



**South East Cheshire  
Ornithological Society**

Your local birdwatching group

**SECOS Bird Summary  
2019**

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## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

The list below is a compilation from the Sightings Section of the Society's monthly newsletter. The inclusion of detailed observations from the fieldworkers covering the SECOS Winter and Breeding Bird Survey [ SWaBBS ] patches have boosted the records and will no doubt improve the depth of our understanding of our local avifauna, especially records of breeding activity and success.

Following feedback from Sheila Blamire, Database Chairman at CAWOS, I have included a date / month for the count where possible.

- I would like to acknowledge the input by Colin Lythgoe to this document. He has helped me hugely in proof-reading it and offering me feedback. I'd also like to thank him, belatedly, for his contributions towards the 2018 and 2017 editions
- following a suggestion from Colin, I have included stats from the SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey. My thanks to its co-ordinator, Trevor Clowes for giving me access to the database.
- the inclusion of tables has only been partially successful - maxima for all months not known and I believe the inclusion of 'n/c' ( no count ) and '0' would make the table look busy!
- Andy Livermore, the CAWOS Systematic List Editor has given me a list of the species ( with counts ) that the county would consider a flock of birds as 'significant' – see individual species below for the details
- my thanks to all those who added their sightings to the various log books, blogs, etc. or sent them directly to me by email / 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 and 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) seen only in flight or flying over
- sightings entered in logbook(s) retrospectively may not be included
- my database, Wildlife Recorder®, sorted the Systematic List / sequence used in this summary - the sequence used by the International Ornithologists' Union - IOC 10.1 - January 2020
- there were almost 7600 sightings for 2019 and, inevitably, errors and omissions will have crept in, along with incomplete records i.e. where I didn't note count, gender, age, breeding status, etc. This number is considerably less than in 2018 due to the way I have consolidated the records
- where possible, I have included the first and last record of the season for migrants
- unless previously recorded at that site, details of breeding have been omitted for 'sensitive' species
- the SECOS Recording Area is hectads SJ74, 75, 76, 85 and 86 within Cheshire ( there is a map on SECOS website showing the hectads )
- some locations included are just outside the SECOS Recording Area

Where the phrase "breeding confirmed" is used it refers to fledglings recorded. I acknowledge that SWaBBS fieldworkers record specific breeding activity, i.e. nests with young, nest with eggs, adults carrying food/faecal sacs and occupied nests - those records are identified using the same description.

In 2019 I was granted access to the BTO's BirdTrack and WeBS databases and the BTO also send me local records for BBS, GBW and other specific surveys such as heronries, etc.

Please let me know of any errors, etc. that you see, or any sightings not included, so I can update/correct the records.

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## SECOS Recording Area & main birding sites

The SECOS website, [www.secos.org.uk](http://www.secos.org.uk), has a map of the Recording Area along with a recently updated list of the main birding sites accessible to the public.

### Review of the Year

What follows is a summary of the notable records for 2019. Surveys aren't "everyone's cup of tea" but I've included some to illustrate what opportunities SECOS members could participate in at a local level as opposed to those organised nationally and satisfying the aims of the Society.

**Jan** The Starling murmuration at Bagmere continues into the New Year attracting a Hen Harrier. Other frequently recorded birds include: Whooper Swan on Middlewich Canal and at The Flashes; the first Oystercatcher back at Arclid SQ and Doddington; Woodcock at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Brereton Heath LNR, Middlewich and The Flashes; Dippers on territory at Lawton Lake and in the Congleton area; also widespread reports of Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Brambling.

Occasional records include: a Smew at Astbury Mere CP and Rode Pool, a Red Kite over Alsager and Lea Forge; Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Rode Pool and on the Wheelock Rail Trail; Marsh Tit at Lea Forge, Rode Heath and Wybunbury Moss.

Single records include: Golden Plover, Jack Snipe, Marsh Harrier at The Flashes, a Bittern at Hassall Green; Willow Tit at Rode Heath.

The Long-eared Owl winter roost on MGT was a cause for concern – some visitors were ignoring the welfare of this locally scarce species! Social media / bird network reported sightings of Great Grey Shrike in Congleton (3rd) and Crane over Middlewich (21st)

**Feb** Some members took part in a Willow Tit survey. Brambling linger at Astbury Mere CP and elsewhere as the cold weather continues; the impressive local Starling murmuration at Bagmere continues to attract a Hen Harrier. Also in the area were Woodcock, Tawny and Little Owl, plus widespread reports of Yellowhammer, Whooper Swan at nearby Doddington plus one on Middlewich canal.

Occasional records include: Pink-footed Goose at Doddington and The Flashes;

Single records include: Willow Tit at Rode Heath; Ring-necked Parakeet at Scholar Green; Marsh Tit at Wybunbury Moss

**Mar** SECOS members travelled to Dumfries and Galloway for the 25th Long Weekend, the destination in 1995 when twelve members made that first official trip. The arrival of our summer migrants gained momentum, other reports include Common Scoter at Astbury Mere CP and Doddington; Ring Ouzel at Blackclough; Mediterranean and Little Gull, Avocet, LR Plover, Swallow, Wheatear and White Wagtail at The Flashes.

Single records include: Little Owl at Brereton Heath LNR, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Wybunbury Moss, Green Woodpecker at Scholar Green

**April** SECOS's very own survey, SWaBBS, begins its second full season. Also taking place this month was a Common Buzzard Survey organised by the Cheshire Raptor Study Group. Little Gull and Willow Warbler Astbury Mere CP; Pied Flycatcher and Redstart in a private wood in Bosley; A vocal and mobile Wood Warbler on The Cloud (stopping longer than the one day last year) plus Tree Pipit and Crossbill; Bar-tailed Godwit and Yellow Wagtail at Doddington; Common Sandpiper, Kittiwake, Sandwich Tern and Garden Warbler at The Flashes; Cuckoo on Clay Lane; Red Kite, Swift, Sedge & Reed Warbler, Lesser & Common Whitethroat at MGT; Redstart at Scholar Green

**May** Mark Arnold, Ranger at Brereton Heath LNR hosted a SECOS Dawn Chorus Walk. Spotted Flycatcher seen there later in the month. A Grasshopper Warbler at nearby Bagmere first

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recorded on 25th April was not recorded after the 12th. Garganey, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper at The Flashes; Whinchat on MGT and a Hobby over Sandbach. Black Terns at Astbury Mere CP and the Flashes. The confiding Dotterel at The Cat and Fiddle was 'twitched' by some of those on the SECOS First Tuesday Field Trip to the Goyt Valley. Also, a report of a Honey Buzzard

**June** The inaugural SECOS Short Weekend was held in Yorkshire. We held a Swift Count to compare data to those of 1995/96 and 2001. Little Egret, Green and Wood Sandpiper at The Flashes, Baikal Teal at Rode Pool, also there were Mandarin ducklings; Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Lea Forge; Quail at Meremoor Moss; a Pied Flycatcher at Swettenham. SECOS members together with Olivia Masi and some of her colleagues at Natural England began Breeding Seabird Survey.

**July** Yellow-legged Gull, a well-travelled colour-ringed Little Egret, Egyptian Goose, Avocet & Wood Sandpiper were at EHF/PHF; Barn and Tawny Owl at nearby Foden's Flash; Little Owl juvs at Doddington; a Red Kite over Haslington and Common Scoters at Astbury Mere CP. A colour-ringed Curlew at The Flashes has been recorded there on 8 occasions since 2016.

**August** The Gallery Page of the revamped SECOS website went live over the summer. At EHF/PHF: Garganey, Mandarin, Cattle Egret, Caspian Gull, Gull-billed Tern and Spotted Flycatcher. On MGT, Tawny Owl and Wheatear were ticked. Elsewhere at the Flashes: a Little Owl at Crabmill Flash and Yellowhammer at Fields Farm Flash. Doddington recorded a Black-necked Grebe and a Hobby. Mow Cop recorded a Marsh Harrier. At Scholar Green, Yellowhammer were ticked.

**September** Garganey, Pintail, Golden Plover, Knot, Arctic Tern and Spotted Flycatcher at EHF/PHF. On MGT; Cetti's Warbler and Wheatear. Mow Cop produced Little Owl, Redstart and Tree Pipit with Yellowhammers becoming a regular sighting at Scholar Green. Also noted were sightings of Fieldfare. A Hen Harrier was seen low over the Staffordshire border

**October** The Winter Garden Bird Survey started this month. The Flashes played host to a Whooper Swan and a Merlin while on MGT/RF, a Garganey, Water Rail, a Short-eared Owl and a Richard's Pipit was recorded. Elsewhere, at Astbury Mere CP two female/immature Scaup lingered into November. At Doddington, a Pink-foot Goose was recorded and a Red Kite flew over Shavington. Also, a report of a Little Gull over the M6 at Sandbach

**November** At EHF/PHF: Goldeneye, Golden Plover, a Short-eared Owl and a Mediterranean Gull and the fields on the other side of the railway embankment held Yellowhammer. Woodcock were recorded in the usual winter roost at Foden's Flash. Astbury Mere hosted both Scaup and Common Scoter, while Doddington recorded Red-crested Pochard and a Red Kite. BirdTrack reported a sighting of Snow Bunting at Nick i' th' Hill.

**December** The lack of reports of Long-eared Owls, in the second winter period, at the roost on MGT suggests that the 'damage done' by some of the visitors in the first part of the year was permanent! Water Rail reported at Doddington; Fodens Wood continues to host Woodcock, records from a private site for Jack Snipe, Little Egret at Scholar Green, Barn Owl at Astbury, Tawny Owl at nearby Astbury Mere CP, Green Woodpecker at Lea Forge, Starling murmuration numbers building at Bagmere; Dipper at Lawton Lake.

**SECOS Field Trip tick list for 2019 reached 181**

## Systematic List

### Key:

♀ - female	♂ - male	BP - Business Park
c - circa		CP - Country Park
1 <sup>st</sup> cy - first calendar year	1 <sup>st</sup> w - first winter	GC - Golf Club
ad - adult	imm - immature	LNR – Local Nature Reserve
juv - juvenile(s)		EHF – Elton Hall Flash
		MGT – Maw Green Tip
		PHF – Pump House Flash

Species for which county Biodiversity Action Plans have been written ( Chehire BAPs) are listed in the Appendix, as are those on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4, 2015 ( BoCC ) Red and Amber Lists.

### Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)

#### **Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*)**

recorded at Danebower, Knotbury and Three Shires Head

#### **Red-legged Partridge**

locally, usually, the only sightings where bred and released for shooting. Recorded in every month of the year except Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Blakenhall, Checkley Lane, Doddington, Gleadsmoss, Goostrey, Lea Forge, Marton, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Swettenham and Wall Hill

Highest count of 20 at Doddington ( Jan )

#### **Grey Partridge**

7 recorded at Blakenhall in April

#### **Quail**

1 heard singing on Meremoor Moss in June

**Pheasant** common locally, recorded in every month of the year except Aug & Oct

Highest count of 11 at Swettenham ( Apr )

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and (max count)	5 ( 11 )	7 ( 2 )

### Ducks; Geese and Swans (Anatidae)

#### **Canada Goose**

recorded in every month throughout the Recording Area and seen at all the larger water bodies

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	61	106	75	61	51	171	174	617	552	825	205	157
Astbury Mere CP								185				
Doddington	145	90	178	110	153	150	110	250	350	330	420	250
EHF	275		97	17				843	400		93	93
Queen's Park	211			67	47		118			100	350	141
Rode Pool	144	96	44	24	11	27	46	8	2	45	1	17

Fledglings seen at Arclid SQ, Doddington Rode Pool, Queen's Park and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

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### **Barnacle Goose** [ considered by the ‘purists’ to be classed as Escaped or Feral ]

A single bird seen associating with Canada Geese flock at Arclid SQ, Doddington Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Queen’s Park, Crewe [ occasionally a yellow spiral ring is noted on one leg ]

### **Greylag Goose**

recorded in every month and seen at some of the larger water bodies

Highest count of 430 at Doddington ( Nov )

Fledglings seen / breeding confirmed at Fields Farm, Sandbach; Meremoor Moss; Rode Pool & Wybunbury Fishing Lake

### **Pink-footed Goose**

recorded during all months apart from Mar-Aug

Seen on the ground or swimming at Doddington; Fields Farm, Sandbach and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 272 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jan ) – many records are flyovers but seen in low numbers

### **Black Swan** [ Escaped or Feral ]

One was recorded at Doddington ( May – Jul ) and Sandbach Flashes ( May )

### **Mute Swan**

recorded in every month and seen at all the larger water bodies

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Doddington	62	58	1	13	58	83	88	81	23	33	6	10
EHF	7		15	11						11	22	
Lawton Lake					11							
Middlewich Canal	58	13	30		8				19	31	44	
Newsbank Pool	86	62	52	55	66	51	47	46	62	74	77	76
Rode Pool	3	2	2	2	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	2

Fledglings seen / breeding confirmed at Lawton Lake, Marton, Rode Pool, Winterley Pool & Wychewood Park

### **Whooper Swan**

Some sightings don’t indicate whether birds are in flight, swimming or on the ground –

recorded at Doddington ( Feb, Mar & Oct ), Middlewich Canal, Middlewich Lime Beds, Newsbank Pool and Sandbach Flashes ( Jan, Apr & Oct )

2 birds were reported having rings – “White, BLS” in Jan. at Middlewich Canal and “Yellow, V9J” was in care at RSPB Stapeley before being ringed and released on Middlewich Canal in Apr. by the Cheshire Swan Ringing Group

Highest count of 9 at Doddington ( Feb & Oct )

### **Egyptian Goose** [ Escaped or Feral ]

between 2 and 4 birds were seen at Sandbach Flashes ( Mar, Jul, Oct & Nov )

### **Shelduck**

recorded in every month except Jul & Oct

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Newsbank Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Doddington	1	9	20	6	4			1				5
EHF	68	47	52	33		29					23	35

Courtship seen at Eaton Hall SQ and fledglings seen at Arclid SQ & Sandbach Flashes



### Mandarin Duck

recorded during all months apart from July

Seen at Arclid SQ; Astbury Mere CP; Bathvale; The Cloud; Congleton Park; Doddington; Fields Farm, Sandbach; Lawton Lake; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes and Scholar Green

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Doddington	3			2							10	1
EHF			1			1	1	1	1			
Lawton Lake	25				2							
Rode Pool	12	13	10	12	9	20	11	21	9	11	4	13

Ducklings seen at Rode Pool

### Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*) [ Escaped or Feral ]

Seen at Sandbach Flashes ( Mar & Jun ) and Doddington ( Apr )

### Baikal Teal (*Sibirionetta formosa*) [ National Rarity ]

A male ( unringed ) in breeding plumage was photographed at Rode Pool during June. A Rarity Report has been submitted to the BBRC – decision pending as at Apr '20.

### Garganey

1 or 2 recorded at Sandbach Flashes ( May & Aug-Oct )

### Shoveler

recorded during all months except Jul

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Astbury Mere CP	2	4		3	1						2	1
Doddington	21	66	25	10	2	1		1	2	4	5	11
EHF	21		12	17	4	4		12	28	2	25	28
Rode Pool	17	35	21	11					5	12	5	6

### Gadwall

recorded in all months except Jul & Oct – Nov

Seen at Arclid SQ, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 18 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jun )

Breeding confirmed at Sandbach Flashes

### Wigeon

recorded during all months except Jun – Jul

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 790 at Sandbach Flashes ( Mar )

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Astbury Mere CP				2							8	5
Doddington	11	10		1				1	4	22	16	12
EHF	635	590	175	120	1			7	62	125		670
Rode Pool	1										14	2

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### Mallard

very common

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arclid SQ	198	195	7	12	36	58	112	124	136	81	173	214
Doddington	500	300	200	200	200	200	300	800	600	700	700	500
EHF	155			35								285
Rode Pool	35	12	15	25	15	18	25	48	32	41	56	60

### Pintail

recorded during all months apart from Apr-Aug and rarely other than at Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Doddington		2										
EHF	7	4	7						3	2	6	8

### Teal

recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Bent Farm SQ, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Tidnock

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Doddington	75	11					3			2		1
EHF	177	122	55	75	3	1		77				107
Rode Pool	25	25	11	11					5	38	10	14

Courtship observed at Eaton Hall SQ

### Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*) [ Escaped or Feral ]

Recorded at Sandbach Flashes ( # not known ) in Jan and Doddington ( 6 ) in Nov

### Pochard

recorded during all months apart from Apr, May & Aug and preferring deep water

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 25 at Astbury Mere CP ( Dec )

### Tufted Duck

recorded in every month and seen at Alsager Mere, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Lawton Lake, Meremoor Moss, Newsbank Pool, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Wheelock Heath and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arclid SQ	75	101	15	33	2	1	32	77	70	43	32	38
Astbury Mere CP	-	57	46	67			25		47	148	167	150
Doddington	71	90	137	136	49	42	44	55	79	136	77	120
EHF	23	17	26	18		7			1	7		15
Rode Pool	13	9	12	15	4	7	4		4	10	9	10

Confirmed breeding at Doddington

### Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

2 recorded regularly at Astbury Mere CP ( Oct & Nov )

### Common Scoter

recorded in Mar at Astbury Mere CP ( 2♂ ) and Doddington ( 1♀ ), Jul at Astbury Mere CP ( 5, 9<sup>th</sup> & 8, 28<sup>th</sup> ) and Doddington ( 3♂ ) and in Nov at Astbury Mere CP ( 1♀ )

### Goldeneye

recorded during Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Lawton Lake and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 12 at Doddington ( Feb ) – seen displaying there ( Dec )

### Smew

2 recorded at Astbury Mere CP ( Jan ) and 1 or 2 at Rode Pool ( Jan-Feb & Dec )

### Goosander

recorded in every month of the year

Seen at Alsager Mere, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Borrow Pit Meadows, Brereton Heath LNR, Congleton, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Lawton Lake, Queens Park ( Crewe ), Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wheelock ( canal )

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arclid SQ	6	19	6	2						1	8	7
Astbury Mere CP	4		3					4			1	4
Brereton Heath CP		8										9
Congleton Park		1	1	2		3						
EHF	8	7	17	8	4	1	2	3	4	3	13	23
Lawton Lake	5										2	
Rode Pool	7	5									6	4

Juveniles seen at Congleton Park / R Dane in Jun & Jul

### Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Recorded briefly at Joey the Swan, Wistaston in Nov

### Ruddy Duck

recorded at Sandbach Flashes 21<sup>st</sup> Feb

### Swift (*Apus apus*)

common locally

First sighting – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr; last sighting 12<sup>th</sup> Sep

Highest count of 85 at Doddington ( May )

SECOS Count of known nest sites during June. A summary of the Count is on the website

### Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

2 records – seen at Clay Lane, Haslington ( 16<sup>th</sup> Apr ) and heard at Mow Cop ( 1<sup>st</sup> May )

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### Pigeons; Doves (Columbidae)

#### **Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)**

common locally and under-recorded

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	4 ( 12 )	3 ( 5 )

#### **Stock Dove**

fairly common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 51 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jan )

Breeding confirmed at Maw Green Tip, Quakers Coppice and Rode Pool

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	6 ( 12 )	3 ( 8 )

#### **Woodpigeon**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 200 at Astbury Mere CP and Alsager ( both in Dec ), during a visible migration watch ( VisMig ) on MGT the observer had c750 pass over in Oct

Breeding confirmed at Borrow Pit Meadows, Holmes Chapel, Merelake Way, Swettenham and Wheelock and Malkin's Bank – mostly by SWaBBS fieldworkers

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	44 ( 39 )	44 ( 39 )

#### **Collared Dove**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 38 at Church Lawton ( Dec )

Breeding confirmed at Sandbach Heath

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	34 ( 5 )	32 ( 9 )

### Rails; Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)

#### **Water Rail**

recorded Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec

this cryptic, secretive bird is difficult to see at the best of times, but even more so during their breeding season; recorded at Bagmere, Doddington, Little Taxmere, Macon Meadows, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Moss

Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes ( Watch Lane Flash ) ( Dec )

### **Moorhen**

common locally, recorded in every month

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	3	4					1	1	1	1	1	5
Doddington	4		8	8	4	6	2	1	2	5	3	2
EHF	17											3
Macon Meadows	3	4		3	2						8	7
Rode Pool	4	5	3	4	1	1	3	3	3	6	7	3
Wheelock & Malkin's Bank	3			2	1	7					5	5

Breeding confirmed at Doddington, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Wheelock & Malkin's Bank and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	1 (1)	0

### **Coot**

common locally, recorded in every month

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	32	40	10	13	12	11	20	20	15	7	5	12
Astbury Mere CP		91							91	120	135	163
Doddington	179	150	132	73	106	370	469	316	129	215	128	142
EHF	55											41
Rode Pool	4	6	6	9	4	11	15	4		5	6	2

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Taxmere and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

### **Common Crane (Grus grus)**

9 reported flying over Middlewich 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

### **Grebes (Podicipedidae)**

#### **Little Grebe**

recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Lawton Lake, Queen's Park, Rode Pool, Borrow Pit Meadows and Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Astbury Mere CP	2	3	1	1						2	3	3
Doddington	2		4	6	4	8	4	12	13	11	9	4
EHF	5	2	2				1	1	2	4	4	5
Lawton Lake	16									6		11
Rode Pool	2		1							1	3	2

Breeding confirmed at Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ and Sandbach Flashes

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### Great Crested Grebe

recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Balterley Green, Doddington, Queen's Park, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	2	5	7	8	9	9	10	11	9	4	2	2
Astbury Mere CP	8	8	8								8	6
Doddington	4		18	21	21	13	12	32	42	9	1	
EHF	2	3	5	4	6	2	1	4	1	3	2	3
Rode Pool		2	4	6	7	4	1	3	1		1	1
Watch Lane Flash	3									8	7	3

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

### Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

1 bird recorded regularly at Doddington throughout Aug – probably dispersed from Woolston Eyes

### Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

common locally; recorded between Jan-Aug

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Doddington, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Newsbank Pool, Rode Pool and Walgherton plus flyovers at various other locations

Highest count of 8 at Sandbach Flashes ( Mar )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ and Doddington

### Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

recorded at Sandbach Flashes – 19<sup>th</sup> Mar (3) & regularly during Jul (1)

### Plovers (Charadriidae)

#### Lapwing

common locally, recorded in every month

**Flocks of 500+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	527	425	5	3	3	12	40	200	300	4	100	7
Doddington	600	90		1				45				100
Eaton Hall SQ				1	3	2			130			
EHF	1100	475	2	5	19	42	25	450		181		820

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ

Birds displaying or agitated behaviour at Bradwall, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Scholar Green, Sparbent, and Swettenham

#### Golden Plover

recorded at Danebower ( Mar & Jun ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Jan-Mar, Sep & Nov-Dec )

Highest count of 190 at Sandbach Flashes ( Feb )

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

### Ringed Plover

singles [ unless noted otherwise ]

recorded at Doddington ( May [2] ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Apr, May [4], Aug [3] & Sep )

### Little Ringed Plover

Seen at Arclid SQ ( Mar-Jun ), Doddington ( Apr-Jul ), Holmes Chapel ( Apr ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Mar-Jul & Sep )

Highest count of 10 at Sandbach Flashes ( Apr )

Occupied nest at Arclid SQ

### Sandpipers; Snipes (Scolopacidae)

#### Whimbrel

Singles recorded at Sandbach Flashes ( Apr & Jul )

#### Curlew

recorded in every month of the year

Seen at Coppenhall Moss, Mooresbarrow, Mow Cop, Newsbank Pool and Sandbach Flashes plus flyovers at various other sites

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
EHF	45	32	10	1			11	24	34	41	40	37

#### Black-tailed Godwit

recorded in every month but only noted at Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
EHF	5	9	24	21	25	64	42	19	3	1	3	4

#### Knot

3 seen at Sandbach Flashes 1<sup>st</sup> Sep

#### Ruff

recorded between Jan-Apr also in Jul & Sep but only noted at Sandbach Flashes

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
EHF	4	27	1	1			1		1			

#### Dunlin

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Arclid SQ ( Aug ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Mar [2], May, Jun, Aug, Sep & Dec )

#### Woodcock

recorded Jan-Feb & Nov-Dec

Seen at Alsager ( Jan ), Arclid SQ ( Jan, Nov-Dec ), Bagmere ( Feb ), Brereton Heath LNR ( Jan ), Doddington ( Feb ), Middlewich Lime Beds ( Jan ), Mow Cop ( Dec ), Rode Pool ( Feb ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Jan-Feb & Dec )

Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jan )

#### Jack Snipe

Only singles noted at Mow Cop ( Dec ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Jan & Dec )

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### Snipe

recorded in every month

Other than the table below; also seen at Bagmere ( Feb ), Borrow Pit Meadows ( Dec ), Lea Forge ( Nov ), Merelake Way ( Feb ), Meremoor Moss ( Dec ), Mow Cop ( Aug & Dec ) and Wheelock & Malkin's Bank ( Nov )

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arclid SQ		33	36									
Doddington	5	1	1	1								
EHF	41	18	14	8	2		6	16		7	10	37
MGT	1	2							5	7	4	9
Rode Pool	8	11								4	4	8

### Common Sandpiper

recorded between Apr-Sep & in Nov

Seen at Arclid SQ ( Apr & Jul-Aug ), Astbury Mere CP ( Apr-Aug ), Brereton Heath LNR ( May ), Doddington ( May, Jul-Aug ), Eaton Hall SQ ( Aug ), Sandbach Flashes ( Apr-Aug & Nov ), Rode Pool ( Apr ) and Shavington ( Apr )

Highest count of 6 at Arclid SQ ( Jul )

### Green Sandpiper

recorded in every month except May

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Arclid SQ ( Jan-Mar & Aug ), Meremoor Moss ( Feb ), Middlewich Lime Beds ( Jan, Mar, Apr [4] ) and Sandbach Flashes [ occasionally more than 1 ] ( Feb-Apr, Jun-Dec )

Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jun )

### Redshank

recorded in every month except May Aug or Oct; all sightings from Sandbach Flashes except for a single at Doddington in Mar

Maximum monthly count: -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Sandbach Flashes	3	2	2	2		1	1		1	1	1	1

Although there is an entry on BirdTrack® records 12 on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb!

### Wood Sandpiper

1 or 2 recorded at Sandbach Flashes ( May-Jul )

### Greenshank

recorded in Apr, May & Aug

Seen at Arclid SQ ( Aug ), Astbury ( Aug ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Apr & May )

All records are of singles

### Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)

1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes ( 7<sup>th</sup> Apr )



## Gulls; Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)

### **Black-headed Gull**

common locally, recorded in every month

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	434	c700	38	8	12		6	35	27	74	304	27
Doddington	45											9500
EHF	1200									2100		2000
Rode Pool	85	60					1		7	45	6	16

Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes

Doddington is a winter roost site for Black-headed Gull and also for Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull

### **Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus)**

Singles seen at Sandbach Flashes ( Mar ), Astbury Mere CP (Apr ) also a report of a sighting above M6 at junction 18 ( Nov )

### **Mediterranean Gull**

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Sandbach Flashes ( Jan, Feb [2], Mar [2], Jun [2], Jul, Aug, Sept, Nov & Dec [2] )

### **Common Gull**

recorded in every month except May, Jun, Jul & Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Queens Park ( Crewe ) and Sandbach Flashes plus flyovers at various other locations

Highest count of 50 at Doddington ( Dec )

**Other than at landfill sites, inland flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

### **Great Black-backed Gull**

common locally, recorded in every month except Apr & Jun

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 44 at Sandbach Flashes ( Dec )

**Other than at landfill sites, inland flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

### **Iceland Gull**

Singles seen ( 4 records ) at Sandbach Flashes Jan-Mar

### **Herring Gull**

common locally, recorded in every month except Jul

Highest count of 280 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jan )

breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate

A Seabird Count of the nesting sites on some of the roofs on Weston Road Industrial Estate by Colin Lythgoe, Olivia Masi and some of her colleagues from Natural England plus a couple from me confirmed breeding success again this year. Colin’s report is on the SECOS website

**Other than at landfill sites, inland flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

### **Caspian Gull CAWOS Rarity – description required**

8 records – 1<sup>st</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Jul, 17<sup>th</sup> Aug, 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov & 4<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec; all at Sandbach Flashes

### **Yellow-legged Gull**

recorded in every month except Apr & May

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 4 at Sandbach Flashes ( Sep )

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

common locally, recorded in every month

Breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate

Maximum monthly count: -

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Arclid SQ	c300	62	9	10	200	120	1	30	125	125	265	7
Astbury Mere CP								18			490	
Doddington												1300

**Other than at landfill sites, inland flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

### Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) CAWOS Rarity – description required

1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Aug

### Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes 20<sup>th</sup> Apr

### Common Tern

First report – 1<sup>st</sup> May; last report 9<sup>th</sup> Aug

Seen at Astbury Mere CP ( May ), Doddington ( Jul-Aug ), Sandbach Flashes ( May-Jul )

Highest count of 8 at Astbury Mere CP ( May )

Breeding confirmed at Sandbach Flashes

‘Commic’ terns reported at Eaton Hall SQ ( Aug ) and Sandbach Flashes ( May )

### Arctic Tern

Seen at Astbury Mere CP ( Apr & May ), Sandbach Flashes ( Apr, May & Sep )

Highest count of 7 at Astbury Mere CP ( May )

### Black Tern

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Astbury Mere CP ( May ) & Sandbach Flashes ( May [2] )

### Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Cranage, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Meremoor Moss, Mooresbarrow, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wheelock & Malkin’s Bank plus ‘flyovers’ at Holmes Chapel, Swettenham and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Highest count of 31 at Sandbach Flashes ( Feb )

Birds with features of the continental subspecies [ *P sinensis* ] were reported at Arclid SQ ( Jan-Mar )

### Herons; Bitterns (Ardeidae)

#### Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

The good relationship with the fishing community locally continues to bear fruit with a report at Hassall Green of a low-flying bird near the Romping Donkey on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan

#### Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

2 birds seen at Sandbach Flashes on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug

### Grey Heron

common locally and recorded in every month

'best estimates' of nests in heronries: - Doddington 16, Gawsorth 3 and Rode Pool 55

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	3 (1)	3 (1)

### Great White Egret CAWOS rarity ( away from the coast ) – description required

recorded during the months of Jan-Jun; Sep & Dec

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Doddington, Great Moreton Hall, Meremoor Moss, Redesmere, Rode Pool [2] and Sandbach Flashes [5]

Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes ( Sep )

### Little Egret

recorded in every month except Sep & Oct

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Alsager [2], Bathvale, Doddington, Macon Meadows, Redesmere, Rode Heath [3] & Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes [4] and West Heath

Plus flyovers at various other locations

Highest count of 6 at Rode Pool ( Dec )

### Kites; Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)

#### Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

A bird showing features consistent with an adult of this species was seen from a train at Meremoor Moss on 1<sup>st</sup> May

#### Sparrowhawk

common locally; recorded in every month

Singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP [2], Bagmere [2], Barthomley, Brereton, Checkley Lane, Doddington, Holmes Chapel, Lea Forge, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Merelake Way, Rode Pool, Roe Park, Salt Line & Borrow Pit Meadows, Sandbach Flashes [3], Swettenham, Wheelock/Malkin's Bank and Wybunbury Moss

Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes ( Dec )

Breeding confirmed at Doddington

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	17 (2)	22 (2)

#### Marsh Harrier

♀ recorded in flight at Mow Cop 27<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### Hen Harrier

1, described as "immature" and "ringtail" was recorded at Bagmere and Brereton Heath LNR ( Jan-Feb ) and was watched hunting the starling murmuration.

#### Red Kite

recorded in all months except Feb, Jun, Aug-Sep or Dec ( none suggest bird was perched or on the ground )

Singles seen at Alsager, Astbury Mere CP, Coppenhall Moss, Crewe, Doddington, Haslington, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Mow Cop, Sandbach Flashes, Shavington, and Wistaston

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### **Buzzard**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 11 at Arclid SQ ( Apr )

Displaying birds seen at Barthomley, Coppenhall Moss, Meremoor Moss and Roe Park

Breeding confirmed at only two sites: Arclid SQ and Rode Hall

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	2 ( 3 )	3 ( 3 )

### **Barn Owl (Tyto alba) \*\*\* a Schedule One bird**

recorded in every month

29 records from 18 different locations, including Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury, Bridgemere, Crewe, Doddington, Haslington, Fields Farm (Sandbach), Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green, Smallwood, Timbersbrook and Walgherton

Breeding confirmed at three sites – many other locations not disclosed

### **Owls (Strigidae)**

#### **Tawny Owl**

recorded in every month

over 30 records from 16 locations ( 30 from 17 in 2018 ) including: - singles [ unless noted otherwise ]

seen at Alsager, Astbury Mere CP [3], Bagmere, Borrow Pit Meadows [2], Dane-in-Shaw,

Doddington, Goostrey, Middlewich, The Quinta, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes [3] and Smallwood

Breeding confirmed at Doddington, The Quinta and Rode Pool

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	1 ( 1 )	0

#### **Little Owl**

recorded in every month except Jan, Nov-Dec

26 records from 13 locations ( 16 from 4 in 2018 )

singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Bagmere, Blakenhall, Bradwall, Brereton Heath LNR,

Doddington [2], Haslington, Hassall Green, Mossley, Mow Cop and Sandbach Flashes

Breeding confirmed at Doddington

#### **Long-eared Owl**

This winter roost on MGT was a cause for concern during the early winter period, **some visitors wanting to get closer views / photographs were ignoring the welfare of this locally scarce species!**

The absence of reports in the second winter period suggest the ‘damage has been done’!

#### **Short-eared Owl**

4 sightings ( 5 in 2018 ) of singles: seen at Astbury Mere CP ( Oct ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Oct-Nov )

### **Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) \*\*\* a Schedule One bird**

common locally, recorded in every month from 21 sites

Highest count of 3 at Brereton Heath LNR ( Jul ) and Dane-in-Shaw ( Aug )

2 records during SWaBBS

‘probable breeding nearby’ – sightings of adult in flight with food – Alsager ( SWaBBS )

## Woodpeckers (Picidae)

### **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

Singles recorded at Wheelock Rail Trail ( Jul ), Doddington ( Feb ), Lea Forge ( Jun ) and Wybunbury Moss ( Mar )

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 4 at Arclid SQ ( no date )

Breeding confirmed at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Doddington, Quakers Coppice, Roe Park, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	14 ( 2 )	13 ( 3 )

### **Green Woodpecker**

recorded in every month except Aug & Oct

Singles recorded at Astbury, Doddington, Lea Forge, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mooresbarrow, Rode Pool, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green and Wallhill

Bird displaying at Roe Park

## Caracaras; Falcons (Falconidae)

### **Kestrel**

common locally; recorded in every month

Highest count and confirmed breeding of 4 ( a pair with 2 juv ) Meremoor Moss ( Jul ); also 3 at Sandbach Flashes ( Aug & Oct )

### **Merlin**

5 records from 2 locations; Jan-Feb & Oct & Dec

Seen at Brereton Green ( Jan ) and 3 sites within Sandbach Flashes ( Feb, Oct & Dec )

### **Hobby** \*\*\* a Schedule One bird

recorded 1<sup>st</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

\*\* a sighting on BirdTrack® of a bird recorded at Dane-in-Shaw on 11<sup>th</sup> Mar

29 records from 22 locations

Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes ( Jun )

### **Peregrine** \*\*\* a Schedule One bird

recorded in every month except May

Seen at 17 locations

Highest count of 2 at Crewe Town Centre ( Aug ), Doddington ( Dec ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Dec )

Breeding confirmed at Crewe ( Jun ), also imm seen Sandbach Flashes ( Nov )

## Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

### **Ring-necked Parakeet**

3 records: Crewe Town Centre ( Aug ), Sandbach Flashes ( May ) and Scholar Green ( Feb )

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### **Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)**

A report on the 'pager network' of a bird at Havannah, Congleton on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan

### **Crows; Jays (*Corvidae*)**

#### **Jay**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 5 at Salt Line ( Apr ) and Wybunbury Moss ( May ) both during SWaBBS

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Alsager & Doddington

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	4 ( 6 )	8 ( 6 )

#### **Magpie**

common locally, recorded in every month

#### **Jackdaw**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 500 at Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] ( Jan ) and Bagmere ( Dec )

**Flocks of 50+ ( not tips ) considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Other 50+ flocks recorded at Alsager, Bagmere, Brereton Heath LNR, Cranage, Mooresbarrow & Tidnock

#### **Rook**

recorded in every month except Sep

Highest count of c114 at Arclid SQ ( no date )

**Flocks of 50+ ( not tips ) considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Other 50+ flocks recorded at Alsager

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	4 ( 35 )	1 ( 35 )

#### **Carrion Crow**

common locally, recorded in every month except Sep & Oct

Highest count of 73 at Holmes Chapel ( Nov ) during SWaBBS

**Flocks of 50+ ( not tips ) considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Other 50+ flocks recorded at Forgemill, Swettenham, Tidnock and Wheelock & Malkin's Bank

#### **Raven**

recorded in every month

Highest count of a flock 16 over Astbury Mere CP ( Jul )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid Hollow

### **Tits; Chickadees (*Paridae*)**

#### **Coal Tit**

fairly common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 6 at Wybunbury Moss ( Jan & Feb ) during SWaBBS

Breeding confirmed at Roe Park and Swettenham during SWaBBS

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	34 ( 6 )	39 ( 6 )

### Marsh Tit

**CAWOS Rarity, description required ( away from proven breeding sites)**

2 recorded at Lea Forge ( Jan ) and Wybunbury Moss ( Jan )

Also heard at Rode Heath

### Willow Tit

**CAWOS Rarity, description required ( away from proven breeding sites)**

recorded at Rode Heath ( Jan & Feb )

### Blue Tit

common locally, recorded in every month

Breeding confirmed at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Barthomley, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Roe Park, Quakers Coppice, Rode Pool, Salt Line, Swettenham, Wheelock/Malkin's Bank, Wybunbury Fishing Lake and Wybunbury Moss

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	47 ( 12 )	44 ( 14 )

### Great Tit

common locally, recorded in every month

Breeding confirmed at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Borrow Pit Meadows, Eaton Hall SQ, Holmes Chapel, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Roe Park, Quakers Coppice, Salt Line, Swettenham, Wybunbury Fishing Lake and Wybunbury Moss

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	42 ( 12 )	43 ( 9 )

### Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

recorded in every month except Aug

Seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury, Astbury Mere CP, Bagmere, Blakenhall, Checkley, Cranage, Doddington, Gleadsmoss, Holmes Chapel, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Mow Cop, Newsbank Pool, Sandbach, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green, Swettenham, Tidnock, Wallhill, Weston and Wheelock

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Highest count of 80 at Alsager ( Nov-Dec )

Other flocks of 10+ at Arclid SQ & Sandbach Flashes ( MGT )

Bird(s) displaying at Meremoor Moss

### Swallows; Martins (*Hirundinidae*)

#### Sand Martin

common locally, first record – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar; last record 15<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Highest count of 500 at Doddington ( Apr )

Other flocks 50+ at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP,

Breeding confirmed: Arclid SQ, Eaton Hall SQ; probable at Bent Farm SQ, The Cloud, Gawsworth

#### Swallow

common locally, first record 17<sup>th</sup> Mar; last record 14<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Highest count of 100 at Astbury Mere CP ( Apr ) and Doddington ( May & Aug )

Other flocks of 50+ at Sandbach Flashes

Breeding confirmed at Doddington, Holmes Chapel and Swettenham

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### House Martin

common locally, first record – 31<sup>st</sup> Mar; last record 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 65 at Doddington ( May )

Other flocks of 50+ at Astbury Mere CP and Sandbach Flashes

Breeding confirmed at Wheelock, Holmes Chapel and Swettenham

### Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) \*\*\* a Schedule One bird

only recorded at locations within Sandbach Flashes in all months except Jun-Jul

Highest count of 4 at MGT/RF ( Apr & Oct )

### Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 48 at Astbury Mere CP ( Nov )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Barthomley, Holmes Chapel, Macon Meadows, Quakers Coppice and Swettenham

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	32 ( 15 )	43 ( 15 )

### Leaf warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)

#### Wood Warbler

**CAWOS Rarity description required**

a singing male was recorded on The Cloud ( May-Jun ); breeding probable – seen carrying food ( Jun )

#### Willow Warbler

common locally, recorded 4<sup>th</sup> Apr to 16<sup>th</sup> Oct

Highest count of c20 at Sandbach Flashes [ EHF ] ( Sep )

#### Chiffchaff

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 50 at Arclid SQ ( no date )

Breeding confirmed at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Holmes Chapel and Meremoor Moss

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	1 ( 1 )	4 ( 1 )

### Reed warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)

#### Sedge Warbler

common locally, recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Apr to 4<sup>th</sup> Aug

Highest count of 6 ( singing ♂ ) at Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] ( May )

Probable breeding at Meremoor Moss

#### Reed Warbler

common locally, recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Apr to 26<sup>th</sup> Sep

Highest count of 10 at Doddington ( May )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP and Doddington



### **Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)**

Only recorded at Bagmere SSSI ( 25<sup>th</sup> Apr & 12<sup>th</sup> May )

### **Sylviid Babblers (*Sylviidae*)**

#### **Blackcap**

common locally, recorded in every month except Jan, Oct-Nov

Highest count of 44 at Arclid SQ ( undated )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Meremoor Moss, Roe Park and Swettenham

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	14 ( 3 )	11 ( 3 )

#### **Garden Warbler**

recorded 15<sup>th</sup> Apr to 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

singles [ unless noted otherwise ] seen at Arclid SQ (3), Astbury Mere CP, Bagmere SSSI, Borrow Pit Meadows (2), Brereton Heath LNR (4), The Cloud, Doddington, Eaton, Lea Forge, Mow Cop, The Quinta, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Swettenham and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Highest count of 4 at Brereton Heath LNR ( May )

#### **Lesser Whitethroat**

recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Apr to 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Blakenhall, Borrow Pit Meadows, Congleton, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green and Wallhill

Highest count of 4 at Arclid SQ ( undated )

Displaying seen at Meremoor Moss in May

#### **Whitethroat**

recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Apr to 12<sup>th</sup> Sep

Seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Blakenhall, Borrow Pit Meadows, Brereton Heath LNR, The Cloud, Congleton, Doddington, Forgemill, Lea Forge, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mooresbarrow, Mow Cop, Rode Heath, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Wallhill and Wybunbury Moss

Highest count of 14 at Middlewich Lime Beds ( May )

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ and Meremoor Moss

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

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 13 at Quakers Coppice ( May )

Breeding confirmed at Doddington, The Quinta, Rode Pool and Wybunbury Moss

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	6 ( 2 )	7 ( 2 )

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

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 28 at Wybunbury Moss ( May )

Breeding confirmed at Alsager and Arclid SQ

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	36 ( 2 )	38 ( 3 )

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

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 7 at Lawton Woods ( Feb )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Rode Pool and Quakers Coppice

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	12 ( 4 )	19 ( 5 )

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

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 4 at Roe Park ( May )

Breeding confirmed at Rode Pool

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	3 ( 2 )	1 ( 2 )

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

common locally, recorded in every month except Aug & Oct

**Flocks of 500+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

A high count of c50,000 at Bagmere ( Feb )

Breeding confirmed at Holmes Chapel, Macon Meadows, Salt Line, Sandbach Heath and Wheelock & Malkin’s Bank

Murmurations recorded at Bagmere SSSI

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	39 ( 200 )	38 ( 30 )

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

#### **Ring Ouzel**

recorded at Blackclough, Congleton, Danebower, Knotbury, Mow Cop and Three Shires Head

#### **Blackbird**

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 49 at Wheelock & Malkin’s Bank ( Nov )

Breeding confirmed at only one location – Holmes Chapel

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	47 ( 15 )	44 ( 12 )

#### **Fieldfare**

common locally, recorded in Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 180 at Brereton Heath LNR ( Apr )

Other 50+ flocks at Arclid SQ, Holmes Chapel, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss and Swettenham

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	3 ( 12 )	11 ( 12 )

### Redwing

common locally, recorded in Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Highest count of 306 at MGT [ at a vismig ] ( Nov )

Other 50+ flocks at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Holmes Chapel, Merelake Way, Rodeheath (Congleton), Rode Pool and Swettenham

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	5 ( 9 )	3 ( 6 )

### Song Thrush

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 14 at Arclid SQ ( undated )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Macon Meadows, Mossley Hall and Roe Park

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	16 ( 2 )	17 ( 6 )

### Mistle Thrush

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 48 at Rode Pool ( Jan )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Doddington and Meremoor Moss

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	7 ( 1 )	6 ( 3 )

### Chats; Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

#### Spotted Flycatcher

recorded 14<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

Seen at Brereton Heath LNR ( May-Jun ), The Cloud ( Apr-Jun ), Congleton ( May ), Doddington ( Jun & Sep ), Lawton Woods ( May ), Holmes Chapel ( Jun ), Rode Pool ( Jun-Jul ), Sandbach ( Jun-Jul ), Sandbach Flashes ( Aug-Sep ), Scholar Green ( Sep ), Swettenham ( Jun & Aug ), Walgherton ( Oct ) and Wybunbury ( Jun & Aug )

Highest count of 5 ( adults & 3 juvs ) at Wybunbury ( Aug )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Sandbach and Wybunbury and nest building at Lawton Woods

#### Robin

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 27 at Crewe GC ( Feb )

Breeding confirmed at nine locations

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	47 ( 6 )	44 ( 5 )

#### Pied Flycatcher

first report – 18<sup>th</sup> Apr

Seen at Bosley ( Apr ) and Swettenham ( Jun )

#### Black Redstart

\*\*\* **a Schedule One bird**

recorded at Arclid SQ in Feb. The finders completed a CAWOS Rarity Form

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### Redstart

first report – 6<sup>th</sup> Apr

Seen at Bosley ( Apr ), The Cloud ( Apr-Jun ), Mow Cop ( Apr & Sep ), Scholar Green ( Apr ), Tidnock ( Apr ) and Whitemoor ( Jun )

### Whinchat

first report – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Seen at Derbyshire Bridge ( May ) and Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] ( Apr-May )

### Stonechat

recorded Jan-Mar & Aug-Dec

Seen at Bagmere ( Feb ), Danebower ( Aug ), Meremoor Moss ( Jan-Feb & Nov-Dec ), Mow Cop ( Aug-Oct ), Sandbach Flashes ( Jan-Feb, Sep-Dec ) and Rode Heath ( Nov )

Highest count of 3 at Meremoor Moss ( Feb & Dec ), Mow Cop ( Sep ) & Rode Heath ( Nov )

Breeding confirmed at Blackclough

### Wheatear

first report – 17<sup>th</sup> Mar, last report – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

Seen at The Cloud ( May), Doddington ( Apr & Aug ), Holmes Chapel ( Apr ), Lea Forge ( Apr-May & Aug ), Mow Cop ( Apr-May & Aug-Oct ), Sandbach Flashes ( Mar-May & Aug-Sep ), Scholar Green ( Apr ), Wheelock ( May ) and Wybunbury ( Apr )

Highest count of 6 at Mow Cop ( Sep )

### Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

recorded in every month except Aug

favours the faster, clear rivers and streams; only usually recorded in 4 or 5 sites in Congleton area plus records from Danebridge, Eaton, Lawton Lake and Whitmore

Breeding confirmed at Congleton Park, Lawton lake and Three Shires Head

Courtship and nest building observed at Dane-in-Shaw

### Old World Sparrows; Snowfinches (Passeridae)

#### House Sparrow

common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 41 at King George V Playing Fields, Crewe ( May )

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	39 ( 28 )	38 ( 25 )

#### Tree Sparrow

recorded in every month except Dec

Highest count of 30 at Arclid ( Aug )

Also seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury, Bagmere, Brereton Heath LNR, Congleton, Merelake Way, Rode Heath, Sandbach, Scholar Green and Wallhill

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Brereton Heath LNR and Fields Farm (Sandbach)

**We are grateful to our sponsor HJ Lea Oakes Ltd, who provides feed for some of the local feeding stations**

### **Duncock (*Prunella modularis*)**

common locally, recorded in every month except Aug-Sep

Highest count of 18 at Wybunbury Moss ( Apr )

Breeding confirmed at Holmes Chapel, Sandbach Flashes and Swettenham

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	43 ( 7 )	43 ( 12 )

### **Wagtails; Pipits (*Motacillidae*)**

#### **Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)**

first report – 6<sup>th</sup> Apr; last report – 15<sup>th</sup> Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Blakenhall, Cranage, Doddington, Holmes Chapel, Lea Forge, Mow Cop, Sandbach Flashes and Wallhill

Highest count of 5 at Doddington ( Apr )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ and Astbury

#### **Grey Wagtail**

recorded in every month of the year

Seen at over 20 locations

Highest count of 29 roosted at Astbury Mere CP ( Jan )

Breeding confirmed at Macon Meadows and Queen's Park

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	1 ( 1 )	4 ( 1 )

#### **White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)**

first report – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar { “a good candidate” }

Seen at Doddington ( Mar-Apr ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Mar-Apr )

#### **Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)**

subspecies – common locally, recorded in every month

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 50 at Weston ( Dec )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Rode Hall and Rode Pool

#### **Richard's Pipit CAWOS Rarity – description required**

A bird of this description was seen at Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct

#### **Meadow Pipit**

recorded in every month

Seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Borrow Pit Meadows, The Cloud, Danebower, Doddington, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mow Cop, Queen's Park, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Moss

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 60 at Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] ( Sep ) and during a vismig there – 263 ( Oct )

#### **Tree Pipit**

first report – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr

Seen at The Cloud ( Apr-Jun ), Mow Cop ( Sep ) and Sandbach Flashes ( Oct )

Highest count of 2 at The Cloud ( May ) and Mow Cop

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**Finches (Fringillidae)**

**Chaffinch**

common locally, recorded in every month except Sep

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 150 at Sandbach Flashes [ Green Lane set-aside ] ( Jan )

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Holmes Chapel, Swettenham and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	37 ( 16 )	41 ( 17 )

**Brambling**

recorded in Jan-Apr & Oct & Dec

Seen at Arclid, Astbury Mere CP, Bathvale, Biddulph Valley Way, Brereton Heath LNR, Checkley Lane, Dane-in-Shaw, Doddington, Goostrey, Lawton Woods, Mow Cop, Sandbach Flashes, Smethwick, Swettenham and West Heath

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 78 at Astbury Mere CP ( Apr )

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	4 ( 3 )	0

**Hawfinch CAWOS Rarity description required**

1 seen at Congleton ( Feb )

**Bullfinch**

fairly common locally, recorded in every month

Breeding confirmed at Middlewich Lime Beds

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 12 at Astbury Mere CP ( Jan )

Other 10+ flock at Arclid SQ ( Mar )

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	9 ( 7 )	13 ( 6 )

**Greenfinch**

fairly common locally but affected by *Trichomonosis*, recorded in every month except Aug

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 25 at Sandbach Flashes [ Green Lane set-aside ] ( Jan )

Confirmed breeding at Macon Meadows and Swettenham Meadows

Garden Bird Survey	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	34 ( 8 )	30 ( 10 )

**Linnet**

recorded in every month

Seen at Alsager\*, Arclid SQ\*, Astbury, Astbury Mere CP, Checkley Lane\*, The Cloud, Doddington\*, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss\*, Mow Cop\*, Sandbach Flashes\*, Scholar Green\*, Smethwick\*, Swettenham\* and Wallhill

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 450 at Sandbach Flashes [ Green Lane set-aside ] ( Jan )

Flocks of 10+: - \* indicates locations above

**Common Redpoll (Mealy)**

1 resembling this subspecies was seen briefly at Macon Meadows but couldn't be relocated ( Feb )

### **Lesser Redpoll**

recorded in Jan-Jun & Nov-Dec

Seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, The Cloud, Elworth, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Shavington & Wybunbury Moss

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 12 at Astbury Mere CP ( Jan )

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	7 ( 6 )	1 ( 1 )

### **Red Crossbill**

5 recorded at The Cloud ( Apr ) and 2 flew over Mow Cop ( May )

### **Goldfinch**

common locally, recorded in every month

**Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 50 at Sandbach Flashes, [ MGT ] ( Oct ), 60 on a vismrig at the same location ( Oct )

Breeding confirmed at Alsager, Brereton Heath LNR, Dane-in-Shaw, Macon Meadows and Swettenham

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	39 ( 40 )	39 ( 50 )

### **Siskin**

recorded in every month except Jul-Aug

Seen at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Bathvale, The Cloud, Lea Forge, Holmes Chapel, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Mow Cop, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Moss

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 30 at Rode Pool ( Nov )

Other 10+ flocks at Arclid SQ, Meremoor Moss and Sandbach Flashes [ Fodens Wood ]

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	13 ( 7 )	0

### **Buntings (Emberizidae)**

#### **Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)**

1 was reported on BirdTrack® at Nick o’ th’ Hill 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### **Yellowhammer**

recorded in every month

Seen at Alsager\*, Arclid SQ, Astbury, Astbury Mere CP, Bagmere\*, Blakenhall, Checkley Lane\*, Gleadsmoss, Holmes Chapel, Mooresbarrow, Rode Heath, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green\* and Wallhill

**Flocks of 5+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’**

Highest count of 15 at Scholar Green ( Nov )

Flocks of 10+: - \* indicates locations above

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### Reed Bunting

fairly common locally, recorded in every month

between 3 to 5 territories recorded at Arclid SQ

**Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

Highest count of 60 at Sandbach Flashes [ Green Lane set-aside ] ( Jan )

Flocks of 10+ at Arclid SQ, Meremoor Moss and Sandbach Flashes [ Green Lane set-aside & MGT ]

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Borrow Pit Meadows, Meremoor Moss and Scholar Green

<b>Garden Bird Survey</b>	Jan to Apr	Oct to Dec
Number of gardens recorded and max	3 ( 6 )	0

## Acknowledgements

Apart from records from local or visiting birders, some of the data I have been given access to includes WeBS, BBS, and I append their relevant acknowledgements and terms and conditions for use: -

Data were provided by WeBS, a Partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in association with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU ([webs@bto.org](mailto:webs@bto.org))

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey is a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.



## Appendix

### National Rarities

#### Baikal Teal

A male ( unringed ) in breeding plumage was photographed at Rode Pool during June. A Rarity Report has been submitted to the BBRC – decision pending as at Jun '20.

The only previous report in the SECOS Recording Area ( that I have ) was on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov '78. PS - as the Latin name indicates, a species of Siberia and a popular species in collections. With a few genuine European records, including in Britain, quite understandably the BBRC are giving due diligence to the report. There were other males reported between May and July, all of which have decisions pending. According to BirdGuides, all records between 2010 and 2014 were accepted and The Regulars at Rode Pool are keen to hear the decision on their bird.

### CAWOS Rarities

CAWOS website has a list showing which species require a description to enable the Rarity Team to consider the record for publication. I am also aware that sightings of Kumlien's Gull also require a description

#### Caspian Gull

8 records – 1<sup>st</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Jul, 17<sup>th</sup> Aug, 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov & 4<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec; all at Sandbach Flashes. Hybridisation of this species is known - care is needed to eliminate doubt

#### Gull-billed Tern

1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Aug

#### Marsh Tit

2 recorded at Lea Forge ( Jan ) and Wybunbury Moss ( Jan )  
Also heard at Rode Heath

#### Willow Tit

recorded at Rode Heath ( Jan & Feb )

#### Wood Warbler

a singing male was recorded on The Cloud ( May-Jun ); breeding probable - seen carrying food ( Jun )

#### Black Redstart

recorded at Arclid SQ in Feb. The finders completed a CAWOS Rarity Form

#### Richard's Pipit

A bird of this description was seen at Sandbach Flashes [ MGT ] on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct

### Other notable species: -

**Hobby** *the Rare Breeding Birds Panel guidelines suggest sightings within 2km of one another are counted as a single site*

if I calculate 2 km from the centre of a cluster of sightings, I estimate there to be 6 breeding territories, but if I count the number of clusters that overlap with an adjacent tetrad, there are 11 breeding territories.

## SECOS Bird Summary 2019

### BoCC4 Red list

*BoCC4 is Birds of Conservation Concern and lists the population status of birds in the UK*

*The red list is species of most concern, needing urgent action*

*The amber list is species of concern needing monitoring closely*

White-fronted goose <b>g</b>	Ringed plover <b>a</b>	Golden oriole	Nightingale <b>a</b>
Pochard <b>a</b>	Dotterel <b>a</b>	Red-backed shrike	Pied flycatcher <b>a</b>
Scaup	Whimbrel	Willow tit	Black redstart <b>a</b>
Long-tailed duck <b>g</b>	Curlew <b>a</b>	Marsh tit	Whinchat <b>a</b>
Common scoter	Black-tailed godwit	Skylark	House sparrow
Velvet scoter <b>a</b>	Ruff	Wood warbler	Tree sparrow
Black grouse	Red-necked phalarope	Grasshopper warbler	Yellow wagtail
Capercaillie	Woodcock <b>a</b>	Savi's warbler	Grey wagtail <b>a</b>
Grey partridge	Arctic skua	Aquatic warbler	Tree pipit
Balearic shearwater	Puffin <b>a</b>	Marsh warbler	Hawfinch
Shag <b>a</b>	Roseate tern	Starling	Linnets
Red-necked grebe <b>a</b>	Kittiwake <b>a</b>	Ring ouzel	Twite
Slavonian grebe <b>a</b>	Herring gull	Fieldfare	Lesser redpoll
White-tailed eagle	Turtle dove	Song thrush	Yellowhammer
Hen harrier	Cuckoo	Redwing	Cirl bunting
Corncrake	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Mistle thrush <b>a</b>	Corn bunting
Lapwing	Merlin <b>a</b>	Spotted flycatcher	

KEY: a – species on the Amber list previously, g – species on the Green list previously

### BoCC4 Amber list

Mute swan <b>g</b>	Manx shearwater	Common sandpiper	Stock dove
Bewick's swan	European storm petrel	Green sandpiper	Tawny owl <b>g</b>
Whooper swan	Leach's petrel	Spotted redshank	Short-eared owl
Bean goose	Gannet	Greenshank <b>g</b>	Nightjar <b>r</b>
Pink-footed goose	Bittern <b>r</b>	Wood sandpiper	Swift
Greylag goose	Spoonbill	Redshank	Kingfisher
Barnacle goose	Black-necked grebe	Snipe	Kestrel
Brent goose	Honey buzzard	Great skua	Shorelark
Shelduck	Marsh harrier	Black guillemot	House martin
Wigeon	Montagu's harrier	Razorbill	Willow warbler
Gadwall	Osprey	Guillemot	Dartford warbler
Teal	Spotted crake	Little tern	Short-toed treecreeper
Mallard	Crane	Sandwich tern	Dipper <b>g</b>
Pintail	Stone-curlew	Common tern	Common redstart
Garganey	Avocet	Arctic tern	Duncock
Shoveler	Oystercatcher	Black-headed gull	Meadow pipit
Eider	Grey plover	Mediterranean gull	Water pipit
Goldeneye	Bar-tailed godwit	Common gull	Bullfinch
Smew	Turnstone	Lesser black-backed gull	Mealy redpoll <b>g</b>
Quail	Knot	Yellow-legged gull	Scottish crossbill
Red grouse	Curlew sandpiper <b>g</b>	Caspian gull <b>na</b>	Parrot crossbill
Black-throated diver	Sanderling <b>g</b>	Iceland gull	Snow bunting
Great northern diver	Dunlin <b>r</b>	Glaucous gull	Lapland bunting
Fulmar	Purple sandpiper	Great black-backed gull	Reed bunting

KEY: r – species on the Red list previously, g – species on the Green list previously, na – not assessed previously

## Cheshire Region Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

### Species Action Plans

The list below details the species currently included on the Cheshire region BAP. The 'UK BAP Status' denotes whether each species is currently included on the revised (2007) UK List of Priority Species and Habitats. Those species not included on the UK list are referred to as local species.

The 'Action Status' determines whether the plan is currently 'active' or 'archived'. Active status is applied where current and future actions are required to achieved defined SMART targets. Archived status applies to those species where no current action is required in the region. The distribution of species included in archive plans is monitored closely by rECOrd. The archived plans may become active in the future if the distributions of the species changes or opportunities arise for conservation action.

### Cheshire region BAP Species

		UK BAP Status	Action Status
Birds			
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Local	Active
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Local	Active
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	National	Archive
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	National	Active
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	National	Active
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	National	Active
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	National	Active
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	National	Active
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	National	Active
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	National	Active
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	National	Active
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	National	Active
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	National	Active
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris</i>	National	Active
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	National	Active
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>	National	Active