

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered as a Charity No. 508850

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Ted Parker**
(Vice Chairman) **Alistair McLee**
(Hon Secretary) **Chris Sharp**
(Hon Treasurer) **Mark Askew**
(Ordinary Member) **Linda Watson (First Appointed 2005)**
(Ordinary Member) **Brian Hague (First Appointed 2005)**
(Ordinary Member) **Julie Mason (First Appointed 2006)**
(Ordinary Member) **Barbara O'Brien (First Appointed 2007)**
(Ordinary Member) **John Fletcher (First Appointed 2008)**
(Co-Opted Member) **Vic Fairbrother**
(Co-Opted Member) **John Sharp**

RECORDS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Tom Francis**
Mark Askew
Chris Brown
Colin Dodsworth
Tom Francis
Stewart Hinley
Graeme Joynt
Russell McAndrew
Mark Rowbottom
Eric James
Graham Megson

MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Chris Sharp**
John Fletcher
Eric James
Julie Mason
Russell McAndrew
Ted Parker
Linda Watson
Dave Nelson

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Ted Parker**
Chris Bielby
Russell McAndrew
Alistair McLee
Graham Megson
Vic Fairbrother
John Sharp
David Braithwaite
Derek Clayton
Alan Snape
Brian Hague

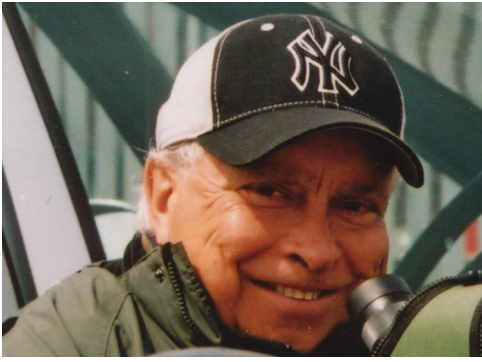
TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2008

Club funds continue to be very healthy, with a surplus income of over £10000 leading to a year end balance close to £52000. The long anticipated publication of the Breeding Birds of Cleveland was the clubs largest outlay in recent years, but this was more than balanced by income from sales and sponsorship in 2008 alone. This shows the value of having a good marketing plan, and leaves the club in the satisfying position of being able to plan for future ambitious projects knowing we have a substantial starter fund. Clearly the current economic downturn will make attracting funds more challenging, but being able to demonstrate commitment of our own resources will help.

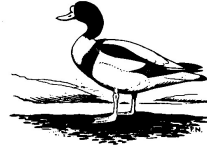
We continue to seek value for money for members and it will be noted that despite a year of high inflation, our report printing costs reduced, with no drop in quality. Thanks go to Chris Brown in managing to find high quality but low cost printers for our highly acclaimed publications.

The coming year will see additional expenditure towards the feasibility study and plans for the new observatory at Hartlepool Headland. We are able to fund this from existing reserves. Membership fees will be held at current levels, which we hope members see as increasingly good value.

Mark Askew
Honorary Treasurer



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2008-2009



TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered Charity No 508850

www.teemouthbc.com

It is with pride, mixed with some sadness, that I write this, my final report as Chairman of Teesmouth Bird Club. It has been both a privilege and an honour to lead such an excellent organisation over the past 5 years and I have had the pleasure of working with an outstanding, dedicated and hard working team. Together, I believe we have transformed the Club into a vibrant, potent organisation, widely respected nationally, as well as regionally.

The results speak for themselves: over the past 5 years we have nearly doubled our membership, which now stands at approximately 450. Since the change of venue to the more congenial Stockton Library and changes to our programme of talks, attendance at our evening meetings has increased by nearly 50%, with numbers during the 2008-2009 session rarely falling below 70 (contrast this with the average of 48 in 2004). These figures have significantly exceeded our Five-Year Plan targets.

I am also delighted to report that our Annual Accounts for the year show the Club to be in the healthiest financial position it has ever been in, largely due to a highly successful sponsorship drive for the atlas, our increasing membership, the sale of our data and sales of *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*. We are not going to be complacent, however, and the money will be used to further the Club's activities and for conservation work within the Cleveland area. We will continue to seek out new sponsorship and funding opportunities in the future.

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the year, indeed of my Chairmanship, was the publication of *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'* in November 2008. This has been an outstanding success, with over 700 copies sold in the first 3 months and we are well on target to sell all 1,000, one of the first clubs ever to do so. The very high quality of the book has sold itself and is a testament to the dedication, vision and sheer hard work of Graeme Joynt and the Atlas Project Team that supported him, comprising Mark Askew, Vic Fairbrother, Brian Hague, Russell McAndrew and John Sharp. I joined the team a little later in the process and was delighted to be involved in the biggest project ever undertaken by the Club, spanning a period of nearly 12 years. We also owe a huge debt of thanks to our members, who undertook the survey work, the artists, the species account authors, our generous sponsors and, of course, Chris Brown, who produced all the high quality maps and formatted the whole book in such a professional way. *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'* has had excellent local and national reviews and has certainly been a great accolade for our Club.

I have also been delighted to initiate the Hartlepool Observatory Feasibility Study during my chairmanship. This should be completed by the time you receive this report and is the Club's next major project since our removal from the old lookout in the Heugh Battery in 2003-04, which we occupied for over half a century. Our architects, Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Limited, of Newcastle, have come up with a highly imaginative outline design for the new building, based on a ship's funnel, which has been endorsed by Hartlepool Borough Council's Planning and Building Control Departments. I hope that by 2014 we will have a brand new, purpose-built, two-storey facility that will reaffirm Cleveland's reputation as a prime, national sea watching point, as well as providing Club members with a top-of-the-range, functional and comfortable building. I have been grateful for the help and advice given by Ali McLee during the Feasibility Study and for the comments of members consulted on the initial outline designs.

The second half of my chairmanship has seen the completion of a Habitat Management Plan for Dormans Pool. This has taken over 2 years to complete and involved a detailed breeding bird survey of Dormans Pool, along with a large amount of research. The project was funded from Landfill Tax Credits, our application for which was greatly assisted by John Mann of INCA and Impetus Reclamation Limited. The significant amount of money raised from this study has helped to finance the publication of *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*, as well as providing guidance on how Dormans Pool should be managed over the next 5 years. Our report makes recommendations for water level control for the benefit of passage waders, reed bed management and the reintroduction of grazing regimes to benefit SSSI citation species, such as Yellow Wagtail and Snipe. I am grateful for the involvement of Mike Leakey and Andy Whitehead of Natural England, Dave Braithwaite and Emma Birnie of the RSPB, and Vic Fairbrother and Ali McLee in the preparation of our report. Their advice and guidance has been greatly appreciated. I am also indebted to Martin Blick for undertaking the breeding birds surveys and Chris Brown for producing the plans for the report to a professional standard.

Our Sub-Committees have been active during the year. The Conservation Sub-Committee has been involved in a number of major issues around the Tees Estuary, including Thor Cogeneration Limited's proposed energy plant between Dormans Pool and the Reclamation

Pond, ConocoPhillips's liquid natural gas pipeline and terminal adjacent to Seal Sands, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's 'Pondscape' project and its strategic review of Local Wildlife Sites in Cleveland, and the Club's own Beached Bird Survey, which aims to monitor the impact of the Teesside Offshore Windfarm at Redcar which now has Government approval. I am grateful to Vic Fairbrother for his work in organising the latter survey and to those members who are taking part.

The Membership and Marketing Sub-Committee has been actively promoting the Club's image during the year. Sales of bespoke TBC clothing continue to do well and help to enhance our corporate image and baseball caps bearing the Club's logo have recently been introduced to widen the product range. Preparations have already begun for our 50th anniversary celebration in 2010 to ensure that nothing is left to chance and that an excellent evening will be had by our members. Advance ticket sales are going well and we hope to easily sell our upper limit of 130. We will, of course, be inviting VIP guests and individuals who have been closely associated with the Club over the years as a small 'thank you' for their support.

During the past year our members have once again been busy with a number of local, regional and national surveys, including the BTO Breeding Birds and Winter Bird Atlases, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts, the Cleveland Water Body Survey (completed in March 2009), the North East Red Kites Co-ordinated Survey and the BTO Hanson Bird Challenges for Scaling Dam and Greenabella Marsh. The 'Cleveland Bird Report' for 2007 was a credit to our Club and my sincere thanks go to the Records Sub Committee, chaired by Tom Francis, and the report's editor, Graeme Joynt. The annual report is one of the Club's major 'products' and it is greatly valued by our members.

Our continuing programme of local outings has proved to be successful, with most being very well attended. Over the past year, visits have been made to Portrack Marsh, Flatts Lane Country Park, Guisborough Forest (Nightjar evening), North Tees Marshes, RSPB Saltholme, Hartlepool Headland, South Gare, Summerhill/Ward Jackson Park and Bowesfield Marsh. Due to their success, more outings are planned for 2009. I would like to thank all those who organised and led these outings, and John Fletcher and Dave Nelson, who kindly show new members around some of Cleveland's best birding sites on a regular basis.

I end my report with my sincere thanks to those who have made my last year as Chairman such a successful one. My thanks are due to Vice-Chairman, Ali McLee, whose advice and support have been of great personal value to me. Ali is always willing to attend events run by other organisations and this undoubtedly helps to raise our profile. Our Honorary Secretary, Chris Sharp, deserves a special mention: he works so tirelessly and without his efforts I think the Club would grind to a halt! Mark Askew, our Honorary Treasurer, continues to manage our finances well and prepares our annual Trustees Report to the Charity Commission. John Fletcher has continued as a very successful Sales and Publicity Officer and has devoted a huge amount of time to the promotion and sale of 'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland', without which we wouldn't have sold nearly as many copies as we have. I would also like to thank the Chairs and members of the three Sub Committees, who are responsible for the day-to-day, detailed work of the Club; and our representatives on external bodies, namely Vic Fairbrother, John Sharp and Russ McAndrew (TVWT Biodiversity Group), Martin Blick (Scaling Dam Wildlife Advisory Committee), Ali McLee (Durham Bird Club's Projects and Surveys Committee) and Graham Megson (Tees Valley Biodiversity Steering Group). Jamie Duffie manages and updates our widely acclaimed Website brilliantly and this certainly helps to attract new members, as well as providing a diverse and interesting site. Finally, I would like to thank you, our members, for continuing to support the work we do, attending our evening meetings and helping with surveys and sponsorship. It pleases me greatly to hand over the reins to new Chairman, Ali McLee, with the Club in such a healthy state and I wish him all the best for his forthcoming chairmanship.

Ted Parker

March 2009

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

	Total	Full	Family	Junior	S/C	Life	Hon
2001	231	120	67	-	24	14	6
2002	254	130	79	-	25	14	6
2003	259	135	77	-	27	14	6
2004	270	132	78	-	40	14	6
2005	287	134	95	-	39	14	5
2006	317	157	89	-	52	14	5
2007	346	156	119	-	51	14	6
2008	421	176	170	-	55	14	6

It is pleasing to report a continued increase in club membership. Numbers are now at the highest level in the club's 49 year history. In past years there was a large turnover in membership with many people joining for just one or two years. In recent years, however, the club is losing very few members with most rejoining the following year.

Chris Sharp

March 2009

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB
Statement of Income & Expenditure for
2008
(with 2007 for comparison)

	2008		2007	
	Income	Payment	Income	Payment
Subscriptions	3774.00		3248.50	
Gift Aid	1065.40		445.13	
Interest	1524.62		1244.58	
Meetings		304.14		363.87
Lecture Fees		197.00		115.00
TBC Gen Publications	149.53		511.99	
Bird Report		1500.00		1942.00
Printing & Stationery		684.55		652.69
Postage		534.06		507.78
Subs to other Societies		45.50		22.00
Donations				50
Data Provision	5089.00		4927.00	
P Stead Mem Fund				
Breeding bird atlas	4300.00	10942.81	7308.00	788.91
BB Atlas sales	8241.00			
Insurance		220.00		110.00
Sundries		74.75		
Website		93.70		
Records committee				35.00
Advert			50	
Certificate				35.61
TBC Clothing	466.09	345.18		
Sponsored				
Birdwatch	2000.00		2000.00	
Coach				
trip		50.00		
New Obs		1339.50		
	26609.64	16331.19	19735.20	4622.86
Excess Income		10278.45		15112.34
	<u>26609.64</u>	<u>26609.64</u>	<u>19735.20</u>	<u>19735.20</u>
Balance B/F 2007		41697.80	Balance B/F 2006	26585.46
Excess Income		10278.45		15112.34
Balance 31.12.2008		<u>51976.25</u>		<u>41697.80</u>
Cash In Hand		0.00		0.00
Bank Current Acc		4000.95		3180.73
P Stead Mem Fund		2343.21		2284.08
NSB Investment				
Acc		45632.09		36232.99
		<u>51976.25</u>		<u>41697.80</u>