

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2009

The year started with quite a bang with no less than six Carr Vale rarities being seen including a new bird for the site, Ring-billed Gull, which takes the list of species recorded to 204. 87 species were recorded during the month which is a record count for January and this is undoubtedly our best ever start to the year, lets hope this run of form continues. Needless to say the daily visits continued. One or two problems occurred during the month with youths skating on the ice on the Middle Flash and an occasion when five unidentified males were Hare coursing. On a more positive note there was a short article in the Sunday Telegraph about the reserve which produced an influx of visitors over the following ten days, a Barn Owl nest box was put up and Mick Reed collected three sacks of rubbish from around the paths.

Cormorants were recorded on 30 dates with a maximum of ten on the 12th, 19th and 22nd. The Bittern found by Ian on the 1st December was seen again on the 3rd, 4th, 9th and 13th but not many people managed to catch up with it as it remained extremely elusive. This is the 6th record for the reserve. Herons were seen daily with a peak of six on the 23rd. A Pink-footed Goose was with the Canada Geese on 15 dates between 5th and 23rd whilst skeins moving included 100 NW on the 14th, 150 NW on the 15th, 11 SE on the 17th and 250 NW on the 21st. A Grey Lag Goose was with the Canada Geese on 26 dates and another two joined it from the east on the 30th. Canada Geese were seen daily, often in three-figures with a peak count of 213 on the 20th whilst the rarest goose was an adult Dark-bellied Brent Goose, which flew south at 1205 on the 26th, the 7th record for the reserve.

Shelducks are rare in winter so one on the 7th and two on the 17th were unusual records. Wigeon were recorded daily in three-figures with a maximum count of 159 on the 7th whilst Gadwall peaked at of 54 on the 14th. Star performers amongst the wildfowl were Teal. The previous highest count was 180 on 9th January 2004 but this record was broken on the 2nd when 190 were counted only to be bettered again on the 5th when 213 were present. The previous record of 180 was beaten again on four more dates and then on the 14th a new record was posted when 217 were counted. Three-figure counts were a daily feature until the 23rd after which numbers fell away rapidly. The highest count for Mallard was a lowly 81 on the 7th whilst Pochard were recorded on seven dates with a maximum of 12 on the 29th-a good count for Carr Vale. Tufted Ducks were recorded on 25 dates but the only double-figure count was ten on the 17th. Goosanders have been scarce this winter and they were recorded on just four dates with a peak of three on the 23rd.

One of the highlights of the month was a cracking Red Kite which flew west at 1155 on the 21st-the 8th record for the site whilst one to three Common Buzzards were seen on 27 dates with five on the 18th and 30th and seven viewable from the mound on the 31st. Sparrowhawks were recorded on nine dates and Kestrels were logged on 17 dates. A Peregrine was seen on six dates with two on the 2nd and 24th and three (a pair of adults and imm male sat together) on the 23rd. Another good raptor was an immature male Merlin which perched up nicely on the 31st. The first since December 2007.

Five Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 17th and 18th with four on the 21st and 25th. whilst a pair of Grey Partridge were seen on the 2nd, 5th and 31st. One or two Water Rails were logged on 14 dates with four heard on the 3rd, ten Moorhen on the 28th was a low count as was 54 Coot on the 7th. Golden Plovers were recorded on 12 dates with a peak count of 115 flying south on the 22nd whilst Lapwings peaked at 220 on the 30th. A Dunlin on the 2nd was quite unusual for the time of the year and there was an unconfirmed report of a Jack Snipe on the 10th. Snipe were recorded on 26 dates with a max count of 11 on the 26th and it was a good month for Woodcock with at least one on the 11th, one on 15th and one on 28th.

It's been a very poor winter for gulls due to disturbance on the local tip and as a consequence Black-headed Gulls peaked at a low 400 on the 12th, one to three Common Gulls were logged on six dates with three on the 29th and the maximum count of Herring Gulls was 100 on the 5th and the 26th. Bucking the trend slightly was a count of 141 Great Black-backed Gull on the 5th. Of the rarer gulls an adult Caspian Gull was present on the 5th when a first winter RING-BILLED GULL, present for just 15 minutes, became a good candidate for the bird of the year as it was a very welcome first record for the reserve.

Stock Doves peaked at 25 on the 22nd and 800 Wood Pigeons were present on the 18th and 23rd. One or two Little Owls were recorded on 13 dates and a Tawny Owl was found roosting on the 21st. The only Kingfisher so far this year was seen on the 14th, single Green Woodpeckers were noted on six dates with two on the 6th and 13th and single Great-spotted Woodpecker were seen on the 1st, 13th and 31st.

Early Skylark song was heard on the 13th, a flock of 50 Meadow Pipits was counted on the 15th with 38 on the 24th, a Grey Wagtail was seen on four dates with two on six dates and Pied Wagtails peaked at 35 on the 24th. A Waxwing was seen on or about the 13th and another dozen or so flew over on the 20th (12th and 13th records). Fieldfare were present in good numbers with a maximum count of 300 on the 19th whilst Redwings peaked at 90 on the 27th and 29th. A Chiffchaff came out of the reedbed briefly on the 14th but promptly disappeared into thick scrub.

Long-tailed Tits peaked at 12 on the 18th and Willow Tits were present daily with six counted on the 7th and 15th. After the Ring-billed Gull the next rarest bird was a Nuthatch on the 21st, only the 5th record for the reserve. A count of the Magpie roost revealed 44 birds on the 20th and Ravens were recorded on three dates with one on the 12th and three on the 18th and the 31st. Small numbers of Goldfinches were logged throughout the month with a high of 25 on the 29th on which date Siskins also peaked at 25. The ever elusive Redpoll flock was estimated to be 50 strong on the 26th (a record count) but remained very difficult to pin down and Bullfinches peaked at 11 on the 5th. 28 Yellowhammers were counted into roost on the 20th but where are they during the day as we never see more than the odd one at the tables. Up to 20 Reed Buntings attended the bird table on the mound on the 10th but a more accurate picture of the numbers in the area came from a roost count on the 6th when 29 were counted into the reedbed and on the 19th when 38 were counted in. Finally a Muscovy Duck was present between the 5th and 7th at least.

January is often quiet in terms of animal sightings but this month single Foxes were seen on three dates with two on the 12th, two Roe Deer were seen on the 2nd with one the following day whilst a Stoat was seen on the 21st.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2009

The excellent start to the year continued with 85 species recorded during the month which is a record count for February, beating the 84 set in 2007. As a consequence the year list progressed very well and stood at 95 at the end of the month, a record end of February total. Indeed that figure is higher than the end of March total in seven years since 1996. Needless to say the daily visits continued. The highlight of the month was the unusually prolonged (in recent times) period of freezing weather with lying snow for two weeks until mid month though by the end of the month it was quite mild. Birding highlights included Pink-footed Geese, Shelduck, Red Kite (9th record), Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Glaucous Gull, Rock Pipit, Waxwing (13th record) and Ravens.

The first Great-crested Grebe of the year arrived on the 21st and stayed until the month end, Cormorants were recorded on 20 dates with a maximum of 12 on the 27th and Herons were seen on 28 dates with a peak of five on the 22nd, 23rd and 27th. Mute Swans were seen daily with a maximum count of eight on the 15th. A Pink-footed Goose was with the Canada Geese on four dates between the 2nd and 6th and three were with them between the 13th and 28th. Skeins of Pink-footed Geese moving north-west included 90 on the 12th, 200 on the 13th, 50 on the 14th and 325 in three skeins on the 19th. A Grey Lag Goose was with the Canada Geese on eight dates and Canada Geese were seen daily, often in three-figures (12 dates) with a peak count of 185 on the 4th.

As I said last month Shelduck are rare in winter so two on the 4th was an unusual record. Wigeon were recorded daily in three-figures with a maximum count of 158 on the 27th and Gadwall were also recorded daily peaking at 57 on the 4th and 6th. Three-figure counts of Teal were made on 11 dates until the 14th after which there was a decline with a peak count of 150 on the 6th. The peak count of Mallard was 72 on the 7th and a pair of Shoveler was present on the 24th. Pochard were logged on 16 dates with a maximum of 11 on the 13th, which is a good count for Carr Vale and Tufted Ducks peaked at 21 on the 24th. A Goosander was seen on the 10th and a pair flew north on the 15th but it has been a very poor winter here for this species.

Once again one of the highlights of the month was a Red Kite when one flew north-west on the 23rd, the 9th record for the site but the second this year. Three Sparrowhawks were seen on the 17th and 19th with one or two on 16 other dates, a total of 26 bird / days and good numbers of Common Buzzard were seen with one to three on 18 dates, five on the 23rd, six on the 19th and 22nd and eight on the 16th. All were viewed from the mound but any counts over three included birds viewable to the south of the area. Kestrels were logged on 22 dates (36 bird / days) with a maximum of five on the 25th. Finally amongst the raptors single Peregrines were seen on the 4th and 13th.

Ten Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 14th and two were present on the 24th whilst a pair of Grey Partridges was recorded on the 3rd, 7th and 28th. Single Water Rails were logged on seven dates until the 18th with four (three heard) on the 9th whilst Coot peaked at 45 on the 7th and 8th. An Oystercatcher arrived back on the 16th with the pair present from the 17th, (thought to be the regular pair as one of them is ringed, this was done last year). The first Ringed Plover of the year was present briefly on the 15th before flying north and another flew north on the 19th. Golden Plovers were recorded on 18 dates with a peak count of 125 on the 3rd and Lapwings reached a maximum of 250 on the 16th. Snipe were recorded on 27 dates with a maximum count of 11 on the 20th, 21st and 28th and the first (and so far only) Redshank of the year was seen on the 25th.

Black-headed Gulls were present in reasonable numbers during the month with a peak of 400 on 16th, Common Gulls were recorded on eight dates with five on the 19th but Herring Gull numbers were low with a maximum of 80 on the 16th. A third winter Caspian Gull was present on the 16th and a second winter Glaucous Gull was present daily between the 24th and 26th. An immature Iceland / Glaucous Gull flew south west on the 16th but was flying away at an angle so could not be identified to species and Great Black-backed Gulls peaked at 110 on the 27th.

20 Stock Doves were counted on the 3rd and large numbers of Wood Pigeons were present during the cold snap with an estimated 2500 on the 4th. One or two Little Owls were recorded on 23 dates with three on the 9th, 14th, 24th and 25th and the first Kingfisher was seen on five dates from the 17th. Single Green Woodpeckers were noted on 11 dates with two on the 19th. Two good flocks of Skylark were logged with 92 on the 3rd and 50 on the 15th. A small flock of Meadow Pipits was present during the cold period peaking at of 25 on the 5th and a Rock Pipit flew north on the 26th (the first February record for Carr Vale). A Grey Wagtail was seen on seven dates with two on the 23rd.

A Waxwing was present for a couple of hours on New Station Road at Vale Nursing Home on the 13th (13th record). Amongst the thrushes Fieldfare peaked at 70 on the 16th, Redwing at 101 on 1st and Mistle Thrush at six on the 1st. More unusual was a cold weather movement of Song Thrushes on the 3rd when seven flew south although by the 22nd-23rd eight singing males were located. Long-tailed Tits peaked at 12 on the 1st and 22nd and a pair have taken to attacking the wing mirror of cars at the entrance to the reserve! Willow Tits continued to be regular visitors to the feeders with a maximum of five on the 3rd.

Three Jays were seen on the 23rd and a flock of Jackdaws on the 19th numbered 60 whilst there was a good showing of Ravens with one on the 16th and four or five (one east and four north-west) were seen on the 23rd. A flock of 30 Goldfinches was noted on the 24th but Siskin numbers were poor with a maximum of nine on the 15th whilst the Lesser Redpoll flock peaked at 40 on the 23rd. The Redpoll flock however is very mobile and elusive. A count of 17 Bullfinch on the 15th equalled the record count for the site and a maximum of 51 Reed Buntings flew into roost on the 5th. With smaller numbers roosting on the Peter Fidler Reserve and accounting for odd ones missed it is likely that the winter population was about 60.

The most interesting mammal sighting was of a Stoat in partial ermine on the 26th, which is not often seen in the lowlands and which was probably a reaction to the wintry weather. Two female Roe Deer re-appeared on the 22nd but did not stay, single Foxes were logged on five dates and there were occasional sightings of Hare.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2009

We continued setting records in March with the year list reaching 106 by the month end beating the previous highest figure by five. We also broke the hundred barrier earlier than ever before (15th March) and only just failed to beat the record for the number of species recorded in March (95, the highest being 97 set in 2000). Needless to say we continued to make daily visits to the reserve. Birding highlights included Whooper Swans (19 and 11), Red Kite (10th and 11th records), Merlin, Peregrine, Woodcock, Kittiwake, Barn Owl, Swallow (earliest ever), White Wagtail, Stonechat, Wheatear (earliest ever) and Blackcap.

Single Little Grebes were seen on the 2nd and 18th and a Great-crested Grebe remained all month, being joined by a second on the 7th. Cormorants were recorded daily with double-figures on nine dates and a maximum of 13 on the 4th and 8th and Herons were seen on 28 dates with a peak of six on the 5th and 11th. Mute Swans were seen daily with a maximum count of six on the 5th and 11th whilst Whooper Swans appeared right on cue with a flock of 19 on the 18th. These came from Ogston Reservoir and returned there later whilst the following evening a flock of 11 flew north. Pink-footed Geese were seen daily with three between the 1st and 11th and again between the 18th and 31st with one on the intervening dates. One to four Grey Lag Geese were seen on 14 dates whilst larger counts were seven on the 11th, six on the 22nd and eight on the 31st whilst the highest count of Canada Geese was 90 on four dates during the first week.

Wigeon were recorded daily with three-figure counts every day until the 16th and a high of 172 on the 10th. Numbers then declined so that by the end of the month just 18 remained. Gadwall were also recorded daily with double-figures on 20 dates peaking at 26 on the 26th. Teal numbers had already started to reduce from mid-February and counts generally ranged between 20 and 33 with an isolated high of 52 on the 4th. A male Shoveler was present on the 5th whilst three present on the 16th and 21st and a pair was seen on five dates between the 17th and 24th. Pochard were seen on 11 dates with a maximum of seven on the 1st and Tufted Ducks peaked at 27 also on the 1st. A female Goosander flew north on the 5th and a female was present daily between the 28th and 31st with an additional pair on the 30th and an additional female on the 31st.

For the third month in a row Red Kite made an appearance when one flew to Carr Vale from Arkwright on the 22nd and another flew south-east on the 29th. Three Sparrowhawks were seen on the 7th and 15th with one or two on 14 other dates, a total of 25 bird / days and good numbers of Common Buzzard were seen with one to seven on 24 dates and a record equalling 11 (possibly more) on the 15th and 29th (a total of 99 bird / days). All were viewed from the mound and many counts over two included birds viewable to the south of the area. Kestrels were logged on 21 dates (33 bird / days), a Merlin was seen dashing over the fields on the 14th and single Peregrines were seen on the 6th, 11th, 19th and 21st.

A pair of Red-legged Partridges was seen on the 1st and 4th with one on the 15th and pair of Grey Partridges was recorded on the 3rd with one on the 7th. A Water Rail was heard on the 10th and 12th and 44 Coot were counted on the 18th. The Oystercatcher pair was seen on at least 30 dates and they were joined by a third bird on the 7th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 22nd. The first Little Ringed Plovers (two) of the year flew east and north on the 20th and one was present briefly on the 21st after which birds were present on all but one date from the 25th although the highest count was only two on the last three days of the month. Golden Plovers were recorded on 11 dates with a peak count of 250 on the 22nd and 31st but although Lapwings reached a maximum of 150 on the 4th numbers were low from the end of the first week. Two Dunlin were seen on the 13th, Snipe were recorded on 28 dates with a maximum count of 20 on the 18th and single Curlews were recorded on the 1st, 8th, 14th, 29th and 31st. Redshank were recorded daily with a maximum count of five on the 20th and 21st.

Gull numbers remained poor throughout the month although there was a notable count of 24 Common Gulls north on the 28th and 150 Herring Gulls were present on the 1st. Great Black-backed Gulls however were present in good numbers peaking at 160 on the 4th whilst the rarest Gull was an adult Kittiwake that flew south-west at 0720 on the 23rd with presumably the same bird returning north at 0810.

One or two Little Owls were recorded on 19 dates with three on the 11 dates and a Kingfisher was seen on six dates from the 14th with two on the 15th. Single Green Woodpeckers were noted on nine dates with two on the 19th and a Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 19th too. The first Sand Martins of the year were 12 that flew north on the 12th, which is the second earliest arrival date ever. The largest numbers were 25 at dusk on the 30th and 30 flying north on the 31st. The earliest ever Swallow for Carr Vale was seen on the 22nd with five present at dusk on the 30th and three on the 31st. Meadow Pipits flew north on 18 dates from the 10th but the total of 178 was low and the highest counts were only 26 on the 31st with 25 on the 15th. Two Grey Wagtails were seen on the 5th and 15th with a single on the 8th and a White Wagtail was seen on the 27th.

A male Stonechat on the 1st was the earliest ever spring arrival and a male Wheatear on the 15th was also the earliest ever for Carr Vale by a week. Fieldfares were seen occasionally in small numbers but there was a flock of 350 on the 15th and Redwing peaked at 114 on the 14th. Two pairs of Mistle Thrush are present in the area at least one of which had a nest by the 16th whilst the first Blackcap of the year was a singing male on the 29th. The first returning Chiffchaff was found on the 12th and they had increased to 13 singing males by the 22nd.

The first Long-tailed Tit. nest was found on the 22nd and Willow Tits peaked at five on the 11th. 77 Jackdaws on the 18th was a good count and good numbers of Rook could be seen feeding on the field below Sutton Scarsdale Hall; they peaked at c150 on the 2nd. 11 Goldfinches were noted on the 11th, Siskins were recorded on 13 dates with a high of ten on the 7th and 10th and Lesser Redpolls were seen on 11 dates with 40 on the 3rd and 19th and 20 on the 10th. Ten Bullfinches were counted on the 22nd and there was a minimum of 20 Reed Buntings on the mound feeder on the 1st and 19th.

The first Butterfly of the year was a Peacock on the 12th and other first dates were the 15th for Brimstone, the 20th for Small Tortoiseshell and the 31st for Comma when all four species were on the wing. A Stoat was seen on the 7th. Two female Roe Deer were present on the 2nd and 21st whilst three were reported on the 11th and a single Fox was seen on six dates.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2009

The excellent start to the year continued through the month when we recorded a record total of 106 species whilst the year list reached 126, the highest ever end of April total (previous records being 105 and 121 respectively). Much of the credit for this is down to Ian Swain, Phil Snaith, Kev Navin and Arthur Gee, who between them ensured that the daily visits continued whilst I was away. Some good birds for the site were logged during the month including Little Egret (12th record), Barnacle Goose (11th record), Merlin, Peregrine, Grey Plover (9th record), Knot (7th record), Whimbrel, Barn Owl, White Wagtail, Wheatear and Brambling.

Single Little Grebes were seen on the 14th, 19th and 24th and a single Great-crested Grebe was present until the 26th when a second bird appeared with three present from the 27th. Cormorants were recorded on 29 dates with a maximum of seven on the 9th, the earliest ever Little Egret appeared briefly on the 14th and one or two Herons were seen on 22 dates. Mute Swans were seen daily with a maximum count of nine on the 25th, three Pink-footed Geese were seen daily until the 21st after which one remained into May whilst Grey Lag Geese were seen daily with a high of nine on the 1st. Canada Geese numbers fell away with a peak count of just 50 on the 8th (one of which was wearing a yellow Darvic ring) and a Barnacle Goose was present from the 18th into May.

Five Shelduck were seen on the 19th and another was present on the 29th, the highest count of Wigeon was 23 on the 2nd and 3rd whilst the last of the winter were seven on the 7th. Gadwall were also recorded daily in double-figures peaking at 26 on the 2nd and 18th. Teal were present in double figures until the 12th with a peak count of 24 on the 5th and four were still in the area on the 30th. Two male Shoveler were present on the 1st and two were present on the 8th with a pair on the 12th and two more on the 25th. Tufted Ducks were seen daily with double-figures on 14 dates and a high of 17 on the 6th and the female Goosander from March remained until the 12th.

Three Sparrowhawks were seen on the 7th with one or two on 11 other dates (a total of 15 bird / days) and good numbers of Common Buzzard were seen with a record equalling 11 on the 5th and seven on the 8th (a total of 44 bird / days). All were viewed from the mound and many counts over two again included birds viewable to the south of the area. Kestrels were logged on 28 dates (55 bird / days), a Merlin was seen on the 3rd and Peregrine was seen on the 24th.

A pair of Red-legged Partridges was seen on the 5th and a pair of Grey Partridges was recorded on the 24th. The Oystercatcher pair settled down from the 5th and were joined by an additional pair on the 12th and 20th and a singleton on the 24th. Up to four Little Ringed Plovers were present on 25 dates but the only Ringed Plover of the month was seen on the 8th. 40 Golden Plovers were counted on the 4th but then birds were logged on just three more dates until the last of the winter were seen on the 11th. A Grey Plover was a good find on the 24th and 53 Lapwings on the 11th was the highest count for the month. A Knot was another good find on the 17th and the same day a Whimbrel dropped in during the afternoon. Snipe were recorded on 20 dates with a maximum count of nine on the 10th, a Curlew flew north on the 13th and two more flew north on the 18th. Redshank were recorded on 24 dates with four on the 6th, 7th and 19th and a Common Sandpiper was present between the 23rd and 26th. The only notable gull record concerned Great Black-backed Gulls with a count of 120 on the 2nd and the first Common Tern of the year was seen on the 19th with daily records to the 24th when three were seen. Three were also present on the 26th with two on the 30th.

A Cuckoo was seen on the 30th, three Little Owls were recorded on seven dates with one or two on 18 further dates, a Barn Owl was seen on the 20th and a Tawny Owl was found on the 30th. The first Swifts of the year were two on the 27th with single birds on the 28th and 30th and a

Kingfisher was seen on seven dates. Two Green Woodpeckers were noted on the 12th with single birds on 18 more dates but the only Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on the 2nd and 5th. Sand Martins were seen on 19 dates but the highest count was only 16 on both the 1st and 2nd. Swallows too were only recorded in low numbers with a peak of 18 on the 11th whilst the first House Martins of the year (two) were seen on the 2nd, equalling the earliest ever arrival date. However as with other hirundines numbers were low and the highest count was only 23 on the 12th. Another 35 Meadow Pipits flew north over five dates taking the total for the spring to a lowly 208. The first Yellow Wagtail of the year was seen on the 6th after which birds were seen on 17 dates with a maximum count of five on the 26th. A Grey Wagtail was reported on the 20th and single White Wagtails were seen on the 4th and 24th.

A Wheatear was seen on the 27th, the last Fieldfares of the winter were seen on the 13th whilst the last Redwing was noted on the 4th. The first Grasshopper Warbler of the year was reeling on the 10th with two on the 12th and then birds were logged on ten further dates and both Reed and Sedge Warbler were also seen on the 10th. Up to four Sedge Warblers were recorded during the month and but there was never more than one Reed Warbler. The first Lesser Whitethroat of the year was seen on the 23rd, the first Greater Whitethroat was seen on the 19th with three the following day but the only Garden Warbler of the month was seen on the 24th. Blackcap numbers increased with seven singing on the 12th, 12 Chiffchaffs were also singing on the 12th and 13 Willow Warblers were present by the 22nd.

Two Coal Tits were seen on the 4th and single Jays were present on the 2nd and 12th. A fine male Brambling was present by the entrance gate on the 5th but it soon flew off north and 15 Goldfinches were seen on the 2nd. One to three Siskins were seen on seven dates until the last of the winter on the 20th whilst Lesser Redpolls were seen on six dates until the 15th with a peak count of six (north) on the 9th. Bullfinches were seen daily with a peak count of 11 on the 5th and small numbers of Reed Bunting continued to visit the mound feeder.

Seven species of Butterfly were recorded during the month but the only notable record was of a Comma on the 5th. Single Foxes were seen on the 5th and 30th, single Weasels were recorded on the 6th, 23rd and 27th and a Stoat was also seen on the 23rd. The first Red-eared Terrapin sighting of the year was on the 22nd and it was seen again on the 29th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT May 2009

We maintained the excellent start to the year through May recording 96 species and adding eight to the year list, which now stands at 134. This is the highest ever end of May figure and indeed this total is higher than all but one year for the end of August, a measure of how good a year we are having at Carr Vale this year. Some of the more notable species recorded included the long-staying Barnacle Goose (11th record), two Marsh Harriers (27th-28th records), Osprey (24th record), Hobby, Peregrine, Tundrae race of Ringed Plover, Whimbrel (record count of 12, 25th record), Greenshank, Turnstone (3rd record), Arctic Tern (14th record), Black Tern (fifth record and record total of five), Cuckoo, Wheatear, Grasshopper Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Raven and an influx of Painted Ladies.

Little Grebes have been scarce indeed rare all year and one on the 8th was the only record for the month. Great-crested Grebes were seen daily with a maximum of four on the 24th. Cormorants were recorded on 21 dates with a maximum of five on the 30th and one to three Herons were seen on 29 dates. Mute Swans were recorded daily with a peak of 13 on the 19th and the long-staying Pink-footed Geese was seen daily until the 8th. One or two Grey Lag Geese were daily until the 16th with three on the 2nd and 3rd and there was a flock of 13 on the 31st. Canada Geese were seen daily with a maximum count of 56 adults on the 14th. The first brood of six was seen on the 5th with a second brood of six appearing on the 18th. Two smaller broods appeared late in the month. The long-staying Barnacle Goose from April remained until the 22nd and was present again between the 25th and 30th. Gadwall were recorded in double-figures daily peaking at 28 on the 27th and one or two Teal were present on four dates until the 7th. The highest count of Mallard was 26 on the 22nd and Tufted Ducks were seen daily peaking at 13 on the 28th.

A second summer male Marsh Harrier was present on the 11th before it drifted off north and a female flew south at 1145 on the 16th. Sparrowhawks were seen on just seven dates but Common Buzzards were logged on 25 dates with a peak count nine on the 10th. An Osprey flew around the reserve for 25 minutes before departing north on the 13th. This bird was later seen over Rother Valley CP but it or another caught a fish at 1600 the same day and then flew south. Kestrels were logged on 30 dates (57 bird / days) with a maximum of four on the 17th. A Hobby flew south on the 6th (south) with other single birds noted on the 12th and 14th, whilst three (one west and a pair over the reserve) were seen on the 7th. An immature male Peregrine was seen on 2nd and 5th and adult male flew north on the 15th. A Red-legged Partridge seen below Deepdale Farm (Sutton Scarsdale) on the 20th and a pair of Grey Partridges was seen on the 27th and 29th. One of the pair of Coots on a tern raft attacked and seriously injured a Common Tern on 14th, which eventually managed to swim to shore and is subsequently thought to have died.

Four Oystercatchers were present on the 2nd, 10th and 29th with three on four more dates and two on the remaining dates. Little Ringed Plovers were logged daily apart from on the 1st with a maximum of four on the 26th. A Ringed Plover of the tundrae race was found on the 14th, a male was present on the 15th and two were present on the 27th. Single Dunlin were seen on the 6th (left south), 7th, 13th, 15th remaining to 16th when it left north with two joining the bird from the 13th on the 14th and then all three leaving north. One was also seen daily between 20th and 24th with a total of three on 22nd. There was a Snipe between the 3rd and 7th and a late bird on the 16th and a flock of 12 Whimbrel flew north on the 15th. A single Redshank was seen on ten dates whilst two Greenshanks were present briefly on the 17th before they left north. A Common Sandpiper was present between the 11th and 12th and another was seen on the 23rd whilst a Turnstone on the 8th was only the third record for Carr Vale and the first spring record.

Common Terns were recorded daily from the 2nd with maximum count of six on the 9th. Seven Arctic Terns which flew north-east on the 14th were the first since 2002 and the same day five

Black Terns (three, one and one) flew north-east (5th record and largest number for the site). Single Cuckoos were seen on the 7th and 10th, one or two Little Owls were logged on 17 dates and low numbers of Swifts were seen with a maximum of 50 on the 15th. Kingfishers remained in short supply with single birds on just five dates whilst single Green Woodpeckers were recorded on 13 dates. Hirrundine numbers were low with the highest count of Sand Martins being 15 on the 6th whilst the highest count of Swallows was 30 on the 13th and 15th with House Martins peaking at 50 on the 13th. A Grey Wagtail on the 29th was the first of the autumn and Yellow Wagtails peaked at four on the 14th and 25th.

A Wheatear was present between the 2nd and 3rd and two females were seen on the 6th. A Grasshopper Warbler was reeling on the 1st and 9th, 11 Sedge Warbler territories were found during the month and on the 22nd 15 singing Reed Warblers were located. 11 Common Whitethroat territories were found during the month, singing Garden Warbler included three on the 2nd and 10th, 12 singing Blackcaps were located on the 6th on which date 24 singing Willow Warblers were also noted. A Spotted Flycatcher on the 23rd was only the third spring record this century. A distant Raven flew south-west on the 7th, a Jay was seen on the 24th and a late Siskin flew north on the 14th (the latest spring record for Carr Vale). 13 Reed Bunting territories were found during the month along with five Yellowhammer territories. Lastly for the birds a Bar-headed Goose was seen on the 11th and 28th.

Nine species of Butterfly were recorded during the month with single Brimstones noted on the 21st and 23rd and the first Common Blue was seen on the 23rd. However the most notable Butterfly occurrence was an invasion of Painted Ladies with 34 counted flying north on the 29th with 13 more on the 30th and four on the 31st. Amongst the Dragonfly records there was a notable count of 60 Large Red Damselflies on the 7th, the first Blue-tailed Damselfly of the year was seen on the 21st and the first Four-spotted Chaser of the year was seen on the 23rd. The last two days of the month were perfect for Dragonflies and 11 Four-spotted Chasers were seen on the 30th whilst the following day 20 Large Red-eyed Damselflies were seen along with two male Emperors and a female Broad-bodied Chaser. Hares were seen on 12 dates with a peak of five on the 8th, single Foxes were logged on six dates and single Roe Deer were seen on five dates with both a stag and doe being recorded. Unfortunately both the Red-eared Sliders were still present on the reserve pond and the American Bullfrog made himself known from the 29th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2009

Our daily coverage was maintained and produced a total of 96 species during the month, just two below the best ever June count. Three new species for the year took the year list up to 137, eight more than the previous end of June record. Two of these were to be expected but the third, a stunning male Red-backed Shrike most certainly wasn't. Other birds of note included Little Egret (12th record), Marsh Harrier, Hobby, Water Rail, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper and Kittiwake.

Little Grebes at last became more visible with records on 14 dates from the 9th with a maximum of four on the 26th and 28th but Great-crested Grebes were only logged on 24 dates with a maximum of three on the 2nd and 3rd but only a single bird for the last ten days of the month. Cormorants were recorded on 15 dates, which is unusual in June although the highest count was only three on the 15th. A juvenile Little Egret was present during the morning of the 29th. Herons were seen daily and numbers started to increase as locally bred juveniles started to appear from elsewhere peaking at seven on the 13th. Mute Swans were also seen daily with double-figure counts on nine dates the highest of which was 11 on the 12th. A single Grey Lag Geese was seen on the 19th whilst Canada Geese had four broods (totalling 13 young) with a count of 45 adults on the 6th. A Shelduck on the 27th was an unusual mid-summer record, Gadwall numbers peaked at 37 on the 5th and by the end of the month five broods (34 young) had been located. Three male Teal were present on three dates between the 14th and 17th with another male on the 20th and two recorded on the 24th. A pair of Shoveler was present on the 9th, 10th and 22nd with a male on the 29th and a pair of Pochard was seen on the 9th. Tufted Ducks were seen daily with double-figures on five dates with a high of 15 on the 11th.

A female Marsh Harrier flew south-east on the 11th, Sparrowhawks were recorded on just three dates whilst Common Buzzards were logged on 18 dates (31 bird / days) with a high of five on the 2nd. Kestrels were recorded on 29 dates during the month and single Hobbies were seen on the 19th and 23rd. A pair of Grey Partridges was seen on the 30th and a Water Rail was heard calling on the same date. Five Oystercatchers were present on the 1st with four present on the 20th and one flew north-west on the 26th. The resident pair also successfully fledged two young. One or two Little Ringed Plovers were present daily until the 7th and then after a blank five days birds started to appear again from the 13th peaking at six on the 28th. Single Ringed Plovers were seen on the 1st and 5th. Six Black-tailed Godwits were present early on the 28th when a Curlew was also recorded flying north. One or two Redshanks were recorded on 13 dates and a Green Sandpiper was seen on the 28th (it having been on Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 24th and 27th).

An adult Kittiwake on the 6th was a surprise as it was the first for June. Common Terns were seen daily with two pairs on the reserve and they were joined by an additional pair on the 6th, 14th and 16th. Just one pair nested and they produced on youngster which flew on the 29th. A Cuckoo was present on the 29th, the pair of Little Owls was seen on all bar one date and a Barn Owl was reported on the 30th. 70 Swifts were counted on the 4th and after a sighting of a Kingfisher on the 6th birds became more frequent from the 19th with log entries on nine dates from that date. Green Woodpeckers were recorded on ten dates with three on the 10th and two on the 18th and a Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 28th. Sand Martins were seen just once during the first half of the month but from the 17th birds were logged on ten dates with a peak of seven on the 28th. Single Grey Wagtails were seen on the 6th, 21st and 28th and up to three Yellow Wagtails were seen on 15 dates during the month.

Two Grasshopper Warblers were reeling on the 2nd with single birds noted on the 10th, 23rd and 24th (though the last two were from different areas of the reserve). Seven Common Whitethroats were seen on the 12th and 14th and a Garden Warbler continued to sing until the 5th. Bird of the

month and most likely the year came in the form of a male Red-backed Shrike, which appeared in front of three lucky observers on the mound on the 6th. It was only present for ten minutes before it flew off east but was on view long enough to be photographed. This is the first for the county since 2005 and only the 11th since the foundation of the DOS. Unseasonal Jays were seen on the 9th and 22nd.

Two Painted Ladies were seen on the 2nd with singles on a further four dates, the first Large Skippers of the year were seen on the 13th whilst on the 14th two Small Heaths and eight Common Blues were seen. The first Meadow Brown of the year was seen on the 19th and the first Ringlet appeared on the 26th with five on the 30th when three Red Admirals and four Small Skippers were noted. Once again Marbled Whites have appeared on the Peter Fidler Reserve with two noted on the 29th and one on the 30th.

It was a good month for Dragonflies and several dates produced notable counts including the 1st when 40 Large Red-eyed Damselflies, 12 Large Red Damselflies, 50 Blue-tailed Damselflies, 50 Azure Damselflies, four Emperors and 12 Four-spotted Chasers were noted. Four Black-tailed Skimmers were seen on the 5th and 20 Large Red-eyed Damselflies were seen on the 13th when 100 Azure Damselflies and 20 Four-spotted Chasers were also seen. Two Brown Hawks, six Emperors, ten Four-spotted Chasers, 20 Black-tailed Skimmers and 11 Common Darters were seen on the 23rd.

Mammals included one to three Hares on 11 dates and a Fox on the 1st, 9th and 10th. Female Roe Deer were seen on the 2nd and 7th, a male was seen on the 22nd with two males seen on the 24th and again on the 30th. Dead Moles were found on the 27th and 28th and as usual both the Terrapins and American Bullfrog were present throughout the month.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2009

July was a fairly uneventful month save for the weather which was most un-summery. The open fishing season started but this year the interest is thankfully not as strong as last year.

Nevertheless the amount of litter around the reserve pond has increased, particularly on the fishing pegs. Some damage has also been caused to the flaps on the observation mound. Birdwise it was a fairly good month but wader passage was poor. Even so we still managed to record 92 species, the third highest July total, although we only added one new species for the year taking the year list to 138. Highlights during the month included Little Egret (on two dates), Honey Buzzard (5th record, 6th bird), Hobby, Black-tailed Godwit (four), Whimbrel (two), Green Sandpiper, Black Tern (6th record), Cuckoo, Barn Owl and Grasshopper Warbler. Banded Demoiselle, Painted Lady and Essex Skipper were also recorded.

Little Grebes were seen daily with four on the 16th, 27th, 28th and 30th and a peak count of five (four adults and a juvenile from elsewhere) on the 31st. One pair built a nest (twice) but both were flooded out at the egg stage. Great-crested Grebes were also seen daily with two on seven dates and Cormorants were recorded on 19 dates with 16 on the 22nd (a record count for July). A Little Egret flew south on the 8th and one was present between 0945 and 1030 at least on the 15th (presumed to be the same bird). Herons were seen daily with a maximum count of ten on the 25th. One juvenile killed and ate a 17 day old Gadwall duckling on 22nd and an adult ate two Moorhen chicks on the 31st.

Mute Swans were seen daily but the final two young were last seen on the 9th. The maximum count was five on six dates. A juvenile Grey Lag Goose was present daily from the 28th to the month end and towards the end of the month Canada Geese numbers started to build peaking at 232 on the 30th. A juvenile Shelduck was present on Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 10th and daily between the 13th and 15th. Gadwall numbers peaked at 61 on the 21st but that included young whilst single Teal were seen on six dates with a maximum count six on the 17th. The maximum count of Mallard was 77 on the 28th. A pair of Pochard was seen on the 23rd and Tufted Duck were logged on all bar one date with a peak count of the on the 1st.

A Honey Buzzard flew first west then returned east over the mound and up over Bolsover before turning south on the 15th (5th record for the site but 6th bird). Common Buzzards were logged on 16 dates (28 bird / days) with a high of four on the 18th. Single Hobbies were seen on the 4th, daily between the 7th and 10th (first summer bird), on the 18th, 24th and 27th whilst a female Peregrine was over Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 15th. A pair of Grey Partridge with six young was seen on the 11th and a Water Rail was heard calling on the 6th and 11th.

Five Oystercatchers were present on the 1st, 3rd, 7th and 12th, with four present on the 4th and 5th and one to three on 12 other dates. Lapwing numbers were low with a peak count of 80 on the 1st and 2nd. Little Ringed Plovers peaked at three on the 3rd but six were at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 8th. Single Ringed Plovers were seen at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 11th, 13th and 22nd with two present on 15th, 16th and 18th. Two Dunlin were seen on the 17th, four Black-tailed Godwits were present for 30 minutes (after which they flew off east) on the 25th and two Whimbrel flew south on the 23rd. A Redshank was present on the 5th and a juvenile was present on Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 8th. A Green Sandpiper was seen on Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 1st and at Carr Vale on the 10th whilst three Common Sandpipers were present on the 10th with singles on 11 other dates.

The maximum count of Common Terns was eight (one juvenile) on the 13th although birds were seen daily throughout the month whilst a Black Tern, reported on the 14th, was an unusual record. The Cuckoo present on the 30th June was also seen on the 1st and 2nd whilst one or two Little

Owls were seen daily with three seen on the 4th, 13th, 26th and 27th, a Barn Owl. One was reported on the 27th and a Tawny Owl was seen on the 31st. Three Kingfishers were seen together on the 4th and 11th with one or two on 20 other dates. Single Green Woodpeckers were recorded on nine dates and a Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 6th, 14th, 17th and 29th.

Sand Martins were logged in low numbers on 26 days but 30 were present on the 11th and a single flock of 40 flew south early on the 28th. A Swallow / House Martin hybrid was caught by the ringers on the 7th, 100 Swallows and 150 House Martins were present on the 29th with 120 of the latter on the 27th. Single Yellow Wagtails were seen on nine dates during the month with two on the 30th whilst Grey Wagtails were seen six dates with two on the 17th and a party of four (north) on the 14th.

Grasshopper Warblers were heard reeling on the 11th and 14th and one was at Palterton sewage works on the 11th and 26th. A Lesser Whitethroat on the 21st was the first since April and two Garden Warblers were seen on the 31st. A count of 43 House Sparrows on the 25th was the highest of the year and Goldfinches peaked at 24 on the 8th with 22 on the 27th.

16 species of butterfly were noted during the month with the highlight being an Essex Skipper on the 24th whilst once again Marbled Whites were recorded with three on the 2nd and one or two on four dates between the 6th and 10th. Commas were logged on 11 dates with a peak count of six on the 7th and a Painted Lady was seen on the 2nd. 35 Gatekeepers were counted on the 24th when eight Small Skippers were also found. 30 Ringlets were counted on the 9th and Common Blues were logged on three dates.

In a poor month for dragonflies a male Banded Demoiselle was seen on the 9th whilst one to three Large Red-eyed Damsels were seen on four dates until the 16th. The first Southern Hawkers of the year (two) were seen on the 9th and there were odd records of this species along with Brown Hawker and Emperor during the rest of the month. Small numbers of Black-tailed Skimmer, Four-spotted Chaser and Common Darter were also seen during the month.

Up to four Hares were seen on ten dates and single Foxes were seen on four dates between the 7th and 20th. A female Roe Deer was seen on the 28th, dead Common Shrews were found on two dates but a live Mole was seen on the 3rd. The Red-eared Sliders (Terrapins) have mysteriously disappeared-foul play is suspected-but the American Bullfrog continued to make his presence known throughout the month.

Mark Beevers.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2009

August was a poor month with just 92 species being recorded, the equal lowest August total this century. Nevertheless two species were added to the year-list taking it to 140, the highest end of August total ever. Our daily visits continued and we have now completed over 3,400 consecutive visits. Despite the low monthly total a number of notable species were recorded although the rarest species was a dragonfly with the second area record of Common Hawker. The last was a single observer record in 1998 so this insect was well received. Other notable species were Shelduck, Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Black Tern (7th record), Tree Pipit and Spotted Flycatcher.

Little Grebes were seen daily with a maximum count of eight on the 29th and one or two Great-crested Grebes were also seen daily with three on the 20th, 24th and 25th. Cormorants were recorded daily with a peak count of 15 on the 26th and double figure counts on a further four dates from the 18th. Herons too were seen daily with a maximum count of 11 on the 3rd. Four Mute Swans were present throughout the month with an extra bird on three dates. Grey Lag Geese were recorded on 16 dates with a peak count of six on the 20th and 22nd whilst three-figure counts of Canada Geese were made on 25 dates with a high of 570 on the 20th.

Three Shelduck were seen on the 4th, Gadwall were recorded daily and numbers peaked at 54 on the 12th whilst Teal were seen on 23 dates (daily from the 14th) with a maximum count of 23 on the 21st. Mallard peaked at 198 on the 31st and three Shoveler were present on the 4th, 5th and 20th with two on the 1st and 27th and singles on six other dates. A female Pochard was seen on the 1st and the female Tufted Duck with seven young, reducing to six was present all month.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 24 dates (38 bird / days) whilst Common Buzzards were logged on 22 dates (91 bird / days) with a peak count of 16 visible at once over the mound (including a single flock of nine) on the 27th. Kestrels were logged on 26 dates (50 bird / days), single Hobbies were seen on three dates (2nd, 4th and 10th) with two on five dates (17th, 22nd, 25th, 26th and 27th) and single Peregrines were seen on 12 dates, although more often than not they were seen from the mound to the south of the recording area.

A Water Rail was heard calling on seven dates during the month, an Oystercatcher was seen on the 3rd and single Ringed Plovers were seen briefly on the 24th and flying north on the 27th. It's been a poor autumn for Lapwings and the maximum count was just 120 on the 2nd. A Dunlin was present on the 1st (and one was present at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 29th). The only record of Ruff so far this year was on the 17th when a juvenile was present briefly before departing north-west at 1040. Snipe were seen on 20 dates but the maximum count was only six on the 14th and three Black-tailed Godwits flew south-east on the 12th. Three Whimbrel flew south on the 1st (two at 1050 and one at 1300), two Greenshank flew south on the 14th and one was present for five minutes before it flew off north on the 15th. Single Green Sandpipers were seen on 20th and 26th and two Common Sandpipers were present on the 14th with singles on nine other dates. The highest count of Black-headed Gulls was 150 on the 31st, Lesser Black-backed Gulls peaked at 149 on the 28th and single Herring Gulls were seen on 19th, 26th, 27th and 30th but we still haven't had a Yellow-legged Gull yet this year. The last Common Tern records were two on the 1st with one on the 2nd whilst a flock of four Black Terns, present for just 27 minutes on the 25th was the largest flock seen at Carr Vale, although not the highest count. One or two Little Owls were seen on 28 dates with three recorded on seven dates and a Tawny Owl was heard on the embankment on the 18th. Swifts were still present on 31st, single Kingfishers were seen on 15 dates with two on the 8th and single Green Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates.

Sand Martins were recorded on 23 dates mainly in small numbers, less than ten, but 115 flew south on the 27th and 43 flew south on the 30th. 100 Swallows were present on the 22nd and 26th and 250 House Martins were over the sewage works on the 10th. A Tree Pipit flew north-west on 22nd and three (singles) flew south on the 27th whilst five Meadow Pipits south on the 30th were rather early. One to three Yellow Wagtails were recorded on 16 dates but the highest count was six on the 24th and one to three Grey Wagtails were seen on eight dates with four on

the 30th and five on the 27th and 29th.

11 Mistle Thrushes were counted on the 1st, a Sedge Warbler was noted on the 10th and two Lesser Whitethroats were seen on the 19th. Two Common Whitethroats were seen on the 30th and a Garden Warbler was present on the 25th. Two Spotted Flycatchers were found on the 26th following a day of constant rain. Unusually one to three Jays were present on 13 dates, normally this species doesn't arrive in these numbers until September. 500 Rooks were seen from the mound on the 1st and a flock of 17 Carrion Crows was counted on the 21st. A count of 25 House Sparrows was made on the 27th, 110 Greenfinch left their roost on the 8th, there was a count of 30 Goldfinch on the 14th and there was a count of 25 Linnets on the 10th.

12 species of Butterfly were noted during the month with single Brimstones on the 6th and 22nd and single Commas on the 6th, 18th and 19th. Painted Ladies were logged on six dates with a high of three on the 22nd and single Red Admirals were seen on the 6th and 27th. Nine species of dragonfly were also seen with the undoubted highlight being a male Common Hawker on the top pool on the Peter Fidler Reserve. Found by Jim Alder it was present on at least the 21st and 22nd and often showing well it allowed many of the site regulars to catch up with what was only the second record for the area. Peak counts of some of the other species were 30 Emerald Damselflies on the 21st, six Southern Hawkers on the 22nd when three Brown Hawkers were also seen. The first Migrant Hawker of the year was seen on the early date of the 6th with singles on four other dates and the last date for an Emperor was the 8th. 25 Common Darters were counted on the 6th. One or two Hares were seen on six dates and a Fox was seen on the 2nd. A Weasel was seen on the 25th, a Stoat was seen on the 30th, a Roe Deer was recorded on the 13th and a dead Common Shrew was found on the 22nd. After an absence of sightings for over two months one of the Red-eared Sliders made an appearance on the 30th and the American Bullfrog continued to make itself heard until the 17th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

Little Grebe. Maximum of eight on the 7th.-MAB.

Cormorant. Recorded daily with a peak count of 18 on the 16th and 19th and double figure counts on a further 21 dates.-MAB et al.

Little Egret. One flew north early on the 26th.-ISw.

Heron. Maximum count 11 on the 10th.-MAB.

Mute Swan. Maximum count eight on the 24th.-ISw.

Pink-footed Goose. 51 (11 and 40) flew north-west on the 27th.-MAB.

Grey Lag Goose. Recorded on 13 dates with a peak count of six on the 26th.-MAB ISw.

Canada Goose. Max 450 on the 4th.-MAB

Shelduck. Female daily between the 21st and 24th and again between 28th and 30th.-ISw MKN MAB.

Wigeon. The first for the autumn was three on the 12th.-MAB but numbers were very low with a peak of just five on the 15th.-MAB.

Gadwall. Numbers peaked at 25 on the 26th.-MAB.

Teal. Maximum count 38 on the 16th.-MAB.

Mallard. Maximum count 180 on the 1st.-MAB but numbers very much reduced due to shooting on the edge of the reserve.

Shoveler. Max count seven on the 3rd and 17th.-MAB ISw.

Tufted Duck. Max count 14 on the 20th.-MAB.

Marsh Harrier. A cream-crown flew north on the 12th.-MAB. This is likely to be the bird that was seen at Ogston the previous day.

Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 27 dates (107 bird / days) with a peak count of 16 visible at once from the mound (including a single flock of eight) on the 11th.-MAB. 14 were also seen on the 10th.-MAB

Merlin. A juvenile was seen attacking finches on the 15th.-MAB.

Hobby. Two on the 5th.-AA with singles on five dates (1st, 2nd, 4th, 14th and 20th).-MAB et al.

Peregrine. One seen on 12 dates during the month, usually on a pylon to the south of the mound but two were present on the 9th.-MAB et al.

Water Rail. One was recorded on 13 dates during the month.-MAB ISw et al with two on the 18th and 28th.-MAB.

Moorhen. Max 22 on 18th.-MAB.

Golden Plover. First for the autumn was one on 16th.-MAB, max was 40 on 24th.-MAB.

Lapwing. Maximum count 100 on the 23rd.-IS remains a very poor autumn for this species so far.

Dunlin. One on the 15th nearly became a meal for a Sparrowhawk as it departed east-MAB and one (heard only) on the 18th

Snipe. Maximum count was ten on the 25th.-MAB.

Curlew. Two on the 5th.-MAB.

Black-headed Gull. Maximum count 250 on the 22nd-24th.-MAB ISw.

Common Gull. First for the autumn was a 2nd winter on the 13th.-MKN followed by singles on 19th (juv).-MAB and 20th (1st winter).-MAB.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Maximum count 300 on the 22nd.-ISw.

Herring Gull. One or two on four dates.-MAB ISw.

Yellow-legged Gull. Single adults on 22nd and 25th.-ISw with two adults on 28th.-MAB.

Stock Dove. Maximum count 29 on the 13th.-MKN.

Little Owl. One or two were seen on 25 dates with three seen on the 7th and 25th.-MAB ISw PSn et al. Viewable from the mound distantly by Deepdale Farm Sutton Scarsdale, just south of the southern boundary of the recording area singles on seven dates.-MAB.

Swift. Maximum five on the 1st, last was a single on the 11th.-MAB.

Kingfisher. Singles on 21 dates with two on the 11th and 15th.-MAB et al.

Green Woodpecker. Singles on 12 dates.-MAB ISw.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Singles on 14 dates with two on the 20th.-MAB et al.
Skylark. A total of 52 flew south or southeast over five dates including 17 SE and 11 S on the 27th.-MAB. A flock of 50 was on fields to the west of the reserve on the 25th.-MAB.
Sand Martin. Recorded on eight dates with the last on the 12th, an early last date.-MAB.
Maximum count 47 south on the 2nd.-MAB and 24 on the 6th.-ISw.
Swallow. 100 present on the 2nd.-MAB. A total of 479 flew south over 11 dates but the highest count was only 167 south on the 27th.-MAB.
House Martin. 100 over the sewage works on the 7th.-MAB.
Tree Pipit. One was seen on 7th.-MAB.
Meadow Pipit. Southerly passage on 17 dates with a total of 850 recorded the highest count being 289 south in four hours on the 23rd.-MAB with 108 on the 24th.-MAB.
Yellow Wagtail. One to three on six dates.-MAB, with the last on the early date of the 14th.-MKN.
Grey Wagtail. One to three on 17 dates with four on the 27th and five on the 11th.-MAB.
Pied Wagtail. Maximum of 25 on the 19th. A total of 18 flew south over five dates between the 23rd and 28th.-MAB.
Redstart. A male on the 19th was the latest ever Carr Vale record and the first September record since 1998.-MAB. It was also our only record this year.
Whinchat. A juvenile was present on the 7th, the only record of the year.-MAB.
Redwing. Six on the 30th, the first for the autumn.-ISw.
Reed Warbler. Maximum seven on the 12th.-MAB with one still present on 25th.-MAB (though one was still present on 2nd Oct.-MAB.)
Lesser Whitethroat. One on the 4th and 5th.-ISw.
Common Whitethroat. The last of the year was seen on the 18th, the first September record since 1998.-MAB.
Blackcap. Still present into October.-MAB.
Chiffchaff. Maximum count six on the 12th.-MAB, still present into October.-MAB.
Long-tailed Tit. Maximum count 14 on the 6th.-ISw.
Jay. Very good numbers present during the month with records on 26 dates, usually one to five birds.-MAB ISw et al. Higher numbers were 13 (12 south) on the 24th.-MAB ISw and eight on the 8th ISw.
Jackdaw. Maximum of 115 on the 20th.-MAB MKN and 100 on the 28th.-MAB.
Raven. One flew east on the 18th.-MAB.
Tree Sparrow. Two flew south on the 11th.-MAB.
House Sparrow. Maximum count 25 on the 3rd.-MAB.
Goldfinch. Max 44 on the 12th.-MKN and 50 on the 23rd.-MAB.
Siskin. The first for the autumn flew north (stupid bird) on the 12th.-MAB. Maximum count seven on the 27th (six of which flew south).-MAB.
Linnet. Max 60 on the 15th.-MAB.
Lesser Redpoll. The only record of the month concerned one bird flying south on the 20th.-MAB.
Bullfinch. Maximum five on the 28th.-MAB.
Yellowhammer. Maximum count eight on the 12th.-MAB.
Budgerigar. One green one) on the 18th.-MAB.
Mark Beavers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2009

Little Grebe. Maximum of six on the 1st, 22nd, 28th and 30th.-MAB ISw.

Cormorant. Recorded daily with a peak count of 16 on the 3rd.-ISw and double figure counts on a further 18 dates.-MAB et al.

CATTLE EGRET* One on 25th from 0805 to at least 1340.-MAB RMB GP PSn. This is the 5th county record the last being in 1996. Other records were Dec 1986 – Jan 1987, 1968 and 1966. MAB 200th species for Carr Vale.

Little Egret. One left to the north early on the 1st.-ISw MAB.

Heron. Maximum count 8 on the 25th-MAB.

Mute Swan. Maximum count 13 on the 18th.-ISw.

Pink-footed Goose. 110 flew south-east on the 4th.-MAB ISw, 300 flew south-east on the 18th.-ISw AG, 180 flew south-east on the 19th.-AG, 1475 flew south-east on the 26th.-ISw PSn MKN et al, 150 flew NW on the 30th.-MAB ISw.

Grey Lag Goose. One on 13th, 14th, 25th.-ISw MAB.

Canada Goose. Max 99 on the 20th.-MKN.

Shelduck. Female from Sept still present on the 1st.-MAB ISw.

Wigeon. Numbers slowly increased to peak at 85 on the 24th.-MKN.

Gadwall. Numbers peaked at 75 on the 29th.-MAB.

Teal. Maximum count 50 on the 25th.-MAB.

Mallard. Maximum count 80 on the 26th.-MAB but numbers very much reduced due to shooting on the edge of the reserve.

Pintail. One (male) on the 15th.-MKN.

Shoveler. Max count nine on the 26th.-MAB ISw.

Pochard. Max count five on the 16th.-ISw.

Tufted Duck. Max count 17 on the 26th.-MAB.

Sparrowhawk. Max 3 on the 26th.-MKN.

Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 23 dates (59 bird / days) with a peak count of 11 on the 4th.-MAB

Peregrine. One seen on five dates during the month, usually on a pylon to the south of the mound.-MAB et al.

Red-legged Partridge. 8 on the 1st.-MAB, two on 2nd, one on 5th and five on 26th.-MAB.

Water Rail. One was recorded on nine dates during the month.-MAB ISw et al with two on the 2nd.-MAB.

Coot. Max 33 on the 30th.-MAB.

Golden Plover. Max.count 350 on the 25th and 28th-MAB.

Lapwing. Maximum count 200 on the 25th.-MAB.

Dunlin. Two on the 15th MKN.

Snipe. Maximum count was ten on the 5th.-MAB.

Redshank. One on the 2nd (also 29th Sept-late record).-MAB.

Black-headed Gull. Maximum count 450 on the 1st.-MAB.

Common Gull. One or two were seen on seven dates with three on the 5th and 29th.-MAB.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Maximum count 158 on the 22nd.-ISw.

Herring Gull. 32 south on the 5th.-MAB, 44 south on the 29th.-MAB.

Yellow-legged Gull. Adults on 1st.-MAB and 22nd.-ISw.

Great Black-backed Gull. One on the 20th, the first for the autumn.-ISw, max five on the 22nd.-ISw.

Stock Dove. Maximum count 27 on the 16th.-ISw.

Wood Pigeon. 350 flew west on the 25th.-MAB, 350 flew west on the 28th and 675 flew west on the 29th.-MAB PSn ISw.

Little Owl. One or two were seen on 11 dates.-MAB ISw PSn et al. One at Deepdale Farm Sutton Scarsdale on 4th.-MAB.

Kingfisher. Singles on 16 dates with two on the 7th.-MAB et al.
Green Woodpecker. Singles on 4th, 14th, 26th and 28th.-MAB ISw.
Great Spotted Woodpecker. Single on the 5th, 14th, 18th and 21st.-MAB MKN.
Skylark. Max count 26 on the 4th.-MAB, max southerly movement 20 on the 29th.-MAB.
Swallow. 36 flew south on the 1st-MAB, last six south on the 9th.-MAB.
House Martin. Six south on the 6th were the last.-MAB.
Meadow Pipit. Southerly passage on six dates with a total of 83 recorded the highest count being 29 south on the 1st.-MAB. A poor autumn total of 933 south.-MAB.
Grey Wagtail. One to three on 15 dates.-MAB et al.
Fieldfare. Two on the 13th were the first.-ISw, high counts were 326 SW on the 17th.-ISw, 315 W on the 27th.-MAB and 245 W on the 28th.-MAB.
Redwing. Highest counts 250 SW on the 14th.-MKN ISw, 146 S on the 15th.-MKN and 375 W on the 27th.-MAB.
Reed Warbler. One was still present on 2nd Oct.-MAB.
Blackcap. Last was one on the 13th.-ISw.
Chiffchaff. Last was one singing on the 28th.-MAB.
Jay. Singles on 12 dates with two south on the 30th.-MAB et al.
Rook. Max 109 on the 12th.-ISw.
Tree Sparrow. One flew north on the 1st and another flew south on the 5th.-MAB.
Goldfinch. Max 40 that flew south on the 1st.-MAB.
Siskin. Recorded on 13 dates but the highest count was only 12 on the 26th.-MKN and 30th.-MAB.
Linnet. 25 flew south on the 9th.-MAB.
Lesser Redpoll. 24 flew south on the 26th.-MAB, 30 south on the 29th.-MAB and 44 south on the 30th.-MAB-a good late autumn passage for here.
Common Crossbill. A male arrived from the south at 0850 and landed by the reserve pool where it remained for ten minutes before departing east at 0900. The 7th record for a Carr Vale but the first that wasn't a flyover.
Bullfinch. Maximum six on the 16th.-ISw.
Reed Bunting. Max count 7 on the feeding station on the 30th.-MAB.
Corn Bunting. One flew over the mound calling on the 29th.-MAB. This is the first record of this formed breeder since 2005.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2009

You guessed it daily visits continued and during the month 85 species were recorded including three new for the year, two of which were new for the area, Scaup and Cetti's Warbler the latter another fifth for the county. The year list reached to 150 for the first time ever. Heavy rain mid-month caused the water level in Meadow Flash to rise to 3 feet only to subside quickly and then rise once more at the end of the month, again to 3 feet.

The final Great-crested Grebe record for the year was on the 1st when 18 Shoveler were present whilst 190 Fieldfares, 55 Redwings and 380 Starlings flew south-west on the 2nd. Two juvenile female Scaup were a new species for the reserve on the 3rd one of which remained until the 4th when a Chiffchaff was heard calling. 100 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east, 260 Fieldfares flew west and 20 Lesser Redpolls flew south on the 5th whilst 120 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 6th. Two Water Rails were recorded on the same day (with singles on 12 more dates) along with an unseasonal Green Sandpiper. The bird of the month was also found on the 6th when a Cetti's Warbler was found by the northern viewing screen, this being the 5th for the county and the first for Carr Vale. This was the 3rd new species for the reserve in just 13 days. 300 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 7th when a female Merlin was seen and two coveys (totalling 13) of Grey Partridges were recorded. Also on the 7th 360 Fieldfares flew west and four Common Darters were still on the wing. Two Whooper Swans were present briefly on the 8th when a female Goosander arrived to stay until the 14th whilst also on the 8th a male Stonechat became the latest autumn record. The last Peacock of the year was seen on the 9th and 70 Redwings were present on the 10th.

Wigeon peaked at 128 on the 11th when Shoveler again reached a high of 18 (also on the 12th) whilst a Jack Snipe and a Stoat were also seen on that date. The last Little Grebe of the year was seen on the 12th on which date there was the only record for the month of a Peregrine. Gadwall peaked at 103 on the 13th, Teal reached at 103 on 14th and a male Goosander and 12 Lesser Redpolls flew south on the 15th. 620 Black-headed Gulls and 37 Pied Wagtails flew south at dusk on the 19th and 150 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 20th. Two Water Rails were also heard on the 20th when 18 Reed Buntings dropped into roost on the 20th.

A first-winter Yellow-legged Gull was seen on the 22nd, 230 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east and 145 Herring Gulls flew south on the 23rd and the same day there was a very good count of 70 Stock Doves. A female Goosander reappeared on the 26th to stay until the end of the month (though not seen on the 28th) and a male was also present on the 30th. Golden Plover peaked at 400 on the 26th when a female Blackcap was found, the latter staying until the 27th when 70 Redwings were counted. A Redshank and two Chiffchaffs arrived on the 28th and all remained into December, 250 Lapwings were present on the 29th and 240 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 30th.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2009

Another year passed where we managed to maintain our daily coverage, thanks again to Ian Swain but it was the worst December for some time. A very cold period of weather commenced before Christmas and carried on in to the New Year and nothing was added to the year list. Before the freeze very heavy rain early in the month caused the water level in Meadow Flash to rise to 4'9", the highest it had been in 2009. During the first part of the month it was thought that illegal shooting was taking place on or near the reserve.

16 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 1st when a Grey Lag Goose was present as was the Redshank from the end of November. The two Chiffchaffs from the end of November were still present on the 1st (and again on the 4th with singles on five other dates until the 10th). A Shelduck and four Shoveler were present on the 2nd (with one to three Shoveler on six other dates) and two Goosanders were also seen on that date. A Redshank was seen on the 4th and 250 Golden Plovers on the 5th and 6th was the highest count of the month. The Cetti's Warbler was heard calling again on the 6th, this time from within the sewage works compound and a flock of c20 Lesser Redpolls was reported on the 8th. A Redshank was present on the 12th and 13th, Lapwings peaked at 300 on the 14th and a Pink-footed Goose joined the Canada Goose flock on the 16th remaining until the New Year.

15 Bullfinches were counted on the 19th and 150 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 21st. Wigeon numbers had been fairly low early in the month but climbed to a respectable 134 by the 21st after which numbers declined again. 120 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 24th when two Water Rails and 33 Meadow Pipits (a good winter count) were seen. One of the Chiffchaffs re-appeared on the 24th with perhaps two on the 25th when a Grey Lag Goose was seen. 111 Fieldfares were counted on the 26th and two Goosanders were seen on the 27th. Eight Grey Geese sp flew west on the 28th when the Wigeon count rose to 142, the highest of the winter so far, 70 Gadwall were counted, a probable Water Pipit flew over the sewage works and a Chiffchaff was seen. Two Chiffchaffs were seen on the 31st when 16 Bullfinches were counted.

Mark Beevers