

MEMBERS' BIRD SURVEY 2010

The Club has always been keen to involve as many members as possible in survey work, particularly new members and those who regard themselves as 'beginners'. To this end, the Conservation Sub-Committee is to run a simple survey in the early part of 2010 in which all members can take part.



In deciding on an appropriate survey, it was vital that it would not be daunting for those who have not done such work before and that it would provide useful, meaningful data for the *Cleveland Bird Report*. Following discussions with the County Recorder, Tom Francis, and editor of the bird report, Graeme Joynt, it has been decided to run a Rookery Survey. This will produce valuable data, which can be compared with that collected for *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'* to see if there have been any changes since, both positive and negative

◀ SKETCH BY KEN BALDRIDGE

The survey will also identify whether any Rookeries are no longer in use: certainly, one near me on Guisborough Road in Nunthorpe has been abandoned over the past few years for unknown reasons.

Rookeries are obvious, easy-to-see features and locating them should present no real problems. Members are simply asked to do the following:

- Locate the nearest Rookery to where you live (or one you know about elsewhere).
- **Please let Ted Parker know which Rookery you have chosen in advance of your survey.**
- Make a count of the total nests and then count those that you can see are in active use.
- Make a note of the name location of the site (a six-figure grid reference or 1 kilometre square reference). If you are unable to read grid references, please provide a road, landmark or other name so that we can reference the Rookery concerned for you.
- Your visits will need to be made between February and mid-April as Rooks are early breeders and nests will need to be located before the leaves come out.
- Two or three visits at the most will suffice to ensure that your counts are as accurate as possible.
- If the Rookery is on private land, please seek the owner's agreement for access.
- Send your survey results to Ted Parker, 9 Morton Carr Lane, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0JU or email: ecparker@supanet.com
- Please provide your name, address and contact details just in case we need to contact you.

A simple form has been devised for this purpose, which is contained in this Newsletter.

It does not matter if more than one person counts the same Rookery 'by accident' or intentionally: this will merely give greater accuracy to the results. However, if you are aware that a site is already being counted, then it would be better to choose another. The distribution of existing Rookeries during the Breeding Birds Survey is shown on page 316 of *'The Breeding Birds of Cleveland'*.

This is a serious attempt to involve members of the Club at all levels of ability, from expert to beginner. We are not going to ask people but leave the initiative up to you, so its success is in your hands! I do hope you will take this opportunity to help and add to our knowledge of birds of the Cleveland area.

Ted Parker

Chairman – Conservation Sub-Committee

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB - ROOKERY SURVEY 2010

SITE NAME:	GRID REFERENCE OR SITE LOCATION:
OBSERVER'S NAME:	ADDRESS:
TEL. NO:	EMAIL:

SURVEY RESULTS

¹ DATES VISITED	TOTAL NO. OF NESTS	TOTAL NO OF OCCUPIED NESTS

²COMMENTS

¹ Please make at least 2-3 visits during the period late February to mid-April 2010.

² These can include adverse effects of weather (eg high winds), factors affecting nesting (eg disturbance), species of tree(s) the birds are nesting in or anything else you consider to be relevant.