

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

**June 2010**

87 species were recorded during the month and the year list moved on to 131. Notable species seen during the month included **Hobby**, **Water Rail**, **Black-tailed Godwit** (15), **LITTLE TERN** (first record), **Cuckoo**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Tree Sparrow**, **Siskin**, **Marbled White**, **Painted Lady**, **Banded Demoiselle** and **Roe Deer**.

One or two **Little Grebes** were recorded on 13 dates but as yet there is no evidence of breeding and a pair of **Great-crested Grebes**, which were present to the 17th failed to breed again this year. A second pair was present on the 1st and 12th and a juvenile from elsewhere was seen on the 28th. A **Cormorant** was seen on the 24th and two flew north on the 26th. **Heron** numbers started to increase and reached a maximum count of seven on 27th whilst **Mute Swans** were present daily and despite building several nests the resident pair failed to breed. The maximum count was ten on the 9th, 10th and 18th. 13 **Grey Lag Geese** flew north on the 14th, six flew north-west on the 21st and two were on the flashes on the 16th. Although there were seven broods of **Canada Geese** it was considered a poor breeding season as all the broods were small and only 16 young survived to the end of June.

**Gadwall** numbers peaked at 41 on the 13th and by the end of June there were five broods of ten, nine, nine, eight and seven. The first returning **Teal** was a male from the 13th with birds present subsequently on 13 dates with a peak of four on the 23rd. **Mallard** also had a very poor breeding season with just five broods found so far. Two **Pochard** were seen on the 12th with singles on the 9th and 22nd and the maximum count of **Tufted Duck** was 20 on the 12th. A female with ten young was found on the 30th.

**Sparrowhawks** were very scarce indeed there was just one record of a female carrying food on the 28th. **Common Buzzards** were logged on 20 dates (37 bird / days) with a peak count of six viewable from the mound on the 17th and **Kestrels** were recorded on 27 dates (46 bird /days). A pair of **Hobbies** was seen on the 2nd and one was present on the 28th. A **Red-legged Partridge** was at Deepdale Flash (Sutton Scarsdale) on the 17th and a **Grey Partridge** was seen on the 17th. A **Water Rail** was heard on the 3rd.

The resident pair of **Oystercatchers** was present daily and fledged two young successfully and a total of seven birds were present on the 14th with other interlopers present on many dates. **Little Ringed Plovers** were seen on all bar one date with a maximum count of 13 (five adults and eight juveniles) on the 24th. Two **Ringed Plovers** were seen on the 8th, with one on the 20th and one on the 23rd. Two **Dunlin** were present on the 1st and one on the 9th and 10th. We have an unconfirmed report of seven or eight **Black-tailed Godwits** seen by a visitor from Retford at 0700 on the 27th. **Redshank** were recorded on 17 dates with a maximum count four on the 21st and 22nd, consisting of an adult and three juveniles bred elsewhere but local. A **Green Sandpiper** was seen on the 19th and a **Common Sandpiper** was present on the 11th.

A pair of **Black-headed Gulls** has nested for the first time ever at Carr Vale this year. They hatched three young on the 3rd and all were doing well on the 30th. **Common Terns** have also nested again on the tern raft and they hatched two young on the 8th, which flew on the 1st July. The maximum count of adults four on the 27th. The highlight of the month was an adult **Little Tern** on the 27th that was present until it flew east at 0827, this being the first for the site but only two of the regulars caught up with it. Also on that date a **Cuckoo** was heard. There are three **Little Owl** territories within the recording area plus another right on the southern edge at Deepdale Farm and one of the pairs has at least two young. The highest count of **Swifts** was 120 on the 8th and a **Kingfisher** was seen on the 22nd and 25th. A **Green Woodpecker** was seen daily between the 1st and 5th and again on the 22nd and the first **Great-spotted Woodpecker** of the autumn was seen on the 25th.

**Yellow Wagtails** were seen on 21 dates and fledged young seen around the reserve towards the end of June with a max of three on 28th. The first **Grey Wagtail** of the autumn was seen on the 15th, four flew south on 21st with one or two on three other dates between 20th and 23rd. A **Grasshopper Warbler** had recommenced singing on 27th June with another in a different area on the 28th and 11 **Reed Warblers** were recorded on the 5th. Single **Jays** were seen on the 13th and 16th with one or two on the 22nd. The breeding pair of **Tree Sparrows** were feeding a second brood on 17th and a **Siskin**, which flew south on the 30th was a most unseasonal record. 17 singing male **Yellowhammers** were noted between Mill Farm, Carr Vale and Palterton sewage works on the 25th.

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