



# TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered as a Charity No. 508850

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

### THE CLUB COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Ted Parker**  
(Vice Chairman) **John Fletcher**  
(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)**  
(Co-Opted Member) **Vic Fairbrother**  
(Co-Opted Member) **John Sharp**  
(Co-Opted Member) **Alistair McLee**

### RECORDS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Richard Taylor**  
**Mark Askew**  
**Chris Brown**  
**Colin Dodsworth**  
**Tom Francis**  
**Stewart Hinley**  
**Graeme Joynt**  
**Russell McAndrew**  
**Mark Rowbottom**

### MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

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

### CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

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

## TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2007-2008

Club funds ended the year in a very healthy position thanks to continued activity in fundraising particularly for the breeding bird atlas. The value of the hard work put in by members surveying efforts is now beginning to show with demand for data provision from various interested parties. The long term plan championed particularly by our Chairman, Ted Parker, is resulting in increased membership and thus subscription income.

The year ended with income exceeding expenditure by £15112, primarily for the reasons mentioned above plus the additional funds we have currently provides higher investment income. Expenditure totalled £4623; this included some costs attributed to the atlas preparatory and fundraising work. The bird report publication costs also increased again this year and whilst we believe it is still good value of ran excellent publication, the records sub committee will be shopping around this year for alternative quotes. The additional consultation and meeting activity with various planned developments over the year has inevitably given some increase in postage and printing costs, as has the provision of car stickers for members. Meeting costs were starting to increase, but the move to Stockton Library has given us a better but lower cost venue.

Income from subscriptions and publications currently covers our routine costs, though only by around £400. The Committee believe membership remains extremely good value, especially compared to other clubs and societies, but with the currently buoyant funds in mind we do not propose any subscription increase at the present time.

**Mark Askew**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2007-2008



This year, my fourth as your Chairman, has been a very eventful and successful one, as we press on relentlessly with our programme of measures to improve the Club under the umbrella of our Five-Year Plan. Many of our targets have already been reached nearly 2 years ahead of schedule and this is not because they were not exacting ones but as a result of sheer hard work by many people in driving the Club forward.

I am delighted to report that our membership continues to rise and, at the end of 2007, stood at 346, a rise of 9% on the previous year and almost at our 2009 planned target of 350. The change of venue for our evening meetings to the Lecture Theatre at Stockton Library in September has certainly paid dividends, with much more modern and functional facilities, provision of refreshments and a secure car park on the doorstep. Since the switch, attendance has rarely fallen below 60 and on two occasions over 70 members were present (our Five-Year Plan target for attendance at members' meetings).

As the Annual Accounts show, I am equally delighted to report that the Club's finances are in a very healthy state, due to the successful sponsorship drive for our forthcoming *'Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*, the 'sale' of our Atlas data (which has raised nearly £5,000) and increased income from membership subscriptions. The generosity of our members has also played a vital part, with all of the species for the forthcoming *'Breeding Birds of Cleveland'* having been 'sold' at £25 each, raising £3,400. Careful financial management by our Treasurer, Mark Askew, is pivotal to our financial success and I am indebted to him for continuing to manage our affairs so well.

During the year, work has progressed well on the text, maps and images for our forthcoming *'Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*, the publication of which had to be delayed to 2008 due to the sheer volume of work involved. All of the species accounts are now completed in at least first draft and are being edited. I would like to thank all those who have given up their time to write these. The graphics for the maps and formatting of the pages have been finalised and the artists have all but finished their superb sketches which will adorn the text. The Club is particularly indebted to Ken Baldrige, Ian Lawson and Ged Russell for producing such outstanding work. National bird artist, Andrew Hutchinson, has been commissioned to prepare the cover and we are delighted with his work so far. The book will be published later this year and I know it will be a credit to the Club and all those involved in its production.

Another major development has been the launch of our Hartlepool Observatory project, the aim of which is to see a new bird observatory built on the Heugh Lighthouse site within the next 4-5 years. Funding for the feasibility study was approved by the Committee in January 2008 and Newcastle-based architectural consultants Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Limited have been appointed to undertake this. Their brief includes consultations with PD Teesport and Hartlepool Borough Council, and the preparation of a costed Options Appraisal, out of which will be derived the preferred option. The study is due for completion in mid-May.

The Club has continued to foster cordial links with public and private sector organisations. We are now a Corporate Member of INCA (Industry and Nature Conservation Association), the benefits of which were outlined in a recent Newsletter, and I am particularly pleased about this in view of the significant advice and assistance we received from INCA in putting our bid together for Landfill Tax Credit funding for the Dormans Pool Habitat Management Study. The latter was made possible by an extremely generous personal donation by one of our members to provide the 10% match funding we needed to secure the project. We have agreed a procedure with the Environment Agency for reporting incidents of pollution and this has been widely publicised in our Newsletters and on the Website. The Club has become a member of the North Yorkshire Forest Bird Study Group, under which we will provide data on birds of the forested areas of Cleveland to assist the Forestry Commission in making informed management decisions. PD Teesport continues to be a great support in sponsoring our forthcoming *'Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*, providing us with a site for our new observatory and resolving access difficulties to their power station field and blockhouse at Seaton Snook.

Through the Conservation Sub Committee the Club reviewed a number of important strategic documents and Planning Applications over the past year, including ConcoPhillips's proposed LNG Terminal and CHP Plant on Seal Sands, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's potential housing sites strategy, the Environment Agency's 'Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan', Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit's 'Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Strategy' and the Forestry Commission's 'Guisborough Forest Design Plan', to name but a few. A huge amount of work goes into reviewing and commenting on these projects and this helps to keep the Club's profile high and ensures that we are consulted on future issues which affect the birds of our area.

I am grateful to the Membership and Marketing Sub Committee for their excellent work in promoting and enhancing the Club's image and profile. Two new posters have been produced, one of which is designed to attract new members and is being displayed in libraries, visitor centres and hides. Car stickers have also been reintroduced and I am pleased to see that these are appearing on members' cars. Through an agreement with outdoor clothing suppliers, ARCO, we now supply bespoke garments, including fleeces, polo shirts and hats, incorporating the Club's logo and the uptake of these has been very good to date. We also receive a 20% discount at ARCO on production of a valid Club membership card. I would like to thank, Simon Lunt, who works for ARCO and is a Club member, and Julie Mason, who takes orders and manages our account.

After negotiation with Impetus Reclamation Limited's legal team, we have signed an Agreement to continue our access to Dormans Pool and the Reclamation Pond for the next 5 years. Access to these private sites is a significant part of the Club's offering to members and I am delighted that we can continue this. I am very grateful to Nigel Flintoft of Impetus for his efforts in securing this access for us and for endorsing the modifications to the original draft Agreement.

During the past year, through the willingness of members, we have again been involved in a number of local, regional and national surveys, including the BTO Winter Bird Atlas, Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), Cleveland Water Body Survey (completed in March 2007), North East Red Kites Co-ordinated Survey, Dormans Pool Habitat Management Study and the BTO Hanson Bird Challenge for both Scaling Dam and Greenabella Marsh. The '*Cleveland Bird Report*' for 2006 was produced well ahead of schedule and, yet again, to an even higher quality. My sincere thanks go to the Records Sub Committee, chaired by Richard Taylor, and the report's editor, Graeme Joynt. The annual report is one of the Club's major 'products' and its improved quality has been widely commented on since the introduction of the new binding, enabling even more content.

Following the resignation of Richard Taylor, I am very pleased that Tom Francis has been appointed as the new County Recorder for Cleveland. I would like to thank Richard for his past work and congratulate Tom on his new role and wish him well for the future.

Local outings have been held during the year to Coatham Marsh, South Gare, Lockwood Beck and Scaling Dam, Guisborough Forest (for Nightjars), RSPB Saltholme, Greenabella Marsh and Greatham Creek, Hartlepool Headland (ringing migrants), Bowesfield Marsh, Hartlepool Headland and Seal Sands. These were well attended and more are planned for 2008/09. I would like to thank all those who organised and led these outings, and John Fletcher, who kindly shows new members around some of Cleveland's best birding sites on a regular basis. I know from feedback that they greatly appreciate this.

As usual, I end my report with some sincere thank you's to those who have made the last year such a successful one. My thanks are due to Vice-Chairman, John Fletcher, whose additional role as a very successful Sales and Publicity Officer has helped to increase sales and promote our products more widely; our Honorary Secretary, Chris Sharp, who always works tirelessly and on the administration of the Club; and Mark Askew, our Honorary Treasurer, who manages our finances so well. I would also like to thank the Chairs and members of the three Sub Committees, who are responsible for the day-to-day, 'nitty-gritty' work of the Club; and our representatives on external bodies, namely Vic Fairbrother, John Sharp and Russ McAndrew (TVWT Biodiversity Group), Derek Clayton (RSPB Saltholme and the Local Strategic Partnership), Martin Blick (Scaling Dam Wildlife Advisory Committee), Ali McLee (Durham Bird Club's Projects and Surveys Committee) and Graham Megson (Tees Valley Biodiversity Group). I also offer my thanks to Peter Smith, who resigned from the Committee due to family commitments, to Ali McLee for taking his place and Jamie Duffie, who has greatly improved our Website and, through sheer hard work, restored it after its near-fatal 'crash' in 2007. We know that our excellent Website attracts new members on a regular basis. Finally, I would like to thank all our members for continuing to support the work we do, attending our evening meetings and helping with surveys and sponsorship. I look forward to the next year, my last as your Chairman, with great optimism.

**Ted Parker**  
April 2008

## **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

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB  
Statement of Income & Expenditure for 2007  
(with 2006 for comparison)

	2007		2006	
	Income	Payment	Income	Payment
Subscriptions	3248.50		2341.50	
Gift Aid	445.13		482.03	
Interest	1244.58		592.75	
Meetings		363.87		360.00
Lecture Fees		115.00		80.00
TBC Publications	511.99		317.21	
Bird Report		1942.00		1820.00
Printing & Stationery		652.69		636.53
Postage		507.78		349.83
Subs to other Societies		22.00		22.00
Donations		50.00	10.00	
Data Provision	4927.00		550.00	
P Stead Mem Fund			341.31	
Breeding bird atlas	7308.00	788.91	10353.42	147.20
Insurance		110.00		100.00
Obs Rent/rate refund			34.69	
Sundries/Publicity		0.00		10.00
Website				99.92
Records committee		35.00		113.34
Workshop attendance			150.00	
Advert	50.00			
Certificate		35.61		
Sponsored Birdwatch	2000.00			
	19735.20	4622.86	15172.91	3738.82
Excess Income		15112.34		11434.09
	<u>19735.20</u>	<u>19735.20</u>	<u>15172.91</u>	<u>15172.91</u>

Balance B/F 2006	26585.46	Balance B/F 2005	15151.37
Excess Income	15112.34		11434.09
Balance 31.12.2007	<u>41697.80</u>		<u>26585.46</u>

Cash In Hand	0.00		0.00
Bank Current Acc	3180.73		832.37
P Stead Mem Fund	2284.08		2224.05
NSB Investment Acc	36232.99		23529.04
	<u>41697.8</u>		<u>26585.46</u>