

Ogston monthly report – May 2014

Species recorded – May 105

Running Total = 147.

May was mainly quite warm and dry, though somewhat cooler with frequent east and north-east winds during the last third. Water levels began to drop once more as pumping in ceased, though rain late in the month caused levels to rise again slightly. Highlight of the month was a Honey Buzzard which flew through on 26th. Greylag Geese and Mandarins bred again, there were records of Gadwall, Teal and Shoveler and the first Common Scoters of the year turned up on 30th. A Little Egret appeared on 6th and the Grey Herons appear to have had a very successful breeding season with many young birds around. A single Osprey passed through and there were a few sightings of Peregrines. The lower water levels attracted a few waders including a Sanderling and several Whimbrels. Gulls were only present in small numbers and surprisingly there was just a single record of Yellow-legged Gull. Two Little Terns were present briefly on 20th and a few Arctic Terns passed through. A Turtle Dove flew through on 20th, a very rare bird here nowadays and just one Cuckoo was recorded. A Little Owl was seen at Brackenfield. Numbers of Swifts and hirundines were relatively low, hopefully this was due to most having passed through during the favourable weather conditions prevailing during the first two-thirds of the month. Most Warblers seem to be present in reasonable numbers though the Lesser Whitethroats present last month appear to have moved on and there have been no Grasshopper Warblers so far this year. Spotted Flycatchers were seen at Brackenfield Church on 15th but not subsequently. A late Wheatear was seen on 19th, a few Yellow Wagtails passed through and there was a single White Wagtail on 12th.

Mute Swan The pair remained throughout the month but no real sign of any breeding taking place so far.

Greylag Goose A pair with three goslings from 20th onwards. The maximum count was of 36 including the three goslings on 26th.

Shelduck Three were present briefly early morning on 10th.

Mandarin A female with five chicks on 16th.

Gadwall A male on 12th and a pair present on and off from 20th.

Teal Three on 24th, two on 26th, 29th and 31st.

Shoveler A pair present on 10th and 11th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 32 on 4th.

Common Scoter Three drakes on 30th.

Little Egret One on 6th.

Grey Heron A very successful breeding season having moved from the usual Heronry to the new site by Carr Pond.

Honey Buzzard On 26th one, most probably a female, flew NE over the reservoir at 12:23 hrs, turning ESE as it went behind trees on the East Bank. The fourteenth record for Ogston.

Osprey One was present at 15:30 hrs on 4th.

Hobby Just occasional sightings this month.

Peregrine Singles on 2nd, 7th, 16th and 29th.

Oystercatcher The family party remained throughout, the two young just about flying by the end of the month. Odd other birds were present from time to time, though these were usually quickly chased off by the resident birds. The maximum count was of nine on 29th, when the four resident birds were joined by a party of five which arrived from the SE at 08:25 hrs.

Little Ringed Plover One –four birds present all month but no evidence of any breeding attempts so far.

Ringed Plover three from 7th - 9th, one on 10th, one on 14th and 15th, three on 20th and one on 31st.

Sanderling One present during the evening on 19th.

Dunlin One flew through on 1st, one on 4th, one on 6th and 7th, two on 8th, six through on 10th, one on 11th, two on 12th, one flew through N on 24th and one present on 29th.

Whimbrel One flew NW at 08:00 hrs on 2nd, one flew through on 3rd, six flew SSE at 17:09 hrs on 8th, one present 08:30 – 08:50 hrs on 22nd and one present briefly at 07:35 hrs and then flew N on 31st.

Curlew Two through on 3rd, one on 8th and at least one on 20th.

Common Sandpiper One from 1st – 6th, one on 14th, one on 19th/20th and one on 29th.

Redshank One was present during the afternoon on 4th.

Common Gull Five (ad + 4 1stS) thru with other gulls on 1st, a 1stS flew W on 30th and an adult flew W on 31st.

Yellow-legged Gull A 3rdS flew S on 2nd.

Great Black-backed Gull Small numbers still appeared to be roosting at the beginning of the month, with a maximum of c20 which were present early morning on 1st.

Little Tern Two did a brief circuit of the reservoir, then appeared to leave SE at 10:40 on 20th.

Common Tern Up to four birds present and one pair began nesting on the raft in Chapel Bay

Arctic Tern Five through on 1st, one flew NE at 08:00 hrs and two were present later on 2nd, one flew NW on 7th, one on 10th and two on 12th.

Turtle Dove One flew NE at 11:50 hrs on 20th.

Cuckoo One on 5th, calling between Clattercotes Wood and Highoredish.

Little Owl One seen on a telegraph pole at Brackenfield on 26th.

Swift Three on 1st were the first to arrive this year, after which numbers gradually increased with c15 on 2nd, c30 on 4th, c40 on 6th and a maximum of c200 on 9th.

Raven One – two seen occasionally throughout the month.

Whitethroat Twelve were singing along the North and West Banks of the reservoir on 18th.

Sedge Warbler Seven singing on the West Bank on 18th.

Reed Warbler One on 1st was the first to arrive this year.

Spotted Flycatcher Two in Brackenfield Churchyard on 15th were the first to arrive, but they were not seen there after this date.

Wheatear A male was present on 19th.

Yellow Wagtail One on 1st, two on 2nd, one on 8th, one flew S on 20th and one flew N on 21st,

White Wagtail One on 12th.