

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

JULY 2011

94 species were recorded during July, which is a respectable total for the month and the year list moved on to 133. The open fishing season started and very quickly the amount of litter around the reserve pond increased.

Hobbies continued to feature regularly in the daily log with records on 15 dates (16 bird / days) and **Buzzards** too were recorded regularly (13 dates, 38 bird / days). **Tree Sparrows** were also regularly recorded if you wished to put the time in at the nest-boxes at Mill Farm. Four **Curlew** dropped onto a recently mown field on the 1st when the **Common Sandpiper** from the end of June also was still present. A male **Shoveler** was present on the 2nd when **Water Rails** were proved breeding with an unfledged juvenile being recorded from the South Marsh. Four **Common Terns** on the 2nd was the highest count for the month and 64 **Sand Martins** were logged flying south the same day. A belated report concerned a **Quail** that was heard calling nightly from fields to the south of Valley Road, an area that is rarely visited by the site regulars from the 3rd until the 24th. Five **Pochard** were seen on the 4th on which date a juvenile male **Peregrine**, a **Snipe** and a **Green Sandpiper** were also seen plus 11 singing **Yellowhammers** were counted. Bird of the day though was a female or juvenile **Pied Flycatcher** at Mill Farm, the first July record of this rare visitor to Carr Vale. Three **Siskins** were seen on the 5th then on the 7th four **Teal** and a juvenile **Shoveler** were seen with the latter remaining until the 13th. Bird of the day on the 7th was a singing **Quail** that remained audible until the 11th. An out of character late afternoon visit on the 8th produced a worn adult **Osprey** flying south whilst a **Greenshank** was a typically brief visitor in the morning. Another **Greenshank** and four **Common Sandpipers** were seen on the 9th when five more unseasonal **Siskins** flew south. Certainly the first ten days produced a number of good records for the reserve, would the run continue?

Two **Shoveler** were present on the 12th when there was a good count of 12 **Yellow Wagtails**. A **Shoveler** was seen on the 16th, a **Common Sandpiper** was present on the 17th and a **Shoveler** was seen on the 18th (and again on the 20th) whilst also on the 18th **Common Sandpipers** increased to two, which were still present on the 19th. A single **Common Sandpiper** was present from the 20th until the month end with records on ten dates; they can be very elusive at Carr Vale. Three **Little Egrets** were present on the 24th and a **Little Egret** remained on the 25th on which date there was a juvenile **Teal** and a **Peregrine** (un-aged or sexed). A juvenile male **Peregrine** was present on the 26th when the last **Oystercatcher** of the month was noted and a second summer **Common Gull** flew north. Also on the 26th the last **Grasshopper Warbler** of the year was heard reeling on the Peter Fidler Reserve whilst on the 27th a **Redshank** was heard calling but could not be located. An adult female **Peregrine** was seen on the 28th when a **Greenshank** circled the flashes then flew off north and 75 **Swallows** was the highest count of the year so far. Three **Teal**, a juvenile **Pochard**, the last **Little Ringed Plover** of the month and a **Snipe** were seen on the 29th and a second brood of **Water Rails** was found on the 30th when the **Snipe** was seen again. Finally a **Teal** was noted again on the 31st on which date three **Common Terns** flew north.

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