

## **JULY 2010 BIRD NOTES**

### **Highlights: Wildfowl Broods and a Sanderling**

By the end of July, numbers of broods totalled: Little Grebe 1 (2 last year), Great Crested Grebe 8 (0), Mallard 20 (20), Tufted Duck 26 (20), Moorhen 7 (12) and Coot 12 (7). Maximum counts, excluding young, were 18 Little Grebe on the official WeBS count carried out on 25<sup>th</sup>, 36 Great Crested Grebe on 28<sup>th</sup>, 4 Heron on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 25 Mute Swan on 13<sup>th</sup> plus 4+5+3 cygnets, 273 Canada Geese on 13<sup>th</sup>, no Barnacle Geese this month, 2 Shelduck on 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 Gadwall on 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 Teal on 6<sup>th</sup>, 158 Mallard on 25<sup>th</sup>, 1 female Red-crested Pochard 19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 4 Pochard on 30<sup>th</sup>, 155 Tufted Duck on 25<sup>th</sup> and 422 Coot on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Raptors included 2 Buzzards on 14<sup>th</sup>, a Hobby chasing hirundines over east bank on 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 Peregrines on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Wader numbers were 4 Oystercatchers on 6<sup>th</sup>, 67 Lapwing on 28<sup>th</sup>, a Sanderling at the Wildlife Centre in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Dunlin on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and singles most days from 12<sup>th</sup>. Black-tailed Godwit were on passage with 5 on Stones Island on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 flew through early on 12<sup>th</sup>, 1 was on Stones Island on 27<sup>th</sup> and 3 flew through southwards on 28<sup>th</sup>. A late Redshank chick showed on Flat Island with 1 adult on 13<sup>th</sup> and was last recorded on Sheepwash Spit on 24<sup>th</sup>. Common Sandpipers were also passing through with 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> and at least 6 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

Black-headed Gull young were well in evidence with flighted young seen on many shorelines, but surprise was in order when an adult pair marched 3 downy chicks from Flat Island, along the front of Sheepwash and were on Horseshoe Island less than 2 hours later. A pair on the raft by Paul Stanley Hide showed their second brood of at least 1 chick on 26<sup>th</sup>. Some Lesser Black-backed Gulls were visiting site, with 12 on 27<sup>th</sup>, but there is no noticeable gull roost yet. An adult Yellow-legged Gull was on site from 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 from 21<sup>st</sup>. One of the Yellow-legged Gulls was seen swallowing a Tufted Duck chick whole on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The pair of Common Terns breeding on Flat Island moved their 2 flighted young onto Watersports pontoon on 7<sup>th</sup> and they were last seen on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three Arctic Terns flew through southeast on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Three Stock Doves were high over the water on 28<sup>th</sup> and a Kingfisher returned from 25<sup>th</sup>, hopefully after successfully breeding elsewhere. Corvids were showing well on 27<sup>th</sup> with 18 Magpie, 150 Jackdaw, 9 Rook and 4 Raven, all noted during the day. The Wildlife feeder table held 19 Tree Sparrows on 26<sup>th</sup> and 7 Linnet were on Stones Island on 6<sup>th</sup>.

91 Species were recorded this month compared with 95 in July 2009, 97 in 2008, 94 in 2007, 94 in 2006, 97 in 2005 and 102 in 2004.