

INSECTS AT CARR VALE IN 1999.

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 butterfly of the year was a **Small Tortoiseshell** on 28th March, with the next on the 1st April when a **Brimstone** was also recorded. The first **Peacock** appeared on 9th April followed closely by an **Orangetip** on the 11th. Two **Brimstones** were seen on 28th April and the only **Holly Blue** of the year was noted on 30th April. The first **Wall Brown** was on 18th May and another **Brimstone** was seen the following day, whilst **Small Coppers** were about from 27th May. Two **Commas** were seen on 5th July, then one to four were noted on a further eight July dates with yet another **Brimstone** seen on the 29th. Three **Commas** were seen on 1st August with singles on three more dates, then on 22nd August a **Speckled Wood** was seen. This would appear to be the first authenticated record for the site but one on the 28th and two on the 30th quickly followed it. This species became a regular sight during September with one to three noted on eight more occasions until the last on the 20th. This influx reflected events elsewhere in north-east Derbyshire and it would seem that there has been a range extension for the species. Hopefully this will continue. Another **Comma** was seen on 24th September and a late one was seen on 28th October. **Red Admirals** were quite scarce during the year but a late one flew south on 26th October, whilst Painted Ladies just didn't turn up. Finally another butterfly, thought to be a **Comma**, was seen on 2nd November. Belated news concerned a report of **Ringlet** in the recording area. The report came via R A Frost from an unknown observer who had submitted the record to the Derbyshire Entomological Society. At the time of writing I have no other details but obviously this is a species that we will have to look out for next year.

A **Blue-tailed Damsel** on 26th May was the first for the year with an **Emerald Damsel** appearing the following day and **Banded Demoiselle** present on 29th May on which date both **Broad-bodied Chaser** and **Four-spotted Chaser** were seen. Further **Four-spotted Chasers** were seen on 13th and 16th June and four to six **Black-tailed Skimmers** were noted on 18th June. One to three of this species were seen on a further three June dates. The bare earth surrounding the newly created flashes obviously suited the **Black-tailed Skimmers** because 10-14 were counted on 5th July and up to five were seen on nine more July dates. Two **Southern Hawkers** were seen on 5th July, a date that also saw three **Emperors** and two **Four-spotted Chasers**. Two of the **Emperors** were seen on 7th July and by the end of the month both **Southern** and **Brown Hawker** were being seen regularly, although the records of **Banded Demoiselle** and **Emerald Damsel** on the 24th were notable. Both **Brown** and **Southern Hawker** were regular during August and the first **Migrant Hawker** was seen on the 16th as was an **Emperor**. A **Banded Demoiselle** was seen on 23rd August but the next dragonfly records were not until the end of October when **Common Darter**,

Southern and **Migrant Hawker** were all still around. Amazingly a **Migrant Hawker** was seen on 2nd November and **Common Darters** were still about on 7th November.