

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2008 - 31 Days Covered - 88 Species.

There were eight Little Grebe records with two birds a maximum, a best count of six for Great Crested Grebe whilst Cormorant numbers peaked at sixty-one on 6th. Two Mute Swans were present on both 6th and 24th, whilst movements of Pink-footed Geese were noted on 19th with circa thirty birds north east, 20th circa sixty birds again north east and on 22nd with circa two hundred birds west, the resident adult and juvenile birds were joined by another three birds towards month end. Canada Geese peaked at two hundred and eleven on 20th, Tufted Duck numbers were maintained until month end with a maximum of one hundred and seven birds on 16th the Aythya hybrid (Pochard x Tufted Duck) was also present all month. A drake Gadwall was noted on six dates, a drake Pintail was present on 5th and Goldeneye were seen on almost a daily basis with a best count of nineteen on 3rd, there were at least nineteen records of Goosander with a maximum of six on 22nd. A 1st winter female Scaup found near the dam wall was present from 7th until month end, on occasions it gave close views but in the main it stayed close to the dam wall.

Common Buzzard was recorded on eleven days with a maximum of six birds on 22nd and seven birds seen on 30th, Sparrowhawk was noted on at least ten days with three a best on 20th, Kestrel noted on at least sixteen days with two a maximum on 1st/14th and 22nd. A single Peregrine was recorded on 2nd.

Water Rail was seen on seven dates all single birds, Lapwing numbers peaked at nine hundred on 1st, a single Dunlin was noted on 4th, single Redshank on 3rd and 4th, Woodcock on two dates with a good count of five on 8th and Common Snipe reached ninety five birds on 15th. Bird of the month had to be the Little Stint that was present for a short while on 3rd; this was the first record of this species since 2001 and the first in winter for Ogston, sadly, just a few observers saw the bird.

The gull roost continues to be the main attraction and the "white winged" birds are certainly showing well. Mediterranean Gull was recorded on six dates consisting of adult and 2nd winter birds, Yellow-legged Gull was seen on seven dates, with 1st and 3rd winter and adult birds noted, just two 1st winter Caspian Gulls noted on 3rd and 7th. Two more candidates for bird of the month were a Little Gull on 4th and a 3rd winter Kumlien's Iceland Gull seen on 24th a 2nd winter Iceland Gull showing characteristics of Kumliens Gull was also noted. Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull were recorded on at least twenty-five occasions. On the 22nd there were at least seven "white winged" birds, at least five Glaucous Gull and two Iceland Gull were present and this constitutes a new site record for Ogston. There were ten species of gull recorded on both 4th and 7th.

There were just two records of Little Owl during the month, Tawny Owl was heard on at least six occasions. Willow Tit continued to be noted on a regular basis, recorded on twelve days with three birds a maximum on both 1st and 22nd, Lesser Redpoll was noted on four days with three a best count on 18th, four Siskin records gave a maximum of forty five birds on 29th. Three Raven records gave a best count of two birds on both 3rd and 6th and a single female Yellowhammer seen in the Fisherman's car park was the first record for many years.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2008 - 29 Days Covered - 76 Species.

Five records of Little Grebe with a maximum of three birds on 7th, just a single record of Great Crested Grebe involved two birds “weed dancing” on 29th, twenty-eight Cormorant were present on 15th. Grey Heron numbers improved as the month went on and a best count of twenty-four birds were seen on 24th. There were four Mute Swan records with a maximum of five on 9th, Pink-footed Geese were noted almost on a daily basis with five birds a best count and the resident Canada Geese peaked at ninety-five on 12th. Thirteen species of duck were recorded during the month, maximum numbers were; Shelduck(two), Wigeon(seven), Gadwall (eight), Pintail(two), Shoveler(four), Teal(thirty-five), Mallard (six), Pochard (twenty-six), Tufted Duck (ninety-eight), Scaup (one), Goldeneye (twelve), Goosander (three) and Ruddy Duck (one).

There were five raptor species recorded during the month with Common Buzzard being the most prominent, recorded on at least fourteen dates with four birds a maximum on 26th, Sparrowhawk was noted on seven days with two on 27th, Kestrel seen on eleven days with three birds together on 27th and singles of both Merlin (7th) and Peregrine (25th).

Water Rail was seen on nine dates all singles, two Grey Partridge on 24th were the first record for the year, single Oystercatcher on 22nd/23rd and 28th(hopefully another breeding pair this year), single Redshank on 29th, single Curlew on 22nd and 23rd with two birds on 27th, two Woodcock records both of single birds, sixteen of Common Snipe with forty a best count on 10th.

There was a dramatic reduction in the gull roost primarily caused by a falconer being employed on Erin Void Tip to “disturb” the birds. During January there were records of “white winged” birds on twenty-nine of the thirty-one days, February gave us “white winged” birds on just ten days. Two adult Mediterranean Gulls were noted on 15th, 1-2nd winter Yellow-legged Gull on 13th, 1-1st winter Caspian Gull on both 13th and 14th, whilst Iceland Gull was recorded on just eight days, (1st and 2nd winter birds), with one bird showing characteristics of “Kumlien’s” Iceland Gull. Glaucous Gull was noted on just four dates all 1st winter birds, with two present on 1st.

The first record of Kingfisher for the year came on 7th, with four Skylarks over the west bank car park another first on 25th. A Stonechat recorded near the “oak tree” on the west bank was another addition to the year list. The only other birds of note in a disappointing month were nine records of Willow Tit with a maximum of three birds on both 10th and 15th, Raven noted on eight days with two birds on 15th/23rd/24th/25th and 27th and although not a rarity, a Yellowhammer in the car park on the west bank was the first in the area for many a year.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2008 - 31 Days Covered - Species

Six records of Mute Swan with two birds on two dates, six Whooper Swans passed through on 23rd, Greylag Goose was recorded on at least thirteen dates with a maximum of six on 15th, two Egyptian Geese which moved through south east on 23rd were a welcome addition to the year list as were two Common Scoter first noted on 22nd and still present on 30th. The first winter female Scaup was still present at month end, two Pintail were noted on 26th, Goldeneye gave at least nineteen records with nine a best count on both 2nd and 3rd, a single Red-breasted Merganser (another first for the year was recorded on 12th), with a second bird on 30th. The first candidate for bird of the month/year came on 26th when a Red-throated Diver flew in from south/south west circled for five minutes and departed high to the north east to return at 13.55hours and was observed fishing in front of the hide at 14.30 hours then left to the north east. This constituted the first record of this species since 1999 and was another very welcome addition to the list.

Six raptor species recorded during the month with the second candidate for bird of the month/year a Rough-legged Buzzard seen over the east bank from 15.00-15.15 hours, seen from the car park it was the first record since 2005. Common Buzzard was noted on at least eighteen dates with nine birds seen on 4th, Sparrowhawk was noted on fourteen occasions with three birds seen on three separate dates, Kestrel was noted on just eight dates with two birds the best count. Two Peregrines together on 21st were an excellent record, with a single bird on 30th. Three Goshawk records on 19th, 24th and 27th.

Nine species of wader were noted with single Little Ringed Plover north on 26th (one day later than 2007), Ringed Plover on 15th (21st April 2007), singles of Dunlin on four dates, Redshank on seven occasions with three birds on 26th, Curlew recorded on nine days with three birds on 27th, Common Snipe had a good count of fifty one on 18th, Oystercatcher noted almost on a daily basis and a single Jack Snipe which flew past the hide on 13th completed the list.

Sadly the gull roost came to an end very suddenly with no "white winged" birds recorded during the month, but two adult Kittiwakes present for a few hours on 26th were a very welcome addition to the list.

The first Sand Martins of the year were recorded on 19th (three days later than 2007), with four birds seen during the day, single House Martin was noted on 28th (10th April 2007), a report of the first Chiffchaff on 9th (same date as 2007), with first Willow Warbler on 31st (6th April 2007), there were three records of Stonechat on 1st, 11th and 29th. First Swallow record on 29th, with Wheatear noted on 31st and a single Brambling same date.

The other records of note were Raven on four dates with three on 23rd, two Lesser Redpoll records with four a best count on 14th, single Skylark on two dates, single Rock Pipit on 23rd was an excellent record and a first for the year and four Siskin were noted on 5th. A single Barn Owl seen on 6th was another excellent record and was another first for the year.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2008 - 30 Days Covered -110 Species

Little Grebe had maximum of six birds on both 16th and 17th which is the highest of the year so far, Great Crested Grebe had ten birds as a maximum with displaying birds noted frequently, Mute Swan was noted on at least twelve dates with a maximum of two birds on 19th, Greylag Geese were noted on eight dates with a best count of four on 3rd. All the usual wildfowl species were noted with maximums as follows: Shelduck two, Wigeon one, Gadwall 1 pair, Shoveler four, Teal fourteen, Mallard ten (with eight young noted on 17th and 18th), Tufted Duck sixteen, Scaup 1st winter bird only on 3rd and 4th, Goldeneye two and Goosander one.

There were seven raptor species recorded during the month with Ospreys noted on four dates, Common Buzzard had a maximum of six birds on 26th, Sparrowhawk three birds on 6th 7th and 26th, Kestrel two birds on 21st and 26th and single records of Goshawk and Merlin. Hobby was noted on two dates 21st and 28th.

Water Rail was seen on nine dates but not after 15th, two Grey Partridge were flushed by a dog walker on 21st, Oystercatcher was noted almost on a daily basis with three birds a maximum. A candidate for bird of the month appeared on the 20th when two Avocets were present on the west bank for most of the day giving excellent photographic opportunities. Little ringed Plover were noted on a daily basis with six birds a best count on 17th, Ringed Plover was noted on eight occasions with two a maximum, Dunlin were noted on three dates with two a maximum, new for the year was a Greenshank on 19th, Curlew on four dates with two a best count and Whimbrel also on four dates with seven birds in total.

Ogston's first ever Ring Ouzel

The bird was seen to fly across the reservoir on the 5th to the east bank by two very fortunate observers, sadly the bird was never seen again. Incredibly another bird was located on 21st and was seen by many observers feeding in fields opposite the west bank until 12.30 hours. Towards month end all warbler species were back, Garden Warbler on 24th, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat on 21st, Sedge Warbler 24th, with Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler present from the beginning of the month. Wheatear was noted on four dates with two birds on both 16th and 17th, Yellow Wagtail was recorded on eight dates with a maximum thirteen birds on 22nd giving a total of thirty birds for the month which is almost double that of the whole of both April and May in 2007. White Wagtail was noted on eleven days with four birds a maximum on 16th. Two records of Cuckoo on 16th and 27th (the bird on 16th second earliest record: source R.T. Taylor Annual Report 1996) both birds heard not seen.

Both Common and Arctic Tern have been recorded, the first Common Tern on 9th was the earliest recorded at Ogston beating the previous record (April 14th 2005) by five days. A superb Black Tern spent most the day on 30th traversing the reservoir and was seen by many observers.

Five raven sightings during the month with two birds a maximum. Another very welcome addition to the year list was added on 27th when a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard "drumming" in the area adjacent to Bottom Farm.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2008 - 30 Days Covered - 96 Species.

Just five sightings of Little Grebe all singles, Great Crested Grebe had a maximum count of eighteen birds on 18th; Cormorant peaked at thirty-nine on both 29th and 30th. Grey Heron had a best count of twenty-eight on 20th. There were six single records of Mute Swan, Greylag Geese were noted on eight dates with a maximum of seven birds on 29th, three Shelduck were present on 7th, a pair of Gadwall on 5th and a single bird on 25th, male Shoveler on six dates, Mallard with eleven young on 19th and two more broods of five and three birds on 31st. There were ten records of Tufted Duck with twenty-three a best count on 18th.

There were three Osprey sightings during the month on 12th/15th and 19th. Two new birds were added to the year list on 2nd when both Red Kite and Honey Buzzard were recorded within a few minutes of each other, incredibly another Red Kite was recorded on 2nd, 20th and 26th. Common Buzzard was noted on fourteen dates with a maximum of six birds on both 2nd and 6th, (there were thirteen sightings of Common Buzzard in two hours at Highoredish on 20th). Hobby was recorded on at least five dates, Sparrowhawk on six with two birds a maximum and Kestrel; was noted on at least eleven dates again with a maximum of two birds.

Twelve species of wader were recorded during the month with a well-watched Sanderling on 21st probably the best of the bunch and the first record of the year. A single Grey Plover passed through on 16th seen by one very fortunate observer. Little Ringed Plover (noted on at least twenty seven dates), Ringed Plover (eleven dates, with seven birds present on 23rd), Oystercatcher (fifteen dates, three birds on 8th), Lapwing, Dunlin (present on nine days with seven birds on 5th), Common Sandpiper (seven dates), Redshank (on at least twenty seven dates), Curlew, Whimbrel and Common Snipe were all recorded.

Common Tern was recorded on four dates with two birds a maximum on 18th, Arctic Tern on three dates with three a best count on 14th and single Black Tern on 15th. Yellow-legged Gull was noted on two dates.

A Barn Owl was reported seen flying towards a nest box on the hide path by one lucky observer and seen to catch prey on 30th. Four Tree Pipits were recorded on 11th, sadly just outside the recording area. Single "Greenland" Wheatear was present for a time on 17th the first record of the year. A single Yellow Wagtail was noted on both 4th and 22nd. A new bird was added to the sub-species list on 18th when a Grey-headed Wagtail was recorded; the bird caused quite an amount of excitement for the observers who were present.

All the regular warblers were observed during the month with Reed Warbler being the last to arrive with single birds recorded on four dates' 23rd/26th/29th and 30th, Spotted Flycatcher made its first appearance on 6th(single) and 8th(two birds) in the churchyard at Brackenfield.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2008 - 30 Days Covered - 96 Species.

There were six records of Little Grebe during the month with a best count of six on 9th and 28th, Great Crested Grebe was noted on eight dates with twelve birds on 28th and a juvenile with "stripy head" seen to fly in on 19th and land on the water. Cormorant peaked at fifty-four birds on 27th; Grey Heron had twenty-six adults and nine juveniles on 12th. Just a single record of Mute Swan on 21st, Canada Geese peaked at one hundred and twenty nine on 25th. A pair of Wigeon were present on 7th and a pair of Shoveler on 19th, Tufted Duck was noted on at least eight dates with thirteen birds a maximum on 16th. Eight Gadwall were present on 27th.

Ogston's First Great White Egret.

A first ever record of Great White Egret was present on 4th for a short while and although the news was put out on the pager system very quickly, sadly only a very small number of very fortunate observers were able to see the bird before it was flushed by someone slamming a car door.

There were eight species of raptor recorded with Osprey on both 2nd and 20th, Red Kite on 1st/8th and 18th the seventh record of the year in what is proving to be the best on record for this species. Common Buzzard was noted on at least seventeen dates with three birds a maximum on 4th/10th and 13th; six single records of Sparrowhawk, Kestrel recorded on twelve days with five a best count on 28th and 29th. There were at least six Hobby records and just a single Goshawk noted on 15th and single Peregrine on 7th.

Eight species of wader during the month but no sign of any breeding, Oystercatcher noted on at least eighteen dates, Ringed Plover on ten with two birds on 26th, nine Lapwing records gave a maximum of eighty birds on 21st, Common Sandpiper noted on nine dates with nine birds on 30th, five Redshank records with two birds on 1st and 2nd. Single Curlews were noted on 2nd/3rd, 8th and 9th and 28th. Little Ringed Plover was recorded almost on a daily basis with six birds a maximum on 24th. Dunlin was recorded on 7th and 9th both singles.

An adult Kittiwake was an excellent record on 1st; Yellow-legged Gull was recorded on four dates, Common Tern was noted on eleven dates with four birds on 14th, four Black Tern on 1st and two records of Arctic Tern with five birds present on 1st and a single on 3rd.

Most warbler species were recorded including Garden, Sedge, Reed and Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff and Spotted Flycatcher with juveniles of both Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat recorded.

Other birds of note were single Crossbill on 8th first record of the year with seven birds noted moving west on 22nd, two more on 28th and four more on 30th. Single Barn Owl and four Raven records.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2008 - 31 Days Covered - 100 Species

Little Grebe was noted on at least four dates with sixteen a maximum on 22nd which included three broods of 2/2/1, Great Crested Grebe had eight records with a best count of twenty-six on 14th which included eight juveniles. First candidate for bird of the month a juvenile Black-necked Grebe was present on 10th, the bird, the first record since 2005 spent most of the time asleep. The first record for the year of Little Egret was of two birds present on 3rd there were eight further singles noted with three birds present on 26th. Shoveler (seven records maximum four), Teal (twelve, max.fourteen), Mallard (four, max. 120), Pochard (six, max.three juveniles 16th), Tufted Duck (eleven, max. seventy eight including two broods of three and two young), Ruddy Duck and Common Scoter both singles were all recorded during the month. The Tufted+Pochard hybrid with the red bill saddle, which has been on site since mid-month, was marked at Sao Jacinta south of Portugal on 11-02-2008 as a juvenile from 2007. The bird has been christened Red 11. A Moorhen was observed with six tiny young in the Kingfisher Pond and the number of Coot increased from thirty-two on 5th to a maximum of one hundred and one on 29th. Two days after the fish stocks were replenished in the reservoir the number of Cormorants increased and eighty-one birds were present on 24th.

Five raptor species were noted Common Buzzard, Hobby, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Peregrine with a juvenile bird on 29th.

Fifteen wader species were recorded during the month with maximums being: Oystercatcher (three), Little Ringed Plover (eight) sadly no breeding records, Ringed Plover (one), Lapwing (two hundred and eighty four), single Sanderling, Dunlin (three), Green Sandpiper (four), Common Sandpiper (seventeen), Redshank ten, which constitutes a new site record, previous best was nine birds 24th March 1996, single Greenshank, Curlew (two), Whimbrel (two), Common Snipe (one), Black-tailed Godwit (eight). The Curlew Sandpiper that was present on 24th from mid-afternoon was another very welcome addition to the year list, particularly with it being an adult and in part summer plumage, this was the first adult July record since 1994.

There were at least nineteen Common Tern records with a maximum of five birds on both 26th and 31st, single Arctic Tern on 29th and a Black Tern on 6th. Three records of Yellow-legged Gull with one adult on 23rd and 2-2nd summer birds (24th/27th).

Two juvenile Little Owls were noted on 22nd and Barn Owl showed on at least ten days. Kingfisher was recorded on twenty four days with four birds a best count on 18th, three records of Green Woodpecker 5th/27th and 30th and juvenile Great Spotted Woodpeckers visiting the feeders near the hide on a regular basis.

Another addition to the year list came on 13th when a female Redstart was recorded in Brackenfield Churchyard by one very fortunate observer, a Yellow Wagtail was noted on 26th. Forty-two Linnet on 29th was a good record, with Siskin noted on five dates with a best count of twenty on 11th and two records of Crossbill single on 13th and two birds on 20th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2008 - 31 Days Covered - 110 Species.

Little Grebe had a maximum of eight birds on 19th with one juvenile on 7th, Great Crested Grebe had seven juveniles on 4th with a maximum twenty five birds on 13th, Cormorant peaked at sixty nine birds on 5th. Little Egret were present on almost a daily basis with a best count of three birds on 25th/27th/28th/29th, 30th and 31st, single Greylag Goose noted during month whilst Canada Goose had a maximum two hundred and twenty three on 27th. A single Shoveler was present on 1st, whilst four Wigeon on 26th were a good record. There were five juvenile Shelduck recorded, Mallard had a best count of one hundred and fifty on 11th, at least eight records of Tufted Duck with seventy on 11th and a single Goosander on 24th.

Nine raptor species were recorded with two contenders for bird of the month, namely Honey Buzzard, the second record of the year and the only record so far of Marsh Harrier, a very welcome addition to the year list. Osprey records have been excellent with three sightings on some days, twelve Hobby records with three a best count on 4th, eight Peregrine records with a juvenile bird on three dates and a single Merlin on 9th.

Fourteen wader species noted during the month with Little Ringed Plover noted on almost a daily basis and a best count of seven on 12th, Ringed Plover had a maximum of six on 5th, Lapwing had eight records with a best count of two hundred and eighty five on 6th. Single Turnstone was recorded on both 2nd and 13th, single Curlew on three dates, Whimbrel noted on two days, single Redshank. Black-tailed Godwit was recorded on four dates with two birds on each day; Dunlin was noted on at least twenty days with seven birds a maximum on 5th and single juveniles on 1st and 9th, Common Snipe noted on at least sixteen dates. Common Sandpiper had a maximum of fifteen birds on 1st, Green Sandpiper gave us eight records with a best count of three on 1st and Greenshank was recorded on eighteen dates with three a maximum on both 21st and 27th, an excellent and well above average year for both these species.

Two Yellow-legged Gull were noted(both adults) on 10th and 12th, Common Tern had at least twelve records with three a maximum on 17th ands Arctic Tern had six birds on 2nd and two on 6th. A single adult Black Tern moved north on 30th.

One record of Tawny Owl with three birds heard on 4th, Little Owl gave at least eleven records with a best count of three on 4th. A single Tree Pipit on 2nd was another welcome addition to the year list, as was a Marsh Tit seen on both 20th and 27th, the bird which was the first record since 2003 was seen near Carr Pond, an immature Redstart was recorded on both 21st and 24th and three Wheatear were a good find on 26th. Raven was noted on ten dates with five birds a best count on 11th, single Crossbill was observed on 4th and 17th and four records of Siskin with a maximum of circa fifty birds on 18th. Two Grey Partridge on 30th were the first record for some time.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008 - 30 Days Covered - 116 Species

The first day of the month saw a new bird added to the Ogston list (the third addition this year). The bird a Wryneck was first seen near Church Farm and for the next three days created a tremendous amount of interest and was enjoyed by many observers. The bird was only the third county record and although it could be elusive at times it also gave excellent views on occasion. The fourth addition to the all time list was a Montagu's Harrier on the 7th which passed high over the reservoir and drifted slowly south and delighted the few observer's who were present.

Little Egret was present from 1st to 11th with two birds a best count on seven of those days, a single Greylag Goose was noted on most days with the resident Canada flock which peaked at three hundred and fifty birds on 20th. Up to twenty four Wigeon were on site from mid month, a single Pochard on three dates, two Pintail on 13th, three on 22nd and a single on 24th, nine Common Scoter 24th with two more on 25th and six Ruddy Duck on 24th. The second Red-throated Diver of the year (an adult in summer plumage) was present from 08.10 hours on 23rd until it flew off west at 10.58 hours. This represents only the second time that two birds have been recorded in any one year the previous occasion being May and October 1999.

After a poor year in 2007 Osprey records improved greatly with five and six sightings on some days with records on at least eighteen dates during the year. Common Buzzard sightings were again very good and a maximum nine birds were in the air together on 13th. Honey Buzzard sightings were excellent with two different birds on 10th, a single bird on 14th and a juvenile on 15th, two Goshawk sightings a juvenile bird on 26th and a single was noted on 18th with six Sparrowhawk seen on same day, Kestrel, Hobby, and Peregrine were also seen during the month.

Towards the end of the month the water levels increased tremendously, however we still managed twelve species, Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, the first Golden Plover of the year (three birds flew north west over Highoredish on 1st), Lapwing, Turnstone(single 22nd, two 28th, Dunlin, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Greenshank, Curlew and Common Snipe.

Common Tern was noted on two dates with two birds on 6th and a juvenile on 7th, a juvenile Arctic Tern passed through on 23rd and three Black Tern were present for most of 13th and an adult Mediterranean Gull also flew through on same date. A Kittiwake was on site briefly on 7th, a third winter Yellow-legged Gull was noted on 24th and 26th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were Tree Pipit on 7th, a Marsh Tit seen on at least ten dates, two Common Crossbill on 7th, the first Redwing of the year on 26th and last but not least two Corn Bunting on 11th not seen here for many a year and a Stonechat on 30th.

Keith Turton.
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2008 - 31Days Covered - 95 Species

Both Little Grebe and Great Crested Grebe were noted during the month with maximum counts of five (31st) and fifteen (3rd) respectively, Cormorant had a best count of forty eight on 3rd. Pink-footed Geese with circa seven hundred birds flying west on 6th, and circa one hundred and twenty east on 21st with three more south east on 28th. Two Greylag Geese were on site on 19th and 27th, there were at least seven Wigeon records with thirteen a best count on 5th, three Gadwall records on 7th and 29th, Goldeneye was noted on at least eight days with a best count of four birds on 30th, with Goosander present on 21st, 24th, 28th and 29th. A total of sixteen Whooper Swan passed over the site south east on 27th and single Mute Swan was present on three dates with three birds on 31st. Two Mandarin Duck on 28th were a very welcome addition to the year list.

Common Buzzard was noted on at least fourteen dates with four birds a maximum on both 9th, 17th, 29th and 31st, Sparrowhawk was recorded on at least thirteen dates with a best count of five (sightings) on 27th and 31st, there were fourteen Kestrel records again with three birds a best count on 12th and finally three Peregrine records on 5th, 9th and 27th.

September had twelve wader species recorded; sadly this month there has been only five. Lapwing noted on at least six dates with a maximum of one hundred and eighty, Common Snipe on twenty three dates with a best count of twenty two on 28th and a single bird on 19th of a bird considered to be of Faroe Island Race. The second Jack Snipe record for the year was that of a bird seen on the west bank on 28th October. A Dunlin was present on 31st.

A candidate for bird of the year a Grey Phalarope which was present for only a few hours on 27th was first observed in front of the members hide. The bird(an adult in winter plumage) could also be seen quite easily from the west bank area. Although the information was quickly put out on the Birdnet Pager System, sadly the bird left at 13.20 hours and not many observers were able to connect with it. The only other Grey Phalarope records were both of single birds; one on 4th November 1984 and one 16th October 1987(Source M.F.Stoyle Systematic List 1991).Another new bird for the year list a Water Pipit was observed going to roost in fields opposite the west bank on 27th but was not located the following day.

There were records on seven dates of Yellow-legged Gull with juvenile/1st winters on 9th/11th/25th/28th/29th and 30th, 1-2nd winter on 29th and single adult on 25th with two on 30th and two adults again on 31st together with a 1-1st winter bird. An adult Caspian Gull was present on 25th, and an adult and 1-3rd winter on 31st. A juvenile Arctic Tern passed through on 14th.

There were two Barn Owl sightings during the month on 11th and 31st,three sightings of Rock Pipit on 7th/12th and 23rd, Stonechat was recorded on fourteen dates with the 24th being the last. Marsh Tit was noted on three dates 12th/24th and 25th, there were five Raven records with six birds noted on 12th. The first Tree Sparrow records of the year on 12th were of a single in west bank car park and two birds in Carr Pond area, Lesser Redpoll was noted on five dates with circa fifty birds on 12th and three Siskin records with a best count of circa twenty birds on 5th brought the month to a close.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2008 - 30 Days Covered - 90 Species.

Just three records of Little Grebe with a best count of five birds on 4th, Great Crested Grebe had a maximum of ten on 3rd, Cormorant reached thirty two on 3rd. Candidates for bird of the month were the eleven Bewick's Swans which circuted the reservoir on 2nd for five minutes before departing east over south hill, sadly the birds did not land, they were however a very welcome addition to the year list. A single Whooper Swan was present for most of the day on 19th with ten more Whoopers east on 30th at 12.30 hours, three "wild swans" either Bewick's or Whooper flew east at 10.40 on same date, whilst Mute Swan had a single bird on 1st with two juveniles noted on 15th. Pink-footed Geese were recorded on three dates with seventy eight birds moving east on 19th, three birds on site on 20th and a single present from 21st. Five Shelduck were new on 17th, Teal had a best count of forty five on 15th, there were four Pochard records with eight a maximum on 20th. A single first winter drake Scaup on 18th was a new bird for the month but only for the day. Goldeneye were noted most during the month with a best count of six birds on 7th, with seven bird being the maximum for Goosander on 29th. A single Egyptian Goose was an addition to the monthly list on 27th. Another candidate for bird of the month was found on 27th, the bird, a juvenile Shag was found at about 14.30 hours and was still on site at dusk. The first record since 1993 the bird was an excellent and very welcome addition to the year list. The 1993 Annual Report contained this reference to Shag: With only ten previous records of up to four birds all within the period 1971-1982 in the months March, May, August and December many new birders still needed to connect with this species for their 'Ogston List' 1993 was the ideal year. Eleven birds, eight adults with three immatures arrived on 1st February in the late afternoon. This exceptional record was linked with a national influx inland. One adult 3rd and 4th February with two adults 5th February. One immature 10th and 11th February and one bird on the reservoir 16th March having spent the previous two weeks on the Hall Pond. (Source Annual Report 1993 Author R.T.Taylor).

Common Buzzard and Kestrel both had four birds as a maximum on 7th and 17th respectively; Sparrowhawk had three as a best count on 3rd.

Although no 'White Winged Gulls' have as yet been recorded, both Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull have been noted in the roost an adult from each species (both on 1st) and 1-1st winter Yellow-legged Gull (20th).

Two records of Barn Owl single 11th and two birds on 28th, single Little Owl on 15th and 17th, six Kingfisher records with two birds on 2nd and 3rd, three late records of Barn Swallow on 8th, 21st and 22nd.

A Stonechat was noted on at least eight dates, circa five hundred Fieldfare and circa eight hundred Redwing, single Chiffchaff on 1st, Marsh Tit noted on 12th and 14th, six Raven records with two birds on 3rd, 7th, 16th and 20th, single Brambling on 1st and 8th, circa sixty Lesser Redpoll and circa forty Siskin and circa six hundred Starlings were the only other records of note.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2008 - 31 Days Covered - 87 Species.

Little Grebe had nine as a best count on 24th, Great Crested Grebe had sixteen on 16th, three single Mute Swan records and five birds (1 adult and four juveniles) on 23rd and 27th. The eighteen Whooper Swan present on 1st were the sixth record this year and gave a total of sixty birds, there were four single records of Pink-footed goose, and Greylag Goose was noted on three dates with two birds on 10th and 23rd, four on 18th. Seven Wigeon records with a maximum seventeen on 16th, eleven records of Teal with one hundred and fifty two counted on 14th. One candidate for bird of the month was the Green-winged Teal on 11th, if a description is provided and subsequently accepted by D.O.S. it would be Ogstons fourth ever record.

Two Pintail were noted on 14th with a drake Red-breasted Merganser on 3rd and 13th.

Common Buzzard was noted on at least twelve dates with two birds a best count on three of those dates, seven records for Sparrowhawk with two on 6th, thirteen records for Kestrel with three on 6th, a juvenile Peregrine was noted on at least two dates.

Two Dunlin on 11th were a good record, with Common Snipe noted on at least fourteen dates but only in single figures, there were two records of Woodcock with four birds flying from Carr Wood on 9th and a single bird at Woodcock Plantation during the day.

The Gull Roost.

December 2007 gave us two records of Caspian and Yellow-legged Gull, four Mediterranean Gull records and Iceland Gull on twelve dates, Glaucous Gull on eighteen dates. December 2008 we have logged Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull, with just one record of a 2nd winter Iceland Gull on 21st and no records at all of Glaucous Gull. We are currently at a loss to explain what is happening; Ogston has been the premier site to watch gulls inland during the winter period for many years. Our hope is that the current trend does not continue and that Ogston will quickly retain the number one position.

Whilst both Little and Tawny Owl have been heard, Barn Owl continues to be seen on a regular basis with two birds noted on 1st, five Kingfisher records, Meadow Pipit on two dates and a Stonechat on at least nine occasions.

Another candidate for bird of the month were the Waxwings found near Ogston Lodge on 18th, the birds were a very welcome addition to the year list and gave a great deal of pleasure to the many observer's who were able to add this most charismatic of birds to their own year list. The birds were Ogston's first record since 4th December 2005 when a single bird flew over the southern end of the reservoir but was not located after that date.

Other records worthy of a mention were Raven which was noted on four dates with four birds together on 17th, single Marsh Tit on two dates and four records of Lesser Redpoll with eight birds a best count on 19th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.