

Pamber Forest Nature Reserve

Quarterly Newsletter



Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust

January 2020

Because of the really wet weather between October and the end of the year, reports of interesting wildlife have been few and far between. The winter migrants arrived right on time with redwings appearing on 18th October, with fieldfares only six days later when normally they are about a month later. A rather curious report was received of an eagle owl on 23rd October just outside the reserve; the description was very good and I have no reason to doubt the observer, this was probably an escaped bird.

Right at the end of the year I saw a firecrest feeding among a flock of goldcrests on the edge on Inhams Copse where it abuts the sewage works where food is plentiful all winter because of the flies coming off of the filter beds. I first saw it on the 29th December but it has probably been here much longer and it is still around as I write this and may well be around for the remainder of the winter.



Firecrest

A rarely spotted minataur beetle was seen on 23rd October, only the second one this year. The only other record of note was of a rare micro-moth, *Phyllonorycter mespilella*, the larvae of which mine the leaves of wild service tree; this species has rarely been reported from Hampshire.

The teams of volunteers busied themselves on

coppicing for most of the period and despite the appalling weather managed to clock up an impressive 168 work days during the three months, and this with three being cancelled! On one occasion I even had to ferry them across the stream valley that was flooded so they could get to the work site using the Land Rover as the ferry. The



Result of very wet Autumn on rides

total volunteer days for the year came in at a new record of 651, nearly 4000 hours of work so well done and thank you to all who have contributed.

All this wet weather has had a terrible impact on the unsurfaced rides which have what appears to be mud soup on them.

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Basingstoke
and Deane