



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

August 2026

July Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Dipper, Kingfisher, Little Ringed Plover; 2nd Hobby; 3rd Arctic Tern, Green-winged Teal; 4th Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Mandarin Duck, Oystercatcher, Yellow Wagtail, Yellowhammer; 5th Common Tern, Whitethroat; 6th Little Egret, Red Kite; 15th Quail; 17th Little Grebe; 18th Goosander; 21st Egyptian Goose; 23rd Great White Egret; 24th Yellow-legged Gull; 26th Dunlin; 27th Common Gull, Lesser Whitethroat, Snipe; 28th Curlew; 30th Ruddy Shelduck

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jul

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 6
Wigeon	1, 12 th , 27 th , 28 th
Gadwall	max 2, 27 th
Teal	max 18, 4 th
Green-winged Teal	1, 3 rd
Mallard	regular, max c150
Mandarin Duck	regular, max 2
Goosander	6, 18 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 14
Canada Goose	regular, max 20+
Coot	regular, max 14
Moorhen	regular, max 13

Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 2
Little Egret	regular, max 6
Great White Egret	1, 23 rd



Little Egret - Dennis Swaby

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

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Jul

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	max 2, 12 th
Lapwing	regular, max 60
Little Ringed Plover	max 3, 4 th
Dunlin	4, 26 th
Curlew	max 10, 30 th
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 1
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 5



Black-headed Gull - Dennis Swaby



Common Tern - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c320
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 105
Herring Gull	regular, max 3
Common Gull	max 2, 28 th
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 24 th
Common Tern	max 4, 28 th
Arctic Tern	max 4, 3 rd

Raptors & Owls	Count
Buzzard	1, 1 st , 14 th



Green Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby



Grey Heron - 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).

Knypersley Reservoir - 22nd July



Ten members enjoyed a leisurely walk around the reservoir.

Bird species seen/heard: Canada goose, mandarin duck (at least two juveniles), mallard, woodpigeon, coot, great crested grebe (including juveniles), black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull, cormorant, grey heron, tawny owl (heard), kingfisher (juvenile), carrion crow, chiffchaff, wren, blackbird, robin,

Trip Count = 17 species

2026 SECOS Field Trips Total = 166

Thanks to Tom Graham for leading.

Sightings Elsewhere - Jul

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Swift, Stock Dove, Jay, Swallow, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail

FFF: Swift, Hobby, Jay, Swallow, Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail

Alsager: Swift

Alsager - Fanny's Croft: Skylark, Swallow, **Whitethroat**, Yellow Wagtail

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Great Crested Grebe

Barthomley, SE of Crewe: Hobby

Brownlow: Buzzard

Congleton: Swift

Congleton - Congleton Link Road West: Red Kite

Congleton - River Dane: Mandarin Duck, Swift, Grey Heron, Red Kite, Kingfisher, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Treatment Works: Sparrowhawk, Grey Wagtail,

Congleton - Wall Hill: Red Kite

Crewe: Swift

Crewe - Weston: Buzzard

Dane Valley - Hillmoor Farm to Colley Mill: Grey Wagtail

Doddington: Red Kite

Doddington - Doddington Pool: **Ruddy Shelduck**, Tufted Duck, **Quail**, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, **Snipe**, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, Little Egret, Red Kite, Swallow, **Lesser Whitethroat**, Yellow Wagtail



Chiffchaff - Dennis Swaby

Ettiley Heath: **Common Tern**

Goostrey - Train Station: Great Spotted Woodpecker

Haslington: Swift, Red Kite

Hassall Green, SE of Sandbach: **Red Kite**, Buzzard, Kestrel

Rode Heath: Swift, **Oystercatcher**, Kestrel, **Hobby**, Jay, Mistle Thrush, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Yellowhammer**

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

Sandbach - Bradwall Green: Yellowhammer

Sandbach Heath: Kestrel

Swettenham: Goosander

Swettenham - River Dane: Mandarin Duck

Wheelock: **Kingfisher**



Swift - Dennis Swaby

Diary Dates



No diary dates this month



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/>