

OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – AUGUST 2013

Species recorded – August = 95 Running total for 2013 =149

August was mainly warm but with frequent showers, particularly during the first half. Water was being pumped into the reservoir throughout the month causing water levels to gradually creep further and further up into the profusely vegetated upper banks and the promising muddy edges that had begun to be exposed during July soon seemed a distant memory. This undoubtedly contributed to the relatively low species total for the month, though coverage was also less intense for various reasons.

Wildfowl of interest included a couple of records of Common Scoter and a single Pintail. Three Red Kites passed through and there were several records of Peregrine. Ruff, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper were all present briefly but it was a largely disappointing for waders due to the high water levels. Two Little Gulls were present briefly on 26th and the 3rd summer Yellow-legged Gull that had arrived in late July remained in residence throughout the month. Both families of Common Terns departed quite early in the month, after which there were just a few sightings and just a single Arctic Tern on 15th. A Little Owl was seen on two dates late in the month. Once again Swifts appear to have left early with none seen after 20th. A few mixed Tit and Warbler flocks were present though not in any particularly large numbers. A Whinchat on 26th was the only record this year so far. A couple of Yellow Wagtails and a couple of Tree Pipits passed through while the first migrant Meadow Pipits began to move through on the last day of the month. Reasonable numbers of Goldfinches were present and there were two records of Crossbills.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 19 on 12th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 113 on 7th.

Mandarin One – two present intermittently throughout the month.

Teal Maximum count of 16 on 25th.

Mallard Maximum count of 154 on 5th.

Pochard A drake on 28th was the only record this month.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 97 on 7th.

Common Scoter Single females present on 4th and 16th.

Red Kite A juvenile flew S between 12:05 - 12:15 hrs on 10th. Two juveniles present between 12:30 - 12:40 hrs on 26th had arrived from the NE, one returned NE while one drifted NW.

Peregrine Singles on 5th, 6th, 9th and 10th.

Oystercatcher Just the odd bird still present at the beginning of the month.

Little Ringed Plover A single juvenile on 1st and 2nd was the only record.

Lapwing Maximum count of c140 on 2nd.

Ruff Two flew along the West Bank on 25th but appeared to fly off N after being unable to find anywhere to land.

Snipe Five flew W on 3rd, nine flew along the West Bank on 26th, one on 27th and one on 30th.

Common Sandpiper Three on 2nd, one on 3rd, one from 7th – 10th, two on 13th, two on 16th and one on 18th and 19th.

Greenshank One flew through heading SE on 3rd probably unable to find any suitable area to land and one was present briefly on the scrapes in front of the hide on 15th.

Green Sandpiper Singles seen briefly on 13th and 19th.

Little Gull Two first summer birds present briefly at 11:00 hrs on 26th.

Common Gull A first summer on 1st.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular 3rdS bird remained throughout the month.

Common Tern The two families were still present at the beginning of the month but were last seen on 7th. The only records subsequent to this were of one on 9th, three on 15th and six on 25th.

Arctic Tern One adult on 15th.

Little Owl One was seen on 25th and 26th.

Swift Southward movement noticeable on most days with counts of c100 on 10th, 30+ on 18th, five on 19th then two on 20th. None were seen after this.

Kingfisher One – two present intermittently throughout the month.

Green Woodpecker One on 26th.

Raven Recorded quite regularly during the second half of the month with a maximum of four on 30th and 31st.

Garden Warbler One on 30th.

Lesser Whitethroat One on 10th and one on 26th.

Spotted Flycatcher six on 26th.

Whinchat One during the evening of 26th was the only record so far this year.

Yellow Wagtail One flew NE on 19th and one flew S on 20th.

Goldfinch A regular flock formed on the West Bank with a maximum count of 90+ on 17th.

Crossbill Three low over the West Bank car park heading W on 3rd and C20 flew W on 30th.