

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>, a Sandwich Tern on 15<sup>th</sup> and an early Yellow Wagtail which flew through S on 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Canada Goose** The maximum count was of 55 on 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Gadwall** Two on 5<sup>th</sup> and three on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** Two (a pair) on 1<sup>st</sup> 1 drake on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Pochard** Seven drakes on 29<sup>th</sup> were the first here since 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Tufted Duck** The maximum count was of 36 on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>.

**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 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Peregrine** Singles on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and one from 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>.

**Ringed Plover** One flew through N on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe** One seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, unusual here at this time of year.

**Whimbrel** On 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, four flying SE on 19<sup>th</sup> and the maximum count was of 15 at 22:00 hrs on 8<sup>th</sup>, (which were presumably roosting).

**Redshank** One on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Sandwich Tern** On 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Skylark** One flew W on 2<sup>nd</sup>, an unusual date here.

**Lesser Whitethroat** One singing at Temperance Hill on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 30<sup>th</sup>.