

OGSTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – NOVEMBER 2013

Species recorded – November = 95

Running total for 2013 =160

Overall November lacked any particularly dramatic weather events with mainly relatively light winds and although quite cold at times there were only a few overnight frosts. It was also a relatively dry month allowing water levels to recede enough to create an attractive muddy margin to the reservoir.

Bird wise it was another excellent month, the highlight being Ogstons second ever Glossy Ibis which roosted overnight on 6th/7th and also returned briefly during the evening of 8th, though unfortunately its departure was hastened by gunshots coming from Hall Wood.

A reasonable number of Pink-footed Geese passed over and other wildfowl of interest included a Scaup on the 1st, a Common Scoter on 13th and a couple of Ruddy Ducks also put in an appearance. A Merlin passed through on 5th. Good numbers of Snipe found conditions to their liking, two Green Sandpipers visited briefly on 3rd and a Bar-tailed Godwit was a nice surprise on 20th. The gull roost often held good numbers particularly at weekends and produced some interesting sightings including a Little Gull on 2nd and several Caspian Gulls. A Short-eared Owl, the first since 2007 passed through on 10th. A late Chiffchaff was seen on and off during the month and a Rock Pipit paid a brief visit on 24th. Bramblings were present in good numbers, at least during the first half of the month. Smaller numbers of Lesser Redpolls were in the area, a single Mealy Redpoll was seen at Highoredish and there were several records of Crossbills.

Pink-footed Goose One was present with Greylag Geese and c80 flew SE at 14:00 hrs on 8th. At least 520 flew SE in three skeins on 10th, c50 flew SE at 10:15 hrs on 19th, 44 flew WNW at 09:40hrs on 21st and c300 flew NW in two groups on 23rd.

Greylag Goose Maximum count of 30 on 5th.

Canada Goose Maximum count of 237 on 4th.

Barnacle Goose The family party consisting of one Barnacle Goose, one Canada Goose and their two hybrid young remained until the 6th at least.

Mandarin Just a few records this month, the maximum counts being of four on 2nd and 13th.

Wigeon Present most days usually in small numbers though a group of 29 were present on 11th.

Teal Maximum count of 71 on 21st.

Shoveler One immature drake present on 5th.

Pochard Numbers fluctuated wildly early in the month but there was a general and dramatic increase later in the month with the maximum count being of 122 on 27th.

Tufted Duck Maximum count of 31 on 11th.

Scaup A juv female was present in Chapel Bay on 1st.

Common Scoter An imm/fem present on 13th.

Goldeneye One – five present almost daily throughout the month.

Goosander. A male flew through on 1st, three redheads on 5th, one drake early morning on 7th, five came in to roost on 9th. One on 12th, one on 15th, one on 21st, five on 22nd and one drake on 27th.

Ruddy Duck Two males were present on 5th, one of which remained until 13th. What was presumably the same bird then reappeared from 20th until 25th.

Glossy Ibis A first-winter bird flew in at 16:20 hrs on 6th and was still present early morning until at least 07:10 hrs on 7th. It was not seen returning to roost that evening but did reappear again at 15:55 hrs on 8th. Unfortunately it was flushed shortly afterwards, together with all the roosting gulls, by gunshots coming from nearby Hall Wood at approximately 16:30 hrs and was not seen subsequently. Presumably this was the bird that had been present at Bakewell a few days previously and becomes the second record for Ogston following one on 27th September 2009.

Merlin A fem/imm flew SE at 10:42 hrs on 5th.

Lapwing Maximum count of c350 on 12th.

Snipe Good numbers were present though often elusive in the bank side vegetation. The maximum count was of 47 on 28th.

Bar-tailed Godwit On 20th one was present in front of the Members Hide up until 14:46 hrs when it flew off SW.

Green Sandpiper Two were present late afternoon on 3rd.

Little Gull A first-winter in the roost on 2nd.

Herring Gull The maximum count was of c700 roosting on 17th.

Yellow-legged Gull The formerly regular 4thW bird became much more erratic in its appearances only being seen on 1st, 4th, 8th and 17th. Otherwise an adult in the roost on 2nd and six adults in the roost on 3rd. Two adults in the roost on 8th before they were flushed by gunshots. Two adults in the roost on 9th. One adult in the roost on 22nd. One 1stW in the roost on 23rd. Two a 4thW and an adult were present mid-morning on 29th.

Caspian Gull One 3rdW in roost on 3rd and two (1stW and adult) in the roost on 23rd. A 3rdW in the roost on 27th.

Great Black-backed Gull Good numbers present in the roost on some nights with counts of c500 on 17th and c310 on 23rd.

Short-eared Owl One drifted through SE, pursued by Crows between 10:00 and 10:15 hrs on 10th.

Kingfisher Scarce with just a few records, mainly from the Milltown Inlet area.

Chiffchaff One present from 8th until at least 26th mainly around the West Bank car park.

Starling Reasonable numbers passing through mainly heading W or NW during the early part of the month with some regularly roosting in reeds by the hides where up to 500 were counted on 17th.

Dipper One on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir on 15th.

Fieldfare Present throughout the month though, usually in much smaller numbers than Redwings with a maximum count of c150 on 28th.

Redwing Good numbers still present at the beginning of the month, though many had moved on by the end of the month.

Rock Pipit One dropped onto the West Bank at 10:30 hrs before flying to the East Bank shortly afterwards on 24th.

Brambling Good numbers around especially at Highoredish where 40+ were regularly present early in the month, though these seemed to disperse later. Smaller numbers were present with finch flocks elsewhere around the site and a number appeared to be roosting in Carr Wood some evenings.

Linnet Two separate flocks though probably with some interchange, with between 100 – 150 in each were present, one in stubble fields by the West Bank and one NW of the reservoir.

Lesser Redpoll Small numbers were present throughout the month, with a maximum count of c20 at Highoredish on 17th.

Common (Mealy) Redpoll One was present at Highoredish on 6th.

Crossbill A flock of 13 landed briefly in Larches by Chapel Bay before heading off west, five flew S on 2nd. One flew W on 3rd. One present in Larches briefly by the gates to Ogston Hall on 16th.