

## OGSTON MONTHLY SIGHTINGS REPORT - MARCH 2015

**The Saturday Morning Bird Walk** led by Paul Beard attracted 24 hardy souls who braved a biting wind to walk up to Milltown Quarry, where nesting Ravens were seen as well as several hundred Jackdaws. Buzzards, a Kestrel and a Peregrine were also spotted as well as the first Ringed Plover of the season. A total of 40 species were seen by the group as a whole.

**Highlights of the month :** A Blackcap was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Chiffchaff at Chapel Bay on 13<sup>th</sup>) with other sightings on most days from the 18<sup>th</sup> ; Common Gull (1 on 6<sup>th</sup> & 60 on 14<sup>th</sup>) ; Curlews on 7 days ; Dunlin (on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>) ; 2 Egyptian Geese on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1 Fieldfare on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goldcrest (5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>), 1 to 3 Goosanders on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (3), 6<sup>th</sup>; 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>; Green Woodpecker on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> (2) ; 1 Heinei (? ) Gull (Russian) on 14<sup>th</sup> ; on the 21<sup>st</sup> a leucistic Herring Gull was spotted by our eagle eyed gull expert, Adult Iceland Gull on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, plus a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter bird on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> winter specimen on the 20<sup>th</sup> ; Jackdaw (7<sup>th</sup>), a Kestrel was sighted on 8 days, Linnets were recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, with 92 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a first Little Ringed Plover of the year on the 21<sup>st</sup>, seen again on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Mandarin Duck (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>) ; 32 Meadow Pipits were spotted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with 16 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a Merlin on 27<sup>th</sup>, Peregrine (7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>), the first Pintail of the year on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Pochard (12<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>) ; Raven (7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> (2), & 12<sup>th</sup>); a Red Kite was around on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Redpoll (9<sup>th</sup>) ; Redshank (13<sup>th</sup>) ; 50 Redwings were seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>, with 20 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 50 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Ringed Plover (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>) ; a rare Ruddy Duck on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a Sand Martin on the 13<sup>th</sup> with 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 Shovelers on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, ; Skylark (8<sup>th</sup>) ; Sparrowhawk (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>) Tawny Owl (9<sup>th</sup>), with another calling on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> ; 2 Tree Sparrows on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Treecreeper (11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) ; c40 Whooper Swans flew NW on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with another 120 birds flying northwest on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, quite a spectacle !, Willow Tit (4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>) ; 12 Woodcock on the 18<sup>th</sup>, an adult Yellow Legged Gull

was seen on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Yellowhammer on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> with 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**A total of 87 species were recorded in March 2015, as follows :-**

Black Headed Gull ; Blackbird ; Blackcap ; Blue Tit ;  
Bullfinch ; Buzzard ; Canada Geese ;  
Carrion Crow ; Chaffinch ; Chiffchaff ; Coal Tit ;  
Common Gull ; Coot ; Cormorant ;  
Curlew ; Dunlin ; Dunnock ; Egyptian Goose ;  
Fieldfare ; Gadwall ; Goldcrest ; Goldeneye ;  
Goldfinch ; Goosander ; Great Black Backed Gull ;  
Great Crested Grebe ; Great Spotted  
Woodpecker ; Great Tit ; Green Woodpecker ;  
Greenfinch ; Grey Heron ; Grey Wagtail ;  
Greylag Geese ; Heinei (Russian) Gull ; Herring Gull ;  
House Sparrow ; Iceland Gull ;  
Jackdaw ; Kestrel ; Kittiwake ; Lapwing ; Lesser Black  
Backed Gull ; Little Grebe ;  
Little Owl ; Little Ringed Plover ; Long Tailed Tit ;  
Magpie ; Mallard ; Mandarin ;  
Meadow Pipit ; Moorhen ; Mute Swan ; Nuthatch ;  
Oystercatcher ; Peregrine ; Pheasant ;  
Pied Wagtail ; Pintail ; Pochard ; Raven ; Red Kite ;  
Redpoll ; Redshank ; Redwings ; Reed  
Buntings ; Ringed Plover ; Robin ; Rooks ; Ruddy  
Duck ; Sand Martin ; Shelduck ;  
Shovelers ; Skylark ; Snipe ; Song Thrush ;  
Sparrowhawk ; Tawny Owl . Teal ; Tree  
Sparrow ; Tufted Ducks ; Whooper Swan ; Willow Tit ;  
Woodcock ; Woodpigeon ; Wren ; Yellowhammer.

**A total of 96 species have been recorded in 2015 so far.**