

Ogston monthly report – October 2014

Species recorded – October = 104

Running Total = 161

Overall October was a mainly dry and mild month apart from a few storms including the remnants of Hurricane Gonzalo. Water levels fell as a consequence of the low rainfall. Highlight of the month was a flock of Bearded Tits on 29th, the first ever to be seen at Ogston and a record flock for Derbyshire. There were several sightings of Whooper Swans, Pink-footed Geese passed through quite frequently and other wildfowl of interest included Shelduck, a few Pintail, Goldeneye and Goosanders. There were a couple of brief sightings of Little Egrets. A Goshawk was seen quite frequently at Highoredish and three Merlins passed through. Waders included Golden Plovers, a few Dunlin, Jack Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Curlew. A Bonxie, only the third ever at Ogston stayed for a hour and a half on 30th. Gulls began roosting in numbers on some nights including a few Yellow-legged Gulls. A late Arctic Tern passed through on 13th. Large numbers of Woodpigeons passed through late in the month together with a few Stock Doves. A Ring-necked Parakeet flew SW over Highoredish with Meadow Pipits on 5th. A Sand Martin on 9th was the latest ever. Redwings arrived in numbers from 11th onwards but Fieldfares arrived late. A couple of Stonechats were the first this year. A record count of Meadow Pipits passed over Highoredish on 11th and there were three records of Rock Pipit. What would otherwise have been the highlight of the year, a Pallid Swift was unfortunately seen too distantly.

Mute Swan The three immature birds remained until 29th and they were joined by a fourth bird on 3rd, 9th, 13th & 14th. On 30th and 31st just one was present.

Whooper Swan Three were present all day on 13th and until early morning on 14th when they flew off N, a further 12 (11 adults & 1 juv) dropped in briefly at 11:00 hrs then flew N, on 31st ten including three juveniles were present early morning but flew off NE at 07:33 hrs.

Pink-footed Goose A skein of 125 flew NW at 08:55 hrs on 2nd. On 15th c200 flew NW at 09:50 hrs and one was down with the Goose flock which remained on and off until 27th. On 16th c190 flew E at 12:07 hrs, 43 flew SE at 09:10 on 26th. c37 flew SE at 11:10 hrs on 27th. On 29th c56 flew SE at 09:30 hrs, a further 36 flew SE at 09:35 hrs and c40 flew NW at 13:15 hrs.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 49 on 5th.

Canada Goose The maximum count was of 42 on 3rd.

Shelduck Two flew through on 30th.

Mandarin The maximum count was of ten on 2nd.

Wigeon Small numbers present most days, the maximum count being of 12 on 4th, 8th and 11th.

Gadwall The only records were of one on 5th and four on 8th.

Teal Good numbers often present the maximum count being of 155 on 8th.

Pintail One on 3rd and 4th. On 30th two were present and five flew SW.

Shoveler Three on 1st, four on 2nd, three on 3rd/4th, one on 5th – 7th, three on 8th – 11th, one on 12th, two from 13th – 17th and two from 24th to the end of the month.

Pochard Three on 3rd, three on 11th and two on 31st.

Goldeneye Single fem/imm on 4th and 14th.

Goosander One on 15th one on 30th.

Little Egret On 20th one present briefly at 09:40 hrs then flew off S. On 23rd two flew S down the reservoir at 08:30 hrs.

Goshawk A juv male over Highoredish on 19th, then again on 28th and seen on six separate occasions on 29th.

Merlin One flew SW over Highoredish at 11:17 hrs on 5th, one flew SW at 15:14 hrs on 19th, and one flew SW at 09:40 hrs on 29th.

Peregrine One on 2nd.

Golden Plover Two flew SW over Highoredish on 11th.

Lapwing The highest count was of c150 on 1st,

Dunlin One was present briefly on the West Bank until flushed by a Heron on 6th and one though on 14th. On 30th eight flew through (with an unidentified wader), three dropped in later and one flew W with four Snipe.

Jack Snipe One was flushed on the West Bank by a Severn Trent Ranger on 2nd.

Snipe Quite good numbers were present all month the highest count being of 26 on 26th.

Black-tailed Godwit One on 1st, five on 2nd

Whimbrel On 30th one arrived with a Curlew at 16:05 hrs and landed for a short while on the West Bank then flew off. The latest ever record at Ogston.

Curlew One arrived with the Whimbrel above on 30th but appeared not to land.

Great Skua On 30th an adult arrived at 08:05 hrs and remained until 09:25 hrs. It spent most its time flying up and down the reservoir chasing gulls, though it did land on the water briefly several times. The third ever at Ogston.

Common Gull Recorded fairly regularly the maximum count being of 15 in the roost on 22nd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull 85 flew NE on 2nd, c300 in the roost on 22nd, and c200 in the roost on 28th.

Herring Gull A few recorded in gradually increasing numbers, the highest count being of 12 flying over Highoredish on 27th.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular 4thS/adult remained until at least 28th, also a 1stW on 6th, a 1stW on 9th, six in the roost (4 adults & 2 1stW) on 22nd, two passed through (adult & 2ndW) and one in a pre-roost gathering on 30th.

Great Black-backed Gull A few birds starting to appear in increasing numbers as the month progressed, the maximum count was of 15 roosting on 22nd.

Arctic Tern A late juvenile flew through at 11:07 hrs on 13th.

Stock Dove A few passing over with Woodpigeons, the highest count being of 40 on 31st.

Woodpigeon Good numbers were passing through on several days, the highest count being of 7625 on 29th.

Ring-necked Parakeet One flew SW over Highoredish at 08:27 hrs on 5th, about the sixth ever at Ogston.

Little Owl Still being seen occasionally near Brackenfield Church at the beginning of the month.

Swift sp On 18th a Swift believed to be a Pallid Swift was seen distantly at Highoredish between 09:40 and 09:48 hrs. It did appear to be quite pale at times with a different structure/jizz to Common Swift but unfortunately was only seen at very long range, too far to obtain the level of detail required for an acceptable record.

Kingfisher One – three seen most days, mainly at Milltown Inlet or Carr Pond, though occasionally visiting the areas by the hides.

Green Woodpecker One at Highoredish on 11th.

Raven One –two seen quite regularly throughout the month.

Bearded Tit On 29th a flock of at least 12 flew in, arriving from the NE at approx 11:00hrs and landed in the reedbed N of the Members Hide. After a few minutes they flew off SW. The first record for Ogston and a record count for Derbyshire.

Skylark Seen regularly passing over especially at Highoredish where 55 passed over on 2nd, c30 over on 26th, c30 over and c70 circling nearby fields (just outside the recording area) on 29th.

Sand Martin One flew S on 9th, the latest ever at Ogston.

Swallow Reasonable numbers present during the first week, the highest count was of 33 over Highoredish on 11th. The last to be recorded were two which flew S on 12th.

House Martin Small numbers were seen most days early in the month, the maximum count being of at least 72 flying S at Highoredish on 11th. The last to be seen was one which flew SW on 19th.

Blackcap A few still around early in the month up until 8th then none until a female on 30th.

Chiffchaff Still present in reasonable numbers at the beginning of the month, but gradually declining until the last one seen on 24th.

Fieldfare The first to arrive was one at Highoredish on 29th. At least 100 passed through on 30th and 444 flew SW on 31st.

Redwing Five over Highoredish on 11th were the first of the autumn, after which seen regularly with a highest counts of 1000+ over Highoredish on 17th and 2760 over on 31st.

Stonechat A fem/imm by the West Bank car park from 4th to 10th, another fem/imm was at Highoredish on 5th.

Tree Sparrow At Highoredish one flew N on 11th, three N on 20th, and one W on 28th.

Pied Wagtail A roost began building up with a maximum count of c50 on 22nd. Good numbers of *alba* (Pied or White) Wagtails numbers passed through with 189 over Highoredish on 11th.

Meadow Pipit A total of 613 flew SW over Highoredish in three hours on 5th. A total of 1077 flew SW on 11th between 08:00 and 12:00 hrs, the vast majority passing in the first two and a half hours, a new record count for Ogston.

Rock Pipit One present on 1st, one on 12th, and one flew NW at 11:09 hrs on 14th.

Chaffinch Quite good numbers were recorded passing over Highoredish. At least 53 flew SW on 5th, at least 80 passed over on 11th and at least 131 passed over on 28th.

Brambling The first of the autumn were three over Highoredish on 11th. Most other records were of birds passing over there with a maximum count of 42 on 28th.

Goldfinch The highest count was of 43 which flew SW over Highoredish on 11th.

Siskin The highest count was of 34 over Highoredish on 11th.

Linnet The highest count was of 147 over Highoredish on 11th.

Escapes

Yellow-billed Teal The bird from September present up until at least 29th, though could be elusive at times.