



**South East Cheshire
Ornithological Society**

Your local birdwatching group

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Contents

Introduction	4
SECOS Recording Area & main birding sites.....	6
Systematic List.....	8
Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)	8
Ducks; Geese and Swans (Anatidae).....	9
Swift	17
Cuckoo	17
Rails; Crakes and Coots (Rallidae).....	18
Common Crane	19
Grebes (Podicipedidae).....	19
Oystercatcher	20
Avocet	20
Plovers (Charadriidae)	20
Sandpipers; Snipes (Scolopacidae)	22
Kittiwake	26
Cormorant	31
African Sacred Ibis	32
Northern Bald Ibis	32
Glossy Ibis	32
Hérons; Bitterns (Ardeidae)	32
Barn Owl	35
Hoopoe	37
Kingfisher	37
Bee-eater	37
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	37
Caracaras; Falcons (Falconidae).....	38
Ring-necked Parakeet	39
Shrikes (Laniidae).....	39
Golden Oriole	39
Crows; Jays (Corvidae)	39
Waxwing	40
Tits; Chickadees (Paridae)	41
Bearded Tit	41

Larks (Alaudidae)	42
Swallows; Martins (Hirundinidae)	42
Cetti's Warbler	43
Long-tailed Tit	43
Leaf warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)	43
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae).....	45
Goldcrest	45
Wren	45
Nuthatch	46
Treecreeper	46
Thrushes (Turdidae)	46
Chats; Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	48
Dipper	50
Dunnock	50
Wagtails; Pipits (Motacillidae)	51
Finches (Fringillidae)	52
Buntings (Emberizidae)	54
Summer Migrant Arrival Dates.....	56
SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey (GBS)	60
Acknowledgements.....	63

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Introduction

My predecessor, Colin Lythgoe, cited in the 2010 SECOS Bird Report that “the scope of reporting for the Systematic List is now reduced to detailed records from Sandbach Flashes, Doddington and Rode Pool with occasional records from elsewhere. As such it does not give a true record of the birds in the SECOS area, which is its objective.”

As the decade continued, advances in technology and the introduction of social media platforms, etc. allowed birders to record, store and share their sightings, thus improving the coverage and making this document possible.

The Systematic List that makes up the bulk of this document is a compilation of the Sightings Section of the Society’s monthly newsletter, “The Observer” and incorporates data from various sources (see Appendix). The list is boosted by Category E birds, no doubt most are escapees from the collections throughout the area.

- I would like to thank and acknowledge the input by Colin to this document. He has helped me hugely in proof-reading it and offering me feedback
- Thanks also go to the SWaBBS fieldworkers who 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.
- Also, my thanks go to: -
 - Dennis Swaby for his images that complement the text. All the images are his unless stated otherwise
 - Andy Livermore, the CAWOS Systematic List Editor who 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
 - all those who shared their sightings with me or listed them on the various platforms
- Until we have sufficient data to establish the local status, I have included the species status according to CAWOS, from their 2018 Bird Report
- I include the BoCC4 (Birds of Conservation Concern) status - **during compiling, it struck me just how many species are on the BoCC List**
- 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
- my database, Wildlife Recorder®, sorted the Systematic List / sequence used in this summary - the sequence used by the International Ornithologists’ Union - IOC 10.2 - July 2020
- I have omitted details for ‘sensitive’, protected and/or vulnerable species, the location is on private property, restricted access or where human disturbance has occurred recently
- the SECOS Recording Area is hectads (10km square) 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 or in areas where the Society has historically reported sightings jointly with neighbouring birding groups, e.g. Danebower
- please note that as I continue to research old records more accounts may occur

Please let me know of any errors, etc. that you see, and I repeat my request for missing records, etc. for any sightings not included, so I can update/correct the records.

As mentioned above, most of the data in the early part of the decade was restricted to the three regularly watched areas. It would therefore be unwise to compare the numbers of birds within the

Recording Area over the decade and make assumptions or draw conclusions about any changes that might have occurred - maybe during the next decade?

As the SECOS Recorder: -

- I welcome anyone sending me their bird records or posting them on the numerous platforms. The SECOS website has a section on submitting local records to me. If you already post them to BirdTrack®, continue to do so - I will pick them up from there on a regular basis. They will allow us to get a greater understanding of our local avifauna.
- I have been asked to be a link between CAWOS and the local birders to validate BirdTrack® sightings quickly if any are flagged up as being 'unusual' and I may either contact the individual for more information if they didn't know about the bird, and also to be pro-active with sightings from their local area to request notes, photos or details

Rarities

If you identify a rarity, I urge you to consider completing a Rarity Form. Since taking on the role, I have had some negative feedback about forms submitted in the past to the county and/or national rarity panels that rejected forms as not proven.

The forms now being used are standardised. They ask: -

- if the bird has been photographed and/or videoed - send an image with the form
- your previous experience with the species

With plenty of room to add your account and description with a prompt to include: -

- circumstances of finding the bird
- plumage, bare parts etc and call
- the 'jizz'

On the form I've drafted for SECOS rarities, I've included comments: -

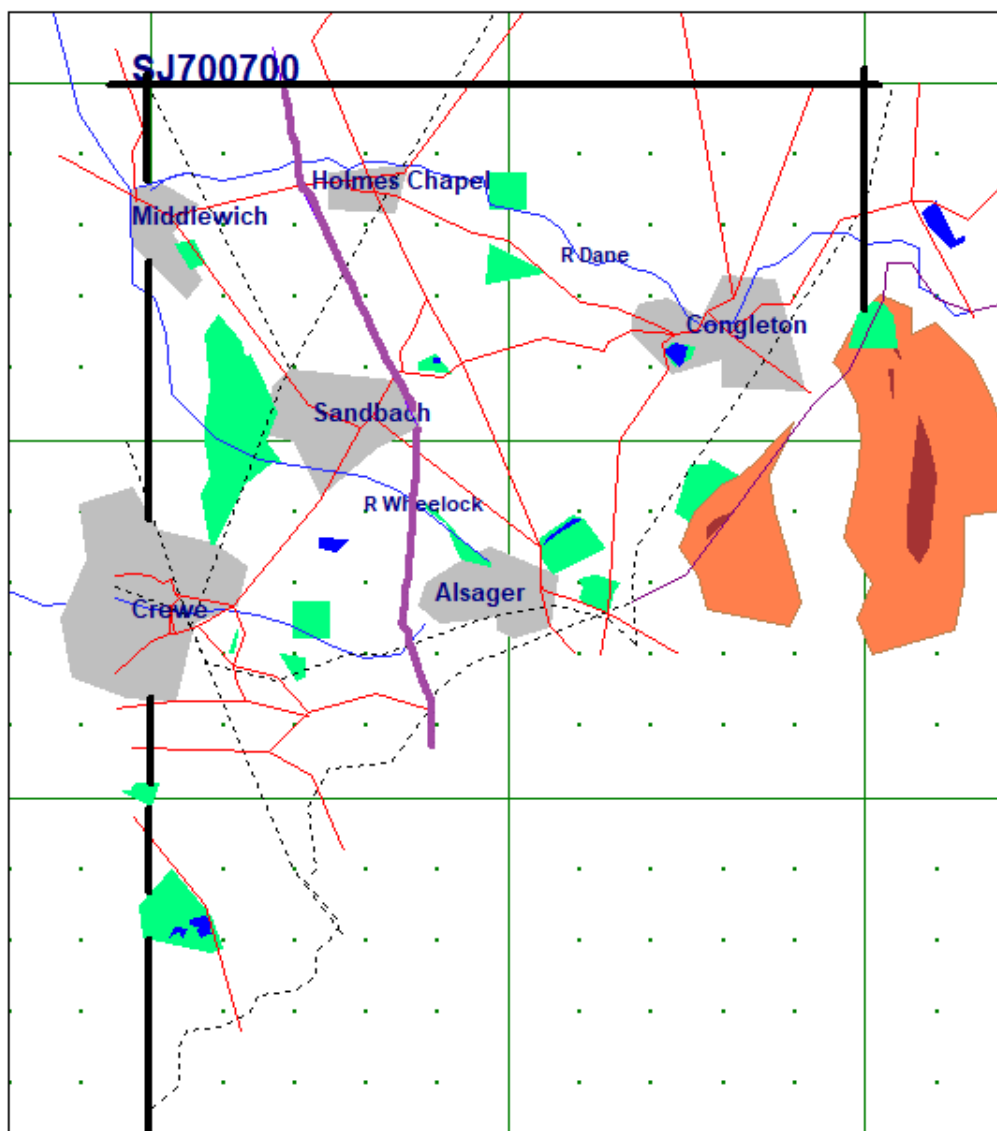
- submissions are often declined if the observer(s) has not included sufficient information on the form
- if the species looks similar to others, it is important that you are aware of the differences and document that you have seen them (also where hybridisation is known, e.g. Hooded Crow or Caspian Gull)
- If you give the panel a reason to doubt the description, they often err on the side of caution

If, when preparing to fill in the Rarity Form, you consider all the points above and include all the relevant information, you will increase the probability of your form being accepted - i.e., leave no room for doubt.

John Thompson, SECOS Bird Recorder
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Dec. 2020

SECOS Recording Area & main birding sites

Map of the Recording Area



Key: -

Black, thick	Edge of Recording	Black, dotted	Railway tracks
Blue	Water courses	Brown, dark	Over 300 metres above sea level
Dotted line	County border	Brown, light	Over 200 metres above sea level
Green	Main birding locations	Grey	Areas of conurbation
Purple, thick	M6 Motorway	Red	Roads

Earlier this year, I produced an update to list of the main birding sites **accessible to the public**. It can be viewed and downloaded from the SECOS website - more details on the next page.

The “Site Guide of the SECOS Recording Area”, which I recently produced, includes species likely to be seen there at different times of the year. It was while I was working on that project that I realised I had access to enough data to compile this document.

Example page: -

Maw Green Tip and Railway Flash

For the purposes of this document, this area also includes Groby and Oaktree Flashes, the footpath is very frequently extremely muddy and therefore ‘heavy going’!

If you exclude The Cloud, Mow Cop, etc. the plateau on Maw Green Tip is probably the highest point in the Recording Area and some birders use this elevated position for visible migration watches – particularly in Autumn

Likely species:

all year round - Mandarin Duck, Gadwall, Water Rail, Little Grebe, Barn Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Peregrine, Skylark, Cetti’s Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting

Winter - Goldeneye, Golden Plover, Woodcock, Jack Snipe, Snipe, white-winged gulls^②, Tawny Owl, Merlin, Stonechat

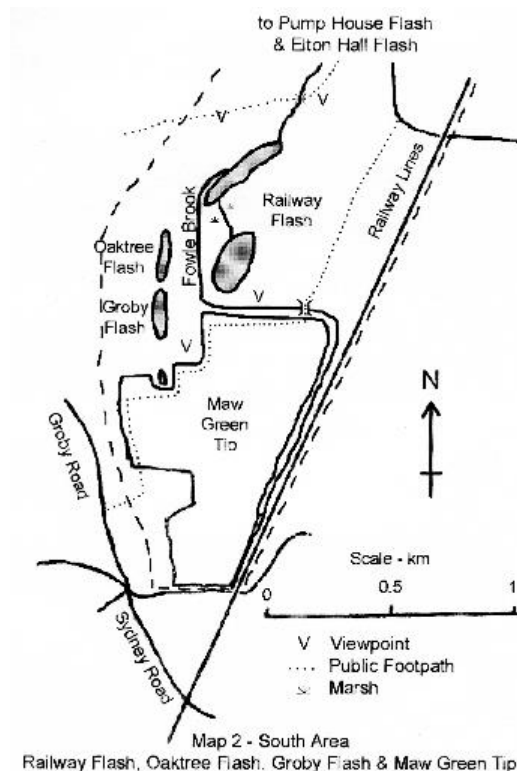
Spring – Garganey, Cuckoo

Summer - Garganey, Common Sandpiper, Hobby, warblers

Autumn - Golden Plover, Tawny Owl, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart

On passage - Whinchat, Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Tree Pipit

② The frequency of these birds are likely to decrease when the landfill closes



SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Systematic List

Key:

♀ - female	♂ - male	BP - Business Park
c - circa		CP - Country Park
1 st cy - first calendar year	1 st w - first winter	GC - Golf Club
ad - adult	imm - immature	LNR - Local Nature Reserve
juv - juvenile(s)		EHF - Elton Hall Flash
aka - also known as		MGT - Maw Green Tip
		PHF - Pump House Flash
		WLF - Watch Lane Flash
RBBP key:	bp - breeding pairs	CP – confirmed breeding pairs
C&W - Cheshire and Wirral	S - sites	TP – max. total pairs
	YF - min. no. young fledged	

Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Escaped or Feral - originally from North West African, reportedly now extinct 'in the wild'

Two were recorded at Doddington in Jul '17

Red Grouse

Lagopus lagopus

CAWOS uncommon resident in eastern hills
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at Blackclough, Cut-thorn Hill, Danebower, Knotbury and Three Shires Head. Also recorded at Eaton Hall SQ

Highest count - 10 at Blackclough in Mar '15

Chukar Partridge

Alectoris chukar

Escaped or Feral - South Eastern European species

One recorded in Holmes Chapel on 12th May '13 - **a first for the Recording Area**

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

CAWOS common thinly distributed resident supported by releases
Locally usually, the only sightings where bred and released for shooting

Recorded at 18 sites - Arclid, Astbury, Blakenhall, Brereton, Brownlow/Wallhill, Checkley, Doddington, Gleadsmoss, Lea Forge, Marton, Roe Park, Sandbach, Sandbach Flashes (Crabmill Flash, Elton Hall Flash, Maw Green Tip and Rookery Bridge), Siddington and Swettenham

Highest count - 28 at Doddington in Dec '18

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

CAWOS uncommon locally distributed resident
BoCC4 **Red list**

Recorded at 5 sites - Alsager/Audley, Blakenhall, Checkley, Doddington and Sandbach Flashes
Highest count - 40 at Doddington in '10 & '11

Quail

CAWOS rare migrant, summer visitor
RBBP Scarce 341 males
BoCC4 Amber list

Coturnix coturnix

County Rarity (non-calling birds)

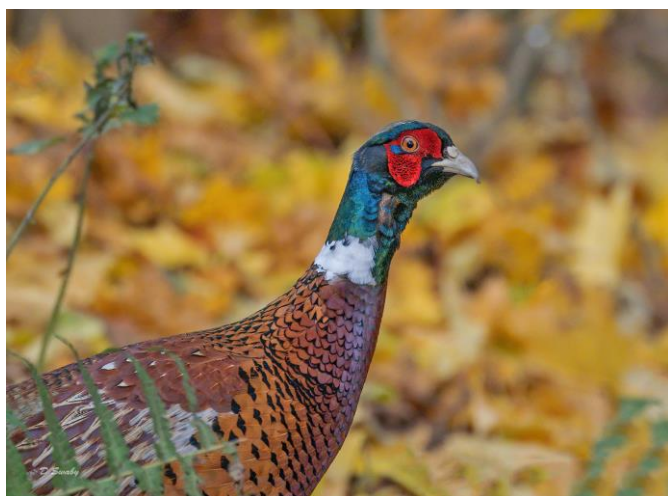
Recorded at 7 sites - Bosley, Bradwall, Congleton, Doddington, Marton, Meremoor Moss and Sandbach Flashes (Crabmill Flash). Bred in Derbyshire in 2018

Pheasant

CAWOS very common widespread feral resident supported by releases
Locally common

Phasianus colchicus

Recorded at 33 sites during the period and certainly under recorded
Highest count - 42 at Doddington in Dec '18



Pheasant

Golden Pheasant

Escaped or Feral - indigenous in mountains of Central China

Chrysolophus pictus

Recorded in Checkley - 5th Feb '16

Ducks; Geese and Swans (Anatidae)

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (aka Black-bellied Tree Duck)

Escaped or Feral - breeds in the Americas (between Southern USA and south central South America)

Dendrocygna autumnalis

Recorded at Sandbach Flashes (Watch Lane Flash) in Jul '12 - a first for the Recording Area

Fulvous Whistling Duck (aka Fulvous Tree Duck)

Escaped or Feral - breeds similar to the above, but also sub-Saharan Africa and Indian subcontinent

Dendrocygna bicolor

Recorded at Sandbach Flashes (Elton Hall Flash) in Jun '12 - a first for the Recording Area
and at Brereton Heath LNR during Mar and Apr '15

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

BoCC4 Amber list (Brent Goose)

Branta bernicla bernicla

Recorded at Sandbach Flashes (Elton Hall Flash) in Jan '13

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

CAWOS very common widespread resident

Recorded at 35 sites during the period. Breeds easily in suitable habitat with confirmed breeding noted at 11 sites but probably under recorded.

Highest count - 1200 flying in at sunset to graze in a stubble field on Meremoor Moss on 8th Oct '16 - traced back to White Moss, Alsager on the same day.

There were 25 counts of over 500.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

CAWOS scarce feral resident

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Escaped or Feral - migratory, main movements in Oct – early Nov and Apr - May

Recorded at 10 sites during the period and associates with Canada Geese flocks

Highest count was 8 on 20th Mar. '11 at both Warmingham Flash and EHF/PHF - described as "not associating with the Canadas" and assumed to be not feral birds but on migration. Other than single birds, there are records of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 birds but none mention status or origin.

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escaped or Feral - breeds in Central Asia

Singles were recorded at Doddington during Dec '12 - Jan '13 and Aug '16 - Jan '17, also recorded at EHF/PHF in Aug '12 and Jun '16

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Escaped or Feral - also genuine vagrant to Europe

Singles (unless stated otherwise) were recorded at Arclid SQ, Eaton Hall SQ, Newsbank Pool (3) and at Sandbach Flashes (EHF/PHF) - **a first for the Recording Area**

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

CAWOS fairly common resident

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at 28 sites during the period and possibly under-recorded. There were 14 counts of over 250 with confirmed breeding activity noted at 10 sites.

Highest count - 690 at Eaton Hall in Nov '13

Swan Goose

Anser cygnoides

Escaped or Feral - breeds in Mongolia, northern China and SE Russia

A single was recorded occasionally at Newsbank Pool every year between '11 and '16 - **a first for the Recording Area**

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

CAWOS common winter visitor to Dee estuary

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at 28 sites during the period - over 50% were recorded as overflying birds, probably noisily commuting between Lancashire and Norfolk during November and on the return flight in February

Highest count - c400 at EHF/PHF on 11th Dec '12

Eurasian White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

CAWOS rare winter visitor. Some feral birds
BoCC4 **Red list** (previously green)

Records are limited to Sandbach Flashes: - 6 flew over on 7th Feb '10, 2 were at EHF/PHF between 13th Nov & 22nd Dec '11, a single for a week in early Jan '12 and 2 at the end of Dec '15

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escaped or Feral - Australian species

Singles recorded occasionally in the second half of the decade at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Newsbank Pool, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

CAWOS fairly common resident, thinly distributed
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

Highest count - 103 at Newsbank Pool in Jan '11 - the only count above 100. Winterley Pool was formerly a stronghold for this species - it is thought supplemented feeding encouraged them to linger, but more recently only holds a resident pair.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

CAWOS scarce winter visitor
BoCC4 **Amber list**

7 were reported flying over Rodeheath, Congleton on 24th Nov '11

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

CAWOS scarce winter visitor
RBBP **Very rare** 29 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at 14 sites, 6 double figure counts from 3 sites: Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP and EHF/PHF. The adults are often accompanied by immatures; 8 such records received
Highest count - 30 at Arclid SQ on 13th Mar '13



Black Swan



Whooper Swan

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

CAWOS scarce visitor and rare breeder. Presumed escaped or feral birds

Escaped or Feral - an African species

Recorded at 5 sites with 16 records, all either 1s or 2s except for 3 in Nov '19 and 4 the following month both recorded at EHF/PHF

Orinoco Goose

Neochen jubata

Escaped or Feral - breeds in tropical forests of South America

Four of the 5 records are from Sandbach Flashes, the other from nearby Sandbach. The first in '11, the others clustered between '16 & '17- **a first for the Recording Area**

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

CAWOS very common visitor to estuaries, uncommon thinly spread breeder inland

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at 14 sites with 17 records of counts of 50+. 16 confirmed breeding records from 4 sites

Highest count - 91 at EHF/PHF in Feb '15

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escaped or Feral - migratory between Indian sub-continent and SE Europe

Records for 7 sites in either 1s (all female) or 2s (all pairs)

South African Shelduck (aka Cape Shelduck)

Tadorna cana

Escaped or Feral - breeds in South Africa

3 records, all in 2010, all singles – Jan at Doddington and Aug & Sept at EHF/PHF

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escaped or Feral - native to Mexico and Central and South America

4 records: singles on River Dane at Congleton in Nov '14 and Jan to Mar '17, also 2 records from Doddington: Nov '17 (5) and Nov '18 (2)

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escaped or Feral - American species

4 records (all singles): MGT/RF a 'regular' in '10; at Arclid SQ in Jul '10 and at Saltersford in Dec '11 and Jan '12

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

CAWOS uncommon feral resident

Breeds in East Asia, feral population established in Britain

Records from 32 locations during the decade with 5 locations confirming breeding

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escaped or Feral - breeds in the forests of South America

10 of the 11 records (all singles) are from Sandbach Flashes, the other from Doddington

Baikal Teal
North and East Siberian species

Sibirionetta formosa
National Rarity

An, unringed, male in breeding plumage was photographed at Rode Pool during Jun '19 - the drake on the NE coast during the early summer was recorded during the same period proving there were at least 2 birds. A Rarity Form was accepted by the BBRC. The only other record was in Nov '78 at Sandbach Flashes



Baikal Teal - Dave Winnington

image from video footage



Garganey

Garganey

CAWOS Scarce migrant, rare breeder
RBBP **Rare** 117 bp C&W 2 S 0 CP 4 T
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Spatula querquedula

All but one of the records were from various sites within Sandbach Flashes recording area - May '18 at Bagmere. In '12 a pair bred on Railway Flash, with 6 juvs seen (the only other record I have of confirmed breeding was in '75). There are four records of 2 birds, but none mention a pair.

Shoveler

CAWOS locally common winter visitor and migrant, rare breeder
RBBP **Less scarce** 1196 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Spatula clypeata

Recorded at 14 sites including 9 outside the Sandbach Flashes recording area; displaying birds were noted at Eaton Hall SQ in '12, '13 & '18.
Highest count - 88 at EHF/PHF in Sep '14

Gadwall

CAWOS uncommon resident
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Mareca strepera

Recorded at 13 sites including 8 outside the Sandbach Flashes recording area, confirmed breeding noted within the Sandbach Flashes recording area from '15.
Highest count - 18 at EHF/PHF in Jun '19

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Wigeon

Mareca penelope

CAWOS fairly common inland, rare in summer
RBBP Rare 211 bp
BoCC4 Amber list

Recorded at 10 sites including 8 outside the Sandbach Flashes recording area. Three counts of over 1,000: Feb '11 (1,000 - EHF/PHF), Feb '13 (1,034 - EHF/PHF) & Jan '13 (1,070) although the latter is a combined total of 4 of the flashes. Away from The Flashes, the highest count was 369 in Jan '14 at Eaton Hall SQ

Chiloe Wigeon (aka Southern Wigeon)

Mareca sibilatrix

Escaped or Feral - a South American species

Occasional records of a single at Brereton Heath LNR between Sep '17 and Apr '18

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

CAWOS common widespread resident, very common in winter
BoCC4 Amber list

1 record above 1,000: 1,250 at EHF/PHF in Aug '14

White-cheeked Pintail (aka Bahama Pintail)

Anas bahamensis

Escaped or Feral - species of the Caribbean, South America and the Galapagos Islands

A single bird, probably a female from the size according to the finder, was recorded at Doddington Pool on two dates in Feb '11. Quite a prolific escapee (all singles) with 15 other records before '10 at this site and 3 earlier still at Sandbach Flashes

Pintail

Anas acuta

CAWOS common winter visitor to Dee estuary, scarce elsewhere
RBBP Very rare 28 bp
BoCC4 Amber list

Records for 7 sites confirming its local status – away from the Flashes, recorded at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Bent Farm SQ, Doddington and Eaton Hall SQ
Highest count - 20 at EHF/PHF in Feb '11

Teal

Anas crecca

CAWOS scarce resident, very common winter visitor to estuaries, fairly common inland
BoCC4 Amber list

Records from 14 sites, 4 within Sandbach Flashes recording area [EHF/PHF, Fodens, Railway & Warmingham (Green Lane & Tetton Lane)] - away from the Flashes, recorded at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Bent Farm SQ, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Holmes Chapel, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool and Tidnock
Highest count - 355 at EHF/PHF in Nov '10

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

CAWOS Vagrant
North American species

County Rarity

4 records (all male) for this American vagrant - all appear to be accepted by CAWOS; 1 from Eaton Hall SQ in Jan '11, the others from EHF/PHF – Apr '11, Jan '12 and Jan '18

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Escaped or Feral - a regular vagrant to Britain, especially in Autumn and Winter

4 records, singles unless stated otherwise - Groby Flash in Jan '19 and Doddington May & Jun '10 and 6 (3♂ & 3♀) in Nov '19

Pochard

Aythya ferina

CAWOS scarce resident, locally common winter visitor

RBBP Scarce 757 bp

BoCC4 Red list (formerly Amber)

Records from 12 sites, nine outside the Sandbach Flashes recording area, known for favouring deeper waters

One record of confirmed breeding at Eaton Hall SQ in '15

Highest count - 47 at Doddington in Feb '18

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

CAWOS fairly common resident. Common widespread winter visitor and migrant

Records from 23 sites, 16 outside the Sandbach Flashes recording area

Maximum monthly count: - 167 at Doddington in Mar '18 and Astbury Mere CP in Nov '19.

All counts above 100 during this period are from the larger expanses of water

Highest count from The Flashes - 51 in Feb '15

Confirmed breeding at 14 sites

Scaup (aka Greater Scaup)

Aythya marila

CAWOS scarce coastal winter visitor, very scarce elsewhere

BoCC4 Red list

Records from 11 sites, usually in 1s and 2s. a ♂ and 2♀ were noted at EHF/PHF in both Oct & Nov '10, 3 were again seen there in Nov '12. 3 were seen at Brereton Heath LNR in Nov '16.

Highest count - 5 at Astbury Mere CP during 9 days in Mar '18

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

CAWOS Vagrant

National Rarity

A ♂ was recorded on 16th & 17th May '14 on the 'back pool' down the side lane at EHF.

Accepted by the BBRC, it represented the fifth record for the county and the second for the SECOS Recording Area, the first being an ad ♂ seen at Railway Flash in Nov '04 and the next month seen on the back pool at EHF - although my records say " *sources disagree if it's the same bird as last month* ".

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

CAWOS abundant coastal winter visitor, very scarce migrant inland

RBBP Rare 52 bp

BoCC4 Red list

Only tends to linger on deeper waters - Astbury Mere CP and Doddington but also recorded at Crabmill Flash, EHF/PHF and Watch Lane Flash during this period

Usually recorded in 1s, 2s & 3s, but there are 5 records of 5 or more all at Astbury Mere CP, the highest being 17 in Jul '17

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

CAWOS very scarce visitor
BoCC4 **Red list** (previously Green)

2 records for this species: 1 at Doddington in Dec '16 and the other, an adult ♀ at Asbury Mere CP that lingered between 11th Jan and 17th Feb '17

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

CAWOS uncommon winter visitor. Rare non-breeder in summer
RBBP **Rare** 200 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Another species that prefers deeper water; records from 9 sites: Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Lawton Lake and at 5 sites within Sandbach Flashes
Highest count - 31 at Doddington in Feb '16 and displaying birds recorded each year between '16 & '19 there and a ♀ summered there in '11

Smew

Mergellus albellus

CAWOS rare visitor
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Highest count - pair at Rode Pool in Dec '18 (the only record of a ♂ [a 1stw] in this decade) and 2 recorded at Astbury Mere CP and Rode Pool during Jan '19 – not seen at both sites at the same time so probably commuting between the two. Looking back; only 1 record in the 'noughties', 3 in the nineties and 2 in the eighties confirms its status locally

Goosander

Mergus merganser

CAWOS uncommon winter visitor inland. Very scarce breeder

Records from 33 widespread sites. Highest count was 100+ in flight heading SSW over Rodeheath, Congleton in Jan '19. The highest count on water - 55 at EHF/PHF in Jan'11. All breeding records - broods of varying sizes are confined to the Rive Dane between Brereton and Congleton every year between '12 & '19 except '18

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

CAWOS scarce coastal visitor. Rare inland

Singles unless otherwise stated: Bosley Reservoir Jan '11; Watch lane Flash (2), Nov '12; Joey the Swan, Doddington - Feb & Mar and Jul '16 and Joey the Swan, Wistaston in Nov '19

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

CAWOS very scarce locally distributed resident, feral

6 records during the decade, from 3 sites

Swift

Apus apus

CAWOS common summer visitor and migrant, thinly distributed breeder
BoCC4 **Amber list**

15 counts of 100+, but confined to only 4 areas, Doddington, EHF/PHF, Pym's Lane and the West End SBI/LWS, the last two being in the NNHS Recording Area but watched by our members too, particularly during organised counts as the latter was once one of the largest breeding colonies in the county

Highest count - 500 at Doddington in May '11

SECOS organised a count of known nest sites during Jun '19 but poor weather during the chosen period meant recording was less than was hoped. This species has been reported as declining, a factor being the loss of habitat often a result of house modernisation, etc. I am pleased to report that the new development on the old Bombardier site on West St. adjacent to the West End LWS will be erecting Swift nest boxes on 20 properties. Hopefully, this action will go some way to offer this iconic species more sites to nest in. Another count will be organised so we can compare data to those of 2001 and 1995/96 - a comparison of the results can be found on the SECOS website at www.secos.org.uk/swift-survey/

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

CAWOS scarce summer visitor and migrant, thinly distributed
BoCC4 **Red list**

More often heard and not seen, records from 27 sites during the decade. I have only 1 record of 2 birds – at Mow Cop in May '12. All other are assumed to be singles.

3 records of juvs: Borrow Pit Meadows, Aug '15; EHF/PHF, Sep '15 and The Cloud in Jul '16. Considering the juvs are left to fend for themselves after fledging, none of these records have suggested breeding took place there.

Pigeons; Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

CAWOS very common resident, widely distributed in urban areas

Highest count - 25 at EHF/PHF in Jun '19

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

CAWOS common widespread resident
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Highest count - 192 at EHF/PHF Feb '11

Stock Dove



SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

CAWOS abundant widespread resident and migrant

Highest count - 4680 at Alsager South in Oct '17

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

CAWOS rare summer visitor

County Rarity

BoCC4 Amber list

2 seen flying over Joey The Swan on 7th Aug '10 and a single was seen briefly at WLF on 20th May '14. CAWOS accepted the form submitted on the latter sighting

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

CAWOS very common widespread resident

Highest count - 78 at Brereton Heath LNR in Aug '14

Rails; Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

CAWOS Uncommon winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder

All the breeding records come from more secluded sites within the Sandbach Flashes area except for a record at Eaton Hall SQ

Highest count - 6 at Bagmere in Nov '14

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

CAWOS very common widespread resident

The highest count of one site - 21 at EHF/PHF in Feb '18

Coot

Fullica atra

CAWOS common resident and migrant, widely distributed

Highest count - 595 at Doddington in Aug '17. All but one record of a count over 400 this decade comes from Doddington; the other from Sandbach Flashes – 420 on 16th Aug '15 which was a co-ordinated count of four of the larger flashes (EHF/PHF/WLF & CF)



Moorhens 'courting'



Coots fighting

Common Crane

Grus grus

CAWOS Vagrant
BoCC4 Amber list

County Rarity

6 records of this huge bird with a far-carrying call during the decade, all but one was reported flying over the observer(s); singles unless otherwise stated: -

5, Barthomley - May '10; Crewe - Apr '11 (Rarity Form accepted); EHF/PHF - Mar '14;
Rode Pool - Apr '14; Rodeheath, Congleton – Feb '16 & 9, Middlewich Jan '19

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

CAWOS uncommon resident, thinly distributed

Recorded at 21 sites, with 6 being within the Flashes recording area

Highest count - 21 at Doddington in Oct '17

Breeding confirmed at 10 sites

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

CAWOS uncommon resident inland

recorded at 18 sites

Highest count - 93 at Doddington in Aug '14

Breeding confirmed at all of the sites during the decade

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

CAWOS rare irregular winter visitor and migrant

County Rarity in winter

BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

One lingered at Astbury Mere CP between 28th Jan and 12th Feb '13 and a submitted Rarity Form was accepted

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

CAWOS scarce localised breeding species

County Rarity (winter coastal records)

RBBP Rare 56 bp

C&W 2 S 10 CP 12 TP 17 YF

The Woolston Eyes Conservation Group manage the site for this species where they have bred almost annually for 30+ years. SECOS records are probably birds heading to or dispersed from that site

8 records, all of single birds - Astbury Mere CP: May '13 & Apr '15; Borrow Pit Meadows: Sep '15; Doddington: Oct '17 & Aug '19; Eaton Hall SQ: Aug '11 & Jul to Sep '13 and Queens Park, Crewe: Dec '11

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

CAWOS fairly common breeder inland
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Common locally; *usually* recorded between Jan-Aug/Sep
recorded at 31 sites, some of which were noted as flying, so possibly not using the site
Highest count - 12 at Doddington in Jun '13 & Jul '16 and includes juveniles
Breeding confirmed at 6 sites and records note breeding failure and non-breeding adults co-habiting with breeding pairs

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

CAWOS locally distributed migrant, scarce inland
RBBP **Less scarce** 2034 bp C&W 3 S 52 CP
BoCC4 **Amber list**

An unmistakeable species with its pied markings
12 records of 1 or 2 birds at either Sandbach Flashes (EHF/PHF) or Doddington, 2 records of 3 birds at EHF/PHF plus 1 record of 17 birds in flight at Doddington on 3rd Aug '18

Plovers (Charadriidae)

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

CAWOS very common winter visitor, migrant and widespread breeding species
BoCC4 **Red list**

All counts of 1000+ are from either Arclid SQ, Crabmill Flash, Doddington or EHF/PHF
Highest count - 3500 at EHF/PHF in Dec '18
Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Albion Lock, Crabmill Flash, EHF/PHF, Lea Forge & MGT/RF
Flocks of 500+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

CAWOS Fairly common winter visitor and migrant. Very scarce breeder in the eastern hills

Recorded at several sites outside the Danebower area - Alsager, Arclid, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Oakhanger and Sandbach Flashes; some only in flight
Highest count - 190 at Sandbach Flashes in Feb '19
Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

CAWOS common winter visitor and migrant to estuaries, rare inland
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Only 3 records during the decade confirming its status locally, all at the Flashes: Aug '15 (1); Sep '15 (2) & May '17 (1)

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

CAWOS Uncommon winter visitor and common late summer migrant to coast, otherwise scarce.
Scarce breeder
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

66 records from 4 sites – Albion Lock; Doddington; Eaton Hall SQ and EHF/PHF. A pair was reported at Albion Locks with a nest with 3 eggs. The nest was later found empty and the pair were observed nearby copulating but a nest wasn't found and young not seen there that season
Highest count - 20 in May '11 at EHF, the only other double-figure count was 10 there in May '12

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

CAWOS Scarce migrant and summer visitor
RBBP Scarce 586 bp C&W 17 TP

Records from 14 sites suggests the local status differs from that of CAWOS? Displaying and/or breeding confirmed at Arclid, Bent Farm & Eaton Hall SQs, Albion Lock, Bradwall, EHF/PHF and Holmes Chapel
Highest count of 27 in Jul '11 at EHF/PHF probably includes juveniles, the only other count of 20+ was also there - 20 in Apr '13

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

CAWOS Vagrant
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)
County Rarity

As mentioned in the introduction, I'm including species seen in some of the neighbouring hectads where both recording areas report sightings
Favouring the high ground on migration to rest and feed before heading further north to their breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia, the latter half of the decade has seen 2 records in the Eastern Hills: 2 in Apr/May '17 and 1 in May '19; both records were accepted by CAWOS



Golden Plover



Ringed Plover

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Sandpipers; Snipes (Scolopacidae)

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

CAWOS Very scarce migrant inland
RBBP Scarce 290+ bp
BoCC4 Red list

29 records, some 'heard only' or in flight and mainly singles; 3 sightings away from The Flashes area - at Arclid SQ, Elworth and Swettenham
Highest count - 16 at EHF/PHF in May '14

Curlew

Numenius arquata

CAWOS Common winter visitor and migrant, uncommon summering non-breeder on estuaries.
Scarce migrant elsewhere
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

In the last 4 years birds have been recorded in most months of the year, so the status locally differs from the one stated above - especially if we include sightings of breeding birds in the Eastern Hills on our border. Some records are 'heard only' or in flight
Outside of The Flashes area: recorded at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR, Coppenhall Moss, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mooresbarrow, Mow Cop, Newsbank Pool and Rode Pool
Highest count - 148 at Eaton Hall SQ in Mar '11

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

CAWOS Rare migrant inland
BoCC4 Amber list

Very similar to the Black-tailed Godwit but lacks the white wing-bar when seen in flight
6 records all singles unless noted otherwise: Doddington in Apr '10 & Apr '19 (2); Eaton Hall SQ in May '11; EHF/PHF in Apr '12 & Jun '18
Highest count - 8 at Sandbach Flashes in Mar '15 (BirdTrack®) which I suspect is an error of species selection on input

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

CAWOS Scarce migrant away from the coast and estuaries
RBBP Rare 53 bp
BoCC4 Red list

Outside of the Flashes area, only recorded at Doddington
Apart from 3 records of singles at Doddington, there were 6 in Apr '15, 10 in Jun '17 & 11 in Aug '18, while at the Flashes the species can be seen in most months of the year although the annual peaks of: 320, 279, 43, 125, 139, 21, 31, 110, 94 & 64 suggests a downward trend although this may just be fewer counts being noted?
Highest count - 320 at EHF/PHF in Jun '10

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

CAWOS Fairly common coastal winter visitor and migrant. Rare migrant elsewhere
BoCC4 Amber list

Despite 7 records in 'The Noughties', all in different years, only 1 record this decade: it was either heard and/or seen in flight over EHF/PHF in Aug '17

Knot*Calidris canutus*

CAWOS Very common winter visitor and migrant to coastal waters. Rare inland
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Its local status is confirmed as we have only had 3 records this decade, all at EHF/PHF: 2 in Jul '10; 1 in Sep '11 & 3 in Sep '19

Ruff*Calidris pugnax*

CAWOS Scarce migrant and winter visitor
RBBP **Very rare** 12 females
BoCC4 **Red list**

Outside of the Flashes area, only recorded at Arclid SQ: 2 in Jan '10 & 1 in '13 (no details)
3 records of 10+: 11 in Jul '10, 12 in Aug '10 & 27 in Feb '19 (BirdTrack®) although the latter figure might be a combined count or, more likely, wrongly selected when entered online?

Stilt Sandpiper*Calidris himantopus*

CAWOS Vagrant **County Rarity**

An adult summer bird was first reported at Neumann's Flash in late Aug '13 but what was believed to be the same bird relocated to EHF on 2nd Sep and lingered until 7th. The Rarity Form was accepted and at the time only the second record for the CAWOS area

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

CAWOS very scarce spring and scarce autumn migrant
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

5 records this decade, all from EHF/PHF, of singles unless stated otherwise: Sep '11 (2); Jun '12; Oct '13; Aug '15 & Aug '18 (2). Most of the autumn sightings are of juveniles

Temminck's Stint*Calidris temminckii*

CAWOS Rare migrant **County Rarity**
BoCC4 **Red list**

One was seen briefly by 4 or 5 'locals' at EHF on the morning of 18th May '13. One was subsequently reported at Burton Mere Wetlands on 24th and accepted by CAWOS. Our record doesn't appear in their annual Bird Report so either wasn't submitted or was "not supported by adequate documentation"

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

CAWOS Fairly common coastal winter visitor and migrant, very scarce migrant elsewhere
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

6 records of singles, unless stated otherwise, all except one at EHF/PHF, the other at Doddington in May '11. The others are: 22nd May '11; 30th May '11 (5); Feb '12 (2); Jun '12 & May '13

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

CAWOS Inland, scarce winter visitor and migrant
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously red)

With over 100 records, 80% noting monthly maxima, and 30% noted as 'regular' (present for 4 or more days), it suggests this species is happy to linger locally
Recorded at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ & Bradwall as well as the Flashes
4 records of 10+, all at EHF/PHF, some of which were noted as in flight: Jan '11 (10); May '13 (15); Aug '16 (20); May '11 (24) & Apr '10 (46). The latter were reported as dropping in after heavy rain

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

CAWOS Very scarce spring and scarce autumn migrant, irregular winter visitor

4 records of singles, unless stated otherwise, and all of juveniles on autumn passage and at EHF/PHF: Aug '10; Sep '10; Oct '10 & Aug '11. It appears the local habitat is no longer favourable to this species and CAWOS (2018) notes "a marked decrease on recent years". Are the bulk over-flying the county or is the species in decline?

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

CAWOS Scarce breeder, thinly distributed with bias to the east. Uncommon winter visitor
BoCC4 **Red list** (previously amber)

The records for this decade indicate this species is widespread when they over-winter and the majority of records are of 5 or less birds. Counts of higher all come from Fodens Wood: Jan '12 (11); Jan '16 (6); Jan '18 (11) & Feb '18 (8); 12 birds were flushed on the Rode Estate in Jan '13

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtus minimus

CAWOS Scarce winter visitor and migrant

Outside of the Flashes area, records from 5 sites: Arclid SQ; Doddington; Meremoor Moss; Middlewich Lime Beds & Mow Cop
Records are mostly of 1s and 2s, there is 1 record of 8 birds being flushed at RF in '13 but no details

Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

CAWOS Uncommon winter visitor and migrant. Very scarce breeder
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Outside of the Flashes area, recorded at 22 sites with a record of a bird singing/displaying at Blackclough in Mar '19 and a bird noted at nearby Danebower in Jun the same year.
2 counts of 100+: 108 at Bagmere in Mar '16 and 126 in Dec '17 (a combined total of WLF, EHF & PHF)



Common Snipe



Dunlin

Red-necked Phalarope

CAWOS Rare migrant
BoCC4 Red list

County Rarity

Phalaropus lobatus

An adult female in summer plumage was found in the back pool at EHF (viewed from the side lane) on 30th May '15 and the Rarity Form was accepted by CAWOS. Despite much searching the following day, the bird was not seen again. Coincidentally, an adult female was also seen at Burton Mere Wetlands on 4 dates in Jun.

Common Sandpiper

CAWOS Scarce migrant and rare breeder, rare irregular winter visitor
BoCC4 Amber list

Actitis hypoleucos

Outside of the Flashes area, recorded at 12 sites usually in single figure numbers
Highest count - 11 at EHF in Apr '13 - the Flashes Report noted "this is an exceptional count"

Green Sandpiper

CAWOS Scarce autumn migrant, rare in winter and spring
RBBP Very rare 2 bp
BoCC4 Amber list

Tringa ochropus

Outside of the Flashes area, recorded at 12 sites and usually in single figure counts
10+ counts, all from EHF/PHF: 10, Aug '10; 11, Aug '13 & 12, Aug '15

Redshank

CAWOS Scarce inland. Uncommon locally distributed breeder
BoCC4 Amber list

Tringa totanus

Only recorded outside the Flashes area at Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ and Middlewich Lime Beds and usually only in single figure counts
Highest count - 12 at the Flashes in Feb '19 (BirdTrack®)

Wood Sandpiper

CAWOS Very scarce migrant
RBBP Rare 32 bp
BoCC4 Amber list

Tringa glareola

Other than at the Flashes, only noted at Meremoor Moss and Middlewich Lime Beds
Always as singles apart from: 4, May '10; 2, Jun & Jul '19 - all at EHF/PHF

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019



Wood Sandpiper

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

CAWOS Rare inland and in winter
BoCC4 **Amber list**

With only 6 records during the decade, it's status locally is confirmed. All sightings are singles and at EHF/PHF unless noted otherwise: Aug & Sep '10; Aug '11; Aug '13; May '17 at Congleton (in flight) & 2, Aug '17

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

CAWOS Rare spring, very scarce late summer and autumn migrant inland. Rare winter visitor
RBBP **Less scarce 1080 bp**
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

Recorded between Mar & Nov and noted at 7 sites outside the Flashes area
65 records, all are of 1s & 2s except 6
Highest count - 9 at EHF/PHF in Jul '10

Gulls; Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

CAWOS Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland
BoCC4 **Red list** (previously amber)

10 recorded (some finders also describe the weather as “gale conditions”), all of singles, with 7 at Sandbach Flashes: '11 - Feb, Mar & Aug; Mar '12; Mar '13; Mar '16 & Apr '19. The others: Apr '11, M6, Jct 16; Sep '11, Eaton Hall SQ and Jan '18, Brereton Heath LNR

Sabine's Gull

Xema sabini

CAWOS Vagrant

County Rarity

3 records, all but the last accepted by CAWOS: Eaton Hall SQ, 9th Oct '11; EHF/PHF 17th Jul '16 & 5th Sep '16

Black-headed Gull*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

CAWOS Abundant winter visitor and migrant. Common locally distributed breeding species
 BoCC4 Amber list

There have been 2 records of breeding attempts: nest-building at Mere Moor Fisheries in May '10 and a nest with 3 chicks watched at WLF in Jun '12 although the following month records show only 1 fledged

Highest count - 9,500 at Doddington in Dec '19

Doddington is a winter roost site for Black-headed Gull, also for Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. There were smaller roosts noted at Eaton Hall SQ, EHF/PHF and Rode Pool

Little Gull*Hydrocoloeus minutus*

CAWOS Scarce coastal migrant, very scarce inland

15 records all of singles apart from 2 flying over EHF/PHF in Mar '12 and "an incredible 27 flew over EHF on 11th Nov" (2011).

Mediterranean Gull*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

CAWOS Very scarce breeder and scarce visitor throughout the year
 RBBP Less scarce 1481 C&W 2 S 4 CP 4 TP
 BoCC4 Amber list

Outside of the Flashes area, recorded at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington and Eaton Hall SQ. Records indicate most were noted on as 'day visitors, but 6 records state that birds lingered long enough to be classed as 'Regular' - i.e. 4 or more days in a given month
 Records usually of 1s, 2s & 3s. 3 records of 4 birds recorded at: Eaton Hall SQ in Jan '10; EHF/PHF in Mar '10 & Mar '18

Common Gull*Larus canus*

CAWOS Common, widespread migrant and winter visitor. Scarce as summering non-breeder
 BoCC4 Amber list

Recorded at 14 sites outside the Flashes area

Highest count - 550 at Newsbank Pool in Dec '15

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

Ring-billed Gull*Larus delawarensis*

CAWOS Vagrant County Rarity

2 records of this species: 1 at EHF/PHF Feb '10 & 1 at Sandbach Flashes 23rd Nov '15

The first from an entry in the logbook, the second from BirdTrack® - neither appear in any annual reports

Great Black-backed Gull*Larus marinus*

CAWOS Fairly common winter visitor on estuaries and uncommon resident. Has bred
 BoCC4 Amber list

Recorded at 7 sites outside the Flashes area: Arclid SQ; Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Eaton Hall SQ; Middlewich Lime Beds; Rode Pool & Weston Rd Ind Estate, Crewe

All records of 10+ counts come from the Flashes

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

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor and migrant
BoCC4 Amber list

One of the 'white-winged' gulls that we get locally
Records from each year except '14 & '19 and all from the Flashes except a report on the 'birding network' of 2 at Doddington in Feb '13
I found it hard to establish the highest count due to the way I combined the data but during Feb '18, there were 3x juv, 2x 1st s & 1 ad noted at MGT/RF which adds up to 6 birds

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor and irregular spring migrant
BoCC4 Amber list

Records from each year and all from the Flashes except a report of 1 at Doddington in Jan '13. The 2018 CAWOS Bird Report includes a bird reported in Crewe in Jan '18 but with no other details
Like the previous record, the highest count was made up of birds of varying ages being seen simultaneously. I have 2 records of 8 birds: Jan '12 & early winter '16



Kumlien's Gull



Yellow-legged Gull

Kumlien's Gull

Larus glaucoides kumlieni

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor and irregular spring migrant
BoCC4 Amber list **County Rarity**

4 records, all single birds and at the Flashes: Apr '16; Jan, Feb & Apr '18. Descriptions for the middle two were submitted to CAWOS [decision(s) pending – as at Dec '20]

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

CAWOS Very common, widespread migrant and winter visitor, uncommon breeder
BoCC4 Red list

Nesting birds were first reported at Weston Rd Industrial Estate in '12 and the colony is expanding - 8 broods in '19

There are 6 records of 1000+ birds, all at MGT

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

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

CAWOS Rare non-breeding visitor
BoCC4 **Amber list** (not previously assessed) **County Rarity**

Records, in 1s, 2s & 3s, all but one from the Flashes, that being 1 at Arclid SQ in Nov '15
Like other gull records, difficult to determine a highest count but the Sandbach Flashes Bird Report for 2011 has 6 birds between Jan and Mar

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

CAWOS Scarce non-breeding visitor
RBBP **Very rare** 2 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Recorded at 5 sites outside the Flashes area: at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP; Doddington; Eaton Hall SQ and Rode Pool
2 records of 10+ counts both at EHF/PHF: Nov '11 (13) & Aug '12 (16)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

CAWOS Common widespread migrant and winter visitor, uncommon breeder
BoCC4 **Amber list**

1 record included a ringed bird: ringed in Germany showing how widely this species commutes
Breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate - 23 broods in '19
Highest count - 3 records of 4,000: Doddington in Dec '17 & Jan '18 and MGT in Feb '18
Other than at landfill sites, inland flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Lesser Black-backed Gull (intermediate)

Larus fuscus intermedius

CAWOS see Lesser Black-backed Gull
BoCC4 **Amber list** **County Rarity**

There are 'occasional' records, but no details, at EHF/PHF: during '11; '12 & '13

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

CAWOS Vagrant **National Rarity**

1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes 6th & 7th Aug '19 - **a first for the Recording Area**
The submitted Rarity Form was accepted by the BBRC



Gull-billed Tern - Ian Barber



Gull-billed Tern

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

CAWOS Rare inland

BoCC4 Amber list

5 records, all of singles unless stated otherwise: 2 at Arclid SQ, Aug '10; Astbury Mere CP, Sep '11; Arclid SQ, Jun '12; 6 at Doddington, Jul '16 & Sandbach Flashes, Apr '19

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

CAWOS Rare inland

BoCC4 Amber list

1 record of a bird seen at EHF on 26th Apr '12

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

CAWOS Scarce inland. Rare breeder

BoCC4 Amber list

Outside of the Flashes area, seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington and Rode Pool. Breeding confirmed at Sandbach Flashes when in '11 birds were observed displaying and later copulating. The pair nested but only 1 chick survived to fledge. 1 chick fledged the following year too. They were unsuccessful in '15 but breeding was confirmed each year between '16 & '19. 'Commic' terns reported in '19 at Eaton Hall SQ (Aug) and Sandbach Flashes (May). Highest count - 9 at EHF in Aug '11

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

CAWOS Rare inland

BoCC4 Amber list

Records of 1s, 2s & 3s, all within the Flashes, except 7 at Astbury Mere CP, May '19

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

CAWOS Rare Migrant

National Rarity

2 adults were seen at EHF on 7th May '16, the day before they were in Nottingham and Derby, before relocating to RSPB Saltholme, Cleveland for the next 2 weeks. The submitted Rarity Form was accepted by the BBRC.



Whiskered Tern

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

CAWOS Very scarce migrant except for occasional large movements

Records usually of 1s, 2s or 3s. All sightings are from the 3 locations mentioned here.
4+ birds: at Doddington, May '16 (5); Astbury Mere CP, Apr '17 (5), May '17 (4) &
Sandbach Flashes, May '17 (7)

Arctic Skua*Stercorarius parasiticus*CAWOS Scarce summer and autumn coastal visitor. Rare inland and in spring
BoCC4 **Red list**

A 'dark phase' bird was reported at EHF/PHF on 3rd Jun '17

Great Northern Diver*Gavia immer*CAWOS Very scarce coastal winter visitor. Rare away from the coast
BoCC4 **Amber list****County Rarity**

4 records during the period, all singles: Astbury Mere CP, Nov '10; WLF, 19th Nov '12;
possibly the same bird flew over PHF, 27th Nov and Alsager, 12th Apr '18. The first two were
identified as 1st winter birds and their Rarity Forms were accepted

White Stork*Ciconia ciconia*

CAWOS Vagrant

County rarity

8 records during the period, all of singles unless stated otherwise: Leighton Hospital, (2) Apr
'10; Sandbach Flashes, 24th/25th Oct '10 and Doddington 25th Oct '10; Maw Green, Sep '11;
Crewe, Apr '12; MGT, Apr '13 and Congleton, Jul '18. The Sandbach Flashes record was an
escapee from a nearby private collection, whereas the Sep '11 bird was proved not to be from
the same collection

Gannet*Morus bassanus*CAWOS Uncommon but regular coastal visitor
BoCC4 **Amber list**

A juvenile was recorded flying over EHF on 14th Oct '13. It was noted "... stormy period of
weather - others seen inland "

Cormorant*Phalacrocorax carbo*

CAWOS Common visitor and uncommon breeder

recorded at 25 locations throughout the year, often associating with Grey Heron nesting sites,
some records just in flight
Highest count - 85 at Doddington in Nov '18
Birds with features of the continental subspecies [*P c sinensis*] were reported at Arclid SQ
throughout the period with another reported at Brereton Heath LNR in Feb '16

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

African Sacred Ibis

Escaped or Feral

Threskiornis aethiopicus

One was recorded at RF in Apr '12

Northern Bald Ibis

Escaped or Feral

Critically endangered

Geronticus eremita

4 records, all singles: MGT, Sep '11; RF, Oct '11; Arclid SQ, May '12 and Rodeheath, Congleton later the same month

Glossy Ibis

CAWOS Vagrant

County Rarity

Plegadis falcinellus

7 records, all singles: PHF, Jan/Feb '12; Arclid SQ, Jan '12; Sandbach, Aug '12; EHF/PHF, Nov '13; PHF, Aug '14; EHF/PHF & MGT/RF, May '18

Spoonbill

CAWOS Very scarce visitor
RBBP **Very rare** 23 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Platalea leucorodia

4 records during the period, all of singles unless stated otherwise: Astbury Mere CP (2), Dec '10; RF, May '12; Middlewich, 2 dates in May '16

Hérons; Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Bittern

CAWOS Rare winter visitor
RBBP **Rare** 186 booming males
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously red)

Botaurus stellaris

This secretive species with cryptic plumage seeks reedbeds with water at a certain depth for breeding

With only 3 records previously, this decade has provided us with 15 records: Sandbach Flashes 28th/29th Dec '12; Smethwick, May '16; Hassall Green, Jan '19. The other records are all from Rode Pool where the good relationship with the fishing community continues to bear fruit – records from Jan & Nov '13; Mar '14 and Feb '15

Cattle Egret

CAWOS Rare visitor
RBBP **Colonising breeder**

County Rarity

Bubulcus ibis

The smallest of the heron family we are likely to see locally, with 1 record in The Noughties and 2 in this decade and with a small population on the Wirral, all bodes well for sightings to increase in the future

1 bird seen 16th/18th Aug '17 and 2 birds seen on 22nd Aug – all these from various sites within Sandbach Flashes

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

CAWOS common locally distributed breeder, widespread in winter

The figures listed are the range of nests counted from '10 to '19 to illustrate the increase:
Doddington: 3 - 16 and Rode Pool: 47 – 55. There is also a small heronry at Gawsworth, 3 nests in '19

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

CAWOS Scarce visitor on Dee estuary, rare elsewhere

RBBP **Very rare 9 bp** **County Rarity (away from the coast)**

Records from 13 sites, and in most months of the year at: Arclid SQ, Chorlton, Congleton, Doddington, Great Moreton Hall, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss/Fishery, Middlewich, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes. Usually as singles, but 11 records where 2 recorded either within Sandbach Flashes or at Rode Pool
Highest count - 5 at EHF/PHF in Sep '19

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

CAWOS Locally common resident and scarce breeder on the estuaries, scarce elsewhere

RBBP **Less scarce 1260 bp** **C&W 2 S 71 TP**

recorded at 18 sites - just as flyovers at some locations:
Singles, unless noted otherwise, seen at Alsager (2), Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Bathvale, Barthomley, Bosley, Doddington (3), Lawton, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Redesmere, Rode Heath/Rode Pool (7), Sandbach Flashes (5), Scholar Green (2), Shavington, Swettenham, West Heath and Wheelock
Highest count - 7 at Rode Heath/Rode Pool in Mar/Apr '18



Grey Heron and Little Egret



Cattle Egret - Ann Rane

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

CAWOS Scarce migrant
RBBP **Rare** 242 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Reported in all years except '19, all singles and many as flyovers. Notable comments by the observers include: EHF, May '12 "caught a fish"; Arclid SQ, May '12 "circled and hovered"; Rode Pool, Mar '14 "unsuccessful dive then flew off". However, there are records from Doddington from 22nd to 26th Jun '12 and on six dates in Sep '18 indicating birds will linger

Kites; Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)

Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

CAWOS Vagrant **County Rarity**
RBBP **Rare** 40 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list**

2 records: 7th Sep '10 flew at eye-level passed the observer at Merelake Way, Alsager. The Rarity Form was accepted. The second report was "a bird showing features consistent with an adult of this species was seen from a train" at Meremoor Moss on 1st May '19

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

CAWOS Fairly common, widespread resident

Highest count - 4: a 'family party, hunting' at Holmes Chapel in Aug '11
Breeding confirmed at Crewe Cemetery, Doddington, Fodens Wood, Macon Meadows and an unspecified site within Sandbach Flashes



Sparrowhawk



Marsh Harrier

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

CAWOS Rare resident **County Rarity**

Described as a shy bird, preferring a forest habitat to hunt and breed
8 records all of singles: Fodens Wood, Mar '11; Wildboardclough, Apr '11; EHF, 2 dates in Jul '11; Rodeheath, Congleton, Feb '15; Astbury Mere CP, Apr '16; The Cloud, Apr '16 and Alsager, Sep '17

Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

CAWOS Scarce migrant and winter visitor, rare breeder
RBBP **Scarce** **391 bp** **C&W** 4 CP 4 TP 5 YF
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Records, the majority in flight, all singles, from Danebower, Eaton Hall SQ, EHF/PHF, MGT/RF, Meremoor Moss and Mow Cop

Hen Harrier*Circus cyaneus*

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor and migrant
RBBP **Scarce** **575 bp**
BoCC4 **Red list**

Records from the Eastern Hills and Blakenhall, Congleton, Doddington and Wybunbury
 During Jan/Feb '19 a bird described as "immature" and "ringtail" was recorded at Bagmere and Brereton Heath LNR and was watched hunting the starling murmuration

Red Kite*Milvus milvus*

CAWOS Scarce visitor

Records are widespread and singles (none suggest bird was perched or on the ground) apart from 4 records of 2 birds seen at MGT, Apr '13, Wybunbury Moss Apr '17, Doddington. Jun '18 and The Cloud, Aug '18

Rough-legged Buzzard*Buteo lagopus*

CAWOS Vagrant **County Rarity**

A bird described as 'juv? - perched on sandbank (strong features of this species)' was seen at Eaton Hall SQ in Mar '18

Buzzard*Buteo buteo*

CAWOS Common, widespread resident

Breeding confirmed at: Arclid SQ, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, EHF/PHF, Rode Hall & Joey the Swan, Wistaston
 Highest count - 26 at R Dane, Holmes Chapel to Swettenham Mar '13 & Apr '14, also 26 were described as "kettling" at MGT in Aug '14

Barn Owl*Tyto alba*

CAWOS Uncommon local resident *** **a Schedule One bird**

Both nocturnal and crepuscular
 The SC Barn Owl group website states "in 1999 when only 10 pairs were recorded."
 The introduction of nest boxes by the group has greatly boosted the local population of this enigmatic species and there are sightings from all over the recording area

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Owls (Strigidae)

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

CAWOS Fairly common thinly distributed resident
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

Records from throughout the Recording Area

Breeding confirmed at Astbury Mere CP, Bent Farm SQ, Bosley, Doddington, Joey the Swan, Quakers Coppice, The Quinta/Swettenham and Rode Pool

Highest count was in Fodens Wood, when 2 were heard and a further 3 seen in Jan '12

Little Owl

Athene noctua

CAWOS Uncommon thinly distributed resident

Recorded from throughout the Recording Area

Breeding confirmed at Brereton, Doddington, Eaton Hall SQ, Haslington, Hassall, Marton and Weston

Highest count - 5 at Hassall in Aug '15, there is also a record of 5 juvs ringed at Weston in Jun '14

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

CAWOS Very scarce localised resident
RBBP **Less scarce 1800 bp**

Both nocturnal and crepuscular, preferring trees close to open countryside

The reports, from one local roost site, that some visitors were wanting to get closer views / photographs were ignoring the welfare of the birds! As a consequence, local birders have agreed not to share local sightings of this species. Sadly, a case of 'a minority ruining it for the majority' exists in the birdwatching world too.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

CAWOS Scarce winter visitor and migrant, has bred
RBBP **Scarce 620+ bp**
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Records from the Eastern Hills, also Astbury Mere CP, Brereton, Congleton, Coppenhall Moss, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Sandbach Flashes, Weston and Wistaston

Highest count - 3 at Meremoor Moss in Mar '12



Little Owl



Long-eared Owl

Hoopoe*Upupa epops*

CAWOS

Vagrant

County Rarity

1 was heard at Queen's Park in Jun '10; 1 seen in flight at EHF in May '13 (a Rarity Form was accepted) and a bird photographed at Ettiley Heath in May '16

Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis*

CAWOS

Uncommon resident, thinly distributed

*** **a Schedule One bird**

BoCC4

Amber list

common locally, records from 40 sites
Evidence of breeding at 11 locations

Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

CAWOS

Vagrant

County Rarity

On 15th May '11, a surveyor working at Warmingham / Crabmill Flash (undertaking a Great Crested Newt rescue following an Ecological Impact Assessment for a proposed gas storage pipeline), first heard, then later saw a bird in flight. The Rarity Form was accepted.

Woodpeckers (Picidae)**Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

CAWOS

Vagrant

County Rarity

On 5th May '12, the finder's dog flushed a Wryneck on the footpath at MGT. It stayed for 2 days and many birders were able to connect with it. Rarity Forms were submitted, all were accepted. My research has also found a sighting: 1 was recorded at Rode Hall on 28th Apr '16. It, too, was accepted by CAWOS but I cannot find any record of it elsewhere!

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*Dryobates minor*

CAWOS

Scarce resident thinly distributed

RBBP

Less scarce 1000+ bp**C&W 8 TP**

BoCC4

Red list

The smallest of our woodpeckers with reports that it is driven off by its larger cousin. Favours the thinner branches and even harder to see once the Spring foliage grows, makes a nest in dead wood
Seen throughout the Recording Area with a handful of records each year during the period. Displaying or drumming birds recorded at Brereton, Crewe Business Park, Rode Pool and Swettenham but only up to '13. Pairs seen at the above sites plus Shavington and Twemlow but only up to '15

Great Spotted Woodpecker*Dendrocopos major*

CAWOS

Common resident, widely distributed

Displaying birds and / or breeding confirmed at 20 sites
Highest count - 11 along a stretch of the River Dane between Holmes Chapel in Swettenham, 6 of which were reported to be 'drumming'

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

CAWOS Uncommon resident, thinly distributed

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

Bird displaying recorded at Borrow Pit Meadows/Salt Line, Eaton Hall SQ, Rode Pool, Roe Park and Wybunbury Moss. Juvs seen on MGT in Aug '18 and breeding confirmed at Rode Pool in Jul '15 & Jul '17

Caracaras; Falcons (Falconidae)



Hobby



Peregrine

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

CAWOS Common, widespread resident and migrant
BoCC4 Amber list

Records of birds displaying or breeding confirmed at 11 sites

High count - 3 or 4 birds only from the second half of the decade are of 'family groups'

Merlin

Falco columbarius

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor, rare resident
RBBP Less scarce 1160 bp
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

All records are of singles except at Cut-thorn Hill, Wildboarclough in Aug '17 where 4 were observed 'circling and sparring with 2 Ravens'

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

CAWOS Scarce migrant, summer visitor and breeder *** a Schedule One bird
RBBP Less scarce 743 bp C&W 16 CP 39 TP

Recorded throughout the Recording area, often in flight

There are 5 records of 3 or 4 birds, all in Sep - presumably family groups

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.

Peregrine*Falco peregrinus*

CAWOS Very scarce breeding species, scarce migrant and winter visitor
 RBBP Less scarce 1701 bp C&W 11 CP 11 TP
 *** a Schedule One bird

Highest count - 4 at Middlewich Lime Beds in Jul '13

Breeding confirmed at the Crewe Alexandra FC Stadium in '11. Another successful breeding outcome was noted in the Recording Area in Jun '19, when a fledged juv (heard and seen begging) together with an attentive adult.

Ring-necked Parakeet*Psittacula krameria*

CAWOS Scarce visitor

10 records, all of singles except: 2, Old Gorse Covert, Wistaston in Dec '17 and 3, Dane Meadows, Holmes Chapel in Oct '18

Shrikes (Laniidae)**Red-backed Shrike***Lanius collurio*

CAWOS Vagrant County Rarity
 RBBP Very rare 3 bp
 BoCC4 Red list

A juv was photographed in a garden at Brereton Heath on 15th Sep '17. The Rarity Form was accepted

Great Grey Shrike*Lanius excubitor*

CAWOS Rare winter visitor County Rarity

A report on the 'pager network' of a bird at Havannah, Congleton on 3rd Jan '19

Golden Oriole*Oriolus oriolus*

CAWOS Vagrant County Rarity
 RBBP Very rare 1 singing male
 BoCC4 Red list

A ♀ or 1st w ♂ flew low over the A50 at Rodeheath, Congleton on 10th Jun '14. The Rarity Form was accepted

Crows; Jays (Corvidae)**Jay***Garrulus glandarius*

CAWOS Common widespread resident

SWaBBS fieldworkers have identified breeding sites

Highest count - 15 at Brereton Heath LNR in Dec '18

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Magpie

Pica pica

CAWOS Very common widespread resident

Highest count - 73 at Bagmere in Feb '15

Jackdaw

Coloeus monedula

CAWOS Very common widespread resident and winter visitor

Highest count - 1700 at Arclid in Jul '18, 500+ flocks recorded at Bagmere and MGT

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

Flocks of 50+ noted at Alsager (both Fannyscroft & Salt Line), Brereton Heath LNR, Cranage, Crewe Hall, Doddington, Haslington, Hassall, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mooresbarrow, Rode Pool and Tidnock

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

CAWOS Common resident thinly distributed

Highest count - 388 at Crewe in Mar '14 (no details)

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

Other 50+ flocks (not including nest sites) recorded at Alsager (Fannyscroft), Brereton Heath LNR, Chorlton, Hassall, Crewe and Holmes Chapel

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

CAWOS Very common widespread resident

Highest count - 100 at Chorlton in Feb '11

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

Other 50+ flocks (not including nest sites) recorded at Alsager, Arclid SQ, Brereton Heath LNR, Chorlton, Doddington, Forgemill, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss, Swettenham and Tidnock

Raven

Corvus corax

CAWOS Scarce resident

Highest count - a flock of 16 over MGT during a 'vismig' in Sep '18 and over Astbury Mere CP in Jul '19

Breeding territories held at many of the appropriate locations described above

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus

CAWOS Very scarce winter visitor, subject to irruptions

Recorded in all years this decade except '15 & '19

Highest count - 120 in Abbey Rd, Sandbach in Mar '11

Waxwing



Tits; Chickadees (Paridae)

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

CAWOS Common resident widely distributed

Highest count - 11 at Rive Dane, between Holmes Chapel and Swettenham in Mar '15
Breeding confirmed at 7 locations

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

CAWOS Scarce resident, locally distributed

County Rarity

BoCC4 Red list

description required (away from proven breeding sites)

Those with access to the Rode Pool hide had a bird that regularly came to the feeder from Sep '02 to May '12 - although unmarked, it was believed to be one individual bird

Highest count - 4 recorded at Blakenhall Moss in Feb '13

All records in this decade are from our southern hectads

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus

CAWOS Scarce resident, locally distributed

County Rarity

description required (away from proven breeding sites)

RBBP Less scarce 2750 bp

C&W 14 TP

BoCC4 Red list

Highest count - 3 recorded at Bagmere between Apr - Jul '14

Recorded throughout and breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Bagmere and Bathvale

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident

Highest count - 58 adults, when 29 pairs were recorded at Arclid SQ in Spring '17

Great Tit

Parus major

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident

Highest count - 38 adults, when 19 pairs were recorded at Arclid SQ in Spring '17

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

CAWOS Rare visitor

County Rarity

RBBP Scarce 689 bp

Not a true tit, the species (aka Bearded Reedling) is more closely related to the larks

One lucky birder visiting Astbury Mere CP on 11th Mar '17 noted 2 females. The Rarity Form was accepted.

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Larks (Alaudidae)

Woodlark

Lullula arborea

CAWOS Vagrant County Rarity
RBBP Less scarce 3064 bp

On Sunday 7th Nov '10, John Spottiswood was on his regular walk and while watching a Meadow Pipit in a stubble field opposite Brereton Heath LNR a lark walked past it. On checking the features, he was sure it was a Woodlark. Although elusive at times, it and a second bird were present until the 16th, one bird until the 20th. The Rarity Form was accepted. John's account in the SECOS Annual Bird Report includes a footnote saying that the farmer delayed ploughing the field while the visitors were watching the birds

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

CAWOS Common thinly distributed resident, migrant and winter visitor
BoCC4 Red list

Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 150 at Doddington Feb '15

Singing and/or displaying birds noted at Arclid SQ, Checkley, Doddington, Hassall, Holmes Chapel, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach Flashes, Twemlow and Winterley

Breeding confirmed at Doddington and MGT

Swallows; Martins (Hirundinidae)

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

CAWOS Common summer visitor, thinly distributed

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 600 at Doddington in May '11

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

CAWOS Very common widespread summer visitor

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - c500 at Chorlton in Aug '10 and Doddington in May '13

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

CAWOS Common widespread summer visitor
BoCC4 Amber list

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 500 at Doddington in May '13

Cetti's Warbler*Cettia cetti*

CAWOS Scarce resident

*** **a Schedule One bird**

First reported in Oct '15 - a series of sightings within Sandbach Flashes in the Spring of '16 prompted a decision not to share the locations - to give the species a chance to establish territories. This policy was successful and as such has been adopted for other 'new' species to the area

Only recorded at locations within Sandbach Flashes

Highest count - 4 at MGT/RF in Apr & Oct '19

Long-tailed Tit*Aegithalos caudatus*

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident

Highest count - 150 at Swettenham in Aug '11

Breeding confirmed throughout the Recording Area

Leaf warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)**Wood Warbler***Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

CAWOS Rare summer visitor and very scarce migrant

County RarityBoCC4 **Red list**

Collins describes it as "breeds mainly in closed woods ... generally with minimum undergrowth". The majority of records are confined to the Eastern Hills, notably Bosley Reservoir in '11 and The Cloud in '15, '18 & '19. 2 exceptions were birds noted at EHF for 4 days in Jul '15 and for 3 days at Red Lane Tip in May/Jun '16

A singing male was recorded on The Cloud May-Jun '19; breeding probable – seen carrying food on 2 occasions in the middle of June

FYI - sadly, no local records in '20

*** **NB** - the County Recorder holds the 'appropriate BTO licences' to ring this species, so if you know of a Wood Warbler within the Recording Area, please let me or Hugh know

Yellow-browed Warbler*Phylloscopus inornatus*

CAWOS Rare migrant

County Rarity

All records are of singles: Oct '13, Pym's Lane*, Crewe on 4th, the same day it or another was reported in Crewe Business Park* and lingered until 10th. On 7th, one was reported in Middlewich. In '17, 1 was reported in Holmes Chapel* on 1st and in Scholar Green* on 25th. On 6th Jan '18, 1 was reported on the birding network (RBA) in Congleton Park, but despite searching local birders couldn't locate it. Records marked with '*' had Rarity Forms accepted

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

CAWOS Common summer visitor, widely distributed

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Highest count - c20 at EHF on 2 dates in Sep '19

Records of breeding at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR and within Sandbach Flashes

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

CAWOS Very common summer visitor widely distributed. Scarce winter visitor

Highest count - c50 at Arclid SQ (21-25 territories noted) in summer '19

Breeding confirmed throughout the Recording Area

Iberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus ibericus

CAWOS Rare vagrant

National Rarity

A singing bird was reported at Brereton Heath LNR on 4 dates between 5th May & 18th Jun '17



Willow Warbler



Chiffchaff

Reed warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

CAWOS Common summer visitor, thinly distributed

Highest count - 16 singing ♂ at Sandbach Flashes in May '16, but this was a co-ordinated count at RF & WLF.

9 at Meremoor Moss in May '10 is the highest for a single location

Confirmed breeding at Bagmere, Borrow Pit Meadows, Doddington, EHF, Holmes Chapel, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, MGT/RF, Rode Pool & Taxmere

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

CAWOS Common summer visitor, thinly distributed

Highest count - 17 singing ♂ at Sandbach Flashes in May '16, but this was a co-ordinated count at RF & WLF. 16 at Lemon Pool, Doddington in Jun '17 is the highest for a single location

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, EHF/PHF, MGT/RF, Rode Pool and WLP

Grasshopper Warbler*Locustella naevia*

CAWOS Uncommon summer visitor, thinly distributed
BoCC4 Red list

All but one record is for singles, the other count is for 2 recorded at Bagmere SSSI on 4th & 5th May '16

There are 2 reports of birds thought to be holding territories during Jun '10, at Chorlton and MGT. There are 2 sightings of adults carrying food, suggesting breeding in the vicinity: both during May '12 at Meremoor Moss and MGT/RF

Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)**Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla*

CAWOS Very common summer visitor, widely distributed. Uncommon winter visitor

Highest count - c44 (19-22 territories) at Arclid SQ between Mar & Jun '19

Garden Warbler*Sylvia borin*

CAWOS Common summer visitor, thinly distributed

Highest count - 10 (probably 5 territories) at Arclid SQ in the summer of '12.

The highest counts on unrestricted sites is 4: Barthomley, May '12; Brereton Heath LNR, May '19; Crossley, Apr '11 and Holmes Chapel, Jun '14

Lesser Whitethroat*Curruca curruca*

CAWOS Common summer visitor, thinly distributed

Highest count - 7 at EHF/PHF and Middlewich Lime Beds, both in Aug '14

All records of confirmed breeding are from within Sandbach Flashes

Whitethroat*Curruca communis*

CAWOS Very common summer visitor, widely distributed.

Highest count - 21 at Middlewich Lime Beds in Jul '14

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Borrow Pit Meadows, Homes Chapel, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Moss

Goldcrest*Regulus regulus*

CAWOS Common resident and winter visitor, widely distributed.

Highest count - 24 at Eaton in Nov '16

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

Wren*Troglodytes troglodytes*

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident

Highest count - 24 at Wybunbury Moss during a SWaBBS count in May '19

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

CAWOS Very common widespread resident

Highest count - 29 along Rive Dane, between Holmes Chapel and Swettenham in Sep '10
Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Barthomley, Brereton Heath LNR, Crewe (Macon Meadows, Quakers Coppice & University Way) Eaton, Joey the Swan, Roe Park, Rode Pool and Swettenham

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

CAWOS Common widespread resident

Highest count - 8 along Rive Dane, between Holmes Chapel and Swettenham in Mar '14 and Feb '15
Breeding confirmed at numerous locations throughout the Recording Area

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

CAWOS Very common widespread resident and abundant winter visitor
BoCC4 Amber list

Flocks of 500+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Murmurations have been recorded at Bagmere SSSI, highest count of c50,000 at Bagmere in Feb '19



Treecreeper



Starling

Thrushes (Turdidae)

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

CAWOS Rare summer visitor to the Eastern Hills, scarce passage migrant
BoCC4 Red list

Has strongholds at Blackclough, Danebower, Knotbury and Three Shires Head with occasional records from Mow Cop and once at The Cloud. Having said that, there are sightings at Elworth in Apr '10, Congleton in Apr '19, Doddington in Apr '15, EHF in Apr/May '17

Blackbird

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident augmented in winter

Turdus merula

Highest count - 49 at Wheelock & Malkin's Bank in Nov '16 during a SWaBBS count

Fieldfare

CAWOS Very common widespread winter visitor and migrant

BoCC4 Red list

Turdus pilaris

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 700 flying over EHF in Feb '18

Redwing

CAWOS Very common widespread winter visitor and migrant

BoCC4 Red list

Turdus iliacus

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 513 flying over EHF in Oct '14

Song Thrush

CAWOS Very common widespread resident and winter visitor

BoCC4 Red list

Turdus philomelos

Highest count - 16 singing ♂ at River Dane, Holmes Chapel to Swettenham in Feb '15

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Joey the Swan, Macon Meadows, Merelake Way, Mossley Hall, Roe Park and Sandbach Flashes

Mistle Thrush

CAWOS Common widespread resident

BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

Turdus viscivorus

Highest count - 48 at Rode Pool in Jan '19

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach Flashes and Swettenham



Song Thrush



Mistle Thrush

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019



Fieldfare



Redwing

Chats; Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

CAWOS Uncommon, thinly distributed summer visitor
BoCC4 Red list

Highest count - 6 (described in the CAWOS Bird Report as 'a family party') at Buglawton in Aug '10

Breeding confirmed throughout the Recording Area in suitable habitat

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident and winter visitor

Highest count - 76 at Brereton Heath LNR (between Apr & May '13). The highest single visit count was 37 at the Salt Line on a SWaBBS count in May '18

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

CAWOS Rare migrant
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

County Rarity

On 3rd May '17, a bird was heard singing on private land at Basford Sidings and was still noted there on 4th May. The Rarity Form was accepted.

I have a record of probable breeding in '19, the location has been withheld in the hope that the birds return to the area in subsequent years and establish territories

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

CAWOS Scarce summer visitor and migrant
BoCC4 Red list (previously amber)

The bulk of the SECOS records are from the Eastern Hills. Other records are from: Alsager; Arclid SQ; Astbury Mere CP; the Cloud; Pym's Lane, Crewe; Holmes Chapel; Rode Pool and Swettenham

Highest count - 26 (13 pairs) at Bosley Minn, where 82 juvs fledged in '18. All the breeding records are from the Eastern Hills

Black Redstart

CAWOS Rare winter visitor and migrant. Has bred
 RBBP **Rare** 64 bp
 BoCC4 **Red list** (previously amber

Phoenicurus ochruros
County Rarity (inland)

*** **a Schedule One bird**

recorded at: Arclid SQ, Mar '10*; Bradfield Green*, Oct '12; Sandbach Flashes, Apr '15; Cut-thorn Hill, Apr '16; MGT*, Jun '16; Lea Forge*, Aug '18 and again at Arclid SQ, Feb '19*
 ‘*’ indicates Rarity Forms were submitted

Redstart

CAWOS Scarce summer visitor and migrant
 BoCC4 **Amber list**

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Sightings from Alsager; Arclid SQ; The Cloud; Crewe; Eaton*; Engelsea Brook; Gawsforth*; Holmes Chapel; Lawton Woods; Marton; Middlewich Lime Beds; Mow Cop; Rodeheath, Congleton; Rode Pool; Sandbach Flashes; Scholar Green; Tidnock & Wallhill
 Highest count - 3: Danebridge & Wildboarclough, May '18
 ‘*’ indicates breeding confirmed

Whinchat

CAWOS Scarce summer migrant, has bred
 BoCC4 **Red list** (previously amber)

Saxicola rubetra

Sightings from throughout the Recording Area in suitable habitat
 Usually seen in 1s & 2s, noted in 3s & 4s on MGT.

Stonechat

CAWOS Scarce resident and migrant

Saxicola rubicola

Sightings from throughout the Recording Area and usually in 1s & 2s throughout the year.
 Sightings of 3 birds from: Alsager; Meremoor Moss; MGT; Mow Cop and Rode Heath,
 Alsager are confined to the months of Sep to Mar
 All records of breeding are from the Eastern Hills

Wheatear

CAWOS Uncommon migrant. Scarce summer visitor to the eastern hills

Oenanthe oenanthe

Single figure records from throughout the Recording Area. Double-figure records from
 Doddington, Hassall, Meremoor Moss, MGT and Mow Cop
 Highest count - 17 at MGT in Apr '10
 All records of breeding are from the Eastern Hills

Greenland Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa

Records are of singles (unless stated otherwise): Hassall (3), May '12; MGT, Apr '16, Apr & May '18

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Dipper

Cinclus cinclus

CAWOS Scarce resident in the eastern hills
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

Highest count - 6 at Wincle in Mar '17

Breeding confirmed throughout the Eastern Hills and at 3 locations in the Congleton area and Lawton Woods. Also, sightings at Eaton and Holmes Chapel

Old World Sparrows; Snowfinches (Passeridae)

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident
BoCC4 **Red list**

Highest count - 200 at Wheelock in Aug '10

Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

CAWOS Uncommon thinly spread resident
BoCC4 **Red list**

Highest count - 154 at Meremoor Farm where remarkably 57 pairs used nest boxes erected by one of the residents, who reported some triple brooded. Other triple-figure counts probably include juv: 150 at Crabmill Flash, Aug '12 and 110 at Holmes Chapel, Jul '11

Other breeding records at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Brereton Heath LNR, Eaton, EHF/PHF, Fields Farm (Sandbach), Hassall, Marton, Merelake Way, Smethwick and Somerford

We are extremely grateful to our sponsor HJ Lea Oakes Ltd, who provide feed for some of the local feeding stations and play a big part in sustaining our populations, particularly during the winter months.



Dunnock

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Highest count - 24 singing at Middlewich Lime Beds in Mar '15

Breeding confirmed at Holmes Chapel, Joey the Swan, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach, Sandbach Flashes, Swettenham and Wheelock/Malkin's Bank

Wagtails; Pipits (Motacillidae)

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

CAWOS Uncommon and thinly distributed summer visitor and migrant

BoCC4 **Red list**

Highest count - 23 at Doddington in Apr '17

Breeding confirmed at Arclid SQ, Astbury, Basford, Bradwall, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, EHF/PHF, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss and Twemlow

Blue-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava

County Rarity

On 12th May '17, a bird of this race was seen and photographed at Doddington. It, or another bird, was seen there on the 16th and described as associating closely with a Yellow Wagtail. Rarity Forms were submitted.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

CAWOS Fairly common resident and migrant

BoCC4 **Red list** (previously amber)

Highest count - 29 roosted at Astbury Mere CP in Jan '19

Breeding confirmed throughout the Recording Area in suitable habitat

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

CAWOS Uncommon migrant

Highest count - 21 at Doddington in Apr '16

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Crewe Green, Day Green, Doddington, Lawton and Sandbach Flashes

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba yarrellii

CAWOS Very common widespread resident

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 244 at Arclid SQ in Oct '14

Breeding confirmed throughout the Recording Area

Richard's Pipit

Anthus richardi

CAWOS Vagrant

County Rarity

A bird of this description was seen at Sandbach Flashes [MGT] on 4th Oct '19

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

CAWOS Common thinly distributed resident and migrant

BoCC4 **Amber list**

Records throughout the Recording Area. **Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'**

I have seen a dozen records of 100+ birds all from the Autumn period, most if not all are likely to be counts during a 'vizmig'.

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Tree Pipit

CAWOS Very scarce local summer visitor and migrant
BoCC4 Red list

Anthus trivialis

Seen at various sites throughout the Recording Area but tends not to linger.
Probably bred at The Cloud also possibly at Winkle
Most records are of singles; with 6 of 2 birds.
Highest count - 3 at Scholar Green - Aug '18

Rock Pipit

CAWOS Rare inland as a migrant

County Rarity

Anthus petrosus

A bird was seen at Sandbach Flashes [MGT] on 24th Oct '16

Finches (Fringillidae)

Chaffinch

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident and winter visitor

Fringilla coelebs

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'
Highest count - c400 feeding in a stubble field at Checkley in Mar '18

Brambling

CAWOS Uncommon winter visitor

Fringilla montifringilla

Seen at various sites within the Recording Area
Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'
Highest count - 130 at Doddington in Apr '14



Brambling

Hawfinch

CAWOS Rare visitor, once resident
RBBP Less scarce 500+ bp
BoCC4 Red list

Coccothraustes coccothraustes
County Rarity

Recorded in '12, '17, '18 and '19
Highest count - 8 seen at Astbury Mere CP in Mar '18

Bullfinch

CAWOS Common widespread resident
BoCC4 **Amber list**

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’

Highest count - 12 at Astbury Mere CP in Jan ‘19

Other 10+ flock at Arclid SQ and along the River Dane (Holmes Chapel to Swettenham)



Bullfinch



Greenfinch

Greenfinch

CAWOS Very common widespread resident

Chloris chloris

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’

Highest count - c300 at Checkley in Jan ‘16

Linnet

CAWOS Common widespread resident and migrant
BoCC4 **Red list**

Linaria cannabina

Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as ‘significant’

Highest count - 450 at Sandbach Flashes (Green Lane set-aside) in Dec ‘18 - Jan ‘19

Common Redpoll

CAWOS Rare visitor
RBBP **Very rare** 15 bp
BoCC4 **Amber list** (previously green)

County Rarity

Acanthis flammea

Depending on which database you use or resource you read, the naming and classification can be different depending on the authors perspective, etc., especially when referring to Redpoll.
To be consistent with other documents I produce, I will use Wildlife Recorder® format.
Separating the Common and Mealy Redpoll can be difficult, so some records may be wrongly identified. I list them as they were recorded in the various resources I have access to.

1 in Congleton - Jan ‘13*; 1 in Sandbach Flashes - Feb ‘13; 1 in Sandbach - Mar ‘14*; 8 in Sandbach Flashes - Feb ‘16; 1 at Swettenham - Nov ‘16
(* = Rarity Form accepted)

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Common Redpoll (Mealy)

CAWOS Rare visitor

Acanthis flammea flammea

County Rarity

2 at Sandbach Flashes in Feb/Mar '11; 3 at Crewe Business Park in Mar '12 and 1 resembling this subspecies was seen briefly at Macon Meadows but couldn't be relocated in Feb '19

Lesser Redpoll

CAWOS Scarce resident and fairly common winter visitor, thinly distributed

BoCC4 Red list

Acanthis cabaret

Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 50 at Congleton in Jan '13

Arctic Redpoll

CAWOS Vagrant

Acanthis hornemanni

County Rarity

1 listed on the CAWOS Rarity database dated 22nd Jan '13 at Congleton is noted as 'unproven'

Red Crossbill

CAWOS Irruptive, rare irregular breeding species, otherwise scarce

Loxia curvirostra

Often identified, in flight, by their distinctive call

Highest count - 15 at Scholar Green in Nov '16

Goldfinch

CAWOS Abundant widespread resident

Carduelis carduelis

Flocks of 50+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 500 at Meremoor Moss in Aug '10

Siskin

CAWOS Common winter visitor and migrant, Very scarce breeder

Spinus spinus

Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'

Highest count - 200 at River Dane, Holmes Chapel in Dec '15

Buntings (Emberizidae)

Snow Bunting

CAWOS Rare migrant and winter visitor to the coast and estuaries

RBBP Rare 79 bp

BoCC4 Amber list

Plectrophenax nivalis

County Rarity

1 was reported on BirdTrack® at Nick o' th' Hill 16th Nov '19

Corn Bunting

CAWOS Rare resident

BoCC4 Red list

Emberiza calandra

2 records from Apr '10 - at Hulme Walford and Alsager; a well-watched and lingering bird at Checkley, Mar to May '14; a record from the Staffs border at Alsager in Jun '14 and 2 records from Sandbach Flashes [MGT] both flyovers: Oct '15 and Mar '16

Yellowhammer

CAWOS Fairly common widespread resident
BoCC4 Red list

Emberiza citrinella

Records from throughout the Recording Area
Flocks of 5+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'
Highest count - 100 at Alsager in Dec '10

Reed Bunting

CAWOS Common widespread resident
BoCC4 Amber list

Records from throughout the Recording Area
Flocks of 10+ considered by CAWOS as 'significant'
Highest count - 100 at Alsager in Dec '10



Corn Bunting - Tracey Stubbs



Yellowhammer

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Summer Migrant Arrival Dates

It has been suggested that climate change / global warming has affected the arrival dates of migrants, so I have included below three graphs using the known dates for a selection of our migrants.

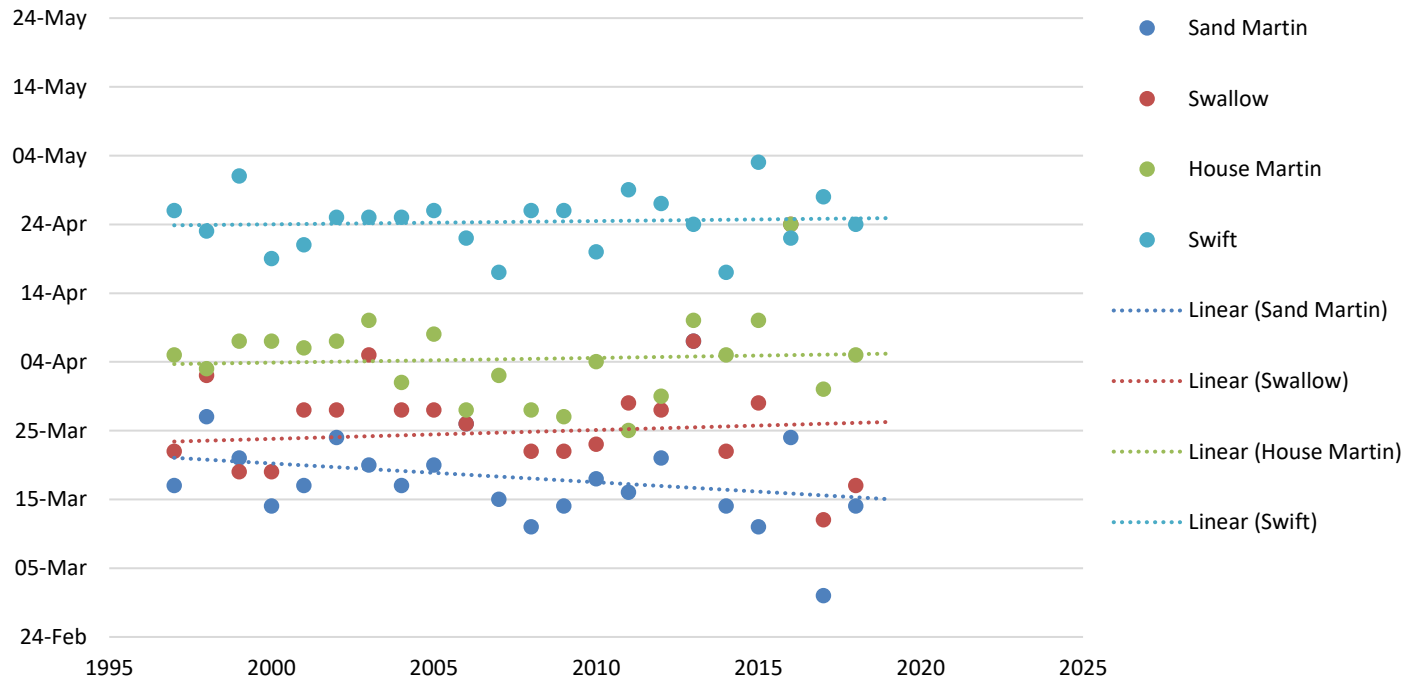
Colin included tables listing the early and late dates for Summer visitors in the SECOS Bird Report from 1997 to 2010. Andy Firth's Sandbach Flashes Bird Reports continued the theme from 2011 to 2016.

I have used the data from those tables but cross-referenced with other resources I have access to and updated where earlier records were found. A spreadsheet was created using Microsoft Excel and the program produced the graphs and computed the trend lines for each of the species.

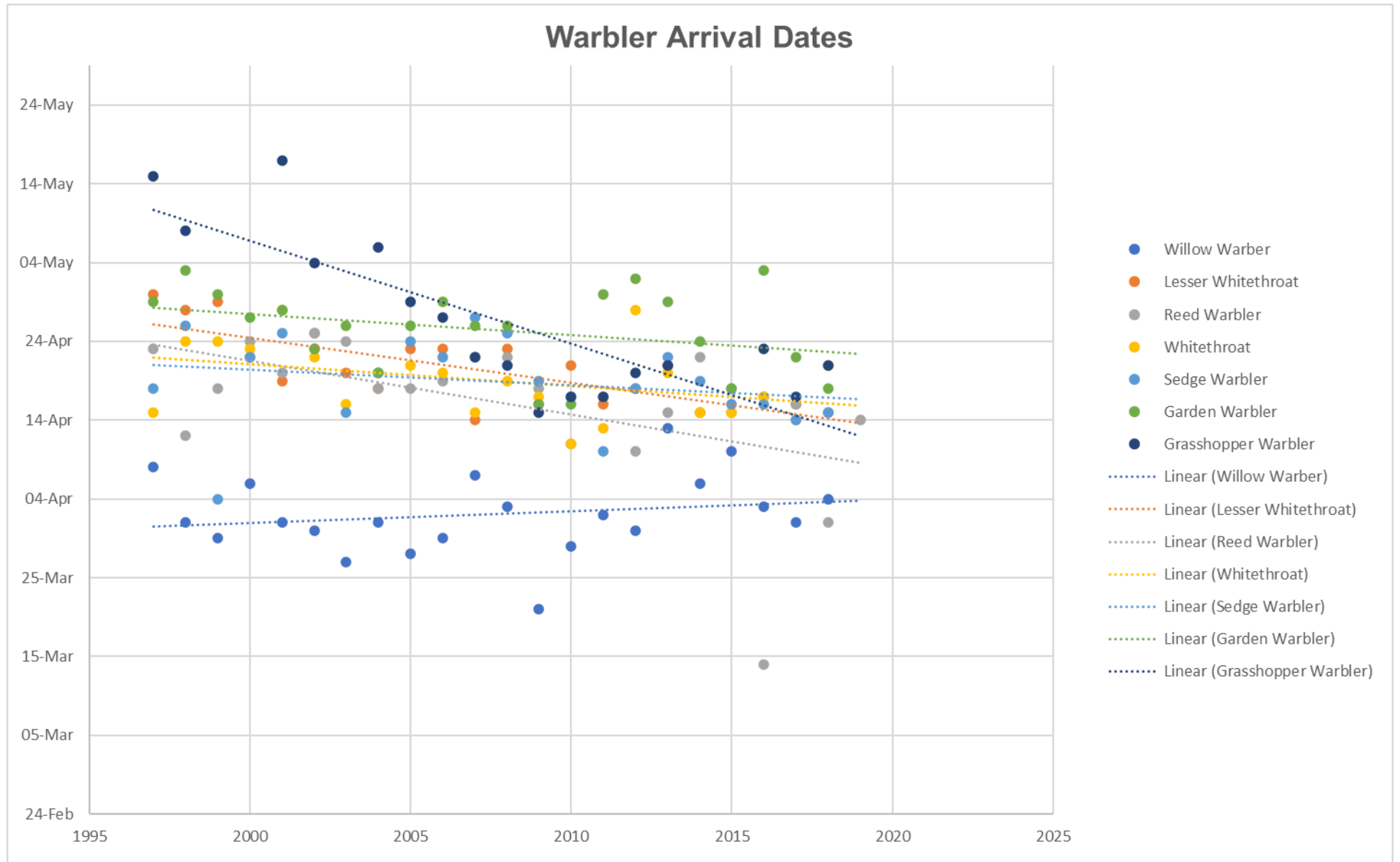
As mentioned in my Introduction, there were fewer records in the first half of the decade, so this may skew the data but the trend lines of only half the selected species support the statement in paragraph one, so I triple-checked to see if there was an error in the calculations and/or data.

There are probably several reasons for the data differing from the statement above, one could be that nationally the migrants are arriving earlier, but factors are slowing them down en route to our Recording Area. I'll let you draw your own conclusions ...

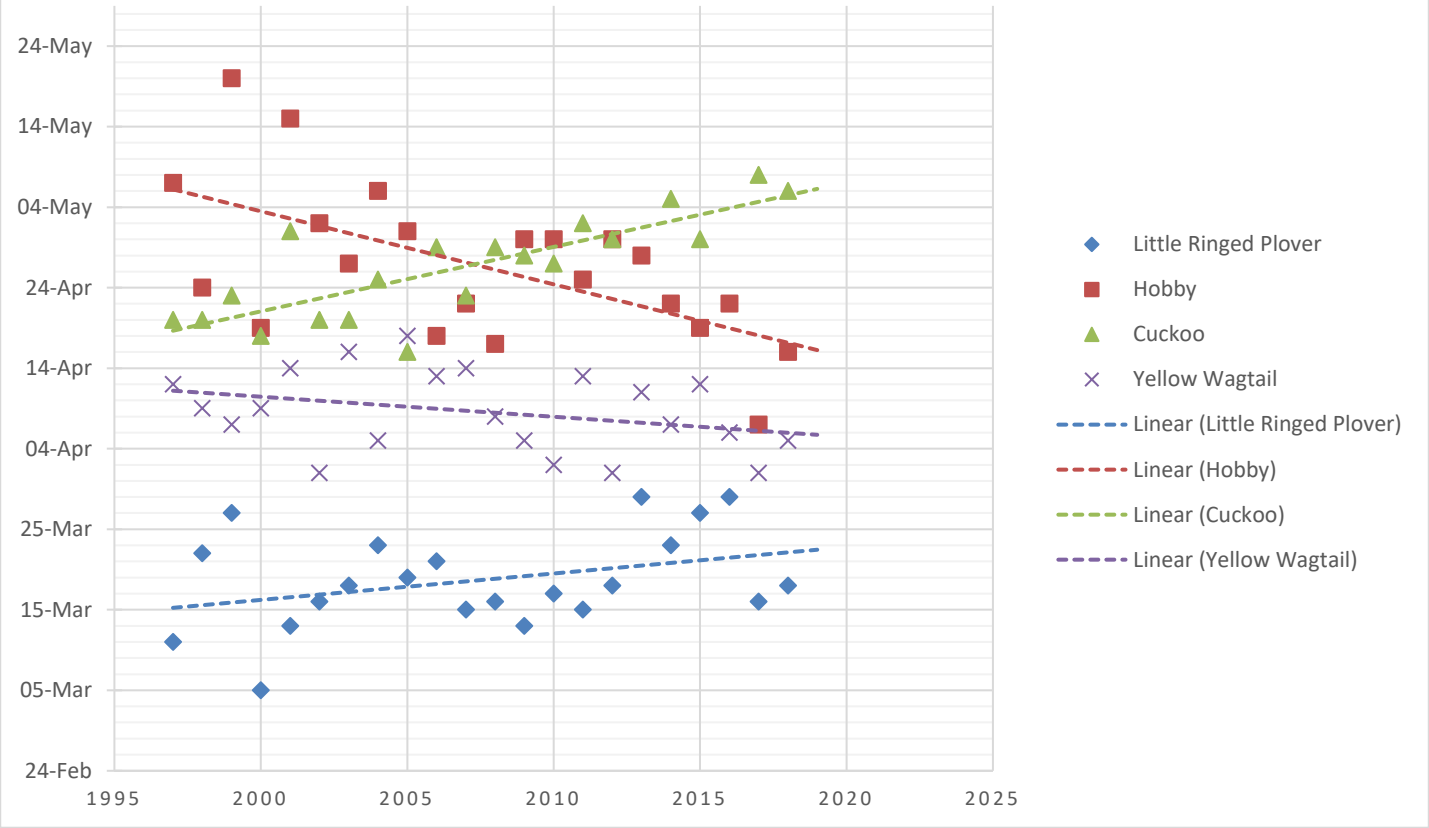
Swift & Hirundine Arrival Dates



SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019



Other Migrant Arrival Dates



SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey (GBS)

The first society-based members survey, the SECOS Winter GBS has been organised since 1985. Our best supported survey, this report would not be complete without including its data for the decade.

The GBS covers a 26-week period and takes place between October and March. Contributors, both members and non-members, count the birds in their garden and at the end of each week note on a form their highest count for each species. During the decade, between 49 and 53 contributors each year submitted their forms to Trevor making the sightings from this survey a significant part of the data.

At the end of each period, the forms are sent to the organiser, Trevor Clowes, who produces a report summarising the data. One area of analysis ranks the birds by “ ... [order of number of bird/week record occurrences, as a measure of their commonality within this survey.](#)”

The Top 22 each period appears in the table entitled “Ranking of Listed Species” – this table includes the highest single count. A second table entitled “Ranking of Other Species” lists those outside that periods Top 22.

The table below summarises the data from the reports for the decade this document covers and is listed by Systematic Order :-

Key: - R = rank # = highest single count (if included) * = from 2012, the table for species ranked lower than 22nd included highest count, for 2010 & 2011 I have used number of gardens visited (ranked lower than 22nd)

Species	10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19	
	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#
Feral Pigeon ↑	-	1*	37	1*	39	30	42	5	37	4	33	4	42	4	30	8	27	6	27	11
Stock Dove ↑	37	2*	36	5*	41	4	34	3	28	4	26	6	28	5	31	8	28	12	28	12
Wood Pigeon ↑	4	82	4	35	4	35	3	16	2	18	1	20	1	24	1	26	3	45	1	15
Collared Dove ↓	7	19	7	9	7	11	8	14	7	9	9	13	11	9	10	9	13	6	14	5
Sparrowhawk ~	22	4	22	2	21	2	21	1	21	2	20	2	21	2	21	2	22	2	22	2
Buzzard ↓	40	3*	50	3*	32	1	44	1	42	1	38	3	47	1	49	1	48	2	48	3
Tawny Owl ↓	37	4*	42	2*	33	2	40	2	38	2	42	2	35	2	37	2	41	2	41	1

Species	10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19	
	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#
Kestrel ↓	44	4*	46	5*	48	1	47	1	48	1	47	1	50	1	49	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine	52	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker ↑	23	23*	24	26*	24	2	23	3	23	2	23	3	20	3	20	3	20	5	20	2
Green Woodpecker ↓	52	1*	53	2*	51	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jay ↓	25	11*	26	15*	27	3	25	3	32	2	25	7	27	8	28	6	30	9	30	6
Magpie ↑	14	11	13	9	11	12	10	6	9	12	7	9	8	9	6	7	7	7	6	13
Jackdaw ↑	19	40	19	40	16	40	17	40	14	22	15	23	13	66	13	25	16	80	12	80
Rook ↑	36	8*	33	7*	38	40	30	40	30	20	31	12	29	54	29	42	31	100	25	50
Carrion Crow ↑	20	10	17	7	18	4	18	6	18	14	17	19	18	4	17	6	18	5	16	4
Raven ~	52	1*	50	2*	42	2	48	1	-	-	-	-	50	2	54	1	-	-	49	1
Coal Tit ~	12	5	11	8	14	7	11	17	13	5	13	6	9	8	15	6	10	7	13	6
Marsh / Willow Tit	52	2*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Tit ~	2	30	3	12	2	12	2	20	3	14	3	13	2	17	3	30	1	16	4	15
Great Tit ~	8	20	8	12	8	15	7	19	6	10	5	12	5	9	7	11	6	14	7	14
Long-tailed Tit ↓	16	40	15	17	17	17	16	15	17	15	18	15	16	14	18	24	14	22	18	15
Blackcap ~	31	16*	32	15*	33	4	29	2	26	2	28	3	31	4	34	3	26	3	29	3
Goldcrest ~	33	23*	25	17*	35	3	27	3	28	2	29	2	25	3	24	4	25	3	32	2
Wren ↓	13	15	16	3	15	3	15	2	15	2	14	4	14	8	14	3	15	6	17	2
Nuthatch ~	18	4	18	3	19	2	19	8	19	4	19	3	19	3	19	3	19	6	19	4
Starling ↓	9	100k	10	200	12	80	13	150	12	50	12	70	15	63	12	50	12	100	11	200

SECOS Bird Report 2010 to 2019

Species	10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19	
	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#	R	#
Blackbird ↓	1	25	1	15	1	20	1	19	1	16	2	23	3	22	2	14	4	15	2	15
Redwing ↓	26	10*	41	14*	26	60	37	25	25	50	37	20	31	100	35	30	33	30	36	12
Fieldfare ↓	26	13*	39	11*	31	50	32	50	35	12	39	3	42	5	39	10	34	80	37	9
Song Thrush ~	17	3	20	4	20	3	20	2	20	2	21	3	22	3	22	2	21	3	21	3
Mistle Thrush ↓	28	17*	38	12*	28	3	33	2	33	2	33	3	33	4	33	3	38	2	34	3
Robin ~	3	7	3	7	3	10	4	5	4	11	4	6	4	5	4	4	2	7	3	8
House Sparrow ↓	6	71	5	45	6	70	6	60	8	28	8	25	7	25	8	40	8	30	8	28
Dunnock ~	5	10	6	6	5	11	5	7	5	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	6	5	9
Pied Wagtail ↓	21	4	21	3	21	3	22	3	22	4	22	3	45	2	26	3	24	5	26	3
Chaffinch ~	10	16	9	24	9	23	9	32	10	24	11	32	12	30	11	22	9	22	10	16
Bullfinch ~	24	15*	23	24*	23	6	24	4	24	7	24	7	23	7	23	6	23	6	23	7
Greenfinch ~	15	20	14	32	13	30	14	18	16	12	16	15	17	15	16	9	17	9	15	9
Goldfinch ~	11	36	12	35	10	31	12	30	11	27	10	36	10	30	9	36	11	37	9	54

My interpretation of fluctuations in the ranks: -

↑ = climbing ‘~’ = stable/roughly the same ↓ = dropping

The two tables mentioned at the top of this section of the report, list over 50 species each year and it has not been practical to include them all.

References

The Systematic List that makes up the bulk of this document is a compilation of the Sightings Section of the Society's monthly newsletter, "The Observer" and incorporates data from: -

- the logbooks at Sandbach Flashes (Elton Hall Flash) and Rode Pool
- The Birds of Sandbach Flashes 2011 to 2016
- bird reports for Doddington and Rode Pool 2012 to 2019

and more recently: -

- detailed observations from the fieldworkers covering the SECOS Winter and Breeding Bird Survey [SWaBBS] patches
- The SECOS Winter Garden Bird Survey
- The CAWOS Bird Report 2010 to 2018
- Arclid SQ Report (Tony Ford) and Eaton Hall SQ Report (Ken Capps)
- The British Trust for Ornithology's [BTO] BirdTrack® and WeBS®
- various BTO species specific surveys
- blogs, social media, etc.
- or sent directly to me by telephone, email, text, etc.

I have also used the following resources for background information about individual species:

- Wikipedia
- Collins Bird Guide
- CAWOS Atlas – "Birds of Cheshire and Wirral – a breeding and wintering atlas"
- 45th annual Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) Report - rare breeding birds in the UK in 2018

Acknowledgements

Some of the data I have access to includes WeBS, BBS. As requested, 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)

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.