

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE AND SURROUNDING AREA

July 2010.

July was a good month with 95 species recorded, just one short of the all time best July total and notable records included **Little Egret**, **Hobby**, **Peregrine**, **Water Rail**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Whimbrel** (five), **Greenshank**, **Yellow-legged Gull**, **Turtle Dove**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Raven** (three) and **Crossbill**. 11 Species of Butterfly and seven species of dragonfly were noted but there were no surprises. Amongst the mammals the most notable record concerned a female **Roe Deer**.

Little Grebes were recorded on 28 dates with a maximum count of four on the 21st but in a very poor year for **Great-crested Grebes** just a single bird was recorded on ten dates. **Cormorants** were recorded on 13 dates, daily from 22nd with a peak count of six on 20th. A juvenile **Little Egret** was present briefly on the 26th and the maximum count of **Grey Herons** was nine on the 20th. Up to six **Mute Swans** were present daily and three **Grey Lag Geese** were seen on 10th and 23rd with one on the 4th. **Canada Geese** numbers started to increase from the 20th and had reached 250 by the 31st. The highest count of **Gadwall** was 54 on 31st whilst **Teal** records included single birds on 14 dates between the 2nd and 23rd with three on 16th. **Mallard** peaked at 101 on the 30th, a **Shoveler** was seen on five dates between 15th and 22nd with two (male and juvenile) on 20th-21st and 25th and a male **Pochard** was present on the 17th.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 16 dates, **Common Buzzards** were recorded on 24 dates (36 bird / days), single **Hobbies** were seen on the 10th, 15th, 18th and 21st and a **Peregrine** was seen on six dates with a pair on the 11th and three together on the 19th. An adult **Water Rail** was seen on the 8th and a juvenile was found on the 9th. Two juveniles were seen together on the 13th with single birds recorded on a total of nine dates during the month. **Oystercatchers** were recorded daily until the 21st with a max count of six on the 7th and **Little Ringed Plovers** were seen daily with a maximum count of ten on the 13th. An adult **Ringed Plover** was present on the 14th and two juveniles were seen on the 26th whilst an adult **Dunlin** was seen on the 18th. Single **Snipe** were logged on nine dates from the 10th with two on the 30th and a **Black-tailed Godwit** was present on the 13th and 14th. Five **Whimbrel** flew south on the 16th and one or two **Redshank** were present on nine dates between 2nd and 17th with three daily from the 25th to 31st. A **Greenshank** was present briefly on the 13th and two left north-east on the 15th. A **Green Sandpiper** was seen on the 2nd and on eight dates between 14th and 26th with two present on the 20th whilst one or two **Common Sandpipers** were seen on ten dates during the month.

The breeding pair of **Black-headed Gulls** successfully fledged their three young, **Common Gulls** started to be seen again with two adults on the 14th, one on the 16th and one on 25th. An adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen on 14th and 16th and **Common Terns** peaked at six on the 18th. A **Turtle Dove**, which flew over the Peter Fidler Reserve was a rare sight indeed unlike **Little Owls**, which were seen almost daily during the month. Two **Kingfishers** were seen on the 21st with one on 11 dates, two **Green Woodpeckers** were recorded on the 3rd with singles on 14 dates and single **Great-spotted Woodpeckers** were seen on seven dates.

40 **Sand Martins** flew south on the 9th, 40 were present on the 13th and 40 flew south on the 14th. **Yellow Wagtails** were recorded on 27 dates with a peak count of nine together on the 31st and one or two **Grey Wagtails** were logged on seven dates plus three on the 22nd which flew south. A flock of 21 **Mistle Thrushes** was seen on the 30th. Three **Grasshopper Warblers** were seen in the same bush on the 12th and 13th and the male was heard daily between 10th and 22nd with two singing 11th, 12th, 21st and 22nd. The first **Goldcrest** of the year was seen on the 19th some six and a half months later than the normal first sighting of the year and three **Ravens** flew north on the 27th. Six **Tree Sparrows** were seen on the 11th with one on the 9th and the surprise of the month was a party of four (including a male) **Common Crossbill** that flew north-west on the 11th.

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