



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

Field Trip

Sun - Mon
12 - 13 June
West Wales



RSPB Ynys-hir

The itinerary includes RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, RSPB Carngafallt and RSPB Ynys-hir.

Trip leader: Mike Tonks



The Swettenham Arms

Summer Walk

Wednesday 22 June
Swettenham Valley
Meet at 10 a.m.

This site 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.

Trip leader: Mike Tonks

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

Sightings - May

Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Dipper, Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Wheatear, Whinchat; 2nd Bar-tailed Godwit, Great White Egret, Lesser Whitethroat, Whimbrel; 3rd Dotterel, Hobby, Kingfisher, Mandarin Duck, Ring Ouzel; 4th Garden Warbler, Ringed Plover; 5th Egyptian Goose, White Wagtail; 6th Common Tern; 9th Grasshopper Warbler; 12th Spotted Flycatcher; 13th Yellow Wagtail; 14th Common Crossbill, Redstart, **Spotted Sandpiper**; 18th Red Kite; 25th Knot; 28th Barn Owl; 29th Cuckoo

EHF/PHF

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 33
Mandarin Duck	1, 11 th & 23 rd
Wigeon	max 2
Gadwall	regular, max 5
Teal	max 2
Mallard	regular, max 241
Shoveler	regular, max 3
Tufted Duck	11, 17 th
Goosander	regular, max 5
Greylag Goose	max 2
Canada Goose	regular, max 27
Egyptian Goose	max 2, 20 th & 29 th
G C Grebe	regular, max 2
Coot	regular, max 16
Moorhen	regular, max 8
Mute Swan	regular, max 10



Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max 18
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 87
Herring Gull	max 19
Common Gull	1, 23 rd
Great Black-b Gull	1, 8 th
Common Tern	regular, max 2



Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 10
L Ringed Plover	regular, max 4
Ringed Plover	regular, max 4
Lapwing	max 17, 31 st
Knot	1, 25 th & 26 th
Dunlin	2, 1 st
Black-tailed Godwit	max 16, 23 rd
Bar-tailed Godwit	1, 2 nd
Whimbrel	1, 2 nd
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 2

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	max 5
Great White Egret	regular, max 2

Raptors & Owls	Count
Peregrine	regular, max 1
Red Kite	1, 18 th & 31 st
Hobby	1, 3 rd & 25 th

EHF/PHF: **Cuckoo**, **Hobby**, Kingfisher, Reed Warbler

MGT: **Barn Owl**, **Wheatear**, **Whinchat**, Tree Sparrow

RF: **Great White Egret**, **Knot**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, Grasshopper Warbler

Congleton: **The Cloud**: **Common Crossbill**, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Tree Pipit

River Dane: **Dipper**, **Kingfisher**, **Mandarin Duck**, Goosander

Congleton Bypass: **Dotterel**, Wheatear, Whinchat, R-l Partridge

Mossley: **Spotted Flycatcher**

Childs Lane: **Yellowhammer**

Mow Cop: **Garden Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Ring Ouzel**, **White Wagtail**

Doddington: **Spotted Sandpiper**, Little Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher

Astbury: Common Sandpiper, Hobby

Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, Kingfisher

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.

Field Trip Report

Goyt Valley - 3rd May

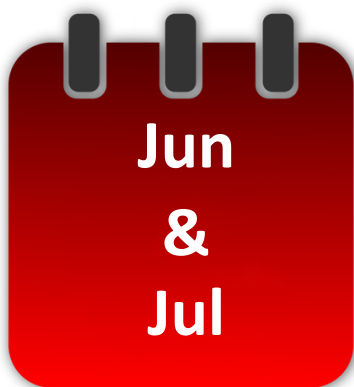


11 members met at Errwood Hall car park in the beautiful Goyt Valley on a damp, overcast morning hoping to see the specialty summer migrants for the area. The walk started well with Blackcap and Willow Warbler picked up in the scrub by the reservoir and two Common Sandpipers working the water's edge. Then we were alerted to the call of a Cuckoo across the valley and after some searching we found it on top of some conifers being harassed by a crow. The walk moved on and we were soon searching for Redstart and Pied Flycatcher after hearing their calls. We had good views of Pied Flycatcher but couldn't find the Redstart as stories of it previously nesting in the wall were recounted. Where the walk moved off the road a lucky few saw a Redstart as the others were searching for Goldcrests in the conifers. Walking along the track back up to the road we searched the stream and found two Dippers. Almost immediately, a flight call alerted us to a Tree Pipit which was found doing it's display from the top of a distant tree, the 'scopes soon confirmed its identity and we had good views. Working our way back to the car park on the old track we finally found a male Redstart in beautiful plumage low on the branch of an oak tree. Returning to the car park, lunch was now calling and we drove to Derbyshire Bridge to eat before heading home via the Chimney at Danebower Quarry, but sadly no Ring Ouzel. Next we drove down to Spar Bent layby to see several Golden Plover in breeding plumage, a Red grouse take flight and three raptors, Common Buzzard, Red Kite and Merlin pass by. One member saw a Wheatear. In total, we saw/heard **52 species** across the three sites, with all the key birds expected for the area except perhaps Ring Ouzel and Short-eared Owl. On the way home we got stuck in a traffic jam caused by a tractor being on fire!

Ian Taylor

2022 SECOS Field Trips Total = 155 species (including Leighton Moss)

Diary Dates



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

13th Jul 7.00 p.m.

Summer Walk

Fanny's Croft, Alsager

Leader: Jean Harrison

🕸 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