

## Rostherne Mere Quarterly Newsletter Apr-Jun 2022

Greetings. I can't believe we are already halfway through the year! The Spring at Rostherne has been exciting with some interesting avian passage migrants and seasonal visitors plus the emergence of an array of insects and plants.

Apr saw the arrival of the first Blackcaps, Willow Warblers, Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats. Up to four Cetti's Warblers were calling on two dates. Several Sand Martins arrived on 1<sup>st</sup> and around 20 House Martins were feeding over the Mere on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A Marsh



*Whinchat, photo Steve Collins*

Harrier circled Shaw Green Willows and Red Kite was seen on two dates. Two juvenile Brambling were spotted in Mere Covert. Passage migrants included a stunning male Whinchat in Dolls Meadow. Six Goosanders flew into roost on several nights as the breeding Cormorant colony continued to grow with 178 occupied nests by the end of the month. Two Yellowhammers were seen in the hedgerow near Mere Meadow.

Both Arctic Tern and Common Tern were recorded in May. A Grasshopper Warbler was heard reeling from the Snipe Marsh on several dates. One of the highlights of the month was the arrival of both male and female

Cuckoos which were seen almost daily until mid-Jun. Two Hobbys were most welcome additions and a pair of Spotted Flycatchers nested in Wood Bongs. A female Wheatear visited Old Meadow on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a Little Egret was seen on the edge of the Mere on 7<sup>th</sup>. The first Swifts were seen on 10<sup>th</sup> and an amazing 150 were wheeling over the Mere on 29<sup>th</sup>. In comparison, Swallows numbers were low throughout the month. Goslings, ducklings, Coot chicks and noisy young Cormorants brought new life to the Reserve.

The first young Reed Warblers emerged Jun. A Great White Egret visited on 7<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile Black-necked Grebe was in front of the Boathouse on 13<sup>th</sup>. The surprise of the month was a juvenile Willow Tit caught near the Bittern Hide on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Butterflies seen during Apr and May included good numbers of Orange Tip and Green-veined White. There were very high counts of Meadow Brown on the grasslands in Jun and Ringlets were recorded in new areas around the Reserve. Large Skipper, Small Skipper and Holly Blue were also seen during the quarter.

Damselflies included Common Blue, Azure, Blue-tailed and Large Red but also the rarer, Red-eyed Damselfly which has a preference for floating vegetation. Dragonflies logged included Four-spotted Chaser, Broad-bodied Chaser, Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer and a newly emerged Brown Hawker.

Pete Kelly recorded over 20 hoverfly species and he also found a Nationally Scarce Longhorn Beetle *Saperda scalaris*.

There were wonderful displays of Common Bluebell in the woodlands in late Apr and early May and rarer plants for the Reserve included Ragged Robin and Skullcap. **Bill Bellamy**



*Cuckoo, photo Tony Tyler*



*Hobby, photo Steve Collins*



*Great White Egret, photo Phil Dell*



*Spotted Flycatcher, photo Steve Collins*



*Kestrel, photo Tony Tyler*



*Jay, photo Gunnar Menzel*



*Young Reed Warblers, photo Tony Tyler*



*Juvenile Willow Tit, photo John Adshead*



*Male Orange Tip. photo Judith Chapman*



*Red-eyed Damselfly, photo Sheelagh Halsey*



*Male Black-tailed Skimmer, photo Sheelagh Halsey*



*Hoverfly, *Brachypalpoides lentus*, photo Pete Kelly*



*Longhorn Beetle, Saperda scalaris, photo Pete Kelly*



*View from the Bittern Hide, photo Gunnar Menzel*