

BIRD NOTES FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

JANUARY 2014

The year started as the previous one ended with daily coverage being maintained, although for two periods each of week only Ian Swain carried out the observations. This produced a low total of 74 species for the month, fifteen down on January 2013. During the month there were several periods of heavy overnight rain the worst of which caused the water levels in Meadow Flash to rise to four feet.

A single Pink-footed Goose was seen on 23 dates whilst a single Grey Lag Goose was seen on eight dates, up to three Pochard were logged on 22 dates, Sparrowhawks were seen on seven dates, Buzzards on 28 dates, Common Gulls on 13 dates, Green Woodpeckers were logged on 20 dates, one or two Grey Wagtails were logged on ten dates, up to three Lesser Redpolls were seen on eight dates, up to 19 Bullfinches a day could be found in the recording area with up to 14 Reed Buntings attending the mound feeding station.

A Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 2nd when there were counts of 24 Carrion Crows and 23 Sky Larks. Also on the 2nd both the Common and Siberian Chiffchaffs from 2013 were still present with singles of the Common Chiffchaff on a further 11 dates. Three Goosander flew north and a Tawny Owl was found on the 3rd when the Siberian Chiffchaff was seen again. A Goosander flew south on the 4th when a Kingfisher sighting was the first of five made during the month and 50 Redwings were present. Wigeon reached a record high on the 5th when 262 were counted along with 28 Gadwall whilst the same day eight Goosander flew south and five Common Gulls were logged. Teal peaked at 56 and Red-legged Partridges at 12 on the 6th with up to ten of the latter on eight more dates and a Shelduck was present on the 7th when a pair of Peregrines was seen. A Great-spotted Woodpecker and the Siberian Chiffchaff were seen on the 8th and a male Shoveler started a three-day stay from the 9th when 15 Siskins was the highest count of the month.

The middle of the month was fairly quiet but 39 Pink-footed Geese were seen on the 12th, 60 Stock Doves were counted on the 13th, a Goosander flew south on the 17th when two Common Chiffchaffs were seen and the Linnet flock peaked at 200. Peak counts of ten Cormorants and eight Common Snipe were made on the 18th when a Weasel was reported and five Goosander were seen on the 19th.

The highest count of Lapwings was 130 between the 24th and 26th, a pair of Shelduck commenced a stay from the 25th until the 31st and 150 Fieldfare were present on the 26th. A Peregrine was seen on the 27th (and 28th) and on the former date four Chiffchaffs were present (including two Siberians). A Goosander flew west on the 28th on which date a Water Rail was heard and Jackdaws peaked at 150 (also 29th and 31st) with 150 Rooks also on the 31st. 22 Bullfinches were counted on the 29th whilst on the 31st two each of Pink-footed Geese and Grey Lag Geese were present, the Water Rail was heard again and 100 Herring and 120 Great-Black-backed Gulls were counted.

Mark Beevers.

