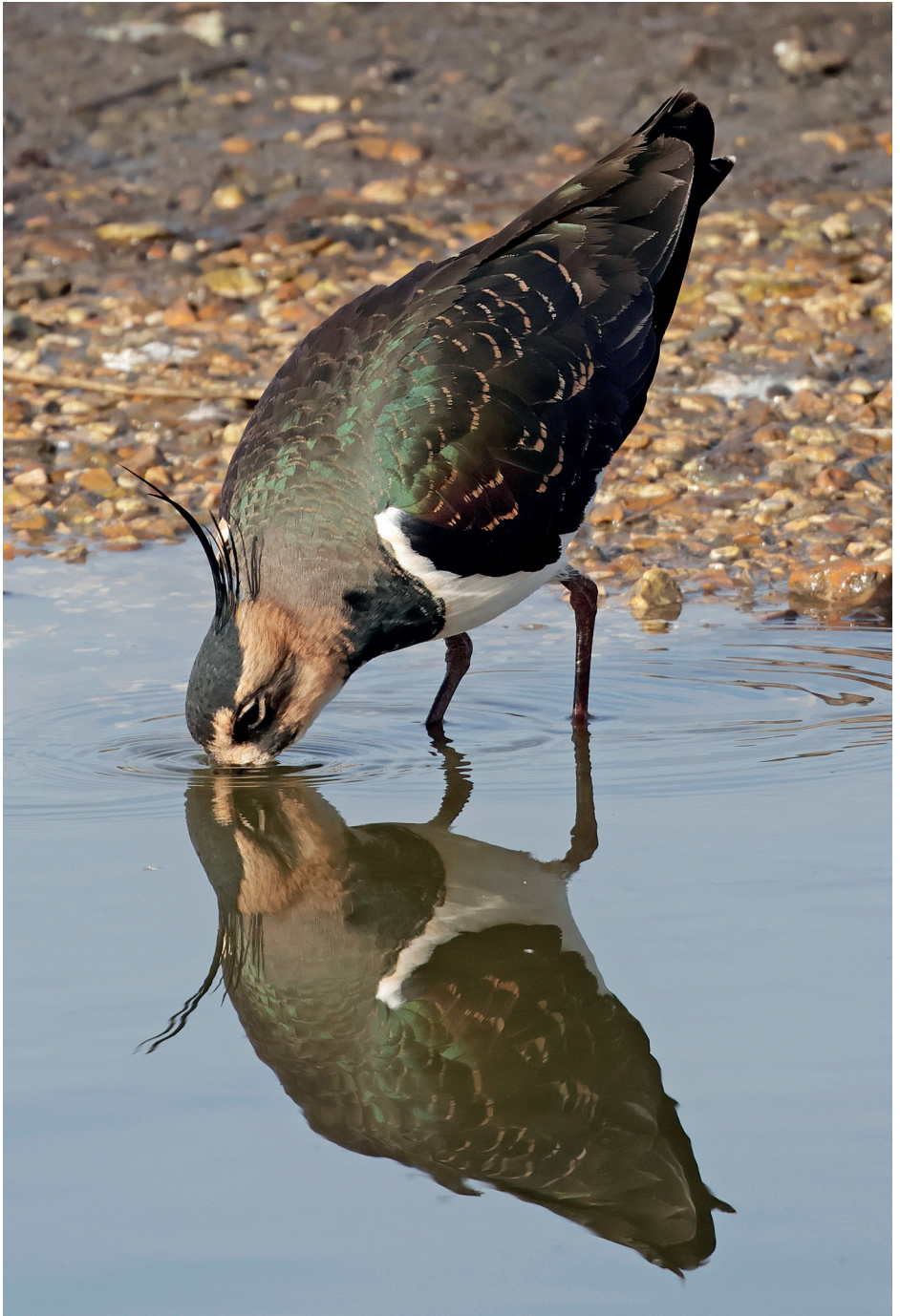
Cettis Warbler by Rob Porter



Siskin by Rob Porter



Spotted Redshank by Rob Porter



Lapwing by Chris Rose

What's been spotted

September to December 2025

by Tom Jordan

Around 227 species were seen during the period. This summary focuses on larger counts, scarcer species and unexpected localities reported throughout the period. 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: Barton on Sea 10/10; Somerley Park 16/10-17/11; Titchfield Haven 8 25/10; Harbridge 28/10; Basingstoke 20/11; Fishlake Meadows 20/12

Black Brant: Hayling Island 24/12, 29/12

White-fronted Goose: Farlington Marshes 18 24/12, 2 25/12, 5 28/12, 2 29/12, 3 30/12, 31/12; Meonstoke 13 24/12; Dibden Bay 8 24/12, 8 27/12; Keyhaven/Pennington Marsh 59 24/12; 10 26/12, 18 27/12, 4 28/12, 13 29/12, 12 31/12; Ibsley max. 64 25/12-27/12; Titchfield Haven 25 25/12, 94 27/12, 45 28/12-30/12; Ringwood 5 26/12; Overton 5 26/12, 6 31/12; Avon Causeway 6 26/12-28/12; Skidmore 2 26/12; Fleet Pond 50 27/12; Portsdown Hill 61 27/12;

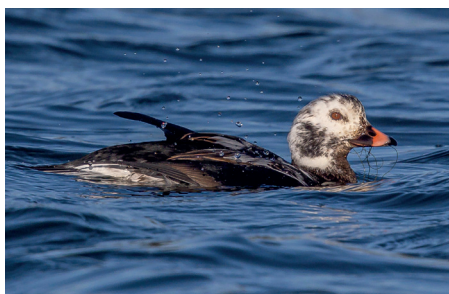
Lepe 3 28/12; The Vyne 6 28/12; Chilling 34 28/12, 41 29/12



Tundra Bean Goose by Alan Lewis

Tundra Bean Goose: Farlington Marshes 2 24/12, 25/12; Pennington Marsh 1-4 24/12-30/12; Ibsley 25/12-26/12

Pink-footed Goose: Fleet Pond 1/9



Long-tailed Duck by Steve Laycock

Long-tailed Duck: Normandy Marsh 24/10-12/11; Langstone Harbour 24/12-29/12

SURF SCOTER: Pennington Marsh 13/12
Velvet Scoter: Langstone Harbour 15/10-17/10; Weston Shore 3 23/11-13/12; Brownwich 4/12

Red-crested Pochard: Blashford Lakes-Ivy Lake 10/9, 21/9, 12/10, 13/10, 13/12

Ferruginous Duck: Brownwich Pond 10/12, 11/12, 19/12, 20/12; Posbrook Floods 29/12

Ring-necked Duck: Yateley 28/12
Scaup: Langstone Harbour 4/11-5/11, 11/12-30/12

Garganey: Farlington Marshes 5/9, 29/9, 3 1/10, 9/10; Needs Ore 25/10-8/11

Green-winged Teal: Chichester Harbour 28/11, 30/11

Red-necked Grebe: Weston Shore 15/11-6/12; Needs Ore 15/11; Langstone Harbour 26/12-29/12

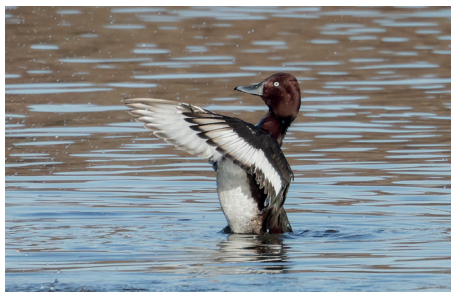
Slavonian Grebe: Hill Head 2 24/9; Weston Shore 2 24/9; Calshot 19/11, 20/11; Langstone Harbour 9/12, 1-2 19/12-30/12

Black-necked Grebe: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 1-2 23/9-13/11; Langstone Harbour 1-3 15/10-30/12; Brownwich 28/11

Turtle Dove: Keyhaven 5/9; Titchfield Canal Path 19/9

Grey Phalarope: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 1/9; Titchfield Haven 2/9, 2 4/9-6/9, 11/9; Hayling Oyster Beds 2/9-6/9; Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes 2/9, 4/9, 13/9, 19/9, 2 20/9, 21/9; Milford on Sea 3/9; Lepe 5/9; Titchfield Canal Path 11/9; Hook-with-Warsash 22/9

Wood Sandpiper: Farlington Marshes 4/9-15/9, 25/9, 18/10, 20/10, 26/10; Budds Farm 6/11; Northney, Hayling Island 15/11



Ferruginous Duck by Chris Rose

Spotted Redshank: Lymington-Keyhaven 1-4 6/9-27/12; Titchfield Haven 22/9; Bunny Meadows, Warsash 17/10, 16/11, 25/11, 22/12; Lepe 8/12
Ruff: Titchfield Haven 1-5 1/9-21/9
Keyhaven/Pennington Marshes 2 4/9,

6 6/9, 26/9, 31/12; Farlington Marshes 1-4 19/9-3/10; Alresford Pond 3 21/9, 2 26/9; Avon Causeway 21/9; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 27/9; Barton on Sea 1/10, 2/10; Wicor, Portchester 28/11
Curlew Sandpiper: Titchfield Haven max. 8 8/9-29/9; Farlington Marshes max. 18 10/9-1/10; Hayling Oyster Beds 11/9, 14/9, 18/9, 28/9; Hill Head 2 13/9; Normandy Marsh 1-2 18/9-28/9, 8/10, 2 10/10; Alresford Pond 21/9

Pectoral Sandpiper: Needs Ore 1/10
Little Stint: Hayling Oyster Beds 4/9, 7/9, 10/9, 13/9, 7/10; Farlington Marshes 3 5/9, 8/9-11/9, 23/9, 2 29/9-3/10; Lymington-Keyhaven max. 7 16/9-22/10; Titchfield Haven 2 23/9-29/9

Arctic Skua: Sandy Point, Hayling Island 2 3/9; Milford on Sea 4 3/9, 16/9, 4/10, 5/10

Long-tailed Skua: Milford on Sea 17/9
Guillemot: Milford on Sea 2 5/10; Barton on Sea 8 16/10

Razorbill: Milford on Sea 3 4/10, 5 5/10; Barton on Sea 17 16/10, 20 17/10; Calshot 27/11; Southsea Castle 2/12; Langstone Harbour 9/12; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 27/12

BLACK GUILLEMOT: Southsea 2/12
Puffin: Weston Shore 25/9

Arctic Tern: Weston Shore 4 4/9, 8/9, 5 10/9, 18/9; Hook-with-Warsash 8/9; Hill Head 19/9, 29/10; Hamble Cliff 2 24/9; Hamble Estuary 24/9

Black Tern: Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 2 1/9; Weston Shore 3/9, 4/9; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 3/9; Fleet Pond 17/9; Hill Head 18/9

Little Gull: Keyhaven Marsh 1/9; Hill Head 14/9; Milford on Sea 17/9, 9/12
Kittiwake: Milford on Sea 3/9, 17/9; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 25/11

Caspian Gull: Sandy Point, Hayling Island 3/9; Pennington Marshes 1-2 12/9-

14/9, 5/10; Hill Head 19/9, 20/10, 14/12, 25/12; Titchfield Haven 27/9; Farlington Marshes 18/10; Fleet Pond 28/10

Yellow-legged Gull: Lower Test Marshes 8/9, 2/10; Riverside Park, Southampton 8/9; Hook-with-Warsash 12/9; Barton on Sea 25/9; Alresford Pond 5/10; Martin Down 7/10; Hill Head 15/10, 14/12; Ibsley Water, Blashford Lakes 7 16/11, 4 23/11, 9/12, 14/12

Red-throated Diver: Langstone Harbour 13/9-22/9; Hill Head 15/10, 8/11; Stokes Bay 2 31/10, 1/11; Browdown South 31/10; Calshot 3/11, 4/11, 2 6/11; Eastney Point 7/11; Brownich 21/11; Lepe 21/11, 25/11; Chichester Harbour 10/12

Black-throated Diver: Barton on Sea 2 21/9; Hill Head 13/10-17/10; Brownich 2/11; Lepe 3/12



Great Northern Diver by Rob Porter

Great Northern Diver: Weston Shore max. 7 6/11-30/12; Lepe 1-3 8/11-21/12; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 15/11, 25/11; Calshot 1-2 1/12-21/12; Emsworth Mill Pond 6/12, 7/12; Portsmouth Harbour 6/12, 2 12/12, 2 16/12, 2 28/12; Redbridge Wharf 6/12; Hythe Marina 6/12, 2 13/12; Langstone Harbour max. 6 8/12-30/12; Chichester Harbour 2 10/12, 22/12; Oxey Marsh 2 22/12; Chessel Bay, Southampton 22/12

Leach's Petrel: Hill Head 30/10; Pennington Marshes 1/11

Fulmar: Sandy Point, Hayling Island 3/9; Hill Head 20/10

GREAT SHEARWATER: Southampton Water 26/11

Manx Shearwater: Milford on Sea 3/9

Balearic Shearwater: Milford on Sea 3/9

Sooty Shearwater: Milford on Sea 20/10

Gannet: Lepe 9 3/9; Milford on Sea 60 3/9, 12 4/10, 30 28/10; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 40 3/9; Calshot 6/9; Titchfield Haven 1/11

Shag: Milford on Sea 16/9; Calshot 26/10; Weston Shore 15/11; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 25/11; Netley 10/12; Hamble Point 13/12; Lepe 17/12

Glossy Ibis: Titchfield Haven max. 6 1/9-30/12; Farlington Marshes 1-3 4/9-18/9, 10/10, 21/11; Horsea Island, Portsmouth Harbour 2 5/9; Lymington-Keyhaven 5/9, 24/9, 4 26/9, 11/10, 12/10; Hayling Oyster Beds 9/9, 6 25/9; Hook-with-Warsash 2 22/9, 4 16/10; South Moor, Langstone Harbour 6 25/9; Bunny Meadows, Warsash 25 28/9; Barton on Sea 13/10, 14/10; Sturt Pond 13/10; Ranvilles Lane 5 14/12

Spoonbill: Farlington Marshes 2/9; Lymington-Keyhaven max. 28 22/9-30/12; Lepe 7 26/11, 11 27/11, 6 28/11, 2 17/12; Titchfield Haven 3 30/11

Bittern: Blashford Lakes 23/11; Fishlake Meadows 5/12, 19/12

Cattle Egret: Titchfield Haven 2 1/9, 11/9; Hook-with-Warsash 5 2/9, 2 7/9, 8 8/9, 2 13/9, 22/9, 17/10; South Moor, Langstone Harbour 5/9, 2 9/9; Fields Heath, Blackfield 5 6/9, 3 7/9; Farlington Marshes 5 7/9, 6 8/9, 16/9, 2 16/9; Lower Test Marshes 1-4 8/9-19/9; Bickton 8/9; Pennington Marsh 22/9, 2/10; Northney, Hayling Island 9 23/9, 13 26/9, 39 8/11, 32 15/11, 62 8/12, 34 26/12; Oxey Marsh 24/9; St Catherines Hill, Winchester 16/10; Stubbington 16/12; Warblington 12 27/12

Short-eared Owl: Hill Head 24/9, 31/10; Chilling Cliffs 31/10; Workman's Lane, Hook-with-Warsash 3/11; Gunner Point, Hayling Island 17/11; Titchfield Haven 18/11; Brownwich 21/11; Hayling Oyster Beds 6/12; Harewood Forest 29/12
Osprey: Blashford Lakes 2/9, 24/10; Fawley 2/9-25/9; Fishlake Meadows 3/9; Lepe 2 3/9; Broadlands Estate 4/9; Exbury 4/9; Portsmouth Harbour 2 4/9-13/9; Titchfield Haven 5/9, 6/9, 27/9; Weston Shore 6/9, 14/9, 19/9; Beaulieu



Great Grey Shrike by Di Stedman

Estuary 6/9; Badminton GP 7/9; Edenbrook CP, Fleet 12/9; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 14/9; Eling Great Marsh 18/9; Langstone Harbour 19/9-2/10; Harbridge 2/10; Hayling Island 10/11
Honey-buzzard: Tweseldown 5/9, 6/9; Keyhaven 7/9; Northney, Hayling Island 13/9; Trigpoint Hill, Timsbury 23/9
Hen Harrier: Keyhaven Marsh 25/9; Tweseldown 25/9; Old Winchester Hill 12/10; Hawkhill Inclosure 22/10
PALLID HARRIER: Keyhaven 2/10
Hoopoe: Milford on Sea 9/9
Wryneck: Lower Test Marshes 29/9
Merlin: Deadman Hill, NF 1/9; Blashford Lakes 4/9; Fritham Plain, NF 7/9; Ranvilles Lane 21/9; Winchester College Water Meadows 2 13/10; Titchfield Haven 14/10; Hurst Beach 20/10; Keyhaven/

Pennington Marshes 22/10, 25/10, 27/10, 2 20/12; Stoney Cross 26/10, 15/11; Breamore Down 26/10; Whitsbury Down 30/10; Shatterford, NF 6/11, 7/12, 11/12, 27/12; Farlington Marshes 7/11, 21/12; Woolmer Forest 9/11, 18/11; Beaulieu Heath (West) 16/11; Ocknell Plain 20/11; Straight Mile, Romsey 20/11; Hinchleslea Moor, NF 21/11; Leaden Hall, NF 23/11; Brownwich 26/11; Twyford Down 30/11, 13/12; Picket Post 9/12; Fawley Refinery 13/12; Millersford Bottom 15/12; Hayling Oysterbeds 27/12; Fernycroft 29/12

Great Grey Shrike: Woolmer Forest 18/10, 19/10; Pig Bush/Shatterford, NF 28/10-24/12; Handy Cross Plain NF 15/11; Markway Inclosure, NF 23/11; Picket Bottom, NF 13/12; Penny Moor, NF 14/12
PENDULINE TIT: Titchfield Haven 3 8/11-12/11

Yellow-browed Warbler: Fishlake Meadows 10/10-14/10, 24/10, 25/10, 7/11; North Warnborough 11/10; Titchfield Haven Canal Path 24/10-27/10; Pig Bush 8/11; Millfield LNR, Old Basing 6/12, 11/12
Siberian Chiffchaff: Stubbington 8/11; Posbrook Floods 19/12
Ring Ouzel: Butser Hill 3 28/9; Old Winchester Hill 4 30/9, 4 1/10, 11/10
Beaulieu Heath 3 1/10; Normandy Marsh 13/10; St Catherines Hill, Winchester 16/10; Leaden Hall, NF 25/10
Pied Flycatcher: Posbrook Floods 1/9,



Black Redstart by Rob Porter

18/9; Titchfield Haven Canal Path 4/9, 5/9; Ranvilles Lane 6/9; Pig Bush, NF 6/9; Lakeside Country Park 8/9; Widden Bottom 12/9; Southampton Common 14/9; Beaulieu Road 16/9; Castle Farm, Warblington 19/9

Black Redstart: Martin Down 5/9; Northney, Hayling Island 23/9, 17/10; Middle Wallop Airfield 30/9; Daedalus Airfield 3 13/10, 2 25/10, 2 8/11; Barton on Sea 14/10, 18/10; Hook-with-Warsash 17/10, 28/10; Longstock 17/10; Itchen Abbas 20/10; Hinton Ampner 23/10; Hill Head 25/10; Lee-on-the Solent 3 26/10, 5 1/11, 2 27/12; Marchwood 29/10, 30/10; Everton 3/11, 13/11; Abbotswood 3/11; Southsea 2 5/11, 2 8/11, 8/12, 26/12-30/12; Eastoke, Hayling Island 6/11; Lepe 12/11; Milford on Sea 12/11; Sandy Point, Hayling Island 15/11; Newlands Farm, Stubbington 16/11; Calshot 24/11, 30/11; Woolston, Southampton 12/12

Water Pipit: Posbrook Floods 23/10; Lower Test Marshes 2 25/10, 2 26/10; Titchfield Canal Path 30/12

SERIN: Pennington Marsh 18/10; Hawkhill Inclosure 22/10



Cirl Bunting by Michael Caponi

CIRL BUNTING: Wicor, Portchester 23/12-26/12

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE: Calshot 2/11-6/11; Holbury 15/11-30/12



Great-tailed Grackle by Kathryn Crouch

Please send records to the County Recorder so they can be included in the HOS Database and Hampshire Bird Report.

Send to: Martin Pitt, 35 Clere Gardens, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 8LZ
mjpitt35clere@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>

Thankyou
Tom Jordan



Firecrest by Sheila Williams

TAKE 5

Our focus on local photographer: Di Stedman



I was born in Southampton and lived in the New Forest for a while as a child. I have very happy memories of running wild on the heath, forever ‘rescuing’ all sorts of wildlife (mostly snakes) which my mother would then have to rescue from me as soon as my attention was elsewhere! My grandfather was a gardener and I would beg to be allowed to go to work with him. He loved birds and he taught me the names of all the ones we’d see and best of all, he’d make up silly stories about them. I suspect I take after him! I moved to London to study theatre, had a career as a lighting designer, mostly working with dance company's and latterly as a production manager for a drama school. I enjoyed photography but work left no time for hobbies. Then covid came along and for the first time in my life I had some time. I’d always worried about retiring as I just couldn’t imagine what I would do - I soon discovered that wasn’t a problem at all! I picked up a camera again and found



Osprey

myself photographing every bird I saw. I started to take both seriously and within a couple of years stopped work, moved back to my birthplace and now spend my dotage running wild on the heath again trying my best to photograph and learn as much as I can.

I use a Sony A7r5 which I'm still getting to grips with, a 200-600mm lens and I edit using Lightroom.

Osprey (Fishlake Meadows)

When I first moved to Southampton I didn't have a car so I had to work out all the places I could get to on public transport. Fishlake Meadows looked like a good bet so one day I made the trip and, following google maps, found my way to a road which appeared to contain the entrance to the reserve. I saw a couple of people with long lenses disappearing through a gap in a hedge and, despite thinking it seemed a bit of an odd entrance, I followed them and found myself on a small patch with about 5 other birders all very intent on something. Being new and not at all confident in my birding skills I stayed at the back of the group and looked out over a lake - all I could see was cormorants. I thought maybe they were special cormorants but after some consideration came to the conclusion they were definitely just cormorants, so I plucked up the courage to ask what everyone was looking at. A very lovely man looked at me in some confusion and said can't you see it? He then beckoned me down to the front and pointed up and off to the side - my first osprey! I couldn't believe it. At that moment I knew I'd made the right decision to move

here. This is probably the best of many photos from that morning, it took a lot of cropping and editing to make it half decent but for me it's about a moment I'll never forget. Thank you to that lovely man, who was - of course - Andy Tew!

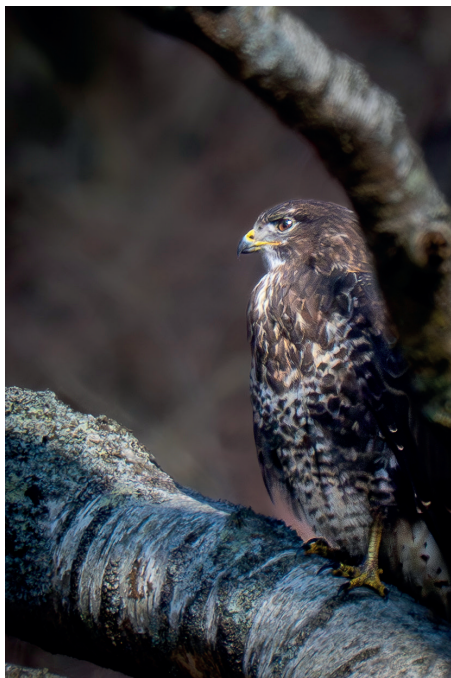


Black-headed Gull

Black-headed Gull (Chessel Bay Southampton)

Before I moved here I mostly ignored gulls, they seemed too difficult to ID beyond the basics but I live by the tidal section of the Itchen, the first and last birds I see every day are gulls so I resolved to get to know them better. A pair of herring gulls nest every year on a rooftop overlooked from my living room and I live every moment - both joyful and heartbreaking - as they go through the breeding season. They've somehow managed to get a big lump of turf onto the roof and roost there together throughout the year. In the three seasons I've been here they've raised five young through to fledging and I'm

filled with admiration for them. Chessel Bay is my local patch and it's been a living classroom for getting to grips with gulls, plus they're great for learning to photograph birds in flight! This photo is from one of my practice sessions and it's one of my favourite photo's - I hope it shows the detail and complexity of the feather and wing structure as well as the sheer beauty of a black-headed gull. I now love them!



Common Buzzard

Buzzard (Pig Bush)

This photo isn't very good, it's soft, over-sharpened and poorly framed but for me it's a reminder that the joy of birds is so much more than a photograph. I sat in the woods one day with my new scope to see what might turn up. I hid as best I could and waited. Eventually

this buzzard flew in and perched low in a tree just 25 metres from me. I managed to get my scope onto it without being seen and spent 5 minutes or so watching it in close-up, every blink and head movement, the reaction when another buzzard called and the constant scanning of the ground below. I only got a couple of photos and of course the bird saw me and was off. Afterwards I read a lovely book by Robin Prytherch who studied buzzards over many years and was inspired to try to map all the Pig Bush buzzards in an attempt to identify them individually. It would be fair to say I haven't done very well so far, except for the buzzard from that day - I can recognise him on sight and pretty much know his territory, I've watched him patiently dealing with the attentions of the local crows, catch a snake, displace an intruding juvenile and then patrol for several days after to enforce the ban. I think he's a young male not yet breeding but will probably never know for sure, but that doesn't really matter - it's about the watching. His name is Elvis.

Dartford Warbler (Pig Bush)

I drive over Yew Tree Heath to Pig Bush several times a week and as I hit the brow of the hill and the sky and heath open up around me I often have to blink away a tear - I can't believe I'm allowed to be here, the light, colours and scale are both a salve and a wonder to me after so many years spent in the city. I'm at my happiest sitting out on the heath surrounded by stonechats, pipits and dartfords while scanning for a raptor and watching the light change - it's a stunning place and the dartford warbler encapsulates this for me.



Dartford Warbler

Kingfisher

(Russia Dock Woodland, Rotherhithe)

I was around 10 years old when I saw my first kingfisher and remember it like it was yesterday. Seeing one still makes me stop in my tracks, they're thrilling birds. This photo was taken near where I lived in London, close to the Thames and just a mile or so from Tower Bridge and Canary Wharf, surrounded by wonderful parks, canals and the remnants of the old docklands. It was here just four years ago that I started to take birding and photography seriously. What a treat when this kingfisher turned up during my last winter there - I was able to spend hours watching him and of course took hundreds of photos. This bird gave me my first lesson in being still, silent and patient.



Kingfisher



Teal by Chris Rose



Greenshank by Rob Porter



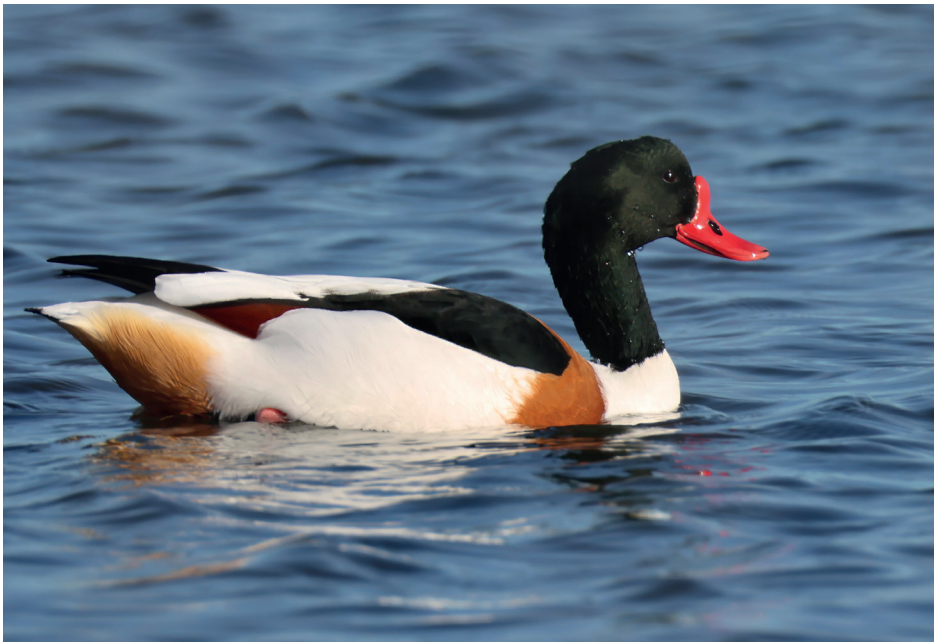
Curlew by Rob Porter



Black-tailed Godwit by Rob Porter



White-tailed Eagle by Andrew Tew



Shelduck by Rob Porter



Peregrine by Andy Tew



Little Grebe by Chris Rose

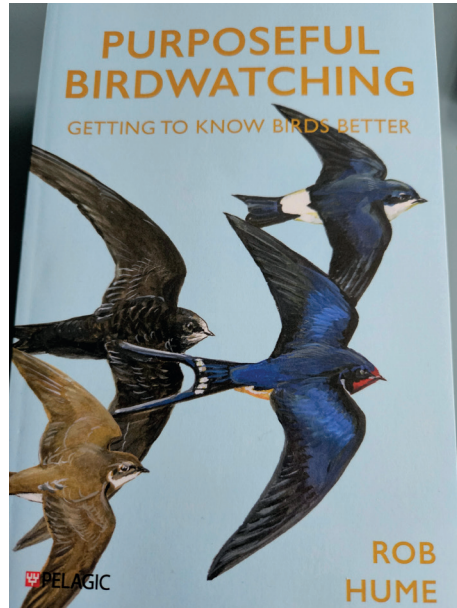
BOOK REVIEW

By the Editor

Purposeful Birdwatching (Getting to know birds better) by Rob Hume
Pelagic Publishing 2024
288 pages, B&W Softback £21.99
ISBN 978-1-78427-468-9

Occasionally you come across a book that holds you for its entirety and delivers all you want from a few evenings armchair reading. This is such a book, a wonderful journey through 23 sections / chapters of the authors memoirs, sketches and fieldnotes, you are led through a journey of birdwatching discovery and appreciation.

Rob Hume is no stranger to Ornithology being a representative for the RSPB and Birds magazine, also a member of rarity committees and a writer of many guides and tour leader. Whatever, his writing style is easy on the eye and mind and would provoke memories and thoughts to any birdwatcher.



This to me is the 'Oliver' of ornithology books 'Please Mr Hume can I have some more'.

Kingfisher Articles and Photographs

If you have an idea or suggestions for an article please contact us at hoskingfisher@outlook.com

Articles should be sent as Word documents and pictures should be sent separately in the highest resolution possible, with the filename containing the

species and the photographer, to hoskingfisher@outlook.com

If you are submitting photos for the website, please send them to photos@hos.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

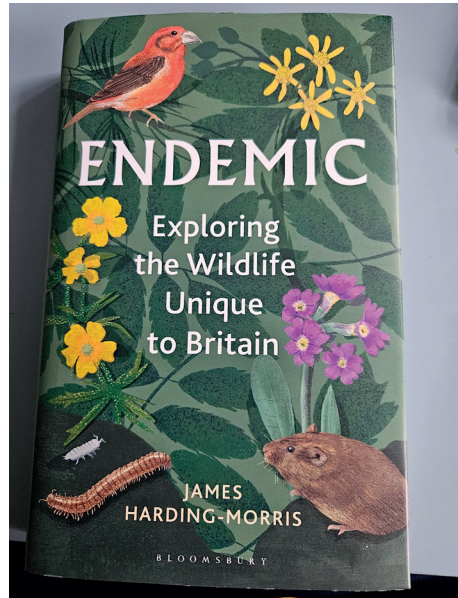
By the Editor

Endemic by James Harding-Morris
Bloomsbury Publishing 2025
336 pages, B&W Illustrated
Hardback £20
ISBN 978-1-3994-0567-

Before reading this book I made sure that I referenced the word Endemic as I have to admit that it is one I do not use very often and I thought had a medical origination.

I was wrong as usual and noted (The meaning of ENDEMIC is native to a particular locality or region; often, specifically : restricted or peculiar to a particular locality or region). Having resolved that matter the book is broken down into 20 chapters with the usual introduction and rear bound acknowledgments etc. As I started to read it I was immediately struck by how little of our flora and fauna is endemic to the mainland, there are three species of bird Scottish Crossbill, Red Grouse and the Willow Tit. These are covered in chapter 2, and this highlights the complexity of an endemic species especially the decline of the Willow Tit. The book details the travels of the author to find the 700 endemic species including sub species down to Fungi level. This is where the book really starts and delivers a wonderful level of information to take in on species as diverse as the Catacol Whitebeam tree (only found on the Isle of Arran) and various bugs that reside only in the UK and nowhere else.

I found it was a book I could put down



and return to it at no particular time, rather like reference material. Having said all of the above this gets a strong recommendation from me and will be enjoyed by those of an inquisitive mind.



Sanderling by Chris Rose



Grey Plover by Rob Porter



Red-breasted Merganser by Rob Porter



Greenshank by Rob Porter



Green Woodpecker by Rob Porter



Dartford Warbler by Dimitri Moore



Goldcrest by Willow Bloomfield



Common Redstart by Dimitri Moore

