

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 90 Species.

Little Grebe had a best count of seven birds on 28th, Great Crested Grebe had seven on 9th whilst thirty one Cormorants were present on 30th. There were at least eight records of Mute Swan with six birds on 10th which included four juveniles, two Greylag Geese were on site on 24th and 29th. Teal was noted on at least fourteen dates with thirty four as a maximum on 4th, Pochard was recorded on sixteen dates with a best count of eleven on both 13th and 21st. Goldeneye was again the most recorded duck with at least twenty six entries with nine as a best count on 22nd, just two Goosander records(1st and 23rd) and ten records of Shoveler with three birds a maximum. Single Shelduck on 4th, seven Gadwall records, drake Pintail on 29th. Thirty nine Whooper Swan flew over the southern end of the reservoir to the west at 09.20 hours on 30th.

Just four raptor species recorded during the month with Common Buzzard noted on at least thirteen dates with four birds on both 21st and 25th, eleven Sparrowhawk records with three on 21st, just five Kestrel records and Peregrine on two dates.

Resident Lapwing flock peaked at 200 on 14th, single Golden Plover passed through on 13th, Single Redshank present from 2nd-5th, two Woodcock records with four birds on 1st and single on 7th. Fourteen Common Snipe records with twelve a maximum on 13th.

The gull roost has been a non-event for possibly the first year ever at Ogston, just two Yellow-legged Gull records, one adult Caspian Gull and 1-1st winter Iceland Gull on 24th, with an adult Kittiwake on 7th.

Three Owls recorded, with Tawny Owl (heard) on three dates, Little Owl on five dates with two birds on both 3rd and 28th, Barn Owl on at least eight dates with two birds on 26th.

Bird of the month had to be the three Waxwings present in the same garden as last years birds, seen by a single very fortunate observer, before the birds moved off. There were seven Kingfisher records during the month with two birds noted on both 13th and 28th, a female Blackcap was an excellent find on 2nd, and Marsh Tit was noted on two dates. Raven was recorded on four dates with two birds on each occasion, two Tree Sparrow on feeders near Severn Trent treatment works were a very good find as this species is quite uncommon in the recording area, (just three birds noted on one date during 2008).

The Pochard x Tufted Duck was recorded on at least eight dates, a female Crossbill found at the churchyard at Brackenfield was another very good record. There were at least four Lesser Redpoll records with circa thirty birds on 24th and three Siskin records with ten birds noted again on 24th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2009 - 28 Days Covered - 85 Species.

Little Grebe had a maximum of nine birds on 23rd, Great Crested Grebe had fourteen birds on 26th, Cormorant peaked at forty on 4th. There were at least eleven records of Mute Swan with a best count of five on both 10th and 12th, one hundred and forty Pink-footed Geese were noted on 1st and a further seventy one on 20th. Two Greylag Geese were on site on 19th and 24th with three on 25th and nine on 28th. Single Little Egret was present on both 22nd and 24th.

A candidate for bird of the month had to be the dark-bellied Brent Goose which was present for a few hours on 6th was only the eighth record. First recorded on 14th March 1964, subsequent records read, 12th November 1984, 4th December 1995, 19th/20th January 1996, 4th/5th February 1998 and 4th December 2007 (two birds). All were of the dark-bellied race except the 1995 bird which was of the pale bellied form.

There were nine Teal records with a maximum fifty three birds on 12th, three Gadwall records with a pair present on three dates, six Shoveler records maximum three on 2nd, Goldeneye was noted on seventeen dates with seven birds on both 17th and 20th, a male Goosander was noted on 7th and six birds flew south on 18th.

Four species of raptor were recorded with Common Buzzard on fifteen dates with five a best count on 19th/21st and 23rd, seven Sparrowhawk records with two a maximum, Kestrel noted on nine dates with three on 7th and two records of Goshawk.

Five wader species were recorded with a single Oystercatcher on 7th, single Golden Plover on 4th with two birds west on 26th, Lapwing peaked at eighty four birds on 26th, Common Snipe noted on fifteen dates with forty a best count on 4th, five records of Curlew with a maximum of five on 20th.

Although the gull roost has been one of the worst on record there were three Yellow-legged gulls noted, 1-3rd winter type on 8th and 27th, an adult on 10th and 1-1st winter on 11th, two Caspian gulls an adult on 6th and 1-3rd winter on 14th, adult Mediterranean gull on 15th and 16th same bird both dates, 1-1st winter Glaucous on 14th the first of this species since February 2008 and a 1st/2nd winter bird on 26th. A first winter Common Gull which was in the roost on 13th showed characteristics of the Eastern race *ssp heinei*.

Three Owl species were noted during the month with Tawny Owl heard on four dates (two heard on 22nd), Little Owl on three occasions and Barn Owl the most recorded on at least seven days with two birds on both 23rd and 28th.

The first Skylarks of the year (seven) were noted on 21st with another two birds on 26th, circa thirty Waxwings were present on 1st in the same location as the 2008 birds. Just one record of Marsh Tit on 16th, Raven on three dates with six (possibly eight) on 21st, seven Lesser Redpoll on 25th, four records of Siskin with four birds on 25th and the first Grey Partridge of the year on 13th. Just one record during the whole of 2008 of Tree Sparrow, so far this year five records with a maximum four birds on 23rd. All the birds noted visiting a feeding station close to Severn Trent treatment works.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 96 Species.

Little Grebe had a maximum of twelve birds on both 16th and 31st, Great Crested Grebe had fourteen birds as a best count on 16th, whilst Cormorant peaked at thirty birds also on 16th, Two records of Whooper Swan, both were of the same nineteen birds present on 18th and 19th. Greylag Geese were on site on at least ten dates with a maximum four bird's on 12th. A welcome addition to the year list were the pair of Mandarin Duck seen on the guided walk on 7th and on at least another ten dates with five birds seen on 29th. Wigeon, Teal, Pochard, Shoveler and Tufted Duck were all noted during the month. Goldeneye was again the most recorded species noted on at least twenty two dates, Goosander had eleven records with nine birds a best count on 29th whilst a pair of Red-breasted Merganser were present on 30th and were another welcome addition to the year list.

First candidate for bird of the month were the five Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis* ssp *rossicus*) which were noted flying around the reservoir very early on 22nd; unfortunately the birds did not land. The first record of this species since 2004 and only the third site record.

Six species of raptor were recorded with Common Buzzard on nineteen dates with thirteen on 1st, fourteen Sparrowhawk records with two a maximum on five dates, Kestrel noted on eleven dates with three on 22nd and 27th, three records of Goshawk, Red Kite on 7th and 19th and Osprey on 28th/29th and 31st.

Six wader species were recorded with a Oystercatcher noted at least eighteen dates with a best count of three birds on 23rd, Lapwing had twelve as a best count on 2nd, single Redshank recorded on five dates. Common Snipe noted on thirteen dates with thirty a best count on 18th, eleven records of Curlew with a maximum of five on 15th. The first Little-ringed Plover was a single bird on 29th with three more on 30th.

Single adult Yellow-legged Gull and adult Kittiwake were the only birds of note with regard to gulls.

Three Owl species were noted during the month with Tawny Owl heard on three dates (three heard on 31st), Little Owl on sixteen dates with two birds on six of those dates, Barn Owl recorded on at least six days.

All three woodpeckers heard or seen during the month with Green heard on 24th and seen on 30th, Great Spotted noted on at least sixteen dates with as many as ten different birds seen on 3rd, most elusive member of the family Lesser Spotted seen or heard on no less than six occasions. The first Sand Martins were noted on 13th three birds, six days earlier than 2008, single House Martin on 19th, nine days earlier than 2008 and Barn Swallow on 25th, four days earlier than 2008. First Chiffchaffs were two birds on 14th, five days later than 2008. A single Dipper on 31st was another very welcome addition to the year list, single Stonechat was noted on 1st, eight records of Tree Sparrow, whilst a Brambling was a notable find on 14th. Common (Mealy) Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* has been noted on at least six dates in different locations with five birds seen on 19th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2009 - 30 Days Covered - 114 Species

Little Grebe had a maximum count of six birds on 7th, Great Crested Grebe managed fourteen on both 12th and 20th, Cormorant had eighteen birds on 7th/10th/14th and 20th and Grey Heron had fourteen on 7th. First candidate for bird of the month was the Black-necked Grebe which was present for some of the day on 5th.

There were three Mute Swan records all single birds whilst four Whooper Swan were present on 15th. Shelduck Teal, Gadwall, Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Goldeneye were all recorded during the month. Mandarin Duck was recorded on at least eighteen days with five birds a best count on four of those dates (there were just ten records in total in 2005/6/7 and 2008). Mallard was noted with young on at least five dates a total of nineteen birds in two different broods. Four Common Scoter which were present for most of 28th were another very welcome addition to the year list.

Eight species of raptor were noted with Osprey on 5th and 10th, Red Kite on 29th and 30th Common Buzzard on thirteen days maximum thirteen birds, Sparrowhawk on eleven days with three a best count on two of those dates, single record of Goshawk, Kestrel on at least nine dates with three birds on 9th, three single Peregrine records and the first Hobby on 24th (three days later than 2008) and a second bird on 29th.

Twelve species of wader have occurred so far with Little-ringed Plover and Oystercatcher recorded on almost a daily basis, Oystercatcher had a best count of three birds whilst Little-ringed Plover had eight birds on 24th. A single Ringed Plover was present on 17th, sixteen Golden Plover on 5th, single Grey Plover on 4th was a very welcome addition to the year list. There were four records of Dunlin with two birds on 23rd, Common Sandpiper noted on dates with four birds on 27th, ten Redshank records with three birds on 17th, Curlew was noted on eleven dates with three birds on 6th and Common Snipe on fourteen dates with twelve a best count on 12th. A Whimbrel which was on site on 30th was another welcome addition to the year list.

Three additions to the year list arrived on 16th when fifteen Little Gull, 1 Common Tern and ten Arctic Tern were present until early evening.

Three Swifts arrived on 25th (three days later than 2008), sixteen records of Yellow Wagtail with the first bird on 7th (six days earlier than 2008), three records of Wheatear with two birds on 20th, last Fieldfare noted on 10th and last Redwing on 6th.

Migrants continued to arrive throughout the month; Willow Warbler on 5th (single, five days later than 2008), first Sedge Warbler on 19th (five days earlier than 2008), Whitethroat single on 20th (one day earlier than 2008), Lesser Whitethroat on 22nd (two birds, one day later than 2008) and first Garden Warbler on 28th (four days later than 2008). Other birds of note were Raven, Tree Sparrow, Brambling, and Common (Mealy) Redpoll.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 106 Species

Little Grebe had a maximum of eight birds on 18th, Great Crested Grebe had eighteen on 3rd, two Black-necked Grebes found on 24th were an excellent record, three birds of this species have been noted this year. A single Pink-footed Goose was present on 29th, Greylag Geese have occurred on at least fourteen dates with eleven birds on 7th, a single Barnacle Goose on 17th was the first record of the year and Mandarin Duck was seen on nine dates with two birds a best count on 16th.

There have been eight raptor species recorded during the month, Red Kite on 10th/ 16th and 24th, Osprey on 25th and 27th and 28th. Common Buzzard on at least sixteen dates with eight as a maximum on 17th, nine Sparrowhawk records with two a best count, Kestrel noted on seven dates again with two a maximum. Hobby has been noted on at least ten days with three birds on 18th, two Peregrine records with two a maximum on 2nd. The only Honey Buzzard of the year so far was noted on 16th.

Fourteen wader species have been noted this month, unfortunately just one breeding record, that of three Lapwing chicks. Oystercatcher was noted on almost a daily basis with a maximum of three birds, the single nest which had eggs was predated. Little-ringed Plover was recorded on at least twenty dates with six a best count on 1st, Ringed Plover was noted on eight days with three a best count on 7th. Dunlin gave a maximum of twenty three birds on 7th from fifteen records; maximum of two Common Sandpiper from eight records, two Redshank on 10th and 11th, Greenshank had five records with fifteen birds as a maximum on 15th. Sanderling had two records with four birds briefly on 14th; Turnstone gave four records with three birds on 15th, Whimbrel had five birds as a maximum on 16th and Curlew had twelve records with two birds a maximum. A Grey Plover which moved through north very early on 30th was the second record for the year.

Bird of the year so far was a Fulmar which spent a few minutes flying around the reservoir on 31st before leaving to the North West. Only the third record the first being 1973-74 and one in 2000.

Yellow-legged Gull was noted on two dates, Common Tern on at least five days with seventeen on 14th, Artic Tern was noted on six dates with nine birds on 14th, there were two Black Tern records with three birds a best count on 14th. Single Cuckoo was recorded on 24th, two Grey Partridge on 21st, Tawny Owl on 3rd; five records of Little Owl all singles and a single Barn Owl on 17th. Six single Yellow Wagtails were noted during the month. Just two Cuckoo records, which is quite a concern and shows how the species has declined quite drastically.

May 1st gave us the first Pied Flycatcher record since 2003; sadly it was a single observer record and not heard or seen after that date.

May 17th gave us another addition to the year list, that of a Grasshopper Warbler, which was heard singing adjacent to the "the oak tree" on the west bank, sadly it has not been recorded since, this was the first record of the species since 2005.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2009 - 30 Days Covered - 87 Species.

Eight records of Little Grebe with ten birds as a maximum on 28th with juveniles noted on 25th(three) and 28th (four), Great Crested Grebe gave a total on fifteen records with eighteen a best count on 24th with juveniles on seven dates, Cormorant had thirty eight as a best count on 29th. Greylag Geese were noted on three dates with three birds present on 10th, Canada Geese had a maximum of ninety two on 24th, whilst Teal were recorded on twelve dates with six on 26th. A female Mandarin Duck was recorded with five juveniles in Milltown Inlet the only breeding record at Ogston. Just seven Mallard records with circa forty birds on 22nd, three Gadwall were on site for most of the 11th and 28th, Shoveler had a best count of four birds from five records and thirty two Tufted Duck were present on 27th. An escaped Chiloie Wigeon was recorded on at least thirteen dates up to the month end.

Osprey was recorded on four dates with two birds seen on 7th (nine records prior to this month), two Red Kite were noted on 14th (five records prior to this month), Common Buzzard had eight records with a maximum of eleven birds noted on 14th, just a single Sparrowhawk record, four records of Kestrel with two on 8th and 26th and five single Hobby records.

Nine wader species recorded were during the month, Oystercatcher on eighteen dates with five birds a best count on 1st, Little-ringed Plover gave nineteen records with four birds a maximum on three dates, just one Ringed Plover record that of three birds on 3rd. Lapwing had juveniles noted on four dates, single Dunlin present on 5th, Green Sandpiper heard on 28th (a very welcome addition to the year list), five Common Sandpiper records with two birds on 22nd, and seven Curlew records with two birds on 13th and 27th.

Black-headed Gull was noted on ten dates with twenty five birds present on 26th including one juvenile, Common Gull recorded on two days with four birds on 26th, a single 3rd summer Yellow-legged Gull was a good find on 20th, Common Tern were either present or passing through on at least fourteen days with three birds a maximum on 25th and 26th and 30th.

Six records of Little Owl with two birds on 29th, single Barn Owl on 22nd and six Kingfisher records with two birds noted on 22nd, Cuckoo was heard on 12th and 14th (two birds), Great Spotted Woodpecker gave eleven records with three juveniles noted; five Pied Wagtail juveniles on 21st with three more on 29th, with two Grey Wagtail juveniles on 12th. There were seven Spotted Flycatcher records including one feeding young in Alders Wood on 18th and 29th, single Green Sandpiper heard on 28th and two Crossbill seen early on same date were the other birds worthy of a mention.

Juveniles of the following species have been recorded so far; Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Canada Goose, Mandarin Duck, Mallard, Moorhen, Coot, Black-headed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pied and Grey Wagtail, Robin, Spotted Flycatcher, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Willow Tit, Chaffinch.

Keith Turton.
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 101 Species.

There were at least fifteen records of Little Grebe during the month with fifteen birds a maximum on 23rd of which five were juveniles, Great Crested Grebe was noted on twelve dates with a best count of twenty two on 27th, juveniles were noted on four dates with four birds the highest count, Cormorant were recorded on nineteen occasions with a maximum of sixty four on 22nd. Greylag Geese were noted on nine dates with a maximum seventeen flying east on 29th, Canada Geese had three counts over one hundred during the month, there were four Mandarin records with a female and a juvenile noted on two dates each, best count for Tufted Duck was of sixty nine birds on 5th, five Common Scoter were present on 18th and a female noted from 19th-25th inclusive. The male Chiloe Wigeon although it is classed as an escape from a collection is quite a striking bird and was present until month end.

Six raptor species were noted during the month Common Buzzard on nine dates with a best count of three birds on both 4th and 25th, Sparrowhawk on just four dates with two birds on two dates, Kestrel recorded on thirteen days with a family party of five birds on 13th/14th and 15th, five Hobby records all singles apart from the two birds noted on the Lower Amber on 31st, there were also five records of Peregrine with a juvenile bird on 11th.

Twelve species of wader recorded during July three more than last month, Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper had the most records, twenty three, eighteen and twenty eight respectively. Included among the records for Little Ringed Plover were sightings of juvenile birds on six occasions, sadly there have been no breeding records at Ogston this year so far. Ringed Plover (two juveniles), Lapwing (two hundred and one maximum), Dunlin (four records), Green Sandpiper (single), seven Redshank records with a juvenile noted on 17th, two Greenshank records with three birds on 2nd, two single records of Whimbrel and four Curlew records with four birds present on 9th.

Bird of the year without doubt was an adult Whiskered Tern in summer plumage present from 06.35-07.20 hours on 30th. A wonderful addition to the Ogston list and no doubt a memorable one to the observers who were able to witness it.

Common Tern was recorded on a daily basis with a maximum of ten birds on 25th and for the first time in a few years a bird sitting on eggs in Chapel Bay Latest news is of one chick which recorded noted on 31st, the first juvenile at Ogston for nearly ten years. An adult Sandwich Tern was present for fifteen minutes on 19th the fourth record in a very good year for this species, an Arctic Tern was also present on 30th.

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Single Cuckoo on 9th, three adult Barn Owl with two juveniles was recorded on 23rd, single returning Yellow Wagtail on 19th. Another welcome addition to the year list was a Reed Warbler on 28th sadly was not relocated after that date.

Two Raven were noted on 23rd with a single bird on 25th, Tree Sparrow was noted on three dates with two birds on both 23rd and 24th and a single on 27th, Common Crossbill were the other birds worthy of a mention, three records of sixteen, fifteen and six on 14th/18th and 25th. Juveniles have been reported for most of the warblers including: Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher.

Butterflies at Ogston 2009.

There have been twenty two species of butterfly recorded so far during 2009, Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Painted Lady, Small Copper, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Ringlelet, Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Gatekeeper, Clouded Yellow.

During July two new species were added to the full list namely Essex Skipper which was found in the fisherman's car park at the Southern end of the reservoir on 13th, given that this species has been noted locally a record at Ogston was to be expected, never the less it was a very welcome addition. Essex Skipper is quite a diminutive creature with a wingspan of only 26-30mm, almost identical to both Small and Large Skipper with the main difference being Essex has glossy black tips to the antennae.

Another excellent discovery was that of a male Silver-washed Fritillary which was present in front of the members hide for just a few seconds on 20th. One of our largest butterflies with a wingspan of (male) 69-76mm and a rich golden brown in colour it must have presented a memorable sight to the observers who were fortunate to witness it.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 101 Species.

Little Grebe had a best count of nineteen on 14th which included five young, two very small young were noted on 21st, Great Crested Grebe reached twenty four birds on 23rd and Cormorant had a maximum of sixty nine on 9th. Two Greylag geese records with fourteen on 4th, Canada Geese had seventy three birds as a best count on both 10th and 14th; two Shelduck were present on 2nd. Mandarin Duck was seen on a regular basis with six birds a maximum on 24th, Teal had a best count of fifteen on 24th, Mallard circa two hundred and three on 14th, pair of Gadwall on 14th, two Shoveler on 15th, one male Common Scoter on 3rd/4th and 5th and a redhead Goosander on 22nd. There were two records of Pochard both single birds and Tufted Duck had a best count of forty eight birds on 14th.

A single Osprey was present on three dates, ten birds was a best count for Common Buzzard on 13th, Sparrowhawk had three birds as a maximum which included two juveniles, Kestrel also had three as a maximum, Hobby went one better with four birds on 23rd which included three juveniles, Peregrine recorded on ten dates must be something of a record in itself for Ogston with juveniles on at least three dates.

Just eight wader species: Oystercatcher two records, three maximum on 30th, Ringed Plover on two dates, Lapwing peaked at one hundred and fifty birds, four records of Green Sandpiper all singles, Common Sandpiper almost on a daily basis with eight birds on 7th, single Greenshank on twelve dates and both Common Snipe and Dunlin on three dates.

Yellow-legged Gull was noted on three dates, Common Tern on almost a daily basis and the two juveniles born on the raft flew for the first time on 27th. Arctic Tern was noted on two dates both adult birds and a Black Tern passed through on 23rd. Tawny Owl was heard on two dates, Little Owl was seen on two dates and once again Barn Owl was the most recorded species on at least eight dates with two birds on four dates and the last sighting on 17th.

Kingfisher was recorded on at least twenty dates with two birds a best count, Green Woodpecker on ten dates with two birds a maximum, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 9th and 10th, two Meadow Pipit records with six birds noted on 27th, Yellow Wagtail on four dates with three birds on 24th. The first Redstart of the year was recorded on 8th with another on 16th; single Wheatear on 18th and two birds on 30th and a female Stonechat on 31st. A Wood Warbler was recorded on 16th which constitutes the first record of this species since 2004 and obviously a very welcome addition to the year list. Three juvenile Spotted Flycatcher were recorded on 29th, there were six records of Raven and the Chiloe Wigeon was still present at month end.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009 - 30 Days Covered - 106 Species.

Little Grebe has been recorded on at least six dates with eleven as a maximum on 14th Great Crested Grebe on at least seven dates with nineteen birds as a best count on both 2nd and 14th, Cormorant had fifty three birds on 10th, there were four records of Pink-footed Geese with seventy noted on 16th, just two records of Greylag Geese with five birds on both 4th and 5th. The resident flock of Canada Geese had a huge count of four hundred and forty four birds on 16th, Mandarin Duck was present on at least fourteen dates with two birds on four of those dates. Ten Pintail noted on 14th were only the second record of the year; Shoveler, Wigeon and Goosander were also recorded during the month. The male Chiloe Wigeon which has been present since June was still present at month end.

Glossy Ibis:

A bird over flying the reservoir on Sunday 27th was thought to be this species and should the description be accepted by DOS Rarities committee it would constitute Ogston's first ever record.

Seven raptor species were recorded with a juvenile Marsh Harrier seen on 11th; this was the first record for the year and a very welcome addition to the list. Common Buzzard (at least fourteen sightings with thirteen birds in the air together on 16th), Osprey (nineteen sightings with a best count of two birds on 3rd), Sparrowhawk (fifteen sightings maximum three birds on three dates), Kestrel (at least eight sightings with three birds on 3rd), Hobby (sightings on at least twenty three days with three birds on 4th and 16th, and Peregrine (on at least six dates, all singles).

Even though the water levels were quite high ten wader species were noted which included: Ringed Plover five birds on 3rd, single Golden Plover on 5th, one hundred and thirty nine Lapwing on 16th, single Knot on 20th, a very welcome addition to the list, four Dunlin on 3rd, single Green Sandpiper on 2nd, two Common Sandpiper on 1st, Greenshank on nine days (single), Common Snipe on at least sixteen dates with five birds on 16th and two Curlew on 1st.

Three records of adult Yellow-legged Gull on 16th/17th and 20th, single Black Tern on 4th and nine records of Common Tern, a juvenile bird on 15th and seven birds on 3rd as a best count. The other noteworthy record with regard to gulls was a juvenile Little Gull on 14th. Single Skylark was noted on three dates, at least twenty one Kingfisher records with two birds on six of those dates. Rock Pipit on 19th and single Tree Pipit on 6th and 19th were additions to the year list whilst seventy nine Meadow Pipit south on 21st was an excellent record. Single Yellow Wagtail on 13th, juvenile Wheatear on 5th, six records of Raven with two birds on 9th, five Tree Sparrow on 13th, two Siskin on 20th and an early Redwing on 27th were all worthy of a mention.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 - 28 Days Covered - 87 Species.

Three records of Little Grebe with a maximum of eleven birds on 25th seen in Milltown Inlet and Chapel Bay, Great Crested Grebe reached a high of twenty five birds on 21st whilst Cormorant had a best count of forty three from seven records; Grey Heron had six birds as a best on 23rd. Two Little Egret were present for most of the day on 30th and were the first record of this species since February when a single was seen on both 22nd and 24th.

CATTLE EGRET

Ogston's first ever Cattle Egret was present for a short period on the morning of 28th seen by a few very fortunate observers, the bird was assumed to be the same bird that was present at Carr Vale on the previous Sunday. A full description will be submitted to the DOS Rarities sub-committee for assessment

Two Mute Swan were present on 12th, a single Whooper Swan on 9th with two birds on 26th, six Greylag Geese records with a best count of eleven on 20th, the resident flock of Canada Geese peaked at two hundred and twelve on 13th.

Ten species of duck were noted including Wigeon (maximum fourteen), Teal (eighteen), Mallard (one hundred and fifty), Gadwall (two), Pintail (one), Shoveler (three), Pochard (two), Tufted Duck (thirty six), Common Scoter (two) and the first Goldeneye were four birds present on 30th and again on 31st. The drake Chiloe Wigeon which has been at Ogston since June has migrated back to Carsington for yet another vacation. There were also single records of both Goosander (31st) and Red-breasted Merganser (14th) both were female birds.

Just three raptor species were observed during the month with four records of Common Buzzard with a best count of six on 7th, six Sparrowhawk records with two birds on 28th and ten Kestrel records with two birds on both 5th and 25th.* Figures obtained from DOS Bulletin (11th November)- show 1 Hobby on 1st, 10 House Martin on 9th and 3 Rock Pipits on 11th*.

A Water Rail present on three dates was a very welcome addition to the year list, single Golden Plover on 19th, two Dunlin records each of single birds on 4th and 13th and at least fourteen records of Common Snipe were noted with a maximum of thirty birds on 31st. A single fly-over Water Pipit on 31st was another very welcome addition to the year list. All the commoner gulls were noted with a maximum of circa two hundred and fifty Black headed on 24th and a Little Gull very briefly on 25th.

A migration watch at Highoredish included two thousand three hundred and eighty Wood Pigeon, five Stock Dove, six Meadow Pipit, two hundred and ninety Redwing, five hundred Fieldfare, one hundred and forty three Chaffinch and seventy nine Lesser Redpoll. Other birds worthy of a mention were three single records of Rock Pipit (12th/14th and 15th), a Stonechat on at least five dates and Raven on four dates with four birds seen on 25th.

Keith Turton, Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2009 - 29 Days Covered - 86 Species.

Bird of the month an adult Great Northern Diver in winter plumage was present from 08.30 hours until 10.30 hours when it flew north east, the bird was a very welcome addition to the year list and the first since 2007.

Little Grebe was noted on at least nine dates with a maximum of fifteen birds on 26th, Great Crested Grebe noted on eight days with a best count of eighteen on 5th whilst Cormorant had records on twelve days with a best of thirty eight on 11th, Grey Heron had just six birds as a maximum. Mute Swan was recorded on at least fifteen occasions all juveniles except for the two adults noted on 19th, two records of Whooper Swan single on 8th and five birds on 30th, four skeins of Pink-footed Geese circa eighty east @10.15 on 8th, circa four hundred east high over Brackenfield @12.05 (same day), circa one hundred and forty east @12.45 (same day) and circa three hundred and fifty five south west on 29th. A single Barnacle Goose was a very welcome addition to the year list on 19th and also present on 20th.

Wigeon (max: nine), Teal (max: one hundred and eight on 24th), Mandarin Duck (two birds on 7th), Mallard (max: one hundred), Shoveler (max: three), Pochard (max: ten), Tufted Duck (max: twenty six), Goldeneye, Goosander (max: four) and Red-breasted Merganser (female on 10th and 11th) were all noted during the month with records of Goldeneye on at least twenty three days with twelve birds a maximum on both 28th and 29th.

There were thirteen records of Common Buzzard with a best count of five birds on 7th and 17th, nine of Sparrowhawk two birds on 18th, eleven of Kestrel four birds on 7th, Peregrine on 7th and 14th and a Red Kite for a few minutes on 22nd as it made its way north west.

The Water Rail present on a few days in October has been noted on at least sixteen dates during the month and must be one of the most confiding birds ever, an over-turned dustbin lid was filled with water and the bird can be seen most days splashing about in the water, it must be the most photographed bird in the land.

Three owl species seen or heard with Barn Owl being noted on 29th the first record in a couple of months. A Stonechat has been recorded on eleven dates and was still present at month end.

Other birds worthy of a mention were Raven six birds on 7th, Tree Sparrow three birds on 22nd, Lesser Redpoll circa forty birds on 29th, single Siskin same date and the Pochard hybrid which was noted on four dates.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2009 - 31 Days Covered - 83 Species.

Birds of the month were the two Bewick's Swans which were present from early morning until about 12.10 on the 29th when they when they were seen to fly off north east, they were a very welcome addition to the year list (only just), the news was put out on the Birdnet Pager System which enabled many observers to see and enjoy the birds.

Three skeins of Pink-footed Geese with sixteen on 5th, two hundred and forty on 9th and circa 65 on 12th. Just four records of Greylag Geese with three birds on 8th as a best count. Two records of Shelduck both single birds, six of Wigeon with nine birds on 2nd, ten of Teal with thirty three birds on 15th three Gadwall records with four birds on both 2nd and 16th, three Shoveler records with six birds present on 3rd, Pochard noted on ten dates with forty seven birds on 2nd, eleven records of Tufted Duck with a best count of thirty eight on 27th, Goldeneye were the most recorded (twenty one days) with eleven birds on both 8th and 21st, fourteen Goosander were seen on 3rd mostly in flight and single drake Red-breasted Merganser on 14th and 17th.

Four species of raptor were recorded Common Buzzard maximum six birds 5th, Sparrowhawk four birds on 5th, Kestrel three birds on 5th and single Peregrine on 5th.

Four species of wader were noted with three records of Golden Plover singles on 12th, 26th and circa sixty birds flying through on 29th, maximum for Lapwing was two hundred and twenty, single Dunlin on 26th and eight Common Snipe records with a best count of four birds on 20th.

The gull roost has given those observers with a keen interest in these birds at least a few highlights. Although still small in numbers by Ogston's standards there have been a few quality birds seen. Yellow-legged Gull has been seen with an adult on both 28th and 29th, an adult Caspian Gull on 26th, a pristine adult Iceland Gull on 30th and a first winter Kittiwake on 31st.

Tawny Owl was heard on three dates, Little Owl seen on just one date and Barn Owl seen on 3rd and 5th. Eleven records of male Stonechat with a female recorded on both 24th and 26th.

The Water Rail made its first appearance of the month on 19th and was noted on 28th-31st. Raven (singles) recorded on three dates 2nd/ 3rd and 27th, circa twenty Tree Sparrow adjacent to STW treatment plant is an exceptional count for our recording area, Lesser Redpoll was recorded on three dates with eight a best count on 1st, four records of Siskin gave twenty birds on both 3rd and 23rd.

Two other birds worthy of a mention were male Tufted Duck x Pochard and a female Tufted Duck x (presumed) Lesser Scaup, first recorded on 27th and still present at month end.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary