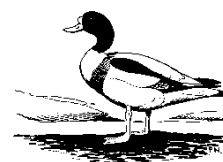


Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter

December 2019 (No.74)



Reg.Charity No.508850

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JULY 2019

The two Black Swans spent the first half of July on Dormans Pool, but only one was seen late in the month. Other (presumed) escapes seen during the month include eight Ruddy Shelducks at Bowesfield on 24th which passed Brotton Golf course next morning, a single Ruddy Shelduck commuting between Bowesfield and Saltholme from 26th, through August and a Diamond Dove on Hartlepool Headland, also on 26th.

The first half of the month proved to be a 'purple patch' with a Roseate Tern at RSPB Saltholme on 3rd, a White-winged Black Tern at the same place on 4th-5th, Cleveland's first Least Sandpiper (if accepted) at Scaling Dam on 4th, an influx of Mediterranean Gulls from 6th with five at Skinningrove and others elsewhere, the first Sooty Shearwater of the autumn past Cowbar on 7th and the bird of the year, a Sooty Tern (if accepted), also past Cowbar, on 9th. This last bird was seen off Yorkshire, then Durham and Northumberland later in the day.



White-winged Black Tern Ian Forrest

The middle of the month was a bit slow but things began to heat up (literally) from 17th when a Turtle Dove was at Haverton Hole followed by the first returning Spotted Redshank on Tidal Pool on 18th, one Storm Petrel caught at Hartlepool in the first hour of 19th, the first returning Little Stint at South

Gare on 20th and the first autumn Merlin, also at South Gare on 22nd.

A warm air mass moved North across Europe and the UK in the second half of the month, creating a new UK record of 37.8C in Cambridge. In Cleveland, we endured 31C on 23rd and a blistering 34C on 25th. The only Quail of the year was calling at Hummersea on 25th and three Garganey began a week-long stay on Saltholme on the same day.

The 26th was notable for the first sighting of two flying juvenile Marsh Harriers at Haverton Hole, the first confirmed breeding in Cleveland since 1996.

A rather early Pied Flycatcher was at Hartlepool on 28th, the same day as a Yellow-legged Gull was at Scaling Dam, a Caspian Gull was on Dormans Pool on 29th, the count of Little Egrets reached at 88 at dawn on 30th and a Hobby was over Cowpen Marsh the same day.

AUGUST 2019

The first half of the month was rather quiet; Garganey peaked at six birds on Back Saltholme on 5th, two Pink-footed Geese were on the same pond on 8th, an Osprey was at Lockwood Beck on 13th, and the first three Yorkshire Barnacle Geese were back on Saltholme on 14th, where 64 were counted next day and over 100 by the end of the month.



Cuckoo

Ian Forrest

Little Egrets peaked at 103 at their roost on 16th, well down on the 141 counted in August 2016, another Osprey flew over Wolviston on 18th, a Hen Harrier was at Scaling Dam on 19th and a small influx of Spotted Flycatchers to the coast was noted on 20th, less than ten birds.

Another Osprey was at Scaling Dam from 21st, another Hobby was at Marske on 22nd and perhaps the same bird at South Gare on 24th, and the first autumn Curlew Sandpiper was at Bran Sands, also on 24th.

The last week of the month was a bit more lively, with about 10 Curlew Sandpipers, a Little Stint on Bran Sands from 25th, at least five Pied Flycatchers on the coast on the same day, a rather early autumn Ring Ouzel at Portrack on 26th and the first rare wader of the autumn in the form of a White-rumped Sandpiper at Greatham Creek, also on 26th.

A Black Tern performed well in front of the RSPB Saltholme visitor centre from 28th, the White-rumped Sandpiper re-appeared in front of the Phil Stead hide on 29th, and another Hobby was at Haverton Hole on 31st.

SEPTEMBER 2019

A rather late Spoonbill graced Dormans Pool on 1st, moving to Back Saltholme next day.

Excitement built on 2nd with the only Greenish Warbler of the year at Brotton Golf Course, the only Ring-necked Duck of the year in front of the café at RSPB Saltholme and a very early skein of (26) Pink-footed Geese flying South over Hartlepool and Seaton Snook.

The fourth Great White Egret of the year was at Haverton Hole on 6th but did not linger, the first Pale-bellied Brent Geese and Pomarine Skua of the autumn passed along the coastline on 7th, a Red-backed Shrike was at Hummersea on 8th and an Osprey was at Scaling Dam on 10th-11th.

The first returning Cetti's Warblers were at Bowesfield on 10th (three being heard on 23rd) and Haverton Hole on 13th, both being a month earlier than the norm. A Barred Warbler was at Cattersty from 12th, the first returning Lapland Bunting was at South Gare on 14th, the same day as seven Red-crested Pochards were found on Saltholme and the only Balearic Shearwater of the year was off Cowbar on 17th.



Osprey

Derickp

Cleveland's earliest Whooper Swans (two) were on Saltholme Pools on 18th, a Red Kite was over Guisborough on 19th and Dormans Pool on 20th, a colourful Mandarin was in Wynyard from 21st and another Great White Egret was around Haverton Hole and Cowpen Marsh, also from 21st, into Oct.

The now-annual arrival of Yellow-browed Warblers began on 22nd with at least four along the coastline, a skein of 31 'real' Barnacle Geese flew South West over Seaton Snook on 25th, another Osprey was at Scaling Dam for three days from 26th, another two Great White Egrets were at Scaling Dam on 28th and a Spoonbill was on Back Saltholme on the same day.

Wind and rain from the East on 29th made for unpleasant birding, but a few Redwings arrived and a small number of skuas were noted off Hartlepool. The sun shone on 30th and ten Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded but little else.

OCTOBER 2019

The month started with a significant amount of rain in the first week, which provided sea-watching on the 1st. All four species of skua were seen off Hartlepool as well as an early Black Guillemot and the first Long-tailed Duck of the autumn, followed next day by a trickle of (about 100) Svalbard Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Whooper Swans. A Red Kite was over Norton, also on 2nd.

Cleveland's fourth Red-flanked Bluetail was at Brotton Golf Course on 3rd, the number of Cetti's Warblers at Bowesfield increased to five on 4th and at least 14 Yellow-browed Warblers were spread around Cleveland on 5th, as well as two Cranes over New Skelton and Boulby, a Dusky Warbler at

South Gare and an early Siberian Chiffchaff at Hartlepool.



Firecrest

Ian Forrest

The Red-flanked Bluetail at Brotton Golf Course was seen again on 6th and a Firecrest was at South Gare on 7th. Two Firecrests were at South Gare, one was in Zinc Works bushes and a very photogenic Grey Phalarope began an eight day stay in Hartlepool harbour, all on 8th, a Great White Egret flew South over Seaton Snook on 9th, a Red Kite was over Cowpen Marsh on 10th, and the first Scaup of the autumn was on Saltholme from 12th.



Grey Phalarope

Ian Watson

The middle of Oct is becoming known as the normal arrival period of Cetti's Warblers; a calling bird was at Haverton Hole from 13th, (and five from 24th) and a singing male was at RSPB Saltholme from 14th.

Also on 14th, six Bearded Tits graced Portrack Marsh and the first Snow Bunting of the autumn was at South Gare. A Black Redstart was at Hartlepool on 16th, the same day as the first Twite of the autumn was seen, and a Kentish Plover photographed on 18th at South Gare is the first autumn record for Cleveland since Sep 1963, but

was not relocated until Nov. A party of ten Bearded Tits was on Coatham Marsh on 19th, the same day as 31 Puffin were off South Gare and single Barred Warblers were seen at Warsett Hill and Coatham Marsh.



Kentish Plover

Rob Young

The wind turned to Northerly on 20th, bringing a Common Redpoll to Hartlepool, but also creating interesting sea-watching: a very few Little Auks passed next day as well as good numbers of Guillemots, assorted ducks and Red-throated Divers. The more unusual birds seen included Great Northern and Black-throated Divers, Great Skua, Red-necked Grebe and a late Arctic Tern.

Also on 21st, Cleveland's eighth American Golden Plover (and the first since the year 2000) was located on RSPB Saltholme, staying in the area for at least 8 days. Perusal of photographs seems to show that it was at South Gare on 24th Sep and 3rd Oct, and by Saltholme Pool on 19th Oct.

The first Waxwing of the winter was at RSPB Saltholme on 22nd, Cleveland's fourth Cattle Egret was at Haverton Hole for ten minutes on 23rd and the first two Long-eared Owls of the winter were at the same place next day. The only Bar-headed Goose of the year was in Wynyard on 25th, a significant movement of Whooper Swans was noted on 26th with over 100 being seen in small groups, a Red Kite was over Saltholme on 27th, two Scaup were on Scaling Dam from 29th and the first White-fronted Goose of the winter was on Lockwood Beck on the same day.

Another two Great White Egrets were seen on 30th, flying North over Haverton Hole, the same day as a Hooded Crow was at Brotton, and singles of Bittern and Bearded Tit were at Haverton Hole on 31st.

AUTUMN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Trustees reconvened in August and October and the following account highlights the issues raised at the meetings, as well as other matters of interest for members.

Let's get the depressing news out of the way first, before I move on to more pleasing and fulfilling aspects of our activities!

SABIC AND THE LONG DRAG

"A lock was put on the Long Drag gate at 09.55 this morning"

10.19a.m – 24 JUL 2019

Does this Tweet look familiar?

Well, for me, this was the continuation of a truly laborious task which severely impacted on my enjoyment of the summer.

Initial meetings with the Public Relations officer at Sabic had failed to achieve any satisfactory outcome regarding our access to the track. Therefore, a committee decision was made to apply to Stockton Borough Council to have The Long Drag designated as a Public Right of Way.

In September, I submitted a plethora of evidence which proves beyond doubt long term use of that track over many decades.

The following list details what was sent to council:-

- 1) Relevant Council forms
- 2) Explicit large scale map
- 3) Covering letter
- 4) Teesmouth Bird Club Annual Report 1963 which states, "The activities of 20 Bird Wardens enrolled by the club have resulted in an almost complete absence of shooters on the Long Drag and other areas where shooting is prohibited."
- 5) Sample of Long Drag records taken from County of Cleveland Bird Reports 1990-1999, with mention of much earlier records being available for perusal.

6) Information regarding Excel Spreadsheet detailing 2362 sightings of birds along The Long Drag since computerisation of records in 2000.

7) Publication "Birds of Cleveland" written by Martin A Blick and published by Tees Valley WildlifeTrust.

8) Three Rivers Cycle Route – a map showing that The Long Drag is marked on the National Cycle Network Map as a potential future route, this being regarded as a safe alternative to the Tees Road.

9) "Sabie win an industrial award with the help of Teesmouth Bird Club"

2 extracts from Club newsletters, dated April 2010 and April 2011 describing the challenge and the achievement.

10) Multiple Sworn Statements from members detailing their long term use of The Long Drag.

My thanks go to Graham Megson, John Fletcher, Martin Blick, Tom Francis, Dave Harrison and Julie Mason who helped me acquire the relevant information and also to Ken Smith for his advice. I am also grateful to those who produced the Sworn Statements.

We now have to wait 9-12 months before learning the outcome of our application.

LOCKWOOD BECK

It is heartening to know that in stark contrast to Sabie, Northumbrian Water have indeed encouraged our presence at Lockwood Beck reservoir and have been highly supportive of our project to create a new shelter at the back of the fisherman's hut. Members will be delighted to know that the shelter is now complete, along with modifications to the feeding station and creation of a second brash pile for the wildlife.



Included in the newsletter, is a separate, more detailed narrative by Martin Blick about the construction of the shelter.

ADDITIONAL FEEDING STATIONS

Don't forget the other feeding stations are in full swing, namely Cowpen Bewley, Billingham Bottoms, Saltburn and Stillington. Thanks go to the individuals who help to keep these functioning, including Dave Nelson, Keith Ryan and particularly Gwynn Dunn, leader of the Friends' Group at Stillington.

NEW WEBSITE – www.teesmouthbc.com

The website continues to develop in response to requests and ideas highlighted by members. Thanks go to John Fletcher for updating the chronology, Martin Blick for all the additional work to bring the site guide up to date and, of course, Jamie Duffie, our IT specialist.

I have canvassed many people and sought their opinions about the website. This has included our stalwarts, newer members, the younger generation, other birdwatchers outwith Cleveland and also non-birders. The comments have been very favourable – here are just some:-

- professional layout
- easy to navigate
- lots of interesting information
- useful links
- so much better than the old site

If any member is still experiencing difficulty, the chances are that it is the stored memory on your device which is interfering with the clear pathway through to the new site. Please type the website address correctly (shown above) and enter it afresh.

DO NOT just go into Google and type "Teesmouth Bird Club".

Periodically, as development continues, use your "refresh" button to upload to the latest version of the website.

If you are accessing the website via a smartphone then don't forget there is a special facility which will display each of the Twitter feeds as a full screen

view. Go to the MENU, SIGHTINGS and click on the SMALL PHONE application.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN 2015-2019

The Trustees reviewed this plan at the meeting in October. The conclusion reached was that a huge amount has been achieved in 5 years. Whether we can maintain momentum will depend entirely upon the willingness of additional members to devote some of their time to the club's aims.

The Trustees will continue to peruse the Club Constitution periodically to ensure that we are fulfilling the objectives of the club.

OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES

Our monthly outdoor events continue to be well attended and members have enjoyed trips to Seaton Snook, Hartlepool Headland, as well as a bird ringing session, also in Hartlepool. Thanks to all the leaders of these activities. The occasions are always very much appreciated by all who attend.

Our indoor meetings continue to attract enthusiastic audiences and there are still more great talks coming up on the programme between now and the April AGM.

Don't forget to register for Julie's "Garden Bird Challenge" which starts on 1st January, details of which are in this newsletter. Here is an opportunity to participate in meaningful bird recording whilst still wearing your pyjamas and enjoying your first cuppa of the day!! Try not to frighten the neighbours!!

COMPILERS NEEDED

The TBC Records sub-committee (RSC) has completed a series of meetings to edit the forthcoming Cleveland Bird Report 2018. Traditionally the Report is written by four compilers, who are members of the RSC, proof read by all RSC members and edited by the Report Editor. With 60+ species per section, this is a considerable amount of work for each compiler. This has led to a discussion on how we might make beneficial changes whilst maintaining the high quality of our much-loved annual report. One idea involves increasing the number of compilers and therefore reducing the number of species each has

to compile. Compilers would not need to be members of the RSC.

We are therefore writing to keen birders to ask if you would be willing to take on a few species, to assess whether this idea is workable.

A large number of compilers writing, say, ten species each would improve the efficiency of the task. One advantage discussed is that if each compiler knew in advance which species they were responsible for, they could make extra effort to record those species. Compiling is undertaken as early as possible in each new year (preferably before spring migration kicks in) as soon as the County Recorder has amassed the majority of submitted records, so that these can be sent out in a spreadsheet. You don't have to be a brilliant writer – the proof readers will be responsible for grammar, phrasing, continuity, etc.

Please speak to myself or anyone on the RSC for further details and let me know if you will help.

Regards Alan Crossley
Cleveland County Recorder

HIGH SPEED EVOLUTION

Evolution is normally thought of as a long-term process, but observations on some bird species show very rapid adaptations to changed circumstances. Eric James describes two such examples.

Hawaiian fruit-eating birds

On the Hawaiian Islands, as in many other isolated islands, native birds quickly went extinct after the arrival of human beings and their commensal mammals, such as cats and rats. Many native plants depended on the fruit-eating birds to spread their seeds. Studies on O'ahu show there is still a complex ecosystem of forests with dense understorey of shrubs, helped by introduced fruit-eating birds which have rapidly adapted to their new environment in only ten to twenty generations. Comparing these birds with museum specimens collected from their native range, two species had significantly shorter legs, and most species had larger, thicker bills, shorter wings, and longer tails, the last two giving the ability to fly in enclosed spaces.

It is not all good news since these birds could also be spreading the seeds of non-native, introduced plants. Ecology is never simple.



red-billed-leiothrix, an introduced species

SHORTER-WINGED BIRDS SURVIVE BETTER ON ROADS

It is estimated that eighty million US birds are killed by traffic each year. In view of this, it is surprising that Cliff swallows ([Petrochelidon pyrrhonota](#)) have taken to nesting on road bridges, so making them especially vulnerable.

It is fortunate that [Charles Brown](#) of the University of Tulsa has been collecting dead swallows for 30 years. In this time, roadkill numbers have steadily declined since the 1980s, even as the number of roadside nests has risen. The killed birds have longer wings than birds caught in mist nets for research, and on average the caught birds' wings have got shorter.

It makes sense: shorter wings are better for a quick vertical take-off, and improve manoeuvrability, as with the Hawaiian birds discussed above.

This appears to be an example of vehicular selection, but there might be another explanation: after a particularly cold May in 1996 which killed about half the nesting population through starvation, [wing lengths dropped markedly](#), perhaps because birds with shorter wings were better able to capture the remaining insects still on the wing.

These are two examples of human influence on evolution. This is even evident in species named after Darwin: two formerly diverging populations of Darwin's Galapagos finches seem to be

[collapsing back into one](#), now that food from bird feeders is replacing their natural diets.

The moral is: never forget the Law of Unintended Consequences.

ENGLAND COAST PATH - NORTH TEES SECTION

You may recall an earlier article which I wrote on this topic, where I considered opportunities to safely bird watch areas from said pathway. This whole section is now formally open and this article describes the length of path from the Transporter Bridge as far as the pool at the rear of the Calor Gas site, which I walked on 18 October.

Car parking, I considered, was best performed in the more public area close to the north side of the Transporter Bridge. I then set off under the rail bridge, turning right to follow the new signage. The route is parallel to the embankment of the redundant rail line and is pleasantly vegetated like many paths through derelict areas of Teesside.



Leaving the rail embankment, the path swings left around the rear of the Calor Gas depot onto some interesting grassland. The area is colonised blast furnace slag, and this alkaline, poor, thin soil looks an excellent site for invertebrates and wild flowers in season. (Such man made habitats were once widespread in the estuary, but many have become landfill locations or have been “ improved and beautified”, to become grasslands of low biodiversity).

Continuing further, I approached the “Calor Gas Pool” and the well screened section beside it. The screen did its job properly and I did not alarm the 5 Teal and 1 Pochard floating on the brim-full pool.

The pool is adjacent to a wide drainage ditch which runs SE out of Saltholme, passing under the A178. When the water level in the ditch is sufficiently high, it overflows into the pool area and fills it to varying levels depending on the water level in the ditch itself. As summer progresses the pool now dries out partially or completely depending on rainfall – in short it is ephemeral.



The location is largely under watched and it takes the arrival of a rarity like the Stone Curlew of many years ago, to stimulate interest. However, the improved access and safe viewing opportunity could remedy the situation - I feel. Previously viewing from the road verge, through the hedge with traffic howling closely past cannot be recommended even to the foolhardy. The chief drawback is that for birders wishing to quickly check out the pool, it is a long walk either from the Transporter end or from the north past Petroplus.

The paths are well maintained but sections having adjacent bramble thickets will require strict measures in the growing season. As for the pool itself, some form of water management would certainly not come amiss- installation of a vandal proof sluice, and some casual grazing from the local cavalry has been effective in the past I recall.

O S map references:-

Start of walk 502 215

Calor Gas Pool 506 216

Ali McLee October 2019

LOCKWOOD BECK FEEDING STATION VIEWING AREA ROOF

A good percentage of the bird club's members will have enjoyed the spectacle of the birds drawn to the Lockwood Beck feeding station since it was created about 2 years ago, but the extent of the cabin's roof above the Ted Parker seat and the bench meant that the observer was dripped on whenever it was raining. Also, when a North-easterly wind blew across the reservoir and straight into the area behind the cabin, it was rather unpleasant.



So, after negotiations with Northumbrian Water, it was decided that a roof over the viewing area would be a useful addition, and make the experience of watching the birds feeding that much more enjoyable. After a health and safety assessment had been rigorously completed work began on 6th August 19 with dismantling of the existing screening and fences, followed over the next few days by erection of 4 supporting posts, then bolting of supports to the back of the existing cabin and finally, a felt and board roof over the entire structure.



Originally, the access to the viewing area had been along the West side but this was changed to the East side, so the West side was boarded up, a small screen was added to the East side which now has the Teesmouth Bird Club logo on it and the original low fence was moved 20yds to one side to reduce the likelihood of anyone falling into the channel between the cabin and the feeding station.

No-one should underestimate the organisation that went into this project: Northumbrian Water insisted that protective clothing should be worn at all times, naturally, so that needed to be sourced before a hammer, saw or spade could be picked up. Several hundred pounds-worth of timber, bolts, nails, cement, and roofing felt had to be bought and transported to the site, but most important of all, the team doing the work needed to be fed and watered at frequent intervals.



In charge of the spending, the negotiations and the provision of food and drink was our hard-working chairwoman, Barbara Crinson. The construction team (now known as the magnificent seven) was John Cutter, John Money, Herbert Mitchell, Brian Foster, Antony Shelley and the venerable Don Page.

All in all the entire job took 10 days, but this also included replacing the actual feeding station supports with posts, the creation of another log pile, the addition of guttering to the new roof and finally a door on the East side to reduce the effect of the cold winds.



Short of putting windows in the front and wiring up a plug socket by the seating (for a kettle or a heater!), not much else can be done to render the viewing area more pleasant. In the few months it has been here many birders have used it and commented very favourably on the improvements. No doubt the winter of 2019/20 will see lots of birds using the feeding station, depending on the severity so it's probably worth a visit very soon. Up to 3 Mealy (Common) Redpolls were seen last winter so there is a reasonable chance of Arctic Redpoll making an appearance sooner or later.

MARTIN BLICK Nov 2019

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB GARDEN BIRD YEAR LIST CHALLENGE

Are you up for a challenge in 2020?

Whilst we chase birds around the county trying to find a rarity or something new each year, we can be forgiven for forgetting about 'our' garden birds. For some of our members, these daily or annual visitors to our extended homes are a huge source of pleasure during the bad weather or days when you just cannot venture out and about. To others, our garden visitors help to kickstart the year's bird list or give us a few minutes of pleasure during our busy lifestyles.

The rules are simple for this challenge which I believe should appeal to many club members. Provided you can see or hear the bird while you are in your house or garden, the species is counted on your garden bird list. The bird could be on your feeders, lawn or migrating hundreds of metres overhead. What matters is the placement of your feet!

Some members may live in the heart of our local towns, or next to a park or nature reserve, but remember you need to see it or hear it to count it. Identifications from tape recordings are not permissible. If you have a house and garden, then your area is within your property boundaries. If you live in an apartment with no garden, then all windows become your observation points.

By taking part you may be presently surprised how many species are counted from January to December and you may also find that you are situated on a migration route. Pass on the news of migrating geese or swans, for example, to fellow members and we could uncover flyways across our towns, coast and countryside.

This challenge is open to ALL members regardless of where you live, so join in the fun.

To take part please send me your name and postcode, before you start counting in January. End of year results can be submitted electronically or on paper. It would be helpful to receive quarterly updates on progress so we can include an update in the club newsletter.

Make a note of the bird and dates and numbers. A record of the birds breeding in your garden would also provide the club with some valuable information.

If you do see something unusual and are unable to identify the visitor, take a photo or make notes and we will endeavour to help solve the mystery.

Remember at the club meeting, I offered to do a summary of the challenge at the AGM in 2021. Well this is your opportunity to help make that talk interesting and rewarding for all.

If you would like a general species list, then let me know and I will send you one.

Julie Mason
juquacker@gmail.com

LOCAL OUTINGS JANUARY TO APRIL 2020

HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND

Saturday 25th January 2020

Join Chris Sharp and look for sea-ducks and wintering gulls around the headland. Waders, such as Purple Sandpiper, Turnstone and Knot should also be seen along with divers and grebes. There is also a chance of a Mediterranean or Glaucous Gull. Meet at 9.30 a.m. by Heugh Gun Battery car park.

Leader: Chris Sharp Tel: 01429 865163

NORTH GARE AND SEATON SNOOK

Sunday 23rd^h February 2020

Join Julie Mason and Chris Sharp for a walk to these two coastal localities. A good variety of sea duck including Red-breasted Merganser and Eider should be seen. Hopefully the bay should also hold grebes and divers. The Snook is a regular wintering spot for Twite and small numbers of Snow Buntings have been present in recent winters. Meet at 9.30 a.m at the North Gare car park

Leaders: Julie Mason [Tel: 01642 614583](tel:01642614583) and Chris Sharp

SOUTH GARE

Saturday 14th March 2020

Join Bert Mitchell for a visit to this coastal site. Hopefully a few species of sea duck should be offshore plus Auks and Shag. The beach here has also proved attractive to Twite in recent winters and a few Snow Buntings. Meet at 9.30 a.m. by the Old Lifeboat Station.

Leader: Bert Mitchell 07870 451648

COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK

Tuesday 21st April 2020

Join Dave Nelson to explore this local nature reserve. A good selection of common woodland species should be seen and early summer migrants such as Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Blackcap should be well established. Meet at the nature reserve car park at 10.00 a.m.

Leader: Dave Nelson Tel: 01642 824755

THE CORVIDAE : EVIL GENIUSES OR JUST CLEVER BIRDS?

The Crow family have acquired a bad name, at least in Britain. The Carrion Crow itself starts off with a name that does not appeal to many people, and there are plenty of people who will talk about their 'bad' behaviour, especially shepherds describing how they peck the eyes of lambs. This is not done out of nastiness, but because, with not having a hooked beak, they cannot tear the flesh of potential food and have to peck at soft areas. A survey of 297 lamb deaths in Argyll showed that 48 per cent died of starvation, 22 per cent were stillborn, and nine per cent died of disease. Crows, Hooded in this case, had attacked 48 per cent of the lambs, but examination revealed that only 17 per cent were alive at the time.

Suburban bird lovers are just as critical because of attacks on the nests and eggs of pretty little song birds.

Of course, there are the gamekeepers who are concerned about young game birds. In this case there is a whiff of double standards : killing a wild bird which needs to eat while raising other birds for the sole reason of being shot for fun (or sport as it is called).

So could such a bird show sympathy? Apparently yes. Researchers put a flock of Carrion Crows in an enclosure. When food was supplied in small quantities, there were some squabbles between birds. It was found that if the squabble was only mild, then the aggressive bird would seek out the victim, approach closely and preen its feathers. After a more aggressive confrontation, the birds would stay apart and the victim would seek consolation from a neutral third bird.

When it comes to clever behaviour, the outstanding species is the New Caledonian Crow (*Corvus moneduloides*), which can assemble tools to obtain otherwise inaccessible food items. Recent tests have shown another talent: two groups of six birds were presented with objects which they could touch and pick up. One group was rewarded if they picked out heavy items, and the other for picking out light objects. The objects were then suspended on cords and an electric fan was turned on to blow air at them. The crows could still identify the items they had been trained for.

Without the fan, their choices were no better than chance.

Crows as a whole have a so-called Theory of mind, meaning that they can visualise what another bird knows. If one is hiding food for later consumption and it sees another Crow watching it, it will return, recover the food and then hide it in a different place.

The mythology associated with crows does them no favours. Their black plumage associates them with death and bad omens, a crow on the roof of a house being a sign that someone in the house would die.

For nomadic peoples, the crow was seen in a different light. For some North American Indians, the Crow is the main divine character, creating the sun and giving civilisation and culture.

Another Indian legend has the crow rainbow coloured and with a sweet song. When snow fell for the first time, the crow flew to the Creator to beg him to stop the cold and was given a burning stick to give warmth. Flying back, his feathers were scorched black and the inhaled smoke reduced his voice to a harsh croak. In bright sunshine, colours are visible on Crow plumage, which is taken to be the remnants of its original rainbow feathers.

The Magpie (originally Pie, with Mag a sixteenth century addition meaning chatterer) has attracted many of the myths associated with the crow. A single magpie in English folklore is a sign of bad luck which can be avoided by asking politely, "Hello Mr. Magpie. How is Mrs. Magpie and all the little Magpies?". For the really superstitious, you should spit three times over your shoulder and wave your arms like wings. In our more sceptical times, these activities cannot be recommended when there are too many people around. The rhyme about seeing numbers of Magpies (one for sorrow, two for joy....etc) has many variants, some reaching as many as twenty.

An ability of Magpies is to recognise their reflection in a mirror; this puts them in a select group of animals, including Asian Elephants, Great Apes, Bottlenose Dolphins, Orcas, and (possibly) Manta Rays.

Magpies recently hit the news when a bird in Australia attacked passers-by, causing one cyclist to crash into a post, which subsequently killed him. The bird in question was a different species, the Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) which except for its black and white plumage, looks different from the real Magpie (see picture below).



Australian Magpie

Except for people who have got them nesting in a chimney, Jackdaws are the least well known of the common crow species; as shown by a recent 'University Challenge' programme, in which one question was 'What is the rarest crow species in Britain ?' After a discussion about Raven and Jackdaw, the team chose Jackdaw. Paxman assumed a facial expression suggesting surprise at their ignorance. A detailed description of Jackdaws' lives is in Konrad Lorenz's book, 'King Solomon's Ring'. Like the two species considered above, Jackdaws are accused of stealing shiny objects. An experiment with Crows shows this to be untrue: food was set out with a metallic object next to each portion. Of 64 birds that approached, only two took the shiny object and in both cases, it was quickly rejected.

Rooks also attract little public attention, probably because most non birdwatchers cannot distinguish them from Crows. Old country folk certainly could and juvenile Rooks were regarded as desirable food. You might find it difficult to try this yourself, as selling Rooks for food is now illegal. Although little is said about the intelligence of Rooks, they are capable of solving problems to obtain food.

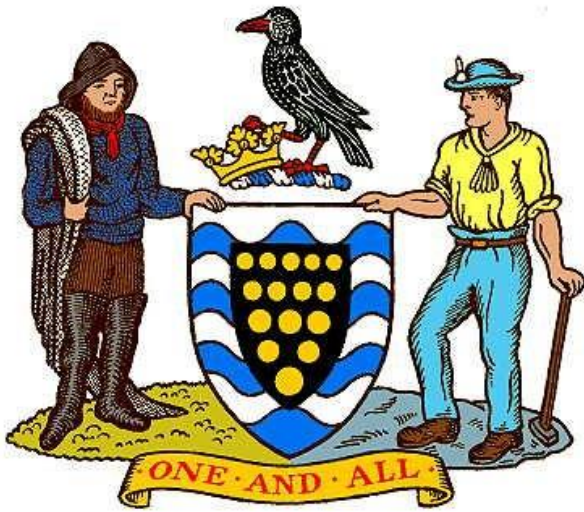
The Raven features in mythology and, like the Crow, can be a bird of ill omen, an idea supported by its presence on battlefields, feeding on the dead. In reality, the birds are intelligent and playful. There is also a legend that King Arthur was transformed into a Raven, though the Welsh version has him transformed into a Chough. In the

Medieval times, Ravens were protected in towns for their carrion clearing activities and, of course, the Ravens in the Tower of London must stay or else the Kingdom of England will fall. Even if no one believes this, the birds have their wings clipped – just in case. In fact, all the birds except one mated pair (Mabel and Grip) died of shock during the Second World War bombing. Afterwards, Mabel flew off, followed a fortnight later by Grip. When this was widely reported, the superstitious took it as the end of the British Empire. Considering what happened, perhaps there was something about the superstition; to be on the safe side, before the re-opening of the Tower to the public, a new set of Ravens were installed.

In Norse mythology, Odin is accompanied by two Ravens, Hugin (thought) and Munin (memory), who brought him news from far and wide. One of Odin's other names was Hrafnagud (Raven God). An aspect of the birds' intelligence is their habit of showing stalkers the presence of deer, in the expectation of getting the innards of any killed animal.

Ravens are mentioned in Lorenz's book, including a painfully remembered episode. It was Lorenz's custom when walking to have a tame Raven flying along with him. To discourage the bird from flying off, he took a pocketful of food which he fed to it at intervals. The Raven made the connection that anything taken from trousers was for eating. The problem came the occasion when Lorenz needed to relieve a bursting bladder. The bird, using its trouser/food correlation, flew down and grabbed the presumed food. Considering the size of a Raven's beak, this was extremely painful. In fact, Lorenz nearly fainted with the pain before he disengaged the bird.

Choughs are probably the most charismatic crow species. Although it is usually pronounced as chuff, the name is said to be imitative so should really be chow, or perhaps even chew. Like other crow species, it does feature on coats of arms, especially when connected to Cornwall.



Arms of Cornwall with Fisherman, Miner and "Cornish" Chough

Eric James

THOSE RUDDY DUCKS!

With the risk of stirring up a hornets' nest, here is the background to the Ruddy Duck controversy which rocked the Club some years ago.

The story of the Ruddy Duck in Britain is well known. This North American species was imported by the Wildfowl Trust and, it is claimed, pairs bred unobtrusively in their Reserves, raising a series of juveniles that escaped during the 1950s and founded a feral population. The WT gave the impression that they didn't try too hard to stop this, and even got a pub near their Peakirk reserve to change its name to 'The Ruddy Duck'. The birds caused no problem in Britain and provided an easy year tick for birdwatchers, but even before Peter Scott died, there were doubts being raised about future problems.

The birds then spread to France and then, in the 1980s, to Spain, which is where the trouble started. Spain and parts of North Africa hosted the western range of the globally endangered White-headed Duck, another of the *Oxyura* genus and hence a close relative of the Ruddy Duck. American GIs stationed in Britain during the Second World War were accused of being overpaid, over-sexed and over here. The last two of these is certainly true of the Ruddy Duck. The Ruddy drakes and Ruddy×White-headed hybrid drakes are socially dominant over the pure White-headed drakes in

courtship so in each breeding season, the White-headed gene pool was further diluted. This was galling for the Spanish, who had expended time and effort to rescue the White-headed Duck from local extinction. In 1977, the population had fallen to 22 on one lagoon in Córdoba as a result of drainage and illegal hunting. After the implementation of a Species Action Plan, the population grew, reaching 400 in 1988 and then later to 2,500 in 13 Spanish provinces.

The Spanish quickly got the new immigrants under control, but this was not the end of the story. It became evident that there was nothing stopping the eastward expansion of the Ruddy Duck across the Palearctic to the main centre of the White-headed Duck in the Russian Federation and Turkey where the large area of wetlands and their infrequent monitoring would make control impossible.

A scheme to prevent this was started by BirdLife International in partnership with nine BirdLife partners – RSPB (UK), LPO (France), SEO/Birdlife Spain, SPEA (Portugal), NABU (Germany), HOS (Greece), VBN (Netherlands), SOF (Sweden), LOD (Lithuania). The fundamental problem was the British feral Ruddy Ducks, so a culling programme was introduced. The Club Committee agreed that this was essential and unavoidable, so did not raise any objections., but many members did and the sightings page of the website was filled with messages only recently matched by Brexiteers. No doubt Michael Gove's comment that the British have had enough of experts would have gone down well. The writers were insistent that they would not tow(sic) the line, presumably not knowing that the expression is 'toe the line'.

The Daily Mail, as usual, managed to include all its prejudices into one headline

Ruddy outrage! How lusty British ducks are being culled at a cost of £2,000 each to please the Spanish

plus ça change

Eric James

USEFUL WEBSITE FOR WEATHER AND WIND DIRECTIONS?

Aficionados of sea watching and coastal migrant landfalls might be interested in a couple of sites found by Googling.

The first is probably well known and regularly used, showing wind strength, direction and future trends. xcweather.co.uk/forecast

A second site looks at the world wide situation, far beyond the local aspects. Here the derivations of weather streams are clearly shown. Also, to be seen are temperatures and precipitation. There are clues to the possibility of migrant displacements from Asia and north America.

Ventusky.com/?p=65;-6;2&1=wind-10m

Good luck!

Ali McLee



TITBITS

A selection of bird related news and facts, assembled by Eric James

THE IRRESISTIBLE RISE OF THE WOODPIGEON

Woodpigeons have been visiting more gardens and in larger numbers for some time now. The BTO publishes a list of species that visit gardens based on observations from the Garden BirdWatch survey. In 1995, there was a peak Woodpigeon presence in 60.8% of gardens; in 2018, this reached 92.8%, making it the most widespread species for the first time. In achieving this, it was helped by smaller birds, such as Blackbird, Robin, and Blue Tit, being badly hit by the cold weather.

REALLY SERIOUS GARDEN BIRD FEEDING



Demoiselle Cranes, Khichen

Yashpal Rathore

Not many of us can expect Cranes to feed in our gardens, but this is now happening in the small village of Khichan in Rajasthan, about 60 miles from the Pakistani border. It began in the 1980s when the local Jain priests started putting out grain for local birds, but it was also taken by the Demoiselle Cranes that were resting during their arduous migration from Eurasia to India. The practice spread and other villagers started putting out grain so now 20,000 birds arrive in August and stay until March when they migrate back north.

SONG FOILS THE CUCKOO

Chicks in the egg can hear their mother, which is very handy for the Superb Fairy Wren, a potential host for cuckoos. The mother sings a unique song which the chicks have plenty of time to learn. The Cuckoo lays its egg just before the host's eggs hatch, so the chick does not learn the 'password' song. The mother will not feed any chick which does not include the 'password' in its utterances so the cuckoo chick dies.

A WAY OF SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Researchers at Edinburgh have devised a method of preserving rare species. They extract primordial stem cells from living birds and store them at -150°C so they will be viable for decades. They can be implanted in specially bred hens that will then lay eggs of the other species. It's a pity that this development is nearly 400 years too late for the Dodo.

SCENTED NESTS

I have often noted Starlings collecting lavender leaves, and assumed it was for discouraging nest

parasites. Other observers have seen sage and rosemary leaves being collected as well.

STARLING PRE-ROOST FLIGHTS

Computer modelling of Starling flocks shows that there are three rules for co-ordinated flocking: each bird must keep seven adjacent birds in view, but not approach them, though if one turns, it should follow it. Even so, things can go wrong as noted by an observer who was watching a flock at Eastbourne where the birds roost below the pier. Most of the birds were following a single leader. This bird flew low over the sea, almost skimming the waves. On one pass it misjudged its height and plunged into the water, followed by most of the flock. Afterwards the pier railings were covered in disgruntled Starlings drying themselves before going to the roost under the pier.

GETTING FIT FOR MIGRATION

Migration can be a testing time for birds and they need preparation for it. The Semipalmated Sandpiper, which flies non-stop from the Bay of Fundy on the east coast of Canada to South America, prepares by eating large numbers of mud shrimps. These contain omega-3 fatty acids which increase muscle efficiency. To demonstrate this, researchers fed these fatty acids to the normally sedentary Bobwhite Quail and their muscle oxygen consumption increased by 58%.

Knots use a different method by increasing the heart muscle mass so oxygen-carrying blood is moved faster.

Preparation is especially necessary for the Bar-tailed Godwits that fly non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand. As well as accumulating fat, they increase the haemoglobin level in the blood and hence its oxygen carrying capacity.

Another trick, used by other long-distance migrants, is that when the fat is used up, muscle tissue is broken down giving not only energy but also water to avoid dehydration.

Migrants still face problems from severe weather to human hunters. We are all aware of the Mediterranean being a death trap for migrants, but on the other side of the Atlantic, the Caribbean Islands are a similar hazard as shown by two Whimbrel carrying trackers: they survived Hurricane Irene only to be shot in Guadeloupe a few days later.

DESPERATE POLAR BEARS AGAIN

A previous Titbit mentioned the feeding problems of Polar bears, caused by melting Arctic ice making it difficult for them to catch their main food of seals, and forcing them to eat goose eggs instead. They are now wandering and approaching houses. This could be dangerous for both people and bears; a hungry Polar bear is probably the last thing you want to see when you open the front door. The bears will also suffer if it becomes necessary to control them by shooting.

Jolly Polly Parrots

Keas, large parrots found in New Zealand, have been seen to respond to the psittacine version of the sounds of laughter. The sound itself has been described as a warble, and on hearing it, the birds become playful, flying up after each other in aerobatic loops, tossing objects from one to another, and kicking high fives in mid-air (since they are birds, they are actually doing high fours). The behaviour is spontaneous and contagious, equivalent to human laughter.

Researchers playing a recording of the warble call caused a whole wild flock of both sexes and all ages to respond. When the recording stopped, the birds immediately stopped and resumed whatever they had been doing

GRANDAD BLUE TIT

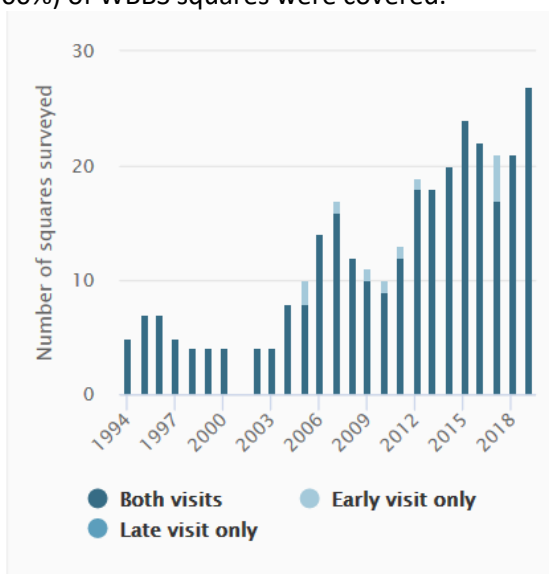
Small birds do not have long lives, the average lifespan of a Blue Tit being around three years. However, an individual was recently re-trapped at the original ringing location nine years and eight days after it was ringed. This is not too far off the current longevity record for a Blue Tit, which stands at ten years and three months.

PUTTING THE EVIL EYE ON HERRING GULLS

Herring Gulls (always referred to as seagulls) are still in the news for stealing food. Research has shown that they can be deterred to some extent by being stared at. This should be combined with standing with your back to a wall and holding food close to the chest.

Breeding Birds Survey and Waterways Breeding Birds Survey

The 2019 season saw a record number of BBS squares surveyed. The graph below shows how coverage has grown in recent years within the Cleveland area; 27 out of 32 (84%) of potential squares were covered this year, with results from all visits successfully recorded. In addition 2 out of 2 (100%) of WBBS squares were covered.



The following table lists the most numerous species recorded by BBS in Cleveland in 2019:

Species	Individuals	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed
Woodpigeon	594	25	93%
Starling	384	18	67%
House Sparrow	343	20	74%
Jackdaw	338	22	81%
Blackbird	302	24	89%
Chaffinch	233	23	85%
Feral Pigeon	220	10	37%
Linnet	218	15	56%
Carriion Crow	195	26	96%
Wren	183	23	85%

The most widespread species recorded by BBS in Cleveland during 2019 were as follows:

Species	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed	Individuals
Carriion Crow	26	96%	195
Woodpigeon	25	93%	594
Robin	25	93%	119
Blackbird	24	89%	302
Chaffinch	23	85%	233
Wren	23	85%	183
Blue Tit	23	85%	163
Swallow	23	85%	100
Jackdaw	22	81%	338
Skylark	22	81%	90

If you have never participated in the Breeding Bird Survey before please do consider it. Only two recording sessions per 1km square are required (plus an additional short visit to record habitat) each taking no more than two hours. The following squares are available to allocate for 2020.

NZ3717	Longnewton
NZ3910	Aislaby Grange
NZ4516	Thornaby
NZ6819	Brotton
NZ6914	Moorsholm area

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

Teesmouth WeBS Alerts

A full suite of WeBS Alerts has recently been published by the BTO. Of particular local interest are the figures for Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site, which of course is covered on a monthly basis by Adam Jones and his heroic team of counters.

Of the designated features, High Alerts have been issued for Knot (short, medium and long term), Ruff (short, medium and long term) and Redshank (medium term). Medium Alerts have been posted for Shelduck (medium and long term) and Purple Sandpiper (short and medium term).

Since the baseline winter of 1991/92 Knot have declined by 72%, Purple Sandpiper by 83% and Shelduck by 49%. However, over the same period Shoveler have increased by 28% , Wigeon by 89% and Gadwall by an astonishing 1640%!

Overall, Teesmouth's total waterbird assemblage has remained relatively stable since 1991/92, showing only a small decline of 7%.

Mike Leakey, BTO Regional Representative for Cleveland

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY - AUTUMN 2019 SUMMARY

A good level of cover was achieved with 108 of the scheduled 112 sector counts completed over the four months.

Gadwall (877, August) produced a new Tees Estuary WeBS Count record which was also of international importance. The estuary currently ranks fifth for the highest annual peak WeBS count of Gadwall in the country. The rate of increase is also significant with four times as many Gadwall now recorded in the autumn compared to the turn of the 21st century.

Peak counts for Little Egret (72, August), Avocet (81, July), Sanderling (178, October), Ruff (10, August) and Greenshank (8, August) were of national importance according to the species WeBS threshold levels published by the BTO. Although of national importance the peak autumn count for Ruff is poor compared to those of the 1990's for example, 93 individuals were recorded in 1993.

Redshank (545, September) have significantly declined and provide a real cause for concern, autumn peak counts regularly produced over 1000 individuals up to 2010. Further wader species which recorded low peak counts this autumn included Ringed Plover (31, August) and Turnstone (70, October), in contrast Knot (698, August) fared better.

Other notable records from the autumn counts included 14 Whooper Swan (October, estuary total), 109 Pink-Footed Goose (September, estuary total), 2 Red-Crested Pochard (September, Saltholme East) and 3 Garganey (August, Back Saltholme).

ADAM JONES

Local Organizer, Tees Estuary Wetland Bird Survey, November 2019

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

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH AUTUMN 2019 SUMMARY

	July 14	August 11	September 15	October 13
Little Grebe	23	33	59	<u>61</u>
Great Crested Grebe	22	<u>23</u>	12	1
Cormorant	130	144	<u>180*</u>	137
Little Egret	60**	<u>72**</u>	69**	36*
Grey Heron	<u>42</u>	22	38	27
Mute Swan	53	52	<u>58</u>	49
Greylag Goose	165	279	<u>663</u>	102
Shelduck	131	83	143	<u>159</u>
Wigeon	26	43	103	<u>1681</u>
Gadwall	349**	<u>877***</u>	588**	280**
Teal	19	198	<u>1097*</u>	717
Mallard	193	321	<u>759</u>	275
Pintail	0	0	4	<u>22</u>
Shoveler	29	<u>121*</u>	64	99*
Pochard	65	<u>83</u>	26	44
Tufted Duck	126	<u>190</u>	186	80
Coot	665	<u>925*</u>	662	317
Oystercatcher	480	267	714	<u>825</u>
Avocet	<u>81**</u>	21	0	0
Ringed Plover	15	<u>31</u>	1	2
Golden Plover	0	0	33	<u>717</u>
Grey Plover	0	0	17	<u>110</u>
Lapwing	179	660	691	<u>1934</u>
Knot	2	<u>698</u>	212	333
Sanderling	1	77	0	<u>178**</u>
Little Stint	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	<u>3</u>
Dunlin	9	<u>243</u>	212	85
Ruff	0	<u>10**</u>	8**	4*
Snipe	4	7	4	<u>17</u>
Black-tailed Godwit	24	14	<u>61</u>	56
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	1	47	<u>97</u>
Whimbrel	<u>16</u>	3	4	0
Curlew	396	<u>601</u>	441	425
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	<u>1</u>
Redshank	322	456	<u>545</u>	525
Greenshank	2	<u>8**</u>	5*	3*
Green Sandpiper	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	0	0
Common Sandpiper	2	<u>5</u>	0	0
Turnstone	3	18	53	<u>70</u>
Sandwich Tern	<u>112</u>	80	59	2
Common Tern	<u>449</u>	183	76	0
Arctic Tern	0	1	<u>4</u>	1
Little Tern	<u>30</u>	0	0	0

Underlined counts indicate Autumn 2019 maxima

* 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 Salholme Reserve.

MAX COUNTS OF ALL BUTTERFLIES/DAGONFLIES INC EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES RECORDED AT TWO CLEVELAND WATER BODIES (NORTHUMBRIAN WATER)

BUTTERFLIES		PORTRACK MARSH 2017-18				SCALING DAM 2016-18		
SPECIES		EARLIEST	LATEST	MAX		EARLIEST	LATEST	MAX
SMALL SKIPPER		02-Jul	15-Jul	30		06-Jul	10-Aug	45
ESSEX SKIPPER		15-Jul		1				0
LARGE SKIPPER		10-Jun	02-Jul	3		12-Jun	13-Jul	1
DINGY SKIPPER		19-May	01-Jun	44				0
LARGE WHITE		06-May	12-Sep	6		07-Jun	08-Sep	7
SMALL WHITE		06-May	10-Oct	106		07-May	30-Aug	130
GREEN-VEINED WHITE		06-May	25-Aug	16		13-Apr	06-Sep	20
ORANGE-TIP		06-May	10-Jun	14		10-May	07-Jun	1
GREEN HAIRSTREAK				0				
SMALL COPPER		12-Sep		1		24-Jun	13-Sep	3
BROWN ARGUS		02-Sep		1				
COMMON BLUE		01-Jun	12-Sep	36		01-Jun	08-Sep	30
HOLLY BLUE		06-May	04-Aug	1				0
RED ADMIRAL		11-Jul	22-Oct	76		04-May	23-Oct	20
PAINTED LADY				0		07-Jun	30-Aug	5
SM TORTOISESHELL		06-May	04-Aug	11		20-Apr	28-Oct	4
PEACOCK		06-May	02-Sep	13		19-Apr	13-Sep	15
COMMA		02-Jul	10-Oct	10		13-Jul	03-Oct	1
D GREEN FRITILLARY				0		09-Jul		1
SPECKLED WOOD		06-May	10-Oct	18		13-Apr	10-Oct	10
WALL				0		14-Aug	06-Sep	1
MARBLD WHITE				0		22-Jul		1
GRAYLING		11-Jul		1				0
MEADOW BROWN		02-Jul	02-Sep	30		20-Jun	08-Sep	30
RINGLET		24-Jun	29-Jul	12		26-Jun	16-Aug	110
SMALL HEATH		10-Jun	29-Jul	9		21-Jun	23-Aug	35

DRAGONFLIES		PORTRACK MARSH 2017-18				SCALING DAM 2016-18		
SPECIES		EARLIEST	LATEST	MAX		EARLIEST	LATEST	MAX
BANDED DEMOISELLE				0		09-Aug		1
EMERALD DAMSELFLY				0		18-Jul	13-Sep	15
LGE RED DAMSELFLY				0		08-May	20-Jul	5
AZURE DAMSELFLY				0		20-Jun	08-Jul	2
CMN BLUE DAMSELFLY		01-Jun	15-Jul	22		01-Jun	12-Sep	15
BLUE TLD DAMSELFLY		19-May	26-Sep	45		18-May	08-Sep	2
COMMON HAWKER		15-Jul	26-Sep	1		14-Jun	26-Sep	4
MIGRANT HAWKER		04-Aug	22-Oct	18		08-Sep		1
SOUTHERN HAWKER				0		09-Aug	20-Sep	3
BROWN HAWKER		15-Jul	12-Sep	5				0
EMPEROR DRAGONFLY		24-Jun	15-Jul	3				0
GOLDEN RINGED D'FLY				0		05-Jul	07-Aug	2
4 SPOTTED CHASER		19-May	11-Jul	7				0
BROAD BDD CHASER		24-Jun		1		09-Aug		1
BLACK TLD SKIMMER		10-Jun	29-Jul	9				0
BLACK DARTER				0		25-Sep		1
COMMON DARTER		29-Jul	22-Oct	20		08-Jul	25-Oct	2
RUDDY DARTER		15-Jul	12-Sep	4		23-Aug	13-Sep	1

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PRICES SLASHED....PRICES SLASHED...PRICES SLAS

Birdwatchers of Teesmouth 1600 to 1960 £1 +£1 p.&p.

Teesmouth Bird Reports 1958-1973 on a CD £2.50

Birds of Tees-side 1962-67 by Phil Stead £2.50

Birds of Tees-side 1968-1973 by Martin Blick £2.50

Birds of Tees-side (1964) by Phil Stead £2.50 (published in NHS Transactions).

Cleveland Bird Reports:-

COMPLETE SET for £40 (1987 on a DVD)

(Postage extra if not collected-10kg).

1974 to 2016 £2.00 each where available. (Out of print 1974, 1976, 1978 to 1988 on a CD) Plus £1.00 for p.& p. per copy.

2017 £7.50 each (£5.00 for TBC Members) Plus £1.50 for p.&p. per copy

Barn Owl at RSPB Saltholme: Print @ £2 each (Postcards 5p)

Car Stickers: £1.00

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 John, particularly those that are “Out of print”, so that they can be resold to other members.

J.Fletcher j.fletcher666@btinternet.com 01642-818825

14th November 2019

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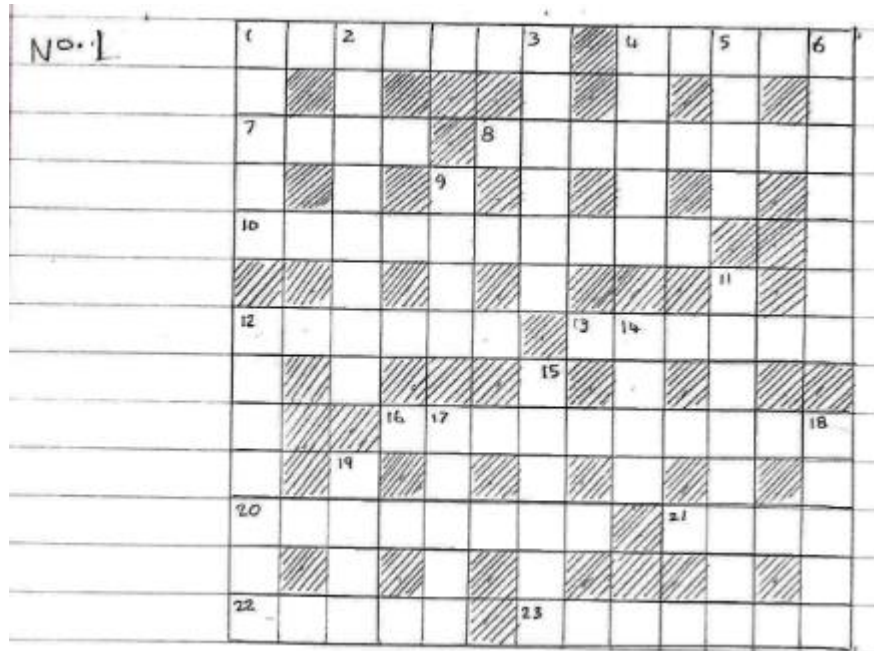
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Note (2) – Should you cease to be taxpayer please notify the Club so that further claims under this declaration may be cancelled.

CROSSWORD 1 by Bill Irving



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Reed dweller attacked seabird (7)
- 4 1 across may do this in reeds (5)
- 7 Raptor from northern Europe (4)
- 8 Small bird could be tattler after start of grass (5,3)
- 10 Fliers upset some right to a T (5,5)
- 12 Throne falls to an insect (6)
- 13 A clan's fall by waterways (6)
- 16 Southern bird has habit shell upset (10)
- 20 Wrong to praise insects (8)
- 21 Rail found among also vans (4)
- 22 Cheats the crows (5)
- 23 Ann split atom in a state (7)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Goose is right in grass (5)
- 2 U.S. birds ran gates oddly (8)
- 3 Fern ran up part of door (6)
- 4 In Mexico a chap gets trainer (5)
- 5 Consumes a variety of teas (4)
- 6 Seabirds sleep badly, right back inside (7)
- 9 Growth in short reed bed? (4)
- 11 Stonechat has short instrument with one drink (8)
- 12 Dog or bird (7)
- 14 Has hyena concealed some grey? (4)
- 15 Grass to spoil sheep? (6)
- 17 Dislikes as the anagram appears (5)
- 18 Animal upsets a shopping avenue (5)
- 19 Sadly it is no longer with us (4)

Answers will follow in the next newsletter.....