



Sandbach Flashes, 17 January 2023

Nine brave members met up at Elton Hall Flash Sandbach in sub-zero conditions with fog over the flashes. Nevertheless, the woodland birds were very active on the well-stocked feeders including Greenfinch, with Great Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper nearby. An Egyptian Goose was captured flying by on Simon's long lens camera. There were hundreds of Wigeon on the grass and flashes whistling away, and flocks of Lapwing. A Little Grebe was seen close to on the river Wheelock and a solitary Fieldfare on top of a bush. The group recorded 34 species but called it a day at 1130 as hands were getting cold!



Wren



Fieldfare



Shoveller



Wigeon

Stephen Williams

Sandbach Flashes, 15th October 2024

Eight members turned up on a chilly overcast but thankfully dry morning. Beginning at Elton Hall Flash Paul spotted two late Swallows and a singing Chiffchaff. We saw good numbers of duck, including Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pochard, Shelduck and Gadwall and a large group of gulls including a Yellow-

legged, a Caspian and both Lesser and Great Black-backed. Heading round to the farm track we had a Buzzard being mobbed by crows and a Sparrow Hawk plus excellent views of a Great White Egret. Several Cetti's Warblers were heard calling. We moved on to Pump House Flash but there was little new seen. A return visit to the starting point enabled us to locate the two Pintails we had missed earlier.

Overall, a very enjoyable visit and 44 species seen - not bad for a couple of hours.

Thanks as usual to Ian for the use of his scope without which many of the birds would have been out of range and similarly to Paul for the benefit of his ultrasonic hearing and bird song skills.

Ged Petch