



# **Fylde Bird Club**

**Lancashire**

## **FYLDE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007**

**Welcome to the August newsletter. There was something of a dearth of material this month, so I am very grateful to Chris Batty for filling the gap with a 'Fylde Rare Birds Day by Day' article.**

**I have had a go at the member profile this time. It would be good if there were other volunteers willing to have a go at this, otherwise this might have to be the last one run.**

**Pete Rhind has kindly provided the details of the Common Rosefinch he found in his garden, the first Fylde records. I was away in Mallorca at the time (see summary trip report included this time) but know many Fylde birders were extremely grateful to Pete and his wife for allowing access to their garden to see the bird.**

**Thanks to Stuart as ever for the monthly sighting summaries.**

**Regards,**

**Stephen.**



## FYLDE RARE BIRDS – DAY BY DAY

It is perhaps the keen birder's favourite time of year, September through to November, autumn migration. To whet your appetite for what may be out there here are birds found within the last thirty years on the Fylde on any given day in the autumn. If you read carefully you will notice some gaps – why not make a name for yourself and find something on one of those dates.

### *1st September*

2006 Pectoral Sandpiper Fleetwood Golf Course  
1993 Goshawk Pilling Marsh  
1981 White-rumped Sandpiper Newton Marsh

### *2nd September*

2004 Goshawk Shard Bridge  
1995 Spotted Crake Marton Mere

### *3rd September*

1998 Long-tailed Skua Rossall point  
1984 Long-tailed Skua Starr Gate

### *4th September*

1998 two Long-tailed Skuas Rossall Point

### *5th September*

1987 two Sabine's Gulls Rossall Point  
1987 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate  
1987 Dotterel Pilling Marsh

### *6th September*

2004 Pectoral Sandpiper Mythop

### *7th September*

1994 Sabine's Gull Fleetwood  
1979 Buff-breasted Sandpiper Clifton Marsh  
1978 Spotted Crake Marton Mere

### *8th September*

1998 Pectoral Sandpiper Bank End

### *9th September*

1989 Long-billed Dowitcher Marton Mere  
1980 Sabine's Gull Rossall Point

### *10th September*

2004 Goshawk Cockersand  
1998 Long-tailed Skua Pilling Marsh  
1995 Spotted Crake Marton Mere  
1989 Hoopoe Jameson Road Landfill Site  
1978 Sooty Shearwater Rossall Point

### *11th September*

1984 Grey Phalarope Lytham Crematorium  
1983 Red-necked Grebe Fleetwood  
1978 two Sooty Shearwaters Rossall Point

### *12th September*

2002 Lesser Yellowlegs Eagland Hill  
1999 Pectoral Sandpiper Marton Mere  
1987 Grey Phalarope Rossall Point

### *13th September*

1983 Red-necked Phalarope Fairhaven Lake  
1980 Sooty Shearwater Little Bispham  
1980 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate

### *14th September*

1997 Long-tailed Skua Rossall Point  
1992 Sabine's Gull Blackpool  
1987 two Sooty Shearwaters Rossall Point  
1987 Sooty Shearwater Starr Gate  
1987 Long-tailed Skua Starr Gate  
1987 Grey Phalarope Starr Gate  
1980 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate

### *15th September*

1997 Long-tailed Skua Starr Gate  
1992 Sooty Shearwater Starr Gate  
1992 Grey Phalarope Blackpool  
1987 Grey Phalarope ICI Tanks

### *16th September*

2002 Pectoral Sandpiper Eagland Hill

### *17th September*

2001 Honey Buzzard Fleetwood

### *18th September*

1987 Grey Phalarope Starr Gate  
1987 Grey Phalarope Rossall Point  
1983 Sabine's Gull Rossall Point

### *19th September*

2006 Spotted Crake Marton Mere  
2000 American Wigeon Pilling Marsh  
1999 Hoopoe Rossall Point  
1983 Grey Phalarope Fairhaven Lake

### *20th September*

2004 Sabine's Gull Rossall Point  
2004 Sabine's Gull Cleveleys  
2004 Sabine's Gull Blackpool South Pier  
2004 Long-tailed Skua Blackpool South Pier  
1997 Long-tailed Skua Pilling Marsh  
1990 Sabine's Gull Blackpool North Pier  
1988 American Golden Plover Fleetwood Golf Course



*21st September*

2004 two Long-tailed Skuas Rossall Point  
2004 three Sabine's Gulls Rossall Point  
2004 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate  
2004 Sabine's Gull Cleveleys  
2004 Long-tailed Skua Starr Gate  
2004 Grey Phalarope Mythop  
2003 Honey Buzzard Rossall Point  
1981 Wryneck Moss Side

*22nd September*

2000 two Lapland Buntings Fluke Hall  
2000 Honey Buzzard Freckleton Naze Point  
1997 Dotterel Bank End  
1990 Long-tailed Skua Blackpool South Pier  
1989 Spotted Crake Marton Mere  
1984 Sabine's Gull Rossall Point  
1981 two Grey Phalaropes Newton Marsh

*23rd September*

2000 two Honey Buzzards Lytham  
2000 Honey Buzzard Marton Mere  
1989 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate

*24th September*

2006 Yellow-browed Warbler Fleetwood Cemetery  
2001 Yellow-browed Warbler Mount Park  
2000 Honey Buzzard Starr Gate  
1998 Icterine Warbler Mount Park  
1991 Cory's Shearwater Starr Gate  
1988 two Long-tailed Skuas Rossall Point  
1988 Sooty Shearwater Blackpool  
1987 Long-tailed Skua Rossall Point  
1983 two Lapland Buntings Pilling Lane Ends

*25th September*

2006 Honey Buzzard Carleton  
2002 Wryneck Carr House Green Common

*26th September*

1999 Wryneck Marton Mere  
1992 Buff-breasted Sandpiper Pilling Marsh

*27th September*

1992 two Richards Pipits Pilling Lane Ends

*28th September*

2001 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
2000 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
2000 Honey Buzzard Marton Mere  
1997 Barred Warbler Lytham St Annes Nature Reserve  
1978 Sabine's Gull Anchorsholme

*29th September*

2000 Honey Buzzard Marton Mere

*30th September*

2000 Honey Buzzard Conder Estuary

1982 Roller Watson Road Park

*1st October*

1997 Bluethroat Peel Park  
1997 Barred Warbler Blackpool Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes

*2nd October*

2001 Red-breasted Flycatcher Blackpool Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes  
1990 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes Nature Reserve  
1984 Red-breasted Flycatcher Watson Road Park  
1983 Wryneck Stanley Park  
1982 Pectoral Sandpiper Cockerham Marsh

*3rd October*

2004 Firecrest Marton  
2000 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
1993 Red-necked Grebe Starr Gate  
1993 four Lapland Buntings Fleetwood Golf Course

*4th October*

2005 Little Auk Starr Gate  
2002 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes Nature Reserve  
2000 Yellow-browed Warbler Thornton  
2000 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
1993 two Richard's Pipits Rossall School  
1981 Grey Phalarope Fairhaven Lake

*5th October*

1986 Lapland Bunting Fairhaven

*6th October*

2005 Lesser Scaup Myerscough Quarry  
2004 Sabine's Gull Cleveleys  
1997 Firecrest Blackpool Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes  
1996 Grey Phalarope Starr Gate  
1990 Grey Phalarope Pilling Marsh  
1979 Great Grey Shrike Fairhaven Lake

*7th October*

2004 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
2002 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes Nature Reserve  
1989 Sabine's Gull Starr Gate

*8th October*

2005 Yellow-browed Warbler Mount Park  
1994 Lapland Bunting Fairhaven  
1980 Sooty Shearwater Bispham  
1980 Sabine's Gull Bispham

*9th October*

1995 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere



1993 Yellow-browed Warbler Fairhaven Lake  
1988 Long-tailed Skua Cockersand

*10th October*

2003 Grey Phalarope Rossall Point  
1993 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes  
Nature Reserve

*11th October*

2006 Glossy Ibis Fluke Hall Lane

*12th October*

2006 Ring-billed Gull Liscoe Farm  
2002 Pectoral Sandpiper ICI Tanks  
1996 Red-breasted Flycatcher Fluke Hall  
1985 Great Grey Shrike 12th October  
1982 Grey Phalarope Rossall Point

*13th October*

2002 Grey Phalarope Jameson Road Landfill  
Site  
2000 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere  
1991 Lapland Bunting Rossall Point  
1985 Great Grey Shrike Freckleton

*14th October*

2006 Yellow-browed Warbler Fleetwood  
Cemetery  
1995 Wryneck Cockersand

*15th October*

2005 Lapland Bunting Rossall Point  
1988 Red Kite Forton

*16th October*

2005 Great Grey Shrike Fluke Hall  
2001 Bearded Tit Pilling Lane Ends  
1999 Red Kite Pilling Marsh  
1984 Yellow-browed Warbler Blackpool  
Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes

*17th October*

2006 Richard's Pipit Fairhaven  
2005 Yellow-browed Warbler Fluke Hall  
1999 Richard's Pipit Fleetwood Golf Course  
1999 Bearded Tit Marton Mere  
1994 two Richard's Pipits Fleetwood Golf  
Course  
1990 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere

*18th October*

1998 Yellow-browed Warbler Pilling Lane  
Ends

*19th October*

1996 Yellow-browed Warbler Fluke Hall

*20th October*

1999 three Lapland Buntings Cockersand  
1990 Lapland Bunting Pilling Lane Ends

1985 three Lapland Buntings Lytham St Annes  
Nature Reserve

*21st October*

2002 Yellow-browed Warbler Blackpool

*22nd October*

2006 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere  
2001 Hawfinch Marton Mere  
1990 Lapland Bunting Fairhaven

*23rd October*

2005 Yellow-browed Warbler Fleetwood  
Cemetery  
2005 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
2003 two Hawfinches Marton Mere  
2003 Dusky Warbler Fairhaven Dunes  
1983 Red-necked Grebe Stanley Park  
1983 Red-breasted Flycatcher Layton

*24th October*

2004 Barred Warbler Marton Mere  
1988 Lapland Bunting Blackpool Airport  
1987 Lapland Bunting Pilling Lane Ends  
1985 Great Grey Shrike Fairhaven  
1984 Lapland Bunting Fairhaven

*25th October*

1980 Great Grey Shrike Rawcliffe Moss

*26th October*

2000 Green-winged Teal Pilling Marsh  
1996 Firecrest Fluke Hall  
1978 Red-breasted Flycatcher Blackpool South  
Shore

*27th October*

1995 Ring-billed Gull Skippool Creek  
1979 Lapland Bunting Marton Mere

*28th October*

1995 Spotted Crake Marton Mere  
1984 Grey Phalarope Marton Mere  
1979 Bearded Tit Marton Mere

*29th October*

2005 Yellow-browed Warbler Mount Park  
1994 Pallas's Warbler Gynn Gardens  
1994 Buff-breasted Sandpiper Pilling Lane  
Ends

*30th October*

1996 Corncrake Marton Mere

*31st October*

1993 Firecrest Fluke Hall  
1984 Red-breasted Flycatcher Blackpool  
Pleasure Beach Railway Bushes



*1st November*  
2003 Mealy Redpoll Mount Park  
1998 two Bearded Tits Marton Mere  
1998 Sabine's Gull Anchorsholme  
1997 Pallas's Warbler Blackpool

*4th November*  
1986 Red-necked Grebe Marton Mere

*5th November*  
2005 Yellow-browed Warbler Haslam Park  
1991 Desert Wheatear Rossall Point

*6th November*  
2001 Hoopoe Greyfriars  
1992 Goshawk Thornton

*8th November*  
1998 three Shorelarks St Annes  
1981 Shorelark Starr Gate

*9th November*  
2002 Firecrest Pilling Lane Ends  
1999 Firecrest Fluke Hall  
1995 Grey Phalarope Rossall Point  
1983 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes  
Nature Reserve  
1983 Firecrest Lytham St Annes Nature  
Reserve

*10th November*  
1983 Lapland Bunting Fluke Hall

*11th November*  
2003 two Shorelarks Fairhaven  
1995 Firecrest Fluke Hall  
1994 Ring-billed Gull Marton Mere  
1994 Desert Wheatear Blackpool Airport  
1979 Red-necked Grebe Cockersand

*12th November*  
2001 Firecrest Blackpool Pleasure Beach  
Railway Bushes  
1998 Little Auk St Annes  
1989 Lapland Bunting Lytham St Annes NR

*13th November*  
1998 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere

*14th November*  
2004 Lapland Bunting Pilling Marsh

2000 Ferruginous Duck Marton Mere

*15th November*  
1995 Ring-billed Gull Marton Mere

*16th November*  
2003 Richard's Pipit Cockerham Marsh  
2002 Little Auk Starr Gate  
1991 Lapland Bunting Rossall Point  
1983 Goshawk Clifton

*17th November*  
1991 Snow Goose Cockerham Moss Edge

*18th November*  
1995 three Bearded Tits Marton Mere

*19th November*  
2002 Little Auk Starr Gate  
1993 two Bearded Tits Marton Mere  
1983 Little Auk Starr Gate

*20th November*  
1992 Ring-billed Gull Fleetwood Marsh

*21st November*  
2003 Little Auk Starr Gate

*22nd November*  
1988 Great Grey Shrike Marton Mere  
1987 Little Auk Starr Gate

*23rd November*  
2003 Little Auk Starr Gate

*24th November*  
1987 Little Auk Rossall Point

*26th November*  
1994 Cetti's Warbler Marton Mere

*27th November*  
1994 Ring-billed Gull Marton Mere

*28th November*  
1998 Lapland Bunting Cockersand  
1985 Green-winged Teal Marton Mere

*30th November*  
1992 Ring-billed Gull Preston Dock

Special mention in terms of autumn finds must go to Ed Stirling, who has found the following in unassuming small parks, gardens and railway cuttings of South Shore:

Roller, Barred Warbler, two Wryneck, Pallas's Warbler, Desert Wheatear, Yellow-browed Warbler, Firecrest and, an astonishing, four Red-breasted Flycatchers!

**CGB**



## **Common Rosefinch Wednesday May 30th 2007.1.30 pm.**

Wednesday a perfectly ordinary day. We were waiting for friends to arrive, when I heard Sue say there was an unusual bird on the feeders outside the kitchen window. She said it had a red head and she didn't recognise it, as I appeared it disappeared behind a pot on the gravel. Just that brief view and I heard a voice at the back of my mind say Common Rosefinch, but it couldn't possibly be. The bird kept showing bits of itself, a streaked red head a streaky red chest a finch like dark bill, a definite pale wing bar and possibly a very indistinct second bar. All the time as it wandered around, mostly hidden, I ran through a list of ANY alternatives. Finally after what seemed an age, but was probably only a few minutes, it came put into the open only seven or eight yards from me. A brilliant red rump, and I knew it was a common rosefinch. I had no doubt, although I had never seen one before only pictures in field guides. By now I had the telescope in position, the shampoo bottle top in the telescope and the camera thus attached, and I just kept taking photos, mostly of bits of the bird as it played hide and seek. At last it flew up onto the feeder and stood still, heaven, a perfect picture. It then flew into next door's garden and vanished.

What to do ? I rang Paul Ellis at Fylde Bird Club and left a message, I then downloaded the photo and e mailed it to the club web site. Within twenty minutes a phone call, and within forty five minutes the first birders arrived! By now the rose finch, which had been backwards and forwards a few times had left again. I muttered those words much loved of all birders "it showed really well ten minutes ago" . Eventually the bird returned , and I breathed a sigh of relief that my sighting had been confirmed. The bird stayed around for the rest of the afternoon and evening and the drive filled with birders who all managed to get good views, the rosefinch even sat on the top of bushes singing and glowing red in the full sun.

The following day, despite birders watching from 5.30 am. till late afternoon, it wasn't seen again. The bird was a one day wonder, but what a wonder, unforgettable and a reminder of then brilliance and excitement of bird watching, made even better by the fact I was able to share it with other like minded people.

**Pete Rhind.**



## **MEMBER PROFILE – STEPHEN DUNSTAN**

Favourite Fylde bird:

Scaup. I have always liked them, not sure quite why. It may have something to do with them being regular enough to be familiar with but scarce enough to enliven a quiet day's birding.

Favourite world bird:

Azores Bullfinch. An endemic that makes me want to go somewhere as stunning as the Azores must have something to say for it...

Favourite Fylde birding site:

Starr Gate, as I spend so much time there due to working nearby. Favoured conditions unlike most seawatchers are where it is flat calm on a sunny morning.

Favourite world birding site:

I prefer islands. My current favourites would be Embalse los Molinos and Catalina Garcia on Fuerteventura, both of which would be great bets for finding your own Nearctic vagrant.

Optics used: Pentax 10 x 43 bins, Kowa 821 scope.

Best self find:

Yellow-browed Warbler on Fuerteventura. On the Fylde the first accepted Blue Fulmar, though the only spring Dotterel in the last 20 years were more satisfying.

Greatest other birding achievement:

Being asked to tutor for Lancaster University's bird courses or the information I was able to collate on scoter for windfarm location debates.

Birding influences:

Identification and more general articles by both Antony McGeehan. Birds of the Atlantic Islands by Tony Clarke a more recent influence.

Best day's birding:

18<sup>th</sup> February 2006 on Fuerteventura. Great views of Houbara Bustard in flight and on the ground in the morning at La Pared, then the aforementioned YB Warbler in the afternoon.

Best Fylde day's birding:

The bird races are always good crack. Probably 2006 where the team I was in scored 133 whilst also seeing Hoopoe and Blue-headed Wagtail.



Other interests:

Walking long distance footpaths.

Favourite birding website:

Rare Birds Spain is the best national sightings website. Punkbirder is the best humorous site. Despite its critics BirdForum is great value and birding would be the poorer if it disappeared.

Favourite bird book:

Birds of the Atlantic Islands by Tony Clarke.

Pet birding hate:

People who criticize newcomers for making mistakes but would never spare the time to try and help them learn.

What I like best about birding:

There is always something to look forward to.

## **Mallorca 25 May – 1 June 2007**

Due to having to go in half term this trip to Mallorca was outside the peak spring passage time. Details of the species likely to be of interest to British birders are included, in total 80 species were logged.

Although a couple of days were not given over to birding it was not too difficult to catch up with a number of the island's specialities. The biggest disappointment was getting an 'untickable view' only of a presumed Balearic Woodchat Shrike from a moving car.

We stayed at Port d'Alcudia, which proved to be a perfectly good base. As well as being close to several key sites the birding in the resort itself was not bad at all. From our balcony we saw Eleonara's Falcons most evenings, and there was clearly a flightline for herons and egrets presumably en route to and from Albufera.

One or two miscellaneous points:

- car thefts are still a problem at Cuber, park carefully or empty your car. We were targeted though fortunately lost nothing of value.
- Graham Hearl's book is still an invaluable resource, but status of many species have changed since it was written.

Cory's Shearwater – seen from the Formentor lighthouse and Cala Rajada

Shag (Mediterranean race) – seen without difficulty at coastal locations

Little Bittern – one seen at Albufera

Night Heron – seen overflying Port d'Alcudia, best views at Albuferata

Squacco Heron – seen at Albufera





Cattle Egret – regularly overflow Port d’Alcudia and many at Albufera

Purple Heron – seen from balcony at Port d’Alcudia, several Albufera

Black Stork – one seen at Cuber was something of a surprise, though apparently they have summered there in the past

Marbled Duck – seen at Albufera and Depuradora de s’Illot

Red-crested Pochard – many Albufera

Black Vulture – about four seen at Cuber

Eleonora’s Falcon – seen at Cuber, Albufera, Bocquer Valley and over Port d’Alcudia on most evenings

Purple Gallinule – Albufera

Black-winged Stilt – ubiquitous at wetland sites

Kentish Plover – near Albuferata

Audoin’s Gull – easily seen on the beaches from Port d’Alcudia to Porto Pollensa, overflow the apartment most days

Gull-billed Tern – two Albufera

Whiskered Tern – several Albufera

Pallid Swift – seen at Formentor

Crag Martin – seen from viewpoints on the road to Formentor, at Formentor lighthouse and in the Bocquer Valley

Tanwy Pipit – Cuber near the dam

Iberian Yellow Wagtail – seen on the outskirts of Port d’Alcudia and at Salines de Lavante.

Blue Rock Thrush – seen in the Bocquer Valley only, at the far end of the valley near the cove

Fan-tailed Warbler – widespread, including on the outskirts of Port d’Alcudia

Moustached Warbler – Albufera

Great Reed Warbler – Albufera

Balearic Warbler – seen at viewpoints on the Formentor peninsula and in the Bocquer Valley

Sardinian Warbler – seen at several sites

Serin – common, including in the resort

**SD**



## RECENT SIGHTINGS BY STUART PINER

### May 2007

The undoubted highlight of May was a gorgeous red first-summer male Common Rosefinch in a Pilling Lane garden on 30th May. This long-awaited first for the Fylde was located by Peter Rhind, when it visited his garden bird feeder early in the afternoon. He quickly spread the word, and kindly welcomed visitors into his house and garden throughout the evening, where the bird showed well and intermittently sang, much to the delight of the appreciative onlookers. What a stunner!

Second only to the Rosefinch was a Nightjar heard at Herons' Reach Golf Course; the bird was first heard by Graham Workman, who was conducting a bat survey overnight on 21st. Searches the following evening drew a blank, but the bird was heard for a final time on evening of 23rd. With only a handful of Nightjars to have occurred in the Fylde in modern times, this was an unfortunate one for the masses to miss.

The month began with a Great Northern Diver off Starr Gate, and a Black Tern past Rossall Point (with another off there on 2nd). A Wood Sandpiper was at Mythop until 5th; another was seen there on 19th. A pair of Garganey at Marton Mere stayed throughout the month (apart from the odd visit to the adjacent Mythop Flood). On the Ribble, the long-staying Glossy Ibis remained at Warton Marsh (before relocating to Newton Marsh from 26th) and a female Hen Harrier was at Freckleton Naze.

More seawatching action came on 4th, when a Black Guillemot was noted off Cleveleys. A Hen Harrier was at Cogie Hill on 6th and on 7th a couple of male Garganey visited the ICI Tanks in Fleetwood. The 8th was a decent day for seawatchers, with a Little Tern past Starr Gate, three Great Skuas off Rossall Point and a Great Skua off Knott End all being noted. A male Garganey visited Newton Marsh on 9th and a Little Stint was there on 11th.

The 12th produced an excellent set of records; a Red Kite flew over Bartle Pools (presumably the same bird seen by the M55 on 1st April); a pale morph Pomarine Skua flew past Starr Gate (part of an excellent west-coast movement; another flew past on 14th); an adult Curlew Sandpiper was in Granny's Bay and a male Redstart was in Fleetwood. A Little Stint joined Dunlin at Cockersand on 13th May (with another there on 27th).

A Blue-headed Wagtail was on Fleetwood Golf Course briefly on 20th and a Curlew Sandpiper was on the Conder Estuary on 27th-28th.

### June 2007

Unseasonal seawatching produced the majority of the interesting records in an otherwise typically quiet June. Dave McGrath pulled the month's biggie out of the bag, when he watched an adult White-winged Black Tern fly out of the Ribble Estuary and north past Starr Gate on 28th – an exceptional seawatching record.

The sea off Starr Gate held several other delights during the month, including a Black Guillemot on 1st, a Puffin and Shag on 9th, Long-tailed Duck on 18th, and finally another Shag on 19th.



The first-summer Glossy Ibis remained at Newton Marsh until the 26th and at Marton Mere a male Garganey was still present throughout the first half of the month.

A family party of Green Woodpeckers at Myerscough College on 12th was totally unexpected; one Green Woodpecker is rare enough in the Fylde, so a group of five would have been very popular, had they been relocated in the fruitless subsequent searches. The month ended with a male Mandarin at Bispham Marsh.

## July

Talk about birding on the job! Whilst working from home on 2nd, Chris Batty added a new species to the Fylde list, when he located a Caspian Tern on the beach in front of his house in Knott End. The bird stayed over the high tide period, before departing to the south. How on earth does he do it?! Chris never seems to leave his house, but despite this, he still manages to find top rarities with relative ease. And with the Knott End area currently enjoying somewhat of a purple patch (having already produced the Fylde's first Common Rosefinch and third Stone Curlew so far this year), there may well be more to come.

It later transpired that an unidentified tern, which must surely have been the Caspian, had been glimpsed at Rossall Point ten minutes before Chris made his discovery and then, three days later, Colin Bushell relocated the Caspian Tern roosting with Oystercatchers (!) on the beach at Fairhaven Dunes, but it quickly departed to the west, never to be seen again.

A couple of Avocets were at Glasson Marsh on 2nd with a party of five nearby on 10th. The adult Yellow-legged Gull returned to Glasson for its sixteenth consecutive autumn and could be seen daily from 11th. A Pale-bellied Brent Goose briefly landed on the beach at Knott End on 17th, a strange July record, but even better was a brief juvenile Yellow-legged Gull at nearby Cocker's Dyke the following day – the first juvenile of this species ever to be recorded on the Fylde.

A Curlew Sandpiper at Skippool Creek on 18th didn't hang around, nor did a Marsh Harrier that flew southeast over Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park on 19th. An eclipse male Garganey made a brief appearance at Marton Mere on 19th and on 22nd a Ring-necked Parakeet flew over Knott End. A couple of early juvenile Black Terns flew east past Knott End on 23rd, with presumably one of these birds joining the evening tern roost there on 25th.

An Osprey visited Stanley Park mid month, and towards the end of July, three Quail could be heard singing in the Eagland Hill area, where an adult female Marsh Harrier was seen on 28th.

Seawatching highlights during July came in the form of a Shag past Starr Gate on 2nd, Storm Petrels past Anchorsholme Park and Rossall Point on 6th, with another past the latter site on 14th and best of all, an adult Pomarine Skua flying north past Starr Gate on the 31st.



## **Bird Club Business News**

### **Next Fylde Bird Club Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> September at 7:45pm upstairs in the River Wyre Hotel, Breck Road, Poulton.

'What's in a Name?' A talk by guest speaker Tim Melling from the RSPB.

### **Are You On Line? -- Printing and Postage Costs**

In an effort to keep administration costs down, we are intending to e-mail as many future newsletters as possible. If you have received this by post but have an e-mail account, please forward your e mail address to [paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com).

### **Next WeBS Count – free guided bird walk**

**Sunday September 16th, high tide at 14:45hours, height 8.93m.**

All are welcome to attend the WeBS counts whether you wish to help count or just watch the birds. There are always plenty of birds to see with experienced birders on hand to help point them out. Contact the Chairman or Secretary for details or meet at the Heads (near Stalmine) 2 hours before high tide if you wish to attend the Arm Hill count.

Anyone wishing to take on a count site or regularly assist with counts: contact Jean Roberts (on 01524 770295). Count sites range from Rossall Point to Glasson.

Expect to meet about 2 hours before high tide.

### **Club WebSite: [www.fyldebirdclub.org](http://www.fyldebirdclub.org)**

For news of latest sightings, site guides, meeting details, announcements, small ads and much more.

PE

