

FYLDE BIRD CLUB

NEWSLETTER – Autumn - Winter 2004



IN THIS SEASONS EDITION WE HAVE:

- RECENT REPORTS
- TOP TEN FYLDE BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS
- A FYLDE FIRST, THE RED-RUMPED SWALLOW
- THE RAREST BIRD EVER FOR THE FYLDE - THE GREAT KNOT
- SPRING MIGRATION AT ROSSALL POINT
- TREE SPARROWS AT WARTON
- A FIRST FOR THE WESTERN PALEARCTIC
- A TEN DAY TRIP TO ANDALUCIA AND EXTRAMADURA

Editorial

Wow, what an incredible period of birdwatching this been, and what superb articles it has generated for this newsletter. It never ceases to amaze me both the depth of knowledge that is within the members of this club, and their unstinting dedication both to watching and recording the numerous species of birds which visit our area.

I see little point in my writing a great deal here as there is more than enough interesting reading matter from the numerous articles enclosed, but I must just add my thanks to Stuart Piner for compiling the bird reports.

Finally, may I wish all the readers and members of the club all the best and great birding for 2005.

Philip Kirkham

Recent Reports by Stuart Piner

July

What is usually one of the quietest months of the birding year proved to be surprisingly eventful, with one day in particular destined to be recognised as the greatest single 12 hours in Fylde birding history!

The month began with 2 adult Mediterranean Gulls at Myerscough Quarry on the 1st; adults were also recorded at Myerscough Quarry on the 9th and 12th with a juvenile there on the 17th. During what was an excellent month for this species, other records came from Pilling Lane (2), Marton Mere, Skippool Creek (2) and Freckleton Naze Point.

The 3rd produced 2 Storm Petrels: one south past Anchorsholme and another past Starr Gate. The 2nd-summer Yellow-legged Gull remained at Skippool Creek and a pair of Common Scoters at Myerscough Quarry was an excellent inland record. A Hobby flew south over Myerscough Quarry late in the afternoon on the 7th before later being relocated at Lightfoot Green Quarry. A Little Egret arrived at Skippool Creek on the same day before being joined by 2 more later in the month, which frequented the Wyre Estuary into August; other Little Egrets were noted on Warton Marsh, Marton Mere and Conder Pool during July. A Great Skua flew past Starr Gate on the 10th with Arctic Skua past there the following day. An adult Spotted Redshank was located on the Wyre Estuary on the 13th where it remained till the 18th; another was at Freckleton Naze Point during the month.

A juvenile Black-necked Grebe was found at Myerscough Quarry on the 16th, where it remained till the following day; the same site produced the last Fylde record of this species, in May 2003. On the 21st the first adult Curlew Sandpiper of the autumn accompanied impressive numbers of Dunlin at Skippool Creek. 2 Little Terns flew south past Starr Gate the following day and the same site produced the 5th Storm Petrel of the month on the 25th with another lingering off Anchorsholme Park the same day. Another Little Tern flew past Starr Gate on the 26th.

Another adult Curlew Sandpiper was on the Wyre Estuary on the 28th and on the same morning 5 Little Terns were off Lytham Lifeboat Station, where they were also seen again the following morning; probably the same birds also being seen off Starr Gate and Bispham. 2 Ravens flew over Freckleton Naze Point on the 29th.

An adult Pectoral Sandpiper was found on Conder Pool during the evening of the penultimate day of the month, continuing what has been an exceptional recent run of records of this species on the Fylde. A juvenile Yellow Wagtail graced Granny's Bay.

The 31st was a truly unforgettable day, for one single reason; at around 6.50am Chris Batty found Britain's third Great Knot at Skippool Creek, which stayed for just over an hour, allowing only 22 lucky locals to connect with the rarest bird ever to be recorded in the Fylde. Most people were too shocked by the Great Knot to appreciate the amazing supporting cast of the remaining Pectoral Sandpiper on Conder Pool, a brief adult Roseate Tern on St. Annes Beach joining an impressive 7 Little Terns, and 5 Avocets at Freckleton Naze Point; each of these species would usually warrant 'bird of the day' status...What a day!

August

After the amazing end to July, surely August would be an anticlimax...or would it?

Lingers from July now included 2 adult Pectoral Sandpipers in the Conder Green area till the 6th, 5 Avocets at Freckleton Naze Point till the 2nd and adult Yellow-legged Gull at Glasson throughout the month.

Adult Curlew Sandpipers were at Lytham and on the Wyre Estuary on the 1st (the latter staying till the 6th), with another 3 on the Conder Estuary on the 16th. By the month end juveniles began to appear, with 4 accompanying an adult on the Wyre Estuary and a single on Mythop Flood on 28th and 29th. A Grasshopper Warbler could often be heard reeling at Skippool Creek during the month and Little Egrets continued to be widespread, the best total being 4 together on the Wyre Estuary. Mediterranean Gulls were also abundant, with

perhaps 25 different individuals recorded during the month. Little Terns were again regular off the coast.

A juvenile Marsh Harrier flew southwest over Cockersand Abbey on the 3rd; birds were noted regularly in the Over Wyre area throughout the month with the only other record being 2 over Warton Marsh on the 10th. A juvenile Yellow Wagtail was briefly at Lytham on the 3rd with other records coming from Granny's Bay, Starr Gate, Stalmine Moss, Ream Hills, Sowerby and Fairhaven during the month.

The Wyre Estuary once again provided the hot news on the 12th when Chris Batty found an adult Ring-billed Gull at Skippool Creek; the bird was intermittently present until the 16th. A Whinchat was at Cockersand the same day with 2 more at Myerscough Quarry on the 13th, with one lingering there till the 15th. A juvenile Osprey was found at Marton Mere on the 14th; the bird toured the Blackpool and Weeton area until the 21st, becoming the first ever to be present for more than a few hours in the Fylde. A Tree Pipit and an Arctic Skua were also noted at Rossall Point on the 14th, with another Tree Pipit over nearby Burglar's Alley on the 15th and another Arctic Skua off Rossall Point. An adult Yellow-legged Gull and female Mandarin briefly graced flooded fields in Mythop on the same day.

Chris Batty must have thought he was having a moment of *deja vu* on the 16th when he amazingly relocated the Great Knot on the Wyre Estuary. Those who missed the bird 16 days ago couldn't believe their luck when the bird stayed all morning then returned the following day. We'll never know where and how the bird disappeared to for so long, but it was another twist in a truly bizarre summer on the Wyre!

A Black Guillemot was noted off Starr Gate on the 16th along with an Arctic Skua. On the 17th a Wryneck was an excellent find for Philip Kirkham at Whyndyke Farm, especially so early in the autumn. The bird showed well briefly early in the afternoon before departing. 2 Garganey visited Ream Hills and the female Mandarin was relocated at Marton Mere on the following day.

2 Spotted Flycatchers were at Carr House Green Common on the 20th with another at Fleetwood cemetery the following day. Also on the 21st the 2 Garganey visited Todderstaffe Hall and on the 22nd yet another adult Pectoral Sandpiper was found, this time at Mythop, where it stayed till the 25th. A Whinchat was also at Marton Mere. A Hobby flew over the same site on the 24th, continuing an impressive summer for this species in the Fylde. Another Spotted Flycatcher was at Marton Mere on the 25th. On the 29th a Storm Petrel flew past Rossall Point along with 7 Arctic Skuas, and the 2 Garganey were still in the Mythop area. The sea also provided the main news on the 30th when a Shag flew south past Starr Gate, and the month ended with a Spotted Flycatcher at Fairhaven on the 31st.

September

Yellow Wagtails were in good supply early in the month, with 9 being recorded flying south by the 10th. Tree Pipits went one better, with a total of 10 being recorded during visual migration watches. Mediterranean Gulls and Little Egrets continued their unprecedented abundance throughout the month and the adult Yellow-legged Gull remained at Glasson.

On the 2nd Maurice Jones, Millie Mottram and Frank Walsh watched a female Goshawk over Shard Bridge and 8 days later a male Goshawk flew over Cockersand. Flycatchers produced the other main news on the 2nd with a Spotted Flycatcher at Glasson, but even better was a Pied Flycatcher in Stanley Park. A juvenile Marsh Harrier was over St. Annes Moss; other Marsh Harriers were noted at Scronkey, Rossall Point and Ream Hills during September. 2 Ravens flew over Glasson; the only other record came from Fairhaven during September. 5 juvenile Curlew Sandpipers graced the Wyre Estuary on the 3rd; Curlew Sandpiper passage was impressive during September with the bulk of records coming from the Wyre Estuary, but others were recorded at Bank End, Arm Hill, Granny's Bay, Cockersand, Glasson, Knott End, Pilling Marsh, Conder Estuary and Fluke Hall Lane.

Tony Myerscough found the 6th Pectoral Sandpiper of the year at Mythop Main Dyke Flood on the 6th, where it remained till the 11th. Much rarer in recent years have been Red-crested Pochard, so an eclipse male at Glasson Basin was a welcome record. 2 Little Stints was a good record past Starr Gate on the 7th and the 8th produced a Spotted Flycatcher at Staining Nook; other Spotted Flycatchers were at Marton Mere, Singleton and Bispham

Marsh during the month.

From the 12th news was dominated by seabirds; persistent strong westerly blows created 10 days of the best seawatching ever witnessed on the Fylde. Between the 12th and 22nd up to 5 Long-tailed Skuas, 9 Sabine's Gulls, 177 Leach's Petrels, 4 Black Guillemots, Shag, Storm Petrel and Black Tern were observed passing the coast. Most activity occurred on the 20th and 21st; a Sabine's Gull, Long-tailed Skua and 76 Leach's Petrels were off Blackpool South Pier and Starr Gate on the 20th and Rossall Point produced 3 Sabine's Gulls and 2 Long-tailed Skuas on the 21st. A truly memorable period.

An immature Shag graced a pond in Cleveleys on the 20th, but an even better inland record was a juvenile Grey Phalarope found by Paul Ellis on Mythop Main Dyke Flood from 21st-23rd, continuing the incredible run of birds this site has produced this year.

The heavy rain during the second half of the month created many temporary floods, which became attractive to waders; 3 Little Stints and 8 Curlew Sandpipers were on flooded fields by Fluke Hall Lane on the 22nd. Both species continued to be recorded here into October. Another Little Stint was at Skipool Creek on the 23rd, along with a male Scaup. Mythop Flood also produced a Little Stint towards the end of the month. A juvenile Black Tern was located at Fairhaven Lake on the 23rd, and proved popular with the photographers during its 5-day stay; possibly the same bird was noted at Warton Marsh on the 29th.

Another surge of seawatching activity occurred from the 26th when 3 Velvet Scoters flew past Starr Gate and 3 Leach's Petrels flew past Rossall Point. The following day a Shag flew past Starr Gate and another flew past Rossall Point on the 28th, along with 8 Leach's Petrels. Another 5 Leach's Petrels and a Velvet Scoter flew past Starr Gate on the same day.

October

The month began with more Little Stints; the 2nd produced 2 at Eagland Hill and another at Mythop, with other records coming from Fluke Hall Lane (peak count of 4), Pilling Marsh and Fairhaven Beach. Curlew Sandpipers also continued to pass through, peaking at 7 at Fluke Hall Lane, with others at Skipool Creek, Mythop Main Dyke Flood and Bank End during October. The adult Yellow-legged Gull remained on the Lune Estuary at Glasson and Mediterranean Gull and Little Egrets were once again abundant.

Had it not been for September's seawatching extravaganza, an adult Sabine's Gull past Cleveleys on the 6th would have been a contestant for one of the best birds of the autumn. Rossall Point produced a Black Tern and another was at Fairhaven Lake briefly. Nearby 2 Dark-bellied Brent Geese were in Granny's Bay.

A Lapland Bunting was an excellent find in stubble at Cockersand, but frustrated would-be observers when it failed to show after the initial sighting. A Short-eared Owl there was some compensation. Other Short-eared Owl records came from Marton Mere, Rossall Point, Fleetwood Golf Course and Bradshaw Lane Head during October.

On the 9th 2 ringtail Hen Harriers were over Warton Marsh and 9 Barnacle Geese were at Burrow's Farm, with another at Cockersand. The following day produced 3 Hen Harriers over Pilling Marsh with possibly the same birds also being recorded at Cockersand Abbey and Glasson on the same day. The 12th saw Mount Park produce a brief Ring Ouzel. Another, more confiding, Ring Ouzel was recorded at the Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes. The 12th also produced a Brent Goose on Pilling Marsh and a Jack Snipe at Marton Mere. 3 Jack Snipes were at Pilling Moss on the 16th, 2 at Marton Mere on the 19th and on the penultimate day of the month, 7 were at Myerscough Quarry.

3 Long-tailed Ducks briefly lingered off Rossall Point on the 23rd whilst nearby, a Snow Bunting flew over Rossall School. Rare passerines have been thin on the ground this autumn so a Barred Warbler found by Maurice Jones at Marton Mere on the 24th was much appreciated. Increased observer coverage produced 2 Bitterns at the site. On the same day a probable escaped Lanner or Saker was observed hunting over hedgerows near Mythop Main Dyke Flood.

The 27th produced an excellent record in the form of a Willow Tit in Ingol; the bird had apparently been present for the majority of October. 3 Long-eared Owls at Marton Mere signalled to what will hopefully be another winter where birds are twitchable at this site.

A first-winter female Scaup joined the Aythya flock at Myerscough Quarry on the 30th and a Snow Bunting flew past Starr Gate.

The final day of the month saw the Fylde begin to reap the rewards of a mass invasion of Waxwings into northern Britain, when one flew over Rossall Point, along with 2 Snow Buntings. A Black Redstart was at Blackpool South Shore.

November

In general, autumn failed to match up to the expectations raised by the previous few years, and by early November it was no surprise that winter birds were creating the headlines, in what was a largely unremarkable month. Lingerers from October included the female Scaup at Myerscough Quarry (until the 2nd), up to 5 Long-eared Owls and 2 Bitterns continued to frequent Marton Mere and a Willow Tit remained in Ingol.

Two Snow Buntings flew over Starr Gate on the 1st; up to 4 were seen in the Starr Gate area on 20th-23rd. Jack Snipes were abundant early in the month, with at least 10+ by the River Wyre at Out Rawcliffe being the highest count.

A late Whimbrel was at Fairhaven briefly on the 3rd, and the 4th produced a fly-over Waxwing in Catforth, a Black Redstart at Bank End Farm, Cockerham and a Little Egret on Lune Estuary. Bird of the month was found on the 5th, a fine Taiga Bean Goose at Calcald's Farm, Pilling, it remained Over Wyre until the month's end. The same day produced a brief Pale-bellied Brent Goose at Cockerham Sands and 2 Long-tailed Ducks past Starr Gate.

A Little Egret was at Freckleton Naze Point on the 6th and on the 7th scrutiny of the Over Wyre Pink-footed Geese produced an adult Greenland White-fronted Goose, where it stayed till at least the 20th. A Scaup flew past Starr Gate on the 10th, a very approachable Purple Sandpiper was found on Fleetwood Marine Lake on the 14th, and a 1st-winter Shag was briefly on Fairhaven Beach. Barnacle Geese were noted at Fleetwood Farm and Barnaby's Sands on the same day. Possibly the same Shag was recorded past Starr Gate on the 19th.

The 20th brought a late Marsh Harrier to Warton Marsh and a Raven flew east over New Ridge Farm, Pilling. A Black Guillemot flew past Starr Gate on the 22nd and a juvenile Long-tailed Duck flew past the same site two days later. Fleetwood Farm again held a Barnacle Goose on the 26th and nearby a Great Northern Diver was logged past Rossall Point on the following day. The month ended with a Long-tailed Duck past Starr Gate on the 29th and a Raven over Marton Mere on the 30th.

Top Ten Fylde Birding Highlights - by Stuart Meredith

As most, if not all reading this will know, we live in an excellent bird watching area with some of the UK's most important sites on our doorstep. We also have a fair number of 'Premier League' birders in the area who are out and about it seems almost every minute of the day. This all adds up to a constant stream of top notch birds being found and enjoyed by many of us throughout the year. It's the time of year when records are written up and for me that usually coincides with a flick through old notebooks and bird reports which leads to a fair bit of reminiscing about birding days gone by. In these hectic days of pagers, info lines, the internet and planes parked on airport runways waiting for a call from messrs Batty, Slade or Ellis requesting a one day jaunt to some far flung Scottish island it's somewhat comforting to know that you don't need to be a frothing at the mouth barking mad twitcher with a wallet the size of the ones owned by the club chairman and secretary to enjoy a good bird or two. As you look through the last 25 years or so it's quite staggering to realise just what a good area we bird in. So in these days of obsessive listing I'd thought I'd attempt to list

my all time top 10 birding highlights within the Fylde. Obviously there's scope for a top 10, 20, 50 or if your very old (no names) and most of your memories are in black & white maybe a top 100. In time honoured fashion it counts down from 10 to 1. Stuff which didn't make it include Pacific Goldie 1990, American & Little Bitterns from the Mere, Hoopoe, Barred Warbler, WWB Tern also from the Mere, the Fleetwood Kentish, the Fleetwood Desert Wheatear, the regular Lesser Spots at St.Cuthbert's in Lytham in the mid 80's, the Morrisons Desert Wheatear with attendant Black Redstarts, any of the Waxwings, Shore Larks or Shrikes (3sp) that have occurred the list could go on and on.

However at **no (10)** for me is the stunning flock of 15 full breeding plumaged Spotted Redshanks that appeared by Lytham Jetty in June 86. Almost jet black they were around for a week or so and i paid homage to them at least once a day during their stay. They were presumably dispersing females that had left the males to rear the chicks up on the breeding grounds.

At **no (9)** its the 2 Common Cranes that appeared over the Mere on May 5th 1985. They flew from the west and carried on towards Poulton where they were seen by another birder - Peter Guy I think. They were the first rarities that I'd 'found'.

At **(8)** its the drake Smew that I found on the frozen Lake on January 18th 1985. It was a good bird then (and still is now) but it was special because I'd never seen Smew. It was hidden away in a mob of about 200 BH Gulls in the centre of the lake where there was a tiny patch of open water. I didn't notice it straight away through dreadful bins that were so far out of alignment that there looked like there was two of everything (a bit like looking through a Kowa or a Leica !!) and then it dived. BH Gulls don't usually dive i thought and then up it popped again. What a snorter.

At **(7)** its got to be the Leach's Petrel invasion of September 1987. On Blackpool beach they were everywhere and that close that you really could have caught them with little effort. Almost mythical birds that were all of a sudden everywhere. Magic

(6) The Red footed Falcon on Highfield Road in South Shore. Its not just the bird its the experience. The bird had been around a day or two i believe before the RSPCA were informed of this 'Kestrel' on Fishers Field. They then, I'm told attempted to catch the thing by throwing meat at it tied to a piece of string in true Kes (the film) fashion. As we all could have told them it would have preferred a dragonfly or two. The scene on the field was comical. A dead straight line of local birders watching the bird with the amazed public watching the birders. I remember realising that Ed Stirling wasn't there and nipped off to the phone box to let him know (no mobiles in them days). Ed found about 99% of the good birds then so he deserved to see this one too. A few minutes later and Ed arrived clutching a 10p piece and insisted on refunding the cost of the call before he even looked at the Red foot. I often chuckle to myself when I'm passing Fishers Field these days.

(5) is the Black Tern invasion of Marton Mere on May 2nd 1990, on arrival in the morning there was a handful of these gorgeous terns hawking insects over the water but almost by the minute more and more kept on arriving from the East until they peaked at least 39 birds. If I recall there was also a pair of Garganey around too.

At **(4)** its the Bunting Bonanza of Fleetwood tip in 94. There was up to 12 Lapland Buntings with a single Little and I think a few Snow Buntings as well as Reed. I remember Tony Disley painting a cracking picture of the scene that currently resides on Moreton Avenue in Poulton although I'm not convinced now that Snow Bunts were involved. Anyway if they weren't just keep it to yourself because my memory of the Bunting Bonanza includes Snow and that's how I'd like it to stay !

At **(3)** its the Rossall Ross's Gull of 94. Found by a landlocked birder from the midlands it gave cracking views over the sea and on the golf course. Ross's Gulls don't need anyone to wax lyrical about their finer points so i won't. They're stankers as you'll know if you've seen one. If you haven't twitch the next one.

At **(2)** its the Fairhaven Ivory Gull of 2002. A stunner. I'd seen a 1st winter many moons ago in Cleveland and then a few days before the Fairhaven bird turned up I was doing a talk for Lichfield RSPB group and reasoned that it wasn't too much of a detour to see the adult Ivory Gull at Porthmadog in North Wales.

After making the longer than I thought journey but getting mega views i returned home only to get a call the day after telling me that there was an adult Ivory Gull now on Fairhaven Lake. I cursed it as i assumed it was the same bird - but it wasn't. 2 adult Ivory Gulls in 2 days isn't too bad is it.

There's no competition for no (1). It was without doubt the Fylde ornithological event of the century. Enough words have been written about this bird. Some cracking pictures have appeared in the birding press and on the websites. It was a stunner. Great bird, great plumage and stonking views. Finnish birders believe that the best of the best birds are sent by the birding god that they call the Senderi. This is certainly a Senderi class bird. Chris Batty - thank you for your stonking Great Knot. It's all down hill now pal.

Red-rumped Swallow at Marton Mere

- A new Fylde Bird by Maurice Jones



On Sunday 18th April I was due to carry out my monthly count of Waders on St Annes Beach. The tide was not in until late morning so I felt that I had time to visit The Mere first.

At 0940 I entered the Fylde Bird Club hide. Many Hirundines were sweeping to and fro over the water and over the north side of the mere.

At 0945 one of these caught my attention. It was over the Willows to the right of the container hide. The rump and underparts did not look white as in House Martin and before long it banked to show a deeply forked tail. Surely not! Then I lost it and it was a few more anxious moments before I picked it up again. Yes, I was not dreaming!

I used a mobile phone to alert Mike and Pauline McGough who had only just left to do their wader count. I also rang Frank Walsh and Chris Batty who I knew would put out the news on the pager network. I watched the bird for nearly an hour on and off before I left to do my wader count. The bird flew off west at 1110 hours having been seen by about a dozen birders including 2 from beyond Preston!

A phone call from Pauline in the evening informed me that the bird had returned. About another dozen birders obtained views in the last hour before dusk and this time better views were obtained as it kept low over the water close to the dam and nearby scrape. Even a few photographs were attempted.

The following day in a strong west wind it was low over the west end of the mere where Mike McGough watched it from 0850-0908.

For me the finding of this bird was an ambition fulfilled. Ever since finding one on Fair Isle in June 1976 I had thought 'if one can get this far north then one could certainly get to Marton Mere'.

There are only 2 previous records for Lancashire and north Merseyside, the area covered by the Lancashire bird reports. These are a Migrant flying through the dune slacks at Ginsdale on 4th May 1968 (Harry Shorrocks) and one around the Rimrose Valley, Netherton, Liverpool on 25th and 26th June 1996 (Eugene McCann). There were only 7 records for the British Isles before 1958 but the grand total of accepted records to the end of 2002 is now 389. The spring of 2004 has certainly been a good one for Red Rumped Swallows and perhaps will prove to be a record one when all the records are published by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

The main area of breeding in Europe is Iberia and the Balkans, Greece and a few in the extreme south of France. They also nest in Morocco and Turkey.

The Great Knot at Skippool Creek

- a new Fylde bird by Chris Batty



At 7:30am on 3rd August 2003 I was roused from my slumbers by the electric sound of my mobile phone: 'Paul Slade mobile' flashed on the caller display and I knew I had blown it. I'd lived in Hambleton all my life and for twenty-four years of this my bedroom window had overlooked my local patch, the upper reaches of the Wyre Estuary. Paul lived nearby and had worked the Wyre Estuary hard for that long-awaited rare wader and now he'd found it: a superb adult White-rumped Sandpiper. As I pulled on my jeans and sped towards Shard Bridge I cursed myself. Why was I so lazy? I didn't deserve to find it: Paul was there every morning before work methodically checking through the Dunlin hoping for this moment. But I arrived, locked onto the bird and my relief poured out. At least I'd seen it even if I hadn't found it.

In 2004 I decided that I would make the effort and hoped I could reap a reward. Would the White-rumped Sandpiper return? The Wyre Estuary started the autumn well with a Yellow-legged Gull, three Mediterranean Gulls, three Little Egrets, two Spotted Redshanks and the Dunlin flock grew to over 3,000, joined by two dapper Curlew Sandpipers. With these birds came extra coverage. Rarely did I visit and not find the estuary being scoured by another local birder.

On Saturday 31st July I set all the alarm clocks on my pager. I was working at 7:30am and I wanted to give the patch a check before then. I managed to drag myself out of bed and arrived at Shard Bridge at 6:20am. The tidal situation was far from ideal: an ebbing tide is best here and, as I expected, the number of Dunlin on show was well down on the previous day. A further scan revealed little of note so I got back into my car and drove to Skippool Creek. I decided against scanning from the traditional jetty but instead walked north beyond the yacht club and began to pan. Four Whimbrel and a Greenshank were expected but again the general lack of activity was a disappointment. I retraced my steps back to the yacht club and scanned the mouth of Skippool Creek then across towards Shard Bridge, slowly passing over a distant loose flock of Redshank on the tidal sands. I clocked 'the bird' as I panned through the flock but didn't stop panning. A Great Knot. I stopped, swung the scope back right and panned left again. A Great Knot. A GREAT KNOT! I struggled for my mobile phone, the Redshank flew, the Great Knot with them, heading towards Shard Bridge, displaying a whitish rump, its long wings beating deeply, in a peculiarly exaggerated manner. A GREAT KNOT! I grabbed my scope and phoned Dick (Filby) at Rare Bird Alert and garbled the frantic message as I ran back to my car. Nobody would believe me. A Great Knot, at Skippool Creek, watched for less than 10 seconds at more than 500 yards: I couldn't believe it - and I'd seen it. Rare Bird Alert's Mega-Alert began to sound in my pocket.

I arrived back at the Shard Bridge and scanned nervously but there was no sign of the bird. I drove to the other side of the bridge and scanned upstream but again drew a blank. I was beginning to think the worst: no reputation could stand this. Then there it was, alone by the main channel on the far side of the bridge but it again took flight and disappeared off towards Skippool Creek and still no one else had seen it. At this point the enormity of the situation struck me; the third British Great Knot, on my local patch, on my own. I'd hoped for a rarity; I hadn't dreamt of this. I must be mistaken; I must have made a fundamental error, but what? A breeding plumaged male Ruff? No, it was a Great Knot!

I sped back over the bridge and scanned across to Skippool Creek and located it immediately, the only wader amongst the feeding Black-headed Gulls. Even at a half mile range there was no mistaking this once in a lifetime find. Stuart Piner arrived, jammed his eye to my scope and exclaimed, still in shock, like I, he could scarcely believe what he was watching. Longing for better views we sped to Skippool Creek and cautiously

peered from by the jetty. The Great Knot was still there and only 250 yards away. Paul Slade arrived and grabbed his first look at the bird. He cursed my alarm clock, and my luck. It was the first morning he had taken a lie-in in weeks.

In its breeding plumage the bird was unmistakeable: pale grey head; black breast and mantle; black and orange scapulars; solid black spots on the white flanks and belly; black centred, pale fringed lesser, median, greater coverts and tertials. Considerably larger than a Knot the bird had a distinctive profile with a longer bill, in shape more like the bill of a Dunlin, and a long primary projection which gave the impression that the bird was in active primary moult (which it was not).

Although the light was poor Tony Disley, Paul Ellis, Stuart Piner and myself tried our best to grab record shots with our digital cameras and camcorders but my time was soon up and I had to leave for work. I phoned in my last update as I passed the assembling local birders. I knew the tide was racing in and that the previous day all the waders had left Skippool Creek at high water. Would the Great Knot take this as a cue to leave for good? Both the previous weeks Curlew Sandpipers had been one-day birds and I didn't hold out much hope for the Great Knot lingering.

No sooner had I arrived at work than I received a phone call from Andrew Holden; he and around twenty others had watched the Great Knot fly off high to the southwest, calling loudly, at 8:12am. High southwest was the exit route taken by last year's White-rumped Sandpiper and it seemed clear to me that that would be the last we would see of this, the rarest bird ever to have been found on the Fylde.

Following the unexpected events of 31st July 2004 the Great Knot had soon become nothing more than a fond memory. I had continued to watch Skippool Creek and Hambleton Marsh on a daily basis but it had never even crossed my mind that the Great Knot would ever put in another appearance.

On 12th August my second visit of the day to Skippool Creek produced a fine adult Ring-billed Gull roosting with the Lesser Black-backed Gulls. This bird remained for the rest of the afternoon and returned again the following day to the delight of many Fylde birders. Although representing the third site record of Ring-billed Gull (previously singles in October 1995 and January 1996) it was the first to be multi-observed.

Despite Ring-billed Gulls being reported in the Fylde almost annually since the first record in January 1986 the current bird was only the third twitchable record following a well-watched second-winter at Preston Dock from 28th January-13th April 1991 and an adult present intermittently at Marton Mere from 31st January-4th March 1992.

Torrential downpours had caused localised flooding and, in an attempt to emulate past events at Eagland Hill (where Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper fed side-by-side in September 2002), my early morning birding efforts had turned to these temporary habitats.

During a heavy downpour at 8am on 16th August a flood on Stalmine Moss produced two smart juvenile Spotted Redshanks and a first-summer Mediterranean Gull. Happy there was nothing more to be found here I decided to check the Wyre Estuary and return to Stalmine Moss later to see if anything extra had dropped in.

At 9:20am, as I scanned the Wyre Estuary from by Shard Bridge, I caught a glimpse of a distinctive long-winged wader disappearing behind a mud bank. I repositioned myself, and there, amongst Redshanks, was the Great Knot. Once again I immediately phoned out the incredible news. Those who had just missed the bird on 31st July could not believe their luck!

At 9:34am the bird took off and flew to Skippool Creek where it dropped into a channel and out of view. I raced around to the jetties and scanned but with no success. Birders were arriving all the time and I kept reassuring them that there was no doubt; the Great Knot was indeed back!

Knowing the best place from which to get a panoramic view I set off on my own to just beyond the yacht club and scanned, simultaneously phoning all those who had failed to connect with the bird a fortnight earlier. Just after 10am I again located the Great Knot as it flew over the mudflats before again dropping out of sight.

I was greeted with looks of bemusement and disbelief by the crowd as pagers beeped with my every sighting yet I was still the only observer. By now the tide was racing in and it seemed inevitable that the Great Knot would have to give itself up soon. At 10:17am Stuart Piner calmly announced to the crowd that he had the Great Knot in his telescope; and it was the closest wader!

As the tide began to rise the bird joined the roosting Redshanks and other waders at the mouth of Skippool Creek and showed well to the gathering crowd before being lost at midday when a low-flying helicopter disturbed all the roosting waders.

The 17th saw the Great Knot put on its best performance being on show just upstream of Shard Bridge from just 9:10am until 12:05pm when the rising tide forced the bird off the mud. Equipped with a reasonable map Staffordshire birder Steve Nuttall set about locating the bird at a high tide roost and at 1pm unearthed the Great Knot amongst Lapwings and Golden Plover over a mile upstream of Shard Bridge on grazing marshes by Waterside Farm, Out Rawcliffe. Here it remained until 2:40pm when it flew off high to the west as the tide ebbed.

Along with many others, I searched the Wyre Estuary all day on 18th August but there was no sign of the Great Knot. However, it was reported again the following day, briefly by Shard Bridge around 11am before flying towards Skippool Creek. I was on site within minutes of the reported sighting and was greeted by an unconvincing description from birdwatchers who believed they had seen the bird. The previous day a Turnstone had caused a false alarm (!) and on searching the gathered waders at Skippool Creek at midday on 18th the same Turnstone was again present.

Tree Sparrows at Beech Avenue Warton by Dave Wells

It is five years or more since we saw our first Tree Sparrow in our garden. It didn't stay around for long but it was a welcome bonus for our BTO bird watch list.

Recently however we noticed that more and more Tree Sparrows were replacing our House Sparrows as winter approached. These were subsequently replaced by returning House Sparrows in the spring. Occasionally a pair of Tree Sparrows attempted to nest in one of our nest boxes but with little success.

Last year the over-wintering number of Tree Sparrows peaked at 20 so we decided to see if we could improve their breeding chances this year.

We introduced four dedicated Tree Sparrow boxes in a particularly large Poplar tree at the bottom of the garden. They were in close proximity of each other as the birding fraternity advised that they liked to breed in family groups.

Of the four boxes one has remained empty, two contained breeding Tree Sparrows and the fourth initially produced a family of Great Tits followed by another successful Tree Sparrow brood. Overall numbers of chicks was difficult to assess as other than when they were being fed by their various parents they all tended to be very secretive and fledging from each box was progressive.

We are now only seeing the odd Tree Sparrow (September 19th) although the House Sparrows have returned. Come November we are hoping that 'our' Tree Sparrows will once again be with us with perhaps an increase in their numbers!!

All in all most satisfactory although 2 new boxes I made didn't attract anything. Maybe they need the 'weather' before becoming desirable for breeding.

Spring migration at Rossall Point - Len Blacow and Robert Stinger

We decided to visit the point as often as possible between mid-March and mid-May to record diurnal passerine migration in spring 2004. In all we managed 23 visits of at least one hour's duration.

On each visit we recorded all birds identified in suitable conditions, observation periods and times of rarer species were also recorded. The first visit took place on the 18th March and the last 10th May, in all 31 species were recorded migrating.

Meadow Pipit was by far the most numerous with a grand total of 9,012 recorded with best day totals of 1003 on 29th March, 1025 on 1st April and 3632 on 13th April. During this period observers recorded smaller numbers of pipits at Heysham, this comes as no surprise to regular Rossall watchers as most birds leaving Rossall go straight out towards Walney, after all why go the long way round?

Goldfinch and Linnet featured regularly, with respective totals of 326 and 486 with 104 and 113 on 13th April which was also the best Meadow Pipit morning.

Pied Wagtail totalled 213 the majority were "whites" with a peak between 29th March and 2nd April.

Only three Yellow Wagtails were recorded a sad reflection of how the species is faring.

Of particular interest to us were the Woodpigeon recorded on six visits max 90 on 1st April, these birds headed out looking to make landfall in the Grange over sands-Ulverston area.

Magpies are unusual birds to be recorded passing over but 4 on 30th March and 2 on the 31st duly obliged.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker flew high North on 25th April and a Robin came in off and was grounded on the point on 2nd April.

Raptors recorded moving were 3 Sparrowhawk, 2 Merlin and a single Kestrel.

Sea bird records included Sandwich Tern from 29th March, Arctic Tern from 16th April a Little Tern a Pomarine Skua along with 307 Little Gulls on 19th April

Contrary to what has been written previously, at Rossall it is essential to make an early start as some species are on the move at first light particularly Pipits and Finches plus the chances of finding night migrants, we have included Wheatear in the table.

The best conditions are still mornings with a low cloud base and clearer conditions to the North or Northwest. Sunny conditions are pleasant but the birds are much higher and more difficult to see.

Light winds from South East to Southwest produce good conditions and a light mist will induce tern passage particularly in early May.

Full species list and totals.

Sparrowhawk 3

Merlin 2

Kestrel 1

Snipe 1

Whimbrel 21

Little Gull 351

Sandwich Tern 192	Pied wagtail 213
Arctic Tern 296	Robin 1
Little Tern 1	Wheatear 40
Arctic Skua 6	Magpie 6
Pomarine Skua 1	Jackdaw 9
Swift 5	Carrion Crow 29
Great Spotted Woodpecker 1	Chaffinch 7
Sand Martin 11	Greenfinch 2
Swallow 597	Goldfinch 326
Tree Pipit 9	Siskin 27
Meadow Pipit 9012	Linnet 486
Yellow Wagtail 3	Lesser Redpoll 36
Grey Wagtail 6	

These totals could be augmented with records from Ian Gardner another Rossall observer.

Autumn passage begins in August, peaking between mid-September and mid-October and with later starts we may see you there

In on a potential Western Palearctic first by Stephen Dunstan

Most keen birders probably want to be involved in the finding or identification of a first for Britain. A first for the Western Palearctic, well that would be just greedy. Whilst staying on Fair Isle this autumn I was fortunate enough to be the second person to see such an unexpected rarity, and contributed in a small way to the identification process.

The first seven days of a stay from 8th to 22nd October had been reasonably productive, without really hitting the heights for which Fair Isle is so well known. I had found a Yellow-browed Warbler and a Richard's Pipit and birds seen included a late Marsh Warbler, a couple of Bluethroats and a Common Rosefinch. The only BBRC rarity was a brief Dusky Warbler seen by an island resident that did not hang around to be admired. The Obs staff were beginning to pull their hair out as an array of good birds were appearing on Foula, just 30 or 40 miles or so to the north. That was all to change.

On the morning of Friday 15th October whilst staying at Fair Isle Bird Observatory I birded the southeast of the island and approached the Skadan crop near south light. Hywel Maggs, former FIBO Assistant Warden staying at the Obs, indicated he had just found a Little Bunting in the crop. Sure enough a bunting flew up and called, sounding like a Little Bunting.

Hywel left the area and I continued to try and get better views of the bird. With a bit of patience I was able to get close views of the bird moving away from me down a ride in the crop. Although my experience of Little Bunting is not extensive this bird did not look right in several respects. It had an obvious pale eye ring but it appeared as large as a Reed Bunting, the face pattern didn't look right for Little and what I could see of the upperparts suggested an extensive buff wash which did not fit with Little either.

Later at the Obs I mentioned my thoughts on the fact this bird looked strange to Deryk Shaw, the Warden. He agreed that it was an unusual bird but that the underparts could be in fresh plumage hence the buff appearance of the chest feathers. Hywel left the island during the afternoon of the 15th, but before he left he also mentioned some concerns about the bird to Alan Bull (Assistant Warden) who mentioned it might be worth trapping the bird. At log on the 15th the bird went down as a Little Bunting.

On the 16th I went back for another look at the bird, either to convince myself it was a Little or get some more evidence that it was not one. When I got to the Skadan crop Rebecca Nason (Assistant Warden) pointed out the Little Bunting as she flushed it from the crop during her census. Again when she left I persisted with the bird, although it was generally difficult to get good views on the deck some close flight views confirmed that the bird was apparently too large for a Little. At lunch time much discussion centred around the 'funny Little Bunting' and trapping it became more favoured.

When I returned to the Skadan crop late afternoon the bird was nowhere to be seen. Hollie Shaw soon appeared in the van with the infamous red flag flying. I could hardly believe my ears when she said it was a Chestnut-eared Bunting at the Obs, a first for the Western Palearctic. I immediately asked if it was the Skadan bird, she confirmed it was. The bird had been trapped early afternoon but four experienced observers had been unable to identify it and it was taken to the Obs for more detailed scrutiny and accurate measurement to be taken.

The identification proved difficult, and was only finally clinched by reference to the September 2001 *Birding World* which included a picture of a first-year Chestnut-eared Bunting taken in China. The caption said that although it was not recorded in the Western Palearctic it was a long distant migrant and a bit of blind optimism never hurt anybody. This couldn't have been more appropriate.

At the Obs all the island residents with an interest in birds had turned up to see the unexpected arrival, joining all the birders staying at the Obs and one or two staying elsewhere in the island. As the bird was measured in the ringing room and then shown to everyone outside it was hard to see how it could ever have gone down as a Little Bunting, the large size was clearly genuine and the underparts were far more colourful and Ortolan Bunting like than a Little Bunting could ever show.

I rang Chris Batty at an early stage to get news out on Rare Bird Alert pagers if the Obs staff hadn't already done so. I was aware that there might be some question marks over the vagrancy potential of this Himalayan species, and did not how many people would make the trip. In the event there was quite a twitch on the Sunday, with about nine plane flights and a boatful of birders from Shetland arriving. Over the next few days at least three flights arrived from Blackpool, with Chris on one and Stuart Piner on another. Towards the end of the birds stay a number of birders arrived and then got stranded on the island, for up to three days in some cases.

Much has since been written about the vagrancy potential of this species, which was so left field that many people myself included had never heard of it. The path to BOURC acceptance and a place on the British List may not be a smooth one, and ultimately the record may end up in a holding category awaiting further evidence of a vagrancy pattern nearer the normal breeding and wintering ranges of the migratory subspecies (some subspecies are not long distance migrants). On the flip side of the paucity of extralimital records we are dealing with a first-winter bird in the middle of October on Fair Isle during a period of easterly winds. Some birds with markedly eastern distribution, including Yellow-browed Bunting and Black-faced Bunting, have turned up at the same place at the same time of year though Chestnut-eared Bunting is on paper less likely than these coming from even further away.

And the plot thickened. The day after I left the island, astonishingly Fair Isle turned up another first for the Western Palearctic in the form of a Rufous-tailed Robin, another bird with a distribution starting far, far east of Scotland. The possibility of a mass jailbreak on the Continent has not surprisingly been mooted, but on the other hand the Northern Isles have been alive with Northern Bullfinches uttering deeper calls than normal and thought to be of eastern origin.

Who knows what the official verdict will be. And in a very real sense, 'who cares' I think. We may never know the origins of the bunting, but to be on stage during the drama and involved in the initial puzzle and subsequent euphoria was very special. On recent form (Savannah Sparrow and Siberian Rubythroat in 2003 as well as this year's star turns) Fair Isle looks like the place to be next October. Unfortunately being married with two daughters I will be back on family holidays, but if you do go I'll be thinking of you and I really do wish you the outrageous good fortune that I was lucky enough to enjoy.

A Ten Day Trip to Andalucia and Extremadura, Spain

28th March to 6th April 2004

Participants: M Jones, B Dwire, D Hindle, B Dodding, C Dodding.

Day One

We arrived at Malaga on an Easyjet flight from Liverpool in pouring rain. Those involved with the car hire from Eurocar couldn't find the documentation - not a good start! Eventually we set off with rivers brown with silt and torrents pouring down the hillsides. Our aim was to visit the Fuente de Piedra, a huge salt lake about 25 miles inland and apart from the Camargue the only Flamingo nesting site in Europe. The visitor centre closed while we were there for 'siesta' We used a covered viewpoint to 'scope' the huge lake and foreground.

Many hundreds of Flamingo were scattered all over the lake. We also had many Black Winged Stilt, 4 Gull Billed Terns, a Slender Billed Gull, Little Stints, Ruffs, Avocets, Kentish and Little Ranged Plover. Smaller birds included Woodchat Shrike, 60 Spotless Starling (the first of many), Serms, Spanish Wagtail. In view of the continuing rain we made a decision to press on. Nearby we had a pair of Stone Curlew, Marsh and Montague's Harrier.

A small roadside lake (Laguna Dulce) produced 200 flamingo, 30 Red Crested Pochard, 1 pair of Pintail Hoopoe and Cettis Warbler.

We stayed the night at Ibis Hotel, Jerez de la Frontera.

Day Two

Laguna de Medina is nearby and we had good views of 2 pairs of Red Knobbed Coot nest building. The path was very muddy, the type that sticks to your boots but a third of a mile from the road produced 8 Red Rumped Swallows, 40 Black Necked Grebe, Green Sandpiper and we heard Cettis, Fan-Tailed and Great Reed Warblers and Nightingale.

On leaving we headed for Sanlucar de Barrameda at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river, avoiding the Jerez traffic on side roads which passed the Lagunas de Santa Maria. The rushy Laguna Juncosa held at least 8 Purple Gallinule, Red Crested Pochard Stilts and 2 Black Nested Grebe.

In mid-afternoon we booked into an excellent Moorish style hotel, the Pension Sevilla on Bolsa St, Sanlucar. The nearby Bonanza saltfens had many hundreds of Flamingo, 200 Avocet and 10 Slender Billed Gull.

Nearby Laguna Tarelo had 17 roosting Night Herons, 9 Bee Eater and our only White Headed Ducks of the trip - 8 birds. In the Stone Pines a Booted Eagle was at the track side, then 8 Black Kites and an Osprey. We then worked our way up the East side of the Guadalquivir for 20 kilometres or so. We had many good birds including Spoonbill Hobby, 2 Caspian Tern, 1 pair of Marbled Teal, Whiskered and Black Tern, 500 Collared Pratincoles, 2000 Sand Martin and Hen Harrier.

Day Three

Our route retraced the previous evening's. A dyke held 4 Purple Gallinule, our first Purple Heron, 10 Calandra and Short Toed Larks. A surprise was a melanistic male Montagu's Harrier. Further inland the Pinzon marshes had 15 Purple Gallinule, Savis' Warbler, 16 Spoonbill, Ruffs, Stilts and 2 more pairs of Marbled Teal. Driving down one track we soon began to collect mud on the tyres as we had on our boots at Laguna de Medina! A quarter mile of reverse got us out of trouble. We then decided to press on to the 'frontier' town of El Rocio at the north west corner of the Coto Bonana National Park.

All the 'roads' are dirt (no tarmac) and rails testify to the many horses still in use. We booked in at Pension Isidro for two nights then explored the marsh alongside the town. Here were hundreds of Flamingo, 9 Avocets, 200 Black Tailed Godwit, Ruffs, 41 Collared Pratincoles, 13 Glossy Ibis. The nearby La Rocina Lagoon had 20 Whiskered Tern, 2 Purple Gallinules and 8 Squacco Heron. At the Acebuche visitor centre 8 Azure Winged Magpies were in front of our trip-they visit the picnic tables!

Day Four

Today we made a long circuit on the tarmac road and tracks around the north side of the marismas to the visitor centre Cerrado Garido back to El Rocio. The road to Villamanique runs through extensive stone pines and produced 70 Azure Winged Magpies and 2 Crested Tit.

A pool in the open country had 10 Wood Sandpiper, 4 Green Sandpiper and other Waders. Further on were several Subalpine Warblers, Hen Harrier, 2 Stone Curlew, 20 Pratincoles, several Woodchat Shrikes. A large lagoon had 20 Glossy Ibis, Purple Gallinules and a fine Red Knobbed Coot.

Arriving at the visitor centre we found it surrounded by many nesting Purple Herons, Little and Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis, a few Night Heron, Squaccos were also in the area and one of us saw Little Bittern. Our last pair of Marbled Teal were seen and the lagoon beyond held thousands of Flamingos, 30 Gull Billed Tern, Whiskered Terns, many White Storks and 6 Fan Tailed Warbler.

Day Five

We now left Andalucia (in the rain) skirted Seville and took the main road north. At Venta de Culebrin we took minor roads through hilly country with Southern Grey and Woodchat Shrikes, Thekla Larks and a Black Stork. The rain ceased and a picnic stop had Kingfishers. We stayed at Los Naranfus at Castuera and had time to drive some of the roads around the great grass land area La Sarena. Highlights were Lesser Kestrels, Montagu's Harrier, 20 Bee Eaters, Blue Rock Thrush and then our main reason for being there 180 Little Bustard and 11 Great Bustard.

Day Six

La Serena produced colonies of Montagu's Harrier, many Calandra Larks, a group of 60-70 Great Bustard including males in full display, other groups of 12 and 9, Stone Curlews and Lesser Kestrels. Going north En Route to Trujillo we had lots of White Storks and a Black Eared Wheatear. We booked in at Hotel Peru in Trujillo for 4 nights and had time to visit the Steppe grass land beyond, near Belen. Here were lots of White Storks, 30 Spanish Sparrows, 40 Calandra Larks, Red Kite, Griffon Vultures and 17 Great Bustards.

Day Seven

A day devoted to Monfrague Natural Park. New birds included several Great Spotted Cuckoos, Wood Lark, Short Toed Eagles, 1 Spanish Imperial Eagle on it's pylon nest site plus another in display. Several Black Vultures were seen including a pair at a nest. Also Egyptian Vultures, many Griffons, one Chough and a Short Toed Tree Creeper were seen.

Day Eight

Today we explored minor roads to the north of the main Trujillo-Cacares road and drove north to hill tracks beyond Serradilla. Here were found 3 pairs of Great Spotted Cuckoo, 14 Little Bustards, a few Great

Bustard, Black Vultures, Southern Grey Shrikes, Calandra Larks, a male Montagu's Harrier (at five metres!), Red Kites, 2 Black Shouldered Kite, Black Eared Wheatear and 5 Black Bellied Sand Grouse. At a viewpoint above Serradilla we had Short Toed Eagle, Dartford Warbler and a Booted Eagle.

Day Nine

On the Belen Steppe 15 Griffons, 4 Black and 2 Egyptian Vultures were at a Carcass and 4 Great and 7 Little Bustards were nearby. The massive Cragg of Pena Falcon added Rock Bunting, Peregrine and Black Redstart to the usual Vultures. Further into Monfrague Park we found 6 Alpine Swifts, pairs of Spanish Imperial and Bonellis Eagles (prolonged views of the latter). A single Rock Sparrow was seen at the Rio Tozo Bridge on our way back.

Day Ten

A look again at the Belen Steppe produced our last views of Bustards. En Route to Madrid we called at a site near Oreposa 5 km off the N5 road where we had seen Black Shouldered Kite in 1999. No luck this time but a Juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle mobbed by a Buzzard was a very pleasing and a fitting end to a great trip - and all for £400! The species total was 161.

WeBS Dates 2005

(Wetland Bird Survey Helpers always wanted contact Secretary for details)

DATE		TIME	HEIGHT
JAN	16	15:48	9.15m
FEB	13	14:31	9.82m
MAR	13	13:22	10.18m
APR	10	13:16	10.12m
MAY	8	12:11	9.67m
JUN	26	15:34	9.06m
JLY	24	14:30	9.66m
AUG	21	13:23	10.01m
SEP	18	12:17	10.02m
OCT	16	11:12	9.67m
NOV	6	13:45	8.91m
DEC	4	12:55	9.4m



**Fylde
Bird Club
LANCASHIRE**

Chairman: Mr. Paul Slade

Secretary: Mr. Paul Ellis

18 Staining Rise
Staining
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY3 0BU

Tel. 01253 891 281 Eves
07793 420 452 Mobile

E-mail: paul.ellis24 @ btopenworld.com

Web Site: www.fyldebirdclub.org