

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

AUGUST 2013

101 species were recorded during August and one species was added to the year list. Excellent numbers of Butterflies were recorded with 2013 proving to be the best summer since 2006. Unfortunately the good weather attracted the wrong sort of visitors and up to four people tried to fish Meadow Flash.

A pair of Red-legged Partridges with young was found on the 1st, two Teal were present on the 2nd when the only double-figure count of Herons for the month was 11. Two Hobbies were seen on the 3rd, this being the first of ten dates when this species was noted (15 bird / days). Also on the 3rd a Greenshank was present briefly before it departed south and Common Terns peaked at seven for the month. Ringers on the 3rd caught a Garden Warbler and two Lesser Whitethroats whilst an adult Common Gull was seen on the 4th. A juvenile Little Egret arrived on the 5th for a seven day stay (though it wasn't seen on the 9th), a Water Rail was heard on the 6th after which birds were logged on eight dates with two noted on the 7th, 30th and 31st. A juvenile Great-spotted Woodpecker was also seen on the 6th, a Snipe and a Black-tailed Godwit were seen on the 7th and an Oystercatcher flew north on the 8th on which date the Black-tailed Godwit left north-east, a male Great-spotted Woodpecker was seen and three Grey Wagtails flew north. Five Teal were present on the 9th with one or two others on three other dates during the first two weeks of the month.

Two more Little Egrets arrived on the 10th but only stayed a short while and the same day three Green Sandpipers were present. The first three-figure flock of Canada Geese was 104 on the 12th when the last of the Great-crested Grebes was seen whilst on the 13th two Common Sandpipers were present. A Peregrine was seen on the 14th when the last Garden Warbler was seen. The 15th saw the start of a daily run of records for Teal when two were present and on that date a juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen along with 23 Sand Martins. Two Shoveler were present on the 16th, increasing to four on the 17th when the juvenile Marsh Harrier was seen again and when there was an exceptional count of 160 Stock Doves. The juvenile Marsh Harrier put in its final appearance on the 18th when a Peregrine went up to have a look at it and 41 Mistle Thrushes were counted on the 19th.

A Greenshank heard calling as it flew north-west on the 20th signalled the start of a purple patch. A Pink-footed Goose was present on the 21st and remained into September whilst four male Wigeon were the first for the autumn and three Grey Wagtails flew north. Six Grey Lag Geese turned up on the 22nd when Cormorants peaked at 11 for the month, ten Buzzards were in the air at once, a flock of 25 Sand Martins flew south, the ninth Nuthatch for the area was heard calling but could not be located, a Tree Sparrow and two Tree Pipits flew south. Gadwall peaked at 34 on the 23rd when a Dunlin flew north-west, there was a pre-roost gathering of 150 Swallows and another Tree Pipit flew south. On the 24th Grey Lag Geese increased to seven (remaining into September) and the same day there was an isolated peak of 36 Teal which were associating with three Shoveler (with single Shoveler on two other dates during the latter half of the month). Also on the 24th four Snipe were present, an astounding flock of 44 Whimbrel flew south-west along with three unidentified medium sized waders, two Green Sandpipers were present (with single birds on four other dates), a Redshank was heard calling and a flock of 12 Arctic Terns called in briefly before heading off north-east. It didn't end there on the 24th as 105 Stock Doves were still in the area, a juvenile

Cuckoo became the latest ever, albeit a short-lived record and 43 Mistle Thrushes were seen, which is just two short of the all-time record.

Another Wigeon was seen on the 25th on which date a flock of six Ringed Plover flew north, two Ruff flew north, an adult Herring Gull flew south and a juvenile Black Tern was present for most of the day. Wigeon increased to two on the 26th when two Greenshank left north-east, a juvenile Common Gull was found and there was a further increase in Wigeon on the 27th when three were present. A Ruff was present for an hour on the 28th before it flew north-east, the same day two Common Sandpipers were found, a flock of 25 Long-tailed Tits moved through and two Lesser Whitethroats were seen. Nine Buzzards were counted on the 29th when one of the Lesser Whitethroats was heard singing. Three Wigeon were seen on the 30th (with one still on the 31st) when the last Common Tern of the year was logged, a Tree Sparrow was seen, a count of 13 Yellow Wagtails included a flock of eleven feeding together plus two flying south and three Grey Wagtails were seen (with one or two on seven other dates). Finally at the end of a busy month Canada Geese peaked at 311 on the 31st on which date a pair of Pochard was seen as was the juvenile Cuckoo.

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