

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

JUNE 2011

The year list moved on one to 131 and a total of 89 species were recorded during the month. Towards the end of the month several fishermen tried to pre-empt the start of the breeding season but generally there was little to report.

Hobbies were an almost constant feature during the month with records on 27 dates, totalling 32 bird / days. The attraction seemed to be recently fledged **Sand Martins** from a nearby colony that the adults brought down to the reserve after fledging and recently fledged **Swallows** from Mill Farm. Despite not breeding on the reserve again **Redshanks** were seen on 11 dates.

A first Summer **Herring Gull** on 1st June was unusual and an additional pair of **Common Terns** was present on 2nd June (with an additional single bird on seven dates) when two **Tree Sparrows** were still at the breeding site. One of the **Red-eared Terrapins** was visible for three days from 2nd June and the **American Bullfrog** was seen for the first time this year on 3rd June. Two male **Pochard** were present on 3rd June, six **Grey Lag Geese** and 15 **Mute Swans** were seen on 4th June but more interesting was a record of two **Tree Bees** on the same date. This is the first time that this recent colonist to the UK has been recorded at Carr Vale. A male **Shoveler** was seen on 5th June and the same day a female **Marsh Harrier** was seen leaving the area in a northerly direction and a **Cuckoo** was also seen. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was reeling on 6th June and a **Water Rail** was heard calling on 8th June. An adult and two juvenile **Redshanks** from elsewhere (probably Arkwright) arrived from the west on 9th June but they only stayed for that day but the following day a thorough search of likely spots produced a count of nine **Grass Snakes** whilst a second pair of **Common Terns** was also present.

A **Tawny Owl** was seen on 11th June when a family party of five **Willow Tits** was also recorded. An adult **GREAT WHITE EGRET** in full breeding dress arrived on 12th June and performed well for all comers but the female **Roe Deer** also present was far more secretive. The **Great White Egret** was last seen on 14th June when a **Red Admiral** was seen with the latter species recorded again on 16th June. The female **Roe Deer** was also seen on 15th and 16th June. An additional **Oystercatcher** and 40 **Sand Martins** were present on 18th June and an unseasonal **Coal Tit** was found on 19th June (with subsequent records on three more dates towards the end of the month).

A recently fledged **Tawny Owl**, still with some down on the 21st indicated local breeding and not necessarily from the Mill Farm nest site. A **Meadow Pipit**, which flew north-west on the 23rd was an unusual mid-summer record but then another flew south on the 25th. 11 **Sand Martins** flew south and three **Siskins** flew north on 26th June, the latter are rare here in summer and six **Siskins** were present on the 29th. A juvenile male **Peregrine** was seen on the 30th when the first **Common Sandpiper** and **Grey Wagtail** of the autumn were also recorded along with 40 **Sand Martins**, a singing **Lesser Whitethroat** and four more **Siskins**, which flew south.

Mark Beavers.