

Your Committee 2014/15



Chairman	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	Martin Kaye
Vice Chairman	John Parlby 01773 861262	Committee member	Frank Wharram
General Secretary	Pete Birley 01332 753078	Committee member	Jeff Davies
Membership Secretary	Pete Birley 01332 753078	Committee member	Jenny Marshall
Treasurer	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	David Marshall
Publicity Officer	Steve Slack 07599 845298		

Ogston Bird Club Newsletter – December 2014

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

Ian & Barbara Andrews of Matlock, David & Marian White of Swanwick, Richard Smith of Chesterfield, Carmel & James Males of North Wingfield, Gordon & Ben Marshall of Lower Pilsley, Roger & Muriel Todkill of South Normanton, Philip & Stephanie Dickinson of Sheffield, Jim Steele of Ilkeston, Peter & Maureen Dixon of Kilburn, Mick & Beryl Dooher of Newbold Chesterfield.

Welcome to one and all!

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.

Membership Renewal 2015

Please note the 2015 subscription is due on or before the 1st January 2015.

NOTE - prices are the same as last year!

The current lock number will be changed on the first week of February 2015.

The new lock number for 2015 will be supplied when you have paid your 2015 subscription.

Please keep this number safe and do not give it to any other person.

We look forward to your continuing support!

Our Club Website

We hope you enjoy visiting the Club's ever popular website. If not, please check it out. It contains lots of local bird reports, details of upcoming trips, Club News etc.

From 2015, those Members who have chosen to have an e-mail version of the Newsletters will be encouraged to simply print it from the website. Typing errors and changes of email addresses can often lead to members missing out on the correspondence. Printing it from the website eliminates these errors. **The Newsletters are issued in April, August and December every year.**

And from 2016, Renewal/Membership Forms will be available to download from the website –

www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk go to the tab marked About Ogston Bird Club and go down the menu to How to Join.

OBC Hats & caps are still available from John Parlby. Keep your tabs warm this winter! A bargain at £6!

For more info, contact John on 01773861262, or, 07767652036

Site Improvements

Ogston SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) Restoration Project

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are important as they support plants and animals that find it difficult to survive elsewhere in the countryside, and they represent the country's best wildlife and geological sites. SSSI are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Ogston Site has held SSSI status for some while and the Club has responsibility to keep it this way.

We are in the process of submitting a plan for restoring and regenerating the habitat for approval by Natural England and Severn Trent. It is proposed to restore the area and scrapes in front of the Clubs main hide and build a new scrape and reedbed in front of the Sue Worsey Hide, we also propose to restore the wet grassland north of the Hide. This will enable us to have more control of water levels for the scrapes. The area of scrub between the public hide and the bird club hide should be cut and cleared in accordance with SSSI management plan. This will enable the regeneration of the wildflowers and grassland habitat. Some scrub clearance work has already been carried out around the hides, scrapes and on the island and, weather and water levels permitting, this will continue over the next few months.

Obituary

JOHN TAGG

It is with deep regret that I have to inform our members of the passing of John, on November 16th.

John was a member of Ogston Bird Club for many years. He did not renew his membership after 2010. Many long standing members will remember John and his many years of membership of the club. He was a keen photographer and decided to pursue other subjects. "I never go back" he said. John has bequeathed items of photographic equipment to the club.

John along with Maggie Campbell and Ian Macdermott had become close photography buddies. They became known as "Mac, Mag, and Tagg"

He had a good head for remembering dates I am told, but not good at remembering routes and places. On arrival at a destination he would say "how the place had changed"

On a personal note one of the very first people I met at Ogston was John, I will always remember how helpful he was to me. I recall John sat in his usual seat in the hide as so many will do with his two flasks of tea, "I have a dry mouth" he would say.

Our sympathies go to John's brother Carl and sister-in-law.

John Parlby

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

Since the last newsletter the main activity at the reserve has been routine maintenance work. The most noticeable changes were the opening up of the area at the bottom of the track to the bridge to allow more light to reach the base of the hedges, which are looking a bit 'leggy', and the removal of a large proportion of the taller woody vegetation from around the Hide Pond to encourage fresh growth of the shorter herbs favoured by the Water Voles. The autumn cut of the hay meadow was completed and additional Yellow Rattle seeds spread in the area.

In the nascent woodland area alongside the top pond, a few Wych Elm saplings have been added to the existing young oaks, birch, hawthorns and holly. At the same time the opportunity was taken to cut the rough grass between the young trees - the first time this has been done since the club acquired the land. It is not intended that the grass is cut in this area frequently, but will be included in a set of small areas which will be cut in rotation to provide more variety and help control the spread of nettles and creeping thistle.

Members who do not receive emails about the Work Parties at the reserve will have missed the following: "... the establishment of a large 'insect hotel' or 'wildlife stack' on the reserve would be an asset. This could be a good stand-alone project for one or two club members to champion, with the only stipulations being that it should not require submission of a planning application to the local council, should use 100% recycled materials and should require close to zero maintenance. Everything else is open to discussion and imagination ...". So far there have been no takers, though a useful pallet to build on did appear overnight, and this is the last call for a volunteer. Contact Peter Faulkner on 01629732688 to offer your services.

If you have any sightings, common or rare, to add to the reserve's wildlife list for 2014, irrespective of whether or not these have been sent direct to County Recorders or submitted to other recording schemes, then please provide them to Paul Beard (or Peter Faulkner) as quickly as you can. One way that you can do this is via the link on the club's web-site at http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/?page_id=2013 , and whilst you are there you can keep up to date with any reserve news and sightings at <http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/?cat=9> .

NB: There is no work party at the reserve in December, but we will be back as usual in 2015 on the third Saturday morning of each month, at 9:30am.

Monthly Highlights

Prepared by Tim Sexey and Steve Mann

August 2014 Species recorded = 102

Running Total = 153

August continued hot until the arrival of ex-hurricane Bertha on 10th, after which the weather became a bit more unsettled, with more frequent rainfall and the reservoir remained full throughout, though it was still quite warm at times. Wildfowl of interest included a few juvenile Shelducks, a Barnacle Goose, a few records of Gadwall and Shoveler, and a Common Scoter flew through on 25th. Little Egrets made an appearance on two dates and a Marsh Harrier passed through on 25th. A quite early Water Rail arrived on 24th which will presumably remain for the winter, The high water levels were not favourable for waders, though a few passed through or paused briefly including a Whimbrel, two Green Sandpipers, a few Greenshank and best of all a Spotted Redshank which flew through on 10th, a rare visitor in recent times. A juvenile Mediterranean Gull stayed for about half an hour on 16th and the regular Yellow-legged Gull remained throughout the month. The Common Tern families gradually moved on and sightings became intermittent towards the end of the month. Sightings of Little Owl were still quite frequent early in the month. Swifts were moving south on many dates though a few were still around at the end of the month and there was a slight increase in sightings of Green Woodpecker, which are perhaps finally showing some signs of recovering from the recent harsh winters. Hirundines were present in reasonable numbers especially Sand Martins which were often present in higher than average numbers for this time of year. A Wood Warbler was an excellent autumn sighting and most other warblers were present in reasonable numbers, including higher numbers of Lesser Whitethroats than in recent autumns. There were three sightings of Redstarts, a Whinchat on was present on 17th, and a Wheatear was seen on 12th. A couple of Yellow Wagtails flew through towards the end of the month and Meadow pipits began moving through in small numbers. A reasonable flock of up to 60

Goldfinch built up but there are very few Linnets around so far (none appear to have bred this year due to their favoured sites becoming overgrown due to the lack of site maintenance).

Barnacle Goose	A feral bird was present with Canada Geese on 20th.
Canada Goose	The maximum count was of 193 on 10th.
Common Gull	One on 19th and one on 25th.
Common Sandpiper	Singles present on 10th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 21st.
Common Scoter	A drake flew SSW at 12:07 hrs on 26th.
Common Tern	Present daily during the first half of the month, but after both family parties moved on sightings became much more erratic.
Gadwall	Three on 5th and one on 25th were the only records.
Garden Warbler	Last recorded on 17th.
Green Sandpiper	Two present on the West Bank on 28th.
Green Woodpecker	Singles on 12th, 15th, 16th and 23rd.
Greenshank	3 flew through without landing at 13:10 hrs on 7th, one was heard at 19:15 hrs on 14th and presumably the same one was heard but not seen early morning on 15th.
Greylag Goose	The maximum count was of 82 on 14th, a new record count for Ogston.
Hobby	Fairly regular sightings of 1 – 2 birds this month, but most sightings were first-summer birds.
House Martin	Counts of c80 on 13th and 14th and at least 600 flew through on 30th.
Lesser Whitethroat	Singles on 7th and 11th, 2 on 13th, 1 on 15th/16th, 2 on 17th, 1 on 23rd, 3 on 30th and 2 on 31st.
Little Egret	One Flew in at 16:00 hrs on 19th and two arrived at 11:30 hrs on 20th.
Little Owl	Seen quite regularly during the early part of the month.
Mandarin	Small numbers recorded quite regularly with a maximum count of 13 on 8th.
Marsh Harrier	One present at 14:45hrs on 26th.
Mediterranean Gull	A juvenile was present 08:40 – 09:10 hrs on 16th.
Mute Swan	The regular pair were present until 6 th , then replaced by 3 immature birds.
Peregrine	Singles on 3rd, 8th and 31st.
Raven	Reported intermittently throughout the month with a maximum of six on 30th.
Redshank	One present on 9th.
Redstart	A juv/fem on 23rd, a male on 25th and a juv/fem on 27th.
Reed Warbler	Recorded throughout the month, one pair with recently fledged young on 15th were presumably a second brood.
Sand Martin	Reported in larger numbers than normal for this time of year with up to 50 present some days.
Shelduck	Three juveniles present early morning on 10th and another juvenile present briefly on 13th.
Shoveler	Three on 3rd and one on 14th.
Snipe	The only sightings were of three on 4th, three on 10th and one on 19th.
Spotted Flycatcher	Present regularly at Brackenfield Church, otherwise reported from the West Bank with singles on 17th and 30th and one at Carr Pond 19th.
Spotted Redshank	One flew SW at 08:42 hrs on 10th, a very scarce visitor nowadays.
Swift	Present throughout the month, counts included 60+ on 3rd, c120 which flew S on 9th, c60 on 13th, c15 on 14th, 100+ on 16th, 30 on 17th and 24 through on 30th with one on 31st.
Teal	Small numbers present daily with a maximum count of 12 on 30th.
Water Rail	One first seen on 24th was present to the month end.
Wheatear	One present briefly on 12th.
Whimbrel	One flew around several times unable to find anywhere to land during the evening of 8th.
Whinchat	One on the West Bank on 17th.
Wood Warbler	One on 18th, a very scarce visitor here.
Yellow Wagtail	Singles flew through on 25th and 30th.
Yellow-legged Gull	The regular 4thS/adult remained throughout the month.

September 2014 Species recorded = 108

Running Total = 156

September was mainly quite warm and dry allowing water levels to drop during the second half of the month. The weather was dominated by high pressure and prolonged but mainly light easterly winds giving rise to murky misty conditions up until 21st after which the winds were more frequently from the west though it still remained mainly warm and dry.

The first Pink-feet of the autumn passed through on 28th, 82 Greylag Geese on 9th equalled the record number set last month and a Snow Goose, presumed to be either an escape or from the feral British population was present on 8th. Large numbers of Mandarins were present at times, a few Pintail passed through and other wildfowl of interest included fairly regular Shovelers, the second Red-breasted Merganser of the year and a few Goosanders. Highlight of the month was two Great White Egrets which passed through on 20th (two also passed through on 16th September 2012.) There were two sightings of Goshawk, presumably both relating to the same individual and a Merlin flew through on 29th. The Water Rail continued to show well at times early in the month but became more elusive later. A few Golden Plover passed through on 28th and the lower water levels attracted a few waders including Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Green Sandpiper. The resident Yellow-legged Gull remained throughout and on some nights quite large numbers of gulls roosted. A Black Tern stayed for over four hours on 6th. Little Owls continued to be seen regularly by Brackenfield Church and Jays have been present in higher than normal numbers with some movements detected. Hirundines were heading south on many days, through in mainly small numbers and many warblers seem to have left early. A Dipper was seen on the River Amber on 12th. There was a noticeable increase in the numbers of Blackbirds and Song Thrushes from 12th onwards while returning migrants included a few Yellow Wagtails and a single Tree Pipit.

Black Tern	A juvenile present on 6 th , from 10:50 – 15:18 hrs when it flew NE.
Blackbird	A noticeable increase in numbers from 12 th onwards, presumably continental birds swelling the local populations.
Black-tailed Godwit	At least one was present from 28 th – 30 th but was elusive. Two unidentified waders that flew W at 10:15 hrs on 8 th were probably also this species.
Buzzard	The maximum count was of 15 on 7 th .
Canada Goose	The maximum count was of c120 on 28 th .
Chaffinch	At least 50 were in a recently ploughed field by the West Bank on 20 th and c60 were feeding on beech-mast at Highoredish on 21 st .
Common Gull	A 1stS from 12 th – 14 th , one on 17 th , an adult on 28 th
Common Sandpiper	One on 1 st , four flew through N on 15 th .
Common Tern	One on 2 nd .
Curlew	Three through on 3 rd .
Dipper	One on the River Amber on 12 th .
Dunlin	One flew through at 10:05 hrs on 4 th .
Gadwall	One on 1 st , three on 8 th , one on 27 th & 28 th , four on 29 th and three on 30 th .
Golden Plover	Three flew over Highoredish and two flew S over the reservoir on 28 th .
Goldfinch	A flock around the West Bank car park held c60 on 4 th .
Goosander	3 flew over Highoredish on 27 th , 2 flew N over the reservoir on 28 th .
Goshawk	1 flew W over the reservoir on 6 th and 1 over Highoredish on 21 st , being mobbed by a Raven.
Great Black-backed Gull	Three roosting on 20 th .
Great White Egret	Two arrived from the south at 11:20 hrs, and after flying up and down the West Bank a couple of times left to the west at 11:28 hrs on 20 th . The 4th record for Ogston and the second time that two have been seen together here.
Green Sandpiper	One flew through at 10:06 hrs on 4 th .
Green Woodpecker	One on 27 th .
Greylag Goose	The maximum count was of 82 on 9 th , equalling the new record count for Ogston last month.
Herring Gull	The first of the autumn arrived on 27 th .
Hobby	The last to be seen was a juvenile on 20 th .
House Martin	Highest counts were of c300 on 1 st and c200 on 8 th ,
House Sparrow	A flock of c30 were feeding in a newly ploughed stubble field by the West Bank on 5 th , an unusual number.
Jay	Larger than normal numbers were present with some movements noted including 16 which flew ENE on 14 th while at least 18 were present on 21 st .
Kingfisher	One – two seen daily throughout the month.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Birds were seen roosting on several nights presumably Carsington bound birds disorientated by the foggy conditions, the max. count being of c800 present early morning on 19 th .
Lesser Whitethroat	Two on 1 st were the only ones this month.
Little Owl	One – two were still being seen regularly throughout the month near Brackenfield Church.
Mandarin	Large numbers were often present first thing, particularly in Milltown Inlet, the max count being c. 55 on 27 th .

Meadow Pipit	Small numbers passed through on some dates though most seemed to have been held back by unfavourable conditions, higher numbers passed during the last week but the only count made was of 53 on flying SW on 23 rd .
Merlin	One flew through on 29 th .
Mute Swan	The 3 immature birds remained all month. One was attacked and injured by a dog near Ogston Hall on 16 th .
Peregrine	One on 30 th .
Pink-footed Goose	A skein of 36 flew W at 08:20 hrs on 28 th .
Pintail	One on 11 th , four arrived with Wigeon on 19 th , four on 20 th , one on 21 st and one on 23 rd .
Pochard	Two on 28 th .
Raven	One – four recorded intermittently throughout the month.
Red-breasted Merganser	An eclipse or immature drake flew up and down the reservoir then left NE.
Reed Warbler	A few around early in the month up until 12 th then one on 29 th .
Rock Pipit	One flew NW at 10:52 hrs on 28 th and seemed to land briefly on the North Bank. 1 flew NW On 29 th at 10:09 hrs.
Ruff	One on 28 th .
Sand Martin	Small numbers at the beginning of the month the last one being on 9 th .
Sedge Warbler	One on 12 th appears to have been the last.
Shoveler	Present fairly regularly throughout the month with a maximum count of seven on 4 th .
Siskin	The first record of the autumn was of one which flew N on 20 th .
Linnet	A flock present briefly in newly ploughed fields by the West Bank with a max of 115 on 20 th .
Snipe	Present regularly with at least 19 on 29 th being the highest count.
Song Thrush	A noticeable increase in numbers from the 12 th onwards, the highest count was of 14 on 23 rd .
Spotted Flycatcher	One on 1 st .
Stock Dove	A flock began to build up in stubble fields by the West Bank. The maximum count was of 67 on 13 th .
Swallow	Small numbers moving through on most days, the highest count being of c500 on 8 th .
Teal	Good numbers present after water levels fell with over 50 by the end of the month.
Tree Pipit	One flew S on 1 st .
Water Rail	One was seen quite regularly early in the month but became more elusive later, with no sightings after 19 th .
Whimbrel	One flew S at 11:47 hrs on 29 th .
Whitethroat	Scarce this month, one on 26 th was the last.
Yellow Wagtail	Two flew SW on 3 rd , one over on 5 th and one flew SW on 7 th .
Yellow-legged Gull	The regular 4thS/adult remained throughout the month. Two adults roosting on 20 th .

Escapes

Snow Goose A blue-phase adult (of unknown origin but presumed escape) was with the mixed goose flock on 8th.

Yellow-billed Teal One on 28th.

October 2014 Species recorded = 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 2 nd . On 15 th c200 flew NW at 09:50 hrs and one was down with the Goose flock which remained on and off until 27 th . On 16 th c190 flew E at 12:07 hrs, 43 flew SE at 09:10 on 26 th . c37 flew SE at 11:10 hrs on 27 th . On 29 th 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 5 th .
Canada Goose	The maximum count was of 42 on 3 rd .
Shelduck	Two flew through on 30 th .
Mandarin	The maximum count was of ten on 2 nd .
Wigeon	Small numbers present most days, the maximum count being of 12 on 4 th , 8 th and 11 th .
Gadwall	The only records were of one on 5 th and four on 8 th .
Teal	Good numbers often present the maximum count being of 155 on 8 th .
Pintail	One on 3 rd and 4 th . On 30 th two were present and five flew SW.
Shoveler	Three on 1 st , four on 2 nd , three on 3 rd /4 th , one on 5 th – 7 th , three on 8 th – 11 th , one on 12 th , two from 13 th – 17 th and two from 24 th to the end of the month.
Pochard	Three on 3 rd , three on 11 th and two on 31 st .
Goldeneye	Single fem/imm on 4 th and 14 th .
Goosander	One on 15 th one on 30 th .
Little Egret	On 20 th one present briefly at 09:40 hrs then flew off S. On 23 rd two flew S down the reservoir at 08:30 hrs.
Goshawk	A juv male over Highoredish on 19 th , and then on 28 th and seen 6 separate times on 29 th .
Merlin	One flew SW over Highoredish at 11:17 hrs on 5 th , one flew SW at 15:14 hrs on 19 th , and one flew SW at 09:40 hrs on 29 th .
Peregrine	One on 2 nd .
Golden Plover	Two flew SW over Highoredish on 11 th .
Lapwing	The highest count was of c150 on 1 st .
Dunlin	1 was present briefly on the West Bank until flushed by a Heron on 6 th and 1 through on 14 th . On 30 th 8 flew through (with an unidentified wader), 3 dropped in later and 1 flew W with four Snipe.
Jack Snipe	One was flushed on the West Bank by a Severn Trent Ranger on 2 nd .
Snipe	Quite good numbers were present all month the highest count being of 26 on 26 th .
Black-tailed Godwit	One on 1 st , five on 2 nd
Whimbrel	On 30 th 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 30 th but appeared not to land.
Great Skua	On 30 th an adult arrived at 08:05 hrs and stayed until 09:25 hrs. When it wasn't flying up and down the reservoir chasing gulls, it landed on the water briefly several times. <u>The third ever at Ogston.</u>
Common Gull	Recorded fairly regularly the maximum count being of 15 in the roost on 22 nd .
Lesser Black-backed Gull	85 flew NE on 2 nd , c300 in the roost on 22 nd , and c200 in the roost on 28 th .
Herring Gull	A few in gradually increasing numbers, the highest count being of 12 flying over Highoredish on 27 th .
Yellow-legged Gull	The regular 4thS/adult remained until at least 28 th , also a 1stW on 6 th , a 1stW on 9 th , six in the roost (4 adults & 2 1stW) on 22nd, 2 passed through (adult & 2ndW) and one in a pre-roost gathering on 30 th .
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 22 nd .
Arctic Tern	A late juvenile flew through at 11:07 hrs on 13 th .
Stock Dove	A few passing over with Woodpigeons, the highest count being of 40 on 31 st .
Woodpigeon	Good numbers passing through on several days, the highest count being of 7625 on 29 th .
Ring-necked Parakeet	One flew SW over Highoredish at 08:27 hrs on 5 th , about the sixth ever at Ogston.
Little Owl	Still being seen occasionally near Brackenfield Church at the beginning of the month.
Swift	On 18 th 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, occasionally visiting the areas by the hides.
Green Woodpecker	One at Highoredish on 11 th .
Raven	One – two seen quite regularly throughout the month.
Bearded Tit	On 29 th 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 2 nd , c30 over on 26 th , c30 over and c70 circling nearby fields (just outside the recording area) on 29 th .
Sand Martin	One flew S on 9 th , the latest ever at Ogston.

Swallow	Reasonable numbers present during the first week, the highest count was of 33 over Highoredish on 11 th . The last to be recorded were two which flew S on 12 th .
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 11 th . The last to be seen was one which flew SW on 19 th .
Blackcap	A few still around early in the month up until 8 th then none until a female on 30 th .
Chiffchaff	Still in good numbers at the start of the month, but gradually declining until the last one seen on 24 th .
Fieldfare	The first to arrive was one at Highoredish on 29 th . At least 100 passed through on 30 th and 444 flew SW on 31 st .
Redwing	Five over Highoredish on 11 th were the first of the autumn, after which seen regularly with a highest counts of 1000+ over Highoredish on 17 th and 2760 over on 31 st .
Stonechat	A fem/imm by the West Bank car park from 4 th to 10 th , again at Highoredish on 5 th .
Tree Sparrow	At Highoredish one flew N on 11 th , three N on 20 th , and one W on 28 th .
Pied Wagtail	A roost began building up with a maximum count of c50 on 22 nd . Good numbers of alba (Pied or White) Wagtails numbers passed through with 189 over Highoredish on 11 th .
Meadow Pipit	A total of 613 flew SW over Highoredish in three hours on 5 th . A total of 1077 flew SW on 11 th 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 1 st , one on 12 th , and one flew NW at 11:09 hrs on 14 th .
Chaffinch	Quite good numbers were recorded passing over Highoredish. At least 53 flew SW on 5 th , at least 80 passed over on 11 th and at least 131 passed over on 28 th .
Brambling	The first of the autumn were three over Highoredish on 11 th . Most other records were of birds passing over there with a maximum count of 42 on 28 th .
Goldfinch	The highest count was of 43 which flew SW over Highoredish on 11 th .
Siskin	The highest count was of 34 over Highoredish on 11 th .
Linnet	The highest count was of 147 over Highoredish on 11 th .
Escapes	
Yellow-billed Teal	The bird from September present up until at least 29 th , though could be elusive at times.

November 2014 Species recorded = 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.

Black-headed Gull	Roost counts were of 2000+ on 9 th , 5000+ on 21 st and 6000+ on 23 rd .
Brambling	Birds passing over Highoredish were one on 4 th , two on 2 nd , one on 4 th and three on 9 th . Elsewhere the only record was of one which flew over the West Bank car park on 29 th .
Caspian Gull	An adult in the roost on 9 th , a 2ndW in the roost on 24 th and a 1stW in the roost on 30 th .
Chaffinch	At Highoredish 23 flew over on 4 th and up to 50 regularly feeding on beech-mast there.
Fieldfare	At Highoredish 43 flew SW on 1 st , 127 flew SW on 2 nd , 392 flew SW on 8 th and 268 flew SW on 9 th . Otherwise just small numbers feeding around the site.
Gadwall	One on 5 th and two on 29 th were the only ones this month.
Goldeneye	One on 3 rd , five on 7 th , one on 10 th , one on 11 th , one on 19 th , one on 21 st , two drakes on 22 nd , two fem/imm on 23 rd , one drake on 25 th and 26 th , one on 29 th and three on 30 th .
Goosander	One on 3 rd /4 th , three redheads on 5 th , seven briefly early morning on 7 th , two flew through on 23 rd , one on 25 th and one redhead on 30 th .
Goshawk	At Highoredish one on 2 nd , two on 5 th and one on 9 th .
Great Black-backed Gull	c250 in the roost on 9 th , 500+ in the roost on 30 th .
Greylag Goose	The maximum count was of 32 on 24 th .
Herring Gull	62 flew SW on 2 nd , c350 in the roost on 9 th , 500+ in the roost on 23 rd .

Kingfisher	One – three were seen on most days.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	c550 were in the roost on 9 th but numbers were much smaller by the month's end with c40 on 30 th .
Lesser Redpoll	A small number around the highest count being of 11 on 4 th .
Little Owl	One calling at dusk by Carr Wood on 22 nd .
Mallard	The maximum count was of 132 on 3 rd .
Mandarin	One on 2 nd and one on 9 th were the only records this month.
Peregrine	One on 3 rd and 4 th was the only one this month.
Pink-footed Goose	A total of 2370 in 19 skeins flew SE on 5 th , a new record count for Ogston, 18 flew SE on 17 th , C70 flew SE at 11:36 hrs on 23 rd and 33 flew E at 10:30 hrs on 24 th .
Pintail	One female/imm was present on 19 th , 21 st and 23 rd .
Pochard	1 on 2 nd , four on 6 th , one on 10 th , one on 14 th , one on 15 th , one on 18 th , two on 20 th , one on 25 th and three on 26 th ,
Raven	Maximum count of four on 30 th .
Redwing	At Highoredish 693 flew SW on 1 st , 143 flew SW on 2 nd , 216 flew SW on 8 th , 275 flew SW on 9 th .
Showeler	Two on 1 st was the only record this month.
Siskin	The maximum count was of 15 on 2 nd over Highoredish.
Skylark	At Highoredish 47 over on 4 th and 19 over on 8 th ,
Snipe	Up to around 35 were present at times but difficult to get accurate counts.
Starling	A total of 92 flew SW over Highoredish on 1 st and up to 200 were roosting in reeds by the hides on some evenings.
Teal	The highest counts were of 97 on 2 nd and 122 on 3 rd , but numbers fell as water levels rose.
Tree Sparrow	Three in gardens behind the Dam on 29 th .
Tufted Duck	Maximum count of c20 on 17 th .
Water Rail	One was seen near the hides on 7 th .
Golden Plover	One flew over calling above low cloud on 10 th and one on 28 th .
Lapwing	The maximum count was of 409 on 22 nd .
Knot	One in winter plumage on the West Bank on 11 th .
Dunlin	One on the West Bank early morning on 29 th .
Ruff	One present briefly with Lapwings during the evening of 29 th .
Jack Snipe	One on 25 th .
Whooper Swan	On 30 th six (four adults and 2 juveniles) arrived at around 10:20 hrs and these were joined by another three adults at 10:46 hrs.
Wigeon	Present fairly regularly with a maximum of eight on 6 th .
Woodcock	One flew out of Carr Wood at dusk on 22 nd .
Woodpigeon	1533 flew W/SW over Highoredish on 1 st and 2044 over there on 4 th .
Yellow-legged Gull	The regular adult was last present on 4 th , one adult on 21 st , an adult in the roost on 22 nd 24 th , one adult on 26 th and three (two adults and a 1stW) in the roost on 30 th .
Escapes	Yellow-billed Teal Seen again on 2 nd , 10 th , and 19 th .

Club Trips for 2015

Once again, Martin Kaye has arranged a full year of Club trips. Please see the list below.

Note that transport is usually by members cars. It is possible to pair up those who do not wish to drive with those who have spaces in cars. Petrol costs are usually shared.

To secure a place on any of the trips shown below, please contact **Martin Kaye** with your names and contact details (ideally this should be landline, mobile email address and house address).

Martin can be contacted by phone on 01246 279785,
by e-mail at martin.kaye@icloud.com
or at 21 Longedge Rise, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NX.

If needed, more details can be given over the phone or by e-mail.

Details are also posted on the club Website

Trip	Date	Meeting Point	Time	Dist from Chesterfield	Leader	Limit on No.s	notes and target species
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Upper Derwent then Ladybower	21-Mar-15	Beside Derwent Dam Wall SK171898	09:30	30 miles	Paul Beard	No	Sat Full day. Bring a packed lunch. 4 mile walk (Derwent 3, Ladybower 1). Derwent - raptors, Ladybower - Ring Ouzels + Golden Plover.
Old Moor / Adwick Washlands RSPB	19-Apr-15	RSPB Old Moor carpark, S73 0YF, SE422022	09:30	33 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch or eat in reserve restaurant. Water birds galore and may be a Bittern.
Bempton Cliffs RSPB	10-May-15	RSPB Bempton carpark, YO15 1JF TA197738	09:30	100 miles 2 hours	Martin Kaye	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. Yorkshire coast. Short flat walk. Nesting sea birds really close, Corn Bunting, Peregrine.
Avenue Washlands, Wingerworth	05-May-15	End of Mill Lane, S42 6NG SK397671	09:00	2 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Half day. Warbler migrants e.g. blackcap, willow/garden/grasshopper warblers, linnets, wetland and woodland species.
Little Don	19-May-15	Car park 1 mile NW Langsett village SE201011	09:30	36 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Full day. Packed lunch. 5 mile walk, woodland, stream and moor. Dipper, Redstart, Ring Ouzel, Wheatear, Cuckoo.
Padley Gorge and Lawrence Field	07-Jun-15	Grindledford train station SK250788	09:00	14 miles	Paul Beard	20	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. 4 mile walk. Flycatchers, Redstart, Goldcrest, Wood Warbler.
Annesley Pit Top / Attenborough	23-Jun-15	Newstead SK523530 / NG9 6DY SK515339	10:00	20 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Half day. Packed lunch / café restaurant at Attenborough. Exploring a local nature reserve. Black Necked Grebe.
Clumber	25-Jun-15	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlbly	5	Thurs evening. Nightjars and woodcock.
Clumber	01-Jul-15	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlbly	5	Wed evening Nightjars and woodcock.
Bleaklow, Alport Castles	14-Jul-15	Snake Pass (A57) near Ladybower SK142895	09:30	26 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Full day. Packed lunch. 4 mile walk. Raptors, Raven, Red Grouse, migrants inc. redstart.
Frampton RSPB	09-Aug-15	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	10:00	75 miles 2 hour	Dag Marshall	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. Returning migrant waders in breeding plumage
Frampton RSPB	13-Sep-15	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	10:00	75 miles 2 hour	Frank Wharram	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. Returning migrant waders and wildfowl including early geese and shelduck
Blacktoft RSPB	24-Nov-15	RSPB reserve SE843232	11:00	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Full day. Packed lunch. Variety of birds then Harrier roost including Hen Harriers at dusk.
Langford Lowfields RSPB / Stoney Middleton	06-Dec-15	Details to be announced later	14:00	40 miles/ 15 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Sun - late afternoon for Starling murmuration

And finally.....

On behalf of the Ogston Bird Club I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!.

And remember, birds don't stop coming to Ogston just because it's Christmas, so please come along and enjoy the facilities.

**Steve Slack
Publicity Officer**