

**REVIEW OF 'LOUGH CARRA' BOOK BY NATURE WRITER,
PETER MARREN, IN BRITISH WILDLIFE MAGAZINE
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Lough Carra

Chris & Lynda Huxley

Carra Books 2015

200pp, colour-illustrated

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£25 (hbk) + £2.80 UK delivery

Lough Carra seems to have everything. A large (1,560 ha), shallow marl lake in Ireland's wild west, it is full of bays, headlands and islets (a few of them artificial, ancient crannogs), while onshore it is surrounded by chunks of limestone pavement, wild woods with fine old limes and flowery old grassland. There are Red Squirrels, Pine Martens and Irish Hares, wildfowl, murmurations of Starlings, Cryptic Wood Whites and Transparent Burnets, not to mention the famous Carra trout. British naturalists heading straight for The Burren are missing out on the wild wonders north of Galway Bay. Chris and Lynda Huxley have done the place full justice in this lovely illustrated book, with a factual but very readable text that covers the lough's long history, traditional livelihoods, the full range of its wildlife, and the perennial problem of eutrophication from farm fertilisers. Lynda Huxley's photography is superb, and the general standard of colour printing and layout is top-notch. This book is a true labour of love.

Peter Marren