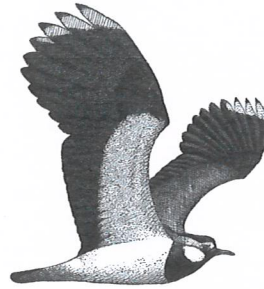


# Newsletter August 2005



## Fylde Bird Club

LANCASHIRE

Visit our Website at [www.fyldebirdclub.org](http://www.fyldebirdclub.org)

### Welcome Paul Ellis

Welcome to the FBC August 2005 newsletter. Kinta Beaver has taken over the production of the newsletter and you will notice a change in style that reflects Kinta's approach. I would like to say a big thank you to Philip Kirkham for all his hard work on previous newsletters. Production of the newsletter is a time consuming business and I'm sure you will all agree that Phil did an excellent job.

Another change has taken place recently. All members of FBC were asked to consider a change of venue for meetings. Members were overwhelmingly in favour of a move to the River Wyre Hotel at Poulton Le Fylde. Dates

and times of meetings have not been changed and the first meeting at the new venue will take place on 23rd August. Our full programme of events can be seen on page 10 and the FBC Website.

I hope you will find something to interest you in this issue. Certainly there are many positive initiatives to reflect on; successful wardening of Black tailed Godwits, success with nest boxes for Tree Sparrows and Barn Owls and the opening of Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park. There is also an informative article on the controversial plans for gas storage Over Wyre (Under Wyre !).

Club membership now stands at an all time

high of 89. I sincerely hope that we can retain all our current members and attract many more. To this end please tell me or any of the Committee members what you think about the Club and how it could be improved. The Committee members are:

*Paul Slade (Chairman)*

*Paul Ellis (Secretary)*

*John Barker (Treasurer)*

*Chris Batty*

*Ron Bedford*

*Len Blacow*

*Dave Pitman.*

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*The River Wyre Hotel, Poulton le Fylde*

*Registered Charity Number 1102961*

## Godwits Success Story Carol Coupe

Local residents and volunteers, along with the RSPB, are celebrating another successful year at Newton Marsh near Preston. Black-tailed godwits have again managed to produce five chicks, one chick is believed to have fledged.

Around 60 pairs of black-tailed godwits have nested across Britain this year, with two pairs at Newton Marsh. With such small numbers of breeding birds across the UK, this makes the nests vulnerable to egg thieves. A 24-hour watch is held each year at the site, which holds SSSI status due to the breeding godwits, locally rare plants and over-wintering population of birds. Cattle graze this freshwater marsh each spring, so the nests also need to be protected from the cow's hooves by means of an electric fence.

Volunteers undertake to cover four-hour shifts on a rota basis, providing an ideal opportunity to birdwatch while helping support and protect such a rare species. However, even this is not enough to protect against predators and the first nest was lost to a fox. Within a few weeks, two more nests had been laid and the electric fence was improved

with a lower wire to deter the fox. This seemed to work very well and the adult birds soon got used to it being there.

Three weeks passed and the grass on the marsh just kept growing, the godwits on their nests became increasingly difficult to see. Then one day, there appeared to be a lot of activity

"Around 60 pairs of black-tailed godwits have nested across Britain this year, with two pairs at Newton Marsh."

around the first nest. Later that day the first four chicks were seen out on the marsh. The second nest produced one chick a week later.

The chicks continued to thrive for a while but one by one they gradually disappeared. Eventually we were down to just one chick, which grew big enough to fledge, although it was never actually seen flying.

Carol Coupe  
Farmland Bird Officer  
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Mobile: 07739 659643  
E-Mail: carol.coupe@rspb.org.uk

*The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all.*



*Black-tailed Godwit  
(Limosa limosa)  
Newton Marsh  
Chris Batty*

## Gift Aid

A big thank you to everyone who completed Gift Aid forms allowing Fylde Bird Club (FBC) to claim tax back on subscriptions and donations at the end of each tax year. FBC have received a cheque from the Inland Revenue for £128.17. If you have not com-

pleted a Gift Aid form, please consider doing so. Forms are available from Kinta Beaver & Paul Ellis. You can collect a form at Club meetings or phone 01253 891281 and we will post a form to you.



## White rumped Sandpiper Paul Slade

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July. The alarm sounded at the usual 5.45am; could I be bothered getting out of bed? Five more minutes I thought before my mind cast back to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2004 when Chris Batty, sounding like an incoherent idiot, left that fateful message on my answer-phone. GREAT KNOT, SKIP-POOL ! That brought me to my senses. I had to get up. I didn't want that happening again; it was my turn to find the rarity at Skippool this year ! So, up I got. Quick shower and cup of tea then off down 'the river'.

My first stop early morning is usually the path from Shard Bridge towards Skippool where the dunlin flock can be very close if the tide is rising or falling and the light is better with the early morning sun behind you.

After about five minutes scanning with nothing jumping out I picked up the head of a bird in one of the many nooks and crannies out on the mud. All I could see was a pale head with a very prominent supercilium and a short stout looking bill. Surely it couldn't be another white rumped within yards of where I found the last one two years before?

Next thing the whole flock got up and flew towards Skippool, splitting in two. "Typical" I thought. An interesting looking bird but on a five second view, who would believe that I had seen anything different on such a short view?

Half the flock then dropped at Skippool where I could just about make out anything different with the scope fully zoomed up on 60x, but there was nothing different there.

Time was ticking away, it was 7.15 and I had to be at work by 7.40. Did I have time to look at Ramper Pot where many of the Dunlin had been feeding at low tide? I thought it had to be worth a look so raced round in the car and ran down the track to view the mud and started looking, dunlin.....dunlin.....  
dunlin.....the bird ! There it was. I couldn't believe my luck but it was miles away looking in to the bright sunshine, but what was it?

Luckily he believed me enough to come and have a look. Forty five minutes passed before Chris rang; he had seen it well enough to confirm it was an adult White Rumped, the third one I have found in the Fylde, although it is highly likely it was the same bird from August 2003 returning south with the Dunlin.



*Adult White rumped Sandpiper  
Skippool Creek  
Stuart Piner*

I was sure it had no white rump when it flew from the bridge and it didn't look long winged enough for a white rumped and I didn't have time to hang about; I had to get to work. "What should I do?" I thought. Phone Chris Batty. With a bit of luck he might be out on the river already but no he was still at home in Knott End.

A big thank you to Chris for turning out and confirming the identification. He might just be the first phone call I make when I find a Western Sand, unless he does a Great Knot on me again, then he might just be the last !

## Recent Bird Sightings

### Stuart Piner

#### APRIL

April saw spring blossom in the Fylde, with a steady stream of summer migrants arriving throughout the month. However, as is often the case in April, wintering species were still at large, up to 3 Long-eared Owls at Marton Mere, a 1<sup>st</sup>-summer Glaucous Gull in Fleetwood (until 1<sup>st</sup>), 3 Little Egrets on Warton Marsh and a Scaup at Conder Pool being the pick of the bunch. A Tundra Bean Goose and adult Greenland White-fronted Goose remained on Pilling Marsh with Pink-footed Geese into May.

2 Ring Ouzels at Burglar's Alley on 2<sup>nd</sup> were the first notable migrants to be found during April, paving the way for a Marsh Harrier at Fairhaven and Redstart at Pilling Lane Ends the following day; other Redstarts were at Staining Nook (from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>), Stanah, Burglar's Alley and Fleetwood Cemetery (2) during April. The 8<sup>th</sup> brought a 1<sup>st</sup>-summer Mediterranean Gull to Fairhaven Lake; other Mediterranean Gulls were located at Mythop (4), Peel (2), Lytham Moss (at least 4), Pilling Marsh, Marton Mere (2) and Lytham Jetty. A Yellow-legged Gull was at Marton Mere on 9<sup>th</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter Ring-billed Gull at nearby Mythop the following day would have been popular if it hadn't been so brief. Gulls were obviously the flavour of the day on 10<sup>th</sup>, when in addition to the Ring-billed a 1<sup>st</sup>-summer Iceland Gull was at Rossall Point.

The first Arctic Skua was logged off Starr Gate on 15<sup>th</sup> April with a late Short-eared Owl at Conder Estuary the following day. Ros-

sall Point logged 3 Tree Pipits on 17<sup>th</sup>, with singles over Pilling Lane Ends and Pilling Lane on 19<sup>th</sup>. Also on 19<sup>th</sup> Starr Gate produced a late Long-tailed Duck and 21<sup>st</sup> saw a Yellow Wagtail visit Marton Mere; others were at Rossall Point and Pilling Marsh during the month. The 22<sup>nd</sup> proved to be a good day for migrants with Osprey over Marton Mere and Wood Warbler at Bourne Hill.

"2 Ring Ouzels at Burglar's Alley on 2<sup>nd</sup> were the first notable migrants to be found during April"

Fleetwood had all the action on 23<sup>rd</sup>, when a Marsh Harrier, Tree Pipit and 2 Arctic Skuas were logged at Rossall Point and a Tree Pipit at Fleetwood Nature Park. Nearby Burglar's Alley hosted a Raven and Whinchat on 24<sup>th</sup> with a further 2 Arctic Skuas and 2 Tree Pipits at Rossall Point the following day. 2 Bullfinches at Knott End on 25<sup>th</sup> was an excellent out-of-range record, and more expected nowadays was another Osprey over Marton Mere.

The 26<sup>th</sup> produced a singing Wood Warbler in Stanley Park, which stayed there into May, and a Whinchat was at Fairhaven. Garden Warblers are scarce in the Fylde, so a singing bird at Myerscough College was a welcome record and in Fleetwood 2 Whinchats were at the Nature Park, and another Arctic Skua

was past Rossall Point. The 29<sup>th</sup> produced a number of excellent records, which included 2 Velvet Scoters past Rossall Point, a Hen Harrier at Winmarleigh Moss, Short-eared Owl Cockerham Moss and 2 Wood Warblers at Marton Mere, along with a Garden Warbler and Whinchat. The final day of the month was equally busy, with a Mandarin at Little Singleton, Arctic Skua at Rossall Point, Short-eared Owl at Bradshaw Lane Head, Tree Pipits at Brock and Preesall and Garden Warbler at Lightfoot Green.

#### MAY

Lingering scarcities from April included the long staying Tundra Bean Goose on Pilling Marsh (until the 5<sup>th</sup>) along with Greenland White-fronted Goose (until the 25<sup>th</sup>), singing Wood Warbler in Stanley Park (until the 6<sup>th</sup>), and a Short-eared Owl at Bradshaw Lane Head.

The month began with a passage Curlew Sandpiper at Warton Marsh on 1<sup>st</sup>, with 2 Little Egrets at the same location and a male Redstart in Fleetwood Cemetery. A pair of Mandarins at Swillbrook on 2<sup>nd</sup> were joined by a third bird on 7<sup>th</sup>, could there be a small breeding population in the Fylde? Another Mandarin was at Lightfoot Green on 11<sup>th</sup>. Marton Mere held a Wood Warbler on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and much more atypical was a Hooded Crow at Lytham Moss on 4<sup>th</sup>. An Osprey and Little Egret were logged at Marton Mere on the same day. Another singing Wood Warbler was located at Greyfriars on 5<sup>th</sup>, where it remained until the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Recent Bird Sightings

### Stuart Piner

3 Little Terns flew past Starr Gate on 6<sup>th</sup>, the first of the year. On 9<sup>th</sup> a male Garganey graced Newton Marsh, were it remained on and off until the 16<sup>th</sup>. However, this was only the support act to the main show, as the 10<sup>th</sup> produced a Temminck's Stint on the Entrance Pool. The site scored a hat trick the following day, when a showy Wood Sandpiper was found, which stayed until the 15<sup>th</sup>. An Osprey flew north over Blackpool on 11<sup>th</sup>.

A male Pied Flycatcher in Bispham on 13<sup>th</sup> was a good record and a 2<sup>nd</sup>-summer Mediterranean Gull was at Warton Marsh the following day, with another at Marton Mere later in the month. A Quail was flushed at Lytham St. Annes Nature Reserve on 15<sup>th</sup> and an unexpected record was a breeding plumage male Long-tailed Duck at Preston Dock on 16<sup>th</sup>. A surprise find was a 1<sup>st</sup>-summer Iceland Gull at Fairhaven Lake on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The undoubted highlight of the month was the finding of an adult Collared Pratincole at Freckleton Marsh on 23<sup>rd</sup>, the fourth Fylde record of this species. The bird soon flew off southwest and unfortunately did not reappear. After this bombshell, things quietened down significantly, with two Little Egrets still on Warton Marsh on 30<sup>th</sup> being the only really notable record.

*"The undoubted highlight of the month was the finding of an adult Collared Pratincole at Freckleton Marsh on 23<sup>rd</sup>, the fourth Fylde record of this species."*

## JUNE

Early June was unremarkable to say the least, and it was the 10<sup>th</sup> before anything of note was recorded, when a Quail was heard and seen at North Wood's Hill Farm, Eagland Hill. Further singing Quails were at Weeton, Bone Hill Farm and Todderstaffe Hall during the month. The 10<sup>th</sup> also produced a Little Egret at Freckleton Naze Pool and an Arctic Skua flew past Starr Gate.

News of a brief female Red-footed Falcon (only the second ever in the Fylde) at Bispham Marsh broke mid-evening on 12<sup>th</sup>, but subsequent searches in the area frustratingly drew a blank. The previous record of this beautiful falcon was in 1992, when a 1<sup>st</sup>-summer female graced Fisher's Field, Blackpool South Shore between 29<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June; if only this year's bird had stayed!

A Short-eared Owl hunting over the saltmarsh opposite Skippool Creek on 19<sup>th</sup> was a surprise for June. Nearby, on 28<sup>th</sup> Knott End held the first Mediterranean Gull of the autumn, joined by a second the following day. A Yellow Wagtail at Mereside on the final day of the month was an intriguing record.

Waders started to trickle back through the Fylde towards the end of the month, and last year's Great Knot will surely inspire people to get out and about in July, and perhaps chance upon another 'Mega-wader'. Who knows, perhaps the 'King-Calidrid' may even return...

## JULY

Late June saw the start of another glut of summer Mediterranean Gull sightings in the Fylde; perhaps up to 19 individuals were recorded at ten sites during July, with the first juvenile appearing on 18<sup>th</sup> at Skippool Creek and a maximum of six together (including five adults) at Cocker's Dyke, Pilling Lane on 18<sup>th</sup>. Apart from Mediterranean Gulls things were deathly quiet in the early part of the month, with only a couple of Quail singing on Lytham Moss on 2<sup>nd</sup> creating any real news. A Little Egret visited Conder Estuary on 4<sup>th</sup>, but other than a Wood Sandpiper on the Conder Pool on 13<sup>th</sup>, it was ten days later before there was anything else of note; a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Lightfoot Green briefly on the evening on 14<sup>th</sup> once again proved tantalising evidence that this species may cling on in the Fylde. The same day a female Marsh Harrier was at Cockerham Moss Edge, the first of the autumn.

*"A national Crossbill invasion occurred during July, and the Fylde was not left out."*

A national Crossbill invasion occurred during July, and the Fylde was not left out; one was in a Poulton-le-Fylde garden briefly on 18<sup>th</sup>, three flew southeast over Burglar's Alley on 27<sup>th</sup>, a singleton flew northeast over Fairhaven Lake and four flew

## Recent Bird Sightings Stuart Piner

### JULY contd.

finally, a single flew over Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park on 31<sup>st</sup>. With Avocets now breeding both north and south of the Fylde, family parties are more frequently visiting the Fylde's estuaries; the Ribble once again scored on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, when four birds, presumably from either Marshside, Martin Mere or Leighton Moss, visited Warton Marsh.

Westerly winds on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> turned attention to the sea, with up to 11 Storm Petrels, 10 Arctic Skuas and four Great Skuas being logged off coastal watch-points between Starr Gate and Rossall Point. Six male Scaup

off Knott End on 23<sup>rd</sup> was an unusual summer sighting but a Little Egret at Skippool Creek is now more standard autumn fare. The 17<sup>th</sup> saw the return of the adult Yellow-legged Gull to the Lune Estuary at Glasson for it's fourteenth autumn. A Raven flew east over Forton and a juvenile Marsh Harrier was located at Bank End, where it remained in that general area till at least 26<sup>th</sup>. Another was over Warton Marsh on 25<sup>th</sup> and another at Eagland Hill on the final two days of July.

Paul Slade once again reaped the rewards for being able to get out of bed early in the morning, when he found an adult White-rumped Sandpiper with Dunlin on the Wyre Estuary at Skippool Creek on 26<sup>th</sup>, where it remained

into August. This was surely the same bird that visited the same area in early August 2003; which Paul also found! Nearby a juvenile Wood Sandpiper was located at Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park on 27<sup>th</sup>, where it remained till 31<sup>st</sup>. Three Little Egrets were on the Ribble Estuary towards the end of the month, and a Little Stint joined the Dunlin flock at Skippool Creek briefly on 30<sup>th</sup> and Conder Estuary hosted a Little Egret. A Little Egret was also at Skippool Creek on 31<sup>st</sup>, whilst the first Curlew Sandpiper of the autumn was at Glasson and a juvenile Yellow Wagtail was at Fairhaven.

All records are from Fylde Bird Club's website at [www.fyldebirdclub.org/sightings.htm](http://www.fyldebirdclub.org/sightings.htm). Please report your sightings to [news@fyldebirdclub.org](mailto:news@fyldebirdclub.org)

## Help wanted following Barn Owl breeding success Monty Myerscough

As some of you will know, a number of years ago I started a Barn Owl nest box scheme in the South Fylde area, with my brother Andrew. At that time Barn Owls had all but disappeared from the Fylde with just 3 or 4 pairs left. Thanks to nest boxes there is now a very healthy breeding population with at least 31 pairs in the area that I monitor, only one of which isn't in a nest box.

I would like to appeal to anyone in the Club for help with this very worthwhile and rewarding undertaking. This will involve helping to make and site Barn Owl boxes, monitor them in the breeding season (usually beginning of June to September) and cleaning them out in the winter

months as required. Also, Tree Sparrow and Bat box making, siting and checking.

I can guarantee anyone thinking of helping that you will not be disappointed and your efforts will be greatly appreciated with more Barn Owls than you can shake a stick at.

Interested?

For more details please contact Monty Myerscough. Tel: 01772 461364

Many thanks, keep up the good work.



*Barn Owl  
Phil Tomkinson*

# Todderstaffe Tree Sparrows

## Paul Ellis

Paul Slade and I have been operating a Tree Sparrow feeding and nest box scheme at Todderstaffe Hall since Autumn 2002. 1.2kg of mixed seed is put out daily and 24 nest boxes have been erected. The work is funded by the Fylde Bird Club and has the full co-operation of the landowners and farmers at Todderstaffe Hall.

In 2002 there were no recent records of Tree Sparrows even being seen in the area but we knew they had bred here in the past, so decided to experiment by putting some seed down and watching what turned up. After two weeks we saw our first Tree Sparrow, then after several days there were 2, which stayed into the New Year. At the end of January 2003 an extra 11 suddenly turned up, so in the next month we put up 13 boxes in a nearby wood. By the end of that month, at least 20 were eating our seed. So far so good, things were going far better than we dared hoped but now the birds had to stay and find our nest boxes. In May we checked the boxes and found our first Tree Sparrow nest with 4 eggs. The box was completely filled with large feathers which we have since found to always be the case at Todderstaffe. The large domestic goose flock at the farm provides a perfect source. That brood of 4 fledged but this was our only breeding pair in 2003. We may have missed follow on broods in that box and have since learnt to keep checking until the end of July. In 2003, 2 pairs of Blue Tits also fledged families from our boxes. By the end of August 2003 the feeding flock had swelled to 40 plus and we suspected other pairs had bred nearby. In early April 2004 we put up a further 7 boxes in the garden of the farm much closer to the feeding station. When we checked the new boxes in May, every box except one had a Tree Sparrow nest in it. Clearly we'd picked the right sites this time. On peering into the one vacant box, I was a little disappointed, until I noticed that it didn't have an entrance hole!

In addition there were 2 Tree Sparrow nests in boxes in the wood giving a total of 8 pairs in 2004. By this stage we hadn't realised how often it was necessary to check the boxes and so we didn't record any follow broods. When we did check the boxes Paul decided to have a go at parachuting off a high ladder without the parachute. I can testify that he can't fly worth a damn and makes a loud thud when he lands, followed by 6 months of complaining about sore ribs!



Most of our boxes have been made by local schools, with the cost of materials met by the Club but by the end of last year, we had none left. Encouraged by the success in 2004, we decided to make some more boxes ourselves and knocked together another 4 deluxe apartments and a Barn Owl box. Amazingly, we still had 20 fingers left at the end. We put these up in January this year and drilled a doorway in number 19 taking our total housing provision to 24. Immediately Tree Sparrow pairs took possession of the new boxes and were seen going in and out and displaying on their roof tops on every visit. We were sure 2005 was going to be a bumper year.

We made our first box check in early May and only found 4 boxes with Tree Sparrow nests. Another 11 boxes were occupied by Tits. At first we didn't understand why the Tree Sparrows' initial enthusiasm, had resulted in lower occupancy than last year. We wondered if the Tits had pushed out the sparrows? Later we realised that it was the weather, that hadn't gone along with the plan and the Tree Sparrows had been biding their time. Tits time their hatching to coincide with caterpillar hatching and so have little choice in when to nest. Tree sparrows are not so constrained and when the weather turned bad in the early spring, they had put off breeding, while the tits pressed ahead and took over most of the boxes. Most of the tits were successful but two broods all died.

This year we had learnt our lesson and checked the boxes much more frequently, we also took the long way down from the ladder each time. The Tree Sparrows made up for their slow start by having more broods and by breeding later (there are still two boxes with chicks as I write 21<sup>st</sup> August). Two pairs have had 4 broods and one box was reused by Tree Sparrows in August after a Great Tit pair had fledged 6 chicks.

This year we have had the later broods colour ringed, in order to learn something about site fidelity. Tree Sparrows are notoriously nomadic and last winter we found several colour ringed birds from Over Wyre at our feeding station. This year's Todderstaffe birds have a yellow ring and a metal ring on their right leg and a bicoloured yellow and green ring on their left leg.

Tree Sparrows	2005 Totals
Broods	13
Eggs	60
Fledged	51
Ringed	28
Chicks still to ring	3
Nests	7

# Gas storage protest continues

## Kinta Beaver

American firm Canatxx plan to store millions of tonnes of natural gas in underground salt caverns at Preesall.

Fylde Bird Club formally objected to the original plans submitted by Canatxx in January 2005. Paul Ellis (Secretary) wrote on behalf of the Bird Club stating "the strongest possible objections" to gas storage beneath the River Wyre Estuary. Paul further stated that "this development would destroy the environmental value of this site by rendering it unusable by the existing bird populations. This would result from direct habitat destruction caused by building and engineering works, and from gross disturbance to area, which the important bird species would not tolerate. There are no conceivable mitigation works that could compensate for this loss of intertidal estuarine habitat."

Original plans were rejected but Texas based Canatxx submitted revised plans, with reductions in overall capacity and a reduced number of wellheads. However, revised plans still include:

- Storage of 1.2 million tonnes of natural gas
- Development of up to 25 well heads to create underground salt caverns by solution mining
- Construction of above ground compressor station
- A booster pump station
- Associated pipelines, septic tanks and vehicular access track
- Construction of brine seawater communication pipes beneath the Wyre Estuary
- Construction of a sea water pump station brine discharge pipeline and associated outfall to the Irish Sea.

(Planning Application No. 02/04/1415)

Councillors once again recommended that the plans be re-

jected with main concerns relating to inadequate information on the safety of the project. Canatxx then made an appeal to the Secretary of State against the non-determination by Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the revised planning application. As a result, an Inspector has been appointed by the Secretary of State to hold a public inquiry. FBC have been invited to attend this inquiry. The first day of this inquiry will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Marine Hall, Fleetwood. After the first day the inquiry will be based at the Hotel Elizabeth North Euston, The Esplanade, Fleetwood. The inquiry is expected to last 8 weeks.

Documents related to the case are available at LCC's Environment Directorate, Planning Division, Winckley House, Cross Street, Preston and the Planning Department, Wyre Borough Council, Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton Le Fylde, during office hours. Photocopying is allowed but a charge will be levied. Many of the documents relating to the case will not be available until 13<sup>th</sup> September at the earli-

### ARM HILL

*"The plans have been changed so as to remove any developments from this site"*

est so anyone wanting to view the documents should first check with Programme Officer, Barbara Bay. (Tel 0117 372 8424. E-mail: barbara.bay@pins.gsi.gov.uk).

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2005 the Evening Gazette reported that 14,000 people had written to LCC ob-

jecting to the scheme on the grounds of public safety and environmental damage. English Nature, who originally opposed the plans, may withdraw their opposition. English Nature had been concerned that environmentally sensitive areas would be significantly damaged by the development. However, in a media report on the 5<sup>th</sup> August they were reported to have had their concerns addressed, although LCC continue to state that environmental impact is one of their major concerns. David Tylsley from English Nature was quoted as saying:

*"We had been concerned about the internationally designated site of special scientific interest at Arm Hill which would have been affected by the above ground developments by Canatxx. The plans have been changed so as to remove any developments from this site. We were also concerned about the impact on rare species, including rock sea lavender, on the Wyre Estuary. Again the changes to the plans have addressed our concerns. Thirdly, we were worried about the salt outfall in to the potential site of special scientific interest at Liverpool Bay. Following consultation this is no longer a matter for concern. Our one remaining concern is the loss of sensitive areas due to subsidence in the development area. If, however, there is no real danger of major impact, or that impact can be mitigated, then we will withdraw our objection."*

Ian Mulroy of the Project Wyre Group said that "English Nature's withdrawal will have an impact" but was still confident that the scheme would not be allowed to go ahead. However, if there are no above ground works proposed in intertidal areas then revised plans will have a far less damaging impact on bird and plant species.



## Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park opens

Kinta Beaver

Fleetwood Marsh has had a bit of a facelift.

Lancashire County Council unveiled the completed transformation on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Chris Batty (FBC Committee Member) attended the opening ceremony. What was once a power station site is now a nature park. Funding for the project was provided by the NorthWest Development Agency (NWDA) with a grant of almost one million pounds to develop the 18 hectare site.

Essentially, crumbling buildings have been demolished, rusting

cars have been taken away and the 'Tyre Pool' no longer contains any tyres !! A new pond has been built with stone beach areas, footpaths and bridge. Gulls did not waste any time claiming the bridge as their own, providing extensive perching space. There is also a large tarmaced area providing ample car parking.

While it may not be perfect as a wildlife refuge at least it is a positive step in the right direction. When Paul Ellis and I visited on 25<sup>th</sup> June we counted 116 Early Marsh Orchids, 4 Bee Orchids

(there were apparently 6 plants) and 6 Southern Marsh Orchids as well as a female Eider on the new pond. Recently, in August, a juvenile Wood Sandpiper was present for several days on the 'Tyre Pool.'



*Bee Orchid*  
Paul Ellis



*Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park*  
*The new pool and bridge*  
Kinta Beaver

*Tyre Pool*  
Kinta Beaver



## Diary Dates

### Forthcoming FBC meetings

*River Wyre Hotel, Poulton Le Fylde. 7.45pm*

27th September An update on the RSPB's work with farmland birds in the North West. *Andrew Gouldstone*

25th October. Business meeting and members slides

22nd November. Update on digiscoping. *Paul Hackett*

20th December. Xmas Social, Quiz & Buffet

### Wyre Borough Council Guided walks

18th September. Geese, Ducks & Waders. 9am  
Lane Ends picnic area. Meet at the car park at Lane Ends  
3/4 mile north east of Pilling just off the A588 adjacent  
to Morecambe Bay. Grid reference: SD 415495

### Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) monthly count dates:

18th September. High tide 12.17. Height 10.02m  
16th October. High tide 11.12. Height 9.67m  
6th November. High tide 13.45. Height 8.91m  
4th December. High tide 12.55. Height 9.40m

Volunteers and helpers always needed. Contact Jean  
Roberts on 01524 770295 to arrange. Usually meet at  
Pilling Lane Ends car park **2 hours before high tide.**

### ***This is your Newsletter.***

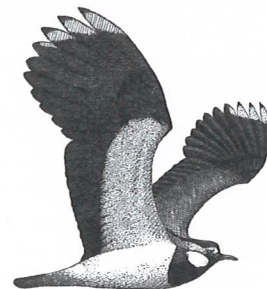
Let's make it as interesting as possible.

Your contributions to the Newsletter are invaluable. Please send any articles, local bird news or any items that will interest members to Paul Ellis & Kinta Beaver at 18 Staining Rise, Staining, Blackpool. FY3 0BU.

Tel: 01253 891281.

E-mail: [paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com)

If you are not a member of Fylde Bird Club but are interested in joining, please visit our Website for details of how to join or contact John Barker (Treasurer) at Quail House, Quail Holme Road, Knott End. Lancs. FY6 0BT  
Tel: 01253 811840



## Contact us:

Visit the Fylde Bird Club website at [www.fyldebirdclub.org](http://www.fyldebirdclub.org) for all the latest news. Updated daily on bird sightings in the Fylde area. Or come to our monthly meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.45 pm at The River Wyre Hotel, Breck Road, Poulton le Fylde; check out the website for the full programme.

**General enquiries:** Paul Ellis (Secretary) 18 Staining Rise, Staining, Blackpool. Lancashire. FY3 0BU.  
Tel: 01253 891281. E-mail: [paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com)

**Good Birding**