

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2007 - 31 Days Covered - 82 Species

Little Grebe was recorded on most days with a maximum of five birds on both 9th, 10th and 31st, whilst four was the best count for Great Crested Grebe on 2nd, 6th and 31st. Cormorant numbers remained fairly constant throughout with a best of forty on 17th. Pink-footed Geese were noted on 15th, two skeins one (circa) one hundred and forty birds west and (circa) one hundred and eighty birds northwest, with another skein of (circa) three hundred birds on 30th, again flying north west. The resident flock of Canada Geese peaked at ninety-two on 31st. Tufted Duck numbers were around the fifty mark for most of the month with a maximum seventy four on 2nd, Pochard had a best count of fifteen on 16th, Teal figures reached twenty birds on both 6th and 17th. A single drake Shelduck was present on 15th and 16th and another was present on 26th. There were ten Goosander records with a maximum of ten birds on 2nd and 21st. Two Mute Swan were new on 22nd but only stayed one day, with a single bird present on 29th and two more on 30th, Goldeneye, which was noted on a daily basis, reached a maximum of seventeen on 14th, with male birds displaying on many occasions.

Six raptor species were noted during the month with five birds a maximum for Common Buzzard on 30th (in the air simultaneously), single female Goshawk on 7th, four Peregrine sightings and one of Merlin as well as double figure sightings of Kestrel and Sparrowhawk.

Water Rail was recorded on 2nd and 31st, Lapwing numbers rose to two hundred and ninety six on 31st and Common Snipe had a best count of nineteen on 30th, two sightings of Jack Snipe occurred on 6th, a single Woodcock (the first record of the year) was noted on 16th. Tawny Owl was heard very frequently throughout the month.

For the third consecutive month the gull roost attracted a great deal of attention as listers came from far and wide (well Yorkshire, West Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Luton at least) to track down our almost resident 'white wings'. A single adult Mediterranean Gull on 3rd and 25th, 1st winter Glaucous Gull on nineteen dates, with two birds on 30th. 1st winter Iceland Gull on twenty dates, with two birds present on 16th/19th/20th/21st/ 22nd/24th, 25th, 27th and 30th, with an adult bird present for nine consecutive days from 19th-27th, with a 2nd winter bird present on 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th and 30th Adult Yellow-legged Gull was noted on at least five dates with 2nd winter birds on two dates, as was Caspian Gull all adult birds apart from 1-1st winter.

The bird of the year so far made a very fleeting visit on 13th in the form of a Great Grey Shrike the first at Ogston since 1972. Seen by two very fortunate observer's in the West bank car park, it moved to trees in the Yacht club car park then towards Alders Wood and was lost from view in that area. Many observers arrived (thanks to the information being relayed by the Birdnet Pager System) and although a thorough search was made, unfortunately the bird could not be re-located.

Raven was recorded on at least fifteen dates with four birds together on 4th/5th/9th/ and 22nd. There were three sightings of Blackcap on 2nd and 3rd (female) with a male seen on 6th. Lesser Redpoll was noted on ten dates with a maximum of forty on 5th.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2007 - 28 Days Covered - 85 Species

Little Grebe have been very vocal during the month particularly in Carr Pond and Milltown Inlet, with a maximum of six birds on both 1st and 3rd, Great Crested Grebe have become more prominent this month with a best count of eleven on 27th. Best figures for Cormorant were the fifty recorded on 27th, whilst Grey Heron numbers increased all month with thirty-four on 28th. A pair of Mute Swan were present on 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th, an unknown number of Pink-footed Geese were heard on 17th as they flew over the reservoir in fog. A pair of Whooper Swan, which stayed for the afternoon on 17th, was a very good record. The Goldeneye, which have been with us since early November, appear to be in the process of pairing –up with a best count of sixteen on at least five dates, Tufted Duck have been noted on a daily basis with a maximum of eighty-seven birds on 25th, Teal numbers have diminished from the high of thirty-eight on 7th to less than double figures by month end. Shoveler were noted on six dates with a maximum three birds on five of the six, just two records of Goosander that of three birds on 3rd and two birds on 26th, whilst Wigeon were recorded on just three dates with a best count of two birds.

Common Buzzard led the way with regard to raptor sightings being noted on at least ten days with a maximum of six birds seen on 1st, best count for Sparrowhawk was three with Kestrel noted on more than ten occasions, a single Merlin seen on 19th was a welcome record. A Goshawk seen during the gull roost on 25th was very welcome.

Common Snipe have been well recorded throughout the month with a best count of twenty-five birds on 3rd, single Water Rail seen on two dates on the west bank, Lapwing numbers peaked at two hundred again on 3rd, and a very notable wader a Green Sandpiper was present on 1st seen by one very fortunate observer. On the 17th the first Curlews of the year passed through and together with the Green Sandpiper were a very welcome addition to the year list, whilst a single Oystercatcher, which stayed for a few hours on 22nd, was another notable addition. The first Redshank of the year made an appearance on 26th.

The gull roost continues to be the main attraction, records of “white winged gulls” continue to amaze, at least one bird present every day during the month and four birds on 25th. Caspian Gull has been noted on 3rd and 4th, same 1st winter bird on both dates, Yellow-legged Gull 1-2nd winter bird on 4th and 13th, thought to be same bird. Mediterranean Gull recorded on seven days with adults on 9th/10th/11th/17th, 27th (all summer plumage birds), adult in winter plumage on 18th and 1-1st winter bird on 22nd and 28th. Iceland Gull was noted on eighteen dates with two birds present on ten of those days, all 1st winter birds except for a 2nd winter on 1st and 28th. Glaucous Gull recorded on twenty-two days with two birds present on seven dates, all 1st winter birds.

Raven sightings have again been exceptional, noted on at least thirteen dates with a maximum of six birds on 18th. A single Stonechat in the west bank car park on 19th was a welcome addition to the year list. Tawny Owl was noted on six dates with two a maximum on 6th and 26th, Two Grey Partridge were seen on 10th and 27th.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2007 - 31 Days Covered - 88 Species.

Little Grebe have been very easy to locate with seven birds a maximum on 8th, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of six on 13th whilst Cormorant figures reached thirty-five on 11th, Grey Heron numbers had increased to fifty-one on 5th. Three Mute Swan were present on 16th but only for that day with two more on 24th. Twelve Whooper Swans were present on 24th for a few hours. There were six records of Greylag Goose with five a maximum on 24th, A drake Scaup first seen on 8th was still present at month end, Tufted Duck have been recorded on a daily basis with a best count of eighty-eight on 6th. Goldeneye has also been noted regularly with a maximum of seventeen birds on 25th. Goosander was noted on just three days two birds being the best count on 12th. Two Common Scoter on 29th were a very welcome addition to the year list.

Common Buzzard was recorded on at least eight days with a maximum of five birds on 3rd; Sparrowhawk was seen on just three days with Kestrel being noted on six dates. The first breeding bird survey of this year gave us a Peregrine near the old chapel on the 24th. A male Merlin was seen twice within a few minutes on the west bank on 29th.

Three sightings of Water Rail during the month were welcome, whilst waders were not seen with any regularity there were records of Little Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Common Snipe, Jack Snipe Lapwing and Curlew of which eight were present on 20th.

The gull roost is still a major attraction with white-winged birds being seen almost on a daily basis. During February there were sightings every day and on fifty-two consecutive days from 19th January until 11th March. An adult Mediterranean Gull in summer plumage was in the roost on 4th, with Glaucous Gull noted on at least twenty one days (all 1st winter birds) with three birds present on 10th/15th/16th and 22nd whilst Iceland Gull was recorded on twenty days (again 1st winter birds) with 1-2nd winter bird present on six of those dates and an adult bird on 24th. The only record of Yellow-legged Gull was of a third winter type on 18th.

The first migrants began moving through with the first Chiffchaff noted on 9th (nineteen days earlier than 2006) with Blackcap noted on 13th, the first Sand Martin's were noted on 16th (seventeen days earlier than 2006) and the first Barn Swallow flew straight through on 29th

The bird of the month for the second time this year was the Great Grey Shrike, which was first seen in January. The bird was noted on 14th near west bank car park, it was seen to go to roost on 18th on west bank. The bird gave very good views in fields west of the west bank and on the reservoir side of the west bank and in the hide path area, it was also seen on the east and north banks, it could also be very elusive and was seen until month end. The first Great Grey Shrike record at Ogston was that of a very long staying bird from 8th November 1967 until 3rd February 1968. One on 7th April 1971, one 20th November 1971, one 11th and 19th December 1971 and one on 26th November 1972 (Source OBC Annual Report 1991 Author M.J.Stoyle).

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2007 - 30 Days Covered - 110 Species

Little Grebe have again been very vocal, as far as I am aware just the one occupied nest so far, Great Crested Grebe reached a maximum of thirteen on 18th, whilst Cormorant had a best of fifteen on 11th. A Little Egret, which visited on 12th, was a very welcome addition to the year list but unfortunately could not be found next day. Two Mute Swan were present on five dates and fourteen Whooper Swan (including five juveniles) on 2nd was a very good record. Two Gadwall were new on 8th and again on 13th, with Shoveler present on four dates, the last of the Goldeneye left on 11th but the drake Scaup was still with us at month end. The first brood of Mallard duckling were observed on 15th when at least twenty were seen in two groups. A Red-breasted Merganser on 23rd was a very welcome addition to the year list.

There were eight species of raptor recorded with a Red Kite on 7th the best of the bunch, (incredibly Red Kite was recorded on same date last year), Peregrine was noted on 1st with a Goshawk record on 7th. Common Buzzard was again the most frequently recorded with a best of three birds on both 7th and 8th. A Merlin was recorded in the evening on 20th. First Whimbrel on 24th.

The only record of the year so far of Red-legged Partridge was on 6th, with a single record of Water Rail on 4th.

Eleven species of wader with Little-ringed Plover being the most prominent, up to eight recorded on some dates, Oystercatcher present on 11th, 19th and 20th and 24th, the first Common Sandpiper was noted on 12th with three birds on 23rd, whilst Redshank was recorded on at least eight dates. Common Snipe was noted on a daily basis with a maximum of eleven on both 9th and 10th, records of Curlew on at least five dates, and two Bar-tailed Godwit on 13th and thirteen on 29th, which were another welcome addition to the year list. A Ringed Plover was noted on at least three dates.

Sadly the gull roost appears to be at an end for this winter period with the last record of Glaucous Gull on 1st and Iceland Gull on 4th. It really has been a fantastic few months and our thanks go to the dedicated group who have spent countless hours recording the huge number of "White winged Gulls" that have been seen.

Two new additions to the year list occurred on 10th and 11th in the form of Kittiwake and Little Gull respectively. Two Black Terns were present on 29th.

Migrants finally began to appear with some regularity, with the first Willow Warbler located on 6th with three birds present on 7th, single Wheatear on 12th with two on 19th, Lesser Whitethroat on 15th with three birds on 18th, and Common Whitethroat on 16th. Chiffchaff were recorded on almost a daily basis with fifteen birds noted on 9th.

The bird of the year so far the Great Grey Shrike made what proved to be its final appearance on 6th, although the bird could be elusive it gave a vast amount of pleasure to many people during its long stay. The first Common Tern passed through on 21st, Swifts were noted on 22nd, as was the first Cuckoo in Clattercotes Wood with the first Yellow Wagtail seen on 24th. The first Garden Warblers were on 26th..

Ravens were recorded on just two dates (two birds on each date) and the only record of Fieldfare was of a bird near Clattercotes Wood on 15th.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2007 - 31Days Covered - 99 Species.

Just two Little Grebe records during the month whilst Great Crested Grebe peaked at thirty on 26th with five nests noted, Cormorant had a maximum of twenty six on 8th whilst Grey Heron had a maximum count of nineteen on 30th. Two Mute Swan were present for most of the month with three birds on 17th and 30th. A new bird for the year list occurred on 22nd when an Egyptian Goose flew straight through, whilst a Common Scoter on 16th was a welcome addition to the year list with seven birds present on 27th. The resident Canada Geese had at least fifteen young, which were all well grown by month end. Single Shelduck was present on 3rd and 5th with three birds on 4th and the drake Scaup was last noted on 3rd. The 'aythya hybrid' although seen earlier in the month also seems to have disappeared as have the majority of Tufted Duck. A single drake Teal was present on 19th.

Quite a good month for raptors with six species noted with the best being the Red Kite seen on 28th and 29th, single Peregrine record. Common Buzzard was noted on six dates with three a maximum on 26th and 31st. There were at least nine sightings of Hobby with two birds on 29th, fifteen of Kestrel with three a best count on 19th and nine Sparrowhawk records all of single birds.

Fourteen wader species were recorded species recorded with Little Ringed Plover again the most prominent; the first chick was noted on 22nd with two more on 23rd and four in total on 24th, one Lapwing chick has been seen so far and was well grown towards month end. Ringed Plover seen on at least fifteen dates with three birds present on 8th, Dunlin were noted almost on a daily basis with twenty birds present on 11th, 12th and 13th but reduced to just a single bird approaching month end. Three records of Whimbrel with eight birds together on 8th (an excellent record for Ogston) single Green Sandpiper on 5th whilst Common Snipe was recorded on a daily basis with a maximum of four on both 3rd and 17th. Two additions to the year list were a Sanderling on two dates (11th/12th) and a superb male Turnstone in full breeding plumage from 22nd-29th with two birds present on same date. Oystercatcher was seen on a daily basis with a best count of four birds on 13th and 26th. Another very welcome addition to the list came on 25th when a Greenshank was present for most of the day but sadly could not be located next day. Redshank, Curlew and Common Sandpiper made up the list.

Bird of the month was the Arctic Skua, which was present on 27th the first record of this species since 1995, a Kittiwake was also present on same day.

Seven species of warbler could be seen or heard, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat (at least four birds noted in different locations), Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff on almost a daily basis and the first Spotted Flycatcher was back in Brackenfield Churchyard on 14th which was eight days later than last year. There have been two records of Cuckoo so far this month whilst Tawny Owl has been noted on five dates with two birds seen together in daylight on 22nd. Just one Kingfisher record on 6th and at least seven Yellow Wagtail sightings with a maximum of four birds on 4th. Fifteen Wheatear sightings during the month with a best count of three birds on 14th and the last sighting of the 'Greenland' bird on the 21st.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2007 - 30 Days Covered - 90 Species.

Five records during the month of Little Grebe including a pair with one well-grown chick on 19th, Great Crested Grebe had a maximum of eighteen with four nests occupied, whilst Cormorant numbers peaked at forty-two on 12th. A Little Egret was a very welcome addition on 10th but sadly only on that date, with Grey Heron reaching twenty-four on 11th. The two Mute Swan were present on a daily basis, a single Barnacle Goose was a surprise on 5th with twenty-three birds flying south west on 21st (presumed to be the Carsington residents) whilst Ogston's Canada Geese had a best count of one hundred and twenty five on 19th (including thirty birds which had taken a liking to the public hide during a storm). Two Shoveler were present on 1st with a drake present on 21st, with a pair of Gadwall on 2nd whilst Tufted Duck had a maximum fourteen on 12th. A female Pochard on 29th was a new bird for the month.

Two very welcome Osprey records occurred on 2nd and 5th, Common Buzzard were noted on at least fourteen occasions with a maximum of six on 21st (four birds on a thermal over Ashover and two birds over Ogston Hall). Just five records of Hobby during the month all, one bird on 27th with a Swift as prey. A Merlin observed on 11th was a very good record and the fifth record this year. Sparrowhawk (seven sightings, max: two) and Kestrel (thirteen records, max: three on 28th).

Nine wader species were recorded during the month with again Little Ringed Plover the most prominent, with at least four young fledged. Ringed Plover was noted on just four dates with two birds present on 11th/12th and 13th, Dunlin was recorded on eight days with a maximum of eight on 15th. Two Redshank were present on a daily basis until 14th when, sadly the nest was predated and the birds have not been seen since. On a brighter note the Oystercatchers finally produced young on the 24th a first ever breeding record for Ogston Reservoir. There were three Curlew records with four birds a best count on 8th and just a single Whimbrel noted on 4th. Common Snipe was recorded almost every day until the increase in the water level but not after 16th. Common Tern noted on at least nine dates but only as flying through and no attempt made to investigate the new Tern raft.

Eight warbler species have been either seen or hear; with a maximum for Blackcap of four bird's, six a best count for Whitethroat, single record only of Lesser Whitethroat, two the maximum for Sedge Warbler, eight a best for Chiffchaff and three records for Reed Warbler (two birds 16th, single 17th and 30th), the first records of the year for this species.

Although not within the recording area a Quail heard singing on June 22nd at 22.00 hours very close to the Jim Mart Reserve was an excellent record.

A very welcome addition to the year list and the first sighting for eleven years came on June 26th when a Barn Owl was watched for almost two hours from 21.15 until 20.10 hours, sadly the bird has not been seen since.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2007 - 31 Days Covered - Species.

Little Grebe was very easy to find throughout the month with a maximum of eight birds on 28th and juveniles noted on 8th (one), 10th (one), 14th (two) and 15th (one), maximum numbers for Great Crested Grebe were eighteen, but there have been no records of any young birds. Cormorant numbers appear to have decreased with a best count of twenty three on 11th, whilst the pair of Mute Swan were present until 22nd of the month on almost a daily basis but not after that date.

A single Greylag Goose was with the resident flock of Canada Geese for most of the month; a juvenile Shelduck made a very brief appearance on 15th and a female Pochard was present on both 10th and 22nd. Tufted Duck reached a high of forty three on 18th including five juveniles and another brood of seven 22nd and a single juvenile bird same date.

A very welcome addition to the monthly list a female Common Scoter was present for most of the 31st.

Six raptor species were noted with Common Buzzard on at least fourteen dates with a maximum six birds on 28th, Sparrowhawk on six dates with a best count of two, Kestrel on thirteen days with maximum of three on both 7th and 31st. Hobby was noted on just four dates (all singles) and a single Peregrine record on 15th. A Goshawk seen on 30th was a very good record.

Given the extremely high water levels ten species of wader was more than we could have hoped for. The young Oystercatcher continued to thrive and was flying before month end, the parent birds providing a constant supply of food, two Little Ringed Plover were present on 7th, and there was a maximum one hundred Lapwing on 29th, a single Dunlin on 18th with four present on 22nd. Common Sandpiper was present on a daily basis with a best count of four on 15th, Redshank noted on two dates with five birds on 11th, a single Whimbrel stayed for an hour on 18th. A candidate for bird of the month and a very welcome addition to the year list occurred when two Black-tailed Godwit flew through in the direction of Carsington on the evening of 6th. Another very good record and addition to the year list occurred on 28th when five Golden Plover made a very brief appearance, before flying south. A Curlew was present for most of the day on 30th.

Common Tern were spasmodic visitors with seven birds a maximum on 7th. Single Black Tern was present for a short period on 21st and an Arctic Tern visited on the same date, during the evening. Little Owl was observed on at least fifteen days with juveniles on 7th(one), 8th(three), and 11th(one), Tawny Owl was seen on 8th and heard calling on 29th. A Barn Owl was observed on 29th.

Juveniles of Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Goldcrest and Blackcap were all seen. A single Willow Tit seen on 30th was the first record since April. The second Whinchat of the year, a male was present on 29th. The first record of the year for Tree Sparrow occurred on 30th and Raven was noted on three dates with a best count of three birds on 28th.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2007 - 31 Days Covered - 97 Species.

Little Grebe was quite easy to find throughout the month with a maximum of twelve birds on 8th and two records of juveniles on 26th (two very small young on Carr Pond) and a parent bird was feeding fish to three young in front of members hide on 27th. Cormorant numbers stayed around average for the month but a group of seventy were observed flying northwest on 5th. A Little Egret was present for a short period on 18th, the resident flock of Canada Geese had a best count of one hundred and eighty on 28th, two Shelduck were present on 23rd and Teal was recorded on seven days with a best count of five on 27th whilst a single Gadwall was present on 23rd. Two Common Scoter were present on 29th and eleven Wigeon and thirteen Pintail flew through to the northwest on 30th.

Eight raptor species were noted during the month with single observer records of Osprey (24th), Goshawk (13th) and Peregrine (8th). Kestrel and Sparrowhawk were recorded on almost a daily basis with a best count of four and three respectively. Common Buzzard once again was the most recorded with a maximum of ten birds in the air simultaneously on 29th seen by three observers and obviously a new site record for Ogston. Hobby was recorded on at least thirteen dates with a single juvenile on 8th, 26th and 27th, the maximum being four birds on both 26th and 27th in different locations. A Merlin passed through on the 30th.

Although the water levels have again been at maximum throughout the month nine wader species were noted, Oystercatcher on eight days (the family left on 8th), Common Sandpiper on ten days with a maximum three birds on 2nd, Lapwing peaked at one hundred and twenty on 24th, single records of both Redshank (14th) and Greenshank (16th) and five Common Snipe were noted flying through on 30th, Curlew was noted on three dates and a Green Sandpiper gave excellent close views from the public hide for most of the day on 6th. Two Turnstone on the dam wall on 28th were an excellent find.

Terns were only been recorded on four days with three a maximum on 11th, whilst a juvenile Mediterranean Gull (although only a fly through) was an excellent find on 5th.

Little Owl was seen on a regular basis, with juvenile birds noted on at least six occasions, ninety-four Swifts passed through southwest on 15th with a Hobby as a very unlikely escort. Kingfisher was noted quite frequently but no juveniles have yet been reported, Green Woodpecker was noted on five dates and the first record for the year and a very welcome addition to the list was a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 1st.

Juveniles of Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Spotted Flycatcher have all been recorded and a Reed Warbler was singing near the yacht club on 12th, whilst the third record of Whinchat was noted on 10th. Raven was recorded on at least nine dates with a best count of five birds on 29th.

Birds of the month had to be two Crossbills seen flying through on 28th, the first record since 2005.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2007 - 30 Days Covered - 104 Species

Little Grebe were very conspicuous during the month with eleven birds a maximum on 12th including 3 juveniles, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of eighteen on both 1st and 23rd whilst Cormorant figures peaked at forty four on 18th. Circa one hundred and fifteen Pink-footed Geese were observed moving east on 26th and a further one hundred and ninety on 27th (four separate skeins), in same direction, with a further two hundred on 28th. Single Mute Swan was present on seven dates, Wigeon had a best count of eleven on 27th, Teal fifty nine on 26th, two Gadwall on 23rd, ten Shoveler records, all singles except for two birds on 23rd and a Pintail was present for a short period on 27th

Seven species of raptor during the month with two very welcome year records of Honey Buzzard on 4th and Marsh Harrier 17th. Common Buzzard was again the most recorded bird and for the second consecutive month ten birds were observed in the air simultaneously, Sparrowhawk was noted regularly with four a maximum on 21st, Kestrel had a best count of five birds on 2nd. There were three records of juvenile Hobby and two of juvenile Peregrine.

Nine wader species were noted including single Dunlin on two dates with two birds on 28th, single Golden Plover on 6th, Lapwing maximum one hundred and thirty on 1st and 12th, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Curlew and Common Snipe maximum fourteen on 21st. A Jack Snipe feeding just in front of the members hide on 27th was only the second record this year. Two Black-tailed Godwit were noted for a few minutes on 27th before flying off to the east.

Tawny Owl was heard on at least three dates; with Little Owl noted on noted four days. A candidate for bird of the month would have to be the Long-eared Owl found in Brackenfield Churchyard on 10th, it would be only the third record the last one being in 1984, a full description will be forwarded to D.O.S. Two more additions to the year list were a Rock Pipit on 29th and four Tree Pipits on 24th.

Visual migration watches from mid month have yielded House Martin six hundred and sixty seven on 19th, Barn Swallow two hundred and eighty on 23rd, Meadow Pipit two hundred and thirty seven on 25th. Six hundred and seventy Redwing on 27th were the first of the year. Brambling, Skylark, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll have all been recorded during the watches.

Although we are almost a month from the start of the "gull roost season" there have been records of Mediterranean Gull (two 1st winters) and Yellow-legged Gull (two 1st, 1- 2nd winter. There were also one record of Common Tern (adult) on 28th and four of Arctic Tern single on 10th, two birds on 14th, three 1st winters on 28th and two more on 29th.

Keith Turton.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2007 - 31 Days Covered - 101 Species

The highest Little Grebe figure of the year occurred on 26th when sixteen birds were counted, Great Crested Grebe managed a best count of eight whilst Cormorant reached fifty-one on 31st. Teal had a maximum one hundred and twenty two on 26th, Tufted Duck seventy five on 18th, Shoveler were present on seven dates with a maximum of four birds, with two Pintail present on 3rd and two records of Red-breasted Merganser on 3rd and 16th.

Twenty seven Greylag Geese were noted on 6th, thirty seven Barnacle Geese on 8th (presumed to be part of resident flock from Carsington). Fifteen Whooper Swans were present on 17th but gone next morning, with a further three birds on 29th and two different birds on 30th, two adult Bewick's Swans on 23rd were a very welcome addition to the year list and the first record since 2003, although, they too had disappeared next morning. Three hundred Pink-footed Geese were noted flying east/south east on 10th with a further two hundred flying north east on 30th. Another welcome addition to the year list was a drake Mandarin Duck on 28th in front of Alder's Wood hide for most of the day and gave many excellent photographic opportunities.

Common Buzzard sightings have been fewer than in previous months just twelve with a maximum of five on 30th; Sparrowhawk was noted on eighteen dates and Kestrel on ten, with a single Peregrine sighting on 22nd.

Nine wader species during the month singles of Ringed Plover 2nd and 3rd, four Dunlin records with four a best count on 14th, single Curlew 19th, Lapwing peaked at two hundred and forty on 24th, single Golden Plover on 10th and eighteen on 22nd, at least sixteen records of Common Snipe with forty five a maximum on 16th, five records of Jack Snipe and a single Knot on 13th was another very welcome addition to the year list. A single Redshank was on site 30th.

Gull numbers began to increase towards the end of the month, although no "White Wings" have been seen as yet there have been eight dates when Yellow-legged Gull has been noted including three adults and two 3rd winter types on 27th, together with a bird showing characteristics of "Baltic" type Lesser Black-backed Gull "*Larus fuscus fuscus*". The first Caspian Gull was present on 30th in the form of a 3rd winter type bird.

Ten Common Tern, one Arctic Tern and four Sandwich Tern passed through on 9th the latter being another welcome addition to the year list.

The first Dipper record since 2003 occurred on 22nd when a bird passed overhead calling circa one hundred feet up flying south east, Rock Pipit was again noted with a maximum of four birds on 14th, Brambling observed on three dates with five a best count on 14th. Lesser Redpoll was recorded on at least six occasions with a maximum of nine and one record of Common (mealy) Redpoll during a visual migration watch with Common Crossbill and single Brambling and thirty one Siskin noted during same watch.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2007 - 30 Days Covered - 95 Species

Eight Little Grebe on 1st was a good count with fourteen Great Crested Grebe on 11th, whilst forty-seven Cormorant were noted on 6th. Two Whooper Swan were present on 6th with a single bird noted on 9th, forty Pink-footed Geese were observed moving south west on 1st, a further sixty on 3rd, thirty five south east on 11th together with a single White-fronted Goose (the first record since 1999) and a very welcome addition to the year list, three hundred and fifty Pink-feet were noted on 12th with another forty-eight moving east on 25th and a single Greylag Goose was present on 8th.

A drake Mandarin was noted on 3rd, there were three Wigeon records with a best of seven birds on 5th, two Gadwall on both 6th and 14th, a best count of forty-eight Tufted Duck on 22nd and seven Goosander records with a maximum of three birds on 11th.

A female Shoveler was new on 27th and Goldeneye were noted almost on a daily basis with a maximum of sixteen birds on 27th.

Eight records of Common Buzzard during the month with two on both 8th/11th/ 25th and 30th, twelve Sparrowhawk records, and a single adult Peregrine noted on 21st. An apparently escaped 2nd winter male Lanner Falcon was seen to kill and eat a Moorhen on 19th. There were four records of Goshawk during the month with birds seen on 6th/9th/24th/ and 27th.

There were nine wader species noted during the month including the first Grey Plover of the year, single Golden Plover on 11th, Dunlin noted on five dates with two birds on 19th, Lapwing peaked at two hundred and forty eight in 8th, single Knot on 19th and 22nd, single Redshank on 4th and 19th, two Woodcock on 13th/15th and 22nd, eleven Common Snipe records maximum being forty-two on 27th, and Jack Snipe seen on four dates.

The second Arctic Skua of the year passed through on 5th and the first "White Winged Gull" a 2nd winter Glaucous Gull was present on 12th, another 2nd winter was present on 17th, single 1st winter birds were present on 15th and 29th. Single adult Yellow-legged Gulls were in the roost on 1st, two birds on 2nd/ single on 4th/10th and 12th with another adult on 15th. 1st winter Yellow-legged Gulls were noted on 1st/4th/8th/17th and 24th. 2-1st winter Caspian Gulls 1-1st were in the roost on 17th with another noted on 30th. A 2nd winter type Mediterranean Gull was recorded on 22nd and 23rd. There were single 1st winter Iceland Gulls on 26th and 30th.

The bird of the month for many people was the Short-eared Owl, which was reported first on 21st, (thought to be present from 20th), the bird gave excellent close views on both 21st and 22nd but sadly was not seen after that date. The most recent record of Short-eared Owl was in 1996.

Water Rail was recorded on almost a daily basis (giving many excellent photographic opportunities) and two birds were seen on 4th and 21st.

A single Water Pipit flew over the "Oak tree" on the west bank calling on the 11th and represents the first record of the species since 2003, when a bird was present in front of the members hide. A maximum of Sixty-five Siskin on the 20th was a good count, and fourteen Brambling on 4th were excellent.

Keith Turton

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2007 - 31 Days Covered - 77 Species.

When the first day of the month presents the bird of the month then most of which follows is something of an anti-climax. A Great Northern Diver, which spent a short time at the reservoir, was such a bird. A very welcome addition to the year list, and the first record since 1989, sadly although the news was put out by the Birdnet Pager System, the bird was seen by only a very few fortunate observers.

Twelve Great Crested Grebe were noted on 17th, whilst sixty-one Cormorant on 11th was the second highest total of the year. Normally Pink-footed Geese are only observed flying over, so the forty birds which flew in over the dam wall on 13th and landed in fields opposite the west bank and which were still present at dusk caused some interest. There was also a further passage on 31st with circa one hundred birds north west at 11.40 and circa one hundred birds south east at 12.30 The two dark bellied Brent Geese seen on 4th constituted the first record of this species since 1998 and were another addition to the year list, sadly the birds did not stay long and were seen by just one fortunate observer. The maximum for Wigeon during the month was twelve, single Shelduck, two Gadwall, thirty-eight Teal, seventy-five Mallard, five Shoveler, twenty-six Pochard, one hundred and eight Tufted Duck, seventeen Goldeneye and eight Goosander.

There were eight sightings of Common Buzzard with two birds on 2nd, four of Sparrowhawk all singles, eleven of Kestrel, again all singles, a single Merlin on 18th with Peregrines observed on four occasions including a male and female on 27th. A Lanner Falcon observed on 20th was assumed to be the same bird which was seen during November.

Three Grey Partridge noted in the vicinity of Moorwood Quarry were a very good record and the first for some time. Water Rail was noted on at least twelve days with two birds on 16th, Lapwing peaked at five hundred and thirty on 25th, Common Snipe were recorded on eleven dates with a maximum of sixty five on 3rd with a single Redshank on 30th the only other wader.

The gull roost continued to cause a great deal of interest with adult Mediterranean Gull present on 4th, 7th and 8th though to be the same bird, 1st winter Caspian Gull on 16th and 24th, 1-1st winter Yellow-legged Gull on 7th and 2-1st winters on 12th. At least twelve records of Iceland Gull involving both 1st and 2nd winter birds., with the 2nd winter bird showing characteristics of Kumlien's Iceland Gull. Records of Glaucous Gull have been more slightly more numerous with at least sixteen all of 1st winter birds with three birds present on 17th.

Other species worthy of mention were Willow Tit recorded on fifteen dates with two birds on five occasions, Raven were noted on six days with two birds on five of those days, three Fieldfare on 21st, three Redwing on 28th, fourteen Brambling on 6th was an excellent record, Lesser Redpoll noted on four dates with four birds a best count on 29th, last but not least four Crossbill records with two birds a maximum on 9th.

Keith Turton.

Recording Secretary.