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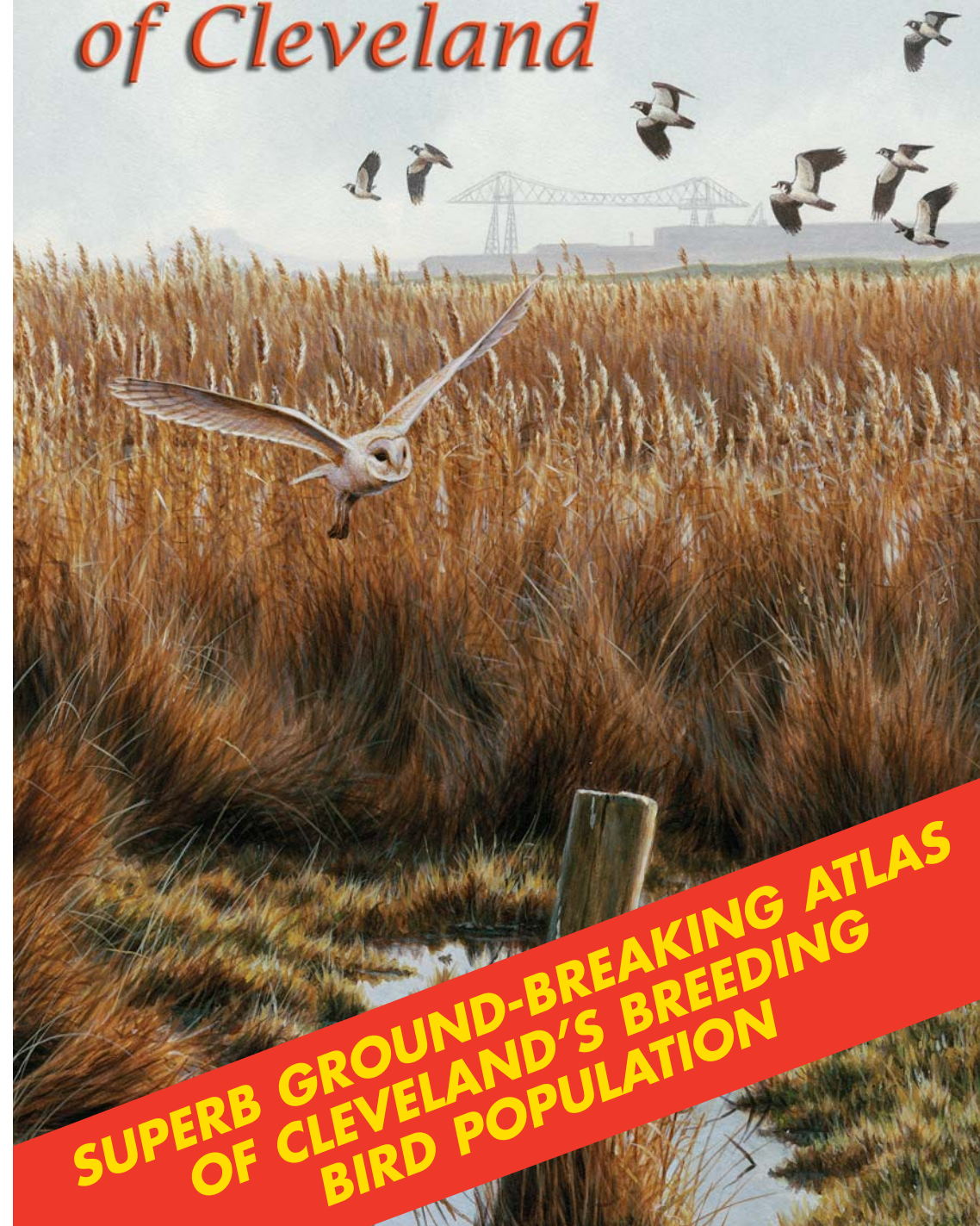
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# The Breeding Birds of Cleveland



**SUPERB GROUND-BREAKING ATLAS  
OF CLEVELAND'S BREEDING  
BIRD POPULATION**

# The Breeding Birds of Cleveland

*The Breeding Birds of Cleveland*, published by the Teesmouth Bird Club, is the first comprehensive survey of the breeding birds in the former County of Cleveland, which now comprises the four unitary authorities of Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. Fieldworkers have spent over 5,000 hours visiting all parts of the area to collect data for this ground-breaking study and, rather than using the sampling transect method, fieldworkers visited all parts of their tetrads, making this one of the most accurate regional surveys ever undertaken in the UK. The book has been generously sponsored by a significant number of corporate organisations and private individuals.

Written by a diverse team of authors, the book starts with a historic perspective of Cleveland, focusing particularly on how the landscape has developed since the last glaciation and how this development has affected the distribution of breeding birds we see today. Despite being a relatively small region, with an area of only 59,653 hectares (230 square miles), Cleveland contains a wide range of habitats, ranging from the wild moorlands of the south, the dramatic coastal cliffs in the east, the marshlands around the Tees estuary and the rolling agricultural landscapes of the central and northern areas. This diversity underpins why such a wide range of bird species is found in such a relatively small area. The text is beautifully embellished with sketches, maps and photographs, the latter including a selection of interesting aerals, panoramas and birds.

The main body of this 400-page volume is devoted to accounts of the 127 breeding species. These contain background and historical information but also have a strong and unique local flavour, and conclude by making predictions about the future prospects for each species in Cleveland. The species accounts are illustrated with superb monochrome sketches and maps showing the local distribution of each species.

The book gives a firm baseline as to the state of breeding birds in Cleveland and will be of major interest to local authorities, national and local conservation bodies, and environmental consultants, as well as to people who have a general interest in the natural history of the area.

**Each of the 127 breeding species is illustrated with a superb monochrome drawing and a full-colour breeding distribution map.**

**Over 70 full-colour photographs of the breeding birds of Cleveland, including many by award-winning photographer Wayne Richardson.**

**ORDER THIS UNIQUE PUBLICATION OVERLEAF - AT PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE!**

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

The Great Spotted is our commonest woodpecker and is a resident species in Britain, found mainly in deciduous woodland but also in parkland and increasingly in suburban gardens. The striking black and white plumage, together with the bright red under-tail coverts make it instantly recognisable. Plumage differences between the sexes are few, though the female lacks the crimson patch on the rump. Like most woodpeckers, they advertise their territories by hammering on dead wood to produce a characteristic 'drumming' noise, although the loud 'chik chik' call can be heard more frequently throughout the year. They are largely sedentary and the median distance for all recoveries of dead birds is just two kilometres from the ringing site (Wentham et al. 2002). The diet of Great Spotted Woodpecker typically consists of insects, seeds and occasionally the eggs and nestlings of other birds. For numbers of caterpillars and their larvae, where in winter beetles and their larvae dominate their diet. They also feed on Mantis. Between four and seven in June, with eggs incubated for 14-16 days.

In the 18th century this species was very common in the south of the area, but was not included in Hogg's list of birds of Cleveland. It disappeared from much of northern England by a steady recovery that accelerated in the 19th century. After the arrival of Dutch elm disease in 1867, and subsequent increase in dead wood and Woodpeckers for a time (Marchant et al. 2007). Population increases may be attributed to the species' preference for moorland in the south of our area.

This survey indicates a healthy population in Cleveland. Tetrads with higher numbers at the edge of the area. There was also highlighting the importance of the area within Cleveland, such as Linthorpe.

Total pairs = 173  
Total tetrads occupied = 91  
% of tetrads occupied = 46

- 1-2 pairs
- 3-4 pairs
- 5-7 pairs

The future of the local population of Great Spotted Woodpeckers looks healthy, provided that appropriate management of mature woodlands continues and that conserving the remaining woodlands is maintained. The planting of more young birds appear to have a tendency to disperse further than adults (Wentham et al. 2002).

**Golden Plover:** only 20 pairs nest in Cleveland, all along the moorland in the southeast of the area.

**Snipe:** the passage of air through the outer tail feathers produces the distinctive sound known as drumming.

**Sluice:** the 51 pairs reported represents the first accurate estimate of the Cleveland breeding population.

**Lapwing:** the eggs of this wader were collected as a food source in the 19th and 20th centuries, leading to the passing of a protection bill in 1926.