

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

APRIL 2012

Once again during the month daily coverage was maintained but observer coverage was reduced for the first four weeks, leaving just Ian Swain as the main recorder. Despite terrible weather, snow early in the month and serious flooding several times (Meadow Flash was 4'6" deep on the 30th, when the normal winter level is just 27"-30") 102 species were recorded, the seventh time that 100 has been broken in April. However the year list only moved on to 116 (best end of April figure is 129) and the month was characterised by many species arriving later than expected.

16 **Wigeon** were still present on the 2nd when a **Curlew** flew north and 65 **Fieldfare** flew north-east, these being the last of the winter and **Chiffchaffs** increased to 16 by the 5th. The highest count of **Teal** was 16 on the 7th when a **Peregrine** was seen, a **Little Ringed Plover** was one of only six sightings during the month, **Redshank** peaked at four and a pair of **Roe Deer** was seen. Two **Egyptian Geese** on the 8th were a rare sight on the reserve, being just the sixth record and the first since 2005. The same day four **Oystercatchers** were also present and the first **Common Sandpiper** of the year was seen on the 10th.

A pair of **Shoveler** was present intermittently from the 11th (to the 18th) on which date 120 **Golden Plover** was the highest count of the month whilst a male **Roe Deer** was seen on the 12th. A third **Shoveler** appeared on the 13th when a **Wheatear** was found and then **Grey Lag Geese** peaked at eight on the 14th. The **Gadwall** flock peaked at 49 on the 16th but bird of the day was a singing male **Cetti's Warbler**, a bird that was to become a daily feature on our visits to the reserve. An **Arctic Tern** on the 18th proved to be the earliest ever for the reserve by two days and another new bird for the year was **Yellow Wagtail** with two being logged. A **Marsh Harrier** was present on the 19th (and 20th) with a **Wheatear**, four **Yellow Wagtails** and a **White Wagtail** also present on the 19th whilst on the 20th a **Common Sandpiper** was present, remaining until the following day when another **White Wagtail** was seen.

Two more **Shoveler**, a **Peregrine**, two **Ringed Plovers**, four **Common Sandpipers**, another **Arctic Tern** and the first **Sedge Warbler** of the year were seen on the 22nd as were four **Yellow Wagtails**. Another **Marsh Harrier** was seen on the 23rd when the two **Shoveler** were still present and the first two **Common Terns** of the year appeared. A pair of **Pochard** was present from the 24th to the month end and that day the first **Common Whitethroat** and **Grasshopper Warblers** of the year were found. A record-breaking 13 **Great-crested Grebes** was counted on the 26th when another **Common Sandpiper** appeared, it remaining until the month end and **Grasshopper Warblers** had increased to two. The 27th was a good day for waders when four **Ringed Plovers** were seen, 16 **Golden Plover** flew north, a **Dunlin** was present along with a **Black-tailed Godwit** and three **Common Sandpipers**. Three **Common Terns** were also present on that date when the first four **Swifts** of the year were seen and a **Greenland Wheatear** was present. 12 **Yellow Wagtails** were also counted on the 27th. A pair of **Shelduck** was present on the 28th when we first noticed that a pair of **Peregrines** had taken up residence on a pylon, the latter also being seen on the 30th. The only **Water Rail** of the month was also heard calling on the 28th when two **Arctic Terns** flew north, 165 **Swallows** were counted including 55 that flew north whilst five out of the 12 **Yellow Wagtails** seen that day also flew north as did 13 **Siskins**. Two more **Arctic Terns** flew north on the 29th. A male **Wigeon** remained on the 30th on which date a **Red Kite** flew north, the first **Hobby** of the year was seen, a **Curlew** flew north, two **Common Terns** were seen, the first **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Reed Warblers** of the year were located and another **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard singing. The most outstanding record on the 30th was a record count of eight **Wheatears**, several of which were Greenland types and there was also a late **Lesser Redpoll**.

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