

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE AND SURROUNDING AREA

August 2010

Our daily visits continue unabated producing 100 species for the month, the second time this year we've have hit three-figures. The year list moved on to 138 with the addition of three species, one of which was our earliest ever **Mediterranean Gull**. Other notable species included our first multiple arrival of **Little Egret** with flocks of five and three, regular **Hobbies** and **Peregrines**, up to two **Ruff**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, up to three **Greenshank**, **Arctic Tern**, 3 **Yellow-legged Gulls**, **Tree Pipit**, **Whinchat** and **Grasshopper Warbler**. Most notable though was the first area record of **Dark Green Fritillary**. Incidents were few but as is usual in late August the presence of large numbers of **Canada Geese** encouraged people with guns in the evenings.

Little Grebes were proved breeding when a pair had a single youngster, which was present all month whilst the highest count was seven on the 23rd but for the first time that I can remember there was not one record of a **Great-crested Grebe**. **Cormorants** were seen daily with a peak count of seven on the 15th and likewise **Heron**s were seen daily with a maximum count of eight on the 1st and 14th. A party of five **Little Egrets** arrived on the 9th having earlier been at Annersley Pit Tip and they were still present in the evening but not the following morning. Later on the 10th another party of three **Little Egrets** arrived again having been first seen at Annersley Pit Tip and then Pleasley Pit. This is the first time that more than one has been seen at Carr Vale. A pair of **Mute Swans** remained all month and **Grey Lag Geese** were seen daily until the 29th with a peak count of six on the 29th. **Canada Geese** numbers increased and eventually peaked at 571 on the 20th and the flock was joined by a minimum of seven different **hybrid Grey Lag / Canada Geese** during the month.

Gadwall numbers peaked at 68 on the 21st, **Teal** reached 28 by the 28th and **Mallard** peaked at 160 on the 25th. Two **Shoveler** were seen on the 15th after which there were daily records from the 19th with a high of six on the 30th. A **Pochard** flew around the flashes on the 17th but **Tufted Duck** numbers were very low with one to five on just nine dates.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 19 dates (20 bird / days), **Common Buzzards** were logged on 21 dates (47 bird / days) with an impressive count of 18 on the 25th including one thermal of eight birds and **Kestrels** were recorded on 24 dates (41 bird / days). After a **Hobby** was seen on the 6th the next wasn't until the 27th after which single birds were seen daily until the 30th with both an adult and a juvenile recorded. A juvenile female **Peregrine** was seen on 11 out of the first 12 days of the month and single birds were also logged on the 21st and 31st, most of which were sat on the pylon east of Deepdale Farm. A family party of eight **Red-legged Partridges** was seen at Deepdale Farm on the 17th and later in the month released birds started to appear with a peak count of ten on the 31st. A family of 14 **Grey Partridges** was seen on the 28th and a second brood of **Water Rails** was located on the 3rd with singles heard on five more dates and two adults seen on the 21st.

An **Oystercatcher** was seen on the 14th, five **Little Ringed Plovers** were seen on the 2nd and the last of the summer so far was seen on the 12th. Two adult **Ringed Plovers** were seen on the 4th and a juvenile flew south on the 29th whilst the first **Golden Plover** of the autumn was heard on the 15th. **Lapwings** peaked at 135 on the 30th, single **Dunlin** were present on the 3rd, 8th, 26th and 28th, a **Ruff** was seen on the 8th with two on the 12th. **Snipe** peaked at six on the 3rd when a **Black-tailed Godwit** was present until flushed by trust workers and a **Curlew** flew north on the 15th. Two juvenile **Redshank** were recorded between the 1st and 4th and three **Greenshank** on the 9th were followed by two on the 11th and one on the 18th. Three **Green Sandpipers** were seen on the 15th with single birds logged on five more dates between the 17th and 27th and one or two **Common Sandpipers** were present daily until the 21st.

A juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** on the 4th was the earliest ever autumn arrival by two weeks and 333 **Black-headed Gulls** were counted on the 20th. Four **Common Gulls** were seen on the 1st with three the following day and one or two on three other dates. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reached a lowly peak of 120 on the 27th whilst on the 1st three adult **Yellow-legged Gulls** and a juvenile **Herring Gull** were also recorded. An adult **Common Tern** was present on the 19th with a first summer bird on the 26th whilst an adult **Arctic Tern** was seen on the 13th. Up to three **Little Owls** could be seen from the mound on an almost daily basis and at last **Kingfishers** became more regular with records of one or two birds on 21 dates. Single **Green Woodpeckers** were seen on seven dates whilst single **Great-spotted Woodpeckers** were seen on four dates.

Sand Martins were seen on 25 dates but the only double-figure count was 15 on the 21st whilst a pre-roost count of **Swallows** on the 31st was 200. 100 **House Martins** were present on the 24th. A **Tree Pipit** flew south on the 16th and there was an impressive count of 26 **Yellow Wagtails** on the 8th. This is just two below the record count of 28. One or two **Grey Wagtails** were logged on nine dates and a **Whinchat** on the 18th was a notable record. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was reeling on the 3rd and 4th, **Sedge** and **Reed Warblers** were still present on the 31st with two **Lesser Whitethroats** still present on the 27th and two **Common Whitethroats** were seen on the 28th. A party of 21 **Long-tailed Tits** was seen on the 14th and one or two **Coal Tits** were noted on five dates. A **Jay** was seen on the 1st and 15th, 83 **Jackdaws** were counted on the 6th and 160 **Rooks** were counted on the 3rd. A party of eight **Tree Sparrows** flew west on the 21st and another was seen the following day whilst **Goldfinches** peaked at 40 on the 17th.

It was a poor month for insects with just nine species of Butterfly recorded the most notable being a single **Dark Green Fritillary**, a new species for the area. Otherwise single **Commas** on the 1st and 14th were the only other sightings of note. Eight species of Dragonfly were seen with the first **Migrant Hawkers** of the year appearing on the 15th, otherwise there was little excitement in that department. Amongst the mammals a **Weasel** on the 8th was notable and there was a good run of **Roe Deer** sightings with up to three on nine dates (male with a damaged rear right leg and two females). Both the **Red-eared Sliders** were seen on the 21st and the **Bullfrog** was seen on 25th.

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