NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD CLUB

Chairman
Mr Richard Poyer,
12 Byron Street,
Amble, NE65 0ER
Tel: 07936 909649

Membership Secretary
Mrs Fiona Southern,
Robin Cottage, Spindlestone Mill,
Belford, NE70 7ED
Tel: 01668 214481

Secretary
Mr Paul Ashdown,
30 Creighton Place,
Embleton NE 66 3FA
Tel: 01665 576771.

Honorary President: Graham Bell

www.northnorthumberlandbirdclub.co.uk **ringouzel@northnorthumberlandbirdclub.co.uk**

www.facebook.com/NorthNorthumberlandBirdClub

Gill Thompson

Female Blackcap Photo supplied Phil & Alison Hanmer

FIELD TRIPS See a reports of last month's field trip to Aberlady on **pages 4,& 5.**

BREEDING WADERS– In the Northumberland National Park.

Gill Thompson gave a talk on BREEDING WADERS—In the Northumberland National Park Turn to **pages 6 & 7** for **Paul Ashdown's** report.

EMBLETON FIELD TRIP See details on our Notice Board on **page 2**

RINGER'S ROUNDUP See **pages 8 & 9**

BIRD BOOKS FOR SALE See **page 2**

AGM announcement and relevant documents on **page 3**

TREASURER FOUND ! . See **page 3.**

NOTICEBOARD

INDOOR MEETINGS BAMBURGH PAVILION

· **Friday 11th October 2022 at 7.30pm Mike Drage** will give a talk entitled **Madagascar —Paradise Lost ?**

Field Trips & Residentials [For all Field Trips Read please Risk Assessment on Website beforehand . [For last-minute Cancellations e.g. adverse weather conditions, check our Facebook Page.]

Field Trip at 10.00am on Wednesday 16th November 2022 to EMBLETON.

Join **Paul Ashdown** for a leisurely stroll around Embleton and the Bay .

Meet in the Tin Church at Low Newton at 10am (or if you prefer to park in the top Car Park Paul will meet you at 9.45am and walk you down to the church) Bring stout shoes, waterproofs and lunch.
All members welcome (non-members £2.00) Leaders : Paul Ashdown and Martine Delbauve tel: 07946 331415

BIRD BOOKS FOR SALE

John Lumby will bring to this and future club meetings, a selection of bird books etc for sale (club funds to benefit). If members/visitors have any book title requests, please let John know by telephoning 01665 720654. Poyser's, New Naturalist's Wayside & Woodland and general natural history are all available.

Also, at NEXT MONTH's meeting on 9th December , Wildlife Artist Jane Harbottle, will be bringing a selection of her work from her studio in Lowick (percentage going to Club funds). The items will make ideal Christmas presents, so bring your wallet !

In addition we have been donated two mounted prints that we will auction to raise funds for the Club. These will be on display at the indoor meeting on 11th November .If you cannot attend the meeting you can make a bid to me, David, by e mail at lloydblake@lloydblake.net by **6pm Thursday 10th November.**
Or approach me with a bid **in writing** on the night, giving your **contact details and price offered. Verbal offers cannot be accepted.**

Arctic Tern David Lingard

Bewick Swans through the Baltic Keith Shackleton

NOTICEBOARD

NEW TREASURER

The Committee is delighted to announce that **Alan Yoamans** has volunteered for the post of Treasurer when John Southern steps down from the post next year. He will therefore be included in the block nomination to serve on the Committee at the AGM on 11th November 2022.

Notice of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

of the North Northumberland Bird Club to be held at Bamburgh at 7.30pm on November 11th 2022

Attached to the end of this newsletter will be the following items :-

- **Agenda of meeting**
- **Previous AGM minutes.**
- **Chairmans Report**
- **Signed Accounts**

NOTE ON POSTERS.

We rely on members to distribute our monthly 'talk' posters. In order to monitor their distribution we will be asking those who take posters to sign a register and indicate where they intend to place them.

POSSIBLE RESIDENTIAL FIELD TRIP

We are looking to arrange a residential field trip to Dumfries and Galloway early next year, depending on interest and numbers. If you think you may be interested then please contact our Chairman, Richard Poyer. When we have more detail on likely costs and itinerary we will issue an e mail bulletin to all members.

NOTICEBOARD

ABERLADY FIELD TRIP 25th OCTOBER 2022.

With the forecast of a fine day ahead a group of 8 club members met up in the car park at Aberlady Bay.

Marge and Phil beat most of us there and already had a healthy list going including Wigeon Teal, Curlew, Lapwing and Little Egret to name but a few-all viewed from the car park !Those with cameras took the opportunity of taking some shots of the Wigeon with the autumn sunshine showing off their magnificent plumage.

With introductions unnecessary as we all knew each other, the photographers were lured away to begin the 2 miles stroll to Gullane Point- our planned lunch stop.

Having crossed the wooden bridge over the Peffer Burn giving more views of the waders,we pressed on checking the notice board for recent sightings and notes. The orange berried Sea Buckthorn, so bright and fresh on my last visit a few weeks ago was fading but apparently the soft and over ripe berries are more to the liking of thrushes and blackbirds than when they are new and colourful.

Having stopped to introduce ourselves to the Ranger for East Lothian Council , John Harrison, we pressed on into an area where it seemed every bird spotted was a Blue Tit!

Spirits lifted when around 5 Skylarks were spotted enjoying the warm Autumn sunshine. An area of dense scrub was encountered next where one could only catch fleeting glances of 'something moving in there' until we emerged into the open .'2 pairs of ears' spotted in the grassland to our right then seemed to morph into a pair of unusually still and quiet pheasants before finally revealing themselves as two Roe Deer!

A brief stop at the Marl Loch gave us Moorhen and Mallard plus Magpie.

On reaching Gullane Point we stopped on the shore for lunch. Scanning the rocky shoreline, and out to sea, here we added to our list :- Purple Sandpiper, Barnacle Geese(flying overhead) Turnstone, Knot, Oystercatcher, Eider, Common Scoter and Guillemot. As the rising tide began lapping at our feet it was reluctantly time to move on from our sunny and unseasonably warm picnic spot. It was decided , rather than retrace our steps ,we would head back through the dunes and eventually pick up our original path.

En route after watching a raft of Common Scoter, a flash of white caught our attention as the bird lifted from the dunes. The consensus was a Wheatear!

And so into the dunes with a degree of grumbling at the somewhat unclear, undulating , and rambling path, as we followed Phil Hanmer, the only one with a detailed map .His hat aloft on a pole ,Phil lead the way like a modern day Pied Piper- or alternatively an anxious visitor to the Farnes being mobbed by Arctic Terns!

We emerged eventually on the intended path hearing on the way, in an agreed 'unlikely location'. the squealing of a Water Rail. Could it be? John Harrison the Warden encountered again later, was doubtful so it remains a query.

Photos : Hanmer

ABERLADY FIELD TRIP 25th OCTOBER 2022. (cont.)

So where were all the winter thrushes feeding on the berries? A Mistle Thrush had already been spotted ,but finally, on the top of a very distant bush we spotted it-the first Fieldfare facing our way, chest and facial markings clearly visible!

Crows on Sea Buckthorn and Wigeon.

Photos : Hanmer

And so back to the car park at 3.30pm as planned ,at high tide. There was no sign of any Pink Feet and so after a while, most of the group headed home whilst Richard , Janet and Liz stuck around for another hour or so. During this time several skeins passed overhead calling, but none landed .An enormous but distant flock of Golden Plover nervously landed then rose again several times before settling some distance away. Eventually, getting chilly, we decided to call it a day and head home .

Full bird List:-

Wigeon, Teal ,Curlew ,Lapwing ,Redshank, Mallard, Black Headed Gull, ,Little Egret, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Carrion Crow ,Pink Footed Goose, Grey Lag Goose ,Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Herring Gull ,Starling, Dunlin, Turnstone, Jackdaw, Robin ,Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Skylark ,Grey Heron, Bullfinch, Magpie, Moorhen ,Goldfinch, ?Kestrel (fleeting view) ,Stonechat, Mistle Thrush, Barnacle Geese, Eider, Cormorant, Purple Sandpiper, Long Tailed Tit, Guillemot ,Wheatear ,Wren, Common Scoter, Fieldfare

Thanks to Marge Noble for keeping the list and to Phil Hanmer for leading us out of the wilderness!

Photos : L. Harrison

BREEDING WADERS – In the Northumberland National Park - Gill Thompson.

Report by Paul Ashdown

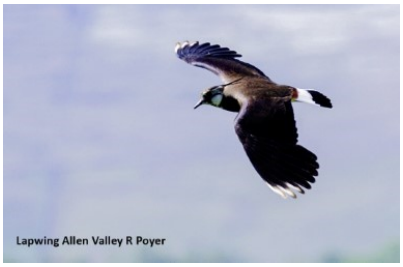
This month's talk was given by Gill Thompson, ecologist for the Northumberland National Park, and focused on work being done in and around the park to help breeding waders. The star of the show was the Curlew, which, appropriately enough, also features on the National Park logo. The haunting sound of the Curlew's call stubbornly refused to emerge from our sound system, but I suspect that most of us know and love it anyway. It is a characteristic element of both the Northumberland hills and coast, and did, in the end flow through the Pavilion via Phil Hamner's phone! Gill shared fantastic images of the birds, showing the amazing, almost impossibly long beak, and wonderfully dappled plumage. (I hadn't realised that females are considerably bigger than males, and have longer beaks – something to look out for next time I see them on coastal fields.) We also had a good look at the supporting cast of great birds that breed alongside the Curlew in the Park. Snipe, Oystercatcher, Lapwing and Redshank, plus my personal favourite, Golden Plover. Although each of these has its own special niche in the Park, they all share some common challenges, seriously threatening the future of these birds which we have probably taken for granted for too long.

Oystercatcher Allen Valley R Poyer

Common Sandpiper, tail wagging, Allen Valley R Poyer

Curlew, Allen Valley R Poyer

WADERS (cont.)



Gill took us through recent changes to Curlew populations across the British Isles. Whilst the North Pennines remain a stronghold, a worrying collapse in range and abundance across Ireland and South-West England mean that our breeding birds are ever more important to the long-term health of the population. A lot of the work Gill outlined, including detailed surveys of breeding territories, ringing, tagging, and tracking birds, and monitoring of nesting birds, are all linked to interventions funded through the agri-environment schemes set up by the EU. Although details vary, farmers are paid to manage their land in ways which help waders, especially Curlew. Gill showed us the extent of the most important of these schemes, the Curlew Life Project, which covers a wide area of the National Park along the length of Hadrian's Wall and into the RSPB's Geltsdale Reserve. Tree-free vistas to hamper predation, grassland management which provides both safe nesting and productive feeding sites, and reduced stock levels all have a part in this, and need to be at a "landscape" level if they are to help birds with large territories and which move across huge areas every day. She stressed the vital partnership with farmers and other landowners that is needed to make this happen.

It was clear to us all, that without the continued funding for schemes like the Curlew Life Project, Gill and her colleagues will have real difficulty sustaining this sort of work. Post-Brexit, we have been assured that UK schemes to replace the Common Agricultural Policy and EU environmental funds would shift to support farmers in delivering "public good", like healthy Curlew populations. Gill was hopeful and positive about this, and referred to the extensive pilot schemes across the country under the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). However, to my eyes, our latest government appears to have pulled away from this commitment and ELMS is "under-review". The RSPB, the National Trust, and the Wildlife Trusts, are all seriously worried by this volte-face. It seems to me, that the future of the wonderful work Gill outlined hangs by a thread. If we are to continue hearing the beautiful sound of Curlews over the hills and coast of Northumberland, one way or another, we all need to act now.

A RINGERS YEAR .

All photographs in this report supplied by Phil & Alison Hanm

OCT 2022: Ringing at Howick Ringing Station during October has again been much disrupted by the weather although catches have been high and interesting on the few sessions, we have been able to conduct.
On the 3rd October we captured and processed 76 birds; 52 new and 24 retraps from 20 different species. The retraps included several Long-Tailed Tits which always frustrate trainees who do not understand why they cannot age them as 'juveniles of the year'. All Long-Tailed Tits (which in Family terms are not tits at-all) do a complete moult even when juvenile, in the summer; and once this is finished are inseparable from adult birds. This fact was re-inforced when the ring numbers of a couple of the birds were checked and showed they had originally been ringed in 2019 and 2020 respectively! Turning to the new birds these included the first Redwing of the autumn, our regular autumn migrant from Scandinavia which was associated with a flock of Blackbirds and other thrushes (rather suggesting that they had all recently arrived together coming-in across the North Sea). There were also lots of Chiffchaff almost certainly not local birds but rather ones in the process of travelling from the north and east, down the country towards the south. Quite late in the morning we captured that beautiful little rarity a Yellow-browed Warbler; a mere 6.5 gram bundle of energy. This widespread breeder in Siberia has its normal migration south into South Asia (China etc.) but it's believed that part of the population is pioneering a new migration route down through Europe and into Africa.
We were next able to ring on the 21st when we captured 98 birds (probably a record for a Howick session); 87 new and 11 retraps from 18 species. In the retraps there was a Female Great Spotted Woodpecker ringed as an adult in 2021 and a Blackbird from 2020; clearly both residents. However, in the new birds there were large numbers of migrant thrushes feeding on the juicy berries that this part of the arboretum provides this time of year; Blackbirds, Mistle Thrush and Redwing were all processed. There were also lots of tiny Goldcrest, some weighing less than 5.0 grams. Despite their diminutive size this species moves (rather than having a regular migration) all over Europe often in-search of food and to get away from bad-weather; and the small largely sedentary breeding population of Howick can increase markedly at this time of year. There were also a Blackcap carrying a score of '5' body fat, clearly intent on travelling far south. There was also another Yellow-browed Warbler this time looking distinctly adult in its tail and wing coverts. We also captured a local male Great Spotted Woodpecker (photo.) and a similarly local young Magpie (photo) that seemed quite interested in studying us! Again, there were a lot of Bullfinch tucking into the local berry crop and we intercepted the local flock of Long-Tailed Tits capturing 14 at one time.
Ringing on the 22nd captured 44 birds; 34 new and 10 retraps of 12 species with almost the first new bird captured being a Siberian Chiffchaff (Phylloscopus tristis)

which is either an Eastern race of the Common Chiffchaff or a distinct species; with a call very different from our more usual chiffchaff. In either case it naturally breeds in the coniferous taiga forests of Siberia from the Urals to Lake Baikal and normally migrates south to India to winter. Its photo (here with a Common Chiffchaff in the back-ground) clearly shows its grey-brown appearance and almost complete lack of yellow. Its status is probably that of a vagrant from the East (rather than a bird establishing a new migration pattern like the Yellow-brow) but its not that unusual for small numbers of birds to be spotted wintering in Britain (including on the Northumberland coast). Several common Chiffchaffs were also ringed along with some Goldcrests. The Siberian Chiff was carrying 4 fat but one of the Common Chiffs had up to 6 (with fat bulging out from its trachea like a pat of butter); these birds are preparing to travel a long way. Goldcrests were again in evidence along with a perky looking female Blackcap (photo.) that was also carrying 6 fat.

The 29/10/22 proved surprisingly calm until 11:00 (when it rained) and we were able to capture 72 birds; 56 new and 16 retraps of 16 different species. We were 'croaked at' by a passing Raven quite early in the morning but we quickly discovered that most noise was being made by Blackbirds, Redwing and Goldcrest who were all occupying the low trees and shrubs on the ringing site. Eventually catching all of these species
to which must be added some Song Thrushes, who might also have been incoming migrants. There were also two Blackcaps travelling south one with '5' fat and two Chiffchaff of which one also had '5' fat, stored up for its jour-ney. Another new young Magpie was captured (some-what less pecky than the one captured back on the 21st) together with a retrap Great Tit from 2018.

We have now stopped regular ringing at Howick for this year.

Best Regards

Phil Hanmer S Ringer/Trainer; Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group (Hancock Museum). E-mail: tytoalbas@btinternet.co

BIRD RECORDS October 2022

Report by Paul Armstrong

Below are the highlights for the month of October.

Brent Goose	c3000 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
Barnacle Goose	30 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
	55 over Ross on 1st 25 over Branton on 17th	I&KD
Shoveler	1 at Branton Ponds on 3rd	I&KD
	1 at Branton and Hedgeley Gravel Pits on 10th	JMcC
Wigeon	c4000 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
Pintail	40 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
Long-tailed Duck	1 juvenile at Branton Ponds on 30th	I&KD
Goosander	41 at Branton Ponds on 3rd and 129 on 17th	I&KD
Grey Partridge	6 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
	5 at Branton and Hedgeley Gravel Pits on 27th	JMcC
Water Rail	1 at Branton and Hedgeley Gravel Pits on 20th	JMcC
Black-tailed Godwit	18 at Coquet on 1st	RP
	15 at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd	JPL
Purple Sandpiper	1 at Annstead Dunes on 24th and 26th	PCA
Woodcock	1 at Holy Island on 21st	PCA
	5 on Holy Island on 21st	I&KD
Common Sandpiper	1 at Coquet Estuary on 16th	JMcC
Arctic Skua	1 off Ross Sands on 1st	I&KD
	1 at Emmanuel Head on 30th	PN&MN
Common Guillemot	1 at Amble Harbour on 13th and 2 on 20th	JMcC
Red-throated Diver	1 at Coquet Estuary on 20th and 27th	JMcC
	13 past Newton Point on 19th 2 at Holy Island on 30th	I&KD
	5 at Alnmouth Bay on 31st	RP
Great White Egret	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 15th and 16th	I&KD
Hen Harrier	1 over Beal on 2nd, female/juvenile	PN&MN
Barn Owl	1 near Chatton on 14th	DG&RB
	1 at Howick on 21st and 22nd	P&AH
Short-eared Owl	1 at Newton Point on 19th	I&KD
Tawny Owl	1 at Lucker on 14th	JMcC
	1 female calling at Yearle on 18th	DG&RB
	2 at Howick on 21st	P&AH
Peregrine	1 at Holy Island on 30th	I&KD
Raven	1 on Holy Island on 21st and again on 30th	I&KD
	1 at Howick on 29th	P&AH
Willow Tit	1 at Branton Ponds on 8th	I&KD
Swallow	5 over Branton on 12th	I&KD
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 on Holy Island on 2nd	I&KD
Pallas's Warbler	1 on Holy Island on 21st	I&KD
Siberian Chiffchaff (Tristis)	1 at Howick Ringing Station on 22nd	HRS
Blackcap	2 on Holy Island on 21st and 10 on 23rd	I&KD
	2 at Howick Ringing Station on 29th	HRS
Barred Warbler	1 on Holy Island on 23rd	I&KD
	1 at Holy Island on 23rd	PN&MN
Firecrest	2 on Holy Island on 21st	I&KD
	1 at The Heugh, Holy Island on 21st	PN&MN

BIRD RECORDS October 2022 (cont.)

Goldcrest	25 on Holy Island on 21st	I&KD
	8 at Howick Ringing Station on 29th	HRS
Redwing	6 at Howick Ringing Station on 29th	HRS
Fieldfare	1 at Branton and Hedgeley Gravel Pits on 5th	JMcC
	50+ over Holy Island on 30th	I&KD
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 on Holy Island on 21st and again on 23rd	I&KD
Black Redstart	1 at Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 24th	PN&MN
Brambling	2 on Holy Island on 2nd and 9 on 21st then 40+ on 23rd	I&KD
	1 at The Heugh, Holy Island on 21st	PN&MN
Twite	10 at Alnmouth on 1st	JPL
	40 at Long Nanny on 31st	PCA
Linnet	200 at Northfield Farm, Birling on 3rd	RP

Please send November records to Paul Armstrong NNBCrecords@yahoo.com by 1st December 2022

If you want a bird adding to the highlights list, you will need to submit, the species, location, date(s) and count together with any comments. If you just want it added to the list of species seen in the month, then you only need submit the name of the bird.

Paul Armstrong (PCA)
Graham & Rosemary Bell (DG&RB)
Ian & Keith Davison (I&KD)
Phil & Alison Hanmer (P&AH)
John Lumby (JPL)
Phil & Marge Noble (PN&MN)
John McCutcheon (JMcC)
Richard Poyer (RP)
Howick Ringing Station (HRS)

Please send November records to Paul Armst

If you want a bird adding to the highlights list, you will need to submi
you just want it added to the list of species seen in the month, then y

Contributors

ITEMS FOR AGM

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2022 – BAMBURGH PAVILION – 7.30pm

AGENDA

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of last AGM held 12th November 2021

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Proposal to write to our local MP

Election of the Committee

NNBC Committee Nominations 2022AGM

Paul Ashdown

Alan Goodall Liz Harrison

David Lloyd-Blake

John Lumby

Stewart McCormick

Richard Poyer

Fiona Southern

John Southern

Alan Yeomans

ITEMS FOR AGM

(Minutes of previous meeting)

North Northumberland Bird Club

Annual General Meeting held Friday 12th November 2021, in Bamburgh Pavilion

1. **Welcome**: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 36th AGM of the NNBC
2. **Members Present**: Graham Bell (Hon. President), Richard Poyer (Chair), John Southern (Treasurer), Paul Ashdown (Acting Secretary), Liz Harrison, Fiona Southern, John Lumby, David Lloyd-Blake (Committee Members), and 34 other Club members.
3. **Apologies**: Alan & Margaret Goodall, Stewart & Alison McCormick, Glynnis Gower, Trish Lloyd-Blake, Alison Hanmer, Winnie Banks, Patrick & Christine Cordingley, Lord James Joicey.
4. **Minutes of last AGM**: The Chair explained that the last AGM had been held on 8th November 2019, there being no meeting in 2020 due to Covid. The Minutes had been circulated electronically in advance. Their adoption was moved and approved. Proposed by Judy Glover, Seconded by Phil Hamner.
5. **Matters Arising**: The Chair noted that the Minutes recorded actions taken by an Extraordinary General Meeting on Friday 10th January which had changed the detail of the Club constitution to reflect the requirements of funding applications.
6. **Chairman's Report**: (Below)This had been circulated in advance and was shared on screen. The Chair noted the success of the Zoom Meetings during the Covid lockdown which had maintained Club activity, and thanked Committee Member Stewart McCormick for his work on the newsletter during this period.
7. **Treasurer's Report**: (Below) The Treasurer presented his report and accounts, correcting an error in the previously circulated documents. Although the Club had operated with a deficit during the lockdown, the underlying figures remained as expected. The Treasurer moved an amendment to the Club constitution so that it reads: **" 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."** This change reflects the subscription "holiday" during the covid period. Moved and approved. Proposed by Martine Delbauve. Seconded by Rosemary Skinner. The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions should remain the same for the coming year. Proposed by Sheila….., Seconded by Sue…. Passed. The Treasurer thanked David Harrison for scrutinising the accounts and recommended their adoption. Proposed by John Lumby, Seconded by Alan Yeoman. Passed. There were no questions from the floor.
8. **Election of the Committee**: The Acting Secretary explained that the list of candidates circulated in advance left no need for an election. He proposed that the meeting could nominate them "en bloc". This was proposed by Tom Cadwallendar, Seconded by Rosemary Skinner. Approved by all, therefore the following are elected to serve as the Committee for a year: Paul Ashdown, Alan Goodall, Glynis Gower, Liz Harrison, David Lloyd-Blake, John Lumby, Stewart McCormick, Richard Poyer, Fiona Southern, John Southern. The Acting Secretary explained that the officer roles would be allocated at the first Committee meeting.
9. **AOB**: No items had been notified to the Acting Secretary or the Chair.
10. The Hon President, Graham Bell, moved a vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard work keeping the Club active during the difficult lockdown period. Universally approved. The meeting then closed.

ITEMS FOR AGM

NNBC Chairman's Report 2022

With Government restrictions on meeting lifted and the vaccination programme in full swing, the club has had a full programme of Pavilion talks and field trips in the last year.

We have learned about bird life in such distant places such as Gough Island, the Pantanal. Okavango, Georgia and Uganda. All have beautiful, interesting and unusual birds. However, these have been balanced by talks on birding and birding issues closer to home with Ringed Plovers, Goldeneye, waders in our National Park and the importance of getting out and recording birds. A big thank you to all our speakers, especially when a talk was given at short notice.

Our field trips tend to follow an annual pattern but this year we have visited both the Hirsel and Aberlady Bay after quite a long break. The St. Abb's trip was before the dreadful effects of avian flu became apparent and we saw the Gannets in increased numbers on the stacks. The annual Dawn Chorus took place on the Ford and Etal Estate with a twenty two members in attendance. There were many Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs and the first Common Whitethroat was seen. Lady Joicey provided the traditional splendid breakfast after all that bird watching.

A trip to Low Newton started in thick mist but the site has been an exciting one this year with breeding Marsh Harrier and Avocets. Further up the coast the North American Black Tern attracted many visitors.

There was sad news in January with the death of Colin Lewis. Colin was a long-time member of the NNBC. He was on the committee for many years, was bird recorder and led many field trips. He is remembered with fondness.

In March, after 7 years as editor, Stewart McCormick, the club's vice-chairman, produced his last Newsletter. We owe him a huge thanks for all work he put in to give us such a high-quality Newsletter every month. A hard act to follow but the club was very fortunate that committee member David Lloyd Blake was willing to do so and he has taken over where Stewart left off. Thank you, David.

ITEMS FOR AGM

NNBC Chairman's Report 2022 (cont.)

Glynis Gower joined the committee in 2014 and became our secretary in 2016. In 2021 she needed to devote her time to her family and so stepped aside for a time being. She has now decided to retire from the committee. She brought her incisive mind to bear in committee meetings, often keeping the chairman in order. We thank her for her contributions to the NNBC. Once again, we had a committee member willing to take on the Secretary role – thank you Paul.

A third member of the current committee also decided to take a step down from their role. John Lumby has been the club's recorder since January 2008 when he took over from Colin Lewis. That's more than 14 years of service, checking up on rarities sighted and compiling the monthly record for the Newsletter. The members thank you very much for these years of dedication. Yet again the Club is fortunate that Paul Armstrong has come forward to take over John's job. Thank you, Paul.

Whilst this is a retrospective report, I would like to thank Alan Yeomans for volunteering to become our treasurer when John Southern steps down next year. Having gone on about succession for some time it is good to know that we have members who are willing to come forward when the need is there.

The club was asked if it would be involved in a project aiming to improve the Wooler Water. Our contribution would be to lead a series of bird walks in the spring/summer of 2022. Yes, was the answer and so Liz Harrison, Alan Goodall and myself duly led walks in April, May and June. A good variety of birds were seen and heard by beginners as well as experienced birders.

The highlights were probably Dipper, Grey Wagtail and Siskin. A donation to club funds was made by the Glendale Gateway Trust from their funding for the project.

I would like to thank the committee and all those from the club helping in any way for their work over the last twelve months - the refreshment teams, helpers with the newsletter, members contributing reports and photographs to Facebook and the Website, each of whom in their various ways help to keep this club an active and interesting one.

ITEMS FOR AGM

The Treasurer will read out his report at the AGM

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BIRD CLUB

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31st AUGUST

INCOME	2022	2021	2020	2019
Raffle	258.01		228.00	371.80
Coffee	100.85		129.70	162.73
Visitors Fees	87.00		64.20	155.00
Subscriptions incl pre-paid 2021	1665.00	255.00	1440.00	1630.00
Donations			50.00	
Miscellaneous	111.00			
Grant for Projector, Computer & Software			1074.00	
Bank Interest	0.48	0.81	7.33	9.17
Pre-paid 2023 Subscriptions	-115.00	-255.00		
	£2,107.34	£0.81	£2,993.23	£2,328.70
EXPENDITURE				
Stationery/Print etc.	116.40	18.00	211.65	356.38
Postage	33.00			232.00
Insurance/Test	129.08	102.20	210.91	183.14
Rent	312.00	102.00	312.00	287.00
Speaker Fee/Exp	372.00	170.00	622.90	660.40
Donations	125.00	100.00	962.60	383.00
Website/Computer Exp.	113.49	138.00	98.87	121.88
Zoom Meetings		100.73		
New Projector, Computer & Software			1157.94	
Miscellaneous	137.36	674.30	142.98	52.90
	£1,338.33	£1,405.23	£3,719.85	£2,276.70
Excess Income over Expenditure	769.01			£52.00
Excess Expenditure over Income		£1,404.42	£726.62	

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st AUGUST

Business saver account	3232.05	2628.30	3812.84	4384.08
Community Account	115.00	114.74	79.62	110.00
Less Cheques not Presented	-100.00	-125.00	-125.00	
Pre-paid Subscriptions	-115.00	-255.00		
TOTAL	£3,132.05	£2,363.04	£3,767.46	£4,494.08

SUMMARY				
Balance B/Fwd 1st September	£2,363.04	3767.46	4494.08	4442.08
Surplus for the Year	£769.01			52.00
Loss for the Year		-1404.42	-726.62	
TOTAL	£3,132.05	£2,363.04	£3,767.46	£4,494.08

Examined and found to be in accordance with the accounts, financial statements and supporting documents of the North Northumberland Bird Club for the twelve month period ending 31st August 2022 and confirm they represent a true and accurate reflection of the Club's activities.

Signed
David J Harrison M.A. (Hon Auditor)
October 2022