

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE  
AND SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2013

July saw the start of the fishing season and with it came an increase in rubbish, particularly around the reserve pond. Dog walkers continued to fail to control their pets especially around Meadow Flash and one or two tried to fish that flash also. 93 species were logged during the month and the year list rose to 144. The summer started to look like it was going to be the best for some years and there was a welcome increase in the numbers of Butterflies.

Three Oystercatchers were present on the 1st when five Curlews flew west and a first summer Great Black-backed Gull was seen. An adult Little Egret was seen on the 3rd when a Hobby was the only sighting during the first half of the month, a Curlew flew north, a Little Owl was seen (but then only on two more dates during the month) whilst on the 4th a late Orangetip was seen as was a Brimstone. A Water Rail was heard calling on the 5th and subsequently recorded on five more dates. Three Teal were present on the 6th when three Cormorants flew north, a Red Kite also flew north, the first of four Great-spotted Woodpeckers was recorded and a count of 20 House Sparrows was notable. The pair of Mute Swans hatched three young on the 7th and the breeding pair of Oystercatchers was last seen on the 8th when a juvenile Redshank commenced a three day stay. A Tawny Owl and Grasshopper Warbler were heard on the 9th whilst four Teal were seen on the 10th. One Teal remained on the 11th and an immature male Peregrine was seen the same morning whilst a first summer Great Black-backed Gull was seen again on the 12th. Two Snipe on the 14th were the first of the autumn and the same day two Redshanks were noted. Two Cormorants flew south and a juvenile Little Egret was found on the 15th whilst two juvenile Little Grebes from elsewhere were discovered on the 16th as was a first summer Common Gull. A Cuckoo was seen on the 17th whilst the first Essex Skipper of the year was seen the same day. A first summer Hobby present on the 19th started a run of records and then on the 20th a Red Kite flew south, a Green Sandpiper was on the flashes and an adult Herring Gull flew north.

A three-quarters grown Lapwing chick was discovered on the reserve on the 21st, the sole breeding record from within the reserve boundary this year and the same day a Tawny Owl was reported. Two adult Common Gulls were present on the 22nd, Herons peaked at 11 on the 24th when an adult Little Grebe started an extended stay, the first Common Sandpiper of the autumn appeared and both a Brimstone and Red Admiral were seen. A flock of six Pochard flew in on the 25th on which date Lapwings peaked at a lowly 100 and 28 Sand Martins flew south, the highest count of the month. What could have been the last Little-ringed Plover of the year was a juvenile on the 27th. The same day the first Dunlin and Black-tailed Godwit of the autumn of the autumn were seen as was a Cuckoo and a Goldcrest. 11 Herons and a Green Sandpiper were present on the 28th, two adult Common Gulls were seen on the 29th (and 30th with single adults on two further dates) and the first Painted Lady for some years was recorded along with five or six Essex Skippers. A Red Kite flew south on the 30th and on that date there was a count of 165 Black-headed Gulls whilst Common Terns peaked at eight (six adults) and three Grey Wagtails flew north (with one or two on six other dates). A female Pheasant was seen with ten chicks on the 31st when a Tawny Owl was heard calling mid-morning.

MARK BEEVERS