

## INSECTS AT CARR VALE IN 1997.

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

The first Damselfly of the year was a **Blue-tailed Damsel** on 25th May, with **Common Blue** and **Large Red Damselflies** being recorded on 31st May, on which date a male **Broad-bodied Chaser** was seen. The **Broad bodied Chaser** was new for the site and it was seen again on 1st, 18th June and 6th July. 1st June also saw the first **Black-tailed Skimmer** of the year and up to seven males were noted during the summer with the last being seen on 20th August. A **Four-spotted Chaser** was present on 4th and 18th June whilst in July a male **Emperor** was seen on the colliery ponds on 7th and 21st July. The first **Southern Hawk** were three on 21st July with up to four present on many dates until 2nd September, whilst the first **Brown Hawker** was seen on 19th July. Dragonfly larva found by R Merritt on 1st June subsequently emerged as **Ruddy Darters** which was an addition to the areas list whilst the first in the wild was seen on 20th July. This species was later found in three sites around the recording area. Two **Migrant Hawk** were noted on 20th August with the last on 21st October but the last Dragonflies of the year were two **Common Darters** on 27th October. During the year 14 species were noted.

The first Butterflies of the year were **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Comma** all of which were encouraged to fly on 12th March. During the year 16 species were recorded but unlike last year **Painted Ladies** were very scarce with just a single on 17th September, conversely **Gatekeepers** were around in very good numbers. **Comma's** were found in four areas with a peak count of seven on 28th July and the last date for this species was 24th September when three were seen (also seen on this date was a **Brimstone**). During the middle of August there was a reasonable passage of **Small Tortoiseshells** moving west with 113 in 90 minutes on 19th August and a heavier passage the following day when sample counts indicated that they were moving west at a rate of 265/hour. Neither **Red Admirals** or **Peacocks** were involved in this movement.