

NOVEMBER 1985

A few lingering summer visitors were noted early in the month. A Wheatear at the Fleetwood Power Station site on the 1st, single Swallows at Rossall and Hackensall Wood on the 3rd, and single Blackcaps at three sites to the 17th. The early part of the month also saw winter passerines arrive in reasonable numbers, with up to 40 Brambling at Salwick, 20 Siskins at Ribby, 22 Twite at Fleetwood Marsh, and later in the month 8 Snow Buntings at Rossall.

Stonechats became more widespread than usual during November, with singles at the Power Station, Arm Hill, Blackpool Zoo and the Airport, and 2 at Fleetwood Tip. A fem/imm Black Redstart turned up at the Power Station on the 23rd. Great Spotted Woodpeckers appeared plentiful about the Fylde, with up to 5 at some sites, but a single in the Railway Bushes behind the Pleasure Beach was possibly a late migrant. A few records of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker from the Lytham Hall area might have been the same bird.

Blackbirds don't usually feature in observers notes, so 23 together mobbing a Little Owl at Preesall Flashes on the 24th was noteworthy. Likewise, a flock of 42 Magpies at W.G.P. on the 30th was also worth a mention.

Sparrowhawks appeared at several sites, and Peregrines and Merlins were well established at their usual coastal sites. A Peregrine at Lytham on the 20th was seen to take a Knot, whilst a "ring-tailed" Hen Harrier was seen carrying prey at Pilling on the 9th. Another "ring-tail" was at Lytham from the 22nd to the month end.

An influx of Short Eared Owls to the area brought up to 9 to Arm Hill and at least 3 to the Mere.

Ringers working the Greenfinch roost on the island in Fleetwood Marine Lake had an unexpected visitor in their net on the 23rd, a male Kestrel.

Wader counts at the regular roosts were carried out on the 17th, but the counts submitted were apparently incomplete so unfortunately are not reproduced in this issue of the Newsletter.

However, counts from other sites during the month included 2400 Oystercatchers and 350 Redshanks on Preesall Sands, and 500 Black Tailed and 1200 Bar Tailed Godwits at Fairhaven. The highest count of Golden Plover was one of 780 birds on Lytham Moss on the 21st. Rossall Point held at least 3 Purple Sandpipers on most days, and up to 2 could be found on the sea wall at South Prom during the early part of the month.

Up to 5 Green Sandpipers were to be found on Carr House Green Common during the first week of November, but with a rise in the water level in the dyke all appeared to move out. On the 10th a Spotted Redshank and a Greenshank were seen by the R. Wyre at Fleetwood, and on the 17th a Little Stint was at the Lane Ends roost amongst the other waders.

L.S.A.N.R. produced up to 2 Jack Snipe, whilst Pars Farm had at least 3, and the Mere held 2 Water Rails and the Power Station another 3.

Some interesting records came from seawatchers. A 1st winter Black Guillemot off Rossall for most of the month was somewhat unexpected, as was a Little Auk on the sea off South Prom on the 3rd. Up to 100 auks were seen off Rossall on the 23rd. Perhaps a little less unusual was a single Pomarine Skua and 2 Great Skuas off South Prom and Rossall on the 9th and 10th respectively. At least 2 Glaucous Gulls were identified in the Fleetwood area, one the usual adult near the Marine Hall, and the second a 1st winter bird. A 2nd winter Mediterranean Gull was found at Squires Gate on the 3rd, and was regularly seen taking bread with Black Headed Gulls near the Blind Home. The Mediterranean Gull was present until the month end, and it was found that throwing down bread was the best way to attract the bird if it wasn't immediately visible.

Red Throated Divers were at coastal sites throughout the month, but maximum counts occurred on the 23rd when 7 were off South Prom and 12 at Rossall. The only Black Throated Diver reported was a bird off Rossall on the 29th.

Eleven Whooper Swans arrived at the Mere on the 3rd (6 adults + 5 imm.). These may have been the eleven Whoopers seen in flight over Inskip two days later. Pinkfeet were on the move throughout the month with skiens moving North and South on many days. Three "dark-bellied" Brent Geese were at Lane Ends on wader count day.

From mid-month it was apparent that wildfowl numbers had increased at several sites. At Cockersands, Mallard and Wigeon numbers were up to 700 and 750 respectively; at the Mere maximum counts were, Shoveler 122, Teal 130, Mallard 180, Pochard 102, and Tufted Duck 86.

At Rossall, 44 Pintail flew South on the 9th, 50 Eiders were on the sea on the 24th, 100 Common Scoters there on the 30th, and 2 Velvet Scoters were there from the 23rd to the month end.

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The two Velvet Scoters were last seen off Rossall on the 1st, with no subsequent sightings to suggest their continued presence. On the same day a party of at least 20 Common Scoters was also off Rossall and a female of the same species was on Fairhaven Lake. The latter part of the month saw an increase in the numbers of "sea-ducks" at coastal sites. Eighty six Eiders were off Rossall on the 27th, 40 Common Scoters off South Prom on the 30th, and 31 Mergansers on Fleetwood Marine Lake on the 31st.

On the 29th at least 31 Red Throated Divers were seen flying out of Morecambe Bay and past Rossall Point, and the same day a party of 7 Brent Geese flew North past the same site.

Whooper Swans are never plentiful in the Fylde, so it was sad to hear of two adult birds found dead on Lytham Marsh - the observers notes made no mention of the cause of death. The Winter flock of Mute Swans at Fleetwood however continues to thrive, with at least 52 birds at the Marine Lake on the 31st. The I.C.I. pool at Fleetwood occasionally had up to 36 Mute Swans during the month, but a certain amount of interchange between sites in the area must have taken place. The I.C.I. Pool also had a regular gathering of up to 200 Coot.

The Mediterranean Gull at Squires Gate continued its extended stay, and was to be seen in the general area throughout December still taking bread with the Black Headed Gulls. Little Gulls were unexpectedly plentiful at mid-month off Central Prom, with up to 50 over the sewage outfall on the 12th and 14th - 16 were still at the same place on the 23rd. The only Glaucous Gull record submitted was that of an adult at the I.C.I. Pool on the 1st of the month.

A male and a female Hen Harrier, and a male and a female Merlin were seen hunting the saltmarsh at Lytham on the 28th and 29th.

A large roost of up to 300 Chaffinches at Singleton Hall attracted at least 3 Sparrowhawks to the site on the 1st, and later in the month the ringers working the roost took an immature Sparrowhawk from their nets. Elsewhere single Sparrowhawks were seen at Lytham Marsh, the Mere, Ribby, and at Carr House Green Common.

Brambling flocks of up to 80 birds were seen at Scronkey, Churchtown, Rawcliffe, and Clifton Hall, and flocks of up to 60 Tree Sparrows were at Scronkey, Rawcliffe, and Lytham Tip.

A Marsh Tit was found in the Woodland Gardens at Stanley Park on the 8th, and a Phylloscopus warbler at Salwick on the 3rd was identified as a Willow Warbler.

During December there was no significant change in wildfowl numbers at freshwater sites, but the arrival of 5 Gadwall and 3 Scaup at the Mere on Christmas Day brought a little added variety. The 3 Scaup at the Mere were part of a small influx to our area during the month - 3 had been on Fairhaven Lake and up to 5 on Fleetwood Marine Lake.

Wader records for December were somewhat sparse and the only complete counts came from the Birds of Estuaries counts on the 15th. These have been tabulated, and can be found on the 3rd page of this Newsletter.

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## BIRDS OF ESTUARIES

15th DECEMBER 1985

	RISSLE FRECKLETON	NYTHAM FAIRHAVEN	ST. ANNE'S BEACH	ROSSALL POINT	LANE ENDS PILLING.	COCKERSANDS POINT.	COOPER GREEN GLASBORO INGRISH.
Little Grebe	1						
Gt. Cr. Grebe						2	
Grey Heron	1						
Shelduck					120		16
Wigeon					400	120	50
Teal							26
Mallard	8				600	28	20
Shoveler							
Pochard							
Tufted Duck							
Scaup							
Eider				42			
Com. Scoter				11			
Velvet Scot.				2			
Goldeneye				1	2		
Merganser				1		8	
Oystercatcher		230	700	1066	2172	1275	
Ringed Plover			30	9			
Golden Plover					45		210
Grey Plover		2	130	5	114	24	
Lapwing					37		2000
Knot		5030	1000	1026	4058	70	
Sanderling			300	39	3		
Purple Sand.				2			
Dunlin		300	1800	65	3886	145	
Snipe		1				2	9
Black T. Godw.		700					
Bar T. Godwit		5	2500	24	97	16	
Curlew	3			1	670	2	25
Redshank	1	1		494	73	33	
Turnstone		2		447		80	
Cormorant	91			23	8	25	

Thanks to all those members and observers who contribute to these extremely important wildfowl and wader counts.

FYLDE BIRD CLUBRECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1985

Balance brought forward (1st January 1985)	£
Gateway Building Society - Deposit Account	137 66
Cash in hand	12 81
 Receipts	
Subscriptions 1985	204 00
Subscriptions 1986	15 00
Sale of Fylde Bird Reports	377 00
Sale of "Birds of Marton Mere"	35 25
Sale of car stickers	24 90
Advertising income	45 00
"Bird Race" sponsorship	48 19
Raffle	48 50
Miscellaneous	19 30
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 Payments	
Fylde Bird Report 1983	155 67
Fylde Bird Report 1984	342 67
Car Stickers	83 95
Subscriptions	36 50
Administration	56 74
 Balance carried forward (31st December 1985)	
Gateway Building Society - Deposit Account	280 47
Cash in hand	11 61
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Malcolm Evans

(Treasurer)