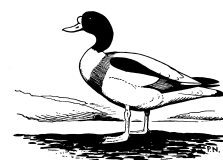


Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter

December 2025 (No.92)



Reg.Charity No.508850

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MONTHLY SUMMARIES

Chris Sharp reviews the main birding highlights of the spring and early summer periods, which did not live up to the standard set by last year but was nevertheless interesting.

JULY

An impressive six Mediterranean Gulls were at Saltholme Marsh on 1st. These were part of an influx of this species at this time in Cleveland. Despite chicks being taken by a Kestrel 60 Little Terns managed to fledge from the colony at Seaton Carew. Egyptian Geese also successfully bred on the North Tees Marshes.

A Ruddy Shelduck was at Saltholme Pools on 2nd. Up to four Spoonbills were present around RSPB Saltholme early in the month along with five Great Egrets. Two Garganey were at Coatham Marsh on 6th. Wader passage in the first half of the month

was restricted to a Wood Sandpiper on 2nd, up to 100 Black-tailed Godwits and the odd Greenshank.

A Hobby was over Hart on 10th. Corn Buntings are very rare in Cleveland in recent years so one over Cowpen Marsh on 11th was a good find. There were 16 Yellow Wagtails here the following day.



Roseate Tern, Seaton Snook

Ian Foster

The first Roseate Terns of the autumn were on Seaton Snook on 13th. Up to four were here mid-month with an impressive 11 at South Gare on 20th. Spoonbill numbers increased to seven at RSPB Saltholme on 16th. A Black Redstart was at Ferry Road on 18th. A Great Northern Diver flew past Hartlepool on 20th.

Single Little Stint and Wood Sandpiper were at RSPB Saltholme. A Mandarin was at Lockwood Beck on 27th. An early Sabine's Gull was off Hartlepool on 28th and the first Sooty Shearwater of the year was off Redcar on 31st. A Hobby was over Hartlepool on the same date.

AUGUST

A Cory's Shearwater was off Hartlepool on 1st along with a Pomarine Skua. Two of the latter passed the following day. A Ruddy Shelduck was at RSPB Saltholme on 2nd. Roseate Terns continued to be reported daily from South Gare early in the month. Eight Spoonbills were at Saltholme Pools on 5th.

A Pectoral Sandpiper at Margrove Ponds from 7th gave excellent views. Ruff numbers increased to 15 on Cowpen Marsh on 10th. A Night Heron was heard flying over Billingham on this date.

Another Cory's Shearwater was off Hartlepool on 12th though it was generally a quiet month for sea passage off the Cleveland coast. An Osprey was over Saltholme Pools on 12th with others over Hartlepool and Marske on 14th. A Sabine's Gull was also off Marske, and a Hobby was over Yarm.



Pectoral Sandpiper, Margrove

Chris Bell

Three Caspian Gulls at Hartlepool on 16th were the first of a series of coastal records of this tricky species. A Balearic Shearwater was off Hartlepool on 19th along with a Long-tailed Skua and a Black Tern. Scaling Dam held a Great White Egret at this time along with a Little Stint. Six Bonxies off Hartlepool on 20th was the highest count of the month of this increasingly scarcer Skua which has suffered badly at its breeding grounds in recent years. Another Balearic Shearwater and a Red-necked Grebe passed Hartlepool the following day.

Spoonbills increased to nine around Saltholme Pools and a Little Stint was at Saltholme Pools. The dry weather of the summer months saw many of the pools on the North Tees Marshes drying up. The low water levels at Holme Fleet consequently proved attractive to passage waders. The last ten days of the month saw Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and good numbers of Ruff present here.

A Long-tailed Skua was off Hartlepool on 23rd. A Purple Heron at Cowpen Bewley on the same day was unfortunately only seen by the initial

observer. More obliging was the Cattle Egret on Cowpen Marsh on 24th. A Hobby was here on 25th. Seven Glossy Ibis flying past Hartlepool on 26th must have made a fine sight as did the White-tailed Eagle on the ground at Scaling Dam on the same day.

An adult Lesser White fronted Goose at Bowesfield on 29th attracted a steady stream of visitors, despite its obvious escape origins. Yet another Hobby was over Newton Bewley on 29th. A Caspian Gull was at South Gare on 31st.

SEPTEMBER

Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers were present at a variety of localities during the first half of the month. The beach at North Gare proved particularly attractive with up to 14 present here. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Cowpen Marsh 3rd-4th and a Black Tern visited Saltholme Pools on 3rd. Four Pale-bellied Brent Geese on Bran Sands from 4th were early.

Juvenile White-tailed Eagles had been seen regularly on the Cleveland border on the moors throughout the summer. One though ventured to Seaton Snook and Seal Sands 5th to 6th.

A small fall of migrants at the coast on 7th included a handful of Pied Flycatchers, several Redstarts and a Wryneck at South Gare. A Hobby was over Zinc Works Road on 7th and a Long-tailed Skua was in the river mouth. An Osprey was over North Gare on 8th and one or two Spotted Redshanks were on the North Tees Marshes.

A Black Tern was at Scaling Dam on 11th with another past Hartlepool. Curlew Sandpipers numbered 20 at Saltholme Pool on 12th. More impressive were the two White-tailed Eagles at Greatham Creek on this date. What was possibly the same Pectoral Sandpiper was again at Cowpen Marsh on 14th.

A Red backed Shrike showed well at Marske on 16th. Several Spotted Flycatchers were at the coastal stations at this time and sadly this was the highlight of a very poor month for falls of passerines. Curlew Sandpiper numbers peaked at 29 at Saltholme. A Ruddy Shelduck was at Marske coastal fields from 17th. Both Bittern and Bearded Tits were at Haverton Hole on 17th and both species continued to be reported from here for the rest of the autumn.

Eight Whooper Swans at Margrove Ponds on 20th were the earliest returning birds for many years. Seven more were at Saltholme Pools the following day. An impressive seven Black Terns were on Seaton Snook on 20th. Two Yellow browed

Warblers were at Seaton Snook on 24th with an additional bird at Hartlepool. A Black Redstart was also at Boulby, and the first Snow Bunting was here on 25th.

The end of the month was quiet with a handful of Redstarts at Boulby, 50 Little Gulls off Redcar on 28th and two Red Kites over Saltburn on 30th.

OCTOBER

It proved to be a slow start to the month. The long staying White fronted Goose remained around Saltholme Pools. A Glossy Ibis visited Dormans Pool briefly on 4th and three more did likewise at Coatham Marsh on 6th.

A large passage of Whooper Swans was noted through the county on 6th. Over 100 were at Scaling Dam, 90 flew past Hunley Hall, 44 were in the coastal fields at Marske and several other smaller flocks were recorded. The passage continued the following day with several herds of over 20 passing through the North Tees Marshes. Another Glossy Ibis visited Scaling Dam, and three Great Northern Divers passed Hartlepool.

A Slavonian Grebe off Redcar on 8th remained until the month's end. Two Hen Harriers were in Sleddale, a Black Redstart was at Hartlepool and a Hooded Crow was at RSPB Saltholme. A Hen Harrier showed well at South Gare on 10th. Two Little Stints were around Saltholme Pools and the first returning Twite were back on Seaton Snook on 11th. Another brief staying Glossy Ibis was at Cowpen Marsh on 12th.

A small fall of migrants on 13th saw Yellow browed Warblers at several coastal stations. Two Lapland Buntings were at Marske with another at Boulby. An impressive passage of Barnacle Geese at Hartlepool saw over 800 birds fly past along with a Pomarine Skua. A Cattle Egret also visited Cowpen Marsh on this date.



Black Scoter, Hartlepool

Martyn Sidwell

The news of a probable Black Scoter flying north at Long Nab on 14th saw several pairs of eyes

looking out to sea off Cleveland's coast and to everyone's delight the bird was seen off Redcar and photographed as it passed Hartlepool. A Pomarine Skua was also off Hartlepool. The next day an impressive 20 "Poms" were off here along with 95 Little Gulls.

A Little Bunting was briefly at Hunley Hall on 16th and several Yellow-browed Warblers were along the coast. Single Jack Snipes were at Hartlepool on 17th and 18th and a Cattle Egret was at Cowpen Marsh 16th-18th.

A Firecrest at Hartlepool on 19th was the rarest passerine recorded here in the whole of a very disappointing autumn for migrants. A Snow Bunting was at South Gare on the same day. This species continues to get rarer along the Cleveland coast.

More Jack Snipe were recorded over the following days with up to nine at RSPB Saltholme. A Rough legged Buzzard in Sleddale on 22nd was the first here for a few years. A Shore Lark, again a species which is becoming increasingly rare was along Ferry Road, Hartlepool on this date. Nearby a Black Redstart was at Old Cemetery and a Richard's Pipit was at Hummersea.

Four Long-tailed Ducks passed Hartlepool on 25th and three were on the River Tees on 26th. A single Little Auk passed Hartlepool. The last few days of the month saw up to three Water Pipits at Phil Stead Hide, a Yellow-browed Warbler at Hunley Hall on 30th and Long tailed Duck and two Velvet Scoter on Seal Sands.

A very poor autumn with hardly a fall of note and sea watching totals well below average.

FROM THE CHAIR

A Trustee meeting was held on 14th October 2025. Steve McDonnell has expressed a wish to step down as Treasurer from April 2026. Steve had kindly offered to take on the position following the death of Mark Askew in 2023 and has done a great job. The Trustees will of course be in need of a new Treasurer. If there is a member who is willing to become a Trustee and feels able to take on this important role, please speak to one of the Trustees.

Following the disappointing cancellation of the Biomatrix floating island installation at Scaling Dam Reservoir earlier in the year, it was particularly good to hear that the nesting raft had been re-located and successfully installed at a deep water body at Cowpen Bewley Landfill site. Many thanks to Barbara Crinson who worked hard

to make this happen and to all those who helped with the launch. Meanwhile, recent modifications to the transmission of data from the MOTUS tracking system at RSPB Saltholme has meant that records can now be received automatically. We can report that the first confirmed 'ping' received on 6th of November, was that of a Jack Snipe. Details are available on the Motus website.

Ali McLee continues to work on behalf of the club on a number of conservation matters. There have been delays in the completion of some projects, including those relating to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Seaton Carew nesting site. There should be more to report in the new year.

There have been a number of well-attended local outings since our last newsletter, including one at Seaton Snook with Graeme Joynt in August and another in October at Hartlepool Headland led by Chris Sharp. Thank you to both leaders for giving their time and expertise. New ideas for local outings are always welcome. If any club members have a favourite birdwatching location and would be willing to lead a group, please speak to Chris Sharp.

The Cleveland Bird Annual Report 2024 should be ready by the time you read this. A special thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way in its production.

The Records Subcommittee is due to meet in December.

Don't forget to submit all your 2025 records to our recorder Martyn Sidwell as soon as possible, and by 31st January 2026 at the latest.

(Martyn Sidwell: 07801 296468 or email: martin.sidwell@ntlworld.com)

All records of our special study species from 2025, will be particularly welcomed:

Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer and Marsh Tit

Debbie Lawson, Chair

FEEDING STATIONS SUPPORTED BY TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

By Barbara Crinson

LOCKWOOD BECK RESERVOIR

Built in 1905, this reservoir, belonging to Northumbrian Water, is one of the oldest and picturesque in Cleveland. The access road to the reservoir and its surrounding woodland is situated on the A171 Guisborough-Whitby road, about 4 miles E of Guisborough at GR669142.

The site is open all year round with ample parking available.

Since the 2017-18 winter, the Teesmouth Bird Club has created and maintained a feeding station behind the shed, located just to S of the car park. Memorial benches to Ted Parker and Don Page are situated here, protected by a covered shelter.

Regular birdwatchers to the site have been rewarded over the years with glorious views of Treecreeper, Siskins galore, big flocks of Brambling in the winter, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Long-tailed Tits, all the usual woodland tits including the occasional Marsh Tit, as well as Nuthatch, Robin, Dunnock, Blackbird, Wren, Greenfinch and sometimes Redpoll. Grey Wagtails can make an appearance in front of the shelter, as well as Mallards, occasionally with ducklings in tow. More recently, an adventurous Moorhen has taken a liking to the location and nested in the brash pile!

It is worthwhile listening out for Crossbills and Mistle Thrushes in the trees overhead. The reservoir holds several hundred Greylag Geese at times, some ducks, and the lucky visitor could see the occasional Osprey or witness a group of Whooper Swans on the water.

COWPEN BEWLEY WOODLAND PARK

The park, managed by Stockton Borough Council, is located beside the A1185 Seal Sands Road, 2 km East of the A689 Wolviston roundabout junction on the N side of Billingham and is open all year.

The feeding station is situated on land owned by Northumbrian Water and is accessible through a gate on the left hand side of the access road, opposite the entrance to the car park.

Feeders are topped up and cleaned over the winter months.

Birds to be seen in and around the feeding station are Jay, Bullfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Wren, Robin, Dunnock, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Siskin, Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer and sometimes Brambling.

STILLINGTON FOREST PARK

Stillington Forest Park is accessed in the village of Stillington, W of the A177 between Stockton and Sedgefield. There is a public car park in front of St. John's Church and the entrance is via a sculptured metal gateway in front of the church.

Teesmouth Bird Club created a bird feeding station in 2016 and the club provides funds for the station over the winter months. Maintenance and topping up of the feeders has been carried out by one or two dedicated volunteers from the Friends of Stillington Forest Park. The station has proved popular with the local bird population, most notably Tree Sparrows, Brambling, Yellowhammer, Willow Tit and Marsh Tit.

Other species to listen and look out for during a visit to the feeding station are Siskin, Redpoll, Bullfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Redwing, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush, Jay, Kestrel and the occasional wintering Chiffchaff.

The North Tees Ringing Group carry out numerous ringing sessions in the Forest Park every year.

BILLINGHAM BECK VALLEY

Car park Grid reference NZ454227

Situated between the A19 as it passes Norton, and Billingham Bypass Road, this valley carries Billingham Beck from the North to the South, and has been known to flood in the winter.

It is managed by Stockton Borough Council and there has been a feeding station close to the car park and (semi-abandoned) visitor centre since about 2015. It's a reliable spot for Yellowhammer and Bullfinch, up to about 10 being counted in recent winters, and Willow Tit is in the area but can be hard to find.

Other birds seen in the valley include Mandarin, Ring-necked Parakeet and Buzzard since 2024, Kingfisher and Grey Wagtail in the beck, and large numbers of Siskins, especially when the valley is flooded.

INSTALLATION OF FLOATING ECOSYSTEMS AT COWPEN BEWLEY TIP PONDS

By Barbara Crinson

It is entirely due to the generosity of a former member, Joyce Hodgson, who died in October 2022, that the Club was given a unique opportunity to fund a specific project in Cleveland aimed to enhance the environment and benefit birds and other wildlife.

After significant research and discussion, the Trustees decided initially to spend the legacy on the installation of a floating ecosystem at Scaling Dam reservoir. Despite permission having been granted by management at Northumbrian Water, the project had to be pulled at the last minute due to concerns voiced by the Reservoir Inspectorate. An alternative water body had to be found if the project was to go ahead. Consultation subsequently took place with Enovert, the waste management company which operates at the Cowpen Bewley Tip Ponds. The Club was met with an enthusiastic response, so finally, on 23 October, and despite Storm Benjamin, our islands found a very welcome home!



These floating ecosystems are provided by Biomatrixwater, a top-class company based in Forres, near Inverness. The modules consist of a versatile, inter-locking system which can be configured to fit site conditions. Our main island consists of 9 modules, resulting in a surface area of 24 square metres and the smaller nesting platform is made up of an additional 2 modules. The inter-locking components are connected with tough stainless steel quick-connect flanges. The materials used are carefully selected for recycled content and recyclability and only non-toxic materials are used. The anchorage system is designed to allow the islands to adjust to water depth and wave motion.



A coconut coir matting is employed on the island to create the sub-structure and the chosen bare-root plants and plugs are positioned within the planting lanes across the modules. Advice was sought from the wardens at RSPB Saltholme concerning the choice of native plants which would be suitable for such a habitat and these were subsequently obtained from a specialist nursery in York.

The plants generally establish themselves within the 1st or 2nd growing season and once grown the system is typically 60 percent living biomass and 30 percent marine engineered materials. The islands have a typical lifetime of over 20 years and during that time they will have created a subsurface forest of roots providing shelter for fish. Indeed, the micro-wilderness of submerged roots also creates an ideal habitat for millions of micro-organisms which use algae, carbon and excess nutrients in the water as a food source, thus purifying the water. Over time, the birds should also discover a sheltered refuge with nesting opportunity on both structures.

The islands will require an annual maintenance visit and hopefully we can arrange this to take place concurrently with the review of the islands owned by Tees Rivers Trust which are installed at Middlesbrough Dock.

Many thanks goes to Enovert for allowing the installation, to RSPB Saltholme for the advice on planting, and particularly to the team of volunteers on the day of installation, comprising John Money, Brian Foster, Bert Mitchell and John Cutter. The weather conditions were particularly challenging!

The accompanying photos are courtesy of John Money.

JACK SNIPE TRACKED TO SALTHOLME

by Barbara Crinson

The Motus Tracking Station, funded by Teesmouth Bird Club and installed at the Visitor Centre, RSPB Saltholme, went live in May this year. During November, after all the hard work

involved to be part of this global project, we experienced our first two detections.

The first of two Jack Snipe came from a tagging site located in Southern Finland, at a common breeding area for this species that winter in the UK and other parts of Northern Europe. This bird had its GPS tag fitted on 15/10/25 and started its migration at the end of the month. It visited 6 tracking stations in total on route to Saltholme and it "pinged" 4 stations in Sweden covering 676km and averaging 13.5km/hour during its first leg of the journey. It arrived at Carolinensiel, which is a coastal village in Lower Saxony, Germany. After approximately 17 hours it appeared to leave Carolinensiel at 16.34GMT on 5/11/25 and crossed the North Sea to Saltholme where it was detected the following day on 6/11/25 at 3.57GMT. This second leg of the journey was 593km travelling at an average speed of 50.4km/hour.

The second bird, tagged on the same day and at the same site, left its breeding grounds and was detected at Ottenby Bird Observatory in Sweden at 8.34GMT on 7/11/25 and was picked up again at Sylt on 8/11/25 at 21.04GMT. It had travelled 534.3km at an average speed of 11.4 km/hour. Sylt is an island off the northernmost part of Germany situated close to the Danish Border. The bird "pinged" Sylt again 8 minutes later on 8/11/25 and arrived on our shores to be detected by Saltholme the following day on 9/11/25 at 18.19GMT. This leg of its migration was 610km, travelling at an average of 28km/hour.

Overall, this second bird visited 5 tracking stations on its migration route to the UK, taking a route slightly further north.

The latest information I have is that 75 Jack Snipe have been tagged at 2 separate sites but work is still ongoing to find out more about this elusive species, including a project in The Midlands. Look out for the next instalment!

The Motus website is awash with ever-changing information but it is worth noting that accessing the website from a phone has its limitations and a small device appears to encounter difficulties loading the continual fresh pages of data. The advice would be to study the website using a laptop or desktop computer.

Breeding Birds Survey and Waterways Breeding Birds Survey 2025

Despite a few retirements and recruitments, the number of volunteer surveyors participating this year remained unchanged at 17. In total, 92% of allocated 1km squares received at least one BBS visit this year, along with all early and late season WBBS visits. Altogether, 25 BBS squares were surveyed this season, one more than in 2024. A big thank you to all who have contributed.

The following table lists the most numerous species recorded by BBS in Cleveland in 2025. This is the same “top ten” as in 2024, though there are minor changes in ranking order.

Species	Individuals	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed
Woodpigeon	878	25	100%
Starling	361	19	76%
Jackdaw	318	23	92%
Blackbird	308	24	96%
House Sparrow	279	17	68%
Herring Gull	239	22	88%
Wren	221	25	100%
Carrion Crow	199	24	96%
Chaffinch	176	25	100%
Goldfinch	160	24	96%

The most widespread species recorded by BBS in Cleveland during 2025 are tabulated below. Four species occurred in every square surveyed, while this year Robin replaced Great Tit in the “top ten”.

Species	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed	Individuals
Woodpigeon	25	100%	878
Wren	25	100%	221
Chaffinch	25	100%	176
Blue Tit	25	100%	128
Blackbird	24	96%	308
Carrion Crow	24	96%	199
Goldfinch	24	96%	160
Robin	24	96%	123
Jackdaw	23	92%	318
Chiffchaff	23	92%	150

Pochard, Common Sandpiper, Marsh Tit and Redstart were among the scarcest species recorded in 2025, each of them on a single square.

Only 26 of 33 of Cleveland’s BBS squares (79%) are currently allocated. However, both of our WBBS squares were covered in 2025, with Peter Garbutt taking over David Laing’s Billingham Beck site.

New volunteers are needed to replace retiring long-serving observers. Only two visits per 1km square are required (plus an initial short reconnaissance visit to check transect routes and record habitat) each taking no more than two hours. I’m happy to assist new volunteers with initial visits to squares, and to provide advice and guidance throughout.

The following squares are currently available to allocate for 2025 within the Cleveland BTO Region:

NZ3316	Sadberge
NZ4936	Hart Warren
NZ5013	Larchfield, Mount Pleasant (Coulby Newham)
NZ6612	Black Howes, Lockwood Beck
NZ6513	Stanghow Moor, Lockwood Beck
NZ7016	Liverton
NZ7017	Liverton Mines

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

Winter Bird Survey 2025

So far eleven 1km squares have received an initial visit in October, representing 33% of potential squares in the Cleveland BTO area. Further visits should be scheduled during December, January or February, with priority accorded to the first two of these months. A huge thank you to all those who are participating.

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

I have now formally taken over the role of WeBS Local Organiser for Cleveland sites (excluding the Tees Estuary, which will continue to be administered by Adam Jones). Chris Sharp has carried out Cleveland WeBS Local Organiser duties for decades, and we are massively grateful for his sterling efforts. I hope that Chris will continue to assist me into the future.

Birds in Greenspaces

Birds in Greenspaces is a new, UK-wide citizen science survey of birds that use our greenspaces. The BTO wants local groups and individuals to take part, so we can understand how people and birds interact with greenspaces. With the right evidence, we can work out how best to integrate management to benefit both birds and people in our urban areas. The project will run in 2026 and is open to people of all ages and experience levels, across the UK. Volunteer registration opens later this year, but groups and organisations can register their interest now.

This project has been funded by a [gift in Will from Denis Summers-Smith](#), for which the BTO is extremely grateful. At a local level, it would be great to achieve some coverage in Cleveland as a memorial to Denis. Further details are available via this link: [Birds in Greenspaces | BTO](#)

Mike Leakey, BTO Regional Representative for Cleveland

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH AUTUMN 2025 SUMMARY

	July 20	August 17	September 21	October 19
Little Grebe	21	23	46	38
Great Crested Grebe	15	5	0	0
Cormorant	163	422*	196	84
Little Egret	38	37	26	34
Grey Heron	47	34	22	20
Mute Swan	18	38	26	19
Greylag Goose	263	660	78	357
Shelduck	144	50	71	92
Wigeon	7	39	118	1395
Gadwall	232*	267*	155*	134
Teal	26	190	826	730
Mallard	279	532	153	150
Pintail	0	0	3	23
Shoveler	53	96*	184*	235**
Pochard	36	46	38	43
Tufted Duck	64	120	84	79
Coot	291	281	357	328
Oystercatcher	198	761	1343	908
Avocet	23	19	18	7
Ringed Plover	26	395*	284*	107
Golden Plover	0	4	11	908
Grey Plover	0	3	15	29
Lapwing	404	464	1515	2537
Knot	42	33	34	7
Sanderling	163*	50	158*	89
Little Stint	0	0	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	5	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	147	486	322	274
Ruff	0	14**	21**	1
Snipe	4	20	17	15
Black-tailed Godwit	55	88	16	37
Bar-tailed Godwit	7	9	70	44
Whimbrel	27	11	1	0
Curlew	460	399	378	282
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0
Redshank	204	573*	661*	880*
Greenshank	3	4*	7*	3
Green Sandpiper	1	4	0	3
Common Sandpiper	3	4	0	0
Turnstone	32	117	109	68
Sandwich Tern	493	127	13	1
Common Tern	285	178	38	0
Arctic Tern	0	0	0	0
Little Tern	22	0	0	0

Counts in bold indicate Autumn 2025 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 Saltholme Reserve.

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY - AUTUMN 2025 SUMMARY

A good level of cover was achieved with 165 of the scheduled 168 sector counts completed over the four months.

Over this series of counts the Tees Estuary and Hartlepool Bay recording area hosted nationally important numbers of Shoveler (235, October) and Ruff (21, September). Compared to last autumn the totals for Gadwall failed to reach a figure which was of national importance.

Species that had a good autumn included Little Ringed Plover which set a new autumn maximum record (26, July) and Lapwing (2537, October) whose numbers were well above the five-year average of 1925 birds.

Last year Little Egret set a new autumn maximum record with a peak count of 83 birds, however on this occasion their numbers peaked at 38 birds in July, a total which is also below the five-year average of 59 birds. Another species with a peak total well below the five-year average was Gadwall (267, August). The five-year average total for Gadwall is 449 birds and you only have to look back to 2019 to observe a peak record autumn count of 877 birds in the estuary.

Species whose numbers have potentially been impacted by avian influenza included Black-headed Gull (583, August), Common Tern (285, July) and Mute Swan (38, August). The five-year average peak autumn totals for the three species are 1009, 495 and 60 respectively.

Other interesting records from this autumn included 1 Bittern (Triangle Pool, September), 7 Brent Geese (Estuary Total, October), 1 Cattle Egret (Cowpen Marsh, October), 1 Little Stint (Coatham Sands North, October), 9 Spoonbill (Back Saltholme, August) and 6 Whooper Swan (Back Saltholme, September).

Adam Jones

WeBS Local Organizer

November 2025

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

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Subscriptions for 2026 are due 1 January 2026. **You can now pay your subscription by PayPal via the club website.**

Subscription rates for 2026 are:

Full	£16.00
Family	£16.00
Junior	£5.00
Senior Citizen	£16.00

Please forward your cheque made payable to Teesmouth Bird Club to Chris Sharp, 6 Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0XF

I enclose my subscription of £ _____ for 2026.

Name: _____

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GIFT AID DECLARATION

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I want the TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I have made since the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Note (1) – To qualify as a Gift Aid donor you must be a taxpayer and have paid or will pay an amount of tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation.

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