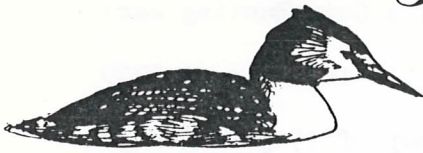


Fylde Bird Club



NEWSLETTER No. 23

JULY 1986

July saw a steady flow of waders returning from northern breeding sites. Early in the month, a Spotted Redshank was at the I.C.I. Pool, and 30 Bar Tailed Godwits and 2000 Knot at Lytham Marsh. Common Sandpipers were plentiful at a few sites between the 10th and 14th - 10 at I.C.I. Pool on the 10th, 10 at Warton Marsh on the 12th, and 12 at Conder Green on the 14th - later in the month, on the 30th, 13 more were at the Mere. Whimbrel started moving through on the 11th, when a single was the I.C.I. Pool. During the next few days single Whimbrels were noted at other sites, then on the 20th a party of 20 was by the R.Wyre at Fleetwood - this flock of 20 was the largest encountered, but smaller groups turned up at a few sites to the month end. The first returning Greenshank appeared at Pilling on the 18th, but this species remained thin on the ground, with a single at Warton Marsh on the 27th and 2 at Freckleton on the 28th the only other sightings. Late in the month up to 650 Black Tailed Godwits were back at Lytham Marsh, 540 Bar Tails at Preesall Sands, and 4 Little Ringed Plovers and an adult Curlew Sandpiper at I.C.I. Pool.

Very few seabirds were noted during the month, but amongst the records submitted were sightings of single Arctic Skuas off Rossall and Lytham Marsh on the 5th and 23rd respectively, 5 Little Gulls at I.C.I. Pool on the 15th, 4 Little Terns on St. Annes Beach on the 26th, and 260 Common Terns on Preesall Sands on the 30th. The first signs of any real movements of seabirds came on the 31st when an Arctic Skua, a Great Skua, 10 Fulmars, 113 Gannets, and 425 Manx Shearwaters, all passed south during a one and a half hour seawatch at Rossall.

A female Tufted Duck with 5 ducklings was on the lake in Stanley Park on the 7th, and on the 27th 14 adult Shelducks accompanied 148 juveniles on the saltmarsh at Lane Ends. There was also evidence during the month that Ruddy Ducks had at last bred at Marton Mere.

Little information has been forthcoming on breeding birds in the Fylde, a sad reflection on the support being given to the Club's breeding bird survey. Amongst the breeding records submitted was one of a brood of 5 young Sparrowhawks ringed somewhere in the Fylde, and one of a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers with their recently fledged young in Over Wyre. A juvenile Cuckoo was being fed by fostering Dunnocks at Ribby, and an unusual nesting site for a pair of Swallows was the porch of an empty house on St. Annes Promenade. A report of Little Ringed Plovers breeding at a site in the Fylde has not been substantiated.

Towards the end of the month the first of southward bound passerines moved through the area. Single Sand Martins appeared at the Mere, as did a juvenile Willow Warbler on the 27th. The earliest returning Wheatear was a juvenile on the 15th, the bird being seen on a rooftop in Bolton Street, South Shore.

AUGUST 1986

The movement of passerine migrants increased from a trickle in the first few days of August, to a steady flow by the month end.

Wheatears increased from singles at a few sites in the first days to up to 20 at a couple of sites on the 10th. A female Pied Flycatcher was in a Knox Grove garden, Blackpool, on the 5th, and another at Lytham on the 18th. Single Spotted Flycatchers were at four sites from the 10th, then a small influx came on the 24th, with 3 at South Station and 4 at Ribby. Groups of up to a dozen Yellow Wagtails were at a few coastal sites from the 9th, a vast improvement on the poor passage we had in spring. Willow Warblers, Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroat and Sedge Warblers, were noted moving early in the month, but it was not until the last few days that Chiffchaffs, Garden Warblers and Blackcaps, were also noted on passage. With these later arrivals came the first Tree Pipits and Redstarts, and also a few unusual

migrants. A Wryneck was found at the Mere on the 30th and 31st, but wasn't seen subsequently, and on the 31st, a Great Spotted Woodpecker and a Corn Bunting were at Fairhaven Lake, both unusual in this locality.

The Swallow roost at the Mere increased from 200 on the 11th to at least 5000 on the 31st.

A very interesting record of Blackbirds, was one of a group of 19 juveniles, in the same Knox Grove garden as the female Pied Flycatcher, on the 5th, whilst 13 Mistle Thrushes on Arnold School Playing Field was an interesting record of a not too often reported species. Late in the month came the first reports of growing finch flocks - up to 150 Linnets and 60 Goldfinches at the Power Station, and 100 Greenfinches at Conder Green.

The passage of fresh waders also picked up a pace in August, with a good variety, but no really large numbers. Whimbrel had an early peak, with 10 by the R. Wyre at Fleetwood on the 1st, 6 at Rossall and 9 at Cockersands on the 3rd, and 3 at Lane Ends on the 10th - 2 at Ribby on the 11th were the only other birds reported. Greenshanks were recorded throughout the month at several sites, mainly in ones and twos, with a maximum of 5 at Freckleton on the 12th. Single Spotted Redshanks were at four sites on several dates. Twelve Common Sandpipers at I.C.I. Pool and 8 at Conder Green on the 3rd, indicated peak passage of that species, whilst single Wood Sandpipers at the Mere on the 10th and I.C.I. Pool on the 17th, were the only records of that species. Green Sandpipers were slightly more numerous than the Wood Sandpipers, with 2 at Freckleton on the 6th, 2 at Lane Ends on the 10th, and singles at Warton Marsh and Lane Ends on the 17th. A very early Curlew Sandpiper turned up at I.C.I. Pool from the 4th to the 7th, then another bird at the same site on the 31st. Two Little Stints were at the I.C.I. Pool from the 16th to the month end, along with 4 Little Ringed Plovers.

Early Seabird records included single Arctic, Great, and Pomarine Skuas at Rossall, over 100 Common Terns off South Prom and at least 650 off Rossall. On the 8th, 4 Pomarine Skuas were together off Rossall, as were 2 Black Terns and 8 Kittiwakes. Fourteen Little Terns were at Cockersands on the 10th. During a strong westerly gale on the 16th, an early morning seawatch (06.00 - 09.30) produced the following - over 150 Gannets, 11 Fulmars, 14 Manx Shearwaters, single Great Skua, a Leach's Petrel, a Cory's Shearwater, and an adult Sabine's Gull - all were flying south except for the Cory's, which flew NE close by the Point and on into Morecambe Bay. Unfortunately no seawatch results were forthcoming for the period the 25th to the 27th when the tail-end of Hurricane Charlie hit the British Isles.

Single Sparrowhawks were noted at several sites, including one in Watson Road Park on the 18th. The 18th also saw a Long Eared Owl at Ribby. A male Marsh Harrier was seen in flight over Warton Marsh on the 23rd.

Last months indications that Ruddy Ducks had finally bred at the Mere were confirmed on the 9th, a female was seen with two very small young. Sadly only one the young remained by the 19th.

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WADER COUNTS

August 10th

Glasson/Conder Green	Oystercatcher 6, Lapwing 342, Golden Plover 53, Snipe 1 Whimbrel 1, Common Sandpiper 5, Redshank 25, Dunlin 20
Cockersands Point	Oystercatcher 232, Ringed Plover 32, Grey Plover 13, Turnstone 26, Curlew 2, Whimbrel 8, Bar T. Godwit 1, Redshank 4, Spotted Redshank 1, Dunlin 955, Sanderling 221
Pilling/Cockerham	Oystercatcher 450, Lapwing 350, Ringed Plover 44, Grey Plover 600, Turnstone 2, Snipe 1, Curlew 134, Whimbrel 5, Green Sandpiper 2, Comm. Sandpiper 5, Redshank 255, Spott. Redshank 1, Greenshank 3, Knot 32, Dunlin 5300, Sanderling 1600, Ruff 1
Rossall Point	Oystercatcher 385, Ringed Plover 12, Turnstone 267, Bar T. Godwit 35, Knot 211, Dunlin 16, Sanderling 155