



TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered as a Charity No. 508850

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

(Chair) **Debbie Lawson**

(Vice Chair) **Mike Leakey**

(Hon Secretary) **Chris Sharp**

(Hon Treasurer) **Steve McDonnell**

(Ordinary Member) **Alistair McLee** (Co-opted)

(Ordinary Member) **Julie Mason** (Co-opted 2017)

(Ordinary Member) **Barbara Crinson** (First Appointed 2022)

(Ordinary Member) **Steve Ashton** (First Appointed 2024)

(Ordinary Member) **Rex Earnshaw** (First Appointed 2025)

RECORDS SUBCOMMITTEE

(Chair) **Martyn Sidwell**

Tom Francis

Graeme Joynt

Chris Brown

Ian Foster

Mike Leakey

Stewart Hinley

Geoff Iceton

Mark Rowbottom

Chris Bell

CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

(Chair) **Alistair McLee**

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

As more members turn to using PayPal this reflects in an increase in subscriptions this year, £1147.66 compared to last year

After re-establishing connection with HMRC and Charities Online the Gift Aid total of £2527.84 was for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Interest on the Skipton Building Society Account was £1717.10. On opening the account, the interest rate was 3.15% and fell to 2.35% in August 2025. Trustees may wish to discuss alternative options at future meetings as the interest rate continues to fall.

Donations of £3126.90 were received from the sale of optics, survey work carried out by Alistair McLee and from former member Alan Kraus

The club also supported a request from Tees Ringing Group for £2610.00 for nets and poles. Club Projects saw the Completion of the installation of a MOTUS Station at RSPB Saltholme and a Biometrix floating island was installed on Pond 2 at Cowpen Bewley Tip, after the installation at Scalling Dam fell through,

Steve McDonnell

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR 2025-2026

The following report provides an overview of the Club's activities and achievements over the last twelve months.

The Club's AGM took place on April 7th 2025. I took over from Mike Leakey as Chair and we welcomed Rex Earnshaw onto the Trustees Committee. The group has met on a quarterly basis via Zoom and I thank Julie Mason for arranging these. The minutes of the meetings are available to all members on request.

Another excellent programme of evening talks took place between September and April, all of which were much appreciated and well-attended. Many thanks again to Julie Mason for organising these and for going to great lengths to provide a variety of speakers both local and from further afield. There have also been a number of enjoyable local outings at different times of the year: two at Bowesfield Marsh lead by Chris Sharp; two at Hartlepool Headland also lead by Chris; one at Seaton Snook with Graeme Joynt; a special nightjar walk at Guisborough, lead by Bert Mitchell and one at North Gare/Seaton Snook lead by Chris Sharp and Julie Mason. Thank you to all leaders for giving their time. Both indoor and outdoor meetings provide a great opportunity for members to socialise with their fellow birders and long may they continue.

The Club's Records Subcommittee met on December 11th 2025. Martyn Sidwell deserves a special mention for everything he has done in his first year as Recorder whilst recovering from long-term illness.

The 51st annual Cleveland Bird report for 2024 was published at the end of 2025. It is something the Club should be proud of and is the result of many hours of dedication. A huge thanks go to all those involved in the production of the report - the Recorder, Editor, Records Subcommittee, compilers and the contributors.

Two projects deserve a mention, the installation of the Motus (wildlife tracking system) at RSPB Saltholme in May 2025 and the Biomatrix floating nesting raft which was finally installed at a deep water body at Cowpen Bewley Landfill Site, having been re-located from Scaling Dam in October 2025. We thank Barbara Crinson for all her efforts and determination in bringing these major projects to fruition. There are plans to create a fitting memorial to Mark Askew who was involved with the Motus Project at the very start.

Ali McLee continues to work hard behind the scenes on numerous, ongoing matters of conservation. One project that is near its completion is the swift nesting wall on Seaton Carew sewage pumping station. The bespoke S Bricks have been purchased and should hopefully have been installed by mid-April. We are thankful to Northumbrian Water for their support in this project, to Ali for everything he has done to make this happen and to Brian Bushnell for his involvement.

There have been many people to thank in the writing of this report (and I hope that I have not forgotten anyone). There is one person I would like to single out who is key to the running of the club in many different ways and that is Chris Sharp. Amongst other things he is the Club's Secretary, deals with membership subscriptions, reviews the monthly summaries of bird sightings for the Newsletter, is compiler of the Bird Report and leader of many of our local outings. Thanks Chris.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Trustees for their guidance and support during my first year as Chair.

Debbie Lawson - Chair

Honorary Secretary's Report 2025

Club membership fell by another 2 in 2025 and is at its lowest level for 17 years but is still at a healthy 432 in total. Junior membership levels continue to be somewhat on the low side! The proposal to introduce free membership for junior members will hopefully encourage one or two more to join.

	Total	Full	Family	Junior	S/C	Life	Hon
2012	548	312	217	1		13	5
2013	509	286	200	2		14	7
2014	488	261	207	2		12	6
2015	476	266	189	2		13	6
2016	480	268	192	1		13	6
2017	470	267	182	1		14	6
2018	453	266	166	1		14	6
2019	465	269	176	-		14	6
2020	451	270	162			14	5
2021	459	271	169			14	5
2022	469	276	175			13	5
2023	445	278	149			13	5
2024	434	267	146	2		14	5
2025	432	264	150	1		12	5

As in previous years the many hours of free time given by certain members is worthy of mention. Jamie Duffie continues to edit the newsletter and also doubles as our website manager and handles all the PayPal receipts for membership fees. This latter method is becoming an increasingly popular way for members to pay their subscriptions.

The Club continues to support local feeding stations. The site at Lockwood Beck is particularly popular. Many thanks are due to the small team of volunteers who keep the bird feeders topped up and cleaned.

The annual bird report is also a publication of which the Club can be rightly proud. As a former member of the Records Subcommittee, I know the amount of time that is spent collating the records and writing and checking the report. Despite his ongoing health problems Martyn Sidwell is doing a first class job as the club's new recorder as are the Records Subcommittee and the compilers who must be thanked for their efforts. Chris Brown continues to edit and format the report. Although Tom Francis stepped down as Recorder at the end of 2018, he and Graeme Joynt continued to assist Martyn in his duties as Recorder. Another member whose efforts for the club go unrewarded is John Fletcher. John has been our sales officer for many years, and he is invariably stationed at the back of each indoor meeting selling old bird reports and books donated by members. Many thanks also go to Julie Mason who organises the monthly indoor meetings.

Chris Sharp

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB					
Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure 2025					
(with 2024 for comparison)					
2025			2024		
		Income	Payment	Income	Payment
Subscriptions		5623.33		4475.67	
Gift Aid		2527.84		0.00	
Interest		1717.10		1511.87	
Meetings			319.97		395.86
Lecture Fees			668.00		273.00
TBC Gen Publications		163.51		227.52	
Bird Report			3280.00		3402.80
Printing & Stationery			290.00		523.37
Postage			926.10		999.94
Subs to other Societies			59.50		58.50
Insurance			166.16		141.76
Sundries		0.00	60.00		129.89
Website			300.00		480.00
Donations		3126.90	2610.00	750.00	3704.80
Feeding stations			840.89		981.83
Hide repairs			0.00		
Data provision		0.00			
Bank charges			0.00		
Club Projects			4346.16		23680.52
		13158.68	13866.78	6965.06	34772.27
	Excess Income		-708.10		-27807.21
		13158.68	13158.68	6965.06	6965.06
	Balance B/F 2025		63803.05	Balance B/F 2024	91610.26
	Excess Income		-708.10		-27807.21
	Balance 31.12.2025		63094.95	Balance 31.12.24	63803.05
	Cash In Hand		0.00		0.00
	Bank Current Acc		8665.98		11091.18
	Deposit A/C 'PSMF'		0.00		
	Skipton Building Soc		54428.97		52711.87
			63094.95		63803.05