

Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter

December 2022 (No.83)



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The Newsletter is issued three times a year

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Coloured Starling! See page 9

MONTHLY SUMMARIES

Chris Sharp reviews the birding highlights of the Autumn season

■ JULY

Last month's Caspian Tern was seen briefly on Bowesfield on 1st. The two Red-breasted Geese and the two Egyptian Geese remained on the North Tees Marshes along with four Spoonbills. An amazing 11 Wood Sandpipers were at Phil Stead Hide on 1st.

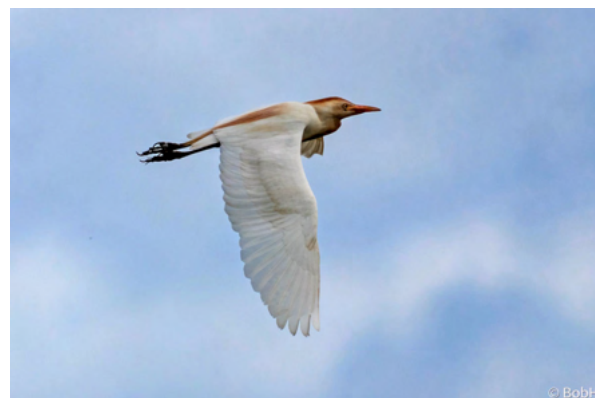


Great White Egrets Saltholme

Simon Stobart

Three Great White Egrets were still around the North Tees Marshes as were the three Glossy Ibises. A Quail was calling at Cowpen Marsh on 3rd. Wader passage early in the month included 84 Black-tailed Godwits and 26 Little Ringed Plovers on Saltholme Marsh on 4th. Three Greenshanks were on Tidal Pool on 6th and four Ruffs were at RSPB Saltholme on 6th.

Another Quail was at Greatham on 8th. A Cattle Egret added to the Mediterranean feel when one appeared at Phil Stead hide on 8th.



Cattle Egret, Saltholme

'BobH'



Bearded Tit Dorman's

Andrew Wappet

A remarkable 20 Bearded Tits were at Dorman's Pool on 10th suggesting successful breeding here. Two Caspian Terns were at Greatham Creek on 12th. They relocated to RSPB Saltholme the following day and remained in the area until 17th.



Caspian Tern, Dorman's

Clive Prescott

Black-tailed Godwit numbers peaked at 380 on Saltholme Marsh on 13th. An unseasonal White-fronted Goose was at Dorman's Pool on 14th and it remained in the area until September.



White-fronted Goose, Dorman's

James Robson

Two Little Gulls were at Saltholme on 14th. The first Roseate Tern was off Redcar on 15th. The Cattle Egret re-appeared mid month. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Dorman's Pool on 18th. Two Red Kites were over Saltburn the following day with others at Guisborough and over Hartlepool. A single Wood Sandpiper at Haverton Hole on 20th

was followed by a Pectoral Sandpiper at RSPB Saltholme on 21st as wader passage increased.



Little Gull, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

Two Bonxies and a Great Northern Diver were off Hartlepool on 21st. Spoonbill numbers on the North Tees Marshes increased to four on 22nd with five present on 24th. Three Spotted Redshanks were at RSPB Saltholme. Three Cetti's Warblers were at Portrack Marsh on 22nd. A Little Stint was on Dorman's Pool on 26th along with an impressive 28 Little Ringed Plovers. A Cory's Shearwater seen at both Cowbar and Hartlepool on this date was the first of a record breaking autumn for this species. Another was seen at the former the following day.

Wader passage was obvious at the end of the month. The low rainfall over the past few months meant many muddy margins and Dorman's Pool proved particularly attractive with Little Stint and two Wood Sandpipers being the highlights along with c120 Black-tailed Godwits and up to 12 Knot.

AUGUST

Two Little Gulls were around Saltholme Pool early in the month. A Black Tern was a brief visitor to RSPB Saltholme on 2nd. It was a poor year again for this species on the North Tees Marshes. Seaton Common held two Cuckoos and two Whinchats on 3rd. A Great White Egret at Bowesfield from 3rd was in addition to the three on the North Tees Marshes and remained into September. Two Glossy Ibis remained around Haverton Hole and Bitterns continued to show here.

A Roseate Tern was on Seaton Snook on 6th. It was a poor autumn for this species presumably as a result of the avian flu outbreak on Coquet Island. A juvenile Caspian Gull was off Redcar on 7th. Spoonbill numbers increased to six on the North Tees Marshes from 7th. The next few days were fairly quiet with few new arrivals but six Spoonbills, three Great White Egrets, two Glossy Ibises and Bittern all to be seen at RSPB Saltholme meant there was always something of interest to be seen. Single Roseate Terns were around Seaton Snook mid month. A Yellow-legged Gull was in Middlesbrough docks on 15th. A Firecrest was unusually at Scaling on 15th. Three Pied Flycatchers were at South Gare on 16th with another at Hartlepool the following day.

Cory's Shearwaters were off Hartlepool on 15th and 16th with four Sooty Shearwaters on the latter date. Two Cory's were off both Hartlepool and Cowbar on 17th. Black Terns were at RSPB Saltholme on 16th and Hartlepool on 17th (3 birds).

A Pacific Golden Plover was photographed on Saltholme Pool on 19th represented only the second record for Cleveland. Sadly it was only seen by the initial observer. Nearby a Hobby was over the RSPB reserve and an Osprey flew over Guisborough. Two Ruddy Shelducks were at Saltholme on 21st. Other birds on the reserve this day included an impressive 30 Yellow Wagtails, three Whinchats, a Bittern and what was presumably the same Hobby. A Garganey was on Saltholme Pools on 22nd.

A Red-backed Shrike at South Gare from 23rd remained for six days. Three Little Stints and six Green Sandpipers were on Dorman's Pool on 25th.



Green Sandpiper, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

The highlight of the autumn was found on the evening of the 25th on the beach at Redcar. A fine summer plumaged Greater Sandplover was a first for Cleveland and had been present in Aberdeenshire only days earlier. It remained in the area until 1st Sept. Another Cory's Shearwater was off Hartlepool on 26th. The last few days of the month saw both Roseate and Black Terns on Seaton Snook but only one or two of both species. A Curlew Sandpiper was also here on 29th with four on Saltholme Pools.

Sea watching was productive at the end of the month with a Cory's Shearwater and a Sabine's Gull at Cowbar on 29th and another Cory's, six Sooty and large numbers of Manx Shearwaters off Hartlepool on 31st. A White winged Black Tern also flew past here on 31st. Up to four Curlew Sandpipers and two Little Stints were on Bran Sands 30th-31st.

SEPTEMBER



Curlew Sandpipers, Bran Sands

Paul Cornwall

A Red-backed Shrike was at Redcar Fox Covert on 1st. A Long-tailed Skua flew past Redcar on the same day. Three Long-tails were off Hartlepool on 3rd. Both Pectoral and Curlew Sandpiper were at Scaling on 3rd and a Hobby was over Kirklevington. Another Pectoral Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme 4th-5th. Hunley Hall Golf Club held five Pied Flycatchers and eight Whinchats on 4th. Up to six Pied Flycatchers were at Hartlepool on 5th.

Curlew Sandpiper numbers increased with five at Greatham Creek and three at RSPB Saltholme. Two Little Stints were at Scaling on 8th and there were two Pectoral Sandpipers at RSPB Saltholme on this date.

The largest early September fall for some years occurred from 9th and the next few days saw good numbers of Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts and Garden Warblers at coastal stations. A Wryneck was at Zinc Works Road and Red-backed Shrikes were at South Gare and Coulby Newham. The 10th saw both Red breasted Flycatcher and Yellow browed Warbler at Hartlepool. A second Red backed Shrike was at South Gare on 11th with another at Hart Warren. An impressive 5,441 Meadow Pipits were counted over North Gare on this date with 2,620 House Martins the following day.



Pink-footed Geese

Stephen Hustwick

The first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn were over Warsett Hill on 13th. A Black Tern was on Seaton Snook on 14th. Yet another Cory's Shearwater was off Hartlepool on 15th. A large

passage of Razorbills also occurred here with about 17, 000 passing



Ravens, NYM

Neil Simms

A Raven was at Scaling and was seen on each of the next two mornings. A lingering bird in the county is surely not too far off. Four Ruddy Shelducks were on Saltholme Marsh on 15th. Numbers had increased to seven by 16th.

A Black Guillemot was off Hartlepool on 16th along with three Pomarine Skuas. Five Long-tailed Skuas were off Cowbar. A Pectoral Sandpiper at RSPB Saltholme was unfortunately taken by a Sparrowhawk. Not if you were the Sparrowhawk!

A Yellow-browed Warbler was a good find inland at Dorman's Pool on 21



Bearded Tit, Dorman's Pool

Andrew Wappet

Up to 12 Bearded Tits were also present at this time. A Nightjar was photographed at RSPB Saltholme .



Nightjar, Saltholme

Stephen Hustwick



Nightjar again

Stephen Wappet

Remarkably what was almost certainly the same bird appeared in the car park here on 26th and gave stunning views here for the next three days perched on a fence.

Four Red Kites were at Guisborough Moor on 23rd. A Hen Harrier was nearby in Sleddale. Another Hen Harrier was at Greatham Creek/Cowpen Marsh the following day. A first winter Yellow-legged Gull was at Redcar on 25th. The first Whooper Swans of the autumn were three over Seal Sands roundabout on 26th. Up to four Spotted Redshanks were on Saltholme Pool at this time. A Hobby was over here on 28th. A Black Guillemot flew past Hartlepool Headland on this date.

Single Yellow-browed Warblers were at South Gare and Hartlepool late in the month. A Jack Snipe was at the former on 29th. A single Spoonbill remained around Saltholme Pools at this time.



Spoonbill, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

OCTOBER

Four Common Cranes flew over Greenabella on 1st. Nearby a Red Kite was over Cowpen Marsh. A Slavonian Grebe was off Skinningrove on 2nd. The same day saw a Lesser Yellowlegs at RSPB Saltholme. Only the fourth record for Cleveland it remained until the end of the month often giving close views at Phil Stead Hide.



Lesser Yellowlegs, Saltholme

Richard Dunning

One or two Curlew Sandpipers were still at Greatham creek at this time and up to four Spotted Redshanks were on Saltholme Pool.



Spotted Redshanks, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

A Long-tailed Duck on Seal Sands on 5th was presumably the bird on Greenabella from 9th. This species is becoming increasingly uncommon in Cleveland. 36 Whooper Swans were on Saltholme Marsh on 7th. Several other herds passed through the county over the next few days. A Great White Egret on Saltholme Pools on 9th continued to be reported intermittently in the area for the remainder of the month. Six Egyptian Geese were on roadside pools along the Seal Sands road.



Whooper Swans, Scaling Dam

Mark Askew

Three Velvet Scoters were off Redcar on 10th. A Raven flew through Boulby on this day. Rarest

bird of the month was the Collared Pratincole at RSPB Saltholme on 13th. This was the first county record but sadly it was only present for about 35 minutes before it flew off high over Middlesbrough to leave many frustrated observers missing out by a matter of minutes. The Black-winged Pratincole here in June 2014 did the self same thing. A Jack Snipe on Dorman's Pool was scant consolation.

A Cattle Egret was at RSPB Saltholme from 14th and remained into November. Equally as rare in Cleveland these days is the Turtle Dove, so one at RSPB Saltholme on 15th was much appreciated. A Red-necked Grebe was off Redcar 16th-17th. Whooper Swan passage peaked on 18th with herds of 50 over Zinc Works road and 37 over Greenabella. A Firecrest showed well in the Zinc Works bushes.



Three herons, Saltholme

A fall of migrants on 19th included a brief Great Grey Shrike at Middlesbrough whilst Hartlepool held an elusive Hawfinch (very rare here), seven Short-eared Owls, Yellow-browed warbler and two Mealy Redpolls. A Long-eared Owl was at South Gare.



Yellow-browed Warbler, Headland

Mark Stokeld

Very heavy rainfall and easterly winds on 20th saw ideal fall conditions at the coast. Despite the wet conditions Hawfinch and Hen Harrier were seen at Boulby along with two Yellow-browed Warblers, two Black Redstarts and a Ring Ouzel at South Gare and Firecrest and Yellow-browed Warbler at Hartlepool. Many thrushes were also

grounded. The following day saw a Radde's Warbler at Hunley, Dusky Warbler at Warsett Hill, Firecrest and six Yellow-browed Warblers at Hartlepool and Firecrest at South Gare. A Little Auk also was off Hartlepool.

The next few days saw good numbers of common migrants at the coast. Goldcrests and Brambling were particularly noticeable. A Great Grey Shrike was at Boulby on 23rd along with a late Whinchat. Odd Mealy Redpolls were also seen. Both Black throated Diver and Slavonian Grebe were on Bran Sands on 23rd. A Rough-legged Buzzard on the edge of the county at Sleddale from 24th was the first here for a few years. A late Spotted Flycatcher was at Saltburn on 25th. A probable Pallid Swift was also here on this date.

A late Curlew Sandpiper joined the Lesser Yellowlegs at Phil Stead hide on 26th. Nearby a Scaup was on Back Saltholme on 27th.



Snow Bunting, South Gare

Paul Wearne Forster

Seven Snow Buntings returned to South Gare on 28th. A single Lapland Bunting and Ring Ouzel were at Marske on 29th. Both Black throated Diver and Long-tailed Duck were off Parton Rocks on 30th and a Great White Egret was on Seaton Common.

With unseasonably warm southerly winds late in the month record numbers of Pallid Swifts were recorded in the country. After a probable on 25th one was over Redcar seafront on 30th and was joined by a second bird the following day. These represent the 8th and 9th records for Cleveland,



Pallid Swift, Redcar

'Connor'

all of which have been since 1999. A Cetti's Warbler was on Coatham Marsh on 31st.

Where have all the flowers gone?



In July and August, some members have mentioned their disappointment to me about the sward cutting regime which had taken place on the recently sown wildflower meadow, which was evolving on the surrounding embankments of Greatham Creek. Earlier in the year there had been an impressive showing of wildflowers and their associated insects, but this had now been mown.

I raised the matter with one of my contacts in the Environment Agency (E A) and was told the plan had been over the first two years after seeding, that a contractor was to make two annual cuts with one in July. The purpose was to establish a more robust sward. However not all areas had germinated well and the practice had been extended into 2022. Some areas were to be reseeded this year, which I witnessed myself in September. In future, a cutting regime, better simulating the practice of traditional grass harvesting for haymaking, would be operational and performed by the E A.

Hopefully, the arrival of September rains will have encouraged germination, and 2023 will be the start of the gradual process of creating a hay meadow of old with its assembly of insects.

Ali McLee October 2022





Just wait...



...and see.....



.....what happens (eventually)

How others see us

The perils of suburban birdwatching

After completing my first tetrad in the Cleveland Breeding Bird Survey, I moved on to the adjacent tetrad, which happened to be Nunthorpe, the one in which I live and I didn't want anyone else covering it. It was also the first to have a large suburban area so I was wary of walking past houses while carrying binocular and clipboard. Trying to be discrete, I started with a small Leitz 10x22. This was not a success, as it made me feel furtive, and I quickly reverted to my Leica 8x40. My first interaction with a member of the public in the first tetrad when walking from the Nunthorpe by-pass along a track towards St. Mary's church hall. I was stopped by an elderly lady who asked if I had come about the trees, this was a surprise since there were no large trees in the immediate area and I was so taken aback that I didn't ask which trees were causing concern and why. This became a frequent enquiry throughout the survey, culminating in Longnewton where a householder rushed across the road to ask if I

was a arboriculturist, but ignoring my reply that I was more ornithologist, he related his problem with a fruit tree which came into leaf and flowered, and then dropped the flowers and produced no crop. I suggested a possibility of fungal disease and left him pondering.

When surveying around houses, I tried to avoid causing suspicion by not standing in front of a house to scan the roof, instead watching from further down the road. It was impossible not to attract some attention, especially, not surprisingly, in cul-de-sacs where passing pedestrians were unusual. The question, "What are you doing?" depended on how it was said: with a normal interrogative phrasing of a rising inflection at the end, it suggests a polite interest, but "What are you doing?" has the unsaid addition of, "Well don't do it round here". It was notable that the more aggressive questioners were the first to have glazed-over eyes when I began a description of the use of territory mapping to count breeding birds. Another fact that was soon evident was that the most suspicion was around houses in Council Tax bands D and E, while in Social Housing areas I could have walked round with a mask, a striped jumper and a bag marked SWAG, and still be ignored. At the other end of the scale, owners of large expensive properties rested quietly and confidently behind their sophisticated intruder alarm systems. The gentlest approach was from a little old lady who whispered confidentially, "My friend was wondering what you are doing?"

The height of suspicion was reached when I was featured in a Neighbourhood Watch alert. I returned home after four and a half hours of tramping the streets to find friends had phoned saying that their daughter, whose house I had passed, had received an alert from the Neighbourhood Watch that a man had been seen with binoculars and clipboard and who might be recording serial numbers on burglar alarms. The Co-ordinator was a retired policeman and was presumably more aware of the ways of the criminal classes than I am.

If I was wearing a waterproof jacket and looking smarter than usual, I was taken to be 'from the Council'. One woman in a small estate in Coulby Newham, having made that assumption, launched into a tirade about some recent works, "Look what they've done, dug up the pavement and put it back any old how and someone could trip or turn their ankle". I sympathised and agreed the Works Department or their contractors would have trouble organising a celebration in a brewery.

'Being from the Council' did cause some worry to some people. In the first year, I was scanning a

large property where a Care Home and other buildings had been built, while standing at its entrance from the A171 Whitby road. I had just moved on when a woman who had run down the drive, caught up with me, desperate to know if I was from the Council. I suspect there was some guilty conscience involved. One woman I really worried was in Longnewton. Not wanting to double park on the main road through the village, I regularly parked at the end of the minor road that ran from Elton parallel to the A66. Consequently, I was persistently parked outside one house and the woman living there could not stand it and eventually came out and asked if I was from the Planning Department. She then pleaded with me about the proposed extension being essential and invited me in to see what it would involve. I assured her I had nothing to do with planning but she was still not convinced even when I managed to get away.

Another thing I discovered in Longnewton is that you are not suspected if dressed for hiking (boots and trousers tucked in socks), as proved by a police car driving past without stopping while I was doing the potentially suspicious activity of scanning for House Martin nests. The only person who asked what I was doing was the milkman, presumably because he didn't usually see other people about in the early morning.

Farmers varied in their attitude to birds, some quite pleased to have them but most were indifferent. One was insistent that there were none on the farm, but it was the only place in the my six tetrads which had a Yellow Wagtail.

It was a pleasant relief when a person realised I was involved with birds and presented no risk. In fact one man described a nest he'd had in the garden which could only have been that of a Treecreeper, a record I would otherwise have missed, not having heard any song or calls.

The only direct insult I received was from two schoolboys when one whispered, loud enough to hear, "Trainspotter". In my many years of the Salthome WeBS, there had regular presumed verbal abuse from passing cars by those inspired by lunchtime drinking and totally unaware that their witty utterances were drowned out by the engine and road noise. A more direct comment was what seemed to be a stone hitting a tripod leg, but it turned out to be an egg travelling at the speed of the car. The only direct contact was nudge on the shoulder when I was looking over the Calor Gas Pool. I never found what it was, but at least it wasn't an egg.

The other contact with the public is one many of us will have experienced: a photographer showing a picture of a bird and asking what it was. The last time, the bird in question was a Redshank !

One thing we must all experienced is the jovial chap who, finding you are a birdwatcher, says, "I'm a bit of a birdwatcher myself, but not the ones with feathers on." I'm tempted to reply that I've never heard that before.

And then there are those who confidently state that they've had the same Robin in their garden for five years. I usually tell them that a Robin has only about a 50% chance of surviving for one year, but if I'm feeling really brutal, I'll mention that about 10% of Robin deaths are from fights with other Robins.

Eric James

A blast from the past

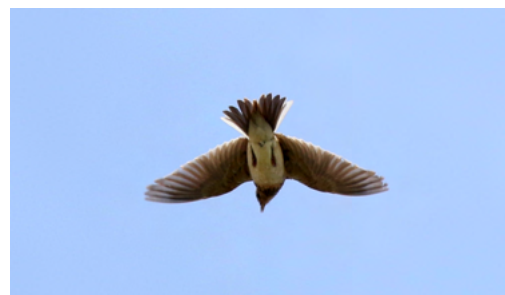
Ted Parker wrote a series of articles under this title. These were all about his desperate searching for some rare bird and his relief when it was found. I doubt if he would ever have written about one of these :



Skylark, Seaton Common

Eric James

But this one is about the bird in flight, though not as close as this one :



Skylark, Headland

Eric James

In 1986 I decided to choose a patch on which I could practise the territory mapping method of surveying breeding birds as used in the BTO Common Bird Census at the time. My first thought was Eston Moor, which I walked round quite often, but finding the Guisborough Branch Walkway, principally the section westwards from Pinchinthorpe, where there were masses of warblers, led to a quick change of mind.

The CBC method consisted of ten visits from March to July, each time plotting the position of every bird on a map, using code letters to identify

the species (B for Blackbird, D for Dunnock, etc.). Birds perched in bushes were no problem, but Skylarks needed a rapid response. As soon as the start of a song was heard, it was necessary to turn towards it immediately, get the binocular focused on where the bird appeared to be starting from and then raising it while continuing to look towards the song. If done accurately and as long as there's no wax in one ear, the bird should come into view. It is claimed that 90% of Skylark song is performed within 100 m of the nest site. While the start and end of the performance are in this limit, but when the bird is at its preferred height, it can be drifted by a cross-wind that is not evident at ground level. On the occasion that is described here, the sun had come out, and the bird was drifting towards it, there was a moment of panic since it would be impossible and extremely inadvisable to be looking into the sun. It was fortunate that the bird stopped just short of it, but close enough for there to be very strong backlighting.

The change in appearance was striking with the dark shape transforming with the body and coverts still dark, but the flight feathers glowing a dull white, and the white trailing edges twinkling.

It was a complete sensory experience, a combination of the heat of the sun, and the fluttering jewel pouring out a torrent of song. It probably only lasted a few unforgettable seconds before the bird started to make its (his) way back to the nesting area and descended in the usual stepwise manner.

Eric James

Have you had any memorable birding events including those involving rare birds as Ted did, or foreign trips why not write them up? Send them to the address on the front page.

I

Do you see what I see?

The short answer is probably not. Most people will have a general idea how vision works : In the retina there are rod cells which respond only to light and are useful for dim lighting, and cone cells that respond to colours, but need stronger illumination.

On the cones there are proteins called opsins which determine the colour to which a cone responds. In humans, the colours are red green and blue, the same as those on computer screens. The three cones are sufficient to perceive over a million different spectral colours, i.e. the colours in the spectrum which can be defined by their wavelengths. There are also non-spectral colours such as purple which is seen when the red and blue cones are activated. If

you have a digital colour meter facility on your computer, then you can see the composition of the colour under the cursor, yellow for example being made up of 100% each of red and green and 0% blue. On top of all this is how the brain interprets the input from the eyes, the recent example being the infamous dress which was black and blue, or was it white and gold?

So what's all this got to do with birds?



Many animals that had evolved before mammals had another type of cone which was sensitive to ultraviolet. These include fish, amphibians, and reptiles (including birds). How birds see each other will be much different from how we see them, as shown in two pictures of a Starling on the next page.. Another species that might use UV is the Blue Tit. Males are identified by the darker blue cap, which is only evident to us if birds of both sexes are seen together

The cap of this presumed male above will be darker and more saturated when seen by another bird sensitive to UV light.

Extra UV cones mean that there are more non-spectral colours made possible by combining UV with each of the three normal colours, and also having Yellow plus UV by combining Red, Green and UV. What these are perceived as by the birds is beyond our imagination.



Normal light



UV light

The earliest mammals evolved while the dinosaurs were roaming the world, and were small and nocturnal. Colour vision was of little use to them and the genes for two of the opsins degraded as mistakes accumulated in them, losing the use of the two related cones. The UV opsin slowly changed to detect the longer wavelength blue, which reduced blurriness and improved resolution. A consequence is that most mammals have only two opsins and are colour blind. The exceptions are the old World monkeys and the great apes, including us. Starting with red and blue opsins, the first step was an accident in cell division duplicating the gene for red opsin, and evolution could then modify one of the red ones to become sensitive to green giving the present trichromatic vision and which was selected for by helping our distant ancestors in seeing ripe red fruit among the green foliage and in avoiding predators such as snakes in vegetation. There are problems if you are one of the eight men in a hundred, or the one in 150 women who have colour blindness. There are several types depending which opsins are missing or defective, the most well known one being red-green colour blindness, called Daltonism after the 18th Century scientist John Dalton who had the condition, which he thought was caused by coloured fluid in the eye filtering out the red. A scientist to the end and beyond, he asked for his eyes to be dissected after his death to see if the fluid was coloured (it wasn't).

NB : the sensitivity of a cone is not restricted to its nominal colour but spreads out to adjacent wavelengths and even overlaps the responses of the other cones' colours.

The birds' tetrachromatic colour perception might sound impressive compared with our trichromatic vision, but some female butterflies can see a second UV colour and mantis shrimps have twelve opsins Not an obvious need for an aquatic creature



TITBITS

A collection of
bird-related

news and facts compiled

by Eric James

Birdwatching is good for mental health

Nowadays people are preoccupied with mental health. So at one time, someone might have said they were feeling a bit low, they now would claim to have mental health problems. The good news for us is that a survey of a thousand people from around the world found that watching birds or just listening to bird song lifted mood for up to eight hours (or improved mental health as reported in the **i** newspaper). It also helped those with real mental health problems such as clinical depression. I wonder if the survey included a twitcher who had driven 500 miles and missed his rare bird quarry

Launching young Manx Shearwaters

The BBC Radio four feature 'Tweet of the Day' sounds like it features small songbirds, but a recent one was about the fledging of Manx Shearwaters on Skomer Island. When the chicks have reached a weight of half to three-quarter kilogram, the parents desert them, having done their parental duties. After eight or nine days, the young bird is ready to leave the nest. To avoid large predatory gulls. this takes place at night and to get away as soon as possible, the birds climb up any elevated structure from where they can launch themselves into a convenient breeze and

make off to the safety of the open sea. Any observers who squat down in a colony will have the strange experience of having a young bird climbing up them, even reaching the top of the head. If the bird misjudges its launch, it can finish up as an undignified ball of feathers in the observer's lap, but, undeterred, it will climb up and try again

Imitation, the sincerest form of flattery



A Bald Eagle descending to its nest, showing the alula on the left wing

Aircraft designers are ready to take inspiration from birds. One is copying the alula, the small feathered digit at the carpal joint (the bend at the front of the wing) and is the bird's equivalent of the thumb. When it is moved forward to make a small slot that allows a steeper angle of attack of the wing and gives more lift, important if the bird is flying slowly. If you have ever sat in an aeroplane by a window overlooking the wing, you would have seen the leading edge of the wing move forward to create the slot which preserves the lift as the speed falls on the approach to landing (several other strange changes in the wing also occur, all to the same effect, I assume).

To improve the flight of drones, designers have taken inspiration from the Barn Owl. The problem with all flying objects, whether birds or man-made machines, is that any structure that provides lift also obstructs air flow and causes energy wasting drag. What is special about Barn Owls is that the tail gives lift with very little drag. This has been proved by some ingenious research, starting with a high speed camera used to film an owl flying

along a corridor. Close examination of the film provided data to calibrate a computer model of the Barn Owl in flight, before isolating the effects of the tail alone on flight performance. Involving modeling of 42 different tail positions.

They found that the Barn Owl can use its tail to gain lift and support its weight, while resulting in less overall drag when it is flying at low gliding speeds. Showing a healthy scepticism about computer results, the researchers confirmed the results in the real world by again recording the owl gliding through the flight corridor, but this time filling the corridor with more than 20,000 soap bubbles to record the owl's effect on the air flow. The question is: How do you count bubbles and how do you film a bird flying through them?

Females singing

It's well known that female Robins sing to defend territory, but this is not unique to them, since female song is found in 71% of songbird species. In spite of this, sexism is still evident, shown by the assumption that male songs would be 'better', i.e. louder, more complicated, and needing more effort, and impressing a potential mate with the singer's good health and his fitness

However, experiments on Robins have proved that female songs are as good as males'. This involved recording 22 Robins, eleven of each sex, between October and December. After being sexed from a blood sample, they were fitted with identification rings, the birds were recorded singing spontaneous songs – meaning they were not responding aggressively to another bird approaching their territory. The songs were then analysed in detail.

Both males and females produced very complex songs with many variations and frequencies ranging from 1.5 to 12 kilohertz – all within the human hearing range. They had the same kinds of frequency variation, with similar extremes and switches within comparable times. And they took the same kinds of "mini-breaths" within their songs. The researchers then used this information to calculate a 'vocal performance score' for each bird. Male and female Robins had similar scores, showing their songs had similar physical and neurological demands.

The results prove that both males and females need to be, and are, equally capable of defending their territories against intruding Robins.

More on birds' colour vision



Not on the Cleveland list

Hummingbirds (the males, not the dowdy females) are regarded as possibly the most colourful of the birds, both in diversity of colours and their intensity – at least, they are from the perspective of the birds themselves. An analysis of 114 species shows that the hummingbirds can synthesise 34 per cent of the colours that they are able to see, unlike birds such as flamingoes which need the right diet to remain pink.

The colour of many birds' plumage is a result of diffraction from the nanostructure of the feathers. This is also present in hummingbirds but in a more extreme form, so further increasing the intensity of the colour, and, with UV vision as well, the birds themselves will be seen even more intensively coloured, important when the plumage is puffed up to attract a potential mate or deter a rival.

Another obvious show of Phenology

Following my article on Phenology in the last newsletter, I've come across another well studied case. In Japan, there is the hanami, the annual celebration of the opening of the cherry blossom. This cannot be a fixed day since trees in the south start the earliest. With the spring warming, the festival moves northwards. Global warming is causing hanami to move forwards and it is now the earliest in 1200 years and 17 days earlier than 2021.

How to deal with cane toads

Introducing foreign animals to control pests can be risky, as discovered by Australians who brought in cane toads to protect sugar canes from

the native grey-backed [cane beetle](#) and [French's beetle](#). The toads secrete poison when attacked causing heart failure in the attacker. They have spread quickly and have become a danger to native species

It is fortunate that several native species have been reported as successfully preying on toads. Some birds, such as the [black kite](#), have learned to attack the toad's belly, avoiding the poison-producing glands on the back of the head, and there are reports in the Northern Territory suggesting that a native frog, [Dahl's aquatic frog](#), is able to eat the tadpoles and live young of the toad without being affected by the poison that kills other predators.

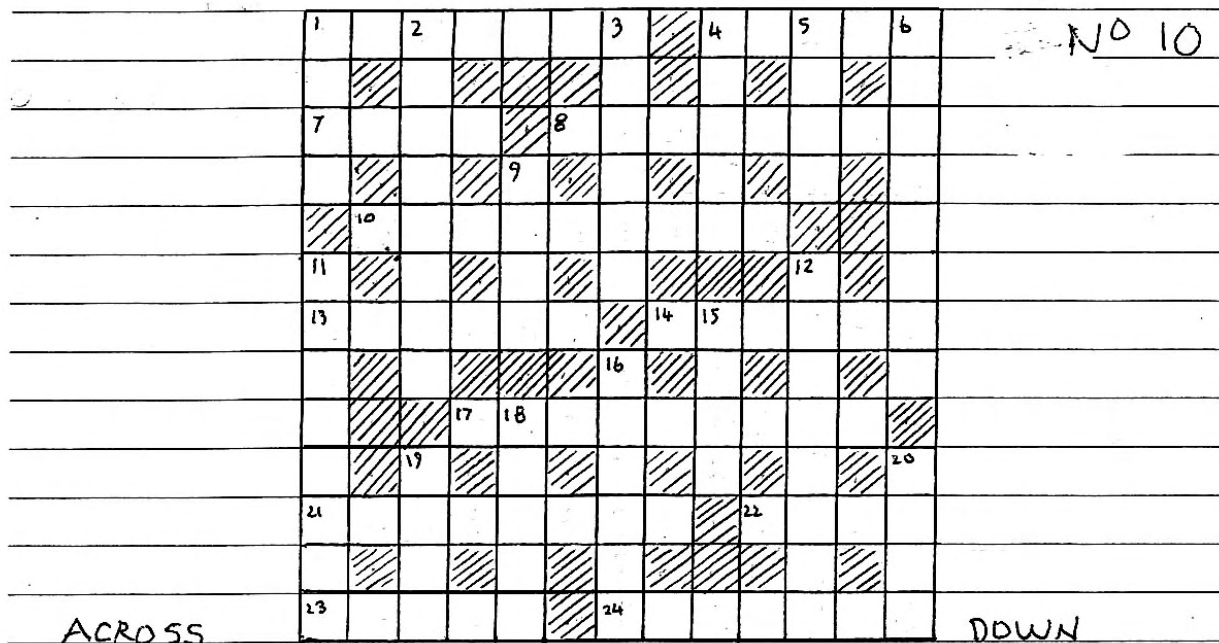
The latest native to fight back is the otherwise reviled (for its propensity for scavenging food from anywhere it can), the Australian White Ibis. The birds flip the toads about, throw them in the air, after this they either wipe the toads on wet grass, or, if there is a water source nearby, they rinse the toads thoroughly.

There is evidence that the stress-wash-repeat method that the birds have developed rids the toads of their toxins before they are swallowed whole



Australian White Ibis : promoted from nuisance to hero

Solution on page 18



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Low bran mixture for hunter (4,3) | 1. E.g. 1 across (4) |
| 4. Frolics for singers? (5) | 2. Goes back and repeats surprise (8) |
| 7. Rodents upset personality (4) | 3. Illumination or lungs of sheep (6) |
| 8. China found near nest? (8) | 4. Lores change for unlucky person (5) |
| 10. Wardens lose one for colourful birds (3-5) | 5. Bunting upsets Muntjac (4) |
| 13. Provides food and reacts somehow (6) | 6. Could rep's lint help with this nuisance (8) |
| 14. It may give an awful shriek (6) | 9. Carry this large omnivore? (4) |
| 17. Colourful birds get Russian pies (9) | 11. Country upsets cold ants (8) |
| 21. Small bird has distinctive stress alternative (8) | 12. Girl's severe in area (8) |
| 22. Bunting uses most of dodgy lyric (4) | 15. Frost for most of cache (4) |
| 23. Ball in Jordan celebration (5) | 16. Old car upset scoter (6) |
| 24. Tornado swindler (7) | 18. Rene and I upset man (5) |
| | 19. Seawatchers do this (4) |
| | 20. Having wings is useful in a real alarm (4) |

Solution on page 18

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH AUTUMN 2022 SUMMARY

	July 10	August 07	September 11	October 09
Little Grebe	11	<u>45</u>	43	38
Great Crested Grebe	<u>20</u>	13	5	4
Cormorant	190	142	<u>235</u>	184
Little Egret	52	<u>55*</u>	50	24
Grey Heron	35	44	<u>62</u>	27
Mute Swan	67	<u>69</u>	45	41
Greylag Goose	378	64	<u>1227*</u>	596
Shelduck	<u>284*</u>	56	126	170
Wigeon	15	20	434	<u>1239</u>
Gadwall	248*	<u>412**</u>	207*	111
Teal	32	97	1270	<u>1702</u>
Mallard	337	<u>373</u>	271	277
Pintail	1	1	6	<u>25</u>
Shoveler	13	62	162*	<u>356**</u>
Pochard	47	<u>53</u>	15	17
Tufted Duck	60	<u>102</u>	75	57
Coot	493	<u>575</u>	424	471
Oystercatcher	172	287	<u>738</u>	587
Avocet	<u>75*</u>	17	5	1
Ringed Plover	31	71	<u>254*</u>	68
Golden Plover	1	3	52	<u>566</u>
Grey Plover	0	1	10	<u>40</u>
Lapwing	617	488	<u>1776</u>	1729
Knot	0	8	<u>336</u>	116
Sanderling	0	1	<u>15</u>	0
Little Stint	0	0	<u>1**</u>	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	<u>6</u>	1
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	6	68	<u>926</u>	340
Ruff	1	0	4	<u>9**</u>
Snipe	8	13	23	<u>34</u>
Black-tailed Godwit	85	104	99	<u>113</u>
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	0	<u>131</u>	34
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0
Curlew	<u>899*</u>	397	332	441
Spotted Redshank	0	1**	2**	<u>6**</u>
Redshank	103	516*	567*	<u>675*</u>
Greenshank	1	<u>4*</u>	1	1
Green Sandpiper	0	2*	<u>3**</u>	1
Common Sandpiper	<u>3**</u>	2**	0	1**
Turnstone	12	59	<u>76</u>	58
Sandwich Tern	<u>115</u>	65	114	56
Common Tern	311	<u>595</u>	194	27
Arctic Tern	<u>2</u>	1	0	0
Little Tern	<u>25</u>	20	0	0

Underlined counts indicate Autumn 2022 maxima cont on next page.....

- * Denotes count of >50% of national importance
- ** Denotes count of national importance
- *** Denotes count of international importance

N.B. 'Teesmouth' includes Hartlepool Bay & the whole of the RSPB Saltholme Reserve.

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY - AUTUMN 2022 SUMMARY

An excellent level of cover was achieved with 166 of the scheduled 168 sector counts completed over the four months.

Over this series of counts the Tees Estuary and Hartlepool Bay recording area was nationally important for Gadwall (412, August), Shoveler (356, October), Ruff (9, October) and Spotted Redshank (6, October). Totals were not nationally important for Little Egret, Sanderling or Greenshank this time round.

Teal (1702, October), Shoveler (356, October) and Little Ringed Plover (15, July) all set new autumn maxima records utilising WeBS data which goes back to 1988. Meanwhile Sanderling (15, September) did set a new record low autumn maxima count however, high recreational disturbance was noted around the Redcar sectors which usually play host to a large flock.

Although of national importance, this autumn's Gadwall maxima (412, August) is the lowest total since 342 birds were counted back in 2008 and a significant drop from the 2019 total of 877 birds, a figure which was of international importance.

Other interesting records during the autumn included, 19 Whooper Swan (across Tees Estuary, October), 25 Pink-footed Geese (across Tees Estuary, October), six Egyptian Geese (Cowpen Marsh, October), a Long-Tailed Duck (Greenabella Marsh, October), three Great White Egrets (Cowpen Marsh, August), three Glossy Ibises (The Tanks at RSPB Saltholme, July), 3 Spoonbills (Dorman's Pool, July) and a Lesser Yellowlegs (Wet Grassland at RSPB Saltholme, October).

Adam Jones

WeBS Local Organiser

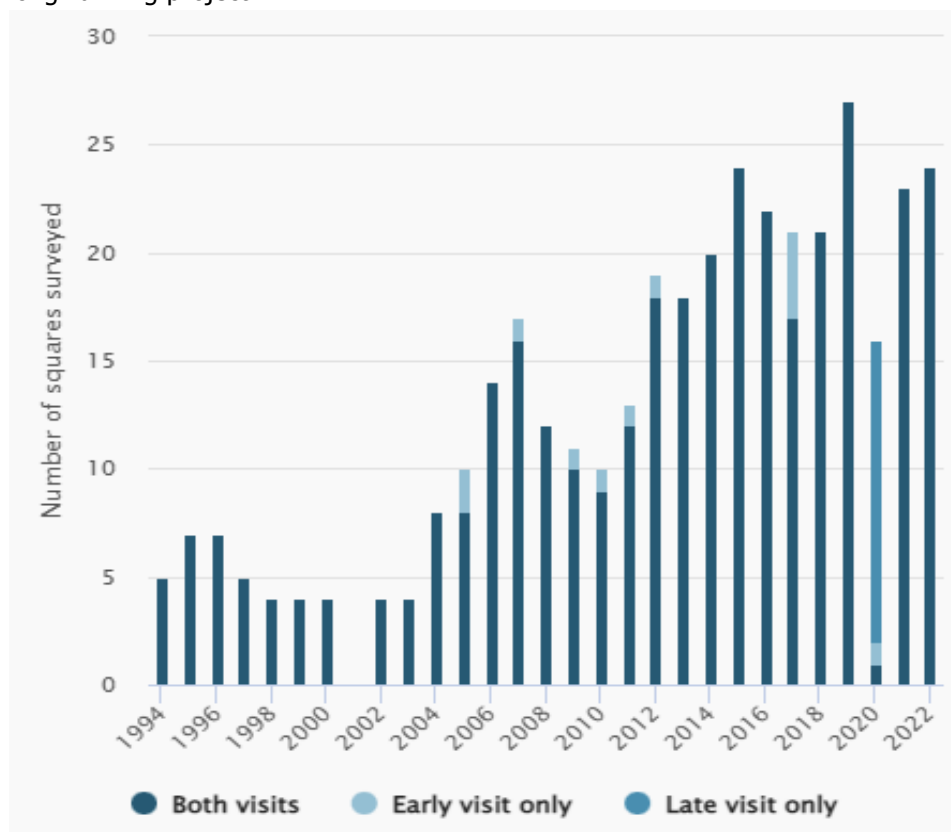
November 2022

All WeBS data are collected on behalf of the WeBS Partnership, which retains exclusive rights to the sale or supply of these data for commercial purposes

News BTO NEWS November 2022

Breeding Birds Survey and Waterways Breeding Birds Survey

In total, 98% of both early and late season BBS visits were successfully undertaken and results submitted, along with 100% of early and late season WBBS visits. The graph below shows how this level of coverage within the Cleveland BTO area compares with recent years. Altogether, 24 BBS Squares were surveyed this season, one more than in 2021, though still three fewer than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019 (since when several long-term volunteers have retired). Well done to all those who participated during 2022 in this vital long-running project.



The following table lists the most numerous species recorded by BBS in Cleveland in 2022:

Species	Individuals	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed
Woodpigeon	874	22	92%
Rook	429	14	58%
Jackdaw	362	18	75%
Starling	339	16	67%
Blackbird	320	23	96%
House Sparrow	268	16	67%
Herring Gull	235	22	92%
Chaffinch	188	23	96%
Wren	179	24	100%
Carrion Crow	177	23	96%

Table of the most widespread species in Cleveland in 2022 is on the next page

The most widespread species recorded by BBS in Cleveland during 2022 were as follows:

Species	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed	Individuals
Wren	24	100%	179
Blackbird	23	96%	320
Chaffinch	23	96%	188
Carion Crow	23	96%	177
Chiffchaff	23	96%	114
Woodpigeon	22	92%	874
Herring Gull	22	92%	235
Blue Tit	22	92%	139
Goldfinch	21	88%	146
Robin	21	88%	118

Scarcer species recorded included Cuckoo, Hobby, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit and Yellow Wagtail, each of which were found in single squares.

Please do consider taking part in the Breeding Bird Survey. Most long-term volunteers find getting to know the breeding bird communities of a single 1km square a fascinating and rewarding experience. Only two sessions per 1km square are required (plus an additional short reconnaissance visit to check transect routes and record habitat) each taking no more than two hours. I'm happy to assist new volunteers with initial visits to squares, and to provide advice and guidance throughout.

The following squares are currently available to allocate for 2023. The first three are on the eastern urban fringe of Darlington, while the last four are in East Cleveland. The remaining square at Hart Warren is new to BBS and consists of just a single 1km transect.

NZ3012	Hurworth Moor, Darlington
NZ3114	Lingfield, Darlington
NZ3316	Sadberge, Darlington
NZ4936	Hart Warren
NZ6321	New Marske
NZ6811	Moorsholm Moor
NZ7016	Liverton
NZ7017	Liverton Mines

All BBS squares are valuable to the survey and it would be great to have full coverage. Full details are on the BTO website <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bbs> where you can register. Please contact me on 07510 996977 or mikelaquila@hotmail.com if you think you can help.

Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP)

The Seabird Monitoring Programme Scheme has now moved to the BTO's coordination, in Partnership with JNCC and associate partner RSPB. The web pages are accessible and the SMP Online data entry system is linked from there (yellow box in the top right of the SMP homepage). On the front page of SMP Online, there is an interactive map of sites. Some sites look to be allocated to participants, but in many cases, these are the paid professionals who have taken part in the periodic census of the last couple of years and are no longer going to survey the site.

So, inland or at the coast, have a look and if you see a site that looks attractive to you in our local area, please do get in touch to find out the current status:

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/seabird-monitoring-programme>

Solution to Crossword No.10

1B	A	2R	N	O	W	3L	4L	A	5R	K	6S
!	E	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	P
7R	A	T	S	8E	G	G	S	H	E	L	L
D	!	R	9B	!	H	!	E	!	D	!	!
10B	E	E	E	A	T	E	R	S	!	!	N
11S	!	A	!	A	!	S	!	!	!	!	T
13C	A	T	E	R	!	!	!	!	!	!	E
0	!	S	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	R
T	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
L	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
2A	C	C	E	N	T	O	R	!	!	!	L
N	!	A	!	!	!	!	R	!	!	!	A
23D	A	N	C	E	!	!	!	!	!	!	R

Enthusiastic amateurs on Cowbar are asking for your help!

Can you respond to this request for information and records for Cowbar?



Cowbar Nab



From Staithes pier, Kittiwake nests can be watched a few feet above your head

Eric James

Cowbar Jackdaws – also a local name for Cowbar residents – have been more numerous than the Herring Gulls on Cowbar this year and the song of the Skylarks has filled the spring and summer months. It's sad to know that they are on the conservation Red list. An especially hearty crop of creeping thistle springing up from disturbed earth the length of Cowbar Lane has provided a feast for clouds of Goldfinches all through late summer and autumn. And Cowbar Nab is well known for its colonies of Herring Gulls, and ledges of Kittiwakes, Fulmar and Razorbills.

We feel very lucky that so many birds live and thrive on and around Cowbar – many of them seen as 'common' or 'ordinary' - but we enjoy occasional rarer sightings too. The other day we saw a Heron watching and waiting for rodents in the field by the old railway embankment. A few years ago there was excitement when a Black-browed Albatross was reported to be heading up the coast from Flamborough head. Apparently, from 2014, a 'lost' albatross settled on Helgoland, Germany and subsequently briefly visited the Yorkshire coast, and in 2016 a different, younger bird was also spotted. Eventually one took to spending summers at Bempton Cliffs and many of your members might have seen "Albie".

In summer 2021, Katherine Knox, then the Redcar and Cleveland Countryside Ranger conducted a survey of the Cowbar cliff-top grassland and identified at least five bird species on the Red or Amber list. You can read the full survey on the home page of our website, here: [Cowbar Nature A website dedicated to the natural beauty of Cowbar and the surrounding area.](#)

From the evidence in this survey and observations by thousands of residents and visitors, Cowbar can be described as a species rich grassland with "wider biodiversity value". These are the kind of places identified in Redcar and Cleveland Council's Biodiversity Action Plan as facing a range of challenges, including development, lack of management (leading to invasion of coarser plants and therefore a decrease in plant, invertebrate and bird variety) and damage from agricultural chemicals and machinery, loss of hedgerows and the increase in intensive farming schedules, all of which have an impact on our bird population.

Cowbar through the summer :



May



July



August

In January 2022, the council Climate Action officer, Chris Moon, arranged for a bund to be built along the north side of Cowbar Lane. This should protect the ground-nesting birds from traffic and allow a wide range of coastal wildflowers and grasses to flourish. Meanwhile, a group of Cowbar residents began working with Paul Murphy, the R&C Countryside Ranger to manage Cowbar Lane verges and grassland in a way that would increase biodiversity. By enabling a wider range of plants to come through, this will not only provide greater carbon storage but will increase the appeal to birds by providing more insects and seed types, ground cover and nesting habitat. Cowbar is now also on the Buglife B lines map. [B-Lines - Buglife](#)

We know from our own small mammal tracking boxes and hundreds of grassy tunnels and burrows that the grassland here is full of small mammals. Besides, any walk out on the cliff top shows evidence of hundreds of tunnels and burrows. This is a rich hunting ground for the hovering Kestrel which is a beautiful and familiar presence on any Cowbar walk. We see Barn Owls and Tawny Owl too, have heard of a sighting of a Short-eared Owl here, and have been fascinated to dissect some of the bird pellets we have found.

Colin Gibson, who is working with the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust on an owl nesting box project, is planning to visit Cowbar before the spring to see if he can find a suitable location for a nesting box. Sadly, we found the body of a young Barn Owl on Cowbar Lane (reported here [A young barn owl fatality at Cowbar - Cowbar Nature](#)) and are waiting for information from [The Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme \(ceh.ac.uk\)](#) about its possible cause of death. If it was a victim of traffic, a nesting box here might not be a good idea.

As a narrow strip of wild grassland between large stretches of farmed fields, Cowbar grassland is a precious haven for a number of red and amber list birds and migrating visitors.

Breeding colonies of martins, swallows and swifts are said to be in decline by the RSPB. Fortunately, they are a daily sight here for six months of the year, swooping and wheeling over the land where the Cleveland Way strikes off north towards Boulby and scooping insects from the air above the manure heap on the field south of Cowbar Lane. Residents regularly spot visiting Wheatears, Snow Buntings, Curlews and Lapwings and high skeins of geese as the seasons roll round.

Efforts to protect and preserve wildlife often make use of 'citizen science'. Besides submitting data to a range of national nature organisations, we decided to create a website to record, celebrate and learn through our own research.

We are keen to learn more about the birds on Cowbar and how they fit in to our complex web of habitat, weather and seasons here. The closer we look, the more we are fascinated and there are certainly some fantastic tools out there. Some residents can get pretty close to identifying birds by their song and the RSPB Birdsong site [Bird Song Identifier | Audio of Garden Bird Calls - The RSPB](#) has been very useful. Some of us just aim to tell House Sparrows, Dunnocks and Twites apart. The BirdID site from Nord University has a very useful comparison tool, but the challenge for many of us is getting close enough to take a clear photo to study (or remembering to bring the binoculars when we go out).

We would love to hear from any of you in the Teesmouth Bird Club about sightings on or from Cowbar so we can mention them on the 'news' page of our website and add them to our developing 'species' pages. We would also be very grateful for any photographs you have taken of birds on Cowbar (or even sketches if you are artistic) to use on the website. If anyone in your group felt like sharing your expertise and experience by writing a short piece about any aspect of birdwatching on Cowbar – an account of a sighting, information about conditions or trends, advice to birdwatchers or photographers – anything we could put on the website which will help the community and visitors learn more about the birdlife on Cowbar – it would be very much appreciated.

We want to help more visitors recognise that birds not only add colour, sound and joy to our lives, but play a vital role in insect and rodent control, plant pollination and seed dispersal and are part of the complex web of life. Changes in bird population can be the first indication of environmental change and the health of a habitat can be measured by the health of the birds which rely on it. A habitat good for birds is good for people too. We hope our website will contribute to an appreciation of the richness on Cowbar. We know your group already sees this and we would be very glad of contributions from any of your members. You can contact us via email: hello@cowbarnature.co.uk

Nicola, Jan & Celia

From the Chair

The Trustees have held meetings on
2nd August 2022 and 26th October 2022.

Trustees are still trying to get answers regarding the Club's objection to the closure of the Long Drag. As reported in the last newsletter, due to several reasons this has become a very prolonged and slow process, where the Club are receiving little information to their enquiries. However, the Club is still pressing for answers.

I am pleased to announce that the Jeff Young's hide has now had a replacement roof installed and all appears to be well.

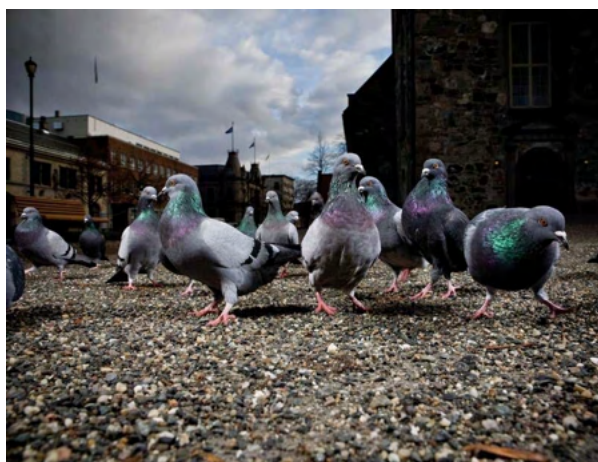
The Club also arranged the following successful outdoor meetings:

- Seaton Snook
- Hartlepool Headland-seawatching
- Hartlepool Headland-bird ringing
- South Gare

Many thanks to the leaders for giving up their time to lead these meetings.

The bird feeders at Stillington are now up and running. Thanks to Barbara for organising that.

Feral Pigeons – not so dumb



OK, not everyone's favourite bird, but Darwin was a fan. He wrote to a visitor, the geologist Charles Lyell, "I will show you my pigeons! Which is the greatest treat that, in my opinion, can be offered to a human being." Darwin bred them to investigate aspects of Evolution and they are also popular with modern researchers investigating animal behaviour since they are easy to care for and will perform endless tests with no more reward than a bit of grain.

They have some remarkable talents, mostly as a result of living in human habitats where they need the mental capacity to adapt to new situations, unlike creatures living in a well-defined ecological niches that only need simple reflexive responses.

Homing is an obvious talent, which proves their ability to learn fresh knowledge and abilities, since their wild ancestors, Rock Doves, are extremely sedentary and rarely move any great distance.

An unexpected ability is that birds trained to identify a Picasso and a Monet paintings could then categorise any new cubist or impressionist painting with which they were presented, even when blurred or in monochrome.

They can recognise and remember people's faces. This was demonstrated in an experiment in which two men wore floor-length coats of different colours. One behaved normally towards pigeons and the other chased them off. They soon learnt to avoid Mr. Nasty, and then the two men swapped coats and the pigeons still avoided the man who had chased them and whom could only be identified by his face.

They also have some concept of numbers. They were presented with three cards depicting one, two and three objects, and trained to pick the card with the smallest number of objects. When presented with different cards with a range of larger numbers of objects, they could still pick the card with the fewest.

Another test they pass is recognising their reflection in a mirror. This puts them in an elite group of animals including large primates such as chimpanzees, as well as dolphins, elephants, Magpies and Indian House Crows, proving that the high intelligence for self-recognition can be seen in various animals, and is not limited to primates and dolphins that have large brains.

The standard test is to put some mark on the animal, show its reflection and see if they try to remove the mark. Magpies are very responsive, furiously preening any mark on the white part of their plumage until it has been cleared

Other abilities include a phenomenal memory; pigeons can learn to recognise more than 100 images, and recall them more than two years later.

One reported behaviour of a pigeon illustrates the talents such as appreciation of numbers and a good memory as described above, this being the use of the London Tube trains. A pigeon flew down to the platform, boarded a train and ignored stations until the required one was reached, where it left the train. There's a photograph on the next page



Let the train take the strain

Welcome to the Zooniverse

This might be of interest if you have spare time and want to employ it usefully. and it will fill up those long winter evenings if you've had enough television.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alistair McLee** <alandcarol3@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 at 16:05

Subject: Fwd: 'Into the Zooniverse' 2022 Highlights Book & Thank You!

To: Eric James

Subject : Citizen science

----- Forwarded message -----

Welcome to the Zooniverse

This project has been mentioned in a previous newsletter, but this email received by Alistair McLee summarises the progress so far. Why not volunteer for a project – you'll be welcome

From: **Zooniverse Team** <no-reply@zooniverse.org>

Date: Tue, 6 Dec 2022 at 17:52

Subject: 'Into the Zooniverse' 2022 Highlights Book & Thank You!

To: <announcements@lists.zooniverse.org>

Since the inaugural Galaxy Zoo in 2007, Zooniverse has launched over 400 projects, the community has submitted over 700 million classifications and hundreds of thousands of Talk comments, project teams have published over 450 articles, and over 2.5 million people from all over the world have taken part in real research.

Over the past few years we've published an annual highlights book, *Into the Zooniverse*, celebrating and honouring the efforts of everyone involved. This year's *Into the*

Zooniverse highlights just 20 of the many amazing projects that were active this year. The beautiful images and accompanying stories provide a glimpse into the many ways Zooniverse community members have a real impact on the world and broadening our understanding of the universe.

Thank you again for everything that you do to make the Zooniverse what it is today: an amazing community of global participants and dedicated research teams unlocking data and making discoveries together – impacting research, policy, and our everyday lives.

[Click here for more information and for a PDF of this year's *Into the Zooniverse*](#)

These are Alistair's comments on his experience :

This organisation is a platform which hosts a huge and diverse range of projects which contain a lot of raw data which needs to be studied / classified / counted/transcribed to allow digital analysis by what ever research body.

I have done one on European mink in France on a webcam, Kittiwakes on colonies and such like.

People also transcribe weather data from historic hand written records.

All good fun.

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB – Publications

Birdwatchers of Teesmouth 1600 to 1960 £1.00 P.&p. £2

Teesmouth Bird Reports 1958-1973 on a CD £2.50

Birds of Tees-side 1962-67 by Phil Stead £2.50 P.&p. £2.00

Birds of Tees-side 1968-1973 by Martin Blick £2.50 P.&p. £2.00

Cleveland Bird Reports:-

1974 to 2019 £2.00 each where available. (Out of print 1974, 1976, 1978 to 1988 on a CD) Plus £2.00 for p.& p. per copy.

2020 £7.50 each (£5.00 to members) plus £2.00 for p.&p. per copy.

Barn Owl at RSPB Saltholme Print – free but need to collect.

Cheques should be made payable to **"Teesmouth Bird Club"** with orders, and sent to: John Fletcher, 43 Glaisdale Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS5 7PF.

Please pass on unwanted copies of Club publications to me, particularly those that are 'Out of print', so that they can be resold to other members.

John Fletcher

j.fletcher666@btinternet.com

Tel. : 01642-818825

01-09-2022

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on 1st January and the current rates are: Reg. Charity No.508850

Standard/Individual £12.00

Family £16.00

Junior £5.00

Please forward your cheque made payable to 'Teesmouth Bird Club' to Chris Sharp, 6 Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0XF. If you prefer, you can set up a Standing Order. **Alternatively you can pay via PayPal using the link on the TBC website.**

I enclose my subscription of £for the year.....

Name.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Email address.....

Cut here -----

STANDING ORDER MANDATE – TO BE SENT TO YOUR BANK

To: The Manager.....Bank

Bank address.....

Code.....

and Bank Account Number.....agree to pay a yearly Standing Order of £.....

to TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB, Sort Code 40-22-27 and Bank Account Number 90799599 to commence on

.....and to continue until further notice.

SIGNED..... Date.....

Cut here -----

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB GIFT AID DECLARATION

Surname.....

Forename(s).....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

I want the **TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB** to treat all subscriptions/donations I have made since the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations

SIGNED..... Date.....

To qualify as a Gift Aid donor you must be a taxpayer and have paid or will pay an amount of tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your subscriptions/donations.

Should you cease to be a taxpayer, please notify the Club so that further claims under this declaration may be cancelled.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE SIGN THE GIFT AID DECLARATION IF YOU HAVEN'T PREVIOUSLY DONE SO.
IT COSTS YOU NOTHING BUT ENABLES THE CLUB TO RECOVER THE TAX ON YOUR
SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATION.