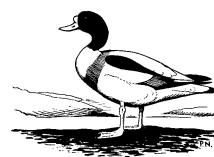


Teesmouth Bird Club Newsletter

December 2012 (No. 53)



Reg. Charity 508850

CONTENTS

Monthly Summaries	1
Heugh sea-watching observatory	8
Nearly to do with birding	10
TBC House Martin survey	11
Reports on local outings	11
Local outings (January to April)	12
Club trip to Northumberland	13
Site guide : Hutton Lowcross	13
Blast from the Past	16
Profile : Keith Ryan	17
Obituary : Mike Corner	19
Wetland Bird Survey – Autumn 2012	20
TBC Clothing order form	22
TBC Publications	23
TBC Subscriptions	24

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



Ian Forrest

*What happened to them?
See page 11*

MONTHLY SUMMARIES

Chris Sharp reviews the autumn sightings, which, though not being an outstanding migration season, did include some excitement.

JULY 2012

Early in the month several Quails continued to call in the Kirklevington area. A Red Kite was over Lovell Hill on 1st and two Roseate Terns flew over Saltholme Marsh on 2nd. The numbers of Common Terns breeding here were well down on previous years: unfortunately Black-headed Gulls have taken over much of their breeding habitat. Up to five Little Gulls were around Greatham Creek and one to two Marsh Harriers were



Common Terns, Seaton Snook

Tim Robinson



Black-headed Gull and Common Tern chick, Saline Lagoon

Eric James



Marsh Harrier, Dorman's Pool

Tim Robinson



Greenshank, Saltholme

Tim Robinson



Scaup, Saltholme

Martyn Sidwell

present on the North Tees Marshes. As usual, the number of passage waders built up early in the month but with the lack of muddy edges numbers were lower than hoped. Greenshanks were the exception to the rule, with birds being recorded daily. Spotted Redshanks continued their recent decline, with just a couple of birds around Greatham Creek early in the month.

Another Red Kite was over Pinchinthorpe on 8th and a dead bird was found at Redcar on 13th. The re-introduction scheme has led to a recent upsurge in records but none have been twitchable and a lingering bird would be much appreciated. A Red-crested Pochard at Saltholme Pools from 11th stayed into August and a drake Scaup was also here from 14th. Scarce waders in mid-month

were represented by a Temminck's Stint on the Long Drag and a Pectoral Sandpiper on the Tidal Pool. Sea passage off Hartlepool on 19th included a summer-plumaged Great Northern Diver, 62 Manx Shearwaters and a single Pomarine Skua. The first Sooty Shearwater of the autumn was recorded the following day.

A quiet spell followed. Wader passage continued, with Black-tailed Godwit being the most notable species. Up to 100 were in the Saltholme area. Three Scaup were on Saltholme Pool on 26th and the adult Mediterranean Gull returned to its favourite lamp stand at Newburn on 27th. A Yellow-legged Gull was at Scaling Dam on 28th.

The year's second White-winged Black Tern was at Saltholme Pool on 30th and was present into early August. Two adult Roseate Terns were on Seaton Snook on the last day of the month and 98 Whimbrels flew over here on this date.

AUGUST 2012

Passage waders continued to be reported in the first ten days of the month. Up to three Wood Sandpipers showed well at the Phil Stead Hide, with several others scattered over the North Tees Marshes. A Little Stint was on the Tidal Pool at this time and Roseate Terns were also seen sporadically on Seaton Snook. One or two Green Sandpipers were also recorded.



Wood Sandpiper, Saltholme

Ray Scott



Green Sandpiper, Saltholme

Ray Scott

Short-eared Owls were in evidence in the Greatham Creek area and up to five were present, suggesting local breeding. The roosting flock of Little Egrets at the Tidal Pool was lower than in recent years, with a maximum count of 21.

A Pied Flycatcher was in a Seaton Carew garden on 14th. It was to prove another poor autumn for this species in Cleveland. An Osprey was at Lockwood Beck from 14th and was joined by a second bird during its stay. A Black Tern at Saltholme on 14th remained for a week and good numbers of Black-tailed Godwits continued to be reported mid-month. Ruff numbers were well down in recent years, with most days recording just single figure counts. A Broad-billed Sandpiper was a good find amongst the roosting waders at Seaton Snook on 21st. Cleveland is one of the best areas to see this species and this year's bird was the 17th record. The Snook was also popular with terns at this time, with up to four Black and two Roseate present amongst the large numbers of the commoner species. Several Garganeys were seen daily from the Phil Stead Hide and a Bittern was here on 23rd. Two Curlew Sandpipers were on Port Clarence Flood on 24th but, as with Little Stint, it proved to be another poor autumn for this once common autumn passage wader.



Little Grebe, Saltholme

Ray Scott



Little Gull, Saltholme

Ian Forrest



Black Tern, Saltholme

Ian Forrest



Osprey, Lockwood Beck

Martyn Sidwell



Barred Warbler, South Gare

Martyn Sidwell

The wind swung round to the north on 15th, when Two Long-tailed Skuas were off South Gare and two Pomarine Skuas off Hartlepool. An adult Sabine's Gull sat on the sea off Hartlepool. A small fall of migrants also occurred, including Pied Flycatcher, Black Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat at Boulby. A Barred Warbler gave excellent views at Hartlepool but a Wryneck there only showed to the initial observers.

The following day a Sabine's Gull was off Cowbar and two Pomarine Skuas and a Sooty Shearwater were off Hartlepool. A Barred Warbler showed well at South Gare, this latter bird remaining until early September. A third Barred Warbler was at Hummersea on 27th. The same day saw a Great Shearwater reported off Hartlepool.



Reed Warbler, Saltholme

Martyn Sidwell



Black-necked Grebe, Saltholme

Ray Scott



Corncrake, Headland

Graeme Joynt

A Spoonbill was around Saltholme from 28th until the month's end. The last day of the month produced a Corncrake on Hartlepool Headland. Stunning views were had of this bird as it fed in a tiny front garden surrounded by a palisade. It was the first Headland record since 1985.

SEPTEMBER 2012

A Red-crested Pochard was still at Saltholme Pools on 1st. Two Black-necked Grebes were also present here and remained until 10th. A Honey Buzzard was over Lockwood Beck on 2nd and an adult Sabine's Gull lingered off Hartlepool on 5th. The same date saw a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper on Seaton Snook. This bird was identified from photographs on the Club's website, having been posted as a Sanderling. One suspects future rarities may also be 'found' this way. The Baird's remained for several days and was occasionally seen roosting with other waders at Newburn.

A Black-throated Diver was off Parton Rocks on 7th and two Long-tailed and a single Pomarine Skua flew past the Headland, along with a 'large' shearwater on 8th. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme and the first Pink-footed Geese of the autumn were over Skelton. Forty-eight Barnacle Geese at Saltholme from 12th were presumably the feral flock from North Yorkshire.



Baird's Sandpiper, Seaton Snook

Ray Scott



Cuckoo, Zinc Works Road

Martyn Sidwell

Another Sabine's Gull and three Long-tailed Skuas were off Hartlepool on the same day. A Pectoral Sandpiper showed well on Seaton Common on 14th and two more Sabine's Gulls were off Hartlepool on 15th, along with a Black Tern. A Great Northern Diver flew past Skinningrove on 18th.

The autumn's best sea-watching day took place on 21st in a northerly airflow, when 17 Long-tailed Skuas, 73 Bonxies, Black Guillemot, Grey Phalarope, Sabine's Gull and two Sooty Shearwaters were recorded. It was another poor autumn for this latter species with only about 12 birds seen in total during the year. The following day, another Black Guillemot flew past, along with



Red-breasted Flycatcher, Zinc Works Road

Ian Forrest



Redstart, Headland

Ian Forrest

two Sabine's Gulls and 17 Pale-bellied Brent Geese.

Good numbers of passerine migrants were at the coast from 23rd. The first Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn was at Hartlepool on this date and the following day saw a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Zinc Works Road. Another Red-breasted Flycatcher was at South Gare, along with an elusive Little Bunting. Most notable of the commoner species were Redstarts and Siskins. Two Leach's Petrels flew past Hartlepool on this date.

Migrants continued to be reported at the coastal stations over the next few days. A Red-breasted Flycatcher was at Hunley Hall Golf Course on 26th and several Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded including one on Coatham Marsh, Redcar. However, these were all eclipsed by a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, which was present at Old Cemetery Road, Hartlepool on 26th. It was only seen for about an hour by four observers and was the first Cleveland record of this skulking *Locustella*. Remarkably, another was trapped at Whitburn the same afternoon.

The flooded practice ground at Seaton Golf Club proved attractive to waders. Four Little Stints were present on 26th and they were joined by a Pectoral Sandpiper the following day. Flocks of 28 and 34 Barnacle Geese that flew south over

Zinc Works Road on this date were probably the first 'genuine' migrants of the autumn.

Visible migration was evident on 28th with 87 Redpolls over North Gare and 440 Pink-footed Geese were also over North Gare on this date. A Yellow-legged Gull was on Crookfoot on 29th. A Wood Sandpiper was at RSPB Saltholme and an elusive Wryneck was at Dormans Pool on 30th.

OCTOBER 2012

Often one of the most exciting months of the year, October 2012 proved to be somewhat of a disappointment. The first day of the month saw a late Osprey and three Whooper Swans over the café at RSPB Saltholme. A Green Woodpecker was on the reserve on 3rd and up to three Marsh Harriers were still on the North Tees Marshes during the month.

A large passage of auks off Skinningrove on 5th consisted of 110 Puffins and 2,200 'large' auks. All the identifiable larger auks were Razorbills. An influx of Jays into the country occurred in the early days of the month. Cleveland saw only small numbers but 23 were over Whinney Banks, Middlesbrough on 6th and several were reported from the North Tees Marshes. Both Wood and Common Sandpipers were at Greatham Creek on 7th and Bitterns were seen at Dorman's Pool, Phil



Jay, Saltholme

Tim Robinson



Water Rail, Saltholme

Ian Forrest

Stead Hide and Greenabella Marsh between 6th and 8th suggesting a small movement.

A late Cory's Shearwater was off Skinningrove on 9th and was accompanied by two Sabine's and 60 Little Gulls. After two poor autumns numbers of Sabine's Gulls in 2012 were back to form.

Two Greenshanks were on Greenabella Marsh and up to three Barn Owls could also be seen here, often during the middle of the day. A Common Buzzard and one or two Marsh Harriers were also present. A late Yellow Wagtail was at South Gare on 12th and four Snow Buntings were at Old Cemetery Road from 12th. A Black-throated Diver and two Long-tailed Ducks flew past Hartlepool on this day. A male Hen Harrier flew south here



Goldcrest, Headland

Ian Forest



Fieldfare, Headland

Ray Scott



Merlin, Seaton Common

Tim Robinson



Siskin, South Gare

Renton Charman



Redpoll, Scaling Dam

Tom Keetley

the following day and 590 Little Gulls flew past Skinningrove.

Mid-month was exceptionally quiet. Two Brent Geese were on Seaton Snook on 17th and two Whooper Swans flew past South Gare on 20th. The wintering Twite flock returned on 21st with 33 on Seaton Snook. A Rough-legged Buzzard was at Sleddale on this day and good numbers of Common Buzzards were also present here at this time.

Ideal fall conditions occurred from 22nd. Easterly winds and mist over several days saw large numbers of Goldcrests at the coast: 88 were trapped at Hartlepool alone on this day, suggesting that many hundreds of birds were



Little Auks, Headland

Ian Forrest



Common Scoter, Headland

Ian Forrest

involved. Redwings and Fieldfares were also evident in large numbers. A Dusky Warbler was seen briefly at Hartlepool but a Red-breasted Flycatcher here proved more obliging. Birds at South Gare included Ring Ouzel, Black Redstart and five Woodcocks. The second Little Bunting of the autumn was also here the following day and proved to be as equally elusive as the first. Yellow-browed Warblers were at Hunt Cliff and at New Marske. A Richard's Pipit was at Hartlepool Golf Course, with another on Brotton Golf Course on 25th.

Several herds of Whooper Swans passed through Cleveland at this time: 34 were over RSPB Saltholme on 25th and 13 were on Dorman's Pool the following day.

A northerly blast on 26th produced six Bonxies, Long-tailed Duck and two Little Auks. Numbers of the latter species increased over the next couple of days, with 128 off Hunt Cliff on 28th and similar numbers were off Hartlepool. A few Waxwings were also reported at this time, with small numbers seen at RSPB Saltholme.

All in all autumn 2012 would not go down as a classic. Only a couple of migrant falls took place and even these, apart from the 'PG Tips', produced few scarce migrants.



Kestrels fighting by Phil Stead hide, Saltholme

Tim Robinson

THE HARTLEPOOL HEUGH SEABIRD OBSERVATORY – THE STORY SO FAR

Alistair McLee reviews the complex and frustrating process involved to date in the Club's attempt to build a new sea-watching observatory at Hartlepool Headland.

Although some sea-watching had taken place from the old band site along the sea wall north of the lighthouse, the favoured location was the old observation post in the Heugh battery. This concrete pillbox, with its narrow longitudinal viewing aperture, had the luxury of a roof and secure door. The club fitted metal shutters on the window and a form of tiered seating was knocked up to enable as many as possible to be seated. It was adequate most of the time for many of the huddled birders. The Club latterly had a lease agreement with Hartlepool Borough Council for the princely sum of £10 a year and occupied the building for over 50 years.

This state of affairs would, doubtless have continued but the Heugh Gun Battery Trust charity formed as a local historic war museum. The Trust was successful in attracting a Heritage Lottery grant of some £230,000 to set up the present museum on the Headland Heugh Gun Battery site - encompassing of course our 'obs'. Early on there had been talk of the Club's continued use of the lookout but that was all it was – talk. So for seven years displaced sea watchers have had to stand outside in the elements seeking what shelter they could depending on wind direction.

In 2009, PD Ports, which owns the lighthouse, foghorn and associated land in the enclosure located a few yards south of the Heugh Gun Battery, offered the Club a site for a new observatory on the site in front of the old foghorn building. This was a huge step forward and, with a suitable secure site earmarked, the next steps were to come up with a functional design that would be acceptable to the strict Planning and architectural constraints for this designated Conservation Area and to raise money to build an observatory. A Brief and Tender Documents were prepared and regional architectural firms invited to submit competitive bids to undertake a feasibility study. The winning tender of £6,480 was submitted by Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Associates, the same firm that designed the superb Visitor Centre at RSPB Saltholme. The outcome of the Feasibility Study was a broadly costed design for a fantastic new sea-watching observatory and a feasibility report, which were endorsed by Hartlepool Borough Council. The comprehensive report included a topographical survey of the site, the location of utilities (gas, water, electricity, etc), three costed design



Original design of observatory

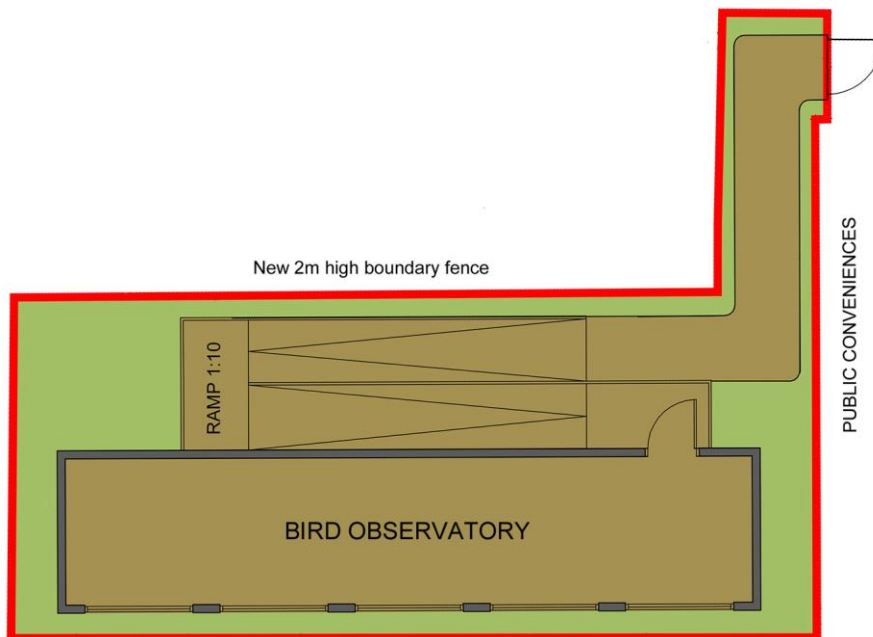
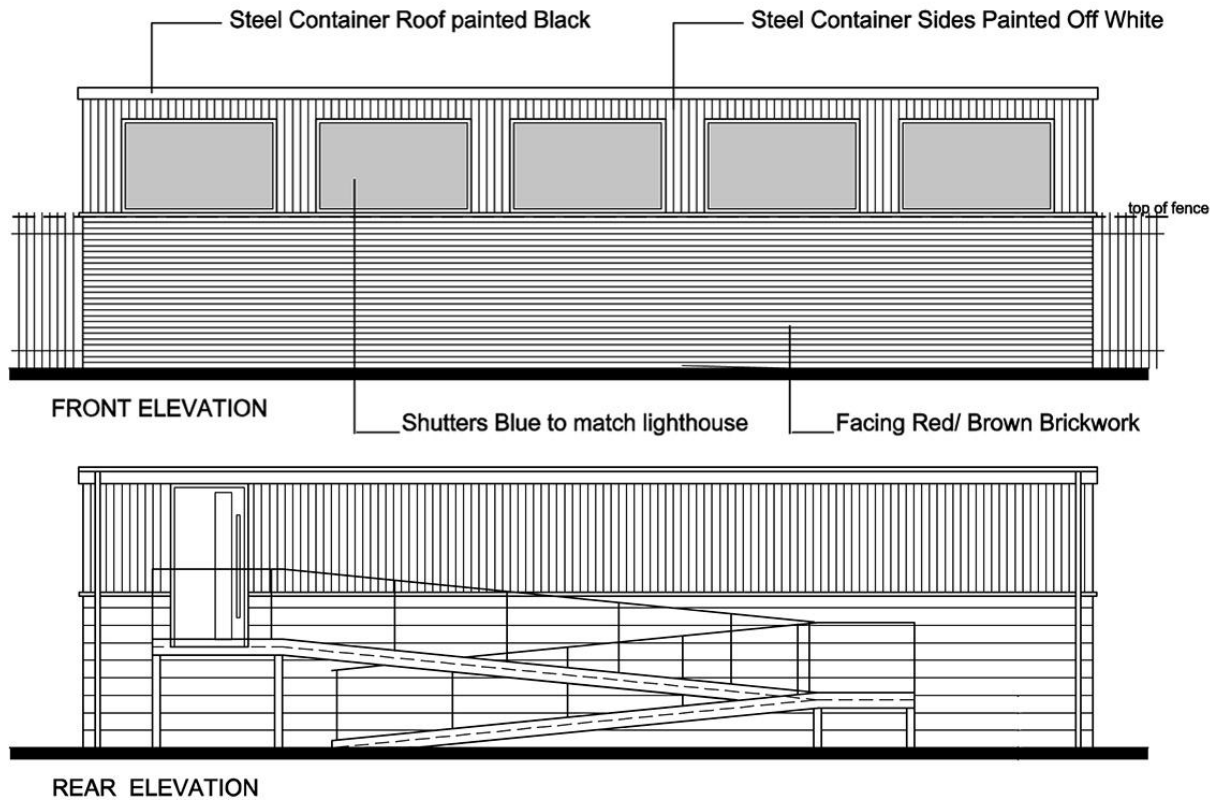
options based on different construction methods and materials and the inputs of a structural engineer and quantity surveyor. It demonstrated the Club's professionalism and commitment when making funding applications to grant-awarding bodies and the project could not have proceeded without it.

The budget cost of the structure favoured by the Trustees was estimated by our consultants to be £270,000: the Trustees approved the most durable and maintenance-free option proposed based on fibre glass, which was also the most expensive. Armed with the Feasibility Report, the Club sought funding. To attract as large a grant as was required, the only serious sources were the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Landfill Tax Credit. Regarding the latter, large grants had then become almost impossible to secure due to funds being greatly reduced by much less waste going to landfill. The requirements attached to HLF were stringent and would have required the Observatory to become a community, rather than a Club, facility: indeed, there had to be a lasting community involvement and educational element, which would entail opening to the public and schools on a regular basis. Failure to honour this requirement would mean the Club's trustees being liable to refund the entire sum. Other sources were sought, including local grants, but these were insufficient and also had operational constraints in that the project suffered from being a 'Club facility'. On top of all this, the applicant had to provide significant match funding as part of the funding agreements.

About this time, the design, cost and practicability of the Phil Stead Hide was emerging and this begged the question that a similar design might be utilised for the Observatory. A seawatchers' user group was convened and a notional design, based on more and wider opening windows emerged, which was capable of being fabricated. The Club could fund such a structure entirely from its own resources, with the cost having reduced to £25,000-£30,000. However, the ever-present problem of architectural acceptability to

Hartlepool Planning Department remained. Architectural design input was required and the Club obtained this service free, via Teesside Professional Services Group and Viva's list of

professional companies. The more functional design placed constraints on the actual shape and profile of the Observatory and no suitable design or cosmetic finish was acceptable to Hartlepool



Elevation and plan views of the new design of observatory

Planning when the Club's planning application was submitted. Without the support of the Local Planning Department, it was pointless to proceed further to Planning Committee and our Application was withdrawn. A subsequent meeting with the Planners was convened to discuss an acceptable design and this has now been drawn up and will eventually be aired with the Planning and Conservation Departments in the near future.

Meanwhile, as part of the Planning Application process, it emerged that PD Ports did not own all of the site which we required and the area containing the redundant radio mast and low brick building had actually been sold to the Coastguard in the past. This came as a bombshell and only came to light late in the project life cycle when it was too late to respond. When the Club started dialogue over the matter of leasing this segment of the site, it emerged even further that the entire required site was actually owned by the Coastguard. Furthermore, they were about to sell this, along with several others around the coast, by auction in London. Unfortunately, they were not amenable to a proposal of a negotiated private sale to the Club. The outcome of all this was that the lot was sold at auction in London for a sum of £20,000 to an unknown bidder. The Club attended the auction just in case the unattractiveness of the location was fully appreciated by bidders and it could be bought for a small sum but this was not to be.

So what next? The new owner will want some return on his/her investment and do something with the site. Given the Planning constraints on the area as a whole, plus the fact that the site itself has no vehicular access, with PD Ports on two sides and Hartlepool Borough Council-owned land on the other two, it is difficult to conceive what development options are possible. This, together with liabilities of insurance, the mast itself and overall security problems must surely mean that the site will come on the market again. Whether it is auctioned off outside the area to be bought by yet another naive, speculative buyer or sold locally and at a realistic price, is at the moment a speculation too far.

It is important to point out that this whole process has involved a huge amount of work by a number of members of the Club who have strived tirelessly to make the project become a reality, involving hundreds of hours of time in attending meetings, writing Briefs, liaising with consultants, reviewing designs and preparing Planning Application documents. As can be imagined, they are as disappointed as anyone that the project has stalled for the time being due to

circumstances beyond the Club's control but every effort will be made to continue efforts towards the Club's goal of having a new sea-watching observatory at Hartlepool in the foreseeable future. The Trustees will keep members informed of any future developments.

NEARLY TO DO WITH BIRDING

Having been the executor of two estates – one with and one without a will to dictate my duties, I consider myself competent to make the following remarks and suggestions.

The big "meaty" components of an estate are usually the property, savings and investments and life insurance policies. These are easy to define and clearly set out in the will. More problematic is the "odds 'n 'sods" category involving a vehicle, books, photographs, memorabilia of the deceased, jewellery, clothing and personal items. If you, as an executor, are lucky their recipients may be already be set out in the will itself and any items which are not so defined should be amicably shared out amongst the family and friends. What is left undesignated becomes the problem and the need to sell the property and apply for probate is pressing, and by now you are keen to have the whole business resolved. At this point the temptation to take the items to the deceased's, or your, favourite charity shop or Ebay becomes an attractive solution.

Now we get to the "nearly birding" piece of this diatribe. The deceased may have been obliged to hang up his optical kit for ever but has forgotten to make provision for its destination in their will. Unless there is an obvious and appreciative birder in the family or circle of close friends to whom the executor can present the kit, why not eliminate the problem and formally bequeath it to your bird club to sell for club funds? After all, what organisation is better placed to know the second hand value of the goods and use the money for birds and birding in the area.

So I want to leave you with two messages: first, make sure you create a will and not join the 70% of the population who fail to do this. Not making a will, will not prevent your death – sorry. Secondly, please remember your bird club in your will, either in monetary terms or by bequeathing your optical kit.

Thank you.

Ali McLee

TBC HOUSE MARTIN SURVEY 2012

We were hoping for some interesting results from this survey and we have not been disappointed, in fact the results are perhaps more interesting than we wanted!

The survey covered nearly a third of the tetrads that had been found to hold House Martins during the Cleveland County Breeding Bird Survey and, although we would have liked more, this total should have been enough to detect any significant population trends. Most tetrads were covered by the people who had done the original CBBS work and who knew the distribution of House Martins in their chosen areas. With this knowledge, it quickly became clear that in the majority of tetrads the martins not only arrived late but were in very much reduced numbers. This situation was obvious enough to be commented on by observers not involved in the survey and also by members of the public living in martin breeding locations. If this drop represented a genuine trend in the breeding population, then it would be a serious reflection on the species' status. It seems more likely that the birds were hit by bad weather. April was colder and wetter than average and this could have affected migrating birds. Summer was no better with June and July having lower than average temperatures and sunshine but higher than average rainfall, June in England and Wales equalling the previous wettest June for the period from 1766.

2012 might prove to be a one-off event, but it means that it is impossible to use the survey results to detect any underlying trends in our local House Martin population. Anyone fancy repeating the survey next year?

A more detailed summary of the results will be published in the 2012 Annual Bird Report. In the meantime, please send in survey results if you have not done so already.

Eric James



REPORTS ON LOCAL OUTINGS

We are grateful for the time volunteers give up to lead 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 to lead an outing!

HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND

Saturday 25th August 2012

An impressive 25 or so members and visitors turned out on a dismal morning, with heavy rain, for a sea watch off Heugh Lighthouse at Hartlepool Headland with Chris Sharp, Don Page and myself. The rain eventually tailed off, making conditions more conducive and the light north/northeasterly breeze was at least coming from the right direction for once! The most notable birds seen during the three-hour watch were two Velvet Scoters, a Manx Shearwater, two Red-throated Divers, 29 Arctic and two Pomarine Skuas (the latter were smart adults, one having full 'spoons') and two Bonxies. Unfortunately, the assembled group disbanded to search for a Wryneck at the Bowling Green and whilst absent, the only two Pomarine Skuas and Bonxies of the day flew past, these being seen only by the three leaders! The supporting cast included a steady passage of over 300 Gannets, 110 Fulmars, 100 or so Kittiwakes and 135 Sandwich and 47 Common Terns. A few waders were also heading south, including 62 Knot, 15 Ringed Plovers and a Grey Plover. The sea watch was suspended for about half an hour when an unusually showy Barred Warbler was found by the tennis courts and it gave good views for most of the afternoon. This was an enjoyable morning and gave some members who live inland a chance to catch up with a number of 'lifers'.

Ted Parker

COWBAR AND BOULBY

Saturday 15th September 2012

The small crowd of twelve assembled at Cowbar car park at 10 a.m. (well mostly!) and headed off to nearby stubble fields, albeit with hopes not too high amidst a run of mainly south-westerly winds. The fields were sadly empty, but a few birds of prey were soon found in the area including a couple of Peregrines, two young Kestrels and distant Buzzards over the inland valley sides. The Kestrels briefly entertained at one point by locking talons and tumbling through the air in youthful enthusiasm. Evidence of migration was soon at hand as a small flock of Lapwing were seen coming in off the sea and good numbers of Swallows and House Martins had gathered in the area. We then paid a brief visit to one of the cliff nesting House Martin colonies which still had



plenty of birds in attendance before making our way to Boulby. A steady circuit of the gardens produced a couple of Chiffchaffs, a much appreciated Black Redstart, several Stonechats and a Whitethroat, whilst the Peregrines continued to perform over the cliffs. To end the morning a few of us then paid a brief visit to fields near the Boulby

Ian Kendall

COATHAM STOB AND BURN WOOD

Sunday 7th October 2012



On Sunday 7th October, 16 members joined me on a perfect sunny, warm and windless autumn day to explore this emerging piece of habitat which is described in the 'Locations' section of the Club's website. It was decided to concentrate the walk around the site's edge and the established areas along the beck. An earlier visit by myself has found these areas to be best for migrant Redpoll, Siskin, acorn-gathering Jays and Marsh Tit - not so on the day itself, however.

The only species to be seen which could be called a migrant was a single Willow Warbler and as for finches, the best which could be seen or at least heard, were Goldfinch, Bullfinch and Chaffinch. It has been my general perception this autumn that tit flocks are either scarce or few in number. On the day, this was also the case but a pair of calling and self-presenting Willow Tits was a most welcome bonus, given the scarcity of this species.

The local Green Woodpecker, in its usual location along the stream side, did not let me down but it was heard and not seen. The bird gave its more unusual cackling call that was unfamiliar to some on the walk. The local Common Buzzard has the decency to present itself in soaring mode despite the attention of a couple of Carrion Crows bent on making a nuisance of themselves. Although very wet underfoot and the general scarcity of species seen, I hope the walk showed members areas they had not already visited and I was able to point out areas west to be watched in summer for hunting Long-eared Owls and raptor watching on a bright spring morning. Except when a rarity, like the Great Grey Shrike turns up, the area is greatly under-watched.

Ali McLee

LOCAL OUTINGS

HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND

Saturday 19th January 2013

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

Leader: Chris Sharp Tel: 01429 865163

PORTRACK MARSH

Saturday 16th February 2013

Join Gary Sharples for a walk around TVWT Portrack Marsh Nature Reserve where a good variety of wintering birds should be present. There have been some new earthworks done by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to improve the variety of habitats available for birds. Meet at 9.30 a.m. in the car park near the Talpore Public House.

Leader: Gary Sharples

SLEDDALE

Saturday 30th March 2013

Join Ted Parker and Don Page for a raptor watch at Sleddale. Weather depending, this should produce Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine and Kestrel, while there is always the chance of Merlin, a migratory Osprey, Goshawk and Hen Harrier. Meet at the 'chevrons' on the Kildale to Comondale road at 9.30 a.m. This outing is entirely weather dependent and may be cancelled at short notice if bad weather is forecast.

Leaders: Ted Parker (01642 275369) and **Don Page**.

FLATTS LANE

Tuesday 30th April 2013

Join Geoff Myers for good selection of summer visitors which should be seen and heard, with a variety of warblers being the main target. Meet at Flatts Lane Visitor Centre car park at 8.30 a.m.

Leader: Geoff Myers (Tel 01642 461850).

TBC COACH TRIP TO NORTHUMBERLAND

Sunday 3rd February 2013

On the trip, members can expect to see a good range of wildfowl, grebes, divers and other birds. Lindisfarne has a healthy population of Pale-bellied Brent Geese, with Whooper Swan, Long-tailed Duck and Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes all being possible. There is always a good chance of raptors, such as a Peregrine, Merlin or even a Hen Harrier and the whole day should be enjoyable and bird-filled.

The 33-seater coach will collect members at the following pickup points:

Middlesbrough (Dorman's Museum) 08:00

Stockton High Street (ex-Swallow Hotel) 08:15

Hartlepool (M&S Car Park) 08:30

The cost will be £14.00 and a packed lunch will be required.

TO BOOK A PLACE, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN TODD AND SEND A £5 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT:

Email: johntodd@tiscali.co.uk

Tel: 07810 347333

Address: 1 Henry Street, Seaham, Co Durham

Please make cheques payable to 'Teesmouth Bird Club'.



Shag, Bamburgh

SITE GUIDE - HUTTON LOWCROSS AND HUTTON VILLAGE

Ted Parker describes this scenic area on the edge of Guisborough, which, until recently, was the location for two of Cleveland's rarest birds.

BACKGROUND

Hutton Lowcross lies on the southwest fringe of Guisborough and is a very scenic area of forested hills, deciduous and coniferous woodlands, pasture, parkland, copses and hedgerows. There are also houses with large, mature gardens. In the recent past, it was the most reliable site in Cleveland for two of its rarest birds – Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Hawfinch, which may still be present but haven't been seen in recent years. The parkland and mixed woodlands between Sandwood Park and Hutton Village hold a good range of breeding birds, which include Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Jay, Siskin and Common Crossbill. During early spring, Goshawks can occasionally be seen over the wooded ridges above Hutton Village, along with other more common raptors such as Sparrowhawk and Kestrel. There is access to the whole area both by road and by public footpaths and bridleways, and it is well worth a visit at any time of the year.

ACCESS, LOCATION AND STRATEGY

Hutton Village is accessed from Hutton Village Road, which begins at the junction of The Avenue and Hutton Lane, just off the sharp left hand bend where the two roads meet. Park at Sandwood Park and begin your exploration of the area from here, starting with the wooded embankment of the old railway immediately bordering the road. This was a reliable location for Hawfinch in the recent past. The surrounding well-treed, mature gardens hold good numbers of woodland and parkland birds, especially in autumn and winter. Check the beck near the junction of Sandwood Park and Hutton Village Road: this held a wintering Dipper in 2009.

Returning to Hutton Village Road, check the mature trees on the old railway embankment and in the 'triangle' bordering the track leading to Hutton Hall Lodge. This used to be another reliable Hawfinch location. The surrounding fields, pastures and mature trees are good for woodpeckers and Nuthatch. Just before the 'triangle', a track leads off to the left to Pease Close and this borders mature gardens with fine mature trees on one side and pasture and a copse on the other. This was the key location for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in the recent past, when it could be heard calling or, if you were lucky, seen



feeding in the canopy or flying from one tree to another. Sadly, this highly elusive species in Cleveland hasn't been seen at Hutton since 2005.

Return to Hutton Village Road and walk up towards the village, past the entrance to Home Farm, now developed for new housing. A good scan of the pastures, hedgerows and woodland edges on each side of the road should produce a good range of woodland and parkland species. This area is particularly good for winter thrushes. Continue up the road to the track that leads off to the left to the old schoolhouse. Walk down the track and check the yew trees near the schoolhouse: this was **the** place for wintering Hawfinch, where up to five birds could be seen feeding on the berries and cones. Sadly, none has been seen here since 2009. Continue down the track and past the intriguing timber house to the stile bordering open pasture, scanning the mature trees and open parkland beyond. This is an excellent location for Green Woodpecker, Treecreeper and Nuthatch.

Return to Hutton Village Road and continue up to the village. The yew trees at the 'triangle' near the top of the village was also another reliable site for wintering Hawfinch, so it is always worth checking these just in case! The woodland fringes bordering the village hold a very good range of birds and don't forget to scan the ridges above for raptors, notably Common Buzzard, Goshawk and Sparrowhawk. A gated bridleway at the end of the village leads into Guisborough

Forest, which has been covered in a previous Site Guide.

Retrace your route back to your car. This itinerary can easily be covered in half a day but a longer exploration may well produce a wider range of birds.

BIRDS

The best times to visit this area are spring, autumn and winter, although it is worth a visit at any time, due to the wide range of habitats.

Birds of prey, such as Common Buzzard, Goshawk and Sparrowhawk, are best looked for over the wooded ridges above Hutton Village in early spring when they are displaying or in late summer and autumn when young birds are on the wing. Kestrel is regular and there is always the chance of a migrant Hobby if you are very lucky. Woodpeckers can be seen anywhere along the route and Great Spotted is almost guaranteed. Green Woodpecker is much scarcer and is best looked for in the open parkland around the old schoolhouse and fields beyond the timber house, where it can occasionally be heard 'yaffling'. There is a remote possibility that Lesser Spotted Woodpecker still survives here, although with no records since January and February 2005, this is doubtful. People should still keep looking and listening, however, particularly along the track between Hutton Village Road and Pease Close. The area by the 'triangle' is a good spot for Nuthatch, as is the open parkland adjacent to the



Hutton Hall



Hills above Hutton Hall



The Old School House



Entrance to Guisborough Forest

track leading to the old schoolhouse, where they can often be heard calling and, with patience, seen well. Other species that may be seen anywhere along the route include Pied and Grey

Wagtails, Blackcap. Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Treecreeper and Long-tailed Tit.

The pastures on either side of Hutton Village Road, particularly those on the western side after the Home Farm track, are excellent for winter thrushes and good numbers of Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare and Redwing are present on occasions. Siskins are best looked for in the area between Sandwood Park and the 'triangle' or the trees bordering Hutton Village Lane just before the track to the old schoolhouse. In late autumn and winter, flocks of over 100 have been recorded on occasions. These are often accompanied by smaller numbers of Lesser Redpoll and Brambling (the latter favouring beech trees) and the former should always be checked in late autumn and winter for the uncommon Mealy and rare Arctic Redpoll. It is still worth looking for Hawfinch in the yew trees by the old schoolhouse but your chances of finding one now are remote in view of the lack of records from Hutton over the past three years.

Cuckoo occurs in some years, whereas Jays can be seen anywhere along the route and sometimes number up to a dozen birds late in the season. Listen out for their screeching call notes. Collared Doves are found around the houses in Hutton Village and Tawny and Little Owls breed but are difficult to see. Check the old, mature trees for the latter species. Marsh and Willow Tits are probably present but are not regularly reported from the Hutton area, so keep a lookout for these scarce Cleveland species. Common Crossbills occasionally frequent the coniferous plantations on the west side of Hutton Village Road after the track to Home Farm: listen out for their give-away "*chip-chip-chip*" flight calls which help to locate them. Flock sizes vary from year to year but one of 530 in July 2009 was exceptional.

This area is generally under-watched, so a visit at any time may well produce results.



Cottage gardens and wooded ridge

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Ted Parker continues his reminiscences from years gone by of a memorable sea watch off Hartlepool Headland in the mid 1960s. It is, perhaps, telepathic that Keith Ryan and Ted both have fond memories of one of Cleveland's finest birders in their reminiscences – Edgar Gatenby.

It was with great anticipation that I made my way by bus from Brookfield, where I lived, to Hartlepool Headland in the teeth of a northeasterly gale for a session of sea watching on Wednesday 2nd November 1966. I met up with my then good birding friend, Keith Fryer, at Heugh Battery and we joined the late, great Edgar Gatenby in the Club's Observatory in the old Battery lookout. The weather was spectacular, as my notes from then record: "Gale/severe gale force 8-9 north-easterly wind; visibility 2½ miles (approx.); 10/10 cloud; extremely rough sea with 15-foot swell".

Even at the tender age of 15, I was already hooked on sea watching and desperate to develop my skills as quickly as possible. Consequently, I spent many hours in the old observatory at Hartlepool, occasionally staying overnight in the basic accommodation, in order to get to grips with the common seabird species, such as ducks, Gannet, divers, Kittiwake, Fulmar and gulls, whilst at the same time waiting for that much rarer goodie to fly past. In those early days, optics weren't a patch on what they are today, with brass drawtube 'scopes being the norm, if you were lucky, and these without the benefit of tripods of any kind. Obviously, this made locating and following seabirds much more difficult but everything is relative and one merely accepts the norm of the day.

On this particular day in November 1966, Keith and I were lucky enough to be accompanied by the legendary Edgar Gatenby, who was one of the most experienced and skilful birders of his day. He remained so until his untimely death in 1982. Edgar had superb eyesight and this, coupled with his excellent experience and knowledge, meant that there was always a chance of something good when he was present. He was always willing to share his knowledge with younger and far less experienced birders, such as Keith and myself.

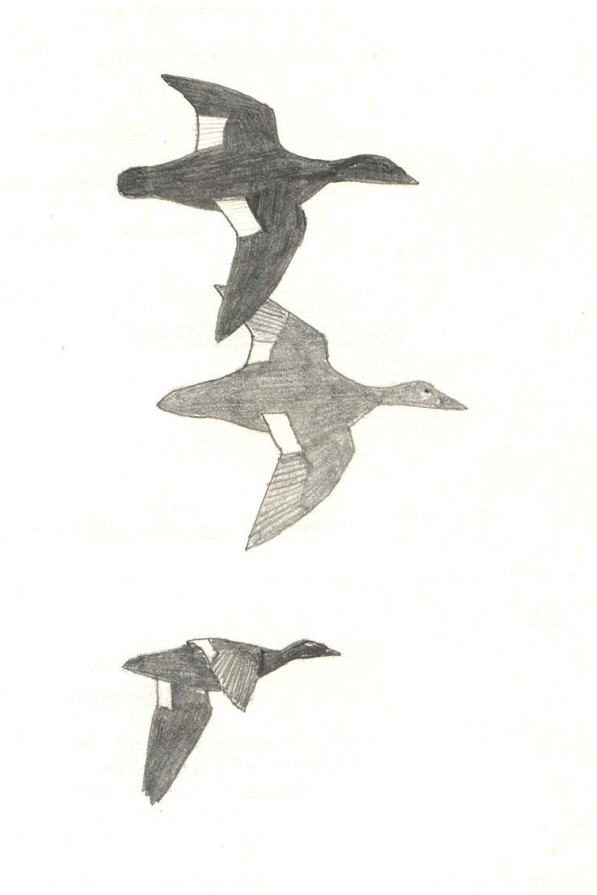
We manned the observatory from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., trying to position ourselves out of the wind with the shutters, while resting our 'scopes on a timber beam that spanned the front row of seats. During the day, I had four lifers, two of them divers and two skuas. The first, a Black-throated Diver, flew north with one of four Red-throateds seen during the watch and Edgar



Ted's sketches of Bonxies

pointed out some of the differences between these two similar species when in winter or juvenile plumage. Even more obligingly, a superb Great Northern Diver passed north in the company of three Red-throated Divers, again allowing a direct comparison: I was amazed at the difference in size between the two species, as well as major differences in plumage, structure and build. Indeed, to my inexperienced eyes, my first Great Northern more resembled a Cormorant than a diver. My third lifer was provided by an impressive passage of ten juvenile Pomarine Skuas and Keith and I were able to benefit again from Edgar's experience. Despite major advances in knowledge, the trio of juvenile skuas, Long-tailed, Arctic and Pomarine, still cause problems today and Edgar explained in amazing detail why the birds were Pomarines. We were able to appreciate their rather owl-like flight on quite stiff, mechanical wing beats, their heavy build, 'pot bellies', heavily barred under-wing coverts, double white under-wing flashes separated by a dark crescent and, on the closest birds, their distinctly two-tone bills. Six Bonxies also flew north, including three very close inshore which passed at 1.00 p.m., providing my last lifer of the day. These birds were easier to separate from the other trio of skuas on the basis of their sheer size, very heavy build, bold white wing flashes and distinctive flight.

Other birds seen during this exciting sea watch included 30 Shelducks, four Goldeneyes, two Velvet Scoters, two Long-tailed Ducks, a Red-breasted Merganser, single Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, five unidentified divers and an impressive passage of 7,200 Kittiwakes.



Ted's sketches of Velvet Scoters

I left for my long bus journey home at 4.00 p.m. with my passion for sea watching reinforced and delighted with my four lifers – oh, that I could have the same number of lifers on a seawatch today!

PROFILE – KEITH RYAN

Ted Parker talked to Keith Ryan, a long-standing birder in the Cleveland area and staunch supporter of the Teesmouth Bird Club, about the highlights of his birding life to date and his aspirations for the future. Keith is almost as well known on the Cleveland birding scene as his lovely dog, Ruby!



Keith with Ruby

Keith was born in Bishop Auckland 1948 and moved to Norton ten years later, where he still lives today. He's married to Jan and he has a daughter from a previous marriage and two granddaughters. He's spent most of his working life as a bus driver and actually passed his driving test in a double-decker bus!

Keith has been interested in birds for as long as he can remember and his Cleveland List stands at a very impressive 341, which places him firmly in the top 25 of Cleveland listers. His local patch is the North Tees Marshes because *"it's nice and handy, has a very impressive list of birds and is great for walking my dog, Ruby"*. His other favourite site is Hartlepool Headland: *"In the right conditions it can be as good as anywhere in Britain for migrants and when Chris Brown has his nets up, well, we've all seen what can happen there! Then there's the sea-watching: it can be an incredibly exciting experience in north and easterly winds and I think birders are very lucky who live on Teesside - we seem to have it all"*.

Keith's optics comprise Nikon 10 x 42 binoculars and a Leica telescope: *"Both suit me fine and they get used a lot"*. He has a camera, a Canon 400D and a Canon 100-400 lens, *"which I tend to use more abroad when I don't have my dog with me; anyway, we have the likes of Ian Forrest, Renton Charman and others who already provide excellent photos"*.

Keith's favourite book is, like most other birders, the Collins Guide. He has several: *"including the large, hardback format for my computer table - a wonderful book"*. His other interests include most aspects of nature and he believes that: *"most birders look at everything when they're out in the field"*. Keith loves to travel and has been fortunate enough to go to some fantastic places with good friends: *"I've seen Tigers in India and I've just got back from Brazil where I was extremely lucky to connect up with a beautiful Jaguar. I have to pinch myself sometimes to make sure I'm not dreaming"*.

The most impressive birding site Keith has visited is Point Pelee in Canada: he went there in the nineties with several members of the TBC. The weather conditions had held up migration: *"Then, one morning, it was like a dam bursting with birds everywhere. My favourites, the American wood warblers, were stunning in their summer plumage, a veritable feast for the eye. I was told that a third of Canada's warblers came through that one morning alone: a stunning spectacle and I've certainly never seen anything like it; add on fantastic scenery and great company, it was the best!"*

Keith can't think of a single best day in Cleveland but he's certainly had a lot of really good ones in fall conditions at Hartlepool: *"The conditions of expectancy and uncertainty are exciting to say the least"*. One day's birding that does stand out for him was last year on the 29th of September: he was near the North Gare with several other birders waiting and hoping for the Sandhill Crane to appear. It had been reported on the pager several times during the morning to be coming down the coast and as Keith recounts: *"We'd heard from Tom Francis that it was over the Hartlepool Marina and we could actually see the Marina from where we were standing - talk about frustration! The minutes were ticking by but no sighting: where the hell was it? It's a large bird but we just couldn't see it; were we going to miss it after being this close? I wonder why I put myself through this sometimes. Thank heavens for Geoff Iceton when I heard him say 'I've got it'; it was flying over the Tees Bay towards the South Gare - the relief was immense: birding is so emotional at times but never more so than that time"*.

Keith's best personal find in Cleveland was the wintering Hume's Warbler at Norton in February 2008, along with David Laing. As Keith says: *"I'm still a bit miffed that I wasn't more positive about its identification: when I put it out I had a pretty good idea what it was but this was February and about twelve miles inland! Anyway, I got people in and the rest is history as we say"*. His biggest birding disappointment is that the criminals on the moors are getting away with the extermination of Hen Harriers: *"It's so frustrating when we and everybody else know what's going on - one law for one and one for the other"*. The most memorable bird Keith has ever seen is the Slender-billed Curlew in Northumberland in 1998. As he recalls: *"When I was a lad I read a book by Fred Bosworth called 'The Last of the Curlews', a fictitious version of the demise of the American Eskimo Curlew. I found it an incredibly sad and moving story. Now it seems as if history is repeating itself and I may have seen the last of the Slender-billed Curlews. I sincerely hope not but there doesn't seem to be any positive sightings since"*.

Keith's ambition bird is Spoon-billed Sandpiper, *"such a rare and iconic little bird"*. There's been a lot of publicity about saving this gorgeous wader and rightly so. *"When I'm walking my dog on the Long Drag I fantasise about finding one of my own - at least I should be able to identify it!"* Fortunately for Keith, he can't recall any embarrassing moments. Regarding changes concerning birds in the UK, he considers that all birds of prey need and should get better

protection. Regarding his views on Teesmouth Bird Club Keith is very positive: *"The TBC has had a huge impact on my life in many ways, it's like having an extended family, some good friends among them and I've been a member since the early '60s and still have my 1964 membership card. It's always been a friendly club: I remember early on an older member, Edgar Gatenby, always had time for us youngsters, he had so much knowledge and patience, always approachable and a truly lovely man and sorely missed. It's always fascinated me about the variation of our members: they come from all walks of life yet we have the common denominator of a love of birds. I like the fact that there's more communication between the members, especially the newer ones. Several have told me they used to feel left out but not so much now though"*. On the negative side, Keith believes that the Club could do with a few more Harry Murphys: *"The lack of youngsters coming through is worrying and our meetings look like Darby and Joan clubs, with all the white hair and wrinkles - lovely people though! Anyway, it's a great Club that's very well run by some remarkable and dedicated people and they deserve a big thank you from all the members"*. Regarding changes in the local environment for the better, Keith feels that things are *"going ok"*. He believes that the RSPB is continuing to improve the environment for wildlife, certain aspects of local industry seem to be doing their bit (though not all) and the Club *"is in the mix, as always"*.

Keith's aspirations for the future *"are pretty modest really, to continue birding, looking forward to more travelling; oh, and to find that Spoon-billed Sandpiper!"*



Sandhill Crane – the one that nearly got away!

Damian Money

OBITUARY – MICHAEL ('MIKE') CORNER (1962-2012)



Mike on a trip to Poland

On 18th August 2012, Michael Corner ('Mike' to his friends) died peacefully in hospital, ending a long battle against illness and disability, which he bore with great dignity and courage.

Mike was born in Great Ayton on 25th March 1962 and spent the early part of his life in the village, where he was well known and would often be seen walking his dog on a daily basis. This walking in the outdoors stimulated an interest in and love of nature and he became particularly interested in birds. On one occasion, he arrived home and demanded that his mum, dad and brother, Andrew, accompany him back to the River Leven where he had found a family of Kingfishers and he wanted to share this exhilarating experience with them. Mike was so keen that he joined the Young Ornithologists' Club (the former junior wing of the RSPB) and went on a number of organised holidays to Arnside, Bangor and other places. He also did the gruelling, 40-mile-long Lyke Wake Walk when he was only 11 years old with other friends from Commondale, reflecting an early determination that was to be such a dominant feature of his character as an adult.

Mike attended Whitby School and was the first student to gain an A-Level in Economics, a subject that he went on to study at Liverpool University as an 18-year-old in 1971. His life changed forever when he was diagnosed with a

brain tumour when only 19 and had to skip a year of his studies while he received treatment. True to his determination, Mike not only went back to university but also completed his last two years and emerged with a good Honours degree.

In 1975, Mike moved from Great Ayton to Commondale with his parents and this brought him into an area that he loved so much, the North York Moors, particularly the dales and moors immediately around the village, which he could easily reach on foot or watch on his way to work at James Cook University Hospital, where he was employed in the Paymasters Department. In 2006, Mike left Commondale and moved back to Great Ayton with his parents, Denis and Irene.

Mike also loved the Tees Estuary and was a very regular visitor to this area, where he became well known and well liked for his dry sense of humour. He was a diligent recorder, always entering birds he had seen into his notebook and then transferring the records on to his computer on his return home. He diligently submitted his records to the Teesmouth Bird Club for its annual report for over 35 years and they made a valuable contribution to our knowledge of birds, particularly of the northern North York Moors, which for many years were under-watched. He had a real love of Sleddale and over many years regularly found the first returning Rough-legged Buzzard to this area, along with other raptors from which he derived great pleasure – Hen Harrier, Common Buzzard, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Merlin and Peregrine.

Mike formed a strong friendship with Don and me: we understood his idiosyncracies and had fantastic fun together. With our good friend, Chris Sharp, we made a number of foreign trips together, including China, Turkey, Canada and Spain, as well as many 'twiches' in the UK. Mike also made many birding trips to other parts of the world, including South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Nepal, Florida, Israel, the Canary Islands, Cyprus, Poland, Finland and Sweden. He also made visits to Fair Isle and annual trips to the Scilly Islands. Mark Askew was also a good friend to Mike and drove him to many 'twiches', including for an unexpected British 'first': a Long-billed Murrelet at Dawlish in Devon in 2006.

Mike's humour was legendary and he often made light of his problems. Several humorous incidents which come to mind include dusk in a forest near Whitby when Mike Morris danced (after a fashion) whilst waving a white tissue in each hand to attract Nightjars – the sad thing was, it worked! On another occasion, during a long 'twitch' to Devon, whilst walking across some rough ground to see Cirl Buntings, Mike went a real cropper,

landed flat on his back and had the wind knocked out of him. After a few minutes of recovery, he lay prostrate on the ground and said: *"That's it! I'm giving up birding!"* He never did, of course.

Over the last five years of his life, Mike's condition gradually deteriorated and he spent long periods in hospital. Many of his close friends in the Club noticed that his walking wasn't as good as it was but, with typical determination, nothing prevented him from getting into his car and going out birding: indeed his last trip out was made only a few days after he had been discharged from hospital. Mike held a long standing ambition to visit Australia but, sadly, this wasn't to be.

It was a fitting end to Mike's life that his ashes were scattered over the moor at Sleddale – a place he loved so much – and even more fitting that a Hen Harrier recently flew directly over his resting place. Our sympathies to go Mike's parents, Denis and Irene, his brother, Andrew, and all his family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Ted Parker

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY - AUTUMN 2012 SUMMARY

Coverage was excellent, with all but one of 108 potential sector counts achieved.

This was the poorest autumn for little grebe (37, September) since 1991, and for grey heron (35, August) since 1992.

Among the ducks, the shelduck seasonal maximum (95, October) can only be described as catastrophic, and is by a distance our worst on record. The peaks for both teal (744, October) and pintail (26, October) were the lowest since 2004 and 2003 respectively. On the positive side, gadwall set yet another Tees WeBS record (492, September). For mallard (422, August) this was the highest seasonal figure since 2007.

In an otherwise unremarkable autumn for waders, the curlew peak (956, July) was the best since 2006, while the equivalent purple sandpiper figure (16, October) had not been bettered since autumn 2004. This was a second consecutive disappointing autumn for lapwing (960, October). For redshank (645, October) this was comfortably our worst seasonal showing since 1979.

The Sandwich tern peak (44, September) plumbed new depths, while the performance of common tern (255, July) was the worst for twenty years. Little tern (75, July) were more numerous

than normal, owing to breeding failures at the Crimdon colony.

Following this series of counts, in autumn the Tees and Hartlepool Bay WeBS Site remains of national importance for gadwall, shoveler and redshank.

Mike Leahey

WeBS Local Organizer

November 2012



Teal - not doing so well



Gadwall – still breaking records



Purple Sandpiper – making a welcome recovery

Table of results on next page

WETLAND BIRD SURVEY TEESMOUTH AUTUMN 2012 SUMMARY

Species	July 15	August 19	September 16	October 14
Little Grebe	14	35	<u>37</u>	33
Great Crested Grebe	<u>27</u>	20	21	11
Cormorant	117	<u>329</u> *	132	99
Little Egret	8	12	<u>18</u>	14
Grey Heron	28	<u>35</u>	25	17
Mute Swan	<u>67</u>	57	65	65
Greylag Goose	110	154	144	<u>846</u> *
Shelduck	67	59	64	<u>95</u>
Wigeon	6	72	236	<u>1091</u>
Gadwall	41	320**	<u>492</u> **	<u>174</u> *
Teal	10	316	552	<u>744</u>
Mallard	166	<u>422</u>	199	207
Pintail	0	1	12	<u>26</u>
Shoveler	16	54	<u>160</u> *	127*
Pochard	86	124	<u>133</u>	93
Tufted Duck	147	<u>254</u>	222	157
Coot	366	729	<u>858</u>	627
Oystercatcher	293	1126	<u>1145</u>	785
Avocet	<u>4</u>	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	10	<u>231</u> *	213*	35
Golden Plover	0	12	129	<u>604</u>
Grey Plover	0	2	12	<u>80</u>
Lapwing	392	522	687	<u>960</u>
Knot	4	<u>141</u>	21	90
Sanderling	0	<u>94</u> *	21	91*
Little Stint	0	<u>1</u>	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	<u>16</u>
Dunlin	32	410	<u>578</u>	136
Ruff	0	<u>10</u>	8	0
Snipe	0	16	<u>28</u>	20
Black-tailed Godwit	2	21	<u>45</u>	15
Bar-tailed Godwit	8	11	76	<u>84</u>
Whimbrel	9	<u>18</u>	0	0
Curlew	<u>956</u> *	440	265	720*
Spotted Redshank	<u>1</u>	0	0	0
Redshank	289	607*	423	<u>645</u> *
Greenshank	4	<u>17</u>	5	0
Green Sandpiper	1	<u>9</u>	0	1
Common Sandpiper	1	<u>6</u>	0	0
Turnstone	24	92	<u>103</u>	80
Sandwich Tern	21	19	<u>44</u>	0
Common Tern	<u>255</u>	182	5	0
Arctic Tern	<u>1</u>	0	0	0
Little Tern	<u>75</u>	0	0	0

Underlined counts indicate Autumn 2012 maxima.

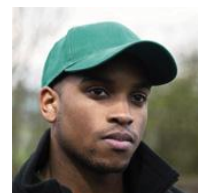
* Denotes count of >50% of national importance

** Denotes count of national importance

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

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

.....

.....

.....

Post Code

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

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB – PUBLICATIONS

*The current prices of all TBC publications are provided here by our Sales and Archives Officer, **John Fletcher**.*

'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'	£25.00 (plus £5.00 p & p)
'Birdwatchers of Teesmouth 1600 to 1960'	£2.50 (plus £1.00 p & p)
'Teesmouth Bird Reports 1958-1973' on CD	£5.00 (plus £1.00 p & p)
'Birds of Tees-side 1962-67' by Phil Stead	£5.00 (plus £1.00 p & p)
'Birds of Tees-side 1968-1973' by Martin Blick	£5.00 (plus £1.00 p & p)

'Cleveland Bird Reports' prices as follows:

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

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.

There is 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

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2013 and prompt payment would be gratefully appreciated to enable the Club to continue its work.

Subscription rates for 2013 are:

Full	£12.00
Family	£16.00
Junior	£10.00
Senior Citizen	£12.00

Please forward your cheque made payable to 'Teesmouth Bird Club' to:

Chris Sharp, 45 Endeavour Close, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, TS25 1EY.

I enclose my subscription of £ _____ for 2013.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Details of Donor

Surname
Forename(s)
Address
..... Postcode
Tel. No.

I want the **TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB** to treat all donations I have made since 6th 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.

Chris Sharp