

**BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE  
AND SURROUNDING AREA**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

Although the daily coverage was maintained by Ian Swain other observer hours were much reduced for 22 days thus February was a very quiet month and although 81 species were recorded (best ever February species total is 85) the year list only rose to 87, eight behind the best ever end of February total set in 2009. Weatherwise there was nothing untoward to report as it remained fairly dry.

An adult male **Peregrine** was present on the 1st as was a **Dunlin** (both remaining to the 2nd) but then it was very quiet until a **Caspian Gull** was seen on the 13th. 345 **Lapwings** on the 15th was a good count for recent times and the highest count of **Wigeon** for the winter was 133 on the 19th. It then started to liven up a little with the first **Oystercatcher** back on the 22nd, the first **Curlew** of the year on the 23rd with the first **Redshank** of the year the following day. Three **Shoveler** arrived on the 25th and stayed on a few days and the same day three **Oystercatchers** were seen. Three **Goosander** were seen on the 26th with up to two logged on eight more dates and 12 **Buzzards** were counted from the mound the same day. A **Dunlin** was also seen on the 26th, an immature female **Peregrine** was present on the 27th when there was a count of 60 **Great Black-backed Gulls** and a flock of 25 **Lesser Redpolls**. An adult **Kittiwake** was present briefly on the 28th and the **Lesser Redpoll** flock increased to 30 on the 29th. As you can tell from the length of this bulletin February was a very uneventful month at Carr Vale

Mark Beevers