



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

Promoting and fostering the study of ornithology by observation, research and record keeping

May 2022



RSPB Leighton Moss Lilians Hide

Field Trip

Sunday
15th May

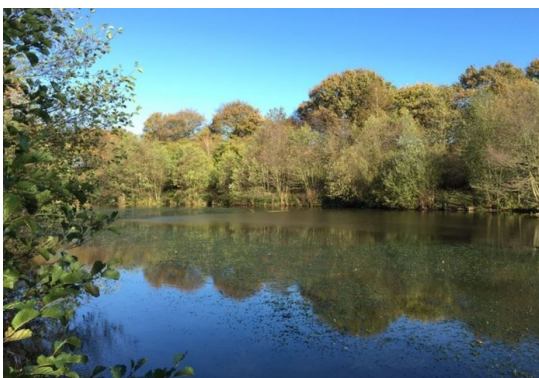
RSPB
Leighton Moss



Skytower

Leighton Moss has the largest reedbed in NW England and is home to breeding populations of Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Reed Warbler and Bittern. The reserve has 7 hides and the Skytower viewpoint, which provides great views of Morecambe Bay.

Trip leader: Ian Taylor



Borrow Pit Meadows Lake

Summer Walk

Wednesday 18th May
Borrow Pit Meadows,
Alsager

A pleasant walk along the Salt Line and around Borrow Pit Meadows. Habitats include woodland, meadow, wetland, grassland, farmland, scrub.

Trip leader: Mike Tonks

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

Sightings - April

Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Little Ringed Plover; Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper, Yellow-legged Gull, Kingfisher; 4th Dipper, Brambling; 5th Common Scoter; 6th Sandwich Tern; 9th Mediterranean Gull; 11th Red Kite, Yellow Wagtail; 12th Redstart; 13th Reed Warbler; 14th Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat; 15th Tree Pipit; 16th Grasshopper Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, ; 17th Black-necked Grebe, Barn Owl; 18th Little Owl, Yellowhammer; 19th Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed), Green Woodpecker; 21st Greenshank, **Black Kite (a Sandbach Flashes first!)**; 22nd Lesser Whitethroat, Hobby ; 23rd Whimbrel; 24th Arctic Tern, Ring Ouzel, ; 28th Bar-tailed Godwit, Garden Warbler, Stonechat; 29th Swift

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	Regular, max 38
Wigeon	Max 10
Teal	Regular, max 34
Mallard	Regular, max 91
Shoveler	Max 7
Tufted Duck	Max 4
Goosander	Max 5
Canada Goose	Max 12
G C Grebe	Regular, max 3
B-n Grebe	1, 17 th
Coot	Regular, max 11
Moorhen	Max 6
Mute Swan	Max 2

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	Regular, max 4
L Ringed Plover	Regular, max 7
Ringed Plover	3, 24 th
Lapwing	Max 1
Snipe	1, 21 st & 25 th
Black-tailed Godwit	Regular, max 15
Bar-tailed Godwit	1, 28 th
Curllew	1, 26 th
Whimbrel	1, 23 rd
Greenshank	1, 21 st -24 th + 28 th
Common Sandpiper	Regular, max 2
Green Sandpiper	Max 2

EHF/PHF



Little Ringed Plover - Dennis Swaby

Raptors & Owls	Count
Peregrine	1, 25 th
Buzzard	Max 6, 15 th
Red Kite	1, 17 th
Black Kite	1, 21 st



Common Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Mediterranean Gull	1, 9 th
Black-headed Gull	Max 17
Lesser Black-b Gull	Max 29
Herring Gull	Max 45
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 3 rd
Great Black-b Gull	Max 2
Common Tern	1, 27 th -30 th
Arctic Tern	3, 24 th



Whitethroat - Dennis Swaby

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	Max 3
Great White Egret	Max 2

EHF/PHF: **Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed)**, Kingfisher, Yellow Wagtail, Dunlin, Green Woodpecker, **Ring Ouzel**, **Swift**

FFF: Whitethroat

GF: **Garden Warbler**

MGT: **Barn Owl**, **Stonechat**, Whitethroat

RF: **Sand Martin**, **Black-necked Grebe**, Grasshopper Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat

WLF: **Swallow**, **Reed Warbler**, Tawny Owl

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

PHF = Pump House Flash

RF = Railway Flash

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

Blue text indicates place first seen.

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

Regular means 4+ days per month.

Sightings Elsewhere

Alsager:

Church Lawton: **Lesser Whitethroat, Red Kite, Hobby**
Fanny's Croft: **Wheatear, Yellowhammer**
Scholar Green: **Whitethroat**

Congleton:

Astbury Mere: **Brambling, Common Scoter, Sandwich Tern**
Bosley Cloud: **Tree Pipit**
River Dane / Park: **Kingfisher, Dipper**, Mandarin Duck, Goosander

Crewe:

Meremoor Moss: **Sedge Warbler**
Queens Park: **Little Owl**
Town: **Swift**

Doddington: Black-necked Grebe, Common Sandpiper, LR Plover, Oystercatcher

Mow Cop: **Grasshopper Warbler, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher**

Rode Pool: Egyptian Goose, **Great White Egret, Kingfisher**, Mandarin Duck



Brambling - Dennis Swaby

Field Trip Report

Bateswood LNR - 5th April



13 members made the short trip to Bateswood LNR on a cloudy, dry day. The first stop was the lake, which had small numbers of common water birds. A singing Blackcap and a Great Spotted Woodpecker were seen by a lucky few. We had good views of a Kestrel during lunch. In the afternoon, we walked to the south end of the reserve. Although it was rather breezy, several Skylarks were up singing. A few cowslips were flowering by the path side. A Curlew was heard, and three Greenfinch were seen bathing in a puddle on the rutted track. Thanks to Trevor for leading.

34 species were recorded, the highlights being Great Crested Grebe, Mistle Thrush, Skylark, Jay, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Curlew, Kestrel, Coal tit and Blackcap.

2022 SECOS Field Trips Total = 146 species

Diary Dates



Sunday 15th May 10.00 a.m.

Field Trip

RSPB Leighton Moss

Leader: Ian Taylor

Wednesday 18th May 7.00 p.m.

Summer Walk

Borrow Pit Meadows

Leader: Mike Tonks

12-13th Jun 10.00 a.m.

Short Weekend

West Wales

Leader: Mike Tonks

22nd Jun 10.00 a.m.

Summer 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