



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

September 2024

"The River"

Paul Hobson

Friday 13th September

Paul Hobson is a popular speaker at SECOS. His website showcases his skill at capturing superb wildlife images. Paul describes his talk as "A photo essay covering the river from its source to the sea".



Reed Warbler feeding Cuckoo chick - Paul Hobson



Middleton Lakes - The Lookout - Andy Mabbett

Field Trip

Middleton Lakes RSPB

Sunday 15th September

Middleton Lakes is a landscape transformed from a gravel pit into a mosaic of wetlands, meadows and woodland in the heart of the River Tame Valley. Several kilometres of trails provide easy access to all parts of the reserve.

August Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Black-tailed Godwit, Cetti's Warbler, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper, Little Egret, Little Ringed Plover, Mandarin Duck, Redshank, Snipe, Swift; 3rd Avocet, Barnacle Goose, Black-necked Grebe, Kingfisher, Raven, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Whimbrel; 4th Goosander; 5th Oystercatcher; 6th Egyptian Goose, Hobby; 7th Yellow Wagtail; 11th Pochard; 15th Common Tern, Little Grebe; 17th Ruff; 18th Dunlin, Water Rail; 19th Greenshank, Marsh Harrier, Muscovy Duck; 24th Dipper; 25th Ringed Plover, Wheatear, Yellow-legged Gull; 29th Yellowhammer

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

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Aug

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 2
Wigeon	regular, max 3
Gadwall	regular, max 35
Teal	regular, max 35
Mallard	regular, max c250
Pochard	1, 11 th , 30 th
Tufted Duck	max 6, 30 th
Shoveler	regular, max 35
Mandarin Duck	regular, max 1
Goosander	1, 4 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 10
Canada Goose	regular, max 173+
Barnacle Goose	1, 3 rd , 4 th , 30 th
Little Grebe	3, 25 th , 28 th
Great Crested Grebe	max 2, 28 th
Black-necked Grebe	regular, max 1
Coot	regular, max 110
Moorhen	regular, max 25
Mute Swan	regular, max 4



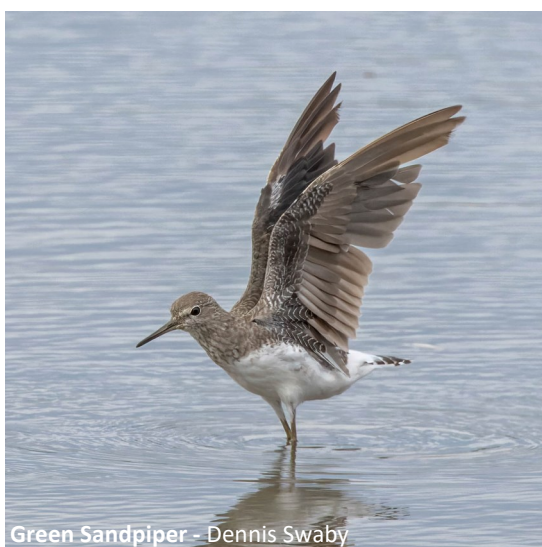
Black-headed Gull - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c225
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max c225
Herring Gull	regular, max c100
Great Black-backed Gull	1, 19 th
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 25 th , 30 th , 31 th

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 9
Little Egret	regular, max 4
Great White Egret	regular, max 2



Hobby - Dennis Swaby



Green Sandpiper - 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 - Aug

Waders	Count
Water Rail	2, 18 th , 28 th
Oystercatcher	regular, max 7
Avocet	regular, max 1
Lapwing	regular, max c150
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 3
Ringed Plover	3, 25 th
Dunlin	regular, max 1
Whimbrel	2, 3 rd
Curlew	regular, max 21
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 3
Snipe	regular, max 3
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 2
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 2
Redshank	1, 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Ruff	regular, max 2



Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 11 th , 25 th , 30 th
Buzzard	regular, max 5
Kestrel	regular, max 4
Hobby	1, 25 th



Sightings Elsewhere - Aug

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Swift, Cormorant, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Raven, Skylark, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Cetti's Warbler, Long-tailed Tit, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Stonechat, **Wheatear**, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Linnet, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting

FFF: Lapwing, Black-headed Gull, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Rook, Swallow, House Martin, **Cetti's Warbler**, Long-tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting

WF: Hobby

Alsager - Borrow Pit Meadows: Hobby

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, **Common Tern**, Cormorant, Buzzard, Long-tailed Tit

Church Lawton: Kingfisher, Hobby, Swallow

Church Lawton - Lawton Hall: Swift, Hobby, Swallow, **Yellowhammer**

Church Lawton - Lawton Woods: Kingfisher

Congleton: Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Dane in Shaw: Jay

Congleton - Mossley: Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Jay, Swallow, Chiffchaff, Blackcap

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

Dane Valley - Hillmoor Farm to Colley Mill: Green Sandpiper, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Kestrel, Hobby, Raven, Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail



Kingfisher - Dennis Swaby

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Shoveler, Tufted Duck, **Red-legged Partridge**, Swift, , **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, Lapwing, Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, **Greenshank**, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, **Marsh Harrier**, Red Kite, Buzzard, **Kingfisher**, Kestrel, Rook, Raven, Swallow, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, **Yellow Wagtail**

Doddington - Lemon Pool: Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, **Red Kite**, **Raven**, Swallow, Bullfinch

Haslington: **Swift**

Hassall Green: Hobby

Kidsgrove - Kidsgrove Treatment Works: Grey Wagtail

Nantwich: Red Kite

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 - Aug



Rode Heath: Hobby

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow, House Martin, Long-tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, Chaffinch, Goldfinch

Sandbach - Elworth: Yellow-legged Gull

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Red Kite, Swallow, Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Bullfinch, Goldfinch

Wheelock - Forge Fields: **Hobby**, House Martin

Winterley & Winterley Pool: **Muscovy Duck**, Buzzard, Rook, Swallow, Greenfinch, Goldfinch

Diary Dates



13th Sep 7.30 p.m.

Indoor Meeting

14th Sep 10.00 a.m.

Membership Promotion

15th Sep 10.00 a.m.

Sunday Field Trip

The River

Speaker: Paul Hobson

Hassall Green NR Family Day

Coordinator: Mike Tonks

Middleton Lakes RSPB

Leader: Mike Tonks

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