NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD CLUB

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Broad-billed Hummingbird *photo: Tim Dean*

Ho ly Island *photo: Stewart McCormick*

Goldeneye *photo: Ian Andrews (PH)*

BIRDS of ARIZONA At our first meeting at the Bamburgh Pavilion in 18 months, we welcomed back our County Bird Recorder **Tim Dean**, who took us to the state of **Arizona**, where its proximity to the Mexican border attracts several colourful birds such as this dazzling hummingbird to its canyons. Turn to **page 3** for Paul Ashdown's enthusiastic report.

NOTICES on **page 2**

BIRD RECORDS for AUGUST turn to **page 4** for the most recent sightings compiled by our Recorder, John Lumby

FIELD TRIPS RESUME with an outing to Holy Island on 25th September when the Autumn migration and the returning geese should ensure a productive visit. Full details on the Noticeboard on p.2

RINGER'S ROUNDUP begins 'across the border' with this Goldeneye from England's only breeding colony (in Northumberland) was photographed by Ian Andrews at Musselburgh. Phil Hanmer has the fascinating full story in his latest article online – check out the NNBC Website.

NOTICEBOARD

Our Next Indoor Meeting takes place on Friday 8th October 2021, When Daniel Turner, Group Co-ordinator of the NEBBS, (Northeast England Beached Birds Survey) will talk about his work on Beached Birds and the Northern Fulmar Project

Notice of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the North Northumberland Bird Club

to be held at Bamburgh on November 12th 2021

The club is run by a **Committee** of ten members. At the present time, there is a vacancy following the resignation of a committee member who has moved away from the area. Any members interested in serving on the committee are welcome to put their name forward to the Acting Secretary before the closing date.
Nominations for the committee to be with our Acting Secretary Paul Ashdown by October 29th 2021, email ashbauve.pm@gmail.com
Nominations must be seconded and the nominee must have given their agreement to the nomination.

Notice of a proposed change to the Constitution:

(The subscription year has always been the calendar year. The committee is proposing to change it to the financial year.) The proposal to be put to members at the AGM is:
"Subscriptions are due on September 1st each year and if not paid by November 30th membership will be deemed to have lapsed. New members joining after April 1st will be credited with membership until the end of the following membership year."

THANK YOU and FAREWELL to MARTIN & MARY WORSFOLD

Martin and Mary moved up from Sussex to Northumberland in 2015. Having been keen members of their local RSPB Group in Chichester, Martin soon joined the committee, and would often be the person who would greet you at the door of the Pavilion, whilst Mary would regularly help with the refreshments at the interval. They introduced and led many members round their favourite walk from Loanend, a circular route taking in the south bank of the Tweed opposite Paxton House and the iconic Chain Bridge. We thank them for all their effort and contributions over the years and wish them well as they return south. 'We'll miss you!'

[Field Trips For all Field Trips Read Risk Assessment on Website beforehand . Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. For last-minute Cancellations e.g. adverse weather conditions, check Facebook Page.]

FIELD TRIP TO LINDISFARNE on SATURDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER at 10 a.m. Leaders: Alan Goodall and Richard Poyer

[Northumberland County Council Safe Crossing Times for 25th Sept. 09:25 until 16:15]
N.B. The guided walk will return to the car park within 3 hours, but some may wish to extend their visit……

Meet at the CHARE ENDS CAR PARK on the outskirts of the Village (Parking: £4.50 for 3 hours.£7.00 all day) for a guided walk checking out the regular resident species and the exciting prospect of migrants if conditions and wind directions are favourable.

DAY TRIP TO SALTHOLME on SATURDAY, 20th NOVEMBER Members who would like to go on a day trip by coach to RSPB Saltholme on Saturday 20th November 2021 should get in touch with Richard . Email to richardpoyer67@gmail.com by September 19th please. Cost about £20 and arriving Saltholme 10.00am

BIRDS of ARIZONA TIM DEAN

For our return to "live" talks, Tim Dean took us on an ornithological journey through the stunning scenery of southern Arizona, charting the course of a birding trip taken in 2016. From Phoenix where he started, the fabulous images he shared with us featured a full array of wildlife: lizards, cacti, butterflies and snakes. However, as you would expect, birds were the stars. Although we had our share of rarities set in remote and wild canyons, we also visited birding hot-spots in gardens, roadside picnic stops and a sewage plant.

Many of the most sought-after birds in Arizona are to be found at high altitude in the so-called "sky islands". These are isolated mountain clumps dotted through the south-east of the state, which form a chain of re-fuelling and winter stops for migrating birds. Many of Tim's highlights could only be found over 6000 feet up!

Sabino Canyon *photo: Tim Dean*

He took us to these magic places with great pictures. Although all the birds felt exotic to us, they ranged from relatively common sights like Wild Turkeys, American Robin, Vermilion Flycatcher and Roadrunner, through to a variety of real specialities that birders from across the states visit Arizona to see. Probably the prettiest were the hummingbirds. Many of these are to be seen on sugar-water feeders in back-yards or in surprisingly suburban locales. We saw iridescent colours (competing with the plastic of the feeders!) from male Anna's, Broad-billed, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned and Magnificent Hummingbirds, but also the relatively plain, and thus much more difficult to identify, colours of the females. Tim's special catch was the Violet-crowned Hummingbird, described as "rare and local" in my field-guide.

Another star set of birds which I particularly liked were the woodpeckers. I always find this group fun to watch and full of character. In the lower desert we saw the Gila Woodpecker nest amidst the prickles of a giant saguaro cactus, and in canyon woodland the clownish face of the Acorn Woodpecker. The stripes of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker and the ground feeding Northern Flicker are relatively common, but two of Tim's highlights were the much rarer Arizona Woodpecker and the Williamson's Sapsucker.

Amongst the array of pictures that Tim shared with us were some amazingly colourful birds that looked like they belonged in a Disney cartoon. The brilliance of the Northern Cardinal stays with any birdwatcher who sees one, but there were also stunners like the unreal blue of the Steller's Jay, or the attractive Mexican Jay, the magnificent orange and yellow of the Western Tanager, and the stunningly mottled Black-headed Grosbeak. Amongst all this colour, we were also treated to a masterclass in warbler and sparrow IDs. Tim's depth of knowledge and the expertise of the guide on his trip really shone through, sine many of these smaller birds are notoriously hard to identify.

Mexican Jay *photo: Tim Dean*

The variety of birds Tim took us through is impossible to capture in print. I just can't leave out the charismatic images of the pretty Montezuma Quail, the tiny Elf Owl, the impressive nests of White-throated Swifts or the bizarre head crest of the Gambel's Quail. Tim said he saw over 200 species on his trip. Enough to leave us all a bit stunned at the end of a great evening, but also ready to start dreaming of foreign travel once again.

Report by Paul Ashdown

BIRD RECORDS AUGUST 2021

Velvet Scoter	3 at Stag Rocks on 31st (A&MG).
Quail	1 at Bilton Mill Alnwick on 5th (PH).
Sooty Shearwater	1 at Cullernose Point on 17th 2 on 18th & 11 on 26th (I&KD).
Manx Shearwater	24+ at Cullernose Point on 1st & 20+ on 17th (I&KD).
Little Egret	6 at Budle Bay on 20th (A&MG,JPL) & 3 at Monk's House Pool on 31st (A&MG).
Gannet	100's passing north on 30th (JPL).
Marsh Harrier	1 pair at Milfield on 19/20th (JJ).
Red Kite	1 near Lowick on 19th (I&KD).
Golden Plover	300 at Boulmer on 13th & 200 at Cullernose Point on 18th (A&MG) with 1500 at Holy Island on 23rd (I&KD).
Whimbrel	1 at Cullernose Point on 1st & 1 near Ingram on 7th (I&KD).
Ruff	2 at Monk's House Pool on 20th & 1 on 31st (A&MG).
Curlew Sandpiper	3 at Monk's House Pool on 31st (A&MG).
Temminck's Stint	1 at Monk's House Pool on 31st (A&MG).
Little Stint	1 at Monk's House Pool on 31st (A&MG).
Common Sandpiper	1 at Monk's House Pool on 31st (A&MG).
Green Sandpiper	1 at Brandon Ford on 7th & 3 at Hedgeley Ponds on 8th (I&KD).
Greenshank	2 at Monk's House Pool on 20th & 1 on 31st (A&MG), 4 at Holy Island on 23rd (I&KD).
Great Skua	1 at Cullernose Point on 1st 2 on 18th & 5 on 26th (I&KD).
Long-tailed Skua	1 at Cullernose Point on 26th (I&KD).
Cuckoo	3 at Holy Island on 23rd (I&KD).
Swift	c.15 at Seahouses & North Sunderland all month (JPL).
Kingfisher	1 at College Burn on 31st (D&TLB,EH).
Merlin	1 at Hedgeley Hall on 3rd (I&KD) & 1 at High Letham on 26th (D&TLB).
Peregrine	1 at Branton on 14th (I&KD) & 1 at Cullernose Point on 18th (A&MG).
Wood Warbler	1 at High Letham on 16th (D&TLB).
Garden Warbler	1 at Howick Hall on 20th (PH).
Whitethroat	1 at Budle Point on 20th (A&MG).
Spotted Flycatcher	5 at Linhope on 22nd (PH).
Wheatear	1 at Boulmer on 13th (A&MG).
Yellow Wagtail	1 at Howick on 18th (I&KD).

Observers Ian & Keith Davison (I & KD), Alan & Margaret Goodall (A&MG), Phil Hanmer (PH), Liz Harrison (EH), James Joicey (JJ), David & Trish Lloyd Blake (D&TLB), John P Lumby (JPL).

September Records: please submit no later than 1st October to the Recorder, John Lumby, Shearwater, 2 St Cuthbert Close, North Sunderland, Seahouses, NE68 7WG. TEL: 01665-720654. e-mail: j.lumby@yahoo.co.uk **or .com if any difficulty**.