



South East Cheshire Ornithological Society

Your local birdwatching group

Summary of bird sightings – 2018

SECOS Summary of bird sightings – 2018

The list below is a compilation from the Sightings Section of the Society's monthly newsletter. The inclusion of detailed observations from the fieldworkers covering the SECOS Winter and Breeding Bird Survey [SWaBBS] patches have boosted the records and will no doubt improve the depth of our understanding of our local avifauna, especially records of breeding activity and success.

Following feedback from Sheila Blamire, Database Chairman at CAWOS, I have included a date / month for the count.

- my thanks to all those who added their sightings to the various log books, blogs, etc. or sent them directly to me by email / text (or to a distribution list I'm a 'member' of)
- no attempt has been made to verify the sighting. This report is merely a summary of those records and if there wasn't a count alongside any sighting, it's recorded as one individual
- some records may have been those of the bird(s) seen only in flight or flying over
- sightings entered in logbook(s) retrospectively may not be included
- my database, Wildlife Recorder®, sorted the Systematic List / sequence used in this summary - the sequence used by the BOU and CAWOS - IOC 8.2
- there were over 10,400 sightings for 2018 and, inevitably, errors and omissions will have crept in, along with incomplete records i.e. where I didn't note count, gender, age, breeding status, etc.
- where possible, I have included the first and last record of the season for migrants
- unless previously recorded at that site, details of breeding have been omitted for 'sensitive' species
- the SECOS Recording Area is hectads SJ74, 75, 76, 85 and 86 within Cheshire (there is a map on SECOS website showing the hectads)
- some locations included are just outside the SECOS Recording Area

Where the phrase "confirmed breeding" is used it refers to fledglings recorded. I acknowledge that SWaBBS fieldworkers record specific breeding activity, i.e. nests with young, nest with eggs, adults carrying food/faecal sacs and occupied nests - those records are identified using the same description.

Key: -

♀ - female	♂ - male	BP - Business Park
c - circa		CP - Country Park
1 st cy - first calendar year	1 st w - first winter	GC - Golf Club
ad - adult	imm - immature	LNR – Local Nature Reserve
juv - juvenile(s)		MGT – Maw Green Tip

Please let me know of any errors, etc. that you see or any sightings not included, so I can update the records.

John Thompson, SECOS Bird Recorder

** Please note that some of the contents of this document *may* look like bird reports produced locally in the past but it should not be compared to them. I have neither invested the time in producing it or have the ornithological knowledge of the authors of those reports. As such, I have used the phrase 'summary of bird sightings' as the title to reflect this.

Review of the Year

January over-wintering Hawfinch at Astbury Mere CP stayed until April; a Kittiwake was seen at Brereton Heath LNR; Yellow-browed Warbler reported in Congleton Park; Long-eared Owls winter roost on Maw Green Tip; Cetti's Warbler now holding a permanent territory on Maw Green Tip; an over-wintering Smew was at Rode Pool until March; a Green-winged Teal was at Sandbach Flashes but didn't linger. Also seen in that area were a Little Gull, a Kumlien's Gull and a Caspian Gull; Willow Tit holding territory at White Moss Quarry, Alsager (now a housing estate!); Marsh Tit recorded at Wybunbury Moss (a former stronghold); Dippers continue to hold territories in the east of our Recording Area, favouring the fast-flowing, cold waters coming off the Staffordshire Moors

February Whooper Swan seen over The Flashes, also noted there were a female Marsh Harrier and a Kumlien's Gull

March a Smew was seen at Astbury Mere CP (possibly the one from Rode Pool); a Short-eared Owl was recorded at Astbury Mere CP & Brereton

April we introduced our very own survey, SWaBBS, this month. It is likely to increase the penetration of the records:

a Great Northern Diver was reported flying over Alsager; an Arctic Tern was at Astbury Mere CP; a Ring Ouzel was seen to fly over The Cloud; an Osprey was seen occasionally at Doddington Pool; a Kumlien's Gull was at The Flashes; a Greenland Wheatear was seen on Maw Green Tip (also next month); a Grasshopper Warbler was at Middlewich Lime Beds

May a Wood Warbler seen singing, one day, at The Cloud; Glossy Ibis seen at The Flashes; Cuckoos recorded at Gorsty, Lawton, Swettenham & Wybunbury

June a Bar-tailed Godwit was seen regularly at The Flashes. Also noted there was a Wood Sandpiper; a Little Gull and an Arctic Tern

July Crossbill seen at The Cloud; a White Stork was seen in Congleton; a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen at Martin's Moss

August Avocet were seen flying around at Doddington Pool but didn't settle. A Wood Sandpiper seen at The Flashes. Also reported there was a Curlew Sandpiper and an Osprey; Mike and Andy Warner found a Black Redstart at Lea Forge – just rewards for working the patch regularly; a Willow Tit was seen on the Salt Line, Alsager

September Scoters and a Black Tern were found at Astbury Mere CP; Osprey at The Flashes, also a Mediterranean Gull and an Arctic Tern

October a Black Tern was at The Flashes; a Ring-necked Parakeet was seen at Holmes Chapel; Long-eared Owl back on the winter roost on Maw Green Tip; a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen at Rode Pool

November the first of the returning Hawfinch were back at Astbury Mere CP; Brambling seen in Congleton Park and a Red Kite was seen over Wybunbury

December an immature Whooper Swan was ringed and released onto the canal at Middlewich. It stayed until March the following year; a 'returning' Smew was seen at Rode Pool, possibly the same bird was seen at Redesmere; a Hen Harrier was seen on two consecutive days in the Wallhill / Brownlow area

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Systematic List

Ducks; Geese and Swans (Anatidae)

Canada Goose recorded in every month throughout the Recording Area and seen at all the larger water bodies

Highest count of 780 at Doddington (Sept)

Fledglings seen at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Wheelock Heath and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Barnacle Goose [considered by the ‘purists’ as Escaped or Feral]

A single bird at Sandbach Flashes (Mar, Jul & Aug) and Queen’s Park, Crewe [ringed] (Nov)

Greylag Goose recorded in every month and seen at some of the larger water bodies

Highest count of 412 at Doddington (Sept)

Fledglings seen at Borrow Pit Meadows, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool & Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Pink-footed Goose recorded during all months apart from Mar-Aug

Seen at Arclid, Astbury Mere CP, Congleton, Crewe, Doddington, Elworth, Holmes Chapel, Meremoor Moss and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 150 flying over Astbury Mere (Dec) - many records are flyovers but seen in low numbers on the ground or swimming

Black Swan [considered as Escaped or Feral]

One was recorded at Astbury Mere CP (Oct) and Lawton Lake (Mar)

Mute Swan recorded in every month and seen at all the larger water bodies

Highest count of 81 at Newsbank Pool (May)

Fledglings seen at Meremoor Moss & Sandbach Flashes

Whooper Swan 3 recorded flying over Sandbach Flashes (Feb); not recorded again until Oct when recorded at or flying over Astbury Mere CP (Nov), Doddington (Dec), Sandbach (Oct) or Sandbach Flashes (Oct-Dec)

Highest count of 6 at Sandbach Flashes (Nov & Dec)

Egyptian Goose [considered as Escaped or Feral] 2 birds recorded at Doddington (Apr & Jun)

Shelduck recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Sandbach Flashes and Rode Pool

Highest count of 84 at Sandbach Flashes (Mar)

Fledglings seen at Arclid SQ & Sandbach Flashes

Muscovy Duck [considered as Escaped or Feral]

2 recorded at Doddington (Nov)

Mandarin Duck recorded during all months apart from July

Seen at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Swettenham/Holmes Chapel [Dane Valley]

Highest count of 42 at Lawton Lake (Nov)

Ducklings seen at Rode Pool

Ringed Teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*) [considered as Escaped or Feral]

Seen at Sandbach Flashes (May)

Garganey recorded at Bagmere (May) and Sandbach Flashes (Jun-Aug)

Shoveler recorded during all months

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 76 at Doddington (Dec)

Gadwall recorded in all months

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 10 at Sandbach Flashes (Apr, Jun & Sept)

Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes

Wigeon recorded during all months apart from Aug

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 790 at Sandbach Flashes (Mar)

Chiloe Wigeon (*Mareca sibilatrix*) [considered as Escaped or Feral]

Recorded at Brereton Heath LNR (Feb-Apr)

Mallard very common

Highest count of 700 at Doddington (Sept)

Pintail recorded during all months apart from May-Jul and only recorded at Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 7 at Sandbach Flashes (Dec)

Teal recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 255 at Sandbach Flashes (Jan)

Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*) CAWOS rarity; ♂ recorded at Sandbach Flashes (29th Jan)

Pochard recorded during all months apart from May and preferring deep water

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 47 at Doddington (Feb)

Aythya hybrid Tufted x Pochard seen at Astbury Mere CP (Jan)

Tufted Duck recorded in every month and seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Borrow Pit Meadows, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Highest count of 167 at Doddington (Mar)

Confirmed breeding at Doddington & Sandbach Flashes

Scaup (*Aythya marila*) 5 [2 ♀, 3♂] recorded at Astbury Mere CP (Mar) and 1 [1st W♂] at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Common Scoter 2 [adult ♂] recorded at Astbury Mere CP (Sept)

Goldeneye recorded during Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Lawton Lake and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 26 at Doddington (Mar) - seen displaying there (Jan)

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Smew 2 recorded at Astbury Mere CP (Mar) and at Rode Pool 1 (Jan-Mar) & 2 (Dec)

Goosander recorded in every month except Jun

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Congleton, Day Green, Lawton Lake, Queens Park (Crewe), Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 23 at Lawton Lake (Jan)

Juveniles seen at Congleton Park / R Dane in Jul

Ruddy Duck ♀ was photographed at Doddington 12th Jan

Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)

Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) recorded at Danebower

Red-legged Partridge locally, usually, the only sightings where bred and released for shooting.

Recorded in Feb-Apr & Oct-Dec

Seen at Checkley Lane, Doddington, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes and Swettenham

Highest count of 28 at Doddington (Dec)

Pheasant common locally, recorded in every month of the year

Highest count of 42 at Doddington (Dec)

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) a report of one over an Alsager garden (12th Apr)

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Brereton Heath LNR, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 12 at Lawton Lake (Dec)

Confirmed breeding at Doddington

Great Crested Grebe recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Wheelock Heath and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Highest count of 40 at Doddington (Aug)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) CAWOS rarity reports of 1 at Congleton (12th July)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) CAWOS rarity 1 briefly at Sandbach Flashes (7th May)

Hérons; Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Grey Heron common locally and recorded in every month

Confirmed breeding at Doddington (11 nests), North Rode (3 nests) & Rode Pool (56 nests)

Great White Egret CAWOS rarity (away from the coast); recorded during the months of Jan-Apr; Aug & Oct-Dec

Seen at Doddington, Redesmere, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes
Highest count of 2 at Rode Pool (Dec) and Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Mar)

Little Egret recorded in every month

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Redesmere, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes
Highest count of 7 at Rode Pool (Mar & Apr)

Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Fishing Lake plus 'flyovers' at The Cloud and Mooresbarrow
Highest count of 85 at Doddington (Nov)

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) * a Schedule One bird** recorded at Doddington Apr & Sept and Sandbach Flashes Aug & Sept

Kites; Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)

Sparrowhawk common locally; recorded in every month

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Borrow Pit Meadows, Checkley Lane, Doddington, Elworth, Lea Forge, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Quakers Coppice, Queen's Park (Crewe), Rode Pool, Roe Park, Sandbach Flashes, Swettenham, Wheelock/Malkin's Bank, Wybunbury Fishing Lake and Wybunbury Moss

Highest count of 3 at Astbury Mere CP (Sept)

Seen displaying at Macon Meadows, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Marsh Harrier ♀ recorded at Sandbach Flashes (2nd Feb)

Hen Harrier 1 recorded south of Congleton (17th & 18th Dec)

Red Kite recorded in all months apart from Jan, Oct or Dec

Seen at Bosley, Brereton Heath LNR, The Cloud, Congleton, Cranage, Crewe, Doddington, Lea Forge, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green, Shavington, Warmingham, Wildboarclough and Wybunbury Moss

Highest count of 2 at Doddington, Sandbach Flashes (Jun) & The Cloud (Aug)

Buzzard common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 13 at Sandbach Flashes (May)

Displaying birds seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss and Quakers Coppice
Confirmed breeding at only three sites: Arclid SQ, Brereton Heath LNR and Roe Park

Rails; Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)

Water Rail this cryptic, secretive bird is difficult to see at the best of times, but even more so during their breeding season; recorded at Basford, Checkley, Doddington, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 4 at Sandbach Flashes (Tetton Lane) (Jul) where confirmed breeding - 2 adults & 2 juvs

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Moorhen common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 21 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Confirmed breeding at Crewe BP, Crewe GC, Doddington, Lawton Lake, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Quakers Coppice, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Wheelock Moss and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Coot common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 464 at Doddington (Aug)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) common locally; recorded between Feb-Aug

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Doddington, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Rode Pool, Lawton Heath and Wybunbury Fishing Lake

Highest count of 8 at Doddington (Mar & Apr) and Sandbach Flashes (Apr)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ and Doddington

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

17 recorded (in flight) at Doddington - 3rd Aug

Plovers (*Charadriidae*)

Lapwing common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 550 at Doddington (Nov)

Birds displaying at Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach Flashes, Sparbent and Wheelock Heath

Juv seen at Lea Forge and Sandbach Flashes

Golden Plover recorded at Danebower (Apr & May), Doddington (Sept) and Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Mar & Nov)

Ringed Plover singles [unless noted otherwise]

recorded at Albion Lock (Mar), Doddington (May) and Sandbach Flashes (Apr, May [2], Jul [2] & Aug)

Little Ringed Plover

Seen at Albion Lock (Mar & May), Arclid SQ (Apr), Doddington (Jun & Aug), Lea Forge (May & Jun), Middlewich Lime Beds (Apr) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar-Aug)

Highest count of 9 at Sandbach Flashes (Jun)

Bird(s) displaying at Sandbach Flashes

Juv seen at Arclid SQ

Sandpipers; Snipes (*Scolopacidae*)

Whimbrel recorded at Sandbach Flashes (Apr, May, Jul [4] & Dec)

Curlew recorded in every month of the year

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 47 at Sandbach Flashes (Jan)

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 1 recorded at Sandbach Flashes (1st - 6th Jun)

Black-tailed Godwit recorded in every month except May

Only seen at Sandbach Flashes except for 11 at Doddington on the same day as they had 17 Avocet there!
(3rd Aug)

Highest count of 94 (Apr)

Ruff recorded in every month except between May, Jun, Jul & Oct

Only seen at Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 3 (Jan, Feb & Apr)

Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea) 2 reported at Sandbach Flashes (9th Aug)

Dunlin

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Mar & Nov), Doddington (Jun) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar-May, Jul, Aug, Oct-Nov)

Highest count of 6 at Sandbach Flashes (Mar)

Woodcock recorded Jan-Mar & Nov-Dec

Seen at Arclid SQ (Dec), Astbury Mere CP (Dec), Davenport (Mar), Lawton Woods (Jan, Mar & Nov), Middlewich Lime Beds (Jan & Mar), Little Moreton Hall (Dec), Rode Pool (Feb), Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Mar, Nov-Dec) and Shavington (Dec)

Highest count of 11 at Sandbach Flashes (Jan)

Jack Snipe

Seen at Doddington: a 'long-stayer' (29th Oct - 22nd Nov), Middlewich Lime Beds (Mar) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar & Oct)

Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes (Mar & Oct)

Snipe recorded in every month except May & Jun

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Mar & Sept), Bradwall (Jan), Doddington (Feb-Mar, Sept-Dec), Lawton Woods (Feb-Mar), Macon Meadows (Feb-Apr & Dec), Merelake Way (Dec), Meremoor Moss (Sep), Middlewich Lime Beds (Mar), Rode Pool (Jan-Mar), Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Apr & Jul-Dec), Wybunbury Moss (Oct)

Highest count of 65 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Common Sandpiper recorded between Apr & Oct

Seen at Arclid SQ (Apr-Jul), Astbury Mere CP (Apr, Jul-Aug & Oct), Doddington (Apr-Aug), Lawton Lake (May), Lea Forge (May) and Sandbach Flashes (Apr-Sep)

Highest count of 6 at Sandbach Flashes (Jul)

Green Sandpiper recorded in every month except Jan, Feb & May

Seen at Barthomley (Feb), Doddington (Aug), Lawton Lake (Dec), Meremoor Moss (Jan-Feb & Dec), Middlewich Lime Beds (Jan, Mar-Apr, Sep-Dec) and Sandbach Flashes (Apr, Jun-Nov)

Highest count of 9 at Sandbach Flashes (Jul)

Redshank recorded in every month except Aug & Sep

but sightings only from Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 5 (Jan-Mar)

Wood Sandpiper recorded at Sandbach Flashes 25th Jun & 11th Aug

Greenshank recorded between Jul-Sep

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Aug) and Sandbach Flashes (10th Jul, 9th & 24th Sep)

Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes (Sep – flyover on a visible migration watch)

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Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) recorded at Brereton Heath LNR 26th Jan

Gulls; Terns and Skimmers (*Laridae*)

Black-headed Gull common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 6000 at Doddington (Jan)

Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

Singles seen at Sandbach Flashes (Jan & Jun)

Mediterranean Gull

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Oct) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar, Jul & Sept)

Highest count of 4 at Sandbach Flashes (Mar)

Common Gull recorded in every month except Jun & Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Queens Park (Crewe) and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of c50 at Doddington (Jan)

Great Black-backed Gull common locally, only recorded in Jan, Jul, Sep & Dec

Seen at Arclid SQ (Dec), Astbury Mere CP (Jan), Doddington (Jan) and Sandbach Flashes (Jan, Jul, Sep & Dec)

Highest count of 4 at Astbury Mere CP (Jan)

Glaucous Gull

Seen at Sandbach Flashes Jan-Apr

Highest count of 6 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Ages noted – various

Iceland Gull

Seen at Sandbach Flashes Jan-Apr & Dec

Highest count of 5 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Ages noted – various

Herring Gull common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of c300 at Doddington (Jan)

breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate with c.8 nests

Caspian Gull

Seen at Sandbach Flashes 4th Jan (1st w)

Yellow-legged Gull

Seen at Arclid SQ (Apr & Dec), Astbury Mere CP (Oct), Rode Pool (Aug-Sep) and Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Mar) & (May-Nov)

Highest count of 3 at Arclid SQ (Jul) and Sandbach Flashes (Feb & Jul)

Lesser Black-backed Gull common locally, recorded in every month

Breeds on Crewe Industrial Estate

Highest count of c4000 at Doddington (Jan) & Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Common Tern

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Apr & Aug), Doddington (Apr, Jun & Sep), Sandbach Flashes (Apr - Jul)
First report - 14th Apr; last report 18th Sep (both at Doddington)
Highest count of 4 at Astbury Mere CP (Aug) & Doddington (Jul)
Confirmed breeding at Sandbach Flashes with a juv also recorded at Doddington

Arctic Tern

Singles seen at Astbury Mere CP (Apr), Sandbach Flashes (Jun & Sep [juv])

Black Tern

Singles seen at Astbury Mere CP (Sep) & Sandbach Flashes (Oct)

Pigeons; Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) common locally, recorded in every month except Feb
White Dove recorded at Swettenham during SWaBBS

Stock Dove fairly common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 102 at Sandbach Flashes (Nov)
Confirmed breeding at Merelake Way, Quakers Coppice and Rode Pool

Woodpigeon common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 200 at Rode Pool (Mar), during a visible migration watch (VisMig) on MGT the observer had c1200 pass over in Oct
Confirmed breeding at Merelake Way

Collared Dove common locally, recorded in every month except Oct & Nov
Highest count of 4 at Doddington (Jun)

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

4 records in first half of May (2 during SWaBBS) at Border Fisheries (Gorsty), Lawton Woods, Swettenham and Wybunbury Moss

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) *** **a Schedule One bird** recorded in every month except Apr
21 records from 16 different locations – Alsager, Bathvale, Bridgemere, south of Congleton, Crewe, Doddington, Haslington, Hassall, Holmes Chapel, Oakhanger, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green and Wheelock
Juv(s) seen at Sandbach Flashes in Jul

Owls (Strigidae)

Tawny Owl recorded in every month except Apr
Over 30 records from 17 locations - recorded at Alsager, Astbury Mere CP, Borrow Pit Meadows, Brereton Heath LNR, Bridgemere, Congleton, Doddington, Joey the Swan, Lawton Woods, Merelake Way, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Scholar Green and Wybunbury
Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes (Jan) and Congleton (Oct)
Bird(s) displaying at Merelake Way
Confirmed breeding at Joey the Swan, Wistaston

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Little Owl 16 records from 4 locations - recorded in every month except Mar, Aug-Sep, Nov-Dec
Seen at Brereton, Doddington, Hassall Green and Sandbach
Highest count of 2 at Doddington (Apr & Jun)

Long-eared Owl

Recorded at Sandbach Flashes - a winter roost

Short-eared Owl

5 sightings; seen at Astbury Mere CP (Mar), Brereton (Mar), Congleton (Apr), Danebower (May) and Sandbach Flashes (Oct)

Swift (Apus apus) common locally

First sighting 24th Apr; last sighting 30th Aug

Highest count of c100 at Sandbach Flashes (Jul)

FYI - Swift Awareness Week 22nd - 30th June 2019 and a SECOS Count of known nest sites during June

Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) * a Schedule One bird** common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 2 at Arclid SQ (Apr), Rode Pool (Jan, Oct & Nov) and Swettenham (Jun), 2 during SWaBBS

'probable breeding nearby' - 2 sightings of adult in flight with food - Macon Meadows and Rode Pool

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker recorded at Martin's Moss (Jul) and Rode Pool (Oct)

Great Spotted Woodpecker common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 6 at Arclid SQ (no date)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Coppenhall, Crewe GC, Doddington, Lawton Woods, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Quakers Coppice and Wheelock Heath

Green Woodpecker recorded in every month

Highest count of 2 at Middlewich Lime Beds (Mar)

Bird displaying at Roe Park

Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes (Aug)

Caracaras; Falcons (Falconidae)

Kestrel common locally; recorded in every month

Bird(s) displaying at Checkley Lane

Highest count and confirmed breeding of 4 (a pair with 2 juv) Meremoor Moss (Jun); also 3 at Acker's Crossing (Jul)

Merlin 6 records from 5 locations; Jan-Mar & Aug-Oct

Seen at Lawton Heath (Jan), Lea Forge (Oct) and 3 sites within Sandbach Flashes (Feb, Mar, Aug & Sept)

Hobby * a Schedule One bird** recorded 27th Apr to 25th Sep

Highest count of 4 at Winterley (Aug)

Confirmed breeding: 2 juvs fledged there

Peregrine * a Schedule One bird** recorded in every month except Jun
Seen at 12 locations
Highest count of 2 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb & Mar)
Imm seen at Astbury Mere CP, Doddington & Sandbach Flashes

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Ring-necked Parakeet 3 recorded at Holmes Chapel (Oct)

Crows; Jays (Corvidae)

Jay common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 8 at Quakers Coppice (Apr)
Juv seen at Salt Line

Magpie common locally, recorded in every month

Jackdaw common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of c1700 at Arclid SQ (no date)

Rook recorded in every month except Aug & Nov
Highest count of 120 at Arclid SQ (no date)

Carrion Crow common locally, recorded in every month

Raven recorded in every month
Highest count of 16 at Sandbach Flashes [MGT] (Sep)
Juv seen at Arclid SQ, Hall o' the Heath Farm [Haslington] and Lea Forge

Tits; Chickadees (Paridae)

Coal Tit fairly common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 5 at Swettenham (Apr)
Confirmed breeding at The Cloud, Joey the Swan, Meremoor Moss and Roe Park

Marsh Tit
2 recorded at Wybunbury Moss (Jan-Mar)

Willow Tit
2 recorded at Salt Line (Aug & Oct)

Blue Tit common locally, recorded in every month
Confirmed breeding at Barthomley, The Cloud, Macon Meadows, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Roe Park, Quakers Coppice, Swettenham, Wheelock/Malkin's Bank, Wybunbury Fishing Lake and Wybunbury Moss

Great Tit common locally, recorded in every month
Confirmed breeding at Barthomley, The Cloud, Macon Meadows, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Roe Park, Quakers Coppice, Swettenham, Wybunbury Fishing Lake and Wybunbury Moss

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Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) recorded in every month except Jul
Seen at Alsager, Astbury Mere CP, Brindley Green, Checkley, Crewe, Doddington, Gresty, Lawton, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss, Sandbach Flashes and Weston
Highest count of 50 at Checkley (Nov)
Bird(s) displaying at Crewe, Gresty, Meremoor Moss and Weston
Juv recorded at Sandbach Flashes

Swallows; Martins (*Hirundinidae*)

Sand Martin common locally, recorded Mar-Sep (plus one record from Sandbach Flashes 24th Jan)
First record 14th Mar; last record 23rd Sep
Highest count of c200 at Arclid SQ (no date) and Astbury Mere CP (May)
Confirmed breeding: Arclid SQ

Swallow common locally, recorded Mar-Oct also late records of early Dec
First record 17th Mar; last record 11th Oct
Highest count of 200 at Doddington (Apr)

House Martin common locally, recorded Apr-Sep
First record 5th Apr; last record 25th Sep
Highest count of 100 at Rode Pool (Sep)

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) * a Schedule One bird**

Only recorded within Sandbach Flashes during Jan, Mar-Jun, Sep-Oct & Dec
Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes (Oct)

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 32 at Wybunbury Moss (Jun)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Roe Park, Quakers Coppice, Swettenham, Wheelock/Malkin's Bank and Wybunbury Moss

Leaf warblers and allies (*Phylloscopidae*)

Wood Warbler

A singing male was recorded on The Cloud 15th May

Yellow-browed Warbler

Reported on 'the network' at Congleton Park on 6th Jan but not relocated

Willow Warbler common locally, recorded 4th Apr to 18th Sep
Highest count of 5 at Astbury Mere CP (Apr)
Confirmed breeding at Macon Meadows

Chiffchaff common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 30 at Arclid SQ (no date)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Salt Line and Wybunbury Moss

Reed warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)

Sedge Warbler common locally,

Recorded 15th Apr to 21st Aug

Highest count of 5 (singing ♂) at Meremoor Moss (May)

Bird(s) displaying at Meremoor Moss

Confirmed breeding at Lea Forge and Meremoor Moss

Reed Warbler common locally,

Recorded 14th Apr to 8th Sep

Highest count of 5 (singing ♂) at Astbury Mere CP and Sandbach Flashes (May)

Confirmed breeding at Doddington

Grasshopper Warbler (Locustella naevia)

Only recorded at Middlewich Lime Beds (21st Apr)

Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)

Blackcap common locally, recorded in every month except Dec

Highest count of 18 at Astbury Mere CP (Apr)

Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Doddington, Lea Forge, Macon Meadows, Merelake Way and Roe Park

Garden Warbler

Recorded 29th Apr to 7th Aug

Seen at Arclid SG, Astbury Mere CP, Borrow Pit Meadows, Brereton Heath LNR, Lawton Heath, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Mow Cop, Salt Line, Sandbach Flashes and Swettenham

Highest count of 2 at Arclid SQ (no date)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ

Lesser Whitethroat

Recorded 15th Apr to 5th Sep

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Doddington, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Sandbach Flashes and Scholar Green

Highest count of 4 at Middlewich Lime Beds (Sep)

Juv seen at Sandbach Flashes in Jul

Whitethroat

Recorded 21st Apr to 23rd Aug

Seen at Alsager, Brereton Heath LNR, Checkley, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Mow Cop and Sandbach Flashes

Highest count of 8 at Arclid SQ (no date)

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Borrow Pit Meadows, Meremoor Moss, Lea Forge and Wybunbury Moss

Goldcrest (Regulus regulus) common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 9 at Quakers Coppice (Nov)

Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP, Macon Meadows, Meremoor Moss and Wybunbury Moss

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Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 22 at Crewe GC (May)
Confirmed breeding at Crewe GC, Doddington, Macon Meadows and Meremoor Moss

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 9 at Crewe GC (Apr) and Roe Park (Jul)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Barthomley, Lawton Woods, Macon Meadows, Rode Pool, Roe Park and Quakers Coppice

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*) common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 7 at Quakers Coppice (Nov)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes and Wybunbury Moss

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) common locally, recorded in every month
A high count of 1,000 at Astbury Mere CP (Mar)
Confirmed breeding at Merelake Way and Wheelock & Malkin's Bank
Murmurations recorded at Bagmere SSSI

Thrushes (*Turdidae*)

Ring Ouzel recorded at The Cloud 20th Apr - a 'flyover'

Blackbird common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 43 at Joey the Swan (May)
Confirmed breeding at eight locations

Fieldfare common locally, recorded in Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec
Highest count of c700 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Redwing common locally, recorded in Jan-Mar & Oct-Dec
Highest count of c240 at Rode Pool (Feb)

Song Thrush common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 8 at Arclid SQ (no date) and Merelake Way (Apr)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Merelake Way and Sandbach Flashes

Mistle Thrush common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 12 at Doddington (Jul)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, The Cloud, Doddington and Merelake Way

Chats; Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

Spotted Flycatcher

Recorded 17th May to 12th Sep

Seen at Borrow Pit Meadows (Aug), Brereton (Aug), Brereton Heath LNR (Aug), The Cloud (May & Jul), Doddington (Aug), Lawton Woods (May-Jun), Lea Forge (Jul), Roe Park (Jun & Aug), Sandbach Flashes (Jun & Aug), Swettenham (May-Jul) and Tall Chimneys (May)

Highest count of 4 at Doddington (Aug)

Confirmed breeding at Doddington and Roe Park

Robin common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 37 at Salt Line (May)

Confirmed breeding at twelve locations

Pied Flycatcher

First report - 19th Apr

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (May), Bosley Reservoir (Oct) and Holmes Chapel (Apr)

Black Redstart * a Schedule One bird**

Recorded at Lea Forge in Aug. The finders completed a CAWOS Rarity Form

Redstart

First report 23rd Apr

Seen at Holmes Chapel (23rd Apr), Sandbach Flashes (Jun & Aug), Scholar Green (Aug) and Wildboarclough (May)

Whinchat

First report - 21st Apr, last report - 1st Sep

Seen at Church Lawton (Aug), Danebridge/Wincle (Aug-Sep), Middlewich Lime Beds (Apr & Aug) and Sandbach Flashes (May & Aug)

Stonechat recorded Jan-Mar, Jun, Aug-Dec

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Mar), Danebower (Aug), Doddington (Mar), Meremoor Moss (Jan-Feb & Oct-Nov), Middlewich (Mar), Mow Cop (Jun), Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Mar, Sep-Oct & Dec) and Scholar Green (Nov)

Highest count of 3 at Sandbach Flashes (Feb)

Confirmed Breeding at Mow Cop

Wheatear

First report - 5th Apr, last report - 15th Oct

Seen at The Cloud (Apr), Doddington (Apr & Aug), Holmes Chapel (Apr), Meremoor Moss (Apr), Mow Cop (Apr-May), Sandbach Flashes (Apr-Jun & Aug-Oct) and Scholar Green (Apr)

Highest count of 4 at Sandbach Flashes (Aug)

Dipper (Cinclus cinclus) recorded in every month except Oct & Dec

Favours the faster, clear rivers and streams; only usually recorded in 4 or 5 sites in Congleton area

Bird(s) displaying at Congleton but no records of confirmed breeding

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Old World Sparrows; Snowfinches (Passeridae)

House Sparrow common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 41 at King George V Playing Fields, Crewe (May)

Tree Sparrow recorded in every month except Aug but usually only sightings from Sandbach Flashes
Highest count of c20 at Sandbach Flashes (Jul) – presumably helped by the erecting of nest boxes by the birders and feed provided by our sponsor HJ Lea Oakes Ltd
Also seen at Arclid SQ (Apr-Jul), Merelake Way (May-Jun & Dec), Sandbach (Nov) and Wheelock Heath (Jul)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Merelake Way and Sandbach Flashes

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) common locally, recorded in every month
Highest count of 9 at Merelake Way (May)
Confirmed breeding at Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss and Wheelock/Malkin's Bank

Wagtails; Pipits (Motacillidae)

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

First report - 5th Apr; last report - 13th Sep
Seen at Arclid SQ (Aug), Alsager (Apr), Congleton (Aug), Doddington (Apr-May), Sandbach Flashes (Apr-May & Jul-Sep) and Scholar Green (Apr & Jun)
Highest count of c8 at Arclid SQ (Aug)

Grey Wagtail recorded in every month of the year

Seen at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Barthomley, Bathvale, Congleton Park, Crewe BP, Doddington, Joey the Swan, Lawton Hall/Woods, Lea Forge, Macon Meadows, Malkins Bank, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Quakers Coppice, Queen's Park, Rode Pool, Sandbach Flashes, Swettenham, Tall Chimneys, Wheelock and Wybunbury Moss
Highest count of 3 at Astbury Mere CP (Sep & Nov), Congleton Park (May) and Sandbach Flashes (Nov)
Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ and Doddington

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

First report 13th Mar, last report 22nd Sep
Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Sep), Doddington (Mar-Jun & Aug-Sep) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar-May)
Highest count of 5 over Astbury Mere CP (Sep) during a VisMig

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*) subspecies - common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 17 at Astbury Mere CP (Sep)
Confirmed breeding at Doddington, Sandbach Flashes and Wheelock/Malkin's Bank

Meadow Pipit recorded in every month

Seen at Astbury Mere CP, Brereton, Checkley Lane, The Cloud, Danebower, Doddington, Lawton Woods, Lea Forge, Meremoor Moss, Middlewich Lime Beds, Mow Cop and Sandbach Flashes
Highest count of 50 at Brereton (Mar) and during a VisMig at Sandbach Flashes 584 (Sep)
Confirmed breeding at The Cloud and Mow Cop

Tree Pipit

First report 21st Apr

Seen at The Cloud (Apr & Jul), Coppenhall Moss (Sep), Mow Cop (Apr) and Scholar Green (Aug)

Highest count of 3 at Scholar Green (Aug)

Finches (Fringillidae)

Chaffinch common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of c400 at Checkley Lane (Mar)

Breeding confirmed at Merelake Way and Rode Pool

Brambling recorded in Jan-Apr & Nov-Dec

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Feb-Apr & Nov), Basford (Feb-Mar), Bathvale (Jan & Mar), Checkley Lane (Mar), Davenport (Mar), Doddington (Jan-Feb, Apr & Dec), Lawton Heath (Jan), Lawton Woods (Jan & Mar), Sandbach Flashes (Jan & Apr), Springbank Farm, Bradwall (Jan) and Swettenham (Apr)

Highest count of c52 at Astbury Mere CP (Apr)

Hawfinch recorded in Jan-Apr & Nov

Seen at Alsager (Jan), Astbury Mere CP (Jan-Apr & Nov), Crewe (Feb), Doddington (Jan) and Sandbach Flashes (Mar)

Highest count of 8 at Astbury Mere CP (Mar) one or more singing birds also noted

Bullfinch fairly common locally, recorded in every month

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Astbury Mere CP, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss and Roe Park

Highest count of 11 at Astbury Mere CP (Mar)

Greenfinch fairly common locally but affected by *Trichomonosis*, recorded in every month

Highest count of 14 at Swettenham (Apr)

Confirmed breeding at Astbury Mere CP and Merelake Way

Linnet recorded in every month

Seen at Albion Lock (May), Arclid SQ (Mar-Apr), Astbury Mere CP (Apr), Barthomley (Sep), Checkley Lane (Nov), The Cloud (Jun-Jul), Doddington (Jan-Apr & Dec), Hassall Moss (Feb & Aug), Lawton (Feb), Lea Forge (May-Jul & Oct), Merelake Way (May), Meremoor Moss (Jan-Feb, Jun-Jul & Sep), Middlewich Lime Beds (Apr & Jun), Sandbach Flashes (Jan, Apr-May, Sep-Oct & Dec), Swettenham (May), Wheelock/Malkin's Bank (Jun), Wheelock Heath (May & Jul) and Wybunbury Moss (Dec)

Highest count of c200 at Doddington (Jan) and Sandbach Flashes (Dec)

Confirmed breeding at The Cloud

Lesser Redpoll recorded in Jan-May, Jul & Oct-Dec

Seen at Alsager (Jan), Astbury Mere CP (Feb-May & Oct-Nov), The Cloud (Jul), Congleton (Jan & Mar), Lea Forge (Oct), Macon Meadows (Feb), Merelake Way (Dec), Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Apr & Oct-Nov), Swettenham (Feb, Apr & Nov)

Highest count of 25 at Borrow Pit Meadows (Mar)

Red Crossbill

2 recorded at The Cloud (Jul)

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Goldfinch common locally, recorded in every month

Highest count of 48 at Macon Meadows (Dec)

Confirmed breeding at Crewe, Doddington, Lea Forge, Merelake Way, Meremoor Moss and Wybunbury Moss

Siskin recorded in Jan-Apr, Jul & Sep-Dec

Seen at Astbury Mere CP (Jan-Mar & Sep-Dec), Congleton (Jan & Mar), Crewe (Jan), Elworth (Feb), Holmes Chapel (Nov), Macon Meadows (Mar-Apr), Meremoor Moss (Feb & Oct-Nov), Mow Cop (Jul), Oakhanger Moss (Feb), Rode Pool (Jan-Feb & Oct-Nov), Sandbach (Feb), Sandbach Flashes (Jan-Feb & Sep-Oct) and Wybunbury Moss (Dec)

Highest count of c70 at Rode Pool (Feb)

Buntings (Emberizidae)

Yellowhammer recorded in every month except Aug

Seen at Alsager (Jan-Feb & Jun), Arclid (Apr), Brownlow (May), Checkley Lane (Nov), Holmes Chapel (Apr-Jun), Lawton (Feb-Mar, May & Nov), Meremoor Moss (Mar-Apr), Sandbach Flashes (Feb-Oct), Scholar Green (Jul, Oct & Dec), Springbank Farm, Bradwall (Jan)

Highest count of 53 at Lawton Fields (Feb)

Reed Bunting fairly common locally, recorded in every month

8 territories recorded at Arclid SQ

Confirmed breeding at Arclid SQ, Doddington, Meremoor Moss and Mow Cop