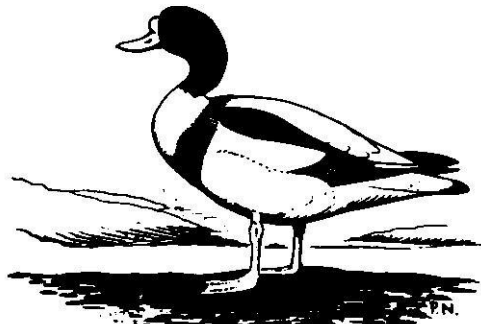


# SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN AND LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE TEES VALLEY



TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

This report has been prepared by Vic Fairbrother of the Conservation Sub-Committee of Teesmouth Bird Club (TBC), with input by TVWT and RSPB. TBC has been monitoring the birds of Teesmouth since 1960 and is widely recognized as the foremost authority on the birds of the former County of Cleveland and has a particularly good knowledge of the birds of the Tees estuary. The Club publishes the annual '*Cleveland Bird Report*', which is the definitive record of local birds. In 2008, TBC published '*The Breeding Birds of Cleveland*', the first comprehensive survey of local breeding birds, bringing together current and historic data and including descriptions of all the key habitats.

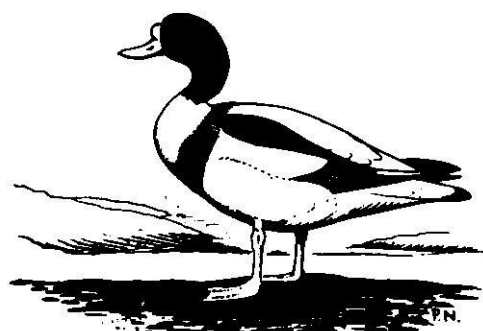
In association with



**May 2012**

Members undertake monthly counts at local wetland sites from September to March for inclusion in the annual *UK Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)* organized by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in association with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT). Members survey local randomly allocated 1km squares for the annual Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) organized by the BTO and jointly funded by BTO, JNCC and RSPB. This is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common and widespread birds. The TBC Records sub-committee collates and validates all local records of rare breeding records for submission to The Rare Birds Breeding Panel (RBBP) which publishes the Rare Breeding Birds in the UK annual report

Members provide vital information on the migration, passage and survival of birds through the work of the South Cleveland Ringing Group and the Tees Ringing Group. This includes ringing *pulli* (young in the nest), catching birds at Constant effort sites (CES) and Ringing adults for survival sites (RAS) all contributing to major national monitoring schemes organized by the BTO. Members provide vital information on the productivity of birds by submitting records to the Nest Record Scheme. In July 2011 members completed timed surveys in 116 tetrads (2x2 km



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squares) following 4 years fieldwork for the local input to the next UK Atlas (Bird Atlas 2007-11). This was in addition to submitting tens of thousands of roving records.

Sources on the level of concern, changing status and population trends for each species are listed in the table below.

**This report is intended to act as a 'signpost' for planners, ecologists, developers, consultants and other land-based professions to a critical list of species of conservation concern in the Tees Valley. The Teesmouth Bird Club holds specific details of where these species are located and can provide quantitative and qualitative information. The point of contact for further information is: Vic Fairbrother, Vic Fairbrother, 8 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, TS16 7AP (Tel: 01287 633744; email: [vic.fairbrother@ntlworld.com](mailto:vic.fairbrother@ntlworld.com))**

SPECIES	LEVEL OF CONCERN (UK)	BAP SPECIES (UK/TV)	CLEVELAND BREEDING PAIRS (MAX. ANNUAL BETWEEN 1999-2006)	ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS	MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES
Shelduck	Amber	TVBAP	64 pairs	Despite major loss of habitat the Tees estuary is still a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for Shelduck wintering in GB. (2009/10). The ten year trend is <b>Declining UK -15%</b> and the maximum local winter count in 2010 was the second lowest on record. A locally significant breeding bird.	<b>North Tees Marshes and mudflats.</b>
Gadwall	Amber		28	This is 2% of the UK breeding population. (2009). The Tees estuary is a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for Gadwall in winter.	<b>North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.</b>
Teal	Amber		01	One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley.	<b>Inland water bodies.</b>
Garganey	Amber		05 2 pairs 2008.	This is 2% of the UK breeding population (2008).	<b>North Tees Marshes.</b>
Shoveler	Amber		16 (8 pairs in 2009).	This is 1% of the UK breeding population (2009). The Tees estuary is also a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for Shoveler in winter (2009/10).	<b>North Tees Marshes.</b>

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Pochard	Amber		32 (19 pairs in 2009).	This is 3% of the UK breeding population. (2009).	North Tees Marshes.
Goosander			08	One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley.	Rivers, inland water bodies.
Grey Partridge	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	319	Declining UK -54% (1995-2009).	Farmland. Agri-environment initiatives.
Quail	Amber		33 (14 in 2009)	Numbers fluctuate and most records are of calling males. 7 pairs is the local 10 year average, about 1% UK breeding population.	Farmland.
Fulmar	Amber		253	Declining UK -17%. (1986-2010). Restricted to 10 local tetrads.	Coastal, Marine. One inland site.
Cormorant			65	The Tees estuary is a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for Cormorant in winter. (2009/10). Breeding decline UK -7% (2000-2010).	Coastal, Marine.
Bittern	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	0	Beginning to recover following biodiversity action and reedbed creation. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Reedbeds. Maintenance of open reedbeds with summer-wet reed and open water.
Grey Heron			60	Only 3 Heronries in Cleveland. All monitored as part of annual BTO Heronries Census.	Woodland. Continue to monitor sites.
Little Grebe	Amber		63	Declining UK -40% (1970-2009). Recovering +15% (1995-2009). Decline -21% (2009-2010).	North Tees marshes, inland water bodies.
Great Crested Grebe			25	Loss of the Reclamation pond will make remaining key sites even more crucial.	North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.
Goshawk			03 (4 pairs in 2009).	One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees valley. This is 1% UK breeding population. (2009).	Woodland. Persecution is a concern.
Kestrel	Amber		131	Declining UK -28% 1995-2009. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland, road verges, urban areas.
Merlin	Amber		03	A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Moorland and in winter North Tees marshes, estuary and coast.

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Peregrine			04	A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley and still liable to persecution.	<b>Cliffs, quarries, industrial sites.</b> Persecution is still a concern.
Oystercatcher	<b>Amber</b>		14	<b>Declining UK -8%</b> 1995-2009. An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	<b>North Tees Marshes, inland water bodies and farmland.</b>
Avocet	<b>Amber</b>		0 (21 pairs in 2010).	Rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. First bred 2008. This is 1% of the UK population. Vulnerable to predation.	<b>North Tees Marshes.</b> Creation and maintenance of semi-permanent saline water bodies and nesting islands. Control predation.
Little Ringed Plover			17 (5 pairs bred 2009).	Numbers vary but still about 1% of UK breeding population. (2009).	<b>North Tees marshes, Inland water bodies.</b>
Ringed Plover	<b>Amber</b>	TVBAP	33	An uncommon breeder following decline in the last 25 years. <b>Declining UK in winter - 26%</b> (1997/8-2007/8).	<b>Coastal.</b> Vulnerable to recreational disturbance.
Golden Plover	<b>Amber</b>		20	<b>Declining UK -4%</b> 1995-2009. An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	<b>Upland breeding areas. North Tees marshes and coastal fields in winter.</b>
Lapwing	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	590	<b>Declining UK -20%</b> 1995-2009. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	<b>Farmland, wet grassland. North Tees marshes in winter.</b> Water levels and grassland management.
Sanderling				The Tees estuary is a <b>site of national importance</b> for non-breeding Sanderling. (2009/10).	<b>Coastal.</b> Recreational disturbance affects winter feeding.
Ruff	<b>Red</b>			The Tees estuary is a <b>site of national importance</b> for non-breeding Ruff. (2009/10).	<b>Coastal wetlands.</b>
Snipe	<b>Amber</b>		51	<b>Declining UK -62%</b> 1982-2002 in wet meadows in England & Wales.	<b>North Tees Marshes, uplands.</b> Water levels and grassland management.
Woodcock	<b>Amber</b>		95	Most records were of roding birds, an imprecise indication of breeding.	<b>Woodlands, uplands.</b>
Curlew	<b>Amber</b>	UKBAP	118	<b>Declining UK -41%</b> 1995-2009. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	<b>Farmland, upland, estuary.</b>

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Common Sandpiper	Amber		00 (1 pair bred in 2008/9)	Declining UK -40% (1970-2009). -7% (1995-2009). Returned as a rare local breeding bird in 2008/9.	Upland streams and water bodies. Water quality.
Redshank	Amber		27	Declining UK -35% 1995-2009. An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species. The Tees estuary is a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for non-breeding Redshank. (2009/10).	Farmland, wet grassland, coastal, estuary. Water levels and grassland management.
Kittiwake	Amber		7,100	Declining UK -47% (1986-010). Although locally abundant very vulnerable due to concentration in so few colonies.	Marine and coastal. Potential for breeding ledges on industrial buildings.
Herring Gull	Red	UKBAP	1,306	This is about 1% GB breeding population. Declining UK -38% (2000-2010).	Marine, coastal and buildings.
Great black-backed Gull	Amber		00	The Tees estuary is a <a href="#">site of national importance</a> for non-breeding GBB Gull. (2009/10).	Tees estuary.
Little Tern	Amber	TVBAP	76 (61 pairs in 2009).	This is 4% UK breeding population. (2009). Vulnerable as most breed at one main site. Highly dependent on local wardening effort. Declining UK -13% (1986-2010).	Coastal, marine. Maintain wardening. Vulnerable to disturbance, predation and egg collectors.
Sandwich Tern	Amber		05	In the top 10 UK sites for passage birds. (2009/10). Not an annual breeder.	Marine.
Common Tern	Amber		550	The Tees estuary had the 4 <sup>th</sup> highest WeBS count in the UK (2009/10). Raft and island creation has boosted breeding numbers.	North Tees Marshes. Maintain raft and island provision. Control predation. Support conservation of fish stocks.
Roseate Tern	Red	UKBAP	01	Not a regular breeder but this is 2% of GB breeding population.	Marine.
Razorbill	Amber		23	Declining UK -11% (1999-2009). An uncommon local breeder.	Marine and coastal.
Cuckoo	Red	UKBAP	83	Declining UK -48% (1995-2009). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland, upland.

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Barn Owl	Amber	TVBAP	09	LBAP in operation. Nest boxes installed and monitored.	Farmland with rough pasture and some industrial sites.
Little Owl			55	Declining UK -29% (1995-2009).	Farmland and scattered trees.
Long-eared Owl			08	Locally a scarce breeding bird. Some important traditional winter roost sites.	Coniferous woods, over grown hedges.
Short-eared Owl	Amber		00	Intermittent breeder and winter visitor.	North Tees Marshes and moorland.
Nightjar	Red	UKBAP	02	Increasing with phased felling of Guisborough forest. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Heathland, woodland.
Swift	Amber	TVBAP	673	Declining UK -31% (1995-2009). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Urban. Provision of nest boxes is beneficial.
Kingfisher	Amber		10	Declining UK -17 % (1995-2009). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Rivers, streams, water bodies. Water quality.
Green Woodpecker	Amber		29	An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Woodland.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Red	UKBAP	02	One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland.
Willow Tit	Red	UKBAP	53	Declining UK -76 % (1995-2009). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland. Seek to retain wet woodland.
Marsh Tit	Red	UKBAP	74	Declining UK -21% (1995-2009).	Woodland.
Skylark	Red	UKBAP	1,630	Declining UK -15% (1995-2009). An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland. Agri-environment initiatives. Skylark plots.
Sand Martin	Amber		518	Now increasing locally assisted by artificial nest sites.	Quarries, cliffs, river banks and specially constructed sites.
Wood Warbler	Red	UKBAP	04	Declining UK -63% (1995-2009). A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long term regeneration.
Whitethroat	Amber		1,562	Currently recovering.	Farmland, hedgerows, scrub.

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Grasshopper Warbler	Red	UKBAP	52	An uncommon breeding bird in the Tees Valley.	Scrub, woodland.
Dipper			05	Declining UK -35% (1995-2009). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Rivers, streams. Water quality.
Song Thrush	Red	UKBAP	1,973	Declining UK -49% (1970-2009). Recent UK trend 1995-2008 shows some recovery +27%.	Woodland, farmland, gardens.
Mistle Thrush	Amber		346	Declining UK -21% (1995-2009). Fairly widespread but at low density.	Woodland, farmland, parks & gardens.
Spotted Flycatcher	Red	UKBAP	57	Declining UK -47% (1995-2009).	Woodland.
Redstart	Amber		09	Declining in England -3% (1995-2009). Locally a scarce and declining breeding bird.	Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long term regeneration.
Whinchat	Amber		24	Declining UK -55% (1995-2009). Locally an uncommon and declining breeding bird. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Semi-natural grassland.
Wheatear	Amber		11	A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley.	Upland and some Brownfield sites.
House Sparrow	Red	UKBAP	14,423	Declining UK -6% (1995-2009). Despite major decline still abundant in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Urban.
Tree Sparrow	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	261	Declining UK -92% (1970-2009). Recent BBS 1995-2008 trend +55% improving.	Farmland. Agri-environment initiatives. Nest box provision.
Yellow Wagtail	Red	UKBAP TVBAP	36	Declining UK -55% (1995-2009). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	Farmland. Water levels and grassland management.
Grey Wagtail	Amber		43	Decline in UK -35% (1970-2009). Increasing + 15% (1995-2009) but susceptible to cold winters. -21% in 2009/10).	Rivers and streams. Water quality.

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<b>Tree Pipit</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	26	<b>Declining UK -13 %</b> (1995-2009). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	<b>Woodland.</b> Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long-term regeneration.
<b>Linnet</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	1,937	<b>Declining UK -23%</b> (1995-2009).	<b>Farmland. Hedgerows and scrub.</b> Agri-environment initiatives.
<b>Lesser Redpoll</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	17	An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.	<b>Woodland.</b>
<b>Common Crossbill</b>			15	A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley.	<b>Woodland.</b> Seek to retain key areas of spruce, pine and larch.
<b>Bullfinch</b>	<b>Amber</b>	UKBAP	232	<b>Declining UK -4%</b> (1995-2009).	<b>Farmland hedgerows, parks and gardens.</b> Agri-environment initiatives.
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	05	One of the scarcest resident birds in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 species.	<b>Woodland.</b>
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP	1,094	<b>Declining UK -17%</b> (1995-2009).	<b>Farmland. Hedgerows &amp; scrub.</b> Agri-environment initiatives.
<b>Reed bunting</b>	<b>Amber</b>	UKBAP	556	An RSPB top 40 priority species.	<b>Farmland.</b>
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<b>Red</b>	UKBAP TVBAP	23	<b>Declining UK -33%</b> (1995-2009). Only 2 local records in 2009. An RSPB top 40 species.	<b>Farmland.</b> Very successful recovery project nearby in County Durham.

Although this is a long list it is by no means the complete list of species of conservation concern in the UK.

The following are some of the species of conservation concern which occur locally but which have not been itemized above as they are perhaps not of immediate conservation concern in Tees Valley. In view of UK trends they do need to be monitored and may need to be added to the local list if declines continue.

Mallard, Tufted Duck, Red Grouse, Knot, Purple Sandpiper, Turnstone, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Stock Dove, Swallow, House Martin, Meadow Pipit, Dunnock, Willow Warbler all **Amber Listed** as of medium conservation concern nationally.



Starling, **Red Listed** as of high conservation concern nationally.

## DEFINITIONS:

### RED LIST SPECIES

- Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995.
- Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or longer-term period (the entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969).
- Severe (at least 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.

### AMBER LIST SPECIES

- Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC = Species of European Conservation Concern).
- Historical population decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years.
- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.
- Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.
- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.
- Rare breeder; 1–300 breeding pairs in UK.
- Rare non-breeders; less than 900 individuals.
- Localised; at least 50% of UK breeding or non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not applied to rare breeders or non-breeders.
- Internationally important; at least 20% of European breeding or non-breeding population in UK (NW European and East Atlantic Flyway populations used for non-breeding wildfowl and waders respectively).

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