

INSECTS AT CARR VALE IN 2001

This section of the report is concerned only with Dragonflies, Damselflies and Butterflies recorded within the Carr Vale area. As usual the records are drawn from casual observations by M A Beevers, D Came, S Came and A Irons. The foot and mouth restrictions had an impact on the recording of these insects and as a result a number of early species normally recorded in the area were not seen this year. These included **Broad-bodied Chaser** and **Large Red Damsel** whilst another species noted later in the year, **Red-eyed Damsel**, was not looked for.

The only Butterfly recorded during March was a **Brimstone** early in the month (date not specified) and the first **Small Tortoiseshells** were noted on the late date of 21st April. Six **Small Tortoiseshells** and six **Peacocks** were on the wing on 30th April but these were the only species noted, a reflection both of the under-recording and cold spring. Two **Brimstones** were seen on 7th May with another on 26th May, two **Commas** were noted mid-month, the first **Wall Browns** appeared on 26th May and that recent colonist the **Speckled Wood** was noted from 7th May. June was a very unproductive month with no records of note but in July a single **Comma** was noted on 13th-14th with four on the 27th, the first **Red Admiral** of the year was noted on the 4th and **Speckled Woods** were recorded on four dates. A **Comma** was seen on 4th and 22nd August with two **Red Admirals** on the first date but little else of note was seen apart from two probable **Holly Blues** on the 25th, neither of which hung around long enough to allow positive identification. The only records during September concerned a **Red Admiral** on the 4th when two **Speckled Woods** were seen with five of the latter on the 9th. Two **Commas** were seen on 7th October (with one the following day) on which date a single **Red Admiral** and **Speckled Wood** were noted. A very poor year.

Dragonflies fared little better indeed the first record of the year wasn't until a **Blue-tailed Damsel** was seen on 14th June. Later that month at least one **Four-spotted Chaser** and two **Black-tailed Skimmers** were seen with another **Black-tailed- Skimmer** on the 26th and another **Four-spotted Chaser** on the 30th. Three **Brown Hawkers** were seen on 23rd July with one on the 29th. **Emperors** were first noted on 13th July with records on four more dates before the end of the month including five males and two females on the 23rd. **Black-tailed Skimmers** were seen on seven dates including four on 14th July and six on the 23rd on which date the first **Common Darter** of the year was seen. A single **Southern Hawker** was seen on 25th-26th August with three the following day when a single **Brown Hawker** and the first **Migrant Hawker** of the year were also seen, whilst another **Migrant Hawker** was seen on the 31st. An **Emperor** was seen on 5th August with a **Black-tailed Skimmer** on the 9th but thereafter no Dragonfly observations of note were made until October. A late **Southern Hawker** was noted on 8th October, **Migrant Hawkers** were seen on three dates until the 7th and six **Common Darters** were still on the wing on the 28th. Lastly

two **Common Darters** on 3rd November were a reflection of the exceedingly mild weather experienced during the late autumn.