

Teesmouth Bird Club

Newsletter



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Thanks to the contributors to this issue:- Chris Sharp; Dave Britton; Peter Evans; Graham Megson; Ted Parker; Alan Wheeldon.

All unsolicited copy will be most welcome, ideally sent by email, or on 3.5" computer disk, using word processing software, but typed and handwritten copy is equally acceptable. Any topic concerned with birds or the local environment is grist to the mill.

MONTHLY SUMMARY by Chris Sharp

March

The wintering Little Egret remained in the area, roosting in Rossmere Park and feeding near Greatham Creek. 5 Buzzards were in Sleddale (6th) and a Hen Harrier was over Sainsbury's at Stockton (11th). Other wintering birds still around in the first half of March included 3 Smew on the Reclamation Pond accompanied by 3 Scaup and 2 Slavonian Grebe on Seal Sands. The first Spotted Redshank for the year was on the Brinefields (6th). 42 Black-tailed Godwit were at Saltholme (11th) and the following day 2 Avocet were on Seal Sands. March is a good month for seeing this latter species and the birds remained for a few days. 3 Barnacle Geese were on Cowpen Marsh at this time accompanied by varying numbers of Pink-footed Geese (peaking at 36). The flock remained in the area until mid-April. Warm southerly winds on 17th led to a mass arrival of Wheatears with 10 at Boulby and 23 at Hummersea. Even more spectacular were the number of Stonechats involved in this fall with 2 at Boulby, 17 at Hummersea and 28 at South Gare. 2 Sand Martins were over Saltholme the same day.

The earliest ever Little Ringed Plovers for Cleveland were 2 on Greenabella Marsh (21st). The wintering Green Sandpiper at Portrack roundabout was joined by a second bird (24th). Small numbers of Ruff were around Saltholme late in the month and an early Garganey was at Scaling Dam (28th). Highlight of the month was the superb drake White-headed Duck which appeared on Saltholme Pool (9th). It remained into July commuting frequently between here and the nearby Reclamation Pond. Its origin will probably remain a mystery and no White-headed Duck has yet been accepted onto the British list – all birds suspected of being of captive origin. A singing male Lapland Bunting at Cowbar on 31st gave stunning views.

April

An Avocet was on Saltholme Pool (1st). A Black Redstart was at South Gare (3rd) with a Ring Ouzel at Boulby and an Osprey over Tocketts Mill the same day. Another Osprey was over Cowbar (4th) with 6 Swallows on Saltholme Pool the same day. A superb drake Mandarin was in Ward Jackson Park (6th). A Pink-footed Goose had wintered on the small lake here. The Mandarin moved to Stewart Park the following day. A Snow Bunting was around Saltholme (3rd-8th) and the first Garganey of the spring on the North Tees Marshes were 2 on Saltholme Marsh (8th). A Marsh Harrier was over the North Tees Marshes (9th) with a Great Grey Shrike at Scaling Dam the same day. The shrike was still at Scaling the following day as was an Osprey which stayed around the Reservoir for 5 days, often giving superb views over the car park. A pair of Black-necked Grebes took up residence on the Reclamation Pond (from 11th). A drake Red-crested Pochard was on Coatham Marsh (11th) before moving to Saltholme Pool the following day. A flock of 6 Avocet on the flooded fields of the new international nature reserve (Saltholme RSPB) gave credence to the hoped for breeding of this species in Cleveland in future years.

A Corncrake gave stunning views to a lucky few parked at Holme Fleet for 20 minutes (16th). It was a shame it didn't stay longer as it is 1985 since the last Corncrake showed well to the masses in Cleveland (a bird in the Bowling Green at Hartlepool). A Firecrest was trapped at Hartlepool (19th) and several other commoner migrants were seen at the coast at this time including Redstart. Some 40 Willow Warblers were trapped at Hartlepool during the month (a marked improvement on some recent Springs). Seaton Common proved attractive for waders with Wood Sandpiper (17th) and more unusually a Pectoral Sandpiper (19th-20th), the first time this species has been recorded in Cleveland in April. Another Wood Sandpiper was on Saltholme Marsh (18th-

21st) and a Temminck's Stint was seen there the following day, equalling the earliest ever date set the previous year. 2 Common Cranes flew over Seaton Common (19th) and up to 36 Whimbrel were in fields near Seal Sands roundabout during this period. Warm southerly winds encouraged the migrants north at this time with the first Swifts appearing on 22nd and many reports of Whitethroat, Sedge and Grasshopper Warbler. A male Red-footed Falcon was a brief fly-by at Skinninggrove (25th) with a Quail calling at Boulby the following day confirming that spring had arrived early.

A brief northerly air stream at the end of the month saw 2 Long-tailed Ducks past Hartlepool (28th) with a Bonxie, 2 Arctic Skuas and c1200 Gannets the following day.

May

Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat were present in the Zinc Works Road bushes (1st). Greater coverage of this area in recent times has turned up some interesting species with Pallas's and Barred Warblers here last autumn. A Temminck's Stint was on Saltholme Marsh (2nd). Ospreys were over Brotton (2nd) and South Gare (3rd). Early May also saw summer plumaged Slavonian and Black-necked Grebes on the Reclamation Pond. Hopes that the pair of Black-necked Grebes might stay to breed were dashed as the birds departed in mid-month. Up to 5 Garganey were around the North Tees Marshes early in the month and 2 Temminck's Stints were on Saltholme Marsh (4th).

A White Stork flew over the Reclamation Pond (6th). It had also been reported over Fairfield the previous day. Its origins, as with most White Storks in this country, remain a mystery.

A small fall of migrants from 9th saw male Red-backed Shrikes at Old Cemetery Road, South Gare (2) and Hummersea. Bluethroats were seen at Hartlepool (briefly on 9th) and more obligingly at South Gare (11th). The wet fields at Seaton Common continued to prove attractive to small waders with 3 Temminck's Stints present (13th). The first Little Egret for Scaling Dam was present the same day with a Green-winged Teal here (14th-15th). Another Osprey was over Saltholme Marsh (16th). Scaling continued its purple patch with a Temminck's Stint (18th) with possibly the same bird seen here (20th).

A Turtle Dove was at Lockwood Beck (19th). Single Little Stint and Curlew Sandpipers were on the North Tees

A TALE OF A TAIL

During the afternoon of the 30th March 2004, I spent just over an hour watching Cleveland's first White-headed Duck, an adult drake, whose presence served to illuminate the gloomy backdrop of the Reclamation Pond. There was a brisk, cold, wind blowing straight at me.

Marshes from 19th to the month's end. A Quail was calling west of Grinkle Park (20th). Fresh northerly winds (22nd) produced 4 adult Long-tailed Skuas at Hartlepool (very unusual on the east coast in spring), Bonxie, Great Northern Diver and an unseasonable Little Auk. The impressive run of Temminck's Stints continued with 2 on Seaton Common (23rd) and an Osprey flew over here the same day. A Raven over Guisborough Forest (26th) unfortunately didn't linger and the month ended with 2 Wood Sandpipers on Seaton Common (29th). Despite one or two interesting birds Spring 2004 would probably not be remembered as one of the best for scarce birds in recent years.

June

A Spoonbill was on Dormans Pool (1st) with 2 there (6th) though none lingered. Dormans Pool produced both Wood and Curlew Sandpipers (9th-10th) as water levels finally began to recede. A White Stork flew over Marske (14th) and what was presumably the same bird was reported from Skelton Castle (17th). Who knows where it had lingered in the intervening days. This species remains on most peoples County "wanted list", as all recent records refer to fly overs. Yet another Temminck's Stint was on Saltholme Marsh (14th) and the same(?) Little Egret was at Greatham Creek the same day. Great Northern Divers flew past Hartlepool on 16th and 24th and good numbers of Puffins passed along the coast at this time along with Manxies and several Bonxies.

A Green-winged Teal on Coatham Marsh (19th-20th) proved extremely elusive and a Spoonbill there (22nd-24th) proved equally hard to see at times. Return wader passage was underway during the last week of the month with single Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper all on Saltholme Pool (23rd).

An Osprey was present at Scaling Dam (25th-26th) and a Great White Egret circled the reservoir for c20 minutes on this latter date. A Honey Buzzard over there (27th) continued the excellent run of birds reported from this site during the year.

2 Ruddy Shelducks (28th) briefly joined the long staying White-headed Duck and Red-crested Pochard at Saltholme Pool but unfortunately flew off after less than an hour. Highlight of the month for some was the presence of 2-3 Nightjars in the County aptly found during the 2004 BTO Nightjar survey.

For much of the time, the White-headed Duck appeared to be asleep. During such times and always when it faced into the wind, it would suddenly shiver its tail - always from left to right. During these apparently random movements its tail was not openly fanned. I witnessed this happening on several occasions.

Initially I wondered whether occasional gusts of wind were responsible for this tail shivering manoeuvre or whether it was some kind of reaction to a Ruddy Duck swimming too close. However, the more I watched it, the more it seemed that neither explanation provided me with an answer. I returned home quite intrigued.

I decided to e-mail Malcolm Ogilvie who during 1968 – 1986 was [together with Geoffrey Matthews] editor of *Wildfowl* and then editor of *BWP Update* from 1996 to 2000. Over 80 papers and articles written by him have been published in e.g., *Wildfowl*, *Ibis*, *Bird Study*, *British Birds* and *Scottish Birds* to name but a few. He has also written, edited or contributed to over forty books.

Malcolm received my e-mail shortly before he left for a waterfowl conference in Edinburgh, where he met up with one or two people with considerable experience of White-headed Duck, including Baz Hughes of WWWT.

Upon Malcolm's return, I received an e-mail from him in which he thanked me for my interesting observation and told me that the consensus of opinion was that the bird was making what are called comfort movements, shaking its tail as part of the process of rearranging feathers disturbed by the wind.

There was a possibility that it was instead indulging in some very mild display, because tail shaking is part of the pairing behaviour but only when accompanied by exaggerated movements of the head, throwing it back and then forward until the bill touches the water. This is obviously always directed at a female and while it could be directed at a female Ruddy Duck, it would still involve the head-throw not just the tail-shake.

So, it would appear more likely that the White-headed Duck was simply rearranging its feathers.

I must express my gratitude to Malcolm Ogilvie for mentioning my observation at the waterfowl conference he attended and also to Baz Hughes of WWWT 'the' expert according to Malcolm.

For the sake of completeness, I would mention that during my subsequent observations of the White-headed Duck on the Reclamation Pond, Saltholme Pools and Back Saltholme, it was always very active, diving almost continuously and I never saw it asleep.

Alan Wheeldon
April 2004

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH - WINTER 2003/2004 SUMMARY

Coverage was good, with 113 out of a possible 115 sector counts undertaken during the course of the winter. However, the important Seaton Snook sector was not counted in December or February.

Among the wildfowl three species provided exceptional maxima, all of which fell in November. Cormorant (283) set a new Tees WeBS seasonal record, while both Gadwall (206) and Coot (1599) peaks constitute new all-time Tees WeBS records. While it was a decidedly average winter for most other wildfowl species, there were as always some poor performances; seven Little Grebes equals the record low of 2001/2002, the Pochard maximum (57, February) was only half that of the current five-year mean, and a peak of only nineteen Eiders was over 60% down on the winter norm.

Notably high counts among the waders came from four species. The November tally of 80 Ringed Plovers was our best winter total since 1997/1998, while the following month's excellent count of 2283 Golden Plovers represents a new Tees WeBS record (surpassing that set in 1995/1996). The same month brought a very respectable Lapwing peak of 6558, the best for eight years. The early winter period was marked by a series of excellent Redshank counts, with the peak (1926, November) constituting a new Tees WeBS seasonal record.

After last winter's improved maxima, both Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwit counts were very disappointing. The Dunlin peak (78, November) is comfortably the worst ever to be recorded here; however, this species is notoriously elusive at high tide on the Tees, and over 300 were noted at low water on Seal Sands in both January and February. For Bar-tailed Godwit, the seasonal maximum of 70 (January) was our lowest since 1994/1995.

Following this winter's series of counts, and using the five-year mean of annual winter peaks, the Tees and Hartlepool Bay WeBS site remains of national importance for Cormorant, Gadwall, Shoveler, Sanderling and Redshank.

Mike Leakey
WeBS Local Organizer
April 2004

	November 9	December 7	January 18	February 22	March 21	Winter 03/04 maximum as % of average peak count over previous five winters
Little Grebe	<u>7</u>	4	2	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	42%
Great Crested Grebe	5	5	4	15	<u>37</u>	116%
Cormorant	<u>283</u> **	111*	76	44	70	178%
Mute Swan	<u>41</u>	27	26	34	30	115%
Greylag Goose	136	69	<u>178</u>	158	104	71%
Shelduck	560*	481*	<u>713</u> *	528*	514*	104%
Wigeon	1520*	<u>1619</u> *	1263	1524*	849	91%
Gadwall	<u>206</u> **	65*	48*	21	42*	196%
Teal	<u>854</u> *	476	625	272	312	90%
Mallard	<u>305</u>	202	152	<u>305</u>	250	80%
Pintail	<u>35</u>	2	12	37	25	96%
Shoveler	<u>111</u> **	81*	32	24	90*	91%
Pochard	35	41	41	<u>57</u>	26	50%
Tufted Duck	62	90	93	92	<u>118</u>	101%
Eider	9	<u>19</u>	7	0	15	38%
Goldeneye	27	45	<u>80</u>	64	52	96%
Red-br. Merganser	<u>60</u> *	54*	40	18	42	133%
Coot	<u>1599</u> **	1391**	1351**	756	721	210%
Oystercatcher	1221	<u>1426</u>	1187	872	277	95%
Ringed Plover	<u>80</u>	10	21	25	20	159%
Golden Plover	1484*	<u>2283</u> *	293	0	0	440%
Grey Plover	3	6	51	<u>140</u>	0	72%
Lapwing	4654	<u>6558</u>	3107	516	87	140%
Knot	1	114	<u>3012</u> **	176	34	111%
Sanderling	<u>240</u> **	181*	100	193	57	70%
Purple Sandpiper	75	<u>110</u> *	69	71	69	86%
Dunlin	<u>78</u>	23	40	14	22	19%
Ruff	0	0	2	0	<u>9</u>	100%
Snipe	<u>34</u>	14	1	4	19	132%
Bar-tailed Godwit	14	44	<u>70</u>	67	4	45%
Curlew	468	461	443	<u>1030</u>	803	95%
Redshank	<u>1926</u> ***	1559***	1433**	682	1235**	141%
Turnstone	177	<u>235</u>	167	78	145	87%

Underlined counts indicate winter 2003/2004 maxima.

* indicates a count of >50% of national significance

** indicates a count of national significance

*** indicates a count of international significance

N.B. 'Teemouth' includes Hartlepool Bay.

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The new Five-Year Plan was launched by the Club Committee at the AGM in April and was well received by those members present. Based on suggestions made at the AGM, the Plan has since been amended and the final version is outlined below.

The Committee has started work in earnest to deliver the Plan and since April it has:

Restructured the Club through the formation of 2 new sub committees: 'Conservation' and 'Marketing and Membership', each

with their own specific remits. Members have been co-opted on to these and the first meetings will be held in the near future.

Firmed up the Five-Year Targets, including the collection of baseline data, against which we can measure our success.

Started work on a new Membership Application Form.

I would like to thank those members of the 2 new sub committees for their support and commitment - there is certainly a lot of interesting work ahead. A press release is to be issued to the 'Evening Gazette' shortly to publicise both the Club and the Plan.

Ted Parker

See Appendix: TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2004-2009)

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB NEW ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The TBC Committee

Chair: Ted Parker

Vice-Chair: Russell McAndrew

Hon Secretary: Chris Sharp

Hon Treasurer: Mark Askew

Ordinary Members: Vic Fairbrother, John Fletcher, Eric James, Rob Little

RECORDS SUB COMMITTEE

Chair: Rob Little

Mark Askew

Chris Brown

Colin Dodsworth

Tom Francis

Stewart Hinley

Graeme Joynt

Ted Parker

Alan Wheeldon

CONSERVATION SUB COMMITTEE

Chair: Ted Parker

Russ McAndrew

Graham Megson

Chris Bielby

Peter Smith

Vic Fairbrother

John Fletcher

John Sharp

Alistair McLee

MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP SUB COMMITTEE

Chair: Chris Sharp

Linda Wilson

Eric James

Ted Parker

Julie Mason

TEESSIDE OFFSHORE WIND FARM REDCAR

We were delighted to hear in July that both English Nature and the RSPB have lodged objections with the DTI, as this gives added weight to our own detailed objection, which was submitted to the DTI and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council on 5th May. These organisations share our concerns about the methodology and conclusions of the Ornithological Impact Assessment, which we believe to be fundamentally flawed. The Club has campaigned vigorously against this environmentally damaging development, mainly on the grounds of collision risks to coasting seabirds and birds moving into and out of the Tees Estuary. We have lobbied many bodies, including RSPB, English Nature and Central and Local Government, and forwarded these copies of our own objection statement to make it clear why a 'green' organisation such as the TBC is opposing a supposedly 'green development'. We have had considerable national, regional and local press coverage and I appeared on the BBC's 'Look North' programme on 10th May to outline the Club's concerns. Over 5000 opposition signatures have been collected from interested user groups, residents and visitors to Redcar by Save Our Shoreline (SOS), the Redcar anti-wind farm group chaired by Vera Baird MP. The date for consultations on the Wind Farm has been extended to 8th August, after which the DTI and Redcar and Cleveland will decide whether or not to grant Planning Permission for the offshore and onshore works respectively. We hope that the objections lodged will convince the decision-makers that this damaging development should be refused. I would like to record my personal thanks to those members of the Club who formed part of the Working Party that scrutinised the Ornithological Impact Assessment, those who made constructive comments and those who signed the petition.

HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND NEW 'TOWN SQUARE'

Over the past few years, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) and the North Hartlepool Partnership have been implementing an ongoing programme of projects to improve the environment of Hartlepool Headland for the benefit of residents and visitors. One of those planned for early next year is a new 'Town Square', focused mainly on the Borough Hall Gardens, The Croft, the

old putting green and the areas around St Hilda's Church. The design for this area is to be put out to a National Design Competition, the Brief for which is currently being prepared by HBC, with construction work starting on site in 2005. This scheme will have strong links with the proposed Victoria Harbour development and will cost between £1.0-£1.4 million. Whilst the Club supports any projects that improve the environment, we are concerned that bird habitats on the Headland are not compromised and, where possible, enhanced as part of this scheme. To its credit, the Council has been proactive in involving key stakeholders at an early stage and the Club was invited to a Workshop on 18th June. I attended this and found it to be very useful. During the discussions, I stressed the ornithological importance of the Headland (including the nationally famous 'Fish Shop Trees'), the Club's key concerns and criteria we would like to see included in the Design Brief. Those present at the Workshop included local Councillors and residents, who were very sympathetic towards our views, including the retention of all mature trees and as much shrubbery as possible and the planting of more trees in key locations. Following the Workshop, I submitted a brief report to HBC summarising the Club's response to discussions, along with our concerns and ideas. The Club will continue to take an active part in any further collaborative events as this project progresses.

SEAL SANDS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

The Club received a request on 26th May from RPS of Oxford to comment on a Scoping Report prepared in advance of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a waste disposal facility on Brinefield No 5, adjacent to Seal Sands at Teesmouth.

The proposed site is on land formerly owned by ICI plc and is the triangular area between the Greatham Creek sea wall to the south, Seaton Carew Road to the west and the Hunstman Tioxide emergency access road to the north, as shown on the map below. The site forms part of Greenabella Marsh and includes the new pool created by INCA several years ago.

The waste facility is being investigated by an American-based company, Coastal Caverns (UK) Ltd, and the current proposal involves the disposal of approximately 1,000,000 cubic metres of hazardous waste within the existing 16 brine caverns. There are no project details available at present but, based on the Scoping Report, it is envisaged that the development will include:

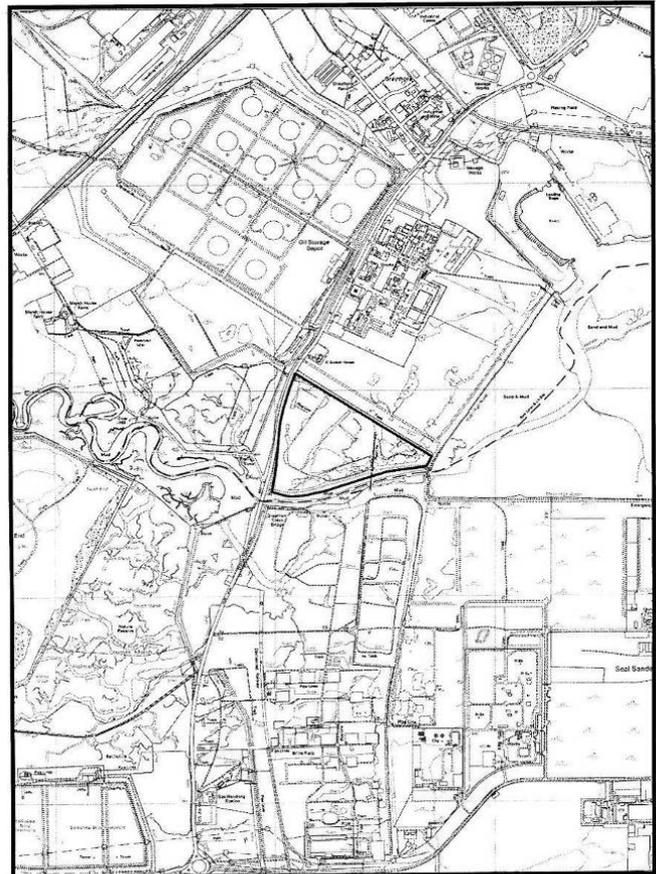
- a new access route;
- a waste receiving area;
- a waste storage area;
- a pump house;
- an administration building;
- a weighbridge, and
- a gas flare/engine.

The site will be in operation for 10-12 years and the waste will be delivered to a reception tank, from which it will be pumped to the brine heads. The waste will displace the existing brine slurry in the caverns, which will be pumped to surface and either sold off, contained within a disposal facility or pumped into the estuary! Because the site is so environmentally important, being close to the SPA and RAMSAR sites, and Teesmouth's SSSI's, the regulatory authorities (Environment Agency and Hartlepool Borough Council) will need to prepare an 'Appropriate Assessment' under Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 once the Planning Application has been lodged. It is without question an important area ornithologically and our formal response to the Scoping Report, submitted to the consultants on 11th June, made clear both the current value of the site and the Club's concerns over the project. The next stage will be the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Assessment by the environmental consultants.

SCALING DAM - CONSERVATION WORK

Over the past few years the Scaling Dam Wildlife Advisory Group (SDWAG) has implemented a number of conservation projects aimed at enhancing the reservoir for both wildlife and recreation. The Teesmouth Bird Club is represented on SDWAG by Martin Blick and myself, with the owners, Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL), the Sailing Club and others also having representation. Conservation projects undertaken during the last 2 years include:

- the construction of a new Visitor Centre, incorporating a display area, offices for the Water Bailiff and toilets;



Location of Brine Field No 5

- water level management, to enhance the reservoir for wildfowl and waders and to allow fishermen access to the banks;
- a circular pathway around the reservoir, including a footpath link from the main car park to Bog House Lane;
- the excavation of 2 ponds, to attract amphibians and dragonflies;
- improvements to the hide;
- clearance of willow scrub on the Reserve to maintain the expansive views of the water, and
- the construction of new mud 'spits' along the shore line of the Reserve.

The results of the conservation work have been dramatic to say the least and over the past 2 years Scaling Dam has attracted a much wider range and larger numbers of birds than ever before. Certain duck species have significantly increased (eg Teal) and waders have been well in evidence. Interesting birds seen during 2003-04 have included Little and Great White Egrets (1st and 3rd records for Scaling respectively), Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Green-winged Teal, Osprey, Honey Buzzard, up to 4 Marsh Harriers and a Hen Harrier. The works have been supported and funded by NWL and I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the Club to Stuart Pudney and Derek Gill of NWL and the other members of SDWAG, particularly Jeff Kenworthy of the Sailing Club, who has been supportive of reductions in water level despite the difficulties that these sometimes cause the sailing fraternity.

RECLAMATION POND

With its current Planning Permission to infill the Reclamation Pond about to expire, ICI applied for a renewal of its consent in 2003. Despite a formal objection by the Teesmouth Bird Club, the renewal was approved by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Conditions attached to the Planning Permission include the construction of 2 compensatory sites: one between Port Clarence and Huntsman Drive, on the eastern side of Seaton Carew Road, and the second near the still-operating Cowpen Marsh tip. These must be completed before infilling can begin and whilst there are no immediate plans to start work, the ultimate loss of this hugely important site will be to the detriment of Teesmouth as a whole and the compensatory sites will not atone for the loss of this unique habitat.

JEFF YOUNGS HIDE, DORMANS POOL

The 'Jeff Youngs Hide' hide was officially opened in September 2002 by Jeff's parents, Roy and Daphne and it has generally been well used. Until recently, there was no formal access, other than a mown grass strip. The Club submitted plans to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in 2003 to provide a new, half kilometre-long, sealed gravel access path, capable of taking wheelchairs, and a wheelchair-friendly 'kissing gate' from the existing car park. Sponsorship for the project was kindly provided by the RSPB, Teesside Environmental Trust, English Nature and Huntsman Tioxide, with the balance being made up by the Club. Construction work began in March this year and was carried out by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. It is now nearly complete. The surfacing of the car park also included at the request of members who regularly use it. The work has greatly improved parking and access to the hide. I would like to thank Richard Taylor, John Regan and John Grieveson, who have provided a great deal of assistance in planting trees, strimming the grass path, weed-killing and undertaking minor repairs to the hide following an act of vandalism. Their help is greatly appreciated.

HARGREAVES QUARRY

Tipping of domestic and other waste has continued at Hargreaves Quarry, eating into more of this once rich, diverse and base-rich habitat. The smell emanating from the tip on warm days is often offensive, though this is occasionally compensated to some extent by the large numbers of gulls, corvids and other birds attracted to it, particularly in winter, most recently Glaucous Gull and Hooded Crow.

GUISBOROUGH FOREST

Forest Enterprise has greatly improved habitats in Guisborough Forest through a programme of selective felling, thinning out of mature woodland and the planting of native deciduous, as well as coniferous, trees. This programme is deliberately aimed at improving the woodlands for nature conservation and leisure and the mosaic of clearings, thinned out woodland and new deciduous planting has greatly improved the habitat for species such as Tree Pipit and Woodcock.

HARTLEPOOL OBSERVATORY

During the past year or so since the Heugh Gun Battery Trust commenced work on restoring the old First World War historic site at Heugh Battery, members of the Club have found it difficult or impossible to gain access to Hartlepool Observatory. We have used this facility for sea watching over the past 50 years and the current situation makes watching seabirds both difficult

and uncomfortable in bad weather. Persistent requests by Chris Sharp for a key to gain access to the Battery compound have, to date, met with little response. A meeting is, therefore, being arranged between Club representatives, Hartlepool Borough Council and the Heugh Gun Battery Trust to try and resolve this unacceptable situation.

RECORDS SUB COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

In line with the Five-Year Plan, the Records Sub Committee has prepared draft Terms of Reference, which outline its remit. These were approved by the Sub Committee at its last meeting on 9th July and are as follows:

- TO ASSESS ALL RECORDS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION CONSISTENTLY AND FAIRLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLEARLY DEFINED, PUBLISHED GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVERS.
- TO PRODUCE AND CONTINUALLY IMPROVE THE ANNUAL '*CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT*' FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND THE WIDER BIRD WATCHING COMMUNITY.
- TO PERIODICALLY REVIEW AND UPDATE THE CRITERIA FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF RECORDS.
- TO SEEK SPONSORSHIP FOR THE '*CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT*', BOTH FROM EXISTING AND NEW SOURCES.
- TO REVIEW PREVIOUS RECORDS, WHEN NECESSARY, IN THE LIGHT OF NEW CRITERIA, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED ACCURACY OF THE '*CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT*'.
- TO UPDATE SPECIES' STATUS REPORTS AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED ACCURACY OF THE '*CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT*'.
- TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE '*CLEVELAND LIST*', WHEN NECESSARY.
- TO UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO FURTHER OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIRDS OF THE CLEVELAND AREA.
- TO LIAISE WITH THE BRITISH BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE, RARE BIRDS BREEDING PANEL AND OTHER BODIES CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF RARE AND UNCOMMON SPECIES CONSIDERED BY THOSE ORGANISATIONS.
- TO CONSIDER AND IMPLEMENT METHODS OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS WHO SUBMIT RECORDS.
- TO PRESENT A BRIEF REPORT TO MEMBERS AT EVERY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
- TO LIAISE WITH THE OTHER SUB COMMITTEES ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

The Records Sub Committee would welcome any constructive comments from members on these, which should be addressed to the County Recorder, Rob Little, at 5 Belgrave Court, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, TS25 1BF (Tel 01429 428940).

GUIDANCE FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE '*CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT*'

The Records Sub Committee has recently reviewed the existing guidance notes for observers who contribute records to the annual '*Cleveland Bird Report*'. The aim of the review is to simplify the current system and to reassess those species for which descriptions are required, taking account of the fact that the status of some species has changed considerably since the existing guidance notes were written. It is anticipated that full details of the revised guidance notes will be published in the next Newsletter in readiness for the 2005 season.

Ted Parker

OBITUARY - MARGARET SUMMERS-SMITH



Members will know that Margaret Summers-Smith, Denis's wife, died recently after a short illness. She accompanied Denis on many of his trips, always cheerful and raising the tone of many a scruffy birding party. Even in the Masai Mara, where we shared the fast-diminishing waterhole with the local baboons, she ensured that at least some of the party had clean clothes! She was a marvellous cook and hostess and will be greatly missed.

Peter Evans

“A MODEST PROPOSAL”

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO HELP WITH BRITISH TICKS

I'm not sure how ethical this is, but I am seeking support for a research effort which is on-going in the USA, led by a respected University research team based on the eastern seaboard. The research is investigating the mechanics of nocturnal bird migration.

Work so far has shown that night flying migrants navigate using the Earth's magnetic field. If captive birds are exposed for a number of days to a false magnetic field, when released they migrate in the wrong direction.

Laboratory experiments have successfully disorientated long distance migrants and the research team is now preparing for extensive field trials.

In recent correspondence with the team leader, I have indicated that I might be able to secure considerable funding, so long as certain species are used in the trial.

I am therefore offering twitchers the chance to select the next American landbird addition to their list for a very unreasonable sum. Each disorientated migrant will cost ten pounds, so the more you pay, the greater the chance of your species reaching the UK. Females and immatures will not be used (unless requested), in order that your new species is a cracking adult plumaged bird.

Parallel research has estimated that about one in a thousand birds leaving the US reaches landfall in western Europe, although the disorientation techniques are not yet sophisticated enough to guarantee landfall in the UK.

The release of affected birds, will of course take place during the species' natural migration period and the birds will not be ringed, in order to maximise doubt and uncertainty as to their genuine vagrancy and aid their passage through the various record committees.

Sadly, I have been unable to identify similar opportunities to the east of Britain, so for the time being birders will have to rely on the traditional method of the cage bird trade for Sibes.

In a separate initiative, birders may be interested to know that I have been liaising with the major shipping companies, with regard to diverting vessels on which American landbirds have taken refuge, into UK waters. I hope to be able to release details and costs in the near future.

For the less able American landbirds, which might find it difficult to fly over long distances, a combination of the two schemes above might prove to be a satisfactory way forward.

I look forward to your support in this venture.

Graham Megson

NOTES ON VAGRANT PHYLLOSCOPUS WARBLERS – CLEVELAND 2003

AN INTERESTING CALL

Shortly before 1 p.m., on the 19th October 2003, Durham birders Steve Metcalfe and Jim Pattinson found a Pallas's

Warbler on Hartlepool Headland. A 'phone call from Graeme Joynt brought sea-watching activities in the Obs to an abrupt end. Colin Dodsworth drove the two of us down the Borough Hall area. In the small trees bordering the Putting Green, Graeme, Colin and I quickly located a Pallas's Warbler that was highly vocal. It gave a range of calls, one after the other; seemingly quite untypical for what is often a quiet species on migration. The bird gave excellent, close views before disappearing.

A ringed Yellow-browed Warbler was then located in the trees opposite the Borough Hall. Two ringed birds had been seen earlier in the morning and also on the previous day [one in the Borough Hall and one commuting between the Putting Green and the Croft]. News of the warblers was paged at 1.40 p.m. During the course of the afternoon, a Yellow-browed Warbler was seen in the Borough Hall trees, the trees bordering the Putting Green and also in the Croft.

Later on, Colin and I, together with a few other birders, were stood in front of the trees opposite the Borough Hall. Suddenly, from these trees came a forceful disyllabic 'ch'weet', which was repeated several times. It was a distinct call but its maker, at the time, could not be seen. Alex Cruikshanks told us a Yellow-browed Warbler was in the trees and added that he was sure a Pallas's Warbler had also flown into them.

Colin Dodsworth had been attempting to see as many Pallas's Warblers as possible and was therefore paying close attention to plumage details with a view to determining how many birds had been involved in the mass arrival, particularly at Hartlepool and South Gare, where there had been multiple records.

The first Pallas's Warbler seen on Sunday the 19th was thought to be a fairly 'standard' bird - quite bright and well marked. After several birders had walked round the gardens a couple of times, they returned to the Croft where a Pallas's was still present in the company of a Yellow-browed. This bird was less well marked with paler tertial fringes and a particularly ill defined median crown stripe especially towards the nape. In fact from the side it could have been mistaken for the Yellow-browed. From this Colin and others concluded that the latter sightings referred to a second bird.

Colin was also able to solve the mystery of the call. The second Pallas's was heard making the exact same 'ch'weet' call that he and I had heard coming from the Borough Hall trees. He noted that the Pallas's was only heard making this call when it was pursued by a Yellow-browed - prior to us having heard it coming from the Borough Hall trees. As there was a Yellow-browed in these trees, Colin and I wondered whether we had heard a call made by Pallas's when agitated by the presence of perhaps a more dominant species?

In Kashmir, Yellow-browed Warbler was found to perform a 'leader' role in flocks: that is to say, it associated closely with other birds when foraging and moving and follows and was followed (*Macdonald and Henderson 1977*). In August, in Kashmir, antagonistic interactions in mixed flocks were found to be rare; a few were recorded with Pallas's Warbler, birds being at mean 2 ft [60 cm] apart prior to attack [*Macdonald and Henderson 1977*]. In Ussuriland, birds in mixed autumn flocks fairly often chased other Yellow-browed Warblers, also Pallas's Warbler as well as Great Tit *Parus major minor* and called while doing so [*Panov 1973*].

A Hume's Leaf Warbler observed in Norway in mid-October 2001 was aggressive and territorial and chased away Chiffchaffs approaching its feeding tree.

CALL DESCRIPTIONS

Lewington et al. [1991] describe calls thus:

Yellow-browed Warbler: "a distinctive, loud, penetrating, rather high-pitched 'tsuee-eep', or differently transcribed 'tsweet'".

Hume's Leaf Warbler: "visu', uttered singly or repeated".

Pallas's Warbler: "a rather faint, soft, lightly nasal 'dju-ee' or 'duee' and is somewhat reminiscent of one of the calls of Greenfinch".

Jonsson [1992] describes them as

Yellow-browed Warbler: "a longish indrawn 'tsueht' often with peculiar lisping tone".

Hume's Leaf Warbler: "a clearly double-note 'tze-veet' or 'sle-wee', can be likened to a slow-downed version of Greenish Warbler's".

Pallas's Warbler: "a high 'heht' or slightly inflected 'hueeht' sharper and straighter than Chiffchaff's but can approach latter's".

Mullarney et al. [1999] describe them as

Yellow-browed Warbler: "a loud, penetrating, high-pitched 'sweest' or 'tsoeest', the quality of the call often recalling Coal Tit, though higher-pitched and more clearly rising".

Hume's Leaf Warbler: "a forceful whistling 'dsweet', or disyllabic, slightly descending 'dseewo'".

Pallas's Warbler: "[less vocal than Yellow-browed] Commonest call a quiet, slightly rising 'chuee', rather modest, soft and nasal. Also a finer, straighter 'pih'".

On the Complete Birds of the Western Palearctic CD-ROM [1998] the various calls are described as follows:

Yellow-browed Warbler: "Characteristic short phrase comprising notes similar to main call, variously rendered, 'tii-tyuiss', 'tyui-ti-tyu-tyuiss', or 'tssss-siu siu-tsss', lasting c. 1.5 s. These notes rather weak, thin, drawn-out and very high pitched, especially at beginning and end. Timbre can suggest calls of Coal Tit, Treecreeper, or Penduline Tit, while timbre and structure like whistle-song of Hazel Grouse. Main call reminiscent of Coal Tit alarm-call: drawn-out, fine, shrill, penetrating and quite loud 'weest', 'weep', or 'swiist'; sometimes disyllabic (rising in pitch) and rendered 'weeist', 'siu-wiist', or 'tsie-wiet'.

Hume's Leaf Warbler: "Commonest call usually disyllabic, 'tiss-yip' or 'tze-weet' usually loud and ringing recalling Sparrow [whereas typical call of Yellow-browed Warbler suggests Coal Tit].

Pallas's Warbler: At least two calls given freely by vagrants: commonest a rather soft 'weesp', 'swee', 'tweet', or 'zit', less piercing than the monosyllable of Yellow-browed Warbler but also a louder disyllabic 'wee-esp', or, 'ch-weet' more disyllabic than similar note of Yellow-browed Warbler" for Pallas's Warbler.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The first and second records of Hume's Leaf Warbler for Lincolnshire occurred at Anderby Creek on the 18th October 2003 and at Syke's Plantation, Gibraltar Point during the 23rd – 29th October. This latter well-appreciated bird was apparently heard to give at least 3 different calls all of which feature on the excellent CD 'Calls of Eastern Vagrants' made by Hannu Jannes. The shorter mono-syllabic call that the bird frequently gave is suggested by some to be characteristic of wintering birds however the bird's departure on the 29th dashed any such hopes.

According to *Teus Luijendijk* [2002] the calls of Hume's Leaf Warbler can roughly be divided in single-tone and multisyllabic calls. The latter are mostly disyllabic calls, but trisyllabic calls also occur. They are highly variable. Furthermore he states that the calls of Yellow-browed Warbler are less variable than those of Hume's and have (as far as he knows) always the character reminiscent of that of Coal Tit. Nominally Yellow-browed normally has a multisyllabic call, but this can [in some cases] be squeezed into [an almost] single-tone type call.

He found that on average, the duration of the contact call of Yellow-browed Warbler is over 0.30 sec., a length Hume's Leaf Warbler never seems to reach.

His conclusions were that the contact calls of Hume's and Yellow-browed seem to be distinguishable on two points [although one must keep in mind, however, that the degree of variation is high in Hume's calls].

- higher pitch in Yellow-browed Warbler
- more lengthy in Yellow-browed Warbler

CONCLUSION

The call Colin and I heard may well have been the call referred to on the *The Complete Birds of the Western Palearctic CD-ROM* as a [louder] disyllabic 'ch-weet' more disyllabic than [the] similar note of Yellow-browed Warbler, although I have never heard a recording of this call.

What can be said with some degree of certainty is that the call we heard does appear to be identical to a recording made of a *Hume's Leaf Warbler* by Teus J. C. Luijendijk on the 2nd January 1996 at Den Haag ZH, The Netherlands. A sobering thought.

Alan Wheeldon.

A CAUTIONARY NOTE

With the arrival of so many yellow-browed Warblers in a single autumn and increased observer coverage it was almost inevitable that plumage anomalies would be noted on some of the birds present, indeed observers commented on the rather grey coloration of several individuals. One such bird at Middle Quarry, Boulby on 16th Oct was so grey in appearance that it was initially thought to be a Hume's Warbler. The bird was seen by a number of experienced observers who concurred with the initial identification. The bird showed the characteristic dull green-grey tones to the upperparts, paler grey centres to tertials and coverts, sullied underparts and no yellow tones to either the wingbars or supercillium. Although the views were not conclusive the bare parts did appear dark. Just as we were confident the bird would prove to be a Hume's Warbler the inevitable happened, the bird called twice, a loud and characteristic high pitched 'sweest' proving that this individual was indeed 'just' a Yellow-browed Warbler. This underlines the difficulty of separating two extremely difficult species solely on plumage features and the caution that should be displayed when claiming any future records of Hume's Warbler, it also proves just how little we really know about both species.

Colin Dodsworth.

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MINKE WHALES IN THE NORTH SEA

Alan Wheeldon's interesting and informative account of his Plymouth to Salamander return trip in September 2002 (TBC Newsletter, Autumn 2002) must have tempted many local birders to follow suit. I wonder, however, whether you need to go quite so far to see whales. How about Hartlepool, South Gare or Boulby Cliffs? On 18th October 2003, I paid a routine visit to one of my favourite haunts, St Abb's Head. This is only 13 km inside Scotland on the east coast. The idea was to see a few scarce migrant passerines. Yellow-browed Warbler and Firecrest both obliged so I spent the last few hours of the day seawatching, despite the total lack of any wind.

It quickly became clear that something rather odd was afoot. The sea, normally quite rough here, was as flat as a mill pond for as far out as you could see and a lot of birds were feeding. The main feeding concentration, about 1 km offshore, contained over 1,000 Gannets and 1,000 Kittiwakes with a few hundred auks (mostly Guillemots) and a sprinkling of other species (including 6 Little Gulls, 1 Great Skua and 1 Arctic Skua). Amongst these were at least four very large cetaceans. By direct comparison with Gannets, using both body length and wing span, these were estimated to be about 25 feet long. Other characters quickly resulted in their tentative identification as Minke Whales.

They performed more or less continuously for about two hours, giving excellent views through my mounted Leica telescope set at 50 times magnification. This was a totally unexpected and quite stunning experience. My reference books in the car, one mile away, included the excellent *Whales & Dolphins of the European Atlantic* by Graeme Cresswell and Dylan Walker and I was anxious to confirm the identity of these whales. So, just before sunset I set off

back along the cliff path but after only 100 metres was surprised to meet a local cetacean watcher who had been watching them through a mounted telescope for the past hour. He confirmed the identification and said that Minke Whales regularly occurred here in ones and twos but that he had never before seen so many performing so well. He reckoned there were six present. I wondered whether an unusual feeding situation had occurred but he thought it was purely down to the extraordinarily calm sea conditions. This had enabled us to see the whales which are perhaps regularly present here in good numbers but are generally obscured by rough seas.

St Abb's Head is only 150 km north of Hartlepool and such calm sea conditions do occasionally occur at Teesside. On 3rd September 2003, I had experienced very similar conditions off Blackhall Rocks (8 km north of Hartlepool). Large numbers of seabirds were feeding about 1 km offshore on a very calm sea. These included 450 Manx Shearwaters, 3 Sooty Shearwaters, 1,000 Kittiwakes and 500 Guillemots but no Gannets. It seems unlikely that being 150 km south of St Abb's Head could make that much difference to the chances of seeing Minke Whales. However, although Hartlepool is regarded by local birders as a headland, it is actually a minor promontory set in a very large bay. If you draw a straight line on a map from Whitburn to Old Nab (at Staithes), Hartlepool Headland is a surprising 9.4 Km 'inland' of this line. South Gare's position is even worse at 11.4 km 'inland'. So, any whales present might be much further out to sea than at St Abb's Head. On the other hand, perhaps they are not being seen by Teesside birders simply because we all tend to seawatch when winds are strong? The occasional protracted seawatch in very calm conditions, preferably from Boulby Cliffs or Old Nab, might pay dividends. Has anyone sighted any Minke Whales off the Cleveland coast?

Dave Britton, 44 Kirkleatham Avenue, Marske-by-the-sea, Cleveland, TS11 7EP.

GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLIES IN CLEVELAND



On 27 June I set out to look for Golden-ringed Dragonfly in what seemed to me to be a suitable and likely area. I explored the three small becks that flow into the back of Lockwood Beck Reservoir (High Moor on the OS map). Here I found two Golden-ringed Dragonflies, one in the eastern most beck at approx NZ 671136, and one in the western most beck at approx NZ 666134. I took record digital shots of each.

As far as I am aware these are the first records within Cleveland, although I have not searched the records. However, Jamie Duffy has informed me that Golden-ringed Dragonfly is referred to in at least one Cleveland publication. This is the 'Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club Records of Proceedings', vol 5, part 4, Spring 1994, where in an article about Charltons Pond, Golden-ringed Dragonfly is listed as a visitor, but this is not expanded on.

Also in this area were:

1 otter spraint
 1 adult and 1 chick Red Grouse
 2 juvenile Whinchat
 3 Large Red Damselfly

4 Common Blue Damselfly
 20 Small Heath Butterfly
 1 Small Copper Butterfly
 1 Northern Eggar Moth

Clearly the moors that fall within the TBC recording area (Cleveland) would merit further searching for Golden-ringed Dragonfly, especially Sledale, Guisborough Moor, High Moor, Moorsholme Moor and Easington High Moor (behind Scaling Dam Reservoir).

Graham Megson

APPENDIX: TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2004-2009)

TARGET	MEANS OF ACHIEVING TARGET	TIMESCALE			MEASURING SUCCESS AT END OF 5 YEARS
		SHORT-TERM (1 YR)	MEDIUM-TERM (2-3 YRS)	LONG-TERM (4-5 YRS)	
TARGET 1: TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP TO 350 AND SEEK TO RETAIN EXISTING MEMBERS.	REVIEW AND REVISE, IF NECESSARY, THE CLUB'S CONSTITUTION.		✓		MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVES AT LEAST 350 (AT AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 20 MEMBERS PER YEAR)
	BETTER 'EMBRACING' OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE CLUB.	✓	✓	✓	
	ANALYSE AND ACT ON CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS.	✓			
	MODIFY CLUB'S OFFERING TO TARGET THOSE GROUPS IT IS NOT ATTRACTING.		✓		
	IMPROVE PUBLICITY (EG VIA 'CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT').	✓			
	IMPROVE ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION OF CLUB.		✓		
	DEVELOP A NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM.	✓			
	DISCUSS NEEDS OF MEMBERS AT EVERY AGM.	✓			
	PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERS' 'CLIQUES'.			✓	
	INCREASE RECREATIONAL BIRDWATCHING ACTIVITY.		✓		
	REINFORCE EMAIL DISCUSSION GROUPS.	✓			
	'ON THE SPOT' JOINING.	✓			
	REINFORCE BENEFITS OF TBC MEMBERSHIP (EG. ACCESS TO PRIVATE SITES, HIDES, ETC).	✓			
	USE OF POSTERS.		✓		
APPOINT PUBLICITY OFFICER.		✓			
TARGET 2: TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE AT CLUB MEETINGS	POSSIBLE VARIATION OF VENUE, LOCATION, TIME AND DAY OF CLUB MEETINGS.		✓	✓	AIM TO AVERAGE AT LEAST 70 PEOPLE PER MEETING.
	BETTER ADVERTISING (PAPER, RADIO, ETC).	✓			
	OBTAIN FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS ON CONTENT OF MEETINGS VIA QUESTIONNAIRES AND ADDRESS ISSUES.	✓			
	FOSTER WIDER INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES.	✓	✓		

TARGET	MEANS OF ACHIEVING TARGET	TIMESCALE			MEASURING SUCCESS AT END OF 5 YEARS
		SHORT-TERM (1 YR)	MEDIUM-TERM (2-3 YRS)	LONG-TERM (4-5 YRS)	
	USE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS (EG. BTO).		✓	✓	
TARGET 3: TO BECOME MORE PROACTIVE IN CONSERVATION ISSUES AND MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION PROJECTS.	HARMFUL' PLANNING APPLICATIONS.	✓	✓	✓	INCREASE BY 50% THE NUMBER OF ISSUES AND PROJECTS IN WHICH THE TBC IS INVOLVED.
	'HARMFUL' DEVELOPMENTS.	✓	✓	✓	
	INVOLVEMENT IN KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS (EG. TEESSIDE INTERNATIONAL NATURE RESERVE).	✓	✓	✓	
	JOINT WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS (EG. RSPB, ENGLISH NATURE, TVWT, TET, INCA, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ETC).	✓	✓	✓	
	PRODUCE A 'BIRD SITES REGISTER'.		✓	✓	
	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (EG. WITH RSPB).		✓	✓	
	APPOINT SUB-GROUPS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES/PROJECTS (EG WIND FARM).	✓	✓	✓	
TARGET 4: TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE CLUB LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY.	IMPROVE PRESS COVERAGE.	✓	✓	✓	INCREASE IN NUMBER OF REFERENCES TO THE CLUB IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS.
	WRITE ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA (EG. BIRDWATCHING MAGAZINES, PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, ETC)	✓			
	INVOLVEMENT IN KEY BIRD CONSERVATION ISSUES.	✓	✓	✓	
	PUBLICATION OF CENSUS WORK.	✓	✓		
	ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION.	✓	✓	✓	
	RADIO INTERVIEWS.	✓	✓	✓	INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE CLUB LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY.
	IMPROVED WEB SITE MANAGEMENT, WITH REGULAR UPDATES.	✓	✓	✓	
	REVIEW OF FORM AND CONTENT OF NEWSLETTER.	✓	✓		
	CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT OF 'CEVELAND BIRD REPORT'	✓	✓	✓	
	JOINT CONFERENCES (EG. WITH BTO).		✓	✓	

TARGET	MEANS OF ACHIEVING TARGET	TIMESCALE			MEASURING SUCCESS AT END OF 5 YEARS
		SHORT-TERM (1 YR)	MEDIUM-TERM (2-3 YRS)	LONG-TERM (4-5 YRS)	
TARGET 5: TO PROVIDE DISABLED ACCESS TO THE JEFF YOUNGS HIDE.	OBTAIN SPONSORSHIP TO PART-FUND.	✓			COMPLETION OF DISABLED ACCESS.
	USE OF TBC FUNDS.	✓			
TARGET 6: TO APPRAISE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD A SECOND HIDE ON DORMANS POOL.	PLAN, DESIGN AND PRICE NEW HIDE.		✓	✓	ERECTION OF NEW HIDE.
	OBTAIN SPONSORSHIP.		✓	✓	
TARGET 7: TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE RANGE OF CLUB PUBLICATIONS.	MORE REGULAR AND VARIED NEWS-LETTER/BULLETINS.	✓	✓	✓	INCREASED INCOME FROM SALES AND PUBLICATIONS.
	PRESS COVERAGE.	✓	✓	✓	
	ADVERTISING OF CLUB'S PUBLICATIONS.	✓	✓	✓	
	LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.	✓	✓	✓	
	SPONSORSHIP (EG. FOR BREEDING BIRD CENSUS).		✓	✓	INCREASED PRESS COVERAGE.
	NEW SALES OUTLETS.	✓	✓		
	NEW PUBLICATIONS (EG. 'WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN CLEVELAND' SITE GUIDE).		✓	✓	IMPROVED LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.
	GREATER USE OF CLUB'S WEB SITE.	✓			
TARGET 8: TO COMPLETE AND PUBLISH THE CLEVELAND BREEDING BIRD CENSUS.	OBTAIN SPONSORSHIP.	✓			PUBLICATION OF CENSUS.
	USE OF TBC FUNDS.	✓			
	PROMOTION AND MARKETING (PRE-SALES).		✓	✓	INCOME FROM SALE OF CENSUS.
	FORMATION OF SUB-COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION.	✓			
TARGET 9: TO FORGE CLOSER LINKS WITH OTHER CONSERVATION BODIES.	ESTABLISH REGULAR DIALOGUE WITH OTHER BODIES.	✓	✓	✓	AT LEAST A 50% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS WITH WHICH THE TBC HAS POSITIVE LINKS.
	ASSIST WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS' PROJECTS (EG. DATA PROVISION, SURVEY WORK).	✓	✓	✓	
	CONTRIBUTE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS' PUBLICATIONS (EG ANNUAL REPORTS).	✓	✓	✓	

TARGET	MEANS OF ACHIEVING TARGET	TIMESCALE			MEASURING SUCCESS AT END OF 5 YEARS
		SHORT-TERM (1 YR)	MEDIUM-TERM (2-3 YRS)	LONG-TERM (4-5 YRS)	
TARGET 10: TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP TRAINING INITIATIVES IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.	JOINT IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL NEEDS AND RESOURCES (EG ID SKILLS, SURVEY WORK).	✓	✓	✓	TRAINING INITIATIVES DEVELOPED AND IMPROVED.
	'ENTRY LEVEL SURVEYS' OF NEW MEMBERS TO ASSESS AKILLS.	✓	✓	✓	
TARGET 11: TO REVIEW ANNUALLY THE MEMBERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE OF SUB-COMMITTEES.	ANNUAL REVIEW OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN.	✓	✓	✓	A MORE EFFECTIVE COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES WITH WIDE MEMBERSHIP. INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN TBC WORK.
	REDUCE RISKS OF 'CLIQUES' FORMING, TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS.	✓	✓	✓	
	DEVELOP MORE GROUP WORKING TO SPREAD THE WORKLOAD, WITH 'AUDIT' OF SKILLS.	✓	✓	✓	
TARGET 12: TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS SUBMITTING RECORDS FOR THE 'CLEVELAND BIRD REPORT'.	BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH OBSERVERS, PARTICULARLY OVER RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED TO AVOID 'SOUR GRAPES'.	✓	✓	✓	30% INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS SUBMITTING RECORDS.
	MORE RECOGNITION IN THE REPORT TO A WIDER NUMBER OF OBSERVERS.	✓	✓	✓	
	BETTER CO-OPERATION WITH THE DURHAM BIRD CLUB CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF MUTUALLY RELEVANT RECORDS.	✓	✓	✓	
	'RETURN TO THE FOLD' OF THOSE WHO NO LONGER SEND IN RECORDS.	✓	✓	✓	