

Fryde Bird Club



NEWSLETTER No. 36

SEPTEMBER 1988

A brief period of fresh westerly winds during the first days of the month brought passing seabirds close inshore. On the 3rd, 6 Fulmars, 11 Leach's Petrels and 50 Kittiwakes, were off South Prom. The following day at the same site, 40 Leach's Petrels, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 5 Arctic Skuas, a Great Skua, a Pomarine Skua and 3 Black Terns, were amongst the birds noted moving south. Strong winds associated with a deep depression moving in from the west on the 23rd and 24th brought more birds to coastal sites - those of note being, 8 Leach's Petrels, 5 Arctic Skuas, a Great Skua and 3 Red Throated Divers, all seen from South Prom. Outside these brief windy spells few other seabirds were noted.

The autumn wader passage continued throughout the month but birds were thinly scattered, this was especially so with the fresh waders. Whimbrels were very few, the largest counts being 3 at South Prom on the 4th and 4 at Skipool on the 5th, whilst the largest count of Greenshanks was at Freckleton Pool when 7 were present on the 25th. A Green Sandpiper, put up from a roadside pool of floodwater at Pilling during torrential rain on the 23rd, was the only record of that species, and 4 Common Sandpipers at Skipool on the 5th was the only report of that species during the month. Black Tailed Godwits peaked at 1600 at Lytham on the 9th, and a gathering of 800 Redshanks at Stalmine on the 11th was an incredibly high count for one of our local sites. Amongst less common species of waders present during the month - Curlew Sandpipers peaked at 12 at Skipool on the 5th, whilst on the 11th 6 more were at Preesall and 6 at Conder Green, and single Little Stints were at Lane Ends and the C.E.G.B. Pool on the 10th and 13th. The real rarity of the month was undoubtedly the American Golden Plover found on Fleetwood Golf Course on the 20th by Chris Band and Roger Scholes.

The first Pinkfeet noted moving south were 27 off Anchorsholme on the 25th - no others were reported. Common Scoters were off South Prom on several dates, the largest count being that of 200 on the 4th. The first Eider of the winter was a single at Lytham on the 20th. At freshwater sites wildfowl numbers increased gradually - 33 Pochard at C.E.G.B. Pool, and 200 Mallard, 68 Shoveler and 44 Tufted at the Mere.

Passerine migrants, like the waders, were difficult to locate. Watson Road Park and the Railway Bushes provided their usual scatter of migrants early in the month, amongst those noted were, single Spotted Flycatchers, Whinchat, Redstart and Pied Flycatcher. The Palm Dove from last month was also in the Park on several dates.

The latest Swifts reported locally were the 2 over Watson Road Park on the 6th. Wheatear passage was disappointing, with up to 6 at coastal or near coastal sites on a couple of dates. Yellow Wagtails were also very poorly represented - a single bird at South Prom on the 27th was the only bird reported. Pied Wagtails fared better, at least 60 were counted in the vicinity of Freckleton Sewage Works on the 25th. Unexpected encounters with passerines were those of a Kingfisher flying over Carleton on the 22nd and a Dunnock on a hotel roof at Central Prom on the 30th. A further sign of the changing season came on the 15th when the first Redwings were heard calling in the darkness over Wesham.

OCTOBER 1988

Diurnal passage was evident early in the month and those observers prepared to set out at first light were not disappointed. At Fairhaven Lake on the 1st good numbers of birds were on the move - amongst those noted were, 9 Swallows, 82 Pied Wagtails, 13 Grey Wagtails, 88 Blue Tits, 19 Coal Tits, 1000 Chaffinch and 40 Siskins. Passage was interrupted during the 8th, 9th, and the 10th as the weather became somewhat unsettled, but by the 11th, as the weather cleared, a late rush of small migrants was much in evidence at several sites. Blackcaps were the most plentiful, with ones, twos and threes at ten sites between the 11th and 24th - 6 Blackcaps were ringed at Clifton Hall on the 22nd. During the period of the 11th to the 25th single Garden Warblers were in the Railway Bushes, Watson Road Park and at South Station, and 3 in Stanley Park on the 24th. Single Redstarts were at Clifton Hall, Watson Road Park, the Railway Bushes and the Airport, single House Martins at Preesall, Fairhaven and the Pleasure Beach, a Willow Warbler in Watson Road Park, and a Chiff Chaff and Ring Ousel at L.S.A.N.R.. Other migrants during this period included 2 Wheatears and 4 Black Redstarts at Squires Gate Industrial Estate on the 25th. A Chiff Chaff and a Ring Ousel were at Fairhaven Lake on the 30th. In the midst of this late flurry of departing summer visitors other species were also on the move. Stonechats were unexpectedly plentiful with ones and twos at ten widespread sites, indicating passage birds rather than dispersal of local breeding birds. The first Fieldfares appeared on the 11th, the first Brambling on the 13th and Snow Bunting on the 15th, whilst a Lapland Bunting was over the Airport on the 24th. Small groups of Siskins were noted at a few sites, but the largest flocks were reported from Ribby and Scorton with flocks of 26 and 32 respectively. The largest number of Goldcrests reported during the month were the 50 or so in Stanley Park on the 16th, the same day that 10 Long Tailed Tits were at Preesall Flashes. The Palm Dove appears to have become a permanent resident in the Watson Road Park area of South Shore.

A north westerly gale during the 7th and 8th tempted seawatchers to venture to coastal vantage points, with that eternal optimism of the species that tells them that eventually something rare will turn up. On the 7th, 3 Manx Shearwaters, a Fulmar and 2 Leach's Petrels, were off Anchorshlome, whilst on the 8th, a Fulmar,

11 Leach's Petrels, 5 Great Skuas, 2 Pomarine Skuas and an Arctic Skua, were off South Prom. Eight Leach's, a Pomarine Skua and 38 Kittiwakes were off South Prom on the 9th, and a Great Skua the following day. A 1st winter Mediterranean Gull turned up at the Mere on the 23rd.

A late Wood Sandpiper appeared briefly at the Mere on the 14th, and at least 2 Curlew Sandpipers were still on flooded fields at Pilling until at least the 17th. Six Water Rails were at the Mere on the 10th, but these were down to 3 by the month end, and the first Jack Snipe of the winter appeared at the same site on the 23rd. A Woodcock was in Watson Road Park on the 27th.

Merlin and Peregrine were established at coastal haunts by the month end and Sparrowhawks were noted at ten sites. The most unusual Sparrowhawk record was that of 2 birds in a garden somewhere near South Station, Blackpool. A ring tail Hen Harrier was over Lytham Beach on the 17th and a Buzzard at Knowle Wood, Singleton, on the 22nd. Up to 2 Short Eared Owls were at the Mere throughout the month, and singles at Midgeland Road Tip and L.S.A.N.R..

Wildfowl numbers were comparable to those of September for most species, but new arrivals included a pair of Gadwall at the I.C.I. Pool, the first Goldeneye of the winter at the C.E.G.B. Pool on the 13th, and the first Whoopers was a family party of 7 at the Mere on the 29th. Two Garganey in eclipse plumage were unusual visitors to Fairhaven Marine Lake on the 19th, whilst 12 Scaup at the Mere on the 28th and 4 at Lane Ends Amenity Area on the 30th, were also unusual arrivals. A Slavonian Grebe off Rossall Point on the 25th was almost certainly the same bird seen at the Pilling high tide roost on the 29th.

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Membership List

The following correction to the current list of members is required.

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BIRDS OF ESTUARIES

16th October 1988 - Bright and sunny. Light E wind.

Tide 8.4m H.W. 14.57

	ROBBIE-FRECKLETON	ROSSALL POINT	I.C.I. POOL	ARM HILL	LANE ENDS	COCKERSWISS POINT	SHATTON - THURSTON
Gt. Cr. Grebe							2
Cormorant	47	2		3			7
Mallard	19		51	100	N.C		61
Teal	6		27	82	N.C		26
Wigeon			10	30	N.C		3
Pintail							
Shoveler			14		3		
Eider		3					
Merganser							5
Shelduck				165	24		2
Mute Swan	1		32				
Oystercatcher				345	541	1	12
Lapwing			232	69	14	1	3000
Ringed Plover		82			30	1	
Grey Plover				3	200	2	3
Golden Plover					200		1000
Snipe	44		10	18	2		
Curlew				80	500		63
Blk. T. Godwit				375	1		
Bar T. Godwit				2	4		2
Redshank	16		5	134	600	1	54
Knot		1		14	1000		
Dunlin		4		15	2000	40	32
Sanderling		3			2		
Turnstone		211	63	565		80	
Curlew Sandpiper					6		

N.C. NOT COUNTED