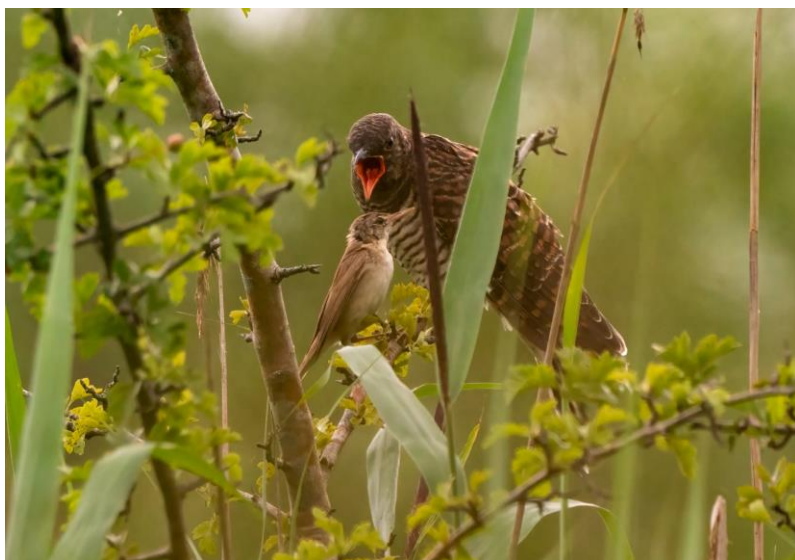


Rostherne Mere Quarterly Newsletter Jul-Sep 2022

Welcome to the Rostherne Mere Quarterly Newsletter covering the summer months. I'm writing this in late Sep and the temperature has dropped significantly in the last few days as autumn approaches.

The diversity of water birds using the mere is lower during the summer but numbers of geese were high with up to 630 Canada and 120 Greylag Geese visiting. Egyptian Geese bred in



Reed Warbler feeding a Cuckoo, photo Tony Tyler

Tatton Park and were seen on eight dates with 10 dropping in on 6th Sep. Up to twenty-nine Mandarins roosted in Jul. Four Common Scoters and a juvenile Black-necked Grebe visited in Jul. A Bittern was seen in Sep. Great White Egrets and Little Egrets were also logged. Waders included Curlew, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Oystercatcher and Dunlin.

One of the amazing records of the quarter was the first proof of Cuckoo parasitism in a Reed Warbler nest since 1993! Captured wonderfully by Tony Tyler on 30th Jul!

It was a great summer for raptors with Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Marsh Harrier and Red Kite all recorded. Hobbys were a daily sight in Aug and Sep with adult and juvenile birds providing wonderful views and sounds, as the youngsters vociferously begged for food from shoreline perches.

Barn Owls bred with two chicks fledging. They were included in the Cheshire totals of 123 breeding pairs and 322 chicks, with only four failed broods, representing a very good year.

All three species of woodpecker were recorded with Great Spotted Woodpeckers seen frequently on the bird table and in front of the Observatory. A juvenile Green Woodpecker was spotted on nine dates and there was a single account of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in Sep.

It was a very poor summer for sightings of hirundines over the mere with few double figure counts for Swallow and House Martin!

In contrast, it was good year for several breeding summer migrants with many juvenile Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps seen in front of the Observatory.

Malcolm Calvert, in his 50th year of ringing, along with John Adshead, worked tirelessly in the reed beds and were rewarded in ringing 244 Reed Warblers of which 66 were adults, 129 juveniles and 49 nestlings, in addition to many other species. Juvenile Cetti's Warblers were also ringed proving breeding on the Reserve.

Kingfishers were seen on many dates and obligingly fished from posts in front of the Bittern Hide. Grey Wagtails bred along Rostherne Brook and an adult with two juveniles were seen in Sep.

Ravens were often spotted and heard flying low over the mere and margins with two mobbing a Peregrine Falcon on 22nd Sep.

Butterflies recorded during the summer included Purple Hairstreak (in the Oak canopies), Common Blue and Small Copper but there was only one record of Painted Lady. A total of 20 butterfly species have been seen during the year with numbers up in 13 of them!

Damselflies recorded included some firsts for Rostherne, namely Emerald Damselfly and Small Red-eyed Damselfly. Both were seen on the new wetland habitat in Dolls Meadow and photographed by Pete Kelly. Dragonflies logged included high numbers of Common Darter and Migrant Hawkers with several Southern Hawkers persisting into late Sep.

Pete Kelly also added several new hoverfly species to his ever-increasing list including one of the largest, the hornet mimic, *Volucella zonaria*.

Finally, it was wonderful to see 88 attendees including many permit holders at the 60th Anniversary of the opening of the A W Boyd Observatory at Egerton Hall, Rostherne where Malcolm received a well-earned reward for his 50 years' service to Rostherne Mere NNR and Ornithology! **Bill Bellamy**



Hobby, photo Tony Tyler



Barn Owl chicks, photo Bill Bellamy



Barn Owl, photo Tony Tyler



Juvenile Male Cetti's Warbler, photo John Adshead



Kingfisher with a small Perch, photo Tony Tyler



Common Blue, photo Pete Kelly



Emerald Damselfly, photo Pete Kelly



Small Red-eyed Damselfly, photo Pete Kelly



Southern Hawker Dragonfly, photo Pete Kelly



The Hornet Mimic Hoverfly, Volucella zonaria, photo Pete Kelly



Four-banded Longhorn Beetle Leptura quadrifasciata, photo Pete Kelly



Rupert Randall, Reserve Manager, Rostherne Mere NNR, at the 60th Anniversary of the Opening of the A W Boyd Observatory, photo Sheelagh Halsey



Malcolm Calvert receiving a presentation for 50 years bird ringing at Rostherne Mere NNR from Hugh Pulsford (CAWOS), photo Sheelagh Halsey