

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

OCTOBER 2013

October was a poor month with just 87 species recorded (the record is 94) and no visible migration watches were carried out during the first three weeks as I was away although we did add one species to the year list, moving that on to 149. Thankfully the aggravation experienced during the fine summer waned and there were no adverse incidents to report.

Four Water Rails were calling on the 1st (with up to three on 11 other dates during the month) when two Dunlin were present until mid-morning when they left south-east, 600 Black-headed Gulls were attracted to the ploughing, 22 Long-tailed Tits were seen and three Grey Wagtails flew south. A female Shelduck commenced a three-day stay on the 2nd and the same morning a Rock Pipit flew north whilst on the 5th a Peregrine and 44 Swallows were seen. A Little Owl seen on the 6th was the only sighting for the month and a Yellow Wagtail flew south along with 44 Meadow Pipits. 21 Golden Plovers were counted on the 7th but the best record of the day was a count of 23 Commas, surely a record count for the site. 60 Red-legged Partridges were still in the area on the 8th and the same day another Yellow Wagtail flew south, becoming the latest ever for the reserve. Ten Snipe were counted on the 10th when 46 Fieldfares were the first of the autumn and 313 Redwings flew south-west.

The first (two) Great Black-backed Gulls of the autumn were seen on the 12th, 18 Whooper Swans flew north-east on the 14th on which date five Shoveler and five Common Gulls were present. A Redshank on the 18th was an unusual autumn record and although 150 Fieldfare were more in keeping with the season the Migrant Hawker seen the same day was getting a bit late. A late Chiffchaff was seen on the 20th, 100 Pink-footed Geese flew east late on the 22nd when eight Shoveler were on Meadow Flash, a male Peregrine flashed across the fields and a flock of 60 Stock Doves was located. 15 Golden Plovers and ten Snipe were seen on the 23rd. Eight Mandarin Ducks on the 24th set several records as they were just the eighth record for Carr Vale, the first October record and the largest number ever recorded. Also on the 24th the male Peregrine put on another show, 24 Sky Larks, 235 Fieldfare and 40 Redwings flew south-west whilst 23 Meadow Pipits went south along with the first Brambling of the autumn, ten Siskins and 12 Redpolls. A late afternoon visit produced 20 Reed Buntings counted into roost.

A female Marsh Harrier arrived mid-morning on the 25th, becoming the latest ever bird to be seen at Carr Vale and she remained until the 26th giving good views whilst the Stock Dove flock increased to 100 and a group of six Crossbills flying south were new for the year. Lapwings peaked at 220 on the 28th, six Shoveler were still present on the 29th (and 31st) along with a Chiffchaff that remained until the following day. Three Whooper Swans, a Brambling and 19 Siskins (17 of which flew south) were present on the 30th. 111 Wigeon were counted on the 31st when a Great-spotted Woodpecker (rare this autumn) and a Brambling were seen and there was an exceptional count of 400 Linnets.

MARK BEEVERS