

FYLDE BIRD CLUB - NOVEMBER MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

Many thanks to Dave and Steve for putting this edition together.

I am writing this on 2nd November and I've hardly seen a redwing or fieldfare! But there are too many geese here already, so here's to next January and the Over Wyre mosslands.

In our first newsletter this year, I asked for your comments on our new style programme, no complaints received so I presume you're all happy!

Any offers for short talks next year, any requests? Have you written an account of this year's birding trip, want to share some memories with us?

It hasn't been a bad year for our local birds, great news of further protection for Morecambe Bay and the Ribble Estuary and good progress at the Mere.

There's good news for song thrushes too, they've reappeared on the BTO garden bird list so that's bad news for magpie bashers.

It's nice to finish on a cheerful note, see you at the AGM.

L.G.B.

2 November 1996

MARTON MERE - NEWS FROM THE RESERVE WARDEN

Reserve Management

As you are all aware Marton Mere is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It was declared as such in 1979.

The reason for its declaration was its importance for breeding and wintering birds. This is still true today, but there have been changes! The Little Grebe has been lost as a breeding species but at least 24 male Reed Warblers held territory in 1996.

The habitats have changed due to "succession", the inevitable transition from open ground to woodland.

Now that the Brief Management Plan has been approved it is time to put some detail to that basic plan.

In order to take some of the habitats back to their 1979 state, particularly the scrub areas, management is necessary.

I envisage that each winter two areas of scrub will be tackled. The bushes will be thinned out and taller trees reduced in height. This should have the effect of encouraging more pairs of Linnets, Whitethroats and Reed Buntings to nest, all of which have declined over the last 3 or 4 years.

The expansion of the reedbed is a welcome addition since 1979, resulting in increased numbers of breeding Reed Warbler, regular winter Bittern and Bearded Tit (how long before they breed?) and the "almost regular" Cetti's Warbler. However the composition of the reedbed is important. In drier areas Greater Reedmace is becoming established and needs to be eradicated before it out-competes the more important Lesser Reedmace and Common Reed. Where it has been removed there will be shallow lagoons suitable for Water Rail and Jack Snipe.

Recent visitors to the reserve will have noticed some grassland management. This has been done in an attempt to bring breeding Skylarks and perhaps Lapwings onto the large area and increase the diversity of wildflowers and invertebrates in this and the other smaller areas.

Nature Reserve extension

The recent addition of nearly 5 hectares of land to the west is very welcome and will benefit winter thrushes, snipe and breeding Sedge Warbler. There are no management proposals yet but as a condition of acquiring the land the grazing by horses must be allowed to continue. In future I hope to modify the grazing timetable to help Lapwings nest more successfully.

Fylde Bird Club is well represented on the Reserves Management Committee and if anyone has any proposals or queries about Marton Mere's Management please let Maurice, Len or Paul know so they can be included in our meetings.

TRIP TO TREGARON

Last year over seventy Red Kites were seen at the feeding station at Tregaron in the period before Christmas. After New Year they disperse and numbers drop to between 20 and 30 by the end of January.

A trip, either in our own vehicles or in a minibus, is proposed for Saturday 7th December. The other attraction in the area is the Cors Carron Bog National Nature Reserve a couple of miles up the road. Here Hen Harrier and Barn Owl are likely to be seen with Great Grey Shrike a possibility.

More details of the trip will be given at the November meeting. There is no need for an early start.

Dave McGrath

SABINE'S GULL IN THE RIBBLE ESTUARY

During the summer I was fortunate enough to see a Sabine's Gull in the Fylde at Freckleton. The record was interesting in three respects. It was unseasonal for this species, it was effectively 'inland' when the weather was glorious and it was a first summer bird.. First summers are rare in the northern hemisphere, hence my initial confusion which the following account sums up very well.

This record is, of course, subject to acceptance by the county rarities committee. Given the dearth of available material for the newsletter I felt the account might be of interest to members.

Stephen Dunstan

SABINE'S GULL (FIRST SUMMER), FRECKLETON, 4 AUGUST 1996

Circumstances

On the afternoon on the above date I was at Freckleton watching waders. Most waders present were too distant so I began scoping gulls as they flew out of the Ribble from towards Preston as the tide ebbed. At approx. 4 pm, around an hour after I arrived, I saw a gull without optical aids which had a graceful, fluttering flight which made me think it was a Little Gull.

By the time I got on this bird with my scope it had landed on the water. There was not a lot to see at the range of the observation in the light conditions, but the bird was clearly interesting. It had immature smudging on the back of the head and neck and was also clearly not a Little Gull as the neck was too long. The bird was slowly but surely being carried downriver by the current and I began to think that it would disappear without me being able to 'nail' it.

Within seconds of this thought the bird took off and to my delight showed the distinctive wing pattern of an adult Sabine's Gull. This flight was in a short circle, landing again at the point of take off. I think the bird was making a foray for insects. It made another two flights like this during my observation. The smudging was even more apparent in flight and although I was happy the bird was a Sabine's I was increasingly unclear why the bird appeared to show both adult and juvenile characteristics.

The bird was last seen in close company with three or four Black-headed Gulls drifting quite rapidly downriver. It had been in view for ten or fifteen minutes. I attempted to relocate the bird from another vantage point, but on being unable to refind the bird quickly I decided to head into Freckleton village and put the news out on Birdline North West. Due to the clear presence of immature smudging I decided to put it out as a juvenile.

When I got home I spoke with Maurice Jones, who had been out when I rang him from Freckleton. He told me that there had recently been a first summer Sabine's Gull at Seaforth. I had not even considered the possibility of a first summer bird but looking at my field notes I realised that this was clearly what I had seen. I rang Birdline North West to give more complete details of the observation and revise the age details of the bird.

Description

Small gull, intermediate in size between Little Gull and Black-headed Gull. Longer necked than Little Gull, appearing similar in overall shape on the water to Black-headed Gulls when seen side by side.

On water plumage rather featureless - slate upperparts, black 'tail' with obvious but small 'mirrors'. Face dark overall, like a moulting Black Headed Gull, dark smudging on neck and to rear of 'hood'. Bill black, if there was a yellow tip this was not seen.

In flight totally distinctive. Tern/Little Gull like flight action on long, pointed wings - graceful, with hovering and swooping to pick insects off the surface. Unique contrasting wing pattern, three triangles of black primaries, white inner primaries/secondaries and grey wing coverts merging into grey mantle. Underwings white.

The bird clearly had a shallow fork in its tail, though this was not always easy to see against the pale background of the water. There was no black anywhere on the tail.



North West Swan Study

You are visitor number **001941** to this page since 9th March 1996.



[About Mute Swans](#)



[The Study Group](#)



[Ringing Process](#)



[Reporting Swan Sightings](#)



[Results Obtained 1988-1994](#)

The North West Swan Study was formed in 1988 to study the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) population of the North West of England. This area encompasses Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, Merseyside (north of the River Mersey) and the Isle of Man, a total of approximately 12,250 sq km.

The method employed is to mark (or "ring") individual birds with uniquely numbered leg rings so that they may be identified on future occasions.

The Study Group

The group consists of several bird ringers who are licensed by the British Trust for Ornithology. The main ringers currently involved are Wes Halton (Bolton), Dave Sharpe (Lancaster), Jack Sheldon (Barrow in Furness), Dr Steve Christmas (Manchester) and Aron Sapsford (Isle of Man). In addition other interested individuals assist in recording ring numbers and on ringing expeditions.

The ringers are rigorously trained and operate under strict guidelines to ensure that the birds are neither harmed in any way or subjected to excess disturbance during the ringing process.

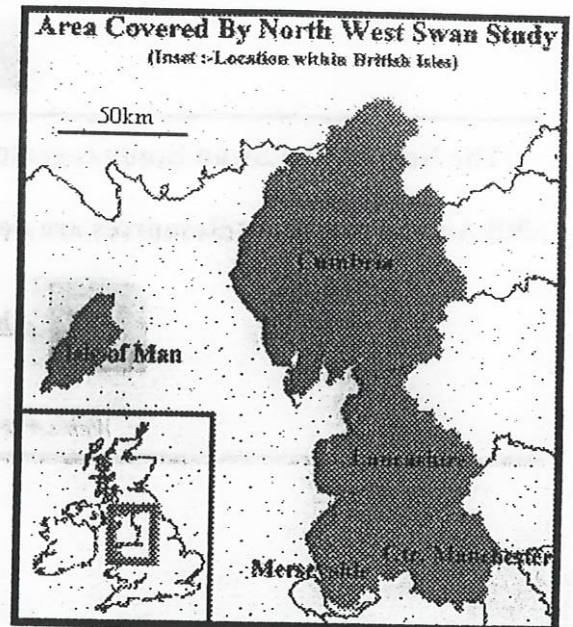
The study, which is one of several in Great Britain, is assisted by The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and affiliated to the International Wildfowl Research Bureau.

The Ringing Process

Swans are caught by several methods ([photos](#)), but most often by simply feeding and then grabbing hold of them by hand or with a swan hook, which is similar to a small shepherd's crook. The swan's legs and wings are then restrained using elasticated bandage to protect both it and the ringer before the ringing process takes place.

Each swan is fitted with two rings ([photo](#)): one is a metal ring issued by the British Trust for Ornithology with a unique number and normally lasts for the bird's lifetime. The second is a large plastic ring (various colours are in use nationally but the North West Study use a blue ring with white characters). The latter can be easily read in the field and alleviates the need to re-catch the swan to identify it on subsequent occasions and allows the public to record any swans that they may see. After the actual ringing the swan's age and sex is assessed and various measurements along with its weight are recorded ([photo](#)). The swan is then immediately released.

The original ringing information is stored on a computer database, to which is added all further sightings of ringed birds, breeding successes, causes of death etc. This database now contains a large amount of information on over 2500 individual swans, and is regularly analysed to monitor trends in movements and sudden increases in the death rate etc.



The group welcome reports of sightings of swans from members of the public. A full copy of the information on each swan seen is sent to people who report details of ringed birds seen to the group.



Reporting Swan Sightings

If you wish to assist the group with any sightings of swans please include the following details

- Date
- Location (with OS grid reference if possible)
- Number of swans present (ringed and unringed)
- A contact phone number if possible

If you require further information or wish to submit records of ringed swans please contact :-
Wes Halton, 5 Westland Ave, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancs. BL4 9SR Tel 01204 709302
Email Wes@cygnus.airtime.co.uk



[Back to Wes's Web Page](#)

The North West Swan Study is grateful to AirTime Internet Resources for kindly providing this web space.

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HOW TO RACE BIRDS AND WIN

THE SCORE

This year we, (Paul Slade and I), managed 106, which we believe, is a new Fylde record. The previous record was 105, set by Maurice Jones, Robert Stinger and myself on the 5th of May 1991. Last years winning total was 100 on the 30th of April.

THE POTENTIAL

There is a real potential for a total of at least 120 species! Simply superimposing my own lists from the three years in which I have participated gives 120. If one added the species from the other teams and other years what would the total Fylde Bird Race list be? To find out please hand in copies of any Fylde Bird Race lists which you have.

Its interesting to note that the pooled total of 120 does not include the following :-

- Golden Plover (bird race bogey)
- Little Gull (seen by other teams in '95 & '96 at least)
- Kittiwake
- Any Auk (2 species seen by another team this year)
- Barn Owl
- or Stonechat,

.... and so 120 is certainly not the absolute max, 125 anyone!

It is not the case that you get more or less the same list each time, the old record of 105 contained a dozen species which we missed this time, and last year's 100 had six which remained hidden in 1996.

Despite getting the record this year we managed to dip on House Martin; Treecreeper; Pochard; Grey Lag Goose; Bar-tailed Godwit; Snipe and Whinchat,(seen by another team).

ETHICS

Feral Grey Lag is counted if seen but can you find a pure one on Stanley Park Lake and what about the dodgey resident drake Pochard on there? Feral Pigeon = Rock Dove but did you see that Red Leg well enough to eliminate Chuckar? Heards = seems but what rule do you use for the minimum number of team members needed to get the tick? It was 3 out of 4. For the record both Paul and I scored all 106 and the only heard only birds were Lesser Whitethroat and Reed Warbler.

Feral Barnacle Geese apparently exist in the Fylde, I'm just glad I don't know where!

HOW TO SCORE LOTS AND WIN

- Rule 1 Get up early, not 1 hour late as I did this year! I wonder how many that cost us?
- Rule 2 Know your calls or enlist a team member who does.
- Rule 3 Know your sites, read your Bird Reports and plan a circuit.
- Rule 4 Work the tide, twice if you can.
- Rule 5 Get to the Mere before 8:00pm, all the House Martins had gone to roost by then and so had all the birders who could have helped us.
- Rule 6 Don't wear trainers, we did and had soaking feet all day.
- Rule 7 Tell the other teams that you had a great seawatch off Star Gate for three hours at low tide.
- Rule 8 Put messages out on the pager to say that the Garganey have gone from the Entrance Pool when they haven't. Sorry whoever it was but you didn't fool us!
- Rule 9 When it gets to early evening add up your score wrongly to make you think you're not doing too well and make you try harder. Good move Paul!
- Rule 10 Have half your team pull out at the last minute, it didn't do us any harm..... or did it?

THE AFTERMATH

Three teams showed up at the Plough at 9:00pm, the second placed team early enough to have a meal before the finish time and still get 95! We felt more exhausted than after most long distance twitches but satisfied and pondering what might have been and what that call was in a Wyre wood and now we'll have you're money please.

You don't need to raise a hundred pounds each to make it worthwhile, if only half of us did it and only raised £10 each then we'd raise about £250! anyway if you make the effort I can promise you one of the best day's local birding of the year.
So lets see more of you out there next time and good luck for a new record.

Paul Ellis.

FYLDE BIRD RACE ONE TEAM'S RESULTS OVER 3 YEARS

Divers <i>Gamidae</i>	Osprey <i>Pandionidae</i>	Terns <i>Sternae</i>	Warblers <i>Sylviidae</i>
Red-throated Diver ✓	Osprey ✓	*Gull-billed Tern ✓	Cem's Warbler ✓
Black-throated Diver ✓	Falcons <i>Falconidae</i>	*Caspian Tern ✓	Grasshopper Warbler ✓
Great Northern Diver ✓	Kestrel ✓	Sandwich Tern ✓	Savi's Warbler ✓
*White-billed Diver ✓	*Red-footed Falcon ✓	Roscate Tern ✓	Aquatic Warbler ✓
Grebes <i>Podicepsidae</i>	Merlin ✓	Common Tern ✓	Sedge Warbler ✓
Little Grebe ✓	Hobby ✓	Arctic Tern ✓	Marsh Warbler ✓
Great Crested Grebe ✓	*Gyrfalcon ✓	Little Tern ✓	Reed Warbler ✓
Red-necked Grebe ✓	Peregrine ✓	*Whiskered Tern ✓	*Great Reed Warbler ✓
Slavonian Grebe ✓	Grouse <i>Tetraonidae</i>	Black Tern ✓	Icterine Warbler ✓
Black-necked Grebe ✓	Red Grouse ✓	*White-winged Black Tern ✓	Melodious Warbler ✓
Petrels, shearwaters <i>Procellariidae</i>	Ptarmigan ✓	Auks <i>Alcidae</i>	Dartford Warbler ✓
Fulmar ✓	Black Grouse ✓	Guillemot ✓	*Subalpine Warbler ✓
Cory's Shearwater ✓	Capercaille ✓	Razorbill ✓	Barred Warbler ✓
Great Shearwater ✓	Partridges, pheasants <i>Phasianidae</i>	Black Guillemot ✓	Lesser Whitethroat ✓
Sooty Shearwater ✓	Red-legged Partridge ✓	Little Auk ✓	Whitethroat ✓
Manx Shearwater ✓	Grey Partridge ✓	Puffin ✓	Garden Warbler ✓
*Little Shearwater ✓	Quail ✓	Doves, pigeons <i>Columbidae</i>	Blackcap ✓
Storm petrels <i>Hydrobatidae</i>	Pheasant ✓	Rock Dove ✓	*Greenish Warbler ✓
*Wilson's Petrel ✓	Golden Pheasant ✓	Stock Dove ✓	*Arctic Warbler ✓
Storm Petrel ✓	Lady Amherst's Pheasant ✓	Woodpigeon ✓	Pallas's Warbler ✓
Leach's Petrel ✓	Rails, crakes, coots <i>Rallidae</i>	Collared Dove ✓	Yellow-browed Warbler ✓
Gannets <i>Sulidae</i>	Water Rail ✓	Turtle Dove ✓	*Radde's Warbler ✓
Gannet ✓	Spotted Crake ✓	Parakeets <i>Psittacidae</i>	*Dusky Warbler ✓
Cormorants <i>Phalacrocoracidae</i>	Corncrake ✓	Ring-necked Parakeet ✓	*Bonelli's Warbler ✓
Cormorant ✓	Moorhen ✓	Cuckoos <i>Cuculidae</i>	Wood Warbler ✓
Shag ✓	Coot ✓	Cuckoo ✓	Chiffchaff ✓
Herons, bitterns <i>Ardeidae</i>	Crane ✓	Barn owls <i>Tytonidae</i>	Willow Warbler ✓
Bittern ✓	Oystercatchers <i>Haematopodidae</i>	Barn owl ✓	Goldcrest ✓
*Little Bittern ✓	Oystercatcher ✓	Owls <i>Strigidae</i>	Firecrest ✓
*Night Heron ✓	Avocets, stilts <i>Recurvirostridae</i>	*Snowy Owl ✓	Flycatchers <i>Muscicapidae</i>
*Cattle Egret ✓	*Black-winged Stilt ✓	Little Owl ✓	Spotted Flycatcher ✓
Little Egret ✓	Avocet ✓	Tawny Owl ✓	Red-breasted Flycatcher ✓
Grey Heron ✓	Thick-knees <i>Burhinidae</i>	Long-eared Owl ✓	Pied Flycatcher ✓
Purple Heron ✓	Stone-curlew ✓	Short-eared Owl ✓	Babblers <i>Timaliidae</i>
Storks <i>Ciconiidae</i>	Plovers <i>Charadriidae</i>	Nightjars <i>Caprimulgidae</i>	Bearded Tit ✓
*Black Stork ✓	Little Ringed Plover ✓	Nightjar ✓	Long-tailed tits <i>Aegithalidae</i>
White Stork ✓	Ringed Plover ✓	Swifts <i>Apodidae</i>	Long-tailed Tit ✓
Ibises, spoonbills <i>Threskiornithidae</i>	Kentish Plover ✓	Swift ✓	Tits <i>Paridae</i>
*Glossy Ibis ✓	Dotterel ✓	*Alpine Swift ✓	Marsh Tit ✓
Spoonbill ✓	*American Golden Plover ✓	Kingfishers <i>Alcedinidae</i>	Willow Tit ✓
Geese, swans, ducks <i>Anatidae</i>	Golden Plover ✓	Kingfisher ✓	Crested Tit ✓
Mute Swan ✓	Grey Plover ✓	Bee-eaters <i>Meropidae</i>	Coal Tit ✓
Bewick's Swan ✓	Lapwing ✓	Bee-eater ✓	Blue Tit ✓
Whooper Swan ✓	Snipe, curlews, godwits, sandpipers <i>Scolopacidae</i>	Rollers <i>Coraciidae</i>	Great Tit ✓
Bean Goose ✓	Knot ✓	Roller ✓	Nuthatches <i>Sittidae</i>
Pink-footed Goose ✓	Sanderling ✓	Hoopoes <i>Upupidae</i>	Nuthatch ✓
White-fronted Goose ✓	*Semipalmated Sandpiper ✓	Hoopoe ✓	Treecreepers <i>Certhiidae</i>
*Lesser White-fronted Goose ✓	Little Stint ✓	Woodpeckers <i>Picidae</i>	Treecreeper ✓
Greylag Goose ✓	Temminck's Stint ✓	Wryneck ✓	Orioles <i>Oriolidae</i>
Snow Goose ✓	*White-rumped Sandpiper ✓	Green Woodpecker ✓	Golden Oriole ✓
Canada Goose ✓	*Baird's Sandpiper ✓	Great Spotted Woodpecker ✓	Shrikes <i>Laniidae</i>
Barnacle Goose ✓	Pectoral Sandpiper ✓	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ✓	Red-backed Shrike ✓
Brent Goose ✓	Curlew Sandpiper ✓	Larks <i>Alaudidae</i>	*Lesser Grey Shrike ✓
Egyptian Goose ✓	Purple Sandpiper ✓	Short-toed Lark ✓	Great Grey Shrike ✓
Ruddy Shelduck ✓	Dunlin ✓	Woodlark ✓	Woodchat Shrike ✓
Shelduck ✓	*Broad-billed Sandpiper ✓	Skylark ✓	Crows <i>Corvidae</i>
Mandarín ✓	Buff-breasted Sandpiper ✓	Shore Lark ✓	Jay ✓
Wigeon ✓	Jack Snipe ✓	Swallows, martins <i>Hirundinidae</i>	Maggie ✓
*American Wigeon ✓	Snipe ✓	Sand Martin ✓	*Nutcracker ✓
Gadwall ✓	*Great Snipe ✓	Swallow ✓	Chough ✓
Teal ✓	*Long-billed Dowitcher ✓	*Red-rumped Swallow ✓	Jackdaw ✓
Mallard ✓	Woodcock ✓	House Martin ✓	Rook ✓
Pintail ✓	Black-tailed Godwit ✓	Pipits, wagtails <i>Motacillidae</i>	Carrion Crow ✓
Garganey ✓	Bar-tailed Godwit ✓	Richard's Pipit ✓	Raven ✓
*Blue-winged Teal ✓	Whimbrel ✓	Tawny Pipit ✓	Starlings <i>Sturnidae</i>
Shoveler ✓	Curlew ✓	*Olive-backed Pipit ✓	Starling ✓
Red-crested Pochard ✓	Spotted Redshank ✓	Tree Pipit ✓	*Rose-coloured Starling ✓
Pochard ✓	Redshank ✓	Meadow Pipit ✓	Sparrows <i>Passeridae</i>
Ring-necked Duck ✓	*Marsh Sandpiper ✓	*Red-throated Pipit ✓	House Sparrow ✓
Ferruginous Duck ✓	Greenshank ✓	Rock Pipit ✓	Tree Sparrow ✓
Tufted Duck ✓	Lesser Yellowlegs ✓	Water Pipit ✓	Vireos <i>Vireonidae</i>
Scap ✓	Green Sandpiper ✓	Yellow Wagtail ✓	*Red-eyed Vireo ✓
Eider ✓	Wood Sandpiper ✓	*Citrine Wagtail ✓	Finches <i>Fringillidae</i>
*King Eider ✓	Common Sandpiper ✓	Grey Wagtail ✓	Chaffinch ✓
Long-tailed Duck ✓	*Spotted Sandpiper ✓	Pied Wagtail ✓	Brambling ✓
Common Scoter ✓	Turnstone ✓	Waxwings <i>Bombycillidae</i>	Serin ✓
Surf Scoter ✓	*Wilson's Phalarope ✓	Waxwing ✓	Greenfinch ✓
Velvet Scoter ✓	Red-necked Phalarope ✓	Dippers <i>Cinclidae</i>	Goldfinch ✓
Goldeneye ✓	Grey Phalarope ✓	Dipper ✓	Siskin ✓
Smew ✓	Skuas <i>Stercorariidae</i>	Wrens <i>Troglodytidae</i>	Linnet ✓
Red-breasted Merganser ✓	Pomarine Skua ✓	Wren ✓	Twite ✓
Goosander ✓	Arctic Skua ✓	Accentors <i>Prunellidae</i>	Redpoll ✓
Ruddy Duck ✓	Long-tailed Skua ✓	Duncock ✓	*Arctic Redpoll ✓
Eagles, buzzards, hawks, kites, harriers <i>Accipitridae</i>	Great Skua ✓	Thrushes, chats <i>Turdidae</i>	*Two-barred Crossbill ✓
Honey Buzzard ✓	Gulls <i>Laridae</i>	Robin ✓	Crossbill ✓
*Black Kite ✓	Mediterranean Gull ✓	*Thrush Nightingale ✓	Scottish Crossbill ✓
Red Kite ✓	*Laughing Gull ✓	Nightingale ✓	*Parrot Crossbill ✓
Marsh Harrier ✓	Little Gull ✓	Bluethroat ✓	Scarlet Rosefinch ✓
Hen Harrier ✓	Sabine's Gull ✓	Black Redstart ✓	Bullfinch ✓
Montagu's Harrier ✓	*Bonaparte's Gull ✓	Redstart ✓	Hawfinch ✓
Goshawk ✓	Black-headed Gull ✓	Whinchat ✓	Bunting <i>Emberizidae</i>
Sparrowhawk ✓	Ring-billed Gull ✓	Stonechat ✓	Lapland Bunting ✓
Buzzard ✓	Common Gull ✓	Wheatear ✓	Snow Bunting ✓
Rough-legged Buzzard ✓	Lesser Black-backed Gull ✓	Ring Ouzel ✓	Yellowhammer ✓
Golden Eagle ✓	Herring Gull ✓	Blackbird ✓	Cirl Bunting ✓
	Iceland Gull ✓	Fieldfare ✓	Ortolan Bunting ✓
	Glaucous Gull ✓	Song Thrush ✓	*Rustic Bunting ✓
	Great Black-backed Gull ✓	Redwing ✓	Little Bunting ✓
	*Ross's Gull ✓	Mistle Thrush ✓	*Yellow-breasted Bunting ✓
	Kittiwake ✓		Reed Bunting ✓
			*Black-headed Bunting ✓
			Corn Bunting ✓

✓ = 1996

✗ = 1995

○ = 1991

QUIZ

Firstly, my apologies to anybody who has seen these before. If you haven't then have a go at them over the next month and bring them to the December meeting. I'll take any serious efforts in then, give out the answers and perhaps there will be a small prize for the winner.

Section 1 - what do these groups of four birds have in common (1 mark each)

Red-legged Partridge, Ruddy Duck, Egyptian Goose, Lady Amherst's Pheasant.

Swift, Puffin, Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel.

Lapwing, Green Woodpecker, Dunnock, Bearded Tit.

Red Kite, House Martin, Black Tern, Greenfinch.

Pigeon, Warbler, Sandpiper, Duck.

Goshawk, Oystercatcher, Bee-eater, Nuthatch.

Redpoll, Little Tern, Coot, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Cuckoo, Tawny Owl, Arctic Skua, Fulmar.

Eider, Reed Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Reed Bunting.

Little Crake, Golden Eagle, Pied Flycatcher, Common Sandpiper.

Section 2 - which is the odd one out and why (1 mark each, half for right reason but wrong bird).

Little Owl, Pheasant, Ring-necked Parakeet, White-tailed Eagle.

Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Bullfinch.

Kingfisher, Long-tailed Tit, Yellow Wagtail, Bluethroat.

Great Skua, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike.

Red Crested Pochard, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-legged Partridge, Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Black-headed Gull, Black-throated Diver, Black-eared Wheatear, Black-tailed Godwit.

Great Reed Warbler, Great Crested Grebe, Great Black-headed Gull, Great Snipe.

Spanish Sparrow, Snowfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Rock Sparrow.

Purple Heron, Golden Plover, White Stork, Yellow Wagtail.

Bearded Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Penduline Tit.

Fylde Bird Club



Chairman: Mr L. BEACON
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12-6-96

Mr. Dennis Golden
Chairman of the Highways Committee
Lancashire County Council
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Dear Mr. Golden,

I am writing to you in response to the article in the Evening Gazette on the 8th June concerning the 'Red Route' and Marton Mere. There are serious inaccuracies in the statements which the article attributes to you. The Fylde Bird Club has a strong interest and involvement in the Marton Mere S.S.S.I. and I am therefore compelled to raise these points with you.

In the article you were quoted as saying that, "The route while being protected, definitely does not cut across any valuable wildlife sites- it will run adjacent to the area of special scientific interest." Unfortunately this statement is incorrect in ALL respects! First, I would draw your attention to the Proposals Map accompanying the Blackpool Borough Local Plan. Examination of this map clearly shows that the Red Route DOES pass through the Marton Mere S.S.S.I. and the band of land 'protected' for the route extends into the current Local Nature Reserve so far that it includes some of the water surface itself !

The area of the Marton Mere S.S.S.I. through which the Red Route passes is one of the MOST valuable parts of the S.S.S.I. It supports good numbers of scarce and declining breeding birds, provides valuable winter habitat for others and it also forms an important wildlife corridor between the L.N.R. and neighbouring areas.

Only 700 yards to the north of Marton Mere the Red Route passes through another important wildlife site: Staining Marsh. This site is a County Heritage site owing to its rich botanical content, however it is also an oasis for birds and other wildlife which compliments the Marton Mere S.S.S.I. by hosting a different range of species. This site would be utterly destroyed by the Red Route.

As Mr. Andre Farrar attempted to make clear in the Gazette article, it is a myth that a major road can exist adjacent to a Nature Reserve without it exerting a catastrophic influence on the site and I am in complete agreement with his statements. To give just one example from countless possibilities: the Mere is an important breeding site for very large numbers of toads, which travel to the site each spring to breed. If the road were built It would be inevitable that, as has happened elsewhere, huge numbers would be killed by traffic.

After many years of work by Blackpool Borough Council and local conservationists Marton Mere has become a very pleasant and peaceful site to visit. It is a highly valued amenity for local people and visitors, which is unique in the region. If it were ever built, this Red Route road would change the site's character so significantly as to almost completely destroy its amenity value. Who wants to take a walk alongside a busy high speed road?

In summary, your statement that " no wildlife would be threatened by the Red Route bypass", is incorrect. The Red Route always was and remains a **very bad idea** which should be scrapped permanently.

Yours sincerely

Paul Ellis
Secretary.

Copies to : Mr. Andre Farrar RSPB
Editor Evening Gazette



Normoss

Newton

Staining

STAINING NOOK MARSH

School

School

Nursery

Hospital

Woodland

Zoological Gardens

Nursery

Newton Lodge

Newton Hall

Newton Hall Farm

Newton Hall Farm

Co. Lamb & Co. Ltd.

Cowburns Farm

Staley House

Smithy Lane

Sr. Ichy House Farm

Mochs Farm

Staining Windmill (disused)

Pol. Sta.

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

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Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

Staining Park Farm

T.C.B.

Lodge Farm

Mereview

Mushroom Farm

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

Drain

35

35

35

ENVIRONMENT



E1, E2

GREEN BELT



E3, E4, E5

COUNTRYSIDE AREA



E7

MARTON MERE S.S.S.I.



E8

MARTON MERE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



E9

SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST



E13, T4,
TR15

COASTAL ZONE (PROMENADE AND SEAFRONT)



E13, T4

COASTAL ZONE (BEACH AND FORESHORE)



E16

TALBOT SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA



E16

STANLEY PARK CONSERVATION AREA

TRANSPORTATION



MOTORWAY, TRUNK ROADS, MAIN ROUTES, DISTRIBUTOR TY



TR3

SQUIRES GATE LINK ROAD (EXISTING PLANNING PERMISSION)



TR3

PROTECTED ROUTE OF THE M55/A585 LINK (RED ROUTE)
AND SAFEGUARDING CORRIDOR



LINE OF PROPOSED ROADS OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH



TR4

STATION ROAD/WATERLOO ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



TR10, E15

SOUTH SHORE CENTRAL CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT/PARKIN



TR11

PARKING



TR15

TRAMWAY



TR16

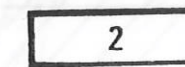
RAIL NETWORK

COMMUNITY SERVICES



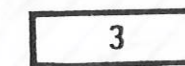
C2

SCHOOL SITE



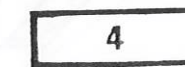
C3

CEMETERY EXTENSION



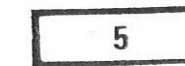
C4

WASTE DISPOSAL CENTRE



C5

BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE



C6

VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Marston Mere - November/December Programme

All bird club members are warmly invited to attend any of these events.

November 17

***Wetland Bird Survey
Start 10.00.***

December 1

***National Tree Week
Sedgerow planting
Start 10.00.***

December 8

***Owl Watch
Start dusk (meet Lawson Rd).***

December 15

***Wetland Bird Survey
Start 10.00.***

December 22

***Conservation Day
Sedge laying - learn a traditional
countryside skill and improve the habitat
for breeding birds.
Start 10.00.***

December 30

***Children's Bird Race
Help lead small teams of youngsters to
identify birds around the Mere and
Stanley Park.
Starts 10.00 and 13.00.***

All events other than the owl watch meet at the Information Centre.

CORNCRAKE AT MARTON MERE

On 30th October whilst planning a scrub and fencing (or dead-hedging) project for next winter I was fortunate to almost stand on a Corncrake. My first, and immediately quashed, thought was that I had flushed a Woodcock but as the bird reached eye level there could be no doubt as to its true identity. I really couldn't believe it, a Corncrake!

All the rail family are special favourites of mine but to find one of the rarer ones is particularly gratifying.

Perhaps because of their plight I was almost overwhelmed with emotion listening to them at the Humberside breeding site a couple of years ago. As yet I have been unable to visit the Hebrides to listen to the nocturnal serenades.

On Wednesday Nov 6th I spoke to a man from Lytham who could remember them 'craking' on the moss near Ballam when he was a youngster. I must find out from my aunt when they were last on our farm at Little Crosby.

The mere bird was Lancashire's latest record, the other autumn sightings being:-

1968	3rd August	Hundred End
1986	12th Oct	Banks
1988	14th Sept	Warton Crag
1992	21st-22nd Sept	Martin Mere

There is an unconfirmed report of one at Marton Mere in 1988 when the Spotted Crake was showing well behind the island, the last documented record for the site was on 12th May 1965.

Sadly there have been some complaints about the treatment of the bird. A natural history group from Wales gave my boss a haranguing over the phone about unwarranted disturbance from twitchers. I am sure the FBC would have given me an even harder time had it been suppressed or information released but no access allowed.

A compromise must be reached always considering the best interests of the bird first. By allowing deliberate searches at specified times the likelihood of visiting birders wandering all over the reserve in a (probably) futile attempt to find it but disturbing everything else was avoided. The searches were timed to minimise disturbance to the bird giving it plenty of time to settle down afterwards. Had this bird appeared in Spring no tape-luring or entering the habitat would have been allowed even though the chance of it actually being on breeding territory would have been astronomically small.

Little Crake has already been recorded at the mere, in 1954, but Baillon's hasn't. Neither has Sora, surprise, surprise. Anyone wanting their fifteen minutes of fame is quite welcome to find me one of the above. By the way what happened to Kent's American Coot? I check every one - do you? You never know!

FYLDE BIRD CLUB

PRIZE CHRISTMAS BIRD WORD GAME

1. Birds worst enemy or best friend
2. Pochahontas' mother in Aberlady bay
3. Finch allowed around pub
4. Screeches at Butchers!
5. Shudder at the thought of a Saharan crossing - it's only a game
6. Runner for submarine tram
7. Another American bird looked for in front of a nighthawk
- 8a. Partridge, playing polo
- 8d. Throw a horse at Mr Swan
9. Highly strung raptor
10. Fuel for seafarer
11. Old wet Woodpecker loses the bird
12. Gale blows the door ajar, they two are ready for battle or heroic quests?
- 13a. Writers confine 8ds partner
- 13d. Mixed up ape charges bill to fruity parrot
14. Time, for the second half, of 1000 less, Scottish cliff nesters
15. Ancient Redshank that did not rate Ukraine
16. Long rough part of raptors
17. At auction remove lot from painter Norman
- 18a. Ruffle your feathers at this dance hall - there is nothing to grouse about
- 18d. You fibber - I am a forest dwelling music lover!
19. River with plover, or county with tasty seabird?
20. Bittern food - they must be reeled in without colour
21. So cry "Which Shearwater" on a sea watch
22. Potential deadly player in Manx Shearwater isolation game - ecologically speaking it's a Rhum do
23. One of a rapidly declining exultation - no crescendo here!
24. Lost sight in naming of big old tit
25. One of third of flying feathers

