

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2012 - 90 species recorded

Highlights Geese were a prominent feature of the month, the highlight being a skein of 52 White-fronted Geese heading WNW into a strong NW wind, the net result being that they ended up being drifted in a south-westerly direction. What was presumably the same flock of 52 birds turned up in Cheshire later in the month. A small flock of Pink-feet were present throughout the month, grazing in nearby fields and visiting the reservoir several times daily, and several larger flocks were passing over some days. Two Barnacle Geese, a scarce visitor to Ogston, arrived on 13th remaining until the end of the month. A female Shelduck was present on 7th. A Water Rail was heard calling on the West Bank on 9th. An icy blast on 31st brought in at least 3 Dunlin. The Gull roost provided some interest with Sundays by far the best night for numbers, conversely in the roosts heyday this was usually the worst night. Several Yellow-legged Gulls were seen with a single Caspian Gull on 29th and a Kittiwake on 4th. After being absent for over a year a Barn Owl seen during the early morning of the 28th gives some hope they are starting to recover from the severe winter of 2010/2011. The Nordic Jackdaw that had turned up in December was seen again on the 1st (the 2nd record for Ogston after 1 on 1st Jan 2010). A wintering Chiffchaff was recorded on at least four dates. Single records of Brambling and Crossbill completed an interesting month.

Mute Swan a single female present from 26th -28th and one on 30th.

Pink-footed Goose the 4 present from December were joined by a fifth bird on 7th and a sixth bird on 20th and all six remained till the month end. Also c50 flew W on 8th, c225 flew W in three skeins on 13th, c345 flew W in three skeins on 14th, c95 flew WNW on 15th, c300 flew WNW on 29th.

White-fronted Goose 52 flew SW between 12:20 and 12:30 hrs on 7th Jan.

Greylag Goose maximum count of 34 on 1st.

Barnacle Goose - 2 present from 13th until the end of the month.

Shelduck 1 on 7th.

Mandarin a pair present on 3rd/4th.

Wigeon max of 15 from 27th-29th.

Gadwall a single male on 16th & 29th.

Teal max of 77 on 3rd.

Mallard max of 186 on 17th.

Tufted Duck max of 26 on 12th & 23rd.

Aythya hybrid 1 drake Tufted X Pochard present from 23rd to the month end.

Goldeneye max of 7 on 17th & 19th.

Goosander max of 8 flew S on 7th.

Cormorant numbers were down from the record numbers present towards the end of 2011, though still up to 70 present.

Common Buzzard seen daily max of 8 on 27th.

Peregrine an ad male on 1st/3rd/8th and 18th.

Water Rail 1 heard on 9th.

Coot max of 45 on 18th.

Golden Plover 3 with Lapwings on 8th, 29 flew W on 4th and 1 calling in low cloud/mist on 24th.

Lapwing maximum count of c700 on 23rd.

Dunlin at least 3 on 31st. (A flock of c8 small waders reported on 31st would almost certainly have been this species).

Snipe max of 6 on 17th.

Woodcock 1 on 1st, 3 on 8th and 4 on 13th all seen leaving Carr Wood at dusk. 1 on 29th by the entrance to Ogston Hall gates.

Kittiwake an adult joined the Gull roost late on the evening of the 4th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull max of 50+ in the roost on 29th.

Yellow-legged Gull a 1stW in the pre-roost gathering on 2nd. An adult early morning on 8th and one, presumably the same in the evening roost on 9th, also a 2ndW in the roost on 15th.

Caspian Gull 1 adult in the roost on 29th.

Barn Owl 1 early morning on 28th.

Little Owl 1 heard on 9th.

Green Woodpecker 1 on at least seven dates during the month.

Nordic Jackdaw one present on 1st same as present during Dec.

Raven seen on at least 8 days during the month with a max of 4 on 27th.

Skylark 1 on 13th and 1 on 26th.

Chiffchaff 1 on 1st/14th/15th and 19th.

Tree Sparrow c12 on feeders behind dam on 2nd.

Chaffinch c80 in Maize stubble on 2nd/4th.

Brambling 1 in Brackenfield churchyard on 15th.

Crossbill 1 on 7th.

Yellowhammer up to c50 in Maize stubble on 2nd/4th.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2012 - Species recorded 92

Running total for 2012 - 99

Severe conditions persisted during the first 11 days of the month with the reservoir up to 70 - 80% frozen over at times. Milder weather gradually returned from 12th onwards. The Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese remained until increasingly mild conditions perhaps encouraged them to move on. A female Shelduck was present from 13th - 23rd, a pair present on 27th and a female on 29th. The first Mandarins since early January turned up at the end of the month. The return of the milder weather saw an initial increase in some duck numbers as birds began heading north. A Pintail was seen briefly during the morning and again briefly during the evening of 24th. A Little Egret flew through south on 1st. A Water Rail was seen briefly by the feeding station on 11th. A single Oystercatcher that arrived on 14th and 2 Ringed Plovers the following day were perhaps returning breeding birds. Other waders recorded included up to four Dunlins, a few Golden Plovers, a Jack Snipe on 26th and Curlews began moving through from 18th, with a maximum of 29 on 29th. Two different adult Mediterranean Gulls visited the evening roost during the month, one colour ringed (initial enquiries suggest it had been ringed in Poland) and a single Yellow-legged Gull was present on 26th. Up to two Dippers were seen on the River Amber in the area where they bred for the first time at Ogston last year. A single Crossbill flew over on 14th.

Mute Swan One on 6th and three on 26th.

Pink-footed Goose The flock remained until 20th with a maximum of seven on 13th and 20th.

Greylag Goose Max count of 19 on 9th.

Barnacle Goose The two birds remained until 23rd.

Shelduck One from 13th - 23rd and two on 27th.

Mandarin One drake on 28th and a pair on 29th.

Wigeon The small flock present daily until the 23rd with a max of 20 on 3rd, then two on 28th/29th.

Teal Max count of 141 on 14th.

Mallard Max count of 226 on 5th.

Pintail One drake on 24th.

Pochard Max count of 13 on 3rd and 11th.

Tufted Duck Max count of 49 on 9th.

Aythya hybrid the drake Tufted Duck X Pochard hybrid present until 18th.

Goldeneye Max count of 12 on 12th 18th & 19th.

Goosander Max of four on 2nd and 24th.

Cormorant Max count of 69 on 21st.

Little Egret One flew through S at 15:55 hrs on 1st.

Common Buzzard Max count of 10 on 23rd.

Peregrine One on 24th and 29th.

Water Rail One seen briefly under the feeders on 11th.

Coot Max count of 52 on 3rd.

Oystercatcher One on the 12th, one on 18th, one on 20th-22nd, two on 23rd, one on 24th, three on 25th, two from 26th - 29th.

Ringed Plover Two on 13th, one on 16th & 17th, two from 18th - 29th.

Golden Plover One on 16th, two on 18th and one on 29th.

Lapwing Max count of 500 on 16th.

Dunlin Two on 1st, three on 2nd & 3rd, four on 4th, three on 5th, one on 6th, two on 7th, one on 8th, two on 10th, one on 19th and 2 on 23rd.

Jack Snipe One on 26th.

Snipe Max count of 11 on 4th.

Woodcock Two over the West Bank car park at dusk on 18th.

Curlew One flew SE on 18th, two on 23rd, two flew NW on 24th, one on 26th and 25 through NW on 29th.

Kittiwake One adult present from 10:30 - 11:00 hrs on 28th.

Mediterranean Gull One adult in the roost on 1st and a different (colour ringed) adult on 6th, 10th & 11th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull c80 flew NW on 16th.

Yellow-legged Gull One 1stW early morning on 26th.

Green Woodpecker Up to two seen/heard regularly during the month.

Raven Two on 17th & 18th and one on 27th.

Skylark Small numbers passed over some days, maximum of 15 on 16th.

Grey Wagtail

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2012 - Species recorded 102

Running total for 2012 = 114

A White Stork which spent just over an hour and forty minutes circling the reservoir on 25th, was potentially a first record for Ogston, though early indications suggest that it may have been an escaped bird. Wildfowl numbers gradually fell, though of interest were a drake Common Scoter on 21st/22nd and the first Shovelers of the year. Three Red Kites passed through and a single Osprey was present briefly on 29th which caught a fish before moving off NE. The first Little Ringed Plovers arrived on 23rd and among the usual expected waders the highlight was a Common Snipe of the northern race *faeroeensis* on 17th. This was only the second record for Ogston. Gulls also provided plenty of interest during the first half of the month as good numbers began loafing on the West Bank during the day. This enabled the reading of several colour rings, the most interesting of which involved a 2ndW Glaucous Gull ringed in Scotland.

Two Nordic Jackdaws that were present on 4th were only the third record for Ogston but it seems likely that they are overlooked. Summer visitors arriving included all three common *hirundines* as well as Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap, while a few wintering Fieldfares and Redwings lingered to the end of the month. Two Rock Pipits were recorded, a scarce visitor in spring. A few Siskins and Lesser Redpolls remained to the end of the month and there were two records of Crossbill.

Mute Swan Two from 6th - 13th, one on 21st and one on 26th.

Greylag Goose Maximum of 26 on 27th.

Shelduck One male on 1st.

Mandarin Recorded regularly throughout the month with a max of c8 on 9th.

Wigeon Maximum count of ten on 15th.

Teal Maximum count of 47 on 5th.

Shoveler A drake on 25th was the first of the year and a pair were present on 30th.

Pochard Maximum count of 6 on 2nd.

Tufted Duck Maximum of 49 on 30th.

Common Scoter A drake was present on 21st and reported again briefly early morning on 22nd.

Goldeneye Present all month with a max of 11 on 23rd.

White Stork One circling the reservoir from 13:03 until 14:45 hrs on 25th when it flew SW. During the next couple of days it was seen at various other sites in NE Derbyshire where it was reportedly seen to have a small ring on its right leg of a type suggesting it to be of captive origin.

Red Kite One flew SW on 18th, one flew SW on 20th and one flew W on 28th.

Common Buzzard Seen daily max of 14 on 17th.

Osprey One present briefly on 29th which caught a fish and then left NE.

Peregrine One on 9th, one on 17th, one on 20th, three on 25th and one on 26th.

Coot Max of 30 on 19th.

Oystercatcher The regular pair were present all month, with a third bird being present on 25th & 29th - 31st.

Little Ringed Plover Two present from 23rd March onwards and four on 31st.

Ringed Plover The regular pair remained all month. A third bird was present on 23rd/31st.

Golden Plover One on 12th and 15 on 23rd/24th.

Dunlin One on 3rd, three on 4th, one on 9th & 10th, one on 16th, and two on 17th.

Snipe Recorded regularly with a maximum of 23 on 3rd. One showing characters of the race *faeroeensis* was present on 17th.

Curlew Recorded regularly during the month with a max of 11 on 6th.

Redshank One on 3rd & 4th, one on 10th & 11th and one from 17th - 21st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull One adult female colour ringed on Texel, the Netherlands was present in the loafing flock from 4th - 10th.

Yellow-legged Gull One 1stW present on 7th and 9th.

Glaucous Gull A second winter bird was present in the roost on 8th and thereafter spent some time loafing on the West Bank each day and returning to roost each evening until last seen heading off NE at 09:30 hrs on 12th. This bird had been ringed on 3/08/2011 on the Ugie Estuary Peterhead, Grampian, Scotland where it had been present much of the summer. and has also been seen at Bolden Flats, Durham on 23/12/2011, Seaton Carew on 15/01/2012 and in the Cotham area Notts for several weeks from 18/02/2012, before arriving at Ogston. Since leaving Ogston it has been reported from Longnewton Reservoir Cleveland on 24th March as it is making its way back north.

Kingfisher A pair returned to the River Amber downstream of the reservoir at the beginning of the month, and there were a handful of sightings from the Chapel Bay/Milltown Inlet area.

Green Woodpecker Up to three birds reported almost daily.

Nordic Jackdaw Two were present with a flock of c20 Jackdaws on the West Bank on 4th.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2012 - Species recorded 116

Running total for 2012 = 129

After the glorious weather of March, April was a much more unsettled affair with heavy snowfall on 4th and well above average rainfall particularly later in the month, which led to the reservoir filling up for the first time in over two years. Highlight of the month was Ogstons third ever Firecrest, which brightened up a rather wet day on 18th, as did a pristine male Redstart present on the West Bank on 16th. Greylag Geese and Mandarins, both recent additions to the breeding list at Ogston seem to be well established now, and up to seven Gadwall present at the end of the month were showing signs that they could be contenders for the next addition to that list. Otherwise, a male Shoveler on 26th and three Common Scoters on 28th provided the main wildfowl interest. Two Little Egrets paused briefly on 23rd before continuing north. Surprisingly just two Red Kites were recorded, at opposite ends of the month and there were five records of Osprey, though none were recorded after the 13th. Rising water levels had a negative impact on breeding waders as well as wader passage, the highlights of which being three records of Whimbrel and a Jack Snipe which fed out in the open, albeit quite distantly on 22nd/23rd. Gulls were naturally less common than last month but a few late Herring Gulls were still recorded passing throughout the month, and a large flock of Common Gulls flew through on 16th. A pair of Yellow-legged Gulls displaying on 26th was unusual. Among a few records of Terns the highlight was a Little Tern, a very scarce visitor to Ogston, which arrived with Arctic Terns on 25th, part of a large passage of Terns and Little Gulls across the country on that date. Two Black Terns were present during the evening of 30th. Summer visitors arriving during the month included the first Hobby on 30th, Cuckoo on 24th, Garden Warbler on 28th, Whitethroat on 20th, Sedge Warbler on 14th, Wheatear on 6th, Yellow Wagtail on 13th and White Wagtail on 3rd. A few lingering Fieldfares and Redwings were recorded during the first half of the month as were a few Redpolls and Siskins.

Mute Swan A pair present showed some signs of being interested in breeding and a few eggs were laid randomly around the reservoir.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 17 on 28th.

Shelduck Two on 6th, two on 8th, two on 18th, two on 23rd,

Mandarin Present daily with a maximum of nine (seven drakes) on 13th.

Wigeon Two present on 1st and 2nd, one on 3rd and one on 6th.

Gadwall One on 13th, three on 21st, four on 23rd, two on 25th, five from 26th - 29th and seven on 30th.

Teal Maximum count of 36 on 8th, though none left by the month end.

Shoveler One drake on 26th.

Pochard A pair present on 26th and a female on 30th.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 75 on 30th.

Aythya hybrids The drake Tufted Duck X Pochard hybrid present on several dates.

Common Scoter Two drakes and a female were present on 28th.

Goldeneye Maximum count of eight on 7th and 10th, last two recorded on 21st.

Goosander A few recorded during the month with a maximum count of ten drakes flying N on 23rd.

Little Egret Two arrived from the south at 10:57 and landed briefly on the scrape before continuing heading north at 11:02 on 23rd.

Red Kite One flew W at 16:30 hrs on 1st and one flew E between 12:25 and 12:35 hrs on 30th.

Buzzard Maximum count of c10 on 1st.

Osprey One on 2nd present 10:25 - 10:36 caught a fish and left ENE. On the 3rd one was present for about 20 minutes from 17:15 hrs then flew S. On 10th one present from 14:58 - 15:08 hrs which caught a fish and left N. On 12th one was seen south of the reservoir at 12:00 hrs and presumably the same just N of the reservoir at 13:20 hrs. On 13th one arrived from the W at 16:55 and left N at 17:15 hrs after one unsuccessful fishing attempt.

Hobby One on 30th was the first to be recorded.

Peregrine One on 10th and two on 11th.

Little Ringed Plover Up to 12 birds present at times but numbers fell rapidly as the rising water levels reduced the area of suitable habitat.

Ringed Plover The regular pair were still present up until 27th and one was seen on 28th but they now seem to have been moved on by the loss of habitat due to the rising water levels.

Lapwing Good numbers were attempting to breed at the beginning of the month but several nests have already been lost to the rising water.

Dunlin One on 26th.

Jack Snipe One on the West Bank showed well but fairly distantly on 22nd & 23rd.

Common Snipe Reported throughout, though less frequently later in the month, with a maximum of 12 on 4th.

Whimbrel One flew NW at 08:10 hrs on 10th. Two were present on the West Bank from 07:45 - 08:33 hrs before flying NW on 13th. Five flew NW on 23rd.

Curlew Recorded on several dates with a maximum of nine present during heavy snow on 4th.

Common Sandpiper Two on 10th were the first to arrive, thereafter one on 12th, one on 14th, one on 17th, two from 20th - 22nd, one on 27th, and two on 28th and two on 30th.

Redshank One from 6th - 8th, one on 10th, one on 17th and two on 18th.

Common Gull Recorded frequently during the month, mainly in small numbers, though 107 on 16th which included one flock of 104 birds flying N was more unusual.

Yellow-legged Gull Two present on 26th, an adult and a 3rd summer bird were displaying briefly, one 1st summer on 30th.

Little Tern One on 25th arrived with Arctic Terns associated with a large movement of Arctic Terns and other species across the country.

Black Tern Two were present at 20:20 hrs on 30th.

Common Tern One was present briefly on 17th, one on 19th and four present on 25th with Arctic Terns.

Arctic Tern Two on 19th, one on 24th, at least 79 through on 25th, part of a large movement of this species through the Midlands on that date, one on 26th and one on 27th.

Cuckoo One on 24th April was the first arrival though one was heard just outside the recording area on 20th.

Swift The first to arrive were four on 26th. Up to 20 were present over the following days

Kingfisher One -two recorded several days during the month.

Firecrest One in the North Car Park area on 18th, the third record for Ogston.

Sand Martin Present daily with a maximum count of c240 on 14th.

Swallow Present daily good numbers forced down by the wet conditions on many days with a maximum of c800 on 27th.

House Martin Present daily with a maximum count of c50 on 27th.

Willow Warbler After a couple of lean years, this species seems to have made a partial comeback

Garden Warbler Two on 28th were the first arrivals.

Whitethroat One on 20th was the first,

Sedge Warbler One on 14th was the first arrival, at least five present by the end of the month.

Fieldfare One on 6th and four flew NW on 11th.

Redwing Two on 7th and one flew NW with Fieldfares on 11th.

Redstart A male on the West Bank on 16th.

Wheatear A male was present on 6th/7th, a male on 10th, a female on 20th, a male on 21st/22nd, a pair on 27th and a male on 28th-30th. Most if not all appeared to be of the Greenland race.

Yellow Wagtail First arrivals were three on 13th and thereafter recorded most days with a maximum of six on 23rd.

White Wagtail One on 3rd April. Two were present on 8th April then present daily to the end of the month with a maximum of c20 on 20th.

Meadow Pipit Recorded daily with good counts of c20 on 4th and 53 which flew NW on 6th.

Linnet Maximum count of 51 on 9th.

ESCAPES

Cape Shelduck One was present briefly with two Shelducks on 18th April.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2012 Species recorded 104

Running total for 2012 = 138

May continued cool and unsettled for much of the month apart from a brief warm spell from 21st - 30th. Twelve Mute Swans present on 18th and 19th represented a new record count for Ogston. Good numbers of Mallard broods were seen and at least one pair of Canada Geese has bred. Greylag Geese and Mandarins both bred again. At least four Red Kites and five Ospreys passed through. Wader passage was relatively poor due to the high water levels though there were still a few interesting sightings of Grey Plover, Greenshank and Whimbrel. Among the gulls a first summer Yellow-legged Gull on 24th, and a first summer Kittiwake on 19th stand out. Quite good numbers of Arctic Terns were still passing through during the first half of the month and at least one pair of Common Terns seems to be settling in to breed. Possibly the highlight of the month was a Turtle Dove on 8th, the first to be seen at Ogston for quite a few years. A male Whinchat on 6th was also noteworthy as was a male Redstart on 3rd. Other sightings of interest included a Wheatear on 1st, a Tree Pipit on 4th and a few sightings of White Wagtails. Newly arriving summer visitors during the month included Reed Warbler 3rd, Lesser Whitethroat 6th, and Spotted Flycatcher on 7th. There were a couple of records of Crossbills and one or two Redpolls were still around mid - month.

Mute Swan A pair were present daily until 23rd, on 18th and 19th they were joined by a flock of ten birds resulting in a new record count of 12 for Ogston. A female was present on 30th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 23 on 29th. A pair were seen with six goslings on 6th and were joined by a second pair also with six goslings the next day. The fate of these remains unknown as there has been no sign of any young after this date.

Ruddy Shelduck One was reported in the evening of 14th, further details would be welcome as a Cape Shelduck had been present at a nearby site during the same morning.

Shelduck Two on 1st, two on 6th, three on 7th, one on 12th and three on 16th.

Mandarin a female seen with a chick on 20th, the third successive year that they have bred at Ogston.

Gadwall Odd birds present during the month with a maximum of five on 2nd.

Mallard Up to ten broods seen so far.

Shoveler One on 23rd.

Pochard One drake on 2nd.

Cormorant Present all month, with a maximum of up to nine seen on several dates, all of which have been of the continental race *sinensis*.

Red Kite On 10th one drifted SW 09:20 - 09:35 hrs, two flew E at 15:30 hrs on 28th, one flew ENE at 10:30 hrs on 31st.

Osprey On 1st one was present 11:30 which caught a fish and departed E at 12:00 hrs, two were present on 5th, one from 09:50 - 10:07 hrs which caught a fish and flew SE and another present from 10:40 - 12:00 hrs at least. On 8th one was present 19:05 -19:50 hrs at least and on 19th one was present 15:15 until at least 16:20 hrs.

Hobby Occasional sightings of one - two birds throughout the month.

Oystercatcher One pair attempted breeding but failed.

Ringed Plover One flew N with a Dunlin on 3rd, five flew through NW on 19th and one from 27th - 30th.

Golden Plover One on 19th.

Grey Plover One flew WNW with a Whimbrel on 19th.

Lapwing A few pairs displaced by the rising water levels on the reservoir seem to be attempting to nest in nearby fields now.

Dunlin One flew N with a Ringed Plover on 3rd, one on 5th, two on 11th, at least eight flew through on 19th.

Whimbrel One flew NW at 09:10 hrs on 5th, one present all morning on 12th, one flew WNW with a

Grey Plover on 19th, (three other waders following behind these were most probably this species).

Curlew Up to three reported visiting throughout the month, presumably birds that are breeding locally.

Greenshank One present on 20th was heard singing briefly.

Redshank One on 28th and 29th.

Common Sandpiper Recorded on 11 dates with a maximum of 5+ on 6th.

Kittiwake A first-summer flew NNW on 19th.

Yellow-legged Gull One first-summer on 24th.

Common Tern Up to four present and at least one pair seems to be settling in on the raft in Chapel Bay.

Arctic Tern On 1st one present 12:04 - 12:20 hrs and another arrived 12:40 hrs, on 2nd 12 flew NE at 09:30 hrs, on 4th 17 flew E at 09:15 hrs and another was present with a Common Tern shortly afterwards, on 12th one flew NW at 18:30 hrs.

Cuckoo One on 29th and 30th.

Turtle Dove One flew E at 07:55 hrs on 8th, the first record at Ogston for several years.

Tawny Owl Up to eight pairs present around the reservoir, at least four of which now have young.

Swift Maximum count of c500 on 31st, also c270 on 12th.

Raven One 22nd/23rd and two on 24th/25th.

Sand Martin Maximum count of c30 on 3rd.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2012 - Species recorded 95

Running total for 2012 = 139

June remained cool and unsettled for most of the month with above average rainfall and below average temperatures. Consequently the reservoir remained completely full restricting the opportunities for breeding and visiting waders, but the well vegetated edges did prove attractive to wildfowl. Unseasonal wildfowl provided some of the main highlights of the month these included a female Pintail, presumably a failed breeder and an extremely rare June record of this species at Ogston. A male Wigeon arrived high from the north on 26th a rare June record for this species as well. Other wildfowl of interest included up to three drake Teals, a female Pochard, and a new *Aythya* hybrid. A Barnacle Goose with the Canada Geese on 10th was presumably of feral origin. The first Grey Partridges of the year were present in fields on South Hill. Two Little Egrets flew north on 11th. Three Ospreys passed through. A few waders were seen in spite of the high water levels and a few Gulls passed through the most interesting of which being a Common Gull on 11th. The cloudy and rainy conditions often forced large numbers of Swifts and Hirundines to feed around the reservoir. Breeding Warblers included a couple of pairs of Reed Warblers, but the persistent rainfall probably did not help the prospects of Willow Warblers and other ground nesting species. A late Yellow Wagtail was present on 3rd and a Tree Pipit was singing in the north-western corner of the recording area on 2nd. Several Crossbill records during the first half of the month were part of a national influx and there were also a few sightings of Siskins.

Mute Swan One present most of the month, and eight were present on 10th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 19 on 10th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 121 on 28th.

Barnacle Goose One with Canada Geese on 10th.

Mandarin Maximum count of five on 27th.

Wigeon A partial eclipse male on 26th.

Gadwall One eclipse drake present from 11th-13th.

Teal A drake on 7th, two drakes on 21st and one 22nd, three on 24th, one on 25th, two on 27th/28th, three on 29th and one on 30th.

Pintail A female present from 21st until the end of the month was presumably a failed breeder.

Pochard One female on 5th and 6th.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 52 on 20th.

Aythya Hybrid One drake was present on 21st and 22nd. This was a new individual, a presumed cross between a male Pochard and a female Tufted Duck (the opposite of the regular bird).

Grey Partridge Two on 4th and one on 8th/9th in a field on South Hill.

Little Egret Two flew N at 08:40 hrs on 11th.

Osprey On 1st one was present from at least 15:40 until 15:50 hrs then flew SE. On 13th one present 09:52 - 10:15 hrs then flew SW. One present 11.40 - 1150 hrs then flew NW on 20th.

Hobby Occasional sightings of one - two birds throughout the month.

Peregrine One on 12th.

Oystercatcher The resident pair are attempting to nest again. Occasional wandering birds

Dunlin Two on 3rd.

Curlew One - two visiting occasionally throughout the month, presumably mainly birds breeding nearby.

Redshank Two flew NNW on 10th and one on 18th.

Common Sandpiper One on 15th another on 25th and 26th, two from 27th - 30th.

Common Gull One first summer passed through on 11th.

Common Tern Two pairs present all month, with occasional wandering birds visiting from time to time. The pair on the Chapel Bay Tern Raft hatched three chicks around 23rd.

Cuckoo One male singing on 1st and 2nd and a female on 14th.

Swift Maximum count of 600 on 23rd.

Kingfisher One on 21st and 25th, two on 28th and one on 30th.

Raven four (two adults and two juveniles) on 20th.

Sand Martin Small numbers seen most days throughout the month.

Swallow Maximum count of c400 on 7th.

House Martin Maximum count of c500 on 8th and 9th.

Reed Warbler Two pairs appear to be breeding in the two main patches of *phragmites* and up to two other wandering males were singing elsewhere.

Spotted Flycatcher The pair at Brackenfield Church were reported regularly and several pairs were present in the woodlands.

Yellow Wagtail One female on 3rd.

Tree Pipit One singing at Highoredish on 2nd. Two other pairs were present just outside the recording area throughout the month.

Crossbill On 2nd 17 were at Highoredish, at least three there on 10th and 20 on 11th.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2012 - Species recorded 102

Running total for 2012 = 141

Wildfowl again provided much interest with a near record count of Common Scoter on 6th, and two other singles on 9th & 20th. Eight Shelduck on 6th was a good count and there were single records of Shoveler and Gadwall. Teal were recorded frequently and the maximum count of 12 on 7th was a high count for July. The Pintail remained from June but was seen to be colour-ringed and so appears most likely to be an escape from captivity. Another record of Grey Partridge, this time from Highoredish provided further evidence that the species is just about hanging on in the recording area. The high water levels and emergent vegetation provided perfect conditions for Great Crested Grebes to nest and at least five broods were seen by the end of the month, though the same conditions limited the opportunities for waders. Up to six Common Sandpipers were frequenting the Dam Wall and these were joined briefly by a Sanderling (the first of the year) on 20th. A most unusual record was of an adult Herring Gull present on 4th, together with a more expected adult Yellow-legged Gull on the same date. One of the highlights of the month was probably a Little Tern, the second this year, present briefly on 11th. Both tern rafts were occupied by breeding pairs of Common Terns and the large shoals of fry around the edges of the reservoir attracted other visiting adults. A Redstart on 9th and Yellow Wagtails on 24th and 29th were the pick of the returning migrants so far. Small numbers of Siskins and an excellent series of Crossbill records completed an interesting month.

Mute Swan One present daily, was joined briefly by a second bird on 20th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 133 on 1st.

Shelduck Eight flew N on 6th.

Mandarin One -two birds present on several days all during the first half of the month.

Gadwall A pair on 25th.

Teal Small numbers recorded throughout the month with a maximum of 12 on 7th.

Pintail The female remained from June providing Ogston with its first ever July record of this species, though on 8th it was seen to be colour ringed so seems likely to be an escape.

Shoveler Two female/juv on 21st.

Pochard One drake on 18th, two drakes on 21st, one 22nd - 24th, two on 25th, three from 26th - 29th and one on 30th.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 67 on 29th.

Common Scoter A flock of 18 on 6th (17 drakes), was just one short of the all time record at Ogston (of 19 on 31st May 1984). A female was present on 9th and a drake present briefly on 20th.

Grey Partridge One calling below Highoredish on 21st.

Cormorant Maximum count of 25 on 22nd.

Marsh Harrier A juvenile arrived from the east at 10:00 hrs and left NW at 10:10 hrs on 25th.

Hobby Occasional sightings of one- two birds during the month.

Peregrine One on 24th, one on 28th, one on 30th and one on 31st.

Oystercatcher The resident pair hatched three young around the 5th, with two of these still surviving at the end of the month.

Little Ringed Plover One flew N on 8th.

Ringed Plover One flew NE on 8th.

Lapwing On 3rd a family party arrived with juveniles that could barely fly, presumably the birds breeding in a nearby field. A few small post-breeding flocks had arrived at the end of June but the first relatively large flock of 39 arrived on 4th.

Sanderling One which was present, mainly on the dam, for a few hours on 20th.

Dunlin Two adults on 10th and one on 25th.

Curlew Three flew S on 4th and two flew NE on 20th.

Redshank One flew E on 3rd.

Common Sandpiper Recorded regularly throughout the month with a maximum of six on 17th.

Common Gull Recorded on several dates with a maximum of seven which flew NW on 22nd.

Herring Gull One adult on 4th.

Yellow-legged Gull One adult on 4th.

Little Tern One present briefly early morning on 11th, from 08:40 - 08:55 hrs then flew S.

Common Tern The three Chapel Bay juveniles fledged around 17th and remained until 28th when they left the site. The pair on the southern raft were seen to have at least two small young on 19th. Towards the end of the month up to eight adults were present.

Swift The maximum count was of 600+ on 1st, later in the month some southward movements were noted with 224 on 28th.

Kingfisher Recorded regularly throughout the month with a maximum count of five on 4th one of which, a juvenile male, became trapped in the public hide which was caught and released apparently unharmed.

Raven Two on 15th, one on 16th, seven over Highoredish on 21st and two on 22nd.

House Martin Small numbers present daily with c50 on 29th being the maximum count.

Lesser Whitethroat The only records were of one 10th, 13th, 29th and 31st.

Grasshopper Warbler One singing intermittently at Highoredish on 14th and 15th, the only record of the year so far.

Reed Warbler Two pairs raised young and up to two other singing males recorded.

Spotted Flycatcher Reported regularly from Brackenfield Church.

Redstart One female/juvenile on 9th.

Tree Sparrow One present around the West Bank car park on 18th.

Yellow Wagtail One flew NW on 24th and one juvenile present on 29th.

Tree Pipit One at Highoredish on 15th.

Crossbill One flew NE on 7th, several heard but not seen on 12th, six flew W on 14th, six flew W on 17th, 14 flew E from Carr Wood on 19th, two flew E on 20th, on 21st 11 flew W over Highoredish (+ another flock heard but not seen) and 1 flew W over Carr Wood, two over Highoredish on 27th and several heard in Carr Wood on 29th

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2012 - Species recorded 104

Running total for 2012 = 142

The highlight of the month was a Honey Buzzard that passed through on 30th August witnessed by just four lucky observers. The recent upsurge in numbers of Greylag Geese continued and the previous record count was smashed on 22nd when 75 were present. Four Shelduck arrived on 29th and other wildfowl of note included a juvenile Wigeon on 16th, and an eclipse drake Shoveler on 18th. The colour-ringed Pintail remained all month and a second bird was also present briefly on 18th. The high water levels enabled at least seven pairs of Great Crested Grebes and two pairs of Little Grebes to raise young providing a stark contrasting with just the one pair of Great Crested Grebes that managed to breed last year. Raptors passing through included a Red Kite on 2nd, a Marsh Harrier the following day and seven Ospreys, most of which were present briefly, though the only juvenile which was present on 27th lingered for a while. Not surprisingly wader passage was poor, and consisted mainly of birds flying over the site, the most interesting of which being a Whimbrel on 24th. Heavy rain and strong SSE winds on 15th resulted in six Black Terns and 11 adult Arctic Terns visiting briefly. The Common Terns on the southern raft raised two young. Good numbers of Warblers, particularly Chiffchaffs, were often present and the visible migration season began well with good numbers of Tree Pipits passing through as well as a few Yellow Wagtails and some small movements of hirundines. Good numbers of Goldfinch were present all month, though numbers of Linnets were well down due to much of their favoured habitat being under water. There were a few records of Siskins and the good run of Crossbill records continued with several reports during the month.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 185 on 28th.

Greylag Goose Regularly present throughout the month with a new record count of 75 on 22nd (previous maximum was 34 on 1st Jan this year).

Shelduck Four on 29th.

Mandarin Recorded intermittently throughout the month with a maximum of nine on 24th.

Teal Small numbers recorded throughout the month with a maximum of 15 on 12th.

Pintail The colour-ringed female remained all month and a second bird, a juvenile, was present briefly on 18th.

Shoveler An eclipse drake present on 18th.

Pochard Up to three present intermittently during the month.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 77 on 11th and two broods have been seen so far.

Goosander One on 7th and five on 31st.

Little Egret Three arrived with Black-headed Gulls on 9th, all three remaining until 11th. Thereafter two were still present on 12th with one remaining until 17th.

Little Grebe Two pairs bred.

Great Crested Grebe Seven pairs bred.

Honey Buzzard An adult female arrived at 10:15 and departed SW at 10:25 hrs on 30th.

Red Kite One flew SW between 11:40 and 11:55 hrs on 2nd.

Marsh Harrier A juvenile flew S between 09:00 and 09:07 hrs on 3rd.

Osprey At least seven passed through during the month. One on 5th arrived from NE at 10:19 and remained until 11:05 hrs when it flew off SW, one on 13th present from 18:40 - 18:55 hrs, one on 20th from 19:15 - 19:20 hrs with presumably the same on 21st present 09:00 - 09:45 and again briefly at 10:15 hrs. Two different adults passed through on 26th, one from 08:50 - 09:00 hrs and another flew SW over Highoredish between 11:55 - 12:00 hrs. The first juvenile of the year arrived from NE at 10:40 hrs on 27th and remained into the late afternoon at least. Finally another adult was seen briefly at 08:25 hrs on 29th.

Hobby Occasional sightings of one- two birds during the month.

Peregrine One on 12th and one on 19th.

Oystercatcher The resident pair and two young were still present at the beginning of the month, though became increasingly erratic in their appearances and only one young seen after around the 8th.

Little Ringed Plover One flew through on 11th.

Ringed Plover Two flew through on 11th.

Lapwing Up to 80 seen at times but they are finding it difficult to find anywhere to land.

Dunlin One flew through on 18th.

Snipe One on 31st.

Whimbrel One flew S on 24th.

Curlew Two flew through on 31st.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2012 - Species recorded 107

Running total for 2012 = 145

September produced a number of interesting sightings, the most exciting of which involved two Great White Egrets which had been tracked heading NW through Nottinghamshire before reaching Ogston and were also recorded passing through two sites in the Peak District as they continued on their journey.

The large numbers of Canada and Greylag Geese that had been present during August quickly dispersed early in the month. Seven Barnacle Geese flying through on 2nd was an unusual record of this scarce species at Ogston. Other wildfowl of interest included a good series of Pintail records, a record count of Mandarins, a few records of Wigeon, Gadwall, Shoveler and Goosander and the first Goldeneye of the autumn. After the good numbers of Ospreys recorded last month, there were surprisingly just two records during September and a single Red Kite passed through on 10th. With high water levels persisting wader passage continued to be poor with little of interest, three Turnstones flying through on 9th being the exception. The number of Gulls showed a general increase as the month progressed and these included the odd Yellow-legged Gull, Herring Gull and the first Greater Black-backed Gulls of the autumn. A Sandwich Tern on 1st got the month off to a good start, though disappointingly the only other Terns reported during the month were two unidentified birds present briefly on 24th. For what must be the first year for some time there were no September sightings of Swifts, they seem to have left very early this year. A Whinchat on 24th was a good record and only the second this year. Visible migration of Meadow Pipits and hirundines etc was evident, but involved a steady trickle of passing through the site most days rather than a few days with large counts. The first Bramblings of the autumn flew over on 29th. Good numbers of Siskins were recorded either in areas of Larch or more frequently passing over, though there was just a single record of Crossbill on 14th.

Greylag Goose Only small numbers present most days with a maximum of 17 on 26th.

Barnacle Goose Seven flew NNE at 10:05 hrs on 2nd.

Mandarin Small numbers were reported on several dates, though an exceptional flock were present on the River Amber on Milltown Inlet during the early morning of 24th. At least 30 were counted but the flock probably numbered well in excess of fifty and possibly up to 100 birds but unfortunately they were already swimming up river out of sight before a telescope could be used to count them properly.

Wigeon One on 1st, two on 6th, one on 23rd, three on 24th and two on 26th.

Gadwall One on 11th, two on 16th and three on 26th.

Teal Small numbers were present throughout the month, but a flock of up to 30 were present briefly on 27th.

Pintail What was presumed to be the long staying colour-ringed female was seen flying high, presumably leaving the site on 1st. From 14th onwards birds were seen quite regularly with a maximum of at least six on 28th.

Shoveler One eclipse drake on 1st and at least three fem/imm on 9th.

Pochard One - three on several dates.

Goldeneye An eclipse drake on 24th.

Goosander One on 25th.

Little Egret On 1st one arrived at 11:55 hrs and landed on the West Bank adjacent to the car park and one flew NW with two Great White Egrets between 09:05 and 09:12 hrs on 16th.

Great White Egret Two together with a Little Egret, flew NW through the site on 16th between 09:05 - 09:12 hrs. They had previously been reported in Nottinghamshire over Annesley Pit Top at 08:45 hrs and Bentinck at 08:48 hrs and after leaving Ogston were seen over Leash Fen at 09:35 hrs and at Millers Dale at 10:05 hrs. It seems likely that these would be the same two which were reported together in the Burton Marsh area Cheshire about a week later, coincidentally in the same area as the White-fronted Geese that passed through Ogston in January. The second record for

Ogston and about the eighteenth for Derbyshire and the first record involving more than one bird.

Red Kite On 10th one drifted SE between 09:20 and 09:27 hrs.

Osprey One flew S at 17:05 hrs on 4th and an adult flew through and left SE between 11:35 and 11:45 hrs on 26th.

Hobby Occasional sightings of up to five birds during the month, the last record being of two juveniles on 26th.

Peregrine One on 27th was the only record.

Oystercatcher One on 7th was the only record this month.

Golden Plover On 16th c10 flew W.

Lapwing Up to 100 reported on several dates (maximum of 114 on 30th) mainly frequenting fields alongside the reservoir.

Snipe One - two on several dates.

Curlew The only record was of five which flew NW on 1st.

Common Sandpiper One-two present on several dates with a maximum of three on 4th. The last record was of one on 28th.

Redshank One present on 12th which managed to land on the Bistort that is floating around the margins of the reservoir.

Turnstone On 9th three circled the reservoir and after finding nowhere to land they left NE, the only record so far this year.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Small numbers were recorded passing through most days. On 19th c30 were present in a ploughed field alongside the reservoir and these included the same colour-ringed female from Texel in the Netherlands that was last seen at Ogston in March. In between these visits to Ogston this bird has briefly revisited the nesting colony where it was ringed on Texel and been seen elsewhere in the Netherlands as well as visiting a landfill site south of Bergen in Norway.

Herring Gull One on 10th.

Yellow-legged Gull One 1st summer on 1st.

Great Black-backed Gull Two an adult and a first winter on 23rd were the first of the autumn. Five passed through on 26th.

Sandwich Tern On 1st one present from 09:35 - 09:40 hrs then flew SE.

Kingfisher Almost daily sightings of one - three birds.

Raven Recorded on several dates with a maximum of three on 13th.

Chiffchaff Large numbers were still present early in the month, though a noticeable reduction of about 50% occurred overnight on 10th/11th. After this there was a more gradual reduction in numbers as the month progressed and at least 12 were estimated to be present on 30th.

Willow Warbler Good numbers still present early in the month, though there was a marked departure overnight on 5th/6th when just two remained in an area where 15- 20 had been present the previous few days. Last recorded on 18th.

Lesser Whitethroat One on 1st and one on 8th/9th.

Whitethroat Still present in reasonable numbers at the beginning of the month, though became increasingly more scarce from 6th onwards, last recorded on 23rd.

Sedge Warbler Small numbers were present until the last sighting on 21st.

Reed Warbler One pair still feeding small fledged young at the beginning of the month. Last recorded on 21st.

Blackbird A noticeable influx occurred from around 24th with up to 30 birds around the West Bank car park at times.

Spotted Flycatcher One on 9th and two on 10th around the West Bank car park were the last recorded.

Whinchat One juvenile on 17th was only the second record this year.

Tree Sparrow Away from the regular birds behind the dam occasional birds were seen in the West Bank car park, where two were present on 3rd, one on 8th and two on 29th.

Yellow Wagtail Small numbers passing through on several dates with a maximum of six on 9th. Last

recorded on 16th.

White Wagtail one on 12th.

Tree Pipit One on the West Bank during the early morning of 2nd, one flew S on 6th and one flew SE on 12th.

Goldfinch A noticeable reduction on the large numbers present last month, but still quite good numbers around.

Linnet Up to 200 were in ploughed and stubble fields opposite the West Bank around the end of the month.

Lesser Redpoll After the first bird on 14th recorded most days with a maximum of eight on 29th.

Crossbill One over Milltown Inlet on 14th.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2012 - Species recorded 100

Running total for 2012 = 150

Wildfowl once again provided some interesting records though frustratingly a small flock of wild Swans on 26th were seen too late to be identified with any certainty.

Numerous skeins of Pink-footed Geese were recorded passing over, both to the north and to the south of Ogston but the only ones which passed through the recording area were seven which flew NW on 25th. A Shelduck was present on 28th. A pair of Red-crested Pochards which visited on 10th was only the seventh ever record for Ogston. Other wildfowl of interest included several records of Shoveler, Gadwall and Goldeneye, and the good run of Pintail records continued. Few waders were recorded, and most of these passed through being unable to find any suitable habitat. Later during the month Gulls began roosting in relatively large numbers (for this time of year), perhaps encouraged to do so by the high water levels. Unfortunately most have been arriving between just prior to or just after dusk, nevertheless it has been an encouraging start to the winter Gull watching season.

Large numbers of Jays were on the move throughout the month, reflecting a nationwide movement, thought to be due to a partial failure of the Acorn crop this year. Swallows and House Martins were still reasonably common at the beginning of the month but numbers fell rapidly as the month progressed. A few Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps lingered during the first half of the month but they were gradually replaced by winter visitors as Bramblings arrived in reasonable numbers and the first Redwings and Fieldfares arrived. A Water Pipit visited briefly on 25th and there were several sightings of Rock Pipit. At least one Twite, a very rare visitor to Ogston, was present with a large flock of Linnets on 2nd. Siskins and Lesser Redpolls were both relatively numerous and once again there was a good number of Crossbill sightings.

Wild Swans A small group of c10 - 12 which passed over at dusk on 26th were thought most likely to have been Bewick's but unfortunately could not be positively identified.

Greylag Goose Only small numbers present most days with a maximum of 20 on 26th.

Shelduck One female on 28th.

Mandarin Two on 7th and four on 18th were the only records.

Wigeon Quite a few transient flocks passed through, most staying only briefly. Ten on 8th, seven on 12th three on 19th two on 21st seven on 22nd nine on 23rd, 17 on 25th, two on 26th and five on 28th.

Gadwall Three on 10th, six on 16th, two on 25th, one on 26th/27th and two on 28th.

Teal Regularly present in small numbers the maximum count being of c16 on 9th.

Pintail One juvenile was present from 10th - 12th and on the latter date another 17 flew W after circling the reservoir between 11:08 and 11:15 hrs. One on 16th and 17th and one on 25th.

Shoveler Two were present from 10th - 12th.

Red-crested Pochard A pair arrived at 09:35 hrs on 10th and remained close to the East Bank during the afternoon. Only the seventh record for Ogston and the first since 5th Nov 2000.

Pochard Five on 8th, a female on 10th, five on 28th, 1 female on 29th and four on 31st.

Goldeneye Three on 26th and two on 28th.

Goosander Two flew N on 25th and two through on 31st.

Grey Partridge One in stubble opposite the West Bank on 16th.

Merlin One fem/imm flew SE at 13:10 hrs on 5th.

Peregrine One on 7th and one on 12th/13th.

Water Rail One was heard on 1st and one seems to have taken up residence on the West Bank from 28th onwards.

Dunlin Three flew S on 12th and one through on 28th.

Curlew Two on 12th passed through S unable to find anywhere to land.

Redshank One on 21st.

Black-headed Gull Good numbers present throughout the month with the maximum count being

of 1200 roosting on 26th.

Common Gull Recorded regularly throughout the month with a maximum of 46 in a pre-roost gathering on 26th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Maximum count of c470 roosting on 28th.

Herring Gull Maximum count of c80 roosting on 28th.

Yellow-legged Gull Two (a 1stW and a 2ndW) in the roost on 27th and an adult in the roost on 30th. One flew N on 31st.

Great Black-backed Gull Maximum count of c60 roosting on 28th.

Kingfisher Up to three recorded daily throughout the month.

Jay Well above average numbers present throughout the month, part of a national influx of this species. The maximum count (and record count for Ogston) was of 35 over Highoredish mainly heading NE on 5th while several others were present in trees in the area.

Raven Maximum of four on 27th.

Swallow Still present in reasonable during the first week, with a maximum count of c150 on 6th though became very scarce by mid month. The last records were of two flying S on 27th and five flying S on 28th.

House Martin Recorded daily up to 6th with a maximum count of c70 on 3rd, then no records until the last record of one flying S on 20th.

Chiffchaff Still reasonably numerous at the beginning of the month with 15+ on 3rd and 6th the maximum number recorded. Numbers then decreased gradually until the last record of one on 14th.

Blackcap Several present at the beginning of the month gradually decreased until last recorded on 14th.

Starling Quite a few passing through with a maximum of 1000+ heading W on 28th.

Fieldfare The first arrivals were c30 on 24th and the maximum count was of c200 on 25th.

Redwing First arrivals were 33 over Highoredish on 7th and other counts included c310 on 13th, 144 on 19th and c350 on 25th.

Tree Sparrow Apart from the regular birds behind the dam four flew N over Highoredish on 7th and three were present around the West Bank car park on 8th.

Stonechat One male on 4th was the only record this year so far.

Yellow Wagtail A late record of one on 4th.

Meadow Pipit Light passage noted on most days, particularly during the first half of the month with counts of 104 on 5th, 87 on 13th and 131 on 19th.

Rock Pipit Two on 12th, then singles on 14th, 15th, and 18th.

Water Pipit One circled the reservoir a couple of times before flying SE between 11:00 and 11:05 hrs on 25th.

Brambling Recorded quite regularly with several birds visiting the feeders by the hide and a maximum count of c15 over Highoredish on 29th.

Siskin Maximum count of 53 over Highoredish on 5th.

Linnet Up to 200 were present on 1st and 2nd, with much smaller numbers after this.

Twite At least one with c200 Linnets on 2nd October.

Lesser Redpoll Recorded regularly throughout the month with a maximum count of 43 over Highoredish on 13th.

Crossbill A good number of records again the majority of which were from Highoredish. One flew W on 5th, two over Highoredish on 7th, 16 over Highoredish on 13th, two over Highoredish on 19th, heard at Highoredish on 20/21st, and two over Highoredish on 25th.

OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT NOVEMBER 2012 - Species recorded 99

Running total for 2012 = 155

An excellent month with numerous highlights most notable of which was the third ever record of Great White Egret on 3rd, hot on the heels of Ogstons second record in September. That same day also produced a Hawfinch, the first Whooper Swans of the year as well as Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls in the roost.

Water levels finally began to drop slightly early in the month and immediately the numbers of Teal and Snipe present began to increase, though heavy rain later in the month at least temporarily refilled the reservoir. A reasonable number of Pink-footed Geese passed over, mainly during the second half of the month and other wildfowl of interest included a first-winter drake Scaup on 17th and an immature Common Scoter on 9th. A juvenile Great Northern Diver visited briefly on 27th before apparently leaving for Carsington. The Water Rail from October remained all month and a Jack Snipe was seen on 11th. Good numbers of Gulls continued roosting and included several Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls. Unseasonal visitors included two Chiffchaffs on 17th and a Blackcap on 26th. An excellent run of Waxwing records during the month was no surprise given the large numbers arriving nationally, though all visited only briefly. The first Dippers since March were seen on the river downstream of the reservoir as well as one on the reservoir. A few Bramblings continued to pass through with some visiting feeders by the hides and gardens within the recording area. Reasonable numbers of Siskins and Lesser Redpolls were around and there were a couple of records of Crossbill as well as a second Hawfinch which was present briefly on 24th.

Mute Swan Two juveniles were present on 9th and 10th.

Whooper Swan Six flew E at 10:00 hrs on 3rd.

Pink-footed Goose On 3rd 40 were seen passing over south of the reservoir on the guided walk. On 15th c800 flew NW in five skeins and one was down with Greylags, 120 flew E on 27th, c320 flew ESE in one skein at 09:03 hrs on 28th and c270 flew ESE in three skeins on 29th.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 19 on 15th and 16th.

Mandarin Four on 29th was the only record.

Wigeon One on 8th, two drakes on 24th, a pair on 26th, four on 27th (two pairs) and a pair on 30th.

Gadwall Three from 19th - 21st, four (two pairs) on 22nd, one on 24th and 25th and a pair on 30th.

Teal Maximum count of c50 on 25th.

Shoveler An immature drake was present from 17th - 22nd.

Pochard Recorded regularly but numbers present fluctuated daily with a maximum count of 20 on 12th.

Scaup a first-winter male on 17th.

Common Scoter One immature female on 9th.

Goldeneye Seen daily from 4th onwards with a maximum of eight on 27th.

Goosander One on 3rd, one drake flew N on 18th, one drake flew NW on 20th, a drake present early morning and a female flew SE on 24th and two drakes flew N on 30th.

Great Northern Diver A juvenile on 27th was present for an hour or so from 12:20 hrs then appeared to leave and go to Carsington during the afternoon. The ninth Record for Ogston. The previous record here last year also appeared to go to Carsington after a one and a half day stay here.

Great White Egret One flew S along the east side of the reservoir before departing SW between 15:35 - 15:40 hrs. The third record for Ogston.

Peregrine The only records were of singles on 14th, 22nd and 25th.

Water Rail The bird from October remained throughout the month, though could be elusive at times. It visited the feeding station by the hide during cold weather on 30th.

Dunlin One present briefly with Lapwings on 27th.

Jack Snipe One flushed during a work party on 11th.

Snipe Maximum count of 28 on 18th.

Woodcock One was seen leaving Carr Wood at dusk on 17th.

Curlew One flew SSE on 14th.

Black-headed Gull The maximum count was of c3700 in the roost on 16th.

Yellow-legged Gull A 3rdW flew N on 17th. All other records came from the roost, these were one 2ndW on 3rd, three adults on 10th, a 2ndW on 11th and two on 24th (2ndW and 3rdW).

Caspian Gull This month saw something of a return to form for this species at Ogston, though whether or not this continues remains to be seen. All records were from the roost. One adult on 3rd. A 1stW on 4th, one adult on 10th, an adult and a 3rdW on 17th, the 3rdW present again on 18th. One adult in the roost on 22nd. An adult present in the roost on 10th and 11th showed some characters of Caspian Gull but was thought to be a hybrid (most probably Caspian X Herring Gull).

Woodpigeon At Highoredish c1920 flew W on 3rd and c3900 flew W on 4th.

Kingfisher One -two almost daily throughout the month.

Jay The record numbers present during September and October appear to have largely dispersed now and numbers have returned to something like more normal levels.

Chiffchaff Two were present on 17th, the first since 14th October.

Blackcap One on 26th, the first since 14th October.

Waxwing On 11th 20 were present between the car park and the hides on 11th. One flew SW on 16th. On 17th 6 were present briefly from 12:05 - 12:10 hrs then flew ENE. On 22nd 27 were present briefly around 10:30 hrs then flew NE. On 24th two were present in the West Bank car park briefly at 10:10 hrs then flew NE.

Dipper One on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir on 4th and 6th. One flew SE across Chapel Bay on 16th. At least one (probably two) were on the river Amber on 24th.

Fieldfare Quite good numbers were passing through early in the month with counts of c600 which flew W on 3rd, c550 W on 4th and 130 flew W on 9th. Later in the month more erratic in appearances with flocks of up to 50 present on some days.

Redwing Good numbers present all month with counts of c175 W on 3rd, c160 on 8th, 75 on 26th.

Tree Sparrow Several visiting the usual feeders behind the dam all month.

Rock/Water Pipit One thought most likely on call to be a Water Pipit, was heard but not seen on both 11th & 12th.

Brambling A few were still passing over during the first half of the month with a maximum of 10+ over Highoredish on 3rd. A few were visiting feeders on and off during the month and at least five were in Brackenfield Churchyard on 26th.

Siskin Quite good numbers around with counts of c40 over Highoredish on 4th, c80 in Alders by the River Amber on 6th and 66 over Highoredish on 9th.

Lesser Redpoll A few were present all month with a maximum count of c30 which flew W over Highoredish on 3rd.

Crossbill One flew E on 8th and two over Highoredish on 11th.

Hawfinch One flew W over Highoredish with Bramblings on 3rd and one was present briefly in trees near the north-eastern corner of the reservoir before flying SE on 24th. The eighth and ninth records for Ogston.

OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT DECEMBER 2012 - Species recorded 91

Total for 2012 = 156

Apart from a brief cold spell mid-month relatively mild weather prevailed with frequent and often heavy rainfall which ensured that the reservoir remained full. The main highlight of the month was a Great Northern Diver which flew through on 16th, unfortunately its arrival had coincided with the boats emerging from the yacht club. Wildfowl numbers were relatively low, which was at least partly due to the high water levels. A few Pink-footed Geese passed over, there were a couple of records of Shelduck and the occasional Wigeon, Gadwall and Goosander but the most interesting wildfowl record concerned a drake Common Scoter on 14th, a rare December occurrence for this species. A pair of Ruddy Ducks, now a very scarce visitor to Ogston following the cull, arrived on 13th and remained until the end of the month. The most interesting waders reported were a Grey Plover which flew through on 14th and a Golden Plover which also passed through on 23rd, while the commoner wader species such as Snipe and Lapwing were present in only small numbers due to the lack of habitat caused by the high water levels. The Gull roost was unpredictable, with numbers present varying from night to night. Often large numbers of the commoner species were present but the scarcer species were few and far between, the highlight being an adult Mediterranean Gull which was present on several occasions. A sighting of a Little Owl in the West Bank car park was encouraging news as there have been very few sightings of this species this year. Very few berries remained in the area and consequently there were just two records of Waxwings this month and similarly numbers of winter thrushes were also much reduced compared with the numbers present in November. A few Bramblings and reasonable numbers of Siskins remained in the area, though there was just a single record of Crossbill.

Pink-footed Goose On 6th c75 flew NW at 11:00 hrs. On 11th c100 flew W and c80 flew NW.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 54 on 19th.

Shelduck On 9th five were present and one flew W on 21st.

Mandarin Four on 29th was the only record.

Wigeon One on 4th, one on 12th, two on 16th, four on 20th/21st and one on 24th.

Gadwall One on 17th, two on 18th and one on 21st.

Pochard Recorded daily with a maximum of 15 on 14th.

Common Scoter A drake was present on 14th.

Goldeneye Present daily with a maximum of seven on 12th.

Goosander Three on 1st, two on 2nd, two on 4th, one flew N on 11th, two on 16th, two flew S on 28th, four on 29th and one flew S on 30th.

Ruddy Duck A pair present from 13th to the end of the year.

Great Northern Diver On 16th one (probably adult) arrived from the NE did a circuit of the reservoir and then left in a WNW direction between 10:50 and 10:55 hrs. The 11th record for Ogston (last months was the 10th and not the ninth as stated in the November report).

Peregrine One on 3rd and one on 10th were the only records.

Water Rail Up to two birds present all month but often elusive.

Golden Plover One flew SE on 23rd.

Grey Plover One flew S at 11:00 hrs on 14th.

Dunlin One flew NW on 3rd, and one flew through on 9th.

Snipe Small numbers (up to five) were present all month.

Woodcock One was seen by the Oak Tree at dusk on 1st.

Mediterranean Gull Single adults recorded in the roost on 7th, 18th, 21st, 24th and 28th.

Yellow-legged Gull One 2ndW in the roost on 2nd. A 1stW was present in the pre-roost gathering on 23rd, 27th, 30th and 31st.

Caspian Gull/Hybrid An adult in the roost on 2nd showed some characters of Caspian Gull but was believed to be a hybrid.

Little Owl One was present in the West Bank car park early morning on 18th.

Kingfisher One -two present at times, particularly during the first half of the month, less frequently reported as the month progressed.

Waxwing On 7th one present briefly and on 8th 21 flew W just before dusk presumably to roost.

Dipper One on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir on 26th,

Tree Sparrow At least ten around the usual feeders behind the dam on 26th.

Brambling A few intermittently visiting feeders in the area and up to c10 seen in stubble on 17th.

Siskin Maximum count of c60 in Alders Wood on 8th.

Crossbill One flew over on 13th.