

JUNE 2010 BIRD NOTES

June Highlights:

Hobby, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank and Pied Flycatcher.

No Little Grebe young yet, but 5 broods of Great Crested Grebe by the end of the month is an improvement on the past few years. Mute Swans had broods of 5 and 4 by 22nd. Barnacle Geese have failed on Horseshoe and Sailing Club Island and the birds have left site. Mallard broods totalled 9 by 30th compared with 13 and 15 in the past two years and no broods of Tufted Duck yet, always a late breeder on this site. Moorhen showed 3 broods by 23rd and Coot 6 broods by 24th, which compares reasonably with the past few years' performance. The WeBS count on 22nd included 27 Great Crested Grebe, 6 Heron, 504 Canada Geese, 1 Teal, 87 Mallard, 177 Tufted and 195 Coot. Other wildfowl sightings were a Pink-footed Goose with Canadas on 17th and a Shelduck on 14th.

A Hobby was noted over Stones Island on 17th and Fishtail Creek on 27th. There were probably 8 pairs of Oystercatchers present, based on Big Island, Flat Is/Sheepwash Spit, Shiningford Is, Horseshoe Is, Watersports Is, Sailing Club Is, Fishtail Creek and Millfields Is and 4 pairs successfully reached young stage. Other waders recorded include a Dunlin on Flat Island on 9th, a surprisingly early Snipe flushed by a balloon on 30th, a Black-tailed Godwit at the Wildlife Centre on 26th and a Spotted Redshank on 22nd. This Spotted Redshank was seen at Millfields during the WeBS count at 0600hrs and then flew west. It is 5 years since the last record and several others were reported in the Midlands and North on the same day.

11 young Black-headed Gulls could be seen from the Wildlife Centre on 6th. On 8th, there were 5 nests with young, 3 others probably on eggs and the only nest on Horseshoe Island had failed. The pair on the raft by Paul Stanley Hide had 3 young and another 2 or 3 pairs had nests on Flat Island, also on 8th. By 26th there were 4 big young/juveniles on Flat Island, at least 1 of which was well flighted. During thunderstorms on 6th there were a further 14 Common Terns on site, obviously taking refuge.

Two Little Owls were seen in fields near Fishtail on 25th and 2 separate groups of young Tawny Owls were noted on 18th and 25th. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were feeding at least 3 young in a hole in a tree in Middle Wood on 4th and 2 family parties were seen on 18th. A Swallow pair was feeding young in the Stone Barn on 4th, another pair was around the draw-off tower and House Martins have at least 24 active nests around the Visitor Centre. Juvenile Pied Wagtails were on Stones Island and Flat Island on 9th, a Sedge Warbler was singing at the ponds in Tail Bay on 15th and a Reed Warbler singing at Hopton Pond on 9th and Hopton Arm Reedbed on 22nd. A Spotted Flycatcher was in the woodland strip north of Hall Wood on 9th and 2 in Tail Bay on 15th. The lonely Pied Flycatcher was again singing in Warrington Knob on 4th but no sign later in the month. A pair of Great Tit was feeding young in the unmarked bird box among the display of bird boxes by the Wildlife Centre on 4th and many other dates. They obviously failed to notice the box marked Great Tit. Two family parties of Nuthatch were noted on 28th, a family party of Willow Tit on 30th, 25 House Sparrows, including this year's young, were around the Visitor Centre on 28th and 12 Tree Sparrows including young, were on the Wildlife Centre feeders on 18th.

87 Species this month compared with 93 in June 2009, 91 in 2008, 93 in 2007, 89 in 2006 and 84 in 2003. The low number is mainly due to few passage species calling in during a calm hot month.