

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2010.

Cormorant. Recorded on 12 dates with a peak count of four on the 23rd. Bittern. One was found on 1st, a great start to the New Year. It was then seen daily until last seen on the 6th. Heron. Maximum count five on the 4th and 26th. Mute Swan. Maximum count six on the 4th. Pink-footed Goose. 363 flew west on 3rd, 100 flew east on 8th, 50 flew west on 9th. Additionally a flock of c90 arrived on 8th and remained in the area of the reserve until flushed by the local shoot on 16th. Also one was with the Canada Geese flock between 1st and 7th and on 20th and 22nd. Grey Lag Goose. 19 on 19th, a very good flock for Carr Vale. Canada Goose. Max 148 on the 9th. Wigeon. Numbers generally ranged between 130 and 155 but the highest count of the early winter was 160 on the 1st, Gadwall. Numbers peaked at 49 on the 1st, Teal. Maximum count 51 on the 17th, Mallard. Maximum count 64 on the 22nd. Pochard. Max four on 20th and 21st. Tufted Duck. Max count 13 on the 26th. Goosander. A female on the 5th.

Hen Harrier. A male flew south on 1st. The first at Carr Vale since a male on 21st May 2007, rarer than Bittern here!! (6th record). Sparrowhawk. Recorded on 22 bird / days, Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 24 dates (41 bird / days) with a peak count of four on the 23rd. Merlin. A female flew south-east on 19th. Peregrine. One was seen on the 2nd. Water Rail. Two on 19th with one on seven other dates. Moorhen. Maximum count 32 on 11th and 13th. Golden Plover. Max. count 400 on the 2nd. Lapwing. Maximum count 174 on the 1st. Snipe. Maximum count was three on the 4th. Black-headed Gull. Maximum count 350 on the 20th. Common Gull. Max count seven on the 17th. Herring Gull. Max count 107 on the 4th. Caspian Gull. An adult was present on the 20th. Great Black-backed Gull. 45 on the 18th.

Stock Dove. Maximum count 41 on the 2nd. Little Owl. One seen on 1st, 2nd, 7th. Barn Owl. One on the 14th. Kingfisher. One on 15th, 21st and 22nd. Green Woodpecker. Singles on four dates. Skylark. Max count 27 on the 2nd. Meadow Pipit. Max 15 on 5th. Pied Wagtail. Max 65 flying off to roost on the 8th. Grey Wagtail. One on 11 dates. Blackbird. Max count of 45 on 9th. Fieldfare. 100 was the highest count on the 16th. Redwing. 26 on the 22nd. Chiffchaff. One on 1st and 2nd. Long-tailed Tit. Max 13 on 13th. Willow Tit. Six present scattered around the various feeders during the month. Jay. One or two on five dates. Rook. Max 200 on the 20th. Goldfinch. Max 31 counted into roost on the 7th. Siskin. Very scarce with one on 6th the only record. Linnet. 13 on the 8th and 14 on the 21st. Lesser Redpoll. 20 were reported on the 20th. Bullfinch. Maximum 19 on the 5th was a record count for the site. Reed Bunting. Max count 40 on the 7th and 9th.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2010.

Cormorant. Recorded on 19 dates with a peak count of nine on the 7th. Bittern. One present on 4th, Heron. Maximum count five on the 16th. Mute Swan. Maximum count four on 26th-30th. Whooper Swan. Four flew north at 0800hrs on 23rd. Pink-footed Goose. C75 flew north-west on 28th, one present daily 5th to 28th. Grey Lag Goose. Singles on 7th. 13th, 27th and 28th with a pair on 26th. Canada Goose. Max count 148 on the 7th. Wigeon. Max count 217 on the 25th. Gadwall. Numbers peaked at 62 on the 12th. Teal. Maximum count 64 on the 2nd, Mallard. Maximum count 47 on the 24th. Shoveler. Max count three on 26th. Tufted Duck. Max count 18 on the 28th. Goldeneye. A male was present on 18th, the first since November 2008. Goosander. Three (north) on 21st, three females on 23rd and five north on 28th.

Sparrowhawk. Recorded on 16 bird / days, Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 19 dates (36 bird / days) with a peak count of ten on the 27th. Merlin. A male was reported at the end of January and a male was seen by Deepdale Farm, Sutton Scarsdale on 18th. Grey Partridge. Five were seen on the 15th. Water Rail. Single on four dates. Oystercatcher. Two on 16th, one 18th-20th, then two daily to 28th. Ringed Plover. One was seen south of the recording area at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on 27th. Golden Plover. Max count 150 on 21st, Lapwing. Max count 300 on 23rd. Snipe. Max seven on 21st. Redshank. One on 27th and 28th. Black-headed Gull. Max count 300 on 23rd. Common Gull. One or two on nine dates from the 13th.

Stock Dove. Max count 16 on the 2nd. Wood Pigeon. Max count 1000 on 19th and 20th. Little Owl. One or two on 13 dates from the 8th. Kingfisher. One on 6th, 10th and 18th. Green Woodpecker. Singles on five dates. Great-spotted Woodpecker. One on 14th and 17th. Meadow Pipit. Max count 14 on 21st. Grey Wagtail. One on 22nd with two on 24th. Fieldfare. Max count 189 on the 21st. Willow Tit. Max four on the 17th, 27th and 28th. Raven. Two on 16th. Goldfinch. 41 counted on 3rd. Lesser Redpoll. 20 were seen on the 27th. Bullfinch. Maximum on the 17 on the 3rd. Hawfinch. One was reported on the 21st. This is the first record since 1997 and only the 7th ever. Reed Bunting. Max count 32 on the 21st.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2010.

Cormorant. Recorded on 20 dates with a peak count of six on three dates. Heron. Maximum count three on the 4th. Mute Swan. Maximum count four on three dates. Whooper Swan. 19 flew north on the 7th. Pink-footed Goose. One present daily. Grey Lag Goose. Recorded on 12 dates, maximum four on 30th. Canada Goose. Maximum count 95 on the 2nd. Shelduck. A pair on ten dates between 20th and 30th. Mandarin Duck. One male present for ten minutes on 21st. Wigeon. Maximum count 211 on the 7th and 8th. Gadwall. Maximum count 33 on the 5th. Teal. Maximum count 35 on the 1st.-MAB. Shoveler. Maximum count four on the 12th with a pair on seven other dates. Tufted Duck. Maximum count 34 on the 26th. Goosander. Three males (south) on the 18th.

Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 29 dates with a peak count of an incredible 26 on the 21st. Merlin. A male seen on the 10th. Peregrine. One was seen on 1st, 2nd and 15th. Red-legged Partridge. One on the 4th and on the 18th. Grey Partridge. A pair was seen on five dates. Water Rail. A single on 2nd, 12th and 14th. Oystercatcher. Two on 24 dates with three on 19th and four on 6th. Little Ringed Plover. Singles on 20th and on 23rd, 24th and 26th. Ringed Plover. Two on 5th, 8th with one on 2nd and 3rd (different birds). Golden Plover. Maximum count 77 on the 8th. Lapwing. Maximum count 125 on the 13th. Dunlin. One on the 10th and 20th. Snipe. Maximum count four on the 7th. Woodcock. One on the 7th. Curlew. Singles on 7th, 12th and 18th. Redshank. Maximum count five on the 25th. Common Gull. Maximum four on the 7th and 13th. Stock Dove. Maximum count 10 on the 7th. Wood Pigeon. Maximum count 1500 on the 7th. Little Owl. Up to four seen on 22 dates from three sites visible from the mound. Tawny Owl. One reported on 13th. Kingfisher. One on 16th was the only record. Green Woodpecker. Singles on eight dates.

Sand Martin. 2 flew north on the 18th, daily records between 20th and 24th with a peak of eight on 23rd. Swallow. One on 23rd was the earliest ever record. Grey Wagtail. One or two on eight dates. Chiffchaff. The first two spring birds were singing on the 18th with a peak of seven on the 30th. Willow Warbler. The first of the year was seen on the 30th. Brambling. A male was present briefly on the 21st, a rare bird in spring at CV. Lesser Redpoll. Maximum count 33 on the 10th. Bullfinch. Maximum count 15 on the 26th. Reed Bunting. Maximum count 27 which flew from the mound to roost on the 7th and 22 were present at the bird tables on the 22nd. Bar-headed Goose. One present early on the 13th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2010.

Great-crested Grebe. Maximum count five on the 23rd. Cormorant. Recorded on 17 dates with a peak count of three on 8th and 10th. Heron. Maximum count three on the 11th. Mute Swan. Maximum count four on 18th and 19th. Pink-footed Goose. One present daily. Grey Lag Goose. Maximum seven on 26th. Canada Goose. Maximum count 63 on the 4th. Shelduck. Pair on 11 dates until the 26th. Wigeon. Maximum count 21 on the 4th with the last of the winter a pair on the 16th. Gadwall. Numbers peaked at 41 on the 22nd. Teal. Maximum count 20 on the 14th. Shoveler. Maximum count was three on the 29th with two on 3rd, 13th and 28th and 30th. Pochard. Maximum count seven on 1st and 2nd, pair still present on 30th. Tufted Duck. Maximum count 23 on the 2nd.

Marsh Harrier. A female flew north on the 23rd. Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on 22 dates (64 bird / days) with a peak count of 13 on the 28th and ten on the 30th Hobby. The first of the year was seen on the 23rd. Peregrine. One was seen on 18th. Red-legged Partridge. Two on the 24th. Grey Partridge. A pair was seen on the 10th. Water Rail. Single bird on the 10th.

COMMON CRANE. The highlight of the year so far and missed by all Carr Vale main players. Two circled the flashes a couple of times then flew off north-west at 0730 on the 9th. Oystercatcher. The resident pair was present daily with three on four dates and four present on the 2nd. AVOCET. A pair was present from about 0815 on the 25th until the evening of the 26th either on Carr Vale flashes or at Sutton Scarsdale Flash. Little Ringed Plover. Maximum count was nine on the 1st. Golden Plover. 30 on 10th. and 21 northern birds on the 24th. Dunlin. One on the 1st and five on the 19th. Snipe. One or two on seven dates between the 11th and 21st. Whimbrel. Single birds on the 16th and 22nd. Curlew. Singles on 17th and 23rd. Redshank. Maximum count three on the 8th and 9th. Common Sandpiper. First was one on the 17th, maximum count was four on the 21st. Common Gull. One on the 19th was the only record. Common Tern. The first was seen on the 22nd with daily records from the 24th with a peak of three on the 25th.

Cuckoo. One was heard on the 12th, a very early date and one was heard again the following day with another on the 24th. Little Owl. Single birds were recorded from three sites from the mound during the month. Tawny Owl. One reported on several dates during the month. Swift. One was seen on the 20th, our earliest ever arrival date. 20 in by the 30th. Kingfisher. One on 10th and another was seen on the 19th. Green Woodpecker. Singles on the 11th and 19th.

Sand Martin. Maximum count 30 on the 30th. Swallow. Maximum count was 60 on the 19th. House Martin. First of the year was two on the 6th but very few during the month. Yellow Wagtail. First of the year was seen on the 11th, daily between 17th and 24th with max of five on 24th. White Wag tail. One on 11 dates during the month. Wheater. Singles on 3rd, 24th and 26th. Grasshopper Warbler. First of the year was seen on 13th, regular during the latter half of the month with a peak of seven reeling on 24th. Sedge Warbler. First of the year were two on the 22nd and the peak count was eight singing on the 27th. Reed Warbler. First for the year was singing on the 24th. Lesser Whitethroat. The first for the year were two singing at Sutton Scarsdale Flash on the 23rd with the first actually at Carr Vale singing on the 27th with another on the 30th. Whitethroat. The first for the year were two on the 22nd with four singing on the 27th. Blackcap. One on the 1st with six by the 10th. Chiffchaff. Peak count of 11th. Jay. Four on the 16th with one to three on nine other dates. Lesser Redpoll. Two on the 3rd and one on the 19th. Bullfinch. Maximum 12 on the 5th. Bar-headed Goose. One present early on the 13th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2010

Firstly an apology for the brevity of the last four months' newsletters, a combination of several foreign trips with pre-tour prep and post tour admin and the compilation of the Carr Vale annual report has meant time has been at a premium during the first part of this year. However with nothing planned for several months I am able to produce a more detailed report for May. To bring people up to speed for the first four months of the year in January we recorded 79 species, the lowest total since 2007. In February the monthly species total was 77, the lowest total since 2002 and the year list moved on to a lowly 86, so quite a poor start to the year. We got back on track during March when 94 species were logged and the yearlist was 102, just four off the pace set during 2009. For only the second time in seven years we failed to record 100 species during April when the count was 97 but nevertheless the yearlist was a creditable 120 by the end of the month.

This brings us to the end of May when for the first time we logged a three-figure count for the month, 101 and the yearlist moved on to 129, the second highest end of May total. Some notable species were recorded during the month including Little Egret (two singles), Shelduck, Goosander, possibly as many as eight Marsh Harriers, Hobby, Peregrine, Bar-tailed Godwit (8th record), Whimbrel (four over three dates), Greenshank, Arctic Tern, Turtle Dove (first since 2006), Whinchat, Greenland Wheatears (three), Wood Warbler (3rd record), Spotted Flycatcher, breeding Tree Sparrows and Dingy Skipper (new for the area). A few problems were experienced during the month including trespassing within the fenced area of the reserve and even canoeing on Meadow Flash. We'd be grateful if any similar incidents are witnessed that a quick call be made to the Wildlife Trust office on 01773-881-188 so that the incidents can be collated.

Little Grebes having been very scarce during the first four months of the year were so again until the 20th with just two singles being recorded on the 11th and 14th. Then a pair was present from the 20th until the 29th. Two pairs of Great-crested Grebe were present all month and Cormorants were recorded on ten dates with a peak count of five (four south-east) on the 9th. Always nice to see, and still quite a rarity in the north-east of the county, a Little Egret was present on 19th and another dropped in on the 30th whilst Herons were only recorded on 23 dates with a maximum of three on 16th and 17th.

Mute Swans were present daily, generally just the resident pair but with a maximum count of nine on the 30th-31st. The long-staying Pink-footed Goose finally disappeared on the 16th, Grey Lag Geese were recorded on five dates with a peak of four on the 16th and adult Canada Geese peaked at 57 on the 29th. Additionally six small broods, totalling 15, were found during the month, two of which joined forces so that it looked like there were just four broods. A pair of Shelduck was present on ten dates with an additional three on the 8th whilst one flew south-east on the 20th. It's not known if it was the same pair all the time. Gadwall were present daily with a high of 31 on the 4th and a male Teal was present daily until the 13th. So far it has been a poor breeding season for Mallard with just three broods so far of ten, four and three. A pair of Shoveler was present between the 1st and 2nd and again between the 4th and 6th with two males and a female present on the 3rd. Additionally a lone male was seen on the 8th and 15th. A pair Pochard was present on the 1st and 3rd with a lone male on four dates until the 9th whilst Tufted Duck reached

21 on the 24th and a female Goosander flew north on the 9th.

It was a fantastic month for Marsh Harriers, better than we have ever experienced at Carr Vale. A female flew north at 0715 on the 1st and a female was present for most of the morning on the 12th. but then later in the day a pair was reported on the DOS website. The description of the female differed from the one in the morning so it looks like three were present on that day. A female flew south at 0810 on the 15th, a female flew south-east on the 23rd, a female left north-west high at 0750 on the 25th and finally a female came in from the west, spent 15 minutes on the reserve then flew north-west at 1105 on the 26th. A fine selection of records and based on wing and tail moult and also density of the crown colour most were thought to be different birds. Sparrowhawks were recorded on 12 bird / days, Common Buzzard were logged on 28 dates (83 bird / days) with a peak count of 13 on the 1st and Kestrels were recorded on 30 dates (45 bird / days). Single Hobbies were seen on the 4th, 8th, 16th, 17th, 28th, 29th and 30th, a Peregrine was seen on 5th and a male Peregrine took a House Martin on the 26th.

A pair of Red-legged Partridges were seen on the 14th with one the following day and a pair of Grey Partridges was seen on the 1st and 13th. A Water Rail was heard calling on the 11th. The resident pair of Oystercatchers was present daily and hatched two young on the tern raft on the 6th. Other birds occasionally came onto the reserve with three on three dates, four on three dates and five on four dates but the highest count was six on 18th but that may have included the young. Little Ringed Plovers were present daily but the highest count was only five on the 8th whilst the only Ringed Plover of the month was seen on the 29th. A Dunlin flew north on the 8th, two more flew south-east on the 23rd and one was present on the 26th. Then two were present daily between the 27th and 30th. A Snipe was seen daily between 8th and 10th and the Bar-tailed Godwit from April remained to the 4th. It was a good month for Whimbrel with one north on the 5th, two leaving to the north on the 8th and one present on the 11th. One to three Redshank were seen most days with a count of four on the on the 26th and a Greenshank dropped in very briefly on the 19th. Finally amongst the waders a Common Sandpipers were seen on 11 dates but with no more than two seen on any date.

For the first time ever a pair of Black-headed Gulls is nesting on the reserve and they have encouraged up to 20 first summer birds to hang around too. The resident pair of Common Terns quickly moved on to the tern raft from the 16th, the day after the Oystercatchers vacated it and they were still sitting at the end of the month. An additional bird was seen on 11 dates and two extra birds were present on the 10th and 28th. An Arctic Tern flew north on the 8th. A Turtle Dove found on the Stockley Trail just south of the recording area was notable as it was the first in the area since 2006. Single Cuckoos were seen on the 18th and 21st and Little Owls were noted from three sites in the area, all viewable from the mound. Small numbers of Swift were present during the month with a peak count of 150 on the 29th. Kingfishers have been very scarce this year but one was seen on 9th and 18th whilst single Green Woodpeckers were seen on the 9th, 19th and 25th.

Sand Martins were logged on 23 dates with a maximum count of 30 on the 2nd whilst Swallows peaked at 60 on the 19th and House Martins reached 50 on the 26th. Two pairs of Yellow Wagtail are breeding this year and they were frequently seen around the flashes. A male Whinchat was

present on the 1st whilst single Wheatears, males of the Greenland race, were present on 5th, 10th and 17th and a pair of Mistle Thrushes fledged two young on the 21st.

One or two Grasshopper Warblers were heard reeling on eight dates, 14 Sedge Warblers were singing on 1st with 12 singing on 4th and 11 still singing on the 17th. It's certainly a good year for this species. 15 Reed Warblers were singing on the 1st. and 15 territories were located later in the month. One or two Lesser Whitethroats were logged on five dates until the 17th with late song recorded on the 27th. 12 singing Whitethroats were located on the 17th with a further two new males found on the 19th (different areas). Three singing Garden Warblers were found on the 13th with one or two heard on 16 other dates during the month. However the rarest warbler of the month was a singing Wood Warbler on the 3rd, only the 3rd record for Carr Vale whilst another good spring bird was a Spotted Flycatcher, which was seen on the 26th. A family party of Treecreepers on the 17th was indicative of local breeding and Tree Sparrows were proved breeding for the first time in about ten years when a pair bred in a nest box successfully fledging an unknown number of young. One or two Jays were seen on four dates, Bullfinches were seen daily with a maximum count of eight on the 8th and 11 singing Reed Buntings were located during the month.

The highlight amongst the insect world was the first record of Dingy Skipper for the area. An expected addition to the butterfly list, it is still a pleasing record and it was seen on three dates between the 21st and 28th. Other butterflies of note included single Brimstones on the 19th and 24th and a Holly Blue on the 21st. The first Large Red Damselflies of the year were seen on the 20th and the following day 12 were counted along with 30 Azure Damselflies and two Four-spotted Chasers. 15 Large Red Damselflies (seven copulating pairs), two Blue-tailed Damselflies, 70 Azure Damselflies and 11 Four-spotted Chasers were counted on the 24th and the first Broad-bodied Chasers (male and two females) and ten Common Blue Damselflies were seen on the 28th.

Two more pleasing records were of a Water Vole on the river, which was seen twice during the month adjacent to the southern flash and a Water Shrew, which was seen on the Peter Fidler Reserve on the 18th. Two Stoats were reported on the 18th and Roe Deer were noted on at least seven dates with one male and three females frequenting the area. A number of Grass Snakes were reported during the month including three on the 21st and the Red-eared Slider (Terrapin) was seen on at least four occasions.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2010

87 species were recorded during the month and the year list moved on to 131. Notable species seen during the month included Hobby, Water Rail, Black-tailed Godwit (15), LITTLE TERN (first record), Cuckoo, Grasshopper Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Siskin, Marbled White, Painted Lady, Banded Demoiselle and Roe Deer.

One or two Little Grebes were recorded on 13 dates but as yet there is no evidence of breeding and a pair of Great-crested Grebes, which were present to the 17th failed to breed again this year. A second pair was present on the 1st and 12th and a juvenile from elsewhere was seen on the 28th. A Cormorant was seen on the 24th and two flew north on the 26th. Heron numbers started to increase and reached a maximum count of seven on 27th whilst Mute Swans were present daily and despite building several nests the resident pair failed to breed. The maximum count was ten on the 9th, 10th and 18th. 13 Grey Lag Geese flew north on the 14th, six flew north-west on the 21st and two were on the flashes on the 16th. Although there were seven broods of Canada Geese it was considered a poor breeding season as all the broods were small and only 16 young survived to the end of June.

Gadwall numbers peaked at 41 on the 13th and by the end of June there were five broods of ten, nine, nine, eight and seven. The first returning Teal was a male from the 13th with birds present subsequently on 13 dates with a peak of four on the 23rd. Mallard also had a very poor breeding season with just five broods found so far. Two Pochard were seen on the 12th with singles on the 9th and 22nd and the maximum count of Tufted Duck was 20 on the 12th. A female with ten young was found on the 30th.

Sparrowhawks were very scarce indeed there was just one record of a female carrying food on the 28th. Common Buzzards were logged on 20 dates (37 bird / days) with a peak count of six viewable from the mound on the 17th and Kestrels were recorded on 27 dates (46 bird /days). A pair of Hobbies was seen on the 2nd and one was present on the 28th. A Red-legged Partridge was at Deepdale Flash (Sutton Scarsdale) on the 17th and a Grey Partridge was seen on the 17th. A Water Rail was heard on the 3rd.

The resident pair of Oystercatchers was present daily and fledged two young successfully and a total of seven birds were present on the 14th with other interlopers present on many dates. Little Ringed Plovers were seen on all bar one date with a maximum count of 13 (five adults and eight juveniles) on the 24th. Two Ringed Plovers were seen on the 8th, with one on the 20th and one on the 23rd. Two Dunlin were present on the 1st and one on the 9th and 10th. We have an unconfirmed report of seven or eight Black-tailed Godwits seen by a visitor from Retford at 0700 on the 27th. Redshank were recorded on 17 dates with a maximum count four on the 21st and 22nd, consisting of an adult and three juveniles bred elsewhere but local. A Green Sandpiper was seen on the 19th and a Common Sandpiper was present on the 11th.

A pair of Black-headed Gulls has nested for the first time ever at Carr Vale this year. They hatched three young on the 3rd and all were doing well on the 30th. Common Terns have also nested again on the tern raft and they hatched two young on the 8th, which flew on the 1st July. The maximum count of adults four on the 27th. The highlight of the month was an adult Little Tern on the 27th that was present until it flew east at 0827, this being the first for the site but only two of the regulars caught up with it. Also on that date a Cuckoo was heard. There are three Little Owl territories within the recording area plus another right on the southern edge at Deepdale Farm and one of the pairs has at least two young. The highest count of Swifts was 120 on the 8th and a Kingfisher was seen on the 22nd and 25th. A Green Woodpecker was seen daily between the 1st

and 5th and again on the 22nd and the first Great-spotted Woodpecker of the autumn was seen on the 25th.

Yellow Wagtails were seen on 21 dates and fledged young seen around the reserve towards the end of June with a max of three on 28th. The first Grey Wagtail of the autumn was seen on the 15th, four flew south on 21st with one or two on three other dates between 20th and 23rd. A Grasshopper Warbler had recommenced singing on 27th June with another in a different area on the 28th and 11 Reed Warblers were recorded on the 5th. Single Jays were seen on the 13th and 16th with one or two on the 22nd. The breeding pair of Tree Sparrows were feeding a second brood on 17th and a Siskin, which flew south on the 30th was a most unseasonal record. 17 singing male Yellowhammers were noted between Mill Farm, Carr Vale and Palterton sewage works on the 25th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2010.

July was a good month with 95 species recorded, just one short of the all time best July total and notable records included Little Egret, Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel (five), Greenshank, Yellow-legged Gull, Turtle Dove, Grasshopper Warbler, Raven (three) and Crossbill. 11 Species of Butterfly and seven species of dragonfly were noted but there were no surprises. Amongst the mammals the most notable record concerned a female Roe Deer.

Little Grebes were recorded on 28 dates with a maximum count of four on the 21st but in a very poor year for Great-crested Grebes just a single bird was recorded on ten dates. Cormorants were recorded on 13 dates, daily from 22nd with a peak count of six on 20th. A juvenile Little Egret was present briefly on the 26th and the maximum count of Grey Herons was nine on the 20th. Up to six Mute Swans were present daily and three Grey Lag Geese were seen on 10th and 23rd with one on the 4th. Canada Geese numbers started to increase from the 20th and had reached 250 by the 31st. The highest count of Gadwall was 54 on 31st whilst Teal records included single birds on 14 dates between the 2nd and 23rd with three on 16th. Mallard peaked at 101 on the 30th, a Shoveler was seen on five dates between 15th and 22nd with two (male and juvenile) on 20th-21st and 25th and a male Pochard was present on the 17th.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 16 dates, Common Buzzards were recorded on 24 dates (36 bird / days), single Hobbies were seen on the 10th, 15th, 18th and 21st and a Peregrine was seen on six dates with a pair on the 11th and three together on the 19th. An adult Water Rail was seen on the 8th and a juvenile was found on the 9th. Two juveniles were seen together on the 13th with single birds recorded on a total of nine dates during the month. Oystercatchers were recorded daily until the 21st with a max count of six on the 7th and Little Ringed Plovers were seen daily with a maximum count of ten on the 13th. An adult Ringed Plover was present on the 14th and two juveniles were seen on the 26th whilst an adult Dunlin was seen on the 18th. Single Snipe were logged on nine dates from the 10th with two on the 30th and a Black-tailed Godwit was present on the 13th and 14th. Five Whimbrel flew south on the 16th and one or two Redshank were present on nine dates between 2nd and 17th with three daily from the 25th to 31st. A Greenshank was present briefly on the 13th and two left north-east on the 15th. A Green Sandpiper was seen on the 2nd and on eight dates between 14th and 26th with two present on the 20th whilst one or two Common Sandpipers were seen on ten dates during the month.

The breeding pair of Black-headed Gulls successfully fledged their three young, Common Gulls started to be seen again with two adults on the 14th, one on the 16th and one on 25th. An adult Yellow-legged Gull was seen on 14th and 16th and Common Terns peaked at six on the 18th. A Turtle Dove, which flew over the Peter Fidler Reserve was a rare sight indeed unlike Little Owls, which were seen almost daily during the month. Two Kingfishers were seen on the 21st with one on 11 dates, two Green Woodpeckers were recorded on the 3rd with singles on 14 dates and single Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates.

40 Sand Martins flew south on the 9th, 40 were present on the 13th and 40 flew south on the 14th. Yellow Wagtails were recorded on 27 dates with a peak count of nine together on the 31st and one or two Grey Wagtails were logged on seven dates plus three on the 22nd which flew south. A flock of 21 Mistle Thrushes was seen on the 30th. Three Grasshopper Warblers were seen in the same bush on the 12th and 13th and the male was heard daily between 10th and 22nd with two singing 11th, 12th, 21st and 22nd. The first Goldcrest of the year was seen on the 19th some six and a half months later than the normal first sighting of the year and three Ravens flew north on the 27th. Six Tree Sparrows were seen on the 11th with one on the 9th and the surprise of the month was a party of four (including a male) Common Crossbill that flew north-west on the 11th.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2010.

Our daily visits continue unabated producing 100 species for the month, the second time this year we've have hit three-figures. The year list moved on to 138 with the addition of three species, one of which was our earliest ever Mediterranean Gull. Other notable species included our first multiple arrival of Little Egret with flocks of five and three, regular Hobbies and Peregrines, up to two Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, up to three Greenshank, Arctic Tern, 3 Yellow-legged Gulls, Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Grasshopper Warbler. Most notable though was the first area record of Dark Green Fritillary. Incidents were few but as is usual in late August the presence of large numbers of Canada Geese encouraged people with guns in the evenings.

Little Grebes were proved breeding when a pair had a single youngster, which was present all month whilst the highest count was seven on the 23rd but for the first time that I can remember there was not one record of a Great-crested Grebe. Cormorants were seen daily with a peak count of seven on the 15th and likewise Herons were seen daily with a maximum count of eight on the 1st and 14th. A party of five Little Egrets arrived on the 9th having earlier been at Annersley Pit Tip and they were still present in the evening but not the following morning. Later on the 10th another party of three Little Egrets arrived again having been first seen at Annersley Pit Tip and then Pleasley Pit. This is the first time that more than one has been seen at Carr Vale. A pair of Mute Swans remained all month and Grey Lag Geese were seen daily until the 29th with a peak count of six on the 29th. Canada Geese numbers increased and eventually peaked at 571 on the 20th and the flock was joined by a minimum of seven different hybrid Grey Lag / Canada Geese during the month.

Gadwall numbers peaked at 68 on the 21st, Teal reached 28 by the 28th and Mallard peaked at 160 on the 25th. Two Shoveler were seen on the 15th after which there were daily records from the 19th with a high of six on the 30th. A Pochard flew around the flashes on the 17th but Tufted Duck numbers were very low with one to five on just nine dates.

Sparrowhawks were logged on 19 dates (20 bird / days), Common Buzzards were logged on 21 dates (47 bird / days) with an impressive count of 18 on the 25th including one thermal of eight birds and Kestrels were recorded on 24 dates (41 bird /days). After a Hobby was seen on the 6th the next wasn't until the 27th after which single birds were seen daily until the 30th with both an adult and a juvenile recorded. A juvenile female Peregrine was seen on 11 out of the first 12 days of the month and single birds were also logged on the 21st and 31st, most of which were sat on the pylon east of Deepdale Farm. A family party of eight Red-legged Partridges was seen at Deepdale Farm on the 17th and later in the month released birds started to appear with a peak count of ten on the 31st. A family of 14 Grey Partridges was seen on the 28th and a second brood of Water Rails was located on the 3rd with singles heard on five more dates and two adults seen on the 21st.

An Oystercatcher was seen on the 14th, five Little Ringed Plovers were seen on the 2nd and the last of the summer so far was seen on the 12th. Two adult Ringed Plovers were seen on the 4th and a juvenile flew south on the 29th whilst the first Golden Plover of the autumn was heard on the 15th. Lapwings peaked at 135 on the 30th, single Dunlin were present on the 3rd, 8th, 26th and 28th, a Ruff was seen on the 8th with two on the 12th. Snipe peaked at six on the 3rd when a Black-tailed Godwit was present until flushed by trust workers and a Curlew flew north on the 15th. Two juvenile Redshank were recorded between the 1st and 4th and three Greenshank on the 9th were followed by two on the 11th and one on the 18th. Three Green Sandpipers were seen on the 15th with single birds logged on five more dates between the 17th and 27th and one or two Common Sandpipers were present daily until the 21st.

A juvenile Mediterranean Gull on the 4th was the earliest ever autumn arrival by two weeks and 333 Black-headed Gulls were counted on the 20th. Four Common Gulls were seen on the 1st with three the following day and one or two on three other dates. Lesser Black-backed Gulls reached a lowly peak of 120 on the 27th whilst on the 1st three adult Yellow-legged Gulls and a juvenile Herring Gull were also recorded. An adult Common Tern was present on the 19th with a first summer bird on the 26th whilst an adult Arctic Tern was seen on the 13th. Up to three Little Owls could be seen from the mound on an almost daily basis and at last Kingfishers became more regular with records of one or two birds on 21 dates. Single Green Woodpeckers were seen on seven dates whilst single Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen on four dates.

Sand Martins were seen on 25 dates but the only double-figure count was 15 on the 21st whilst a pre-roost count of Swallows on the 31st was 200. 100 House Martins were present on the 24th. A Tree Pipit flew south on the 16th and there was an impressive count of 26 Yellow Wagtails on the 8th. This is just two below the record count of 28. One or two Grey Wagtails were logged on nine dates and a Whinchat on the 18th was a notable record. A Grasshopper Warbler was reeling on the 3rd and 4th, Sedge and Reed Warblers were still present on the 31st with two Lesser Whitethroats still present on the 27th and two Common Whitethroats were seen on the 28th. A party of 21 Long-tailed Tits was seen on the 14th and one or two Coal Tits were noted on five dates. A Jay was seen on the 1st and 15th, 83 Jackdaws were counted on the 6th and 160 Rooks were counted on the 3rd. A party of eight Tree Sparrows flew west on the 21st and another was seen the following day whilst Goldfinches peaked at 40 on the 17th.

It was a poor month for insects with just nine species of Butterfly recorded the most notable being a single Dark Green Fritillary, a new species for the area. Otherwise single Commas on the 1st and 14th were the only other sightings of note. Eight species of Dragonfly were seen with the first Migrant Hawk of the year appearing on the 15th, otherwise there was little excitement in that department. Amongst the mammals a Weasel on the 8th was notable and there was a good run of Roe Deer sightings with up to three on nine dates (male with a damaged rear right leg and two females). Both the Red-eared Sliders were seen on the 21st and the Bullfrog was seen on 25th.

Mark Beevers

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010.

Our daily visits continued unabated but produced nothing outstanding. However we did record a massive 110 species, which set a new monthly record beating the previous highest total for a month by four. We added four species to the year list taking that to 142, which is the second highest end of September tally for the year. Notable records included another Little Egret (still rare in the north-east of the county), the first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn, a record flock of Grey Lag Geese, Pintail, an excellent series of Hobby sightings, Peregrine, Jack Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit (two), Spotted Redshank (two, 5th record), Caspian (two) and Yellow-legged Gulls, an early Rock Pipit, the latest Sand Martin since 1999, Whinchat (two), Spotted Flycatcher, Brambling and Common Crossbill (two, 9th record). No incidents of note occurred apart from a naked man walking out to the flashes for a bath one Sunday morning!

Little Grebes were seen daily with a maximum count of seven on 3rd and 4th and after a six week absence a juvenile Great-crested Grebe turned up on the 13th remaining to the month end and being joined by a second bird between the 25th and 28th. Cormorants were also recorded daily with a maximum count of nine on 26th and 28th. A juvenile Little Egret was present for most of the day on the 2nd and Grey Herons were present daily with peak count of ten (including a flock of five high west) on the 23rd. Other Grey Herons flying high to the south-west were a flock of three on the 30th. The first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn were 80 (50 and 30) south-east and 40 (west) on the 18th whilst three Grey Lag Geese were present daily between the 6th and 12th. A single flock of 36 Grey Lag Geese flew north on 30th, which is a record count for the site. Canada Goose numbers were low as a result of shooting with a maximum count of 94 on 9th.

The first two Wigeon of the autumn were seen on the 3rd and by the 29th they had increased to 38. 38. Gadwall were recorded in high double-figures for most of the month with three-figure counts on four dates, the highest of which being 113 on the 15th. Teal peaked at 57 on 3rd and the highest count of Mallard was 166 on 24th. Two Pintail found on the 4th were the second earliest arrival date and Shoveler were seen daily with a maximum count of nine on seven dates. A male Pochard was present on the 22nd and 30th and a pair was seen on the 29th whilst Tufted Duck peaked at 12 on 20th.

Sparrowhawks were recorded on 22 dates during the month (30 bird / days) with a maximum of three on 19th and Common Buzzards were logged on 27 dates (85 bird / days) with a peak count of 18 viewable from the mound on the 21st including one group of 14 drifting slowly south. Kestrels were recorded on 17 dates (25 bird / days) but the highlight amongst the raptors was the appearance of a family group of Hobbies. Up to three were recorded daily between 2nd and 23rd with a total of 42 bird / days, a very impressive series of sightings. Two Peregrines were seen on the 2nd with single birds on nine dates. Red-legged Partridges have been released on the Deepdale Farm shoot and some impressive counts of 70 on the 6th and 55 on the 25th clearly relate to these birds. Four Grey Partridge were seen on 2nd and single Water Rails were recorded on six dates with both an adult and a juvenile seen.

A juvenile Ringed Plover was present between the 4th and 12th but there were just two Golden Plover records with a maximum of 13 on 18th. Lapwings peaked at 142 on the 7th and Dunlin records were two on the 3rd, two on the 26th, one on 28th and 29th. A Jack Snipe on the 29th was a very welcome addition to the year list and one to three Snipe were recorded on 13 dates. Two Black-tailed Godwits were found on the 29th, a Whimbrel was present on the 5th but the best waders of the month were two juvenile Spotted Redshanks that were present for just 15 minutes on the 21st. These are only the fifth record for Carr Vale, the first since 2005 and the first multiple sighting. Interestingly four of the five records have occurred in September with three of the records in the period 19th-21st September. A Greenshank dropped in on the 7th and single Green

Sandpipers were seen on the 3rd and 28th.

The highest count of Black-headed Gulls was 350 on the 11th, Common Gulls were seen on six dates from the 13th with a maximum of four on the 28th. Lesser Black-backed Gull were seen on most dates with a peak count of 300 on 6th and single Herring Gulls were noted on six dates. The rarest gulls though were a juvenile / first winter Yellow-legged Gull on the 30th and two different first summer Caspian Gulls on the 6th and 10th. Three late Common Terns were seen on the 22nd, which is the second latest date for this species. Collared Doves peaked at 48 on the 15th, single Little Owls were seen on 14 dates with two on the 30th whilst a Swift on the 22nd was the latest since 2004. Single Kingfishers were recorded on 12 dates, two Green Woodpeckers were seen on the 17th and 30th with singles on 11 dates and two Great-spotted Woodpeckers were recorded on the 26th with singles on 11 dates.

48 Sand Martins flew south on the 4th whilst the last of the year flew south on the 30th, the latest last date since 1999. A total of 1604 Swallows flew south over 19 dates with notable counts of 450 on the 18th and 375 on the 21st. Other counts of this species moving south included 140 on the 19th, 170 on the 22nd, 130 on the 23rd and a late push of 91 on the 30th. 75 House Martins flew south on the 23rd and during the month a total of 418 Meadow Pipits flew south over 16 dates with a high counts of 127 on both the 12th and 30th. A Rock Pipit was present on Middle Flash on 28th but it was very elusive and three Yellow Wagtails flew south on the 6th, with last of the year on the 21st. One or two Grey Wagtails were logged on 16 dates with four on the 5th and four more south on the 23rd. A total of 50 Pied Wagtails flew south over five dates from 21st with a maximum count of 21 on the 23rd.

Single Whinchats were found on the 2nd and 5th and the first Redwings of the autumn were 18 on the 26th, followed by one on the 27th and two on the 30th. Last dates for warblers were as follows: Sedge Warbler 4th, Reed Warbler 18th, Lesser Whitethroat 7th, Whitethroat 8th and Garden Warbler 7th. Blackcaps were present all month with a maximum of four on the 18th as were Chiffchaffs with a maximum count five on the 22nd. A Spotted Flycatcher was a nice find on the 5th, Long-tailed Tits reached a peak count of 21 on the 28th, whilst Willow Tits were a daily feature and Coal Tits were logged on eight dates. One to three Jays were seen on 21 dates, 47 Jackdaws and 171 Rooks were counted on the 1st whilst a pair of Ravens flew west on the 26th. A Tree Sparrow flew north on the 25th and four were present in the breeding area on the 30th whilst the first Brambling of the autumn was heard on the 30th. Goldfinches were another species that was recorded daily reaching a peak count of 40 on 14th. The first Siskins for the autumn were two on the 13th but they were scarce thereafter with one or two on five dates from the 21st. The first Lesser Redpoll of the autumn was one on the 12th followed by records on four other dates including a flock of 20 on the 26th and nine south on the 30th. Two Common Crossbills that flew south on the 6th were unusual and small numbers of Yellowhammer peaked at 15 on the 30th.

A Fox was seen on the 15th and a Grass Snake was found on the 5th. The three Roe Deer that had been present for most of the summer were last seen on the 12th having probably been disturbed by either farming activity or shooting. The Red-eared Terrapin was seen on the 2nd and 10th.

Mark Beevers.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2010.

Little Grebe. Max count four on 2nd. Cormorant. Max count 10 on 15th. Heron. Max count five on 28th and 29th. Evidence of migration (birds flying very high) included two south on 2nd and one south on 3rd. Mute Swan. Maximum count ten on 5th, 6th and 8th. Whooper Swan. Three adults on 22nd. Pink-footed Goose. 200 flew east on 6th, 100 east on 10th, 980 in ten skeins south-east on 20th, 100 east on 22nd, 200 (two skeins) east on 24th, 460 (four skeins) east on 25th, 110 west on 29th. Two with the Canadas on 9th-10th and 12th. Grey Lag Goose. Two on 12th, with one on five dates. Canada Goose. Max count 137 on 9th.

Wigeon. Max count 106 on 20-21st. Gadwall. Max count 117 on 1st. Teal. Max count 50 on 18th. Mallard. Max count 123 on 20th. Pintail. Female / juv seen on 1st. Shoveler. Seen daily, max count 14 on 21st. Tufted Duck. Maximum count 12 on the 15th and 16th. Scaup. Juvenile female on 21st, just the second record for Carr Vale. Goosander. Three redheads on 17th. Sparrowhawk. Recorded on at least 19 dates during the month (22 bird / days). Max count two. Common Buzzard. Birds were logged on at least 22 dates (62 bird / days) with a peak count of nine on 2nd. Kestrel. Recorded on at least 15 dates (16 bird / days). Peregrine. One on 4th-5th and 20th.

Red-legged Partridge. Peak counts of released birds 57 on 2nd and 64 on 7th. Grey Partridge. Notable belated September record 21 on 28th. Eight on 21st and 14 on 23rd. Water Rail. Up to two from 17th. Golden Plover. Max counts 176 on 15th with 150 on 21st. Lapwing. Max count 140 on 7th. Dunlin. One on 18th. Ruff. One on 9th. Snipe. Max count five on 17th. Green Sandpiper. One on 9th and one on 22nd. Black-headed Gull. Max count of 800 on 3rd. Common Gull. Max of 11+ on 3rd. Lesser Black-backed Gull. Max count 191 on 15th. Yellow-legged Gull. Two adults on 21st. Caspian Gull. 1st winter on 28th. Kittiwake. The French-ringed bird that has been present in north Notts. and occasionally at Pleaseley was seen on 3rd.

Stock Dove. Max count 23 on 17th. Wood Pigeon. Notable westerly movements included 515 on 21st, 220 west on 20th 110 west on 25th. Collared Dove. Max count 55 on 13th. Barn Owl. One on 3rd was still present on 5th and one on 21st. Little Owl. One or two on at least 14 dates. Kingfisher. One or two on at least seven dates. Green Woodpecker. One on at least 12 dates. Great-spotted Woodpecker. One on at least eight dates. Skylark. 54 south on 7th, 67 (56 east) on 17th, 45 (42 east) on 25th, 24 east on 28th. Swallow. 21 south on 2nd. Last date one on 17th. House Martin. Last date 13 on 12th. Meadow Pipit. 53 south on 2nd. Rock Pipit. One on 2nd. Grey Wagtail. One or two on at least ten dates. Pied Wagtail. 19 flew south on 2nd with 14 south on 5th. 14 into roost in phragmites (unusual at CV) on 25th. Fieldfare. First for the autumn were two flocks totalling 80 west on 17th, notable movements included a site record 5,355 west on 20th. Also flying west were 470 on 21st and 640 on 24th, 235 on 25th and 200 on 28th. Redwing. The only notable count was 192 on 10th.

CETTI'S WARBLER. One was heard calling (not singing) on 24th and was both heard and seen briefly on 25th. The second record for Carr Vale. Blackcap. Last was seen on 4th. Chiffchaff. Last was seen on 10th. Long-tailed Tit. Maximum count 22 on 18th. Willow Tit. Three on 14th. Jay. One to three on at least 16 dates.

Tree Sparrow. Three plus on 20th., four on 23rd. Brambling. Two flew south on 1st, one on 2nd and 13th. Two west on 22nd. Goldfinch. Max count 21 on 18th and 23rd. Siskin. A total of 60 flew south over ten dates with a peak count of 18 on 2nd. Linnet. Maximum count of 31 south on 2nd.- MAB. Lesser Redpoll. Max count nine (eight south) on 20th. Yellowhammer. Max of ten on 8th. Reed Bunting. 25 dropped into roost on 24th.

Mark Beevers.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2010.

Heavy rain early in the month caused water levels in the flashes to rise to 30" but otherwise November was a month without incident that was until the 30th when six inches of snow fell during the morning making access very difficult.

Nine Shoveler on the 1st was the highest count of the month and the same day 250 Wood Pigeons flew south-west, two male Great-spotted Woodpeckers were seen and 450 Starlings flew west. In the evening 200 more Starlings roosted as did 33 Reed Buntings. A Migrant Hawker and four Common Darters were seen on the 2nd and then on the 6th 2,450 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east. A male Goldeneye was present on the 7th, 50 Pink-footed Geese flew west on the 8th when a Dunlin was seen and six Grey Lag Geese and a Dunlin were present on the 11th.

40+ Skylarks and 80 Yellowhammers were in fields to the west of the reserve on the 13th and the last Comma and Common Darter of the year were also seen on that date. The afternoon of the 14th was excellent with two adult Whooper Swans south-east, a female Merlin over the South Marsh, three calling Water Rails, the elusive Cetti's Warbler was heard and two Brambling flew around the area whilst in the evening the day ended with great views of a Barn Owl. 20 Grey Partridge were counted on the 15th when the Cetti's Warbler was seen briefly in flight and the Barn Owl was seen again. Three Goldeneye were seen on the 18th and the Barn Owl was present on the 20th. A first winter Mediterranean Gull was found on the 24th when there was a count of 40 Stock Doves.

50 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 21st when two male Goosander flew north and four more were reported, the Barn Owl again showed as it did on four other dates until the 28th and the Cetti's Warbler was heard calling again. Three Roe Deer were also recorded on this date. Three Whooper Swans were present briefly before flying north and the Cetti's Warbler was still calling by the north hide on the 22nd. 18 Cormorants were present on the 25th along with a pair of Goosanders and 16 Red-legged Partridges. The last three Cormorants of the year were recorded on the 26th when Wigeon peaked at 136, a female Goosander flew north and 20 Lesser Redpoll were on the Peter Fidler Reserve. 80 Teal were counted on the 27th and the Cetti's Warbler was seen again briefly on the same date when 43 Reed Buntings were counted into roost.

CARR VALE MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2010.

Things got worse on the 1st when another nine inches of snow fell and then commenced a prolonged cold spell with all the ponds covered by thick ice for the whole month. This had a detrimental effect on bird recording but despite the hardship, daily coverage, albeit limited was maintained throughout the month and once again we completed a full year of recording.

Five Tree Sparrows were seen on the 5th but the main ornithological event of the month was the arrival of Waxwings on New Station Road on the 8th when 46 were seen with birds being seen most days until the 20th when four were seen. 41 Waxwings were seen on the 10th, a Shoveler was seen on the 13th and remained to the 14th and the Waxwing flock increased to 84 on 13th when six Willow Tits were present. 167 Waxwings were counted on the 15th, two Goosander were present on the 16th and 100 Waxwings were still present on the 17th. 120 Waxwings were present on the 18th when 44 flew west over the reserve and a Shelduck was present on the 21st.

A Bittern showed well on the 26th when 80 Herring Gulls flew south and the Bittern was still present on the 27th. A Mistle Thrush was singing on the 29th. A Goosander flew north on the 31st when amazingly the only Coot of the month was seen. 50 Goldfinches were also seen on the last day of the year when 22 Reed Buntings were counted into roost.

Mark Beevers