TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB, RECORDS SUB - COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th Feb 2016 at the house of GJ.

Present
County Recorder: Tom Francis (TF)
Compilers: Graeme Joynt (GJ), Geoff Iceton (GI), Chris Bell (CB), Mark Rowbottom (MR), Graham Megson (GM) [minutes]
Ringing Officer: Chris Brown (CBr)
Ordinary Members: Chris Sharp (CS), Mark Askew (MRKA), Ian Foster (IF)

1. **Apologies**
None

2. **Minutes of last meeting**
Accepted.

3. **Matters arising from last meeting**
Actions from previous minutes are complete.
IF was formally welcomed to the Committee.
The Committee agreed to write to Stewart Hinley to thank him for his long service on the records sub-committee.
Action: GJ

4. **BBRC decisions**
4.1 Outstanding at BBRC*.*

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	TBCRSC DECISION
Macaronesian Shearwater	07/08/2005	Hartlepool Headland	RC.Taylor, T.Francis, J.Regan	Supported
Desert-Lesser Whitethroat	09/11/2000	South Gare	DAMoney et al	-
Pratingcole sp	26/05/2015	Seaton Golf Corse	P.Burn	-
Pallid Swift	13/11/2015	South Gare	AJ.Robson	-

(b) Accepted by BB
4.2 BBRC decisions.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	TBC RSC Decision
Pallid Harrier	12 Nov 2015	Seaton Snook	I.Forrest	A
Black Stork	1 Aug 2015	Greenabella Marsh	I.Foster	A
Red-throated Pipit	10/12 May 2015	Seaton Common	C.Dodsworth	A
Squacco Heron	18 and 26 June 2015	RSPB Saltholme	A.Truby, S.Taylor & D.Heward	A

(c) Not Accepted by BB

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	TBCRSC DECISION

5. **Assessment of Cleveland records**

5.1 Records assessed.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	TBCRSC decision
2015			
American Golden Plover	27 March 2015	Sleddale Farm	NP
Barred Warbler	12 Sept 2015	Warsett Hill	A
Great White Heron	1 Aug 2015	Saltburn	A
Hobby	7 Aug 2015	Skelton Castle	NP
Leach's Petrel	8-9 Aug 2015	Marske	A
Icterine Warbler	24 Aug 2015	Brotton	A
Barred Warbler	14-15 Sept 2015	South Gare	A
Green-winged Teal	8 Nov 2015	Peninsula	A
Hobby	21 July 2015	South Gare	NP
Hobby	24 June 2015	Upleatham	A
Rough-legged Buzzard	30 Sept 2015	Gisborough Moor	NP
Rough-legged Buzzard	12 April 2015	New Marske	A
Rough-legged Buzzard	6 Nov 2015	Sleddale	A
Green-winged Teal	5 Dec 2015	Back Saltholme	A
Surf Scoter	4 Dec 2015	Hartlepool Headland	A
Great White Egret	5 April 2015	Cowpen Marsh	A
Great White Egret	9 May 2015	North Tees Marshes	A
Great White Egret (2 birds)	20 Sept to 16 Nov 2015	North Tees Marshes	A (x2)
Grey Phalarope	30 Oct to 4 Nov 2015	South Gare	A
White-winged Black Tern	29 June 2015	Back Saltholme	A
Hoopoe	16 April 2015	South Gare	A
Pallas's Warbler	17 Oct 2015	Hartlepool Headland	A
Pallas's Warbler	26 Oct 2015	South Gare	A
Barred Warbler	4 Sept 2015	Hartlepool Headland	A
Icterine Warbler	16 Aug 2015	South Gare	A
Icterine Warbler	23 Aug2015	South Gare	A
Red-breasted Flycatcher	28 Oct 2015	Hartlepool Headland	A
Hobby	18 June 2015	RSPB Saltholme	A
Hobby	27 June 2015	RSPB Saltholme	NP
Cetti's Warbler	2015 - various dates	Cleveland	A
Tundra Bean Goose	8 Jan 2015	Scaling Dam	A
Rough-legged Buzzard	8 April 2015	Codhill Heights	A
Rough-legged Buzzard	9 April 2015	Codhill Heights	A
Rough-legged Buzzard	30 Oct 2015	Scaling Dam	A

White-rumped Sandpiper	4 Aug 2015	South Gare	A
Wood Lark	11 Oct 2015	Hummersea	A
Great Shearwater	5 Sept 2015	Cowbar Nab	A
Icterine Warbler	23 Aug 2015	Boulby Pond	A
Icterine Warbler	23 Aug 2015	Hartlepool Headland	A
Icterine Warbler	22 Aug 2015	Redcar	A
Hobby	5 June 2015	Kirklevington	A
2016			
Penduline Tit (2 birds)	7 Feb 2016	RSPB Saltholme	A (x2)

A=Accept
NP=Not Proven

5.2 The TBC Records Sub-committee follows the British Birds Records Committee protocol on voting. This is copied below:

Voting Accept or Not Proven
All voting members vote in one of two ways: Accept or Not Proven.
At an individual level, an Accept vote implies a very high (though not always total) confidence in the mind of the voter that the record was as claimed. Voters try to apply their individual judgement and level of confidence when making their decision. This is usually a subjective judgement and will be influenced by many factors, including the quality of views, the light conditions, the apparent care with which the bird has been observed, the species involved, the experience of the observer and many other factors. Consistency with previous decisions will also be considered and is very important to ensure the long-term value of the BBRC database. Confidence may not be absolutely total, but needs to be very high for an Accept vote to be given.
At an individual level, a Not Proven vote means that the voter has less than the very high level of confidence required for an accept vote. This means that a Voting Member can feel that the record was probably as claimed, but that it simply does not meet the personal level of confidence they apply. It explicitly does NOT imply that the voter believes the observer to be either incompetent or dishonest in any way, but in many cases just that there is a risk of a genuine error having occurred because not quite enough evidence could be assimilated by the observer(s) in the time available. Experienced and highly competent observers will often submit records on much lower levels of evidence than less experienced observers, but these are sometimes not accepted because the confidence felt by the observer in the field may not be matched by the detached assessment of the voters. [BBRC]

5.3 There was discussion on the likelihood of a juvenile hobby reaching Cleveland in July. It was noted that this species breeds relatively late (including in Europe), and both incubation and fledging take about four weeks each. MRKA said that juveniles habitually hang around their natal area. It was noted that First summer birds should show primary moult (GI).

5.4 There was discussion regarding the Leach's petrel record. If accepted, this would be the earliest Cleveland record for this species. However, this species has been recorded to the north and south in July so is clearly in our waters. NB: there was a record from Whitburn on the same night. The tape used had both Leach's and storm petrel songs on. Members wondered if the observer was familiar with the call of Swinhoe's petrel, in order to discount this species. GM said that the Committee should assume a commoner species rather than a

mega rare one – otherwise every record would have to explain why it wasn't a mega (eg: every Red-breasted flycatcher record would have to say why it wasn't a Taiga flycatcher). CBr said that there is a difference between the song of Leach's petrel (which is generally what is on tape lures) and the call. Members wanted clarity on whether the observer had heard the song or the call. The record was pended. The committee agreed to also seek descriptions from the other observers present.
Action MR to ask a second observer if he has any notes of the record he can submit.
Action: GM to seek clarification from the observer.

5.5 With regard to the record of two penduline tits, CB pointed out that technically two birds should not be accepted on the basis of a photograph of just one bird. It was agreed that a photograph of two birds together would be circulated and voted on.
Action TF [done]

5.6 Similarly, photographs of all of the great white egrets need to be seen and voted on. Images of the birds on 9/5/2015 and 20/9/2015 will be circulated.
Action TF [done]

5.7 Similarly the hobby submitted for two dates (nine days apart) cannot be accepted for both dates on a single photograph. This record was pended and the Recorder will seek a written record for the date with no photograph.
Action TF [done]

TF reported that only four or five records were outstanding and he had tried but was unable to track down the observers of some of these. Any further records will be circulated and voted on by email.
Action TF

6. **AOB**
6.1 There was a discussion on how we should communicate the committee's decisions on records. It was noted that currently observers put in effort to submit a record and if it is found 'not accepted', they never formally hear. They would have to look in the Cleveland Bird Report to see if it was missing to know that it had not been validated. The British Birds Rarities Committee publishes records not proven. GJ and GM proposed that for the sake of transparency the committee should publish the minutes of its meetings. Various suggestions were made and it was agreed that the minutes would be published on the TBC website. It was agreed that for each record the code A for 'Accepted and NP for Not Proven should be used.
Action: GM to prepare a web version of the minutes (with record submitters names redacted) and contact Jamie Duffy regarding publishing.

6.2 TF asked if any species should be added to or come off of the list of species requiring descriptions. None were proposed.

6.3 There was a discussion regarding compiling for the Bird Report and the division of species. GM requested that he have a smaller section due to personal commitments. The other compilers agreed to have slightly expanded sections and it was agreed there was no need for a sixth compiler. TF will distribute the full database of 2015 records in due course. TF is still waiting for some regular observers to submit their records.

Action TF

6.4 There was discussion regarding the selection and preparation of photographs for the Cleveland Bird Report 2015. CBr needs to crop and sharpen some images. GJ suggested that rather than this being the last task done, we could start it early. This was agreed. CBr said that having too large a selection of photographs was time consuming to sort through. He said that he tried to use a photograph from everyone who has submitted, though the bulk were from two or three prolific and expert bird photographers. Photographers to be encouraged to submit to TF or CBr.

7. **Date of next meeting**
7.1 The next meeting will be scheduled later.

End