

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2006 - 30 Days Covered - 77 Species

Only four records of Little Grebe with a maximum of two on 17th and 21st, slightly better figures for Great Crested Grebe recorded on at least fourteen dates with a maximum of nine on 9th, Cormorant figures were quite good with a best count of thirty eight on both 15th and 19th, Grey Heron were recorded on only seven occasions with a best count of four on 28th, Canada Geese which were only recorded in single figures up to 14th, peaked at one hundred and fifty on 25th, the forty Barnacle Geese which visited Wooley Bay on 14th were a very welcome addition to the monthly and year list. Pink-footed Geese were recorded on 22nd, 24th and 25th and 29th, with two birds present on each occasion, and circa one hundred and fifty were noted flying north-east over the reservoir on 27th. Two Greylag Geese were noted on 21st and 28th, with a single bird present on 22nd. The Little Egret was recorded on at least nine occasions, whilst Wigeon was noted on just five dates, with a maximum of twenty on 28th, Teal was noted on at least twelve dates with a best of twenty-five on 14th, Tufted Duck was recorded on thirteen days with a maximum of sixteen on 9th, and Pochard recorded on nine days had a best of forty eight on 15th. Goldeneye was recorded on at least seventeen occasions with a maximum of seven birds on 16th, and six birds noted on both 14th and 28th, a single Goosander was present on 1st with two birds present on 26th, 27th (1m+1f) and 28th and three birds (2m+1f) on 30th. A single Shoveler was present on 22nd, together with a pair of Gadwall and a Pintail on same date. Two Shelduck visited on 24th and 25th. The sixteen Whooper Swans that arrived at 14.40 and stayed for a few hours on 27th were a very welcome addition to both the monthly and year lists.

There were four sightings of Common Buzzard on 1st and 7th 19th and 30th, Sparrowhawk was recorded on 6th, 7th, 14th, 15th, 29th and 30th, with a single record of Kestrel on 1st.

Little Owl was noted on at least ten occasions at its regular haunt, with two a maximum on 9th, whilst there was just one record of Tawny Owl noted on 2nd, Kingfisher was recorded on 13th and 19th, and there was at least eight sightings of Great Spotted Woodpecker with singles on 1st, 10th, 13th, 17th and 24th and 30th, with two a maximum on 14th and 21st, three sightings of Green Woodpecker were noted on 8th and 14th and 19th. Common Snipe was recorded on seven dates with a maximum of fourteen on the 28th, Lapwing had a maximum of eighty-six on 24th, and the first record of Woodcock for the year occurred during January's guided walk on the 7th. Single Grey Wagtail was seen on seven occasions on 8th and 15th, 21st, 22nd, 29th, 30th and 31st, whilst Pied Wagtail had a best of two on both 13th and 14th and 21st.

Redwing and Fieldfare have been recorded very infrequently with a maximum of forty Redwing on 22nd, and twenty-five a best count for Fieldfare on 13th, Goldcrest were recorded on more than four dates with a best count of four on 24th, three single records of Coal and four of Willow Tit, five records of Long-tailed Tit, with a maximum of twelve on the 8th, and single Treecreeper on both 15th, 29th and 30th. Bullfinch was noted on eight days with a maximum of four on 24th, Greenfinch also recorded on nine days with a best count of seven on both 23rd and 25th, whilst there were only three records of Goldfinch all of single birds, on 1st, 21st and 23rd.

Gull roosters were fairly well rewarded for the hours they spend on bitterly cold evenings watching for 'White Wings' in the roost. The month began with four sightings of Glaucous Gull, with 1st Winters present in the roost on 4th, 8th and 9th, and an Adult bird present on 1st, but which flew off at 3.25 pm. Iceland Gulls were recorded on no less than nine dates, with 1st winter birds present on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th(2), and 21st, with 2nd Winter birds present on 1st and 2nd. An adult Mediterranean Gull was a good find on both 7th and 15th. The first record of the year for Yellow-legged Gull was one of a 3rd Winter bird found in the roost on 15th. Caspian Gulls are responsible for creating a great deal of interest, and were well represented with adults

on 1st, 2nd, 4th(2), 5th, 8th(2), 9th(2), 11th, 15th (3), and 1st Winters on 3rd, 4th, 9th, 15th and 21st, and a 3rd Winter bird was present on 9th.

The only other birds worth mentioning during the month were two Lesser Redpoll recorded on 17th, and three Reed Bunting on 25th.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2006 - 26 Days Covered - 77 Species.

Little Grebe was noted on at least thirteen occasions with a best count of five on 9th, Great Crested Grebe was recorded on at least fourteen dates with a maximum twenty-two on 19th, Cormorant had a best of forty one on 25th, Grey Heron numbers were on the increase and forty-one were noted on 18th, the Little Egret, although not seen every day, was still present up to 24th. A single Mute Swan visited on 13th, but only stayed a few hours, two Pink-footed Geese were present on 2nd, 11th and 12th, a single Greylag Goose on 16th, and the resident flock of Canada Geese peaked at one hundred-sixty nine on 10th. Single Shelduck was present on 12th and Wigeon reached twenty-four on 10th whilst Tufted Duck also had a maximum of twenty-four recorded on 17th, Pochard had a best count of twenty on 3rd, and Goosander was noted on ten occasions with a total of thirteen birds including three males, four females and at least two 'redhead's', Goldeneye was recorded on most days with a maximum of eleven birds on 27th, some of the drakes were displaying on occasions. A Water Rail calling late evening during the gull roost on 26th was a very welcome addition to the year list.

Sparrowhawk was noted on eighteen days and had a maximum count of two birds on 8th, 10th, 15th, 23rd and 24th, Kestrel noted on just six days likewise had two as a maximum on 15th, 17th and 21st. Common Buzzard was recorded on fourteen days, with a maximum of five birds together on 20th seen by two fortunate observers, and four birds were seen on 23rd

Lapwing increased to one hundred-twelve on 16th, Snipe were noted on at least nine dates, and a total of twenty-six were flushed from the West Bank on 14th. A candidate for bird of the month had to be the Knot that was present on 5th although it was seen by just one observer; the bird was a very welcome addition to the year list.

The gull roost is still creating a great deal of interest with a 1st winter Iceland Gull and a Yellow-legged Gull present on 1st, followed by an adult Mediterranean Gull on 5th, a 1st winter Iceland Gull and 2nd winter Caspian Gull were in the roost on 11th and probably the same 1st winter Iceland Gull again on 16th. Two 1st winter Iceland Gulls roosted on 17th, and the same two birds were also present on 18th and 20th. A passage of circa 90 Common Gulls together with a small number of both Black Headed and Lesser Black Backed Gulls moving northeast on the 20th was a good record. A 1st winter Yellow-legged Gull was in the roost on 21st, also present were the two regular 1st winter Iceland Gulls, and a 1st winter and two adult Mediterranean Gulls. Single adult Mediterranean Gull (one of the birds from the 21st) was present again on 22nd together with single 1st winter Iceland Gull. A single adult Mediterranean Gull in summer plumage was present on 24th together with the two 1st winter Iceland Gulls. The same adult Mediterranean Gull was in the roost on 24th, with a single 1st winter Iceland Gull. A Mediterranean Gull in winter plumage and a 1st winter Iceland Gull roosted on 25th. An adult Caspian Gull roosted on 26th together with a 1st winter Iceland Gull. A 1st winter Iceland Gull (one of the two regular birds) and an adult Mediterranean Gull were present in the roost on both the 27th and 28th.

A single Green Woodpecker was seen on 13th, Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen on at least ten occasions with three a maximum on 17th, a single Skylark seen in the stubble field near Amber Cottage on 9th was the first of the year, a wintering female Blackcap was recorded on Brackenfield Green on 10th. Willow Tit was noted on four days, with two a maximum on 12th, the Fisherman's car park at the southern end of the reservoir seems to be the place most favoured at the moment. Little Owl was seen on six days with a maximum of two birds on 14th, 16th and 18th. Another candidate for bird of the month had to be the two Grey Partridge, which were found on the 28th; the species was not recorded during 2005, so they were a very welcome addition to the year list for 2006.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 96 Species

Little Grebe has been seen quite regularly and is very vocal, Great Crested Grebe has been noted displaying quite often, the Little Egret first seen on 7th December was last recorded on 21st, maximum for Grey Heron was the forty nine birds seen on 15th which took exception to a passing Common Buzzard, two Mute Swans on 10th were new and were followed by three birds on 18th, single on 23rd and three birds present on 28th, 29th and 30th, thirty two Whooper Swans which flew north west on same date are candidates for bird of the month,(this same group were noted over Beeley Moor about thirty minutes later), these were followed on 21st by another twenty nine birds also moving north west. Two Greylag Geese which had a short stay on 18th were new, and three Egyptian Geese on 9th were a welcome addition to the year list, as were three Pintail on 11th, single Shelduck on 8th was followed by two birds on 11th, three female Red-breasted Merganser were also a welcome addition to the list, Goldeneye was seen on almost a daily basis with a maximum of fourteen on 11th and 12th (including three drakes).

Common Buzzard was noted frequently with a maximum of four on 23rd and 25th, four was also the maximum for Sparrowhawk on 1st, Kestrel had a best of three on 17th. A Red Kite recorded on the 25th was a very notable addition to the year list.

A Water Rail was heard on 10th, the first Oystercatcher of the year stayed for most of the 14th with another bird noted on 30th, whilst Dunlin was noted on 9th, 14th, 15th, and 24th, the first appearance of Redshank occurred on 12th with a second bird on 26th, and the first Curlew on 4th, whilst four Woodcock were seen leaving Carr Wood on 2nd.

The number of white winged gulls that have been recorded since the beginning of the year has been phenomenal. First on the list this month were two adult Mediterranean Gulls on 3rd and 4th followed by an adult in summer plumage on 7th and 8th, Two Kittiwake on 10th were a very welcome addition to the year list, sixteen adults were recorded on 28th. Iceland Gull is by far the most recorded bird this month starting with 1-1st winter on 1st, and from 8th was recorded on fifteen consecutive days with single 1st winters on 8th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 18th, 20th and 21st and 22nd, 2-1st winter birds on 9th, 13th, 15th, 16th 17th and 19th, with two 1st winters and an adult present on 12th. Yellow-legged gull was noted on at least five occasions with 1st and 2nd winter and adult birds being seen. A 2nd winter Caspian Gull was noted on both 2nd and 17th. A 1st winter Caspian Gull was noted on 18th. An Iceland Gull flew through on 28th and a 2nd winter Iceland Gull was present on 29th.

Tawny Owl was heard on three dates calling from different locations, with one bird seen as it flew towards New Napoleon on 12th, whilst Little Owl was quite difficult to find. Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen very regularly with three a maximum on two dates, Green Woodpecker noted once on 9th also on same date Mistle Thrush noted carrying nesting material into roof of the lychgate at the church. The first Meadow Pipit of the year was recorded on 17th, other birds worthy of a mention were two Siskin noted during the guided bird walk on 4th, twenty Wigeon on 14th and thirty seven Pochard on 5th. Two additions to the year list came on 21st with a female Stonechat which unfortunately did not stay long, later in the day during the gull roost a Raven put in an appearance, with two more noted on 25th. The first record of the year of Linnet occurred on 24th. The first spring migrants were noted on 27th with one hundred Sand Martin and three Swallows seen on that date, the first Chiffchaff seen on 28th.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2006 - 30 Days Covered - 111 Species.

Little Grebe have become very easy to find with a maximum of seven on 14th whilst Great Crested Grebe had a best count of twelve on 24th, Cormorant had a best count of twenty two on 24th., Grey Heron although noted less frequently had a best count of forty-four on 3rd, two Mute Swans present on 14th and 17th with four birds on 15th. A single Greylag Goose was present on 9th with another on 21st, and the resident Canada Geese peaked at eleven on both 9th and 14th. Single records only of Wigeon and Pintail, with a best count of twenty two Tufted Duck on 24th, whilst Teal peaked at eight on 15th. A single Common Scoter on 16th was a very welcome addition to both the monthly and the year list, whilst eight birds (six males, two females), were present for most of 30th.

The second record this year of Red Kite was possibly the same wing-tagged bird seen in late March the bird has been seen on various occasions throughout the county. A Merlin made a fleeting appearance on 3rd; Common Buzzard has been noted on almost a daily basis with a maximum of four birds on 1st, both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel noted on five days with two birds a best count on 1st and 11th respectively. Peregrine was noted on two dates 14th and 15th, a Goshawk on the 1st was another very welcome addition to the year list. The first Hobby of the year was recorded on 29th during the breeding bird survey, it was also noted on two occasions on 30th.

Although the very high water levels may have influenced many waders to by-pass Ogston we have still managed to record nine species with Little Ringed Plover the most prominent, being noted on a daily basis, two Ringed Plover were present on 11th, single Dunlin on 16 and four flew through on 20th, single Common Sandpiper on 10th, 11th 14th and 16th with two birds on 15th and 17 and 21st, single Redshank on 1st and 15th with two birds on 18th, maximum of six Snipe on same date, single Curlew noted on five dates and three Woodcock on 3rd was a very good record. Green Sandpiper was recorded for first time this year again during the breeding bird survey.

Although the gull roost sadly has come to an end, there were six records of Iceland Gull during the month with the 10th being the final record for this period, all of 1st winter birds. The first terns of the year two Commons and one Arctic were present on 20th with four Commons on 21st whilst Three Arctic Terns flew through early on 27th.

Migrants began to arrive to arrive in March, mainly hirundines, were being noted much more regularly by mid-month with a maximum of six hundred Sand Martin on 8th, one hundred and fifty Barn Swallow on 9th, with fifty a best count for House Martin on 21st. The first Swift of the year was noted on 20th, whilst a White Wagtail was present on 11th and 21st, both a male and a female Redstart on 11th, with another male on 30th, the first Yellow Wagtails were present on 15th (both males) single on 18th four on 20th and eleven on 21st four birds on 22nd and 23rd and a single on 24th, 28th, 29th and 30th whilst Blackcap and Willow Warbler were noted from 1st. Nineteen Chiffchaff were noted on 5th, and Lesser Redpoll recorded on six dates with a maximum of six birds on 18th, a single female Brambling near the members hide on 1st was a good record and two Tree Sparrow noted on 13th were a very welcome addition to the year list and were the first sightings for almost a year. The first Whitethroat of the year was singing in the west bank car park on 18th.

Single Wheatear (male) on 20th was followed by a pair on Plover Island on 21st with another single on 23rd with the first Cuckoo and first Reed Warbler on the same date. The first Lesser Whitethroat of the year was heard singing on 22nd with two Garden Warblers on the same date. The first Tree Pipit was recorded on 29th and again on 30th, Cuckoo was also noted on 30th. Three Siskin were noted on both 23rd and 24th near the fisherman's car park, whilst Yellowhammer were being noted as they moved back onto breeding territory on both Miller's Lane and Crow

Lane. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming during the evening on 30th in the Ogston Hall area.

ALPINE SWIFT RECORD FOR OGSTON

The one hundred and fourth bird of the month was a first for Ogston and only the third record for Derbyshire. It arrived in the form of an Alpine Swift on April 27th. The bird was first seen from Butterfield Lane at 18.50 hours catching insects above Hall Drive Plantation, as it moved further to the north towards Ogston Hall, I (the sole,) very fortunate observer moved to the Carr Pond area from where the bird could be seen easily without binoculars. After about eight minutes' deliberations, I made a decision and called 'Birdnet', the alert went out on the pager system and within twenty minutes everything became very hectic.

For the next two hours many people were able to enjoy the bird as it hawked for insects above the Hall, it was watched until 20.55 hours.

The bird was observed next day at 06.05 hours, 06.15hours and again at 06.45 hours when it was seen to fly the north west and subsequently disappeared from view and was not seen again.

The bird has already been made a candidate for bird of the month and the year and will be the illustration on the cover of the 2006 Annual Report.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 92 Species

Little Grebe records were few with a maximum of two birds on both 10th and 27th, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of eleven on 10th with two young birds in Milltown Inlet on 9th. Cormorant were fairly constant with thirty on 31st, twelve Grey Heron were noted 27th. A Little Egret made a very brief but welcome visit on 6th, whilst Mute Swan were recorded on almost a daily basis with four a maximum, a pair of Shoveler on 8th, with two Shelduck present on 30th and a female Pochard were the only other wildfowl of note. Two Greylag Geese were present on 5th and the resident flock of Canada Geese increased when twelve goslings were seen.

Common Buzzard sightings were good with a maximum of three on 10th, Sparrowhawk were seen almost as frequently with a best count of two on 9th and sightings of Kestrel although not as frequent also had a best count of two on both 4th, 18th and 27th. Hobby was noted on at least eleven occasions with a maximum of three on 9th.

The very high water levels have accounted for the loss of at least one clutch of Lapwing eggs and predation by crows has robbed us of one clutch of Little Ringed Plover eggs. A wader total of nine species is quite good given the circumstances with a summer plumaged Turnstone topping the list for three days seven Dunlin were one of the highlights of 7th together with a single Whimbrel on same date which flew around the reservoir calling but sadly did not land. Oystercatcher was recorded on four dates with two a best on both 19th and 24th. Single 1st-summer Great Black Backed Gull and 1st-summer Yellow-legged Gull on 4th were worthy of a mention.

Very few Common Terns have been recorded, but twelve Arctic Terns on 1st must have been a nice sight. Cuckoo was noted on only two dates, which suggests a major decline of this species. The first record of Little Owl was not until 27th whilst Tawny Owl was heard calling on 7th. Just three sightings of Kingfisher and single Green Woodpecker, whilst Great Spotted Woodpecker was noted at least five dates. A huge number of Swifts c one thousand were noted on 17th together with c five hundred Barn Swallow and House Martin and one hundred Sand Martin. A single Tree Pipit was noted during May's guided walk together with a male Redstart and the first two Spotted Flycatchers of the year in the churchyard again on 6th, with three birds seen in a new location at Milltown Inlet, with possibly the same male Redstart noted again on 27th. Yellow Wagtails continue to be seen with at least eight records during the month.

Warblers are the main attraction at the moment with Sedge Warbler noted on most days and a maximum of three on 20th, Blackcap had a best count of nine during the breeding bird survey and Garden Warbler had a best of five on same date, Whitethroat peaked at eight early in the month, Lesser Whitethroat noted on just five dates with a best of two, and four birds were the best count for both Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2006 - 30 Days Covered - 83 Species

Very few Little Grebe records this month with two birds a best count on 11th and 26th, whilst Great Crested Grebe was seen much more frequently with a maximum of twenty eight on 17th, including two well grown juveniles in Milltown Inlet, Cormorant numbers peaked at forty nine birds on 16th, whilst thirty three Grey Herons on 24th was a good record. Two Mute Swan were present on almost a daily basis, a single Pochard on four dates was an excellent record for this time of year, with five birds present 25th and a single bird on 26th, whilst Tufted Duck was present on almost a daily basis with a best count of sixteen on 10th. A single drake Teal was new on 28th and was present at month end. A single male Gadwall was present at the beginning of the month. Many juvenile birds were noted during the month species included Coot, Moorhen, Mallard, Grey Heron, Great Crested Grebe and Canada Goose,

Sightings of Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were very few although four Kestrel were seen in the lower Amber area during the monthly walk, with Hobby noted on just three occasions. The bird of the month and only the seventh Ogston record came in the form of a Red Kite almost at the end of June's guided walk and around twenty people were able to watch and enjoy the bird for a few minutes as it flew in over the West Bank and very slowly made its way to the south east over the dam wall and unlike the birds seen in the area recently this particular bird had no wing-tags.

A very welcome addition to the year list was a Red-legged Partridge seen in the vicinity of Brackenfield Church on 12th.

With the very high water levels being maintained the wader species was down to just seven, Little Ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank and Common Sandpiper.

Common Tern was present almost on a daily basis with a maximum of ten on 24th with seven of the birds moving straight through. There was a single record of Green Woodpecker on 21st and five records of Great Spotted Woodpecker with a maximum of three on 5th and an adult feeding young on the Lower Amber during the guided walk, with Kingfisher also being noted at the same location. A single Skylark on South Hill on 15th was a good record and five visits to the hide feeding station by Tree Sparrow was an excellent record and on at least one occasion a juvenile bird was noted.

Warblers have again been the main item of interest during the month Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Garden, Sedge, and Willow Warbler all noted. Spotted Flycatcher were well watched at Brackenfield Church with a record of two juveniles on 26th, two new locations were found for this species during breeding bird surveys, notably Milltown Inlet and opposite the North Bank Car Park area. Another notable find during June's breeding bird survey were two Willow Tits the first sighting for quite a few months.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 90 Species.

Little Grebe recorded much more frequently than last month with a best count of ten on 5th (including 2 juveniles), whilst Great Crested Grebe was well noted with thirty-two a maximum on 7th (including five juveniles). Cormorant numbers were down into single figures for most of the month but a maximum of thirty nine on roosted on 20th. Maximum for Canada Goose was the seventy four on 6th with one hundred and twenty five Mallard noted on 21st, twenty nine Tufted Duck were present in Wooley Bay on 5th (with three juveniles noted on 13th), whilst another brood of four was recorded on same date, and a single female Teal visited on 4th, 5th and 6th. The first candidate for bird of the month appeared on 6th when a Red-breasted Merganser was found, the bird stayed for four days and was last seen at 21.00 hours on 9th. Two Mute Swan were present for most of the month, and two Pochard were new on 13th with three present on 18th. A female Ruddy Shelduck (of unknown origin) was present on 16th from 09.55 until 10.30 when it was observed flying off to the north west, the only other previous records were of three birds present on two dates in 1982, and four birds together in front of the yacht club in 1999.

Although raptor records have been infrequent a total of four Common Buzzard were noted during Julys guided walk, three Kestrels were recorded on 7th and six separate records of Sparrowhawk with two birds recorded on 18th. First Hobby sighting of the month was of one bird over the west bank car park on 16th with another bird noted on 21st.

The drop in the water level during the month resulted in eleven different wader species being seen including Little ringed Plover, Ringed Plover (singles on 7th and 11th), Redshank (two on 2nd single bird on 16th until 20th at least, Lapwing maximum of fifty five on 2nd, Snipe (including thirteen on 5th), Common Sandpiper (including fourteen on 12th), single Green Sandpiper on five days from 3rd until 7th, the first Greenshank of the year on 13th, with two 17th and three 20th, whilst two Dunlin were new on 21st. The second candidate for bird of the month were the twelve Black-tailed Godwit all in summer plumage which spent the day in front of the members hide, before flying off to the south west at 20.00 hours. The birds were a very welcome addition to the year list and were seen by many during their short stay, there were also five birds present on 25th and a single on 31st.

Common Tern was present on a daily basis with a maximum of eight on 1st, at least eight sightings of Little Owl with two birds on 19th, Kingfisher noted on at least eight occasions with two in Milltown Inlet on 10th. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was a very lucky find on Crow Lane on 17th.

Most warblers were noted during the month including Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Sedge Warbler (one seen carrying food on 4th), Whitethroat (one juvenile 20th), Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler (two adults+ two juveniles on 20th), and a Reed Warbler on at least ten occasions. Spotted Flycatcher (two birds) was recorded opposite the north bank car park as well as the regular pair in Brackenfield Churchyard, with four birds noted on 17th. A Tree Sparrow was on the members hide feeders on 9th. A single Meadow Pipit was noted near Amber Cottage on 21st.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 97 Species.

Frequent sightings of Little Grebe during the month with eight birds a maximum on 8th, whilst seventeen Great Crested Grebe were noted on 10th, Cormorant numbers were on the increase with fifty-two recorded on same date. Single Little Egret was recorded on consecutive days from 5th until 9th when it was joined by a second bird until 12th with a single bird on 27th. Grey Heron noted on a few occasions with seven a maximum on both 12th and 16th. Five Greylag Geese were new on 10th but only stayed for the day, Canada Geese peaked at two hundred and fifteen on 26th, and three Egyptian Geese were new on 17th and remained until 24th with a single bird on 25th. Four Shelduck were present most of the day on 18th, whilst the first Mandarin (female) was present on 17th and nineteen Teal was a good count on 26th. A Goosander (redhead) flew in from the south to the northwest on 27th.

Seven species of raptor during the month including the first record for Osprey at the reservoir this year, present on 22nd and 23rd. Buzzard noted on at least twelve occasions with a juvenile on 20th and a total of five birds seen on 30th (with three birds in the air simultaneously), Hobby likewise seen on twelve dates with two on 20th and a juvenile on 19th. Kestrel noted on just three occasions and Peregrine on five dates with a juvenile on 24th.

A good month for waders with the best day 3rd when seven species were seen including a welcome addition to the year list in the shape of a Sanderling. Other waders recorded included Oystercatcher single 3rd, Dunlin (maximum four), Green Sandpiper (maximum two), Common Sandpiper (maximum three), single Black-tailed Godwit and Curlew (maximum three) 21st, together with Little Ringed Plover (maximum three), Ringed Plover two birds on 26th followed by four on 30th and eight birds on 31st, Lapwing (maximum 95), Common Snipe (maximum four) and Redshank being seen on four dates which increased the total to twelve species for the month.

Common Tern was recorded on eleven dates with a maximum of six birds on 17th, and a very welcome addition to the list arrived on 11th when two Little Tern were seen very briefly, before flying off to the south-west.

Green Woodpecker was noted on three dates and Great Spotted Woodpecker on six, Kingfisher became much easier to record with two adults feeding three juveniles in Milltown Inlet on 5th and four birds noted on 12th.

Grey Wagtail was recorded on at least seventeen dates with a maximum of six on 10th whilst there were three records of Yellow Wagtails all single birds and a single White Wagtail on 5th. A notable addition to the year list occurred on 19th when a Whinchat was found on the west bank.

Spotted Flycatcher recorded on only seven dates with three a maximum on both 8th and 30th. All the regular warblers were noted throughout the month and juveniles were seen of Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler. Reed Warbler was noted on at least eight dates whilst Willow Tit was recorded on six dates with four a maximum on 26 and finally two Ravens seen on 30th were the only other birds of note and the first record for quite some time.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2006 - 30 Days Covered - 89 Species

Little Grebe was seen quite frequently with a maximum of six on 26th, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of ten on same date, whilst Cormorant figures reached fifty-five on 15th. There were three records of Mandarin Duck one on 4th and a second bird on 25th and a juvenile male on 29th, Wigeon was noted on at least ten occasions with a maximum of nine on 16th, whilst Mallard peaked at one hundred and eighty on 7th. A juvenile Pintail was noted on 16th, two Gadwall were present for one day on 10th with five birds present on 27th, and two records of Pochard during the month, two Goosander (female) were a good record on 2nd. A single Greylag Goose was new on 24th and 25th and was joined by three others on 26th.

Two records of Osprey on 6th and 12th slightly improved the count for that species in what has been a very mediocre year by Ogston's standards, (only four birds during the year). Common Buzzard was noted on at least six dates with four birds a maximum on 18th, Sparrowhawk noted on 9 occasions with a best count of three on 18th, whilst Kestrel was only noted on five days, with two a maximum on 20th. A single Peregrine was a good record on 9th and a Merlin seen on 16th was only the second record of the year. Hobby was recorded on only four dates, with the last sighting on 17th.

With favourable water levels at the start of the month, twelve species were recorded including three additions to the year list. A Bar-tailed Godwit that was first seen on 4th stayed for eleven days in total, the juvenile bird was the first record of this species since 2004. The second addition to the year list arrived in the form of three Curlew Sandpiper, which were seen first on 12th and were enjoyed by many people during their four-day stay. The birds were the first recorded at Ogston since September 2002.

The third addition to the year list was a Ruff found during the late evening on 5th but sadly not present the next day. Other waders recorded during the month were Little Ringed Plover (max four), Ringed Plover (eight), Common Sandpiper (three), Common Snipe (thirteen), Dunlin (four), Curlew (two), Greenshank (single), Lapwing (one hundred and ten) and finally a Green Sandpiper, which flew in at 18.15 hours on 26th and was in front of the public hide at dusk, with possibly the same bird on 28th.

Kingfisher was recorded on least six dates, with Green Woodpecker noted on five occasions. Wheatear was recorded on three dates 10th, 26th and 29th, a juvenile Arctic Tern was a very good record on 16th. Hirundine numbers became very depleted towards month end but five House Martin were seen on 26th and a single Sand Martin on 20th.

Three Grey Partridge, which were seen in a stubble field close to Brackenfield Green, were a very welcome record of this declining species in the Ogston recording area and constitutes the third record for this year, another covey of six birds were observed flying across the road in the vicinity of Amber Cottage (bringing the total up to thirteen birds for the year). There were five records of Yellow Wagtail during the month with a best count of two on 5th.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 81 Species.

Little Grebe was noted on a more regular basis with a maximum of nine on 17th, whilst Great Crested Grebe had a best of ten on same date, Cormorant numbers peaked at forty on 6th. The resident flock of Canada Geese reached a peak of two hundred and twelve on 28th, a single Grey lag Goose was present on 12th, and a skein of one hundred and ten Pink-footed Geese flew northeast on 11th. Both Mute Swan (two adults and three juveniles noted on two dates) and singles on a further five dates, and Whooper Swan (three roosted on 7th) were recorded during the month. Three Shelduck were present on 12th; Tufted Duck numbers were constant throughout the month and reached a peak of eighty-one on 31st, Wigeon numbers fluctuated during the month with a best of thirty seven on 11th, eighteen Pochard were noted on 17th, whilst there was a single records of Gadwall on 8th. Mandarin Duck (immature male) 2nd and an adult drake on 27th. Two records of Goosander (21st and 26th) and three records of Goldeneye (17th, 18th and 21st). Teal was noted on most days with a best count of twenty-eight on 27th.

Common Buzzard was noted on nine dates with a maximum of five birds on both 6th and 12th, Sparrowhawk was noted on fifteen occasions with a maximum of three on 3rd, Kestrel also had a best of three on 12th and there were two Peregrine records on 8th and 17th.

Waders were very scarce (only four species noted) but they did give us one candidate for bird of the month in the form of a Grey Plover, which unfortunately did not land and was only present for a few minutes, it was seen by just a single observer and was a very welcome addition to the year list. Lapwing numbers built to one hundred on 11th but declined after that, (although with very high water levels and the tall vegetation it has become very difficult to obtain accurate figures), Common Sandpiper was seen on two dates (4th and 6th) and Common Snipe seen on at least fifteen dates, with a maximum of nineteen on 11th. The second candidate for bird of the month was a Black Tern, which stayed for less than twenty minutes on 16th, not recorded at all in 2005 it provided us with yet another addition to the year list.

Tawny Owl was heard on two dates (13th and 14th) and there was a single record of Little Owl on 23rd. Kingfisher was noted on at least eleven dates, with just one record of Green Woodpecker. Recorded on five dates during the month, the latest record of two Barn Swallow making their way south was on 12th, Skylark was noted on three dates 12th(two) 23rd(five) and 25th(two), whilst Meadow Pipits were seen on at least twelve days with a best count of six on 17th.

Fifty Linnets on 6th was a good count as was six Goldcrest on 18th, Willow Tit was recorded on at least five dates with two a best count on 11th, 14th and 22nd. A male Blackcap was seen on 25th and Raven was recorded on two dates with two birds on 4th and a single on 24th. Gull numbers began to increase towards month end with circa three hundred Black-headed Gulls on 25th and circa two hundred and fifty Lesser Black Backed Gull on 27th. The first Redwing were noted in the Brackenfield Green area when forty-five were seen on 25th. Stonechat was recorded on at least eleven dates during the month.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 86 Species.

Little Grebe has been fairly easy to see in both Chapel Bay and Milltown Inlet, with a best count of nine on 14th, Great Crested Grebe had a maximum of fourteen on 2nd and fifty-five Cormorant were recorded on the last day of the month. Grey Heron had a best count of five on 3rd, whilst a juvenile Mute Swan was present on four dates and two Whooper Swan spent most of the 9th at the reservoir. The resident Canada Geese peaked at one hundred and eighty three on 22nd, whilst three Shelduck were present on 2nd with two more on 25th, Wigeon had a best count of eleven on 2nd and Teal reached a maximum of forty-three on 14th whilst nineteen was the top figure for Pochard on 12th and Tufted Duck numbers reached fifty five on 1st. Goldeneye were present on at least twenty-one dates with a best count of eight on 2nd. There were single Goosander on 10th, 13th, and 25th with eleven birds present on 22nd.

Raptor sightings were very scarce all month with three a maximum for Common Buzzard on 5th, two birds a best count for both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel on 3rd and 12th respectively. A single Goshawk that flew across the hide lane on 25th was the first sighting for some time.

Wader records were few and far between but the resident Lapwing flock increased to two hundred and thirty on 14th, whilst Common Snipe had a best count of twenty-five on 25th, a single Dunlin was present on 6th with four more present on 25th, a single Curlew flew through to the north west on 2nd.

The gull roost began in earnest from the beginning of the month and so far there have been five sightings of 1st winter Mediterranean Gull on 10th, 12th, 16th, 17th and 21st, Yellow-legged Gull has been recorded on at least twenty-four dates with a best count of eight birds on 12th, with 1st, 2nd 3rd winter and adult birds present, Caspian Gull has been noted on at least fifteen dates, with 1st winter and adult birds seen. The leading candidate for bird of the month made a first appearance on 12th in the form of a 1st winter Glaucous Gull (the fourth earliest ever at Ogston), the bird has been present on at least fifteen occasions and was joined by another 1st winter on 20th, 21st and 23rd. The first Iceland Gull of this second winter period, a 1st winter bird was seen first on 21st and has been noted on at least six more dates, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th and 29th.

An early morning visual migration watch on 3rd produced three thousand five hundred Woodpigeon, three hundred and fifty Redwing, one thousand five hundred and thirty Fieldfare, seven hundred and ninety Starlings, twenty-four Brambling and sixty-seven Siskin.

Six Grey Partridge crossing the road at the top of South Hill on 6th was another good record for this declining species, a single Water Rail was noted on 1st until 7th again on 21st and 26th, Tawny Owl has been heard on at least twelve dates with three birds calling on 12th from different locations. A single male Blackcap was recorded on both 4th and 25th, Raven records have been exceptional with a single bird on 13th, two on 21st, four birds on 23rd, another single on 25th and three birds on 26th.

A possible Marsh Tit was heard calling from the Carr Pond area on 5th

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2006 - 31 Days Covered - 87 Species.

Little Grebe was noted on most days with a best count of eight on 2nd, whilst Great Crested Grebe had a best count of four birds on 9th, Cormorant had a maximum of forty one on 6th. A single Mute Swan was present on 6th with five juveniles on 10th and two adults on 22nd and an adult on 25th, two Pink-footed Geese were new on 9th, with ninety birds west on 17th and thirty two west on 18th. A Pair of Mandarin Duck were welcome visitors on 3rd with a drake present on 20th. Teal numbers were rather erratic with a best of twenty five on 5th, Tufted Duck peaked at seventy seven birds on 24th, Goldeneye were by far the most recorded wildfowl being noted on a daily basis with a best of thirteen on 22nd. Two Goosander were present on 3rd and a drake on 17th and 20th, with five birds on 23rd and a female on 30th the resident flock of Mallard had a maximum of one hundred and eleven on 6th. Four Shoveler were new on 20th as were seven Pintail (a very good record for Ogston) on same date and a Shelduck on 25th.

Common Buzzard was noted on at least eleven occasions with a maximum of three birds together on 16th and on least at two dates observers were treated to the sight of the birds being mobbed by Ravens. Both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were seen very infrequently.

Due to the almost maximum water level being reached, wader records were almost non-existent again this month but the resident Lapwing flock increased to three hundred and forty on 7th, Common Snipe were noted on a few dates but mainly at dusk. The only waders of note were Dunlin (two), which were seen flying and calling during the evening on the 10th.

Paul Bennett Severn Trent Ranger found a Leach's Storm Petrel on the east bank on 6th, but unfortunately the bird was dead.

Although this months figures are down on Novembers the gull roost has been the main attraction again during the month. 1st winter Glaucous Gulls were present on ten dates, 1st winter Iceland Gulls were in the roost on eleven dates with two birds present on both 16th and 17th. Yellow-legged Gull was represented on at least twelve dates, with 1st and 2nd winter and adults in the roost. Caspian Gulls were noted in the roost on at least ten dates, with 1st and 3rd winter and adult birds present. An adult Mediterranean Gull was in the roost on 19th, 22nd, and 25th

Bird of the month had to be a Snow Bunting that flew over the reservoir on the 2nd, although the bird was not seen a record will be submitted to the D.O.S.

Tawny Owl was noted on at least thirteen dates with three birds a maximum on 19th; there were three records of Kingfisher, the Water Rail showed very well on six dates. Sightings of Raven have again been quite exceptional being recorded on fifteen dates with a maximum of six birds (seen simultaneously) on 8th. Other birds worthy of a mention were two Tree Sparrow during Decembers walk, sixty five Lesser Redpoll on 16th, single Brambling on 3rd, Blackcap on 17th and 24th, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 26th in the Carr Wood area, the first record for many months. A Chiffchaff seen on the 20th was a welcome addition to the monthly list.

Keith Turton.