

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.