



### **Coombes Valley RSPB and Tittesworth Reservoir, 24th April 2016**

Six MCOS members met at Coombes Valley RSPB. On entering the reserve, we were greeted by the song of a Willow Warbler and the call of a Green Woodpecker. Walking down towards the stream crossing, singing Blackcap were showing well. Moving into the woodland walk, bird numbers were disappointing until we arrived at the area where the pond is located. Here we saw a stunning male Redstart and a female Pied Flycatcher which were the highlight birds for the sight. While completing the walking back to the carpark a good mix of birds were seen including Tree Creeper, Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Chiffchaff.

After lunch the group moved on to Tittesworth Reservoir. Due to the weather turning fairly nasty, with frequent heavy rain showers, the group headed for the hides. From the West hide nesting Oyster Catcher were seen on the island and two pairs of Goosander were present on the pool. Moving on to the East hide, where a feeding station is situated, Reed Bunting, Coal Tit and the bird of the day, Willow Tit, were coming to the feeders. On the pool Great Crested Grebe and two common sandpipers were seen. Total number of species for the day was 46.

Graham Haspey

### **RSPB Coombes Valley & Rudyard Lake, 22nd May 2018**

We were lucky to have a beautiful sunny and warm day for the 8 members who visited RSPB Coombes Valley for our last midweek walk of the season. The meadows and woods were at their best and we very much enjoyed our visit. At this time of year, the birds are hard to spot in the foliage, but we were delighted to have close views of a male Pied Flycatcher (bird of the day) singing his heart off at the top of a tree near the bridge. We followed the Valley Woodland trail through delightful swathes of bluebell back to the Information centre for a picnic lunch in the sunshine. Next, we drove to the dam at Rudyard Lake for a well-deserved ice cream and were amazed to spot a grey wagtail in the trees. Unusual as we had only previously seen grey wagtail by water. 22 species.

Stephen Williams