



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2000

From the Chair

By the time you get to read this the Spring will have long gone the summer will be rapidly coming to an end and autumn will be fast approaching.

After an incredibly wet April and May, it was nothing short of amazing when all the hard work and long hours of voluntary wardening at Newton Marsh, by several members of the club, finally paid off on the 4th of June when a pair of Black-Tailed Godwits were confirmed to have hatched 2 young. Everyone at the club and the RSPB should be extremely grateful to all those involved, after last years disappointment when the nest was robbed and the first attempt this year failed when the nest was trampled by cattle, it must have been totally disheartening especially when the expected RSPB wardening failed to materialise this year, hopefully that won't be the case in 2001. Black-tailed Godwit remains one of the scarcest breeding birds in Britain with only an estimated 40 pairs mainly in East Anglia. Further commitment from Bird Club members in future years will help keep a breeding population in this country, a fact we could be rightfully proud of.

I thought I better briefly mention this year's bird race (not just because secretary, chairman, Pete Scholes and Ian Gardner remain champions). Proceeds of this year's race are to be donated towards the cost of printing the Lancashire Breeding Birds Survey, any money raised by members will be matched from Club funds, as soon as a total is available we will let you know. It would be nice if the following article about the day encouraged many more people to take part next year. I cant stress enough, what a superb day out in the Fylde it really is and a little competition would be rather nice next year. Please make the effort next year and raise or join a team.

Paul Slade.

Bird Race 2000

At least 3 teams took part in the Fylde and another compiled a list abroad! Ron and Sue Bedford listed 103 on a trip to France including Bonelli's Eagle, Eagle Owl and Rock Bunting. In the Fylde teams took to the field on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May. Maurice Jones, Mick & Pauline McGough scored 100, Peter Bainbridge et al 94 and Ian Gardner, Pete Scholes, The Chair and the Sec. 103; (you'll have to go further than France to wup us!). Not bad scores considering the late date. In total at least 112 species were seen by the 3 teams and at least another 5 species were in the Fylde within a few days of the event. Therefore the total could have been 117+, however last year's record 114 still stands. 'I'll be back' as he says in the movies.....

The winning list is overleaf with crosses for birds seen by other teams and circles for birds known to be around at about the same time.

Maximum Bird Race Total = 103 on 14th May 2000

Team: Paul Slade; Pete Scholes; Ian Gardner and Paul Ellis.

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

RECENT REPORTS

February

The month was unsettled and generally mild, wet and windy. Rainfall in our area was heavy with brief periods of cooler weather in between the low pressure.

On the 28th there were 7 Red – throated Divers off Rossall Point. A dead Fulmar was found on LSANR on the 6th, whilst up to 9 Goosanders frequented the Wyre in the Little Singleton area during the month. Early in the month there were 15 occupied nests at the heronry in Stanley Park. On the 19th, 2 Bitterns were seen at Marton Mere.

The Goose count Over Wyre on the 11th produced 12103 Pinkfeet, 3 Brents, 27 Whooper Swans and 1 Bewick, whilst the 26th saw 21 Whoopers off Union Lane. 3 Dark – bellied Brents were off Lane Ends on the 27th whilst next day there were 5500 Pinkfeet at Fluke Hall and 7000 at Thurnham. Early in the month, there were 24 Goldeneye on the Mere with 2 male and 1 female Gadwall there on the 26th.

A Common Buzzard was at the Mere on the 12th and a male Merlin at Weeton the next day, whilst on the 20th at Bank Lane 2 Peregrines and a Merlin were noted. A first winter male Merlin frequented Fleetwood marsh at month end, with a Jack Snipe at the same site on the 28th. 2 days previously a Jack Snipe was seen at the Mere. A few Woodcock were seen, with 3+ at the Mere on the 19th and 2 at Thurnham Hall on the 26th. 4 Water Rails were at Jameson Road the same day.

Few Gulls were reported – 1 first winter Little Gull at the Mere on the 8th and a Med Gull there on the 26th. An adult Yellow – legged Gull was on the CEGB pool at Fleetwood on the 26th and at Fleetwood Docks the next day. 60 Stock Doves at Winmarleigh on the 9th were a good record. A Barn Owl was seen at Great Eccleston on the 7th and 1 at Mythop Road on various dates. Up to 2 Little Owls and 4 Long – eared Owls frequented the Mere, and a Short – eared Owl was at Jameson Road on the 28th. The 20th saw 4+ Water Pipits at Bank Lane whilst the Cettis Warbler was seen by a lucky observer at the Mere on the 13th. 60 Twite at Lane Ends on the 19th was a good record with 12 at Little Singleton on the 20th. 2 Siskins were at Little Singleton on the 23rd whilst on the 26th, 2 Redpolls were at the Mere, 57 Corn Buntings at Eagland Hill and a male Snow Bunting at Knott End.

March

The month was again mild with a mainly South – westerly air stream and below average rainfall.

On the 5th there were 19 Red – throated Divers off Rossall Point, whilst the 17th saw a Little Grebe at Marton Mere. 26 Red – breasted Mergansers were off Rossall on the 5th with 7 Goosanders on the Wyre at Little Singleton on the 3rd. 10 Whooper Swans were on the sea off Star Gate on the 5th, with 35 flying north there on the 12th. 18 were at Hankinsons Farm, Over Wyre on the 17th. The 3rd saw over 6000 Pinkfeet Over Wyre with 2 Greenland Whitefronts, and 3 days later there were 4000 Pinkfeet at Eagland Hill. On the last day of the month a Ruddy Shelduck was at Myerscough.

A female Merlin was at Fleetwood tip on the 9th with a male at Rossall School on the 13th. A ringtail Harrier was at Warton Bank on the 21st and a Buzzard at Great Plumpton on the 27th.

Early waders were on the move by mid – month with a Little Ringed Plover at Newton Marsh with a Spotted Redshank on the 18th, whilst there were 3 Little Ringed Plovers at Myerscough on the 31st. Jack Snipes were noted at Fleetwood tip on the 12th and LSANR on the 23rd. There were 8 adult Little Gulls off Rossall Point on the 5th when an adult Glaucous Gull was at Fleetwood tip. Mid month a first winter Glaucous Gull was at Clifton Marsh on the 18th, with a 1st winter Glaucous / Herring Gull at Jameson Road the next day.

A Red – legged Partridge was at LSANR on the 15th. Up to 3 Long –eared Owls were still being seen at the Mere with a Short – eared at Jameson Road on the 1st and the 12th. 19 Water Pipits were at Warton Bank on the 8th and 10 on the 21st.

An early swallow was seen at Pilling Lane Ends on the 19th whilst the first Sand Martins appeared to be 3 at Rossall Point on the 13th. These were quickly followed by 1 on the Mere on the 17th and 25 there on the 19th. Good numbers of Stock Doves were reported with 60 at Winmarleigh on the 17th and 50 at New Lane on the 27th. The first Chiffchaff was at the Mere on the 15th with 2 there by month end, whilst the first Wheatear appeared to be 1 at LSANR on the 13th. There were 2 at Rossall Point on the 20th and 3 more at LSANR on the 22nd. A massive influx of Stonechats appeared in the Fylde on the 15th with 16 at LSANR, 14 at the Mere, 14 at Jameson Road and 22 at Burglars Alley, Fleetwood. Numbers had been building up a couple of days earlier with 8 at Jameson Road on the 12th and 11 at LSANR on the 13th. On the 4th there were 400 Fieldfares at Crabtree Farm, Over Wyre. On the 6th there were 8 Tree Sparrows at Bonds Farm and 8 at Eagland Hill. 19 Yellowhammers at Union Lane were a good record, whilst next day there were 3 Siskins in a Staining garden. The 26th brought a report of 3 Ravens at Freckleton on the banks of the Ribble.

April

Low pressure dominated the weather during the month. Cool Northerlies prevailed until mid month before giving way to milder Southerlies. Rainfall was generally plentiful.

Up to 80 Red – throated Divers were off South Prom during the month, whilst at the Mere a Great Crested Grebe had 3 young by the 30th. 300 Pinkfeet were still at Lane Ends on the 28th. A male Scaup on a newly created pool near B & Q was a good record on the 2nd, the bird being also seen at the Mere on some dates. 3 Pintail on the scrape at Fleetwood tip were unusual.

Perhaps the most exciting record was at the Mere on the 14th when 2 Ospreys moved north, 1 lingering to catch a fish. The fact that sightings are becoming annual is indicative of the increasing population of this magnificent bird in Scotland. 1 was also seen flying up river at Newton Marsh on the 17th. A Peregrine was still at Lane Ends on the 16th and a Merlin flew north along the beach at Rossall on the 24th. Another good find was the juvenile Common Crane which was at Sand Villa, Over Wyre from at least the 1st to the 15th.

A good count of 660 Black – tailed Godwits were at the Naze pool on the 5th whilst next day there were 2500 Knot, many almost in summer plumage, off the Coastguard station at Rossall. Little Ringed Plovers were seen on various dates at Newton Marsh raising hopes of breeding, whilst on the 26th there were 7 Ruff at the same site, with some displaying. On the 16th a Little Ringed Plover and a Green Sandpiper were at Poulton Industrial Estate. 7 Dotterel found at Eagland Hill on the 29th were the first Over Wyre for many years whilst up to 100 Whimbrel fed in the Little Singleton area during the month. The first Sandwich Terns were reported off South Prom on the 7th – no prizes for guessing the observer! A Cuckoo was noted at Stalmine on the 24th followed by one at the Mere on the 28th with it or another there on the 30th. The Mere also hosted the first Swift on the 22nd.

Swallows began to trickle through in small numbers, 2 or 3 at a time being the norm. 3 Yellow Wagtails were at Rossall Point on the 22nd and a Tree Pipit and Grasshopper Warbler were noted there on the 24th. Rossall Point produced another 3 Tree Pipits, 2 White Wagtails and a Siskin on the 30th. Warblers began to build up during the month especially at the Mere. By the 14th there were 14 Willow Warblers present and by the 24th, 18 Sedge Warblers, 10 Reed Warblers, 10 Whitethroats, 10 Willow Warblers, 1st Lesser Whitethroat and 2 Grasshopper Warblers. 2 Whinchats appeared at Rossall Point on the 29th. Wheatear numbers also increased with 9 at Rossall on the 6th, 13 at LSANR on the 5th and 41 between Rossall School and the Point on the 7th. Ring Ouzel seems to be a bird being seen less frequently on passage, but there was a female at LSANR on the 4th and a male at the Mere on the 19th. A Nuthatch was reported on the 8th and the 15th at Salwick on the canal by the Hand and Dagger pub.



Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

Hon. Treasurer
Fylde Bird Club
69 Helens Close
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY4 3QD
16 June 2000

Dear Member

It's that time of year again when I get my begging bowl out! Year 2000 subscriptions are now due (subscriptions are payable from January each year, and should be paid by the end of March).

This year it was decided to have NO increase in subscriptions making Full membership £12, with concessionary rates for O.A.P.'s of £6.

Cheques should be made payable to FYLDE BIRD CLUB and can be posted to me direct at the above address.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Good Birding.

Ian Chandler
(Hon. Treasurer)

(Please ignore this notice if you have already paid your year 2000 subscriptions)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A EVENING WILDFLOWER WALK

Meet at Marton Mere Information Centre Thursday 22nd June at 7p.m.

ANTARCTICA BY A. HINCHLIFFE

A Illustrated Talk at the R.S.P.B. Ribble Discovery Centre at 7.30p.m on the 29th of June.

THE FRIENDS OF MARTON MERE OUTDOOR MEETING

Visit Lytham St Anne's Nature Reserve on Sunday 2nd July. Meet at Information Centre at 10a.m

ROSSALL MOTHS

A talk and walk with a moth trap to find sand dune and grassland moths, Meet at Rossall School. at 8.00pm on the 7th of July

DRAGONFLY WALK

A Friends of Marton Mere walk at Marton Mere meet at the Information Centre at 10.30a.m. on the 16th July.

BAT, FOX & OWL WATCHES

Marton Mere Friends group will be holding events on each Friday in August on the (4th, 11th 18th & 25th) beginning at 7pm to be prepared for a long evening.

DECLINE OF THE YELLOW WAGTAIL AT MARTON MERE AND FRECKLETON AREA

Survey work for the Lancashire Breeding Bird Atlas has revealed the present breeding distribution of this, one of our most beautiful Summer visitors. There are a few pairs in the Lune Valley (7 in 1998), up to 3 in the Calder Valley (Burnley), one or two in the Ribble Valley and a small population on the mosslands between Mere Sands Wood, Martin Mere and Ormskirk. A pair on Hesketh marsh in 1998 seems to be the only breeding on Ribble Estuary saltmarshes although up to 4 pairs bred as recently as 1987 on Warton marsh.

During the 1990's it has been possible to visit Marton Mere frequently during the main Spring passage period and not see a single bird.

What a contrast from the situation in the 1950's. The Yellow Wagtail was then common in Lancashire, and at the time I only transferred peak counts from field notebook to a more permanent notebook. This I have recently completed for every sighting. Largest numbers at both sites were of birds going to roost. The counts are all my own –

1952 – I saw only a few in Spring at Marton Mere, but recorded 'many' there on 6th. September.

1953 – I saw no more than 6 per day on Spring visits to the Mere, but 22 on 12th. September and 14 a week later. There were 30 at Freckleton on 25th. April.

1954 – exceptional numbers roosted at the Mere in Spring with a peak of 75 (with as many White Wagtails) on 2nd. May.

1955 – I was on holiday in the peak week, and recorded only a day maximum of 8, but there was 60 on 11th. September.

1956 – I was again absent in the first week of May, but had recorded 32 on 26th. April. In Autumn there were 40 on 7th. September, 70 on the 9th. and 20 on the 19th.

1957 – my Spring maximum at the Mere was only 8, but I recorded 'many' at Freckleton in August/September.

1959 – numbers had been unremarkable in 1958, but in this year 40 were at the Mere on 22nd. April and 'many' at Freckleton in early August.

I was away from Lancashire on National Service in 1960 and 1961. Numbers at Marton Mere in Spring were much reduced as can be seen in the following summary (numbers for the 1960's and 1970's are the maximum seen on a single day, not totals for entire Spring and Autumn passages) –

1960's -- MARTON MERE – only 2, to a maximum of 7, were seen in Spring, but there were 20 in Autumn 1964, 50 in 1965, 44 in 1967 and 10 in 1969.

FRECKLETON – very few in Spring (many fewer visits), but there were many in Autumn 1962, 40 in 1963, 100+ in 1964 and 30 in 1966.

1970's – MARTON MERE – none in Spring in 3 years and only one or two in several others (10 in 1977 and 5 in 1979). There were 10 in the Autumn of 1971, 2 in 1973 and 6 in 1977.

FRECKLETON – small numbers in Spring, but there were 117 on one visit in Autumn, 1971 and 50 in 1974.

1980's - MARTON MERE – singles seen in Spring 1980, 1983 and 1986. Two in Autumn 1983 and 1986, singles in 1988 and 1989.

FRECKLETON – only 1 or 2 on Spring visits. The area was not visited very much in the Autumn, but 20 were seen on one visit to Fairhaven in 1986.

1990's - MARTON MERE – only a single in Spring 1997 and none in Autumn.

FRECKLETON - maximum of 2 or 3 in 1991, 1995 and 1998 in Spring (Newton Marsh). None were seen in Autumn in the Naze area

Local Birdwatching Patch

Recently there appears to be a healthy resurgent interest in local patch birdwatching. I must confess I have neglected mine in recent years but as a New Years resolution resolved to put that right. There isn't anything quite so rewarding as working your very own patch and noting the changes, as the weeks, months, seasons and years go by. If you need any convincing I suggest you get out there and try it, and feel the satisfaction such birding brings. I would also recommend you get hold of a copy of the May issue of 'Birdwatch' magazine which has in it two excellent articles entitled 'Working the patch' and 'Patch watch'

My local patch lies east of Poulton-le-Fylde and begins by the railway line at the end of Holts lane. It is about 2 miles in length and I usually allow 2 hours to complete it although I can do it a lot quicker if need be. The first stretch has changed considerably over the last thirty years, owing to its 'Industrial Estate' designation. The change has been slow, but inexorable, and now an asphalt plant is to be built on much of the remaining 'green land'. Back in the early 70's a tall thick double hedgerow met you on crossing the railway line. One side has been completely grubbed out, and only a fragment of the other side can still be seen on the perimeter of Glasdons property.

Bordering the railway line was a triangular shaped reed bed, and beyond that were wet rushy fields and a ditch that drained into the main dyke. Hardcore half-filled the first field and over the years this was left to stabilise. In the meantime further mounds of hardcore were deposited. The reedbed and adjacent scrub deteriorated and the breeding Sedge warblers and Reed buntings have had to find somewhere else to breed. A temporary plus over the years was the colonising of the hardcore by grasses, wild flowers, scrub and gorse. In later years, Whitethroats and Linnets bred in the scattered bushes. Migrant Whinchats were guaranteed in the first week of May taking advantage of the tall dead plant stems to search for their prey. Insects and spiders were abundant including two or maybe three species of grasshopper. Many other species also took advantage of this food supply.

Alas this area has now been levelled in readiness for the much opposed Asphalt plant which finally got planning permission from WBC following a series of stealth like manoeuvres by the developers. However things have yet to get started and meanwhile this area of compressed hardcore and soil is providing some interesting birdwatching. Small pools appear after wet weather and the ground surface must have food to offer judging by the number of passerines it attracts. Not only passerines but waders too. Redshank, Green Sandpiper and L R Plover have all made an appearance since the start of the year.

Moving on, the next field which will be the last to be developed in this part of the estate has also suffered. It has now attracted the attention of juvenile scramblers who have contoured a track to their requirements. The surrounding hedgerow is fragmenting and a third of the field is now under hardcore. Soil has been excavated from the north west corner forming a seven foot high embankment and leaving a sizeable pool there. If it were not for the hedgerow, which holds Fieldfare and Redwing in the autumn, there would be very little to report from here. The occasional Mallard, Waterhen and Linnets on the spoil is about as good as it gets.

We have now reached the footbridge that spans the main dyke and leads you directly on to farmland. The dyke starts at Marton mere, zigzags along up to the Blackpool North to Kirkham railway line where it divides and empties into the River Wyre at Skipool creek and the River Ribble at Lytham creek. The southern flow is known as the main drain. The dyke is broad and subject to silting. The water level fluctuates considerably and is frequented by

several duck species and at low levels by waders. A Green Sandpiper wintered there this year but was very flighty. Mute swans are present in the breeding season and I unwittingly flushed a Kingfisher as recently as the 20/2/00. You will gather it is wise to approach the dyke cautiously. Because of the impending Asphalt plant I have recently got permission to walk in the fields that lie south-west of the footbridge so that I can re-route my patch when the time comes.

From the footbridge the route follows the public footpath due east alongside a hedgerow and arable fields. In the seventies, Tree sparrows and Corn buntings were present in small numbers but have long since left the area. The field north of the footpath, about 20 acres in size, floods after heavy rain and this probably accounts for why it is left fallow in winter, rather than sown with winter wheat. The soil is of good quality and produces a fine yield of potatoes. After it is harvested the 'weeds' provide good feeding for Finches, Linnets, Pipits, Wagtails, and Skylarks. In March the field is ploughed again and wheat seed planted, although this year potatoes are being grown again. Occasionally barley has been grown. Lapwings nest in good numbers as they do in the field on the other side of the hedge which is much larger. This field about 40+ acres has been planted mainly with maize in recent years as well as grass which is used for fodder. Alas owing to farming practices the birds may lay up to three clutches before successfully raising a brood. Skylarks, Oystercatchers and Redshanks also nest there. Regrettably there are not many farmers around these days who will mark where nests are, so as not to destroy them.

At the eastern end of the fields the path climbs between a double hedgerow leading to Long wood. Oilseed rape has been a regular crop in the field looking south. Wood pigeons love it and there have been in excess of 2,500 in the area in the early part of this winter when a Peregrine was also present for a time. Needless to say they have also been kept in check by shooters. Decoys are often to be found perched high up in the trees. This hedgerow is a good place in summer to observe breeding Linnets, Whitethroats and Sedge Warblers.

Long wood, which I have permission to enter, runs north sloping gradually to the fields that border Garstang road east. It was partially felled several years ago when some replanting took place. No further management has taken place and it has been allowed to grow wild. Brambles, nettles, rushes, sapling sycamores, grasses, a few mature trees and perimeter 'hedgerow' make up the felled area. A pond signals the start of a more mature area of woodland where Woodcock can be flushed in the autumn until shot out. The ground flora here is of no great interest but includes Pink Purslane, Red Campion, Ground Ivy, Wavy Bittercress and Male, Lady, and Broad buckler ferns. Breeding birds have included Whitethroat, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler (1997), G S Woodpecker, Linnet, Long-tailed Tit, Reed Bunting, Mistle and Song Thrushes.

Further along the public footpath is Knowle wood where my patch terminates. The footpath from here runs alongside the western edge of this wood, then continues on to Singleton village. The stretch of woodland that joins the two woods is narrow for the most part but pears out at the western edge where a large pond is surrounded by mature trees. This is a delightful spot to spend some quality time listening to the woodland sounds and secretly watching the comings and goings of the wildlife. Best to be alone.

For those who are interested, detailed counts of my visits for this year to date, follow.

B. Dyson.
16/5/00.

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	3/1/00	15/1/00	25/1/00	6/2/00	13/2/00	20/2/00	11/3/00
Cormorant						1	
Grey Heron			1			1	
Mallard		6		10	6	15	7
Teal						3	
Goldeneye							
Shelduck				2	8		2
Pinkfeet	132	162	237	61		225	
Canada Goose		2			3		
Mute Swan							
Buzzard							
Sparrowhawk	2	1					1
Peregrine							
Kestrel						1	
Partridge							
Pheasant		6	1	2		1	1
Moorhen	1		2	2	1		1
Coot							
Oystercatcher							
Lapwing	29	90				85	52
L R Plover							
Golden Plover							
Snipe							
Woodcock							
Curlew	72	6	10	1			6
Whimbrel							
Redshank			4				
Green Sandpiper							1
Gbb Gull							
Lbb Gull	1				6	12	2
Herring Gull	4				4	3	
Common Gull	3		2				7
B-h Gull	34	16	7	26	1	2	7
Woodpigeon	1100	1		1600	240	850	100
Collared Dove							
Kingfisher						1	
Swift							
Gs Woodpecker	1		1	1		1	
Skylark			20	2	1	22	
Swallow							
House Martin							
Carrion Crow	1	6	5	3	4	5	4
Rook	4		29			1	2
Jackdaw	14		4	1			
Magpie	6	3	4	3	3	2	1
Jay							
Great Tit	5	5	4	6	2	3	2
Blue Tit	8	6	10	8	9	8	3
Coal Tit						1	
Long-tailed Tit				4		1	2
Wren		2	4	4	1	4	2
Mistle Thrush				2			
Fieldfare							
Song Thrush				2	1	3	

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	3/1/00	15/1/00	25/1/00	6/2/00	13/2/00	20/2/00	11/3/00
Redwing							
Blackbird	8	10	7	3	6	3	5
Stonechat							1
Whinchat							
Wheatear							
Robin	3	3	5	5	6	6	8
Sedge Warbler							
Blackcap							
Whitethroat							
Lesser Whitethroat							
Willow Warbler							
Chiffchaff							
Goldcrest	1	1	1	3		1	3
Dunnock	1	3	4	3		6	3
Meadow Pipit			18	42	9	20	9
Pied Wagtail	2		18	26	17	19	1
Grey Wagtail	1	1					
Starling	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C
Greenfinch	3	6	2	2	6		15
Goldfinch	2		20	6	7	7	2
Linnet	2			10			
Chaffinch	6	7	4	5	13	16	8
Reed Bunting							
House Sparrow	8	11	9	2		2	1

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	16/3/00	19/3/00	26/3/00	31/3/00	7/4/00	9/4/00	14/4/00
Cormorant							
Grey Heron		1	1	1		1	
Mallard	10	6	6	11	12	7	9
Teal		2			2		
Goldeneye							
Shelduck			10	11	7	7	14
Pinkfeet							
Canada Goose							
Mute Swan					2	3	
Buzzard							
Sparrowhawk	1		1		1		1
Peregrine							
Kestrel			1	1			1
Partridge							
Pheasant	2	1	6	4	7		1
Moorhen	3	2	3	3	5	3	2
Coot	4	2	1	2		3	3
Oystercatcher		1	1	4	2	3	2
Lapwing	70	21	37	29	35	20	26
L R Plover						1	
Golden Plover							
Snipe							
Woodcock							
Curlew	8	12	3				
Whimbrel							
Redshank			2				
Green Sandpiper				1	1		1
Gbb Gull							
Lbb Gull	5	6	7	2	23	60	6
Herring Gull	2		9			4	
Common Gull		4		2			
B-h Gull		3	1	120	2	2	3
Woodpigeon	550	300	750	35	215	400	108
Collared Dove					1	1	
Kingfisher							
Swift							
Gs Woodpecker		1	3	1	1	1	1
Skylark	5	3	5	2	5	6	1
Swallow						3	
House Martin							
Carrion Crow	2		3	1	3	3	2
Rook	1		4	15	6	1	17
Jackdaw				1	11	12	3
Magpie	3	1	3	4	3	3	4
Jay							
Great Tit	1	4	7	1	3	3	5
Blue Tit	3	5	4	3	5	4	5
Coal Tit		1					
Long-tailed Tit	1				2		1
Wren	8	6	9	10	11	8	9
Mistle Thrush				1			1
Fieldfare							
Song Thrush			1	1			

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	16/3/00	19/3/00	26/3/00	31/3/00	7/4/00	9/4/00	14/4/00
Redwing							
Blackbird	7	7	5	10	8	9	10
Stonechat							
Whinchat							
Wheatear				1		2	1
Robin	6	6	5	7	5	6	5
Sedge Warbler							
Blackcap					2	1	1
Whitethroat							
Lesser Whitethroat							
Willow Warbler							
Chiffchaff	1		1	1	1	1	1
Goldcrest	2	1					1
Dunnock	5	4	9	6	5	3	6
Meadow Pipit	17	3	46	15	16	22	
Pied Wagtail	1	2		3		2	
White Wagtail							
Grey Wagtail							
Starling	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	5	6
Greenfinch	5	2	4	2	2	1	2
Goldfinch	5	4					1
Linnet	118	66	28	15	6	30	8
Chaffinch	13	7	9	6	8	6	10
Reed Bunting			1				2
House Sparrow	10	5	2	3	2	2	4

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	16/4/00	21/4/00	23/4/00	24/4/00	27/4/00	4/5/00	12/5/00
			Casual visit				
Cormorant							
Grey Heron				2			1
Mallard	7	9		11	9	10	14
Teal							
Goldeneye							
Shelduck	5	16		2	16	16	10
Pinkfeet							
Canada Goose							
Mute Swan				3			
Buzzard							
Sparrowhawk				1	1		
Peregrine							
Kestrel	1						
Partridge					3	2	2
Pheasant	3	1		2	9	2	
Moorhen	6	2		3	6	3	2
Coot	2			2+4y	2		3
Oystercatcher	3	3		3	2	2	2
Lapwing	20	21		38	23	23	33
L R Plover							
Golden Plover							
Snipe							
Woodcock							
Curlew							
Whimbrel		9					
Redshank							
Green Sandpiper	1						
Gbb Gull							
Lbb Gull	55	40		20	9	6	40
Herring Gull	10			3	1	4	3
Common Gull							
B-h Gull				2	1		14
Woodpigeon	200	120		40	40	21	24
Collared Dove							
Kingfisher							
Swift							3
Gs Woodpecker	1	2		1	1	1	1
Skylark	3	4		3	2	3	1
Swallow		4		1		2	6
House Martin		4					
Carrion Crow	4	2		2	3	1	5
Rook	3	20		12	5	19	14
Jackdaw	4	4		6	13	2	6
Magpie	2	1		2	3	2	3
Jay							
Great Tit	3	1		5	2	1	1
Blue Tit	4	4		7	7	5	3
Coal Tit							
Long-tailed Tit		2		1	1		
Wren	9	12		12	7	8	7
Mistle Thrush				2			
Fieldfare							
Song Thrush				3	1	2	2

Singleton birdwatching patch

SPECIES	16/4/00	21/4/00	23/4.00	24/4/00	27/4/00	4/5/00	12/5/00
			Casual visit				
Redwing							
Blackbird	9	7		10	8	7	8
Stonechat							
Whinchat			1				
Wheatear			5	1	1		
Robin	8			4	3		5
Sedge Warbler				1	1	1	3
Blackcap	2	4		5	5	4	4
Whitethroat				3	3	12	9
Lesser Whitethroat							1
Willow Warbler		3		5	3	5	3
Chiffchaff	1	1		1	1	1	1
Goldcrest							
Duncock	3	2		6	4	3	
Meadow Pipit	1				1		
Pied Wagtail			6	2	1		2
White Wagtail			1				
Grey Wagtail							
Starling	8	35		50	6	5	12
Greenfinch	4	2		2	2		1
Goldfinch							
Linnet	7	18		8	20	1	3
Chaffinch	11	6		8	7	8	9
Reed Bunting						1	
House Sparrow	1	3		2	2	2	3



Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 8:09 PM ON MONDAY THE 27th OF MARCH AT THE PLOUGH AT STAINING

Present

Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; Mike McGough; Alan Hinchliffe; Len Blacow; Stephen Dunstan and Dave Pitman.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3rd of February were agreed to be correct.

Matters Arising

1) 1980's Breeding Birds Survey

The Secretary reported that several members had expressed an interest in having their own copy of the report. It was agreed that contributors should be provided with a copy, whether they were still members or not. Production of copies was discussed. It was concluded that the Club should purchase two reams of paper to be used for copies. The Secretary offered to procure the paper and design a front cover incorporating the Club logo.

Action: Secretary

2) Newsletter

Alan Hinchliffe reported that he had very little copy in store for the next Newsletter. The President stated that he had written an article on Important Local Sites however he needed a volunteer to type it up. He added that after examining recent issues of BTO News there was nothing suitable for reproduction in the Newsletter but that he would continue to monitor it. The Secretary suggested that there might be something in the recent BTO/RSPB report; 'The State of the UK's Birds 1999', which could be used. The Chairman agreed to examine this report. The Chairman offered to produce an article on a recent trip to Ireland. The Secretary reported that he had some data from Pink footed Goose and Bewick's Swan neck collar schemes, which could form the basis of an article.

It was noted that the deadline for copy for the next issue was the end of May.

Actions continuing: All, to provide copy and assist.

3) 1998 Bird Reports

Alan Hinchliffe reported that he had already received payment from the RSPB at Fairhaven for the sale of a number of reports.

4) 1999 Bird Report

The President stated that he would be speaking to sub editors and organising a meeting later in the year once the records had been collated. The view was expressed that certain actions including requesting sponsorship, advertisers, quotes for printing, use of photographs and securing the services of someone to type it up could be progressed now.

Stephen Dunstan reported that he had begun to input the data using Avian Store having given up on Bird Recorder. The President offered to back load the records to Bird Recorder later in the year once he had a working computer. The issue of access to records was discussed and the President stated that he would approach the editors of the Lancs. Report to ensure none were missed. It was noted that a number of significant sets of notes had yet to be received.

The Chairman asked if the report was still on target for production in August and the President replied that it was.

The issue of the Rarities Committee was raised and it was recognised that it had not functioned at all last year. It was agreed that the decisions of the Lancashire Committee would be considered and that the Fylde Rarities Committee should be dissolved.

5) Important Unprotected Bird Sites

The President reported that he had produced a newsletter article on this subject but that a volunteer was required to type it up. The Treasurer offered to type up the copy.

Action: Treasurer

6) Honorary Memberships

The Treasurer stated that he could not find out the addresses for Paul Baker and Geoff Whitely. The President agreed to provide an address for Geoff Whitely but no one present knew Paul Baker's. All agreed to make enquiries to assist.

Action: Treasurer

Post meeting Note: all address found and all Honorary Memberships sent out - Action closed.

7) County Biological Site Proposals

The Secretary reported that he had discussed Stanley Park heronry with Nik Bruce (ecologist at Lancashire County Council). It had transpired that the site already was a C.B.H. Site owing to its heronry. However Nik Bruce had requested more up to date data. The original designation only referred to 5 pairs and there are now 18 to 20.

Action: Secretary

8) Goose Watching Site Guide

Mike McGough reported that this task was in progress. It was agreed that it could be used in the Newsletter and in the Bird Report.

Action continuing: Mike McGough and Chairman

9) Club Meeting Dates and Venue

It was confirmed that, in response to the views of the membership expressed at the A.G.M. the Venue should remain unchanged. However it was agreed that the availability of Tuesday night at the Cricket Club should be investigated as soon as possible. A letter from Frank Walsh urged the committee to examine changing the night from Wednesday.

Action: All

10) Lytham Hall Guided Walks

The Secretary reported that he had exchanged correspondence with Lytham Hall and as a result two guided walks had been arranged and an agreement to conduct a breeding bird survey at the site had been reached. The walk dates were to be Saturday the 15th of April and Saturday the 13th of May. He added that he would be making a request for volunteer leaders and survey workers, at the next Club Meeting

Action complete

11) Threat to Bourne Hill Fleetwood

The Secretary reported that he had made further enquiries with Wyre Borough Council regarding developments at this site. He reported that he had been informed that planning decisions affecting the site were on hold but that the Club would be informed when the issued was revived.

Action complete

12) Godwit Protection at Newton Marsh

It was noted that the letter from the RSPB requesting assistance with wardening during the coming breeding season had been reproduced in the March Newsletter. The Secretary reported that he had been contacted again by Tony Baker of the RSPB, who had explained that the hoped for full time wardening help would not be available and that any cover would need to be provided by volunteers. Tony was attempting to convene a meeting with volunteers at very short notice to make plans. The meeting date was to be decided.

Action complete

13) Rossall Coast Guards Tower

The Secretary reported that he had written to Wyre Borough Council asking if they intended to

re-open the building and if it would contain interpretative material as originally planned. After waiting over a month for a reply, he reported that he had telephoned Wyre Borough. Mr Mark McGregor of Wyre Borough Council had stated that the Tower was refurbished and would open soon but that the Council first needed to decide how to operate it. When asked about interpretative material he assured the Secretary that in excess of £400 would be spent of such materials, which would probably be erected in front of the building.

Action complete

14) Membership Renewal Reminders

The President stated that all the membership reminders had been sent out for 1999 and that if ex-members had stated otherwise then they were mistaken.

15) E-mail

The Secretary reported that following the article in the newsletter on E-mail he had only received one response. Post meeting note: two more responses have now been received.

Action complete

Correspondence

- 1) Letter from RSPB Fairhaven (see Agenda item 2)
- 2) Letter From Dr.J.F.Walsh concerning Club meetings (see Matters arising item 9 and agenda item 1).
- 3) Letter of thanks from RSPB Sandy for donation of Bird Race monies to anti hunting campaign. 9-2-00.
- 4) Letter of thanks from North Fylde YOC for donation of £55 from ad hoc collection at Club meeting. 25-1-00.
- 5) B.T.O. Club membership changes. To be passed to Treasurer for action.

Agenda (where not covered above)

1) Club Meetings

There were complaints from members of the Committee and Frank Walsh (in writing) that at the last meeting a guest speaker had been kept waiting while some unscheduled business was dealt with. The Secretary replied that the business concerned could not have been deferred to the next Club Meeting. It was noted that this had unfortunately coincided with a lengthy input to the recent sightings, which were also read out first. It was agreed that in future, when speakers are present, then recent reports and any business would be held until the end of the meeting.

2) Bird Race

The letter from RSPB Fairhaven, which was read out at the last Club meeting, was reviewed. The letter requested financial assistance for three projects, which were a televised bird box, a print run of leaflets and signboards. After much debate, the majority present were in favour of recommending to the Club that the televised bird box scheme should be the beneficiary of this year's Bird Race. It was further agreed that an alternative proposal to further fund the YOC's bird box building scheme should be put to the members. It was recognised that at the next Club Meeting the members would decide and that any member could propose any beneficiary they wanted.

The future of RSPB Fairhaven was questioned and the Secretary was actioned to telephone RSPB North West Office, before the next Club Meeting and ask if they intended to close it down.

Action: Secretary

The date of the Bird Race was discussed and it was agreed that the usual players should arrange a date, which would be announced at the next Club meeting.

Action: Secretary

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:00 pm.



**Fylde
Bird Club**
LANCASHIRE

FYLDE BIRD CLUB
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 19:50 ON WEDNESDAY
THE 19TH OF APRIL AT BLACKPOOL CRICKET CLUB

Present

Secretary, Treasurer and 24 members. Apologies were received from Alan Stamford and Alan Hincliffe.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last business meeting on 17th November were agreed to be a true and fair record.

Matters arising

1) *County Biological Heritage Sites*

The Secretary reported that the proposal from the Club to make a large area of Lytham Moss a C.B.H.S. had been considered. The outcome was that the two Tree Sparrow colonies at Valentine's Kennels and Scout Wood had been designated but not the general mossland area proposed. Unfortunately and despite objections, the Fylde Borough local plan has been changed to allocate land including both these sites for housing!

The Club's proposal to proposal to extend the Clifton Marsh biological heritage site had been accepted.

2) *Black-tailed Godwit Wardening*

A letter from the RSPB requesting assistance from the members in wardening the site, had been reproduced in the newsletter. The Secretary reported that a watch was being organised and urged members to help. Copies of contact telephone numbers and suggested procedures should intruders be encountered were distributed to all at the meeting.

The Secretary noted that many members were disappointed with the response of the RSPB to this need. In recognition of this fact he offered to write to the RSPB expressing this view. This was agreed.

Action: Secretary

3) *Marton Mere LNR*

The Secretary reported that in January, the issue of applying sealant to the wall of the new hide had been raised at the Management Committee. At this meeting it was agreed that this would be done by staff from the Zoo. It was noted that this task was still outstanding.

Members then raised a long list of other concerns regarding the management of the L.N.R. These included failure to conduct important habitat management works and a general lack of site maintenance. The members present felt strongly that the Club should write to the Zoo Manager expressing these concerns. The Secretary agreed to write on behalf of the Club. The President urged members to write individually to the Zoo manager to reinforce this message.

Action: Secretary

4) *Coastguard station*

The Secretary reported that, as actioned by the Committee, he had written to Wyre Borough Council enquiring what their intentions were with regard to the future of the building. A verbal response had been received after a follow up telephone call. (See March Committee mins. for further details).

It was noted that no written response had been received, (to a letter sent in February) and that there was no sign of the building being reopened. It was agreed that the Secretary should write again requesting written confirmation of Wyre Council's intentions.

Action: Secretary

5) *Proposed development at Bourne Hill*

Following previous correspondence with Wyre Borough Council the Secretary reported that he had telephoned the Council to ask what the current situation was. The reply was that the planning process affecting this land was on hold and that the Club would be informed when the issue was revived.

6) *Breeding Bird Atlas*

The Secretary reported that Stephen Dunstan had completed the report. A copy was passed round for examination. The Chairman requested members to make it known to him if they would like to have a copy. It was explained that the cost and means of production would be determined, to some extent, by demand but that even if full photocopying prices were paid, it would come to around £5 a copy. However it was expected that copies would be available for considerably less. It was reported that the Committee had agreed to provide all contributors with a copy free of charge, whether still members or not. There were no objections.

Correspondence (where not covered elsewhere)

- 1) *Letter from North Fylde YOC inviting the Club to provide a stand at the BIRDFEST 2000 event Stanah on the 18th of June. The Secretary appealed for a volunteer to man a stand.*
- 2) *The Secretary reported that he had written to BAE SYSTEMS, Warton requesting corporate sponsorship for the 1999 Bird Report.*
- 3) *A letter had been received from WWT advertising the North West Bird Fair in Nov 2000.*

Agenda

1) *Bird Race 2000*

Two letters had been received requesting donations from the Club. These were presented to the membership for consideration.

The first was from RSPB Fairhaven who requested a contribution towards the cost of interpretative signboards for the Seafront at Lowther and/or a re-print of an information leaflet on the Birds of the Ribble. Each of these projects require several thousand pounds in total. The second was from the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society requesting a donation towards the cost of publishing the Lancashire and North Merseyside Breeding Bird Atlas. This project is attempting to raise £24000 of which, half has been secured to date.

The Chairman opened the subject to the floor for debate and noted that members may wish to propose alternative beneficiaries.

Jessica Turner asked how much money was usually raised by the Bird Race. It was noted to be variable but in the order of £300.

Considerable discussion followed during which various suggestions were put forward. Kinta Beaver asked the members to consider that our own Bird Report was currently without a sponsor and noted that the Club may need to consider funding its own publication later in the year. It was clear that the Lancashire and North Merseyside Breeding Bird Atlas was heavily favoured by those present. Eventually a proposal emerged on which it was agreed to take a vote. Mike McGough proposed that the Bird Race proceeds should be matched from Club funds and the total donated to the Lancashire and North Merseyside Breeding Bird Atlas. This was seconded by Maurice Jones. The Chairman proposed an amendment to cap the matching amount from Club Funds to a maximum of £500. There were no objections to a proposal to take a vote on the amended proposal. The vote was taken and the result was unanimously in favour.

It was noted that although RSPB Fairhaven was not to be a beneficiary on this occasion, in the future this cause may be re-considered for support by the Club.

The nominal date for the Bird Race was announced as the 14th of May, however it was confirmed that teams or individuals could choose any date which was suitable to them. The Chairman encouraged as many as possible to take part, stating that it was the best day's local birding of the year.

Announcements

- 1) The President announced that there would be a Bird Club/Wyre Guided Walk on the 7th May at Nicky Nook meeting at Snow Lane at 7:00 am.
- 2) The second Lytham Hall Bird Club Guided Walk would be held on the 13th May meeting at 7:00 am in the Hall car park.
- 3) The Treasurer reminded those present that subscriptions were outstanding from some members.
- 4) The Chairman reminded members to submit any outstanding records from 1999 as soon as possible.
- 5) Don Rusling announced that the YOC were running a sponsored Bird Race on the 20th May to raise money for more Nest Boxes. It was noted that Bob Danson's Tree Sparrow colony of 91 pairs in the Preesall area, was the largest in the UK.
- 6) Maurice Jones announced that he had copies of the book ' Sands of Time on the Merseyside Coast' available for sale. The sale price was £8.50 each with profits donated to the Friends of Marton Mere.

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