

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE  
AND SURROUNDING AREA

NOVEMBER 2011

Daily visits continued with 87 species being recorded, equalling the record for the month and the year list moved on to 147. It was a dry and mild month during which there was nothing too adverse to report. During the month **Sparrowhawks** were logged on 18 dates with **Common Buzzards** on 24 dates, **Water Rails** on six dates, **Common Gulls** on nine dates, **Kingfishers** on 13 dates, **Great-spotted Woodpeckers** on nine dates and **Grey Wagtails** on 21 dates. The long-staying **Cetti's Warbler** was recorded on 11 dates during the month but was only seen twice. Up to four **Roe Deer** were also seen on seven dates during the month including a juvenile accompanying its mother.

A female **Goosander** was present on the 1st when a **Peregrine** was noted, 160 **Lapwings** were present, 750 **Wood Pigeons** flew south-west, 15 **Sky Larks** flew south, 130 **Fieldfare** flew south-west, a **Brambling** flew east, 18 **Siskin** and nine **Lesser Redpoll** also flew south. A **Merlin** was seen on the 2nd as was the **Peregrine** and five **Snipe** but the bird of the day was the latest ever **Ring Ouzel**, present behind the mound for several minutes. 490 **Wood Pigeons** flew south-west and 13 **Siskins** flew south on the 2nd whilst two **Small Tortoiseshells**, a **Peacock** and a **Red Admiral** were the last **Butterflies** of the year. 23 **Sky Larks** flew south-east on the 3rd, ten **Lesser Redpoll** flew south on the 4th and that evening 28 **Reed Buntings** were counted into roost. 180 **Pink-footed Geese** flew east in two skeins on the 5th, the same day a pair of **Shelduck** dropped in and 32 **Pied Wagtails** were counted. Three **Whooper Swans** arrived from the north on the 6th on which date 720 **Pink-footed Geese** in seven skeins flew south-east, a **Grey Lag Goose** flew north, a female **Shoveler** commenced a long stay (until the 14th), 330 **Wood Pigeons** flew south-west and the **Peregrine** was seen again. The **Cetti's Warbler** showed well but briefly on the 7th but the only passage noted that day concerned 440 **Wood Pigeons** that flew south-west. 195 **Fieldfare** flew south-west and a flock of 100 **Linnets** was still present on the 9th and the same day there was an impressive count of 52 **Red-legged Partridges**. Two **Goldeneyes**, two **Little Owls** and a **Chiffchaff** were present on the 10th when eight **Willow Tits** were located.

34 **Pink-footed Geese** flew east on the 13th, that evening a flock of 35 **Meadow Pipits** was in the area and 23 **Reed Buntings** roosted whilst the latest ever **Migrant Hawker** was also seen from the mound and a **Song Thrush** gave a blast of song, indicating just how mild it really was. On the 15th **Mute Swans** peaked at 12, a **Grey Lag Goose**, two **Goldeneyes** and the **Peregrine** were also present and five **Common Darters** were still on the wing. A male **Shoveler** joined the female from the 16th and on that date a **Brambling** was heard calling. The pair of **Shoveler** was then seen daily until the 20th. Three **Goosanders** were seen on the 17th, the **Goosanders** increasing to four on the 18th when 175 **Fieldfares** flew south and five **Tree Sparrows** were at the farm feeding station. **Goosanders** further increased to five on the 19th when 17 **Sky Larks** flew south and six **Goosander** were present on the 20th (with up to five including a male present to the month end) when **Gadwall** peaked at 44 for the month, whilst in the evening 505 **Black-headed Gulls** flew south, 22 **Meadow Pipits**, three **Grey Wagtails** were still in the area and 27 **Reed Buntings** roosted.

**Shoveler** increased to three on the 21st when the **Cetti's Warbler** showed itself again but the bird of the day was a frustrating **Snow Bunting**, which circled the area calling continually for ten minutes before finally showing itself briefly as it flew off north. Another good bird found on the

21st was a **Green Sandpiper**. The three **Shoveler** were present until the 23rd when another male joined the group, the small flock then remaining until the 26th. **Golden Plover** had been increasing during the month and they reached a peak of 700 on the 24th, **Wigeon** reached a peak of 104 on the 25th when the adult male **Peregrine** was again present (also on the 26th) and three **Grey Wagtails** were seen again. Three **Cormorants** flew south on the 26th when **Grey Herons** peaked at eight and **Teal** reached an autumn high of 105. By the 27th **Teal** numbers had fallen and just one **Shoveler** remained although the **Green Sandpiper** did put in an appearance that day. 55 **Pied Wagtails** were counted on the 28th and the following day 11 **Bullfinches** were counted at the various feeders. The month ended with another sighting of the **Green Sandpiper** on the 30th when a **Mistle Thrush** was heard singing.

Mark Beevers.