



Minutes of the meetings on 16/07/2019, 30/07/2019 & 05/08/2019.

1. Present

Alan Crossley (AC), Chris Brown (CBr), Geoff Iceton (GI), Mark Rowbottom (MDR), Ian Kendall (IK), Chris Bell (CB), Mark Askew (MRKA), Ian Foster (IF), Ian Boustead (WIB), Graham Megson [minutes] (GM).

2. Apologies

2.1 None.

3. The Committee

County Recorder: Alan Crossley

Bird Report Editor: Chris Brown

Compilers: Geoff Iceton, Mark Rowbottom, Ian Kendall, Chris Bell

Ordinary Members: Mark Askew, Ian Foster, Ian Boustead, Graham Megson

Ringing Officer: Chris Brown

3.1 There was discussion on the make-up of the sub-committee – see section 6.

4. BBRC decisions

4.1 BBRC has recently published the August 2019 Work in Progress file.

BBRC Outstanding				
24/09/1984	24/09/1984	1	Barolo Shearwater	Hartlepool Headland
07/09/1990	07/09/1990	1	Barolo Shearwater	Hartlepool Headland
07/08/2005	07/08/2005	1	Barolo Shearwater	Hartlepool Headland
09/11/2000	09/12/2000	1	Desert-Lesser Whitethroat	South Gare
Three Barolo shearwater records 'In Circulation', Desert-Lesser Whitethroat 'Waiting for Information'.				
BBRC Accepted				
11/11/2018	11/11/2018	1	Pallid Swift	Hartlepool Headland
11/11/2018	12/11/2018	1	Little Swift	Hartlepool Headland
12/10/2018	14/10/2018	1	Spotted Sandpiper	Marske-by-the-Sea
17/08/2018	19/08/2018	1	Western Bonelli's Warbler	North Gare
09/08/2018	09/08/2018	1	Franklin's Gull	Pinchinthorpe
26/11/2018	29/11/2018	1	Little Bittern	RSPB Saltholme
25/07/2018	25/07/2018	1	Marsh Sandpiper	Scaling Dam Resr
21/07/2018	08/08/2018	1	Franklin's Gull	Scaling Dam Resr
11/11/2018	11/11/2018	1	Pallid Swift	Seaton Carew
06/05/2018	06/05/2018	1	Hooded Merganser	Seaton Common
31/05/2018	31/05/2018	1	Eastern Subalpine Warbler (group)	South Gare



5. 2018 Cleveland Bird Report

5.1 CBr had previously circulated drafts of the Bird Report 2018 sections. Over the three meetings these were proofread, and amendments noted by CBr. **Action:** CBr to make changes and circulate the full draft document for final proofing. **Action:** All to proofread.

5.2 The record of two wood sandpipers at the Blast Furnace Pool on 12/08/2018 were agreed to have been green sandpipers. **Action:** AC to amend the database of records.

5.3 There was discussion over the correct name for the site holding the moorland black-headed colony – Waupley Moor or Easington High Moor. Several people had submitted counts of the nests.

6. AOB

6.1 The sub-committee noted the passing of Geoff Myers on 15/07/2019. Geoff was a great supporter of the Bird Report, submitting many records, particularly of breeding owls.

6.2 **Records.** There was discussion regarding concerns that only a relatively small number of records are sent in, and the reliance on the few birders who send in the bulk of records. It was thought that the Bird Report is still comprehensive and a good read despite this. There was discussion about seeking to use a wider range of records gleaned from reporting websites (although it was acknowledged that these may require validating).

6.3 **Compilers.** It was noted that the work of the compilers is barely acknowledged (listed in the front of the report) yet each photograph used earns the photographer a picture credit. Currently, the compilers are made up from sub-committee members. MRKA suggested recruiting a greater number of compilers from the wider TBC membership. It was reported that Devon use 19 compilers and Durham have 12. There are pros and cons to having more compilers. While it would share out the task, it would make the Editor's job more difficult (though supporting the Editor could become a new role for the sub-committee). It would lessen the risk of compilers resigning. If there were enough compilers to do 10 to 20 species, this should suit all compilers. While the writing styles might be different, this was not seen as a detriment to the Cleveland Bird Atlas. CBr said that if the compilers knew in advance what their species were, they could make more effort to record them during the year. The make-up of the sub-committee would need to change, as currently compilers are drawn from the Records sub-committee and are not part of the membership rotation. Names of birders who might be interested and could be approached were suggested and a list of 18 was assembled. **Action:** **GM** to draft an email and **AC** to send out to the named birders to gauge their interest; and a general request to be put on the TBC website once it is fully functional.

It was agreed that the idea should be announced at the next indoor meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

End