



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

Summer Walk

July 2026

Knypersley Reservoir Wednesday 22nd July



Knypersley Reservoir - Mike Peel

Built in the late 1820s to supply water to the Caldon Canal, Knypersley Reservoir was designed by Thomas Telford and remains an impressive feature of the Staffordshire landscape today. The reservoir provides an attractive setting for a relaxed summer evening walk, with open water, woodland and moorland attracting a good variety of birds.

June Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Avocet, Garganey, Little Ringed Plover; 2nd Garden Warbler, Red Grouse, Tree Sparrow, W; 4th Cuckoo, Dipper, Goosander, Oystercatcher; 5th Egyptian Goose, Little Grebe; 7th White Stork; 8th Yellowhammer; 12th Barn Owl; 14th Kingfisher, Mandarin Duck; 15th Raven; 16th Tawny Owl; 17th Hobby, Red Kite; 19th Pied Flycatcher; 22nd Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper; 23rd Ruff; 25th Green-winged Teal; 30th Curlew

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jun

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	max 2, 20 th
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 50+
Herring Gull	regular, max 6
Common Tern	1

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	max 3, 20 th

Raptors & Owls	Count
Hobby	1, 17 th

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome the following new member to SECOS this month:

Deborah Allen

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jun

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 12
Wigeon	1, 20 th
Gadwall	regular, max 15+
Teal	regular, max 5
Green-winged Teal	1, 25 th , 30 th
Mallard	regular, max 100+
Shoveler	2, 14 th
Tufted Duck	2, 14 th
Garganey	regular, max 1
Mandarin Duck	1, 14 th , 20 th
Greylag Goose	2, 1 st
Canada Goose	regular, max 7
G C Grebe	1, 14 th
Coot	regular, max 33
Moorhen	regular, max 4
Mute Swan	regular, max 3



Gadwall - Dennis Swaby



Common Tern - Dennis Swaby

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	1, 4 th , 14 th , 20 th
Lapwing	regular, max 86
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 13
Avocet	max 2, 6 th
Curlew	4, 30 th
Ruff	1, 23 rd
Common Sandpiper	1, 23 rd



Oystercatcher - Dennis Swaby

CF = Crabmill Flash

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

FF = Fodens Flash

FFF = Fields Farm Flash

GF = Groby Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

OTF = Oak Tree Flash

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).

Swettenham Valley - 24th June



Twelve members and two guests enjoyed a leisurely walk through the Swettenham Valley and the adjacent Lovell Quinta Arboretum. With temperatures climbing to 28°C, hats, sun cream and plenty of water were every bit as important as binoculars!

Bird species seen/heard: woodpigeon, lapwing, buzzard, great spotted woodpecker, kestrel, magpie, jackdaw, carrion crow, blue tit, swallow, chiffchaff, blackcap, goldcrest, wren, nuthatch, treecreeper, song thrush, blackbird, house sparrow, dunnock, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch

Trip Count = 23 species

2026 SECOS Field Trips Total = 164

Donations totalling £25 were collected from members and placed in the Lovell Quinta Arboretum collection box.

Thanks to Lydia and Ian for organising and leading a walk that avoided the overgrown vegetation and the long-horned cattle!

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Hobby, Sand Martin, Swallow, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Tree Sparrow

Alsager - Treatment Works: Stock Dove, Grey Wagtail

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Little Ringed Plover

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR: Great Crested Grebe, Swallow

Bridgemere - Parrah Green: Barn Owl

Bridgemere - Bridgemere Farm: Red Grouse, Lapwing, Buzzard, Kestrel, Skylark, Swallow, House Martin, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat

Church Lawton - Lawton Gate Treatment Works: Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Dane in Shaw Brook: Mandarin Duck

Congleton - Little Moreton Hall: Oystercatcher, House Martin

Congleton - River Dane: Goosander, Dipper, Grey Wagtail

Crangle, NW of Holmes Chapel: White Stork

Crewe: Red Kite



Reed Warbler - Dennis Swaby

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Egyptian Goose, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Buzzard, Raven, Garden Warbler

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Pied Flycatcher

Haslington: Red Kite

Kidsgrove - Kidsgrove Treatment Works: Grey Wagtail

Middlewich: Red Kite

Sightings Elsewhere - Jun



Stock Dove - Dennis Swaby

Rode Heath: Hobby

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: Egyptian Goose, Mandarin Duck, Tufted Duck, **Tawny Owl**

Sandbach - Bradwall: **White Stork**

Sandbach – Moston: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Magpie, Rook, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Yellowhammer

Scholar Green: **Barn Owl**, Yellowhammer

Walgherton - Lea Forge: **Bar-tailed Godwit**, Red Kite

This is a small selection of species seen in the SECOS Recording Area.

A full listing is on the website:

<https://www.secos.org.uk/sightings/>



Blackcap - Dennis Swaby

Diary Dates



13th Jul 7.30 pm

Committee Meeting

22nd Jul 7.00 pm

Summer Walk

Knypersley Reservoir

Leader: Tom Graham



SECOS Website: <https://www.secos.org.uk>



SECOS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SECOS1964>



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 <https://sandbachflashes.co.uk/>