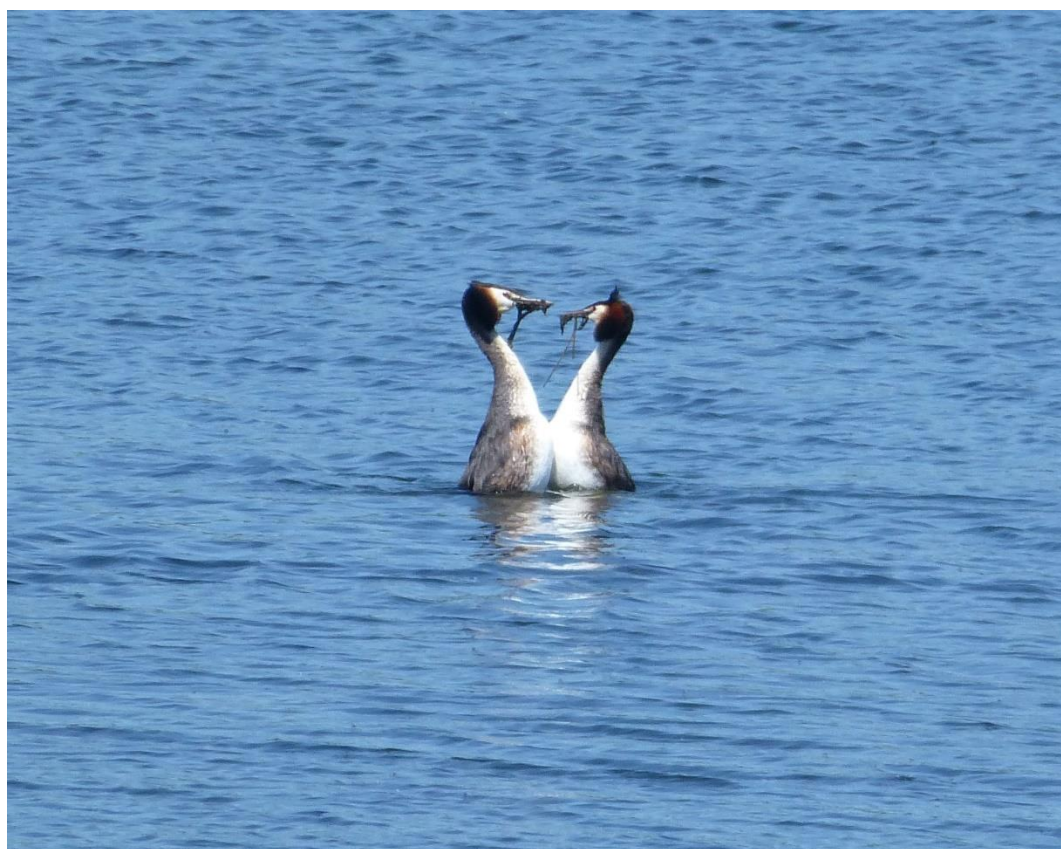


Rostherne Mere Newsletter Apr-Jun 2025

Welcome to the newsletter covering the period from Apr to Jun 2025.

Wildfowl counts included 10 Mutes Swans, one Whooper Swan, 86 Canada Geese with 13 goslings, 10 Greylag Geese and several Egyptian Geese. There were 55 Mallards with four ducklings and 30 Tufted Ducks recorded. A female Teal was seen in May. The last Goldeneye was seen on 25th Apr. Mandarin Ducks bred with five chicks seen in May. Four Black-necked Grebes were recorded in Apr. There were 52 Great Crested Grebes and one chick. There were four Coot chicks seen. Three Shelducks visited in Apr. Five Grey Herons were seen in Jun. A total of 147 occupied Cormorant nests were recorded in May with a peak of count of 266 birds.



Great Crested Grebes on 13th May © Sheelagh Halsey

Waders encountered included Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Snipe and a Black-tailed Godwit, the first since 2014. There were 10 Herring Gulls and 180 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Apr and a Great Black-backed Gull was recorded in Jun. Terns included three Common Terns and one record of three Sandwich Terns sitting on a buoy in Jun, the first record since 2013.

There were some great sightings of raptors during the quarter including Buzzard, Marsh Harrier, Peregrine, Red Kite, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk. A Hobby was seen in front of the

Observatory in early Jun. The highlight was two sightings of a female Hen Harrier in Apr and May. The first record for 10 years!

There were a pair of Tawny Owls calling from the Split Limes in Apr. Great Spotted Woodpeckers bred in several locations around the Reserve. A male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen near Oxhey Meadow. A Cuckoo was heard almost daily throughout May all around the Reserve. Two Ravens were recorded. A Spotted Flycatcher was first recorded in Wood Bongs on 7th May and seen throughout the month. There was a family party of 20 Long-tailed Tits and two juvenile Mistle Thrushes seen in Jun. A Yellowhammer was recorded near Gale Bog.

There were around 100 House Martins and 400 Sand Martins recorded. The maximum number of Swallows in comparison was only 25. Twenty Swifts were counted in Jun.

Warblers included Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Cettis Warbler, Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler. The first Reed Warblers recorded were two ringed by The Ringing Team in Shaw Green Willows on 10th Apr as were two Grasshopper Warblers.

There were good numbers of insects including butterflies, damselflies, dragonflies and hoverflies recorded during the fine dry weather during the quarter. We have had recent visits by The Marple Birding Group, Team Tuesday and Hale U3A.

Best Wishes.

Bill Bellamy



Rostherne Mere on 7th May © John Adshead



Reed Warbler nest on 14th Jun © John Adshead



Yellowhammer on 19th Apr © Sheelagh Halsey



Spotted Flycatcher on 19th May © Steve Collins



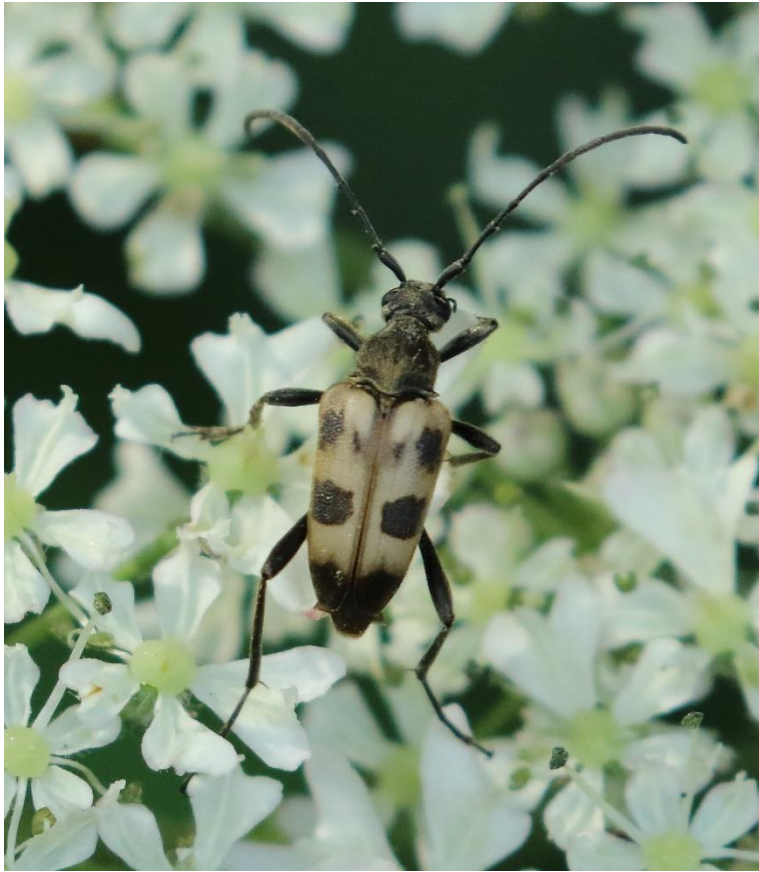
Small Coppers on 27th Apr © Pete Kelly



Banded Demoiselle on 7th May © Sheelagh Halsey



*The Superb Ant-hill Hoverfly (*Xanthogramma pedissequum*) on 16th Jun © Pete Kelly*



Speckled Longhorn Beetle on 11th Jun © Pete Kelly



Marple Birding Group visit on 29th Apr © Bill Bellamy