

**HARROGATE & DISTRICT NATURALISTS' SOCIETY FIELD MEETING TO HARTLEPOOL AND
TEESMOUTH** **TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2018**

SITES VISITED: Hartlepool Headland and Marina, Newburn Bridge, Seaton Common, North Gare, Saltholme RSPB Reserve.

WEATHER: Sunny, sea conditions slight; cold northerly airstream.

Minibus trip: 18 members attended (15 in 'bus, 3 in cars).

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS

CANADA GOOSE Reserve
GREYLAG GOOSE Reserve
MUTE SWAN Reserve
SHELDUCK Reserve
SHOVELER Reserve
GADWALL Reserve
WIGEON Seaton Common and hundreds at Reserve
MALLARD Seaton Common and Reserve
PINTAIL Reserve
TEAL Seaton Common and Reserve
POCHARD Reserve
TUFTED DUCK Reserve
EIDER 20 at Hartlepool
COMMON SCOTER Two on the sea at the Headland
GOLDENEYE Reserve
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Reserve
PHEASANT
RED-THROATED DIVER Three seen at the Headland
GREAT CRESTED GREBE Reserve
LITTLE GREBE Reserve
GREY HERON Reserve
LITTLE EGRET Reserve
SHAG One at Headland
CORMORANT Headland
MARSH HARRIER Reserve
MOORHEN Reserve
COOT Reserve
OYSTERCATCHER Headland
LAPWING Reserve
GOLDEN PLOVER Many on Reserve
GREY PLOVER One at North Gare
RINGED PLOVER Headland

CURLEW Reserve
TURNSTONE Several at the Headland
KNOT One at the Headland
SANDERLING One on the beach at Newburn Bridge
PURPLE SANDPIPER Three at the Headland
COMMON REDSHANK Headland
BLACK-HEADED GULL Headland
MEDITERRANEAN GULL One at the Headland and one at Newburn Bridge
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Reserve
HERRING GULL
COMMON GUILLEMOT Headland
STOCK DOVE
WOOD PIGEON
FERAL PIGEON
COLLARED DOVE
LITTLE OWL One at the Dock entrance
KESTREL
MAGPIE
JACKDAW
CARRION CROW
BLUE TIT Reserve
GREAT TIT Reserve
LONG-TAILED TIT Reserve
SKY LARK Reserve
WREN
STARLING
BLACKBIRD
ROBIN
STONECHAT One at Reserve
HOUSE SPARROW Headland
TREE SPARROW Reserve
DUNNOCK Headland
PIED WAGTAIL
MEADOW PIPIT Reserve
CHAFFINCH Reserve
GREENFINCH Reserve
LINNET Newburn
GOLDFINCH
LAPLAND BUNTING Newburn – one with Linnet flock
REED BUNTING Reserve

73 species.

Our minibus driver, Keith, got us off to a good start, arriving at Hartlepool at 9.15 a.m. on a sunny morning with a receding tide that had been high at 6.30 a.m. Our first stop was along the seafront where the rocks were just beginning to be exposed and our target wader species, Purple Sandpiper, was quickly found. The usual Turnstones and Oystercatchers were in good numbers but a very good find was a single Knot. We next moved on to the Headland to sea watch as, in the past, this had always produced a good number of species but today it was extremely quiet and two flying Red-throated Divers with one on the sea, two Common Scoters and a Common Guillemot were all that were seen. As we walked past the breakwater, a Mediterranean Gull was sitting on the rocks and a party of Eider Ducks was on the sea, close to the entrance to the fish docks. Moving on to the Marina, which like the Headland is usually a good location, did not produce anything today. The report of a Black Redstart at the entrance to the docks was worth a try, but in vain, though a diligent member did find a Little Owl which gave a flying view to some of the group.

Our lunch stop at Newburn Bridge gave us the usual Mediterranean Gull, also a lone Sanderling on the beach. A Lapland Bunting, with a large flock of Linnets across the road from there, was worth investigating; as usual the flock was constantly on the move but some members did have a brief view of the bunting. A short stop at North Gare provided us with a Grey Plover, before we reached RSPB Saltholme Reserve where a strong northerly wind greeted us. Fourteen species of waterfowl were seen, highlights being Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser and Goldeneye. Hundreds of Wigeon were feeding in the fields with Curlews, Golden Plovers and a close Little Egret, while a hunting Marsh Harrier gave excellent views. A Stonechat was located and Tree Sparrow, Greenfinch and Reed Bunting were some of the species at the feeders.

Well done to the 18 members who worked hard to provide such a good list of 73, which equalled last year's trip – a very enjoyable day.

June Atkinson.