TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB, RECORDS SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of meetings held on 1st March 2017 and 24th April 2017, 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]
Ordinary Members: Mark Askew (MRKA), Ian Foster (IF)

1. **Apologies**
Ringing Officer: Chris Brown
Ordinary member: Ian Kendall

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

3. **Matters arising from last meeting**
Chris Sharp has stepped down after his spell as an Ordinary Member. He has been replaced by Ian Kendall.

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

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	TBC RSC Decision
Macaronesian Shearwater	07/08/2005	Hartlepool Headland	RC.Taylor, T.Francis, J.Regan	Supported
Desert-Lesser Whitethroat	09/11/2000	South Gare	D.A.Money et al	-
Alpine Swift	30/03/2017	Hartlepool Headland	G.Iceton	Supported

(b) Accepted by BB
4.2 BBRC decisions.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER (*et al*)	TBC RSC Decision
Savi's Warbler	15-16/04/2016	Hummersea	I.Kendall	Supported
Great Reed Warbler	11-16/05/2016	Haverton Hole	M.A.Blick	Supported
Red-flanked Bluetail	9-10/10/2016	Hartlepool Headland	C.Dodsworth	Supported
Eastern Black Redstart	27/10/2016 to 28/04/2017	Skinningrove	D.Pearson	Supported
Eastern Black Redstart	03-15/10/2016	Hartlepool Headland	G.Rutherford	Supported
Siberian Stonechat	13-16/10/2016	Saltburn	D.A.Money	Supported
Desert Wheatear	14/10/2016	Old Cemetery, Hartlepool	I.Foster	Supported

Pied Wheatear	29-30/10/2016	Redcar	J.Henderson	Supported
Siberian Accentor	15/10/2016	Huntcliff (Saltburn)	D.A.Money	Supported

(c) Not Accepted by BB

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	TBCRSC Decision
Collared Flycatcher	28-29/05/2008	South Gare	N.Preston, I.Boustead, et al	-

5. **Assessment of Cleveland records**

5.1 Records assessed on 01/03/2017

Species, Site, Date, Observer	TBC RSC decision
1. Caspian Gull-Newburn-30th Jan 2016	A
2. Great White Egret-Seaton Commmon-1st April 2016	A
3. Icterine Warbler-Hartlepool-26th May 2016	A
4. Citrine Wagtail-Zinc Works Bushes-10th May 2016	A
5. Grey-headed Wagtail-Zine Works Bushes-11th to 13th May 2016	A
6. Pallas's Warbler-Hartlepool-11th to 13th Oct 2016	A
7.Pallas's Warbler-Hartlepool-22nd Nov 2016	A
8. Tundra Beal Goose-18th Oct 2016-Scaling Dam	A
9.Red-br.Flycatcher-Hartlepool-13th Oct 2016	A
10. Great White Egret-Greatham Creek-1st Sept 2016	A
11. Cory's Shearwater-Hartlepool-5 Sept 2016	Pend
12. Dusky Warbler-15 Oct 2016-Hummersea	A
13. Dusky Warbler-Hummersea-21 Oct 2016	A (2nd bird)
14.Glossy Ibis-Old Cemetery-28th May 2016	A
15. Goshawk 29 Oct 2016 Saltholme	Pend
16. Greenish-Warbler-Saltburn-15th Sept 2016	A
17. Green-winged Teal-Scaling-28thMarch 2016	A
18. Honey Buzzard-Wynyard-1st Oct 2016	Pend
19. Icterine Warbler-South Gare-26th May 2016	A
20. Little Bunting-Huntcliff Saltburn-6th October 2016	A
21. Pallas's Warbler-Saltburm-15th Oct 2016	A
22. Radde's Warbler-16 Oct 2016-Boulby	A
23. Raddes Warbler-Hunley Hall-151016	A
24. Raddes Warbler-Huntcliff-15 Oct 2016	A
25. Raven-Redcar-4 Oct 2016	Pend
26. Raven-Scaling Dam-13th Aug 2016	A
27. Raven-Sleddale-4th Oct 2016	A
28. Richard's Pipit-Seaton Common-26th Nov 2016	A
29. Rustic Bunting-South Gare-20th Oct 2016	Pend
30. Surf Scoter-The Stray Redcar-18th June 2016	A

31. White winged Black Tern-South Gare-7th Sept 2016	A
32. Tundra Bean Geese-Kilton -21 Dec 2016	A
33. Tundra Bean Goose-Scaling Dam-29th Dec 2016	A
34. White-w.Black Tern-Saltholme Pools-29th and 30th Aug 2016	A
35.Red-br. Flycatcher-Locke Park-24th Oct 2016	A
36. White-winged Black Tern-Staithes-Cowbar-4 Sept 2016	A
37. Alpine Swift-Hartlepool Headland-30 March 2017	A

Key:
A=Accept
NP=Not Proven

5.1 Records assessed on 24/04/2017

Pended records	**TBC RSC Decision**
Cory's Shearwater-Hartlepool-5 Sept 2016	A
Goshawk-Saltholme, 29 Oct 2016	NP
Honey Buzzard-Wynyard-1st Oct 2016	NP
Raven-Redcar-4 Oct 2016	NP
Rustic Bunting-South Gare-20th Oct 2016	NP

Additional 2016 Records	**TBC RSC Decision**
Cetti's Warbler-various sites-various dates in 2016:	
RSPB Saltholme birds	A
Portrack Marsh birds	A
Haverton Hole birds	A
Tundra Bean Goose-Scaling Dam-2nd Feb 2016	A as 'Bean Goose'
Green-winged Teal-Scaling Dam-1st Nov 2016	NP
Bean Goose (probably Tundra)-Saltburn-10th Oct 2017	A

2017 Records	**TBC RSC Decision**
Siberian Chiffchaff-Skelton-8th Jan 2017	A
Green-winged Teal-Saltholme-10 to 17th Jan 2017	A as 'Returning bird'
Green-winged Teal-Saltholme-24 to 25th Feb 2017	A as 'Returning bird'
Two photos suppled, one of each bird-Tundra Bean Geese in Cowpen Bewley area-1st to at least the 9th Jan 2017	A (2 birds)
Great White Egret-19th to at least 22nd Jan 2017	A
Tundra Bean Geese 2- Scaling Dam-14th Feb 2017	A
Common Cranes 3-over RSPB Saltholme-27th March 2017	A

5.3 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]

6. **AOB**

6.1 Cleveland Bird Report 2016

TF [and GJ] have compiled species tables and the full database of 2016 records and distributed these to the five compilers.

6.2 Cleveland Bird Recorder

TF is stepping down from the post of Recorder at the end of 2017. There was a wide ranging discussion regarding a new Recorder, with no one on the Sub Committee nominating themselves. There was discussion regarding the work load and how it might be better shared amongst Sub Committee members, in order to lessen the burden on the Recorder.

The main roles are:

- Passing on descriptions and photographs of records to BBRC.
- Passing on descriptions and photographs of records to TBC RSC.
- Collating records from observers and updating Excel spreadsheet.

One difficulty noted, is that not all contributors use the TBC Excel spreadsheet, making the collation of records time consuming. It was re-emphasised that the submission of records, especially commoner species, is essential to maintain a high quality Bird Report.

It was agreed that the TBC should advertise on the website and at its meetings for volunteers for this position.

There was discussion around streamlining the record assessment process. One option would be to give the County recorder delegated authority to accept ‘obvious’ records without circulating. It was noted that if evidence is not retained, then in future, records could not be reviewed – this would have to be accepted as a necessary course of action. Other ideas

were discussed and it was agreed that we need to reduce the workload. BBRC is apparently getting rid of its national archive.
Action: MRKA to inform main committee that a new Recorder is needed.
GJ has offered to remain as editor of the Cleveland Bird Report.
TF has scanned in all past BBRC submissions and has electronic copies. CB has copies.
TF has approximately one shoe box full of the old card records/ year – covering 43 years.

6.3 It was agreed that the TBC RSC will have to review all bean goose records following their split into two full species: Taiga and Tundra. This is a consequence of the following taxonomic decision by the BOU:

The British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) has announced that it is to adopt the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List for all its ornithological needs, including the British list, from 1 January 2018.

6.4 Discussion on records for the Bird report. **Action:** GJ to check inland records of velvet scoter flocks.

7. **Date of next meeting**
7.1 The next meetings will review and edit the first two of the five Cleveland Bird Report 2016 sections (**Action:** CBell and MRowbottom). Scheduled for 17th July 2017 (tbc).

End