



# Frylde Bird Club

Chairman: Mr. <sup>LEBLACK</sup>POSTLADDE  
Secretary: Mr. A.J. HINCHLIFFE

NEWSLETTER NO. 40

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## VIEW FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR

With almost two-thirds of 1989 already gone I felt that I ought to summarise the work and achievements of the Club so far this year, especially for the benefit of those members who cannot manage to attend the meetings on a regular basis.

In the past we have been criticized for not doing enough and not achieving anything. I can only imagine that people who have accused us of this must go around with their eyes closed. The fact of the matter is that the Club has never been so committed to conservation matters and so involved with things which have happened or are happening locally. We are building up, through our surveys etc, a vast amount of valuable information some of which has already been used to oppose harmful projects.

At Marton Mere, the main reason for the foundation of the Club, our ambitions look likely to be realised in the not too distant future. Hopefully the Council will declare the site a Local Nature Reserve within the next twelve months. All the various meetings with Councillors, N.C.C and R.S.P.B and the numerous letters written will finally prove to have been worthwhile.

Early in the year we successfully opposed together with N.C.C and R.S.P.B, to whom we also supplied all the necessary information, the extension of microlight aircraft at Tarn Farm, Cockerham. A great deal of work was needed to produce the necessary information and maps required to accompany the objections.

About the same time we also objected to the Secretary of the Northern Microlight School at Garstang regarding the overflying of the geese fields over Wyre, by their members. We supplied detailed information and maps of the most sensitive areas which he has promised to try and avoid in future.

Later in the year we opposed by letter after an inspection of the site, the proposed Poulton Hall Farm time-share development, which was eventually turned down by the Minister of Environment after an enquiry.

Again, a couple of months ago, when there was a possibility of Clay Pigeon shooting on the old Fleetwood Power Station site we sent letters of objection with information of birds visiting the area to Lancashire County Council and to the Secretary of Poulton Clay Pigeon Shooting Club. Hopefully we have been successful in stopping the undesirable intrusion.

Recently we had a look round the area of the proposed Singleton Golf Village site but this time decided that we would not be justified in making any

objections.

Still ongoing is the question of the Hide at Rossall Point. This is looking more of a probability than for some time. The idea of a Hide for Wader and sea watching here was first raised by the Club some years ago and thanks to Roger Scholes obtaining a container from Pandoro, may finally happen in the not too distant future.

We are also trying to get involved in encouraging new Birdwatchers by leading walks for Wyre Borough. One has already taken place at Nicky Nook and the other at Lane Ends will take place in September. Hopefully this will give the Club some much needed publicity and also encourage new members to join us.

Add to this all the various surveys, counts, nest box schemes, ringing etc. which members are constantly involved in I think we can safely say that the Club and its members have a recent track record with which we can be well pleased. This doesn't mean to say we can afford to become complacent. There are other plans and ideas which can and must be pursued, but with members continued support I feel confident that Fylde Bird Club can contribute still more to conservation in our area.

A.J. Hinchliffe

SECRETARY

#### ROLLER IN WATSON ROAD PARK

Once the only Roller you could expect to see was the one used by the Greenkeeper, that is until the super rarity of the same name made an all too brief appearance there on the 30th September 1982, a day which I fortunately picked to take leave from work having found several migrants around the previous evening.

At 9.15am, from about 200 yards away, I glimpsed a Jackdaw-sized bird appear to swoop from the old railway embankment into the trees by the children's playground, putting several Starlings to flight. After two minutes it re-appeared and flew into nearby trees showing its bright blue body and underwings. At first I thought 'aviary escape' (I had seen a Ring Necked Parakeet in Stanley and Revoc Parks earlier that year). Whilst perched, showing no blue at all (it was a juvenile) the feature that identified it for me was the hook-tipped bill.

The reality of what I had in front of me had just sunk in when inevitably a man walked past the spot flushing the bird which quickly fled the Park over nearby rooftops at 9.20am. I spent the next hour there in the forlorn hope of its return but no, although I guess it would have stayed somewhere in the Fylde that day.

Remarkably, as it turned out, a juvenile Roller was present at Bassenthwaite Lake, Cumbria from 25th - 29th and the certainty that the same bird was involved (c 70 miles to the South on 30th) makes it the equivalent of a ringing recovery - B.B.R.C treated it as the same individual anyway.

This was only the 2nd record in Lancashire this century, the others being:-

(3)

25th August 1848  
May 1868  
6th-7th June 1963

Marsden - near Burnley  
'Obtained' Blackpool  
Ainsdale.

E. STIRLING

### FYLDE SITES

At a recent meeting some new members asked for the abbreviations and common names of some of the locations mentioned in "Recent Reports" to be explained and amplified.

So here goes -----

I.C.I Pool and C.E.G.B Pool - situated on Jamieson Road, Fleetwood, the former on the right hand side just over the railway bridge; the latter on the site of the old Power Station (since demolished). Jamieson Road is the access road for Fleetwood Tip!

Lane Ends - An access area at Pilling where there is ample parking. Situated adjacent to the Saltmarsh and off the main Lancaster Road.

L.S.A.N.R - Lytham St. Annes Nature Reserve. Situated next to Pontins Holiday Camp, Blackpool. Maurice Jones is the official Warden, so ask him for details regarding the reserve. He'll be only too pleased to help.

The Naze Pool - Situated at Freckleton and best viewed from the public footpath which leads to the Naze Point overlooking the River Ribble.

Newton Pool - sometimes called the "entrance pool". This pool is situated on Newton Marsh, to the right of the road which gives access to Clifton Sewage Works from the main Preston - Freckleton road.

Rossall Point - Situated approximately 200 yards from the Coastguard Station on the Promenade at Fleetwood. Park near the Sea Cadet hut on Princes Way, walk towards the beach and turn left along the Promenade.

Starr Gate - Situated at the southern end of South Promenade (where the trams turn round). One of the two main seawatching points in the Fylde (along with Rossall Point).

These are all I can think of for the moment but if you want more details about these and other sites then just ask - we'll be pleased to supply any information that we can.

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### BLACKPOOL & FYLDE R.S.P.B MEMBERS GROUP

Details of forthcoming events and field trips:-

#### EVENTS

FRIDAY 8th September - Slide Show - "WILDLIFE IN CLOSE UP" - P.SMITH

SATURDAY 7th October - "A SHETLAND EXPERIENCE" - B. TULLOCH  
To be held at the Lowther Pavilion. Lytham.



RECENT REPORTS

May and June produced superlatives from Weathermen and public alike - warmest (hottest?) driest? since?

Anyway - it was certainly warm and dry encouraging migration and provided ideal breeding conditions for incoming birds.

MAY

After the improved weather at the end of April migrants flooded in during the first week of May. Whitethroats and Sedge Warbler were particularly evident and certainly more Lesser Whitethroats were reported than in previous years. In addition, 15 Wheatears were reported at Blackpool Airport on the 1st, 22 on St. Annes Moss increasing to 32 by the 5th, and 8 at L.S.A.N.R on the 3rd. Reports of Redstarts came from Rossall School and L.S.A.N.R.

Small numbers of Whinchats were recorded from the 1st at the Mere, with 2 at Rossall School on the 2nd and 6th. 3 were at Rossall Point on the 3rd. The 7th, which was Bird Race day saw a real influx into the Fylde with at least 50 seen at various locations during the day. Also on that day a female Pied Flycatcher was seen in the Memorial Park at Fleetwood, plus Goldcrest, Wood Warbler and Whitethroat at the same site. Wood Warblers, of which there seemed to be an influx, were also reported from Bourne Hill, Fleetwood, Blackpool Zoo, Watson Road Park and Ribby Hall. A Tree Pipit, always rare in Spring, was seen on the Golf Course at Fleetwood on the 6th. The first Reed Warbler of the year was at the Mere on the 9th. A Grasshopper Warbler was present at the Mere on the 7th, on which date the site was alive with Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats. On the 14th, 18 Sedge Warblers, 11 Whitethroat and 12 Willow Warblers were counted singing there.

Reports of Yellow Wagtails were few and far between with only one reported from Rossall Point on the 6th. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, passage of this species is certainly not what it used to be. Maurice Jones has provided figures for passage through Marton Mere in Spring 1953, 1954 and 1955:

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Bird Days</u>
1953	23	46	75
1954	34	161	200
1955	62	20	84
1989	-	-	-

Small numbers of Sand Martins trickled through the area in the first week. 4 Swifts passed over Marton Mere on the 4th whilst the first House Martin was reported over St. Annes Moss on the 5th (very late this year). 2 flew north over Rossall Point on the following day where 292 Swallows passed in 6 hours. House Martins remained scarce in the early part of the month, not being seen in sizable numbers until the third week.

By the 7th a pair of Stonechats at L.S.A.N.R had three young which seemed to have left the nest by the 16th. 6 Cuckoo's were seen flying north over

Preesall Flashes on the 4th, 2 at Bank Lane, Warton on the 7th with singles at the Mere on the 26th and 28th. Single Garden Warblers were at Stanley Park and Warton on the 7th and at the Mere on the 19th. 6 Spotted Flycatchers, the latest of the Spring migrants, were seen in the South Shore area on the 22nd and on the same date a large pipit, almost certainly a Tawny was watched for a minute by Ed Stirling at L.S.A.N.R before being flushed by a helicopter.

In a similar vein, a Garganey (a first for the site?) was flushed by boats at Stanley Park on the 5th whilst being watched by Ed. Another Garganey, a male, was seen at the Mere on the 23rd. On the same day a pair of Ruddy Duck were at the C.E.G.B Pool at Fleetwood.

A single Black Tern was present at the Mere on the 5th and 6th and joined by a Common Tern on the latter date.

2 first year Little Gulls were at Marton Mere on the 10th with 3 there on the 15th and 7 on the 23rd, still present on the 27th.

Wader passage was slight; a Little Ringed Plover flew north west over Marton Mere on the 2nd and 3 Common Sandpipers were seen there on the 1st and 7 on the 4th. Single Greenshanks were at Freckleton "entrance pool" on the 5th and 1 at Lane Ends on the 15th. A partially summer plumaged Spotted Redshank was noted at Newton Marsh on the 7th and 2 Little Ringed Plovers at Freckleton on the 20th. A Red Necked Phalarope was seen briefly at the Mere on the 25th eclipsing another star wader, a Wood Sandpiper seen at the I.C.I Pool, Fleetwood on the 26th. A Little Stint was there on the 30th.

5 Ringed Plovers flew west over Marton Mere on the 14th whilst small parties of Dunlin passed over early in the month. 10 Whimbrel were present on Lytham Moss on the 6th with small numbers seen at Ballam, Lytham and the Mere in mid month. 54 Black Tailed Godwits were on Newton Marsh on the 14th.

At the coast 2 Purple Sandpipers remained at Rossall Point until at least the 7th. Offshore up to 40 Common Scoter were off South Promenade in the first week with 9 Mergansers and 23 Eider off Rossall Point during the same period. Common Terns, represented by 20 on the 7th became more frequent whilst small parties of up to 8 Sandwich Terns were also noted. The odd Red Throated Diver and Guillemot could still be seen. On the 12th about 60 Fulmars and 2 Manx Shearwaters were seen from South Promenade with small numbers of Gannets present throughout the month.

On the 10th May 5,000 Dunlin and 30 Grey Plover were at Fairhaven whilst at Freckleton on the 14th 5,500 Dunlin, 25 Knot, 25 Grey Plover and 300 Ringed Plovers were counted. At Rossall Point 77 Sanderling were seen on the 30th.

A very late Short Eared Owl was present at Blackpool Airport on the 28th, the same date as the first of the year's Quail was seen at Myerscough.

JUNE

Quail continued to be noted throughout the month with 2 at Pilling on the 3rd and 6+ on Winmarleigh Moss on the 19th. This influx coincided with similar reports from other parts of the country. By the end of the month it was estimated that maybe 35 birds were present in the Fylde.

Migration, though reduced to a trickle by June saw female Redstarts at Rossall School on 21st June and 2 Cuckoo's at the Mere on the 13th.

At the Mere a Grasshopper Warbler was singing on the 13th and 16th with 4 Reed Warblers also in song during the same period.

Sparrowhawks and Peregrine were seen at several locations early in the month and a pair of Kestrels were feeding young at Lytham.

Wader passage continued with Greenshank at Lane Ends on the 3rd and 6th.

3 Adult and 2 well grown young Oystercatchers were seen in Pontins Camp on the 7th, probably led there from the Airport. Maurice has suggested that they fancied a holiday!

On the sea up to 3 Great Crested Grebes were off South Promenade early in the month with small numbers of Fulmars, Gannets, Common and Sandwich Terns also evident. On the 4th a dark phase Arctic Skua and an Iceland Gull were seen. Strong south westerlies on the 27th brought a total of 78 Manx Shearwaters into view with 1 Bonxie and 2 Arctic Skuas moving through.

3 Little Grebes with 2 juveniles were seen at Bispham Marsh on the 4th. At the Mere 5 Pochard and 6 Ruddy Ducks (5 Male and 1 Female) were present on the 13th.

The Palm Dove first seen in Watson Road Park some 6 months ago reappeared on the 2nd May and was seen again on June 8th - found by its original finder.

Hard Luck Story of the Period

Maurice Jones dedicatedly counting 76 Grey Plover on the shore at Fairhaven on May 25th decided not to go to the Mere, thereby missing the Red Necked Phalarope.

This was closely followed on the 4th June when he missed Ed Stirling's Iceland Gull by 10 minutes no doubt having made a superhuman dash from Vicarage Lane.

I'll be pleased to hear of any other similar nearly stories for future issues!

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Contributors: L.G. Blacow, R.A.Cadman, R.E.Danson, A.Dawe, B.Dyson,  
J.L.Fletcher, A.J.Hinchliffe, M.Jones, S.M.Meredith,  
V.M.Mottram, M.Myerscough, P.Scholes, Phil Slade,  
E. Stirling.

