

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE AND SURROUNDING AREA

NOVEMBER 2008

Daily coverage continued throughout the month although we had to rely on Ian Swain, Kev Navin, Phil Snaith and Arthur Gee from the 22nd to make sure the visits were maintained. 85 species were recorded and the year list increased to 143. Notable species included **Whooper Swan**, **Pink-footed Geese**, **Shelduck**, **Pintail**, **Goldeneye** (two), **Goosander**, **Peregrine**, **Yellow-legged Gulls**, **Caspian Gull**, **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff**.

A **Little Grebe** was seen daily between the 4th and 6th and again on the 12th whilst the last **Great-crested Grebe** was recorded on the 3rd. **Cormorants** were seen daily with double-figures on nine dates and a peak count of 19 on the 31st. **Heron**s were also recorded daily but only in single figures with a high of nine on the 19th. **Mute Swans** were logged on all but one date with a peak count of seven on the 30th whilst two **Whooper Swans** were present on the 23rd. A **Pink-footed Goose** was present on 11 dates until the 13th and a flock of 200 flew south-east on the 16th whilst ten **Grey Lag Geese** were present on the 30th. **Canada Geese** numbers increased again during the month with a high of 158 on the 27th and a **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** on the 14th was a pleasant surprise.

A **Shelduck** arrived with the **Brent Goose** but unlike that species it remained until the 22nd. **Wigeon** were present daily and increased slowly reaching a high of 112 on the 30th. **Gadwall** were recorded in double-figures on nine dates but the highest count was only 15 on the 2nd whilst **Teal** peaked at 117 on the 10th, which was one of only two counts in excess of 100 during the month. 130 **Mallard** on the 4th was the highest count of the month and 11 **Shoveler** were present on the 1st with nine on the 3rd after which only one to four were recorded until the 17th with a late male on the 30th. One or two **Pochard** were present eight dates and **Tufted Ducks** were recorded in double-figures daily with a maximum of 25 on three dates. A juvenile **Goldeneye** was present daily between the 9th and 15th and another juvenile turned up on the 22nd. Three **Goosander** flew north on the 1st and two were present on the 18th and 21st.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 14 dates (17 bird / days), **Common Buzzards** were seen on 20 dates (25 bird / days) and **Kestrels** were recorded on 13 dates (15 bird / days). A **Red-legged Partridge** was seen on the 21st and 13 **Grey Partridges** were counted on the 7th and 11th. **Water Rails** were heard calling on six dates with two on three dates but the only one to be seen was on the 26th. **Coot** peaked at 61 on the 7th. **Golden Plover** were only recorded on five dates but these included 50 on the 30th and 40 on the 17th whilst **Lapwings** peaked at 147 on the 17th. **Snipe** were recorded in single figures on 14 dates with a high of just seven on the 14th and single **Redshanks** were present on the 12th and 22nd.

Black-headed Gulls were present in good numbers all month with a peak of 550 on the 6th whilst **Common Gulls** were seen on 14 dates including a rare double-figure count of ten on the 5th. 150 **Herring Gulls** were present on the 16th and an adult **Caspian Gull** hid amongst them whilst an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was present on the 1st. 60 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were also counted on the 16th.

19 **Stock Doves** were seen on the 19th, one or two **Little Owls** were seen on 17 dates and a **Tawny Owl** was logged on five dates. Two **Kingfishers** were seen on the 22nd with one on 15 other dates, a **Green Woodpecker** were seen the 12th and 14th and a **Great-**

spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 1st. 18 **Skylarks** flew south on the 7th, two **Grey Wagtails** were seen on the 22nd with singles on 11 dates and 26 **Pied Wagtails** were counted on the 8th.

Fieldfares continued to move generally west and the best counts were 300 on the 1st, 220 on the 3rd, 270 on the 7th, 270 on the 8th, 229 on the 13th, 243 on the 14th and 200 on the 15th after which they were present in much smaller numbers. A **Song Thrush** was singing on the 4th and **Redwings** too moved in a generally westerly direction, though in much smaller numbers than **Fieldfare** with a high of 95 on the 8th. A female **Blackcap** was present on the 8th and a male was seen on the 22nd whilst at least one **Chiffchaff** was by the mound on the 30th. 15 **Long-tailed Tits** were seen on the 30th and six **Willow Tits** were seen on the 22nd.

The only **Jay** of the month was seen on the 12th and 730 **Starlings** flew west on the 1st. After a good autumn passage **Siskins** became quite scarce with one to four nine dates whilst one to three **Lesser Redpolls** were recorded on eight dates. Up to 13 **Reed Buntings** were regular visitors to the mound feeding station.

Late insects included a pair of **Common Darters** on the 15th whilst the only mammals of note were **Hares** on seven dates and a **Fox** on the 4th.

Mark Beevers