

INSECTS AT CARR VALE IN 2000

This section of the report is concerned only with Dragonflies, Damselflies and Butterflies recorded within the Carr Vale area. The records are drawn from casual observations by M A Beevers, D Came, S Came and A Irons.

The first butterflies of the year were single **Brimstones** on 11th, 12th and 18th March, followed by a **Comma** on the 20th and a **Small Tortoiseshell** on the 25th. The first three **Peacocks** were seen on 6th April, with a **Comma** on the 7th and two on the 8th. The next date that any butterflies were recorded was 19th April when amongst others the first two **Orangetips** were seen along with another **Brimstone**. During May the only notable sightings were of single **Comma's** on the 7th and 11th, with the first **Wall Brown's** on the latter date. The first **Speckled Wood** of the year appeared on 4th June with another on the 10th on which date the first **Common Blue** was seen, followed by the first **Small Copper** on the 12th and the first **Red Admiral** on the 17th, when at least six **Speckled Woods** were seen. The most notable species was a **Painted Lady** on 19th June. Little of note was seen during July although **Comma's** were recorded on four dates with a maximum of three on the 29th. August was a better month with single **Comma's** on seven dates and four on the 5th with a **Brimstone** the following day. Good numbers of **Red Admirals**, **Common Blues** and **Speckled Woods** were noted with single **Painted Ladies** on five dates between the 19th and 25th. The highlights of the month however were single **Clouded Yellow's** on the 27th and 30th. Two more **Clouded Yellows** were seen on 23rd September but no other notable records were forthcoming. Then in October single **Comma's** were seen on the 1st and 31st, whilst the last **Small Tortoiseshell's** were two on the 23rd.

Suitable days for dragon-flying were few and far between and indeed the first for the year were not seen until 10th June when **Red-eyed Damsels** were reported along with **Blue-tailed** and **Common Blue Damsels**. **Red-eyed Damsel** had only been reported once before (in 1998) so this report merited following up. On 12th June at least 14 were counted around the Vale Angling fishing pond, including several pairs mating and up to six were seen daily between the 17th and 19th. This period was productive for other species with up to six **Large Red Damsels** (on the 18th), one **Banded Demoiselle** (on the 18th), one or two **Emperors** (daily), four male **Broad-bodied Chasers** (on the 17th), six plus **Four-spotted Chasers** (on the 18th) and the first **Common Darter** of the year (on the 18th). On the 28th a **Red-eyed Damsel** was noted along with a record count of c12 **Emperors**, six **Four-spotted Chasers** and the first **Black-tailed Skimmer** of the year. Two **Black-tailed Skimmers** were seen on 17th July (with singles on two other dates), the first **Brown Hawker** was seen the following day with at least four **Emperors** still present on the 19th. On 26th June one **Southern** and three **Brown Hawkets** were recorded along with six **Emperors** and a **Black-tailed Skimmer**. All the usual species were still about during August although a **Banded Demoiselle** on the 5th was only the second for the year and

the first **Migrant Hawker** was noted on the 21st. This species was seen regularly during September and October, as were **Common Darters** with the last date for both being 23rd October.