

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.