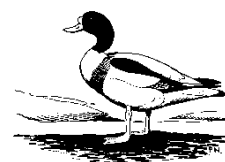


# ***Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter***

August 2019 (No.73)



Reg.Charity No.508850

## **CONTENTS**

|    |                                                               |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | MONTHLY SUMMARIES                                             |
| 4  | NATIONAL SEABIRD CENSUS – 2018/19                             |
| 4  | BREEDING SEABIRDS ON THE<br>CONOCOPHILLIPS JETTIES SEAL SANDS |
| 5  | SUMMER UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR                                  |
| 6  | INDOOR MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-20                               |
| 6  | LOCAL OUTINGS AUGUST 2019 TO<br>DECEMBER 2019                 |
| 7  | GEOFF MYERS 1942 – 2019                                       |
| 8  | NAVIGATION?.....JUST FOLLOW YOUR<br>NOSE                      |
| 8  | WILLOW TIT SURVEY 2019                                        |
| 9  | TITBITS                                                       |
| 10 | LISTS, MISTAKES ETC                                           |
| 11 | A BOOK WORTH READING                                          |
| 12 | BIRD HUNTING IN EUROPE                                        |
| 13 | PHEASANTS, PHEASANTS AND EVEN<br>MORE PHEASANTS               |
| 15 | POPULATION TRENDS IN BRITISH<br>BIRDS                         |
| 16 | WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH<br>AUTUMN 2018 SUMMARY          |

## **MARCH 2019**

After a warm end to February, the first half of March was wet, cold and windy. Single Red Kites were seen on 4th, 7th, 11th, 20th, 22nd, 25th and 28th, the first Mediterranean Gull to join the Black-headed Gulls on Saltholme was seen on 7th and significant numbers of Redpolls were on Eston Moor and at the feeders at Lockwood Beck from 8th. At least 2 Mealy Redpolls could be seen at Lockwood Beck, and most of around 115 Redpolls on Eston Moor were thought to be this species. Also, three different birders on three separate occasions between 8th and 18th had brief views of what was probably a Coues's Arctic Redpoll on Eston Moor.

A small amount of snow fell on 9th which did not last. The same day saw a Great Northern Diver in Hartlepool harbour but also Cleveland's first March Sooty Shearwater, which was seen off Hartlepool and South Gare.



*White-tailed Eagle*

*Sylvia & Mick Brennan*

The weather began to improve from 17th, when a Bittern was at Bowesfield, the first Little Ringed Plover of the year was on Cowpen Bewley Tip Pools and the White-tailed Eagle was in Cleveland air-space again over Sleddale. Next day, the first Sand Martin was at RSPB Saltholme, what may have been the same Bittern was on Coatham Marsh and a Red-crested Pochard was on Haverton Hole, also being seen there on 21st.

The first Wheatear of the year was noted on 19th, the same day as a Rough-legged Buzzard was in Sleddale and over 200 Whooper Swans flew North. Another 50 Whooper Swans were seen on 20th, more than 100 on 21st and 45 on 22nd.

The first Black Redstart of the year was at Skinningrove on 22nd, the first Swallow was at South Gare on 23rd, the first Ring Ouzel was in Sleddale on 26th and the first Ruff and singing Blackcaps were noted on 28th. A Slavonian Grebe was off North Gare, also on 28th and two Red Kites were seen at Brotton Golf Course and South Gare on 29th.



*Sanderling*

*Rob Young*

## APRIL 2019

After a reasonably warm second half of March, the first half of April was rather cold, with near-continuous Easterly winds, and -2 C recorded on 11th.

A drake Green-winged Teal was on RSPB Saltholme from 1st and was consorting with a duck teal that may have been a female Green-winged Teal; both birds were seen together on a few dates in April, last being seen on 26th.

The only inland Kittiwake of the year was on Scaling Dam on 2nd, a rather late Snow Bunting was at North Gare on the same day, but summer visitors continued to trickle in with House Martin, Garganey and Osprey all being recorded on 3rd. The first Sandwich Tern was seen on 4th, first Willow Warbler on 5th and the first of about six Hooded Crows passed Hunt Cliff, also on 5th.

A displaying pair of Marsh Harriers was seen over Dormans Pool and Haverton Hole from 7th, giving hope for a breeding pair in Cleveland after the only other breeding attempt was successful in 1996.

The first Greylag goslings were at Lockwood Beck on 10th, the same day as a drake Mandarin on the River Tees at Yarm, the first Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail and Common Tern were all seen on 11th, the first Grasshopper Warbler on 12th, Redstart, Reed and Sedge Warblers on 13th, Whimbrel on 14th and the first spring Greenshank on 15th.

Also from 15th, two pairs of Barnacle Geese were at Scaling Dam, raising hopes of more goslings after last year's successful rearing of three young, and a Spotted Crake was at RSPB Saltholme for over a week from 16th.



*Spotted Crake*

*Ian Forrest*

A Bonxie passed Hartlepool on 16th, a pair of Great White Egrets graced Cowpen Marsh for a few days from 17th, the first Spoonbill and Cuckoo were recorded on 18th, Garden Warbler on 19th, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat on 20th, but rarity of the month was Cleveland's sixth Black Kite over Wilton Woods, also on 20th.

The only spring Spotted Redshank was on Cowpen Marsh on 21st, the first Little Gull and Whinchats arrived on 22nd, Firecrest and Little Stint were seen on 23rd, the first of a few Pied Flycatchers on 24th and Cleveland's first spring Yellow-browed Warbler was at Hartlepool on 25th.

The last few days of April were not quite as exciting with the first Swift on 26th, the first Little Tern on 27th, the same day as a Hen Harrier at Scaling Dam and a 'Channel' Wagtail at Haverton Hole. A Wood Warbler in Zinc Works bushes on 30th was well-received, this being a hard bird to see in recent years



*Little Tern*

*Rob Young*



## MAY 2019

The first ten days of May were particularly cold with an Easterly or Northerly wind throughout, creating a little sea-watching on 3rd-4th.

A rather late Brambling was at Hartlepool on 1st, a few auks, Gannets and Manx Shearwaters passed along the coastline from 3rd, an Avocet began a week-long stay at Scaling Dam on 4th, and a Bonxie was off Saltburn on 6th.

The 7th proved eventful with several Turnstones and Black Terns reported on inland waters, and eight Dotterel over Guisborough Moor. A Little Gull was on Back Saltholme on 9th, the same day as the first Spotted Flycatcher was seen, the first Wood Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme on 10th, a Crane flew over the same place on 11th, a Grey-headed Wagtail was at Hummersea on 13th, and a rather late Shore Lark was at South Gare for four days from 13th.



*Great-reed Warbler*

*Ian Forrest*

The action moved up a gear from 18th with the arrival of a Bluethroat at South Gare and three Temminck's Stints on Saltholme, followed on 20th by the only Turtle Dove of the year at the Zinc Works bushes and then Cleveland's sixth Great Reed Warbler singing and showing well at RSPB Saltholme from 22nd, into June.

Little else was seen in May, although the now-annual visit to Phillips Jetty on 29th produced an impressive total of 10 occupied Shags nests, including one ringed as a chick in the nest on the Farne Islands, Northumberland in 2010. A late Whooper Swan was on Scaling Dam on 29th – 30th.

## JUNE 2019

The bird of the month arrived on 1st in the form of a Rose-coloured Starling at South Gare. It was there for three days and was considered to be a first-summer bird, based on the extent of various shades of brown in its plumage.

South Gare continued to attract good birds with the only Iceland Gull seen in the first half of the year on 4th, the year's first Roseate Tern on 7th and an elusive Golden Oriole on 8th-9th.

Another Great White Egret graced Saltholme from 10th, the first Black Swan returning to Saltholme was noted from 11th and a rather late Black Tern was there on 12th.



*Tawny Owl*

*Ian Watson*

For the second year running a pair of Barnacle Geese hatched three young at Scaling Dam (on 16th) although one died within a day or two. On the same day a summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebe was found on a private pond, it staying for well over a week and giving rise to the possibility of breeding in the near future.

Five Spoonbills graced Saltholme on the afternoon of the longest day, one of which was a Dutch-ringed bird. They had been seen at Spurn, E Yorkshire on 20th and were over Northumberland on 22nd, then in Lothian, Scotland on 23rd.



*Little Owl*

*Ian Forrest*

A hint of autumn was noted on 24th when the first returning Ruff, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper were all seen, though the last week of the month saw the highest day-time temperatures recorded with 29 C on 29th.

The number of Black Swans at Saltholme increased to two on the same day.

## NATIONAL SEABIRD CENSUS – 2018/19

This is the second year of the National Seabird Census. The project has been organised by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), working alongside the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP).

The urban nesting gulls were included in the survey this year - i.e. the Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Martin Blick took on the role last year as coordinator for Cleveland and it is thanks to him that this survey has now been completed, with some assistance from one or two club members.



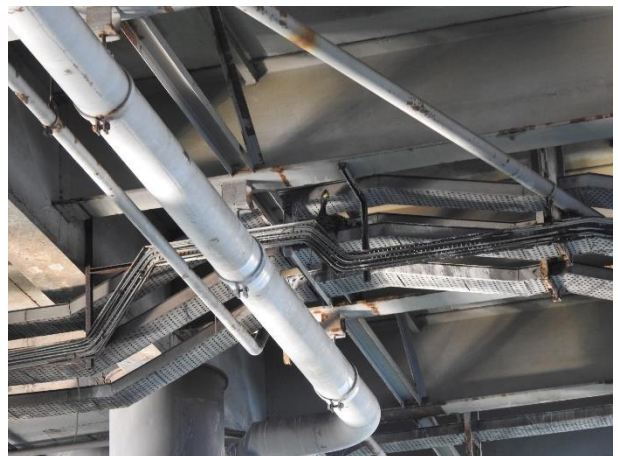
*For those who like a girl in uniform; our illustrious chairwoman about to do battle with the Shags on the jetty*

## BREEDING SEABIRDS ON THE CONOCOPHILLIPS JETTIES SEAL SANDS

Since 2005 INCA staff have made annual monitoring visits to these jetties in order to count the number of Kittiwake nests. In 2018 Barbara Crinson and Martin Blick approached Mike Leakey to see if a boat-based survey could be arranged, so as to achieve a better level of coverage for the JNCC Breeding Seabirds Census. This duly took place on 31 May, when 377 apparently occupied Kittiwake nests were counted, along with a single Shag nest. Although breeding by Shag had been suspected here for a number of years, this was the first ever confirmed instance in Cleveland.



The 2019 survey took place on 29 May in near-perfect conditions. A total of 286 Kittiwake nests were counted, along with no fewer than 10 Shag nests. While the Kittiwakes prefer girders on the sheltered east-facing sides of the inset dock jetties, all the Shag nests were located beneath the jetties themselves, mostly on suspended cable trays. An adult Shag perched nearby bore a red colour ring inscribed with white lettering ("TFS") and is likely to have been a breeding bird. This individual was ringed as a nestling on the Farne Islands on 26 June 1010, and was seen at Kirkcaldy on the Fife coast later that year; subsequently it has been recorded at Teesmouth in 2014, 2015 and 2016.



Grateful thanks are due to Tony Finn of ConocoPhillips for facilitating the visits and for accompanying the surveyors, and to the ever-helpful boat crew.



## **SUMMER UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Trustees Committee reconvened in May. The following account provides an update for club members of the topics raised, plus other matters of interest arising over the last few months.

### **WILLOW TIT SURVEY**

At the time of our AGM in April, work was still underway concerning the National Willow Tit Survey. We have had 40 club members out in the field, plus various friends or partners, all contributing to such an important project. As coordinator, I have managed to chase up all participants for their results, so a short summary of our work now appears as a separate article within this newsletter. The national picture will be clarified at a much later date.

### **NEW WEBSITE**

Work on the new website continues. I feel confident that any members who had concerns about "change" at the outset, will be content with the end result, but please show some patience throughout the necessary period of disruption and development. The small team involved in the upgrade have listened to comments or requests from various members and the team leader, Jamie Duffie, is striving incredibly hard to keep everyone happy and all should be aware he is spending many, many hours of his own time to achieve that aim.

The daily Tweets are so easy to access but they no longer swamp the Homepage. The Forum was transferred across almost immediately for members who find this a useful tool. The Events page is now up and running and we hope to list the evening meetings and field trips here on the website, instead of trawling through each newsletter to find details. As per usual, Twitter will also be used for the reminders of these occasions.

Updating the Site Guide is a lengthy process. I have contacted all the script writers or other relevant club members, to review and update each article. New sites are being added, courtesy of Martin Blick, (aided by his secretary)! We would still appreciate help from the photographers to provide us with some location shots in Cleveland. This would enhance the Site Guide and help showcase our club and the county.

### **SCALING DAM**

Martin Blick and I attended the Scaling Dam Wildlife Advisory Group meeting held in mid-April. Martin continues to compile the Bird Report, as well as the Butterfly, Dragonfly and Damselfly Report for Northumbrian Water. Details concerning the birds appear in our own Annual Report. With permission

from Northumbrian Water, records from the Cleveland portion of the reserve, regarding the invertebrates, will be available for our own club and should appear in future newsletters.

Work is in progress to re-instate the Bird ID board, which was taken down from the old hide. It requires an upgrade and will appear in due course when we find time!

### **LOCKWOOD BECK**

The table and feeders have been cleaned regularly by me and Martin. It was very disappointing to learn that someone has stolen two of the feeders in July – one being brand new. However, on a much more positive note, the club has received a donation from three Whitby birders, in appreciation of the feeding station and how much pleasure they have had from visiting the site. The club extends its thanks for the very kind contribution to the running costs.

The Risk Assessment for the roof extension has been submitted to Northumbrian Water so, hopefully, the shelter above the seated area may be in place by the autumn.

### **NATURE TOURISM MARKETING GROUP**

[www.enjoyteesvalley.com](http://www.enjoyteesvalley.com) is a new site being developed by the Tees Valley Combined Authority. It will include Sites to Visit, Things to Do, Accommodation etc and the club has been invited to appear in their listings. There has been one meeting to date, which I attended. It is apparent that the club is required to provide three images for upload. The Trustees would be very grateful to any photographer who can provide us with a decent shot of Shelducklings, (obviously relevant to our logo), perhaps another of cute chicks and also one of a group of "not so cute" birdwatchers (preferably minus camouflage).

### **WILDLIFE THEMED EVENTS**

Each year, more requests come in to the club, asking for help and representation at numerous local events. The club extends its thanks to Barbara Keville, who attended the "Music and Wildlife Festival" at Saltburn in June. However, the committee really does need help from the wider membership to assist in promoting our organisation and aims, so please come forward if you can devote a few hours of your time.

### **OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES**

There have been some well-attended trips, including outings to Cowpen Bewley Forest Park, Flatts Lane Country Park, Guisborough Forest and

Saltholme Wilderness Walk. Thank you to all the walk leaders.

I attended the Local Community Liaison Council Meeting held at Hartlepool Power Station in June. One highlight of the morning was a presentation by a lady representing CIEC –Centre for Industry Education Collaboration. The focus of the talk described work carried out with teachers and pupils, mainly in primary schools, to promote a love and understanding of science and industry. Pupils shared their views before and after taking part in "Children Challenging Industry". The teaching throughout this year has centred on sustainability. How relevant this is to their future! Feedback from children and teachers alike was extremely positive.

Ali McLee and I represented the club at the recent annual Tees Valley Nature Partnership conference. There were numerous thought-provoking talks and seminars. I believe access to all of the presentations should be available online soon.

As we all know, the Little Terns jumped ship from Crimdon Dene this year and half the colony has arrived on the beach at Seaton Carew. There has been difficulty funding the expenses of the wardens and so a committee decision was taken to help fund such a worthwhile project.

Julie Mason has been working hard to bring together the series of evening talks for 2019/20. Finding speakers year after year is not an easy task. Please, if you have any ideas, do speak to Julie, myself or any of the other committee members.

Enjoy what is left of the summer and we look forward to reconvening at our first indoor meeting in September.

### **INDOOR MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-20**

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm in Stockton Central Library. Room open from 7 pm for Tea & Coffee. Visitors are welcome

Monday 2nd September 2019 - On Crescent Wings- a Portrait of the Swift Jonathan Pomroy

Monday 7th October 2019 - "A Few Days in Kazakhstan" Nick Morgan

Monday 4th November 2019 - Life on the Ledge - Birds of Bempton Cliffs" Steve Race

Monday 2nd December 2019 - St Aidan's Nature Reserve John Ingham

Monday 6th January 2020 – Independent Alaska- Graeme Joynt

Monday 3rd February 2020 - Rosedale Dippers Update Natural History Recorder

Monday 2nd March 2020 - Nosterfield Nature Reserve Simon Warwick

Monday 6th April 2020- A.G.M. and Saltholme RSPB Update.

### **LOCAL OUTINGS AUGUST 2019 TO DECEMBER 2019**

#### **SEATON SNOOK**

Saturday 31st August 2019

Meet at the end of the Zinc Works Road at 16.30. Join Graeme Joynt for this outing which has been arranged to coincide with the incoming tide. Hopefully good numbers of passage waders should be present. Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Knot, Ringed Plover and Dunlin are amongst the targets but something scarcer may be present amongst the large numbers of the smaller waders which are often present here at this time of year. The Snook should also hold several species of tern at this time. Roseate Terns have been regular at this time of year in recent years.

Leader: Graeme Joynt ( Tel: 07968572603)

#### **SEA WATCHING AT HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND**

Saturday 21st September 2019

Meet at the Heugh Gun Battery from 9.00 a.m. Join Chris Sharp for this always popular outing. If the weather conditions are favourable almost anything is possible at this time of year. Four species of Skua and 2 species of Shearwater are the targets. Even if it is a westerly there still should be something of interest to see such as Common Scoter and Teal. If the sea watching is poor there may be something to be found in the nearby gardens.

Leader: Chris Sharp. (Tel: 01429 865163)

#### **BIRD RINGING AT HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND**

Sunday 13th October 2019

Join the Tees Ringing Group to witness a demonstration of how migrant birds are caught, processed and released. It is hoped that a variety of small birds will be caught. Given the date almost anything is possible. Meet at the bowling green by Olive Street from 9.00 a.m.

Leader: Chris Brown. (Tel: 01429 233474)

GREENABELLA/SALTERNS  
Sunday 17th November 2019

Meet at the Teesmouth National Nature Reserve car park at 9.30 a.m. Hopefully a good selection of ducks and waders should be present. Geese and Swans may also be passing over at this time of year. Both Greenshank and Spotted Redshank have wintered here in the past few years.

Leader: Julie Mason. (Tel: 01642 614583)

HARDWICK PARK  
Friday 13th December 2019

Join Brian Clasper for a walk around this ever changing site. A good selection of ducks should be present on the lake and the recently constructed feeding station affords good close views of woodland species such as Nuthatch. Meet at 9.30 a.m. in the car park. Note a small charge is payable for car parking here.

Leader: Brian Clasper 07796 448421

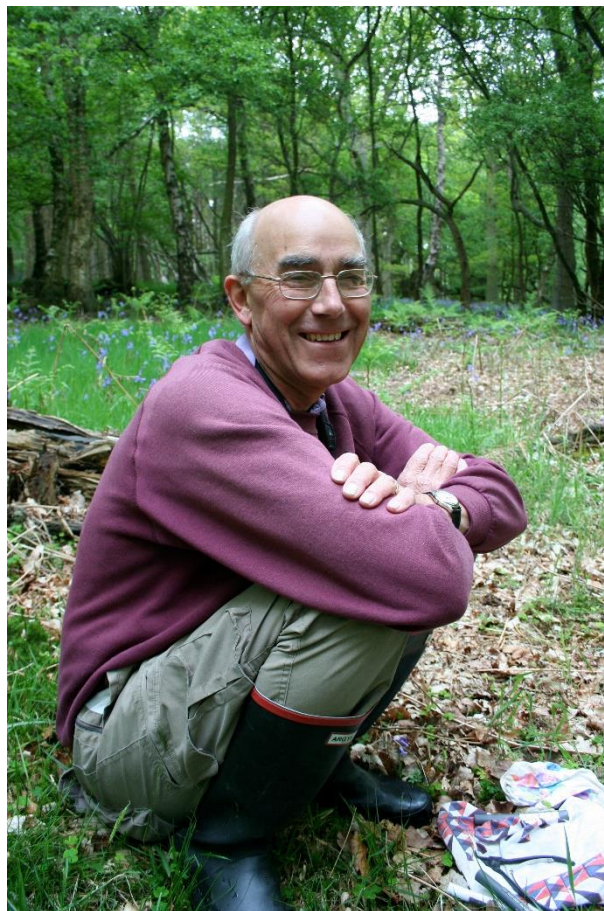
**GEOFF MYERS 1942 - 2019**

Geoff took up bird-ringing when he retired as a Superintendant from Cleveland Police. Initially he contacted Tees Ringing Group with an interest in having rings fitted to the House Martins nesting on his Normanby home, then not long after watching a Mute Swan ringing session, he joined the group as a permanent member. Of course he soon became more involved in the work of the BTO and began studying certain species in greater depth.



He was particularly interested in the breeding habits of Swallows in the myriad of small farms around Snilesworth and began what was to become a nationally important study of the species. He put in countless hours of effort, in the often hazardous confines of the assortment of barns and outbuildings, catching and ringing adult Swallows in his beloved North Yorkshire. Greatly liked by everyone he met, he got on well with the many farmers and their families, who he persuaded to

give him access to their birds. He was born in Slingsby, (where he met his late wife Doreen) and always fitted in with the local dales people, where his accent noticeably reverted to its roots!



His other great achievement was with the construction and siting of Owl boxes in Cleveland and North Yorkshire. Barn Owls especially, benefited hugely from Geoff's boxes and the species once tenuous hold in Cleveland improved phenomenally so that it is a common sight in the area now.

Geoff was a very popular speaker at Bird clubs, wildlife groups and many other associations. He always enjoyed imparting his knowledge and contributing to the understanding of others – even on the Sunday when he was taken into hospital, he forwarded the updated version of Flatts Lane for the site guide on the TBC website.

Geoff died suddenly but peacefully in hospital on 8th July, after being taken ill the previous evening. He was helpful, kind, with a great sense of humour (a Boro fan for many years) and a gentleman in every sense who will be missed by many.

Chris Brown

## NAVIGATION?...JUST FOLLOW YOUR NOSE

How do seabirds navigate in huge areas of apparently featureless ocean? An article in the January edition of British Birds described an experiment to test the effectiveness of magnetic and olfactory clues. Eric James summarises the results

It is reasonably easy to measure the navigational skills of land birds, and experiments have shown that they use a range of methods including stars, the sun, the angle of the Earth's magnetic field (declination) and even smell. It is more difficult with seabirds though tests in 2013 on Cory's Shearwaters have shed some light on the problem. Previous experiments with Manx Shearwaters have shown that the position of the sun is used as a compass, but the Cory's experiment was to see if magnetic or olfactory senses were used as well.

A group of birds were taken from their breeding colony on the Salvergens (between Madeira and the Canaries) and moved by boat 700 km away. They were fitted with satellite-tracking devices to record their subsequent movements. One group had magnets attached to their heads so they would not detect the much weaker Earth's magnetic field, a second group had their sense of smell temporarily disabled and the third group were left as a control.

After release, the control group were soon heading home and were back on their nests within a few days, the magnetically disrupted birds had a similar pattern, but those with no sense of smell roamed round with no definite orientation, though some did return but only by flying during daylight (The population on the Salvergens have diurnal visits to land rather than the normal nocturnal land visits). These results caused some consternation, especially among researchers who believed birds had little or no sense of smell.

Eric James

## WILLOW TIT SURVEY 2019

Towards the end of 2018, the RSPB announced a national Willow Tit survey, and requested organisers for each county to co-ordinate volunteers, paperwork, submission of results etc. Despite having an inordinate amount of voluntary work on her plate, our wonderful chairperson, Ms Barbara Crinson took on the job for Cleveland with her usual efficiency and thoroughness.

By the beginning of Feb 2019 about 40 volunteers had been issued with maps and instructions and were in place to cover the 54 tetrads (2km X 2km squares) allocated to us.

Also, knowing that there were many other sites that have or could have Willow Tits in them, Barbara and I set about covering as much of the rest of Cleveland as we could in the 2 survey months, which amounted to another 33 tetrads.

So from mid-Feb to mid-Apr all volunteers were asked to visit their tetrad(s) at least once, but preferably three times, and play a pre-recorded tape of Willow Tit for 2 minutes in likely-looking habitat, and record what they saw. This also included Marsh Tits that sometimes respond to the Willow Tit tape.

Despite the erratic and variable quality of the returning maps and paperwork (and the volunteers!), a total of 53 territories were found in Cleveland. Remarkably, this is precisely the same number as recorded in Breeding Birds of Cleveland 1999-2006 (G Joynt et al). However, in the intervening 20 or so years, the Willow Tit has declined nationally by around 50%. Either Cleveland has bucked the national trend or only about half the Willow Tits were found during the 1999-2006 survey years.

The 2019 survey has specifically targeted Willow Tits whereas all breeding species were being counted 20 years ago, and the use of a tape to attract the birds has undoubtedly rendered many birds audible and visible to the observer. Several birders noted that Willow Tits would not have been noticed without the resulting response to the 2 minute tape.

As may be expected, the majority of territories were in the SE corner of Cleveland, away from the conurbation of Tees-side. A total of 28 were located in a band tracking E from Flatts Lane (where 7 were found in 1 tetrad) through Guisborough, Lingdale, Liverton, Moorsholm and Loftus. Another 6 were in the extreme N corner from Hart to Hart-to-Haswell walkway, and a few were around the inland edge of Cleveland, at places like Stillington, Wynyrd walkway, Whitton and Newsham. Also, 6 territories were surrounded by houses, 2 each at Billingham Bottoms, Egglescliffe and Thornaby.

Whilst we tried to find all of Cleveland's Willow Tits, a few birds will have been missed, so I would assess the population to be close to 60 pairs in 2019.

Martin Blick



## TITBITS: Some bird related news and facts, compiled by Eric James



### PLASTICS – SOME GOOD NEWS FOR BEES

Researchers in Argentina, studying the pollinators of a chicory crop, placed boxes round the edge of the field so bees could build brood cells. In one box they found three brood cells made using plastic from disposable shopping bags. It was not possible to decide why artificial rather than the usual natural materials were used.

Some birds do, of course, incorporate man-made materials in their nests, such as plastic, wooden items, metal and rubber. Gannets seem to be attracted to brightly coloured artificial ropes lost from fishing vessels.

There can be problems. A Mistle Thrush at Lockwood Beck died when it got a leg entangled in some discarded fishing line used in its nest.

Magpies are notable users of odd materials in nest building, including metal turnings. A pair at Hemlington Lake had what looked like a polyester tie in their structure.

### PUFFARAZZI

The RSPB is investigating the serious decline in Puffin numbers. As part of this, they want to find the food the adults are bringing to the pufflings. If you have any photographs of Puffins carrying fish to their nest burrows, they will give information on the species and size of the fish. To submit photographs, go to

[www.rspb.org.uk/projectpuffin](http://www.rspb.org.uk/projectpuffin)

Photographs do not need to be from this year; older ones are especially welcome as long as the date and location are given.

### MORE ABOUT PUFFINS

One thing your photographs won't show is photoluminescence from the birds' bills. It is only visible to human eyes when the bird is viewed under ultraviolet light. Tests done on Puffins (who were fitted with 'sunglasses' to avoid damage to their eyes) showed that the luminescence was from the coloured plates that the birds have during the breeding season (they are shed afterwards). It emphasised the vertical grooves on the bill, which indicate the bird's age. The reason for this phenomenon is not known, but it must be related to breeding activities. Some possibilities are pair formation and maintenance, guiding the young to food in the dark of the burrow, and attracting potential prey while under water.

The source of the light must lie in the structure of the plates, as it was also found from a very old museum specimen.

### DANGEROUS PETS

Michael Parkinson might not think much of emus after his famous fracas with Rod Hull, but he should be glad it was an emu and not one of its relatives, the Cassowary. These have four-inch dagger-like claws and have been called the most dangerous birds in the world.

A 75-year old man in Florida kept one in his home (it could only happen in America), and was attacked and killed by the bird when he fell.

Other unsuitable animals that shouldn't be kept as pets are koalas, which have sharp teeth and claws that they use if necessary.

### HOOVERING UP BIRDS

Makers of television adverts tend to follow fashions. One recent fashion was having people performing acrobatics. A particularly irritating example was a Mediterranean farmer pole-vaulting to pick an olive from the top of a tree. Actual olive picking is not so whimsical. It is done by machines that suck in the fruit. They have lights so they can operate at night during the harvesting season of October to January. Of course, this is when there are northern European birds that have migrated south for the winter. Any roosting in olive groves are dazzled and disoriented by the lights and are sucked into the harvesters, with up to a 100 birds in each harvest trailer. In Andalucia, it is estimated that 2.6 million birds are killed during harvesting

Eric James

## LISTS, MISTAKES ETC

As the subjects of this article are birdwatching and accounting some would think it could be the most boring ever written. We shall see. Most birdwatchers keep lists. I have kept only one, my UK, or is it Great Britain, list. I have kept my list using an ancient bookkeeping program on my PC. For anyone remotely interested, to keep my list, I transferred the RSPB little grey book "Field Lists" into nominal ledger accounts. There are 321 birds on that list. For new rarities not on the RSPB list I created a new nominal account. So Green Winged Teal became no. 322 and so on. The mechanics were Debit a nominal account with 1 and credit Total (Nominal account no 500) with 1. In this way I kept my list and running total. Is anybody still with me? Does anybody think I was pessimistic assuming I would not reach 500?

For a few years now my total has remained in the lower 290's. The Eastern Black Redstart at Skinningrove in October 2016 had taken it to 296, and there it had remained until May 2018 when a trip to Mull enabled me to add White-tailed Eagle and Corncrake to the list. The Quail at Hartlepool Headland bowling green brought up 299. Oh what excitement! From passively scanning Teesmouth Bird Club website to observe what birds were in the area I moved to avidly scouring it for that elusive 300th specie. How I regretted missing that Cattle Egret at Saltholme by ten minutes last year. On 12th June a Woodchat Shrike was reported at Scaling Dam. It was not clear precisely where but by the 14th I could resist no longer. With instructions from a helpful birder in the Car Park and accompanied by a more accomplished guide I force-marched the mile or so to the moors at the back of the Dam and obtained brilliant views of the Woodchat Shrike feeding. I spent half an hour on a beautiful Summer's evening regaining my breath and watching the shrike. I returned to the reservoir in time to see an Osprey circling, thinking about fishing. This was just a self indulgent interlude revelling in my sightings before I would make my bragging phone call to my son James, who is a much better birdwatcher than me. His list used to be longer than mine, but after 12 years of retirement while he has been working I have overtaken him. However, he follows Birdguides and has often informed me of local rarities and I often feel I am his proxy in viewing some of my life-ticks. So bursting with pride I phoned him, "got the Woodchat Shrike .That's 300", and gushed on describing the fabulous views of the shrike and the Osprey. "What about the Woodchat Shrike we saw at Hartlepool a few years back?" he asked. My bubble was well and truly pricked, with a very loud pop. I did not remember that bird at Hartlepool but

I knew he would be right. Sure enough when I checked my records there it was: "Croft H'pool 12.10.10". How can I not remember that bird when I can vividly recall a Woodchat Shrike seen in Minorca and another on Capri. So 299. But it was to get worse.

Connected to the ancient PC with the ancient program was an ancient printer, over 25 years old. It died. So before my old program died I transferred my list record to Excel on my relatively new Mac and it was not as time consuming as I thought it would be. But I was to find that mistakes had been made. Disaster. I had ticked (debited) no. 36 Snow Goose and also opened a new "account " at 351 for Snow Goose. Worse, I had ticked no 40 Egyptian Goose and also opened 333 for that bird. Delete 333, delete 351. Back to 297. Later I had made a note at the side of my list of those species off the RSPB list which I have yet to see in UK – Capercaillie, Crested Tit, Snowy Owl among them. In doing so I found that I had not ticked off the Turtle Dove seen on the feeder at the side of the café on top of Sutton Bank. 298. This was all rather anticlimactic and I decided it was all a bit silly getting excited about numbers and calmed down, calmed down.

Another opportunity for a life-tick arrived soon enough. On 25th July I again travelled out to Scaling Dam. This time the rarity was much more considerable. The Franklin's Gull lazed on the spit directly in front of the hide. Back to 299. After this I closely watched the sightings on the website but nothing presented itself.

Meanwhile James had taken a holiday near the Isle of Skye. Immediately on his return we spoke to compare the birds he had seen on Skye with those which I had seen on Mull. He was pretty sure he had seen a Yellow-legged Gull and had photos of the bird. He was mulling (pun intended) over whether or not to inform the Recorder. A few days later he rang me. He was highly embarrassed he had contacted the Recorder to report the Yellow-legs and sent his photographs. He had received a very polite reply saying that a Yellow-legged Gull would have been an extreme rarity but unfortunately the photographs were of a Common Gull. I felt great sorrow and sympathy for James. Although I could not resist saying "like father, like son". His misidentification was much more understandable than my gaffes with Chaffinch and Rosefinch; and remarkably, Hen Harrier and Magpie.

Later, thinking about James and feeling sorry for how badly he felt, I had a "light-bulb" moment. Yellow-legged Gull, the one I had seen on numerous occasions at the Tees Barrage, was it on my list? I dashed to my computer and no it was not there. So

that was 300. What an anti-climax. It would have been nice to achieve 300 in the field, watching a bird in its natural habitat rather than my having my memory click into gear in my front room. I suppose the Franklin's Gull was my actual 300th. Does it matter? Does anybody care other than me? Well there is a strange satisfaction in passing milestones, however artificial. And the Pomarine Skua at South Gare in early September is number 301. Should I already be getting excited about 400?

Keith Robson

### **A BOOK WORTH READING**

A Historical Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1875-1900 Simon Holloway T & A.D. Poyser (hardback £20 on Amazon)

If you've kept up with the BTO's 20 year cycle of national bird surveys, you will have a neat row of books covering recent breeding and wintering ranges of our birds. Over the 50 or so years covered, the books demonstrate the drastic changes in populations and ranges of many species. However, to get an idea of the historical context of these changes needs a longer perspective and this is what Holloway's book does. The Introduction describes what was happening in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, including the continuation of the industrial revolution, railway expansion, the growth of towns, all of which altered the environment and habitats available to birds. There were also changes in agricultural practice, which included extensive drainage schemes. Some things didn't change, such as sporting estates where birds and mammals that might affect the number of game birds available for shooting were remorselessly persecuted. Fashion in ladies' clothing also took its toll with an enormous demand for birds' feathers. It was this last aspect which led to the founding of the Society for the Protection of Birds.

At the same time, following Darwin, there was an interest in science, which attracted the clergy and gentry towards studying birds, leading to the publication of many county avifaunas, which provide the data for the present book.

For most species, there is a two page spread with a distribution map on the right side. In the top, right hand corner there is also a small copy of the distribution from the 1986 to 1972 atlas. Scarce species have short accounts in an appendix.

The maps use the Watsonian vice-counties, which are subdivisions of counties based on botanical criteria.

With no numbers of breeding birds, the maps are coloured to cover a range of densities: Abundant, common, uncommon, rare, occasional, probable breeding but unconfirmed, non-breeding and extinct, indicated by E.

The ladies' fashion business had a large effect on the Great Crested Grebe, already declining by having eggs collected for food, and whose feathers (as well as Kittiwakes') were used for coats instead of fur, boas and muffs, and the tippetts were used as hat decorations. The map shows the species was still widespread but in low numbers with only a few counties classed as common, and the others as uncommon, rare, or non-breeding. Legal protection helped recovery, but even in 1932, the total population was estimated at only 32 to 72 pairs.

The effect of drainage is obvious in the maps for Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Ruff and Bearded Tit all having many counties marked E.

The maps for waterfowl have surprisingly limited ranges for some species we now take for granted.

Raptor and corvid persecution is evident in the raptor and Raven maps, the Red Kite map is especially shocking with swathes of counties marked E, though there is a surprise in that the smaller Sparrowhawk and Kestrel survived in good numbers.

Waders had mixed fortunes. Like the Ruff, Black-tailed Godwits suffered from drainage. The Kentish Plover, nesting along the shores of Kent and Sussex, suffered from nest predation and by shooting for collectors. The last straw was the building of a railway and roads with holiday bungalows. Disturbance has prevented any recovery.

To see what we have lost from changes in agriculture, examine the maps for Spotted Crane, Corn Crane, Stone Curlew, Wryneck (considered to be the most numerous woodpecker, though there were already signs of decline), Woodlark, Red-backed Shrike, Cirl Bunting and Corn Bunting.

A book of old distribution maps might not sound interesting, but this book can be recommended as a fascinating study.

Eric James



## BIRD HUNTING IN EUROPE

CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter) has featured previously in a Club Newsletter, viz. No.60 in April 2015.

They have managed to compile numbers of birds killed in Europe, or more precisely in the EU plus Norway and Switzerland. This was not an easy job as the information is scattered and varies in format between countries, but results have been obtained and were published in the March issue of **British Birds**.

Many countries (26) collect hunting details from their hunters so have accurate numbers of birds killed. Four others do not collect this information. Anyone who knows about bird catching in Greece, will not be surprised that it is one of the four; the others, less expected, are Netherlands, Ireland and the UK. For the other 26 countries, the birds killed in calendar year 2014 or in 2014/2015 were 52,285,670 of 598 species, of which 82 species were legally hunted. The total number of registered hunters in the 30 countries was 6,389,097.

The good news is that the number killed is down from previous estimates. The bad news is that illegally killed birds are not necessarily recorded, and the legally killed birds include those with declining populations. As shooters justify their activities by claiming they are merely killing the surplus population, they would find it difficult to use this justification with a vulnerable species.

The EU rules on hunting birds cover 82 species which are in Annex II of the Birds Directive. The Annex consists of part A which is a list of 24 species that can be hunted in all the EU countries, unless prohibited by local laws, and part B lists the EU countries which can have open seasons for the remaining 58 species.

Vulnerable species that are not protected include:

**Pochard** : 22 countries have open seasons for Pochards. 12 of these count up hunting bags, giving total of 30,645 birds killed, of which 25,199 were killed in France where the species is classed as Vulnerable. The winter population is estimated as 75,500 birds, so the French hunters are killing the breeding birds from other countries.

**Black Grouse** :With a UK population of less than 5,100 males and Red-listed, Black Grouse are still hunted, though the number of birds taken appears to be decreasing at least partly by voluntary restraint. The species is hunted in eight other countries. Six of these have counts of birds taken,

giving a total of 179,457, which is almost 10% of the EU-27 average breeding population.

The Scandinavian countries have the largest hunting bags; based on hunters' reports they are:

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Finland | 136,700 |
| Sweden  | 20,566  |
| Norway  | 20,120  |

The leks in these countries must be impressive!

**Quail** : There are open seasons for Quail hunting in 10 EU countries, of which six record hunting bags, giving a total of 1,607,964, or about 40% of the EU-27 average breeding population. In addition to this, there are an estimated 76,064 killed in Italy

**Lapwing** : The species is hunted in five EU countries, though only three provided information on the numbers killed, giving a total of 107,802, with 90% of these from France where the species is classed as Near Threatened because of a decline in the breeding population of 75% over the last 30 years. Estimates from other countries include 7,489 in Italy and a horrifying 100,000 in Greece.

The only good news is that France and Malta report a reduction of 78% in hunting bags

These figures and those for other species suggest that large wintering populations are used as a justification for hunting, but as breeding and wintering birds cannot be distinguished, hunting is exploiting other countries' breeding birds.

**Turtle Dove** :Ten countries have open seasons for Turtle Doves, and eight of them provide figures for hunting bags which amount to 1,455,208 birds, equivalent to a fifth of the breeding population in EU-27

The species is classed as globally threatened, and declining breeding numbers in continental Europe appear to have reduced hunting losses

We can't blame our lack of Turtle Doves entirely on hunting as the species depends on seeds for food and the food plants have been drastically reduced by the extensive use of herbicides. It is true that any recovery would be handicapped by hunting on the present scale

[Note : excessive use of herbicides has drawbacks as serious agricultural weeds such as black grass have become immune to them in the same way as some bacteria are now immune to antibiotics.]

**Woodcock** :The species is hunted in 26 countries. 21 provided figures for hunting bags, totalling 973,414 birds. In addition, an estimated 144,099 were killed in Italy.

There has been some reduction in hunting, but not in the UK where the number killed annually has

remained level at 125,000 to 150,000 for the last 20 years, even though the species is on the conservation red list. The shooting organisations claim that 90% of the birds killed are from the continent; so another example of shooters killing other countries' breeding birds. The continental population is said to be steady, though there is a slow fall because of significant declines in Russia

Perhaps we should be glad that many of our shooters are happy to just kill Pheasants.

**Eric James**

## PHEASANTS, PHEASANTS AND EVEN MORE PHEASANTS

Shooters are always quick to remind us that they protect the countryside by planting and preserving the copses and planting cover crops for Pheasant shooting and, incidentally, helping wild birds. An article in the May edition of *British Birds* highlights the cost of this 'benefit', which consists of flooding the countryside with large number of artificially raised Pheasants.

Simply noticing the number of naïve birds wandering across roads in front of vehicles clearly demonstrates the vast size of these releases, but putting a figure on it is more difficult. However, it has been done by Guy Shrubsole and based on many FoI requests the results are available on his Who owns England blog at

<https://whoownsengland.org/>

( Spoiler Alert : land in England is owned by the Aristocracy, gentry, rich businessmen such as bankers and hedge fund managers, companies and Trusts registered overseas, especially on the Cayman Islands, and rich foreigners such as the Sheikh of Dubai and Saudi princes) For 2018, the total number of released Pheasants is 20,756,012. The biomass of these birds is greater than the total of all the native birds. They are not distributed evenly, with some areas having particularly dense populations. Counties with the highest numbers are :

| County               | Sum of Usual Stock Numbers |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| North Yorkshire      | 2,645,295                  |
| Devonshire           | 1,539,312                  |
| Cambridgeshire       | 1,280,095                  |
| Norfolk              | 1,127,320                  |
| Oxfordshire          | 945,510                    |
| Suffolk              | 933,179                    |
| Somerset             | 866,174                    |
| Hampshire            | 848,990                    |
| Hereford & Worcester | 798,195                    |
| Lancashire           | 741,277                    |
| Shropshire           | 726,000                    |

The BB article goes on to wonder, "What is the ecological impact of such extraordinary non-native birds being released? Is there any link between the increase in Pheasant numbers since the late 1960s and the 56% decline in farmland birds....?"

The owners of large shooting estates clearly make money by charging high prices to people who want the dubious pleasure of slaughtering birds. In addition to this, the Pheasants reared by an Estate are classed as livestock, which gives tax benefits as well as exemption from some planning controls



Map showing North Yorkshire

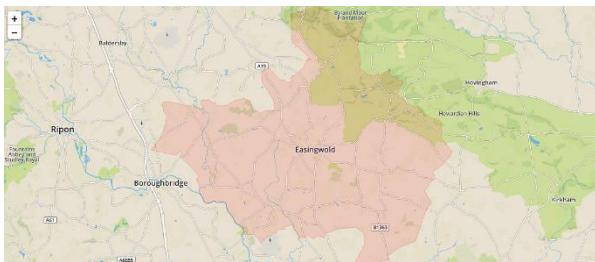
Since North Yorkshire county also covers the moors with grouse shooting areas, there are even more game birds to protect, which might explain its notoriety for the persecution of raptors.

The concentration of shooting estates is even more pronounced when counted by postcode.

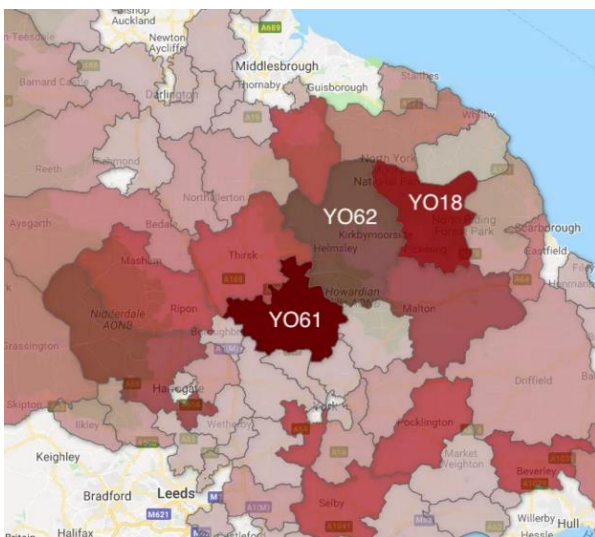
The eleven highest are:

| Postcode district | Number of Pheasants released | Number of estates |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| YO61              | 1,045,300                    | 12                |
| YO18              | 377,700                      | 8                 |
| PR3               | 357,857                      | 20                |
| OX5               | 284,650                      | 5                 |
| EX32              | 280,750                      | 9                 |
| SP5               | 233,550                      | 31                |
| YO62              | 230,650                      | 24                |
| TN19              | 213,300                      | 5                 |
| NG34              | 209,750                      | 9                 |
| TA20              | 205,900                      | 12                |
| NR12              | 200,080                      | 11                |

The numbers in North Yorkshire are astounding, but even more are those in postcode area YO61. This is centred on Easingwold and includes a part of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as edges of the north York Moors



Map of postcode YO61



Location of three York postcodes with high Pheasant numbers

Shrubsole has not managed to identify all the shooting Estates in YO61, but he has identified one very large one. [Newburgh Priory Estate](#). This is the 5,889-acre estate of Sir George Wombwell, 7th baronet. The estate passed to the 2nd baronet who had married the daughter of the previous owners, the Bellasis family. The ShootingUK website assures its visitors that there is 'no shortage of birds'. In addition to pheasants, other species available for shooting are partridges and ducks

**Note:** other subjects investigated in the Who owns England blog include ownership of Grouse moors and the south downs, moor burning, unoccupied homes in London, land owned by the water utilities and various tax dodging schemes of the very wealthy, such as James Dyson.

**Postscript** :Since writing the above, the July edition of *British Birds* has published a paper by Mark Avery covering the potential impacts of large Pheasant releases. It is based on data from 2015 so is slightly different from the above. The number of Pheasants released each year is estimated as 43 million, so with 4 million wild breeding birds and their offspring, the total number of Pheasants could

be up to 50 million at the start of the shooting season in October.

The natural range of the Pheasant is east from the Caspian Sea to Korea. However its popularity as a game bird has led to it being introduced into many other areas. The population in the core area of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is only 6,000 to 12,000 pairs (if 'pairs' has any meaning since males assemble a harem of females). This is miniscule compared with the 14,000,000 in Europe, with 1,850,000 or 46% of these in the UK.

The expansion of the Pheasant shooting business in the UK is evident from these two sets of Pheasant numbers (expressed in millions)

| Year           | 1976 | 2015 |
|----------------|------|------|
| Wild birds     | 2    | 4    |
| Released birds | 2-4  | 43   |
| Birds shot     | 2-3  | 13   |

This shows that in 2015, 30 million birds died of disease, starvation, traffic accidents, or predation. These must provide food (33,000 tonnes in fact) for scavengers such as Crows, Magpies, Common Buzzards and Red Kites.

Although Avery has campaigned against Grouse shooting, he has no objection to Pheasant shooting, and agrees with shooting organisers that hunting estates do have more wild birds than normal estates. Grain from cover crops and provided in hoppers are intended to help Pheasants, but 67% is taken by Corvids, rats, water birds, pigeons, rabbits and predatory mammals; there is little advantage to small seed-eaters such as Skylark,, Tree Sparrow, Linnet, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, and Reed Bunting, all of which are declining. Comparison of the UK with other countries with similar intensive farming implies that our problems with farmland birds are related to Pheasant rearing.

Other adverse effects arising from Pheasant rearing are long-lasting damage to woodland vegetation in the vicinity of the rearing pens, which comprise 1% of English woodland

There is also the persecution of raptors such as Goshawk, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard. Shooting uses lead shot, equivalent to 5,100 tonnes being put into the environment, though 60% is around clay pigeon shoots

The code of Good Shooting states that shoot managers should have arrangements for the sale or consumption of the expected bag. Lead is a problem here as well. EU regulations limit the lead in beef, lamb, pork and poultry to 0.01 p.p.m. of wet weight. No limit has been set for game that had been shot. Pheasant meat with the shot removed had ten times the EU limit at 980 p.p.b.

An analysis on 12 Pheasants gave an average lead content of 410 p.p.b., with a maximum of 1,630 p.p.b.

Pheasant meat is high in protein and selenium, but the lead content means it should not be eaten by pregnant women or young children.

A final problem with inflated pheasant populations is that the species forms a reservoir of the ticks that spread Lyme disease and of avian diseases that can infect commercial poultry such as Avian flu and Newcastle disease. Avery concludes with a comparison of the reams of paperwork required for the release of a few individuals of a native species such as the White-tailed Eagle with the casual acceptance of an annual release of 43 million medium-sized, omnivorous, non-native birds. A FoI request to Defra on the impact of Pheasant releases brought this reply : 'Defra has not assessed the impact of releasing Pheasants or Red-legged Partridges on biodiversity and is not currently planning any research in this area due to biodiversity research priorities.'

So if the Government is too busy or can't be bothered, we'll just have to make up our own minds.



Pheasant, Fountains Abbey

Eric James

**Post Postscript :** As you might have heard, Chris Packham and his campaign group, Wild Justice, have now sent a legal letter to Michael Gove, the environment secretary, accusing him of failing to assess the impact on wildlife of releasing tens of millions of non-native pheasants and red-legged partridges into the countryside. So will we get an answer at last?

**Eric James**

## POPULATION TRENDS IN BRITISH BIRDS

With the completion of the annual BTO Breeding Bird Survey and the Waterways Breeding Survey, the Trust has published the latest trends for the UK, England and English regions, Wales and Scotland.

The report is available at

<https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bbs-report-2016.pdf>

Many of the results (for 1995 to 2015) confirm what is probably evident to most birdwatchers. Species with welcome large increases include Little Egret (up 2894%), Red Kite (up >10000%), and less welcome Ring-necked Parakeet (up 1455%). Smaller but welcome increases were Barn Owl (238% though Little Owl was down 57%), and Goldfinch (118%).

Some species pairs had contrasting fortunes : Blackcap (up 117%) and Garden Warbler (down 31%); Chiffchaff (up 111%) and Willow Warbler (down 43%), and House Sparrow (down 18%) and Tree Sparrow (up 69%). It was a surprise to see Song Thrush (up 20%) though Mistle Thrush was down 38%, putting both thrush species in the red list category

The increase in Chiffchaffs is at least partly due to an increase in Scotland where the species is expanding its range. Another species benefiting by an expansion northwards is Nuthatch (up 90%)

There are, of course, the losers : Turtle Dove (down 94%), Starling (down 51%), Greenfinch, no surprise (down 46%), Skylark (down 22%), Marsh Tit (down 41%), Willow Tit (down 80%)

**Eric James**



# WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH AUTUMN 2018 SUMMARY

|                          | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Red-throated Diver       | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| Little Grebe             | 25     | 12     | 9      |
| Great Crested Grebe      | 28     | 16     | 27     |
| Comorant                 | 38     | 12     | 93     |
| Shag                     | 4      | 1      | 7      |
| Little Egret             | 11     | 19     | 34     |
| Grey Heron               | 14     | 21     | 20     |
| Mute Swan                | 29     | 23     | 42     |
| Whooper Swan             | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| Hybrid/domestic Goose    | 1      | 2      | 0      |
| Pink-footed Goose        | 5      | 8      | 0      |
| Greylag Goose            | 91     | 191    | 164    |
| Canada Goose             | 348    | 539    | 732    |
| Barnacle Goose           | 2      | 0      | 0      |
| Shelduck                 | 331    | 228    | 316    |
| Wigeon                   | 242    | 8      | 9      |
| Gadwall                  | 153    | 226    | 300    |
| Teal                     | 240    | 11     | 8      |
| Green-winged Teal        | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| Mallard                  | 157    | 181    | 186    |
| Shoveler                 | 98     | 20     | 25     |
| Pochard                  | 64     | 56     | 70     |
| Tufted Duck              | 205    | 129    | 117    |
| Scaup                    | 2      | 0      | 0      |
| Eider                    | 15     | 1      | 9      |
| Goldeneye                | 12     | 0      | 0      |
| Red-breasted Merganser   | 13     | 0      | 0      |
| Water Rail               | 2      | 2      | 0      |
| Moorhen                  | 64     | 54     | 12     |
| Coot                     | 264    | 126    | 255    |
| Total Wildfowl           | 2461   | 1887   | 2438   |
| Oystercatcher            | 355    | 338    | 248    |
| Avocet                   | 92     | 88     | 71     |
| Little Ringed Plover     | 8      | 6      | 7      |
| Ringed Plover            | 15     | 224    | 16     |
| Grey Plover              | 2      | 0      | 0      |
| Lapwing                  | 142    | 116    | 136    |
| Sanderling               | 121    | 59     | 0      |
| Purple Sandpiper         | 1      | 0      | 0      |
| Dunlin                   | 7      | 65     | 11     |
| Snipe                    | 10     | 1      | 0      |
| Black-tailed Godwit      | 69     | 7      | 0      |
| Bar-tailed Godwit        | 18     | 1      | 0      |
| Whimbrel                 | 1      | 2      | 1      |
| Curlew                   | 243    | 95     | 228    |
| Redshank                 | 466    | 12     | 14     |
| Turnstone                | 41     | 5      | 0      |
| Total Waders             | 1591   | 1020   | 735    |
| Black-headed Gull        | 1205   | 2218   | 839    |
| Common Gull              | 9      | 55     | 9      |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 38     | 33     | 63     |
| Herring Gull             | 1285   | 1483   | 1751   |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | 38     | 11     | 26     |
| Kittiwake                | 16     | 53     | 148    |
| Total Gulls              | 2591   | 3853   | 2836   |
| Sandwich Tern            | 2      | 26     | 4      |
| Total Terns              | 2      | 62     | 307    |
| Kingfisher               | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Total Waterbirds         | 6645   | 6822   | 6316   |

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

