



THE OBSERVER

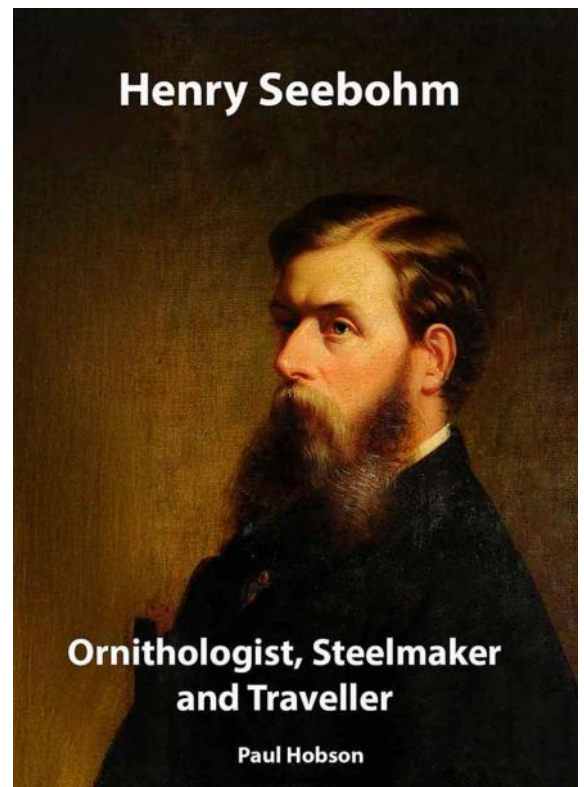
SECOS Newsletter

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

November 2025

"Henry Seebohm: Ornithologist, Steelmaker, Traveller" by *Paul Hobson* Friday 14th November

Paul Hobson brings to life the remarkable Victorian polymath Henry Seebohm, exploring his dual careers as a steel-maker and an intrepid ornithologist-traveller. Delve into Seebohm's epic expeditions to Siberia and his pioneering contributions to avian taxonomy.



Field Trip

Carsington Water Sunday 23th November

One of England's largest reservoirs, Carsington Water offers superb winter birding across open water, shoreline and woodland. Expect large flocks of water birds, with a chance of scarce visitors. The muddy edges, reedbeds and islands are well-worth exploring for waders and woodland birds. Excellent hides provide sheltered viewing.



Carsington Water - John Sutton

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

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to SECOS this month:

Karina Stanley, Rod Wainwright, Stuart White, Valerie Keech, Barbara Western, Sophie Lightfoot, Jerry Knights, Denise Colclough, Dale Michael

October Highlights (first reports this month)

1st Goosander, Pintail, Pochard, Red-legged Partridge, Swallow, Yellow Wagtail; 2nd Curlew; 3rd Little Egret, Raven, Red Kite, Snipe; 5th Cetti's Warbler, Common Gull, Dunlin, Great White Egret, Little Grebe, Mandarin Duck, Ruff, Scaup; 6th Kingfisher, Pink-footed Goose, Redpoll, Siskin; 7th Ruddy Shelduck; 9th Green Sandpiper; 10th Dipper, Yellow-browed Warbler; 11th Common Crossbill, Whooper Swan; 13th Red-crested Pochard, Redwing; 14th Common Scoter, Egyptian Goose; 17th Fieldfare; 18th Black-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret; 21st Blackcap; 24th Yellow-legged Gull; 30th Yellowhammer

Sightings EHF/PHF/MGT/RF - Oct

Raptors & Owls	Count
Sparrowhawk	2, 19 th
Buzzard	1, 5 th
Kestrel	1, 5 th , 30 th
Peregrine	1, 22 nd , 30 th



Little Gulls - Dennis Swaby



Great White Egret - Dennis Swaby

Herons & Egrets	Count
Grey Heron	regular, max 6
Great White Egret	regular, max 2
Cattle Egret	1, 18 th

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/MGT/RF - Oct

Wildfowl	Count
Shelduck	regular, max 4
Ruddy Shelduck	1, 7 th
Wigeon	regular, max c350
Gadwall	regular, max 12
Teal	regular, max c80
Mallard	regular, max c120
Pochard	3, 18 th , 19 th , 21 st
Shoveler	regular, max 77
Tufted Duck	15, 21 st
Scaup	1, 5 th
Pintail	1, 21 st
Mandarin Duck	6, 31 st
Goosander	1, 5 th
Greylag Goose	regular, max 6
Canada Goose	regular, max 5
Pink-footed Goose	regular, max c390
Little Grebe	1, 5 th , 6 th
Coot	regular, max 61
Moorhen	regular, max 4
Whooper Swan	5, 11 th , 26 th
Mute Swan	Regular, max 1



Mandarin Ducks - Dennis Swaby



Pink-footed Goose - Dennis Swaby

Gulls & Terns	Count
Black-headed Gull	regular, max c240
Lesser Black-b Gull	regular, max 30
Great Black-b Gull	5, 5 th
Herring Gull	regular, max 6
Common Gull	2, 27 th

Waders	Count
Lapwing	regular, max 87
Dunlin	1, 5 th
Curlew	regular, max 25
Ruff	regular, max 1
Green Sandpiper	2, 9 th , 21 st



Mute Swan - Dennis Swaby

Pennington Flash - 7th October



Thirteen members enjoyed a trip to Pennington Flash.

Thanks to Anthea Gater for leading.

43 bird species were recorded, including: shoveler, gadwall, teal, pochard, tufted duck, goosander, water rail, little grebe, great crested grebe, oystercatcher, green sandpiper, little egret, kestrel, jay, coal tit, willow tit, Cetti's warbler, goldcrest, nuthatch, and tree creeper.

Wirral - 26th October



Fifteen members met at the Wirral Way Ropewalk car park at Parkgate, where Tom outlined our itinerary for the day. The morning was blustery with occasional light showers, but spirits were high as we set off through the woodland strip, where a sparrowhawk gave us an early thrill as it flashed through the trees.

On reaching the King Charles III Way, two marsh harriers were seen quartering the marsh, soon followed by a little egret and then a great white egret. A real highlight came when a bittern appeared briefly, flying low over the reeds before dropping out of sight. A nearby Cetti's warbler offered a few brief, subdued notes – a quiet version of its usual explosive song.

Retracing our steps along the Way, we arrived at The Parade, where a kestrel hovered close by, holding its position perfectly in the gusty wind. After lunch, a few members returned hoping to see spoonbills. None appeared, but there was a black-tailed godwit, several little grebes, plenty of teal, and a distant flock of pink-footed geese in flight over the marsh.

At Thurstaston, some members followed the coastal path south along the clifftop and were rewarded with more than a hundred lapwings rising from a nearby field, along with several curlews and two shelducks on the shoreline. Others descended the steep steps to the beach, where more black-tailed godwits were seen, along with redshank and bar-tailed godwit. Hundreds of oystercatchers gathered on a distant sandbank to the south.

The day concluded at Hoylake, where hundreds of feeding shelducks and oystercatchers created a fine spectacle, accompanied by smaller numbers of curlews, great black-backed gulls and herring gulls. Several long lines of cormorants stood like sentinels to round off an enjoyable and windswept day's birding along the Wirral coast.

Thanks to Tom Graham for leading.

Mike Tonks

Trip Count = 34 species

2025 SECOS Field Trips Total = 166 species

Sightings Elsewhere - Oct



Buzzards - Dennis Swaby

EHF/PHF/MGT/RF: Cormorant, Skylark, Swallow, **Cetti's Warbler**, Chiffchaff, **Blackcap**, Stonechat, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, **Redpoll**, **Common Crossbill**, **Siskin**, Reed Bunting

FFF: Goosander, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap, Treecreeper, Song Thrush, Redwing, **Fieldfare**, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Linnet, Goldfinch, Siskin, **Yellowhammer**, Reed Bunting

WLF: Green Sandpiper

Alsager - Alsager Treatment Works: Woodpigeon, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit

Astbury - Astbury Mere CP: Pink-footed Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Scaup, **Common Scoter**, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Cormorant, Buzzard, **Kingfisher**, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Blackbird, Robin

Barthomley, SE of Crewe: Whooper Swan

Brereton Green: Siskin

Brereton Heath - Brereton Heath LNR:

Mute Swan, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Woodpigeon, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed Gull, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Treecreeper, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Goldfinch

Bridgemere: **Red Kite**

Brownlow: Red Kite

Chorlton: Pheasant



Buzzard - Dennis Swaby

Church Lawton - Lawton Gate Treatment Works: Woodpigeon, Magpie

Congleton - Congleton Link Road West: Great White Egret, Red Kite

Congleton - Mossley: Buzzard

Congleton - River Dane: **Goosander**, Kingfisher, **Dipper**

Congleton - Treatment Works: Woodpigeon, Black-headed Gull, Magpie, Blackbird, Robin, Grey Wagtail

Congleton/Sandbach A534: Woodpigeon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Grey Heron, Carrion Crow, Starling

Crewe: **Redwing**

Sightings Elsewhere - Oct



Long-tailed Tit - Dennis Swaby

Dane Valley - Davenport Hall: Mallard, Pheasant, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Cormorant, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Kestrel, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Raven, Long-tailed Tit

Dane Valley - Hillmoor Farm to Colley Mill: Robin

Doddington - Doddington Pool: Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Mute Swan, Whooper Swan, Shoveler, Gadwall, Wigeon, Mallard, **Pintail**, Teal, **Pochard**, Tufted Duck, Pheasant, **Red-legged Partridge**, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Moorhen, Coot, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, **Black-necked Grebe**, Lapwing, **Snipe**, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, **Yellow-legged Gull**, Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Cormorant, **Little Egret**, Great White Egret, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Kestrel, Peregrine, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, **Raven**, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Skylark, **Swallow**, Long-tailed Tit, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Wren, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Starling, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Robin, House Sparrow, Dunnock, **Yellow Wagtail**, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Linnet, Redpoll, Goldfinch, Siskin, Reed Bunting

Gawsworth - Gawsworth Hall: Mallard, Tufted Duck, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Buzzard, Magpie, Carrion Crow

Gawsworth - Mill End Farm: Mallard, Pheasant, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Snipe, Buzzard, Kestrel, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Starling, Song Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Robin, Pied Wagtail, Chaffinch, Goldfinch

Holmes Chapel Treatment works and environs: Woodpigeon, Magpie, Carrion Crow

Kidsgrove Treatment Works and environs: Woodpigeon, Black-headed Gull, Little Egret, Wren, Grey Wagtail, Pied Wagtail

Rode Heath - Rode Pool: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, **Egyptian Goose**, Mandarin Duck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, **Red-crested Pochard**, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Coot, Little Grebe, Black-headed Gull, Cormorant, Great White Egret, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Kestrel, Jay, Chiffchaff, Treecreeper, Starling, Pied Wagtail



Reed Bunting - Dennis Swaby

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 - Oct

Spenn Green, SW of Astbury: Canada Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Blue Tit, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Pied Wagtail, Chaffinch

Walgherton - Lea Forge: Canada Goose, Pheasant, Moorhen, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Cormorant, Red Kite, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Pied Wagtail

Diary Dates



4th Nov 10.00 am

Tuesday Field Trip

14th Nov 7.30 pm

Indoor Meeting

23th Nov 10.00 am

Chelford Sand Quarries

Leader: Mike Tonks

**"Henry Seebohm: Ornithologist,
Steelmaker and Traveller"**

Speaker: Paul Hobson

Carsington Water



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/>