

OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – JUNE 2013

Species recorded – June = 102 Running total for 2013 =146

June finally produced a few warmer days, though temperatures were often pegged back by cool winds. There were a few days with rain, though nothing like the washout of last year, and water levels gradually fell to reveal some useful wader habitat, though unfortunately too late for the spring passage and breeding waders.

For the first time ever a pair of Mute Swans bred hatching two cygnets, though sadly these did not survive. Nine Shelduck on 1st was a good count and there were several records of Teal and Gadwall, though the most interesting wildfowl of the month were a flock of fourteen Common Scoter on 19th and a drake Goldeneye on 26th, the first ever record of this species in June at Ogston. A Little Egret was present on 11th and 12th, though it was elusive during its stay. The highlight of the month was an Avocet which was present on 16th, the fourth record for Ogston. Other waders included a couple of Green Sandpipers, a species that was not recorded at all last year and a Ringed Plover from 27th onwards, with Redshank and Common Sandpiper putting in an appearance on the final day. A very late Snipe was present on 17th and 20th and Curlews visited daily, presumably birds breeding nearby. There were a few records of Yellow-legged Gulls and unusually for this time of year a few large gulls still appeared to be roosting. Although relatively late, good numbers of Arctic Terns were still passing through. Common Terns are breeding on each of the tern rafts and other individuals visited from time to time. A Tree Pipit at Highoredish and a flyover Crossbill were of interest and the first Cuckoos of the year were seen. Towards the end of the month many family parties of passerines were evident in what seems to have been a successful breeding season for many species.

Mute Swan The resident pair finally emerged with two cygnets on 16th, the first ever breeding record at Ogston. Unfortunately extensive sailing activity on 22nd caused them some disturbance forcing them to leave the relative safety of the water which presumably resulted in the cygnets being predated as they were not seen again after this.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 32 on 3rd. Soon after this numbers fell with only small numbers present later in the month. All six 2nd generation hybrids, progeny of a Greylag paired with the hybrid Canada X domestic Greylag were still surviving at the end of the month.

Canada Goose A pair hatched two goslings around 5th. Numbers began to increase later in the month as the summer moulting flock began to build up. The maximum count was of 86 (including the two goslings) from 19th – 24th.

Shelduck Nine were present briefly on 1st before flying off SE.

Mandarin The only records this month were of a drake on 1st and the female now with ten chicks seen again on 5th and 11th.

Gadwall The only records were of two on 1st & 2nd, four on 5th, one on 9th, one on 17th and one from 21st – 23rd.

Teal Four on 5th, one drake on 9th, one on 16th, three on 19th, one on 20th, two on 22nd/23rd, one on 26th.

Mallard At least 19 broods have been seen so far.

Pochard The drake present from late May remained until 9th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 41 on 25th.

Common Scoter A flock of 14 including six drakes were present most of the day on 19th.

Goldeneye One, probably a 1stS drake on 26th, the first ever June record for Ogston.

Little Egret One arrived at 11:30 hrs on 11th and departed S at 10:35 hrs on 12th.

Grey Heron The first fledged juvenile seen on the reservoir banks was on 17th.

Great Crested Grebe Several pairs have attempted nesting though none have been successful so far. The maximum count was of 28 on 29th.

Peregrine One on 18th was the only record.

Oystercatcher The pair breeding on the tern raft in Chapel Bay hatched three chicks around 6th. These remained on the raft until 10th but probably due to constant aggression from the Terns they left the raft after this. One chick disappeared around this time as just two chicks were seen on the bank by the sailing club on 11th. On 13th there appeared to be only one chick surviving though this seemed to be still doing well at the end of the month.

Avocet One was present on the West Bank during the afternoon and evening on 16th. The fourth record for Ogston.

Little Ringed Plover Present regularly throughout the month, though no evidence of breeding so far. Numbers began to increase as water levels fell towards the end of the month with a maximum count of 15 on 29th.

Ringed Plover One was present from 27th – 30th.

Lapwing A nesting attempt in a field alongside the reservoir seems to have been destroyed by crop spraying. Small groups began arrive early in the month gradually increasing to a maximum of 19 on 27th.

Snipe A late bird seen on 17th and 20th.

Curlew One –three visiting daily, presumed to be birds breeding just outside the recording area.

Common Sandpiper One on 30th.

Redshank One on 30th.

Green Sandpiper One was present for about an hour before flying NNE on 21st. A different individual arrived from the NW at 11:15 hrs on 23rd and showed well on the scrapes until flushed by boats an hour or so later.

Common Gull Two 1stS flew W on 2nd, an adult on 5th/ 6th, a 1stS on 18th and a 1stS on 21st.

Yellow-legged Gull One 2ndS on 7th, two (1stS and 2ndS) flew S on 9th, one 1stS on 10th, one 1stS on 13th, and one 1stS on 18th and 20th.

Great Black-backed Gull Small numbers still appeared to be roosting overnight as some birds were lingering during several mornings. One 1stS on 19th, one 2ndS on 20th, one 1stS on 21st and eight on 28th (seven 1stS and a 2ndS).

Common Tern Both rafts were occupied, the pair in Chapel Bay had a fairly well grown chick on 24th and they were still incubating a presumably infertile egg. It is not possible to see what is happening on the southern raft, though they settled down to breed later than the Chapel Bay pair. Other individuals visited most days with a maximum of ten adults (including the resident pairs) present on 6th.

Arctic Tern On 9th a flock of 24 arrived from the NW at 08:50 hrs and after flying up and down the reservoir several times left to NE at 08:58 hrs, one was present early morning before flying NE on 11th and an immature was present on 16th.

Cuckoo One heard calling in fields adjacent to the West Bank on 7th and one which was seen briefly by the West Bank on 21st were the only records so far this year.

Little Owl One was sat in the middle of the road on South Hill early morning on 2nd and one was seen briefly sat on the wall alongside Badger Lane before flying towards nearby farm buildings on 12th.

Swift Maximum count of c200 on 1st, though often present in reasonable numbers in the windy conditions throughout the month.

Kingfisher A pair were present on the River Amber and one was seen intermittently back at the reservoir from 23rd onwards.

Raven Two adults on 8th were the only ones recorded this month.

Sand Martin Small numbers were seen on a few dates becoming slightly more regular and numerous towards the end of the month.

House Martin The maximum counts were of c50 on 6th and 23rd.

Lesser Whitethroat One on 4th and one on 30th were the only records this month.

Whitethroat Numerous family parties around suggesting a good breeding season.

Grasshopper Warbler One reeling intermittently from 11th – 18th.

Reed Warbler The two pairs either side of the hide remained throughout and both were seen feeding young. Other wandering individuals were present frequently with extra birds singing on the West Bank and Carr Pond quite regularly and with one at Milltown Inlet 15th making up the maximum total of five singing birds that day,

Dipper One was seen on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir on 25th.

Spotted Flycatcher Several birds/pairs were located during the month though most seem to have since moved on.

Tree Pipit One singing and apparently holding territory at Highoredish on 8th but no sign there later in the month.

Meadow Pipit One flew through N on 1st, a late date here.

Crossbill One flew W at 11:13 hrs on 28th.