

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE  
AND SURROUNDING AREA

SEPTEMBER 2014

The daily coverage was maintained producing 98 species for the month, one of just four totals less than 100 in the last 14 years and the lowest tally since 2007. Two species new for the year were seen taking the year list to 143. A Water Vole survey was carried out but unfortunately it produced a negative return. The first Partridge shoot of the autumn took place on the 6th but perhaps the most notable event of the month was the dominance of a high pressure system, which pretty much put paid to any meaningful migration watches.

Nine Grey Lag Geese were present between the 1st and 7th, up to 50 Red-legged Partridges were seen on 23 dates, Sparrowhawks were logged on 21 dates, Buzzards were seen daily, Hobbies only missed five dates during the month, a Peregrine was seen on eight dates whilst Water Rails were recorded on 15 dates. Up to two Common Gulls were logged on seven dates, Tawny Owls were very vocal around the middle of the month, Kingfishers were recorded on 22 dates, Green Woodpeckers on 17 dates and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were logged on 22 dates.

207 Canada Geese and six Grey Herons were counted on the 1st when a Greenshank was seen as was an albino Swallow and 14 Yellow Wagtails. A Greenshank was present again on the 2nd when the last Grass Snake of the year was seen. Three Wigeon were seen on the 3rd when two Ringed Plover flew south and a Ruff left east. An adult Water Rail with a half grown youngster was found on the 4th and the same day the first Golden Plover of the autumn flew south, a first winter Mediterranean Gull was discovered, eight Yellow Wagtails were still in the area and a Stoat was below the observation mound. A Greenshank flew north, the Mediterranean Gull reappeared and four Common Blues were located on the 5th. A Red Kite was reported on the 7th when a Ruff was seen, which was to be the start of a good run for this species with a single bird on three more dates until the 13th. Also on the 7th the Mediterranean Gull put in its final appearance as did the last Swift of the year, a Spotted Flycatcher was a nice addition to the year list and a female Roe Deer put in the first of three appearances. A party of three Little Egrets left north on the 8th on which date four Hobbies could be seen and a Whinchat was seen on the 9th when four of six Grey Wagtails seen flew south. A female Goosander was unusually early on the 10th when another Golden Plover was seen.

A Dunlin found on the 10th stayed until the following day with two Ruff present on the 11th whilst a pair of Common Terns showed up on the 10th and the Stoat was again below the mound. Also on the 10th the female Roe Deer was seen again, this time accompanied by a fawn (also seen on the 14th). Wigeon were seen daily from the 12th, 81 Swallows flew south on the 14th and two Water Rails were logged on the 15th along with five Golden Plover. A Ringed Plover flew north and two Black-tailed Godwits left south-west on the 16th whilst two Water Rails were heard calling on the 18th. A Golden Plover flew south on the 19th (with another recorded on the 21st) and the same day Lapwings peaked at 281 and there was a late Reed Warbler. 14 Cormorants on the 20th included a party of seven which flew north whilst the same day the first three Siskins of the autumn flew south.

A count of 20 Buzzards on the 21st included a party of 14 drifting west and five Commas were counted on the 22nd along with three Red Admirals. 80 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 24th, 70 Sky Larks and a Lesser Redpoll were present on the 25th with the latter remaining until the

following day. 120 Stock Doves on the 26th was a good count, 62 Gadwall were counted on the 27th on which date 230 Meadow Pipits flew south whilst three Ruff circled the flashes and a Tree Sparrow flew north on the 28th. A female Pochard was seen on the 29th but the bird of the day was an early Jack Snipe. Wigeon peaked at 30 on the 30th on which date single Golden Plover and Black-tailed Godwit were seen and 80 Swallows flew south.

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