#### OGSTON BIRD NEWS JANUARY 2011 - 31 Days Covered-86 Species.

After the freeze abated slightly a Little Grebe was present on the only area of open water in Chapel Bay on 6th, (the first record since 23rd December 2010), Great Crested Grebe did not return until 17th, (the first record since 21st December 2010), Cormorant had a best count of thirty three birds on 20th and six was a maximum for Grey Heron as they began returning to the Heronry.

Greylag Geese were noted on at least seventeen dates with fifteen as a best count on 22nd, Pinkfooted Geese were noted on passage from 17th with over two thousand birds passing over and two birds taking up residence with the Canada flock from 27th, five Whooper Swan were present for a short period on 29th, single juvenile Mute Swan on 29th.

Teal (maximum ninety one on 10th), Mallard (two hundred and fifty seven on 4th), Pochard (eight on 12th), Tufted Duck (sixty six on 22nd), Pintail (two briefly on 30th), Goldeneye (eight on both 15th and 16th), Goosander (twelve on 30th) were all noted during the month.

Common Buzzard was noted on at least seventeen dates with six birds a best count on 9th and birds displaying on 17th (one) and 19th (two), Sparrowhawk was recorded on fifteen dates with a maximum of three birds on 12th, eleven records of Kestrel and three single Peregrine records.

Grey Partridge was heard near Lodge Cottage on 26th, five Oystercatchers flew straight through on 14th, five Golden Plover moved through on 2nd, Lapwing was noted on almost a daily basis with a maximum of three hundred and ninety five on 24th, three Dunlin records, singles on 20th and 21st and two birds on 19th, six Woodcock records with four birds noted on 9th, eleven Common Snipe records with five birds on 9th and single Curlew through on both 2nd and 13th.

Single Kingfisher was recorded on 24th, Green Woodpecker (heard, Crow Lane) on 21st, Skylark on four dates, two Waxwing records, twenty four on 3rd and eleven on 9th. A candidate for bird of the month for some people was Dipper, rarely recorded at Ogston, so two birds seen on the Lower Amber on 12th were a very welcome find, singles were also noted on 23rd and 25th.

Seven Raven records with two birds on both 3rd and 23rd, six Tree Sparrow records with sixteen birds on 2nd, at least seventeen Brambling records with five as a best count on 16th and a female on the Hide Feeders on eight dates, Linnet noted on nineteen dates with circa two hundred as a maximum on both 21st and 25th, five Common (Mealy) Redpoll records with four birds on both 16th and 29th (on feeders to the rear of the dam wall) and the Drake Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid seen on four dates.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS FEBRUARY 2011 - 28 Days Covered-87 Species.

A maximum of three Little Grebe on 17th, Great Crested Grebe had six birds on both 1st and 17th, Cormorant reached thirty seven on 21st and Grey Heron had twenty five birds noted on both 12th and 17th. Seven records of Pink-footed Geese with a best count of seventy seven birds through on 10th, Greylag Geese were noted on at least twelve dates with ten birds as a best count on 12th whilst maximum for Canada Geese was twenty eight on 7th.

Three Shelduck were new on 11th as were the pair of Shoveler on same date, Teal had a best of fifty on 15th, Wigeon just four birds on 14th, circa one hundred Mallard on 1st, eight Pochard records with eight birds as a best count on 6th, Tufted Duck had fifty plus noted on 4th, Goldeneye were present for the whole month with seventeen birds on 6th and Goosander was noted on at least ten dates with seven birds on both 11th and 22nd.

Common Buzzard was recorded on at least fourteen dates with eight birds in the air together on 11th, Sparrowhawk was noted on ten dates with four birds on 11th, Kestrel had just six records with two birds on 1st and two Peregrine noted on both 4th and 14th and probably on 25th.

Six wader species were recorded, Oystercatcher on fourteen dates with three birds a best count both 25th and 28th (first bird noted on 12th), Ringed Plover on at least eighteen dates with four birds as a maximum on both 24th and 25th (first bird noted on 8th), resident Lapwing flock had a count of two hundred and seventy seven birds on 21st, six Dunlin records with three birds on both 14th and 15th, Common Snipe on just two dates with five birds on 6th and Curlew on eleven dates with seven birds as a maximum on 22nd.

The gull roost continues to be a huge disappointment, Ogston has deteriorated from being one of the premier sites in the country to bottom of the league, although there has been two species of note. An adult Mediterranean Gull was present on 6th and two adult Little Gull were on site from mid afternoon on 19th until mid morning on 20th before flying south.

Other birds worthy of a mention were three Waxwings on 3rd seven more on 12th, Dipper on both 6th and 11th both single birds, Raven on five dates with two birds on 8th, single Tree Sparrow on 12th, Brambling on at least fourteen dates with a maximum of five birds on 15th and a very regular female visitor to the feeding station at the hide. Common (Mealy) Redpoll was recorded on three dates with three birds on 11th, Lesser Redpoll on nine dates with eight birds on both 12th and 21st and the male Pochard x Tufted Duck on both 3rd and 4th.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS MARCH 2011 - 31 Days Covered-98 Species.

There were at least seven records of two juvenile Mute Swan also an adult on 8th, fifteen records of Greylag Geese with a maximum of twenty birds on both 22nd and 26th, Mandarin Duck was noted on at least nineteen days with eight as a best count on 22nd, eight Shoveler on 12th and four on 26th and Goldeneye on twenty one dates with nine birds on 20th. Little Grebe noted on six dates, Great crested Grebe on at least fifteen days with a best count of twenty four on both 9th and 10th, Cormorant had a maximum of twenty nine on 1st but diminished to just nine birds at month end and Grey Heron had a best count of twenty eight birds on 4th with twelve birds on nests during month.

Both Osprey and Red Kite made an appearance on 28th, Peregrine was noted on six dates and a single Merlin was observed on 16th (not recorded during 2010).

Ten wader species were recorded with single Golden Plover on15th present in front of the public hide in thick fog, single Grey Plover 30th which was in front of members hide and flew off at 09.15 hours, Oystercatcher on at least twenty eight days with four birds on 12th, Ringed Plover on twenty seven dates (4), Little-ringed Plover sixteen dates (ten), circa one hundred and fifty Lapwing on 4th, seven Dunlin records, Common Snipe on at least seventeen days with a best of ten birds on 24th, ten Redshank records and fifteen Curlew records with twelve birds on 6th.

Although the gull roost did not really materialise three birds of note did make an appearance, these were an adult Kittiwake on 13th (incredibably an adult bird was also present on same date in 2010), a 1st winter Yellow-legged Gull on 4th and finally a superb adult Iceland Gull was present late evening on 6th and still on site very early on 7th.

Summer migrants began to arrive from 12th with three Sand Martin (17th in 2010), single Chiffchaff same date (20th in 2010), single Barn Swallow on 26th (22nd in 2010), single House Martin on 21st (30th in 2010), Blackcap on 27th (during Breeding bird survey), a female was noted on 14th in 2010. First Wheatear was recorded on 18th, although the bird was not present on site it was still within the recording area, another single was in front of the members hide early on 24th.

A Rock Pipit was heard calling as it flew over the reservoir early on 27th; it was both seen and heard during the afternoon on 28th.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS APRIL 2011

No Report.

#### OGSTON BIRD NEWS MAY 2011 - 106 Species.

A major month for wader passage at Ogston with sixteen different species recorded during the month. Oystercatcher was first on the list with a maximum of eight birds on 30th, Little ringed Plover noted on almost a daily basis with a best count of eighteen on 8th, Ringed Plover well represented with up to twenty five birds on 18th, single Grey Plover in superb summer plumage was present for most of 5th, Lapwing with up to eighteen birds 9th, three Turnstone in the afternoon of the 18th were a welcome addition to the year list, the ten Sanderling noted on 18th is a new site record (previous best was six birds), Dunlin recorded almost daily with seven birds on 29th, three single Green Sandpipers, Common Sandpiper on at least eight dates with more than six birds 7th, two singles of both Redshank and Greenshank, Common Snipe on three dates, Bar-tailed Godwit on three dates, four Curlew on 24th and twenty one Whimbrel on 1st.

Eight raptor species have been recorded including another addition to the year list that of a 2nd calendar year male Hen Harrier which flew north west on 7th, Osprey noted on two dates, Red Kite on two dates with probably two different birds on 22nd, five Common Buzzard on 11th, three Sparrowhawk on 10th, single Kestrel, four single records of Peregrine and Hobby noted on at least seven dates.

Seven Barnacle Geese on 8th were another welcome addition to the year list, single Pink-footed Goose was present on 1st, and up to eighteen Greylag Geese were recorded with six goslings noted on at least four dates, there were four records of Mandarin Duck with three males on 9th. A Sacred Ibis was present on site on 16th; although the bird was considered to be an escape it must have been a great surprise to all who were able to see it. Yet another addition to the year list occurred on 19th when a Spoonbill arrived from the north at 11.25 am and proceeded to drift slowly south west at 11.35 (the only other record of this species was 9th November 1969).

### Ogstons First Purple Heron

A first summer Purple Heron arrived from the north at 10.40 hours on 8th and landed in a tree by the dam wall where it remained until being disturbed by boats and left north east at 12.20 hours. Without a doubt the bird of the year so far and it must have given the observers present a great start to the day.

Other species recorded during the month were Common, Arctic and Black Tern, Spotted Flycatcher, Wheatear, Reed Warbler, Raven and Cuckoo; a "flava" Wagtail thought to be Grey-headed flew through on 17th.

Juvenile birds which have been recorded so far are: Greylag Goose, Mallard, Moorhen, Coot, Little-ringed and Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Tawny Owl and many Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch and Treecreeper.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS JUNE 2011 - 28 Days Covered-98 Species

Two juvenile Mute Swan have been present again all month, Greylag Geese had a best count of twenty six on 8th which included the six young, one hundred and eleven Canada Geese were on site same date and included two juveniles, single male Teal on both 18th and 30th, female Mandarin Duck have been seen with young (three) on at least four dates.

Seven juvenile Mallard were seen on 19th, three male Gadwall on 20th with a single on both 24th and 25th, two male Pochard on 22nd and four birds circled the reservoir on 28th before leaving south-south east and eighty two Tufted Duck were noted on 30th.

A single Little Egret which was observed early morning on 1st was a very welcome addition to the year list.

Osprey was recorded on 14th/21st/24th and 25th, Red Kite on 5th, Common Buzzard on at least seven dates with nine birds on 4th, single Sparrowhawk on five dates, Kestrel on nine dates with two birds on both 8th and 11th, eleven Hobby records with three birds a maximum on 7th and two single records of Peregrine.

There were eleven species of wader recorded during the month which included a count of forty three Little-ringed Plover on 11th, at least twelve records of Ringed Plover with four juveniles on 8th, single Turnstone on 4th, single Dunlin on 11th, single Common Sandpiper on three dates, Redshank on 20th and 24th, five Curlew records with four birds on 25th and a Whimbrel on 24th.

A candidate for bird of the month had to be a Wood Sandpiper which was present in Chapel Bay for a few minutes only on 22nd; this was Ogston's first record since 2002, second candidate was another Red-rumped Swallow (second this year) which was seen on 7th.

Sixty seven B.H.Gull moved south on 27th, single Common Gull on 11th and an adult and a 1st summer on 27th, two Herring Gull south on 12th, single L.B.B.Gull on 9th also present same date was a Yellow-legged Gull. Common Tern noted on ten dates with three birds on 12, Arctic Tern was seen on just three dates all singles and a 1st summer Mediterranean Gull seen on 3rd added a little more interest.

Cuckoo was recorded on 8th/10th/23rd and 27th, single Little Owl on 24th, the two juvenile Tawny Owl were recorded on at least seven dates with an adult bird two of the dates, three single Kingfisher records, G.S.Woodpecker with young on six dates (four on 11th), circa forty five Sand Martin east on 28th, single Redstart were present on both 20th and 27th and were the first record of the year. Three records of Crossbill male on 16th, female on 23rd and five birds on 25th. Whilst all common warblers have been recorded during the month there has been a vast decline in Lesser Whitethroat records with a only single birds in both April and May.

## OGSTON BIRD NEWS JULY 2011 - 30 Days Covered-75 Species.

Little Grebe was noted on three dates with two birds on 14th, Great Crested Grebe on four dates with eight birds on 21st, twenty five was the maximum for Cormorant on 12th, single Little Egret on 5th, Mute Swan on four dates with four birds on 5thsix records of Greylag Geese with the six juveniles still present at month end.

Shelduck (two) on 4th, Shoveler (four) on 8th, Wigeon (five) on 7th, Teal five records with eight birds as a best count on 8th, five records of Mandarin Duck with nine birds on 11th, one female Gadwall on 30th, three Pochard on 12th and seven records of Tufted Duck with a maximum of one hundred and thirty on both 7th and 8th.

Single Osprey on 6th, five Common Buzzard records with six birds on 1st, female Sparrowhawk noted on 22nd and 29th, three single records of Kestrel, two of Hobby (5th and 13th) and a juvenile Peregrine on 11th and 14th.

Just seven wader species were noted: eight records of Little Ringed Plover with five juveniles on 10th, Ringed Plover on four dates with three birds on both 1st and 2nd, five Lapwing records with juveniles on three dates, single Green Sandpiper on 5th, Common Sandpiper on twelve dates with circa ten on 7th, Redshank noted on two dates with two birds on 7th and single adult Greenshank also on 7th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were two Raven on 5th, four records of Siskin with a best count of circa forty on 10th; single Crossbill on 7th and ten juveniles on 14th and the presumed escaped Sacred Ibis on 18th.

#### OGSTON BIRD NEW AUGUST 2011 - 27 Days Covered-90 Species.

A very welcome addition to the year list occurred on14th when a juvenile Black-necked Grebe was found. Little Grebe was noted on two dates with two birds on 31st, Great Crested Grebe had records on five dates with three birds on 24th and a juvenile bird on 27th. Mute Swan was noted on three dates- two birds on each occasion, single Shoveler on 29th, nine Teal on 28th and Mandarin Duck on five dates.

Single Marsh Harrier passed through on 23rd, just two Common Buzzard records, seven Sparrowhawk records (all singles), just two records of Kestrel, single on 27th with two birds together on 31st, Merlin on 28th, Hobby on seven dates with four+ birds noted on 28th and five Peregrine records with two birds seen on 29th.

Single juvenile Little-ringed Plover on 29th, single Ringed Plover on 27th and three birds north west on 30th, twenty Lapwing on 28th, two Green Sandpiper on 4th, single Common Sandpiper on both 25th and 27th and a high count of sixteen Curlew north west on 14th.

Common Tern had records on at least eleven days with three juveniles on 4th and a maximum count of eight birds on 26th, two Arctic Tern on 15th and four juvenile Black Tern on 27th with two juveniles present on 28th/29th/30th and 31st.

Single Tree Pipit through on both 20th and 22nd, five Yellow Wagtail records with four birds on both 20th and 23rd, Grasshopper Warbler was present on two dates (25th and 28th), Garden, Sedge and Reed Warbler were all noted together with Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat (singles on at least four dates), Whitethroat (four birds on 5th) and Spotted Flycatcher on at least seven occasions.

Single Raven on 14th with two birds noted on 27th and 28th, Tree Sparrow on hide tick list as was Siskin, circa five hundred Linnet on 20th, two hundred and twenty plus Goldfinch on 30th.

An escaped Cape Shelduck was present on 30th and a "luecistic" Barn Swallow was noted on 26th/27th and 30th.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS SEPTEMBER 2011 - 25 Days Covered-91 Species.

Little Grebe noted on three dates with six birds on 10th, Great Crested Grebe on four dates with twelve on 5th and two juveniles on 4th, Cormorant peaked at thirty two on 10th and Grey Heron had a best count of twenty four on 10th. There were five records of Greylag Geese with fourteen birds on three of the dates, just one record of Canada Geese with eighteen + on 15th.

Shelduck was noted on two dates with five birds on 25th, Shoveler on four (five on 16th), Teal on three dates (thirty one on 6th), Mandarin Duck on two (two birds on 3rd and 4th), Wigeon on three dates (twelve birds on 17th), two hundred and ninety eight Mallard on 3rd, single Gadwall on three dates, two Pintail on 24th and a very welcome addition to the year list when a Red-breasted Merganser was recorded on 24th.

Single Osprey was present on both 5th and 21st, there were at least nine sightings of Common Buzzard with six birds on both 18th and 27th, single records of Sparrowhawk on five dates, Kestrel was noted on eight days (all singles), seven Hobby sightings with three birds on 2nd and two Peregrine on 3rd.

Two Grey Partridge were diary entries on 15th (male and female), twelve Coot on 30th was the only record, and Pheasant, Green Woodpecker and Tawny Owl were all on hide tick list. Three Ringed Plover records with eight birds on 16th, two records of Lapwing with circa one hundred birds on 26th, three Dunlin records with five birds on two dates, single Common Snipe noted on 30th, single Common Sandpiper on four dates and single Greenshank on 15th.

Common Tern was recorded on five dates with three juveniles on 5th and a single juvenile Black Tern was noted on 16th.

Year list additions apart from the Red-breasted Merganser were: Lesser Spotted Woodpecker seen in the North car park on 16th and Stonechat with a single bird on 19th and two birds on 20th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were: Fieldfare (single bird on church steeple on 25th), single Lesser Whitethroat on three dates (seen last on 6th) Spotted Flycatcher 15th and 17th, five Lesser Redpoll on 24th and circa twenty Siskin on same date.

# OGSTON BIRD NEWS OCTOBER 2011 - 28 Days Covered-90 Species.

There were three records of Mute Swan each of two birds, three records of Whooper Swan with an adult on 8th, four birds on 9th and six birds on 13th, two records of Pink-footed Goose with two birds on 12th and circa one hundred and ten on 13th.

Seven records of Teal with eighty four birds on 26th, single Mandarin Duck on both 9th and 16th, six records of Wigeon with five birds together on 16th, single female Pintail noted on six dates, female Shoveler on both 19th and 20th, Pochard observed on three dates with six birds on 29th, five records of Tufted Duck with ten birds on 6th.A female Goldeneye was present on14th and three records of Goosander with three birds on 20th.

Two additions to the year list were a Brent Goose on 17th and a female Common Scoter on 11th and 12th.

Red Kites were recorded on both 20th and 23rd, single Osprey on 17th, four records of Common Buzzard with three birds on two dates, single Sparrowhawks (both male and female) on at least twelve dates, Kestrel on eight dates, single Hobby on 1st and Peregrine on 7th and 15th.

Seven species of wader were recorded with Golden Plover on three dates seven birds east on 23rd,up to eighty Lapwing noted, two Dunlin on 26th and singles on 27th and 29th, eight Common Snipe records with circa thirty two birds on 9th, single Redshank on 13th and two Curlew south on 14th and a single on 18th.

A juvenile/1st winter Little Gull was present from 09.15-09.25 hours on 29th, a second winter Kittiwake was recorded on 8th, an adult Yellow-legged Gull(27th) and a 3rd winter bird on (29th) also of interest was an adult Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid recorded on 27th.

Sixty Skylark were noted on 9th (south/south west) and a further one hundred and two birds moved south on 13th, five records of Rock Pipit with two birds on 16th, Whinchat on four dates (all singles), a female Stonechat on 26th (There was also an unconfirmed report of a male on same date), four Fieldfare records with a best count of three hundred and eighty one on 14th moving west/south west, a massive one thousand and sixty Redwing were counted on same date also moving west south west, a female Blackcap was noted on four dates, Chiffchaff on at least five occasions with three birds on both 4th and 5th, three Raven records with a best count of four birds on 29th, single Brambling noted on 13th and 29th, two records of Lesser Redpoll with circa forty birds on 24th and circa 30 birds on 25th and two Crossbill records, one of six birds on 6th and eight birds south west on 16th.

#### OGSTON BIRD NEWS NOVEMBER 2011 - 30- Days Covered 86 Species.

Little Grebe had a best count of six birds on 3rd, Great Crested Grebe had eighteen birds on 22nd, maximum for Cormorant was the ninety one birds counted on 28th, Grey Heron had a best of seven on 8th, two Mute Swan were present on at least seven dates, thirty seven Whooper Swan on 5th must have been a great sight, likewise circa two hundred Pink-footed Geese on 6th whilst a further circa one hundred and fifty birds moved south east on 18th, there were at least six Greylag Geese records with five as a best count on three dates.

Teal numbers were at one hundred and thirty on 4th, Wigeon had a bet count of just five birds on 25th, just four Gadwall records with three birds on 8th/13th and 14th, two Shoveler records with three birds on 22nd, seven birds on 23rd was the best count for Pochard, fifty six Tufted Duck were noted on 13th, thirteen Goldeneye on 13th is the highest so far and single Goosander on five dates. A Red-breasted Merganser (redhead) was an excellent record on 12th.

A single Common Buzzard was noted on 23rd, a male and two female Sparrowhawk were diary entries on 2nd, an adult Peregrine on 1st, 16th and 24th, and single Kestrel on at least seven dates.

An excellent run of Golden Plover records both overhead and on the ground, maximum being one hundred and one birds on 15th, Lapwing had a best of circa one thousand birds on 15th, at least twelve Dunlin records with five together on 8th, a very welcome addition to the year list was a Jack Snipe seen on 11th (no details given) and four Common Snipe on 19th in Chapel Bay.

A very notable high count of eleven thousand one hundred and forty Woodpigeon on 6th totally eclipsed the former site record of five thousand plus.

Chiffchaff were noted (all singles) on at least eight dates, single male Blackcap on 2nd and 13th and there was a report in Derbyshire Times of Barn Swallows passing through on the very late date of 9th November, the details were sent by Chesterfield branch of RSPB.

Candidates for bird of the month were the two Water Pipits seen feeding near the Yacht Club with Meadow Pipits, single Great Northern Diver on 30th

Two Dipper were recorded on the River Amber at Milltown Inlet on 12th and a single bird on 23rd, seven Waxwings south on 21st was an excellent record and a single Common (Mealy) Redpoll on both 19th and 23rd.

#### OGSTON BIRD NEWS DECEMBER 2011 - 30 Days Covered-79 Species.

The Great Northern Diver which was present on 30th November stayed around until 1st December, a single Little Egret dropped in late on 22nd and stayed until dusk but was not seen on 23rd, there were at least seven records of Pink-footed Geese- fly throughs or on the ground including circa five hundred birds west on 30th, Greylag Geese were present on eighteen dates with a maximum of twenty one on 22nd and a single juvenile Mute Swan came in at dusk on 23rd.

Teal were noted on eight dates with sixty eight birds as a best count on 11th, Wigeon noted on nineteen dates with a maximum of thirty seven birds on 22nd (a drake American Wigeon hybrid was noted on 22nd and 23rd), single male Mandarin Duck on 27th, five Pintail on 6th, two Pochard on 6th and 7th, a maximum of ten Tufted Duck on 25th, Goldeneye on twelve dates with a best count of six on both 13th and 21st and two Goosander on 16th and three on 22nd.

Three Common Buzzard records with singles on two dates and two birds on 30th, four single Sparrowhawk records, seven single Kestrel records with two birds on 25th and single Peregrine on two dates.

A very welcome addition to the year list was a single Knot which was present briefly on 15th, the Lapwing flock had counts of a thousand birds on at least two dates (12th and 26th) and there were two records of Woodcock entered in the diary.

The "Gull Roost "increased in numbers as the month wore on although it was increasingly difficult to predict, B.H.Gull, Common Gull, Herring Gull, L.B.B.Gull and G.B.B.Gull were all note during the month. At least one 2nd winter Yellow-legged Gull was seen (21st), 1-1st winter Caspian Gull on 6th and 26th and a another very welcome addition to the year list when a 2nd winter Glaucous Gull was note in the roost on 27th, there was also a 2nd winter Glaucous x Herring Gull recorded on 11th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were: four Skylark 22nd, thirty two Meadow Pipit (same date), Tawny Owl heard on at least five dates, single Green Woodpecker on two dates, Chiffchaff on at least three dates, Raven on five dates with four birds on 25th and finally Common Crossbill on four dates with ten birds noted on 27th.

As this will be my final Ogston bird news, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made an entry in the Hide Diary over the past seven years or so it has made my job as Recorder very much easier and I trust you will all make every effort to assist the new Joint Recording Secretaries Steve Mann and Tim Sexey.