



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

May 2023

Field Trip

Goyt Valley

Tuesday 9th May

Goyt Valley is located a few miles to the northwest of Buxton. The valley has two big drinking-water reservoirs called Fernilee and Errwood. They are both fed by the River Goyt and provide drinking water for Stockport and its surrounding areas. The Valley is rich in wildlife and May is an ideal time to visit when the spring migrants have returned.



Goyt Valley - Chris Hoare



Astbury Mere CP - Jonathan Hutchins

Summer Walk

Astbury Mere

Wednesday 17th May

Astbury Mere has a rich history dating back to the 18th century. Formerly, silica sand was quarried on the site. In the 1970s, the lake and surrounding parkland were purchased by the local council and transformed into a public park. Today, the area forms a shallow bowl, centred on Astbury Mere, with surrounding grassland, woodland and plantation.

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



Field Trip

RSPB Old Moor

Sunday 21st May

RSPB Old Moor lies in the heart of Yorkshire's Dearne Valley. In May, the reserve comes alive with the sounds and colours of nature. The lush greenery of the wetlands is dotted with vibrant wildflowers, creating a stunning backdrop for the busy birdlife. The reedbeds and muddy scrapes are home to some of the UK's rarest birds such as avocets, bitterns and marsh harriers.

Sightings - April

Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper; 2nd Goldeneye, Whooper Swan, Great White Egret, Tree Sparrow,; 3rd Fieldfare, Red Kite; 4th Little Egret; 6th White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Dipper, Egyptian Goose, Kingfisher; 7th Redshank, Wheatear; 8th Brambling; 9th Common Sandpiper, Hobby; 11th Barnacle Goose, Redstart; 12th Ring Ouzel; 16th Pink-footed Goose; 17th White Stork, Mandarin Duck; 19th Cattle Egret, Sedge Warbler; 20th Greenshank, Pintail; 22nd Grasshopper Warbler, Common Whitethroat; 23rd Garganey, Wood Sandpiper; 24th Osprey, Cuckoo, Whinchat; 25th Green Woodpecker, Short-eared Owl; 27th Dunlin, Lesser Whitethroat; 28th Whimbrel, Common Tern, Swift; 29th Garden Warbler, Black Redstart



Cattle Egret - Dennis Swaby

EHF/PHF

Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 4
Little Egret	regular, max 3
Cattle Egret	1, 19 th -21 st
Great White Egret	1, 2 nd , 11 th & 26 th

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max 5
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 29
Common Gull	1, 13 th
Herring Gull	regular, max 13
Great Black-b Gull	1, 13 th

CF = Crabmill Flash

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FF = Fodens Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

PHF = Pump House Flash

RF = Railway Flash

WF = Warmingham Flash

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

Blue text indicates place first seen.

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

Regular means 4+ days per month.

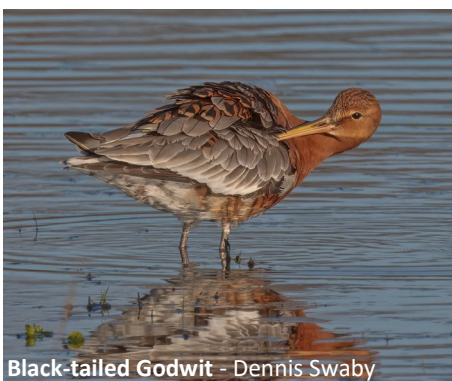
Sightings - April

EHF/PHF

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 40
Wigeon	regular, max 16
Gadwall	regular, max 5
Teal	regular, max 50
Mallard	regular, max 36
Pintail	2, 20 th
Garganey	1, 30 th
Shoveler	regular, max 28
Tufted Duck	regular, max 13
Goldeneye	1, 29 th -30 th
Goosander	regular, max 3
Pink-footed Goose	1, 12 th -14 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 11
Canada Goose	regular, max 20
Barnacle Goose	3, 21 st
G C Grebe	regular, max 11
Coot	regular, max 14
Moorhen	regular, max 10
Mute Swan	regular, max 7
Whooper Swan	4, 2 nd
Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 6
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 8
Lapwing	regular, max 5
Dunlin	max 18, 28 th
Common Snipe	1, 2 nd
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 22
White Stork	1 flyover, 17 th
Curlew	1, 17 th
Whimbrel	Max 6, 28 th
Redshank	1, 20 th
Greenshank	1, 20 th
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 5
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 2
Wood Sandpiper	1, 23 rd



Little Ringed Plover - Dennis Swaby



Black-tailed Godwit - Dennis Swaby

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	regular, max 2
Peregrine	1, 8 th & 14 th
Common Buzzard	regular, max 7
Osprey	1 flyover, 24 th
Kestrel	2, 2 nd
Hobby	1, 9 th & 26 th



Mallard chasing off a Grey Heron - Dennis Swaby

Sightings Elsewhere



Black Redstart, Astbury - Emma Perkins
(finder & photographer)

Alsager - Fanny's Croft: Redstart, Yellow Wagtail, Stonechat, Wheatear, Whitethroat

Arclid: Tree Sparrow, Great White Egret, Wheatear, Hobby, Kingfisher

Astbury - Glebe Farm: Black Redstart

Brereton Heath: Blackcap, Goldcrest, Great Crested Grebe, Nuthatch, Sparrowhawk

Congleton: River Dane: Dipper, Kingfisher, Goosander, Mandarin Duck, Whooper Swan

Crewe - Macon Meadows: Redstart

Rode Pool: Egyptian Goose, Mandarin Duck, Red Kite, Great Crested Grebe, Great White Egret, Green Woodpecker, Grey

EHF/PHF: Cuckoo, Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler, White Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Fieldfare, Skylark Swift, Wheatear, Whitethroat, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap, Jay, Kingfisher, Tree Sparrow

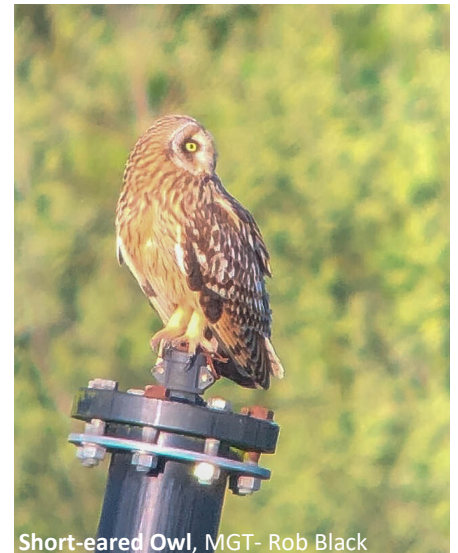
CF: Yellow Wagtail

MGT: Grasshopper Warbler, Green Woodpecker, Short-eared Owl, Whinchat, Whitethroat, Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Tree Sparrow, Wheatear, Whimbrel, Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail

RF: Garganey, Lesser Whitethroat, Cetti's Warbler, Common Sandpiper, Grasshopper Warbler, Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper, Hobby, Sedge Warbler, Sparrowhawk, Tree Sparrow, Wheatear, Whitethroat, Common Tern



Wheatear (Greenland subspecies), MGT
- Rob Black



Short-eared Owl, MGT- Rob Black

Doddington: Barnacle Goose, Redshank, Common Tern, Wheatear, Swift, Common Sandpiper, Goldeneye, Great Crested Grebe, Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Red Kite, Shelduck, Shoveler, Sparrowhawk, Swift, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Fieldfare, Little Grebe, Skylark

Middlewich: Ring Ouzel, Grasshopper Warbler

Moston: Cuckoo, Lesser Whitethroat

Shavington: Brambling

Woolston Eyes - 4th April



Nine members met at the gate on Thelwall Lane to gain access to the road up to Woolston Eyes No. 3 Bed. As we were getting ready in the small car park, a call came from three more members who couldn't find the access road but Mike came to their rescue in Lidl's car park and we were soon setting off across the locked bridge onto the reserve. Working our way to The John Morgan Hide, hearing chiffchaffs, robins and dunnocks sing, we picked up the usual Canada and greylag geese, black-headed gulls, tufted ducks and plenty of gadwall on No.3 bed. A great spotted woodpecker was busy taking seed from the feeders, a marsh harrier was seen over the reedbed and sand martins were plentiful, hawking insects over the water. To our surprise no black-necked grebes were visible but the Woolston Eyes Recorder told us they were further along the track, visible from the Warrington Rotary Hide. After a short walk we found the hide and a couple of black-necked grebes were soon found up against the reeds just coming into their full breeding plumage.

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Woolston Eyes (continued)



As lunchtime was approaching, we walked back to the cars through the wildflower meadows laid down to feed finches over the winter. After lunch, we drove down to the next car park by No. 4 Bed, a new area recently opened to Woolston Eyes members, which is a linear walk to a hide and viewing platform. We didn't walk all the way to the hide but stopped to overlook the large reedbed and water. Several mute swans and other wildfowl were present along with oystercatcher, lapwing and more black-headed gulls, and one sharp-eyed ex-chairman spotted a kingfisher flying across the water. On the walk back we heard, for some, our first willow warblers of the year and then we found one moving around in the trees.

A £5 per person permit fee was collected from non-WECG members and £45 has been sent to WECG. Thank you for your support.

In total, we saw 44 species which are listed below:

Greylag goose, Canada goose, Mute swan, Common shelduck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Teal, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Common pheasant, Little grebe, Great crested grebe, Black-necked grebe, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Black-headed gull, Lesser black-backed gull, Cormorant, Grey heron, Little egret, Marsh harrier, Common buzzard, Kingfisher, Great spotted woodpecker, Kestrel, Jay, Magpie, Carrion crow, Blue tit, Great tit, Sand martin, Blackcap, Willow warbler, Chiffchaff, Cetti's warbler, Wren, Robin, Dunnock, Greenfinch, Reed bunting.

Ian and Lydia Taylor

Diary Dates



9th May 10.00 a.m.

Field Trip

Goyt Valley

Leader: Mike Tonks

17th May 7.00 p.m.

Summer Walk

Astbury Mere


Leader: Ian Taylor

21st May 10.00 a.m.


Field Trip

RSPB Old Moor

Leader: Ian Taylor

 SECOS Website: www.secos.org.uk

 SECOS Blog (to read/record local sightings): www.secos.org.uk/sightings

 Sandbach Flashes: This medium does not do justice to the images that Dennis Swaby captures at Sandbach Flashes. Some of the images have been uploaded to www.sandbachflashes.co.uk