

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

OCTOBER 2014

For two weeks during the middle of the month the daily coverage was left to Ian (again I know!) and a total of 89 species was logged. Three new birds for the year were seen taking the tally up to 146. The highlight of the month, albeit that it was enjoyed by just one lucky observer was the finding of a juvenile Rough-legged Buzzard, a new species for the reserve taking the number of species recorded at Carr Vale to 215. Heavy rain during the month resulted in the reformation of the Southern Flash but generally it was a very mild month. The injured Grey Lag Goose remained all month, Water Rails were recorded on eight dates, one or two Kingfishers were seen on 14 dates and one or two Grey Wagtails were logged on 17 dates.

18 Red-legged Partridges still survived on the 1st, which was the date of the last Hobby sighting, and the same day a Peregrine was seen and five Siskins flew north. The earliest ever Whooper Swan for the reserve was present for a short while on the 2nd before it left north and 143 Mallard were counted on the 3rd when a male Pochard was seen. Two Pintail flew south and a Jack Snipe was discovered in the Southern Reed Bed on the 4th whilst on the 5th Shoveler peaked at 13 on the 5th and another Peregrine appeared. A male Cetti's Warbler gave the briefest snatch of song on the 6th but then proceeded to call fairly often and even allowed a brief flight view. 190 Pink-footed Geese flew north-west on the 12th, five Whooper Swans were present for thirty minutes just before noon on the 14th and the same day three Pochard were present. 26 Pink-footed Geese were seen on the 15th, the last Swallow was seen on the 18th and 150 Pink-footed Geese flew east on the 19th.

There was a count of 14 Cormorants on the 23rd but the bird of the day and indeed the month appeared at 1100 on that date. This was when a juvenile Rough-legged Buzzard was discovered drifting west being mobbed by two Carrion Cows and a Peregrine. A magnificent sight especially as the bird was on view for about ten minutes. 400 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east, 60 Golden Plovers, 160 lapwings and a Curlew with a severely deformed or damaged bill were on the fields on the 24th whilst a first winter Mediterranean Gull was present on the flashes and seven Siskins flew over. 80 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east and a pair of Mandarin Ducks was present during the late afternoon on the 25th with a Jack Snipe lurking in the Southern Reed Bed again (also seen on the 26th). Two Little Egrets flew north on the 26th on which date a female Merlin dashed across the reserve whilst a Peregrine flew overhead. There was an impressive count of 23 Cormorants on the 28th with 200 Golden Plover present on the same date along with two Migrant Hawkers and two Common Darters. 350 Pink-footed Geese flew south-east on the 29th when a late Chiffchaff was also present, a first winter Kittiwake was seen on the 30th and Wigeon peaked at 98 on 31st.

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