

BIRD NEWS FROM CARR VALE NATURE RESERVE
AND SURROUNDING AREA

OCTOBER 2011

Our daily visits continued unabated producing a total of 93 species for the month and two new for the year taking the year list to 144. Unfortunately, due to the Scilly season visible migration watches were only carried out on the first five days of the month and again from the 23rd. It remained very mild and the lowest water levels for years persisted though the flashes still didn't attract many wader species. As in September shooting activity around the reserve had a negative impact on the wildfowl population and several injured and dead birds were noted during the month.

Peregrines were logged on 12 dates with a juvenile male and an adult female at least being noted. 20 **Cormorants** were seen on the 1st including parties of seven and eight that flew south. 59 **Sky Larks** were seen also noted on the 1st of which 19 flew west whilst the same day 15 **Swallows**, 124 **Meadow Pipits**, 18 **Siskins** and nine **Lesser Redpoll** flew south, the **Cetti's Warbler** was seen briefly and a late **Reed Warbler** was found on the Peter Fidler Reserve. Four **Grey Lag Geese** flew south and a male **Pochard** was present on the 2nd the latter remaining until the 3rd whilst visible migration on the 2nd included 31 **Sky Larks** south-east with nine south-west, 78 **Meadow Pipits** and 18 **Siskins** south. 18 **Sky Larks** and 13 **Pied Wagtails** flew south-west on the 3rd when three **Chiffchaffs** could still be found and a **Brambling** flew south. 27 **Sky Larks** flew south-west and 408 **Meadow Pipits** flew south on the 4th on which date the **Cetti's Warbler** was heard calling and a **Sedge Warbler**, that was first seen on the 2nd, was seen for the last time, becoming the latest ever for the site. On the 5th a female **Merlin** flew over the mound, another 68 **Meadow Pipits** flew south, this being the last notable movement for this species and a **Common Crossbill** was heard calling as it flew west whilst on the 7th 20 **Red-legged Partridges** were counted and a flock of 100 **Linnets** represented a good count. 20 **Lesser Redpoll** flew south on the 8th, a **Grey Lag Goose** was present on the 9th when the female **Merlin** was seen again, a **Dunlin** put in a rare 2011 appearance, a flock of 50 **Fieldfares** was reported and 32 **Redwings** flew south.

A **Barn Owl** was seen on the 12th, whilst on the 13th 230 **Pink-footed Geese** flew west, 23 **Sky Larks** flew south, 520 **Fieldfares** together with 549 **Redwings** flew south-west and a **Brambling** flew south. Two **Peregrines** were seen on the 14th when there was a good count of 750 **Black-headed Gulls**, 14 late **Swallows** were still in the area, 437 **Fieldfares** and 584 **Redwings** flew south-west and five **Tree Sparrows** were near Mill Farm. 120 **Pink-footed Geese** flew east, a **Rock Pipit** flew north and 12 **Lesser Redpoll** flew south on the 15th whilst on the 16th 270 **Golden Plover** were present and the last **Swallow** of the year was seen. The highest count of **Gadwall** was 62 on the 17th and a male **Pochard** was seen on the 18th when 53 **Pied Wagtails** were counted flying north at dusk. 350 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were loafing in fields to the west of the reserve on the 19th and a **Yellow-legged Gull** was found amongst them the following day whilst the last **Chiffchaff** of the summer was also seen on the 19th when there was a notable count of 50 **Carrion Crows**.

Five **Whooper Swans** flew north on the 21st and 60 **Stock Doves** were present in the area the same day when 90 **Redwings** flew south. 100 **Pink-footed Geese** flew west on the 23rd but the bird of the day was a female **Hen Harrier** that frustrated a couple of the regulars by appearing in between their visits. A **Redshank**, that is probably only the 6th October record, was also present on the 23rd and it remained until the 27th whilst a late evening visit produced another **Barn Owl** sighting. Rounding off a good day on the 23rd a **Rock Pipit** flew south-east, 250 **Fieldfares** flew south-west

and a **Brambling** flew south. An adult **Whooper Swan** arrived from the north on the 24th on which date 44 **Teal** were counted, two **Peregrines** were seen over the reserve, 60 **Stock Doves** were still present and 200 **Fieldfares** flew west. One or two **Water Rails** were present on the 25th as was another **Rock Pipit** and 28 **Siskins** flew south. **Wigeon** peaked at 75, **Grey Partridge** reached 19 and a late female **Blackcap** was found on the 26th when another **Brambling** and 13 **Lesser Redpoll** flew south. Two **Water Rails** were heard on the 27th when a **Jack Snipe** was flushed by the sheep, 18 **Sky Larks** flew east, the latest ever **House Martin** was recorded and the **Cetti's Warbler** confirmed its continued presence by calling occasionally. 200 **Pink-footed Geese** flew east, 145 **Fieldfares** flew south-west, the **Cetti's Warbler** called again briefly on the 28th when three **Tree Sparrows** were at the Mill Farm feeding station and 28 **Reed Buntings** roosted. 19 **Grey Partridge** were also seen on the 29th when another 150 **Fieldfare** and 150 **Redwings** flew west and then on the 30th eight **Pink-footed Geese** arrived from the east, landed briefly but then carried on west, a female **Goosander** flew north, a juvenile male **Merlin** flew over the mound and 170 **Fieldfare** flew south-west. Rounding off a good month 80 **Pink-footed Geese** flew east on the 31st when 25 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were down on the fields and 100 **Linnets** were seen.

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