



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

Promoting and fostering an interest in ornithology by observation, research and record-keeping

July 2024

Summer Walk

Swettenham Valley

Wednesday 17th July

Meet at 10.00 am

Swettenham Valley is a hidden gem. It comprises a mosaic of habitats including ancient woodland, wildlife rich ponds, scrub and meadows intersected by numerous wet springs and flushes.



Lavender Meadow - Wikimedia

June Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Cetti's Warbler, Little Ringed Plover; 2nd Common Tern, Hobby, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Oystercatcher, Ruddy Shelduck; 4th Dipper, Kingfisher, Ringed Plover, Ring-necked Parakeet; 5th Marsh Harrier; 7th Goosander, Red Kite; 10th **Snow Goose**; 11th Avocet, Great White Egret; 12th Black-tailed Godwit, **Green-winged Teal**; 14th Yellowhammer; 15th Curlew, Red-legged Partridge; 16th Siskin; 17th Dunlin; 18th Common Sandpiper; 19th Common Crossbill, Mandarin Duck; 22nd Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail; 23rd Barn Owl; 24th Green Sandpiper; 27th Raven

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jun



Little Egret - Dennis Swaby

Herons & Egrets	Count
Little Egret	max 3, 17 th
Great White Egret	regular, max 2
Grey Heron	regular, max 3

For trip details, refer to the Chairman's Note email, visit the SECOS website or contact the trip leader.

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jun

Wildfowl	Count
Canada Goose	regular, max 58
Greylag Goose	regular, max 6
Mute Swan	regular, max 4
Shelduck	regular, max 4
Mandarin Duck	max 2, 24 th
Shoveler	regular, max 2
Gadwall	regular, max 15
Mallard	regular, max 80+
Teal	regular, max 5
Green-winged Teal	1, 12 th -15 th
Tufted Duck	regular, max 6
Moorhen	regular, max 5
Coot	regular, max 42
Little Grebe	1, 14 th , 20 th
G C Grebe	regular, max 2



Green-winged Teal - Dennis Swaby

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 1
Avocet	2, 11 th
Ringed Plover	2, 4 th
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 2
Lapwing	regular, max 8
Curlew	1, 15 th , 20 th
Black-tailed Godwit	max 4, 12 th
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 9
Green Sandpiper	max 2, 24 th
Dunlin	1, 17 th



Mandarin Ducks - Dennis Swaby

CF = Crabmill Flash

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FF = Fodens Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

OTF = Oak Tree Flash

PHF = Pump House Flash

RF = Railway Flash

WF = Warmingham Flash

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

Blue text indicates place first seen.

Underline indicates high flock count (see Feb 2020 Newsletter, page 8).

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jun



Avocets - Dennis Swaby

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 30 th
Red Kite	1, 8 th , 21 st , 27 th
Buzzard	regular, max 14
Kestrel	regular, max 3
Marsh Harrier	1, 5 th



Kingfisher - Dennis Swaby



Mandarin Duck - Dennis Swaby



Great White Egrets - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Common Tern	1, 2 nd , 12 th
Black-headed Gull	regular, max 10
Herring Gull	regular, max 3
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 30

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun



Sedge Warbler - Dennis Swaby

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Pheasant, **Red-legged Partridge**, Swift, Kingfisher, Skylark, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, **Cetti's Warbler**, Chiffchaff, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Treecreeper, Stonechat, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Linnet, Reed Bunting

FFF: Swift, Kingfisher, Kestrel, Swallow, House Martin, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Greenfinch, Reed Bunting

Alsager: **Ring-necked Parakeet**, Yellowhammer

Alsager - Alsager Treatment Works: Swift, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Grey Wagtail

Alsager - Borrow Pit Meadows: Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting

Alsager - Fanny's Croft: Swift, Skylark, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Greenfinch,

Yellowhammer

Arclid Green: **Hobby**

Astbury: Red-legged Partridge, Swift, Lapwing, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Blackcap

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR: Swallow, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler

Church Lawton - Lawton Gate Treatment Works: House Martin, Grey Wagtail

Church Lawton - Lawton Woods: Little Ringed Plover

Congleton - Brookhouse Lane: Swift, Swallow, Blackcap, Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Greenfinch

Congleton - Buglawton: **Siskin**

Congleton - Giantswood Lane: Oystercatcher, Swallow

Congleton - Mossley: Mallard, Pheasant, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, **Barn Owl**, Swallow, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Greenfinch

Congleton - River Dane: **Goosander**, Swift, **Kingfisher**, Blackcap, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Treatment Works: Swift, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Grey Wagtail

Crewe - Quaker's Coppice: Garden Warbler

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Canada Goose, **Snow Goose**, Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Shelduck, **Ruddy Shelduck**, Gadwall, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Swift, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, **Oystercatcher**, Lapwing, **Little Egret**, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Reed Bunting

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Swallow

Haslington: Swift



Reed Bunting - Dennis Swaby


This is a small selection of species seen in the SECOS Recording Area.

A full listing is on the website:

<https://www.secos.org.uk/sightings/>

 SECOS Website: www.secos.org.uk

 SECOS Blog (to read/record local sightings): www.secos.org.uk/sightings

 Sandbach Flashes: This medium does not do justice to the images that Dennis Swaby captures at Sandbach Flashes. Some of the images have been uploaded to www.sandbachflashes.co.uk

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun



Sandbach - Sandbach Wildlife Corridor: Great White Egret

Scholar Green: Swallow, Lesser Whitethroat

Shavington/Hough: Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Willow Warbler, Greenfinch

Swettenham - Swettenham Meadows: Blackcap, Treecreeper, Bullfinch, Greenfinch

Swettenham - The Quinta: Raven, Swallow, Blackcap, Treecreeper

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Swift, Red Kite, Peregrine, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat

Wheelock - Forge Fields: Swift, Cuckoo, Sparrowhawk, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Greenfinch

Winterley & Winterley Pool: Skylark, Swallow, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap, Greenfinch

Lower Withington: Red Kite

Rode Heath: Yellow Wagtail

Sandbach - Bradwall Green: Yellowhammer

Sandbach - Elworth: Red Kite, Common Crossbill

Sandbach - Moston: Lesser Whitethroat

Wistaston - 19th June



5 members had a pleasant evening walk around 'Joey the Swan'.

Thank you to Derek Owen and Dave O'Hara for leading the walk.

Dave explained the fascinating history of the site and we saw the excellent conservation work carried out by Dave and his team of volunteers.

17 bird species were recorded including: Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Blackcap and Swift.

We then retired to The Woodside for a drink.

Mike Tonks

Diary Dates



15th July

Committee Meeting

17th July 10.00 a.m.

Morning Walk

Swettenham Valley

Leader: Mike Tonks

SECOS Website: www.secos.org.uk

SECOS Blog (to read/record local sightings): www.secos.org.uk/sightings

Sandbach Flashes: This medium does not do justice to the images that Dennis Swaby captures at Sandbach Flashes. Some of the images have been uploaded to www.sandbachflashes.co.uk