

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2006

We carried on where we left off at the end of 2005 with daily visits and once again I am grateful to Ian Swain and Kevin Navin for continuing the coverage whilst I was away for a couple of weeks mid-month. 80 species were logged during the month some of which were notable for the site or time of year. Highlights were Bewick's Swan (4th record), Pink-footed Goose, Grey Lag Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Peregrine, Dunlin, Redshank, Caspian Gull (4th record) and Iceland Gull (14th record). Further improvement works were carried out on the reserve on 5th January when the leak on Middle Flash was repaired and new shallow scrape was constructed in front of the mound.

A Great-crested Grebe was present for the last three days of the month but Cormorants were present daily, mainly in single figures but with 20 on the 8th and 16 on the 9th. Herons too were present daily in single figures apart from a peak count of ten on the 11th whilst the peak count for Mute Swans was 14 on the 23rd, although double-figure counts were noted on a further nine dates. A party of five Bewick's Swans was present early on the 5th; it was just a pity that they chose that day because as soon as the excavator arrived at 0800 they flew off. 75 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 24th and two Grey Lag Geese left south-east on the 9th with single birds noted on the 26th and 28th. Canada Geese were present all month with a peak of 108 on the 17th and 71 – 99 daily until the 25th after which numbers reduced to range between 42 and 55.

A female Shelduck was present daily from the 3rd into February and four were seen on the 24th. Counts of Wigeon ranged between 67 and 97 between the 1st and 10th after which they went up into three-figures reaching 137 on the 16th and 155 on the 30th. Gadwall were logged on 29 dates (no record for the 1st or 10th) with double-figures on 21 dates, the highest being 28 on the 20th. Teal numbers were disappointing with 22 counts below 70 and a peak of just 99 on the 20th and the highest count for Mallard was 79 on the 3rd. Three Pintail on the 15th were an unusual winter record as this species is normally seen here in the autumn and a male Shoveler was present between the 3rd and 9th but he was joined by a female on the 7th. Both Pochard and Tufted Ducks were logged daily with peak counts of seven Pochard on three dates and 13 Tufted Ducks on the 11th. Three Goosanders were present between the 17th and 21st with a single male on the 22nd and 23rd and another male on the 26th.

Single Sparrowhawks were seen on 15 dates, a Common Buzzard was noted on the 17th and 21st and Kestrels were logged on nine dates (ten bird / days). A male Peregrine was seen over the reserve on the 8th, 11th and 13th. Eight Grey Partridge on the 2nd was the highest count of the month and a Water Rail was recorded on six dates with birds being seen on 2nd, 3rd and 13th. 101 Golden Plover were counted on the 11th but apart from that count birds were seen on just three dates with no count higher than 16. Lapwings were present in good numbers with 16 three-figure counts the highest of which was 400 on the 17th and 18th and 439 on the 30th whilst six Dunlin on the 25th was a very good winter count. A single Snipe was seen on three dates during the first four days of the month with five logged on the 5th after which none were seen and a Woodcock was reported on the 16th. Finally amongst the waders a Redshank was seen on the 11th.

Up to 250 Black-headed Gulls were regular on the flashes during the month but the highest count was 830 that flew south at dusk on the 26th. One or two Common Gulls were seen on eight dates and Herring Gulls peaked at 300 on the 18th. The rarest gulls however were an adult Caspian Gull on the 11th and a first winter Iceland Gull on the 17th, both of which were also seen at Pools Brook CP and Ogston. 50 Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on the 30th.

200 Wood Pigeons were seen on the 1st, a Tawny Owl was on the Blue Banks on the 31st and a Kingfisher was seen on the 11th. A Green Woodpecker was noted on the 1st, 6th and 8th and 15 Skylarks on the 11th was the only count during the month. The first Grey Wagtail of the year was

seen on the 21st followed by one or two on three dates between the 27th and 30th and the highest count of Pied Wagtails was 23 on the 5th. Small flocks of Fieldfare were recorded on at least nine dates with a peak of 60 on the 15th but Redwings were very scarce, the only record being of three on the 26th.

One to four Goldcrests were logged on 16 dates plus six on the 11th, the maximum count for Long-tailed Tits was 15 on the 21st and four Willow Tits were seen on the 4th and 21st with an early singing bird noted on the 2nd. Two Coal Tits were seen on the 1st and 12th with single birds noted on nine more dates during the month.

Small numbers of Goldfinches were noted during the month but Siskins were around in larger numbers with a peak count of 35 on the 8th (with 15 on the 3rd and 16 on the 14th). 32 Lesser Redpolls were counted on the 14th with 14 on the 18th and 20 on the 30th and ten Bullfinches were logged on the 13th with eight on the 31st. The feeding station by the observation mound continued to produce reasonable numbers of Reed Bunting with a maximum of 18 attending on the 28th and 30th whilst 30 dropped into roost on the 26th.

M A Beevers.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2006

No Report.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2006

No Report.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2006

Our daily visits continued netting us 105 species for the month, equalling the all time monthly record set in 1996. The yearlist rose to 118, which is the third highest end of April total and the highest since 1997, this despite the fact that some expected species such as Ringed Plover and Redstart failed to appear. Although there was nothing to compare to last months Avocet there was still a number of interesting species to see during the month including Little Egret (7th record and earliest ever date), Whooper Swans (three and 2nd latest ever), Barnacle Goose (8th record), Shelduck, Osprey (18th record), Hobby, Peregrine, Oystercatcher, Whimbrel (earliest ever, 19th record), Iceland Gull (18th record, 5th bird of the year), Cuckoo, White Wagtails, Blue-headed Wagtail (4th record), Wheatear (four records) and Grasshopper Warbler. It was in the main a dry month and a generally cool month although the water in Meadow Flash remained at two feet during the first ten days off the month before dropping back to 21". The only "work" to take place during the month was a meeting between ourselves and officials from DEFRA regarding the eradication of Ruddy Ducks from the reserve.

A Little Grebe was seen on four dates with two on the 15th and two pairs on the 21st whilst Great-crested Grebes peaked at six on the 4th, although generally three to five were present. By the end of the month one pair was sitting but the other regularly present birds seem to be of the same sex. One to five Cormorants were logged on 18 dates with a high of six on the 8th but the only birds moving were three north on the 23rd. A Little Egret dropped in for ten minutes on the 26th and thus became the earliest ever record for Carr Vale. Herons were seen on all bar two dates with a peak count of four on the 28th and like last year the wing tagged bird was missing throughout the month (though it had returned by mid-May). The resident pair of Mute Swans had started to build a nest by the end of the month. Another pair was present on seven dates and towards the end of the month numbers increased further peaking at eight on the 29th. A party of three Whooper Swans flew north on the 16th rounding off an exceptional spring for this species. One to five Grey Lag Geese were seen on 13 dates with six present on the 2nd and seven that left north, on the 28th. Canada Geese peaked at 37 on the 7th and by the end of the month two pairs had nests. A Barnacle Goose flew in from the north on the 21st and it was seen later the same day at Pleasley Pit.

Three Shelducks left south on the 1st but these were surprisingly the only ones seen during the month. 36 Wigeon were still present on the 1st but these had declined to five by the 8th after which none were seen until the 11th when a male appeared. Subsequently one to three birds were seen almost daily until the 25th. Gadwall continued to be recorded in good numbers with daily double-figure counts the highest of which was 22 on the 17th. Teal too remained in good numbers with double-figures daily until the 21st and on six further dates to the end of the month with a peak count of 26 on the 7th. The first brood of Mallard (14) was seen on the 30th and a female Pochard was present on the 23rd. Tufted Ducks peaked at 24 on the 2nd and 25th with daily records throughout the month. Goosander continued their good run with records on 14 dates during the first sixteen days of the month with eight logged on the 3rd-4th and 11th-12th and a late straggler flew north on the 23rd. Ruddy Ducks have long been a feature of the avifauna at Carr Vale but not for much longer as DEFRA has decided its time for ours to be eradicated as part of the Europe-wide cull of this attractive species. It is therefore likely that the counts of 12 on the 4th and 28th will be the last double-figure count for the site and in future there will be no further information on this species from Carr Vale forthcoming from me.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 17 dates (19 bird days) and Common Buzzards were recorded on 12 dates (21 bird days) although only five were seen over the recording area, the remaining birds being seen from the mound south or west of the recording area. A Osprey flew north, low over the reserve at 1922 hours on the 29th (and it is likely that one that flew north along the M1 at Hardwick would have been picked up at Carr Vale had there been observers on the mound at the time it went through). Kestrels were logged on 28 dates (48 bird days) with a peak count of four on the 26th. A Hobby was reported on the 27th and a male Peregrine flew over the reserve on the 20th. Two Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 21st with one heard the following day and two pairs of Grey

Partridge were seen on the 13th. Water Rails continued to be heard calling with records on nine dates between the 3rd and 14th.

The pair of Oystercatchers from last month remained on the reserve until the 12th after which their visits became more erratic although they were still seen on five dates until the 20th after which they left the area for another local site. A different bird left to the north on the 25th but one on the 29th and 30th was thought to be the off-duty bird from the local pair. Little-ringed Plovers were seen daily from the 5th with counts generally of six or less though seven were seen on the 8th and 29th. 15 Golden Plovers were seen on the 2nd, with five on the 6th and two on the 7th, whilst the last of the winter was seen on the 21st. Two Dunlin on the 6th were the only ones recorded during the month and Snipe were logged on 24 dates with a notable 20 on the 4th (one to three on all other dates). A Whimbrel flew north on the 23rd and single Curlews were seen on the 1st, 2nd and 4th whilst two flew north on the 7th. Redshanks were seen daily with a peak count of nine on the 1st and the first Common Sandpiper of the year was seen on the 15th, remaining until the 18th. Another was present between the 21st and 29th with two on the 23rd.

200 Herring Gulls were still present on the 5th but far more notable was a first winter Iceland Gull on the 3rd, which represents one of the few April records of this species for Derbyshire and the latest ever at Carr Vale. 15 Great Black-backed Gulls were still on site on the 6th with the last for the winter being noted on the 23rd. Two Common Terns were seen on the 26th and two more were present on the 30th.

A Cuckoo on the 22nd was the second earliest record for Carr Vale and it or another was noted on the 26th-27th and 29th. A Tawny Owl was recorded on the 21st and the first Swift of the year was seen on the 26th with daily records thereafter including 14 north on the 28th. Kingfishers at last started to be seen with some regularity with a single bird noted on eight dates from the 14th and unusually a Green Woodpecker flew south on the 14th. Also unusual was a drumming Great-spotted Woodpecker on the 10th with another flying south on the 24th. Sand Martins were noted on all but one date during the month with notable counts of 68 north on the 14th and 100 (73 north in one hour) on the 20th. Swallows were present in low numbers from the 3rd but the highest count was only 50 on the 18th. The first House Martin was seen on the 8th and another was noted on the 12th with daily records from the 16th but numbers were quite low peaking at 20 on the 29th. It has been a very disappointing spring for Meadow Pipits flying north and just 37 more were logged over five dates during the month with a peak count of 26 on the 12th. A male Yellow Wagtail on the 10th heralded the start of a reasonable month for this species with eight seen on the 15th, six on the 18th and nine on the 21st on which date a fine male Blue-headed Wagtail was present, the latter remaining until the 22nd. A Grey Wagtail was seen on five dates between the 4th and 16th and single White Wagtails were logged on the 18th-19th and 23rd.

Full area counts of singing / breeding birds were carried out on the 21st which produced the following totals: Wren 19, Dunnock 18, Robin 30, Blackbird 12, Song Thrush 3, Blackcap 11, Chiffchaff 14, Willow Warbler 34, Chaffinch 8 and Greenfinch 5.

A female Wheatear was present on the 11th followed by two males on the 16th, a male on the 20th and another male on the 25th. 50 Fieldfares were seen on the 6th with 31 north-west on the 7th whilst the last for the winter flew west on the 24th. Ten Redwings on the 2nd were the last for the winter. A Grasshopper Warbler was heard reeling briefly on the 21st but that proved to be the only record for the month. All the other expected warblers appeared during the last ten days of the month with the arrival dates as follows: - Willow Warbler (2nd), Reed Warbler and Common Whitethroat (20th), Sedge Warbler (23rd), Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler (27th). 16 Chiffchaffs were singing on the 2nd and the last Goldcrest of the winter was seen on the 18th. Single Coal Tits were present on four dates until the 15th and four Treecreepers were found on the 5th.

A Jay flew south on the 12th but then there was a notable northerly passage between the 20th and 26th when a total of 16 flew north plus a further three flew west, the highest counts being seven

(north) on the 24th and 26th (five north, two west). Single Siskins were logged on four dates until the 12th but there was a notable passage of Lesser Redpolls as between the 18th and 27th a total of 42 birds flew north including a flock of 27 on the 24th. Five Yellowhammer territories were found on the 21st and ten Reed Buntings were still at the feeding station on the 9th.

Amongst the mammals a Water Vole was noted on the 10th, a Hare was seen on the 6th with two noted on the 29th and a Weasel was seen several times during the month. A Small Tortoiseshell on the 23rd was a very late first for the year on the 27th four species of butterfly were recorded including a Brimstone.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2006

May was a poor month but our daily visits continued netting us 91 species for the month, a very average total whilst the yearlist increased to 121, again a very average number. The only notable species recorded during the month were Barnacle Goose (9th record), Goosander, Hobby, Peregrine, Oystercatcher, Sanderling (5th record), Cuckoo, Wheatear, Grasshopper Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. It was in the main a dry month and a generally very cool month but heavy rain for 21 hours around the 22nd caused the water level in Meadow Flash to rise to 3 feet and despite the floods subsiding the level remained at 2 feet for the rest of the month whilst the Southern Flash remained at winter levels well into June.

One or two Little Grebe were seen on 13 dates with three present on the 13th whilst Great-crested Grebes peaked at six on the 29th, although generally three to five were present. Single Cormorants were recorded on the 1st, 4th (east), 18th (west), 20th (north) and 31st. Herons were seen daily in small numbers on all dates with a peak count of five on the 15th and the wing tagged bird had reappeared by the 6th. Mute Swans were present daily with usually four birds present although the peak count was six on the 20th. Two Grey Lag Geese were seen on six dates during the first week with four present on the 8th and two more were logged again on the 23rd-24th. Canada Geese peaked at 39 adults on the 29th and by the 3rd five pairs had nests- a record number for the reserve. The first brood of six hatched on the 6th and another brood of six appeared on the 23rd. A third brood of five was reported from within the sewage works compound but the other nests failed. A Barnacle Goose was present briefly on the 22nd.

Gadwall were recorded in good numbers with daily double-figure counts on 28 dates the highest of which was 24 on the 2nd (14 males) whilst 19 males were counted on the 6th. Five pairs of Teal were still present on the 1st after which numbers declined with two pairs on the 2nd and 3rd. Thereafter a pair was present on the 9th and 11th with a female on the 10th and a female was seen again on the 20th and 22nd. The highest count of adult Mallard was 42 on the 22nd and six new broods were located during the month. A pair of Shoveler was present on the 18th and Tufted Ducks were seen daily with double-figure counts 26 dates the highest of which was 23 on the 2nd. 13 Goosander flew north on the 1st, becoming the highest count of the year whilst the female that flew south on the 21st was the latest ever spring record for Carr Vale.

Sparrowhawks were logged on just seven dates (nine bird days) and Common Buzzards were also recorded on seven dates (15 bird days) although only two were seen over the recording area, the remaining birds being seen from the mound south or west of the recording area, including six together on the 25th. Kestrels were logged on 27 dates (42 bird days) with a peak count of three on the 1st. Two Hobbies were seen from the mound to the south of the recording area on the 17th and single birds were over the reserve on the 1st, 3rd, 12th and 31st whilst a male Peregrine flew over the reserve on the 16th. Two Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 1st with one on the 4th and another heard on the 17th and at least two pairs of Grey Partridge were present in the area during the month. A Water Rail was heard on the 31st and seven broods of Coot hatched during the month although three further nests on meadow Flash were lost during the flooding.

What is presumed to be the pair of Oystercatchers from last month were on the reserve on the 2nd with a single bird present on the 1st, 3rd and 4th but the only other record for the month concerned a single bird on the 24th. Little-ringed Plovers were seen daily with a peak count of six on 1st-2nd, 8th and 25th and single Ringed Plovers were recorded on the 4th, 6th, 9th and 14th representing a very poor spring for this species. At least six pairs of Lapwings were on the reserve during the month and four Sanderlings, the first since 2001, were present briefly on the 24th. Three Dunlin were seen on the 7th and a long-billed winter plumaged bird of the alpina race was present the following day. Then five were seen on the 13th with two on the 14th and a single bird

was present on the 24th and 25th. One to three Snipe were logged on nine dates with the last of the winter noted on the 11th whilst unusually single Curlews were seen on the 18th and 28th, both birds flying south. Redshanks were seen daily until the 21st after which a single bird was seen on just three dates with a peak count of four on the 10th, 13th and 14th. A Common Sandpiper was seen on the 4th, followed by one on the 10th and 12th increasing to two on the 13th and three on the 14th, these being the last of the spring.

There were no notable records of any species of gull during the month but a Common Tern flew east on the 8th and a pair of Common Terns took up residence from the 13th, remaining to the month end with a third bird joining them on the 16th and 29th. A Cuckoo was noted on six dates between the 12th and 24th, two Tawny Owls were heard on the 6th and Swifts peaked at 75 on the 4th. Single Kingfishers were logged on ten dates between the 4th and 20th after which they went missing again and a Green Woodpecker on the 14th and 15th was unusual. Although Sand Martins were noted on 13 dates numbers were only in single figures and birds were only logged on four dates during the latter half of the month. Swallows were also scarce with a peak count of 60 on the 22nd whilst House Martins peaked at a lowly 50 on the 13th. Yellow Wagtails were recorded on 24 dates with a peak count of six on the 1st five of which flew north.

Survey work on the 4th revealed the following totals of single males:- Wren 18, Dunnock 4, Robin 19, Blackbird 19, Sedge Warbler 7, Whitethroat 17, Blackcap 8, Chiffchaff 11, Willow Warbler 27 and Chaffinch 16. A male Wheatear was seen on the 4th, a Grasshopper Warbler was reeling on the 1st and 5th and other notable counts of singing Warblers included Sedge Warbler (eight on the 9th) and Reed Warbler (16 on the 9th). Lesser Whitethroats and Garden Warblers were logged on nine and 13 dates respectively and the first spring Spotted Flycatcher for several years was logged on the 15th. Four Long-tailed Tit territories were found on the 4th and a single Coal Tit was seen on the 4th and 10th.

The unusual Jay numbers continued during the month with three flying north on the 4th, two on the 21st and a singleton on the 15th and 16th whilst the last two Lesser Redpolls of the spring were logged on the 4th. A couple of non-natural species were recorded during the month with a Bar-headed Goose present on the 21st and 24th and a Grey Cuckoo flew north on the 10th.

Hares were seen on the seven dates with two noted on the 26th and 29th and a Weasel was seen on the 8th and 12th. However the mammalian highlight was a Roe Deer that was reported from the Stockley Trail on the 28th, a typical spring record. No Dragonflies were seen during the month but all the usual early butterflies appeared during the month including two Brimstones and a Comma on the 4th with singles of each on the 3rd and another Brimstone on the 8th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2006

No Report.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2006

Daily visits continued throughout July, thanks once again to Ian Swain and Kevin Navin, who maintained the cover whilst I was abroad. During the month 92 species were recorded, only the fourth time that the July monthly total has broken 90 and five new species for the year were added, taking the yearlist to 129, the highest end of July total since 2000. A number of notable species recorded during the month including Common Scoter, Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Oystercatcher, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit (three records), Whimbrel, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Turtle Dove, Little Owl and Grasshopper Warbler. It was a dry month with a long heat wave during the latter half of the month resulting in excellent muddy margins around the flashes although the Southern Flash dried up completely early in the month.

Little Grebes were seen on all but three dates with four adults noted on the 20th and 23rd whilst three small young were noted from the latter date. Three Great-crested Grebes were seen daily until the 11th after which numbers decreased until the last was seen on the 23rd, although another arrived on the 31st. Single Cormorants were recorded on the 1st, 8th, 9th, 12th and 23rd and Herons were seen daily with a peak count of 11 on the 24th whilst ten were noted on the 27th. Mute Swans were present daily with four birds on the 1st followed by two or three for the rest of the month although just a pair remained from the 14th. A Grey Lag Goose was present on the 28th and 29th, representing an unusual July record and Canada Geese were logged throughout the month with the two remaining families being joined by other birds from the 14th, increasing to 120 on the 31st. (The third brood is believed to have been predated).

Gadwall were recorded daily until the 12th with a peak of 12 on the 1st and 2nd but then birds became very scarce with just five records during the rest of the month although 11 were counted on the 30th. A pair of Teal was present on the 1st with three noted between the 4th and 7th and again on the 15th after which single birds were seen on three dates. Mallard numbers started to rise reaching 99 on the 12th after which no accurate counts were made. Six Pochard on the 4th were unusual and Tufted Ducks were seen daily with a peak count of adults being 11 on the 18th. A brood of ten was found on the 15th and another brood of seven appeared a few days later on the 22nd. However the rarest duck during the period was a juvenile Common Scoter that was present briefly on the 6th.

A large raptor, low over the Reserve Pond on the 12th from description may have been a male Marsh Harrier but this is not a confirmed record as it was not seen by a birder. Sparrowhawks were very scarce with just seven records of single birds whilst just four single records of Common Buzzards were noted, all out of the recording area but viewed from the mound. Kestrels were logged on nine dates, two Hobbies were seen on the 14th with single birds logged on the 5th, 10th and 13th and a Peregrine was seen on the 5th and 8th. Water Rails became regular with records for 13 dates including two birds on the 8th, 12th and 27th.

The family party of Oystercatchers that bred nearby were present on eight dates until the 10th with a fifth bird present on the 6th and 7th. Two remained until the 12th with one on the 13th after which a single bird was present between the 22nd and 24th. Little-ringed Plovers were logged on 29 dates with a peak count of eight on the 4th and two Ringed Plovers were recorded on the 2nd with one on the 4th and 12th. Lapwings were present on the reserve throughout the month reaching a high of 238 on the 19th but the only Dunlin seen during the month were single birds on the 6th and 27th. A male Ruff was seen on the 6th and the first Snipe of the autumn was seen on the 24th followed by two on the 27th and 29th. A Black-tailed Godwit was present briefly on the 20th and was soon followed by four on the 23rd, increasing to eight on the 24th. A Whimbrel was also present on the 23rd. Three Redshanks were seen on the 1st, 2nd and 4th with single birds logged on other dates until the 7th with another bird on the 23rd and 24th. A

Greenshank was present on the 14th, 16th and 17th and two Green Sandpipers were seen on the 1st with singles noted on the 2nd, 14th and 27th. A Common Sandpiper was seen daily between the 1st and 5th with other singles noted on the 8th, 12th and 30th.

Common Terns were the success story of the summer when the pair fledged three young on the 12th for the first time at Carr Vale. Intruders were logged on 14 dates with a peak count of five adults between 21st and 23rd. A Turtle Dove on the 26th was a welcome addition to the yearlist as was a Little Owl on the 8th, both very scarce birds at Carr Vale nowadays. A Tawny Owl was noted on the 15th and 250 Swifts were counted on the 11th. Single Kingfishers were logged on 14 dates, a Green Woodpecker was seen on the 27th and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on the 4th, 8th and 28th. Sand Martins were noted on 11 dates with a peak count of 14 south on the 8th and 90 House Martins flew south in rain on the 31st. Yellow Wagtails were recorded on seven dates with a peak count of three on the 17th, single Grey Wagtails were logged on five dates between the 4th and 16th and a Grasshopper Warbler was heard reeling on seven dates between the 6th and 18th. A Goldcrest was seen on the 3rd and 20th, which was an unusual summer record for Carr Vale and two Coal Tits were present on the 3rd with single birds noted on three other dates.

Hares were seen on the nine dates with three noted on the 4th and a Fox was seen on the 3rd, 5th and 16th. Grass Snakes were seen on at least three dates and the Red-eared Terrapin was seen on the 1st-2nd, and 11th-12th. Amongst the dragonfly sightings a Banded Demoiselle was seen on the 1st, 13th and 14th and Red-veined Darters were seen on the 1st (two) and 2nd (three). In fact the 2nd was a good day as an all area survey of the pools revealed some impressive totals including 15 Emperors, four Broad-bodied Chasers, 40 Four-spotted Chasers, 130 Black-tailed Skimmers and the first two Common Darters of the year. The first Southern Hawker of the year was seen on the 31st when a male Broad-bodied Chaser was also logged. Comma Butterflies were noted on five dates between the 4th and 13th and following a Painted Lady on the 16th good numbers of this species were recorded at the end of the month with eight on the 29th and 13 on the 31st. More notable was a Ringlet on the 9th with about ten on the 11th, the first time for a number of years that this butterfly has been seen at Carr Vale.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2006

Daily visits continued throughout the month during which 99 species were recorded, the highest August total since 2002. The yearlist progressed to 134, which equals the highest end of August total set in 2000. A number of notable species recorded during the month including Shelduck, Wigeon, Red-crested Pochard (3rd record), Marsh Harrier (21st-23rd record), Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Oystercatcher, Little Stint (2nd record), Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper (12th record), Yellow-legged Gull, Tree Pipit, Wheatear, Spotted Flycatcher and Tree Sparrow. It was dry for the first three weeks of the month after which the weather deteriorated and by the end of the month the water level in the flashes had risen considerably, much reducing the area of mud.

Little Grebes were seen on all dates with seven (four adults and three young) noted on the 11th, 18th, 22nd – 23rd. A Great-crested Grebe was present until the 4th but then none was seen until the 30th when an adult turned up. One or two Cormorants were recorded on seven dates until the 17th after which daily records were logged with a peak of seven on the 19th (six flew north) and 20th. Herons were seen daily with a peak count of 13 on the 28th whilst ten were noted on the 23rd. A pair of Mute Swans was present daily but Canada Geese numbers were much lower than recent years with a peak count of just 168 on the 3rd, indeed there were just 14 counts of 100 or more.

Three Shelduck dropped in briefly on the 16th and two Wigeon arrived on the 19th. They were present the following day, then one was seen daily until the 25th with two between the 26th and 29th. Gadwall were recorded daily with double-figures on 22 dates peaking at 40 on the 29th. Teal were present 28 dates with double-figures logged on five dates from the 25th, peaking at 15 on the 27th. Mallard were recorded in three-figures on 21 dates with a peak count of 214 on the 9th. A female Shoveler was present daily between the 6th and 9th with another on the 13th and 15th, although five were present on the 14th. Three to five were logged on eight dates from the 20th with a peak count of six on the 21st, 30th-31st. A juvenile Red-crested Pochard was a notable find on the 26th as it was only the 3rd site record. Four Pochard circled the reserve on the 13th and Tufted Ducks were seen daily with a peak count 27 on the 26th, this count included the juveniles reared on the reserve.

A female Marsh Harrier left the reserve to the west at 0735 on the 15th, Sparrowhawks were recorded on 19 dates (20 bird / days) and Common Buzzards were noted on 15 dates (23 bird / days) with a high of four on the 4th. For the first time in several months more records concerned birds within the recording area than from without (14). Kestrels were logged on 23 dates (30 bird / days) and single Hobbies were seen on six dates with two on the 19th and 24th. A Peregrine took up residence just to the south of the recording area and was logged on 19 dates, although it was over the reserve on at least five dates.

The low water in the Reserve Pond ensured that Water Rails were regularly seen with sightings on 19 dates and birds heard on a further four dates. At least two adults and one juvenile were seen during the month. 23 Moorhens were counted on the 2nd and on the 31st there was a record count of 99 Coot. An Oystercatcher that flew north on the 13th was an unusual record for the time of the year and also unusually there was a good autumn run of Little-ringed Plovers with daily records between the 1st and 20th peaking at five juveniles on the 8th and 9th and an adult and four juveniles on the 18th. Later birds were two juveniles on the 24th and a single juvenile on the 30th and 31st. The first Golden Plover of the autumn was heard on the 30th and Lapwings were present in good numbers during the first three weeks of the month peaking at 300 on the 17th. Three adult Little Stints dropped in briefly in the 3rd before they departed north and single Dunlin were seen on the 3rd, 16th and 20th. Snipe were logged on 16 dates but the highest count was

only four on the 13th. Single Redshanks were seen on the 7th and 19th. It was an excellent month for Greenshank with daily records from the 3rd. One was present between the 3rd and 5th, with two from the 6th. Then one or two were seen daily between the 7th and 14th after which at least two were present to the month end although higher counts were five on the 26th and three on the 29th. A Green Sandpiper was seen on the 6th and a Wood Sandpiper was present early on the 20th, although only one observer saw the bird. Common Sandpipers were also a daily feature from the 13th with single birds on five dates, two on seven dates and three between the 20th and 27th.

107 Black-headed Gulls were counted on the 1st and 100 were present on the 31st. 100 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were logged on the 13th, an adult Herring Gull flew south on the 27th and on the 30th a juvenile Herring Gull and a first winter Yellow-legged Gull were seen. Common Terns continued to be seen daily until the 20th with a peak count of eight on the 1st although generally three to six were seen on each day. A Tawny Owl was noted towards the end of the month, Kingfishers were logged on 22 dates with two on the 25th, a Green Woodpecker was seen five dates and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen eight dates. Sand Martins were noted on 16 dates but only in single figures and House Martins peaked at 150 on the 23rd. Single Tree Pipits were logged on the 21st, 26th and 27th and Yellow Wagtails were recorded on 17 dates with a peak count of nine flying south on the 21st. One or two Grey Wagtails were logged on 13 dates with three seen on the 5th and a female / immature Wheatear landed on the mound briefly before flying west on the 21st. 25 Mistle Thrushes on the 31st was a typical early autumn count and a Goldcrest which was seen on the 19th and 26th, was a hint that autumn is just around the corner. Single Coal Tits were present on five dates with three on the 27th. Unusually a Jay flew south on the 21st and 11 Tree Sparrows were seen on the 5th. Finch flocks started to build up with a maximum of 250 Greenfinches noted on the 10th and 60 Goldfinches on the 30th.

One or two Hares were seen on five dates and both a Fox and a Grass Snake was seen on the 10th. A Stoat was seen on the 21st and the Red-eared Terrapin was seen again on the 8th. Amongst the dragonfly sightings a Banded Demoiselle was seen on the 5th and the first Migrant Hawker of the year was seen on the 18th. The last Emperor and Black-tailed Skimmers of the year were seen on the 9th and the 24th was a reasonable day with four Southern Hawkets, three Brown Hawkets and six Migrant Hawkets being logged. An Emerald Damsel on the 28th appears to be the only record this year. However the highlight of the insect year occurred on the 27th when Tony Irons discovered a colony of Large Copper Butterflies. This species became extinct in the UK in 1994, when the Woodwalton Fen, Cambridgeshire population died out. This was an introduced population and as this is a very sedentary species in Europe it was immediately obvious that somebody had released either the adult insects or caterpillars on the reserve. At least nine males and seven females were seen during the following days. Nevertheless, even though they were clearly not wild they still attracted a lot of attention with visitors from as far as Norfolk and Bedfordshire coming to photograph them. Five Comma Butterflies were seen on the 9th with singles on the 4th and 29th whilst single Painted Ladies were seen on the 1st and 3rd and two Red Admirals were logged on the 9th. Finally amongst the insect news a new species of Grasshopper was recorded from the reserve on the 16th when Lesser Marsh Grasshopper was recorded for the first time. This species was first recorded in Derbyshire in 2002 and has now been found at a number of sites in the county.

Mark Beevers.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2006

Daily visits continued throughout the month during which 101 species were recorded, the fifth consecutive September that we have logged a hundred or more species at the site. Despite recording a few interesting birds not one new bird for the year was seen and the year list remained on 134 which is about average for the time of the year. A few notable species recorded during the month including Little Egret (8th record), Pink-footed Geese (60), Pintail, Marsh Harrier (24th record), Hobby, Peregrine, Little Ringed Plover (latest ever), Little Stint (3rd record), Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit (23rd record), Greenshank (latest ever), Green Sandpiper, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Tern and Tree Sparrow.

Little Grebes were seen on all dates with six noted on the 3rd and 6th and the single Great-crested Grebe was present daily throughout the month. Cormorants were recorded daily with usually three to five birds present but with higher counts of seven on the 5th and nine the following day. Herons too were seen daily with a peak count of 14 on the 1st and 7th and double figure counts on seven more dates. A Little Egret was present in the evening on the 8th but flew off south soon after being discovered. Mute Swans gradually increased during the month peaking at 11 on the 29th and the first Skein of Pink-footed Geese, numbering 60 flew east on the 26th. Three Grey Lag Geese were noted on the 20th with two on 26th – 27th and one was seen on the 6th and 21st. Canada Geese numbers varied markedly during the month with three-figure counts on 12 dates, the highest of which was 290 on the 6th and a hybrid Barnacle / Canada Goose was present on the 21st.

Following one or two Wigeon on the 4th and 5th more arrived daily from the 10th with double-figures from the 14th rising to a peak count of 48 on the 28th, a record count for September. Gadwall were not recorded in the numbers seen in 2005 but nevertheless they were still recorded daily in double-figures with a peak count of 64 on the 23rd. Teal also continued to rise in number peaking at 72 on the last day of the month. Mallard numbers were somewhat disappointing and although three-figure counts were made on 12 dates the highest count was only 180 on the 27th. Following a trend of recent autumns Shovelers were present daily with double-figures on 12 dates from the 12th with a peak of 13 on five dates between the 25th and 30th. A male Pintail was present in the morning on the 12th but had left by early afternoon. Three Pochard were present on the 19th with a female on the 24th and 25th, the latter being joined by a male on the 26th and Tufted Ducks were seen daily with a peak count of 21 on the 1st, with double-figures noted on a further 14 dates.

A juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen on the 9th, Sparrowhawks were recorded on 19 dates (27 bird / days), including a pair displaying on the 19th and Common Buzzards were noted on 13 dates (28 bird / days, 14 of which were within the recording area) with a high of seven viewable from the mound on the 9th. Kestrels were logged on 19 dates (24 bird / days) and single Hobbies were seen on the 4th, 6th and 9th with a late bird on the 17th. The Peregrine was seen intermittently during the month it being noted on four dates between the 3rd and 7th, four dates between the 18th and 22nd and again on the 29th.

Five Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 15th and 13 Grey Partridges were present on the 17th. A single Water Rail was heard on ten dates with two calling on the 14th but the higher water levels meant that the only one actually seen was an adult on the 11th. 36 Moorhens were counted on the 22nd and the record Coot numbers continued to climb reaching 105 on the 5th. A juvenile Little-ringed Plover was seen on five dates between the 1st and 6th and it was followed by further juveniles on the 14th, 20th and 23rd-24th which became the latest ever bird at Carr Vale. Golden Plovers were logged on ten dates during the month with daily records from the 25th peaking at nine on the 30th and Lapwings peaked at 111 on the 24th. A juvenile Little Stint on the 25th was a

good record for the site and single Dunlin were seen on the 9th, daily between the 13th and 21st and again on the 23rd with two additional birds present on the 16th. A Ruff was present for most of the day on the 24th and Snipe were present daily from the 5th peaking at seven on the 18th. A Black-tailed Godwit was flying around with the Lapwing flock on the 5th and the good run of Greenshank records continued with daily records until the 27th with the last of the year noted on the 30th. Two were present on the 1st and 2nd. A Green Sandpiper was seen on the 11th and two Common Sandpipers were present on the 1st with a single bird remaining until the 3rd, an early departure date.

300 Black-headed Gulls were counted on the 5th and the first Common Gulls since March were logged on the 7th (a juvenile) and 9th (a juvenile and a 1st winter). 400 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were logged on the 5th, a juvenile Herring Gull was present on the 4th and 7th whilst an adult appeared on the 12th. An adult Yellow-legged Gull was seen on the 5th but more unusual was a 1st winter Great Black-backed Gull that was present between the 5th and 7th. Common Terns are unusual in September so it was pleasing to record five (four adults) on the 5th and three (two adults) on the 13th. 25 Stock Doves were present on the 13th and a Tawny Owl was heard on the 24th. The last Swift of the year was noted on the 6th, single Kingfishers were logged on 15 dates, a Green Woodpecker was seen on five dates and single a Great-spotted Woodpeckers was seen on 11 dates with two noted on the 26th.

Four Skylarks flew west on the 11th, the first hint of autumn passage and towards the end of the month numbers of birds on the fields to the west of the reserve increased with 80 on the 25th, 150 on the 27th with 90 still on the 30th. Additionally a total of 40 flew south or south-west including 21 on the 30th. Late Sand Martins included single birds on the 21st and 23rd and a total of 313 Swallows were logged flying south including 54 on the 22nd and 44 on the 30th. 150 House Martins were present on the 4th with 60 still present on the 28th. Additionally a total of 130 flew south over seven dates with a high of 54 noted on the 13th. Three Meadow Pipits flew north-west on the 7th and the following day the first of the autumn flew south. Then a further 589 flew south over 13 dates including 92 on the 29th and 252 on the 30th. Yellow Wagtails were recorded on eight dates until the last of the autumn was seen on the 21st with three noted on the 7th, 11th and 13th. One to three Grey Wagtails were logged on 19 dates with four noted on the 4th and 19th and a record count of ten (all flying south at dusk) was made on the 13th. A total of 27 Pied Wagtails flew south over eight dates between the 3rd and 30th with a peak of 12 on the 27th.

There was an increase in thrush activity at the end of the month with a rise in Blackbird numbers and six Song Thrushes noted on the 30th. 18 Mistle Thrushes were logged on the 22nd. A late Reed Warbler was present on the 14th whilst the last Lesser Whitethroat was seen on the 12th and the last Whitethroat was noted on the 7th. A Garden Warbler was seen on the 1st, Blackcaps were still present at the end of the month as were Chiffchaffs whilst reasonable counts of the latter included ten on the 4th and 12 on the 22nd. Two late Willow Warblers were also reported on the 22nd. Single Coal Tits were present on 12 dates with two on the 6th. One or two Jays were seen on ten dates and 100 Jackdaws on the 13th was a good count. A good feeding flock of Starlings was present during the month with an estimated 500 on the 14th and 28th. Single Tree Sparrows were seen on the 7th, 9th and 17th with a flock of five present on the 11th. Finch flocks started to build up with a maximum of 250 Greenfinches noted on the 10th and 60 Goldfinches on the 30th.

On the 2nd a further 12 Large Coppers were released but unfortunately for the culprit he was seen and now English Nature are dealing with the matter. Other notable counts of this species included nine on the 5th, six on the 13th and the last on the 17th. Speckled Woods were still around at the end of the month and five Commas were logged on the 27th with two on the 21st and singles on two other dates. A Small Copper was seen on the 25th and a few Red Admirals started to appear

at the end of the month. An insect survey on the 13th produced sightings of Ruddy Darter, the first for several years and good numbers of Southern Hawker, Brown Hawker and Migrant Hawker being logged on several dates with up to ten of the latter regularly recorded. The only notable mammal during the month was a single Hare logged on three dates.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2006

Daily visits continued throughout the month during which 92 species were recorded, a record count for October. Once again I have to thank Ian Swain and Kevin Navin for maintaining the daily coverage whilst I was away and for providing details of their observations. October proved to be a very good month culminating in the discovery of Derbyshire's fourth (and Carr Vale's second) Yellow-browed Warbler, which after being located by call early in the morning eventually gave itself up to ten persistent observers late in the afternoon, when it eventually showed well. In a very good month a number of other site rarities were logged including Little Egret (9th record and latest ever), Whooper Swan (seven), Pink-footed Geese, Ruddy Shelduck (two, 2nd record), Shoveler (record count), Goldeneye (14th-15th records), Marsh Harrier (25th record and latest ever), Osprey (19th record), Peregrine, Ruff, Yellow-legged Gulls (two), Rock Pipit (two records), Stonechat (pair, 16th record), Reed Warbler and Tree Sparrow. Management work during the month saw a second tern raft being placed on Middle Flash whilst very heavy rain between the 24th and 26th saw the water level in Meadow Flash rise to 3'6".

Little Grebes were seen on all but one date with five noted on the 3rd and the single Great-crested Grebe remained all month, it being joined by an additional pair on the 25th. Cormorants were also recorded daily apart from on the 15th with a peak count of seven on the 27th. The latest ever Little Egret for the site was present all day on the 20th and Herons peaked at 12 on the 3rd. Mute Swans remained in double-figures during the first three weeks of the month with a peak of 12 on the 8th and 11th although towards the end of the month the flock ranged between nine and 11. Seven Whooper Swans were reported flying south-west over the houses at Carr Vale on the 13th and 100 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 4th. A single Pink-footed Goose was present on the 11th and 14th and another skein was heard in fog on the 13th. Larger numbers of pinkies were logged later in the month with 210 south-east on the 23rd, 82 south-east on the 24th and an impressive 1200 south-east on the 29th whilst unusually for October 60 flew west on the 25th. Following a single Grey Lag Goose on the 7th one or two were seen on 14 dates from the 16th with daily records from the 20th whilst Canada Geese numbers peaked at 270 on the 26th with three-figure counts on 20 dates.

A pair of Ruddy Shelduck on the 16th didn't remain very long but did become the second record for the reserve and Wigeon numbers gradually started to rise, reaching 92 by the 31st. Gadwall counts were high early in the month but tailed off gradually as the month progressed with a peak count of 68 on the 6th and 7th. Teal numbers fluctuated wildly as birds were often hidden but 80 or more were recorded on six dates with a peak of 91 on the 26th. Mallard numbers were again somewhat disappointing although three-figure counts were made on 16 dates peaking at 184 on the 22nd. Conversely Shoveler numbers were very pleasing with the site record broken three times with a high of 27 on the 29th and double-figure counts on all but one date. Four Pochard were present on the 14th with one to three on four dates from the 27th and Tufted Ducks were seen daily apart from the 15th, when it was very foggy, but there was no count higher than seven.

A female Marsh Harrier showed very well over the Reserve Pond for 15 minutes on the 19th and became the latest ever for the site. One or two Sparrowhawks were recorded on 18 dates with three present on the 3rd and 26th giving a total of 25 bird / days but Common Buzzards were very scarce with single birds logged on just four dates. An Osprey flew west on the 11th and Kestrels were logged on 19 dates (22 bird / days) and single Peregrines were seen on six dates, although both a male and female were involved in the sightings.

Six Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 8th and Grey Partridges were present in good numbers with 18 on the 3rd and 25 on the 28th, although released birds no doubt account for at least some of these birds. Single Water Rails were logged on ten dates with two calling on the 8th,

15th and 18th. 24 Moorhens were counted on the 28th and Coot numbers declined slightly with 80 on the 19th and 85 on the 28th. Up to 34 Golden Plovers were logged on 15 dates until the 22nd when numbers started to climb reaching 225 on the 24th and 25th, Lapwings peaked at 650 on the 20th with three-figure counts on 17 dates and a Ruff was present daily between the 20th and 25th. Snipe peaked at 14 on the 27th and three Whimbrel that circled the flashes on the 11th may well be the latest ever for the county (to be checked).

There wasn't much to report in the gull line although one to three Common Gulls were present on eight dates from the 10th and two adult Yellow-legged Gulls were seen on the 27th amongst 150 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Wood Pigeon movement south-west was poor with 122 on the 24th, 137 on the 25th and 133 on the 27th and a Tawny Owl was heard on the 7th. Single Kingfishers were logged on 15 dates, a Green Woodpecker was recorded on just three dates but it was a good month for Great Spotted Woodpeckers with birds noted on 13 dates.

A total of 130 Skylarks flew south or south-west over seven dates with notable counts of 58 on the 4th and 29 on the 24th. The last Swallow of the year was seen on the 13th and the last House Martins were seen the following day. A further 235 Meadow Pipits flew south taking the autumn total to a lowly 824 with counts of 95 on the 3rd and 77 on the 4th whilst single Rock Pipits were recorded on the 8th and 15th. Additionally an unidentified Spinoletta Pipit, thought by the observer to be a Rock Pipit, flew north-east on the 29th. One to three Grey Wagtails were logged on 20 dates with four noted on the 7th and 11th and 21 Pied Wagtails flew off to roost on the 23rd.

A male and female Stonechat were present on the 18th, though they didn't stay long and 31 Blackbirds were counted on the 10th. The first Fieldfares of the autumn arrived on the 24th, a rather late arrival date and by the end of the month the highest count was only 57 that flew south-west on the 27th. The first Redwing of the autumn was seen on the 10th and small numbers then became regular until a massive 1300 flew south-west on the 26th followed by 900 the next day. A late Reed Warbler was seen on the 2nd whilst a late male Blackcap was found on the 29th. The bird of the year, a Yellow-browed Warbler, was heard calling at the southern end of the Reserve Pond early on the 29th and despite a number of observers searching it was not seen until 1540 that it was found on the eastern end of the embankment. Here it showed well to ten observers. Five Chiffchaffs were counted on the 1st and birds remained until the 15th, 20 Long-tailed Tits were counted on the 7th and 27th and up to three Coal Tits were present on 12 dates. Jays were very scarce with two on the 4th and one on the 13th the only records. A flock of Starlings numbered 500 on the 21st and 22nd and a Tree Sparrow flew west on the 24th.

Although Siskins were logged on 12 dates they were very scarce and southerly passage was almost non-existent with a total of just 12 noted flying south over five dates and a peak of seven on the 24th. 24 Linnets were present on the 1st and Lesser Redpolls were around in good numbers with records on 19 dates and 75 noted flying south over ten dates. The highest counts were 18 on the 18th, 17 on the 27th and 15 on the 28th, all flying south. 11 Reed Buntings flew into roost on the 23rd and six were attending the feeding station on the 29th.

The Red-eared Terrapin was reportedly still present early in the month, three Migrant Hawkers were seen on the 29th along with several Common Darters and the same day a Painted Lady and six Red Admirals were seen.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2006

Daily visits continued throughout the month during which 82 species were recorded, a very average count for the month although three new species for the year were recorded taking the year list to 142. It again proved to be a very good month with a number of site rarities including our 5th Brent Goose (but the first for ten years). Other notable species recorded included Whooper Swan (two records), Pink-footed Geese (four records), Goosander, Peregrine, Mediterranean Gull (11th record), Yellow-legged Gull, Caspian Gull (6th record), Swallow, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Brambling. The month started off quite frosty but by mid-month wet and windy weather prevailed, which in turn increased the depth of Meadow Flash to 30" towards the end of the month.

A single Little Grebe and Great-crested Grebe was seen on 1st November only but Cormorants were seen on all dates with a peak count of 27 on the 12th although this was the only double-figure count of the month. Seven Herons were counted on the 9th, 10th and 15th and Mute Swans were recorded daily with a peak of 11 on the 22nd. Two Whooper Swans flew south-east on the 5th and another was present on Meadow Flash on the 8th. 100 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 1st followed by 52 east on the 9th, 98 east on the 12th and 100 south on the 26th. Two Grey Lag Geese were present on the 1st with a single bird present on 28 other dates at least and Canada Geese peaked at 192 on the 13th. However the bird of the month was an adult Brent Goose that appeared at 1025 on the 27th, the first record since 1996. Earlier that day a Brent Goose was at Carsington Reservoir and it is likely that they were one and the same bird.

Wigeon numbers continued to rise slowly and reached three-figures by the 16th, eventually reaching 120 on the 29th. Gadwall were recorded in double-figures on 13 dates with a high of 35 on the 2nd and Teal peaked at 81 on the 9th. Mallard were only counted on 17 dates with three-figure counts on ten dates the highest of which was 149 on the 15th. 22 Shoveler were counted on the 1st with three more double-figure counts until the 5th after which lower counts were made until the end of the month. Pochard were present daily in single figures with a peak of seven on the 13th and 16 Tufted Ducks on the 5th was the highest count of the month. Finally amongst the wildfowl a male Goosander was present on the 26th and 30th

One or two Sparrowhawks were recorded on 16 dates with three present on the 28th giving a total of 20 bird / days but Common Buzzards were again very scarce with single birds logged on just three dates and two on the 26th. Kestrels were logged on 20 dates (21 bird / days) and a single Peregrine was seen on four dates before the 15th. A hybrid female Peregrine / Lanner Falcon was present on the 16th when it was watched feeding on a dead Moorhen.

20 Grey Partridges were counted on the 3rd with 11 or 12 on four more dates during the month and a Water Rail was heard on seven dates during the month. 33 Moorhens were counted on the 21st but there was no count of Coot made during the month. It was a good month for Golden Plovers with 21 counts in excess of 100 logged including 800 on the 9th and 30th and three-figure counts of Lapwings were made on 13 dates peaking at 240 on the 27th. Single Dunlin were recorded on the 10th, 27th and 29th and Snipe were recorded in single figures on 19 dates peaking at eight on the 12th.

A first winter Mediterranean Gull was a nice find on the 18th and Black-headed Gulls peaked at 240 on the 14th. One or two Common Gulls were present on eight dates prior to the 19th and Lesser Black-backed Gulls peaked at 80 on the 4th. Herring Gull numbers increased to 100 by the 20th and the flock included single Yellow-legged Gulls on the 24th and 30th. A first winter Caspian Gull was an intermittent visitor with sightings on the 1st, 4th, 7th 12th and 28th. An impressive 1335 Wood Pigeons flew south-west on the 10th whilst 30 Stock Doves were counted on the 18th.

Kingfishers were logged on just three dates whilst a Great Spotted Woodpecker was recorded on seven widely spaced dates.

A late Swallow was seen on the 3rd and one or two Grey Wagtails were logged on 18 dates with 25 Pied Wagtails noted on the 9th. An impressive 3900 Fieldfares flew west on the 1st followed by 900 the following day and other large counts of birds flying west were 300 on the 10th and 180 on the 11th. Redwings were quite scarce although 225 flew west on the 16th, when 60 were grounded. A female Blackcap was found on the 5th and a male was present on the 16th. Last months Yellow-browed Warbler was the fifth for the county and not the fourth as first thought (this information coming to light following the publication of the 2005 Derbyshire Bird Report in November). Two Chiffchaffs were reported on the 19th and subsequently a single bird was seen on the 20th, 24th, 26th and 28th whilst Goldcrests peaked at six also on the 20th. Three Willow Tits were logged on the 14th and three Coal Tits were present the 4th with one or two noted on a further 15 dates. 23 Magpies were counted going in to roost on the 13th and 1000 Starlings flew west on the 6th with 290 west on the 10th and 200 west the following day.

A Brambling, which flew south on the 4th, is the only record of the year and Siskins were still in short supply with records on just four dates and a peak of just eight on the 12th. Lesser Redpolls however were far more common than usual with double-figure counts on eight dates including 30 on the 5th and 38 on the 13th. Six Bullfinches were logged on the 20th whilst 19 Reed Buntings were counted into roost on the 9th and up to 12 at any one time attended the feeding station.

Three Common Darters were seen on the 1st on which date a late Red Admiral was seen whilst the last two Common Darters were seen on the 6th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT DEVEMBER 2006

No Report.