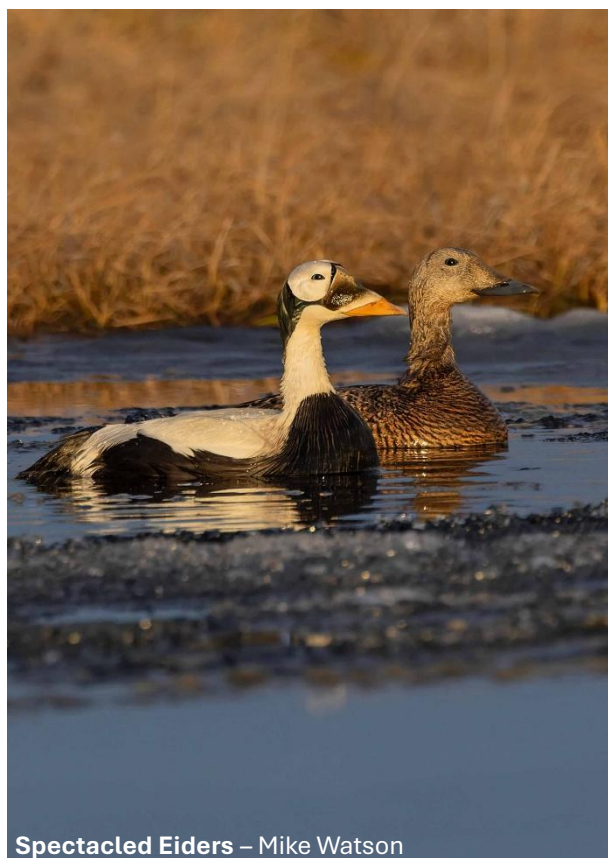




NEWSLETTER

THE OBSERVER

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



Spectacled Eiders – Mike Watson

"Wild Alaska"

Mike Watson

Friday 11th September

Journey into Alaska's immense wilderness, where Arctic tundra, rugged mountains and wild coasts support remarkable wildlife. From exquisitely patterned Spectacled Eiders to birds and mammals of far north, *Wild Alaska* promises a memorable evening of photography, adventure and discovery.

Field Trip

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Sunday 20th September

Join us for a visit to Middleton Lakes, one of the Midlands' premier wetland reserves. With a variety of habitats including lakes, reedbeds, meadows and woodland, the reserve offers great birdwatching throughout the year.



Middleton Lakes- Jonathan Hutchins

AUG Highlights from the SECOS Area

Willow Tit at 'Wryneck Corner'

On 2nd August, Rob Black found a Willow Tit at a spot on the edge of Maw Green Tip known locally as 'Wryneck Corner'. The bird was seen briefly in bushes beside the railway before flying across Fowle Brook towards the nearby copse.

Marsh Tit and Willow Tit are notoriously difficult to distinguish by appearance alone. In this case, the bird's distinctive call first attracted Rob's attention, and he also saw its pale wing panel before it flew.

This was a notable local record. Willow Tit is a county rarity and is Red-listed under Birds of Conservation Concern, reflecting the species' severe decline in the UK. This is the first sighting at the Sandbach Flashes area since 2014.

Wood Sandpiper Draws Crowds

On 4 August, Karen Stead found a Wood Sandpiper at Pump House Flash. Later in the day, it moved to Elton Hall Flash, where it continued to show well and attracted many visiting birders.

Wood Sandpiper is a scarce but fairly regular passage visitor to the Flashes, typically appearing singly during April–May or July–September.

The recent hot, dry weather has exposed unusually large areas of mud at the Flashes, providing ideal feeding and resting places for passage migrant waders. During the evening, the Wood Sandpiper was still at the Flashes, together eight Green Sandpipers, a Common Sandpiper, a Little Ringed Plover and eight curlew.

The wood sandpiper remained at the Flashes until 6th August.

Highlights Summary

1st Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Swallow; 2nd Barn Owl, Dipper, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Swift, Willow Tit; 3rd Red Kite; 4th Black Swan, Curlew, Little Ringed Plover, Mandarin Duck, Wood Sandpiper; 5th Black-tailed Godwit, Common Gull; 6th Garganey; 7th Greenshank; 9th Great White Egret, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler; 10th Hobby, House Martin; 11th Sedge Warbler, Snipe; 12th Cattle Egret; 14th Little Egret, Reed Warbler; 16th Blackcap, Cetti's Warbler, Water Rail, Whitethroat; 17th Ringed Plover; 18th Egyptian Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Sand Martin, Wheatear; 19th Goosander, Ruff, Yellow Wagtail, Yellow-legged Gull; 20th Garden Warbler; 22nd Spotted Flycatcher, Tree Pipit; 24th Dunlin; 25th Cuckoo; 26th Little Gull; 31st Short-eared Owl, Whinchat

Sandbach Flashes Sightings - AUG

Elton Hall Flash + Pump House Flash + Railway Flash + Maw Green Tip

Wildfowl	Count
Canada Goose	regular, max 130+
Greylag Goose	regular, max 95
Mute Swan	regular, max 12
Shelduck	regular, max 10+
Mandarin Duck	max 3, 29 th
Garganey	regular, max 1
Shoveler	regular, max 15
Gadwall	regular, max 10+
Wigeon	regular, max 2
Mallard	regular, max c150
Teal	regular, max c90
Tufted Duck	1, 19 th
Goosander	3, 19 th
Moorhen	regular, max 15
Coot	regular, max 17
Little Grebe	1, 2 nd
Great Crested Grebe	max 4, 6 th



Common Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby



Greenshank - Dennis Swaby

Sandbach Flashes Sightings - AUG

Elton Hall Flash + Pump House Flash + Railway Flash + Maw Green Tip

Waders	Count
Water Rail	1, 16 th , 27 th
Ringed Plover	1, 17 th
Little Ringed Plover	1, 4 th , 10 th
Lapwing	regular, max c130
Curlew	regular, max 15
Black-tailed Godwit	regular, max 4
Snipe	regular, max 8
Common Sandpiper	regular, max 4
Green Sandpiper	regular, max 7
Wood Sandpiper	1, 4 th , 5 th , 6 th
Greenshank	1, 7 th , 23 rd
Ruff	regular, max 4
Dunlin	max 2, 28 th

Hérons & Egrets	Count
Little Egret	1, 18 th
Great White Egret	regular, max 1
Grey Heron	regular, max 2

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	1, 24 th
Red Kite	1, 3 rd
Buzzard	max 2, 24 th , 26 th
Barn Owl	1, 2 nd
Short-eared Owl	1, 31 st
Kestrel	1, 7 th , 18 th
Peregrine	1, 18 th

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c250
Common Gull	max 3, 19 th
Herring Gull	regular, max 14
Yellow-legged Gull	1, 19 th
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 60



Sparrowhawk - Dennis Swaby



Green Sandpiper - Dennis Swaby

Other Sightings - AUG



Goldfinch - Dennis Swaby

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Swift, Stock Dove, Cormorant, Kingfisher, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Raven, Willow Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Sand Martin, Swallow, Cetti's Warbler, Long-tailed Tit, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Goldcrest, Wren, Nuthatch, Starling, Blackbird, Robin, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear, House Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Pied/White Wagtail, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Linnet, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting

WLF: Snipe, Common Sandpiper

Arclid Green: Hobby, Lesser Whitethroat, Wheatear

Astbury: Red Kite

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Little Gull, Black-headed Gull, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Long-tailed Tit, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock

Astbury - Tanglewood, Dodds Lane: Canada Goose, Mallard, Swallow, House Martin

Congleton - Congleton Link Road West: Hobby

Congleton - Lower Heath: Dipper, Grey Wagtail

Congleton - Mossley: Jackdaw

Congleton - River Dane: Cuckoo, Kingfisher, Dipper, Grey Wagtail

Congleton/Sandbach A534: Woodpigeon, Magpie, Carrion Crow

Crewe: Buzzard

Doddington - Doddington Park: Red Kite

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Pheasant, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Cormorant, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Reed Warbler, Wren, Robin, Chaffinch

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Mallard, Woodpigeon, Coot, Kestrel, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Swallow, Blackbird, Dunnock

Hassall, NW of Alsager: Cattle Egret

M6 - Sandbach: Buzzard

Newsbank, nr Congleton: Egyptian Goose

Rode Heath: Hobby



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/>

EHF = Elton Hall Flash

RF = Railway Flash

MGT = Maw Green Tip

WLF = Watch Lane Flash

PHF = Pump House Flash

Other Sightings - AUG

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: Egyptian

Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Mandarin Duck,
Green Sandpiper, Little Egret

Sandbach - Elworth: Spotted Flycatcher

Scholar Green: Spotted Flycatcher, Tree
Pipit

Shavington/Hough: Red Kite

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Canada Goose,
Mallard, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Coot,
Cormorant, Great Spotted Woodpecker,
Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit,
Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Blackbird, Robin,
Goldfinch



Swallows - Dennis Swaby

Diary Dates



11th September 7.30 pm

Indoor Meeting

20th September 10.00 am

Sunday Field Trip

Wild Alaska

Speaker: Mike Watson

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Leader: Karina Stanley



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/>