

# 2017 Summary of bird sighting in the SECOS Recording Area

## Note

- my thanks to all those who added their sightings to the various log books, blogs, etc. or sent them directly to me by emailed / text (or to a distribution list I'm a 'member' of)
- no attempt has been made to verify the sighting. This report is merely a summary of those records & if there wasn't a count alongside any sighting, it's recorded as **one individual**
- some records may have been those of the bird(s) are seen only in flight or flying over
- my database; Wildlife Recorder®, sorted the Systematic List / sequence used in this summary
- there were over 11,000 sightings for 2017 and, inevitably, errors & omissions will have crept in, along with incomplete records i.e. where I didn't note count, gender, age, breeding status, etc.
- unless previously recorded there, details of breeding have been omitted for 'sensitive' species

## Key: -

♀ - female

♂ - male

1<sup>st</sup> cy – first calendar year

1<sup>st</sup> w – first winter

ad - adult

c – circa

CP – Country Park

EHF – Elton Hall Flash

imm - immature

juv – juvenile(s)

PHF – Pump House Flash

## Ducks; Geese and Swans (Anatidae)

**Canada Goose** recorded in every month throughout the Recording Area & seen at all of the larger water bodies

Highest count of 980 at Doddington

Confirmed breeding at Doddington, Rode Pool & Sandbach Flashes

**Barnacle Goose** 6 seen at Sandbach Flashes in May & singles in Aug–Oct

**Bar-headed Goose** 1 recorded at Doddington during Jan

a pale goose; some suggested was a **Snow Goose** was seen during Nov at EHF/PHF

**Greylag Goose** recorded in every month & seen at all of the larger water bodies

Highest count of 260 at Doddington

Confirmed breeding at Doddington & Rode Pool

**Pink-footed Goose** recorded during all months apart from Mar, Jun–Aug & seen at Astbury Mere

CP; Congleton; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes & Rode Pool

Highest count of c300 at Sandbach Flashes

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**Black Swan** one was seen in Aug at Astbury Mere CP & Rode Pool Feb & Apr

**Mute Swan** recorded in every month & seen at all of the larger water bodies  
Highest count of 51 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Rode Pool & Sandbach Flashes

**Whooper Swan** recorded Jan–Feb & Oct–Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Congleton; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 7 at Astbury Mere CP

**Egyptian Goose** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 15<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Orinoco Goose** recorded at Sandbach Flashes in Jun & Aug

**Shelduck** recorded during all months apart from Sept & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes; Springbank Farm, Bradwall  
Highest count of 69 at Sandbach Flashes  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes

**Muscovy Duck** 5 recorded at Doddington in Nov

**Mandarin Duck** recorded in every month & seen at Brereton Heath CP; Church Lawton; Congleton; Greenhay Wood; Holmes Chapel; Lawton Hall/Lake; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Swettenham  
Highest count of 51 at Rode Pool  
Confirmed breeding at Rode Pool & nest building seen at Congleton

**Garganey** recorded at Railway Flash during Apr–May & Jul–Aug (a single ♀)

**Shoveler** recorded during all months apart from Jun & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 68 at Doddington

**Gadwall** recorded during all months apart from Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes; Springbank Farm, Bradwall  
Highest count of 15 at Sandbach Flashes  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes

**Wigeon** recorded during all months apart from Jul & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Lawton Lake; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 477 at Sandbach Flashes

**Chiloe Wigeon** recorded at Brereton Heath CP during Sep & Dec

**Mallard** very common throughout the RA  
Highest count of 310 at Sandbach Flashes

**Pintail** recorded during all months apart from May–Jun & Aug & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 7 at Sandbach Flashes

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**Teal** recorded in every month & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of c320 at Sandbach Flashes

**Pochard** recorded at Astbury Mere CP; Brereton Heath CP; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes during Jan; Jun–Jul & Dec  
Highest count of 46 at Doddington

**Hybrid duck** seen at Astbury Mere CP in Oct

**Tufted Duck** recorded in every month & seen at all of the larger water bodies  
Highest count of 148 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Doddington; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes

**Common Scoter** recorded during Jan, Mar–Jul & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 17 at Astbury Mere CP

**Long-tailed Duck** ♀ seen at Astbury Mere CP between 11<sup>th</sup> Jan & 17<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Goldeneye** recorded during Jan–Mar & Oct–Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Lawton Lake; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 27 at Doddington – seen displaying there in Jan

**Smew** ♀ recorded during Jan–Mar at Rode Pool

**Goosander** recorded in every month & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Borrow Pit Meadows; Brereton Heath CP; Congleton; Doddington; Holmes Chapel; Lawton Lake; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 15 at Sandbach Flashes  
Juveniles seen at Congleton Park / R Dane in Jul

### Guineafowl (Numididae)

**Helmeted Guineafowl** 2 recorded during Jul at Doddington

### Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)

**Red-legged Partridge** recorded in Mar-Apr; Jun; Aug; Nov-Dec & seen at Brereton Heath CP; Checkley; Betley; Doddington; Sandbach; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 2 at Brereton Heath CP & Doddington

**Grey Partridge** recorded during Apr at Checkley

**Pheasant** common locally, recorded in every month except Jul & Dec  
Highest count of 5 at Brereton Heath CP

### Grebes (Podicipedidae)

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**Little Grebe** recorded in every month & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Brereton Heath CP; Doddington; Lawton Lake; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 21 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Doddington & Sandbach Flashes; occupied nest at Astbury Mere CP; singing birds at Rode Pool

**Great Crested Grebe** recorded in every month & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Brereton Heath CP; Doddington; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 35 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Rode Pool & Sandbach Flashes

**Black-necked Grebe** one was recorded at Doddington on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

### Herons; Bitterns (Ardeidae)

**Cattle Egret** one was recorded between 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Aug at Sandbach Flashes favouring fields adjacent to Watch Lane Flash

**Grey Heron** common locally & recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Rode Pool (52 nests); Doddington (9 nests)

**Great White Egret** recorded during the months of Jan–May; Jul & Nov–Dec & seen at Barthomley; Doddington; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes

**Little Egret** recorded in every month & seen at Alsager; Doddington; Lawton Woods; Meremoor Moss (formerly Stowford); Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 6 at Rode Pool

### **Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)**

recorded in every month & seen at Alsager GC; Astbury Mere CP; Brereton Heath CP; Doddington; Lawton Lake; Meremoor Moss; Red Lane Pool; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 21 at Doddington

### **Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

seen at Alsager 4<sup>th</sup> Apr; Alsager Mere 5<sup>th</sup> Aug; Bradwall 8<sup>th</sup> Sep; Church Lawton Aug; Rode Heath 25<sup>th</sup> Mar & 4<sup>th</sup> Apr; Sandbach Flashes 13<sup>th</sup> May

### Kites; Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)

**Sparrowhawk** common locally; recorded in every month  
Highest count of 4 at Macon Meadows  
Confirmed breeding at Macon Meadows; seen displaying at Sandbach Flashes

**Marsh Harrier** seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul (♀); & on 6 days between 2-12<sup>th</sup> Sep at Sandbach Flashes

**Hen Harrier** reports of one seen in the Wybunbury / Doddington / Checkley area in Sep-Oct

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**Red Kite** recorded in Feb, Apr–Aug & seen at Alsager 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun; Borrow Pit Meadows 20<sup>th</sup> Feb; Bradwall Green 9<sup>th</sup> Jul; Church Lawton 26 May; Sandbach Flashes 27-28<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> Jun & 13<sup>th</sup> Jul, Aug; Wybunbury Moss 9<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Highest count of 2 at Wybunbury Moss

**Buzzard** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 12 at Sandbach Flashes  
Juveniles seen at various locations within Sandbach Flashes; displaying pairs seen at Astbury Mere CP; Oakhanger Moss; Sandbach Flashes

### Rails; Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)

**Water Rail** recorded at Doddington in Jan-Mar, Nov-Dec; Macon Meadows in Nov; Rode Pool in Oct; Sandbach Flashes on 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan; 5<sup>th</sup>, 11-12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Mar, during Apr, Oct-Dec  
Highest count of 3 at Rode Pool

**Moorhen** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 7 at Brereton Heath CP & Rode Pool  
Confirmed breeding at Macon Meadows; Quakers Coppice; Rode Pool & Sandbach Flashes

**Coot** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 595 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes

### Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)

common locally; recorded at Albion Lock Mar; Astbury Mere CP May; Brereton Heath CP 10<sup>th</sup> Jul; Church Lawton Aug; Doddington during Feb–Jul & during Dec; Sandbach Flashes Feb–Jul & Dec; Meremoor Moss 18<sup>th</sup> Apr; Rode Pool Apr, Jul  
Highest count of 11 at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Doddington

### Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta)

recorded at Sandbach Flashes 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29-30<sup>th</sup> Mar, 5<sup>th</sup> Apr, 7<sup>th</sup> May

### Plovers (Charadriidae)

**Lapwing** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of c700 at Doddington  
Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes & nest building seen at Springbank Farm, Bradwall

**Golden Plover** recorded at Arclid 12<sup>th</sup> Feb (52); Sandbach Flashes Jan; 7<sup>th</sup> Feb; Oct

**Grey Plover** 1 (summer plumaged) recorded at Sandbach Flashes 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Ringed Plover** recorded at Sandbach Flashes Apr-Sep

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**Little Ringed Plover** recorded at Albion Lock Mar-Apr; Springbank Farm, Bradwall Apr-Jul; Sandbach Flashes Mar-Aug  
Highest count of 10 at Sandbach Flashes  
Juv seen at Springbank Farm, Bradwall

### Sandpipers; Snipes (Scolopacidae)

**Whimbrel** recorded over Elworth 19<sup>th</sup> Jul (4) & at Sandbach Flashes 21<sup>st</sup> Apr, 17<sup>th</sup> Aug, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Curlew** recorded in every month except May & seen at Astbury Mere CP; EHF/PHF; Winterley  
Highest count of 40 at Sandbach Flashes

**Black-tailed Godwit** recorded in every month but only seen at Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of c110

**Turnstone** one was seen briefly flying over EHF on 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug

**Ruff** recorded in every month except between Mar & Jun but only seen at Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 3

**Dunlin** recorded at Doddington in Sep; Sandbach Flashes in Jan, 7-8<sup>th</sup> Mar, Apr-May, Jul-Sep, Nov-Dec; Springbank Farm, Bradwall in May  
Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes

**Woodcock** recorded at Rode Pool in Jan & Sandbach Flashes Jan-Mar  
Highest count of 2 at both sites

**Jack Snipe** recorded at Doddington in Mar & Sandbach Flashes in Feb-Mar & Nov  
Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes

**Snipe** recorded in every month except Jun & seen at Astbury Mere CP Dec; Doddington Jan-Apr, Aug-Dec; Lawton Lake Dec; Meremoor Moss Oct-Nov; Rode Pool Mar, Oct; Sandbach Flashes Jan-May & Jul-Dec; Scholar Green Dec  
Highest count of 126 at Sandbach Flashes

**Common Sandpiper** recorded at Astbury Mere CP Apr, Sep; Doddington Apr-Aug; Rode Pool Jun; Sandbach Flashes Apr-Sep  
Highest count of 10 at Sandbach Flashes

**Green Sandpiper** recorded at Doddington Aug; Middlewich Lime Beds Dec; Meremoor Moss 31<sup>st</sup> Oct; Sandbach Flashes Mar-Apr, Jun-Dec  
Highest count of 7 at Sandbach Flashes

**Redshank** recorded in every month except May but sightings only from Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 6

**Wood Sandpiper** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 18<sup>th</sup> Jul, 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep

**Spotted Redshank** recorded at Congleton 17<sup>th</sup> May & Sandbach Flashes 27<sup>th</sup> Aug (2 imm )

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**Greenshank** recorded between late Apr-early Aug & seen at Sandbach Flashes 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> May, Jun-Jul, 5-24<sup>th</sup> Aug  
Highest count of 2

### Gulls; Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)

**Black-headed Gull** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 1000 at Astbury Mere CP  
Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes

**Mediterranean Gull** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, Mar, 2-3<sup>rd</sup> May, Jun-Aug, 25<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Common Gull** recorded in every month except Sep & Dec, seen at Astbury Mere CP Feb; Doddington Jan-Feb, Oct-Nov; Sandbach Flashes Jan-Jul, 11<sup>th</sup> Aug, 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov; Springbank Farm, Bradwall 20<sup>th</sup> Jun

**Great Black-backed Gull** common locally, recorded in every month except Jul & Oct; seen at Astbury Mere CP & Sandbach Flashes

**Glaucous Gull** recorded at Sandbach Flashes Jan-May & Dec  
Ages noted – 1<sup>st</sup> w Jan, Mar; juv Jan

**Iceland Gull** recorded at EHF/PHF 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, 5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Ages noted – ad, 1<sup>st</sup> w & juv Jan

**Herring Gull** common locally, recorded in every month  
breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate with c.8 nests

**Caspian Gull** recorded at Sandbach Flashes Apr, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Jun, 25<sup>th</sup> Aug, Nov-Dec  
Ages noted – 1<sup>st</sup> cy Jun. Aug; ad Dec

**Yellow-legged Gull** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 15<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Mar, 4<sup>th</sup> Jun, Jul-Nov

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** common locally, recorded in every month  
breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate with c.15 nests

**Common Tern** recorded at Astbury Mere CP Apr-May, 29<sup>th</sup> Jun; Doddington May-Jun; Sandbach Flashes Apr-Aug  
Highest count of 5 at Astbury Mere CP  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes

**Arctic Tern** (singles - juvs) recorded at Sandbach Flashes 21<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Aug

**Black Tern** recorded at Astbury Mere CP Apr-May; Doddington 4-5<sup>th</sup> May; Sandbach Flashes Apr-May  
Highest count of 7 at Sandbach Flashes

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**Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun

### Pigeons; Doves (*Columbidae*)

**Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** common locally, recorded in every month except Nov

**Stock Dove** fairly common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of c150 at Rode Pool

Confirmed breeding at Quakers Coppice

**Woodpigeon** common locally, recorded in every month

**Collared Dove** common locally, recorded in every month

### **Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)**

recorded at Rode Pool 17<sup>th</sup> May; Sandbach Flashes 28<sup>th</sup> May

### **Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

recorded at Brereton Heath CP 21<sup>st</sup> Jan; Church Lawton Aug; Congleton Jan; Crewe Jan; Doddington Jan; Mar; Lawton Woods Jan; Oakhanger Dec; Sandbach Flashes Apr, 4-5<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> Jun, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Jul; Scholar Green Nov; Weston Road, Crewe Dec; Wybunbury Oct

### **Owls (*Strigidae*)**

**Tawny Owl** recorded in every month except Jun & seen at at Astbury Mere CP; Borrow Pit Meadows; Brereton Heath CP; Bridgemere; Church Lawton; Quakers Coppice; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Scholar Green

Highest count of 3 at Brereton Heath CP

**Little Owl** recorded in every month except Jan; Mar; Nov-Dec & seen at Brereton; Doddington;

Mow Cop; Sandbach Flashes; Warmingham

Highest count of 3 at Brereton Heath CP

Nest building seen there

**Long-eared Owl** recorded at Sandbach Flashes Jan-Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> Mar, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep, Oct-Dec

**Short-eared Owl** recorded at Meremoor Moss Oct; Sandbach Flashes Apr

### **Swift (*Apus apus*)**

common locally, recorded Apr-Sep

Highest count of 120 at Doddington

### **Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 3 at Rode Pool

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Juv seen at Astbury Mere CP in Sep

### Woodpeckers (Picidae)

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** recorded at Lawton Woods in Jan & Nov

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes

Confirmed breeding at Quakers Coppice & Sandbach Flashes

**Green Woodpecker** recorded in every month except Jan, Apr, Jun & seen at Alsager South;

Congleton; Lawton Woods; Meremoor Moss; Mow Cop; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 3 at Rode Pool

Juv seen there in Jul

### Caracaras; Falcons (Falconidae)

**Kestrel** common locally; recorded in every month throughout the RA & seen at A534 ( Haslington Bypass ); Alsager GC; Arclid; Astbury Mere CP; Brereton; David Whitby Way; Crewe; Doddington; Haslington; Lawton ; Meremoor Moss; Mow Cop; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Scholar Green; Crewe Hall

Highest count of 3 at Meremoor Moss & Mow Cop

**Merlin** recorded at Brownlow Heath 29<sup>th</sup> Sep; Sandbach Flashes 15<sup>th</sup> Jan; 7<sup>th</sup> Feb; 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar; Oct

**Hobby** recorded at Alsager 1<sup>st</sup> Oct; Alsager GC 15<sup>th</sup> Sep; Astbury Mere CP Sep; Church Lawton Jul-Aug; Clay Lane, Haslington May-Jul, 3-4<sup>th</sup> Aug; Congleton Aug; Doddington Aug; Elworth Jul; Gresty, Crewe 28<sup>th</sup> May; Mow Cop 10<sup>th</sup> Aug; Rode Pool Jul; Sandbach Aug; Sandbach Flashes May-Sep; Winterley 29<sup>th</sup> Aug; Wheelock 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug; Springbank Farm, Bradwall 20<sup>th</sup> Jun

Highest count of 4 at Winterley

2 juv fledged there

**Peregrine** recorded in every month except May & seen at Astbury Mere CP Oct; Brereton Green Dec; Church Lawton Jul; Doddington Feb, Apr, Aug; Macon Meadows 9<sup>th</sup> Feb; Sandbach 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun; Sandbach Flashes Jan-Mar, Jun-Dec; Swettenham Dec

Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes

Imm seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington & Sandbach Flashes

### Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

**Ring-necked Parakeet** recorded at Congleton 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul

### Crows; Jays (Corvidae)

**Jay** common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 10 at Doddington

Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes in Jun

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**Magpie** common locally, recorded in every month

**Jackdaw** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 150 at Brereton Heath CP

**Rook** recorded in every month except Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Brereton; Checkley Lane; Crewe Green; Lawton Woods; Macon Meadows; Meremoor Moss; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 40 at Brereton Heath

**Carrion Crow** common locally, recorded in every month

**Raven** recorded in every month throughout the RA & seen at Alsager GC; Astbury Mere CP; Basford; Crewe; Brereton Heath CP; The Cloud; Doddington; Elworth; Holmes Chapel; Macon Meadows; Meremoor Moss; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Haslington; Swettenham  
Highest count of 3 at Astbury Mere CP

**Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)** recorded at Warmingham 15<sup>th</sup> Jan; Astbury 14<sup>th</sup> Feb; Astbury Mere CP Jan-Feb; Buglawton 14<sup>th</sup> Feb; Clayton 1<sup>st</sup> Feb; Congleton Jan; 5<sup>th</sup>, 7-9<sup>th</sup> Feb; Crewe Jan; Macon Meadows 1-2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan; Sandbach Mar-Apr; Sandbach Flashes 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; Scholar Green Jan

### Tits; Chickadees (*Paridae*)

**Coal Tit** fairly common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 4 at Brereton Heath CP

**Willow Tit** 2 recorded at Brereton Heath CP 7<sup>th</sup> Apr

**Blue Tit** common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Quakers Coppice

**Great Tit** common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Quakers Coppice

### **Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)**

2 females were reported at Astbury Mere CP 11<sup>th</sup> Mar (unconfirmed)

**Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)** recorded in every month except Jan, Mar, Jul-Aug throughout the RA & seen at Alsager; Alsager GC; Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Lawton Woods area; Meremoor Moss; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 15 at Meremoor Moss

### Swallows; Martins (*Hirundinidae*)

**Sand Martin** common locally, recorded Mar-Sep

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Highest count of 400 at Doddington

**Swallow** common locally, recorded Apr-Oct also late records of early Dec  
Highest count of 80 at Doddington

**House Martin** common locally, recorded Apr-Oct  
Highest count of 40 at Doddington

**Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)** recorded at Sandbach Flashes 7<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20-21<sup>st</sup> Jan, 3<sup>rd</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Mar, May, 7<sup>th</sup> Jun, Jul, Oct, Dec

**Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)**  
common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 16 at Astbury Mere CP

### Leaf warblers and allies (*Phylloscopidae*)

**Willow Warbler** common locally, recorded Apr-Sep  
Highest count of 9 at Astbury Mere CP  
Confirmed breeding there

**Chiffchaff** common locally, recorded in every month

**Iberian Chiffchaff** recorded at Brereton Heath CP 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Jun

**Yellow-browed Warbler** recorded at Holmes Chapel; Scholar Green – both in Oct

### Reed warblers and allies (*Acrocephalidae*)

**Sedge Warbler** common locally, recorded Apr-Aug  
Highest count of 3 (singing ♂) at Doddington in Apr  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes in Jun

**Reed Warbler** common locally, recorded Apr-Aug  
Highest count of 8 (singing ♂) at Doddington  
Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Rode Pool & Sandbach Flashes

**Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)**  
recorded Apr-Jun and seen/heard at Bagmere 20<sup>th</sup> Jun; Brereton Apr; The Cloud 2<sup>nd</sup> May; Holmes Chapel Apr; Meremoor Moss Apr

### Sylviid Babblers (*Sylviidae*)

**Blackcap** common locally, recorded in every month except Jan-Feb  
Highest count of 12 at Astbury Mere CP  
Confirmed breeding at Macon Meadows & Sandbach Flashes

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**Garden Warbler** recorded May-Aug & seen at Astbury Mere CP May; Brereton 1<sup>st</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Jun; The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May; Macon Meadows 18<sup>th</sup> Jun; Sandbach Flashes 1<sup>st</sup> May; Jun-Jul; 11-26<sup>th</sup> Aug; 1<sup>st</sup> Sep  
Highest count of 3 (singing ♂) at Brereton Heath CP

**Lesser Whitethroat** recorded Apr-Sep & seen at Holmes Chapel 1<sup>st</sup> May (the only record outside of “The Flashes” area); Sandbach Flashes May-Sep  
Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes in Jul

**Whitethroat** recorded Apr-Sep & seen at Alsager; Brereton Heath CP; Checkley; Macon Meadows; Meremoor Moss; Mow Cop; Sandbach Flashes  
Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes in Jun

### **Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)**

common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 4 at Astbury Mere CP  
Birds displaying seen at Sandbach Flashes

### **Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)**

common locally, recorded in every month

### **Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)**

common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Quakers Coppice

### **Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)**

common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Doddington

### **Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)**

common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 30,000 at Brereton Heath CP in Jan

### **Thrushes (*Turdidae*)**

**Ring Ouzel** recorded at Mow Cop 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep; Sandbach Flashes Apr-May

**Blackbird** common locally, recorded in every month

**Fieldfare** common locally, recorded in Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec  
Highest count of 25 at Brereton Heath CP

**Redwing** common locally, recorded in Jan-Mar & Oct-Dec  
Highest count of c70 at Rode Pool

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**Song Thrush** common locally, recorded in every month

**Mistle Thrush** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 15 at Doddington

### Chats; Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

**Spotted Flycatcher** recorded at Brereton Heath CP 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Jun, 10<sup>th</sup> Jul; Aug; Church Lawton Aug; The Cloud 28<sup>th</sup> May; Holmes Chapel 17<sup>th</sup> May; Lawton Woods 28<sup>th</sup> May; Rode Pool 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> Jun; Sandbach Flashes 19<sup>th</sup> Jun, 9-27<sup>th</sup> Aug, 11-13<sup>th</sup> Sep; Swettenham Jul  
Confirmed breeding at Brereton Heath CP in Aug

**Robin** common locally, recorded in every month

**Nightingale** singing male recorded at Basford, Crewe 3-4<sup>th</sup> May

**Pied Flycatcher** recorded at The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May; Holmes Chapel 24<sup>th</sup> Jul

**Redstart** recorded at The Cloud 28<sup>th</sup> May; EHF/PHF 14-26<sup>th</sup> Aug

**Whinchat** recorded at Brereton May; Brereton Heath CP 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr; 5<sup>th</sup> May; Sandbach Flashes May, 21-22<sup>nd</sup> Aug, Sep

**Stonechat** recorded at Alsager 1<sup>st</sup> Oct; Meremoor Moss 18<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Oct; Sandbach Flashes 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10-28<sup>th</sup> Aug, Sep-Dec;

**Wheatear** recorded at Brereton Apr-May; The Cloud Aug; Doddington Mar-May; Lawton Fields May; Meremoor Moss 6<sup>th</sup> Sep; Sandbach Aug; Sandbach Flashes 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> Apr, May; 14-28<sup>th</sup> Aug, Sep  
Highest count of 10 at Sandbach Flashes

**Dipper (Cinclus cinclus)** recorded at Bathvale 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan; 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> Aug, 15<sup>th</sup> Oct; Congleton Park 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> Feb, Mar-May, Jul, 4<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Sep, Oct-Dec; Lawton Woods Jan  
Imm seen at Bathvale in Aug

### Old World Sparrows; Snowfinches (Passeridae)

**House Sparrow** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of 27 at Sandbach Flashes

**Tree Sparrow** recorded in every month but only sightings from Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 39 at Sandbach Flashes  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes

**Duncock (Prunella modularis)**  
common locally, recorded in every month

## SECOS Summary of bird sightings - 2017

### Wagtails; Pipits (Motacillidae)

**Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)** recorded at Astbury Mere CP Apr; Bradwall 1<sup>st</sup> Sep; Checkley, Betley 13<sup>th</sup> Jun; Congleton Aug; Doddington Apr-Sep; Lawton Fields May; Sandbach Aug; Sandbach Flashes 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Apr, Sep; Springbank Farm; Bradwall Jul  
Highest count of 6 at Doddington  
Juv seen at Doddington, Sandbach Flashes & Springbank Farm, Bradwall

**Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava*)** - subspecies - recorded at Doddington on 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May

**Grey Wagtail** recorded in every month of the year throughout the RA & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Bathvale; Checkley Lane; Congleton Park; Doddington; Hassall; Lawton Hall/Woods Macon Meadows; Meremoor Moss; Quakers Coppice; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Swettenham; Valley Brook, Slaughter Hill  
Juv seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Sandbach Flashes & Swettenham

**White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)** recorded at Doddington; Lawton Fields; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of 10 at Doddington

**Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)** subspecies - common locally, recorded in every month throughout the RA

**Meadow Pipit** recorded in every month except Jun-Jul & seen at Alsager GC; Astbury Mere CP; Brereton; The Cloud; Doddington; Meremoor Moss; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes  
Highest count of c60 at Doddington

**Tree Pipit** recorded at Church Lawton Aug; The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May

### Finches (Fringillidae)

**Chaffinch** common locally, recorded in every month  
Highest count of c150 at Doddington

**Brambling** recorded in Jan-Feb; Apr; Oct-Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP Oct-Nov; Basford, Crewe Nov-Dec; Doddington Apr, Nov-Dec; Haslington Oct; Lawton Woods Jan, Dec; Sandbach Flashes Feb, Oct-Dec; Swettenham Dec; Springbank Farm, Bradwall Dec; Warmingham 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

**Hawfinch** recorded at Arclid Nov; Astbury Mere CP Oct-Nov; Brereton Green Oct-Nov; Macon Meadows Nov; Sandbach Flashes Oct-Dec; Scholar Green Oct; Brownlow Dec; Smallwood Nov; Swettenham Nov-Dec  
Highest count of 5 at Brereton Heath CP

**Bullfinch** fairly common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP in Sep

**Greenfinch** recorded in every month except Sep & seen at Astbury Mere CP; Bathvale; Brereton Heath CP; Doddington; Haslington; Macon Meadows; Roe Park; Sandbach Flashes

## SECOS Summary of bird sightings - 2017

Highest count of c10 at Macon Meadows  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes in Jul

**Linnet** recorded in every month & seen at Alsager 15<sup>th</sup> Aug; Alsager GC 15<sup>th</sup> Sep; Astbury Mere CP Apr; The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May; David Whitby Way, Crewe 25<sup>th</sup> Oct; Doddington Apr, Jun-Aug, Oct-Dec; Hassall Moss 6<sup>th</sup> Sep; Lawton Woods Dec; Meremoor Moss Apr, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov; Mow Cop 10<sup>th</sup> Aug; Sandbach Flashes 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, Feb-Mar, Jul-Dec; Warmingham 7<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Highest count of c120 at Sandbach Flashes  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes in Jul

**Lesser Redpoll** recorded in Jan-Mar; May; Oct-Dec & seen at Alsager Dec; Basford, Crewe Jan; Dec; The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May; Doddington Nov; Lawton Woods Dec; Meremoor Moss 29<sup>th</sup> Nov; Rode Pool Mar, Nov; Sandbach Flashes Feb, Oct, Dec; Swettenham Dec

**Red Crossbill** recorded at The Cloud 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Goldfinch** common locally, recorded in every month

**Siskin** recorded in Jan-Mar; May; Jul; Oct-Dec & seen at Astbury Mere CP Jan-Jun, Nov; Basford, Crewe Mar; Brereton Heath CP 10<sup>th</sup> Jul; Congleton May; Doddington Mar; Lawton Woods Dec; Meremoor Moss 18<sup>th</sup> Oct; Rode Pool Jan-Mar, Oct; Sandbach Flashes Oct-Dec  
Highest count of 30 at Rode Pool

### **Buntings (Emberizidae)**

**Yellowhammer** recorded in every month except Jun-Jul; Sep & seen at Alsager 21<sup>st</sup> Feb; 9<sup>th</sup> May; Holmes Chapel Apr; Lawton Woods area Dec; Sandbach Flashes 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, Feb-Apr; 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Oct, Nov; Scholar Green Dec; Springbank Farm, Bradwall Dec

**Reed Bunting** fairly common locally, recorded in every month  
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes