

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2007

Daily visits continued throughout the month during which 75 species were recorded, a very average count for the month. Once again I am grateful to Ian Swain and Kevin Navin, who both took care of the recording whilst I was away during the second half of the month. It proved to be a very good month for scarce gulls with Glaucous, Iceland, Caspian and Yellow-legged all being recorded. However the star bird was a second winter Kumlien's Gull, the third record for Derbyshire. Other notable species included Whooper Swan (six), Pink-footed Geese (three records), Goosander, Peregrine, Oystercatcher and Chiffchaff (up to three present). Wet and windy weather was often the order of the day during the month and serious flooding occurred twice when on each occasion the water levels in Meadow Flash exceeded five feet.

Cormorants were seen on all but two dates with a peak count of seven on the 23rd and 24th and Herons were present on 30 dates with a peak count of ten on the 31st. Mute Swans were recorded on 28 dates with a maximum of four on the 6th but unfortunately two fell victim to power lines during the month. A party of six Whooper Swans was presently briefly on the 24th having earlier been seen at Pleasley. 160 Pink-footed Geese flew west on the 7th followed by 238 that flew north-west on the 27th. However these figures were dwarfed on the 30th when 1430 flew west or north-west, although most of the birds were to the north of the recording area, viewed from the observation mound. Additionally on that date 20 flew east and 40 flew south. Three more were present feeding in the fields on the 31st. A Grey Lag Goose was seen on the 13th and three-figure counts of Canada Geese were made on 18 dates with a high of 190 on the 2nd.

Wigeon numbers remained fairly consistent around the 140 mark although towards the end of the month the flock size increased slightly peaking at 166 on the 29th. Gadwall were recorded in double-figures on 18 dates with a high of 59 on the 2nd although just single figures were present from the 26th. Teal peaked at a lowly 78 on the 12th and the Mallard count reached 120 on the 2nd, this being one of just three three-figure counts managed during the month for that species. Three Shoveler were present on the 1st with a male on the 2nd and a female on the 10th. Pochard were present on 29 dates although no more than five were seen on any date, whilst Tufted Ducks were logged on all but one date with a peak count of 15 on the 11th and 20th. Goosanders put on a good show with records on 24 dates with a maximum of four on the 20th and 30th.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 12 dates (13 bird / days) but for the first month in several years Common Buzzards failed to put in an appearance. A single Kestrel was logged on 20 dates; a single Peregrine was seen on the 1st with a pair present on the 2nd and 6th. 11 Grey Partridges were counted on the 22nd with ten on the 19th. Water Rails were also scarce with just a single bird noted on the 2nd and 31st. 24 Moorhens were counted on the 31st whilst Coots peaked at 74 on the 12th. The first Oystercatcher of the year appeared on the 27th and remained until the month-end. Golden Plovers were seen on eight dates peaking at 400 on the 30th and 31st whilst numbers of Lapwings were much lower peaking at 120 on the 27th and 30th. Snipe peaked at seven on the 25th with further records on 12 dates.

Most attention during the month was focused on the large numbers of gulls that rested in the area and this attention certainly paid dividends. Black-headed Gulls peaked at 300 on the 24th, Common Gulls were present on six dates with a peak count of five on the 25th, Herring Gulls reached 850 on the 10th and Great Black-backed Gulls peaked at 150 on the 9th. Keen searching through the gulls produced an adult Yellow-legged Gull on the 12th and 14th and an adult Caspian Gull was found on the 3rd. Single first winter Iceland Gulls were seen on the 23rd and 28th with a second winter logged on the 31st and a first winter Glaucous Gull was present daily between the 9th and 11th. However the bird of the month and a contender for bird of the year was the second winter Kumlien's Gull present for ten minutes on the 29th but unfortunately only seen by a single

observer (though this was rectified during early February). This bird represented the third record for Derbyshire of this Canadian race of Iceland Gull, although there is a record still under review.

Stock Doves were present in better numbers than recently and an impressive 120 were present on the 2nd with 50 in the area on the 31st. A Tawny Owl could often be found near the entrance gate and this bird was seen on seven dates during the month. Unusually a Green Woodpecker was present on the 7th and single Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen six dates. One or two Grey Wagtails were logged on 12 dates and a mixed flock of Fieldfares and Redwings numbered 500 on the 1st. 150 Fieldfares were still present on the 4th and 200 were seen on the 29th. Other counts of Redwings included 50 on the 4th, 60 on the 24th and 127 on the 13th. Chiffchaffs have been a feature of this winter with sightings on the embankment on many dates. Single birds were seen on 13 dates with two birds recorded on six dates and three together on the 10th. 20 Long-tailed Tits were present on the 3rd and up to four Willow Tits attended the two feeding stations regularly during the month. One or two Coal Tits were present on 12 dates and three were present on the 10th. 22 Magpies were counted on the 10th.

20 Goldfinches were seen on the 12th along with four Lesser Redpolls. Good numbers of Bullfinches were logged during the month with 14 on the 1st and a record 17 on the 8th. Reed Buntings continued to attend the feeding station in good numbers with double-figures on seven dates the highest of which was 20 on the 28th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2007

Yet again I have to acknowledge the sterling efforts of Kevin Navin and Ian Swain, who for the third month in a row had to carry out the daily recording duties whilst I was away birding foreign climes and then when I was ill. They managed to maintain the daily visits and 84 species were recorded during the month, a record total for February. The yearlist moved on to 88 which is a record for the end of February. Notable birds recorded during the month included Pink-footed Geese (two records), Shelduck, Pintail, Goosander, Peregrine, Oystercatcher, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Kumlien's Gull, Chiffchaff (up to three present), Tree Sparrow and Brambling. The wet and windy winter continued and water levels in Meadow Flash generally remained between 24 and 30 inches. During the month over 20 nest-boxes were erected around the reserve and we offer our thanks to Mick and Rita Reed for their hard work making them and putting them up.

The first two Great-crested Grebes of the year had returned by the 3rd and they were then present intermittently until the 15th after which they were recorded daily. Cormorants were seen on all but two dates but numbers were quite low with a peak count of eight on the 2nd and Herons were present on all but one date with a high count of ten on the 1st. One or two Mute Swans were recorded on 19 dates and another one was found dead under the power lines adjacent to the Vale Angling Pond on the 21st. Two skeins (27 and 75) of Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 1st followed by 320 north-west the following day. Two Grey Lag Geese were seen on the 4th and another two were reported on the 19th. Counts of Canada Geese generally hovered around fifty although the highest count for the month was 63 on the 4th.

A male Shelduck was present late on the 20th and Wigeon peaked at 172 on the 10th. Gadwall were seen intermittently with records on 19 dates but the only double-figure count was 11 on the 11th and Teal continued to be recorded in low numbers with a high of 66 logged on the 4th. Mallard counts were low with a peak of 56 on the 11th and a pair of Pintail on the 20th was an unusual winter record given that most records of this species are from September and October. A Shoveler was reported on the 18th, Pochard were present on 29 dates with six logged on the 10th and Tufted Ducks were logged on 21 dates with double-figure counts on 12 dates the highest of which was 17 on the 23rd. Goosanders were recorded on 12 dates with six on the 6th, five on the 12th and four on the 13th being the highest counts.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 11 dates (15 birds / days) with display noted on the 4th. Five Common Buzzards were seen from the mound on the 2nd although four of them were well south of the recording area and two were reported on the 25th. A single Kestrel was logged on 12 dates, a female Merlin flew south-east on the 25th and a single Peregrine was seen on the 1st and 2nd. Four Grey Partridges were seen on the 11th and a single Water Rail was recorded on four dates. The Oystercatcher from January was seen intermittently until the 25th (15 dates) and he was joined by his mate on the 26th, both birds remaining into March. 450 Golden Plovers were seen on the 1st with 200 on the 4th and 150 on the 5th after which birds were seen on just five dates. Lapwings were present daily but the only three-figure count was 126 on the 6th. One to three Snipe were logged on eight dates and the first Curlew of the year was seen on the 17th with another logged on the 26th. The first Redshank of the year appeared on the 23rd with two the following day and then one or two were seen daily until the month end.

Gulls continued to be the focus of attention, especially as the 2nd winter Kumlien's Gull, first seen at the end of January reappeared on the 2nd and then showed well to many people on and off until the 6th. A first winter Iceland Gull was seen on the 23rd and a first winter Glaucous Gull was seen on the 4th and 7th. Black-headed Gulls peaked at 300 on the 18th, single Common Gulls were seen on the 5th and 21st, Herring Gulls reached 800 on the 21st and Great Black-backed Gulls peaked at 40 on the 18th. Stock Doves remained in reasonable numbers with a peak count of 40

on the 7th and a Kingfisher was reported on the 1st and 18th. A Green Woodpecker was present on the 25th and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen on four dates between the 9th and 20th.

During the first ten days of the month up to 22 Meadow Pipits were present and one or two Grey Wagtails were logged on seven dates. Fieldfares peaked at 100 on the 20th but otherwise were generally scarce and six singing Song Thrushes were located on the 19th and 20th. Redwings were also scarce with a low peak of 22 on the 10th. The wintering Chiffchaffs were seen on 18 dates with single birds on nine dates, two on seven dates and three on the 4th and 20th. Six Willow Tits were seen on the 1st with five the following day and up to four on many other dates whilst single Coal Tits were present on six dates. Two Tree Sparrows came into the mound feeding station on the 25th, the first time that this species has come into food and a male Brambling on the 17th at Buck Bridge was an unusual winter record as this is another species that is primarily and autumn migrant. Five Siskins were seen on the 2nd with eight on the 25th and three Lesser Redpolls were seen on the 21st with five on the 26th. Bullfinches peaked at ten on the 2nd and 17th and 28 Reed Buntings were on the mound feeders on the 21st with double-figures noted on a further five dates including 16 on the 2nd.

Not much in the way of mammals was seen although a Hare was present on the 20th and 21st, a Weasel was seen on the 4th and a Stoat was seen on the 19th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2007

90 species were recorded during the month, above average for the month but well below the record of 97 set in 2000. The year-list moved on to 100, the equal highest end of March figure matching last year. White-winged Gulls continued to feature with both Glaucous and Iceland Gull noted during the month and other notable species included Pink-footed Goose (latest ever wild birds), Goosander, Red Kite (5th record), Merlin, Peregrine, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Little Owl, Swallow, Blackcap and Raven (18th record). Water levels in Meadow Flash remained at 27" during the first ten days rising to 33" on the 5th but then as the weather became drier the levels dropped to around 21". North-easterly winds during the last week dragged heavy cloud in and put a damper on spring migration.

The first Little Grebe of the year was seen on the 7th with other single birds noted on the 15th and 28th whilst the two Great-crested Grebes from last month were present daily. Cormorants were seen on all bar two dates but numbers were again low with a peak count of six on the 6th and 21st, three of which flew north on the latter date. Nine Herons were counted on the 3rd with six to eight on most dates until the 20th after which numbers declined to between two and four. One or two Mute Swans were recorded on 11 dates and three were present between the 20th and 22nd. A skein of 21 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 26th and became the latest ever wild Pink-feet at Carr Vale by a week. Two or three Grey Lag Geese were seen on three dates and higher numbers were seven on the 23rd, six on the 24th and eight on the 26th. Generally less than 50 Canada Geese were present although 63 were counted on the 21st.

Wigeon peaked at 172 on the 4th although numbers were generally around 135; 152 were still present on the 29th. Gadwall numbers were low with records on 29 dates and a peak count of nine was logged on the 29th. Teal continued to be recorded daily in low numbers with a high of 52 logged on the 6th whilst Mallard counts were typically low with a peak of 24 on the 27th. A female Pochard was present between the 1st and 3rd but Tufted Ducks were logged daily with double-figure counts on 28 dates and a high of 29 on the 26th. A male Goosander was seen on the 1st.

A Red Kite, only the fifth for the site, was a nice sight as it drifted south-west on the 23rd and Sparrowhawks were recorded on 13 dates (16 bird / days) with display noted on the 3rd. One or two Common Buzzards were recorded on ten dates with three seen on the 6th and 23rd but only four were seen over the recording area. Kestrels were logged on 14 dates (a total of 19 bird / days) with a peak count of three on the 24th. A female Merlin flew over the reserve on the 10th and a male Peregrine was seen on the 20th. A Water Rail showed very well in front of the observation mound on the 31st. The pair of Oystercatchers was present throughout the month and they were joined by an additional bird on the 5th and 6th and another pair on the 9th. The first Little-ringed Plover of the year was seen on the 29th, which was a very late arrival date for this species and two were present on the 31st. A Ringed Plover flew north on the 24th and another dropped on to the flashes on the 29th. Golden Plovers were very scarce with records on just five dates including 70 on the 8th, 80 on the 20th and 40 on the 24th whilst Lapwings peaked at 69 on the 2nd. A Dunlin was present on four dates between the 2nd and the 6th and Snipe became more prevalent with single figures noted on 21 dates and a high of ten on the 26th. A Curlew flew south on the 31st and Redshanks were recorded daily with a peak count of six on the 29th.

Gulls again remained the focus of attention as good numbers loafed in the area and white-wingers continued to be reported from Ogston Reservoir. Not to be left out Carr Vale logged single first winter Iceland Gulls on the 9th, 23rd, 24th, 26th and 31st. The bird on the 26th and 31st was certainly different to the one earlier in the week and it is likely that three different individuals were seen during the month. A first winter Glaucous Gull was seen on the 2nd and 3rd whilst a different bird was present between the 6th and 8th (based on plumage differences and bill tip

markings). Later in the month there were further sightings of first winter Glaucous Gulls with a single bird daily between the 14th and 17th and again on the 19th with another first winter present on the 26th with the Iceland Gull. 330 Black-headed Gulls were counted on the 2nd after which numbers declined to very low double-figures and one or two Common Gulls were seen eight dates plus four north on the 11th. Herring Gulls were present in three-figures most days and 500 were estimated to be present on the 7th. Good numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls were logged peaking at a record count of 230 on the 16th and 155 were still in the area on the 31st. An adult Kittiwake dropped into bathe briefly on the 31st before it continued on its way north, this being the first record for almost 18 months.

Eight Stock Doves on the 11th was the highest count of the month and the same day 400 Wood Pigeons were present whilst a flock of 150 flew north-east on the 4th. Kingfishers continued to be very scarce with just two records of a single bird on the 11th and 14th. A Green Woodpecker was present on five dates between the 6th and 13th and again on four dates from the 21st. The first Sand Martins of the year were two on the 26th followed by one during the morning of the 28th. Later that day however 121 flew north in two hours before dusk, a record movement for March. Ten were present the following day when the first Swallows (five) of the year were seen and another Swallow was seen on the 30th. Meadow Pipit passage was very slow with 171 logged flying north over 16 dates but the largest count was a meagre 32 on the 25th. Two Grey Wagtails were seen on the 8th with single birds noted on the 10th, 11th and 19th and 30 Pied Wagtails were feeding on a recently sown field on the 30th.

50 Fieldfares on the 8th was the highest count of the month as birds were only recorded on four dates and Redwings were equally as scarce with records on five dates and a high of 42 on the 4th. The first Blackcap of the year, a male, was seen on the 31st. The wintering Chiffchaffs were seen daily during the first half of the month and they were joined by the first migrant on the 7th. Numbers quickly rose reaching six on the 12th, 11 on the 17th and an impressive 17 singing males by the 28th. Willow Tits continued to feed at the bird tables with up to four seen regularly with six noted on the 8th and single Coal Tits were present on six dates with two recorded on the 6th.

A Jay flew north on the 16th and further singles were present just to the south of Buck Bridge on the 27th and 30th. A Raven, which circled the area on the 3rd, was the first since 2005 and a flock of 1000 Starlings was present on the 23rd. 12 Goldfinches were counted on the 14th and a mixed flock of a dozen Lesser Redpolls and Siskins was seen on the 6th. The first Linnets of the year had returned by the 15th and Lesser Redpolls were seen on five more dates with a flock of 11 noted on the 11th and 30th. Bullfinches continued to be recorded albeit in lower numbers with a peak of five on the 17th and Reed Buntings continued to attend the feeding station on the mound where the highest count was 17 on the 8th.

The first Butterfly of the year was a Brimstone on the 13th with another seen on the 14th when two Small Tortoiseshells and a Red Admiral were seen. Other Brimstones were seen on the 24th and 27th but once again it was a poor month for mammals with nothing of note recorded.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2007

Daily visits continued unabated and the year-list progressed to a healthy 119, the second highest end of April figure. 101 species were recorded during the month, the fourth successive year that we have broken the 100 mark for April and this despite the fact that we failed to record Fieldfare, Redwing or Siskin during the month. Although it was generally a quiet month a few notable birds were found including Shelduck, Goosander, Hobby, Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit (first April record), Green Sandpiper, Iceland Gull (two, latest ever record), Yellow-legged Gull (two), Little Owl, Ring Ouzel and Grasshopper Warbler. It was a very dry month and as a consequence the Southern Flash dried up in mid-month whilst the water level in Meadow Flash dropped to 21 inches.

The only Little Grebe of the month was logged on the 17th and two Great-crested Grebes were present daily but they showed no inclination towards breeding. Cormorants became scarcer with one to three during the first four days of the month followed by single birds on five dates and a party of four that flew north on the 14th. Herons were recorded on 27 dates with a high of four on the 11th and Mute Swans were recorded on 23 dates with a peak of five on the 20th, 29th and 30th. Seven Grey Lag Geese were present between 26th and 28th with five on the 16th and one to four on 19 dates and Canada Geese were present daily with a high of 60 logged on the 28th.

Two Shelduck were present on the 5th and Wigeon numbers remained high until the 4th after which there was the usual sharp decline. 143 were counted on the 4th (a record count for April) and the last seven were seen on the 8th except that a late, injured male appeared on the 29th. Gadwall, for which there were daily log entries, peaked at 16 on the 16th with double figures noted on eight other dates. Teal were recorded daily until the 25th with a peak of 35 on the 1st and a late female was found on the 30th. The first Mallard brood (of 13) found the 19th and two more broods had been found by the end of the month, a male Shoveler was present daily between the 2nd and 5th with a pair noted on the 28th. A pair of Pochard was present on the 13th and Tufted Ducks were logged daily in double-figure counts on 28 dates and a high of 22 on the 10th. A female Goosander was seen on the 19th and 21st.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 15 dates (22 bird / days) with two pairs displaying on the 11th. Common Buzzards were recorded on seven dates (15 bird / days) with three seen on the 9th and four recorded on the 17th. Once again, though only three were actually over the recording area the rest being to the south or west of the area. Kestrels were logged on 24 dates (a total of 34 bird / days) with a peak count of four on the 28th. The first Hobby of the year was seen on the 28th and a pair of Red-legged Partridges was flushed from the Peter Fidler Reserve on the 10th. The pair of Oystercatchers was present throughout the month and they were joined by an additional bird on the 9th, 12th, 14th and 19th. Little-ringed Plover were recorded daily from the 3rd with a peak of six noted on the 12th and 26th whilst 115 Golden Plovers flew east on the 11th with another 30 noted flying north on the 17th. Lapwings were present daily in small numbers and two Dunlin were present on the 15th and 20th. Snipe were logged on 27 dates but the only double-figure count was ten on the 12th. A Black-tailed Godwit was present daily between the 2nd and 10th and became the first April record whilst a Curlew flew south 1st and two more flew south on the 17th. Redshanks were recorded almost daily with a peak count of six on the 1st and 3rd, single Green Sandpipers were seen on the 12th and 29th and the first Common Sandpiper of the year was present on the 11th and 12th. Two more were present between the 18th and 20th and another was seen on the 24th.

Gulls continued to attract attention as good numbers remained in the area, the highlights being single first winter Iceland Gulls on the 3rd and 4th with a very late bird on the 9th, the latter becoming the latest ever for the site. 16 Common Gulls flew north on the 2nd and a late bird was

seen on the 28th and 100 Herring Gulls were present on the 4th. Great Black-backed Gulls remained in good numbers for most of the month and the site record was broken on the 3rd when 230 were counted. The last of the month were eight that flew north on the 30th. Two or three Common Terns were seen on the 22nd followed by one on the 25th and two on the 29th.

A Cuckoo was seen on the 20th with two on the 22nd and another the following day, Kingfisher sightings improved a little with records for eight dates during the month whilst Green Woodpeckers were recorded on five dates and single Great-spotted Woodpeckers were logged on four dates with a pair noted on the 15th. Sand Martins were recorded on 23 dates but double-figure counts were rare with ten or more on just five dates. The highest count was 92 on the 19th of which 82 flew north in 20 minutes in the evening whilst 40 flew north on the 10th. Swallows were only present in low numbers with a peak count of 35 on the 27th and the first House Martins were ten on the 13th with a peak count of 30 on the 23rd and 27th. Meadow Pipit passage continued to be poor with a further 53 logged over eight dates as they made their way north taking the spring total to 224. A late Grey Wagtail flew south on the 10th and single White Wagtails were seen on the 19th and 30th.

A Wheatear was reported on the 9th and a male was in front of the observation mound on the 13th whilst a male Ring Ouzel on the 8th was a nice surprise for the single observer who found it but most unusually no Fieldfares or Redwings were noted during the month. The first Grasshopper Warbler of the year was recorded on the 19th and again on the 20th, after which single reeling birds were located in two other areas on five further dates, although there was never more than one bird on any date. An early Sedge Warbler was recorded on the 13th with daily records from the 16th and a peak count of five (four singing males) on the 28th. The first Reed Warbler was recorded on the 18th with another on the 21st, then birds were noted daily from the 23rd with a high of seven singing on the 28th. Also on the 18th the first Lesser Whitethroat of the year was recorded after which single birds were logged on eight dates with two present on the 28th and 30th. Whitethroats came a little bit later with the first two seen on the 21st with seven singing on the 28th. Two Garden Warblers were singing on the 26th and again on the 28th with single birds on the 27th and 29th and there was a record count of 18 singing male (plus two female) Blackcaps on the 28th. It has been an excellent spring for Chiffchaffs and the site record for singing birds was smashed on the 10th when 33 were heard with 20 still singing on the 28th. Willow Warblers arrived very late this year with the first (six) not recorded until the 10th. On the survey date of the 28th a total of 31 singing males was located and for the first time ever singing Chiffchaffs have outnumbered singing Willow Warblers. Two singing Goldcrests were still present along the southern edge of the recording area on the 28th.

Willow Tits continued to feed at the bird tables with up to four seen regularly and it is thought that three pairs are in the area this summer. Single Coal Tits were logged on three dates with two present on the 6th and 20th and three in the area on the 10th. Single Jays flew north on the 7th, 19th and 25th, 12 Chaffinches were singing on both the 10th and 28th with three pairs of Goldfinch located on the latter date. Four Lesser Redpolls flew north on the 3rd, three pairs of Bullfinches were located on the 28th and Reed Buntings still came into the feeding station on the mound where the highest count was 10 on the 5th.

Seven species of butterfly were logged during the month including up to four Brimstones on four dates and up to two Commas on four dates. It was also a good month for Grass Snakes with three reported from the Stockley trail early in the month and two reported from the Peter Fidler Reserve on the 26th. Single Water Voles were seen on the 17th and 27th, one or two Hares were seen on four dates, a Fox was seen on the 22nd and a Stoat was reported on the 10th and 20th. On the latter date the observer witnessed it kill a Brown Rat. Finally the warm sunny weather encouraged the Red-eared Terrapin from the water and it was seen basking in the sun on the 17th, 26th and

29th.
Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2007

Daily visits continued and we were well rewarded for our efforts with not one but two new species for Carr Vale. The year-list moved on to 125, the second highest end of May figure and 93 species were recorded during the month, the highest May total since 2003 and the third highest May total ever. The first species to be added to the Carr Vale list was a Ring-necked Duck at the beginning of the month, the 10th county record, albeit that it had been in the south of the county before pitching up at Carr Vale. Then the month finished with a bang when Golden Oriole was added to the list, the 21st county record but the first since 2004. In between a number of other notable species were recorded including Shelduck, Goosander, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier (5th record), Hobby, Peregrine, Tundrae race of Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Wood Sandpiper, Kittiwake and White Wagtail. The first three weeks were very dry but the start of the fourth week saw inclement weather with quite a lot of rain although the water level in Meadow Flash remained around 21 inches.

Two Great-crested Grebes were present daily throughout the month but still they showed no inclination towards breeding. A third bird was present on the 29th. Single Cormorants were logged on the 4th (NE), 16th, 17th and 25th (W) with two seen on the 15th. Herons were recorded on all bar one date but the maximum count was only three on four dates. Mute Swans were recorded daily with a peak count of eight daily between the 16th and 21st. Three Grey Lag Geese were seen on the 2nd with single birds on the 4th and 8th and two on the 17th whilst Canada Geese were present daily with a high of 60 logged on the 19th. At least eight pairs nested and by the end of the month one nest had been predated by a Fox, one bird was still sitting and there were six broods with 23 out of 26 goslings hatched growing rapidly. This is the best ever breeding season for this species.

A Shelduck was seen on the 4th with two present on the 11th and 15th. Gadwall were logged on 30 dates but the highest count was only ten on the 2nd and a female Teal was recorded daily until the 3rd. Six Mallard broods were located during the month but the peak count of adults was only 24 on the 17th. A pair of Shoveler was discovered on the 4th after which there were daily records until the end of the month with an additional male present between the 14th and 18th. A contender for bird of the year appeared on the 6th when an adult male Ring-necked Duck was found. This bird had been seen the day before in Rother Valley C P and prior to that had been in the south of the county. A very welcome addition to the Carr Vale list it was seen daily until the 8th and then again on the 14th. It's not known where it was in between those dates apart from on the 9th when it was seen at Pools Brook CP. Tufted Ducks were logged daily with a peak count of 25 on the 7th and 8th and two male Goosanders flew north on the 1st.

A female Marsh Harrier drifted west at 1410 on the 12th and the following morning a female flew off north from the reserve at 0645. It is likely that these records refer to the same bird. More impressive was a male Hen Harrier that flew north at 0945 on the 21st as this is only the 5th record for Carr Vale and the first since 2000. Sparrowhawks were recorded on ten dates (11 bird / days) and single Common Buzzards were recorded on seven dates but all were south of the area. Kestrels were logged on 21 dates (a total of 25 bird / days) and single Hobbies were seen on the 9th, 10th, 14th, 16th, 22nd and 30th, all bar one of which were over the reserve. A male Peregrine flew over the reserve on the 18th. Two pairs of Grey Partridges were seen on the 20th and eight pairs of Coots had either nests or young by the end of the month.

The pair of Oystercatchers was present throughout the month and they were joined by additional birds on the 2nd, 10th and 15th with four birds present on the 6th and 26th. Little-ringed Plovers were recorded daily with a peak of five noted on four dates and one or two Ringed Plovers were seen on eight dates with three seen on the 11th, one of which was of the arctic tundrae race. A

Dunlin was present on the 13th it being joined by five more the following day although these departed north with two Ringed Plovers mid-morning and another one was seen on the 20th. Three Snipe were logged the 1st with two on the 2nd and 3rd with the last of the winter being seen on the 12th. A Whimbrel was down by the Middle Flash on the 12th and Redshanks were recorded on 30 dates with a peak count of four on the 24th. A very smart Wood Sandpiper was present for about 20 minutes on the 23rd and single Common Sandpipers were seen on the 6th and 24th.

Two first summer Common Gulls flew north on the 3rd and nine Great Black-backed Gulls were present on both the 13th and 16th. However the best gull record came in the form of an adult Kittiwake that flew south in pouring rain at 1055 on the 27th. Just 45 minutes later it appeared at Ogston but the following morning it returned to Carr Vale at 0620 where it remained until late afternoon. Common Terns were seen daily and peaked at six on the 26th and 27th.

A Cuckoo was seen on the 3rd and 4th, Kingfishers remained scarce with single birds on six dates, a Green Woodpecker was recorded on 11 dates and a single Great-spotted Woodpecker was also logged on 11 dates. Sand Martins were very thin on the ground with less than ten noted on 17 dates apart from 75 on the 29th, which is an unusual date for such a large number. Swallows were also in short supply with a peak count of 50 on the 13th and 14th and House Martins reached 65 on the 27th. Up to three Yellow Wagtails were logged on 25 dates but the highest count was seven flying north on the 9th whilst a White Wagtail was seen on the 1st. Eight singing Sedge Warblers, 17 singing Reed Warblers and three singing Garden Warblers were located during survey work on the 9th with three Garden Warblers present on the 13th whilst three Lesser Whitethroats were seen on the 3rd.

18 Long-tailed Tits were counted on the 20th with three separate broods being found the following day whilst the only Coal Tit of the month was seen on the 5th. The month ended on a high when a female / first summer male Golden Oriole flew into tall Willows to the west of the Reserve Pond. Unfortunately despite a few of us searching it could not be located after the initial sighting.

Four Hares were seen the 1st with one or two on a further 22 dates, a Fox was seen on the 22nd, 28th and 31st and single Stoats were reported on the 8th and 25th. A Grass Snake was seen on the 3rd and the Red-eared Terrapin was seen on the 1st, 6th, 9th, 22nd and 23rd. As usual the first Damselflies were Large Red Damsels and two were seen on the 9th after which a Four-spotted Chaser was seen on the 21st and 22nd with the first Blue-tailed Damsel on the following day. No Butterflies of note were seen.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2007

June was an excellent month where once again we maintained our daily coverage. A number of records were broken, not least the number of species seen during the month, which came in at 93 smashing the previous record of 87. The end of month total for the year was also the highest ever at 129, beating the record set as long ago as 1996. Finally two periods of very heavy rain in quick succession produced the worst ever flooding in the area with an estimated rise in water level of eight to nine feet on the Reserve Pond and well over six feet on Meadow Flash. Indeed the water level was so high in Meadow Flash that the river was flowing over the Millennium Bridge, something that I have never seen before in 30 years of watching the area. The birds of the month were a couple of Shags, only the second record for the reserve, the last being as long ago as November 1982. The high monthly species total was helped by an impressive (for June) total of eight species of duck and 11 species of wader. Other notable species included the first June record of Wigeon, Grey Lag Geese, Pochard, Hobby, Peregrine, Black-tailed Godwit (2nd June record), Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Little Owl, Barn Owl (11th record) and Red-veined Darter. The first half of the month was fairly dry but the things went downhill with several periods of heavy rain from the 15th culminating in almost 24 hours of heavy on the 25th.

Following a single Little Grebe on the 6th birds at last became more noticeable from the 17th with one or two adults on six dates and a juvenile from elsewhere from the 21st with all three seen on the 23rd. Up to three Great-crested Grebes were present daily until the 26th and just as the pair on Meadow Flash decided to start nest-building they were flooded out (on the 15th). After the big flood just a single bird was seen on the 30th. Single Cormorants were recorded on the 1st, 19th (N), 22nd and 26th whilst on the last date two near adult Shags, which had earlier been seen over Pleasley Pit Tip, flew north through the reserve. Herons were recorded daily with a peak count of nine on the 18th whilst Mute Swans were recorded daily with a peak count of 12 between the 25th and 27th and double-figures on eight other dates from the 14th. The breeding pair also hatched three young on the 13th, all of which were doing well at the end of the month. Six Grey Lag Geese were seen on the 20th but they flew off south and were probably the ones that were seen at Ogston the following day. Canada Geese peaked at 53 adults on the 8th on which date a hybrid Barnacle / Canada Goose was also present. The last brood hatched on the 14th taking the total for the breeding season to seven broods totalling 30 young with 25 surviving at the end of the month.

A male Wigeon on the 21st was the first record for June and during the month a total of five Gadwall broods (37 young) were located whilst the peak count for adults was 17 on the 6th. The first returning Teal were two males on the 4th rising to four birds on the 6th and 7th with a single male remaining until the 15th. Another five broods of Mallard were found during the month but the highlight amongst the breeding wildfowl was the successful breeding of Shoveler, which was confirmed on the 19th when a female with three ducklings was found, the first successful breeding since 1996 although breeding attempts have been made in four years since then, most recently in 2005. Four Shoveler (three males) were present on the 3rd and one or two birds were seen on 13 dates during the month with the brood still present on the 30th, although it had reduced to two. A male Pochard was present on the 10th whilst Tufted Ducks were logged daily with a peak count of 25 on the 3rd. Additionally broods of eight and two were found on the 17th and 19th respectively.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on just four dates and one or two Common Buzzards were recorded on seven dates (eight bird / days) all but two of which were south of the area. Kestrels were logged on 11 dates (a total of 13 bird / days) and single Hobbies were seen on the 2nd, 12th, 18th and 22nd. A Peregrine flew over the reserve on the 5th and another was seen on the 24th when it was seen to take a Stock Dove. A pair of Red-legged Partridges was seen on the 5th and two pairs

of Grey Partridges were seen on the 8th and 26th. 59 Coots were counted on the 18th on which date the 12th brood of the year hatched.

Oystercatchers were a daily feature and the breeding pair fledged two young at the end of the month. Additional birds were present on the 6th-7th, 23rd - 24th and 27th with an extra pair present on 28th-29th. Little-ringed Plovers were present daily until the 21st and again from the 27th with a peak count of six adults on the 14th whilst three Ringed Plovers were seen the 1st with two on the 2nd and single birds on a further six dates until the 13th and again on the 26th. A Dunlin was present on the 14th and again on the 16th with two seen on the 15th. Three Black-tailed Godwits were present all day on the 13th and a Curlew was down on the 20th. Redshanks were recorded on 25 dates with a peak count of five on the 3rd and 28th whilst a long-staying Greenshank was present on six dates between the 5th and 13th and it or another was present daily between the 17th and 19th. A Green Sandpiper was present on the 18th and another was heard on the 27th and single Common Sandpipers were recorded on the 17th – 18th and 30th.

The only gull of any note was a 3rd summer Herring Gull that flew north on the 26th. Common Terns were seen daily and peaked at seven on the 1st but they had a bit of a traumatic time breeding. The pair on the raft hatched two young on the 18th, both of which were doing well at the end of the month. A second pair had a nest on the point but this was flooded out on the 15th. They re-layed in a better location and had two eggs by the 24th but the following day severe flooding engulfed what in a normal summer would have been a safe nest. This nest was most unusual in that it was actually on the mainland rather than an island or a raft. A third pair attempted to nest on the second raft and at this time it is not known whether the nest is active or not. (Impossible to see onto the raft).

A Parakeet Sp (thought by the observers to be Ring-necked) flew south-east on the 30th, on the 29th a Barn Owl flew into the recording area near Windy Ridge, a pair of Little Owls was discovered on the 20th and a Tawny Owl was reported near Mill Farm on the 1st. Kingfishers remained scarce with single birds on seven dates and two were seen on the 30th, a Green Woodpecker was recorded on the 4th and 8th and Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on four dates including an adult and juvenile together on the 12th. It is thought that the latter bred within the recording area this year. Sand Martins were very scarce with a peak count of six on the 19th, whilst Swallows didn't fare much better peaking at 30 on the 26th.

Yellow Wagtails were logged on 15 dates and two pairs were found during survey work on the 5th whilst single Grey Wagtails were seen on five dates with two on the 11th and 22nd. All the usual Warblers were present during the month with 11 Common Whitethroat territories located along with two Lesser Whitethroat territories. A Garden Warbler was still singing on the 28th. Unusual June records included a Coal Tit on three dates between the 18th and 23rd, a Goldcrest on the 29th and a Jay on the 1st. A total of seven singing Reed Buntings was found on the 5th and three further Yellowhammer territories were found on the 7th.

It was a poor month for Dragonflies and Butterflies but a male Red-veined Darter was seen on the 11th whilst on the 19th four Emperors, six Four-spotted Chasers and two Black-tailed Skimmers were seen. The only Butterfly of note was a Painted Lady on the 13th.

Four Hares were seen the 4th with one or two on a further 11 dates, a Fox was seen on the 18th and 20th the Red-eared Terrapin was seen on the 1st, 4th, 17th and 19th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2007

During July we again maintained our daily coverage, though once again this was achieved through the dedication of Ian Swain and Kevin Navin who maintained the coverage whilst I was abroad. 91 species were recorded during the month, which is about average and two new species for the year took the yearlist to 131, a record for the end of July. Following on from the two periods of very heavy rain in June there was more heavy rain mid-month which again caused water levels to rise above average but towards the end of the month after a drier spell muddy edges again started to appear. Notable species seen in July included Grey Lag Goose, Shelduck, Pochard, Hobby, Peregrine, Black-tailed Godwit (three records), Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Redstart (first since 2004) and Spotted Flycatcher.

One or two Little Grebes were logged on 26 dates but no breeding has taken place yet this year and one to three Great-crested Grebes were present daily. Cormorants were recorded 24 dates with a peak count of four on the 16th whilst three were seen on five dates. Herons were recorded daily with a peak count of nine on four dates between 16th and 24th and Mute Swans peaked at eight (plus three young) on the 6th. The brood of three survived the month. A Grey Lag Goose was present daily between the 27th and 30th and Canada Geese numbers increased as usual, reaching 190 by the 29th.

A pair of Shelduck spent the day on the reserve on the 7th and Gadwall were recorded daily with a peak count of 31 (including the young) recorded on the 9th. A male Teal was present on the 2nd and a female / immature was seen on the 21st. A late brood of eight Mallard was found on the 4th and there was a count of 70 adults the following day. The brood of Shoveler was seen on nine dates until the 17th after which they are presumed to have fledged. A Pochard was present on the 18th whilst Tufted Ducks were logged daily with a peak count of 12 on the 14th and 21st.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 12 dates and one or two Common Buzzards were recorded on three dates with four seen on the 10th (eight bird / days, two of which were from within the recording area). Kestrels were logged on 22 dates (a total of 31 bird / days) and single Hobbies were seen on five dates with two on the 8th whilst further singles were just outside the recording area at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on two dates. Two Peregrines were seen over the reserve on the 4th and 22nd and further single birds were seen on the 6th, 7th, 10th and 21st. 53 Coots were counted on the 9th on which date eight young were also present and 13th brood of the year hatched on the 6th.

The family of four Oystercatchers was seen on 13 dates until the 18th and when they weren't at Carr Vale they could usually be found a mile further south on Sutton Scarsdale Flash. An additional bird was present on the 3rd. Little-ringed Plovers were recorded daily until the 11th with a peak count of ten on the 6th and the last for the year was a single bird on the 15th. Additionally at Sutton Scarsdale Flash ten were counted on the 6th with 12 the following day, whilst later in the month five were there on the 14th and four were present on the 24th. Low numbers of Lapwings were recorded during the month with a high of just 146 on the 26th and a Dunlin was present on the 24th. It was a good month for Black-tailed Godwits with a single bird on the 3rd, seven flying south-east on the 10th and another seven flying north-east on the 15th. Single Curlews were seen on the 1st (flying west) and 9th (flying south) with a flock of eight noted flying north on the 21st. A single Redshank was present daily until the 16th and two were seen on the 29th but more unusual was a Greenshank which was present daily between the 3rd and 5th. Finally for the waders single Common Sandpipers were recorded on nine dates and additionally a single bird was seen at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 7th and 14th.

Gulls were generally scarce but on the 8th a flock of 170 Lesser Black-backed Gulls also held a 2nd summer Yellow-legged Gull and the same evening a Common Gull flew south with two more

Common Gulls noted on the 21st and another Yellow-legged Gull was present on the 25th. The Common Tern chicks fledged mid-month and birds were seen daily with peak counts of six adults present on the 8th and 16th whilst seven birds, including three juveniles were present on the 22nd. A late Cuckoo was seen on the 25th, a Barn Owl was reported flying round the car park on the 3rd and a pair of Little Owls was seen on the 4th with a single bird present on the 25th. C500 Swifts were present just before a heavy shower on the 26th and at last the number of Kingfisher sightings increased with single birds noted on 23 dates and two present on the 25th and 27th. Green Woodpeckers were recorded on five dates including a juvenile on the 29th whilst Great-spotted Woodpeckers were also seen on five dates with a juvenile seen on the 21st.

Sand Martins were again very scarce with a peak count of nine on the 11th but ringing in the sewage works on the 21st by the Sorby Breck Ringing Group netted 55 Swallows and 105 House Martins. Yellow Wagtails were logged on 11 dates but the highest count was only three on the 18th and after two Grey Wagtails were seen on the 5th single birds were recorded on two more dates. One of the highlights of the month was the arrival of a juvenile Redstart on the 9th. Although this bird was very elusive it remained in the area until at least the 28th and was the first record since 2004. A single Goldcrest was noted on four dates between the 3rd and 14th, a Spotted Flycatcher, seen on the 21st was probably the first July record of this species and a Coal Tit was logged on five dates until the 10th. Finally amongst the birds Goldfinch numbers have started to increase and the flock had reached 23 by the 25th.

There was little to report amongst the Dragonflies but a male Banded Demoiselle was seen on the 7th when an Emperor and ten Black-tailed Skimmers were on the wing. Butterflies were reported in slightly better numbers and single Commas were seen on the 6th and 19th whilst a Painted Lady was recorded on the 7th. At least one Ringlet was seen on the 8th but a shock discovery on that date was four Marbled Whites. This is the first record of this species for Carr Vale but in view of last years release of Large Coppers the origin of these insects must surely be dubious.

Amongst the mammals one or two Hares were reported regularly until the 11th and a Fox was seen on the 5th and 10th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2007

August proved to be an excellent month with several good species recorded out of the total of 99. The consecutive daily visits continued taking us over the 2700 mark and the highlight of the month was the third record of Little Gull. Other notable species included Little Egret (10th record), Wigeon, Osprey (20th record), Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Oystercatcher, Ruff (five), Black-tailed Godwit (five), Whimbrel (four), Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull (two birds, 12th and 13th records), Tree Pipit, Whinchat, Spotted Flycatcher and Clouded Yellow. Seven new species for the year took the year list to 138, a record for the end of August and indeed equalling the highest total for the end of September. The dry spell from the end of July continued throughout the month providing good muddy margins round the flashes. As usual during the school holidays minor vandalism occurred and there were occasions when illegal shooting took place. If anyone should come across people shooting illegally please contact the police on 08451233333. We also now have a facility for casual visitors to report their sightings. To do so visit the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust web site (www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) and click on "latest sightings on reserves". Then click on "Carr Vale Flash". This will open up the Carr Vale Reserve information page and you can input your information as well as see what has been seen on the reserve recently.

Following a juvenile Little Grebe on the 7th this species again became regular from the 20th with birds noted on seven dates with three including a fledged juvenile from elsewhere seen on the 24th. One to three Great-crested Grebes were present daily during the month whilst Cormorants were recorded 27 dates with a peak count of 13 on the 24th. A Little Egret was present briefly on the 18th before it was flushed by dog-walkers and flew off south. Herons were recorded daily but only in single figures, which is unusual for the time of year when double-figure counts would normally be expected; the highest count was only eight on the 9th. Five adult Mute Swans remained all month but one of the cygnets disappeared on the 6th leaving just two. Grey Lag Geese were seen daily amongst the large Canada Goose flock with a maximum of four on ten dates between the 2nd and 18th and the Canada Goose flock increased quickly during the month peaking at 556 on the 31st.

A juvenile Shelduck was present briefly before it flew off south on the 20th and a male Wigeon was present on the 23rd. Gadwall were undoubtedly present daily but accurate counts were only made on 28 dates with a peak count of 34 on the 24th. A new brood of four was located on the 5th, the sixth of the year. Following a female Teal on the 6th and three on the 14th birds were seen daily from the 22nd with a peak count of eight on the 30th and 31st. The first three-figure count of Mallard was 140 on the 6th and a further 16 three-figure counts were made during the month with eight in excess of 200, the highest of which was 250 on the 24th. A female Shoveler was seen daily between the 4th and 9th and a male was seen on six dates between the 24th and 30th. A new brood of six Tufted Ducks was found on the 4th, this being the third of the year but only single-figure counts were made during the month.

It was a good month for raptor sightings with Sparrowhawks recorded on 26 dates (36 bird / days) and a peak count of four on the 20th. Common Buzzard sightings at last became more prevalent with birds noted on 12 dates (30 bird / days). The majority of the sightings related to birds seen from the mound but south of the recording area but five birds were seen over the reserve. The highest counts were four on the 23rd and six on the 27th. An Osprey flew south on the 27th and Kestrels were logged on 25 dates (a total of 40 bird / days) with a peak count of four on the 12th. It was an excellent month for Hobbies with records on 14 dates. All sightings were of single birds from within the recording area apart from two on the 13th and the birds often showed very well as they attacked the Swallow roost. Two Peregrines were seen over the reserve on the 8th and subsequently single birds were seen on seven dates with all bar one of the sightings being from

within the recording area.

The first Water Rail of the autumn was heard on the 29th from the Southern Marsh and Coots peaked at 74 on the 9th whilst a new brood of three (a second brood) was found on the 5th. An Oystercatcher was seen on the 5th, a late Little-ringed Plover was logged on the 25th and the only Ringed Plover of the month was seen on the 16th. Lapwings numbers remained low with a peak count of 140 on the 20th whilst single Dunlin were seen on the 2nd and 14th with two present on the 10th. A Ruff arrived on the 22nd and the following day five were present. These remained until the 27th after which they decreased to three. The party of three then remained until the 30th with just a single bird present on the 31st. The first Snipe of the autumn was seen on the 14th with further singles on three other dates and four birds were present on the 19th and 30th. A party of five Black-tailed Godwits circled the flashes briefly on the 15th, a party of four Whimbrel flew north on the 23rd and four Curlews flew west on the 6th with single birds noted on the 26th and 30th. Two Greenshanks were seen daily between the 11th and 19th with one remaining until the 20th and it was a good month for Green Sandpipers with single birds on nine dates and two reported on the 17th-18th. The 13 bird / days logged were more than was recorded in the whole of 2006. A single Common Sandpiper was seen daily between the 2nd and 9th with two birds then present daily until the 20th after which just a single bird was seen on the 22nd and 26th.

A Mediterranean Gull, which was still in juvenile plumage, was found on the 19th and subsequently seen daily until the 22nd. This plumage is still rarely seen in Derbyshire and this bird is now the earliest autumn arrival date. A more advanced bird that had moulted into first winter plumage was present briefly on the 30th. Better still was a juvenile Little Gull, which came in with a flock of Black-headed Gulls early on the 22nd. The bird lingered for about ten minutes and then carried on north. This is just the third record of this species for Carr Vale and the first since December 2000 when the first two birds were recorded. Good numbers of Black-headed Gulls were present mid-month with a peak count of 500 on the 20th and three Common Gulls were present on the 20th and 21st. Common Terns were seen daily until the 6th when six were present after which single birds were seen on three dates until the last on the 15th. Single Tawny Owls were recorded on the 13th and 30th and possibly the last Swift of the year was seen on the 30th. Kingfishers were recorded on all bar one date with two present on the 9th and 26th whilst Green Woodpeckers were recorded on ten dates with two noted on the 2nd. Single Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on nine dates.

Sand Martins continued to be very scarce with records on nine dates but a peak of just three on the 21st. One of the spectacles of August was the Swallow roost which was in use for most of the month and which peaked at 2000+ on the 18th and 22nd whilst 120 House Martins were counted on the 22nd. A Tree Pipit was heard on 28th and small numbers of Yellow Wagtails were logged from the 11th with seven on the 23rd and nine south on the 28th. One or two Grey Wagtails were seen on six dates with four present on the 29th whilst 15 Pied Wagtails were present on the 28th. A juvenile Whinchat was a nice find on the 30th and may well have been present since the 28th. All the expected Warblers apart from Grasshopper and Garden were logged during the month and up to three Goldcrests were logged on six dates. A Spotted Flycatcher was reported on the 23rd and single Coal Tits were logged on three dates. A Jay on the 26th was unusual given the date, 500 Starlings were present on the 23rd and the Goldfinch flock reached 80 on the 18th.

Amongst the insects male Banded Demoiselles were seen on the 5th and 24th whilst Southern Hawker, Brown Hawker, Emperor and Black-tailed Skimmers were all still about on the 27th but the only notable butterfly was a Comma on the 4th.

A Water Vole and a Hare was seen on the 5th, single Foxes were present on the 19th and 29th and a Mole was found dead on the 10th. The Red-eared Terrapin survived the flooding as it was seen on the 27th and a Grass Snake was seen on the 24th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2007

No Report.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2007

Daily visits continued but produced a low October total of 87 species. This was no doubt a reflection on the reduced coverage and once again I am grateful for the efforts of Ian Swain and Kevin, who kept the daily recording going whilst I was away. Kevin got his reward when he found a juvenile Gannet, a new species for Carr Vale taking species list to 203. Two other species were added to the year list, which rose to 141, these being Rock Pipit (three records) and Stonechat. Other notable species recorded during the month included Whooper Swan (two records), Pink-footed Goose, Peregrine, Water Rail, Curlew, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Warbler, Raven (four, a record count), Tree Sparrow and Brambling. The dry weather continued during the month ensuring that the flashes remained in good condition and the new hide in the South Marsh was completed, which now affords views of the inside of the Phragmites reeds, which is not viewable from the observation mound. Don't forget that there is now a facility for casual visitors to report their sightings. To do so visit the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust web site (www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) and click on "latest sightings on reserves".

Little Grebes were recorded on 22 dates with three birds noted on the 27th and one or two Great-crested Grebes were seen daily. Cormorants were also present daily with double-figures noted on six dates with 15 on the 1st and 16 on the 19th and 25th. Bird of the month was a juvenile Gannet that was present very briefly on the 13th and which was seen by just two observers, one of whom managed to get a single record shot of it. This is the first record for Carr Vale and there have been about 44 records for the county of this maritime species. It is more than likely that this was the bird that was present earlier in the month at Howden Reservoir. Herons were recorded daily but again only in very low numbers with a maximum of six on the 17th. Mute Swans were also present daily and peaked at 12 on the 20th with double-figure counts on all bar two other dates. Two Whooper Swans were present on the 29th and a single bird was present the following day, although this may be a different bird as two were at Ogston on the 30th. It remained into November. 75 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 5th, 70 flew west on the 20th and 275 flew south-east on the 30th whilst a single bird was amongst the Canada Geese on six dates. Three Grey Lag Geese were present on the 8th and 9th with two on the 6th and 7th and a single bird on six dates whilst large numbers of Canada Geese remained with 400 on the 1st and 339 on the 29th.

Wigeon were present in double-figures until the 21st when 104 were logged and then numbers rose further and peaked at 149 on the 27th. Gadwall were recorded in double-figures on 27 dates with a peak count of 42 on the 2nd and Teal counts peaked at 84 on the 27th. Mallard numbers declined during the month after a count of 150 on the 1st and generally hovered around the 100 mark at the end of the month. Shoveler were recorded daily during the month with a peak count of ten on the 27th and 28th whilst one or two Pochard were recorded on 13 dates whilst Tufted Ducks were recorded daily with a peak count of nine on the 27th.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 19 dates (22 bird / days) and Common Buzzards were noted on ten dates (19 bird / days) with a peak count of five of the latter recorded on the 1st. Kestrels were recorded on 25 dates (35 bird / days) and an adult Peregrine was seen on the 1st and between the 6th and 8th..

Nine Red-legged Partridges were counted on the 5th and 20th (with five on the 1st) and Grey Partridges peaked at 12 on the 2nd. Water Rails were recorded on eight dates with three birds noted on the 24th whilst Coots peaked at 63 on the 21st. Golden Plovers were recorded on 14 dates with a high of 150 on the 30th. 151 Lapwings were counted on the 1st with 100 present the following day after which birds were only recorded in low numbers. Snipe were logged on 28 dates with a peak count of 12 on the 22nd and a Curlew seen on the 21st was an unusual record.

250 Black-headed Gulls were counted on the 24th and one or two Common Gulls were present on nine dates with a notable count of 22 on the 10th. 410 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were logged flying north on the 24th and three-figure counts were made on four other dates whilst Herring Gulls peaked at 12 on the 24th. The first Great Black-backed Gull of the autumn was a third winter

bird which flew south on the 24th. Kingfishers were seen on 24 dates with two on the 2nd and 21st, a Green Woodpecker was recorded on 18 dates and single Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates.

Visible passage of Skylarks was recorded on five dates with notable movements on the 1st (29 west), 2nd (99 south-east and 18 south) and 21st (21 south-west). An impressive southerly movement of Swallows took place on the 1st when 1585 were logged in three hours whilst 43 south on the 2nd appear to be the last of the year. 2nd. This is a very early last date and 11 House Martins south on the 1st also appear to be the last of the year, although in both cases this could be down to under recording. Meadow Pipit passage continued to be poor with just 24 birds logged flying south over the first three days of the month. A Rock Pipit flew south on the 2nd, another was in the area on the 14th (when it flew north) and 15th (when it flew south) and another flew south on the 21st. A late Yellow Wagtail was present on the 1st and 2nd and one or two Grey Wagtails were seen on ten dates.

A male Stonechat, present in front of the mound on the 7th and 8th, was a typical autumn record and the first Fieldfares of the autumn were three on the 8th. Birds were then recorded on most dates from the 11th with a peak count of 250 on the 22nd but so far this autumn there hasn't been a big arrival or movement. Redwings were also recorded on most dates during the month and they peaked at 100 on the 11th and 14th. A late Reed Warbler was seen on the 2nd and a late female Blackcap was present for two days from the 25th. The last Chiffchaff of the autumn was seen on the 4th, another early last date. 30 Long-tailed Tits were seen on the 5th whilst 27 were counted on the 13th and four Willow Tits were counted on the 26th. One to three Coal Tits were logged on nine dates and four were present on the 26th. Jays continued to be recorded with one to three on 14 dates plus five on the 21st. 230 Rooks were counted on the 2nd and a flock of four Ravens (a site record count) flew north-west on the 21st. Three Tree Sparrows were seen on the 1st with single birds noted on the 2nd and 20th and 16 House Sparrows were counted on the 27th. A Brambling flew south on the 24th and two (perhaps four) were by the reserve pond on the 27th. A flock of 38 Goldfinches on the 14th was the highest count of the month and 22 were present on the 20th. Siskins were recorded on 12 dates but the highest count was only 11 on the 2nd whilst ten flew south on the 15th. 48 Linnets flew south on the 1st and 40 Redpoll flew south over five dates including 22 on the 15th.

Late dragonflies included Common Darter and Migrant Hawker both of which were still on the wing on the 30th whilst a Comma was seen on the 21st and a late Red Admiral was seen on the 30th. The only mammal records concerned a Hare and Fox on the 21st.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2007

Daily visits continued and produced a record November total of 87 species and again I am grateful for the efforts of Ian Swain and Kevin, who kept the recording going from the 23rd. A belated record of a Turtle Dove plus four new species during the month took the year list to a record equalling 146. The birds new for the year were Mandarin Duck, Knot, Jack Snipe and Woodcock and other notable species recorded during the month included Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Pintail, Goldeneye, Red Kite (6th record), Peregrine, Black-tailed Godwit (7th record this year), Redshank, Kittiwake, Rock Pipit, Tree Sparrow and Brambling. The dry weather continued for most of the month ensuring that the flashes remained in good condition. Just a reminder there is a facility for casual visitors to report their sightings at Carr Vale via the internet. To enter records visit the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust web site (www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) and click on "latest sightings on reserves".

A Great-crested Grebe was present on 23 dates until the 28th with two present on the 26th. Cormorants were seen daily in single figures with a maximum of nine on the 11th and 20th and Herons peaked at six on the 21st and 28th. The Whooper Swan from the end October was present between 1st and 6th, 950 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 1st, a Grey Lag Goose was seen on five dates between the 1st and 9th and 450 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 4th. The highest count of Canada Geese was 320 on the 6th whilst Mute Swans were present daily and peaked at 13 on the 9th. A female Mandarin Duck was found on the 18th and was still present on the 19th, this is only the 4th Carr Vale record. Wigeon peaked at 202 on the 19th, the peak count of Gadwall was 64 on the 28th, Teal peaked at 106 on the 17th and there was a maximum count of 122 Mallard on the 18th. Two female Pintail were seen on the 20th and there was a peak count of 13 Shoveler on the 6th. Pochard and Tufted Ducks were recorded in small numbers peaking at six and 15 respectively. A female Goldeneye was seen on the 1st and two females were seen on the 12th and Goosander records included two females on the 11th with one on the 14th and 17th with one on the 28th and 29th.

A Red Kite was watched from the observation mound as it flew south-west on the 9th, Sparrowhawks were logged on 16 dates and a Buzzard was seen on the 1st. Kestrels were recorded on 19 dates and a Peregrine was seen on the 5th, 16th and 17th. Eight Grey Partridges were seen on the 26th and 28th, Water Rails were recorded on 12 dates until the 22nd with two birds noted five dates. However it is thought that four are probably around the reserve during the month. A count of 16 Moorhens was made on the 5th and Coots peaked at 74 on the 4th. Golden Plovers peaked at 150 on the 1st and 80 Lapwings were counted on the 2nd. Single Dunlin were seen on the 14th and 19th and a Knot was present for 15 minutes on 20th before it flew off south. (This is the 4th record for Carr Vale). Another Knot flew north on the 22nd and a Jack Snipe on the 18th was the first since 2004. The highest count of Snipe was eight on the 4th and a Woodcock was reported on 15th and 20th. Three Black-tailed Godwits were seen on the 19th and the same day four Redshank flew north.

Black-headed Gulls peaked at 190 on the 27th and one or two Common Gulls were seen on ten dates between 3rd and 25th. 58 Herring Gulls were seen on the 24th and 32 Great Black-backed Gulls were also seen on the 24th whilst a first winter Kittiwake flew north on the 4th. 235 Wood Pigeons flew south-west on the 2nd and 250 were counted on the 21st. A Kingfisher was seen on 13 dates, a Green Woodpecker was recorded on 11 dates and a Great-spotted Woodpecker was recorded on the 2nd. A Rock Pipit arrived from the north, circled the flashes calling then flew back north on the 1st and 40 Pied Wagtails were logged on the 17th.

Fieldfares peaked at 150 on the 1st but all the Redwings seemed to have gone through and very few were noted during the month with a peak count of 30 on the 17th. The highest count of Long-

tailed Tits was 16 on the 15th, Willow Tits were regular at the feeding stations with a peak of six plus on the 17th and one to three Coal Tits were logged on 17 dates. Four Tree Sparrows were reported on the 18th, a Brambling flew south on the 17th, 12 Goldfinches were seen on the 8th, small numbers of Siskin were seen with eight south on the 9th being the highest count, Lesser Redpolls peaked at 14 on 20th and six Bullfinches were seen on the 28th.

A few late dragonflies were still on the wing with the last four Migrant Hawkers seen on the 3rd and the last two Common Darters being reported on the 14th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2007

Once again I had to rely on Ian Swain and Kevin Navin to keep up the coverage for the first two weeks of the month and yet again we managed to complete a full month of daily visits, which means that we have now managed daily coverage for the last seven years! It was a good month with two new species for the year taking the year list to a record 148, two more than the previous record of 146 set in 2000. The two new for the year were Bittern (4th record) and Common (Mealy) Redpoll (6th record) and other notable species were Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Merlin, Peregrine, Water Rail, Knot (6th record), Raven (four, equalling the record count), and Brambling. To do so visit the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust web site (www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) and click on "latest sightings on reserves". The pools were mainly frozen during the middle of the month and then towards the end of the month the water level increased to 27" following heavy overnight rain at Christmas.

A Great-crested Grebe reappeared on the 29th and stayed until the 31st and Cormorants were recorded on 26 dates with a peak count of nine on the 9th. Bird of the month was found on the 23rd when a Bittern was seen standing on the ice, giving excellent views for most of the morning. The bird was subsequently seen daily until the 26th and then again on the 31st. Herons were seen on 27 dates with a peak count of eight on the 25th whilst there were daily records of Mute Swan with a peak maximum of 13 on the 22nd, 24th and 25th. 150 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on 12th December and the following day 109 Pink-footed Geese landed in fields to the west of the reserve. These remained overnight until they were flushed by a shoot on the 15th December. Two other Pink-footed Geese were found amongst the Canada Geese on the 6th and these were then seen on six dates until the 18th. Two Grey Lag Geese circled the reserve on the 17th, one was present on the 22nd and four arrived from the west on the 23rd. Unfortunately Canada Geese were still present in good numbers with a peak count of 250 on the 18th.

A pair of Shelduck was present briefly before they departed north-west on the 24th and Wigeon peaked at 189 on the 6th. 48 Gadwall on the 4th was the highest count of the month and 151 Teal on the 23rd was the highest count of the year. Mallard numbers were again low with a maximum count of 98 on the 20th. Two male Pintail were a nice addition to the wintering wildfowl and they were present between the 20th and 27th. The last two Shoveler of the year were seen on the 2nd, up to four Pochard were logged on 12 dates and Tufted Duck peaked at 12 on the 10th. Four Goosander were present on the 3rd and 4th (with one to three on 10 more dates during the month).-IS.

Three Buzzards were seen on the 29th with two on the 3rd and single birds on four more dates. Sparrowhawks were seen on 15 dates and Kestrels were seen on 20 dates. A Merlin and Peregrine was seen on the 26th. 13 Grey Partridges on the 12th were the largest covey of the year. The first Water Rail for three weeks was seen on the 15th with single birds noted on six more dates during the month and Coot peaked at 79 on 19th. Golden Plovers were recorded on six dates with 60 on the 7th and the highest count of Lapwings was 120. The most notable wader of the month was yet another Knot, which was present on one of the tern rafts briefly on the 16th (6th record) and one or two Snipe were seen on 12 dates.

Black-headed Gulls peaked at 325 on 30th, one or two Common Gulls were seen on just four dates and a maximum count of 300 Herring Gulls was made on the 19th. The most unusual gull was a first winter Caspian Gull that was present on the 22nd. 150 Great Black-backed Gulls on the 18th was a good count for the site. A flock of 1000+ Wood Pigeons was present on the 16th and 17th. A Green Woodpecker was recorded on 8 dates and a Great-spotted Woodpecker was logged on four dates. One or two Grey Wagtails were logged on seven dates but 138 Pied Wagtails on the 25th is a good count for the site.

A Chiffchaff was seen on the 3rd and 6th, a maximum count of 20 Long-tailed Tits was made on the 28th and Willow Tits were commonly seen at the feeders with at least eight around the area on the 6th. 22 Magpies were counted on the 29th but four (two pairs) of Ravens that flew south-west on the 30th equalled the record count for the reserve. There was a notable count of 34 Siskins on the 6th and 18 Lesser Redpolls were present on the 1st with c20 on the 24th and 29th. A Common (Mealy) Redpoll was found amongst the 20 Lesser Redpolls on the 29th and there was a count of 12 Bullfinches on the 25th. Reed Buntings were very regular visitors to the bird tables with up to 13 at anyone time and 32 dropped into roost on the 25th.

The only mammals noted were Weasels on the 14th and 16th and a Fox on the 17th.