



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

August 2025

July Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Little Ringed Plover, Red Kite, Whitethroat; 4th Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Dipper, Goosander, Kingfisher, Oystercatcher, Raven; 5th Black-tailed Godwit, Mandarin Duck; 8th Common Scoter, Hobby, Quail; 9th Green Sandpiper, Redshank; 11th Little Grebe, Pochard, Sedge Warbler, Yellow Wagtail; 12th Common Tern; 14th Cetti's Warbler, Yellow-legged Gull; 21st Grey Partridge, Ring-necked Parakeet, Spotted Flycatcher; 22nd Egyptian Goose; 25th Crossbill; 27th Common Gull, Grasshopper Warbler

Sightings EHF/PHF - Jul

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 13
Gadwall	6, 5 th
Teal	regular, max 14
Mallard	regular, max c330
Shoveler	1, 5 th , 8 th , 20 th
Mandarin Duck	8, 27 th
Goosander	7, 27 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 38
Canada Goose	regular, max 34+
Coot	regular, max 23
Moorhen	regular, max 18
Mute Swan	regular, max 3



Goosanders - Dennis Swaby

Sightings EHF/PHF - Jul

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	regular, max 8
Lapwing	regular, max c170
Little Ringed Plover	7, 9 th
Curlew	regular, max 27
Black-tailed Godwit	1, 5 th
Redshank	1, 9 th
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 1
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 3



Common Tern - Dennis Swaby



Common Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby



Oystercatcher - Dennis Swaby



Cetti's Warbler - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c120
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max c100
Herring Gull	regular, max 20
Common Gull	1, 27 th
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 14 th , 19 th , 31 st
Great Black-b Gull	1, 27 th
Common Tern	regular, max 6

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).

Sightings EHF/PHF - Jul



Sedge Warbler - Dennis Swaby



Whitethroat - Dennis Swaby

Raptors & Owls	Count
Buzzard	1, 27 th
Hobby	1, 19 th

Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 3

Fanny's Croft, Alsager - 16th Jul



17 members enjoyed a walk on a beautiful summer's evening at Fanny's Croft, Alsager.

The highlight was at least four yellow wagtails.

Thank you to Jean and Nick Harrison for organising and leading the walk.

Species seen/heard were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Swift, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Kestrel, Jay, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Swallow, House Martin, Long-tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Wren, Nuthatch, Starling, Song Thrush, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail, Greenfinch, Goldfinch

Trip Count = 24 species

2025 SECOS Field Trips Total = 161 species

Sightings Elsewhere - Jul



Blue Tit - Dennis Swaby

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Stock Dove, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hobby, **Cetti's Warbler**, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Reed Warbler, **Grasshopper Warbler**, Blackcap

FFF: Stock Dove, Collared Dove, Grey Heron, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, **Whitethroat**, Mistle Thrush, Reed Bunting

Alsager: **Ring-necked Parakeet**

Alsager - Alsager Treatment Works: Buzzard, Swallow, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail

Astbury: Red Kite

Barthomley, SE of Crewe: Raven, **Crossbill**

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR: Tufted Duck, Stock Dove, Great Crested Grebe, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, **Spotted Flycatcher**

Bridgemere: **Quail**

Checkley: **Grey Partridge**, **Quail**, Red Kite, **Hobby**

Congleton: **Spotted Flycatcher**

Congleton - Mossley: Stock Dove, Sparrowhawk, **Red Kite**, Buzzard, Swallow, Blackcap, **Whitethroat**

Congleton - River Dane: Mandarin Duck, **Goosander**, **Kingfisher**, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail

Crewe: Jay

Dane Valley - Hillmoor Farm to Colley Mill: Goosander, Stock Dove, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail

Doddington - Doddington Pool: **Pochard**, Tufted Duck, **Common Scoter**, Stock Dove, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, **Little Ringed Plover**, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, Grey Heron, **Red Kite**, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Kestrel, Jay, **Raven**, Swallow, House Martin, **Sedge Warbler**, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Mistle Thrush, **Yellow Wagtail**, Grey Wagtail, Reed Bunting

Eaton, N of Congleton: Grey Heron, Dipper

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Buzzard, Kestrel, Swallow

Haslington: **Red Kite**

Holmes Chapel: Woodpigeon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Magpie, Goldfinch

Rode Heath: Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Hobby, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Nuthatch

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Teal, Stock Dove, Great Crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Raven, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Mistle Thrush, Reed Bunting

Sandbach - Malkins Bank: Hobby

Shavington/Hough: Stock Dove, Buzzard, Swallow, House Martin, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Treecreeper

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/>

Sightings Elsewhere - Jul

Swettenham - Swettenham Meadows: Stock Dove, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, House Martin, Nuthatch, Treecreeper

Swettenham - The Quinta: Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Raven, Swallow, House Martin, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Spotted Flycatcher

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Swallow

Wheelock - Forge Fields: House Martin, Blackcap



Long-tailed Tit - Dennis Swaby

Diary Dates



19 Aug

Committee Meeting



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/>