

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2010 – 28 Days Covered - 82 Species.

Little Grebe sightings on at least eight dates with eleven birds a best count on 20th, four records of Great Crested Grebe with ten as a maximum on 19th, Cormorant noted on nine dates with sixty two birds present on 18th. Single Mute Swan on both 2nd and 17th with three birds on 18th, Pink-footed geese noted on three dates with one hundred and fifty birds north west on 31st the highest count, at least sixteen records of Greylag Geese with the highest count that of eleven birds on 31st, just one record of circa 70 Canada Geese on 2nd.

Two Shelduck on 15th were the only record of the month, five Wigeon records with a best count of seven birds on 20th, eight Teal records with fifty eight as a maximum on 17th, circa one hundred and Mallard noted on 15th, one record of three Gadwall on 20th, single male Pintail on 16th, at least ten Pochard records with eleven birds on 25th, a best of thirty two birds from three Tufted Duck records, Goldeneye noted on at least thirteen dates with a maximum of eleven on both 14th and 21st whilst Goosander was recorded on six dates with seven birds a best count on 17th.

Four species of raptor noted the best of which was a Red Kite which flew over the west bank car park and then east over the dam wall mid-morning on 3rd, Common Buzzard noted on ten dates with four birds on 27th and 30th, eight Sparrowhawk records singles except for two birds on 20th, seven Kestrel records with three birds on both 1st and 2nd.

With just six Grey Partridge recorded during the whole of 2009 the nineteen birds noted during January were an excellent record, Water Rail was recorded on at least fifteen dates, single Curlew flew through on 25th, Woodcock noted flying from Carr Wood on three dates gave seven birds as a best count on 1st and Common Snipe had records on nine dates with seven birds on 29th.

The Gull Roost has been steadily improving with regard both to quantity and quality, Yellow-legged Gull had two birds noted on 2nd, an adult Iceland Gull on 17th, adult Glaucous Gull on both 16th and 17th, a first winter bird on 23rd and an adult Mediterranean Gull present on 27th.

Two records of Skylark with forty plus over on 17th, five records of Stonechat all singles, three Raven records with two birds on 1st, circa eighteen Tree Sparrow was a very good count in our recording area and two Linnet were new to the list on 17th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were three Siskin on 2nd and another six on 19th; single Reed Bunting on two dates, a single Yellowhammer on the feeders in the Fishermen's car park was very unusual, both the male Tufted Duck x Pochard and the female Tufted Duck x (presumed) Lesser Scaup hybrids were seen on a few dates. Unusual records were a "Nordic" Jackdaw with a flock of Corvids on 1st; also on 1st both a Hawfinch and Velvet Scoter were claimed (descriptions will be needed if these species are to be accepted).

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2010 - 26 Days Covered - 77 Species.

Little Grebe sightings on at least fourteen dates with twelve birds a best count on 14th, eighteen records of Great Crested Grebe with fourteen as a maximum on 2nd, Cormorant noted on fifteen dates with fifty nine birds present on 8th. Single Mute Swan on seven dates, Pink-footed geese noted on two dates with one hundred and ninety birds on 12th and one hundred and fifty birds on 13th, five records of Greylag Geese with a single on 18th and two birds on four other dates.

Male Shelduck present 24th (three), 26th (four) and 28th (three), sixteen Teal records with thirty birds as a maximum on 25th, circa sixty two Mallard noted on 2nd, a record of two Gadwall on 6th, at least fifteen Pochard records with ten birds on both 14th and 24th, a best of thirty two birds from fourteen Tufted Duck records, Goldeneye noted on at least twenty one dates with a maximum of thirteen on 28th.

Four species of raptor noted Common Buzzard noted on least fifteen dates with seventeen sightings on 28th with seven birds in the air together, two birds were noted "talon grappling" on 26th, only four single Sparrowhawk records and sixteen Kestrel records with two birds on six of those dates and three on 28th, single Peregrine made an appearance on 28th.

Water Rail was recorded on at least seventeen dates all singles, single Golden Plover on 5th, Woodcock noted flying from Carr Wood on three dates gave five birds as a best count on 8th and Common Snipe had records on eleven dates with circa twenty five birds on 16th.

The Gull Roost has sadly gone from being slightly interesting to very poor, although there are records of circa two thousand Black-headed Gull, the best figures for the other species were: Herring Gull circa eighty, Common Gull eighteen, Lesser Black backed Gull circa sixty and Great Black backed Gull circa twenty. No rarities at all and an extremely dire year by Ogston's formerly excellent standards.

Three owl species were recorded during the month with Barn Owl noted on seven dates, Tawny Owl heard on three dates, single on 1st and three birds on both 8th and 14th and just a single record of Little Owl on 14th.

Bird of the month had to be the single Water Pipit which flew over the reservoir on 28th and seen by just one fortunate observer.

Other birds worthy of a mention were circa forty Siskin on 2nd, up to three Reed Bunting on feeders near members hide on at least eleven dates, male Tufted Duck x Pochard hybrid on 6th. Lesser Redpoll was recorded on at least five dates with just six birds as a maximum on 2nd; Tree Sparrow was noted on two dates with a high of five birds on 2nd.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2010 - 31 Days Covered - 96 Species.

Maximum count for Little Grebe was of thirteen birds on 1st, Great Crested Grebe had sixteen as a best count on 26th including many pairs "weed dancing" during the month, Cormorant peaked at fifty three birds on 5th. Grey Heron had twenty eight birds noted on 17th with many nests occupied; breeding may be difficult this year due to the almost continuous disturbance from passing Common Buzzard. Four records of Mute Swan with three birds on both 16th and 17th, two records of Whooper Swan with thirty six on 3rd and a further seven on 8th, there were at least fourteen records of Greylag Geese with eleven as a best count on 28th.

Shelduck was noted on two dates with single on 10th and two birds on 21st, Mandarin Duck was recorded on at least twelve dates with six birds noted on 8th. The only Wigeon record was that of four birds on 27th, Teal gave a maximum count of forty four birds on 17th, a pair of Gadwall on 28th was the only record for the month, and Goosander was noted on six dates with three on 21st whilst Goldeneye was recorded almost on a daily basis with nine birds on 9th. A male Shoveler was present on 30th the first record of the year.

Common Buzzard was noted most days with a maximum of nineteen birds in the air together on 27th, Sparrowhawk had a high count of seven together on 4th, Kestrel two birds on three dates, single Peregrine has been recorded on two dates and yet another Red Kite on 16th seen by two very fortunate observers.

Eight wader species have been recorded on passage, although water levels are very high we are hoping for a much better breeding season than last year. Oystercatchers have been observed mating; hopefully they will produce some young for us this year. Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Common Snipe, Redshank, Curlew and Green Sandpiper have all been recorded, sadly, all have moved on.

The first Sand Martins were back with us on 17th (13th 2009), Barn Swallow on 22nd (25th 2009), House Martin on 30th (19th 2010). Chiffchaff two birds on 20th (14th 2010), Willow Warbler on 28th (5th April 2010).

Other birds worthy of a mention was a single Brambling on 20th (only record of the year so far), Green Woodpecker on 30th (first of year), an adult Mediterranean Gull on 8th/9th and 11th and a Kittiwake on 13th. The Water rail was noted on at least nine occasions, and a female Blackcap was recorded on 14th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2010 - 30 Days Covered - 103 Species

Maximum of three Little Grebe on two dates, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of nine birds on 25th, Cormorant had a low (by usual standards) maximum of eighteen birds, Grey Heron gave sixteen birds on 25th. Eight records of Mute Swan with a juvenile bird still present at month end, single Whooper Swan on 9th, Greylag Geese noted on eleven dates with a best count of eight on 3rd. First candidate for bird of the month was the Brent Goose which was present for a few hours on 3rd; the bird was seen by many observers (including everyone on the guided walk) and was a very welcome addition to the year list. A female Ruddy Shelduck was another excellent find (late evening) at 20.30 hours on 28th, Ogstons third record in four years. Shelduck (best count of two birds on three dates), Mandarin (three on 2nd), Wigeon one record of two birds on 1st, Teal (maximum twelve on 21st and 25th), Mallard (maximum twenty on 25th), Gadwall pair on 27th, Shoveler four birds on 11th and seven on 17th, Tufted Duck (maximum twenty one on 25th), Goldeneye noted on at least fourteen dates with four birds on five dates and last seen on 24th and single Goosander on 7th.

First Osprey of the year was present for most of the day on 19th with a second bird on 20th, our third Red Kite of the year on 25th (at Highoredish Watchpoint), at least eleven records of Common Buzzard with sixteen birds noted on 3rd, five Sparrowhawk on 24th from five records, just three Kestrel records (two birds on 21st, first Hobby back was on 24th with another on 26th and two birds on 30th, single Peregrine on two dates.

Eleven species of wader have been recorded with Little Ringed Plover (maximum seven), Oystercatcher (three), Ringed Plover (singles on 24th/26th/27th and 28th), Lapwing (fifteen), Dunlin (circa nineteen flew through on 29th), Green Sandpiper (singles on 17th/19th/20th and 25th), Common Sandpiper (four on two dates from ten records), Redshank (two), Curlew and Whimbrel (two) and Common Snipe eleven. Sadly the egg which the pair of Oystercatchers produced on the island on 25th was predated by 28th (assumed due to be to the complete lack of cover on the island). The resident Water Rail was last noted on 3rd and a Moorhen with five young was seen on 29th.

Single record of Yellow-legged Gull on 22nd, with the first Common Terns of the year recorded on 25th (four birds) and a single on 28th.

Ten records of Yellow Wagtail with a maximum of seventeen birds on 19th, single male Redstart in Alders Wood on 20th, three Wheatear records single on 23rd with two birds on 20th and 29th. Three Garden Warbler on 25th (three days earlier than 2009), Blackcap on at least nine dates with seven birds on 25th, single Lesser Whitethroat on 18th (four days earlier than 2009) 24th/27th and 29th, Whitethroat on eight dates with four birds on 23rd, eight Sedge Warbler records with two birds on two dates, Grasshopper Warbler on two dates, Willow Warbler gave a best count of five birds on 25th and Chiffchaff was noted on at least ten dates with seven birds on 25th.

Other birds worthy of a mention were single Raven on 2nd, circa thirty Linnet on 3rd, circa forty Meadow Pipit on 2nd, thirteen Yellowhammer on the guided walk and single White Wagtail on nine dates and Cuckoo was recorded on two dates 25th and heard on 27th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2010 - 31 Days Covered - 102 Species.

The two tiny Little Grebe chicks (little balls of black fluff) noted on the guided walk on 1st were almost the same size as the adult bird when seen on 23rd, Great Crested Grebe gave a best count of fourteen on 5th, Cormorant had eighteen on 5th whilst Grey Heron had nineteen on 23rd. There were at least eighteen Mute Swan records with eight birds as a maximum on 26th, twelve records of Greylag Geese with four birds on 2nd, two Egyptian Geese on 6th were a welcome addition to the year list, juvenile Mallard were noted on 3rd (9), 4th and 5th (seven), and nine well grown on 23rd, Mandarin Duck on five dates with a pair on 23rd, nine Gadwall records with five birds on 23rd and a female Pochard on three dates.

First candidates for bird of the month were five Common Crane which flew over the reservoir on Open Day (3rd), the second record for Ogston, the first was of two birds flying to the north west on 12th April 1988 (Source 1991 annual report author M.F.Stoyle).

Three records of Osprey with birds on 8th, 9th and 15th, Red Kite on 1st/23rd/28th and 30th; single Marsh Harrier on 20th was another welcome addition to the year list and obviously a candidate for bird of the month. Common Buzzard records were down to just four with eight birds noted on 1st, three Sparrowhawk records with five birds on 1st; Hobby was noted on at least twelve dates with two birds on five of those dates and a single Peregrine on 19th.

Eleven species of wader were recorded with Oystercatcher and Little ringed Plover being most prolific. Maximums were: Oystercatcher (5), Little ringed Plover (8), Ringed Plover (8), Lapwing (8), Sanderling (1), Turnstone (1) both these species are additions to the year list, Dunlin (5), Common Sandpiper (2), Curlew (3), Whimbrel (14) and Common Snipe (1).

Four tern species were noted during the month with a single Sandwich Tern on 19th, Common Tern noted on at least fifteen dates with six birds on 29th, five records of Arctic Tern with an incredible fifty three birds on 7th, finally a single Little Tern was recorded on 26th.

Cuckoo was noted on at least six dates, a better showing than in recent years, two juvenile Tawny Owl were seen on 26th, Yellow Wagtail was noted on at least fourteen dates with a best count of four on 7th, three juvenile Grey Wagtail were seen on the Dam Wall on 23rd and a juvenile Treecreeper being fed by parent bird on 22nd.

Bird of the month for most people was the Red-rumped Swallow present for most of the day on 29th and on 30th until 09.00 hours. The bird constituted the second Ogston record (the first was 5th-8th May 1991) and was observed by many. (Source 1991 annual report author M.F.Stoyle). Other birds worthy of a mention were Spotted Flycatcher on six occasions with two birds on two of those dates, single Raven on both 1st and 16th, two Siskin on 24th, White Wagtail on three days, Blue-headed Wagtail on 6th and a Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid on 1st.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2010 - 27 Days Covered - 87 Species

Just five Little Grebe records during the month highest count of eight on 8th which included two juveniles, Great Crested Grebe was also noted on five dates with sixteen birds on both 8th and 9th, at least nine Cormorant records with thirty six birds present on 27th. Grey Heron gave a best count of twenty one birds on 27th, just four Mute Swan records with four birds on both 11th and 22nd, Greylag Geese were noted on just two dates with eleven birds present on 12th, the resident flock of Canada Geese peaked at one hundred and twenty one on 21st with five juveniles on both 8th and 9th.

First candidate for bird of the month were the pair of Ruddy Shelduck which were present on 14th and was the second record of the year for this species, whilst the single Barnacle Goose on 13th was a welcome addition to the year list. Teal, Mallard, Gadwall and Tufted Duck were all noted and a single Mandarin Duck had ten young with her on the north bank on 28th and a single adult bird (same species) was at the southern end of the reservoir.

Second candidate for bird of the month was the Fulmar which flew through very early on 10th and only seen by a few very fortunate observers, the bird was Ogstons second record of the year.

Red Kite which was formerly a very scarce visitor to our area clocked up the eighth record for year with a bird on 30th, singles in January, March and April was followed by four records during May. The Osprey on site on 12th was the sixth record of the year, Common Buzzard noted on just five dates with seven a best count on 18th, single Sparrowhawk and two Kestrel records with a family party of five on 25th and Hobby had four single records.

Nine wader species were recorded during the month Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit (first of year), Common Snipe, Curlew, Green and Common Sandpiper. The pair of Common Tern on the raft in Chapel Bay have produced two young (first noted on 28th).

Other birds worthy of a mention included Reed Warbler (single on 14th, pair on 18th), two Raven records with two birds on 11th and a single Common Crossbill was calling in the west bank car park on 13th.

Juvenile birds have been recorded for the following species: Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Canada Geese, Mandarin Duck, Mallard, Kestrel, Moorhen, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Kingfisher, G.S.Woodpecker, Pied and Grey Wagtail, Mistle Thrush and Sedge Warbler.

Four observers present on 18th witnessed an Oystercatcher walk up to a clutch of eggs, turn them and proceeded to incubate them, the action was not appreciated by the pair of Lapwing (owners of the eggs) when they returned from a lunch break, after quite a skirmish normality resumed and the Lapwing returned to her duties. Has anyone ever heard or seen anything like this?

Keith Turton.
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2010 - 31 Days Covered - 98 Species.

There were at least twelve Little Grebe records with two juveniles on 7th, records on fifteen dates of Great Crested Grebe with juveniles (two) noted on both 19th and 21st, Cormorant numbers peaked at sixty nine on 16th and Grey Heron was noted on sixteen dates with twelve a best count on both 8th and 27th. A very welcome record was that of two Little Egret which were present on both 10th and 28th a first for the year. Single record of Mute Swan, Greylag Geese noted on three dates with four birds on 24th and resident flock of Canada Geese reached one hundred and thirty birds on 14th.

Teal had a maximum of four birds from fifteen records, Mandarin Duck (eight from thirteen records), Shoveler single bird on 17th, two male Pochard on 14th, Tufted Duck (ninety birds from twenty one records) and single Common Scoter on four dates (males on 20th and 26th, females on 24th and 29th), which were another addition to the year list.

Single Red Kite on 11th (ninth record of the year), Common Buzzard on ten dates with six a best count on 3rd, six singles of Sparrowhawk nine Kestrel records with three birds on two dates, just five single records of Hobby and single Peregrines on both 6th and 11th.

Twelve wader species recorded Oystercatcher maximum five on 3rd, Little Ringed Plover (sixteen on two dates) with four chicks on 12th, Lapwing (one hundred and seventy on two dates), Dunlin best count of eleven on 12th, seven Black-tailed Godwit on 12th, six Common Snipe on 27th, seven Curlew records with four birds over on 29th, seven single Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper on at least twenty five dates with forty four birds noted on 24th, which represents a new site record (previous best that of thirty one birds on 13th July 1984, source 1991 annual report M.F.Stoyle), single records of Redshank on three dates and a single Greenshank heard on 13th.

First breeding record of Ringed Plover.

A pair of Ringed Plover was observed mating and building a scrape on 7th June, this led to Ogstons first ever breeding record when the birds were noted with four chicks on 8th.

A single Sandwich Tern passed through on 28th, three single records of Arctic Tern and Common Tern on at least twenty six occasions with seven birds on seven dates and juveniles noted on four dates.

Other records worthy of a mention were one thousand and seventy three Swift during a four hour count on 11th, five Barn Owl records with a juvenile on 10th, Yellow Wagtail noted on five dates with a juvenile on 21st and two birds on 22nd and fifteen Crossbill on 9th and fourteen on 14th.

The three young Reed Warblers observed with an adult bird adjacent to the Kingfisher Pond on 27th would seem to be another new breeding record for Ogston. Although there are records of juvenile birds caught and ringed I have not been able to find a reference of the species having bred before.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2010 - 31 Days Covered - 109 Species.

Maximum numbers for Little Grebe were eight on 26th, Great Crested Grebe twenty four on 18th, Cormorant forty six on 27th. Single Little Egret was present for a period on 26th, just one adult Mute Swan noted on 5th and nine Greylag Geese on three dates with thirteen birds present on 12th.

Eight duck species noted during the month with maximums as follows: Teal (circa seventy), Shelduck (six), Mandarin (eight), Mallard (two hundred and thirty), Shoveler (two), Pochard (two), Tufted Duck (eighty) and Common Scoter (three).

A single Osprey was recorded on 21st; a Marsh Harrier on 28th was a welcome addition to the year list, Common Buzzard was noted on at least twenty dates with eight birds a best count on 23rd, ten plus records of Sparrowhawk with three birds on 23rd, eight records of Kestrel with two as a maximum, thirteen plus records of Hobby with two adults and two juveniles together on 23rd and Peregrine noted on five dates.

Thirteen wader species were recorded (maximums in brackets): Little Ringed Plover (six), Ringed Plover (eighteen), Lapwing (circa two hundred), Dunlin (four), Ruff, (a very welcome addition to the year list) a juvenile bird was seen on at least seven dates, Black-tailed Godwit (two juveniles on at least seven dates), Common Snipe (five), Whimbrel (four), Curlew (three), Green Sandpiper (three), Common Sandpiper (ten), Greenshank (three) and a single adult Turnstone on 9th.

A single juvenile Mediterranean Gull passed through on 26th, Cuckoo was seen on two dates, and five records of Tree Pipit singles except for two birds on both 12th and 24th, two Whinchat were present on 21st, single on 30th (first record since 2007) and two Raven records single on 24th and two birds on 21st.

Juvenile birds were noted for the following Species; Peregrine, Little ringed Plover, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Common, Mediterranean, Herring and L.B.B.Gull, Common Tern, Yellow and Citrine Wagtail, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Nuthatch and Tree Sparrow.

First Citrine Wagtail at Ogston.

Thought to have been present since Saturday 28th the bird was confirmed as this species on Monday 30th, it was put out on the pager system and very soon afterwards the car park and most of the roads surrounding the Reservoir were extremely busy.

The bird, a juvenile, although at times very elusive was seen and heard by many observers also constituted a first ever record for Derbyshire.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010 - 30 Days Covered - 106 Species.

Just one record of Little Grebe that of four birds on 9th, three Great Crested Grebe records with twenty seven a best count on 25th, six Cormorant records maximum fifty five birds on 9th. Single juvenile Mute Swan on 29th was the only record; first record of Pink-footed Geese was of twelve birds on 26th and a further one hundred and forty on 28th, at least fourteen Teal records with a best count of forty nine on 1st, Mandarin Duck noted on nine dates with four on 6th, Mallard had a high of three hundred and twelve on 26th, two Gadwall were present on 30th as was a single Pintail and a single drake Common Scoter on 25th were the best of the wildfowl.

There were two Osprey records (10th and 11th), at least thirteen Common Buzzard records with a maximum of fourteen on 25th, ten Sparrowhawk sightings with five birds on 25th, just five Kestrel records with four birds on 25th, sightings of Hobby on at least twenty one days with juveniles on five dates and four birds (adult and three juveniles) as a best count on 22nd and two Peregrine sightings on 10th and 30th.

Fourteen wader species were recorded during the month with three additions to the year list, which were Little Stint on 6th/7th and 8th, eight Bar-tailed Godwit on 11th and a juvenile Spotted Redshank on 17th. Seven sightings of Little ringed Plover, seven of Ringed Plover, one record of thirteen Golden Plover on 28th, one hundred and forty five Lapwing were present on 11th, five Dunlin records, eleven of Common Snipe with five on both 26th and 28th, three Curlew sightings, six single Green Sandpipers, at least seventeen records of Common Sandpiper, single Redshank and Greenshanks noted on seven dates, all singles.

Just two Tern species recorded, two Sandwich Tern on 6th and three records of Black Tern, a juvenile on 6th, four birds on 22nd and a further three on 23rd.

Another addition to the year list was that of a Dipper which flew over the west bank on 1st.

Other birds worthy of a mention were Yellow Wagtail noted on at least nine dates, single Wheatear on both 18th and 19th, Reed Warbler on 1st, Spotted Flycatcher on 9th, Raven on four dates with two birds on two of those dates, two Brambling (south) on 29th Lesser Redpoll on two dates and Siskin on two dates with nineteen birds noted on 26th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2010 - 24 Days Covered - 98 Species.

An adult Mute Swan was present on 4th, two Whooper Swans on 12th and six more on 23rd had three adults and three juveniles in the party. Two skeins of Pink-footed Geese passed through with twelve on 17th and fifty eight birds on 24th, just two records of Greylag Geese each of three birds on both 2nd and 3rd.

Twenty nine was the best count for Teal on 12th, two records of Wigeon with three as a best on 10th, two hundred and forty eight Mallard on 12th, and two single male Pochards noted, thirteen was the highest count for Tufted Duck again on 12th and a single paid a visit Goosander on 2nd.

Common Buzzard recorded on just four dates with five birds on 6th, five Sparrowhawk records all singles, three single Kestrel records and one juvenile Peregrine on 6th.

Nine wader species were recorded with singles of Bar-tailed Godwit (1st), Common Snipe (3rd), Whimbrel (1st) and Redshank (12th). Golden Plover was recorded on two dates 8th (ten) and 10th (circa twenty five), Dunlin was noted on 8th (single) and 10th (two) and single on 31st, two Ruff were present on 21st, a single Knot was also present on same date (31st) whilst there were five single Common Sandpiper records.

Single Common Gull on 3rd and 1-1st winter Yellow-legged Gull on 12th and a single Common Tern on 29th.

A very welcome addition to the year list occurred on 17th when a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was recorded in the Hall Drive area. Second addition to the list was that of Hawfinch seen on two dates 2nd and 12th and constituted the first record since 1993 of this extremely uncommon species (in the Ogston recording area).

Various migration watches have been undertaken with figures so far of: one hundred and twenty five Skylark, two hundred and thirty Meadow Pipit, four Rock Pipit, one Tree Pipit, four hundred and fifty one Redwing, twenty eight Fieldfare, ninety nine Brambling, twelve Lesser Redpoll, ninety eight Chaffinch, twenty seven Greenfinch and forty three Siskin.

Other birds worthy of a mention a very late Willow Warbler on 6th, single Redstart on 4th, Raven with two birds on 6th, single on 10th, the male Pochard x Tufted Duck hybrid and a Snow Bunting which was present on 16th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2010 - 26 Days Covered – 84 Species.

There were a maximum eleven Little Grebe noted on 20th, Great Crested Grebe had a best count of eighteen on 13th whilst Cormorant had circa fifty birds recorded on 19th. Just two records of Mute Swan two juveniles on 7th and a single juvenile on 11th, Whooper Swan noted on two dates with four adults on site on 7th and circa thirty three birds east on 21st. Pink-footed Geese have passed over the reservoir on 6th (circa 200), 7th (circa 530), 21st (circa 200) and circa 400 on 23rd. Just three records of Greylag Geese with three birds on each occasion.

A very welcome addition to the year list occurred on 1st when eight Scaup were present in the evening, the group consisted of three drakes and five female/immatures, Goldeneye was noted on at least fifteen dates with fourteen as a best count on 9th. Three Mandarin Duck flew north west on 21st, two hundred and eighteen Mallard were counted on 12th, three Gadwall were on site on 9th and Pochard, Tufted Duck, Teal, Wigeon and Goosander were all recorded whilst a male Pochard x Tufted Duck has been seen on two dates.

A Water Rail was recorded on 21st/23rd and 28th, single Golden Plover on 9th with twenty birds present on west bank on 19th with resident Lapwing flock. Single Bar-tailed Godwit was present on west bank on 18th until flying off at 10.20 am, Dunlin was noted on three dates all single birds, Common Snipe on at least four dates and two Curlew flew north west on 9th.

Another extremely welcome addition to the year list occurred on 11th when twelve Waxwings flew over (south west) at 09.40 hours, another four birds flew south west at 10.40 hours on 14th and circa thirty birds were present near the west bank car area on 24th and until early morning on 25th.

Single Raven was recorded on 2nd, an adult Yellow-legged Gull was present in the gull roost on 28th, Tree Sparrow noted on two dates four birds on 12th and two birds on 19th whilst Brambling was recorded on at least five dates with five birds on 14th as a best count.

Yet another welcome addition to the year list occurred on 10th when a male Common (Mealy) Redpoll was seen in Birch trees at the rear of the west bank car park and again on 17th in the area around Carr Pond. Lesser Redpoll was recorded on at least twelve dates with circa thirty birds as a maximum on 14th, Siskin had a best count of eleven birds on 11th, the Hawfinch which was first noted on 2nd October has been recorded on four dates during November 7th/13th/15th and 16th on both the area near Hide Lane and seen flying towards Alders Wood.

Three Common Darter were recorded on 3rd, single Red Admiral and a Silver "Y" Moth on 7th and two Roe Deer at the southern end of the reservoir on 18th.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary.

OGSTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2010 - 23 Days Covered - 87 Species.

Although the appalling weather did improve towards month end, the reservoir itself remains frozen over (at least four inches thick) which has resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of birds recorded, the regular observers still managed to log eighty seven species an extremely high count given the atrocious condition of the roads around the reservoir.

Contenders for bird of the month and a very welcome addition to the year list were the five Bean Geese recorded on 18th, (first record 1987) this was only the sixth record.

Wildfowl which were recorded included: Teal (maximum fifty two), Wigeon (seven), single Shelduck (two dates), Mallard (two hundred and forty), Gadwall (four), Shoveler (three), Pochard (nine), Tufted Duck (eight), Goldeneye (four) and four records of Goosander with seven birds noted on 31st.

There were nine wader species recorded in the month, the most notable being three Grey Plover on 1st (the only record of the year for this species), Jack Snipe (two birds on 3rd, single on 4th), eight Lapwing records with thirty four on 20th, single Knot on 13th, seven Dunlin records with twenty six birds on 3rd, single Redshank on three dates, Common Snipe noted on seven dates with circa twenty five on 4th, Ruff (single) on both 3rd and 4th (same bird) and three Curlew records with twelve birds passing through on 4th.

Two Grey Partridge were an excellent find on 4th as they are very uncommon in our recording area, the first Water Rail of the second winter period put in an appearance on 4th and was subsequently seen on at least sixteen dates.

The gull roost of which numbers were beginning to increase mid-month was decimated by the weather and the frozen surface. One very welcome highlight was that of an adult Iceland Gull on both 18th and 19th, an adult Yellow-legged Gull on 12th was the only other notable bird.

There were single records of Barn Owl and Kingfisher, Waxwings noted on four dates: single on 4th, nine (12th), sixteen (13th) and three on the feeders at Bottom Farm on 25th (did anyone else have Waxwings for Christmas?).

Other birds during the month which were worthy of a mention were: single Raven (18th), single Tree Sparrow (three dates) with one on the hide feeders on 31st, several Brambling noted on 18th, two Common (Mealy) Redpoll on 11th and a single on 12th and finally, another two records of Hawfinch, the last of which was seen on the feeders and on the ground in the Fisherman's car park.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the membership of Ogston Bird Club all the very best for 2011 and thank you for supporting the club.

Keith Turton
Recording Secretary