

Carr Vale Update - March 2010

One Pink-footed Goose, one Grey Lag Goose, a pair of Oystercatchers, up to four Redshanks and several chiffchaffs have been seen daily since the 20th. Additional species include a Shelduck briefly early on the 20th with a pair in the late afternoon, also 112 Wigeon, 1 Little Ringed Plover, one Dunlin and three Sand Martins the same day. On the 21st the pair of Shelduck still present, a male Mandarin Duck (5th record first since 2006), at least 26 Common Buzzards on view from the observation mound (ten sat in one small field), four Sand Martins (north) and a male Brambling at the gate feeding station. On 22nd 70 Golden Plovers, a Sand Martin (north), 30 Meadow Pipits (30 north) and 22 Reed Buntings attending the two main feeding stations. On 23rd the first Little Grebe of the year was on Meadow Flash, a pair of Shelduck, a good count of 29 Tufted Ducks, still 13 Common Buzzards, a Little Ringed Plover, the earliest ever Swallow (previous earliest date 26th March) and eight Sand Martins. On 24th the pair of Shelduck still present, Wigeon down to 87, a Little Ringed Plover, a Sand Martin flew south, a White Wagtail with a Wheatear at nearby Sutton Scarsdale Flash (the latter both the first for the year).

The first Butterfly of the year was a Brimstone on the 16th with a Peacock and two Small Tortoiseshells on the 18th.