

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

NOVEMBER 2014

November remained a very mild month with the first frosts recorded on just three dates. Many days were murky and some very foggy. The daily coverage continued and 86 species were recorded with the year list rising to 147. The injured Grey Lag Goose survived another month, Red-legged Partridges were seen on eight dates, Cormorants were recorded on 29 dates with double-figure counts on four dates during the first ten days of the month, Buzzards were logged on 26 dates, Sparrowhawks on 11 dates, Kestrels on 19 dates and Peregrines were logged on six dates (two different birds involved). Water Rails were recorded on 17 dates (usually one bird), Snipe on 24 dates with double figures on five dates, Common Gulls entered the log on 14 dates, a single Kingfisher was seen on six dates, Great-spotted Woodpeckers were recorded on 11 dates and Common Chiffchaffs were logged on 21 dates with a notable increase from the 23rd.

150 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 1st when a male Mandarin Duck was found and 106 Wigeon was the highest count of the month. 32 Gadwall the same day was also the highest count of the month and two Peregrines were also seen. Two Whooper Swans flew north, 100 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east and 130 Redwings flew south-west on the 2nd. 120 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 3rd whilst late in the afternoon a single bird flew west. A singing Chiffchaff was found on the 3rd and subsequently recorded on 12 more dates until the 22nd with last song heard on the 19th whilst 40 Sky Larks were counted on the 4th. On the 5th 16 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east and there were counts of 14 Cormorants and ten Common Gull when the last Common Darter of the year was seen. A juvenile male Garganey was a surprising discovery on the 6th (it remained until the 16th) but a rarer discovery (this year at least) was the discovery of a covey of six Grey Partridges the same day. Good numbers of Lapwings were present on the reserve all month peaking at 230 on the 7th whilst 250 Fieldfare on the 8th was the highest count of the month. 24 Red-legged Partridges on the 9th was the highest count of the month as was a count of 250 Golden Plover and the same day when a Dunlin flew south.

Two Dunlin were present on the 11th, 143 Teal on the 12th was the highest count since 2009 whilst 19 Snipe and five Grey Wagtails the same day were good counts and that night 27 Reed Buntings were counted into roost. Up to four Shoveler were logged on 14 dates but they peaked at six on the 14th, four Water Rails were calling at dusk on the 16th and that morning a Grey Plover circled the reserve for half an hour and a Woodcock was flushed from the entrance gate. A female Kestrel was found dead on the 17th, flocks of Chaffinch and Goldfinch on the 21st each numbered fifty and the same day five Roe Deer were seen.

A male Goldeneye, present on the 22nd was the sole record for 2014, three Water Rails were calling on the 23rd when there was an increase in large gulls with 170 Herring Gulls and 140 Great Black-backed Gulls whilst 95 Stock Doves were also counted. Bird of the day however was a calling Cetti's Warbler that was also heard on 24th and 26th. Also on the 23rd at least three Chiffchaffs were present. A party of six Grey Lag Geese was seen on the 25th on which date 85 Pink-footed Geese flew west and a Red Kite was reported and there was a flock of 100 Sky Larks. Chiffchaffs increased to four on the 26th, a first winter Little Gull flew north on the 27th when a flock of Long-tailed Tits numbered 27 and 30 Meadow Pipits were seen. An estimated 1000 Black-headed Gulls were present on the 28th (and 29th) whilst on the 30th four skeins of Pink-footed Geese totalling

480 birds flew south-east. Also on that date two Goosander flew north, a Siberian Chiffchaff was an excellent discovery on the embankment (the third of the year) and a Stoat was also seen.
MARK BEEVERS.