



THE OBSERVER

SECOS Newsletter

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

September 2025



Red-throated Diver (non-breeding plumage) - Chris Tynan

"Birding Sites on the Four Estuaries of Liverpool Bay"

Chris Tynan

Friday 12th September

Chris' talk provides an overview of the four major estuaries on Liverpool Bay - the Ribble, Alt, Mersey and Dee. It highlights key birding sites, seasonal highlights, species to expect, habitat types and roosting sites. The talk draws on years of volunteer surveying work, local knowledge and RSPB-led initiatives in the

Field Trip

Marshside RSPB &
Hesketh Out Marsh RSPB
Sunday 28th September

This trip takes us to two RSPB reserves on the Ribble estuary, just north of Southport: Marshside in the morning, followed by Hesketh Out Marsh in the afternoon. These sites offer a rich mix of wetland habitats, including saltmarsh, creeks, lagoons, pools, mudflats and coastal grassland - ideal for a wide variety of birdlife. With migration well underway, there's always the potential for a rarity to turn up!



Marshside RSPB - Bill Boaden

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome new members, who have joined SECOS since the AGM in April: Andrea Bloomfield, Graham Plant, Jack & Jenny Ormiston, Thierry Noyel, Sharon Neild, Charlotte Neild. We look forward to meeting you at our indoor meetings and on field trips.

August Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Common Sandpiper, Common Scoter, Common Tern, Dipper, Goosander, Green Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Mandarin Duck, Swallow, Swift; 2nd Snipe; 3rd Barnacle Goose, Common Gull, House Martin, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Raven, Yellow-legged Gull; 4th Blackcap, Curlew, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite; 5th Little Grebe; 6th Crossbill, Hobby; 8th Red-legged Partridge, Reed Warbler, Willow Warbler; 11th Barn Owl; 12th Egyptian Goose, Tree Pipit; 18th Red-crested Pochard, Ringed Plover, Ruff; 20th Wheatear; 22nd Redshank, Spotted Redshank; 24th Water Rail; 25th Black-tailed Godwit; 26th Whimbrel; 28th Whinchat; 30th Tawny Owl; 31st Garden Warbler

Sightings EHF/PHF - Aug

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 3
Wigeon	1, 1 st
Gadwall	regular, max 22
Teal	regular, max c140
Mallard	regular, max c200
Shoveler	1, 3 rd , 6 th , 22 nd
Mandarin Duck	regular, max 3
Greylag Goose	regular, max 20
Canada Goose	regular, max 165+
Barnacle Goose	regular, max 1
Coot	regular, max 25+
Moorhen	regular, max 11
Mute Swan	regular, max 3

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 3 rd , 30 th
Buzzard	regular, max 3
Hobby	1, 29 th
Peregrine	1, 23 rd , 24 th



Peregrine - 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).

Sightings EHF/PHF - Aug

Waders	Count
Water Rail	1, 24 th
Lapwing	regular, max c100
Little Ringed Plover	regular, max 2
Ringed Plover	1, 18 th , 27 th
Curlew	regular, max 22
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 1
Snipe	regular, max 14
Redshank	1, 22 nd
Spotted Redshank	regular, max 1
Ruff	regular, max 5
Common Sandpiper	1, 1 st , 3 rd
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 8

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c160
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max c140
Herring Gull	regular, max 25
Common Gull	1, 3 rd , 22 nd , 23 rd
Yellow-legged Gull	regular, max 1
Common Tern	1, 1 st

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 3
Little Egret	1, 3 rd , 6 th



Ruff - Dennis Swaby



Common Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby

Sightings Elsewhere - Aug

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Swift, Stock Dove, **Kingfisher**, Jay, Raven, **Swallow**, **House Martin**, Chiffchaff, **Garden Warbler**, Goldcrest, , **Whinchat**, **Wheatear**, Grey Wagtail

FFF: Stock Dove, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Peregrine, Swallow, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Greenfinch

WLF: **Barn Owl**

Alsager: Red Kite

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: **Red-crested Pochard**, Tufted Duck, **Common Scoter**, Great Crested Grebe, **Whimbrel**, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Swallow, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, Greenfinch

Bagmere Marsh: **Marsh Harrier**

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR: Lapwing, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow, **Blackcap**

Bridgemere - The Smallholding: Lapwing

Checkley: **Red Kite**

Church Lawton - Lawton Hall: Mandarin Duck

Congleton - Lower Heath: Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Mossley: Stock Dove, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Swallow, Chiffchaff

Congleton - River Dane: Mandarin Duck, **Raven**, **Dipper**, Grey Wagtail, **Tree Pipit**, **Crossbill**

Crewe - Quaker's Coppice: Hobby

Dane Valley - Hillmoor Farm to Colley Mill: Grey Wagtail

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Tufted Duck, **Goosander**, **Red-legged Partridge**, Swift, Stock Dove, **Little Grebe**, Great Crested Grebe, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Jay, Raven, Swallow, **Willow Warbler**, Chiffchaff, **Reed Warbler**, Blackcap, Nuthatch, Greenfinch, Reed Bunting

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kestrel, Swallow

Haslington: Sparrowhawk, Red Kite

Hassall, NW of Alsager: Hobby

Marton, N of Congleton - Waste Treatment Works: Buzzard

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Teal, Tufted Duck, Swift, Common Sandpiper, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Raven, Swallow, Chiffchaff, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Nuthatch, 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 - Aug

Wheatears - Dennis Swaby



Scholar Green: **Swift**, **Hobby**, Tree Pipit

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow, Chiffchaff

Wheelock - Forge Fields: Sparrowhawk, **Tawny Owl**, Chiffchaff, Greenfinch

Diary Dates



12th Sep 7.30 pm
Indoor Meeting

**"Birding Sites on the Four Estuaries
of the Liverpool Bay"**

Speaker: Chris Tynan

21st Sep from 10.00 am
Open Day

Hassall Green Nature Reserve
SECOS Coordinator: Mike Tonks

28th Sep 10.00 am
Sunday Field Trip

Marshside & Hesketh Out Marsh
Leader: Mike Tonks



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/>