



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

This report has been prepared by Vic Fairbrother for the Conservation Sub-Committee of Teasmouth Bird Club (TBC), with input from BTO, TVWT and RSPB. TBC has been monitoring the birds of Teasmouth 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



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 *pull* (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 squares) following 4 years fieldwork for the local input to the latest 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 at the end of the report.

**March 2018**

**This report is intended to act as a 'signpost' for planners, ecologists, developers, consultants and other land-based professions to a critical list of birds of conservation concern in the Tees Valley. The Teasmouth 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, 8 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, TS14 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 1999-2006. + RECENT DATA.                               | ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS   | MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Mute Swan            | Amber                 |                     | 26 pairs (20 tetrads).<br><br>15 of 22 nesting attempts were successful in 2016. | Elevated to the amber list in 2014 (UK 20-30% European winter population).<br>Wintering decline in UK -7% (10 year trend to 2013/14).   | North Tees Marshes, River Tees and inland water bodies. |
| Bean Goose (Tundra). | Amber                 |                     | Migrant and winter visitor.  | The Tees estuary is a site of national importance for Tundra Bean Goose in winter (2015/16). 5 year average 3.  | Tees estuary.   |
| Shelduck             | Amber                 | TVBAP               | 64 pairs (24 tetrads).<br><br>27 young at 3 sites in 2016.                       | Wintering decline in UK -28% (10 year trend to 2013/14).<br>The Tees estuary 5 year WeBS average 398.<br>UK breeding decline -6% (1995-2014).   | North Tees Marshes and mudflats.                        |
| Gadwall              | Amber                 |                     | 28 pairs (8 tetrads).<br><br>14 pairs reared 101 young in 2016.                  | This is about 1% of the UK breeding population. (2016).<br>The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for Gadwall in winter 2015/16. 5 year WeBS average 542. In top 10 sites.                   | North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.                |
| Teal                 | Amber                 |                     | 1 pair.<br>1 pair reared 8 young on NT Marshes 2014.                             | One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley.  | Inland water bodies, North Tees Marshes.                |
| Garganey             | Amber                 |                     | 5 pairs (3 tetrads).<br>2 pairs in 2016 with 12 ducklings.                       | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>This was about 2% of the UK breeding population. (2016).   | North Tees Marshes.                                     |
| Shoveler             | Amber                 |                     | 16 pairs (5 tetrads).<br><br>6 pairs reared c40 young at 4 sites in 2016.        | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>This 1% of the UK breeding population.<br>The Tees estuary is also a site of British national importance for Shoveler in winter (2015/16). 5 year average 209. | North Tees Marshes.                                     |
| Smew                 |                       |                     | Winter visitor.  | The Tees estuary is a site of national importance for Smew in winter. (2015/16). 5 year average 2.  | North Tees Marshes, inland water bodies.                |

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Pochard</b>        | <b>Red</b>            |                     | 32 pairs (4 tetrads).<br><br>12 pairs raised c51 young at 8 sites in 2016.         | Elevated to red list 2014. A globally threatened species.<br>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>This is 2% of the UK breeding population.<br>Wintering decline in UK -41%. (10 year trend to 2013/14). | <b>North Tees Marshes, Coatham Marsh.</b>   |
| <b>Goosander</b>      |                       |                     | 8 pairs (5 tetrads).<br><br>Female with 8 young in 2015.                           | One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley.<br>UK breeding decline -19% (1995-13).<br>No reports of breeding 2008-13.   | <b>Rivers, inland water bodies.<br/>Winter roosts.</b>  |
| <b>Quail</b>          | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 33 singing males (16 tetrads).<br>(5 singing males in 2015).                       | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>Numbers fluctuate and most records are of calling males. 7 pairs is the local 10 year average, about 1% UK breeding population.                                     | <b>Farmland.</b>  |
| <b>Grey Partridge</b> | <b>Red</b>            | UKBAP<br>TVBAP      | 319 pairs (119 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -58% (1995-2014).  | <b>Farmland.</b><br>More unsprayed conservation headlands in cereal crops to increase insect availability.        |
| <b>Fulmar</b>         | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 253 pairs (10 tetrads).<br><br>175 pairs in 2016.                                  | UK breeding decline -33%. (1986-2015).<br>Restricted to 10 local tetrads.<br>Local decline since 2007.   | <b>Coastal, Marine. Cliffs Hunt Cliff to Cowbar. One inland site.</b>   |
| <b>Cormorant</b>      |                       |                     | 65 pairs (2 tetrads).<br><br>Only 21 pairs at Boulby and 10 at Hunt Cliff in 2016. | The Tees estuary is in the top 30 sites for Cormorant in winter (2013/14).<br>UK breeding decline - 8% (2000-2015).<br>Larger local decline is of concern.   | <b>Coastal, Marine. Hunt Cliff &amp; Boulby.<br/>Winter roosts River Tees jetties &amp; Hartlepool Fish Quay.</b> |
| <b>Shag</b>           | <b>Red</b>            |                     | No breeding 1999-2006.<br><br>1 breeding pair in 2014.                             | Elevated to red list 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -45% (1986-2015).<br>Seen carrying nesting material and later 2 adults & 5 juveniles on Tees jetties.<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.                          | <b>Coastal, Marine.</b>   |
| <b>Bittern</b>        | <b>Amber</b>          | UKBAP<br>TVBAP      | No breeding 1999-2006.<br><br>1 booming in 2012.                                   | Moved from red to amber 2014.<br>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015.<br>Beginning to recover following biodiversity action and reedbed creation.<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.                        | <b>Reedbeds.</b><br>Maintenance of open reedbeds with summer-wet reed and open water.                             |

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|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Little Egret        |                       |                     | First pair bred in 2015. 23 fledged from 9 nests in 2016.                                       | <b>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015.</b><br>A new breeding bird for Cleveland 2015/16.   | <b>Woodland near water.</b>   |
| Grey Heron          |                       |                     | 60 pairs (4 tetrads).<br>33 nests at 4 sites in 2016.   | <b>UK breeding decline -18% (1995-2014).</b><br>The traditional heronry sites in Cleveland are monitored as part of annual BTO Heronries Census.<br>The Tees estuary is in the top 35 sites in winter. (2015/16). | <b>Woodland.</b><br>Some recent dispersal to new sites.<br>Continue to monitor and identify new sites.                              |
| Little Grebe        |                       |                     | 63 pairs (21 tetrads).<br>Post breeding count 88 on North Tees Marshes in Sept. 2016.           | No longer amber listed 2014.<br><b>Wintering decline in UK – 12%. (10 year trend to 2012/13).</b><br>The Tees estuary is in the top 25 sites in winter. (2015/16).  | <b>North Tees marshes, inland water bodies.</b>   |
| Great Crested Grebe |                       |                     | 25 pairs (8 tetrads).<br>14 pairs bred at Saltholme in 2014.                                    | Loss of the Reclamation pond will make remaining key sites even more crucial.<br><b>Wintering decline in UK -25%. (10 year trend to 2012/13).</b>   | <b>North Tees Marshes, Inland water bodies.</b>   |
| Goshawk             |                       |                     | 3 pairs (3 tetrads).<br>2 or 3 pairs noted in suitable breeding habitat in 2016.                | <b>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.</b><br>One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley. 1 pair in 2012 & 2013. 2 in 2014.  | <b>Woodland.</b><br>Persecution is a concern.   |
| Water Rail          |                       |                     | 37 pairs (8 tetrads).<br>2013. 35 territories.<br>2014. 13 territories.<br>2015. 7 territories. | <b>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.</b><br>A difficult species to monitor.<br>This is 1% of UK territories. (2014).  | <b>Freshwater sites. North Tees and Coatham Marshes.</b>  |
| Avocet              | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | No breeding 1999-2006.<br>32 pairs fledged 51 young in 2016.                                    | <b>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.</b><br>First bred in the Tees Valley in 2008.<br>Vulnerable to predation.<br>This is 1-2% UK breeding population. 2016.  | <b>North Tees Marshes.</b><br>Creation and maintenance of semi-permanent saline water bodies and nesting islands. Predator control. |
| Oystercatcher       | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 14 pairs (12 tetrads).<br>5 breeding pairs were reported in 2015/2016.                          | <b>UK breeding decline -19% (1995-2014).</b><br>An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.<br><b>Wintering decline in UK -19%. (10 year trend to 2013/14).</b><br>WeBS 5 year average 1457. (2015/16).             | <b>North Tees Marshes, inland water bodies and farmland.</b>  |

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|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Golden Plover        |                       |                     | 20 pairs (10 tetrads).   | No longer amber listed 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -16% (1995-2014).<br>An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.<br>Wintering decline in UK -25%. (10 year trend to 2013/14).  | Upland breeding areas. North Tees marshes and coastal fields in winter.   |
| Lapwing              | Red                   | UKBAP               | 590 pairs (103 tetrads).<br><br>53 pairs at RSPB Saltholme fledged 77 young from 100 chicks. | UK breeding decline -43% (1995-2014).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.<br>Wintering decline in UK -27%. (10 year trend to 2013/14).<br>The Tees estuary is in top 26 sites in winter (2015/16). WeBS 5 year average 3892. | Farmland, wet grassland. North Tees marshes in winter.<br>Water levels and grassland management.<br>Fallow nesting plots and maintaining winter stubbles into summer. |
| Little Ringed Plover |                       |                     | 17 pairs (11 tetrads).<br><br>4 pairs in 2015/16.  | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>Local numbers fluctuate, between 4 and 7 pairs breeding each year in 2012-2016.   | North Tees marshes, Inland water bodies.  |
| Ringed Plover        | Red                   | TVBAP               | 33 pairs (18 tetrads).<br>Breeding reported at 2 sites in 2014-16.                           | Elevated to red list 2014.<br>An uncommon breeder following decline in the last 25 years.<br>Wintering decline in UK -38%. (10 year trend to 2013/14).<br>WeBS 5 year average 262. (2015/16).                                | Coastal.<br>Vulnerable to recreational disturbance on beaches.  |
| Curlew               | Red                   | UKBAP               | 118 pairs (44 tetrads).  | Elevated to red list 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -48% (1995-2014).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.<br>Wintering decline in UK -12%. (10 year trend to 2013/14).<br>WeBS 5 year average 1069. (2015/16).                 | Farmland, upland, estuary.  |
| Ruff                 | Red                   |                     | 4 males and a female lekking at Saltholme in 2016 did not stay to breed.                     | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015.<br>The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for non-breeding Ruff (2015/16).<br>5 year average 23.   | Coastal wetlands.   |
| Sanderling           | Amber                 |                     | Migrant and winter visitor.  | Elevated from green to amber 2014.<br>The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for non-breeding Sanderling.<br>(2015/16). 5 year average 237.   | Coastal.<br>Recreational disturbance affects winter feeding.  |

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| <b>Purple Sandpiper</b> | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | Migrant and winter visitor.   | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015. Wintering decline in UK -59%. (25 year trend to 2013/14). The Tees estuary is in the top 14 wintering sites. (62 is the five year average 2015/16).                |   |
| <b>Common Sandpiper</b> | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | No breeding 1999-2006. (1 pair bred in 2008/9)                        | UK breeding decline -15% (1995-2013). Returned as a rare local breeding bird in 2008/9.   | <b>Upland streams and water bodies.</b><br>Water quality.                                   |
| <b>Greenshank</b>       | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | Passage migrant.  | Elevated from green to amber 2014. This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015. The Tees estuary is a site of British national importance for non-breeding Greenshank. (2015/16). 5 year average 10 on passage. | <b>Mainly North Tees marshes</b>  |
| <b>Redshank</b>         | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 27 pairs (9 tetrads).<br><br>9 breeding pairs at RSPB Saltholme 2016. | UK breeding decline -35% (1995-2014). Wintering decline in UK -22%. (10 year trend to 2013/14). WeBS 5 year average 878. (2015/16). An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | <b>Farmland, wet grassland, coastal, estuary.</b><br>Water levels and grassland management. |
| <b>Woodcock</b>         | <b>Red</b>            |                     | 95 roding birds (42 tetrads).   | Most records were of roding birds, an imprecise indication of breeding. Elevated to red list 2014. Decline in Britain -29% (2003-2013). Northern England -18%. (National Woodcock surveys).                     | <b>Woodlands, uplands.</b>  |
| <b>Snipe</b>            | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 51 pairs (21 tetrads).  | Breeding decline in England -14%. (1995-2013). Recovering 1995-2015.  | <b>North Tees Marshes, uplands.</b><br>Water levels and grassland management.               |
| <b>Razorbill</b>        | <b>Amber</b>          |                     | 23 pairs (1 tetrad).<br>2016 34 breeding pairs.                       | An uncommon local breeder. The highest count ever at the only site in Cleveland. 2016.  | <b>Marine and coastal. Hunt Cliff &amp; Boulby Cliffs.</b>                                  |

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|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Little Tern       | Amber                 | TVBAP               | 76 pairs (5 tetrads).<br>95 fledged from 75 nests in 2014.<br>58 fledged from 84 nests in 2016.   | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>The local colony is about 6% UK breeding population. (2016).<br>Vulnerable as most breed at one main site.<br>Highly dependent on local wardening effort.<br>UK breeding decline -34% (1986-2015).<br>The Tees estuary is in top16 UK (WeBS) sites (2015/16).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species. | Coastal, marine.<br>Maintain wardening. Vulnerable to disturbance, predation and egg collectors.<br>Tidal inundation. |
| Sandwich Tern     | Amber                 |                     | 5 pairs (1 tetrad).<br>None since 2006 when 5 pairs fledged 2 young. (2014).  | In the top 28 UK (WeBS) sites for passage birds. (2015/16).<br>Not an annual breeder.  | Marine.   |
| Common Tern       | Amber                 |                     | 550 pairs (5 tetrads).<br>Saltholme 455 nests, Cowpen Marsh rafts 33 nests. 2014.<br>Saltholme 231 nests, Cowpen Marsh rafts 39 nests 2016. | UK breeding decline -17% (1986-2015).<br>The Tees estuary had the 9th highest current and 5 year average WeBS count (362) in the UK (2015/16).<br>Raft and island creation has boosted breeding numbers.   | North Tees Marshes.<br>Maintain raft and island provision. Control predation. Support conservation of fish stocks.    |
| Roseate Tern      | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1 pair (1 tetrad).<br>Breeding season sightings increasing.   | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>Not a regular local breeder but this is 2% of GB breeding population.<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.   | Marine.   |
| Kittiwake         | Red                   |                     | 7,100 pairs (9 tetrads).<br>2014 E. Cleveland cliffs 3590 pairs.<br>Tees Jetties 204, Hartlepool 119.                                       | Elevated to red list 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -44% (2000-2015).<br>The Tees estuary is in top 21 UK (WeBS) sites (2015/16).<br>Although locally abundant declining and very vulnerable due to concentration in so few colonies.<br>East Cleveland coast. -23% in 2015/2016.  | Marine and coastal. Hunt Cliff & Boulby to Cowbar.<br>Potential for breeding ledges on industrial buildings.          |
| Black-headed Gull | Amber                 |                     | 87 pairs (4 tetrads).<br>797 nests at Saltholme, 180 nests on moors in 2016.  | WeBS 5 year average in the Tees estuary 2273 (2015/16).<br>Benefitting from provision of tern nesting areas and other protected areas.   | Makes use of artificial islands at RSPB Saltholme.<br>Moorland in south of county.                                    |

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| Common Gull              | Amber                 |                     | Migrant and winter visitor.  | WeBS 5 year average in the Tees estuary 1042. (2015/16).   |  |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | Amber                 |                     | 148 pairs (16 tetrads).  | WeBS 5 year average in the Tees estuary 44. (2015/16).   |  |
| Herring Gull             | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1,306 pairs (37 tetrads). 385 pairs on E. Cleveland cliffs & 19 nests at Longnewton Res. 2016. | This is about 1% GB breeding population. UK breeding decline -39% (1986-2014). The Tees estuary is in the top 20 WeBS sites (5 year average 2445. 2015/16).      | Marine, coastal and buildings.                         |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | Amber                 |                     | Migrant and winter visitor.  | The Tees estuary is the fifth highest site for non-breeding GBB Gull. (5 year average 486. 2015/16). UK breeding decline -11% (2000-2015).                       | Tees estuary.  |
| Cuckoo                   | Red                   | UKBAP               | 83 pairs (62 tetrads). Only reported from 6 sites in breeding season 2016.                     | UK breeding decline -43% (1995-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species.   | Farmland, upland.                                      |
| Barn Owl                 |                       | TVBAP               | 9 pairs (9 tetrads). 29 fledged from 10 nests in 2016. Breeding noted at 2 other sites.        | Uncommon local resident. No longer amber listed 2014. Nest boxes installed and monitored in local BAP initiative are helping to maintain small population.       | Farmland with rough pasture and some industrial sites. |
| Little Owl               |                       |                     | 55 pairs (37 tetrads). Under-reported: only 2 nesting attempts reported in 2016.               | UK breeding decline -58% (1995-2014).  | Farmland and scattered trees.                          |
| Tawny Owl                | Amber                 |                     | 179 pairs (90 tetrads). Largely nocturnal & under recorded.                                    | Elevated from green to amber 2014. UK breeding decline -21% (1995-2014). Only 5 young reared from 4 nest boxes in 2016.  | Woodland, farmland and gardens.                        |
| Long-eared Owl           |                       |                     | 8 pairs (7 tetrads). 3 breeding pairs 2015. 2 pairs bred in 2016.                              | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015. This is about 1% UK breeding population 2015 A scarce resident with some important traditional winter roost sites. | Coniferous woods, over grown hedges.                   |
| Short-eared Owl          | Amber                 |                     | No breeding 1999-2006. 3 pairs bred in 2012. 2 pairs bred in 2015.                             | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015. Intermittent local breeder and winter visitor.   | North Tees Marshes and moorland.                       |



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| Nightjar                  | Amber                 | UKBAP               | 2 pairs (1 tetrad).<br>Minimum 20 birds in 2014.<br>20 including 13 singing males in 2015.        | Improving. Moved from red to amber 2014.<br>A scarce migratory breeder, increasing locally during phased felling of Guisborough forest.<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.                                | Heathland, woodland.<br>Current felling in Guisborough Forest is creating excellent breeding habitat. |
| Swift                     | Amber                 | TVBAP               | 673 pairs (61 tetrads).<br>Current breeding under reported.                                       | UK breeding decline -47% (1995-2014).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Urban.<br>Protect nest sites, provide nest access holes, nest boxes.                                  |
| Kingfisher                | Amber                 |                     | 10 pairs (9 tetrads).<br>3 pairs bred + 3 possible in 2014.                                       | UK breeding decline -2% (1995-2014).<br>An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.  | Rivers, streams, water bodies.<br>Water quality.  |
| Green Woodpecker          |                       |                     | 29 pairs (26 tetrads).<br>Territorial birds at 7 sites in 2014/15.<br>Bred in Guisborough forest. | An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.<br><br>No longer amber listed 2014.  | Woodland.   |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | Red                   | UKBAP               | 2 pairs (2 tetrads).  | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>One of the rarest breeding birds in Tees Valley.<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Woodland.   |
| Kestrel                   | Amber                 |                     | 131 pairs (105 tetrads).<br>Widely reported in 2016. 4 pairs used nest boxes.                     | UK breeding decline -36% (1995-2014).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Farmland, road verges, urban areas, North Tees marshes.   |
| Merlin                    | Red                   |                     | 3 pairs (3 tetrads).  | Returned to the red list 2014.<br>This is a rare breeding bird in the UK 2015.<br>A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley.   | Moorland and in winter North Tees marshes, estuary and coast.   |
| Peregrine                 |                       |                     | 4 pairs (4 tetrads).<br>In 2015 5 pairs bred successfully.  | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>UK breeding decline -13% (1995-2014).<br>A scarce breeding bird in Tees Valley and still liable to persecution.<br>3 pairs in 2012, 3 possibly 4 in 2014. | Cliffs, quarries, industrial sites.<br>Persecution is still a concern.                                |
| Willow Tit                | Red                   | UKBAP               | 53 pairs (30 tetrads).<br><br>1 pair in 2012, 5 in 2013, 5 in 2015.                               | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.<br>UK breeding decline -77 % (1995-2014).<br>An RSPB top 40 priority species.<br>Increasingly difficult to find in Cleveland.                                | Woodland.<br>Seek to retain wet woodland.   |

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| Marsh Tit           | Red                   | UKBAP               | 74 pairs (41 tetrads). Reported in suitable breeding habitat at 8/9 sites in 2015/16.    | UK breeding decline -32% (1995-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Woodland.  |
| Skylark             | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1,630 pairs (158 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -24% (1995-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Farmland.<br>More Skylark plots - Undrilled patches to provide access in dense winter cereal crops.                              |
| Sand Martin         |                       |                     | 518 pairs (13 tetrads). 161 at coastal sites & reported from 2 river bank sites. 2016.   | UK breeding decline -34% (1995-2014). No longer amber listed 2014.<br><br>6 in sand quarry, 52 in landfill site. 41 pairs at Saltholme in 2016. | Quarries, coastal cliffs, river banks and specially constructed sites.   |
| House Martin        | Amber                 |                     | 970 pairs (93 tetrads). 301 in 2012. Cliff nests 2016. Cowbar (6) and Skinninggrove(40). | UK breeding decline -10% (1995-2014).   | Housing & cliffs.  |
| Cetti's Warbler     |                       |                     | No breeding 1999-2006. 1 pair in 2012.   | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015.   |  |
| Wood Warbler        | Red                   | UKBAP               | 4 pairs (3 tetrads). 2 males briefly sang in 2015/16. No breeding.                       | UK breeding decline -56% (1995-2014). A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.                                     | Woodland.<br>Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long term regeneration. |
| Grasshopper Warbler | Red                   | UKBAP               | 52 pairs (27 tetrads). Estimated 15-25 pairs in 2015/16.                                 | UK breeding decline -18%. (1995-2014). An uncommon breeding bird in the Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.                           | Scrub, woodland.   |
| Dipper              | Amber                 |                     | 5 pairs (5 tetrads). 5/6 pairs confined to East Cleveland becks 2014/16.                 | Elevated from green to amber 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -13% (1995-2014). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley.                           | Rivers, streams.<br>Water quality.   |
| Song Thrush         | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1,973 pairs (157 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -53% (1970-2014). Recovering +15% (1995-2014).  | Woodland, farmland, gardens.   |
| Mistle Thrush       | Red                   |                     | 346 pairs (136 tetrads).   | Elevated to red list 2014.<br>UK breeding decline -28% (1995-2014). Fairly widespread but at low density.                                       | Woodland, farmland, parks & gardens.   |

| SPECIES            | LEVEL OF CONCERN (UK) | BAP SPECIES (UK/TV) | CLEVELAND BREEDING PAIRS 1999-2006. + RECENT DATA.  | ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS  | MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES   |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Spotted Flycatcher | Red                   | UKBAP               | 57 pairs (36 tetrads). Breeding records from 5/6 sites in 2015/16.                                | UK breeding decline -44% (1995-2014). Local decline continues with up to six breeding records in 2012. An RSPB top 40 priority species.            | Woodland.   |
| Redstart           | Amber                 |                     | 9 pairs (8 tetrads). Singing males in suitable breeding habitat at only 2 sites in 2015/16        | Locally a scarce and declining breeding bird. There were only two potential breeding records in 2012.  | Woodland. Maintenance of oak and birch stands with open under storey structures but ensuring adequate long term regeneration. |
| Whinchat           | Red                   |                     | 24 pairs (8 tetrads). Breeding/potential breeding recorded from only 2 sites in 2015/16.          | Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -53% (1995-2014). Locally an uncommon and declining breeding bird. An RSPB top 40 priority species. | Semi-natural grassland & moorland.  |
| Wheatear           |                       |                     | 11 pairs (11 tetrads). 3 nests in Sleddale in 2016.   | A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. UK breeding decline 11% (1995-2014). No longer amber listed 2014.   | Upland and some Brownfield sites.   |
| House Sparrow      | Red                   | UKBAP               | 14,423 pairs (150 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -5% (1995-2014). Despite decline still abundant in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.                               | Urban.  |
| Tree Sparrow       | Red                   | UKBAP<br>TVBAP      | 261 pairs (57 tetrads).<br>434 young ringed at 3 nest box sites in 2016.                          | UK breeding decline -90% (1970-2014). Recovering +125% (1995-2014).  | Farmland. Agri-environment initiatives. Nest box provision.   |
| Yellow Wagtail     | Red                   | UKBAP<br>TVBAP      | 36 pairs (19 tetrads). 2 pairs bred at Longnewton Res. 2016.                                      | UK breeding decline -42% (1995-2014). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.                                   | Grazed marshes, commons & farmland. Water levels and grassland management.  |
| Grey Wagtail       | Red                   |                     | 43 pairs (34 tetrads). Breeding confirmed at 3 sites in 2016. Territorial birds at 3 other sites. | Elevated to red list 2014. UK breeding decline -8% (1995-2014). Susceptible to cold winters. -21% in 2009/10). 3 breeding records in 2012.         | Rivers and streams. Water quality.  |
| Tree Pipit         | Red                   | UKBAP               | 26 pairs (7 tetrads). 7 pairs on territory at 3 sites in 2016.                                    | Declining UK -67 % (1970-2014). Recovering +16% (1995-2014). An uncommon 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. |

| SPECIES          | LEVEL OF CONCERN (UK) | BAP SPECIES (UK/TV) | CLEVELAND BREEDING PAIRS 1999-2006. + RECENT DATA.                                 | ADDITIONAL NOTES ON STATUS AND TRENDS   | MAIN HABITATS AND SOME KEY ISSUES  |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|
| Hawfinch         | Red                   | UKBAP               | 5 pairs (3 tetrads). Only one sighting in 2012, 2 in 2016.                         | This is a rare breeding bird in the UK. 2015. One of the scarcest resident birds in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species. | Woodland.  |
| Bullfinch        | Amber                 | UKBAP               | 232 pairs (85 tetrads).  | Recovering + 9% (1995-2014). Still widespread locally but in low numbers.   | Farmland hedgerows, parks and gardens. Agri-environment initiatives.   |
| Linnet           | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1,937 pairs (170 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -25% (1995-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species   | Farmland. Hedgerows and scrub. Agri-environment initiatives.   |
| Lesser Redpoll   | Red                   | UKBAP               | 17 pairs (9 tetrads). Breeding season records from only 2/3 sites in 2015/16.      | UK breeding decline -85% (1970-2013). An uncommon breeding bird in Tees Valley. An RSPB top 40 priority species.                  | Woodland.  |
| Common Crossbill |                       |                     | 15 pairs (6 tetrads).  | A rare breeding bird in Tees Valley. Similar numbers still present in 2012.   | Woodland. Retain key areas of spruce, pine and larch.  |
| Yellowhammer     | Red                   | UKBAP               | 1,094 pairs (121 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -14% (1995-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species.  | Farmland. Hedgerows & scrub. Lack of over winter seed. Agri-environment initiatives.                         |
| Reed bunting     | Amber                 | UKBAP               | 556 pairs (101 tetrads).   | UK breeding decline -32% (1970-2014). An RSPB top 40 priority species. Recovering + 29% (1995-2014).                              | Farmland.  |
| Corn Bunting     | Red                   | UKBAP<br>TVBAP      | 23 pairs (13 tetrads). 2 records in 2012. 2(1 carrying food) 2015. 2 records 2016. | UK breeding decline -34% (1995-2014). A scarce resident. On the brink. An RSPB top 40 species.                                    | Farmland. Increase winter food, delay silage cuts. Very successful recovery project nearby in County Durham. |

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

The following are some of the species of national 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, Red Grouse, Knot, Turnstone, Stock Dove, Meadow Pipit, Dunnock and Willow Warbler are all **Amber Listed** as of medium conservation concern.

Starling is **Red Listed** as of high conservation concern.

## Criteria:

### RED LIST SPECIES

- IUCN: species that are globally threatened.
- Historical population decline in UK during 1800–1995.
- Breeding population decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK breeding population size over 25 years, or longer-term entire period used for assessments since the first BoCC review, starting in 1969.
- Non-breeding population decline. (as defined above). Only assessed where species has substantially independent breeding and non-breeding populations.
- Breeding range decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK range between the breeding bird atlases in 1988-91 and 2007-11 or 1968-71 and 2007-11 (calculated change in the number of occupied 10km squares).
- Non-breeding range decline. Severe (at least 50%) decline in UK range between the wintering atlases in 1981-4 and 2007-11 (calculated change in the number of occupied 10km squares). The first time that it has been possible to assess this.

### AMBER LIST SPECIES

- ERLOB: SPECS have not been used for BOCC 4 as the latest revisions to Species of European Conservation Concern assessments include only red list assessments. All species on the European red list have been amber listed.
- Historical decline – recovery. Red listed for historical decline during 1800–1995, but recovering; population size has more than doubled over last 25 years or the longer term.
- Breeding population decline. Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term.
- Non-breeding population decline. Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years, or the longer-term period.
- Breeding range decline. Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range between 1988-91 and 2007-11 or 1968-71 and 2007-11.
- Non-breeding range decline. Moderate (25-49%) contraction between 1981-84 and 2007-11.
- Rare breeder; 1–299 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 rare non-breeders. Sites were defined as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Important Bird Areas (IBAs).
- Breeding & non-breeding internationally importance. At least 20% of European population in the breeding or non-breeding season in UK (European estimates from ERLOB data and for non-breeding water birds estimates for the flyway populations for NW Europe (wildfowl) or East Atlantic (waders). Wetlands International 2015.

**SOURCES:** This report on Birds of Conservation Concern in the Tees Valley, first published in May 2012 has been revised and updated to incorporate the latest available data from the following sources. (February 2018).

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J.V.Fairbrother March 2018.