

INSECTS AT CARR VALE IN 2002

This report is concerned with Dragonflies, Damselflies and Butterflies recorded within the Carr Vale area. As usual the records are drawn from casual observations by M A Beevers, R M Box D Came, S Came and A Irons. The weather had an impact on the recording of these insects and as a result a number of 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 first Butterflies of the year were single **Small Tortoiseshell's** and **Peacocks** on 27th March with records of both the following day and two **Small Tortoiseshells'** on 28th March. Then following a **Peacock** on 4th April the next records didn't come until 14th April when in addition to a **Peacock** the first **Orangetip**, **Large White** and **Speckled Wood** were seen. Another **Speckled Wood** was seen on 14th April and the first **Comma** and **Brimstone** were noted on 24th April. A **Brimstone** was seen on 2nd May with two on 11th May followed by the first **Wall** of the year on 19th May but generally butterflies were few and far between during May. Another **Brimstone** was seen on 1st June when the first **Common Blue** and **Small Coppers** were seen, a **Red Admiral** was seen on 14th June and the first **Small Skipper** appeared on 23rd June with the first **Meadow Brown** the following day. Single **Comma's** were seen on 14th, 25th and 30th July with the first **Gatekeeper** on 17th July. Then a **Comma** was seen on 4th August and a **Poplar Hawk Moth** was found on 10th August, possibly the first record for the site. Six **Speckled Woods** were seen on 4th September and two **Red Admirals** flew south on 11th September followed by two more the following day with singles on 18th and 20th September. The only **Painted Lady** of the year was seen on 18th September and single **Comma's** were recorded on 20th, 21st and 30th September with another **Poplar Hawk Moth** seen on the latter date. The fact that no butterflies were recorded after September is probably a reflection on under-recording, though it has to be said that 2002 was not a good year.

Dragonflies fared little better and the first records of the year were on 19th May when **Blue-tailed Damsel**, **Large Red Damsel** and two **Broad-bodied Chasers** were seen. The only other species during May was a **Common Blue Damselfly** on 27th May. Two **Four-spotted Chasers** were seen on 1st June with three on 4th June but the only other species of note was **Emperor** with three males on 24th June. The first **Southern Hawker** was seen on 11th July with another on 18th July. A female **Black-tailed Skimmer** was seen on 25th July and the first **Brown Hawker** of the year was noted on 27th July on which date two **Emperors** and the first **Common Darters** of the year were observed. The best day of the year was probably 3rd August when amongst the more common species there were two **Southern Hawkets**, four **Brown Hawkets**, two **Emperors** and a male **Black-tailed Skimmer**. Six **Brown Hawkets** were found on 16th August when another **Emperor** was seen and two **Migrant Hawkets** were located on 27th August. **Migrant Hawkets** were seen on seven dates during September along with fewer records of both **Brown** and **Southern Hawker** but otherwise there was little of note during the month and as with butterflies there were no records during October no doubt for the reason outlined in the previous paragraph.