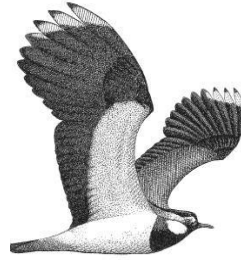


June Newsletter 2017

Charity Number. 1102961



**Fylde
Bird Club**
LANCASHIRE

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Flaming June is upon us once more. I hope the spring migration brought you all you wished for. We are now entering the quiet time of year so time to enjoy gardening and a good book and for those who can't relax how about exploring previously unexplored parts of the Fylde. You never know what you may find or maybe just enjoy the Terns at Preston Dock, they really are worth watching. And

then the longest day will be here and the start of reverse migration.

The results and winning photos from the 2017 Photographic Competition are on page two.

Stephen Dunstan writes about the sightings from the last 3 months and Pete Woodruff has contributed a finder's article as he was the lucky, I mean, hard working birder who found the Lapland Bunting.

Stephen Dunstan also has contributed a re- finder's article on the Chough.

I will look at Hirundines and the Swift in the Confusion Species article.

A quick reminder--- if you feel the urge or need to contribute to the newsletter with an item related to birding I would be delighted to receive your offerings. Good places to bird on the Fylde or further a field, what you love about birding, favourite species, trips of interest you would like to share. Just send them to me. Thanks in anticipation.

A late addition, The Art of the Bird Race by Jonny Scragg. Very interesting.

Peter Rhind **Photo—Red Breasted Flycatcher who joined us on holiday in Norfolk**

FBC Photographic Competition 2017

The Fylde



1st Jim Wacey



Equal 2nd Peter Rhind



& Paul Ellis



& Paul Slade

UK



1st Paul Ellis



2nd Mike Foy



Equal 3rd Paul Slade & Howard Phillips



& Jim Wacey

World



1st Paul Ellis



2nd Paul Slade



3rd Jim Wacey

The Underexposed



1st Ash Baines



2nd & 3rd Mike Foy



These are the results of the 2017 Photographic Competition. Congratulations to the winners and thanks and congratulations to all those who entered, there would be no competition without entrants and 69 was the highest number for a number of years. The standard of photography really is better every year and thanks for getting them to me early and giving me time to arrange everything without the need to panic!!

Peter Rhind

Recent Sightings March-May

This period is supposed to build gradually towards a crescendo in terms of scarce birds. This year didn't really pan out like that, with the best birds in Fylde terms arriving in March, though in both cases the birds involved were also seen in subsequent months.

Everyone's Chuffed In The End

When a Chough flew over Fleetwood early afternoon on 9th March there was optimism in some quarters that it would be relocated, given presumably the same bird has been seen at two sites across the Ribble in the preceding days. However initial searches of likely sites on the probable flight path drew a blank and the trail seemed to go cold.

On the 18th March however a club member was helping tidy up after a running event in Stanley Park, Blackpool when they heard a probable Chough. The bird flew over the south of the boating lake at close range and over the trees bordering the municipal golf course. News was broadcast with the suggestion it might have landed on the golf course, given the suitability of the habitat, and sure enough other birders found it there late morning.

With the course waterlogged in places it was not open for golf the bird was able to feed relatively undisturbed with other corvids for the next few days. It was last seen on 25th March flying west over the golf course, but play had by now resumed on the course and this proved to be the last sighting here. There was a postscript though as it was again seen overflying Rossall Point on 22 April.

This is only the second documented record of Chough on the Fylde. The previous one was seen at Pilling Lane and then Knott End and Royal Lytham golf courses from August to October 2005. Clearly therefore this was a very welcome Fylde tick for anyone new to birding or the Fylde in the last decade.

A little known 'fact' about one unsubstantiated claim of this species on the Fylde on 28 October 2002, near Watson Road in Blackpool, is generally thought to actually have related to a Bald Ibis which escaped from Blackpool Zoo when storm damage occurred to one of the aviaries!

Cattle Egrets – Predictable But Very Welcome

Some readers will know that there was a significant Cattle Egret influx nationally over the winter. Whilst unsurprisingly most were in the south west up to six were frequenting sites near Southport just over the Ribble from us. Then one appeared at Silverdale, and we were effectively surrounded.

When the inevitable finally did come to pass the most surprising thing was the way in which the news broke. On 29th March a post on the Ribble Estuary Nature page on Facebook included pictures of an Eider at Warton Bank and presumed egrets on nearby Pool Lane, but the latter clearly included 3 Cattle Egrets. When checked out it transpired that the 'Southport Six' had all moved north. Various quattros were fired up before dusk, but the birds were still present the next morning.

Thereafter it became a little less straightforward. The Freckleton group were often seen roosting at the Naze Pool, but they found areas for daytime feeding which birders didn't track down. On 2nd April one was seen briefly at Conder Pool, whilst on 6th April the 'Southport Six' had become the 'Southport Seven'. It seems most likely that the Conder bird was the one which joined the original Silverdale bird soon after, and that eight individuals were therefore involved.

By mid April what was already an unprecedented influx became exceptional. The Ribble birds were seen at Bryning Hall Farm mid month, and were clearly joined by reinforcements as numbers peaked at ten on the 16th before birds began to drift away. There were still three at Saltcotes on the 19th, but after that the only report was of one east over Knott End on 11 May.

All previous records were from North Fylde in late 2008 and the first half of 2009. Two were at Agglebys Pit on 30 November 2008. What was assumed to be the

same roaming individual in 2009 was over Fleetwood GC on 6 April, and several sites in the Cockerham-Preesall area 9-19 May.

Apologies to those who think this may be overkill in detail for an increasing species, but sometimes range expansion looks inevitable and then doesn't come to pass so this account reflects that. Of course in late May news broke that Cattle Egrets, very possibly some of the birds that had been in the Fylde, had successfully nested at Burton Mere wetland so colonization is perhaps more likely than not.

Relatively Lingering Roseate Still Untwitchable

One was lingering off Starr Gate late morning on 16th May with Common Terns. After three quarters of an hour it headed south, possibly into the Ribble Estuary. The attempt to get news out was unsuccessful, so only three observers in situ at the time saw it.

Roseate Tern is a very scarce bird on the Fylde, but this is compounded by the fact that many of the records are fly bys. Even some of the recent records of grounded birds, including two at Preston Dock a few years back, were unavailable to the masses. Somewhat surprisingly it appears you have to go back more than a decade to find one which seen by anyone other than the finders. A bird which was to hang around for even two or three hours would therefore be welcomed by many, if you want to make yourself popular hanging around at the Preston Dock tern colony might pay dividends.

Richard's At Rossall Vying with the Roseate Tern for the final podium position for the spring was a Richard's Pipit which dropped in briefly at Rossall Point on the golf course on the afternoon of 10th May.

The situation with Richard's Pipit is not all that dissimilar to Roseate Tern, in that many of the recent records have related to flyovers or briefly grounded birds. Even though there were multiple records last autumn it is several years since one was twitchable.

Plentiful Puffins

In terms of this update this is the last species to be mentioned which is still a county description bird. It is probably the commonest species in Lancashire to remain on the description list, and this is partly because the submission rate for claims is relatively low. The unprecedented spring this year may have put an end to that once and for all.

In all there were at least fifteen bird days on the Fylde this spring. All were in May as follows – Fleetwood one on 5th, no fewer than five on 8th and two on 17th; Starr Gate – one on 4th, two on 6th and 10th and singles 11th and 17th.

Whilst as suggested above the rarity of Puffins in Lancs is probably overstated there was nevertheless an exceptional, and arguably unprecedented presence off the Fylde and also further into Morecambe Bay at Heysham and Jenny Brown's Point.

The reasons for this are unclear, hopefully they related to migration being temporarily delayed for some reason rather than an underlying issue with the condition of birds so close to the breeding season.

Colourful Bunting On Display at Cockersand

Lapland Bunting can be quite tricky to catch up with on the Fylde, a fair chunk of the recent records have been autumn flyovers on visible migration watches and many of the others have been tricky birds in stubble fields. So a reasonably showy male well advanced into summer plumage in fields at Cockersand on 24 and 25 March was enjoyed by many.

The bird was in a flooded field southeast of the junction of Moss and Slack Lanes. Whilst it was never that close to observers it was generally visible in the open and a number of decent record shots were obtained of a species rarely seen in spring finery in the Fylde.

Wood Warbler Strong Showing

Given national declines Wood Warbler has become an increasingly difficult species to connect with on the Fylde. This remains the case, but Spring 2017 was relatively good with at least seven birds seen. This included five in the Fleetwood area, braces on May 2nd and 7th with one on the 12th.

Generally birds are easier to catch up with at Stanley Park and neighbouring sites around Herons Reach, as news gets out quicker and more accurate directions are available. Although the first, a brief singer near Herons Reach golf course on 1 May did not give itself up to the masses a more obliging bird lingered near the 'stump circle' at Stanley Park from the 10th to the 12th.

Another Caspo

Whilst Caspian Gulls are, as I think I said last time, significantly under-recorded there remain relatively few Fylde records and kudos still attaches to any find. A first winter was found at Preston Dock on 13 March, and provided some compensation to those who had dipped on the Black-throated Thrush just outside our boundaries that morning.

Tern passage

South-easterly winds at the right times led to a good showing of Black and Arctic Terns in late April and early May. The largest Black Tern counts submitted to the bird club comprised circa 48 past Starr Gate on 30 April and ten at Naze Point on 7 May, whilst there were apparently very good totals off Fleetwood.

Typically the Black Terns were accompanied by good numbers of Arctic Terns. Peak counts from Starr Gate included 581 on 28th April, 400+ on the 30th and 712 on 1st May.

Best Of The Rest

There were a couple of Pomarine Skuas reported to the Club, whilst not atypically for this species larger numbers were recorded at Rossall and not reported to the Club. In terms of other seabirds a smattering of Shag sightings peaked with three past Starr Gate on 26 March and a couple of Velvet Scoter were noted.

A good run of Hooded Crow reports from the Fleetwood area presumably referred to several short staying birds. One was seen with a deformed bill clearly differentiating it from other sightings.

There were also several Ospreys. Several probably underplays it a bit. Realistically they breed at several sites in Cumbria now, and Lancashire is probably next, and they are now a regular spring migrant. So please don't be offended that your sighting isn't detailed here.

Long Stayers And Their Associates

In rough order of importance:-

- the two Shorelarks remained at Bank End to at least March 26
- the Marsh Tit was seen again at Warton on March 7th and 24th
- the Snow Goose was at Copthorne in early March
- small numbers of Great White Egrets were seen throughout
- the Mere / Mereside Iceland Gull was around until late March, with two others that month
- two Glaucous Gulls were at Fleetwood into March, whilst perhaps a new juvenile was at Preston Dock in late April and early May
- the Scaup was at Myerscough Quarry into April
- up to three Water Pipits were at The Heads in early March
- the Black Redstart was seen at Knott End in March
- Purple Sandpipers lingered at North Shore to late March

Stephen Dunstan

The Stanley Park Chough

At the outset I would like to explain a couple of things. Firstly I am well aware this bird had previously been seen over Rossall a few days before (on March 9th), and prior to that had been briefly at two sites south of the Ribble. So by any definition we are talking about a re-find, but a valuable one in that it made a bird widely available that had not up to that point been twitchable.

Secondly many readers will know that I now write the recent sightings for the newsletter. So yes, I am writing about this bird twice. But I have been asked, and the sightings summary and a finder's account are different beasts so please indulge me on this occasion.

So now that's cleared up let's revisit the events of the morning of the 18th April. I went to Stanley Park to help with the running of the weekly parkrun, if you aren't familiar with this it's a 5k fun run involving two laps of the park lake and neighbouring areas. It's a free event, part of a national and wider movement to encourage people to keep active. As I was down to be a marshal, basically pointing runners in the right direction, I had my bins with me for any birding opportunities before the runners passed.

I had a glance over the lake from my station by East Park Drive near the lake bridge, didn't see a lot but it passed the time before the runners went past. And went past



again. So then it was time to pack up. I headed over the bridge and made for the clock tower which is 'race HQ', grabbing a couple of direction signs as I went to help with the tidy up.

There are some birders who are on another level, and rarely make a mistake. And there are some birders who are terrible, and get

barely anything right. Most of us are somewhere in between, with howlers to our name but also moments that we can be proud of. I excelled myself when I wasn't even birding, walking round a duck feeding corner in a municipal park, when I immediately stopped on hearing a 'ciao' call and thought 'Chough'.

For some reason the local pigeons were all up when I looked but I immediately latched on to a bird heading towards me, thinking 'I hope this is the right bird'. There wasn't time to reach for my bins, which were in their case due to the weather, but fortunately the bird cruised past west at a convenient height and distance to enable me to see the curved red bill. It went over the trees towards the golf course.

I had to dash as I was due out on a social event, so when I had returned the park run paraphernalia I just put the news out rather than check the fairways for the wandering corvid. Credit to Jonny Scragg (and others?) for following up the report and quickly re-finding the bird on the golf course. Due to the inclement weather in the days before (remember Storm Doris) the course was flooded and closed, and

this was probably a factor in encouraging the bird to stay for several days. The context in terms of Fylde records is set out in the sightings review.

Stephen Dunstan Photo – **Paul Ellis**

Lapland Bunting - Cockersand 24 March 2017

The flooded field by the junction of Moss Lane/Slack Lane had looked good for a few weeks, and I had never failed to give it a serious grilling on every visit to Cockersand, it had turned up a couple of White Wagtail on a previous visit, and in themselves even the Shoveler's were a decent record there and added to the enthusiasm to keep looking.

On Friday 24 March I had set myself up at the metal gate and decided to be a better birder for once by making an effort to count the bird's present in the field. Not long



after starting to take notes, I glimpsed a bird instantly not a Meadow Pipit of which there was a good number, the bird flew, but I had already muttered to myself what I was certain I had seen....now it's disappeared. But it's my lucky day, and I soon relocated the bird.

I now needed to keep my eyes glued to the scope whilst making a call to make sure I wasn't going to be the

only observer of this bird and to get the news out that a smart male Lapland Bunting was 1.25 miles SW of Glasson in a flooded field by the junction of Moss Lane/Slack Lane, Cockersand.

Pete Woodruff

Confusion Species

Hirundines with a Swift thrown in

These are frequently seen against a sky when colours are hard to distinguish but the shapes of the four birds are each very distinctive.

Sand Martin

This is the first of this summer quartet to reach us. Its arrival is usually around March 18th and this year the first sighting on the Fylde was on March 18th, a perfect time keeper.

It is a small bird with a dull brown back and a white front with a defining brown stripe separating the white throat from the white belly. The tail is slightly forked and unmarked. Its flight is light and agile and it rarely glides. It has a closer affinity with water than the other Hirudines and is most often seen as clouds of them hawk low over lake or river.



They nest in earth or sandy banks in nest tunnels. These nest tunnels can go 60 to 90 cms deep and are dug out by the Martins with beak and feet. Quarries and road embankments have been a godsend to them. They also inhabit river banks as the species name *Riparia riparia* suggests. (Riparia means of the riverbank.) There are also a number of man made nesting sites that have been created by simply digging out a sandy cliff as at Minsmere RSPB Reserve. The Fylde Bird Club has created a wall for Sand Martins at Marton Mere. Being around a nest site and listening and watching them as they buzz around, is a real sound of summer.

Swallow- aka House or Barn Swallow



The Swallow is the second Hirudine to arrive from its winter quarters in Africa and is supposed to signal that summer is on its way. Around April 1st is arrival time though I saw my first this year on March 23rd. It is a beautiful elegant bird with a steel blue back, white belly and long trailing tail streamers. The occasional Swallow can appear with a pale red belly. To add to this is a deep red face, white windows on the under tail and the

under wings are dark with pale shoulders. The tail streamers make it unmistakable when a bright sky washes away colour. Its flickering wing beat, twittering call and the fact it is quite prepared to nest close to people make it the sign of warm and sunny summer days. By the same token the mass gathering of Swallows on the wires later in the year heralds the onset of Autumn. It will nest in garages, barns and sometimes anywhere it can gain access to. I have stood in a garage as a Swallow swooped in and out round my head seemingly unmoved by my presence. Swallows

can use the same nest site over and over again, one site has been in constant use for 48 years being repaired annually. Old country tales, to harm a Swallow will damage the milk of your cows and stop your hens from laying. It is a much loved and protected bird.

Like all the Hirundines it is insectivorous and feeds low over suitable ground particularly round cattle or it follows the flying food parcels above.

House Martin



This is the last of our Hirundines to arrive reaching here around the 11th of April, this year it was first noted on April 9th. The torpedo-like flight profile, black and white colour and white rump make it unmistakable. Sleek body, cobalt back, shallow notched tail, snow white front and that rump complete the description of this beautiful migrant. As they fly they give out a call best described as a gritty chirrup.

They have also adapted to life among people changing their nest sites on cliffs to nesting under the eaves of buildings. The colonies that form can continue to nest there over many generations. The only drawback to this adaptation is the house proud home owner who hoses their adobe style nest off the wall. The nest is made out of pellets of mud painstaking collected and attached to the wall. The Martin uses a vibrating chin to help it stick. Around 1000 pellets may be thus attached to create what Gilbert White described as “ A rustic work full of knobs “

They are almost completely dependent on aerial insects and yet will survive up to the Arctic Circle and feed at great altitude. These well known migrants keep one secret though, where do they go in winter? 20 million European House Martins are suspected to spend the winter somewhere over central Africa feeding on termites and napping on the wing but that still awaits proof.

Swift

The final one of the four and the last to arrive, towards the end of April, and the first to leave in August. Such a short time for such a bird of summer. It has the most



distinctive shape of all this group. A slender streamlined body with slim sickle shaped wings and a short notched tail. It is dark brown, although it appears black against the sky, with a pale throat patch. It is impossible to mistake it for any of the Hirundines.

It belongs to the family holding the fastest of all the birds. I sat outside a pub in Garstang one evening nursing a pint and watching a party of swifts “screaming” round the church tower and enjoying this vision of summer.

They live on the wing, feed on the wing, sleep on the wing and mate and only land to nest and lay their eggs. Egg laying on the wing proves too hard even for Swifts!! It is believed that the young Swift when it leaves the nest remains aloft for up to 4 years till it matures and is ready to breed. This led to the belief that Swifts have no legs, in fact the species name of ***Apus apus*** means legless. They do have short weak legs which are more suited to clinging onto walls but if grounded are quite capable of taking off again. Pairs stay together for life and will reuse the same nest site year after year. Insect hunting during bad weather is very difficult leading to an interesting adaptation in the chick. It can drop into a torpor or semi vegetative state and thus last up to 2 days without food until the bad weather passes. Unfortunately they are also a fast decreasing species in Great Britain. See July 25th for answers!!

Whilst all these birds are easy to separate in good light when a funnel of birds spiral up feedin all you can see are dark shapes. Then shape and flight are the only guides to id. Swifts are powerful with that distinctive outline and rapid wing beats followed by glides. Swallows have fast shallow wing beats with little gliding and the tail streamers. Sand Martins fly with fast flicks and the shorter tail and body shape of a dart. Finally House Martins with that more fluttering, gliding and level flight than the swallow and that torpedo like shape.

Peter Rhind

Reviving the art of the Birdrace

After a rush of attempts in the early 2000s the Fylde birdrace has rather slipped out of fashion in recent years – the record of 133 species set by Chris Batty, Stephen Dunstan and Stuart Piner in 2006 being a formidable and daunting target to aim for. Nevertheless notwithstanding this lofty record the potential for recording a high day list within the Fylde boundaries is still there, with a little planning and a slice of that all-important birding luck on your side of course.

With a new job in Northumberland beckoning for myself at the end of April I decided to have a non-serious attempt at a Fylde birdrace along with Ash Baines and Sophie Bagshaw, certainly the youngest Fylde birdrace team in a long time (if ever?)! Whilst the date of the 21st April was a week or so earlier than the traditional late April birdrace period we were still optimistic of reaching a 3-figure total and hopefully unearthing a few surprises along the way.

After meeting at my house at dawn we set off for Rossall Point, the key starting site for any birdrace attempt to clean up on seabirds and vis-mig species. Despite the wind blowing straight from the west and low cloud preventing much overhead passage we were confident of our chances and we were soon rewarded when just after 7am Ash picked up a **Hooded Crow** feeding on the golf course! A fantastic start and amazingly this proved it to be a different individual to the one I had found just 2 mornings previously at the same site. With the tide filling the bay a few

seabirds started to move and we quickly notched up **Sandwich Tern**, **Red-throated Diver**, both **Auk** species, **Gannet** and several tight flocks of **Kittiwakes** before the real quality started to appear. Two **Manx Shearwater** and a **Fulmar** arced their way into the bay, a pair of **Little Gulls** were spotted distantly feeding out in the deeps and finally just before 9am a **Great Skua** flew east before dropping onto the sea out of view, all useful day and year ticks too. Vis-mig proved to be a non-starter; just a single **Whimbrel** and a few **Swallow** were noted.



With the species list already creeping towards 50 we left Rossall and picked up our first **warblers** of the day at Fleetwood Nature Park – **Grasshopper**, **Cetti's** and **Reed** all hitting the notebook along with both **Little** and **Great Crested Grebes**. Proceeding Over Wyre we were disappointed to find that there was no seed at the Eagland Hill feeding station, potentially taking several species off our target list, however we were fortunate in seeing both **Yellowhammer** and **Stock Dove** along the roads near Bradshaw Lane which lessened the blow somewhat. Pilling Marsh proved to be a dead loss with no wildfowl of any kind present; this would prove to be costly as Pink-footed Goose ended up as an embarrassing omission by the days end. No such problems with **Whooper Swan** with a pair still feeding in the fields along Moss Lane to Cockersand where the small flock of wintering **Twite** were still present near the abbey, as were a pair of male **Wheatears**. Glasson Marsh was handy for picking up on some waders; the first 2 returning **Avocets** of the season were feeding in the mouth of the Conder and nearby a flock of **Black-tailed Godwits** contained 5 immaculate brick red **Bar-tailed**. Further wader interest was provided at Conder with a **Greenshank** on the creek although the regular spotshank was nowhere to be found.

Moving away from the coast for a while we headed east to Thurnham Hall for a quick whip round of woodland species - **Treecreeper**, **Nuthatch**, **Great-spotted Woodpecker**, **Jay**, **Blackcap** and **Chiffchaff** were all seen/heard on a walk round. From here it was south down the A6 straddling the Fylde border, fluking a fly-by **Kingfisher** along the Brock along with a male **Grey Wagtail** but missing out on Dipper for the full set. New species were starting to become harder to find by this

point but round the corner at Myerscough Quarry we still managed to pick up three additions for the day, **Little Ringed Plover**, **Common Sandpiper** and our first singing **Sedge Warbler** of the year by the canal. We had now reached the south Fylde and as we approached mid-afternoon we moved from general birding to targeting specific species. **Bullfinch** at Savick Park, **Goosander** on the Ribble by the docks and **Snipe** and **Gadwall** at Newton Marsh saw us reach the 100 species mark but things were faltering, dips on both Great White and Cattle Egret in the Warton area followed and we failed to add any additional wader species in Granny's Bay.

As the day drew to an end we got a last little burst of species by doing a circuit of Marton Mere, being fortunate to coincide the visit with the first returning **Whitethroat** and **Lesser Whitethroats** singing around the site, and finally picking up **House Martin** after missing them all day. With an hour left of daylight the list stood on 109; hating to not finish on a round number it was time for a dusk visit to Singleton in the hope of an owl or two. This proved to be a good decision as despite not seeing any owls we did see Paul Slade who informed us of a pair of **Mandarins** on a flood in the fields near Puzzle Wood, a nice way to round the list up to 110 species to finish the day as the sun set.



So how did we do? 110 Species is a great day total in the Fylde given the less-than-perfect conditions and the fact that we didn't target a number of key species. Some of the more glaring omissions for the day included:

Pink-footed Goose, Pochard, Red-breasted Merganser, Grey Partridge, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Water Rail, Grey Plover, Knot, Spotted Redshank, Arctic Skua, Arctic Tern, any Owl species, Ring-necked Parakeet, Goldcrest, Coal Tit, Dipper, Stonechat, Siskin, Lesser Redpoll and Corn Bunting!

Looking at the above list it becomes clear that even for us the record of 133 species was certainly not beyond the realms of possibility. With some more planning and a bit of luck, a target for a team to try and beat next spring perhaps?

Jonny Scragg

Orchard End Community Fund Seed Strip Project

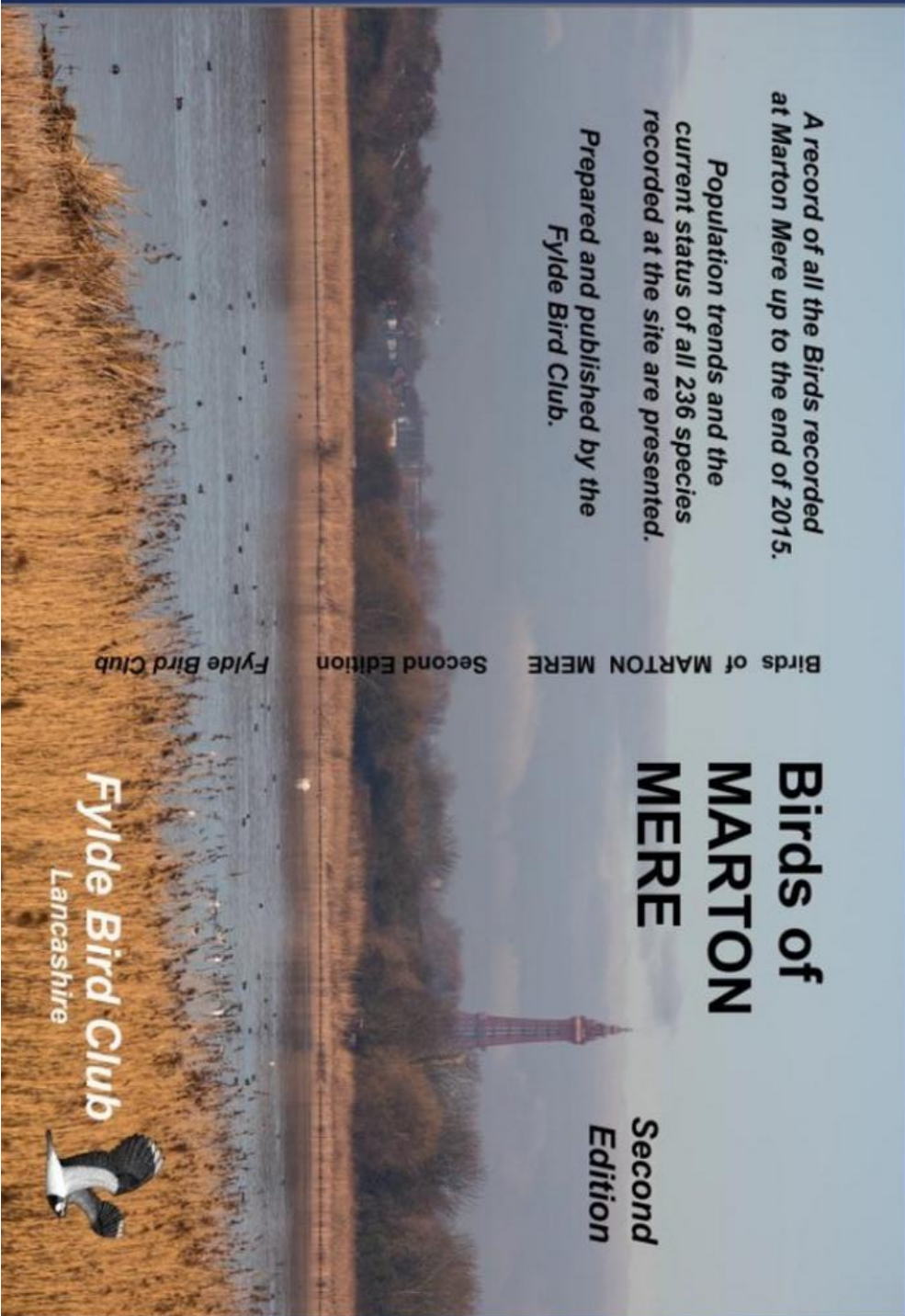


You may recall that the Club were successful in applying for a £3375 grant to create two seed strips at Eagland Hill and fund some seed for the adjacent winter feeding stations. The grant is administered by Grantscape and we need to spend funds first and then claim back the costs part by part as the project progresses. Owing to wet ground conditions in the Spring and then bird flu in the area, the planting was delayed. However we can now report that both strips have been planted and we await their ripening in the autumn. There is one next to each of the feeding stations at Bradshaw Lane Head and New Lane

Forthcoming Fylde Bird Club Meetings

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| June 27 th | Woodlands in the lakes” with Edward Mills. Sounds like an idyllic combination to me. |
| July 25 th | Our not so common Swifts” with Tanya and Edward Hoare. One of the classic but fast disappearing birds of summer. Where and why? |
| August 22 nd | Butterflies of the North West” with Chris Winnick. What you can expect to see and how to identify them. How many do you get in your garden and how can you attract more? That’s what I am hoping for anyway. |

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