

Your Committee 2014/15



Chairman	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	Jean Parlby 01773 861262
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Publicity Officer	Steve Slack 07599 845298	Committee member	David Marshall

Ogston Bird Club Newsletter – August 2014

Since the last Newsletter we have recruited yet more new members.

Richard Aston & Nikki Dixon of Codnor	Mrs Leila Hill & John Robinson of Old Whittington	David Michael Nield of Charnock
Mr & Mrs Attenborough of Stretton	Graham & Judith Hoyland of Bolsover	Colin Andrew Penny of Heanor
Miss Karen Bradley & Gary Wilson of Higham	Trevor & Carol Hupton of Halfway	John Ramsell of Glapwell
Mr & Mrs Charlesworth of Sheffield	Simon & Wendy Jervis of Shirland	Godfrey Redford & Ms Y Challoner, Stapleford
Andrew Chattaway of Halfway	Andrew Joyce & Mrs Jenny Greenwood of Codnor	John Reynolds of Darley Bridge
George & Tasmin Cox of Heanor	Andrew Larkin of Old Tupton	Paul & Heather Rigg of Kiveton Park
Trevor & Rachel Dawes of Higham	Brian & Susan Lenton of Broadmeadows	Marie & James Rollitt of Dronfield
Neil & Samrid Dooley of Clay Cross	Scott Linacre of Hasland	Joyce & Tony Sawford of Derby
J.B Dronfield & Angie Hallam of Selston	Mrs Nicola Mahadevan of Shirland	John & Linda Sisson of Spondon
Kath Edwards & Family of Breaston	Ms Lynn Martin of Ilkeston	David Softley of Charnock
Lesley Field & Family of Ripley	Ms Patricia Mcduff of West Hallam	Brian Spray of Newbold
Dr Fletcher of Ashover	Ms Mcelvaney & Mr Stephen Bright of Newbold	John & Rianne Vause of Mosborough
Jeremy & Linda Gott of Mosborough	Craig & Lee Moore of Somerotes	Jordan Wade of Chesterfield
Robert and Patricia Green of Bakewell	Glyn & Susan Morris of Killamarsh	Trevor West of Sutton In Ashfield
Paul Hicking of Belper	Mrs Janet Mosley & Family of Clay Cross	Mark Weston of Loscoe

A very warm welcome to you all!

We offer a warm welcome to all new members and would welcome any thoughts, comments or questions.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CARRY YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON SITE.

Members should never reveal the lock number to non members. Please remember that non-members on site are not covered by Public Indemnity insurance.

AGM - May 29th 2014

The following 2013 Committee members were elected to the 2014 Committee -

Keith Turton	Steve Slack	John Parlby	Peter Birley	Mike Conroy
Jeff Davis	Frank Wharram	Martin Kaye	Jenny Marshall	Dag Marshall

After the formal proceedings were completed, those gathered were treated to a lovely talk by Tim Mackrill who is the Rutland Osprey Project Manager. Tim is fully supportive of the Club's intentions to try to get Ospreys to nest here and he has stated that there is no reason why we shouldn't be successful. However, there are no guarantees, all we can do is make the site welcoming and the rest is up to the birds.

Ospreys have visited Ogston and we know that the Rutland birds travel over to Wales and we are on the flight path.

This is a very exciting project and as we go to press the Osprey poles we have procured are about to arrive on our chosen site.

John Parlby's report later on gives more details.....

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

The mild wet spring and a very pleasant start to the summer have seen the Jim Mart reserve flourishing as never before. The downside is that we have to work harder to keep on top of the weeds i.e. any plant growing where we don't want it to grow. As a result most of the work going on at the reserve since the last report has been vegetation control, including keeping the paths clear.

Many of you may have noticed that this year Common Cleavers (goose-grass) and Bindweed are growing vigorously in the countryside, the former clambering across grass, over hedgerows and up into shrubs and trees, whilst the latter winds its anticlockwise way up any support it can find. At the reserve Cleavers have been causing a problem for some of the young trees and flattening areas of the rough grassland, whilst Bindweed has invaded a section of the new hedge and the 'hay meadow' area. At one location we even have Cleavers forming a canopy on top of a stand of nettles, and the tentacles of Bindweed starting to climb up the legs of the very same nettles. We are fighting back, though only time can tell whether or not we will be successful in getting the upper hand.

On a brighter note, an uninfected area of the hay meadow was cut in the first week of August. This is a month earlier than in previous years, and gave us the opportunity to spread some green hay provided by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust from one of their flower-rich fields. In September the remainder of the hay meadow will be cut as usual and additional Yellow Rattle seeds spread. (Yellow Rattle weakens the growth of the grasses and gives the flowers a better chance to get established.)

There is less wildlife news to report in this issue though the latest discovery, by Nikki Mahadevan, of a small colony of Purple Hairstreak butterflies was quite a find. This secretive butterfly spends most of its life in the canopy of mature oak trees and rarely descends to the ground. Although it is not uncommon, to see it you have to find a suitable oak tree, or occasionally a large ash tree, and stake it out late on a summer afternoon or in the evening. However, your selected tree might not hold a colony, and you may have to watch for quite a while for even a glimpse of the silhouette of a single butterfly. In this case, a small number were flying around oak and ash trees just off the reserve, but from time to time one would fly across the brook and land on an Alder in the reserve. Nevertheless, it took two hours to get a photograph clear enough to confirm that it was indeed a Purple Hairstreak.

Pete Faulkner

Monthly Highlights

Prepared by Tim Sexey and Steve Mann

April 2014

Species recorded = 115

Total for 2014 = 138

April was a mainly dry month, warm at times, though particularly during the second half cool winds from north and easterly directions pegged back temperatures and probably slowed down the arrival of some species. Water levels dropped nicely during the first half of the month, but from 16th onwards water was pumped into the reservoir gradually covering the exposed mud. A pair of Mute Swans remained throughout suggesting they might attempt to breed again this year and there were a few records of Shelducks. Ducks were not present in large numbers, but did include one of the highlights of the month, a Red-breasted Merganser on 30th. Two Grey Partridge were seen again on South Hill. Two Red Kites were seen together on the last day of the month and a Marsh Harrier passed through on 22nd, a Goshawk was seen on 1st and there was a good run of Osprey records. The first Hobby arrived on 27th and there were a few sightings of Peregrines. The Oystercatchers managed to hatch young again on the raft in Chapel Bay as they did last year. While water levels were low good numbers of Little Ringed and occasional Ringed Plovers were present, the first Dunlins of the year appeared and quite a few Snipe remained. Both Godwits put in an appearance and there were also a few records of Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper and Redshank. There were two records of Little Gulls and a few Common Gulls continued to pass through, though on a much smaller scale than last month. A few Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded, a 2ndW Iceland Gull roosted on 1st and quite large numbers (for this time of year) of large gulls were roosting some nights. Three Sandwich Terns passed through on 4th, a few Common Terns arrived and there was a good passage of Arctic Terns during the last 10 days of the month. There were records of Little Owl and Green Woodpecker, both scarce since the harsh winter of 2011/2012. Hirundines were present in quite large numbers during wet and windy conditions. Most of the expected warblers arrived in reasonable numbers, while a few winter thrushes lingered during the first week. Reasonable numbers of Yellow Wagtails along with a few White Wagtails passed through. A Tree Pipit dropped in briefly on 12th before continuing on its journey. Bramblings lingered until mid-month, some of which were heard singing and Linnets were still forming flocks late in the month.

Arctic Tern Quite a good passage of birds during the last ten days of the month, most flying straight through, but some lingered for a while. Totals for each day were of 30 on 20th, three on 21st, seven on 22nd, 1 on 24th, 20 on 25th, five on 26th and 11 on 27th.

Aythya hybrid The regular Tufted X Pochard hybrid was present on 9th.

Bar-tailed Godwit A summer plumaged bird flew through heading N at 07:35 hrs on 21st.

Blackcap A total of 19 heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Black-tailed Godwit One was present from 07:10 – 10:10 hrs on 5th when it flew N.

Brambling Up to 5 visited the feeders by the hide and a flock of c30 dropped in by the West Bank car park hides on 7th. Several birds were heard singing during the month at various sites. Last recorded on 16th.

Chiffchaff A total of 30 heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Common Gull A few were still moving through including 21 which flew NE on 8th, 18 which flew NE on 17th, seven through on 20th and four through on 27th.

Common Sandpiper Singles recorded on 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 23rd, 24th and 29th.

Common Tern One flew N at 09:45 hrs on 22nd, 1 present 9:45 – 55 hrs and then flew N on 25th, one on 26th, three on 27th- 29th and four on 30th.

Cuckoo One heard on 4th and one heard on 24th.

Curlew Seen quite regularly during the month with a maximum of seven on 5th.

Dunlin One during the evening of 12th, three on 14th, two on 15th, one on 16th, two on 22nd and one on 30th.

Gadwall A pair present from 3rd – 12th four on 13th, then two on and off until 22nd.

Garden Warbler The first arrival was on 24th, widespread and in reasonable numbers by the end of the month.

Goldeneye One – five present were daily up until 16th.

Goosander Two flew through on 18th.

Goshawk A male circling west of the reservoir 12:10 – 15 hrs on 1st.

Great Black-backed Gull A few immature birds seen during the daytime and c150 large gulls roosting on 21st.

Green Woodpecker One heard on 10th.

Grey Heron At least 19 pairs nesting.

Grey Partridge Two at South Hill on 22nd.

Hobby The first sighting was of one on 27th.

House Martin Maximum count of c60 on 22nd.

Iceland Gull A 2ndW was in the roost on 1st.

Kingfisher A few sightings mainly from the River Amber.

Lapwing Two pairs appear to be breeding on farmland adjacent to the reservoir. One pair had been attempting to breed on the West Bank but was flooded out as the water rose.

Lesser Redpoll The maximum count was of 14 on 12th.

Lesser Whitethroat Two singing on 18th were the first to arrive, after which one – two were present quite frequently, but usually mobile, with none settling into territory so far.

Linnet The maximum count was of c150 in fields NW of the reservoir on 20th.

Little Gull An adult present from 08:28 to 08:50 hrs then flew N on 22nd. A first summer arrived with six Arctic Terns at around 15:30 hrs on 27th but continued N alone.

Little Owl One heard calling during the daytime near Brackenfield Church on 1st.

Little Ringed Plover Up to six present taking up territory, while water levels were low but most had moved on by the end of the month.

Mallard At least six broods have been seen so far.

Mandarin Seen daily throughout the month with a maximum count of ten on 10th.

Marsh Harrier A female flew E at 09:20 hrs on 21st.

Mute Swan A pair present on and off all month and occasional other birds visited briefly.

Nuthatch Seven heard singing during a full circuit of the reservoir on 13th.

Osprey At least 5 and possibly 6 individuals passed through during the month. On 4th one that was already carrying a fish from 11:30 – 11:35 hrs when it flew E. Presumably the same bird returned at 13:55 hrs and spent some time in a tree on the East Bank, later catching another fish and leaving E at 15:50 hrs. Shortly afterwards it was seen in a field at Tibshelf, where it began eating the fish. The following day seen it was seen again briefly at 07:15 hrs and again at around 09:30 hrs when it caught a fish and flew off W. It was then present again 15:30 – 15:40 hrs when it drifted off N. This bird had been colour ringed in Angus Scotland in June 2007. One flew through 09:09 – 14 hrs on 10th. One (fitted with a transmitter) was present briefly at 09:00 hrs then flew NW on 11th. One was present from 15:00 until at least 15:25 hrs on 13th. On 17th one arrived at 12:25 hrs immediately caught a fish, took it to Lodge Plantation (S side of reservoir) and began to eat it. One, possibly the same bird, was present, visiting the reservoir several times during the day on 18th.

Oystercatcher The pair nesting on the raft hatched at least two chicks around 27th. Occasional other birds visited with a maximum total of five present on 5th.

Peregrine Singles on 4th, 7th, 11th and 27th.

Raven A few sightings of one-three birds.

Red Kite Two were seen together over the E of the reservoir at 15:45 hrs on 30th, one of which drifted W.

Red-breasted Merganser On 30th a female was present from at least 10:00 – 10:10 hrs then flew W.

Redshank One on 6th, one on 16th and one briefly on 30th.

Redwing A few still around at the beginning of the month, 15 on 5th were the last to be recorded.

Ringed Plover One on 12th, 14th and one on 21st.

Sand Martin Maximum count of 100+ on 14th.

Sandwich Tern Three flew through and left NE at 11:25 hrs on 4th.

Sedge Warbler One singing on 24th was the first to arrive, up to four singing by the end of the month.

Shelduck Two were present early morning on 7th then flew off S and another arrived later that day. Two on 10th and three were present early morning on 23rd.

Shoveler One drake on 10th, a drake on 14th, pair 17th, three on 18th/19th (two drakes), four on 20th (three drakes), pair on 22nd, drake on 26th, three (two drakes) on 28th.

Snipe Quite good numbers present, particularly when water levels dropped with counts of 40+ on 3rd, 32 on 18th and 20+ on 23rd.

Swallow Maximum count of c500 on 22nd.

Teal The maximum count was of 19 on 10th, though numbers dropped rapidly soon after this.

Tree Pipit One dropped in to a field by the West Bank car park at 10:05 hrs on the 12th. It flew NE at 11:05 hrs.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 54 on 5th.

Wheatear At least one male was present from 22nd – 24th and a female on 30th.

Whimbrel One was present on the West Bank for about 20 minutes during the evening on 17th, one flew N on 20th, one flew NE at 08:55 hrs on 21st, two flew E at 11:10hrs and one over at 19:00 hrs on 28th.

White Wagtail One on 10th, 11th, two on 15th, one on 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 27th.

Whitethroat Two singing on 17th were the first to arrive, ten singing on the West Bank of the reservoir on 25th.

Wigeon Eight on 7th and two on 9th were the only records.

Willow Warbler At least 11 singing between the Fishermen's car park and Alders Wood hide on 15th.

Yellow Wagtail First arrival was of one on 12th, then one flew N on 17th, three on 19th, two on 20th, at least 20 present on 21st, five on 22nd, one on 23rd, at least five plus one "Channel Wagtail" type briefly early morning on 26th, at least one on 27th and one on 29th.

Yellow-legged Gull Two were present on 4th (1stS and 3rdS), the 1stS present again on 5th, 6th and 9th.

May was mainly quite warm and dry, though somewhat cooler with frequent east and north-east winds during the last third. Water levels began to drop once more as pumping in ceased, though rain late in the month caused levels to rise again slightly. Highlight of the month was a Honey Buzzard which flew through on 26th. Greylag Geese and Mandarins bred again, there were records of Gadwall, Teal and Shoveler and the first Common Scoters of the year turned up on 30th. A Little Egret appeared on 6th and the Grey Herons appear to have had a very successful breeding season with many young birds around. A single Osprey passed through and there were a few sightings of Peregrines. The lower water levels attracted a few waders including a Sanderling and several Whimbrels. Gulls were only present in small numbers and surprisingly there was just a single record of Yellow-legged Gull. Two Little Terns were present briefly on 20th and a few Arctic Terns passed through. A Turtle Dove flew through on 20th, a very rare bird here nowadays and just one Cuckoo was recorded. A Little Owl was seen at Brackenfield. Numbers of Swifts and hirundines were relatively low, hopefully this was due to most having passed through during the favourable weather conditions prevailing during the first two-thirds of the month. Most Warblers seem to be present in reasonable numbers though the Lesser Whitethroats present last month appear to have moved on and there have been no Grasshopper Warblers so far this year. Spotted Flycatchers were seen at Brackenfield Church on 15th but not subsequently. A late Wheatear was seen on 19th, a few Yellow Wagtails passed through and there was a single White Wagtail on 12th.

Arctic Tern Five through on 1st, one flew NE at 08:00 hrs and two were present later on 2nd, one flew NW on 7th, one on 10th and two on 12th.

Common Gull Five (ad + 4 1stS) thru with other gulls on 1st, a 1stS flew W on 30th and an adult flew W on 31st.

Common Sandpiper One from 1st – 6th, one on 14th, one on 19th/20th and one on 29th.

Common Scoter Three drakes on 30th.

Common Tern Up to four birds present and one pair began nesting on the raft in Chapel Bay

Cuckoo One on 5th, calling between Clattercotes Wood and Highoredish.

Curlew Two through on 3rd, one on 8th and at least one on 20th.

Dunlin One flew through on 1st, one on 4th, one on 6th and 7th, two on 8th, six through on 10th, one on 11th, two on 12th, one flew through N on 24th and one present on 29th.

Gadwall A male on 12th and a pair present on and off from 20th.

Great Black-backed Gull Small numbers still appeared to be roosting at the beginning of the month, with a maximum of c20 which were present early morning on 1st.

Grey Heron A very successful breeding season having moved from the usual Heronry to the new site by Carr Pond.

Greylag Goose A pair with three goslings from 20th onwards. The maximum count was of 36 including the three goslings on 26th.

Hobby Just occasional sightings this month.

Honey Buzzard On 26th one, most probably a female, flew NE over the reservoir at 12:23 hrs, turning ESE as it went behind trees on the East Bank. The fourteenth record for Ogston.

Little Egret One on 6th.

Little Owl One seen on a telegraph pole at Brackenfield on 26th.

Little Ringed Plover One – four birds present all month but no evidence of any breeding attempts so far.

Little Tern Two did a brief circuit of the reservoir, then appeared to leave SE at 10:40 on 20th.

Mandarin A female with five chicks on 16th.

Mute Swan The pair remained throughout the month but no real sign of any breeding taking place so far.

Osprey One was present at 15:30 hrs on 4th.

Oystercatcher The family party remained throughout, the two young just about flying by the end of the month. Odd other birds were present from time to time, though these were usually quickly chased off by the resident birds. The maximum count was of nine on 29th, when the four resident birds were joined by a party of five which arrived from the SE at 08:25 hrs.

Peregrine Singles on 2nd, 7th, 16th and 29th.

Raven One – two seen occasionally throughout the month.

Redshank One was present during the afternoon on 4th.

Reed Warbler One on 1st was the first to arrive this year.

Ringed Plover three from 7th - 9th, one on 10th, one on 14th and 15th, three on 20th and one on 31st.

Sanderling One present during the evening on 19th.

Sedge Warbler Seven singing on the West Bank on 18th.

Shelduck Three were present briefly early morning on 10th.

Shoveler A pair present on 10th and 11th.

Spotted Flycatcher Two in Brackenfield Churchyard on 15th were the first to arrive, but they were not seen there after this date.

Swift Three on 1st were the first to arrive this year, after which numbers gradually increased with c15 on 2nd, c30 on 4th, c40 on 6th and a maximum of c200 on 9th.

Teal Three on 24th, two on 26th, 29th and 31st.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 32 on 4th.

Turtle Dove One flew NE at 11:50 hrs on 20th.

Wheatear A male was present on 19th.

Whimbrel One flew NW at 08:00 hrs on 2nd, one flew through on 3rd, six flew SSE at 17:09 hrs on 8th, one present 08:30 – 08:50 hrs on 22nd and one present briefly at 07:35 hrs and then flew N on 31st.

White Wagtail One on 12th.

Whitethroat Twelve were singing along the North and West Banks of the reservoir on 18th.

Yellow Wagtail One on 1st, two on 2nd, one on 8th, one flew S on 20th and one flew N on 21st.

Yellow-legged Gull A 3rdS flew S on 2nd.

The wet weather from the end of May continued into June and as a consequence water levels continued rising quite rapidly and then levels increased further still as water was pumped in later during the month. Overall it was a fairly quiet month largely due to the water levels and the growth of Willows etc due to a lack of site maintenance has also made viewing many areas of the reservoir difficult. It has been a successful breeding season so far for most species with a few exceptions. Greylags (three broods) Mandarins (two broods) and Mallards have done well. Grebes have struggled so far with the rising water levels, just one pair of Great Crested has been successful so far. There have been very few Hobby sightings, with apparently none breeding locally. Little Ringed Plovers were attempting to breed but were flooded out. One pair of Common Terns has hatched two chicks with another pair now attempting to breed on the southern raft. Barn Owls have raised young and Little Owls most probably have also done so. Most warblers seem to be doing ok, Whitethroats in particular seem to be having a very successful season with many family parties around, while Reed Warblers seem to be present in low numbers with none breeding so far and there have been no sightings at all of Grasshopper Warbler. Both Dipper and Spotted Flycatcher have raised young. Migrants have been few and far between the highlights being a Whimbrel on 5th, a Sandwich Tern on 15th and an early Yellow Wagtail which flew through S on 30th.

Barn Owl A pair have bred raising at least two young.

Black-headed Gull Small numbers present/passing through most days in slightly larger numbers during the second half of the month. The first juvenile of the year was seen on 29th.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 55 on 17th.

Common Buzzard The maximum count was of at least ten up in the air on 20th.

Common Gull Small numbers of 1st summer birds seen most days from 23rd with a max of 5 which flew through NW on 28th.

Common Tern The pair in Chapel Bay hatched two chicks around 16th and a second pair appear to be nesting on the south raft.

Curlew One – two visited quite regularly, presumed to be birds breeding nearby, higher counts were of five flying NW on 15th, four flying SE on 19th and the maximum count was of 15 at 22:00 hrs on 8th, (which were presumably roosting).

Dipper A pair has bred raising at least one young on the River Amber downstream of the reservoir.

Gadwall Two on 5th and three on 28th.

Great Crested Grebe One pair raised a chick on Milltown Inlet and several other pairs have been attempting to breed but have failed or are currently struggling against the rising water levels.

Grey Heron Good numbers fledged from the Heronry and at least one seemed to be trying for a second brood.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 65 on 3rd. A second brood of two seen on 11th and a third brood of four from 25th.

Hobby A few sightings during the month but it seems that none are breeding in the recording area this year.

Kingfisher Odd birds present from 19th onwards, mainly around Carr Pond but occasionally seen near the hides.

Lesser Whitethroat One singing at Temperance Hill on 20th.

Little Grebe At least two pairs present with other birds seen on and off. At least one pair has been attempting to breed, though a Carrion Crow was seen stealing an egg from the nest on 29th.

Little Owl One-two were seen quite regularly near Brackenfield Church.

Little Ringed Plover The rising water levels during May had already forced most birds to move on. The only records this month were of two on 1st & 2nd, one on 7th & 8th and one from 16th -18th.

Mandarin Just a few sightings of one – two birds. A female with at least six chicks on 11th was the second brood this year.

Mute Swan The pair were present all month but no indication of breeding.

Oystercatcher The family of 4 present all month and odd others visited briefly. Five adults were present on 13th.

Peregrine Singles on 27th and 28th were the only records this month.

Pochard Seven drakes on 29th were the first here since 5th March.

Raven Small numbers seen occasionally throughout the month, though at least 7 were over South Hill on 28th.

Redshank One on 12th.

Reed Warbler Singing birds present on and off during the month but no evidence of breeding so far.

Ringed Plover One flew through N on 17th.

Sandwich Tern On 15th one was present from 12:30 – 12:40 hrs when it circled high E until lost in cloud.

Skylark One flew W on 2nd, an unusual date here.

Snipe One seen on 22nd and 28th, unusual here at this time of year.

Spotted Flycatcher A pair has bred by Brackenfield Church and another pair are present on the East Bank.

Teal Two (a pair) on 1st 1 drake on 27th.

Tufted Duck The maximum count was of 36 on 29th.

Whimbrel On 5th one flew in at 19:20 hrs and was still present 20:30 hrs at least.

Whitethroat Good numbers of family parties present throughout the site.

Yellow Wagtail One flew S on 30th.

Yellow-legged Gull The only records were of an adult on 25th and a 2ndS on 29th.

July 2014

July was mainly quite hot and dry with light rain on just a few days, though the hot weather triggered some heavy thunderstorms mid-month. Water levels already high, increased still further before stabilising, restricting opportunities for visiting waders, though it did provide good conditions for Great Crested Grebes to breed. A further two broods of Mandarins took the total up to four for this year and at least one brood of Tufted Ducks was seen. A couple of Red Kites passed through. Single Dunlin and Green Sandpipers were seen. The Common Terns on the southern raft hatched two chicks and Little Owls were confirmed to have bred.

A single Green Woodpecker was seen, still scarce here following the recent cold winters. Two pairs of Reed Warbler raised young and Spotted Flycatchers are currently trying for a second brood.

Black-headed Gull Small flocks moving through most days with small numbers down the maximum count was of c30 on 15th.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 91 on 31st.

Common Gull Single 1stS birds present on 1st/2nd/4th and 11th, two on 12th (adult & 1stS), a 1stS on 15th/16th and finally a 1stS & an adult on 19th.

Common Sandpiper Two on 4th, three on 10th, two on 18th, three on 21st, one on 22nd, four on 23rd (maximum count) and one on 27th.

Common Scoter A drake was present on 19th.

Common Tern The chicks on the Chapel Bay raft fledged on 10th and the pair on the southern raft hatched two chicks around 17th.

Curlew One on 5th was the only record this month.

Dunlin One was on the dam (due to the lack of suitable banks) with four Common Sandpipers on 23rd.
flew WSW over the reservoir between 09:30 and 09:35 hrs on 27th.

Great Crested Grebe Six broods seen so far and at least one bird is still sitting.

Green Sandpiper One was present briefly on 16th.

Green Woodpecker One in the West Bank car park on 25th.

Grey Heron The pair trying for a second brood gave up around 11th.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 57 on 30th.

Hobby Just a few sightings again this month.

Lapwing The maximum count was of c70 on 12th.

Lesser Whitethroat One on 24th and one on 31st were the only reports this month.

Little Owl Seen regularly throughout the month near Brackenfield Church and breeding was confirmed with at least two young seen.

Little Ringed Plover One flew NE at 10:20 hrs on 2nd.

Mandarin A female was seen with at least one chick on 2nd and 4th. On 5th a female with two chicks was seen and both broods were seen on 6th. These are the third and fourth broods to be seen this year. Otherwise just single birds were seen on a couple of dates.

Mute Swan The pair remained all month and these were joined by others occasionally.

Oystercatcher The family party were still present at the beginning of the month and occasional other birds visited, with at least six present on 5th. As water levels increased birds gradually departed, the last one being seen on 21st.

Peregrine The only record this month was of one on 3rd.

Pochard One on 5th was the only record this month.

Raven Four on 1st and five on 5th were the only records this month.

Red Kite One was seen flying W over the junction of Oakstedge Lane and Butterley Lane on 5th and a juvenile

Reed Warbler Two pairs were seen feeding fledged young.

Shoveler Two eclipse drakes on 18th, one remaining to 21st, also one on 27th.

Skylark Two flew over on 5th.

Snipe 1 on 13th and 3 on 19th were the only reports though probably regularly present but overlooked due to the high water levels.

Spotted Flycatcher A pair successfully raised young near Brackenfield Church and are now trying for a second brood.

Swift Some southward movements noted early in the month with c100 on 3rd and c120 on 4th.

Teal 3 on 3rd, 13th & 18th 5 on 19th, 2 on 20th and 22nd, 3 on 24th, 1 on 26th, 3 on 27th, 2 on 28th and 1 on 30th /31st.

Tufted Duck A female with five chicks was first seen on 9th, the maximum count was of 40 on 10th.

Yellow-legged Gull A 1stS on 1st, a 3rdS on 10th, and a 4thS/adult present daily from 17th onwards, believed to be the returning regular 3rdS from last year (ring on left leg).

Ogston Osprey Project

I am pleased to pass on to all members that the Osprey platform has been erected into place today August 14th.

There are many people to thank, and firstly to Janet and all her family for their generosity and support, and the use of their land.

Many other people have been involved in so many ways, you will understand me not naming everyone. Those who have helped know I am appreciative of what they have done, thanks to you all.

A big thank you has to go to a number of people at DWT, we could not have done this without them. However I will mention Richard Spowage and his two volunteers Mike and Ann (in our photo's below!). I was privileged to see their expertise at first hand today, climbing the pole and building the nest. I am also aware of their hard work leading up to the pole being put into place. Also, others have been working behind the scenes. This support from DWT will continue into the future. We have also been fortunate to have input and support from the Rutland Osprey Project.

With the platform now in place and birds soon to be migrating South there is the possibility of a nest being spotted for their return next year, whilst we may have to be patient you never know. I am not alone in thinking we have a very good chance of success, a view fully supported by the Rutland Team.

Whilst Mike was up the ladder nest building today he was visited by three Buzzards!

May I ask all our members to respect that we are using private land. To this end if any member has any questions etc. please contact me, Please do not contact Janet and family.

Take a look at a few of our photo's to see the culmination of a long journey.

John Parlbly



...a very desirable residence



...and what a view!

And finally.....

Book up now for your holiday in Mull next year!

Why go to Mull? Well because for birders it's absolutely magical – it's like being in a massive nature reserve with not many people, with enough to keep you occupied for a week but not too big to cover it all from one base. Bear in mind though that there's not a lot else besides nature! There are quite a few organised wildlife trips both on land and by sea – a trawl of the internet gives them all. We went with Arthur Brown for a day and that was excellent. The scenery is fabulous and more than anywhere else in the Highlands I've been to, you get closer to the sea whilst driving.

When to go? Probably the best time is middle of May to early June (although other times have their merits). At this time the migrants have landed, some of the over wintering birds such as the Great Northern Diver may still be around, the weather is supposedly at it's best and the midges haven't cranked up to full power.

What to see? Golden and White Tailed Eagles, Hen Harriers, Great Northern and Red Throated Divers, Corncrakes, otters, sea birds such as Red Breasted Mergansers, Black Guillemots and the more common ones and then many moorland and woodland birds.

Where to go on the island? Use the following books to plan your trip:- Bird Watching on Mull and Iona ISBN 9781904353140 £4.95, Isle of Mull Bird Report and Species List - £5.95 and Best Birdwatching Sites – Scottish Highlands ISBN9780956987655 £18.95.

Website with links to others: <http://www.mullbirds.com/LATESTREPORTS.html>

Booking accomodation! There's lots of accommodation of all types but be warned that if you want to go during the school May holiday (last week in May next year), book accommodation now – we tried to book previously in November and there was practically nothing left of what we wanted.

Ferries? – For us Midlanders, the most obvious is the big ferry from Oban to Craignure (currently about £85 return for a car and 2 people). It can be done more cheaply for a tad under £40 return from the north Fishnish – Lochaline but this involves a long drive round plus another ferry near Fort William. The Oban ferry can be booked but I don't think the other one can be.

<http://www.calmac.co.uk/timetables/calmac-summer-timetables.htm>

We've been twice and have booked again in May for next year.

Please note, our last Club Trip is still going ahead

Frampton Marsh RSPB – Lincolnshire Coast – 5th Oct 2014

Meeting Point: Frampton RSPB reserve near Boston Lincs (see notes) Time: 10:30 Transport: Members cars Cost: free Leader: MartinKaye, Numbers Limit: None.

Notes: A fantastic reserve on the south western corner of the Wash. Although there are only 3 hides, there is non-stop interest over a large area.

Guaranteed 50+ different species. At this time of year a number of the less common migrant waders can be seen. Last year this included Little Stint, spotted redshank and Curlew Sandpiper. Approx 2 hour drive from Chesterfield. Maps on how to get there provided nearer the time although directions obtainable from Frampton's RSPB website. At this time in October, Ogston Club has had successful trips to Frampton for the last 3 years.

General Notes for all trips

Although the club has excellent facilities for birding on our home 'turf', it's sometimes good to get away and visit other areas renown for being good birding spots. With this in mind, the following programme of visits has been agreed. Each visit will be led by a member who knows the area. At the moment, all trips are planned using members cars. However, if there are sufficient numbers for any trip, a coach will be booked if this is thought desirable. For members who are unable/unwilling to drive, efforts will be made to get car places with others. So if you want to help others identify birds, or you want to learn more about birding, book yourself on one or more of the trips listed below.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

To secure a place on any of the trips shown below, please contact Martin Kaye with your name/s and contact details. Martin can be contacted on 01246 279785, by e-mail on martin.kaye@icloud.com or at 21 Longedge Rise, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NX.

Martin Kaye

**Steve Slack
Publicity Officer**