



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

September 2023

"Gateway to Sahara"

Keith Offord

Friday 8th September

To quote Keith "Morocco is so close to Europe and yet so far, both in terms of culture and wildlife. It is a country rich in diversity, from the high alpine crags of the Atlas mountains to the edges of the Sahara desert. Morocco boasts a fascinating range of birds and other wildlife. 8 species of wheatear, 11 species of lark, cream-coloured coursers, bald ibis and black-crowned tchagra are just a few of the species."



© Keith Offord

Hoopoe Lark



Attenborough Nature Reserve - Wikimedia Commons

Field Trip

Attenborough NR

Sunday 17th September

Attenborough Nature Reserve comprises a beautiful complex of flooded former gravel pits and islands, providing exceptional habitats for a wide range of wildlife. It is a nationally important site for birds with over 250 species recorded. It also has hundreds of species of plants and insects. It is cited as one of the best places in the UK to see kingfisher and is home to rare wildlife including bitterns and otters. An article in BBC Wildlife listed it as number 9 in a top 10 'eco places in the world'.

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

Sightings - August

Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Egyptian Goose, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mandarin Duck, Raven; 2nd Common Scoter; 3rd Oystercatcher; 4th Quail; 5th Barn Owl; 8th Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher; 10th Goosander, Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper; 11th Dipper; 12th Scaup, Common Snipe; 13th Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail; 17th Black-tailed Godwit; 18th Black Tern, Greenshank, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Yellow-legged Gull; 19th Common Tern; 20th Cetti's Warbler, Hobby, Ruff; 22nd Common Gull, Redshank; 25th Yellowhammer; 29th Barnacle Goose, Black-necked Grebe

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 2
Wigeon	regular, max 3
Gadwall	max 4, 27 th
Teal	regular, max 118
Mallard	regular, max c500
Shoveler	regular, max 47
Tufted Duck	max 9, 28 th
Scaup	1, 12 th , 23 rd , 30 th
Goosander	1, 18 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 122
Canada Goose	regular, max c800
Egyptian Goose	2, 30 th ; 1, 31 st
Barnacle Goose	1, 29 th ; 2, 30 th
G C Grebe	1, 26-28 th
Little Grebe	max 5, 28 th
Coot	regular, max 71
Moorhen	regular, max 10
Mute Swan	regular, max 7

Waders	Count
Oystercatcher	1, 21 st
Lapwing	regular, max c260
Common Snipe	regular, max 5
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 8
Curlew	regular, max 25
Greenshank	1, 18 th ; 3, 24 th
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 5
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 3

EHF/PHF



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 - August

EHF/PHF

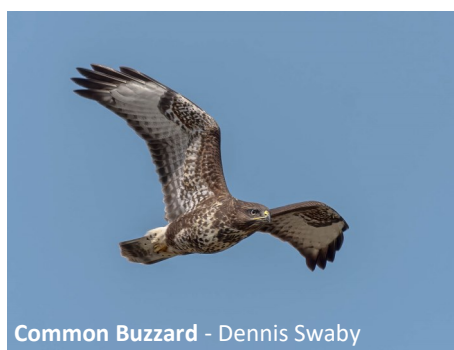
Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c355
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 72
Herring Gull	regular, max 16
Common Gull	2, 22 nd
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 18 th
Great Black-b Gull	1, 31 st



Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 4
Little Egret	regular, max 2
Great White Egret	regular, max 1



Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 28 th
Peregrine	1, 17 th
Common Buzzard	max 3, 26 th
Marsh Harrier	1, 18 th , 29 th
Kestrel	1, 28 th
Hobby	1, 30 th



Sightings Elsewhere

EHF/PHF: Swift, Raven, Yellow Wagtail, Spotted Flycatcher, **Cetti's Warbler**, Whitethroat
MGT: **Red Kite**, Kestrel, Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, **Wheatear**, **Yellow Wagtail**
RF: Swift, **Ruff**, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Great White Egret, **Hobby**, Stonechat
WLF, Sandbach Flashes: Barnacle Goose, **Common Scoter**
Alsager - Borrow Pit Meadows: Swift, **Barn Owl**
Alsager - Fanny's Croft: **Quail**, **Cuckoo**
Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Common Scoter, Swift, **Redshank**
Congleton - Giantswood Lane: Little Egret
Congleton - River Dane: Goosander, Kingfisher, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail
Doddington – Doddington/Lemon Pool: Egyptian Goose, Swift, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Oystercatcher**, Common Sandpiper, **Common Tern**, **Black Tern**, **Little Egret**, Kingfisher, Kestrel, **Raven**, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler
Middlewich - Lime Beds: Green Sandpiper, Whitethroat
Rode Heath - Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, **Mandarin Duck**, Great Crested Grebe, **Common Sandpiper**, **Kingfisher**
Sandbach - Elworth: Raven
Walgherton - Lea Forge: Hobby, Peregrine, **Spotted Flycatcher**

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/>

Diary Dates



8th Sep 7.30 p.m.

Indoor Meeting

17th Sep 10.00 p.m.

Field Trip

1st Oct

Survey

3rd Oct 10.00 a.m.

Field Trip

Gateway to Sahara

Speaker: Keith Offord

Attenborough NR

Leader: Ian Taylor

Winter Garden Bird Survey

Organiser: Nick Harrison

Doxey Marshes NR

Leader: Mike Tonks



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