

## OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – JULY 2013

Species recorded – July = 98      Running total for 2013 =147

The cool winds that had kept June relatively cool finally dropped off leaving hot, dry and sunny conditions for the first half of July. During this extended period of hot weather water levels began to drop rapidly revealing some nice muddy edges which soon began to attract a few waders. From the third week onwards concerted efforts at pumping water into the reservoir, together with thunderstorms triggered by the hot weather and more general rain later in the month gradually covered this promising habitat as water levels rose once again. The main highlight of the month was the passage of some scarce waders including four records (involving ten birds) of Black-tailed Godwits, the second Turnstone of the year and further records of Green Sandpiper. Nine Shelduck on 11<sup>th</sup> was a good count and the low water levels attracted good numbers of Teal and Mallards. A few large Gulls continued to roost overnight and there was a good series of Yellow-legged Gull records. Both pairs of Common Terns fledged a single juvenile and a few Arctic Terns began to pass through on their way south. A Cuckoo presumably on its way south stopped over on the West Bank for a short while and Swifts also began moving south during the last few days of the month. Most Warblers seem to have had a successful breeding season, though there was only one record of Grasshopper Warbler this month. A couple of Yellow Wagtails were obvious migrants as would be many of the large numbers of Pied Wagtails which were present while the water levels were low. A single Siskin was seen and there were a couple of Crossbill sightings.

**Mute Swan** The failed breeding pair remained until 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Shelduck** Nine were present on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Mandarin** Present regularly during the second half of the month, the maximum count being of four on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Teal** Present most days throughout the month, with a maximum count of 19 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** Numbers increased as the water levels fell with 178 on 10<sup>th</sup> being the maximum count.

**Pochard** One drake on 6<sup>th</sup>, three on 8<sup>th</sup>, six on 10<sup>th</sup>, one on 12<sup>th</sup> and two on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck** Three broods (of three, four and six) appeared early in the month. The maximum count was of 99 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Cormorant** A juvenile present on 1<sup>st</sup> July had been ringed at Rutland Water as a chick on 21<sup>st</sup> May this year. An illustration of how quickly they can disperse once fledged.

**Little Egret** Four juveniles arrived at 09:35 hrs on 14<sup>th</sup>, though two of these flew off E at 09:37 hrs.

**Grey Heron** The maximum count was of 34 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** Good numbers present though none have managed to breed successfully this year. The maximum count was of 32 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Oystercatcher** The family party of three remained all month.

**Little Ringed Plover** Present throughout the month with a maximum count of 15 on 1<sup>st</sup>, numbers declining gradually especially as the water levels began to rise again later in the month.

**Ringed Plover** One on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, two on 3<sup>rd</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on 5<sup>th</sup>, four on 6<sup>th</sup>, two on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, three on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, one on 12<sup>th</sup> and two from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing** A regular flock began to build up with a maximum count of 107 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** One on 10<sup>th</sup>, one on 15<sup>th</sup> and one on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit** An adult was present on 11<sup>th</sup>. Two adults were present on 13<sup>th</sup> one of which was colour ringed, from which we should hopefully receive ringing details soon. An adult flew in and landed on the West Bank at 09:40 hrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> but could not be found shortly afterwards. Six adults were present on 27<sup>th</sup>. All were of the Icelandic race.

**Whimbrel** One flew S on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Curlew** Much less frequently recorded this month, the only records being of one on 2<sup>nd</sup>, one on 11<sup>th</sup> and one on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** Recorded quite regularly throughout the month with the maximum count being of five on 13<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** An adult was present on 6<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile was present from 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> and an adult on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Turnstone** One present during the afternoon and early evening of 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** One was present on 7<sup>th</sup>, one on 9<sup>th</sup>, one on 25<sup>th</sup> and one present briefly during the evening of 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull** Fairly regular during the month with a maximum of seven which were present during the evening of 21<sup>st</sup>, presumably intending to roost overnight.

**Yellow-legged Gull** On 1<sup>st</sup> two (1stS and 3rdS) flew S. A 2ndS was present on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. Three were present on 21<sup>st</sup> (1 2ndS present while another 2ndS and an adult flew N), one 2ndS on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> a 3rdS from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31st and one 2ndS flew S with Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** During the first week several were present during the early mornings, presumably after roosting overnight, with up to six present on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. At least one was present most days up until 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Tern** The pair from Chapel Bay fledged a single juvenile around 11<sup>th</sup>, and the pair on the southern raft also raised a single juvenile which fledged. Birds from elsewhere also passed through with up to 12 present on 28<sup>th</sup> (including the resident birds).

**Arctic Tern** An adult flew through S with 5 Black-headed Gulls at 10:27 hrs on 21<sup>st</sup> and an adult flew SW at 11:55hrs on 25<sup>th</sup>. On 28<sup>th</sup> an adult flew W at 09:25 hrs and another three were present for a while, lingering around the West Bank until flushed by boats.

**Cuckoo** One on the West Bank on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Swift** Early in the month counts included C130 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 100 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> there was a noticeable northward movement with over 300 flying N in a few hours on 21<sup>st</sup>. Some noticeable southward movements were noted during the last five days of the month.

**Kingfisher** One – three present quite regularly, mainly around Carr Pond and Milltown Inlet.

**Raven** The only records were of one on 10<sup>th</sup>, five which flew SW on 29<sup>th</sup> and two which flew W on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sand Martin** Small numbers were seen most days.

**Garden Warbler** After an already successful breeding season a good number of pairs appear to be raising second broods.

**Lesser Whitethroat** Two on 3<sup>rd</sup>, one on 4<sup>th</sup>, one on 6<sup>th</sup>, one on 8<sup>th</sup> and one on 26<sup>th</sup> were the only records.

**Grasshopper Warbler** One was singing in fields adjacent to the West Bank on 17<sup>th</sup>. Despite being present regularly during the spring/early summer there has been no evidence of breeding.

**Spotted Flycatcher** Reported quite regularly from Brackenfield Church with occasional others elsewhere.

**Yellow Wagtail** One on 7<sup>th</sup> and one on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin** One over on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Crossbill** At least one flew W at 10:53 hrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a female was seen in the edge of Carr Wood on 31<sup>st</sup>.