

Ogston monthly report – January 2014

Species recorded – December = 86

Mild and wet conditions persisted throughout most of January until slightly colder conditions arrived during the last week. The reservoir levels continued to rise reaching completely full from 9th onwards. The main highlight was the continued presence of large numbers of finches in fields alongside the West Bank, one Flax stubble field being particularly favoured. These were joined this month by rapidly increasing numbers of Stock Doves, which reached record numbers during the month, though shooters killed many of them on the last day. A herd of Whooper Swans passed through on 12th and three Wild Swans that flew through on 2nd were probably also this species. A few Pink-footed Geese passed through and the first Shelduck since last July were recorded. Otherwise most species of wildfowl were present in only small numbers, probably due to the high water levels. There were several records of Peregrines and at least one Water Rail was present though very elusive. Quite large numbers of gulls were roosting most evenings including two different Mediterranean Gulls and a few Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls.

Mute Swan Two on 9th, two present from 24th – 30th.

Whooper Swan A herd of 21 flew W at 12:30 hrs on 12th. They had also been seen at Carsington and Wyver Lane before turning up at Cossington Meadows Leicestershire a couple of hours later.

Wild Swans Three which were thought most likely to have been Whoopers, flew NW at 09:40 hrs on 2nd.

Pink-footed Goose Two were with Greylags on 2nd, 29 flew SW between 12:10 – 12:15 hrs on 11th, one was with Canada Geese on 27th, 23 flew SE then turned SW at 09:10 hrs on 29th.

Shelduck One present until 12:45 hrs on 12th when it flew SW, and one present on 14th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 38 on 2nd.

Canada Goose Maximum of 73 on 1st.

Mandarin Two on 15th and 16th.

Wigeon Small numbers were present on and off, with a maximum of nine on 20th.

Gadwall Three on 19th two of which were still present on 20th.

Teal Maximum count of 53 on 1st, numbers smaller after water levels rose.

Pochard The maximum count was of 65 on 1st, no doubt disturbed from elsewhere by the New Year firework celebrations. After this much more erratic but with variable but mainly small numbers present most days.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 38 on 2nd.

Aythya hybrid A drake Tufted Duck X Scaup hybrid was present on 9th.

Goldeneye A few were present almost daily with a maximum of at least seven on 1st.

Goosander Small numbers present quite regularly with up to five on several days, some of which stayed rather than the usual fly-throughs, probably due to a lack of sailing activity.

Peregrine One on 6th, two on 11th, one on 15th and one on 29th.

Water Rail At least one was present all month but was mainly elusive.

Snipe Numbers remained low due to the high water levels with most counts being up to eight, though a flock of c25-30 landed on the West Bank on 31st.

Black-headed Gull A leucistic bird was in the roost on 2nd, 10th, 22nd and 26th.

Mediterranean Gull An adult in the roost on 10th. A different adult in the roost on 25th.

Herring Gull The maximum roost count was of at least 1250 on 12th.

Yellow-legged Gull A 4thW and an adult on 1st, a 1stW and an adult in the roost on 4th, an adult in the roost on 5th/6th/9th and 10th, two (ad and 1stw) on 11th, two ad on 12th, an adult in the roost 18th – 20th and a 4thW in the roost on 22nd.

Caspian Gull One 1stW present in the roost on 1st, 4th and 6th. An adult in the roost on 20th.

Great Black-backed Gull Good numbers roosting most evenings with c700 on 5th and a maximum count of at least 930 on 12th.

Stock Dove A flock began to build up in fields opposite the west bank with c40 on 6th rapidly increasing to 119 on 8th, 263 on 9th, c310 on 16th, 462 on 19th, 500+ on 27th. The previous highest counts for Ogston have been in the order of 200 or so. On 31st many were shot by sportsmen? encamped in the fields.

Green Woodpecker One on 9th.

Kingfisher One at Carr Pond on 5th.

Starling Small numbers (up to 140) continued to roost in reeds by the hide.

Redwing Mainly present in small numbers though a flock c150 were present on 25th.

Chaffinch A flock by the West Bank regularly held 150+ with other flocks NW of the reservoir and at Brackenfield of 50+ each.

Brambling Up to ten were regularly present in a large mixed finch flock feeding in fields opposite the West Bank and occasional birds were visiting feeders in the area.

Siskin The maximum count was of c60 in Alders by the River Amber on 5th. Small numbers were present elsewhere.

Linnet A flock of 200+ present in fields opposite the West Bank all month.

Lesser Redpoll Only present in small numbers, with occasional birds visiting feeders in the area.

Ogston monthly report – February 2014

Species recorded – February = 91

Running Total = 95

Mild wet and stormy conditions continued into early February the weather settled down somewhat to more normal conditions during the second half of the month. The reservoir remained full throughout. Five Whooper Swans were present on 5th, a single Shelduck on 27th, four Shovelers on 21st and Goosanders were present quite regularly, but the high water levels resulted in low numbers of Teal and Mallards. A Merlin was seen on 8th and Peregrines were recorded on three dates. At least one Water Rail remained but was very elusive. A pair of Oystercatchers returned, and a Golden Plover passed through on 25th. Snipe were present in reasonable numbers but were elusive and Woodcock were seen on several dates with an impressive seven seen at dusk on 27th. The first returning Curlew was present on 21st and seven on 27th was the maximum count. It was a good month for Kittiwakes with five individuals recorded including two in the roost on 8th. Mediterranean Gulls were present in the roost on many dates with a record count of four present in the roost on three consecutive nights 6th – 8th, with birds present during the daytime on a couple of occasions. A single Caspian Gull roosted on 2nd and 3rd, with an adult Glaucous Gull also roosting on 2nd. Stock Dove numbers were down on last month, not surprisingly after the shooting of many birds at the end of January. Following a further shooting incident on 7th Police intervention halted the slaughter, though it is thought that well over 200 have been shot over recent weeks. Good numbers of finches remained in fields by the West Bank with Brambling numbers increasing to over 30, though Linnet numbers fell compared to the last few months.

Mute Swan One on 10th and two on 17th.

Whooper Swan Five adults arrived at 08:25 hrs and then left NW at 10:35 hrs on 4th. What was presumably the same five then arrived from the SE at 11:05 hrs.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 25 on 26th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 37 on 8th.

Shelduck One on 27th.

Mandarin The only records were of two on 14th and three on 16th, which flew through at dusk.

Wigeon Three on 6th, one on 23rd and two 24th/25th were the only records.

Gadwall A pair present on 28th were the only ones this month.

Shoveler Four (two pairs) present on 21st.

Pochard The maximum count was of 11 on 7th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 55 on 19th & 20th.

Goldeneye A few were present almost daily with a maximum of eight on 1st.

Goosander Two on 1st, two on 6th, three on 7th, one on 9th, two on 14th, three on 15th, four on 17th & 18th, one on 19th, one on 28th.

Common Buzzard Highest counts were of ten+ on 4th and 13th, with 11+ on 27th.

Merlin One flew through at dusk on 8th.

Peregrine One on 1st, two on 16th and two on 24th.

Water Rail At least one was present all month but was very elusive.

Oystercatcher An relatively early bird arrived on 5th, then one on 16th and two were present from 17th onwards.

Golden Plover One flew SE on 25th.

Lapwing The maximum count was of c140 on 8th.

Snipe Reasonable numbers present though elusive 15 on 23rd.

Woodcock Two were seen leaving Carr Wood at dusk on 7th and two over the Fishermen's car park at dusk on 11th & 16th. A good count of seven at dusk on 27th.

Curlew Singles were seen on 21st, 23rd and 24th, while seven that were present late afternoon on 27th were presumably roosting.

Kittiwake One adult flew through NE on 7th, two adults in the roost on 8th. One flew NE at 13:05 hrs on 20th and 1 flew NNE at 11:35 hrs on 23rd.

Black-headed Gull The leucistic bird was in the roost again on 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 14th, 15th and 27th.

Mediterranean Gull An adult in the roost on 2nd and a different adult in the roost on 4th. Two adults were in the roost on 5th, then a record number of four adults in the roost from 6th – 8th. At least two adults were in the roost on 9th, one on 10th and one on 15th. An adult was present most of the morning on 16th and two adults were in fields opposite the West Bank late afternoon on 17th.

Yellow-legged Gull A 2ndW in the roost on 2nd. One 2ndW was present during the day on 8th. An adult and a 2ndW were in the roost on 22nd and a 4thW passed through on 23rd.

Caspian Gull One 2ndW present in the roost on 2nd and 3rd.

Glaucous Gull One adult arrived late in the roost on 2nd.

Stock Dove Following the shooting incident numbers were down from last month record counts of over 500, to 373 on 5th. After a further shooting incident on 7th the highest count was of c200 on 11th.

Jackdaw At least 430 flew over at dusk on 16th.

Raven Present on several dates with a maximum of at least four on 13th.

Skylark Small numbers passing over, mainly heading north, on many days with at least ten on 10th.

Starling Small numbers (up to 50) still roosting in reeds by the hides.

Brambling Numbers present in fields alongside the West Bank increased with over 30 present and a few were regularly visiting feeders by the hide.

Ogston monthly report – March 2014

Species recorded – March = 110

Running Total = 115

March continued mainly mild and often quite warm as well as being relatively dry which allowed water levels to fall slightly. Bird-wise it was an excellent month with many interesting records. Highlight of the month was an Avocet on 14th, the fifth record for Ogston. Several groups of Whooper Swans passed through, but a single Pink-footed Goose from 8th – 11th was the only record this month. An Egyptian Goose on 15th was only the fifteenth ever record for Ogston and Shelduck were recorded on three dates. A pair of Pintail present early morning on 2nd and a Scaup all day on 18th were the pick of the wildfowl. A Grey Partridge on 22nd was an encouraging sign as none were seen at all last year. At least two Red Kites passed through and a Goshawk was seen briefly on 19th. At least one Water Rail remained but was very elusive. Good numbers of Snipe were present and the first Green Sandpiper, Redshank, Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers of the year appeared. It was a good month for gulls with a single record of Little and two Iceland Gulls and the good run of Kittiwake records continued. An adult Mediterranean Gull was present on a couple of days mid-month and Yellow-legged Gulls appeared quite regularly in the roost. There was also an excellent passage of Common Gulls once again, which seems to be becoming a regular spring occurrence here judging by recent years. A Little Owl was heard on a couple of occasions near Brackenfield Church. Summer visitors arriving included, Sand Martins, early Swallow and House Martin, Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Grasshopper Warbler and Wheatear. A Dipper was seen on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir, with others seen at Milltown just within the recording area. Quite a few wintering Redwings remained, with smaller numbers of Fieldfares though both became scarce by the end of the month. Meadow Pipits were moving through quite regularly and a Scandinavian Rock Pipit was present on 29th. Large numbers of Bramblings were present in stubble fields by the reservoir until they were eventually ploughed, though a few remained in the area visiting the various feeding stations around the site. The first Crossbills of the year passed through on 10th and an often elusive Hawfinch was present from 10th onwards, though it may well have been present in the area throughout the winter.

Mute Swan A pair present on and off all month.

Whooper Swan On 25th five adults were present until 09:50 hrs when flushed by a Mute Swan and flew WNW, before returning to the reservoir at 11:20 hrs and were present till dark. On 29th 27 flew NW at 08:45 hrs and a further nine arrived at 10:55 hrs remaining until mid-afternoon when flushed by boats.

Pink-footed Goose One was present from 8th - 11th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 37 including a leucistic bird on 13th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 51 on 10th.

Egyptian Goose One which was mainly associating with Greylag Geese on 15th. The fifteenth record for Ogston.

Shelduck One 9th, one on 11th and one on 30th.

Mandarin Recorded quite regularly throughout the month with a maximum of six on 4th.

Wigeon Three on 19th were the only ones this month.

Gadwall Six on 1st, four on 2nd, two from 3rd – 7th, two on 10th, two on 13th, six on 14th, two on 15th, one on 21st, 24th - 26th and four on 30th.

Pintail Two (a pair) were present briefly early morning on 2nd.

Shoveler One drake on 13th, five (three drakes) on 14th, three drakes on 15th and two drakes on 28th.

Pochard One on 5th was the only record this month.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 52 on 22nd.

Scaup A first-winter female present on 18th.

Aythya hybrid A drake Tufted Duck X Pochard on 22nd/23rd and again on 29th and 30th was presumed to be the regularly returning bird.

Goldeneye Present daily with a maximum count of 11 on 8th.

Goosander One on 8th, four on 15th, one on 17th, one flew N on 23rd and one flew NE on 26th.

Grey Partridge One at South Hill on 22nd, the first since 16th October 2012.

Great Crested Grebe Maximum count of 32 on 15th.

Red Kite One drifted slowly SW on 4th, and what was presumably the same bird was seen flying low NE over the reservoir on 5th. One flew S between 16:40 – 45 hrs on 24th.

Common Buzzard At least 12 up in the air at once on 10th.

Goshawk One seen briefly E of the reservoir at 15:00 hrs on 19th.

Peregrine One – two were seen quite regularly throughout the month.

Water Rail At least one was still present during the month but was very elusive, most frequently seen in a small reed fringed ditch on the West Bank.

Oystercatcher The pair present all month and appeared to be settling onto the tern raft in Chapel Bay again, where they nested last year.

Avocet One present on the North Bank on 14th, the fifth record for Ogston and equal earliest ever for Derbyshire.

Little Ringed Plover The first to arrive was one which was seen briefly on 23rd. Subsequently one on 24th, one on 28th, at least three on 30th.

Ringed Plover One flew through at 12:25 hrs on 12th. Singles present on 14th, 29th and 30th.

Snipe Good numbers present with a maximum of c60 on 11th.

Woodcock One was seen leaving Carr Wood at dusk on 1st, with four on 3rd and 7th also leaving Carr Wood after dark.

Curlew Three on 1st, eight roosting on 7th, six roosting on 9th, two on 13th, two flew NW and eight came in to roost on 15th, one through on 22nd, two on 24th and six roosting on 26th.

Green Sandpiper One present briefly early morning on 31st.

Redshank One on 18th, one on 27th and one on 29th.

Kittiwake An adult flew through at 17:40 hrs on 8th, and an adult flew through at 08:35 hrs on 19th. On 26th an adult was present for 15 minutes from 15:50 hrs then flew N.

Black-headed Gull c800 present during the day on 29th. The leucistic individual was present on 15th and in the roost on 15th and 16th.

Little Gull A 2ndW arrived at 15:55 hrs but flew off SE at 16:03 hrs on 8th.

Mediterranean Gull An adult present around midday on 15th and again mid-morning on 16th.

Common Gull Large numbers passed through the site particularly during the last week of the month, with at least 330 dropping in for a while as they passed through during the afternoon on 29th.

Yellow-legged Gull An adult in the roost on 3rd, a 2ndW in the roost on 8th, two 2ndW in the roost on 9th, one 2ndW in the roost on 16th, one adult on 24th and one sub-adult in the roost on 26th.

Iceland Gull A 2ndW in the roost on 3rd and a juvenile flew S at 13:00 hrs on 9th.

Great Black-backed Gull Still quite good numbers present in the evening roosts with c220 in the roost on 7th and c200 on 24th.

Stock Dove Numbers were much smaller this month, though up to 100 were still present before the favoured fields were ploughed.

Little Owl One heard calling during the daytime near Brackenfield Church on 10th and 16th.

Kingfisher A few sightings during the month, mainly from the River Amber, though occasional birds were seen at the reservoir.

Raven One – two seen quite regularly throughout the month.

Sand Martin The first were three that flew through on 20th, subsequently small numbers (up to ten) were seen most days, mainly passing through.

Swallow One flew N with a House Martin on 16th.

House Martin One flew N with a Swallow on 16th.

Chiffchaff The first this month were three on 9th after which they were recorded daily with good numbers present.

Willow Warbler Two singing on 31st were the first to arrive.

Grasshopper Warbler One heard singing briefly early morning on 29th, by the West Bank car park. The earliest ever at Ogston.

Starling Small numbers (up to c50) were still roosting in reeds by the hide and some evidence of birds moving through with c200 on and 450+ on 23rd heading NE.

Dipper One present on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir on 8th and two birds were seen at Milltown on 23rd.

Fieldfare A few still around the highest count being of at least 110 passed through heading E on 22nd.

Redwing Reasonable numbers still present with counts of c150 on 8th, c100 on 12th and c100 on 15th, though numbers smaller later in the month.

Wheatear A male (British race) on 20th landed briefly in trees by Carr Pond.

Meadow Pipit Small numbers were heading N on many dates with a maximum of c50 on 30th.

Rock Pipit One of the Scandinavian race present on 29th.

Rock/Water Pipit One that passed through on 11th was thought most likely to have been a Water Pipit on call but unfortunately was not seen.

Brambling Around 30 or so were still present at the beginning of the month in fields by the West Bank. Numbers increased rapidly with up to 120 present on 8th (c90 by the West Bank and c30 NW of the reservoir). Following ploughing of the fields later in the month numbers dwindled rapidly though a few were still visiting feeders. At least two were singing near the hides on 29th.

Crossbill A flock of 13 flew NE at 09:55 hrs on 10th.

Hawfinch One was found in Brackenfield Churchyard on 10th, then was seen again there on 15th, 16th, 24th, 29th, 30th and 31st. It was mainly very elusive and perhaps had been present for some time before its discovery. The tenth record for Ogston.

Ogston monthly report – April 2014

Species recorded – April = 115

Running Total = 138

April was a mainly dry month, warm at times, though particularly during the second half cool winds from north and easterly directions pegged back temperatures and probably slowed down the arrival of some species. Water levels dropped nicely during the first half of the month, but from 16th onwards water was pumped into the reservoir gradually covering the exposed mud. A pair of Mute Swans remained throughout suggesting they might attempt to breed again this year and there were a few records of Shelducks. Ducks were not present in large numbers, but did include one of the highlights of the month, a Red-breasted Merganser on 30th. Two Grey Partridge were seen again on South Hill. Two Red Kites were seen together on the last day of the month and a Marsh Harrier passed through on 22nd, a Goshawk was seen on 1st and there was a good run of Osprey records. The first Hobby arrived on 27th and there were a few sightings of Peregrines. The Oystercatchers managed to hatch young again on the raft in Chapel Bay as they did last year. While water levels were low good numbers of Little Ringed and occasional Ringed Plovers were present, the first Dunlins of the year appeared and quite a few Snipe remained. Both Godwits put in an appearance and there were also a few records of Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper and Redshank. There were two records of Little Gulls and a few Common Gulls continued to pass through, though on a much smaller scale than last month. A few Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded, a 2ndW Iceland Gull roosted on 1st and quite large numbers (for this time of year) of large gulls were roosting some nights. Three Sandwich Terns passed through on 4th, a few Common Terns arrived and there was a good passage of Arctic Terns during the last 10 days of the month. There were records of Little Owl and Green Woodpecker, both scarce since the harsh winter of 2011/2012. Hirundines were present in quite large numbers during wet and windy conditions. Most of the expected warblers arrived in reasonable numbers, while a few winter thrushes lingered during the first week. Reasonable numbers of Yellow Wagtails along with a few White Wagtails passed through. A Tree Pipit dropped in briefly on 12th before continuing on its journey. Bramblings lingered until mid-month, some of which were heard singing and Linnets were still forming flocks late in the month.

Mute Swan A pair present on and off all month and occasional other birds visited briefly.

Shelduck Two were present early morning on 7th then flew off S and another arrived later that day. Two on 10th and three were present early morning on 23rd.

Mandarin Seen daily throughout the month with a maximum count of ten on 10th.

Wigeon Eight on 7th and two on 9th were the only records.

Gadwall A pair present from 3rd – 12th four on 13th, then two on and off until 22nd.

Teal The maximum count was of 19 on 10th, though numbers dropped rapidly soon after this.

Mallard At least six broods have been seen so far.

Shoveler One drake on 10th, a drake on 14th, pair 17th, three on 18th/19th (two drakes), four on 20th (three drakes), pair on 22nd, drake on 26th, three (two drakes) on 28th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 54 on 5th.

Aythya hybrid The regular Tufted X Pochard hybrid was present on 9th.

Goldeneye One – five present were daily up until 16th.

Red-breasted Merganser On 30th a female was present from at least 10:00 – 10:10 hrs then flew W.

Goosander Two flew through on 18th.

Grey Partridge Two at South Hill on 22nd.

Grey Heron At least 19 pairs nesting.

Red Kite Two were seen together over the E of the reservoir at 15:45 hrs on 30th, one of which drifted W.

Marsh Harrier A female flew E at 09:20 hrs on 21st.

Goshawk A male circling west of the reservoir 12:10 – 15 hrs on 1st.

Osprey At least five and possibly six individuals passed through during the month. On 4th one that was already carrying a fish from 11:30 – 11:35 hrs when it flew E. Presumably the same bird returned at 13:55 hrs and spent some time in a tree on the East Bank, later catching another fish and leaving E at 15:50 hrs. Shortly afterwards it was seen in a field at Tibshelf, where it began eating the fish. The following day seen it was seen again briefly at 07:15 hrs and again at around 09:30 hrs when it caught a fish and flew off W. It was then present again 15:30 – 15:40 hrs when it drifted off N. This bird had been colour ringed in Angus Scotland in June 2007. One flew through 09:09 – 14 hrs on 10th. One (fitted with a transmitter) was present briefly at 09:00 hrs then flew NW on 11th. One was present from 15:00 until at least 15:25 hrs on 13th. On 17th one arrived at 12:25 hrs immediately caught a fish, took it to Lodge Plantation (S side of reservoir) and began to eat it. One, possibly the same bird, was present, visiting the reservoir several times during the day on 18th.

Hobby The first sighting was of one on 27th.

Peregrine Singles on 4th, 7th, 11th and 27th.

Oystercatcher The pair nesting on the raft hatched at least two chicks around 27th. Occasional other birds visited with a maximum total of five present on 5th.

Little Ringed Plover Up to six present taking up territory, while water levels were low but most had moved on by the end of the month.

Ringed Plover One on 12th, 14th and one on 21st.

Lapwing Two pairs appear to be breeding on farmland adjacent to the reservoir. One pair had been attempting to breed on the West Bank but was flooded out as the water rose.

Dunlin One during the evening of 12th, three on 14th, two on 15th, one on 16th, two on 22nd and one on 30th.

Snipe Quite good numbers present, particularly when water levels dropped with counts of 40+ on 3rd, 32 on 18th and 20+ on 23rd.

Black-tailed Godwit One was present from 07:10 – 10:10 hrs on 5th when it flew N.

Bar-tailed Godwit A summer plumaged bird flew through heading N at 07:35 hrs on 21st.

Whimbrel One was present on the West Bank for about 20 minutes during the evening on 17th, one flew N on 20th, one flew NE at 08:55 hrs on 21st, two flew E at 11:10hrs and one over at 19:00 hrs on 28th.

Curlew Seen quite regularly during the month with a maximum of seven on 5th.

Common Sandpiper Singles recorded on 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 29th.

Redshank One on 6th, one on 16th and one briefly on 30th.

Little Gull An adult present from 08:28 to 08:50 hrs then flew N on 22nd. A first summer arrived with six Arctic Terns at around 15:30 hrs on 27th but continued N alone.

Common Gull A few were still moving through including 21 which flew NE on 8th, 18 which flew NE on 17th, seven through on 20th and four through on 27th.

Yellow-legged Gull Two were present on 4th (1stS and 3rdS), the 1stS present again on 5th, 6th and 9th.

Iceland Gull A 2ndW was in the roost on 1st.

Great Black-backed Gull A few immature birds seen during the daytime and c150 large gulls roosting on 21st were mainly this species.

Sandwich Tern Three flew through and left NE at 11:25 hrs on 4th.

Common Tern One flew N at 09:45 hrs on 22nd, 1 present 9:45 – 55 hrs and then flew N on 25th, one on 26th, three on 27th- 29th and four on 30th.

Arctic Tern Quite a good passage of birds during the last ten days of the month, most flying straight through, but some lingered for a while. Totals for each day were of 30 on 20th, three on 21st, seven on 22nd, 1 on 24th, 20 on 25th, five on 26th and 11 on 27th.

Cuckoo One heard on 4th and one heard on 24th.

Little Owl One heard calling during the daytime near Brackenfield Church on 1st.

Kingfisher A few sightings mainly from the River Amber.

Green Woodpecker One heard on 10th.

Raven A few sightings of one-three birds.

Sand Martin Maximum count of 100+ on 14th.

Swallow Maximum count of c500 on 22nd.

House Martin Maximum count of c60 on 22nd.

Chiffchaff A total of 30 heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Willow Warbler At least 11 singing between the Fishermen's car park and Alders Wood hide on 15th.

Blackcap A total of 19 heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Garden W, arbler The first arrival was on 24th, widespread and in reasonable numbers by the end of the month.

Lesser Whitethroat Two singing on 18th were the first to arrive, after which one – two were present quite frequently, but usually mobile, with none settling into territory so far.

Whitethroat Two singing on 17th were the first to arrive, ten singing on the West Bank of the reservoir on 25th.

Sedge Warbler One singing on 24th was the first to arrive, up to four singing by the end of the month.

Nuthatch Seven heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Redwing A few still around at the beginning of the month, 15 on 5th were the last to be recorded.

Wheatear At least one male was present from 22nd – 24th and a female on 30th.

Yellow Wagtail First arrival was of one on 12th, then one flew N on 17th, three on 19th, two on 20th, at least 20 present on 21st, five on 22nd, one on 23rd, at least five plus one "Channel Wagtail" type briefly early morning on 26th, at least one on 27th and one on 29th.

White Wagtail One on 10th, 11th, two on 15th, one on 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 27th.

Tree Pipit One flew in at 10:05 hrs and dropped into a field by the West Bank car park until 11:05 hrs when it flew NE on 12th.

Brambling Up to five visiting the feeders by the hide and a flock of c30 dropped in by the West Bank car park and the hides on 7th. Several birds were heard singing during the month at various sites around the area. Last recorded on 16th.

Linnet The maximum count was of c150 in fields NW of the reservoir on 20th.

Lesser Redpoll The maximum count was of 14 on 12th.

Ogston monthly report – May 2014

Species recorded – May 105

Running Total = 147.

May was mainly quite warm and dry, though somewhat cooler with frequent east and north-east winds during the last third. Water levels began to drop once more as pumping in ceased, though rain late in the month caused levels to rise again slightly. Highlight of the month was a Honey Buzzard which flew through on 26th. Greylag Geese and Mandarins bred again, there were records of Gadwall, Teal and Shoveler and the first Common Scoters of the year turned up on 30th. A Little Egret appeared on 6th and the Grey Herons appear to have had a very successful breeding season with many young birds around. A single Osprey passed through and there were a few sightings of Peregrines. The lower water levels attracted a few waders including a Sanderling and several Whimbrels. Gulls were only present in small numbers and surprisingly there was just a single record of Yellow-legged Gull. Two Little Terns were present briefly on 20th and a few Arctic Terns passed through. A Turtle Dove flew through on 20th, a very rare bird here nowadays and just one Cuckoo was recorded. A Little Owl was seen at Brackenfield. Numbers of Swifts and hirundines were relatively low, hopefully this was due to most having passed through during the favourable weather conditions prevailing during the first two-thirds of the month. Most Warblers seem to be present in reasonable numbers though the Lesser Whitethroats present last month appear to have moved on and there have been no Grasshopper Warblers so far this year. Spotted Flycatchers were seen at Brackenfield Church on 15th but not subsequently. A late Wheatear was seen on 19th, a few Yellow Wagtails passed through and there was a single White Wagtail on 12th.

Mute Swan The pair remained throughout the month but no real sign of any breeding taking place so far.

Greylag Goose A pair with three goslings from 20th onwards. The maximum count was of 36 including the three goslings on 26th.

Shelduck Three were present briefly early morning on 10th.

Mandarin A female with five chicks on 16th.

Gadwall A male on 12th and a pair present on and off from 20th.

Teal Three on 24th, two on 26th, 29th and 31st.

Shoveler A pair present on 10th and 11th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 32 on 4th.

Common Scoter Three drakes on 30th.

Little Egret One on 6th.

Grey Heron A very successful breeding season having moved from the usual Heronry to the new site by Carr Pond.

Honey Buzzard On 26th one, most probably a female, flew NE over the reservoir at 12:23 hrs, turning ESE as it went behind trees on the East Bank. The fourteenth record for Ogston.

Osprey One was present at 15:30 hrs on 4th.

Hobby Just occasional sightings this month.

Peregrine Singles on 2nd, 7th, 16th and 29th.

Oystercatcher The family party remained throughout, the two young just about flying by the end of the month. Odd other birds were present from time to time, though these were usually quickly chased off by the resident birds. The maximum count was of nine on 29th, when the four resident birds were joined by a party of five which arrived from the SE at 08:25 hrs.

Little Ringed Plover One –four birds present all month but no evidence of any breeding attempts so far.

Ringed Plover three from 7th - 9th, one on 10th, one on 14th and 15th, three on 20th and one on 31st.

Sanderling One present during the evening on 19th.

Dunlin One flew through on 1st, one on 4th, one on 6th and 7th, two on 8th, six through on 10th, one on 11th, two on 12th, one flew through N on 24th and one present on 29th.

Whimbrel One flew NW at 08:00 hrs on 2nd, one flew through on 3rd, six flew SSE at 17:09 hrs on 8th, one present 08:30 – 08:50 hrs on 22nd and one present briefly at 07:35 hrs and then flew N on 31st.

Curlew Two through on 3rd, one on 8th and at least one on 20th.

Common Sandpiper One from 1st – 6th, one on 14th, one on 19th/20th and one on 29th.

Redshank One was present during the afternoon on 4th.

Common Gull Five (ad + 4 1stS) thru with other gulls on 1st, a 1stS flew W on 30th and an adult flew W on 31st.

Yellow-legged Gull A 3rdS flew S on 2nd.

Great Black-backed Gull Small numbers still appeared to be roosting at the beginning of the month, with a maximum of c20 which were present early morning on 1st.

Little Tern Two did a brief circuit of the reservoir, then appeared to leave SE at 10:40 on 20th.

Common Tern Up to four birds present and one pair began nesting on the raft in Chapel Bay

Arctic Tern Five through on 1st, one flew NE at 08:00 hrs and two were present later on 2nd, one flew NW on 7th, one on 10th and two on 12th.

Turtle Dove One flew NE at 11:50 hrs on 20th.

Cuckoo One on 5th, calling between Clattercotes Wood and Highoredish.

Little Owl One seen on a telegraph pole at Brackenfield on 26th.

Swift Three on 1st were the first to arrive this year, after which numbers gradually increased with c15 on 2nd, c30 on 4th, c40 on 6th and a maximum of c200 on 9th.

Raven One – two seen occasionally throughout the month.

Whitethroat Twelve were singing along the North and West Banks of the reservoir on 18th.

Sedge Warbler Seven singing on the West Bank on 18th.

Reed Warbler One on 1st was the first to arrive this year.

Spotted Flycatcher Two in Brackenfield Churchyard on 15th were the first to arrive, but they were not seen there after this date.

Wheatear A male was present on 19th.

Yellow Wagtail One on 1st, two on 2nd, one on 8th, one flew S on 20th and one flew N on 21st,

White Wagtail One on 12th.

Ogston monthly report – June 2014

Species recorded – June = 89

Running Total = 147.

The wet weather from the end of May continued into June and as a consequence water levels continued rising quite rapidly and then levels increased further still as water was pumped in later during the month. Overall it was a fairly quiet month largely due to the water levels and the growth of Willows etc due to a lack of site maintenance has also made viewing many areas of the reservoir difficult. It has been a successful breeding season so far for most species with a few exceptions. Greylags (three broods) Mandarins (two broods) and Mallards have done well. Grebes have struggled so far with the rising water levels, just one pair of Great Crested has been successful so far. There have been very few Hobby sightings, with apparently none breeding locally. Little Ringed Plovers were attempting to breed but were flooded out. One pair of Common Terns has hatched two chicks with another pair now attempting to breed on the southern raft. Barn Owls have raised young and Little Owls most probably have also done so. Most warblers seem to be doing ok, Whitethroats in particular seem to be having a very successful season with many family parties around, while Reed Warblers seem to be present in low numbers with none breeding so far and there have been no sightings at all of Grasshopper Warbler. Both Dipper and Spotted Flycatcher have raised young. Migrants have been few and far between the highlights being a Whimbrel on 5th, a Sandwich Tern on 15th and an early Yellow Wagtail which flew through S on 30th.

Mute Swan The pair were present all month but no indication of breeding.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 65 on 3rd. A second brood of two seen on 11th and a third brood of four from 25th onwards.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 55 on 17th.

Mandarin Just a few sightings of one – two birds. A female with at least six chicks on 11th was the second brood this year.

Gadwall Two on 5th and three on 28th.

Teal Two (a pair) on 1st 1 drake on 27th.

Pochard Seven drakes on 29th were the first here since 5th March.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 36 on 29th.

Grey Heron Good numbers of young fledged from the Heronry and at least one pair appear to be trying for a second brood.

Little Grebe At least two pairs present with other birds seen on and off. At least one pair has been attempting to breed, though a Carrion Crow was seen stealing an egg from the nest on 29th.

Great Crested Grebe One pair raised a chick on Milltown Inlet and several other pairs have been attempting to breed but have failed or are currently struggling against the rising water levels.

Common Buzzard The maximum count was of at least ten up in the air on 20th.

Hobby A few sightings during the month but it seems that none are breeding in the recording area this year.

Peregrine Singles on 27th and 28th were the only records this month.

Oystercatcher The family of four present all month and odd other birds visited briefly. Five adults were present on 13th.

Little Ringed Plover The rising water levels during May had already forced most birds to move on. The only records this month were of two on 1st & 2nd, one on 7th & 8th and one from 16th -18th.

Ringed Plover One flew through N on 17th.

Snipe One seen on 22nd and 28th, unusual here at this time of year.

Whimbrel On 5th one flew in at 19:20 hrs and was still present 20:30 hrs at least.

Curlew One – two visited quite regularly, presumed to be birds breeding nearby, higher counts were of five flying NW on 15th, four flying SE on 19th and the maximum count was of 15 at 22:00 hrs on 8th, (which were presumably roosting).

Redshank One on 12th.

Black-headed Gull Small numbers present/passing through most days in slightly larger numbers during the second half of the month. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 29th.

Common Gull Small numbers of first summer birds seen most days from 23rd onwards with a maximum of five which flew through NW on 28th.

Yellow-legged Gull The only records were of an adult on 25th and a 2ndS on 29th.

Sandwich Tern On 15th one was present from 12:30 – 12:40 hrs when it circled high E until lost in cloud.

Common Tern The pair in Chapel Bay hatched two chicks around 16th and a second pair appear to be nesting on the southern raft now.

Barn Owl A pair have bred raising at least two young.

Little Owl One-two were seen quite regularly near Brackenfield Church.

Kingfisher Odd birds present from 19th onwards, mainly around Carr Pond but occasionally seen near the hides.

Raven Small numbers seen occasionally throughout the month, though at least seven were over South Hill on 28th.

Skylark One flew W on 2nd, an unusual date here.

Lesser Whitethroat One singing at Temperance Hill on 20th.

Whitethroat Good numbers of family parties present throughout the site.

Reed Warbler Singing birds present on and off during the month but no evidence of breeding so far.

Dipper A pair have bred raising at least one young on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir.

Spotted Flycatcher A pair has bred by Brackenfield Church and another pair are present on the East Bank.

Yellow Wagtail One flew S on 30th.

Ogston monthly report – July 2014

Species recorded – July = 90

Running Total = 147.

July was mainly quite hot and dry with light rain on just a few days, though the hot weather triggered some heavy thunderstorms mid-month. Water levels already high, increased still further before stabilising, restricting opportunities for visiting waders, though it did provide good conditions for Great Crested Grebes to breed. A further two broods of Mandarins took the total up to four for this year and at least one brood of Tufted Ducks was seen. A couple of Red Kites passed through. Single Dunlin and Green Sandpipers were seen. The Common Terns on the southern raft hatched two chicks and Little Owls were confirmed to have bred. A single Green Woodpecker was seen, still scarce here following the recent cold winters. Two pairs of Reed Warbler raised young and Spotted Flycatchers are currently trying for a second brood.

Mute Swan The pair remained all month and these were joined by others occasionally.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 57 on 30th.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 91 on 31st.

Mandarin A female was seen with at least one chick on 2nd and 4th. On 5th a female with two chicks was seen and both broods were seen on 6th. These are the third and fourth broods to be seen this year. Otherwise just single birds were seen on a couple of dates.

Teal Three on 3rd, 13th & 18th five on 19th, two on 20th and 22nd, three on 24th, one on 26th, three on 27th, two on 28th and one on 30th / 31st.

Shoveler Two eclipse drakes on 18th, one remaining to 21st, also one on 27th.

Pochard One on 5th was the only record this month.

Tufted Duck A female with five chicks was first seen on 9th, the maximum count was of 40 on 10th.

Common Scoter A drake was present on 19th.

Grey Heron The pair trying for a second brood gave up around 11th.

Great Crested Grebe Six broods seen so far and at least one bird is still sitting.

Red Kite One was seen flying W over the junction of Oakstedge Lane and Butterley Lane on 5th and a juvenile flew WSW over the reservoir between 09:30 and 09:35 hrs on 27th.

Hobby Just a few sightings again this month.

Peregrine The only record this month was of one on 3rd.

Oystercatcher The family party were still present at the beginning of the month and occasional other birds visited, with at least six present on 5th. As water levels increased birds gradually departed, the last one being seen on 21st.

Little Ringed Plover One flew NE at 10:20 hrs on 2nd.

Lapwing The maximum count was of c70 on 12th.

Dunlin One was on the dam (due to the lack of suitable banks) with four Common Sandpipers on 23rd.

Snipe One on 13th and three on 19th were the only reports though probably regularly present but overlooked due to the high water levels.

Curlew One on 5th was the only record this month.

Common Sandpiper Two on 4th, three on 10th, two on 18th, three on 21st, one on 22nd, four on 23rd (maximum count) and one on 27th.

Green Sandpiper One was present briefly on 16th.

Black-headed Gull Small flocks moving through most days with small numbers down the maximum count was of c30 on 15th.

Common Gull Single 1stS birds present on 1st/2nd/4th and 11th, two on 12th (adult & 1stS), a 1stS on 15th/16th and finally a 1stS & an adult on 19th.

Yellow-legged Gull A 1stS on 1st, a 3rdS on 10th, and a 4thS/adult present daily from 17th onwards, believed to be the returning regular 3rdS from last year (ring on left leg).

Common Tern The chicks on the Chapel Bay raft fledged on 10th and the pair on the southern raft hatched two chicks around 17th.

Little Owl Seen regularly throughout the month near Brackenfield Church and breeding was confirmed with at least two young seen.

Swift Some southward movements noted early in the month with c100 on 3rd and c120 on 4th.

Green Woodpecker One in the West Bank car park on 25th.

Raven Four on 1st and five on 5th were the only records this month.

Skylark Two flew over on 5th.

Lesser Whitethroat One on 24th and one on 31st were the only reports this month.

Reed Warbler Two pairs were seen feeding fledged young.

Spotted Flycatcher A pair successfully raised young near Brackenfield Church and are now trying for a second brood.

Ogston monthly report – August 2014

Species recorded – August = 102

Running Total = 153

August continued hot until the arrival of ex-hurricane Bertha on 10th, after which the weather became a bit more unsettled, with more frequent rainfall and the reservoir remained full throughout, though it was still quite warm at times. Wildfowl of interest included a few juvenile Shelducks, a Barnacle Goose, a few records of Gadwall and Shoveler, and a Common Scoter flew through on 25th. Little Egrets made an appearance on two dates and a Marsh Harrier passed through on 25th. A quite early Water Rail arrived on 24th which will presumably remain for the winter, The high water levels were not favourable for waders, though a few passed through or paused briefly including a Whimbrel, two Green Sandpipers, a few Greenshank and best of all a Spotted Redshank which flew through on 10th, a rare visitor in recent times. A juvenile Mediterranean Gull stayed for about half an hour on 16th and the regular Yellow-legged Gull remained throughout the month. The Common Tern families gradually moved on and sightings became intermittent towards the end of the month. Sightings of Little Owl were still quite frequent early in the month. Swifts were moving south on many dates though a few were still around at the end of the month and there was a slight increase in sightings of Green Woodpecker, which are perhaps finally showing some signs of recovering from the recent harsh winters. Hirundines were present in reasonable numbers especially Sand Martins which were often present in higher than average numbers for this time of year. A Wood Warbler was an excellent autumn sighting and most other warblers were present in reasonable numbers, including higher numbers of Lesser Whitethroats than in recent autumns. There were three sightings of Redstarts, a Whinchat on was present on 17th, and a Wheatear was seen on 12th. A couple of Yellow Wagtails flew through towards the end of the month and Meadow pipits began moving through in small numbers. A reasonable flock of up to 60 Goldfinch built up but there are very few Linnets around so far (none appear to have bred this year due to their favoured sites becoming overgrown due to the lack of site maintenance).

Mute Swan The regular pair were present until 6th and were replaced by three immature birds from then onwards.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 82 on 14th, a new record count for Ogston.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 193 on 10th.

Barnacle Goose A feral bird was present with Canada Geese on 20th.

Shelduck Three juveniles present early morning on 10th and another juvenile present briefly on 13th.

Mandarin Small numbers recorded quite regularly with a maximum count of 13 on 8th.

Gadwall Three on 5th and one on 25th were the only records.

Teal Small numbers present daily with a maximum count of 12 on 30th.

Shoveler Three on 3rd and one on 14th.

Common Scoter A drake flew SSW at 12:07 hrs on 26th.

Little Egret One Flew in at 16:00 hrs on 19th and two arrived at 11:30 hrs on 20th.

Marsh Harrier One present at 14:45hrs on 26th.

Hobby Fairly regular sightings of one – two birds this month, though most sightings were of first-summer birds.

Peregrine Singles on 3rd, 8th and 31st.

Water Rail One first seen on 24th was present to the month end.

Snipe The only sightings were of three on 4th, three on 10th and one on 19th.

Whimbrel One flew around several times unable to find anywhere to land during the evening of 8th.

Common Sandpiper Singles present on 10th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 21st.

Green Sandpiper Two present on the West Bank on 28th.

Spotted Redshank One flew SW at 08:42 hrs on 10th, a very scarce visitor nowadays.

Greenshank Three flew through unable to find anywhere to land at 13:10 hrs on 7th, one was heard at 19:15 hrs on 14th and presumably the same one was heard but not seen early morning on 15th.

Redshank One present on 9th.

Mediterranean Gull A juvenile was present 08:40 – 09:10 hrs on 16th.

Common Gull One on 19th and one on 25th.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular 4thS/adult remained throughout the month.

Common Tern Present daily during the first half of the month, but after both family parties moved on sightings became much more erratic.

Little Owl Seen quite regularly during the early part of the month.

Swift Present throughout the month, counts included 60+ on 3rd, c120 which flew S on 9th, c60 on 13th, c15 on 14th, 100+ on 16th, 30 on 17th and 24 through on 30th with one on 31st.

Green Woodpecker Singles on 12th, 15th, 16th and 23rd.

Raven Reported intermittently throughout the month with a maximum of six on 30th.

Sand Martin Reported in larger numbers than normal for this time of year with up to 50 present some days.

House Martin Counts of c80 on 13th and 14th and at least 600 flew through on 30th.

Wood Warbler One on 18th, a very scarce visitor here.

Garden Warbler Last recorded on 17th.

Lesser Whitethroat Singles on 7th and 11th, two on 13th, one on 15th/16th, two on 17th, one on 23rd, three on 30th and two on 31st.

Reed Warbler Recorded throughout the month, one pair with recently fledged young on 15th were presumably a second brood.

Spotted Flycatcher Present regularly at Brackenfield Church, otherwise reported from the West Bank with singles on 17th and 30th and one at Carr Pond 19th.

Redstart A juv/fem on 23rd, a male on 25th and a juv/fem on 27th.

Whinchat One on the West Bank on 17th.

Wheatear One present briefly on 12th.

Yellow Wagtail Singles flew through on 25th and 30th.

Ogston monthly report – September 2014

Species recorded – September = 108

Running Total = 156

September was mainly quite warm and dry allowing water levels to drop during the second half of the month. The weather was dominated by high pressure and prolonged but mainly light easterly winds giving rise to murky misty conditions up until 21st after which the winds were more frequently from the west though it still remained mainly warm and dry.

The first Pink-feet of the autumn passed through on 28th, 82 Greylag Geese on 9th equalled the record number set last month and a Snow Goose, presumed to be either an escapee or from the feral British population was present on 8th. Large numbers of Mandarin were present at times, a few Pintail passed through and other wildfowl of interest included fairly regular Shovelers, the second Red-breasted Merganser of the year and a few Goosanders.

Highlight of the month was two Great White Egrets which passed through on 20th (two also passed through on 16th September 2012.) There were two sightings of Goshawk, presumably both relating to the same individual and a Merlin flew through on 29th. The Water Rail continued to show well at times early in the month but became more elusive later. A few Golden Plover passed through on 28th and the lower water levels attracted a few waders including Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Green Sandpiper. The resident Yellow-legged Gull remained throughout and on some nights quite large numbers of gulls roosted. A Black Tern stayed for over four hours on 6th. Little Owls continued to be seen regularly by Brackenfield Church and Jays have been present in higher than normal numbers with some movements detected. Hirundines were heading south on many days, through in mainly small numbers and many warblers seem to have left early. A Dipper was seen on the River Amber on 12th. There was a noticeable increase in the numbers of Blackbirds and Song Thrushes from 12th onwards while returning migrants included a few Yellow Wagtails and a single Tree Pipit.

Mute Swan The three immature birds remained all month. One was attacked and injured by a dog from Ogston Hall on 16th.

Pink-footed Goose A skein of 36 flew W at 08:20 hrs on 28th.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 82 on 9th, equalling the new record count for Ogston last month.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of c120 on 28th.

Mandarin Large numbers were often present early mornings, particularly in Milltown Inlet, the maximum count being of at least 55 on 27th.

Gadwall One on 1st, three on 8th, one on 27th & 28th, four on 29th and three on 30th.

Teal Good numbers present particularly after water levels fell with over 50 present by the end of the month.

Pintail One on 11th, four arrived with Wigeon on 19th, four on 20th, one on 21st and one on 23rd.

Shoveler Present fairly regularly throughout the month with a maximum count of seven on 4th.

Pochard Two on 28th.

Red-breasted Merganser An eclipse or immature drake flew up and down the reservoir then left NE.

Goosander Three flew over Highoredish on 27th, two flew N over the reservoir on 28th.

Great White Egret Two arrived from the south at 11:20 hrs, and after flying up and down the West Bank a couple of times left to the west at 11:28 hrs on 20th. The fourth record for Ogston and the second time that two have been seen together here.

Goshawk One flew W over the reservoir on 6th and one over Highoredish on 21st, being mobbed by a Raven.

Buzzard The maximum count was of 15 on 7th.

Merlin One flew through on 29th.

Hobby The last to be seen was a juvenile on 20th.

Peregrine One on 30th.

Water Rail One was seen quite regularly early in the month but became more elusive later, with no sightings after 19th.

Golden Plover Three flew over Highoredish and two flew S over the reservoir on 28th.

Dunlin One flew through at 10:05 hrs on 4th.

Ruff One on 28th.

Snipe Present regularly with at least 19 on 29th being the highest count.

Black-tailed Godwit At least one was present from 28th – 30th but was elusive. Two unidentified waders that flew W at 10:15 hrs on 8th were probably also this species.

Whimbrel One flew S at 11:47 hrs on 29th.

Curlew Three through on 3rd.

Common Sandpiper One on 1st, four flew through N on 15th.

Green Sandpiper One flew through at 10:06 hrs on 4th.

Common Gull A 1stS from 12th – 14th, one on 17th, an adult on 28th

Lesser Black-backed Gull Birds were seen roosting on several nights presumably Carsington bound birds disorientated by the foggy conditions, the maximum count being of c800 that were present early morning on 19th.

Herring Gull The first of the autumn arrived on 27th.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular 4thS/adult remained throughout the month. Two adults roosting on 20th.

Great Black-backed Gull Three roosting on 20th.

Black Tern A juvenile present on 6th, from 10:50 – 15:18 hrs when it flew NE.

Common Tern One on 2nd.

Stock Dove A flock began to build up in stubble fields by the West Bank until these were ploughed. The maximum count was of 67 on 13th.

Little Owl One – two were still being seen regularly throughout the month near Brackenfield Church.

Kingfisher One – two seen daily throughout the month.

Green Woodpecker One on 27th.

Jay Larger than normal numbers were present with some movements noted including 16 which flew ENE on 14th while at least 18 were present on 21st.

Raven One – four recorded intermittently throughout the month.

Sand Martin Small numbers at the beginning of the month the last one being on 9th.

Swallow Small numbers moving through on most days, the highest count being of c500 on 8th.

House Martin Highest counts were of c300 on 1st and c200 on 8th,

Lesser Whitethroat Two on 1st were the only ones this month.

Whitethroat Scarce this month, one on 26th was the last.

Sedge Warbler One on 12th appears to have been the last.

Reed Warbler A few around early in the month up until 12th then one on 29th.

Dipper One on the River Amber on 12th.

Blackbird A noticeable increase in numbers occurred from 12th onwards, presumably continental birds swelling the local populations.

Song Thrush A noticeable increase in numbers from the 12th onwards, the highest count was of 14 on 23rd.

Spotted Flycatcher One on 1st.

House Sparrow A flock of c30 were feeding in a newly ploughed stubble field by the West Bank on 5th, an unusual number here.

Yellow Wagtail Two flew SW on 3rd, one over on 5th and one flew SW on 7th.

Tree Pipit One flew S on 1st.

Meadow Pipit Small numbers passed through on some dates though most seemed to have been held back by unfavourable conditions, higher numbers passed during the last week but the only count made was of 53 on flying SW on 23rd.

Rock Pipit One flew NW up the reservoir at 10:52 hrs on 28th and appeared to land briefly on the North Bank. On 29th one flew NW at 10:09 hrs.

Chaffinch At least 50 were in a recently ploughed field by the West Bank on 20th and c60 were feeding on beech-mast at Highoredish on 21st.

Goldfinch A flock around the West Bank car park held c60 on 4th, though the flock split up into smaller groups later.

Siskin The first record of the autumn was of one which flew N on 20th.

Linnet A flock was present briefly in newly ploughed fields by the West Bank with a maximum of 115 on 20th.

Escapes

Snow Goose A blue-phase adult (of unknown origin but presumed escape) was with the mixed goose flock on 8th.

Yellow-billed Teal One on 28th.

Ogston monthly report – October 2014

Species recorded – October = 104

Running Total = 161

Overall October was a mainly dry and mild month apart from a few storms including the remnants of Hurricane Gonzalo. Water levels fell as a consequence of the low rainfall. Highlight of the month was a flock of Bearded Tits on 29th, the first ever to be seen at Ogston and a record flock for Derbyshire. There were several sightings of Whooper Swans, Pink-footed Geese passed through quite frequently and other wildfowl of interest included Shelduck, a few Pintail, Goldeneye and Goosanders. There were a couple of brief sightings of Little Egrets. A Goshawk was seen quite frequently at Highoredish and three Merlins passed through. Waders included Golden Plovers, a few Dunlin, Jack Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Curlew. A Bonxie, only the third ever at Ogston stayed for a hour and a half on 30th. Gulls began roosting in numbers on some nights including a few Yellow-legged Gulls. A late Arctic Tern passed through on 13th. Large numbers of Woodpigeons passed through late in the month together with a few Stock Doves. A Ring-necked Parakeet flew SW over Highoredish with Meadow Pipits on 5th. A Sand Martin on 9th was the latest ever. Redwings arrived in numbers from 11th onwards but Fieldfares arrived late. A couple of Stonechats were the first this year. A record count of Meadow Pipits passed over Highoredish on 11th and there were three records of Rock Pipit. What would otherwise have been the highlight of the year, a Pallid Swift was unfortunately seen too distantly.

Mute Swan The three immature birds remained until 29th and they were joined by a fourth bird on 3rd, 9th, 13th & 14th. On 30th and 31st just one was present.

Whooper Swan Three were present all day on 13th and until early morning on 14th when they flew off N, a further 12 (11 adults & 1 juv) dropped in briefly at 11:00 hrs then flew N, on 31st ten including three juveniles were present early morning but flew off NE at 07:33 hrs.

Pink-footed Goose A skein of 125 flew NW at 08:55 hrs on 2nd. On 15th c200 flew NW at 09:50 hrs and one was down with the Goose flock which remained on and off until 27th. On 16th c190 flew E at 12:07 hrs, 43 flew SE at 09:10 on 26th. c37 flew SE at 11:10 hrs on 27th. On 29th c56 flew SE at 09:30 hrs, a further 36 flew SE at 09:35 hrs and c40 flew NW at 13:15 hrs.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 49 on 5th.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 42 on 3rd.

Shelduck Two flew through on 30th.

Mandarin The maximum count was of ten on 2nd.

Wigeon Small numbers present most days, the maximum count being of 12 on 4th, 8th and 11th.

Gadwall The only records were of one on 5th and four on 8th.

Teal Good numbers often present the maximum count being of 155 on 8th.

Pintail One on 3rd and 4th. On 30th two were present and five flew SW.

Shoveler Three on 1st, four on 2nd, three on 3rd/4th, one on 5th – 7th, three on 8th – 11th, one on 12th, two from 13th – 17th and two from 24th to the end of the month.

Pochard Three on 3rd, three on 11th and two on 31st.

Goldeneye Single fem/imm on 4th and 14th.

Goosander One on 15th one on 30th.

Little Egret On 20th one present briefly at 09:40 hrs then flew off S. On 23rd two flew S down the reservoir at 08:30 hrs.

Goshawk A juv male over Highoredish on 19th, then again on 28th and seen on six separate occasions on 29th.

Merlin One flew SW over Highoredish at 11:17 hrs on 5th, one flew SW at 15:14 hrs on 19th, and one flew SW at 09:40 hrs on 29th.

Peregrine One on 2nd.

Golden Plover Two flew SW over Highoredish on 11th.

Lapwing The highest count was of c150 on 1st,

Dunlin One was present briefly on the West Bank until flushed by a Heron on 6th and one though on 14th. On 30th eight flew through (with an unidentified wader), three dropped in later and one flew W with four Snipe.

Jack Snipe One was flushed on the West Bank by a Severn Trent Ranger on 2nd.

Snipe Quite good numbers were present all month the highest count being of 26 on 26th.

Black-tailed Godwit One on 1st, five on 2nd

Whimbrel On 30th one arrived with a Curlew at 16:05 hrs and landed for a short while on the West Bank then flew off. The latest ever record at Ogston.

Curlew One arrived with the Whimbrel above on 30th but appeared not to land.

Great Skua On 30th an adult arrived at 08:05 hrs and remained until 09:25 hrs. It spent most its time flying up and down the reservoir chasing gulls, though it did land on the water briefly several times. The third ever at Ogston.

Common Gull Recorded fairly regularly the maximum count being of 15 in the roost on 22nd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull 85 flew NE on 2nd, c300 in the roost on 22nd, and c200 in the roost on 28th.

Herring Gull A few recorded in gradually increasing numbers, the highest count being of 12 flying over Highoredish on 27th.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular 4thS/adult remained until at least 28th, also a 1stW on 6th, a 1stW on 9th, six in the roost (4 adults & 2 1stW) on 22nd, two passed through (adult & 2ndW) and one in a pre-roost gathering on 30th.

Great Black-backed Gull A few birds starting to appear in increasing numbers as the month progressed, the maximum count was of 15 roosting on 22nd.

Arctic Tern A late juvenile flew through at 11:07 hrs on 13th.

Stock Dove A few passing over with Woodpigeons, the highest count being of 40 on 31st.

Woodpigeon Good numbers were passing through on several days, the highest count being of 7625 on 29th.

Ring-necked Parakeet One flew SW over Highoredish at 08:27 hrs on 5th, about the sixth ever at Ogston.

Little Owl Still being seen occasionally near Brackenfield Church at the beginning of the month.

Swift sp On 18th a Swift believed to be a Pallid Swift was seen distantly at Highoredish between 09:40 and 09:48 hrs. It did appear to be quite pale at times with a different structure/jizz to Common Swift but unfortunately was only seen at very long range, too far to obtain the level of detail required for an acceptable record.

Kingfisher One – three seen most days, mainly at Milltown Inlet or Carr Pond, though occasionally visiting the areas by the hides.

Green Woodpecker One at Highoredish on 11th.

Raven One –two seen quite regularly throughout the month.

Bearded Tit On 29th a flock of at least 12 flew in, arriving from the NE at approx 11:00hrs and landed in the reedbed N of the Members Hide. After a few minutes they flew off SW. The first record for Ogston and a record count for Derbyshire.

Skylark Seen regularly passing over especially at Highoredish where 55 passed over on 2nd, c30 over on 26th, c30 over and c70 circling nearby fields (just outside the recording area) on 29th.

Sand Martin One flew S on 9th, the latest ever at Ogston.

Swallow Reasonable numbers present during the first week, the highest count was of 33 over Highoredish on 11th. The last to be recorded were two which flew S on 12th.

House Martin Small numbers were seen most days early in the month, the maximum count being of at least 72 flying S at Highoredish on 11th. The last to be seen was one which flew SW on 19th.

Blackcap A few still around early in the month up until 8th then none until a female on 30th.

Chiffchaff Still present in reasonable numbers at the beginning of the month, but gradually declining until the last one seen on 24th.

Fieldfare The first to arrive was one at Highoredish on 29th. At least 100 passed through on 30th and 444 flew SW on 31st.

Redwing Five over Highoredish on 11th were the first of the autumn, after which seen regularly with a highest counts of 1000+ over Highoredish on 17th and 2760 over on 31st.

Stonechat A fem/imm by the West Bank car park from 4th to 10th, another fem/imm was at Highoredish on 5th.

Tree Sparrow At Highoredish one flew N on 11th, three N on 20th, and one W on 28th.

Pied Wagtail A roost began building up with a maximum count of c50 on 22nd. Good numbers of *alba* (Pied or White) Wagtails numbers passed through with 189 over Highoredish on 11th.

Meadow Pipit A total of 613 flew SW over Highoredish in three hours on 5th. A total of 1077 flew SW on 11th between 08:00 and 12:00 hrs, the vast majority passing in the first two and a half hours, a new record count for Ogston.

Rock Pipit One present on 1st, one on 12th, and one flew NW at 11:09 hrs on 14th.

Chaffinch Quite good numbers were recorded passing over Highoredish. At least 53 flew SW on 5th, at least 80 passed over on 11th and at least 131 passed over on 28th.

Brambling The first of the autumn were three over Highoredish on 11th . Most other records were of birds passing over there with a maximum count of 42 on 28th .

Goldfinch The highest count was of 43 which flew SW over Highoredish on 11th .

Siskin The highest count was of 34 over Highoredish on 11th .

Linnet The highest count was of 147 over Highoredish on 11th .

Escapes

Yellow-billed Teal The bird from September present up until at least 29th , though could be elusive at times.

Ogston monthly report – November 2014

Species recorded – November = 90

Running Total = 162

Winds were mainly light and variable during November and fog and mist frequently hampered viewing. There were a few frosts but overall it was generally a quite mild month. There was a fair amount of rain at times particularly early in the month which raised water levels somewhat, though the reservoir remained well below full.

Nine Whooper Swans arrived on the last day of the month and good numbers of Pink-footed Geese passed over, including a new record count on 5th. Otherwise it was a fairly quiet month for wildfowl, Teal and Mallard were present in good numbers while water levels were low early in the month but numbers fell as water levels began to rise. Otherwise of most interest was a Pintail that was present on several dates. Goshawk continued to be seen at Highoredish at the beginning of the month. There was just a single sighting of Water Rail. The relatively low water levels attracted a few scarce waders including a Knot, a Ruff and a Jack Snipe. The gull roost often held large numbers of birds and included a few Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls. There was just one record of Little Owl this month. A good number of winter thrushes passed over Highoredish at the beginning of the month and a few roaming flocks remained in the area. A few Bramblings passed over Highoredish at the beginning of the month, but only one was seen down by the reservoir.

Whooper Swan On 30th six (four adults and 2 juveniles) arrived at around 10:20 hrs and these were joined by another three adults at 10:46 hrs.

Pink-footed Goose A total of 2370 in 19 skeins flew SE on 5th, a new record count for Ogston, 18 flew SE on 17th, C70 flew SE at 11:36 hrs on 23rd and 33 flew E at 10:30 hrs on 24th.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 32 on 24th.

Mandarin One on 2nd and one on 9th were the only records this month.

Wigeon Present fairly regularly with a maximum of eight on 6th.

Gadwall One on 5th and two on 29th were the only ones this month.

Teal The highest counts were of 97 on 2nd and 122 on 3rd, but numbers fell as water levels rose.

Mallard The maximum count was of 132 on 3rd.

Pintail One female/imm was present on 19th, 21st and 23rd.

Shoveler Two on 1st was the only record this month.

Pochard One on 2nd, four on 6th, one on 10th, one on 14th, one on 15th, one on 18th, two on 20th, one on 25th and three on 26th,

Tufted Duck Maximum count of c20 on 17th.

Goldeneye One on 3rd, five on 7th, one on 10th, one on 11th, one on 19th, one on 21st, two drakes on 22nd, two fem/imm on 23rd, one drake on 25th and 26th, one on 29th and three on 30th.

Goosander One on 3rd / 4th, three redheads on 5th, seven briefly early morning on 7th, two flew through on 23rd, one on 25th and one redhead on 30th.

Goshawk At Highoredish one on 2nd, two on 5th and one on 9th.

Peregrine One on 3rd and 4th was the only one this month.

Water Rail One was seen near the hides on 7th.

Golden Plover One flew over calling above low cloud on 10th and one on 28th.

Lapwing The maximum count was of 409 on 22nd.

Knot One in winter plumage on the West Bank on 11th.

Dunlin One on the West Bank early morning on 29th.

Ruff One present briefly with Lapwings during the evening of 29th.

Jack Snipe One on 25th.

Snipe Up to around 35 were present at times but difficult to get accurate counts.

Woodcock One flew out of Carr Wood at dusk on 22nd.

Black-headed Gull Roost counts were of 2000+ on 9th, 5000+ on 21st and 6000+ on 23rd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull c550 were in the roost on 9th but numbers were much smaller by the end of the month with c40 on 30th.

Herring Gull 62 flew SW on 2nd, c350 in the roost on 9th, 500+ in the roost on 23rd.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular adult was last present on 4th, one adult on 21st, an adult in the roost on 22nd 24th, one adult on 26th and three (two adults and a 1stW) in the roost on 30th.

Caspian Gull An adult in the roost on 9th, a 2ndW in the roost on 24th and a 1stW in the roost on 30th.

Great Black-backed Gull c250 in the roost on 9th, 500+ in the roost on 30th.

Woodpigeon 1533 flew W/SW over Highoredish on 1st and 2044 over there on 4th.

Little Owl One calling at dusk by Carr Wood on 22nd.

Kingfisher One – three were seen on most days.

Raven Maximum count of four on 30th.

Skylark At Highoredish 47 over on 4th and 19 over on 8th,

Starling A total of 92 flew SW over Highoredish on 1st and up to 200 were roosting in reeds by the hides on some evenings.

Fieldfare At Highoredish 43 flew SW on 1st, 127 flew SW on 2nd, 392 flew SW on 8th and 268 flew SW on 9th. Otherwise just small numbers feeding around the site.

Redwing At Highoredish 693 flew SW on 1st, 143 flew SW on 2nd, 216 flew SW on 8th, 275 flew SW on 9th.

Tree Sparrow Three in gardens behind the Dam on 29th.

Chaffinch At Highoredish 23 flew over on 4th and up to 50 regularly feeding on beech-mast there.

Brambling Birds passing over Highoredish were one on 4th , two on 2nd , one on 4th and three on 9th . Away from Highoredish the only record was of one which flew over the West Bank car park on 29th .

Siskin The maximum count was of 15 on 2nd over Highoredish.

Lesser Redpoll A small number around the highest count being of 11 on 4th .

Escapes

Yellow-billed Teal Seen again on 2nd , 10th , and 19th .

Ogston monthly report – December

Species recorded – December = 81 Running
total for 2014 = 163

Mild weather continued through December until the last week which was much colder. Heavy snow fell on Boxing Day which persisted to the end of the year. Just one flock of Pink-footed geese flew through this month. Other wildfowl of interest included a Scaup and a Common Scoter. A male Peregrine was seen twice, on both occasions hunting successfully. A Water Rail was seen on just one date. A Jack Snipe showed well on 12th and a Woodcock was seen on 3rd.

The gull roost often held large numbers, but not much of interest apart from occasional Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen on 14th, the only one of the year and a Chiffchaff was seen on 17th, a particularly mild day.

Pink-footed Goose 59 flew W at 12:00 hrs on 13th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 41 on 31st.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 96 on 31st.

Wigeon Small numbers intermittently through the month with a maximum count of eight on 2nd,

Gadwall One from 18th- 24th and seven on 31st.

Teal Good numbers present most days with a maximum count of 112 on 7th.

Pochard One on 3rd, one on 8th, one on 16th and five on 30th.

Scaup A first-winter drake on 18th.

Common Scoter A female on 1st.

Goldeneye Small numbers were present on most days, the maximum count being of five on 1st.

Goosander One on 6th and one on 7th.

Peregrine An adult male killed a Moorhen on 9th and what was presumably the same male killed a Teal on 20th.

Water Rail One on 4th was the only record.

Lapwing Counts of 194 on 6th, c250 on 7th, 252 on 8th and 270 on 10th.

Jack Snipe One showing well from the Members Hide on 12th.

Snipe Maximum count of 30 on 26th.

Woodcock One on the roadside verge by Carr Wood at dusk on 3rd.

Yellow-legged Gull A 1stW in the roost on 1st, two adults on 3rd, 1 ad on 4th - 6th, 1stW on 7th, two in roost on 8th, one on 9th, one on 12th.

Caspian Gull A 1stW on 3rd, a 2ndW on 5th, a different 1stW on 12th/13th and again on 18th.

Great Black-backed Gull At least 830 in the roost on 21st.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker One at the southern end of the West Bank, opposite the Fishermans car park on 14th.

Chiffchaff One on the West Bank on 17th.

Fieldfare Maximum count of 58 on 16th.

Redwing Highest count of C70 on 21st.

Siskin Maximum of 15 on 16th.

Escapes

Yellow-billed Teal Present again on 6th and 8th.