



**FYLDE BIRD CLUB  
LANCASHIRE**

## **FROM THE CHAIR**

Well, that's the hide finished. A back-breaking Easter, missed the Osprey by minutes. Still, the Friday Club will have somewhere comfortable when they put the world to rights next winter. Details of the Friday Club available from any aged Marton Mere regular. Membership is free, but you must have an opinion about anything or everything!

Thanks to all of you who helped in any way with the hide. Talking of hard work, thanks for the positive response to our appeal for godwit watchers, isn't 5.30 a.m. only. Thanks to for offers of help with our sites list. Just bring details along to one of our meetings. Thanks too for offers of help with our sites list. Just bring details along to one of our meetings.

Well spring finally arrived, and the long dark winter is gone but not forgotten. Get out and make the most of it. Have you heard the results of the Bird Race? No, I'll let them tell you.

Good birding  
L.G.B.

## BEARDED TITS AT MARTON MERE

The Handbook of British Birds (1940) gives the breeding range of Bearded Tit as 'Norfolk, small numbers Suffolk, formerly Devon, Sussex, Kent, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire and Lincolnshire. A very rare vagrant to most southern counties, mostly in winter, also Midlands and as far north as Yorkshire.'

During the 1960s, unknown to British birdwatchers, huge numbers of Bearded Tits were breeding in the vast reedbeds of the recently reclaimed Polders of the IJsselmeer in Holland. In October 1965, during persistent easterly winds, birds erupted across to Britain. O had the good fortune of seeing nine high-flying excited migrants, the first to be recorded in Lancashire, over Formby Point on 10th October 1965. On 22nd October a friend, Raymond Wilson, heard pinging calls along the south side of Marton Mere. At Leighton Moss, John Wilson saw 5 on 4th November, and these stayed all winter.

Against this background we can now look at the records at the Mere. During the 1965-66 winter about nine birds were present in the reedbeds. One of these, a female, was trapped and was carrying a 1964 Dutch ring.

There have been the following records since that first winter invasion:-

1966

One heard on 30th October.

1973/4

A pair (both ringed elsewhere) 30th November to 27th March.

1979

Female 28th-29th October.

1988

Pair 2nd December.

1993/4

One early November, pair 19th November and on dates to 13th February.

1994/5

Pair, occasionally a second male, 23rd September to 1st April.

1995

One 22nd November and in December.

1998/9

A male, and occasionally a female, November into the New Year.

With the increased area of reeds at the Mere in recent years it is hoped that the next development will be the establishment of a small breeding colony.

Maurice Jones

## THE SOUTHERN FRENCH ALPS, PROVENCE AND GOLDEN EAGLES

From my favourite high pass through these mountains I'm looking at ranks of peaks as they march away into the snow capped Southern Alps. About a mile and a half away I can just about make out a Golden Eagle eyrie and wonder what the future holds in store for this year's eaglet. Winter will be especially difficult. Although around me even at 1000m altitude this col is surprisingly alive with birds. Besides the resident Crested Tits, Black Woodpeckers and Ravens there are roving bands of Firecrest, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Brambling, Citril Finch, Siskin and Crossbill exploring the Scots Pine and Beech of this sub-alpine habitat.

The Mediterranean Sea (and Italy) are only 70 miles away so there is soon a rapid transformation of landscapes as habitats are almost telescoped together. The Garigue with its stunted evergreen oaks and juniper bushes or olive groves quickly become more frequent and here the Golden Eagle gives way to the Bonelli's Eagle. A stunning raptor which to my eye no bird artist has come close to portraying.

Back to the juvenile Golden Eagle whose parents fed it for 80 days and spent 44 days incubating it and its 'insurance policy sibling'. This bird then represents a huge investment for its parents who have both waited 4 or 5 years to breed. For what? A chance to pass on a few tiny chromosomes.

A month or so before a similar juvenile Golden Eagle had been hanging around the Griffon Vulture feeding platforms. It was eventually captured - unable to fly and malnourished it ultimately succumbed despite veterinary care. Incidentally these feeding platforms are stocked with dead sheep and goats 2 or 3 times per week as part of our Griffon reintroduction scheme. So far 30 odd birds have successfully rehabilitated to the wild. Apart from providing stunning eye level views of Griffons in flight these vulture restaurants are pulling in dozens of ravens, jackdaws, red and black kites, 3 Egyptian vultures and at least one White Tailed Sea Eagle. The sea eagle came under fierce attacks from a local pair of Golden Eagles. Its laboured wingbeats were clearly audible when it wasn't turning over in mid-air to present talons to the stooping Golden Eagles.

Back (again) to the juvenile Golden Eagle and what of its chances? Well, the feeding platforms will provide food throughout the hardest times of year but then the eaglet will have to run the gauntlet of its parents' wrath. The adults don't seem to mind the Griffons or the numerous Short Toed Eagles but will chase any other Golden Eagle that strays within a mile or so of the nest. So it will haunt the fringes of its parents' territory for a while.

Which is why I've chosen to sit at this high pass through the mountains - it is right on the limit of two Golden Eagle territories. These wooded mountain slopes with a dense understorey of box can't be easy for hunting, but hunt they do. Gliding menacingly low, following the contours, a Golden Eagle will suddenly wheel about at tree top level of hover (!) like an Osprey. Sometimes a pair will hunt together and the one will go

into cover to catch or flush prey for the other. Alternatively they will set on a well chosen vantage point, resting, preening, surveying their domain, and waiting.

Bearing this in mind I remember to check all the rocky outcrops and cliff tops around me, and there it is. A juvenile Golden Eagle with a nice white tail sat on a rock buttress only 500 metres away, preening itself. How did it get so close without me seeing it? Ans. - no ravens gave it away, probably came in low against a background of trees and mountain, with a smaller profile in level flight. Sometimes it is far better to position yourself lower down so that any eagle (or any other raptor) will be silhouetted against the sky - that way you can pick out an eagle at 2 miles (with bins), probably just above the horizon. This is because one is looking through a greater 'thickness' of productive sky - if you see what I mean.

So I wonder what trials are in store for this young Aigle Royal so nonchalantly preening. In the scope I see it stare intently for a few seconds. It excretes and then takes off. Panning along in front of it I see a similar rocky outcrop with a female chamois with her 2/3 grown calf and a male chamois in close attendance - she must be coming on heat soon. The young chamois is the potential victim and now nicely juxtaposes the questions facing the young Golden Eagle.

The attack is bold. Whether it is trying to drive the calf off the cliff or simply bind to it is unclear, but the mother stands her ground, with fish hook shaped horns she repeatedly flicks her head back. The eaglet clumsily circles once looking for an opportunity but gives up - for the time being.

Andrew Hargreaves  
(Submitted by Ron Bedford)

Andy welcomes any comments / enquiries via Wildlife Provencale (tel: 01706 225407)

Brief CV of author:-

- toolmaker at Lucas, Burnley for 20 years
- BSc in Environmental Science at Salford University
- Following a year in Provence as part of his studies returned there and set up 'Wildlife Provencale' company 1997/8
- carries out ecological studies including surveys of chamois, ibex, European beaver, pygmy owl, eagle owl and golden eagle

## Recent Reports

### January

The month continued where December left off with strong winds and a succession of fronts bringing belts of rain with the odd quieter spell in between. It was again mainly mild.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> a Little Grebe was on Fairhaven Lake together with 2 pairs of Mergansers, a male Gadwall and 45 Pochard. A dead Fulmer was picked up on the beach at Starr Gate on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 50 Cormarants were on Stanley Park lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup> whilst on the 17<sup>th</sup> there were 4 Goosanders at Cartford Bridge. Marton Mere hosted a good variety of birds throughout the month. Birds recorded included 3 Bitterns on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 pairs of Godwall, female Long Tailed Duck, Mandarin, female Scaup, imm male Scaup, Red Breasted Merganser, and up to 650 Teal, with a maximum of 33 Bewick Swans roosting, the last ones seen being 8 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. On the last day of the month 5 Mute Swans were on LSANR. Average numbers of Pink Footed Geese were seen Over Wyre with 12000 counted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> together with 3 Brents and 1 Barnacle. On the 16<sup>th</sup> however 10 Barnacles were noted in the same area, with 26 Bewick Swans off Pilling Lane. Few raptors were reported, Merlins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and Peregrines on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Mere being the exceptions. The only waders noted were 5000 Knot and 100 Bar Tailed Godwits on Squires Gate Beach on the 20<sup>th</sup>. This last species appears to have dropped dramatically in numbers over the last couple of years.

A Woodcock was seen at the Mere regularly at dusk throughout the month whilst on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> an adult winter Med Gull was at the same site with a part summer plumage bird there on the 8<sup>th</sup> also. 14 Stock Dove were noted at Horse Park Lane, Pilling on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a fairly good month for Owls with a Short – Eared at Rossall on New Years Day and 2 at Blackpool Airport on and off throughout the month. A Tawny was calling near Poulton Station on the 18<sup>th</sup> whilst Long – Eared continued to roost at the Mere, the maximum appearing to be 5 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 2 Short – Eared were also regular at the same site along with the resident Little Owls, and a Barn Owl on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 16<sup>th</sup> a Kingfisher was seen at the Mere whilst a Gt Spotted Woodpecker was noted at Little Singleton on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

This winter has seen an influx of Shorelarks nationally and 2 were in the Rossall School area on New Years Day whilst the 2 at Fairhaven continued to be seen up to the 16<sup>th</sup>. The odd Warbler lingered about with a Blackcap at the Mere on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a Chiffchaff in a Norcross garden on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The elusive Cettis Warbler was noted by some lucky

observers throughout the month – camping out in the container hide seemed the best bet! Up to 3 Stonechats frequented the Mere all month whilst on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 75 Fieldfare were on Stalmine Moss. All month 3 Bearded Tits and 2 Firecrests were at the Mere, making it one of the best sites nationally for semi – rareities this winter. 53 Chaffinch were at Eagland Hill on the 16<sup>th</sup> with 9 Corn Buntings SE of Bourne Hill. 24 Corn Buntings were at Stalmine Moss on the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 11<sup>th</sup> there were 30 Twite behind Cooksons Bakery at Lytham with 7 Snow Buntings at Pilling Lane Ends on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## February

The month was fairly unsettled. Most of the time South Westerly airstreams dominated with consequent mild temperatures, but there were a few brief cold snaps with Northerly winds. Rainfall continued to be heavy.

During the month up to 18 Goosanders were on the Wyre with 14 at Little Singleton on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup> 10 Red Breasted Mergansers were on Fairhaven Lake. At least 2 Bitterns continued to be seen at the Mere occasionally. Most of the waterfowl seen at the Mere in January stayed into February an addition being a male Goosander on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> a male Wigeon was at LSANR whilst 240 were at Newton Marsh on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A Ruddy Shelduck presumably of unknown origin was at Bonds Farm, Over Wyre on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> 67 Mute Swans were at Warton Marsh whilst on the 15<sup>th</sup> 62 Bewicks were at the same site. 53 Whooper Swans were at Stalmine Moss on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Goose Count on the same day produced 11,600 Pinkfeet, 1 Light – bellied Brent and 6 Barnacles, with 4 Dark – bellied Brents over Lane Ends. On the 16<sup>th</sup> there were 3000 Pinkfeet at Thurnham and 4000 at Scronkey with an adult Greenland Whitefront at Fluke Hall.

The only raptors reported were 1 male and 1 female Merlin at Warton Bank on th 20<sup>th</sup> and a Sparrowhawk at Little Singleton on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the same date a Water Rail was noted at Marton Mere. A few more waders were reported this month with 250 Golden Plover at Thurnham on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A lone Ruff was at Pilling Lane Ends on the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup> there were Greenshanks at Newton Marsh and Weeton whilst a flood off Mythop road held a Green Sandpiper from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> 350 Oystercatcher roosted on Pontins Roof at St Annes whilst 160 Sanderling were on the shore there. On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> an adult winter Med Gull was at the Mere with 2 almost in summer plumage there on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 4 Long – Eared Owls continued to roost at the Mere with Short – Eared reported at Blackpool Airport on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Rossall School on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Gt Spotted Woodpecker was again noted at Little

Singleton towards month end. There was still 1 Shorelark at Lytham until the 15<sup>th</sup> whilst 1 Water Pipit on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Water Bank was a taste of things to come. A Grey Wagtail was at Marton Mere on the 14<sup>th</sup> with 1 at Warton Bank on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 100 Pied Wagtails roosted in bushes adjacent to British Aerospace throughout the month. A male Firecrest continued to be seen at the Mere whilst on the 9<sup>th</sup> a Dipper was on the River Brock at Myerscough. 199 Corn Buntings were noted in 4 flocks Over Wyre on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 14 Yellowhammers at Bone Hill and 15 at Brook Farm on the Pilling – Cartford road. 16 Reed Buntings were also at Bone Hill. On the 15<sup>th</sup> a Snow Bunting was at Fairhaven with 8 Brambling at Warton Bank on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup> a Siskin was reported at little Singleton, whilst the next day one flew N over Thornton. Just outside our area there were 125 Brambling at Preston Old Cemetary. Finally a Jay was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at little Singleton.

### March

The month was dominated by mild south-westerlies with temperatures reaching 15c towards month end. Rainfall was again heavy.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> 16 Red Throated Divers were off Rossall Point. There were still plenty of geese Over Wyre with over 10000 Pinkfeet on the 5<sup>th</sup> together with 6 Barnacles, 1 Greylag and an imm Greenland Whitefront whilst on the 7<sup>th</sup> a Dark – bellied Brent was at Bank End. 3 Goosanders were seen at the Mere during the month and on the 12<sup>th</sup> 76 Pintail were on the Wyre estuary.

Few raptors were again reported, 2 Peregrines and a Merlin at Lane Ends on the 13<sup>th</sup> being the only ones. On the 7<sup>th</sup> 1000 Curlew were at Thurnham together with 750 Golden Plover. 487 Black – Tailed Godwits were at Fairhaven on the 10<sup>th</sup> whilst on the 12<sup>th</sup> 390 were at Wesham Marsh with 52 Snipe. 16 Ruff were at the same site on the 16<sup>th</sup>. A Jack Snipe was at the Mere on the 12<sup>th</sup> whilst 3 Black – Tailed Godwits with colour rings were noted at Lane Ends on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 300 Black – Tails were at Newton Marsh on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup> a Woodcock was flushed at Rough Heys, Marton.

In mid month there was an adult and a first winter Glaucous Gull at Fleetwood Tip – white winged Gulls seem to be getting more scarce in our area during recent years. The mild south-westerlies meant that there were a few early migrants and by the end of the month good numbers of Sand Martins were at the Mere with 44 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 50+ on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 14 Stock Doves at Bone Hill on the 5<sup>th</sup> was a good record. A good number of Owls continued to be seen with 2 Long – Eared at the Mere still on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Short – Eared were reported at Rossall School on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Jameson Rd Fleetwood on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 2 there on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and

Marton Mere on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Barn Owls were at Lytham Moss on the 6<sup>th</sup> with 1 at Scronkey and 2 at Eagland Hill on the same date.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> 6 Grey Wagtails moved over Rossall Point, with the first spring movement of Meadow Pipits being 70 at LSANR on the 17<sup>th</sup> when 6 Pied Wagtails were at the same site. Excellent views of Water Pipits were obtained by many members at Warton Bank with 19 counted on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The first Wheatears reported were on the 12<sup>th</sup> with 7 on Fleetwood Golf Course and 3 on LSANR along with 3 Stonechats at Jameson Rd Fleetwood on the 12<sup>th</sup> with a male on Fleetwood Golf Course the same day. 60 Fieldfare flew over Blackpool Victoria Hospital on the 17<sup>th</sup> whilst by the 30<sup>th</sup> there were 3 Chiffchaffs on the Mere.

The 2 Firecrests were still on the Mere on the 17<sup>th</sup> when 2 Goldcrests were noted on LSANR. A good count of 10 Yellowhammers were at Bone Hill on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Siskins were seen at a number of locations during the month including a Staining garden on a number of dates. 50 Goldfinches were at Fluke Hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> whilst the Snow Bunting continued to be seen at Rossall until the 20<sup>th</sup>.

A.J.H

## PRESTON CHRONICLE 4 JUNE 1864

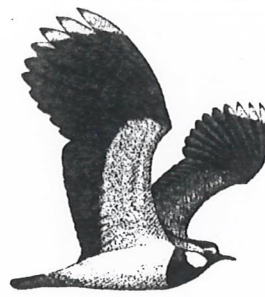
### CATCHING A LANDRAIL

Last Saturday Mr R R Pye gingerbread manufacturer of Poulton le Fylde caught a Landrail in a field, which he secured in a box and on his arrival home he found that the bird had laid an egg about that the size of a throstle. This bird is daily heard in the meadows at this season of the year, but is seldom to be seen, and still more rarely caught.



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

From 4 am to 9:30 pm.  
170 miles covered.



**Fylde  
Bird Club**

**LANCASHIRE**

**FYLDE BIRD CLUB**  
**EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO CONSIDER**  
**FUNDING CONSTRUCTION OF A HIDE AT MARTON MERE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY**  
**THE 20 TH OF JANUARY AT BLACKPOOL CRICKET CLUB**

**Present**

Secretary, Treasurer and 25 members.

Apologies were received from Dave Barker, Alan Hinchliffe and Dave Pitman.

**Agenda**

- 1) Proposal to release funds from the Special Projects Fund of Fylde Bird Club, for use in the construction of a Permanent Hide at Marton Mere.

The Secretary gave the following summary of the proposed project:

**Building Details**

Site: on the south bank of Marton Mere opposite the island on the site currently occupied by the metal 'South East' hide.

Dimensions: length 10m, depth 2.4m, height 2.3m.

Construction: concrete base, breeze block walls and metal roof.

Concept: to be fire resistant and open to the Public at all times.

**Permissions**

Written confirmation had been received from Blackpool Borough Council that the project may proceed. Verbal confirmation had been received from Marton Mere Leisure Village that access would be granted through their site for the construction work including material deliveries.

**Offers of Assistance**

Len Worthington, a birdwatcher from the Stockport area, had offered to do the bricklaying free of charge provided that the foundations are in place, the materials delivered and labouring help available from Club members.

Marton Mere Leisure Village had offered to construct the foundations and concrete base for the building free of charge. They had also agreed to allow access through their site during construction and stated that they may be able to assist with the storage of materials if required.

Pauline McGough has provided the estimates for the supply of construction materials and has agreed to act as Co-ordinator on behalf of the Club for the Project.

### Costs

The original estimate, which was prepared in 1996 and discussed at the February 1997 Club meeting, was for approximately £1300.

Since then, the design has been altered to use metallic roofing materials and to have additional windows. These design changes and price rises have increased the cost estimate to approximately £1400.

However, the Secretary reminded members that this estimate should be taken as a guide and that the final cost may exceed this sum by a few hundred pounds owing to unforeseen factors and refinements in the design.

The Secretary then invited comments and questions from the membership. Maurice Jones enquired how much money the Club had available in its Special Projects Fund? The Treasurer replied that the fund contained £3632.23.

It was asked, if it would be possible to provide insulation to prevent condensation on the metallic roof, which was a problem with the existing hides. Mike McGough replied that a fire resistant foam could be obtained cheaply, which would suffice.

Maurice Jones proposed that the Club should fund the Project.  
This was seconded by Don Rusling.

All present, voted in favour by a show of hands.  
One vote against, was received in writing, from an absent member.

There being no further business, the Extraordinary General Meeting closed at 20:30 hrs.