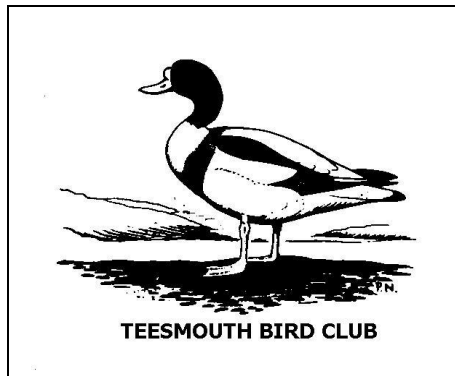




BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN AND LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE TEES VALLEY

This report has been prepared by Vic Fairbrother for the Conservation Sub-Committee of Teasmouth Bird Club (TBC), with input from BTO, TVWT and RSPB. TBC has been monitoring the birds of Teasmouth since 1960 and is widely recognized as the foremost authority on the birds of the former County of Cleveland and has a particularly good knowledge of the birds of the Tees estuary. The Club publishes the annual '*Cleveland Bird Report*', which is the definitive record of local birds. In 2008, TBC published '*The Breeding Birds of Cleveland*', the first comprehensive survey of local breeding birds, bringing together current and historic data and including descriptions of all the key habitats.

In association with



Members undertake monthly counts at local wetland sites from September to March for inclusion in the annual *UK Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)* organized by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in association with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT). Members survey local randomly allocated 1km squares for the annual Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) organized by the BTO and jointly funded by BTO, JNCC and RSPB. This is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common and widespread birds. The TBC Records sub-committee collates and validates all local records of rare breeding records for submission to The Rare Birds Breeding Panel (RBBP) which publishes the Rare Breeding Birds in the UK annual report



Members provide vital information on the migration, passage and survival of birds through the work of the South Cleveland Ringing Group and the Tees Ringing Group. This includes ringing *pullis* (young in the nest), catching birds at Constant effort sites (CES) and Ringing adults for survival sites (RAS) all contributing to major national monitoring schemes organized by the BTO. Members provide vital information on the productivity of birds by submitting records to the Nest Record Scheme. In July 2011 members completed timed surveys in 116 tetrads (2x2 km squares) following 4 years fieldwork for the local input to the latest UK Atlas (Bird Atlas 2007-11). This was in addition to submitting tens of thousands of roving records. Sources on the level of concern, changing status and population trends for each species are listed at the end of the report.

December 2019

This report is intended to act as a 'signpost' for planners, ecologists, developers, consultants and other land-based professions to a critical list of birds of conservation concern in the Tees Valley. The Teasmouth Bird Club holds specific details of where these species are located and can provide quantitative and qualitative information. The point of contact for further information is: vic.fairbrother@ntlworld.com

SPECIES	LEVEL OF CONCERN (UK)	BAP SPECIES (UK/TV)	CLEVELAND BREEDING PAIRS 1999-2006. + RECENT DATA.	ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS	MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES
Mute Swan	Amber		26 pairs (20 tetrads). 9 of 15 nesting attempts were successful in 2018.	Elevated to the amber list in 2014 (UK 20-30% European winter population). Wintering decline in UK -5% (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. 5-year average 75.	North Tees Marshes, River Tees and inland water bodies.
Bean Goose (Tundra).	Amber		Migrant and winter visitor.	The Tees estuary is a site of national importance for Tundra Bean Goose in winter (2015/16). 5-year average 3.	Tees estuary.
Shelduck	Amber	TVBAP	64 pairs (24 tetrads). 5 pairs reared 42 young at 5 sites in 2018. More typical of recent years.	Wintering decline in UK -18% (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. 5-year average 443. UK breeding decline -9% (2007-17).	North Tees Marshes and mudflats.
Gadwall	Amber		28 pairs (8 tetrads). 21c pairs reared 142 young in 2018.	This is about 1% of the UK breeding population. (2016). The Tees estuary is a site of International Importance for Gadwall in winter 2017/18. 5-year WeBS average 664. In top 5 sites.	North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.
Pintail	Amber			Wintering decline in UK -35% (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 41.	
Teal	Amber		1 pair (1999-06). 2 pairs with 10 young at 2 sites in 2018.	One of the rarest breeding birds in Cleveland.	Inland water bodies, North Tees Marshes.
Garganey	Amber		5 pairs (3 tetrads). 2 pairs in 2016 with 12 ducklings.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. This was about 2% of the UK breeding population. (2016).	North Tees Marshes.

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Shoveler	Amber		16 pairs (5 tetrads). Min. 5 pairs reared c50 young at 4 sites in 2018.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. This 1% of the UK breeding population. The Tees estuary is a site of British National Importance for Shoveler in winter (2017/18). 5-year average 195.	North Tees Marshes.
Smew			Winter visitor. 2 in 2018.	The Tees estuary is a site of national importance for Smew in winter. (2015/16). 5-year average 2.	North Tees Marshes, inland water bodies.
Pochard	Red		32 pairs (4 tetrads). 12 pairs raised c51 young at 8 sites in 2016. 8 pairs, 49 young in 2018.	Elevated to red list 2014. A globally threatened species. This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. This is 2% of the UK breeding population. Wintering decline in UK -46%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 81	North Tees Marshes, Coatham Marsh.
Goosander			8 pairs (5 tetrads). Female with 8 young in 2015.	One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley. UK breeding decline -24% (1995-17). No reports of breeding 2008-13.	Rivers, inland water bodies. Winter roosts.
Quail	Amber		33 singing males (16 tetrads). (5 singing males in 2015).	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. Numbers fluctuate and most records are of calling males. 7 pairs is the local 10 year average, about 1% UK breeding population.	Farmland.
Grey Partridge	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	319 pairs (119 tetrads). Reported from 13 sites in 2018.	UK breeding decline -36% (2007-17).	Farmland. More unsprayed conservation headlands in cereal crops to increase insect availability.
Fulmar	Amber		253 pairs (10 tetrads). 165 estimated pairs in 2017/18.	UK breeding decline -33%. (1986-2015). Restricted to 10 local tetrads. Local decline since 2007.	Coastal, Marine. Cliffs Hunt Cliff to Cowbar. One inland site.
Cormorant			65 pairs (2 tetrads). 40 pairs between Hunt Cliff & Cowbar in 2018.	Tees Estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 325. UK breeding decline - 8% (2000-2015). Larger local decline is of concern.	Coastal, Marine. Hunt Cliff & Boulby. Winter roosts River Tees jetties & Hartlepool Fish Quay.

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Shag	Red		No breeding 1999-2006. 1 breeding pair in 2014 & 2018.	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -45% (1986-2015). An RSPB top 40 priority species. A scarce breeder in Cleveland. Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 13.	Coastal, Marine. Tees jetties.
Bittern	Amber	UKBAP TVBAP	No breeding 1999-2006. 1 booming in 2012.	Moved from red to amber 2014. This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. Beginning to recover following biodiversity action and reedbed creation. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Reedbeds. Maintenance of open reedbeds with summer-wet reed and open water.
Little Egret			First pair bred in 2015. 43 fledged from 16 nests in 2018.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. A new breeding bird for Cleveland 2015/16. The Tees estuary is a site of British National Importance. 2017/18. 5-year average 59.	Woodland near water.
Grey Heron			60 pairs (4 tetrads). 27 nests at 4 sites in 2018.	UK breeding decline -10% (1995-2017). The traditional heronry sites in Cleveland are monitored as part of annual BTO Heronries Census. The Tees estuary is in the top 26 sites in winter. (2017/18). 5-year average 44.	Woodland. Some recent dispersal to new sites. Continue to monitor and identify new sites.
Little Grebe			63 pairs (21 tetrads). Post breeding count 88 on North Tees Marshes in Sept. 2016.	No longer amber listed 2014. Wintering decline in UK – 2%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). The Tees estuary is in the top 12 sites in winter. (2017/18). 5-year average 68. Under-recorded as a breeding species.	North Tees marshes, inland water bodies.
Great Crested Grebe			25 pairs (8 tetrads). Breeding reported from Dorman's Pool, RSPB Saltholme, Wynyard & Hemlington Lake in 2018.	UK breeding decline -20% (2007-17). Loss of the Reclamation pond will make remaining key sites even more crucial. Wintering decline in UK -17%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 37.	North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.

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Goshawk			3 pairs (3 tetrads). 2 or 3 pairs noted in suitable breeding habitat in 2016.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley. 1 pair in 2012 & 2013. 2 in 2014.	Woodland. Persecution is a concern.
Water Rail			37 pairs (8 tetrads). 2013. 35 territories. 2014. 13 territories. 2015. 7 territories. 2018. chicks at 3 sites.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. A difficult species to monitor. This is 1% of UK territories. (2014).	Freshwater sites. North Tees and Coatham Marshes.
Avocet	Amber		No breeding 1999-2006. 32 pairs fledged 51 young in 2016. 22 nests produced only 8 young in 2018.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. First bred in the Tees Valley in 2008. Vulnerable to predation. This is 1-2% UK breeding population. 2016.	North Tees Marshes. Creation and maintenance of semi-permanent saline water bodies and nesting islands. Predator control.
Oystercatcher	Amber		14 pairs (12 tetrads). 5 breeding pairs were reported in 2015/2016. Nesting was reported from 7 sites in 2018.	UK breeding decline -23% (1995-2017). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. Wintering decline in UK -10%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 1333.	North Tees Marshes, inland water bodies moorland and farmland.
Golden Plover			20 pairs (10 tetrads).	No longer amber listed 2014. UK breeding decline -5% (1995-2017). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. Wintering decline in UK -35%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 1182.	Upland breeding areas. North Tees marshes and coastal fields in winter.
Lapwing	Red	UKBAP	590 pairs (103 tetrads). 61 pairs at RSPB Saltholme (26 pairs reared 54 young) in 2017.	UK breeding decline -42% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species. Wintering decline in UK -26%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 3612.	Farmland, wet grassland. North Tees marshes in winter. Water levels and grassland management. Fallow nesting plots and maintaining winter stubbles into summer.

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Little Ringed Plover			17 pairs (11 tetrads). Bred at 6 sites producing at least 15 young in 2018.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. Local numbers fluctuate, between 4 and 7 pairs breeding each year in 2012-2016.	North Tees marshes, Inland water bodies.
Ringed Plover	Red	TVBAP	33 pairs (18 tetrads). Breeding reported at 2 sites in 2014-16. Territorial birds at 4 sites in 2018.	Elevated to red list 2014. An uncommon breeder following decline in the last 25 years. Wintering decline in UK -27%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 269.	Coastal. Vulnerable to recreational disturbance on beaches.
Curlew	Red	UKBAP	118 pairs (44 tetrads). Breeding success is under-reported.	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -48% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species. Wintering decline in UK -17%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 932.	Farmland, upland, estuary.
Ruff	Red		4 males and a female lekking at Saltholme in 2016 did not stay to breed.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. The Tees estuary is a site of British National Importance for non-breeding Ruff (2017/8). 5-year average 26.	Coastal wetlands.
Sanderling	Amber		Migrant and winter visitor.	Elevated from green to amber 2014. The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for non-breeding Sanderling. (2017/18). 5-year average 201.	Coastal. Recreational disturbance affects winter feeding.
Purple Sandpiper	Amber		Migrant and winter visitor.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. Wintering decline in UK -55%. (25-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18. WeBS 5-year average 45.	

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Common Sandpiper	Amber		No breeding 1999-2006. Adults with juveniles at Scaling Dam indicated breeding nearby in 2017/18.	UK breeding decline -26% (1995-2017). Returned as a rare local breeding bird in 2008/9.	Upland streams and water bodies. Water quality.
Greenshank	Amber		Passage migrant.	Elevated from green to amber 2014. This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for non-breeding Greenshank. (2017/18). 5-year average 12 on passage.	Mainly North Tees marshes
Redshank	Amber		27 pairs (9 tetrads). 25 breeding pairs at RSPB Saltholme 2017.	UK breeding decline -44% (1995-2017). Wintering decline in UK -10%. (10-year trend to 2016/17). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 837. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland, wet grassland, coastal, estuary. Water levels and grassland management.
Woodcock	Red		95 roding birds (42 tetrads). Breeding confirmed in Guisborough Forest in 2018.	Most records were of roding birds, an imprecise indication of breeding. Elevated to red list 2014. Decline in Britain -29% (2003-2013). Northern England -18%. (National Woodcock surveys).	Woodlands, uplands.
Snipe	Amber		51 pairs (21 tetrads). Breeding under-reported.	Breeding decline in England -3%. (2007-17). Recovering 1995-2015.	North Tees Marshes, uplands. Water levels and grassland management.
Razorbill	Amber		23 pairs (1 tetrad). 2016 34 breeding pairs. 2017 43 pairs. 2018 30 pairs.	An uncommon local breeder. The highest count ever at the only site in Cleveland. 2016.	Marine and coastal. Hunt Cliff & Boulby Cliffs.

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Little Tern	Amber	TVBAP	76 pairs (5 tetrads). 95 fledged from 75 nests in 2014. 58 fledged from 84 nests in 2016. 8 fledged in 2017. 0 fledged in 2018.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. The local colony is about 6% UK breeding population. (2016). Vulnerable as most breed at one main site. Highly dependent on local wardening effort. UK breeding decline -34% (1986-2015). The Tees estuary is in top 13 sites (2017/18). WeBS 5-year average 33. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Coastal, marine. Maintain wardening. Vulnerable to disturbance, predation and egg collectors. Tidal inundation.
Sandwich Tern	Amber		5 pairs (1 tetrad). None since 2006 when 5 pairs fledged 2 young. (2014).	In the top 20 UK (WeBS) sites for passage birds. 310 (2017/18). Not an annual breeder.	Marine.
Common Tern	Amber		550 pairs (5 tetrads). Saltholme 263 nests (147 young ringed). Cowpen Marsh rafts 24 nests (24 young). 2018.	UK breeding decline -17% (1986-2015). The Tees estuary (2017/18) had the 7th highest UK WeBS 5-year average (435). Raft and island creation boosted breeding numbers.	North Tees Marshes. Maintain raft and island provision. Control predation. Support conservation of fish stocks.
Roseate Tern	Red	UKBAP	1 pair (1 tetrad). Breeding season sightings increasing.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. Not a regular local breeder but this is 2% of GB breeding population. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Marine.
Kittiwake	Red		7,100 pairs (9 tetrads). Counts in 2018. 1,230 Cowbar - Boulby. 1,310 Hunt Cliff (only 35 pairs with young). Tees Jetties 377 Hartlepool 218.	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -44% (2000-2015). The Tees estuary is in top 21 UK (WeBS) sites (2015/16). Although locally abundant declining and very vulnerable due to concentration in so few colonies. East Cleveland coast. -23% in 2015/2016.	Marine and coastal. Hunt Cliff & Boulby to Cowbar. Potential for breeding ledges on industrial buildings.
Black-headed Gull	Amber		87 pairs (4 tetrads). n 2018. 910 nests at Saltholme. Haverton Hole 16. Cowpen Marsh 26. Easington High Moor 73.	Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 1864. Benefitting from provision of tern nesting areas and other protected areas.	Makes use of artificial islands at RSPB Saltholme. Moorland in south of county.

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Common Gull	Amber		Migrant and winter visitor.	Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 1146	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Amber		148 pairs (16 tetrads).	Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 50	
Herring Gull	Red	UKBAP	1,306 pairs (37 tetrads). 255 pairs on East Cleveland cliffs (continued decline). 26 nests at Longnewton Res. (Hartlepool & Portrack colonies not counted). 2018.	This is about 1% GB breeding population. UK breeding decline -39% (1986-2014). Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 2123.	Marine, coastal and buildings.
Great Black-backed Gull	Amber		Migrant and winter visitor.	Tees estuary 2017/18 WeBS 5-year average 444. UK breeding decline -11% (2000-2015).	Tees estuary.
Cuckoo	Red	UKBAP	83 pairs (62 tetrads). Only reported from up to 6 sites in breeding seasons 2016-18.	UK breeding decline -41% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland, upland.
Barn Owl		TVBAP	9 pairs (9 tetrads). 18 monitored nests in 2018 produced only 2.5 young per nest compared with 4.5 in 2017.	Uncommon local resident. No longer amber listed 2014. Nest boxes installed and monitored in local BAP initiative are helping to maintain small population.	Farmland with rough pasture and some industrial sites. Nest box provision.
Little Owl			55 pairs (37 tetrads). Under-reported: only 2-5 likely nesting attempts per annum reported in 2016-18.	UK breeding decline -58% (1995-2017).	Farmland and scattered trees.
Tawny Owl	Amber		179 pairs (90 tetrads). Largely nocturnal & under recorded.	Elevated from green to amber 2014. UK breeding decline -29% (1995-2017). Only 5 young reared from 4 nest boxes in 2016. Only 2 chicks from 6 nests in 2018.	Woodland, farmland and gardens.

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Long-eared Owl			8 pairs (7 tetrads). 3 breeding pairs 2015. 2 pairs bred in 2016.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. This is about 1% UK breeding population 2015 A scarce resident with some important traditional winter roost sites.	Coniferous woods, over grown hedges.
Short-eared Owl	Amber		No breeding 1999-2006. 3 pairs bred in 2012. 2 pairs bred in 2015.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. Intermittent local breeder and winter visitor. Bred just outside county in 2018 but hunted in Cleveland.	North Tees Marshes and moorland.
Nightjar	Amber	UKBAP	2 pairs (1 tetrad). Minimum 20 birds in 2014. 20 including 13 singing males in 2015. 6 churring males in 2017.	Improving. Moved from red to amber 2014. A scarce migratory breeder, increasing locally during phased felling of Guisborough forest. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Heathland, woodland. Recent felling in Guisborough Forest has creating excellent new breeding habitat.
Swift	Amber	TVBAP	673 pairs (61 tetrads). Current breeding under reported.	UK breeding decline -57% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Urban. Protect nest sites, provide nest access holes, nest boxes.
Kingfisher	Amber		10 pairs (9 tetrads). 3 pairs bred + 3 possible in 2014. Reported at 8 sites (2 pairs bred) in 2017.	UK breeding decline -17% (1995-2017). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Rivers, streams, water bodies. Water quality.
Green Woodpecker			29 pairs (26 tetrads). Territorial birds at 7 sites in 2014/15. Reported from c12 sites in 2017/18.	An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. No longer amber listed 2014.	Woodland.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Red	UKBAP	2 pairs (2 tetrads).	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Kestrel	Amber		131 pairs (105 tetrads). Widely reported in 2018. 4 pairs used nest boxes.	UK breeding decline -32% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland, road verges, urban areas, North Tees marshes.

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Merlin	Red		3 pairs (3 tetrads). Display noted at 2 sites in 2018.	Returned to the red list 2014. This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2017. A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Moorland and in winter North Tees marshes, estuary and coast.
Peregrine			4 pairs (4 tetrads). In 2015 5 pairs bred successfully. Similar numbers 2017/18.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. UK breeding decline -13% (1995-2014). A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley and still liable to persecution. 3 pairs in 2012, 3 possibly 4 in 2014.	Cliffs, quarries, industrial sites. Persecution is still a concern.
Willow Tit	Red	UKBAP	53 pairs (30 tetrads). 1 pair in 2012, 5 in 2013, 5 in 2015.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2017. UK breeding decline -83 % (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species. Increasingly difficult to find in Cleveland. 2019 survey results awaited.	Woodland. Seek to retain wet woodland.
Marsh Tit	Red	UKBAP	74 pairs (41 tetrads). Reported in suitable breeding habitat at 8/9 sites in 2015/16.	UK breeding decline -44% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Skylark	Red	UKBAP	1,630 pairs (158 tetrads).	UK breeding decline -18% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland. More Skylark plots - Undrilled patches to provide access in dense winter cereal crops.
Sand Martin			518 pairs (13 tetrads). 161 at coastal sites & reported from 2 river bank sites. 2016.	UK breeding decline -30% (1995-2015). No longer amber listed 2014. 6 in sand quarry, 52 in landfill site. 41 pairs at Saltholme in 2016. 2018. 4 coastal sites 34+ pairs. Saltholme 37 pairs.	Quarries, coastal cliffs, river banks. Specially constructed sites boosted local recovery. Predation by Magpies and gulls at Saltholme wall.
House Martin	Amber		970 pairs (93 tetrads). 301 in 2012. 2018: Kirklevington (4+) Saltburn (14) James Cook (4) Cliff nests at Cowbar (3) & Skinninggrove (52).	UK breeding decline -18% (1995-2017).	Housing & cliffs.

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Cetti's Warbler			No breeding 1999-2006. 1 pair bred in 2010-12. Singing birds in autumn and winter but no breeding in 2017/18.	Removed from UK Rare Bird breeding bird list in 2017. A rare visitor, has bred.	
Wood Warbler	Red	UKBAP	4 pairs (3 tetrads). 2 males briefly sang in 2015/16. No records 2017/18.	UK breeding decline -63% (1995-2017). A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long-term regeneration.
Grasshopper Warbler	Red	UKBAP	52 pairs (27 tetrads). Estimated 15-25 pairs in 2015/16. Minimum 16 pairs in 2017. 9+ pairs in 2018.	UK breeding decline -18%. (2007-17). An uncommon breeding bird in the Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Scrub, woodland.
Dipper	Amber		5 pairs (5 tetrads). 5/6 pairs confined to East Cleveland becks 2014/16.	Elevated from green to amber 2014. UK breeding decline -6% (1995-2015). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Rivers, streams. Water quality.
Song Thrush	Red	UKBAP	1,973 pairs (157 tetrads).	UK breeding decline -50% (1970-2015). Recovering +3% (2007-17).	Woodland, farmland, gardens.
Mistle Thrush	Red		346 pairs (136 tetrads).	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -25% (1995-2017). Fairly widespread but at low density.	Woodland, farmland, parks & gardens.
Spotted Flycatcher	Red	UKBAP	57 pairs (36 tetrads). Breeding records from 5/6 sites in 2015/16. Down to only 1/2 sites in 2017-18.	UK breeding decline -46% (1995-2017). Local decline continues with up to six breeding records in 2012. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Redstart	Amber		9 pairs (8 tetrads). Indications of breeding at only 2/3 sites. 2015-18.	Locally a scarce and declining breeding bird. There were only two potential breeding records in 2012.	Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long-term regeneration.

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Whinchat	Red		24 pairs (8 tetrads). Breeding/potential breeding recorded from only 2 sites 2015-18	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -56% (1995-2017). Locally an uncommon and declining breeding bird. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Semi-natural grassland & moorland.
Wheatear			11 pairs (11 tetrads). Few breeding records apart from Sleddale in 2016-8	A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. UK breeding decline 34% (1995-2017). No longer amber listed 2014.	Upland and some Brownfield sites.
House Sparrow	Red	UKBAP	14,423 pairs (150 tetrads).	UK breeding decline -5% (1995-2017). Despite decline still abundant in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Urban.
Tree Sparrow	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	261 pairs (57 tetrads). 434 pulli ringed at 3 nest box sites in 2016. 370 pulli ringed at 4 nest box sites in 2018.	UK recovery +125% (1995-2017). Provision of nest boxes has been crucial in local recovery.	Farmland. Gardens. Agri-environment initiatives. Nest box provision.
Yellow Wagtail	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	36 pairs (19 tetrads). 2 pairs bred at Longnewton Res. 2016. Breeding confirmed at Saltholme in 2018. (unconfirmed at Crookfoot).	UK breeding decline -46% (1995-2017). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Grazed marshes, commons & farmland. Water levels and grassland management.
Grey Wagtail	Red		43 pairs (34 tetrads). Breeding confirmed at 3 sites in 2017. Territorial birds at 2 other sites. Birds on territory at 4 sites in 2018.	Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -2% (1995-2017). Susceptible to cold winters. -21% in 2009/10). 3 breeding records in 2012.	Rivers and streams. Water quality.
Tree Pipit	Red	UKBAP	26 pairs (7 tetrads). 7 pairs on territory at 3 sites in 2016. 5 pairs in 2017. Reported at 3 sites in 2018.	Declining UK -5 % (1995-2017). Recovering +16% (1995-2014). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long-term regeneration.

SPECIES	LEVEL OF CONCERN (UK)	BAP SPECIES (UK/TV)	CLEVELAND BREEDING PAIRS 1999-2006. + RECENT DATA.	ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS	MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES
Hawfinch	Red	UKBAP	5 pairs (3 tetrads). Only one sighting in 2012, 2 in 2016. Large influx to Britain in 2017. Highest local count was 63 at Skelton Castle.	This is a rare breeding bird in the UK, 2017. One of the scarcest resident birds in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Bullfinch	Amber	UKBAP	232 pairs (85 tetrads). Still widespread locally but in low numbers.	Recovering + 9% (1995-2014). Exceptional flock of 40 rising to 50 at Slapewath in January 2018.	Farmland hedgerows, parks and gardens. Agri-environment initiatives.
Linnet	Red	UKBAP	1,937 pairs (170 tetrads). Common resident Breeding under-recorded.	UK breeding decline -17% (1995-2017). An RSPB top 40 priority species	Farmland. Hedgerows and scrub. Agri-environment initiatives.
Lesser Redpoll	Red	UKBAP	17 pairs (9 tetrads). Breeding season records from only 2/3 sites in 2015/16. One site in 2018.	UK breeding decline -87% (1970-2015). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Common Crossbill			15 pairs (6 tetrads). Similar numbers still present in 2012.	A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. Winter numbers boosted by autumn influxes.	Woodland. Guisborough Forest. Retain key areas of spruce, pine and larch.
Yellowhammer	Red	UKBAP	1,094 pairs (121 tetrads). Widely but thinly spread. Territorial birds at 7 sites in 2018.	UK breeding decline -16% (1995-2015). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland. Hedgerows & scrub. Lack of over winter seed. Agri-environment initiatives.
Reed bunting	Amber	UKBAP	556 pairs (101 tetrads). Widespread in 2018 with largest numbers on North Tees Marshes.	UK breeding decline -31% (1970-2015). An RSPB top 40 priority species. Recovering + 29% (1995-2014).	Farmland. North Tees Marshes
Corn Bunting	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	23 pairs (13 tetrads). 2 records in 2012. 2(1 carrying food) 2015. 2 records 2016/17. No records in 2018.	UK breeding decline -30% (1995-2017). A scarce resident. On the brink. An RSPB top 40 species.	Farmland. Increase winter food, delay silage cuts. Very successful recovery project nearby in County Durham.

Although this is a long list it is by no means the complete list of birds of conservation concern in the UK.

The following are some of the species of national conservation concern which occur locally but which have not been itemized above as they are perhaps not of immediate conservation concern in Tees Valley. In view of UK trends, they do need to be monitored and may need to be added to the local list if declines continue.

Mallard, Red Grouse, Knot, Turnstone, Stock Dove, Meadow Pipit, Dunnock and Willow Warbler are all **Amber Listed** as of medium conservation concern.

Starling is **Red Listed** as of high conservation concern.

Criteria:

RED LIST SPECIES

- IUCN: species that are globally threatened.
- Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995.
- Breeding population decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population size over 25 years, or longer-term entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969.
- Non-breeding population decline. (as defined above). Only assessed where species has substantially independent breeding and non-breeding populations.
- Breeding range decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK range between the breeding bird atlases in 1988-91 and 2007-11 or 1968-71 and 2007-11 (calculated change in the number of occupied 10km squares).
- Non-breeding range decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK range between the wintering atlases in 1981-4 and 2007-11 (calculated change in the number of occupied 10km squares). The first time that it has been possible to assess this.

AMBER LIST SPECIES

- ERLOB: SPECS have not been used for BoCC 4 as the latest revisions to Species of European Conservation Concern assessments include only red list assessments. All species on the European red list have been amber listed.
- Historical decline – recovery. Red listed for historical decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years or the longer term.
- Breeding population decline. Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term.
- Non-breeding population decline. Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.
- Breeding range decline. Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range between 1988-91 and 2007-11 or 1968-71 and 2007-11.
- Non-breeding range decline. Moderate (25-49%) contraction between 1981-84 and 2007-11.
- Rare breeder; 1–299 breeding pairs in UK.
- Rare non-breeders; less than 900 individuals.

- Localised; at least 50% of UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeders or rare non-breeders. Sites were defined as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Important Bird Areas (IBAs).
- Breeding & non-breeding internationally importance. At least 20% of European population in the breeding or non-breeding season in UK (European estimates from ERLOB data and for non-breeding water birds estimates for the flyway populations for NW Europe (wildfowl) or East Atlantic (waders). Wetlands International 2015.

SOURCES: This report on Birds of Conservation Concern in the Tees Valley, first published in May 2012 has been revised and updated to incorporate the latest available data from the following sources. (February 2018).

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J.V. Fairbrother. December 2019.

