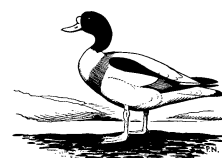


Teesmouth Bird Club

Newsletter

April 2026 (No. 93)



Reg. Charity No. 508850

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.

NOVEMBER 2025

Early month saw up to three Water Pipits at Phil Stead Hide. Two Velvet Scoters and a Long-tailed Duck were on Seal Sands, and a Black-throated Diver was off Seaton Carew on 2nd. A late Yellow-browed Warbler was at Hartlepool 1st-2nd.



Olive backed Pipit, Sout Gare

Martyn Sidwell

Several herds of Whooper Swans passed through the area 4th-6th and a Scaup was off Redcar on 5th. After a disappointing autumn for migrant passerines, November proved it is never too late. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Hunley Hall 6th-7th with another trapped in Hargreaves Quarry on 8th. A Pallas's Warbler at South Gare 7th-9th showed well and a Black Redstart was there on 7th. Rarer still, an Olive Backed Pipit was also at South Gare from 8th and remained for seven days.

A Pallid Swift was over Cowbar on 10th and a Hooded Crow was on Seaton Common the same day. Up to 15 Snow Buntings were at

South Gare. A Slavonian Grebe was off Marske on 12th. Sea watching here produced a Pomarine Skua on 13th and a Sabine's Gull on 14th. The following day saw three Little Auks, two Sooty Shearwaters and an Iceland Gull off Hartlepool. A Firecrest was in the gardens here and Slavonian Grebes were off South Gare and in Middlesbrough docks. A Glossy Ibis also flew over Cowpen Tip.



Bluethroat, South Gare

Martyn Sidwell

The fine run of scarcities continued with a Bluethroat at South Gare on 16th. It was the first ever to be recorded in Cleveland in November and remained until 24th. Single Hooded Crow, Black Redstart and Firecrest were also present at South Gare. The 17th saw a Red-necked Grebe past Hartlepool along with a Little Auk and a Long-tailed Duck.

Three Water Pipits were at Dormans Pool, and a Slavonian Grebe was on Cowpen Bewley Tip Ponds.

A Richard's Pipit at Hunley Hall was a good find on 22nd. Nearby a Black Redstart was at Skinningrove. A Long-tailed Duck at Scaling Dam remained into 2026.

Two Black Redstarts were at Lockwood Beck Reservoir on 25th, an unusual inland locality for this species. A Common Scoter joined the long staying Long Tailed Duck at Scaling

Dam on 27th. A Glossy Ibis was also here briefly on this date. Two Little Gulls were off Redcar on 28th and a Slavonian Grebe was off South Gare on 29th.

DECEMBER 2025

A Hen Harrier was in Sleddale on 1st. Caspian Gulls were at both Hartlepool and Haverton Hill. The Richard's Pipit reappeared at Brotton on 3rd and remained into 2026. A small influx of Whooper Swans on 5th saw 11 past Hartlepool and five opposite Cowpen Tip.

An impressive 112 Great Crested Grebes were off Seaton Carew on 6th along with a Velvet Scoter. The long staying Spoonbill was still around the North Tees Marshes along with up to four Great Egrets. Caspian Gulls were at Hartlepool and Haverton Hill. A Glaucous Gull at Hartlepool on 11th was seen on subsequent days at the nearby Ferry Road. Five Waxwings at Port Clarence from 11th proved popular with photographers in what was one of the few records of this species during the latter half of the year.



Hooded Crow, Acklam

Ian Foster

Little in the way of movement occurred over the next few days with the Richard's Pipit continuing to be present at Brotton. A Hooded Crow at Acklam from 20th proved popular and a Slavonian Grebe was off Newburn on 20th. An elusive Black Redstart was at Ferry Road, Hartlepool from 22nd until the end of the year. The Glaucous Gull was also present here 23rd-24th. A White-fronted Goose was at Margrove Ponds on 25th with a further ten

flying over the River Tees on 27th and two at Scaling Dam on 28th.

A Glossy Ibis visited RSPB Saltholme briefly on 30th. A Water Pipit was present here also. The year finished with two Mandarins on Skelton Pond

JANUARY 2026

The Richard's Pipit remained at Cattersty Gill and was last reported on 8th. Lingered birds on the North Tees Marshes included a Spoonbill, four Great White Egrets and a single Ruff. The first day of the New Year also saw a Little Gull off Skinningrove and a Bittern at Coatham Marsh. There were also five White-fronted Geese at Scaling Dam.

A Caspian Gull was at Haverton Hill on 2nd. The weather was bitterly cold at this time but little in the way of cold weather movement was noted. Great Northern Divers were on Seal Sands and on the River Tees. A Glaucous Gull visited Seal Sands on 4th, and a Red-necked Grebe was at South Gare on 6th.

A cracking male Black Redstart gave stunning views at Skinningrove from 4th and remained until 19th. The long staying Long-tailed Duck was still at Scaling Dam and a Bittern was at Coatham Marsh on 6th. One or two Water Pipits were regularly in front of the hide at Saltholme Pools from 9th and a single Waxwing was in Middlesbrough on 10th.

A Black throated Diver in Jackson's Landing from 10th remained into February and was present with up to 30 Red breasted Mergansers. A Glaucous Gull at Acklam on 11th was just along the road from the Hooded Crow.



Black throated Diver, Hartlepool

Martyn Sidwell

A White-tailed Eagle and two Ravens were in Sleddale on 14th with a Hen Harrier present here on 16th. A single Waxwing was at RSPB Saltholme 15th-16th and a Glaucous Gull was present here on the latter date. Eighteen Goosanders at Scaling Dam on 17th was a good count.

Two White-fronted Geese at Cowpen Marsh with a further 17 at Marske on 21st were the first of a series of records over the following few weeks for this species. Two Waxwings were at Loftus on 23rd. Strong northerly winds saw a single Little Auk off Hartlepool on 24th with a further three the following day. Eight White-fronted Geese also flew past on the latter date. A female Black Redstart was at Skinningrove on 24th.



Black Redstart, Skinningrove

Martyn Sidwell

In common with other parts of the country an influx of Tundra Bean Geese accompanied the White-fronted Geese. The first were four at Cowpen Bewley from 27th. Two more were at Scaling Dam on 31st accompanied by 37 White-fronted Geese. A Ruddy Shelduck visited Dormans Pool on 29th.

FEBRUARY 2026

A Green Woodpecker was heard yaffling at Cowpen Bewley on 2nd. This species has become increasingly scarce in Cleveland with no records at all in 2025. Three Scaup at Port Clarence Flood on 4th were presumably the same birds that appeared at Bowesfield Marsh on 7th and remained until the month's end. A Glaucous Gull and three Waxwing were also present here on the same day.

Perhaps the highlight of the winter was the White-billed Diver which was photographed at Jackson's Landing on 7th. Sadly, it was only seen by the fortunate photographers and did not linger unlike the Black-throated Diver which was present at the time. Five Woodcock on Hartlepool Headland on this date were presumably part of a larger influx at this time as the strong south easterly airflow persisted.

Both Slavonian Grebe and Scaup were at Scaling Dam from 10th. Several Great Northern Divers were present in the county at this time including a brief staying bird at Saltholme on 13th. A Black-necked Grebe was at Bran Sands on 13th. The goose invasion continued with 104 White-fronts on Cowpen Marsh on 14th with other flocks on Seaton Common and Eastfields Farm. An impressive 23 Tundra Bean Geese were at this latter locality on 14th.

Twenty-two Common Cranes flew south over Hartlepool and South Gare on 14th, by far the largest flock ever recorded in Cleveland. A long-tailed Duck was off South Gare on 14th, and a Little Auk was washed up at Marske on 16th. White-front numbers increased further on 17th with 120 on Cowpen Marsh and 48 on Seaton Common.

Four Waxwings were at Thornaby on 18th and a Slavonian Grebe was at Greatham Creek. The bird at Scaling Dam was also still present and remained into March. A Smew at RSPB Saltholme on 20th was the first county record this decade. Two Tundra Bean Geese remained in the area. A White-tailed Eagle was tracked south through County Durham on

22nd and flew through Cleveland airspace at Hart and ended up in the Greatham Creek/Cowpen Marsh area for a couple of hours before continuing its southward journey.



White-tailed Eagle, Hart

Ian Foster

The 23rd saw a Common Crane around Cowpen Marsh and a male Hen Harrier at Saltholme Pool. A Ruddy Shelduck was at New Marske on 24th with a Red Kite over Wilton. Another was over Waterfall Farm the following day.

55 Stonechats at South Gare on 26th was a good count. 126 the following day were even better. Amazingly they had all left by the following day. The last day of the month saw 24 White Fronts and six Tundra Bean Geese at Cattersty Gill.

HOUSE MARTIN CONSERVATION – CALL FOR RECORDS

House Martin Conservation is an independent charity that aims to increase knowledge of the house martin and create a channel for support throughout the UK and Ireland.

The 2026 season sees the charity make a renewed call for all nesting records of this declining species.

In partnership with Coreo, House Martin Conservation have developed the 'House Martin Mapper' app. The app allows you to record details of yours, or other colonies,

along with a facility to record mud collecting data.

Data is shared with Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs), the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas and bird clubs, upon request to Dean Cornish, Data Lead at

datasharing@housemartinconservation.com,

to maximise the data use for conservation locally and nationally and informing planning decisions/mitigation.

Although our social media accounts allow us to see your reports of national locations of house martin colonies across the UK and Ireland, we needed a more consistent and accessible way of collecting and utilising data, to enable us to refine and enhance our conservation efforts.

For further details on the work of our charity and for instructions on downloading and using this free app please visit

<https://housemartinconservation.com/house-martin-mapper-app>

We also welcome new members to the charity. We are hugely grateful to our membership family. Membership is entirely free and members will receive a welcome pack, a twice-yearly digital newsletter and will be invited to take part in charity events as we grow and increase our activities. Members will also be able to attend our AGM and vote to elect trustees and officers. We have very active social media groups attracting members and followers from all over the world. For more information on membership please visit

<https://housemartinconservation.com/join-us>

FROM THE CHAIR

A meeting of the Trustees took place on the 27th January 2026. At the time of the last newsletter, an appeal was made for someone to consider taking on the role of Treasurer for the club. While no offers have been received yet, Steve McDonnell has agreed to continue in the role.

The central Motus system has been undergoing an upgrade, hence there has been a delay in receiving updates. The last contact received by our system at Saltholme was an immature Eurasian Blackbird tagged by SE Norwegian Coastline. The bird was detected on 30 December 2025 and 29th January 2026 and it had travelled 868.4 km.

The provision of a swift nesting wall on Seaton Carew sewage pumping station is now underway, a project supported by Northumbrian Water. The bespoke 'S Bricks' have been purchased and will be installed before the birds return at the end of April. In order to entice non-breeding pairs, a recording of the breeding calls of adult swifts will also be installed. The large, swift colony on the front at Seaton Carew has declined greatly in recent years as a result of structural repairs and modifications to buildings which had, historically, housed many pairs. Once a colony is established, there are plans to increase the number of pairs by inserting more S-Bricks over time.

Thanks go to Ali McLee for his help in bringing about this project.

Ali McLee and Mike Leakey recently attended an Opportunity Mapping Workshop at RSPB Saltholme exploring ways to protect and create habitat for Little terns in Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI/SPA. On the subject of Little Tern breeding colonies at Seaton Carew, Tees Wildlife Trust issued the following appeal:

The Trust is looking for paid seasonal wardens including the night shift. The roles involve monitoring and

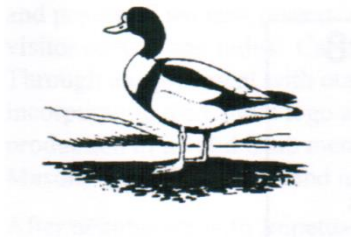
protecting the Little Tern colonies at Seaton Carew between May and July. As a Little Tern Warden, you will be responsible for the day-to-day wardening of the Little Tern colony. This includes, maintaining site protective fencing, liaising with site visitors, the general public, volunteers and project partners, and monitoring Little Tern activity and nest success. A sound knowledge of natural history and a passion for wildlife and its conservation are obviously essential. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the wardening.

There have been three enjoyable and well-attended outdoor meetings so far this year. There was an icy start to the new year with a walk at Hartlepool Headland on 10th January lead by Chris Sharp. This was followed by a sunnier meet up on the 7th February at North Gare/Seaton Snook with Julie Mason and Chris. Then on 7th March, a gloriously sunny, spring morning was spent walking around Bowesfield Marsh with Chris Sharp.

Many thanks to Chris and Julie for organising these. If other members have a favourite birdwatching patch and would be willing to lead a short walk, please speak to Chris Sharp.

The club's annual AGM takes place on Monday 13th April when our Trustees will be appointed. The success of the club is down to the good work and participation of the trustees and members and a succession of new officers is vital. The Trustees are looking for members to consider joining the board to contribute fresh ideas and different opinions. Of course, ideas can be put forward at any time and are most welcome, but why not try coming on the committee to see how you find it? Meetings take place via Zoom on a quarterly basis.

Debbie Lawson, Chair



TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered as a Charity No. 508850

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

(Chair) **Debbie Lawson**
(Vice Chair) **Mike Leahey**
(Hon Secretary) **Chris Sharp**
(Hon Treasurer) **Steve McDonnell**
(Ordinary Member) **Alistair McLee** (Co-opted)
(Ordinary Member) **Julie Mason** (Co-opted 2017)
(Ordinary Member) **Barbara Crinson** (First Appointed 2022)
(Ordinary Member) **Steve Ashton** (First Appointed 2024)
(Ordinary Member) **Rex Earnshaw** (First Appointed 2025)

RECORDS SUBCOMMITTEE

(Chair) **Martyn Sidwell**
Tom Francis
Graeme Joynt
Chris Brown
Ian Foster
Mike Leahey
Stewart Hinley
Geoff Iceton
Mark Rowbottom
Chris Bell

CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

(Chair) **Alistair McLee**

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

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

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

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

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

Steve McDonnell

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR 2025-2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Debbie Lawson - Chair

Honorary Secretary's Report 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Chris Sharp

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

Breeding Birds Survey and Waterways Breeding Birds Survey 2026

The percentage of BBS squares currently allocated to volunteers in the Cleveland BTO Region currently stands 82%. 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 provide advice and guidance throughout.

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

NZ3316	Sadberge
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

Over the winter at least two survey visits were made to eleven 1km squares in the Cleveland BTO Region, representing coverage of a third of potential squares. Nationally, coverage of over 50% was achieved, so we fell some way short of this level locally. Many thanks to those of you who did participate and have submitted data. Any remaining data should be submitted by 30 April at the very latest.

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

New counters have been recruited for the two Coatham Sands WeBS sectors, and for the Scaling Dam WeBS site. We are very grateful to these volunteers.

Heronries Census 2025

The [BTO Heronries Census](#) report has just been published. The UK population estimate for 2025 is 9,301 Apparently Occupied Nests (AONs), down from the revised estimate of 9,714 AONs in 2024. The largest Grey Heron colony in 2025 was 85 AONs at a site in Wiltshire, a decrease on the count of 100 nests there in 2024. Monitoring Grey Herons provides vital information on the state of freshwater food chains and habitats.

As highlighted in recent Heronries Census summary reports, the national population still remains well below the levels seen at the peak in the early 2000s, when there were around 13,000 AONs in the UK. As discussed in the 2024 summary report, it is unclear why Grey Heron numbers have failed to recover following the decline during the severe winters of 2008/09 and 2010/11. However, whilst a lack of any recovery is concerning, it should also be remembered that despite recent decreases, the current population estimate is similar to that at the time of the first Heronries Census in 1928 and that there have been times during the last 98 years when numbers have been lower.

Of the six monitored Heronries in the BTO Cleveland Region in 2025 only one (Ravenscar Wood, Hilton) yielded a double figure AON count (10).

Birds in Greenspaces

As reported in the last newsletter, Birds in Greenspaces is a new, UK-wide citizen science survey of birds that use our public-access greenspaces. These spaces play many important roles for both birds and people, particularly in urban areas. For birds they offer resources and shelter that cannot be found in the surrounding built-up environment, and for people, are important hubs for socialising, exercise and cultural activities. For many they are also the only accessible place to connect with the natural world, something which can be very beneficial for mental health.

Public access greenspaces include places like parks, cemeteries, and playing fields, to name a few, comprising a wide range of different habitats. The way in which habitat is managed also varies, determining which birds (and how many of them) make use of these sites. If we can find out the importance of different greenspaces for birds, and people, we can use the findings to inform management guidance, so that decisions are made that benefit both.

The survey is open to people of all ages and experience levels, across the UK and we want as many people as possible to get out into their local greenspace and learn about and connect with the wildlife there and help us to find out more about these understudied spaces.

Anyone can take part in Birds in Greenspaces. From April to June, BTO will be asking you to record the birds in your local greenspace(s). By simply recording which greenspace you visited, how long you spent there, which birds you saw and how many, you will be contributing key data. Whatever your experience level, BTO offers a range of resources to help you to take part and build your skills.

More details, including an online map of available greenspaces, are available on the BTO website at <https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/greenspaces/taking-part>

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.

Mike Leakey, BTO Regional Representative for Cleveland

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH - WINTER 2025/2026 SUMMARY

	November 16	December 14	January 18	February 15	March 15
Little Grebe	34	16	17	11	11
Great Crested Grebe	3	5	24	14	28
Cormorant	179	65	105	59	35
Mute Swan	15	19	15	12	14
Greylag Goose	44	222	114	88	56
Shelduck	193	176	240*	172	210
Wigeon	2080	3755	2991	5023**	2985
Gadwall	104	179*	101	86	237*
Teal	1595	2164*	795	1002	533
Mallard	295	243	290	197	113
Pintail	22	36	39	26	14
Shoveler	138*	152*	54	172*	345**
Pochard	64	46	78	112	75
Tufted Duck	86	78	115	90	97
Eider	1	7	21	1	2
Goldeneye	36	36	56	50	39
Red-br. Merganser	60*	41	54*	58*	25
Coot	265	320	251	322	302
Oystercatcher	782	649	342	701	261
Ringed Plover	56	50	45	46	16
Golden Plover	45	2568*	867	1193	120
Grey Plover	76	54	0	87	13
Lapwing	3525*	5397*	2892	5165*	233
Knot	16	15	35	32	48
Sanderling	161*	15	51	7	28
Purple Sandpiper	6	1	0	2	0
Dunlin	568	78	442	620	108
Ruff	1	1	0	1	2
Snipe	20	21	30	4	7
Black-tailed Godwit	14	2	1	3	8
Bar-tailed Godwit	34	51	0	84	50
Curlew	445	395	336	645*	215
Redshank	1032**	628*	255	353	653*
Turnstone	165	72	32	64	71

* Indicates a count of >50% of national importance

** Indicates a count of national importance

N.B. 'Teesmouth' includes Hartlepool Bay.

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 - WINTER 2025/2026 SUMMARY

A good level of cover was achieved with 199 of the 210 scheduled sector counts completed over the five months.

Over this series of counts the Tees Estuary and Hartlepool Bay recording area was nationally important for Avocet (118, March), European White-fronted Goose (218, February), Redshank (1032, November), Shoveler (345, March) and Wigeon (5023, February).

The peak counts for Shoveler (345, March), Teal (2164, December) and Wigeon (5023, February) set new winter maxima records. It was also a good winter for Lapwing (5397, December), Golden Plover (2568, December) and Redshank (1032, November), whose peak totals were above the five-year average of 4230, 1992 and 843 birds respectively.

Of concern were new record low peak counts for Black-headed Gull (609, January), Knot (48, March) and Shelduck (240, January), the previous record low peak counts were only set last winter. Comparison of this winter's figures to the historic winter maxima counts for Knot (5938, 1992/93) and Shelduck (1637, 1989/90) highlights the significant decrease in their abundance in the Tees Estuary over the last few decades.

Other interesting records during the winter included, 1 Bittern (Haverton Hole Pool, November & March), 1 Black-throated Diver (Hartlepool Bay, January & February), 4 Great White Egret (North Tees total, March), 6 Goosander (Tees Estuary total, November), 3 Little Gull (Seaton Sands & North Gare Sands, November), 3 Mediterranean Gull (Hartlepool Bay, December), 1 Slavonian Grebe (Cowpen Bewley Landfill Site, November) and 1 Spoonbill (overwintered in the estuary).

Adam Jones

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