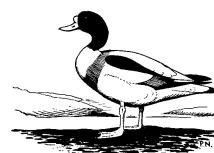


Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter

August 2012 (No. 52)



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*The TBC Newsletter is published three times a year.
Production : Editor Ted Parker, layout Eric James, distribution
Chris Sharp, web download Jamie Duffie*

TBC Evening Meetings start on Monday 3rd September

*For the programme of talks, see
page 7*

*The November meeting will be on
the second Monday of the month
(12th) to avoid the severe access
problems experienced on Bonfire
Night in the past.*

MONTHLY SUMMARIES

Chris Sharp reviews an exciting early spring period in Cleveland, which brought yet another mega-rarity to Hartlepool Headland, along with a fine supporting cast.

MARCH 2012



Bittern, Saltholme

'paul_h'



Hen Harrier, Wynyard

Tom Horne

Avocets returned to the North Tees Marshes on 1st, with 23 on Greenabella Marsh. A Bittern continued to be reported from Haverton Hole and the wintering Marsh Harrier was still present, as was the wintering Great Grey Shrike at Coatham Stob.

Grebes were much to the fore early in the month, with two Black-necked and a Slavonian on Bran Sands. These birds were also to be seen on Seal Sands. A Red-necked Grebe was off South Gare, where the Snow Bunting flock peaked at ca 100. A Jack Snipe performed well at RSPB Saltholme but could be incredibly difficult to see at times

despite being only a few metres away! A drake Green-winged Teal was at Saltholme from 4th and an Iceland Gull was at South Gare the same day. The following day saw a Hen Harrier by the A689 at Wynyard and this continued to show well for the rest of the month. The long staying third-winter Kumlein's Gull was still present at Hartlepool and remained until the month's end, being occasionally accompanied by Iceland or Glaucous Gulls.

Highlight of early spring was a Glossy Ibis: initially seen over Cowpen Marsh on 8th, it soon settled down on Haverton Hole where it remained into May. Coming so soon after last autumn's bird it didn't quite get the pulses racing. The wintering Black Redstart remained at Newburn and the scoter flock off Redcar on 10th included both Velvet Scoter and Long-tailed Duck.

The first Wheatears of the year were on Seaton Common and Cowpen Marsh on 16th. A Black Redstart was at Skinningrove on this date, with another by the Teesmouth Field Centre the following day. Goshawks performed well at Easington Beck Valley mid-month and the redhead Smew reappeared at Crookfoot Reservoir from 18th. An early Swallow was seen at Boulby on this date. Water Pipits showed well at the Fire Station Pool at RSPB Saltholme from 18th, with up to 4 birds present up to the month's end. Thirteen Whooper Swans were at Scaling Dam on 19th, with another 32 at Crookfoot Reservoir the following day.

The first Sand Martins were not reported until 22nd and the first Little Ringed Plover was at Scaling Dam on 26th. The latter site also saw a Rough-legged Buzzard on 27th. The regular Green Sandpiper was still performing on Billingham Beck near Portrack roundabout at the month's end and a fine drake Garganey was at Haverton Hole. Two Dark-bellied Brent Geese on Back Saltholme remained into April.

APRIL 2012

Dipper remains a rare breeding bird in Cleveland so two pairs in Loftus Wood were much appreciated. A Green Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme on 2nd, with two there on 4th. One or two Ruffs were also present here. A Willow Warbler was singing at Bowesfield Marsh on 2nd. The first Ring Ouzel of the spring was at Cattersty Gill on 8th and, as usual, the Boulby/Hummerssea area proved particularly attractive to this species during April, with up to eight birds present on some days. The Green-winged Teal re-appeared on Dormans Pool on 8th, on which date a Hooded Crow flew past Cowbar.



Glossy Ibis, Haverton Hole

Tim Robinson



Smew, Cowpen Bewley

Ray Scott



Brent Goose, Saltholme

Ian Forrest



Dipper

John Money



Yellow Wagtail, Seaton Common

Tim Robinson



Firecrest, South Gare

Martyn Sidwell



Hooded Crow, Seaton Common

Ian Forrest



Grasshopper Warbler, Dorman's Pool

Ray Scott



Whimbrel, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

A second-winter Iceland Gull was at South Gare on 9th and the same day saw the first Common Sandpiper by the Tees Barrage and first Yellow Wagtail on Seaton Common. There were still about 20 Twite in the Dorman's Pool area at this time. Eight Barnacle Geese were at Saltholme Marsh on 10th and the following day four Whooper Swans, accompanied by a Black Swan, dropped in here. A Hooded Crow on Seaton Common from 13th remained into May and an early Grasshopper Warbler was reeling at Bowesfield Marsh on this date, whilst a first-winter Glaucous Gull was at Seaton Meadows Landfill.

The first Reed Warblers were at Dorman's Pool on 16th, on which date an early Cuckoo was at Scaling Dam. A Bittern was heard booming at Haverton Hill from mid-month and it is to be hoped that this species will eventually breed in the excellent habitat created by the RSPB. A fine male Black Redstart was at Boulby on 17th. Three Arctic Terns were at Saltholme Pool on 18th and 12 Brent Geese were at South Gare. Summer visitors were now arrived thick and fast, with 3 Tree Pipits on Roseberry Common and a male Redstart at Whinney Banks Pond on 21st. Four Whimbrels were at Saltholme on this date. A Firecrest was a good find at South Gare on 22nd and a Snow Bunting was still present here at this time. A Wood Warbler sang briefly at Haverton Hole also on this date and a Greenshank was at Greenabella Marsh.

The first Common Terns were at Saltholme on 24th, with a Lesser Whitethroat at Skinningrove. Two Marsh Harriers were on the North Tees Marshes late in the month and a Black Tern was at Crookfoot Reservoir on 26th. A brief Osprey was present here the following day and a Wood Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme on 27th.

The last day of the month saw a small fall of migrants at the coastal stations, with Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat and Sedge Warblers in small numbers. Highlight of the

month, if not the spring, however, was a smart Red-rumped Swallow at Bowesfield Marsh. This was the first time that this species had been 'twitchable' to the masses in Cleveland, with the previous six records all being only present briefly and seen by only the initial observer(s). It performed admirably and was still present the next day. It attracted a steady stream of admirers.



Red-rumped Swallow, Bowesfield Marsh

Martyn Sidwell

MAY 2012

The small fall of migrants of late April continued during the first couple of days of May, with several Redstarts and Whinchats at coastal stations. A Greenshank was at Scaling Dam on 3rd and Marsh Harrier numbers increased to three at Dormans Pool. Two Garganeys were on Cowpen Marsh. An Osprey was at Scaling Dam from 4th but only remained for a few days in contrast to last year's summering bird. Three Arctic Terns were also here on 4th and a late Smew was present on 5th. A Great Grey Shrike was between Marske and Redcar on 5th and small numbers of Ring Ouzels continued to be reported from the Hummersea area. A Little Gull was at RSPB Saltholme on 7th.

A Nightingale sang at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park from 8th and remained into June. This was presumably last year's returning bird. As usual, seeing it could often prove difficult. A Wood



Red-spotted Bluethroat, Hartlepool Headland Martyn Sidwell



Spoonbill, Seaton Common

Hilary Chambers



Wood Sandpiper, Saltholme

Ray Scott

Warbler sang at Skelton on 8th and a Wood Sandpiper was at Scaling Dam on 9th. Another small fall of migrants on 10th included a fine male Red-spotted Bluethroat at Hartlepool, which remained until the following day, along with a Spotted Flycatcher. A Wryneck at Warsett Hill on 12th was a good find and a Turtle Dove flew over Portrack Marsh on 13th, on which date a Spoonbill initially found on Seaton Common relocated to Saltholme Marsh, which it found more to its liking.

Mid-month was generally quiet. The Bittern continued to 'boom' at RSPB Saltholme and a couple of Wood Sandpipers and a drake Garganey were viewable on the Fire Station Pool. A Long-tailed Duck was off Seaton Carew on 21st and a Quail showed well at Hartlepool Headland on 22nd, while a Temminck's Stint was on Calor Gas Pool on 22nd and 23rd.

A good run of rare birds at the end of the month began with a summer plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher on Saltholme Marsh on 24th. This was only the second Cleveland record. It disappeared after only two days but was re-found eight days later! The same day saw an Osprey over Skelton and a Red Kite was over Scaling Dam on 25th. A Bee-eater was seen by one lucky observer over Coatham Marsh on 26th. It flew towards South Gare but unfortunately could not be relocated. Little Gull numbers increased to seven at Saltholme Marsh. Four Wood Sandpipers were on Seaton Common and a Temminck's Stint was found at Scaling Dam, where it remained for several days. The 27th produced a summer plumaged White-winged Black Tern at Saltholme Marsh and a Black Tern was on the Saline Lagoon at Greatham Creek on this date.

Highlight of the spring and probably the year was an Orphean Warbler, which was trapped at



Orphean Warbler, Hartlepool

Martyn Sidwell

Hartlepool Headland on 29th. It was only the sixth British record and as the last twitchable bird was 31 years earlier, it naturally attracted a huge crowd. It was only present for only one day. Coming almost a year after the White-throated Robin in the same area, thoughts turned to what might be caught in 2013! Several Spotted Flycatchers were also at coastal locations at this time and a Little Stint was on Saltholme Marsh on 31st.

JUNE 2012

The Nightingale continued to sing at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park, being last seen on 10th and Nightjars returned to their regular sites at Guisborough Forest. A Bonxie flew past Seaton Carew on 2nd and the Long-billed Dowitcher reappeared at Saltholme Marsh on this date. It was seen here again on 4th, before relocating to Greenabella Marsh on 13th, where it remained until 17th. An Arctic Tern was on Saltholme Marsh on 5th and a Garganey was seen nearby from the Phil Stead Hide. An Osprey was over here on 6th.

A Quail called at Seaton Carew on 10th and an adult Rose-coloured Starling was photographed in a Hartburn garden on this date, though, unfortunately, it was not seen by any birders. A Roseate Tern was at Saltholme the same day and it or another was present the following day. A Curlew Sandpiper was on the Tidal Pool on 12th



Long-billed Dowitcher, Tidal Pool

Mick & Sylvia Brennan



White-winged Black Tern, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

and, on the same date, a Turtle Dove flew past at Margrove Ponds, a Pied Flycatcher was at Lockwood Beck and an immature White-fronted Goose at Scaling Dam. A female Red-footed Falcon at Crimdon Dene on 16th flew into Cleveland air space and as such was the first Cleveland record for 10 years. Hobbies were seen over Errington Wood and Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park on 17th. An Osprey flew over this latter locality.

The good run of birds of prey continued with a Honey Buzzard over Hartlepool on 18th and a Red-backed Shrike was at Scaling Dam the same day. This cracking male attracted several visitors and late arrivals were also treated to a summer-plumaged Spotted Sandpiper in front of the hide. It was only the fourth Cleveland record but disappeared overnight, much to the disappointment of the early risers next day! A pair of Garganey was on Greenabella Marsh, with another bird in front of the Phil Stead Hide. Four Bar-headed Geese were on Back Saltholme on 23rd and the escaped goose theme continued with the arrival of 33 Barnacle Geese at the same location on 28th. They were all juveniles and had presumably originated from the free-flying flock in North Yorkshire.



Arctic Tern, Saline Lagoon

Ian Forrest



Roseate Tern, Saltholme

Tom Horne



Cuckoo, Seaton Common

Tim Robinson



Swift, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

The month ended with a few passage waders on the North Tees Marshes, including single Greenshank and Spotted Redshank, two Wood Sandpipers and up to nine Black-tailed Godwits.

COMPUTERISATION OF TBC BIRD RECORDS

Ted Parker reports on progress on the huge task of transferring the Club's historic bird records on to the new electronic database.

Those members who have submitted their sightings for 2011 on the Club's new electronic records system will have, hopefully, found that this a much quicker and easier task than the former, time-consuming paper card system. Submitting your records electronically means that the Club can now access bird data quickly and efficiently by electronically sorting them by location, date, site, observer or species. Data requests from external organisations will be much easier to deal with in the future and I urge all those of you who haven't used the new system yet to do so when submitting your records for 2012. It is easy to use and if you do experience any difficulties, advice is freely available from those already using the system.

Work has now started on inputting the Club's historic paper records, which are held in dozens of shoeboxes, each of which holds a year's sightings and run into tens of thousands of individual records extending back to 1974. Not only do these boxes take up a huge amount of storage space but are also at risk from water or fire damage, which could result in the complete and irretrievable loss of this unique resource. Storing the records electronically in a number of separate locations will eradicate this risk.

A number of volunteers are already working on historic data input and, to his credit, Don Page through sheer effort has already completed a full year's records. We do need other volunteers to assist and if you can feel you can help, please contact **Neil Lay** and **Tom Francis**, who will allocate a year's records to you. There is no pressure in terms of deadlines or time limits on the data input and volunteers are merely requested to enter records when they have some free time until they have completed their allocated year. As work proceeds, volunteers can send batches of completed records of, say, several thousand, to Neil Lay so that they can be accessed for data searches.

2012 TBC HOUSE MARTIN SURVEY



Nest building

Of the 93 tetrads which had breeding House Martins in the Cleveland Atlas survey, almost a third have been allocated to volunteers in this year's survey. We would very much appreciate more being taken up! As mentioned in the previous issue of this Newsletter, the birds' nests are easy to count and, although covering a tetrad (2km x 2km square) sounds ambitious, there are available tetrads that have only a few buildings and would not require too much time or effort. In addition, Dave Nelson has offered to share coverage of three tetrads in the Acklam area.

Many initial reports suggest that House Martins are not doing very well this year, so good survey coverage is even more important. Details of the survey and a list of unallocated tetrads are available via the Club website Forum in the Teesmouth Bird Club Announcements section. Alternatively, you can contact me using the details below.

Records of any nests you come across can be useful, especially if they are in previously unoccupied tetrads. Forms for submitting such records are also available from the website.

There is still plenty of time to get involved, so please think about it!

Eric James

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MEMBERS' EVENING MEETINGS PROGRAMME (2012-13)

Julie Mason has worked hard to put together the following varied and interesting range of evening meetings for our next session from September 2012 to April 2013.

Monday 3rd September 2012

"An Ethiopian Episode" by Tom Lawson

Monday 1st October 2012

"The Work of the Hawk and Owl Trust on Fylingdales Moor" by Dr John Edwards

Monday 12th November 2012

"A Mediterranean Quartet? Naturally!" by Brian and Ann Hague

Monday 3rd December 2012

"Farmland Bird Conservation: RSPB Volunteer and Farmer Alliance Project" by Christina Taylor

Monday 7th January 2013

"What value will partnership working bring to the Tees Valley's natural environment?" by Dr Sue Antrobus

Monday 4th February 2013

"The Ring Ouzel" by Vic Fairbrother

Monday 4th March 2013

"The Birds of Durham" by Paul Anderson

Please note that all meetings are held in the new Lecture Room at Stockton Library, starting at 7.30 pm, with coffee and tea being available beforehand. Non-members and visitors are welcome.

The November meeting has been reprogrammed from 5th to 12th to avoid the severe access problems experienced on Bonfire Night in the past.

VOLUNTARY GUIDE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

TBC's Conservation Sub-Committee, in collaboration with RSPB, has been working on a voluntary code of conduct with the objective of providing guidance for new wildlife photographers taking up the hobby for the first time. The code follows a number of incidents of poor practice around the Tees Estuary and elsewhere resulting from lack of knowledge rather than deliberate intent.

Introduction

The age of digital photography has made photographing wildlife an attractive activity for many people who follow this pastime enthusiastically and the number of bird photographers has boomed over the past decade. A considerable number of people are now buying high quality equipment and taking up wildlife photography for the first time, for which the Cleveland area offers excellent opportunities. Photographers' desire to get close to a bird or sitting it out in hides can bring them into conflict with others.

It is evident that there are a significant number of long-standing, experienced wildlife photographers in our region who are aware of their legal and moral obligations when pursuing their hobby and it is hoped that they will help those who are still gaining knowledge, fieldcraft and experience.

This guide has been developed jointly by Teesmouth Bird Club (TBC) and RSPB in response to the growing number of new wildlife photographers in the Tees Valley area. It is as much advice to new and aspiring photographers as it is a guide to good practice and ensuring that the photographer stays within the law. It is not intended to be dictatorial, pedantic or to stifle photographers' enjoyment of their pursuits but merely to provide some legal and moral guidelines which should underpin all responsible wildlife photography. The guidelines focus on how to take photographs whilst having due regard for the welfare of wildlife, other people's enjoyment (such as birdwatchers, naturalists and, indeed, other photographers) and legal requirements.

Guidelines for Wildlife Photographers

When photographing wildlife, please remember the following four basic principles:

1. THE WELFARE OF WILDLIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A CLOSER PHOTOGRAPH

If, by your actions, you cause wildlife to behave uncharacteristically (e.g. a territorial male stops singing or a female leaves a nest) or to be disturbed (e.g. birds become tense and alert or fly off or a hare runs for cover) then you have had a negative impact on that species. Repeated flushing and harassing of tired migrants to get a 'better shot' should be avoided. Please keep a reasonable distance and avoid causing any distress or disturbance. The use of playback vocalisations should be avoided and is illegal in the case of Schedule 1 species under the '*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*'.

2. PRESERVE AND RESPECT HABITAT

Paths, trails, viewing points, screens and hides are designed to give photographers the best possible chance of photographing wildlife. This applies particularly to the RSPB Saltholme Reserve, Teesmouth National Nature Reserve and designated sites, such as Dormans Pool SSSI. If leaving established pathways, please ensure that you are not trespassing, causing unnecessary damage to fragile habitat (such as reed beds and wildflower meadows) or disturbing breeding birds (particularly ground nesters, such as Lapwing and Skylark). Leaving a 'trail' through protective habitat near a nest site may lead to predation or desertion, so exercise sensitive fieldcraft. By keeping to established paths, wildlife will become familiar and comfortable with people over time, allowing photographers to obtain closer shots than would otherwise be possible.

3. THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT ALL TIMES

If you see something that you have enjoyed, invite others to share and enjoy that experience. If, by trying to get a closer photograph, you flush a bird or animal this will result in your enjoyment being denied to others. When in hides or in groups outside, be mindful of the amount of time you are spending in a position that gives the best opportunity for viewing a particular species or spectacle. Be courteous, make space and invite others to share the same opportunity. 'Hogging' prime positions is a criticism often levelled at some photographers and birdwatchers, particularly where the subject is a rare species when competition to get the best photograph or view is high. Keep noise to a minimum. Avoid flushing birds or animals when getting out of a parked vehicle, particularly when others are using their vehicles as 'hides'.

4. REMEMBER YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Certain activities are illegal under Part 1 of the 'Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981' and subsequent amendments under 'The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000'. It is an offence under the former Act if any person intentionally:

- *disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, or near a nest containing eggs or young, or*
- *disturbs dependent young of such a bird, or*
- *enters an area designated by the Secretary of State.*

A special licence is required from Natural England to photograph a Schedule 1 bird species at its nest or to enter a special area designated by the Secretary of State.

5. LINKS

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org

Teesmouth Bird Club: www.teesmouthbc.com

RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk

'Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981': <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377>

'Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000': <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

6. SCHEDULE 1 BIRDS PROTECTED BY SPECIAL PENALTIES AT ALL TIMES UNDER THE 'WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981'

Leach's Petrel	Marsh Harrier	Purple Sandpiper	Cetti's Warbler
Black-throated Diver	Montagu's Harrier	Red-necked Phalarope	Dartford Warbler
Great Northern Diver	Pallid Harrier	Ruff	Firecrest
Red-throated Diver	Red Kite	Temminck's Stint	Marsh Warbler
White-billed Diver	White-tailed Eagle	Whimbrel	Savi's Warbler
Black-necked Grebe	Osprey	Wood Sandpiper	Bearded Tit
Slavonian Grebe	Gyr Falcon	Little Gull	Crested Tit
Great Bittern	Hobby	Mediterranean Gull	Short-toed Treecreeper
Little Bittern	Merlin	Black Tern	Golden Oriole
Purple Heron	Peregrine	Little Tern	Red-backed Shrike
Eurasian Spoonbill	Capercaillie	Roseate Tern	Chough
Waterfowl	Quail	Barn Owl	Brambling
Bewick's Swan	Corncrake	Snowy Owl	Crossbill
Common Scoter	Spotted Crake	Kingfisher	Parrot Crossbill
Garganey	Avocet	European Bee-eater	Scarlet Grosbeak
Long-tailed Duck	Black-winged Stilt	Hoopoe	Scottish Crossbill
Scaup	Stone-curlew	Wryneck	Serin
Velvet Scoter	Dotterel	Shore Lark	Two-barred Crossbill
Whooper Swan	Kentish Plover	Woodlark	Cirl Bunting
Golden Eagle	Little Ringed Plover	Black Redstart	Lapland Bunting
Goshawk	Black-tailed Godwit	Bluethroat	Snow Bunting
Hen Harrier	Green Sandpiper	Fieldfare	
Honey Buzzard	Greenshank	Redwing	

PLEASE RESPECT THESE GUIDELINES AND ENJOY YOUR HOBBY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE BEING RESPONSIBLE, CONSIDERATE AND WITHIN THE LAW.

TBC DAY TRIP TO NORTHUMBERLAND AND COQUET ISLAND - 17th JUNE 2012

Peter Garbutt reviews the highlights of a very successful day on the Club's scheduled trip to Northumberland and Coquet Island in June 2012.



Julie Mason

The trip to Northumberland included a stop at Druridge Bay Country Park where, due to a camper van festival, most of the party chose to have a short walk to East Chevington Pools. The birds here included up to eight Little Gulls, among Arctic, Common and Sandwich Terns, and Common and Black-headed Gulls. In the reed beds close to the path, both Sedge and Reed Warbler were most obliging and gave good views to our group. Other highlights included pairs of Stonechat.

After a nice couple of hours we headed off to Amble to catch the boat to Coquet Island, whilst some of the party chose to go to Hauxley Nature Reserve. The highlights at Coquet Island included stunning views of Roseate Terns, some of which had that nice pinkish wash, Arctic, Common and Sandwich Terns, Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills and Rock Pipits. After a couple of hours around Coquet Island, we headed off to Hauxley Nature Reserve to join the rest of the group where there were three singing Marsh Warblers, one of which came into view after a short while. As the coach left Hauxley we spotted a Red Squirrel searching for food near the entrance gate - a nice surprise for those sitting at the front of the coach.

After 4.00 pm we headed back home calling at Cresswell Pond, where we saw five Bar-headed Geese, a Whimbrel and a white-coloured Curlew among other Curlews. Other highlights included

Crossbill flyovers at Druridge Bay Country Park, seen by only a fortunate few.

The whole trip was enjoyed by 30 of our Teesmouth Bird Club members and many thanks to Julie Mason and Pat Brunt for organising this outing.



Puffins, Sandwich Terns & Stonechat Lockhart Horsbrough



LOCAL OUTINGS – REPORTS

We are grateful for the time leaders give up to run local outings for the benefit of our members. We are always looking for new leaders, so if you have an area you particularly like and feel inclined to show this to others, please contact Julie Mason. Please be assured that you don't need to be an expert!

MARGROVE PONDS

Sunday 26th March 2012

Ten Club members assembled on the green at Margrove on a bright but slightly misty morning. A short walk brought us to the main pond where those unfamiliar with the area were surprised by its size. There were the expected Mallards, Moorhens and Coots, and the trilling calls of two pairs of Little Grebes. The pair of Shovelers seen earlier in the week, however, stayed out of sight. It was a surprise to see Greylag and Canada Geese on the main pond as the breeding pair of Mute Swans usually sees them off.

Reaching the track along the route of the old railway, we examined the smaller ponds and then walked in the Slapewath direction to Carr's Tilery. There is another pond here hidden among the trees. It was quiet as usual but is always worth checking for the chance of a Kingfisher. Returning along the track, we continued in the Boosbeck direction as far as the former mine site. Although it was too early in the year for the arrival of the most of the many warbler species that breed at Margrove, Chiffchaffs were present and some effort was made to get good views of them among the leafless branches. The track used to be good location for Willow Tit but my last sighting was in January so their absence was not unexpected. The regular Bullfinch was present, feeding on catkins with a Blue Tit. Comma and Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies were in the verges.

By now the mist had dispersed making some of us regret putting on quite so much clothing. There was some hope of a raptor but we had to settle for a distant Kestrel (four days later while driving up Birk Brow, a Buzzard drifted over from Margrove: timing is everything!). Back at the main pond, things had livened up with the male swan displaying aggressively and chasing some of the intruding geese. There was also underwater activity among the many toads visible from the path. Although the birds were not as co-operative as we would have wished, the visit did introduce several people to the extent and bird potential of the area.

Eric James

RAPTOR WATCHING AT SLEDDALE

Saturday 21st April 2012



Alistair McLee

About 20 expectant members joined myself and Don Page on what proved to be a reasonable, if cold day weather-wise hoping to see some raptors at Sleddale. As ever, the occurrence of birds of prey at this site is largely governed by weather conditions and the time of year, with early spring being perhaps the best time when birds are displaying and re-establishing pair bonds and territories. Consequently, things can be very hit and miss and on this particular morning, birds of prey were in short supply! However, 4 or 5 Common Buzzards put on a good display, albeit quite distantly and a Sparrowhawk was also seen. In the valley itself, a couple of migrant male Wheatears displayed in the boulder area and one came quite close, giving excellent views of this pristine species. A Green Woodpecker was heard calling from the wood near Crag Bank and a Common Snipe was watched 'drumming' over the moor, the first time some members had seen this. All in all, those present enjoyed the morning, despite the lack of birds because, after all, the local outings are also intended to be social occasions and in this they are very successful.



Alistair McLee

Ted Parker

BOWESFIELD MARSH

Sunday 20th May 2012

It was a chilly and overcast Sunday morning when the Club members went to Bowesfield Marsh near Stockton. The target birds were summer migrants, but it felt more like an autumnal walk as we headed to the marsh. Standing near the edge of the marsh we watched a steady stream of Swallows and Sand Martins with the occasional Swift searching for flying insects over the surface of the water. Flying at eye level gave us the opportunity to see at close quarters their amazing aerial agility with the occasional elegant sip of water to keep energy levels up. Also present were Mallard, Teal, Gadwall, Coot and Moorhen. Heading back along the riverbank towards the wader scrapes and pools was quiet with very little bird song. However as we approached the reedbed we saw Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler close by with one or two individuals showing very well. Behind us a Common Whitethroat sang, but failed to show itself from within the Hawthorn scrub. On the pools was a pair of Great Crested Grebe along with the usual wildfowl residents.

Julie Mason

COD BECK RESERVOIR

Sunday 10th June 2012



The Reservoir

The day dawned calm and dry after the bad weather the previous day. At least seven members ventured out to thoroughly enjoy our walk over the moor and around the reservoir itself. We started off with excellent views of cuckoo opposite the car park. Up on the moor and amongst the tree stumps we found several juvenile Stonechats, along with distant views of a flock of Crossbills over the plantation. A Common Buzzard sailed overhead and we enjoyed views in the fields of a juvenile Oystercatcher together with Golden Plover, Curlew, Redshank and Lapwing and a Red-legged Partridge posing on a dry stone wall. Down through the woods we had glimpses of a family of Jays together with Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Great Spotted Woodpecker. At the reservoir itself we watched a young Grey Wagtail with its parents

and a Treecreeper, and then had excellent views of Crossbills feeding on pine cones along the footpath around the edge of the wood. Two Little Grebes were the only birds of note on the water but were a pleasure to watch. The sun actually came out and shone on us at one point, which made the day even more pleasurable, along with 38 species and some good company. Many thanks to all who came along and we look forward to the next one.



Treecreeper



Crossbill



Sylvia and Mick Brennan

(Photographs by Mick & Sylvia)

LOCAL OUTINGS

HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND SEAWATCH

Saturday 25th August 2012

Join Ted Parker, Chris Sharp and Don Page for a morning's sea watching from Hartlepool Headland. The seabirds seen will be very much dependent upon weather conditions. If favourable, we may expect to see a range of skuas, shearwaters, divers, auks and ducks. Previous outings have produced Pomarine Skua, Great Northern Diver and Black Tern. Meet at the seaward side of Heugh Lighthouse (adjacent to Heugh Battery) at 9.30 am.

Leaders : Ted Parker, Don Page and Chris Sharp (Contact Ted on tel: 01642 275369 for further details).

BOULBY

Saturday 15th September 2012

Join Ian Kendall for a walk around some of the migrant hotspots at Boulby where, hopefully, a range of common migrants will be seen if weather conditions are right. There is always a chance of scarcer species, such as Lesser Whitethroat, Tree Pipit and Whinchat, or even something rarer, such as a Red-backed Shrike or Wryneck. There is also always the chance of a passing raptor, such as Common Buzzard or Hen Harrier. Meet at the public car park on Cowbar Lane at 10.00 am.

Leader: Ian Kendall

COATHAM STOB AND BURN WOOD

Sunday 7th October 2012

Join Ali McLee for a walk around Coatham Stob and Burn Wood where a range of passerine species should be seen, possibly including some newly arrived winter visitors. Meet in the car park at Coatham Stob at 9.30 am.

Leader : Alistair McLee (Tel: 01642 787305)

SOUTH GARE

Sunday 25th November 2012

Join Bert Mitchell for a walk around South Gare, where hopefully a range of sea- and shorebird species and late migrants will be seen. These could possibly include divers, grebes, sea duck (such as Common Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser) and waders such as Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling, Knot, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. There may also be a chance of Snow Bunting at this regular wintering site and, with luck, Twite and Rock Pipit. Meet at 9.30 am near the entrance to the Gare.

Leader : Bert Mitchell

NORTH GARE AND SEATON SNOOK

Sunday 2nd December 2012

Join Julie Mason for a visit to North Gare and Seaton Snook, two of the most productive sites in the Tees Estuary for shorebirds and seabirds. A good range of wildfowl, divers, grebes, waders and gulls should be seen and there is a good chance of Twite at Seaton Snook (a regular wintering site). Meet at 10.00 am in the North Gare car park.

Leader : Julie Mason (Tel: 07789 731429).

TBC FOUNDER MEMBERS HELPED FORM CLEVELAND INCA

John Fletcher traces a brief history of the formation of INCA on Teesside.

The Cleveland INCA (Industry and Nature Conservation Association) now plays an important part in helping industry to minimise damage to natural habitats and to manage land to enhance its wildlife interest. Intriguingly, Founder Members of the Teesmouth Bird Club played a significant part in the formation of the Cleveland INCA, Britain's first such organisation.

In the 1980s, Founder Member Alan Vittery was with the Nature Conservancy Council working on policy and legislation to protect wildlife, in particular Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Alan realised there was clearly no way that the NCC alone, or even the nature conservation movement as a whole, could achieve this without the co-operation of the many interests managing or using the countryside. Jeremy Russell, seconded from Shell, joined Alan at his '*Partnership Unit*', which was set up to build bridges with other interests, such as agriculture and forestry.

Alan and Jeremy developed the INCA concept, which was to be discussed at a conference in Cambridge in April 1987 to launch the NCC's '*Partnership in Practice*'. Founder Member, Ken Smith, working at ICI Wilton as an ecologist, drew the attention of senior ICI management to the impending conference. The subsequent involvement of ICI with Alan and Russell was crucial in getting the INCA initiative off the ground. By the time the Cleveland INCA was registered on 9th February 1989 there were twelve firms and organizations pledged to help the INCA. Ken was seconded part-time to INCA and was soon joined by ecologist, Dr Moira Owen. Founder Member, Peter Evans, was appointed as Director. The INCA was publicly launched in June 1989 and became the prototype for INCAs launched in other parts of Britain.

(My thanks to Alan Vittery and Ken Smith for their help in preparing this item)

LOCAL SITE - SEATON CAREW CEMETERY

Colin Dodsworth reviews a hidden gem tucked away behind the centre of Seaton Carew that has produced some excellent birds over the years and a place that he loves to visit during peak migration times.

BACKGROUND



(Photographs by Colin Dodsworth)

Holy Trinity Churchyard in Seaton Carew, or 'Seaton Cemy' as it is fondly known in local birding circles, is situated just inland from Front Street at the southern end of the town. The current church lies on the site of the former village chapel and was consecrated in 1831 and restored in 1891. The churchyard itself consists of little more than 20 to 30 mature trees, mainly sycamores, and an area of overgrown vegetation in the north-west corner, with a few smaller trees, such as alder, poplar and a single, stunted apple tree. As expected, this area holds very few species in summer and winter; however, despite the gradual encroachment of a new housing estate, which means the site is now completely enclosed, it still attracts passage migrants in spring and autumn. Although nowhere near as productive as nearby Hartlepool Headland, it is still worth checking in 'fall' conditions.

BIRDS

Resident birds are limited to locally breeding urban species such as Woodpigeon, Magpie,

Carrion Crow, House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Starling, Wren, Robin, Goldfinch and Greenfinch.

The real attraction of this site is the possibility of encountering passage migrants in spring and autumn. Seaton Cemy seems to fair much better in autumn with Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher and Redstart all occurring on a regular basis when onshore winds are blowing. The mature foliage can also attract a number of warbler species, such as Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest. The short grass and leaf litter around the gravestones below the sycamores in the main section of the cemetery often has migrant thrushes, mainly Blackbirds and Redwings in the autumn, along with regular sightings of Brambling, Chaffinch and sometimes Siskin. Occasional visitors also include Woodcock, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Fieldfare. Wood Warbler has occurred in both autumn and spring and scarce warblers are also a spring possibility, as evidenced by a singing Marsh Warbler in 1995. As expected with a coastal migrant trap, a number of unusual birds have occurred, most notable of which was Cleveland's first record of Dusky Warbler in 1981. Other scarcities have included Red-backed Shrike (1994), Siberian Stonechat (1991), Red-breasted Flycatcher (1984 and 1989), Icterine Warbler (1980 and 1995), Barred Warbler (1989) and Ortolan (1995). Yellow-browed Warbler has also occurred in at least 13 autumns, so this site gives birders the ideal opportunity to find their own good birds whilst everybody else converges on the more popular Hartlepool Headland. Seaton Cemy is often under-watched, so who knows what else slips through undetected. The mature trees and leaf litter strewn areas of short grass seem ideal for Olive-backed Pipit and it doesn't take much to imagine a Red-flanked Bluetail flitting from gravestone to gravestone. Although the encroachment of a new housing estate has undoubtedly reduced its appeal, it still has the potential to produce something good. If Hartlepool can throw up a White-throated Robin and a Western Orphean Warbler, why can't Seaton Cemy provide us with a true autumn mega? Who knows, it could even be a Forest Wagtail!

ACCESS AND STRATEGY

Access is via Church Street, off Front Street, but parking on the street here is very limited therefore the best tactic is to park in one of the seafront car parks and walk to the cemetery: that way you can also pick up a bag of chips when you have finished! Please don't be tempted to park in

the private car park within the church grounds and always be respectful and quietly leave if the church is holding any kind of function. The churchyard itself backs on to the playground of Holy Trinity Primary School so if you intend on spending time here during school hours it is worth popping into the school's reception to let them know, as unannounced birders lurking about in the undergrowth have caused concern in the past. As for strategy, it is simply a case of slowly covering all the trees in the churchyard. The higher trees require a modicum of patience, as you just need to listen for calls and scan the canopy for movement. Fortunately, a lot of the birds (including some of the good ones) seem to favour the overgrown area in northwest corner behind the car park, which is easier to work.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Ted Parker continues his reminiscences from years gone by with a stunning lifer seen in Humberside in 1989.

I'm sure many birders have the habit of browsing through field guides of birds from home and abroad fantasising about what their next new bird will be. Similar to Colin in his *Profile*, many of us have dream birds that are top of our must-see lists, some of which may be seemingly unobtainable in more far flung parts of the world. The eastern, exotic species fall into this category.

In early July 1989, I had been browsing through one of my field guides and just happened to pause on the striking page on bee-eaters; three species were depicted, our own incredibly coloured European Bee-eater and the two far rarer, eastern ones, Little Green and Blue-cheeked, both of which also qualify as 'stunners'. With a busy job and family and three young children, the chances of my seeing either of the latter two species seemed at the time to be more than a remote possibility and so I fantasised, like you do!

I had already had an excellent start to the year, with Britain's first Double-crested Cormorant at Charlton's Pond, Billingham; the mythical male Golden-winged Warbler at Larkfield in Kent; Cleveland's first Semipalmated Sandpiper at Greatham Creek; a Ring-necked Duck at Holywell Pond, Northumberland; the historic male Baillon's Crake at Mowbray Park, Sunderland; a Thrush Nightingale at Hartlepool; a singing Savi's Warbler at Coatham Marsh; my first Glossy Ibis at Fairburn Ings; an obliging Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Haverton Hole; and the famous Lesser Crested Tern during a twitch to the Farne Islands in early summer. Just as I was thinking that things couldn't get any better, I was astonished to hear on 8th July that not only had one of the two rare

bee-eaters turned up in Britain but it was only a relatively short striking distance away in north Humberside.

On the early morning of Sunday 9th July 1989, Don Page, Alex Cruikshanks and I set off for Humberside and arrived at the site at 8.00am. We joined a group of birders already present a short distance up a private track and, within minutes, we were all marvelling at our first Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, an adult, and arguably one of the best rare birds I have ever seen in Britain. It was perched on a fence adjacent to a small paddock, over which it hawked insects, always returning to the same fence near to where we were standing, giving us absolutely stunning views! We marvelled at the bird's largely emerald-green plumage, with a striking corn-yellow chin and rusty orange-red throat. The sides of the face and crown were azure-blue, from whence the bird gets its name, offset by a bold, black eye-stripe. The forehead and lores were white, offsetting the rather long, thin, slightly decurved, black bill. The long central tail feathers were always obvious in flight, when the bird showed rather non-descript, greyish under-wings, when compared to the brightness of the rest of its plumage. The bee-eater deftly caught a variety of insects including bumblebees, which it ate on the fence and brought lots of "ooohs" and "aahs" (plus a few unprintable expletives) from the appreciative crowd!



Dave Cottridge

Continued

Our enjoyment of this marvellous bird was suddenly curtailed when an irate householder, who lived in a property adjacent to the track, requested us to leave and, to their credit, all 100 or so birders present did so immediately and without a fuss. The resident's attitude was difficult to understand, as the birders had all been very well behaved and one usually finds that people are excited and interested to have a rare bird turn up in their area. Viewing from the nearby road was more distant but we were still able to get good 'scope views. Ironically, the same householder, a woman, later invited us all back down the track – on payment of a fee! I think most birders present (politely) declined her kind offer!

PROFILE – COLIN DODSWORTH

Ted Parker reviews the birding life of Colin Dodsworth, who is a very familiar face on the birding scene in Cleveland. He is a past member of Teesmouth Bird Club Records Committee and has travelled widely throughout the world in pursuit of his passion for birds. He wrote a significant number of the species monographs for 'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'.



Colin in Chile

Colin is 42 years old and was born in Stockton-on-Tees on 26th April 1970. He has been married to Elaine for 19 years and has a 13-year-old son, James. He has lived in Billingham since he was married in 1993. Colin worked for Commercial Barclaycard for nearly 25 years, latterly as a Senior Business Analyst, but escaped the rat race in March this year and is now training for a new career in horticulture.

Colin says his interest in birding started at the age of six but he took it up seriously when he passed his driving test and has now been actively birding in Cleveland for 25 years. With such a long and active history, it is no surprise that Colin's Cleveland List stands at an impressive 341

species. His local patch is undoubtedly the North Tees Marshes, which are only 5 minutes from his house and an area that he says *"has produced an almost unbelievable array of rare birds over the years"*. His favourite birding site is Hartlepool Headland *"as the seawatching is fantastic and when there is a fall, there is nothing more exciting than peeping into somebody's garden not knowing whether the next bird will be just another Robin or Goldcrest or something much, much better"*.

The optics Colin uses are Swarovski binoculars and a Kowa 'scope with a 20-60x zoom. Although he doesn't profess to be a photographer, he always carries his battered old Sony 20x zoom camcorder on foreign trips and has *"nearly 40 hours of footage of some of the fantastic birds I have been privileged to see"*. For everyday use, Colin's favourite book is *The Collins Bird Guide* but for nostalgic reasons it is still *'The Birds of Britain and Europe (with North Africa and the Middle East)'* by Heinzel, Fitter and Parslow. When asked why, he said: *"As an impressionable youth, I used to dream about Middle Eastern and North African birds, such as Thick-billed Lark, thinking they would be forever out of my reach, but I have been fortunate enough to travel to both Morocco and Israel and have seen many of my dream birds"*. Colin has resisted the temptation of associated hobbies, particularly *"the lure of the dark side, as I can't get enthused over insects"*. He says, however, that *"I enjoy gardening and foreign cookery but my other passions are following the junior league football team my son plays for and movies. I go to the cinema at least once a week and own nearly 1,000 films on DVD"*.

Colin's most impressive birding site is Chilean Patagonia because he loves birding in desolate places *"as it always amazes me how birds manage to survive there. Patagonia is such a place but it has the added advantage of not being hot and dusty and the birds are stunning"*. He finds it difficult to pick his best day's birding in Cleveland but he always enjoys a good seawatch, especially ones late in the year, which involve Little Auks, and *"I have enjoyed more excellent 'falls' of migrants than I can remember. The day that always sticks in my mind is the 12th October 1991 when I was supposed to pick up Elaine, my girlfriend at the time to go and choose an engagement ring but not before I had dashed off to see Cleveland's first Red-eyed Vireo at North Gare. Unfortunately, my car broke down so Elaine not only had to wait for me, she then had to pick me up. After seeing the vireo, I managed to persuade her to take me to South Gare for a Radde's Warbler, back to North Gare for a Shorelark and a Pallas's Warbler and then back to South Gare again for a Black Guillemot. Needless*

to say, the shops were shut by the time we had finished and, as this was before the days of Sunday trading, Elaine had to wait another week for her ring! Despite this, Elaine stuck with me and we have been very happily married for nearly 20 years."

Colin's best personal find in Cleveland was two adult Gull-billed Terns that flew past Hartlepool Headland on 9th May 2006: *"Unfortunately, only I was present to enjoy them but I rang the pager services and others were able to catch up with them at various seawatching points as they flew north. The finds that give me most pleasure are when I find my own Yellow-browed Warbler".* Undoubtedly, one of his biggest birding disappointments was getting the train to Saltburn as a schoolboy only to find that he was a day late for the famous Ivory Gull in early February 1986. The most memorable bird he has seen was his first Great Grey Owl: *"after missing it on a spring trip, we finally saw one on our second visit to Finland, this time in the dead of winter. The bird was hunting in a blizzard in a snow-covered forest clearing close to the Russian border, just how I envisaged seeing one. My first Andean Condor in Chile runs it a close second".* Colin's ambition birds are Brown Fish Owl in the Western Palearctic (he hopes that this will be achieved by the time this Newsletter goes to print) and Steller's Sea Eagle.

Colin remembers his most embarrassing moment well: *"It only seems fair to repay Graeme Joynt for his comments when you profiled him. Unfortunately, we had to share a bed in Arizona and after a very attractive Latino waitress had plied him with extra chips we retired for the night. Graeme was fast asleep but I was still awake when he mumbled something about Hollywood actress Eva Longoria and then tried to cuddle me. It amused me that Graeme could mistake me for Eva but, I must admit, it was more than a little unsettling!!! On a birding note, it would have to be when Graeme spotted a single duck on the sea during a trip to the Scilly Isles and asked me to "check that scoter" as I was the only person with a scope. I thought he said "check if that was a scoter" and I only gave it a cursory glance and confirmed it was. Ten minutes later, somebody looked at it properly and identified it as a female Surf Scoter, oops!"*

On the subject of changes he would like to see concerning birds or birdwatching in the UK, Colin says that he would like to see birders taking their time to learn about birds, their habits and how to identify them: *"Traditional birding seems to be a thing of the past. With the technology available today we seem to have slipped into an 'all the*



Ivory Gull, Saltburn

Ted Parker



Great Grey Owl, Finland

gear no idea' culture, where birders just dive in and everything is just a tick. Very few people take the time to enjoy the birds they are watching. I still get a kick out of hearing a migrant Robin 'ticking' in a bush at Hartlepool after easterly winds on a damp October morning as it means that birds have started to arrive. Knowledge is what should alert birders to good conditions, not the bleep of a pager!"

Regarding the Teesmouth Bird Club, Colin says that joining at the age of 12 gave him the chance to learn about birds in the local area and forge lifelong friendships and was pivotal in his finding his feet as a young birder. *"The Club should also be congratulated on increasing its membership but the lack of younger members is still very worrying. I would also like to see an increase in conservation spending, such as nestbox schemes (Barn Owls, Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, etc) and ringing grants rather than what I consider expensive and unnecessary birthday parties".*

In terms of the local environment, Colin would like to see less habitat destruction and more protection of what we have. He feels that there should be more emphasis on meeting the requirements of passage birds, such as muddy fringes for waders.

In terms of the future, Colin's aspirations are: *"Just to continue enjoying birding and travelling abroad. Some time ago, I decided to try and see*

100 of my favourite bird, the Yellow-browed Warbler, in Cleveland. My total currently stands at 96 so with some favourable winds this autumn, I should reach this goal. I would also like to see greater understanding between the birding communities: birders, photographers and ringers. I'm sure we are all guilty of one or two minor indiscretions in our time but as long as we can all learn to moderate our behaviour and understand what each of us wants from our birding activities then hopefully we can learn to accept each other. Photographers, birders and especially ringers have a lot to offer and often get bad press. This is due to a lack of understanding of their work (ringers) and inconsiderate behaviour from a very small minority (birders and photographers)".

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB – PUBLICATIONS

The current prices of TBC publications is provided by our Sales and Archives Officer, John Fletcher.

'Birdwatchers of Teesmouth 1600 to 1960' **£2.50** (plus £1.00 p. & p.).

'Teesmouth Bird Reports 1958-1973' on CD **£5.00**

'Birds of Tees-side 1962-67' by Phil Stead **£5.00**

'Birds of Tees-side 1968-1973' by Martin Blick **£5.00**

'Cleveland Bird Reports' prices as follows:

1974 to 2004: **£3.00 each** where available (out of print are 1974, 1976, 1978 to 1987 on a CD) Plus £1.00 for p.& p. per copy.

2005: Special Offer **£1.00 each** (plus £1.00 p.& p.).

2006 to 2009: **£5.00 each** (plus £1.00 p.& p. per copy).

2010: **£7.50 each** (plus £1.00 for p.& p. per copy).

Barn Owl at RSPB Saltholme A3-sized Limited Edition Print: **£5.00 each (buy one get one FREE).**

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. A **BIG DISCOUNT on orders over £20.00** (this does not apply to *"The Breeding Birds of Cleveland"*)

John Fletcher

Email: j.fletcher666@btinternet.com

Tel: 01642 818825

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH SPRING 2012 SUMMARY

Overall coverage was nearly 99%, with all but one of 81 sector counts undertaken over the three months.

It is probably safe to say that there were no wildfowl highlights this spring. For both shelduck (269, April) and coot (232, June), this was the worst performance since 1998, while for mallard (168, April) it was the lowest spring peak since 1995. Shoveler (20, April) endured a second poor spring in succession, while little grebe (11, April) plumbed new depths

Happily, at least some of the waders fared better. Oystercatcher (467, April) produced its best spring maximum for five years, and avocet (58, April) set a new Tees WeBS record (though sadly this was not matched by breeding success). An excellent though typically short-lived ringed plover passage in May (449) was our best since 1998. Purple sandpiper scored well too (79, April), the highest spring tally since 2005, and better than any achieved last winter. Similarly, the bar-tailed godwit peak (59, April) was the species' best seasonal return since 2003.

On the debit side the lapwing maximum (130, April) was our worst for a decade, sanderling (130, April) and dunlin (79, May) both remained unusually scarce, and black-tailed godwits (3, April and May) went virtually unrecorded by WeBS. Curlew (200, June) put in a below average performance, while that of redshank (186, April) was as disappointing as last spring.

Tern numbers were unremarkable. This was the first spring that not a single little tern was recorded by WeBS on the Tees Estuary.

Following this series of counts, sanderling retains its nationally important status in spring.

Mike Leakey

Local Organizer
Tees Wetland Bird Survey

June 2012

Table of monthly maxima on next page

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH - SPRING 2012 SUMMARY

Species	April 22	May 20	June 17
Little Grebe	<u>11</u>	5	10
Great Crested Grebe	25	27	<u>32</u>
Cormorant	61	<u>70</u>	64
Mute Swan	35	39	<u>71</u>
Shelduck	<u>269</u>	160	184
Gadwall	125*	80	<u>126</u> *
Teal	<u>175</u>	3	10
Mallard	<u>168</u>	142	155
Shoveler	<u>20</u>	13	18
Pochard	<u>76</u>	36	68
Tufted Duck	<u>168</u>	119	116
Eider	3	6	<u>25</u>
Coot	172	120	<u>232</u>
Oystercatcher	<u>467</u>	210	282
Avocet	<u>58</u> *	41*	32
Ringed Plover	14	<u>449</u> **	18
Golden Plover	<u>12</u>	0	0
Grey Plover	<u>10</u>	0	0
Lapwing	<u>130</u>	84	110
Knot	<u>34</u>	0	0
Sanderling	<u>130</u> *	1	0
Purple Sandpiper	<u>79</u> *	0	0
Dunlin	7	<u>79</u>	1
Ruff	<u>1</u>	0	0
Snipe	<u>8</u>	1	0
Black-tailed Godwit	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	<u>59</u>	0	0
Curlew	102	195	<u>200</u>
Redshank	<u>186</u>	12	16
Turnstone	<u>72</u>	6	2
Sandwich Tern	0	0	<u>7</u>
Common Tern	0	312	<u>411</u>
Little Tern	0	0	0

Underlined counts indicate Spring 2011 maxima.

* Denotes count of >50% of national significance for that species

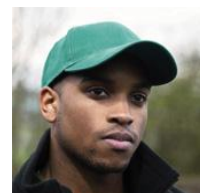
** Denotes count of national significance for that species

NB 'Teesmouth' includes Hartlepool Bay and the RSPB Salholme Reserve

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

TBC EMBROIDERED CLOTHING FORM

<u>Item Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>
	<u>S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL</u>		
KII Crew Neck Sweatshirt Navy Blue			£22.50
KII Crew Neck Sweatshirt Bottle Green			£22.50
KII Crew Neck Sweatshirt Black			£22.50
	<u>S, M, L, XL, XXL</u>		
Trojan Mens Polo Shirt Navy Blue			£18.00
Trojan Mens Polo Shirt Bottle Green			£18.00
Trojan Mens Polo Shirt Black			£18.00
	<u>Sizes 8 to 26</u>		
Trojan Ladies Polo Shirt Navy Blue			£18.00
Trojan Ladies Polo Shirt Bottle Green			£18.00
Trojan Ladies Polo Shirt Black			£18.00
	<u>S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL</u>		
EII Glacier Fleece Unisex Navy Blue			£45.00
EII Glacier Fleece Unisex Bottle Green			£45.00
EII Glacier Fleece Unisex Black			£45.00
	<u>One Size Fits All</u>		
Acrylic Watch Cap Navy Blue			£7.70
Acrylic Watch Cap Black			£7.70
	<u>One Size Fits All</u>		
Baseball Cap Navy Blue			£9.50
Baseball Cap Black			£9.50
Baseball Cap Green			£9.50



SIZING GUIDE

<u>Size</u>	<u>Chest</u>
S	34-36"
M	38-40"
L	42-44"
XL	46-48"
XXL	50-52"
XXXL	54-56"

Member's name

Contact telephone

Delivery address

.....

.....

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Post Code

Return to Julie Mason, 11 Redmire Road, Grangefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 4JR