

### 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 5<sup>th</sup>, a single Shelduck on 27<sup>th</sup>, four Shovelers on 21<sup>st</sup> and Goosanders were present quite regularly, but the high water levels resulted in low numbers of Teal and Mallards. A Merlin was seen on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>. Snipe were present in reasonable numbers but were elusive and Woodcock were seen on several dates with an impressive seven seen at dusk on 27<sup>th</sup>. The first returning Curlew was present on 21<sup>st</sup> and seven on 27<sup>th</sup> was the maximum count. It was a good month for Kittiwakes with five individuals recorded including two in the roost on 8<sup>th</sup>. Mediterranean Gulls were present in the roost on many dates with a record count of four present in the roost on three consecutive nights 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, with birds present during the daytime on a couple of occasions. A single Caspian Gull roosted on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with an adult Glaucous Gull also roosting on 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> and two on 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Greylag Goose** Maximum count of 25 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** Maximum count of 37 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Shelduck** One on 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Gadwall** A pair present on 28<sup>th</sup> were the only ones this month.

**Shoveler** Four (two pairs) present on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Pochard** The maximum count was of 11 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** The maximum count was of 55 on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye** A few were present almost daily with a maximum of eight on 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Common Buzzard** Highest counts were of ten+ on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, with 11+ on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Merlin** One flew through at dusk on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** One on 1<sup>st</sup>, two on 16<sup>th</sup> and two on 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Golden Plover** One flew SE on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing** The maximum count was of c140 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe** Reasonable numbers present though elusive 15 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Caspian Gull** One 2ndW present in the roost on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Glaucous Gull** One adult arrived late in the roost on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**Jackdaw** At least 430 flew over at dusk on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** Present on several dates with a maximum of at least four on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Skylark** Small numbers passing over, mainly heading north, on many days with at least ten on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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.