

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE  
AND SURROUNDING AREA  
JUNE 2013

After the hectic spring June was a time for monitoring the breeding birds and even though it can be a quiet time of the year we managed to log 89 species, just four short of the best ever June tally and we added one new bird for the year taking the year list to 142. The summer started to develop nicely which unfortunately brought a few problems such as people fishing outside the close season, walking round the perimeter fencing and on one occasion a dog walker allowing their pet to chase ducklings. On a lighter note we were also treated to a fly-by by the Red Arrows.

Up to five Mute Swans were present throughout the month including a pair with a nest, one or two Red-legged Partridges were logged on ten dates, up to seven Buzzards were logged on 19 dates, the pair of Oystercatchers and their surviving youngster were seen daily until the 22nd when the young one disappeared, one or two Little Ringed Plovers were present on 19 dates, Great-Black-backed Gulls were still present in unusually high numbers peaking at 28 on the 1st with records on 16 dates until the 27th when six were seen. The resident pair of Common Terns was present daily and hatched three young on the 17th, whilst they were joined by another pair on four more dates mid-month. Little Owls were only recorded on three dates with Kingfishers on seven dates including an adult feeding a juvenile on the 27th and Green Woodpeckers were recorded on seven dates. One or two Yellow Wagtails were recorded on 12 dates.

A pair of Grey Lag Geese was present between the 1st and 4th, two Little Grebes were seen on the 1st, two Shoveler and a Water Rail were recorded on the 2nd, two Shelduck were seen on the 3rd when Tufted Ducks peaked at 13, a Hobby was reported on the 5th and a Redshank was seen on the 6th. A Peregrine was seen on the 7th, a Shoveler was seen on the 8th and a third summer Yellow-legged Gull was found on the 9th. A pair of Grey Partridge on the 10th was the only sighting for the month when a Cormorant was the first of the month (although subsequently up to three were recorded on 13 dates), a first summer Common Gull was an unusual record and the Yellow-legged Gull was seen again. Most unusual on the 10th was a very late flock of nine Arctic Terns which flew north.

Two Redshank were seen on the 11th (with one remaining until the following day) when 170 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted. The first brood of Gadwall (nine) was seen on the 12th when a pair of Teal was present with a single drake subsequently on four dates to the 19th. A Red Kite flew south-east on the 12th, a Peregrine was seen on the 13th with four more records before the end of the month and a Redshank was present on the 15th when a Grey Wagtail flew north. The first Great-spotted Woodpecker of the summer was heard on the 16th, three Teal, a Cuckoo and four Roe Deer including a small fawn were seen on the 17th and both Hobby and Peregrine were seen on the 18th. A Water Rail and a Green Sandpiper were heard on the 19th and a juvenile Little Grebe from elsewhere was present on the 20th when two Tawny Owls were found.

A male Pochard was seen on the 22nd, four "Commic" Terns flew north on the 25th when another Great-spotted Woodpecker was logged and a Garden Warbler recommenced singing. A Curlew was seen on the 26th, a Tawny Owl was seen on the 28th and the same day a family party of seven Willow Tits was discovered. A Hobby flew over the Peter Fidler Reserve on the 29th and a Water Rail was heard again on the 30th when the first Coal Tit of the autumn was recorded.

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