



Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1999

FROM THE CHAIR

I drove across Lytham Moss recently, it looked the same as usual; stubbles, harvested potatoes, grassland, great rolls of silage and pools of floodwater, a typical January day. There were the usual piles of rubbish and builders rubble on Anna's Road, litter in the passing places. No real change, it could have been ten years ago.

As I approached the old landfill site I noticed a flock of corvids, about eighty in all. Then it struck me, these were the only birds I'd seen whilst driving across the Moss. No gangs of starlings, no golden plover (no surprise there) no corn buntings at the radar station. Have all the birds gone? Or was it just a bad day, or worse still am I starting to look back rather than forward?

A lot has been said and written about the loss of our common birds, even the tabloids have featured the issue. What do you think? Have they gone from your local patch? Let us know, help us complete the picture, a few comments on sparrows and starlings on your patch would be helpful, comments about any species will be helpful.

We can all do it, so come on put pen to paper.

Wishing you good birding in 1999

L.G.B

October Sightings

The first week of the month saw high pressure over Scandinavia and an easterly airflow. Thereafter southwesterlies dominated with plenty of heavy rain making it one of the wettest October's on record.

3 Little Grebe were on the pool at Pilling Lane Ends on the 26th. On the 15th 20 Mute Swans were on Fairhaven Lake rising to 29 on the 19th. The 11th brought a Dark-bellied Brent Goose on the Morecambe Bay wader count. A female Red Breasted Merganser on Marton Mere from the 18th was noteworthy. Another good record was a pair of Gadwall on Fairhaven Lake on the 21st, whilst the 31st saw 135 Eider off Norbreck.

Few raptors were reported but 6 Buzzards SE of Marton Mere were indicative of the increase of this species in our area. On the 4th a fem/imm Merlin was at BAE Warton whilst a male was at Lane Ends on the 24th. A Kingfisher was on the Lancaster Canal at Bay Horse on the 23rd. Another good record was of 59 Razorbill off South Promenade on the 4th. On the same day 5 Greenshank were at Freckleton. On the 18th 250 Golden Plover were at Stanah whilst on the 23rd 1500 Curlew were in fields at Bank End, Cockerham.

Marton Mere played host to 3 adult Kittiwakes on the 21st, presumably after strong winds whilst an adult winter Med Gull put in an appearance at the same venue on the 31st. Perhaps the most noteworthy record of the month however was an adult Sabine's Gull moving south of Anchorsholme at 0950 on the 28th. Not many Owls are reported from LSANR, - a Barn Owl there on the 5th was therefore unusual.

A solitary Rock Pipit was noted at Lytham on the 1st whilst on the 4th a possible Abietinus Chiffchaff was on LSANR. A good passage of Redwing was noted over Highcross, Poulton on the 10th and on the 19th there were 20 at Stanah. A Stonechat was at Rossall on the 24th. A small passage of Goldcrests was noted at Stanah from the 5th to the 10th whilst on the 15th 10 long Tailed Tits were at Lytham. On the 11th 2 Jays were reported from the town centre park at Poulton.

November Sightings

The weather continued where it left off in October with a series of Atlantic depressions bringing periods of heavy rain with few good days.

Up to 5 Little Grebes were on the pool at Pilling Lane Ends whilst Marton Mere had up to 10 Great Crested Grebes. A Bittern was at the Mere on the 20th. On the same date 143 Whooper Swans and 50 Bewicks were Over Wyre with 4500 Pink footed Geese. On the 17th 2000 Pinkfeet were at Parrs Farm west of Amounderness Way. The 6th heralded the start of some interesting records from the Mere with a female Mandarin presumably of doubtful origin. On the 10th there were 11 Goldeneye there whilst on the 13th a female Long Tailed Duck appeared. The 21st saw a count of 74 Wigeon whilst a oiled female Common Scoter appeared on the 23rd. Finally on the 27th a female Scaup was noted.

Again there were few raptors reported, the exceptions being 2 Sparrowhawks at Thornton on the 11th and at Warton a Sparrowhawk, 2 Peregrines and a female Hen Harrier on the 15th. A few Water Rails put in an appearance – there being up to 9 at Marton Mere throughout the month and also 1 being noted at LSANR mid month. On the 4th a Woodcock was brought into Stanah having flown into an open window on Blackpool Tower building during the night! Fortunately it was released unharmed. There were also 2 Woodcock at the Mere on the 20th with 1 being seen at Fairhaven dunes on the 8th. Jack Snipe were noted on the 7th at Bank End, Cockerham, on the 15th at LSANR and on the 18th again at LSANR with 11 Common Snipe. A Kingfisher was at Fluke Hall on the 20th whilst 19 Grey Partridge were at Warton on the 15th.

Late Swallows were seen on the 15th, with 2 at Marton Mere and 2 on St Annes beach. On the 20th Long Eared Owls began to be seen at the Mere with up to 10 being initially reported. A Short eared was also seen on and off during the month. On the 8th 3 Snow Buntings and 3 Shorelarks on St Annes beach were part of a countrywide influx with perhaps the same birds being seen north of Fairhaven on the 18th. On the 8th a Ring Necked Parakeet was in flight over St Annes dunes.

Again an Cettis Warbler put in an appearance at Marton Mere on the 13th – this is obviously a bird extending its range Northwards – how long before they breed? Stonechats were regular at the Mere during the month and a Chiffchaff was recorded on the 15th. An influx of Fieldfare took place with birds being noted at Stanah, Presall and the Mere. The biggest flock was 1000 at Thurnham on the 7th. A pair of Bearded Tits were seen at the Mere during the month – this is another bird which appears to becoming annual. 73 Corn Buntings were at Jarvis Carr, Over Wyre on the 20th and on the same date there were 4 Brambling at Fluke Hall. There were 30 Goldfinches at the Mere during the month whilst on

the 29th a single Lapland Bunting was at Cockersands. On the 27th the Magpie roost at Blackpool Zoo contained 257 birds.

December Sightings

Again the weather was dominated by Atlantic depressions, with strong westerlies and heavy rain. A few short high pressure systems in between gave odd frosty nights. On Christmas Day, Maurice Jones noted a Grey Heron having a Short-tailed Field Vole for its Xmas lunch at the Mere! 2 Bitterns appeared at the same site from the 5th. There was a drop in wild Swans noted from the previous month with only 33 Whoopers and 5 Bewicks being counted on the 11th Over Wyre. On the same date there were 4800 Pink footed Geese Over Wyre with a Greenland Whitefront at Fleetwood the same day. Also on the 11th there were 3 Goosanders on the Wyre at Out Rawcliffe. The 6th saw 26 Red Breasted Mergansers on Fleetwood Marine Lake. At about the same period the Mere held 93 Wigeon, 732 Teal, 45 Shoveller with the Mandarin, Scaup and Long-tailed Duck still present all month. Also on the 6th there were 660 Eider off Rossall with 6 Bewick Swans on Marton Mere on the 7th. A record number of Coot – 133 were on Fairhaven Lake on the 13th whilst on the same date there were 520 Wigeon at Cockersands.

During the month a male Merlin was regular at Rossall School. On the 5th a female Hen Harrier was at Bank Lane whilst a Peregrine flew south along the tideline off south prom on the 26th. On the 8th a Water Rail was still present at LSANR and Woodcock continued to be seen on and off at the Mere during the rest of the month. 5 or 6 Long Eared Owls were still present at the same site with the odd Short Eared also being seen on occasions. A further Long Eared Owl was reported at Eagland Hill on the 13th.

On the 5th there were at least 3 Water Pipits and 2 Rock Pipits at Bank Lane, Warton on the high tide. A male Blackcap was in a Staining garden on the 13th. At Marton Mere a pair of Stonechats were regular whilst some lucky observers were still managing to get to grips with the Cettis Warbler. A Black Redstart was seen opposite LSANR on the 4th whilst 5 Song Thrushes were on the reserve all month. The most unusual record of the month was the Lesser Whitethroat seen on LSANR from the 2nd until the 23rd, the previous latest date for this species being the 6th of November. The Bearded Tits continued to be seen at the Mere whilst 6 Long Tailed Tits were at Stanah on the 2nd, with a Brambling also present. The Lapland Bunting was seen again at Cockersands on the 5th. On the 11th there were 30 Corn Buntings and 20 Tree Sparrows at Eagland Hill with 60 Tree Sparrows at Bonds Farm on the 13th.

A.J.H.

S. W. TURKEY. 12/5/98 TO 26/5/98

We went to Turkey last year. Ellen suggested it, I didn't argue. I knew there would be some good birds to see in the vicinity of any resort. I wrote to Steve Whitehouse for information on birding in S.W. Turkey. I read it with interest then decided on a site that got only a passing mention. Gokova Bay (about 15kms north of Marmaris showed some potential) with mention of Bee-eaters, Red-Backed Shrike, Little Tern, Fan-Tailed Warbler and a few common waders. Right, was there a resort nearby. I got hold of several brochures and the last one I looked at (Sunquest) had a tiny village right at the end of the Gulf of Gokova. It was called Akyaka and described as a quiet resort with a few tavernas and not much else. The Bartholomew Clyde Leisure map showed two rivers entering the gulf right on the doorstep of Akyaka, furthermore they appeared to pass through a marshy area. You could see from a picture inside the brochure that behind the resort were well wooded hillsides. It looked just up our street but in case it wasn't we hedged our bets and decided to take a two centre holiday twinned with Dalyan a recognised birding resort.

We flew to Dalaman airport and the landing approach reminded me of Flash Gordons rocket ships, or were they Ming's as we seemed to fly round and round the Dalyan delta. We landed safely and the absence of any zig-zag doors to alight from meant Buster Crabbe would not be there to greet us. The bus ride to Akyaka was uneventful, an event in itself when you see the way they drive over there. It was dusk as we entered the village and I could just make out in the distance a party of Glossy Ibis preparing to land. I couldn't wait for the following morning.

We unpacked or rather Ellen did. We were both hungry, for the meal during the flight was akin to - well I'd rather not say. Rather than venture out we decided to eat in the hotel. We wound our way down to the restaurant where a dozen people were quietly eating. It was quiet as a library should be, unfortunately we were in the restaurant. There seemed to be as many staff as there were guests, always an intimidating feeling if you allow it to be. We must have been just that for we found ourselves whispering to each other. What's more the guests were multi-national, and the staff although friendly to a degree appeared to be inhibited by the ranking structure. Was this going to be a no talking holiday I wondered. We needn't have worried as a couple from Sussex introduced themselves and showed us the ropes. We retired early. I arose early. Ellen slumbered on. Well she was on holiday.

Which direction should I walk. Did it matter. I spun a coin. Heads won so I went uphill along the road we had come in on. A stream trickled its way down the hillside which was randomly spaced with pine trees. A White wagtail was the first bird I saw quickly followed by Blackbird, House Sparrow, Goldfinch, Collared Dove, Jay and Great Tit - was this the potential I had imagined, was it heck. I needn't have worried for the next bird was clearly more interesting as I saw it fly from one tree to another tree. It flew back and sat upon what on closer inspection proved to be a lichen encrusted nest. It was a cracking wing flashing male Masked shrike soon to be joined by the female. I came across another female close by but not before hearing the unmistakable song of a Cettis Warbler. Things were on the up. Also up, up above that is was a fine Honey buzzard which quickly came down as it was mobbed by two Peregrines. As I watched the women working in the fields below, aaah, a party of 40+ Bee-eaters flew by on the lookout for thermal rising insects. What can you say about them that hasn't already been said. I feasted my eyes on them and returned for breakfast in a contented state of mind.

The hotel was built hacienda style and really looked quite splendid. The room was spacious, far more so than what was to await us in Dalyan. The swimming pool equally was large but unheated and therefore still rather cold at that time of year. Breakfast was continental but included boiled eggs, cheeses, cold meats, fruit, marvellous bread, jam/marmalade, fruit juice and as much coffee or tea as you could drink. The coffee was excellent. We were more than satisfied with the accommodation.

Late morning we decided to stroll downhill to the sea-shore. We were situated in the upper reaches of the village. A pleasant walk through pine clad woodland brought us our first Middle-spotted Woodpecker, 2 purring Turtle Doves and a Blue Tit before reaching the picturesque seafront where we ate a bacon and egg pizza. I kid you not. I could tell you now about the proprietor and his 'interesting staff' but instead I will tell you about the afternoon walk we took.

We headed toward the small harbour and watched the fishermen sat down, chatting and laughing whilst repairing their fishing nets. My mind flashed back to the women bent double in the fields and I no longer thought aaah. Some immature gulls were over the sea and as they came nearer I counted 18, all of them Mediterranean gulls. It had been some time since I had seen so many, 8 years in fact when I visited Alyki salt pans SW of Thessalonika where up to 4,000 breed. We continued our stroll and walked over the rickety bridge

that spanned the first river. The water here was crystal clear and it was easy to make out the numerous small fry that some of the local children were trying to catch. Passing through some rushes we soon reached the eastern 'shore' of Gokova Bay. The intertidal area must have been all of 10 yards, big enough though to attract 4 migrant Turnstones, 1 Sanderling, 1 Wood Sandpiper and the resident pair of Ringed Plovers. Inland several Fan-tailed Warblers could be heard and I had obviously entered one of their territories as I lingered to photograph some of the finest spikes of Loose-flowered Orchid I had ever clapped eyes on. We carried on walking along the sandy beach for about a third of a mile before heading inland along a track that overlooked the wet fields and marshes. Here we saw 2 Squacco Herons, 1 Little Egret, 1 Glossy Ibis, 8 Curlew Sandpipers, 2 Little Stints, 2 Red-backed, 1 Lesser grey and 1 Woodchat Shrikes, 7 Black-headed Yellow Wagtails, 2 Magpies, 2 Crested Larks, 5 Corn Buntings and a Marsh Harrier. Turning back a squadron of 60+ Bee-eaters flew right over us and the sky was teeming with hirundines as it turned black in colour. 2 Little Terns and a Gull-billed Tern seen from the seashore ended an excellent afternoons walk.

The following day we went to Mugla by dolmus because it was £13 per person cheaper than going by the tour rep's excursion. Do they think we are stupid!. Mugla is the provincial capital of the area set 2000 feet above sea level and with a superb market. What you can't buy here isn't worth having, unfortunately some items you can buy aren't worth having either. However there were plenty of bargains and it was fun to hear the vendors shouting out 'Asda price, Asda price, cheaper than Del boy'. We came away with fleece jackets and T-shirts galore all of excellent quality and cheap to boot. The sellers worshipped sterling kissing the notes joyously and it was a good feeling that both parties were happy with the transaction.

Once you reach the far end of the market you are in spitting distance of the surrounding hills. I wasn't about to miss the chance of some opportunistic birding burdened down with carrier bags or not. Ellen decided to hang back while I explored the rocky terrain. The first bird I saw was a stunning Blue Rock Thrush. Is it because they are so easy to identify that birders quickly start looking for something else. Big mistake for they are a seriously underrated bird and well worth the time spent on staying with them. Nearby an Oliveaceous Warbler was singing away under cover but I soon saw it as it flew to another bush. They always seem to be moving around their territory so you never have long to wait before you see one. Further up the hillside a Ruppell's Warbler was feeding young and a male Stonechat was perched on top of one of the bushes in full view. Jerking his tail and tac, tac, tacking away he flitted from bush to bush as my route took me nearer to him. The Blackbirds here are far more skulking than ours but their song is the same and in my view unequalled by any other songbird. Take time out to listen to one in earnest and see if you don't agree with me. A Black-eared Wheatear was the next bird to show quickly followed by a Linnet and a Cretzschmars Bunting. A Little Owl outstared me, don't they always and a Honey Buzzard soared above until attacked by a falcon possibly a Lanner. A Kestrel looked on.

We returned to Akyaka arriving early afternoon and on the way back I sussed out where to stop to visit a site a few kilometres short of Mugla. We ate at a taverna near to the hotel then I went for a late afternoon walk while Ellen got stuck into her novel. The road from Mugla hairpins on its way down to Gokova bay and on our return from there I could see the lie of the land well enough to suggest there was a rectangular circuit I could follow. I set off eastward following the river and soon came across two wonderfully situated restaurants by the riverside which I vowed to check out later. About 1 mile on I turned south on a cart track that appeared to continue through the hinterland. It was here that the birding blossomed.

A flock of Spanish Sparrows, the only ones I were to see on this holiday, flew up into the bushes where an Oliveaceous Warbler was making its way through the tangled undergrowth. Perhaps it was steering clear of a Red-backed Shrike perched immediately above it, the first of five I was to see that afternoon. A party of 6 Wood sandpipers were feeding in a partially flooded field and as always on passage allowed seriously close views. What a shame we don't see more in the Fylde. Also in the fields were 4 White storks probing the recently ploughed land. A little further on a female Red-footed falcon was looking for prey from the electricity cable it was perched on. I waited some time for it to fly but it outlasted my patience and I pattered on. Passing a small Eucalyptus wood a Golden Oriole gave out its strange cat like call but I searched in vain to see it. Purring Turtle Doves and a Masked Shrike were far more obliging. Also here I was fortunate to photograph a large black snake that shot off like a bullet as I tried to sneak closer.

Birds were around every corner and around the next corner were fourteen Black-headed Buntings on the hedgerow in front of me. Rain clouds loomed and I suspected the buntings were part of a 'fall'. Turning west toward the gulf I was greeted by thousands of low flying Swifts, Swallows, and Martins. A party of 60+ Bee-eaters flew around me and 9 settled in a nearby bush. In the same bush were more Black headed Buntings and a classic Woodchat Shrike. What a sight. Then a magnificent Eleanora's falcon cruised by immediately above, the first of several I was to see around Akyaka. This strikingly long winged and long tailed raptor is by far my

favourite falcon. On this occasion it maintained a direct flight but when 'active' the wingbeats appear relaxed and effortless as they float through the air chasing dragonflies and the like. The fields were buzzing with flava wagtails chiefly Black-headed's. Also in good numbers were Whinchats and in the bushes were skulking chattering sylvia warblers.

I was lucky, the rain front skirted me by as I made my way back to the beach where Ellen and I had walked the previous day. On the way Little Egrets and Squacco Herons were feeding in the wet fields and a female Marsh Harrier put in an appearance. A Cetti's in full view was perched on a wire fence and was reluctant to move. I waited until it did for such occurrences are rare. Its short rounded wings and broad rounded tail were features I had only glimpsed before. As I reached the shore a Turnstone and a Sanderling took off while out at sea 3 Black terns passed by. Great Reed Warblers and a Marsh Warbler sang from the reed bed, Fan tails zitted over it and a Moorhen emerged from it. It was a quarter to seven as I approached the hotel to be serenaded by a Nightingale. Not bad for a late afternoons walk I thought. Ellen read on.

A few days later I went alone and took the 9.00 dolmus to Mugla. Ellen read on. About 3-4 kilometres from Mugla the road descends. It was at that point I signalled the driver to stop. The driver looked puzzled, the passengers shook their heads in disbelief. Why on earth would anyone, particularly a tourist, want to be dropped off there. I waved tarrah to a bus load of dumbfounded people who are probably still scratching their heads wondering why why why. A well pot-holed metalled track led off eastward and I set off along it. The area was alive with Black-headed Buntings probably part of the same 'fall' that I had witnessed the evening before in Akyaka. I counted over 20. About 150 yards on, a right hand turn along a gravel track took to me where I wanted to be. Two Woodlarks were on the ground only yards in front of me and a Ruppell's Warbler was carrying food into the scrub. A male White-throated Robin was singing perched in full view. I saw five more males and a single female and could only guess at the density of the species in the area, On passage they are extreme skulkers but here on their breeding grounds they showed very well.

I stayed in the area until about 11.00 by which time it was getting rather hot. I had walked less than half a mile from the main road and in addition to the above saw a further three Ruppell's, two Black-eared Wheatears, two Lesser Whitethroats, numerous tortoises and a fine colony of Black-veined White butterflies. It had been a fine mornings birding and I returned to Akyaka in time for lunch. Instead of alighting in Akyaka I got off the dolmus half way down the steep hill that descended down to the Gokova plain. From here it was a pleasant stroll down hill with plenty of interest, including two stooping Eleonora's.

We lunched in a nearby taverna where a splendid pair of Red-rumped Swallow's put in an appearance. A man and his wife joined us and he recounted his visit to the local barbers. He had gone in for a shave and in addition had had his eyebrows trimmed, his ear and nostril hairs singed, and his fingers, arms and shoulders massaged all for the price of 240,000 lira the equivalent of 60pence. I wondered whether or not to send Ellen but she didn't need her eyebrows trimming. Ha Ha.

A pleasant coastal afternoon stroll took us to Dinar beach but gave us little in the way of birds apart from the very best view I have ever had of a Honey Buzzard. A Rock Nuthatch was very vocal as we relaxed and sipped our drinks. Chaffinches, Great Tits, and Masked Shrike were in the adjacent woodland. Dragonflies were common but were to be totally eclipsed by the vast numbers we were to see in Dalyan.

Returning to Akyaka we revisited the narrow foreshore. Among the birds we saw were 4 Ringed plovers, 9 Little Stints, 9 Curlew Sandpipers, 2 Sanderling, 1 Shag, 3 Garganey, 5 Little Egrets, 1 Little Gull, 9 distant Terns and a Roller. Ellen then returned to the hotel (hadn't she finished that book I wondered) and I went exploring the nearby upper reaches of Akyaka. Interesting, down to earth, primitive, are words that spring to mind. It was clear that few tourists ventured into this area where a variety of free range livestock, including 'inquisitive' goats and aggressive dogs (fortunately chained) were everywhere. A local goatherder approached me, sickle in hand and intimated he would like a look through my binoculars. What could I say, of course you can my good man. He was impressed but would I get them back. Well in his own time it would seem. We communicated in sign language and sounds and eventually I got through to him what I used them for. In no time he was 'telling' me of Eagle Owls taking his stock. I was leaving Akyaka the following day for Dalyan or I would have investigated further. We departed as friends but as we shook hands he was still eyeing up my bins. I left with a spring in my step.

A last visit to the foreshore and adjacent fields brought the ever present Bee-eaters, more Black-headed Buntings, 6 Little Stints, 5 Sanderling, 5 Curlew Sandpipers, 6 Grey Heron and 3 Short-toed Larks. 5 Long-tailed Tits were in the pines on my way back to the hotel. Much duller than our Long-tails and lacking any pink in their plumage, they were nevertheless a pleasure to see.

We both had enjoyed Akyaka immensely and it was a wrench to leave. Our journey to Dalyan took just over an hour. The hotel was not as grand as we had left behind but it was a family concern and you could not have wished for anywhere friendlier. The resort was far bigger than Akyaka, more touristy, and we were not as happy there although it did have its compensations including a delightful small open air jazz bar complete with log fire. You could select your own music to be played free of charge and there were also on the house refreshments.

Birdwise, Dalyan was an anti-climax after Akyaka. We were probably too late for any passage species. The only additional species I saw were as follows:- Alpine swifts, Blackcap, Great-white Heron, Sardinian Warbler, Whiskered Tern and a truly magnificent White-tailed Eagle over Lake Koycegiz. It was that close it looked more the size of an aircraft hangar door rather than the proverbial barn door and made a fitting end to the holiday.

B. DYSON.
January 1999.

We had a very good time and it was a great success. The people in London look just as
well. The hotel was not so good as we had but I think it was a fairly decent one and we could see
around the city from the window. The room was the biggest I have ever seen and we were
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L. D. D. D.
1950





**Fylde
Bird Club**

LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY
THE 21 ST OF OCTOBER AT BLACKPOOL CRICKET CLUB

Present

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 24 members.
Apologies were received from Paul Slade, Dave McGrath and Robert Stinger.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last business meeting held on the 15th of July were read and approved.

Matters Arising (other Matters Arising are covered under Correspondence)

1) Rossall Point Tower

The Chairman reported on the status the ex Coast Guards Tower at Rossall. He stated that the broken windows had not yet been repaired but that Wyre Ranger Service were seeking Council funds to conduct repairs and install shielding for the glass. Approximately £600 was required. In response to a question, the Chairman replied that one pane of toughened glass had been fitted but that this too had been broken.

Correspondence

1) Permanent Hide at Marton Mere

A letter had been received from Blackpool Borough Council accompanied by a plan of the proposed building for comment. The Secretary reported that he had replied by telephone to the Council with a few minor amendments, which were accepted. He added that he believed the issue was now before Council Planning Officers and that the Club were awaiting a further response from the Council. The Secretary agreed to continue to pursue the matter with Blackpool Borough Council.

2) Planning Application for Development of an Orchard in Freckleton

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Fylde Borough Council requesting ornithological data on an old orchard off Orchard Close in Freckleton. The letter stated that opponents had suggested that the site was a habitat for woodpeckers, Tawny Owls and Sparrowhawks. The Chairman and other members agreed to visit the site and attempt to assess its ornithological value.

3) Data Provision to Hyder Consulting Ltd

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Hyder Consulting for ornithological data on land affected by the construction of a proposed underground pipe from the Wyre to the sea at Rossall. He informed the membership that he had responded with the view that the works would not be detrimental if conducted outside of the October to March period. He also reported that in response to a question from the company, on fees charged by the Club for data, he had suggested that they might wish to make a donation towards the Bird Report of £25. The Secretary reported that he had subsequently received a cheque for £25 for the Club from Hyder.

Frank Walsh suggested that the Club should charge realistic fees for data provided in view of the very high rates which such consultants charge their customers. However there was no consensus on the approach which the Club should pursue. The Treasurer warned that the Club may be liable for taxation if we were not careful. The Secretary suggested that the Club should seek advice from similar bodies who may have already found themselves in this position. Maurice Jones suggested that Judith Smith from the Greater Manchester Club had some experience in this field.

Agenda

1) Important Unprotected Bird Sites

The Chairman reminded members to contribute to the compilation of a site list. With regard to the Fylde Local Plan Review the Chairman offered copies of extracts of the Plan containing maps of areas earmarked for development. He asked members to take them away and forward any ornithological data they had on these sites, before January.

2) Club Newsletter

The Chairman announced that the editor had run out of copy and reminded the members that if they did not contribute they would not be any newsletters! He added that trip reports, accounts of survey work and thoughts on the direction of the Club were examples of worthy subjects. He also suggested that if anyone else would like to write a front page article, in place of the Chairman's comment, then they would be welcome to do so.

A.O.B.

1) 1997 Fylde Bird Report

Alan Hinchliffe congratulated all who had worked on the 1997 Bird Report, especially Kinta Beaver. He added that he believed it to be the Club's finest publication ever and that as it was twice as thick as previous issues, it represented very good value. A number of members echoed these sentiments. Alan asked if the report was on sale at the RSPB at Fairhaven, The Chairman stated that he had offered it to the Centre and was awaiting a reply on whether they wished to sell it there. Alan opined that this should not be an issue because of the Club's affiliation to the RSPB and the personal memberships held by most of the Club members.

Maurice Jones stated that the RSPB at Marsh Side would be willing and able to sell the Club's Reports at their visitor facility in Southport.

Frank Walsh agreed with the praise offered for this report and suggested that it would not need to be so thick in the future. This was because much of the comparative data over previous years would not need to be repeated in future issues. Other members disagreed on the basis that newer members and non members may not have read previous issues. Frank added that his comment was made with an eye on the extra cost incurred in producing a lengthy report. The Secretary agreed that this should be a consideration.

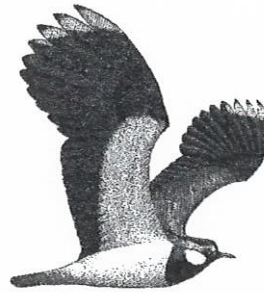
Announcements

- 1) Talk on Marton Mere by the Friends Group, tomorrow evening at the RSPB at Fairhaven.
- 2) Wyre B.C. Guided Walk at 09:30 on Sat 21st November at Pilling Lane Ends.
- 3) Tickets for Bill Oddie's talk at the Norbreck on the 23rd of November were available tonight from Alan Stamford.
- 4) New Bird Club Car Stickers, featuring the Lapwing logo, are available for a mere 50p each.
- 5) 'Migration Walk' led by the Friends Group at Marton Mere on Saturday at 07:30.
- 6) Copies of the 1997 Lancashire Bird Report were available tonight from Maurice Jones.

Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on the 18th of November when Paul Doherty would present a talk and slide show on California.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.



Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:15 PM ON THURSDAY THE 12TH OF NOVEMBER AT THE PLOUGH AT STAINING

Present

Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; Paul Slade; Dave Pitman; Alan Hinchliffe and Mike McGough.
Apologies were received from Stephen Dunstan.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 6th of July were read and approved.

Matters Arising

1) 1980's Breeding Birds Survey

The Secretary conveyed a report from Stephen Dunstan that he had written to Andrew Cadnam requesting him to pass all the data from the Breeding birds Survey to him. Stephen had not received any reply to his letter in which he had offered to travel to Andrew's home to collect the data. After many repeated attempts the committee members were at a loss for what further action could or should be taken in this matter.

2) Newsletter

The November issue was complete and Mike McGough had brought 50 copies to the meeting. Alan Hinchliffe stated that he had completely run out of copy and therefore the members had 3 months to come up with something before the next issue. The Chairman asked those present to lead from the front by providing articles. The Secretary and Chairman each agreed to write articles for the next issue.

Continuing Action: All to provide copy.

3) Newton Marsh SSSI

The Secretary reported that he had not yet arranged a meeting with Tony Baker of the RSPB but that he would do so.

Continuing Action: Secretary to arrange a meeting.

4) Bird Report

All previous actions completed except the following:

To enquire if the Bird Club could borrow the Marton Mere LNR log book from the reserve at the end of the year in order that it may be photocopied.

Continuing Action: Chairman

Sales of the 1997 Bird Report were discussed. It was suggested that the sale price of the report was too low and would barely break even if all copies were sold. The Secretary agreed and accepted responsibility for not reviewing the sale price in the light of the increased production cost. It was agreed that the price of future issues should reflect production costs. Places of sale were discussed and it was agreed that the Club should attempt to put the Report on sale at the following:

North West Bird Fair:	Action: Chairman
Marsh Side RSPB:	Action: Chairman
Bill Oddie talk at the Norbreck:	Action: Secretary
RSPB Fairhaven Discovery Centre	Action: Chairman
Spar Shop at Marton Mere	Action Dave Pitman

5) Planning Application at College Farm Cleveleys

The Secretary reported that he had not yet written again to the three local councillors concerning the plan to build houses on land used by geese between Blackpool and Fleetwood.

Action ongoing : Secretary to write to Councillors

6) Promotion of the Bird Club

The Secretary conveyed a report from Steven Dunstan that he had contacted the Lancs Wildlife Trust and that they had agreed to include a piece mentioning the Club in their magazine, 'Lapwing'. The Treasurer reported that he too had been in contact with the Trust with a view to them including the Club's meeting programme in their 'What's On' Newsletter. The Secretary suggested that the Treasurer should keep Stephan Dunstan informed.

Action: Treasurer

7) 1999 Meeting Programme

Dave Pitman presented a draft Meeting Programme for 1999. After discussion and some minor amendments the draft was approved by the Committee. The Chairman thanked Dave for producing a good well balanced programme and the committee members also indicated their appreciation. It was agreed that Dave should type up the Programme and pass it on disk to the Secretary who would add the Club's logo and produce A4 paper copies for distribution at the November Club meeting.

Action: Dave Pitman and the Secretary.

8) Membership Cards

The Secretary reported that he had also reminded the printers that the Club were still waiting for a price to for cards but that he had received no reply. After some discussion on whether or not the Club needed membership cards, it was agreed that Programme cards could double as membership cards. When 1999 Club Programme Cards are printed then a blank space on the card will be used by the Treasurer to record the Members name and membership number at the time they pay their subscriptions. Alan Hinchliffe offered to arrange to get the Programme/Membership Cards printed.

Action: Alan Hinchliffe

9) Co-operation with Lancs Wildlife Trust

The Secretary reported that he had not yet arranged a meeting with the LWT but that he intended to so.

Continuing Action: Secretary to arrange a meeting.

10) Breeding Birds Survey in Blackpool Zoo Grounds

The Secretary reported that he had not yet made the arrangements with Blackpool Zoo to conduct a breeding bird survey next year.

Continuing Action: Secretary to write to Blackpool Zoo

11) Permanent Hide at Marton Mere

The Secretary reported that he was awaiting confirmation from Blackpool Borough Council that the proposed building and location were acceptable to the Council's Planning Department. The Secretary agreed to contact the Council and enquire about the status of the project.

Action: Secretary to contact Blackpool Borough Council

Correspondence

1) Request for Ornithological Data on an Orchard in Freckleton

The Secretary reported that he had responded to the request for ornithological data from Fylde Borough Planners. The Chairman had visited the site and found that it was not an important site for birds. There was no understorey whatsoever and the fruit trees stood in a closely mown lawn. The Secretary reported that he had faxed a reply stating that the Bird Club would not object to the site's development. All agreed that this incident represented significant progress on the road to increased recognition of the Bird Club as a source of data.

2) 1997 Bird Race

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Don Rusling of the YOC Group, thanking the Club for monies raised by our Bird Race. The Treasurer announced that he had been collecting the proceeds from some of the fundraisers, in preparation for forwarding to the YOC Group and therefore he still had a significant sum to pass on. The Treasurer agreed to forward the remaining money to the YOC Group, which would raise the total amount to approximately £143.

Action: Treasurer to send money to YOC.

Agenda

1) Club Finances

The Treasurer reported that he had assessed the cost of running the Club and compared it to the membership subscription. He had found that the annual cost per member is in the order of £9.60 and had therefore concluded that the subscription should be significantly increased to protect the viability of the Club. It was noted that the sub.'s had not been increased for many years whereas costs clearly had. It was also observed that 12 meetings a year, a quality bird report and newsletters were extremely good value for a maximum charge of £10 per year, (£5 OAPs £3 Students).

All agreed that an increase was necessary. It was also agreed that the increase should be divided between a rise in the basic subscription and a return to the policy of selling the Bird Report to the members but at a reduced rate. Lengthy discussion followed on the amount of the increase which should be recommended to the membership at the forth coming AGM. A majority decision was arrived at which produced a recommendation to raise the basic subscription by £1 to £11 and to sell the Bird Report to members for £2.50 per copy.

The cost of guest speakers and monies raised at these meetings was discussed. It was agreed that non-members should be charged an entry fee but that members should only be invited to give a donation.

It was also agreed that the charges for advertisements in the next report, should be increased from £25 to £30 for a full page and from £15 to £20 for a half page.

It was recognised that the cost of producing the Bird Report was a major item of expense and all agreed to make more vigorous efforts to secure sponsorship. The Secretary accepted an action to approach BAe but noted that the Lancashire Bird Report had already secured sponsorship from this source. The Chairman accepted an action to approach North West Water.

2) AGM

The Chairman asked the Committee members present if they all wished to stand for re-election. All agreed to stand again with the exception of Paul Slade. The Secretary reported that Stephen Dunstan had informed him that he was willing to stand again. It agreed that Paul's retirement should open a vacancy on the committee, even though the constitution would allow the committee to continue with the remaining number of members.

The Treasurer confirmed that he would send out AGM notices to the membership after the November meeting.

It was agreed that a buffet and raffle should be arranged for the AGM. Raffle tickets would be sold at the next Club meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:39 pm.



**Fylde
Bird Club**

LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB 1998 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:12 PM ON WEDNESDAY
THE 16TH OF DECEMBER AT BLACKPOOL CRICKET CLUB

Present

Chairman; Secretary, Treasurer and 20 members.

Apologies were received from; Roger Scholes; Barry Dyson; Dave McGrath; Malcolm Evans; Alan Stamford and Harry Andrews.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17th December 1997 were read and approved.

Chairman's Review of the Year

The Chairman made the following address : -

As you know it is customary for me to review the past year and look forward to 1999.

I will start by thanking all who have helped the Club during the year.

First, many thanks to our Secretary Paul, for another year's hard work, always to his usual high standards. We are reminded of these standards on reading his minutes in our newsletters. On behalf of everyone, many thanks Paul.

I also have to thank our Treasurer Peter for another year's hard work, his report will demonstrate how well he has looked after our money. I should also thank Malcolm Evans for auditing Peter's accounts.

Thanks to Dave Pitman for preparing our meeting programme and thanks to those members who contributed to Dave's programme. Thanks to Alan Hinchliffe for producing our newsletter and to Stephen Dunstan and Paul for helping Alan in producing it and to Mike McGough for producing the copies.

I must also thank all the committee members for their work during the year particularly Paul Slade for producing our new car sticker. Individual members have also assisted us during the year, to all of them, thank you for your help.

We led guided walks attracting 102 people, several of whom regularly travel from outside our area to attend. Thank you to all who helped with this important part of our work. I must also thank all of you who supported our annual Bird Race so enthusiastically raising £190 towards the Y.O.C.'s interpretative panel project for Rossall. Our members have continued to support the work of the Friends of Marton Mere and I hope that more of you will be able to do so as their efforts on behalf of the Mere compliment our own. Members continued to support field work, particularly the estuary counts and the county wide breeding birds survey. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Mike & Pauline McGough we have re-launched our winter goose counts, a magpie roost survey and individual species surveys, please support this important work by submitting your records. I will take this opportunity to encourage other members to begin similar work. During the year we attended 6 meetings with other bodies, conducted three site surveys and were asked to comment on 8 other issues.

Some of you will remember, at our last AGM I promised a high quality Bird Report that would be published earlier than those in recent years. Due to a lot of hard work by Paul and Kinta we achieved this aim. So thanks to them and our editorial team, I must remind you that without your support we cannot maintain this standard, please bring your 1998 sightings to our January meeting.

We can look forward to 1999 with some optimism; we should at last see the provision of a new hide at Marton Mere. The disappointment we shared at the vandalism of the Rossall Point Coast Guards Tower should be compensated by proposed developments at the building. I hope to bring news of other developments that will be of interest to our members.

1999 is the final year of the Lancashire Breeding Birds Survey, I hope you will support the last push to complete this important survey.

Next year will see our local authorities completing their Local Plans; we need to be involved in these plans if our wild birds are to be protected. We also need your help in our plan to produce a list of local sites that are not afforded statutory protection. 1999 will be an important year for your Bird Club, it will need all of your support and you will need the Club's support in opposing the increasing threats to our local wildlife.

On a personal note later this evening I will be asking for your help and I am sure that you will respond favourably.

Finally I must thank you all of you for your continued support and can assure you that the officers and committee of the Fylde Bird Club will continue to work hard on behalf of the birds of the Fylde and their habitats.

Treasurer's Review of the Year

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the previous year which had been audited by Malcolm Evans. Copies of the summary had been provided to all members prior to the meeting. He explained that the miscellaneous payments made in 1998 included the Club's Car Stickers and the provision of a replacement window in the Rossall Coast Guard's Tower. The Treasurer stated that the Club's General Fund had fallen by £273 during the year and pointed out that the costs of producing two bird reports in one year, was a major factor. He also stated that the Club had enjoyed some cheap and free services which could not be taken for granted in future years, including free photocopying of the newsletters, free bird report typing in 1998 and lower than cost administration charges. The Treasurer stated the deficit of £273 had caused him some concern over the question of whether the Club's normal regular income exceeded its costs. This had led him to analyse the annual running costs of the Club per member to give a guide as to whether the subscription charges were sufficient. The Treasurer's calculations were based on 60 members and the cost of membership per member was as follows: Room £2.08; Speakers £2.17; Bird Report c.£2.85; Subs to other bodies £0.90; Admin £0.48. This came to a total of £8.50 leaving only £1.50, (from a Subscription of £10), for other miscellaneous costs per member, or £90 for the whole Club. The Treasurer also pointed out that the calculation was optimistic because many members qualified for reduced subscription rates. His conclusion was that Club's subscription rates should be increased by £2 for ordinary members, (from £10 to £12) and by £1 for O.A.P.s, (from £5 to £6).

The Chairman asked for comments from the floor. The question of when the Subscriptions had last been increased was raised but it was so long ago that no one present could remember exactly. It was believed that it was 6 or 7 years ago!

Don Rusling proposed that the Treasurer's recommendation should be accepted.

Alan Hinchliffe seconded the proposal.

The Proposal was carried by a clear show of hands.

A number of members thanked the Treasurer for his cost of membership analysis and it was agreed that a similar calculation should be produced by the Treasurer, formally, on an annual basis.

The Chairman offered his thanks to the Treasurer.

Election of Officers

Chairman : Len Blacow was proposed by Mike McGough and seconded by Pauline McGough
The vote was in favour.

Secretary : Paul Ellis was proposed by Alan Hinchliffe and seconded by Paul Slade.
The vote was in favour.

Treasurer : Peter Bainbridge announced that he was standing down as Treasurer.
The Chairman appealed to the floor for a volunteer. Peter Bainbridge offered to provide all necessary help with learning the role.
Ian Chandler offered to conduct the job of Treasurer and was proposed by Mike McGough and seconded by Alan Hinchliffe.
The vote was in favour.

Auditor : Malcolm Evans was proposed by Paul Ellis and seconded by Don Rusling.
The vote was in favour.

Committee: Alan Hinchliffe was proposed by Paul Slade and seconded by Robert Stinger.
The vote was in favour.
Mike McGough was proposed by Robert Stinger and seconded by Pauline McGough.
The vote was in favour.
Stephan Dunstan was proposed by Don Rusling and seconded by Dave Pitman.
The vote was in favour.
Dave Pitman was proposed by Pauline McGough and seconded by Maurice Jones.
The vote was in favour.

The Chairman reported that Paul Slade had decided not to stand for re-election and therefore a vacancy existed. He then invited nominations from the floor.
Paul Ellis proposed Peter Bainbridge and he was seconded by Dave Pitman.
The vote was in favour.

Subscriptions to Outside Bodies

The Treasurers read out the names and subscription costs of the bodies to which the Club had belonged to last year. They were: -

BTO	£19
LWT	£25
Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society	£10

Renewed membership of all was proposed by Paul Ellis and seconded by Don Rusling.
The vote was in favour.

The Secretary suggested that the Club should consider becoming some sort of associate member of the RSPB. Don Rusling agreed to make enquiries with the RSPB to find out what was available.

Any Other Business

1) Club Constitution

Frank Walsh asked if a revised constitution had been prepared. The Chairman replied that it had not but that changes could be debated now and a draft revision brought to a future meeting for approval.

Mike McGough raised the issue of the constitutional constraints regarding the Special Projects Fund. The Special Projects Fund is covered by an addendum to the main constitution which requires that before any funds may be released an Extraordinary General Meeting must be called, with 14 days written notice given. Frank Walsh stated that he believed that an E.G.M. was needed for major expenditure but that release of certain smaller amounts should be exempted. Mike McGough made the point that if monies had been raised for a specific purpose then it seemed unreasonable to be forced to seek approval to use the money for that purpose. It was noted that the Club could work around this obstacle by depositing such monies in a separate fund not covered by the restrictions of the Special Projects Fund. It was suggested that the constitution should be redrafted to allow the Committee to authorise the removal of sums of up to £500 from the Special Projects Fund, without the need to call an E.G.M. This proposal was agreed by the members present.

2) Discussion of the Club's Accounts

Frank Walsh agreed with the Chairman's address and thanked the outgoing Treasurer and the Secretary for their efforts during the past year. However he stated that the members had been given insufficient opportunity to discuss the Treasurer's report. The Chairman replied that he had asked if there were any comments from the floor. Frank opined that if the reason for the deficit was due to the cost incurred by producing two Annual Bird Reports in one year, then this wasn't a good enough reason for raising the subs. He later added that the reason that the subs. had remained the same for so long, was that they were too high originally.

The Treasurer responded that the reason he had recommended an increase in subs. was that the calculated surplus of £1.50 per member, per year, was insufficient. He pointed out that this amounted to only c.£90 per year and that if the Club had had to pay for newsletter photocopying last year, this alone would have cost more than £90. He added that any surplus could be spent on worthwhile causes. Frank replied that he was satisfied with the Treasurer's reasoning.

Alan Hinchliffe and Dave Pitman stated that the Club's running costs should not be subsidised by the Club's reserves. Don Rusling stated that he was impressed with the cost analysis and agreed that any surplus should be used for good causes.

Mike McGough suggested that the value of administration services, which were provided free of charge, should be calculated. Dave Pitman agreed but warned that we should not put a price on people's good will. It was agreed that the value of items such as free photocopying, stationary and saved postage from hand deliveries could be calculated to provide a more complete picture of the Club's administration costs.

3) Bird Report Thanks

Mike McGough offered thanks on behalf of the members to the Secretary, Chairman and Kinta Beaver for all their hard work in helping to produce the Bird Report. Frank Walsh added that the Report was superb.

There being no further AGM business the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

FRIENDS OF MARTON MERE - PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 1999.

JANUARY

Thur 21st Friends Group meeting - Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park. Meet 8 p.m. Paul Ellis will be giving an illustrated talk on the wildlife of South Africa.

MARCH

Sat 6th "Wonderful Wildfowl Walk " meet information centre at 10.00 a.m.

Thur 18th A.G.M. - Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park. Meet 8 pm.
Everyone given a 'Friendly' welcome !

APRIL

Fri 9th Childrens Easter Activity afternoon - meet Information Centre at 2.30 pm (approx 2 hours).

MAY

Thur 20th Friends Group meeting - Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park. Meet 8 p.m.
Come along and "Follow the Badger Trail" with photographer Mr B Unsworth.

JUNE

" Midsummer Madness Week "
A week full of various nature activities -

Mon 14th Moth Evening with Malcolm Evans - 8 till late.
Meet Information Centre.

Tue 15th Children's activities & mini beast hunt - 6 pm - 8 pm. Meet Information Centre.

Thur 17th Flora of Marton Mere - Meet 6.30 pm, Information Centre.

Fri 18th Bat, Fox and Owl Watch - 8 till late.
Meet Information Centre.

JULY

Sun 4th Outdoor meeting at Lytham St Annes Nature Reserve, Clifton Drive, St Annes. Meet 10 am at Information Centre.

AUGUST

Sat 7th Childrens Activity Day - meet information Centre at 10.30 am (approx. 2 hours) for pond dipping, nature walks, bug hunts etc.

SEPTEMBER

Thur 16th Friends Group meeting - Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park. Meet 8 p.m.
Come and see the work that the World Wildlife Fund do - illustrated talk by Kath Smith, Local Co-Ordinator.

Sat 25th Early morning migration walk. Meet information Centre at 7.30 am. The early birder catches the Bird !!

OCTOBER

Sun 10th Marton Mere are proud to again host the national World Wildlife Fund event - "Walk for Wildlife".

NOVEMBER

Thur 18th Friends Group meeting - Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park. Meet 8 p.m.
"Friends of Marton Mere" - Review of the Year.

Sat 27th Come and join Geoff Whiteley, Environmental Artist at one of his Willow Workshops - 10 am until 3 pm.

DECEMBER

Tue 28th Christmas Bird Count in conjunction with R.S.P.B and Wyre Ranger Service. Grand 'totting up' will be held at Marton Mere, approx. 2 pm.
Seasonal refreshments will be available.

JANUARY 2000

Thur 20th A.G.M. - Meet Blackpool Cricket Club - 8 pm.

For further details of any events or details of

" The Friends of Marton Mere "

please do not hesitate to contact the following people -

Mike & Pauline McGough
01253 293366

Len Blacow
01253 768956

Phil & Sharon Tomkinson
01253 760436

" FRIENDS OF MARTON MERE "

Back in September 1997, a group of frequent visitors to Marton Mere met to discuss the possibility of forming a Friends' group to support and promote The Mere. That group alongwith many other supporters laid the foundations for " The Friends of Marton Mere ".

Since then the group has successfully organised around 20 events, elected a committee, regularly produced a newsletter and held meetings for its members and raised funds.

We are currently raising funds to provide interpretive information panels for around the site itself and are also well on the way to producing a colour information leaflet. Last year we were lucky enough to be awarded £250 by The Gazette, who in conjunction with British Gas, were giving away amounts of money each month to worthy community projects.

Despite being a Nature Reserve with a full time Warden, Marton Mere still needs friends to care for it, clean it, to promote and protect it, and to help raise funds for the purchase of signs, leaflets and equipment. It needs friends to help people enjoy and appreciate it.

We need people who are interested (you must be, you have taken the time to read this), in our reserve to help secure it for future generations.

Whatever your interest in the Mere, you are welcome to join us at any one of our meetings or events.



FRIENDS OF MARTON MERE

Supported by Blackpool Borough Council

Programme of Events

1999

If you don't care now.....

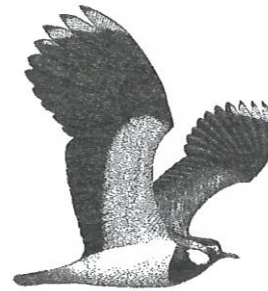
It really was meant as a joke. You will soon be able to go to Garstang beach to watch the waders and play on the sands I said to an enthusiastic group of youngsters a few weeks ago. It was sometime afterwards that I realised that what I had said to them was nothing short of a truthful and shortly to be fulfilled reality. By the time they reach 30 years old or so, things will have changed dramatically. Global warming – the result of our own stupidity and greed no doubt – will have begun to exact its unrelenting toll. There is little doubt now that we have good cause to regret what we have been doing to our planet over the years.

Our insatiable appetite for the so called good things in life – the two and three car families, each car adding to the atmosphere it's own unmistakable whiff of pollution. Our incessant desire to use all the electricity and gas that we can to heat our homes, our ever increasing amount of waste with which we fill our dustbins and which eventually ends up on a landfill site – out of sight, out of mind perhaps. Our preoccupation in buying all those beautifully wrapped and packaged convenience foods to save time and increase our leisure time, time which will probably be spent flying off to some exotic island in an aeroplane leaving its own particular brand of pollution behind as it eats up the miles in a frenzy to get you there quickly so that it may race back and pick up another load of people. Need I go on?

We are all aware of what is wrong, but what are we as individuals doing about it? Nothing much I expect, human nature being what it is. We are all guilty of thinking, and probably saying too, it's not much use me doing anything, nobody else is. This is where you are wrong though. Every little helps. Turn your central heating system down a notch or two, if a million people did that, just think of how much energy would be saved every day. Instead of driving your car on your own when you go to work, take a few workmates as well. It will save them using their cars and not only will it cut down on pollution, it will also reduce costs of all those who participate. The same applies to when you go shopping or when you go off on a birding trip. Always try to take a friend or two, they would be happy to share the costs and in any event it's rather nice to have the company, and talking of company, next time you switch on that extra light, turn up the heating and throw away that bag of rubbish, just think of what has happened to that skylark you used to hear on the field at the back of the house or where have all the lapwings disappeared to? That's not counting all the insects and the plants that you once saw but could never put a name to...

So, as I said – if you don't care now.....

Don Rusling
1/8/98.



**Fylde
Bird Club**
LANCASHIRE

1999 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE!

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID ALREADY AND WERE NOT AT THE AGM
PLEASE READ ON**

At the AGM it was decided that the Subs should be increased to £12 for an ordinary member
£6 for O.A.P.s / Students / Juniors.

Subs still include a free Annual Bird Report; Quarterly Newsletters and Basic Club running costs.

If Payment is to be made by post, please note that we have a new Treasurer; Ian Chandler.
His address is 69 Helens Close, Blackpool, Lancashire, and cheques should be made payable to Fylde Bird Club.

1999 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

20th Jan	Business Meeting Photographic Competition Quiz night	21st Jul	Business Meeting Members Slides Review of the Bird Race
17th Feb	Lancs. Breeding Bird Atlas with Bob Pyefinch	18th Aug	Birds of the Indian Subcontinent with Mick Turton
17th Mar	Birds of Marshside with Tony Baker	15th Sep	Birds of Point Peele with Michael McGough Identification of Ducks with Dave Pitman
21st Apr	Business Meeting Report on spring migration with Len Blacow Member's slides	20th Oct	Birds of Beidahe with Richard Hart
19th May	Birds of Chile with Tony Myerscough	17th Nov	Business Meeting Birds of Papua New Guinea with Dave Pitman
16th Jun	Birds of Australia with Paul Ellis	15th Dec	Annual General Meeting Buffet

Chairman: Len Blacow. Secretary: Paul Ellis. Treasurer: Ian Chandler.
Committee members: Peter Bainbridge, Stephan Dunstan, Alan Hinchliffe, Michael McGough, Dave Pitman

Meetings are held at 7:45pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Blackpool Cricket Club, Stanley Park, Blackpool in the meeting room above the bar. New members are always welcome.