

## **OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2013**

Species recorded – September = 97      Running total for 2013 =151

The long warm and mainly dry spell that had persisted throughout much of August came to an abrupt end on 6<sup>th</sup>, on which date the highlight of the month, an Arctic Skua turned up, though unfortunately it did not hang around. The first Pink-footed Goose of the autumn joined the Canada Goose flock briefly on 29<sup>th</sup>, there were several records of Pintail and Shovelers were present quite regularly. The first Wigeon of the autumn arrived on 6<sup>th</sup>. A Little Egret put in a brief appearance on 23<sup>rd</sup>. An Osprey, only the second this year, passed through on 11<sup>th</sup>. Water continued to be pumped in daily so waders were few and far between with a couple of records each of Common and Green Sandpipers and a Golden Plover on 29<sup>th</sup>, (only the second this year), being the highlights. Numbers of gulls increased gradually through the month. The regular Yellow-legged Gull remained all month and was joined by a second bird on 29<sup>th</sup>. The first Herring Gull of the autumn arrived on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a relatively early date. Hirundines began to head south and large numbers were often present over the reservoir, particularly during wet and windy conditions. Many warblers seem to have left early and most species were only present in small numbers. The first Redwings of the autumn arrived on 29<sup>th</sup> and at least one Stonechat was present on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meadow Pipits passed through most days and other migrants included a few Yellow Wagtails. The first Rock Pipit of the autumn was present from 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. During the second half of the month a couple of over-ripe Bean fields alongside the West Bank began to attract increasing numbers of Chaffinches as well as a few Tree Sparrows, Reed Buntings and Yellowhammers, though these fields were harvested late in the month. Small numbers of Siskins began to arrive and Crossbills were seen on several occasions suggesting that a regular flock was present in the area but if so they remained mostly elusive.

**Pink-footed Goose** One present briefly with Canada Geese on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** Maximum count of c180 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Mandarin** Present regularly throughout the month with a maximum of eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Wigeon** First arrived on 6<sup>th</sup>, maximum of eight on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Teal** Maximum count of 100+ on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** Single fem/imm on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and three on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pochard** A drake on 9<sup>th</sup> a female on 24<sup>th</sup> and a drake on 27<sup>th</sup> were the only records this month.

**Tufted Duck** Maximum count of 60 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** One present on the East Bank early afternoon on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Osprey** A juvenile flew through at 07:50 hrs on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine** Singles on 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover** One flew through on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing** Maximum count of 182 on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** One flew through on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Snipe** Reasonable numbers were present but it was impossible to get any accurate counts due to the lush vegetation around the waters edge. The highest count was of c15 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** Singles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** One flew through calling on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** One on 2<sup>nd</sup> and one on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Arctic Skua** A dark morph adult flew N up the reservoir at 07:40hrs on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull** A juvenile on 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first of the autumn.

**Yellow-legged Gull** The regular 3rdS bird was present throughout the month though could go missing odd days. An adult was also present on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Kingfisher** Comparatively scarce this month, with just a few sightings, perhaps suggesting a poor breeding season locally.

**Raven** Recorded quite regularly during the month with a maximum of four on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Sand Martin** A few passing through most days up until 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Swallow** Good numbers over the reservoir on some dates with up to 180 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Many were heading south, the highest count being of 333 which flew S during the morning on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**House Martin** Large numbers were present up until the end of the third week, particularly during wet and windy conditions, with a maximum of c1000 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Later in the month became much more scarce with four heading S on 29<sup>th</sup> the last record. On 6<sup>th</sup> a partially leucistic bird was present with one wing almost completely white and one white primary on the other wing.

**Chiffchaff** Present throughout the month, though not in particularly high numbers.

**Garden Warbler** One on 9<sup>th</sup> and one on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Whitethroat** One on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and one from 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Whitethroat** Scarce this month, the last to be recorded was on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Sedge Warbler** Two on 7<sup>th</sup> appear to have been the last recorded.

**Reed Warbler** The breeding birds appear to have left early this year, the only record being of a presumed migrant from 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Redwing** Three passing through on 29<sup>th</sup> were the first of the autumn.

**Stonechat** At least one and probably two were present briefly in a Bean crop on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tree Sparrow** Regularly seen around the West Bank area from 23<sup>rd</sup> onwards with a maximum of five on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Flycatcher** Recorded quite regularly early in the month with up to six in the Brackenfield Church area. One on the West Bank on 14<sup>th</sup> was the last to be recorded.

**Yellow Wagtail** Singles recorded on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Meadow Pipit** Reasonable numbers passing through most days with the highest count being of 222 up until 10:20 hrs on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Rock Pipit** One from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Chaffinch** Up to 150 were feeding in an overripe Bean field during the second half of the month.

**Crossbill** On 4<sup>th</sup> c20 flew from Carr Wood heading SE. On 15<sup>th</sup> c35 flew from Lodge Plantation towards Carr Wood, probably a record count for Ogston. On 20<sup>th</sup> 14 were in trees at Lower Amber.