

Ogston monthly report – November 2014

Species recorded – November = 90

Running Total = 162

Winds were mainly light and variable during November and fog and mist frequently hampered viewing. There were a few frosts but overall it was generally a quite mild month. There was a fair amount of rain at times particularly early in the month which raised water levels somewhat, though the reservoir remained well below full.

Nine Whooper Swans arrived on the last day of the month and good numbers of Pink-footed Geese passed over, including a new record count on 5th. Otherwise it was a fairly quiet month for wildfowl, Teal and Mallard were present in good numbers while water levels were low early in the month but numbers fell as water levels began to rise. Otherwise of most interest was a Pintail that was present on several dates. Goshawk continued to be seen at Highoredish at the beginning of the month. There was just a single sighting of Water Rail. The relatively low water levels attracted a few scarce waders including a Knot, a Ruff and a Jack Snipe. The gull roost often held large numbers of birds and included a few Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls. There was just one record of Little Owl this month. A good number of winter thrushes passed over Highoredish at the beginning of the month and a few roaming flocks remained in the area. A few Bramblings passed over Highoredish at the beginning of the month, but only one was seen down by the reservoir.

Whooper Swan On 30th six (four adults and 2 juveniles) arrived at around 10:20 hrs and these were joined by another three adults at 10:46 hrs.

Pink-footed Goose A total of 2370 in 19 skeins flew SE on 5th, a new record count for Ogston, 18 flew SE on 17th, C70 flew SE at 11:36 hrs on 23rd and 33 flew E at 10:30 hrs on 24th.

Greylag Goose The maximum count was of 32 on 24th.

Mandarin One on 2nd and one on 9th were the only records this month.

Wigeon Present fairly regularly with a maximum of eight on 6th.

Gadwall One on 5th and two on 29th were the only ones this month.

Teal The highest counts were of 97 on 2nd and 122 on 3rd, but numbers fell as water levels rose.

Mallard The maximum count was of 132 on 3rd.

Pintail One female/imm was present on 19th, 21st and 23rd.

Shoveler Two on 1st was the only record this month.

Pochard One on 2nd, four on 6th, one on 10th, one on 14th, one on 15th, one on 18th, two on 20th, one on 25th and three on 26th,

Tufted Duck Maximum count of c20 on 17th.

Goldeneye One on 3rd, five on 7th, one on 10th, one on 11th, one on 19th, one on 21st, two drakes on 22nd, two fem/imm on 23rd, one drake on 25th and 26th, one on 29th and three on 30th.

Goosander One on 3rd / 4th, three redheads on 5th, seven briefly early morning on 7th, two flew through on 23rd, one on 25th and one redhead on 30th.

Goshawk At Highoredish one on 2nd, two on 5th and one on 9th.

Peregrine One on 3rd and 4th was the only one this month.

Water Rail One was seen near the hides on 7th.

Golden Plover One flew over calling above low cloud on 10th and one on 28th.

Lapwing The maximum count was of 409 on 22nd.

Knot One in winter plumage on the West Bank on 11th.

Dunlin One on the West Bank early morning on 29th.

Ruff One present briefly with Lapwings during the evening of 29th.

Jack Snipe One on 25th.

Snipe Up to around 35 were present at times but difficult to get accurate counts.

Woodcock One flew out of Carr Wood at dusk on 22nd.

Black-headed Gull Roost counts were of 2000+ on 9th, 5000+ on 21st and 6000+ on 23rd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull c550 were in the roost on 9th but numbers were much smaller by the end of the month with c40 on 30th.

Herring Gull 62 flew SW on 2nd, c350 in the roost on 9th, 500+ in the roost on 23rd.

Yellow-legged Gull The regular adult was last present on 4th, one adult on 21st, an adult in the roost on 22nd 24th, one adult on 26th and three (two adults and a 1stW) in the roost on 30th.

Caspian Gull An adult in the roost on 9th, a 2ndW in the roost on 24th and a 1stW in the roost on 30th.

Great Black-backed Gull c250 in the roost on 9th, 500+ in the roost on 30th.

Woodpigeon 1533 flew W/SW over Highoredish on 1st and 2044 over there on 4th.

Little Owl One calling at dusk by Carr Wood on 22nd.

Kingfisher One – three were seen on most days.

Raven Maximum count of four on 30th.

Skylark At Highoredish 47 over on 4th and 19 over on 8th,

Starling A total of 92 flew SW over Highoredish on 1st and up to 200 were roosting in reeds by the hides on some evenings.

Fieldfare At Highoredish 43 flew SW on 1st, 127 flew SW on 2nd, 392 flew SW on 8th and 268 flew SW on 9th. Otherwise just small numbers feeding around the site.

Redwing At Highoredish 693 flew SW on 1st, 143 flew SW on 2nd, 216 flew SW on 8th, 275 flew SW on 9th.

Tree Sparrow Three in gardens behind the Dam on 29th.

Chaffinch At Highoredish 23 flew over on 4th and up to 50 regularly feeding on beech-mast there.

Brambling Birds passing over Highoredish were one on 4th, two on 2nd, one on 4th and three on 9th. Away from Highoredish the only record was of one which flew over the West Bank car park on 29th.

Siskin The maximum count was of 15 on 2nd over Highoredish.

Lesser Redpoll A small number around the highest count being of 11 on 4th.

Escapes

Yellow-billed Teal Seen again on 2nd, 10th, and 19th.