

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA.

JULY 2014

The close season ended on 1st July and the reserve pond was open yet on the 3rd two were found fishing on Meadow Flash, where no fishing has ever been allowed. Fishermen continued to cause annoyance on the reserve pond mid-month when two were caught out on the reserve pond in a boat. In fairness to them they did come back in when called but this just another example of them pushing the boundaries and the frustrating thing is that if it wasn't for the DWT the reserve pond would have been drained and they wouldn't have any fishing at all, yet they do not seem to appreciate this fact. Fishermen caused further damage to the dipping platform when they had a barbecue causing a hole to be burnt in the newly repaired platform. Heavy overnight rain on the 19th caused the southern flash to reform and the month ended with a storm of monsoon proportions.

The Grey Lag Goose with the broken wing was seen daily during the month, Sparrowhawks were logged on 21 dates and breeding was proved, Common Buzzards were 24 seen dates, single Hobbies were seen on 16 dates and Peregrines were seen on five dates with a pair of adults on the 12th. The breeding pair of Oystercatchers continued to be seen during July with last bird being seen on the 20th and one or two Little Ringed Plovers were present on eight dates with three on the 5th. The families of four Lesser Black-backed Gulls and three Common Terns remained all month, single Kingfishers were seen on 19 dates with Green Woodpeckers being logged on 20 dates (with breeding proved on the 24th when an adult and two juveniles were seen together) and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were logged on 16 dates. A Goldcrest was recorded on nine dates, with a Coal Tit on six dates and up to four commas were seen on seven dates.

Two Little Egrets were present for ten minutes on the 1st (until 1050) when they left north whilst the sighting of a Banded Demoiselle was unusual. A Shoveler was present on the 3rd and an adult Little Egret was present on the 4th when there was an unusual summer sighting of a Meadow Pipit.

An adult and two juvenile Redshanks arrived on the 5th (probably the breeding birds from Arkwright) and the juveniles remained for two weeks until the last one was seen on the 20th although an adult was present again on the 16th. Three Teal were seen on the 6th when an adult Water Rail was seen. A juvenile Dunlin flew south on the 7th when a Common Sandpiper was present and a Red Kite flew north on the 8th. 120 Swifts were present on the 9th when a Garden Warbler was seen. A pair of Teal was present on the 10th when the first Common Snipe of the autumn was seen (followed by singles on three more dates) and two first summer Common Gulls were present.

A Red Kite flew south-east on the 11th when a second summer Common Gull was seen. Three male Wigeon on the 13th were unusual as they were just the third July record, three Teal were also seen on that date when the first Cormorant for a while flew north (followed by six more records of single birds plus two on the 24th). However the event of the day on the

13th was the arrival of a flock of nine Little Egrets, a record count for Carr Vale and indeed the largest flock away from the Trent Valley. Unfortunately they quickly dispersed with five departing almost immediately south-west and after half an hour just one remained. Also on the 13th a family party of five Jays was seen whilst on the 14th a single Little Egret was still present. Two more Little Egrets arrived from the east on the 15th but they only stayed ten minutes before they disappeared whilst the adult Black-tailed Godwit and Common Sandpiper present the same day stayed for most of the day. Also on the 15th 16 Stock Doves were counted, a Cuckoo was reported and there was the first of five Lesser Whitethroat sightings. Four Yellow Wagtails seen on the 17th included three flying south, another Red Kite and a first summer Common Gull flew north on the 18th whilst a Common Sandpiper and a second summer Common Gull were present on the 20th when a flock of 35 Goldfinches was found.

A juvenile Shoveler was found on the 21st, a Green Sandpiper was present on the 22nd, a single Teal on the 23rd was the first of four records of a single bird until the end of the month when two were present and the same day Green Sandpipers increased to two. Also on the 23rd an adult and a first summer Common Gull flew north, a Tree Sparrow was seen, two of the three Yellow Wagtails seen flew south and a Painted Lady was discovered. A Dunlin flew west on the 24th when the two Green Sandpipers were present (although just one was present on the 25th) and a Garden Warbler was seen. A juvenile Little Egret was seen on the 27th when an Essex Skipper was found, an adult Herring Gull flew north on the 28th and a juvenile Mandarin Duck left south on the 29th. At least one adult (possibly two) was amongst a few Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 30th when an Emerald Damselfly was seen with all the usual dragonfly and Butterfly suspects also being recorded during the month. A flock of 23 Long-tailed Tits was counted on the 31st when a party of five Grey Wagtails flew south (with one or two noted on six dates).

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