



# ***Fylde Bird Club***

## ***Lancashire***

### **NOVEMBER 2007 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the 2007 members newsletter. I hope that you find something of interest in it.

I am delighted that Maurice Jones has completed the member profile. As the contents of this suggest Maurice has vast experience of Fylde birding, the list of finds reflects many years of dedicated observation.

Dave Wells has provided an account of a short trip to Saudi Arabia. Many thanks to Dave for this very readable account which may stimulate some of you to head there at some point.

Also on the travel theme the experiences I had of autumn birding in the contrasting island destinations of Out Skerries and Tenerife are included.

Other than the recent sightings the other content this quarter is an appeal from Stuart Piner for people to participate in the four year Atlas project. Personally speaking I have found my fieldwork to date very rewarding and would recommend anyone considering getting involved to do so.

Regards,

Stephen.



## MEMBER PROFILE – MAURICE JONES

### Favourite Fylde Bird

Pink-footed Goose

### Favourite World Bird

Great Bustard

### Favourite Fylde Birding Site

Marion Mere

### Favourite World Birding Site

Spain

### Optics

These days Delta 7x36 (which focus on my own feet) or Opticron 8x42 DBA.  
Kowa TSN883 with zoom eyepiece.

### Best self finds

Purple Heron Leighton Moss 1975: Common Crane Leighton Moss 1977: White Rumped Sandpiper (2) joint ID Freckleton sewage farm 1952 (with Harry Shorrocks) also joint ID Lea Marsh (2) 1964 (with Harry Shorrocks) St Mary's Scilly 1999: Baird's Sandpiper Hesketh Marsh Ribblesdale 1976, Cley Norfolk 1970: Buff Breasted Sandpiper Freckleton 1955: Long-billed Dowitcher Freckleton 1963: Lesser Yellowlegs Freckleton 1974: Wilson's Phalarope Freckleton 1973: Broad Billed Sandpiper Cockersands 2006: Cetti's Warbler Marion Mere 1990 (found by Harry Andrews earlier): Subalpine Warbler Lytham St Annes Local Nature Reserve 1985 and 2001: Red Rumped Swallow Fair Isle 1976 and Marion Mere 2004: Little Bittern Marion Mere 1997: Barred Warbler Lytham St Annes LNR 1977 and Marion Mere 2004: Whiskered Tern Fairburn Ings 1975 (with Harry Shorrocks): Dusky Warbler Fairhaven 2003: Laughing Gull Marion Mere 2006: Lancashire's first Bearded Tit Formby 1965 and South West Scotland's Auchenreoch Loch Dec 1972 – Jan 1973 : Gyrfalcon Lea Marsh Preston 1964 (with Harry Shorrocks) that turned out in all probability to be one looked after by Hull RSPCA and released at Bempton a week or two previously.

### Greatest other birding achievement

Sticking it out as County Recorder for 23 years.

### Birding influences

Richard Richardson at Cley in the 1960s and 1970s. Nelson Harwood of St Annes in 1950s and 1960s.



### Best day's birding

One of many in the Scillies was Scarlet Tanager and Pallas's Warbler in the same bush.

### Best Fylde Day's birding

A good early one was finding Richard's Pipit and Temminck's Stint on the Naze Pool in 1957.

### Other interests

Botany, butterflies, dragonflies.

### Favourite birding website

Fylde Bird Club

### Favourite bird book

Collins Guide

### Pet birding hate

Birders who won't submit details of rare birds found, over-reliance on pagers.

### What I like best

Simply being out and about and the changing seasons.



## SAUDI ARABIA 2007 BY DAVE WELLS

I had occasion to visit Saudi Arabia in early May of this year staying at Le Gulf Meridien, Al-Khobar, which is located adjacent to the causeway leading to Bahrain and its airport.

During my stay I was offered an afternoon's birding by an expat bird photographic specialist, which I eagerly anticipated. I was whisked around the local birding 'hotspots' (temperature 45 degrees C in the shade, wall to wall sunshine and windy). Needless to say one of the best 'hotspots' was the local sewage outflow!

Birds seen with a European flavour were:- Kentish Plover, Collared Dove, flamingo, Crested Lark, Curlew, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper, Moorhen, Mallard and Pallid Swift.

Terns were all over the place and included Lesser Crested Tern, White Cheeked Tern, Caspian Tern, Little Tern and Saunders Tern. Thanks to 'AJ' we also saw in Western Reef Heron, Common Myna, Indian Crow, Slender Billed Gull, Greater Sand Plover, African Collared Dove, White Cheeked Bulbul, Red Vented Bulbul, Socotra Cormorant, Graceful Prinia and Laughing Dove.

One bird was too distant to identify with 'bins' and out came a camera with a lens the size of Jodrell Bank and, in Saudi Arabia, you have to be very careful with 'bins', scopes and cameras as they are a no no with the Saudi authorities.

Every evening, just before dusk, the Pallid Swifts were out in numbers swooping around the hotel and over the swimming pool. Myna birds were regular visitors to my balcony. A most enjoyable birding experience.

AJ, along with other like minded birders, is in the process of compiling a publication on the Birds of Saudi Arabia – and I enclose his contact details for any Fylde birders who may wish to find out more of what's on offer in Saudi Arabia.

AJ's details (that's how he likes to be addressed):

AJ Drummond-Hill  
Arabian Avian Photography

e-mail: [ajdk@boltblue.com](mailto:ajdk@boltblue.com)

web – [http://www.hawar-islands.com/blog/aj\\_stub.php](http://www.hawar-islands.com/blog/aj_stub.php)

PS For those interested in 'bugs' one of my neighbours brought round a large caterpillar almost three inches long and the diameter of a little finger, greenish in colour covered in small yellowish dots above and with obvious lateral lines. It also had a horn like protuberance from the top of its body at its rear end. A book on moths suggests it to be the larva of a Hummingbird Hawk Moth which my neighbour regularly sees feeding from the bizzy lizzies that he plants each year. The caterpillar is currently residing somewhere in our hazel tree. We will have to plant some, but it does smack of 'Parks and Gardens'.

Best Regards,

Dave Wells.



## AUTUMN BIRDING – COMPARE AND CONTRAST

(Previously posted to Birdforum.net, this covers a trip to Out Skerries in Sep/Oct this year with Stuart Piner and a holiday to Tenerife a few days later in early October).

### **Out Skerries Day 1**

The birding got off to a surreal start when two juvenile Gannets were seen heading inland over the M80 between Falkirk and Perth.

Reaching the Aberdeen area in good time we stopped to seawatch at Fairhaven. A couple of distant small grebes, Red-throated Divers and Rock Pipits were among the highlights.

The ferry journey from Aberdeen got off to a dream start when barely outside the harbour a pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins was seen. There appeared to be six or so in all, but the abiding memory was of two leaping clean out of the water. Otherwise the two hours of decent light yielded several close Sooty Shearwaters and a handful of Bonxies among others.

Some good discussion in the bar with a couple of other birders was a pleasant end to what had been a memorable day for 'routine travelling'.

### **Tenerife Day 1**

Started early morning at Blackpool North station in the pitch black and heard Redwing and Golden Plover. Decided not to include these in the trip list, nor the Magpie that passed the airport terminal building whilst we were in the departure lounge.

We arrived on Tenerife at 2pm. The long drive from the airport to the resort produced local race Kestrel, Collared Doves, feral pigeons and Yellow-legged Gulls.

After unpacking we had a few hours to explore Puerto de la Cruz. This produced some welcome sightings including Canary Islands Chiff Chaff, Canary, Tenerife Blue Tit, Monarch butterflies and several lizards. Other interest included a very approachable presumed tired migrant Tree Pipit in public gardens near the beach. All in all an enjoyable introduction to the island's wildlife.

### **Out Skerries Day 2**

As the ferry entered Lerwick harbour a few Gannets, Eider and auks were seen.

A couple of other birders (Mike and Andrew) kindly offered to run us round in the time before our plane. We headed for Pool of Virkie where the Killdeer had been seen before. Unfortunately we were out of luck as the tide was wrong, but did see Purple Sandpiper at Grutness.

The best other bird 'available' on Mainland was a drake King Eider off Wester Quarff. On arrival Scaup and Black Guillemot were seen, but the Eider flock were too distant. Following advice from local birder Russ Heywood we drove round to Tronda for better views of the flock, and eventually had very satisfactory views of the bird which was in eclipse.

By this time we knew all flights in the morning had been cancelled. When Mike and Andrew dropped us off at Tingwall we were left with a waiting game. The fact that the Arctic Warbler found on Skerries yesterday was showing well was not helping.

Eventually it was confirmed there would be no flights, and the ferry had gone early morning. Rather disconsolate we returned to Lerwick, sorted out some accomodation



then had a look at Lock of Clickimin and Helendale. Nothing much was seen, but on the way back from fish and chips we did see at least half a dozen Twite.

## **Tenerife Day 2**

Took advantage of our hire car to do a tour of North West Tenerife as described in the Sunflower Landscapes guide to the island. Unfortunately the Beetle we had ordered was unavailable and the replacement Plurial wasn't up to some of the hilly terrain we were covering.

We visited three sites in Clarke and Collins book en route. At Puerto del Teno 10 Cory's Shearwaters were seen offshore. Teno Alto did not hold any Rock Sparrows, but we did hear Tenerife Kinglet and Barbaary Partridge. We also covered Erjos ponds, and had Moorhen, Coot, Snipe Buzzard and best of all Sardinian Warbler.

Other sites visited included Buenavista golf course, where Whimbrel and Berthelot's Pipit were added to the list. At the Mirador El Lance a long scrap between a Kestrel and a Sparrowhawk was observed and we were high enough up for Buzzards to fly beneath us.

## **Out Skerries Day 3**

We hoped to get out to Skerries for lunchtime. In the meantime another lookat sites near the B&B (Helendale, Clickimin) produced Goldeneye and Grey Wagtail but little in the way of migrants.

Arriving at Tingwall it was still in the balance whether we would be able to fly to Skerries, so it was a great relief when we were airborne near midday.

A memorable landing in strong winds later we were already birding as we unloaded our stuff. A Tree Sparrow from inside the B&B was a good start, only later did I appreciate how uncommon they are in Shetland.

Thereafter things were very hard going in gale force winds. Bonhomie was stretched by there being no sign of the Arctic Warbler reported in the iris beds for the previous couple of days.

Following a quick coffee stop the day was salvaged when we unexpectedly relocated the Arctic Warbler in the gardens of a row of cottages called Harbour View. A Tree Sparrow was also seen here, but may have been the earlier bird relocated on Housay.

## **Tenerife Day 3**

With the afternoon given over to the tourist circuit (Loro Park) birding hopes were pinned on a trio of north eastern sites in the morning.

Tejina ponds saw Little Egret and Common Sandpiper added to the list, as well as Grey Heron, Moorhen and the obligatory Muscovy. At Punta del Hidalgo there was no evidence of any migrants. The wind direction was promising for seawatching, and a short seawatch produced 23 Cory's.

Finally Valle Molino reservoir was checked. Hopes were high here, especially when the gate was open and the whole of the water and egdes could be viewed. It was therefore a bit of an anti-climax to muster only 5 Little Egret, 5 Common Sands, 38 Coot and 2 Grey Heron.

## **Out Skerries Day 4**

An early start before breakfast suggested that there had been few new arrivals, and so it was to prove.



Highlight of the day was excellent views of the Arctic Warbler in the grounds of our B&B. Four Snow Buntings were seen but other birders had seen 19 today. Other migrants included 10 Wheatear and 2 Redwing with 4 Pinkfeet over.

#### **Tenerife Day 4**

After a hiatus to change hire cars we headed towards El Teide for Blue Chaffinches. Perhaps three figure numbers of Plain Swift were passed. Stopping at Aguamansa (Caldera) we soon saw a cracking male Blue Chaffinch alongside 2 female Chaffinches (Tony Clarke mentions this site as one of few where both Chaffinches occur). We also had Tenerife Kinglet here.

After the tourist trip up the Teide cable car, with Kestrels and Berthelot's Pipit near the summit, we headed to Las Lajas passing our first Southern Grey Shrike of the trip. At Las Lajas itself the very distinctive local race Great Spotted Woodpeckers were much in evidence around the picnic areas as well as the Blue Chaffinches.

Heading back past Erjos we considered walking to the pigeon vantage point, but there wasn't enough time before dusk. Instead we walked the short distance to Erjos ponds and were very surprised to get seven Bolle's Pigeons which all eventually settled at close range in the trees behind the main pond.

#### **Out Skerries Day 5**

There was some easterly in the wind overnight, and the pre-breakfast birding suggested several new migrants had arrived.

This was confirmed in a circuit of the houses and crops. In particular a first year Barred Warbler near the cemetery was very welcome.

Throughout the day a number of common migrants were seen including alba wagtail, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Garden Warbler, Redwing, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Robin, Wheatear, Brambling, Willow Warbler, Whinchat, Reed Bunting and Lesser Whitethroat.

Other than the Barred Warbler the highlight was an Iceland Gull which flew south over the bridge between the islands.

The news services showed an array of rare birds across Shetland today. With more easterlies forecast there are grounds for optimism tomorrow.

#### **Tenerife Day 5**

Today involved an early start and late finish to get a reasonable delay on La Gomera. Unfortunately in ornithological terms the effort was not rewarded, though the island was delightful.

As well as a pigeon site (Laurel not seen) a couple of areas of freshwater were checked out on the off chance of migrants / vagrants. Presa de la Encantadora produced a couple each of Little Egret and Grey Heron, Moorhen and Coot. Chejelipes Reservoir only held the latter two species.

Similarly the ferry ride produced only more Cory's Shearwaters, but was memorable for Bottle-nosed Dolphins and Short-finned Pilot Whales.

#### **Out Skerries Day 6**

A truly remarkable day. Checking the iris bed before breakfast a contrasting pipit flew out, and then perched obligingly on the posts of the iris bed fence for some time. In



such close range, unhindered views it was obvious that it was a Pechora Pipit. Eventually it flew behind the drystone wall, and having seen enough to identify it I left it there and went to find Stuart. It took some time to locate him, but he then immediately went to the bird and saw it. Whilst he was watching it the bird flew south west and unfortunately could not be relocated despite searching.

The supporting cast on a lovely sunny day included a Yellow-browed Warbler, 16 Goldcrests and 4 Lesser Whitethroats. The events of the day took a further unexpected turn when Stuart left to try for the Siberian Thrush on Foula. It looks like I will be the only birder covering the island tomorrow before reinforcements arrive on Sunday.

### **Tenerife Day 6**

After an intensive day yesterday took it easy today with a late start and then a leisurely stroll around the resort. The walk added Monk Parakeet to the trip list.

Headed for Buenavista golf course where there were 2 Whimbrel. A flock of 9 Little Egret passed offshore and a Spectacled Warbler was by the clubhouse. Moving on to Teno no Barbary Falcon were seen, but four Bottle-nosed Dolphins were seen from an unusual vantage point high on the cliffs.

Checked the Mirador de Largrimona, where after perhaps 40 minutes or so had satisfactory flight views of a couple of Laurel Pigeon. Got lost trying to find Los Rodeos, and so checked another golf course east of Tacoronte and had very good views of a female canariensis Great Spotted Woodpecker.

### **Out Skerries Day 7**

Two days ago there were four birders covering Out Skerries, today there was just me. It was therefore expected that less would be seen, but this was exacerbated by something of a clear out. Numbers of warblers and thrushes were both down.

Only one definite new bird was seen. This was a Short-eared Owl gliding past the community centre towards the south west end of the island. SEOs are only passage migrants on Shetland so this was something of a bonus.

Mid morning I tried to take advantage of the flat calm conditions to sea watch from Bruray for cetaceans. I didn't hold out much hope so was very pleased to pick up a couple of Harbour Porpoises close in.

Otherwise it was quiet. Three Teal in North Mouth was about the best. But for most of the day the sun was shining, the wind was becalmed and birds aside it was a great day to be on Out Skerries.

### **Tenerife Day 7**

Went to a number of southern sites today. At El Medano was saw our first Kentish Plovers, ten in all.

Spent some time at the Golf Sur complex. This was eventually rewarded with three Cattle Egrets together on one of the fairways.

Headed on to the reservoir at El Fraile, which was expected to be the key site of the week for non-endemics. In many ways it didn't disappoint, with 2 Spoonbills, 72 Little Egrets, a Greenshank as well as a Common Sandpiper. Also in the immediate vicinity were 4 Barbary Partridges and 2 Hoopoes.

Stopped briefly at Las Lajas on the way back and enjoyed more good views of canariensis Great Spots.



### **Out Skerries Day 8**

A pre-breakfast circuit of the crofts suggested little in the way of new arrivals. It was therefore rather galling when a flock of presumed geese could be seen over the toast and coffee. Fortunately they were seen again shortly after and proved to be 15 Pinkfeet.

Until lunchtime I had the island to myself in birding terms. It remained quiet though, with single Peregrine, Wren and Wheatear the best of it. A group led by Rob Fray came in on the midday boat, it would have been nice to have more news for them. They found the Snow Bunting flock had risen to 35 birds.

The last ferry saw this group leave and the regular Out Skerries autumn group arrive for a fortnight stay. They and I saw several Snow Buntings coming in singly from the east, and late on they had over 50 birds in the flock so clearly there is still some movement.

### **Tenerife Day 8**

With our flight not until the evening there was time for some more birding during the day. We went to Erjos Ponds again and once more had superb views of up to 15 Bolle's Pigeons in the trees at the far end of the pond. There were also up to 5 Buzzards and a Sardinian Warbler in the area and we also got our best views of the local race Robins.

### **Out Skerries Day 9**

Last day on Skerries. A pre-breakfast walk did not produce any new arrivals in westerly winds. The Tree Sparrow was still around, the birder whose garden it was in said it had been present since May so no surprises there then.

Leaving on the ferry at 9.30 I was surprised to see a female Kestrel heading south over the sea towards the islands. Docking at Vidlin there were no buses due for six hours, but fortunately I was able to hitch into Lerwick with one of the Skerries residents who had come off the ferry.

Later that day drawing away from southern Shetland on the ferry both Foula and Fair Isle were in view in the sunshine, scenes of much birding excitement in the last week or so and a reminder of why Shetland is such a special place at this time of year.

### **Out Skerries Day 10**

Stuart needed Isabelline Shrike so we went home via Buckton, North Yorkshire. We enjoyed great views of the bird hawking insects in typically conspicuous fashion.

Stephen Dunstan



## Atlas Update

On 1<sup>st</sup> November data collection for the National and Lancashire Atlas projects, with the aim of mapping the distribution of all wintering and breeding species throughout the UK.

Several Fylde birders have already signed up to **Timed Tetrad Visits** in our area – and a few are already cracking on with the fieldwork. Sightings of particular interest made during Atlas fieldwork so far include...

- A **Raven** near Poulton-le-Fylde
- Several **Buzzards** and a **Green Sandpiper** in eastern Fylde.
- A flock of 116 **House Sparrows** at Sowerby
- A **Brambling** near Wharles

There are however still many Fylde tetrads left to cover – so please visit **www.birdatlas.net** and sign up to a free tetrad. Getting involved in the project offers an excellent opportunity to explore the countryside around your home and visit some of the less well-watched areas on the Fylde.

Personally, I have found that taking part in the fieldwork is a real eye-opener to how many birds are actually present in our area - I never really appreciated how common Robins where!!

To take part simply...

- Choose any free 2 x 2km squares
- Make 4 visits (2 in winter and 2 in summer)
- Each visit should last two hours
- Record all the birds you see
- Fill-in Paper forms or enter data online

Please continue to email all your records to **news@fyldebirdclub.org**, as all records will be forwarded to the BTO for inclusion in the Atlas.

So, a big **THANKYOU** to everyone who has already got involved with the project, and a big **plea** for assistance from everyone who is yet to choose a tetrad. We have four years to complete the survey, so there is no excuse to not get involved! If you would like anymore information please telephone me on 07976-201755 or email **stuartpiner@hotmail.com**.

Stuart Piner  
South Lancashire Atlas Regional Organiser



## RECENT SIGHTINGS

Compiled by Stuart Piner

### August

Heavy rainfall early in the month once again flooded the field by the Main Dyke at Mythop, which resulted in the area hosting a fine selection of local scarcities during August. A juvenile Wood Sandpiper, up to three Garganey and adult Curlew Sandpiper visited the excellent habitat, along with an impressive selection of commoner waders. If only this area was under water all year long!

The 1<sup>st</sup> produced a remarkable three Black Guillemots past Starr Gate – an unprecedented mid-summer total. Other seawatching highlights came in the form of a couple of Pomarine Skuas past Starr Gate on 16<sup>th</sup> and a Storm Petrel and Shag past there on 13<sup>th</sup>.

A couple of adult Curlew Sandpipers were at Cockersand on 6<sup>th</sup>, with a single at Rossall Point on 24<sup>th</sup>. Even better were a brace of Little Stints at Skippool Creek on 10<sup>th</sup>. Up to two female Mandarins were a regular feature at Bispham Marsh throughout the month, and a Quail was heard at Rawcliffe Moss on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Marsh Harriers were reasonably widespread, with records coming from Cockersand, Stalmine Moss, Little Eccleston, Mythop, Staining, Medlar, Skippool Creek, Waterside Farm, Fluke Hall and Bradshaw Lane Head.

The adult Yellow-legged Gull at Glasson was joined by a second bird on a few occasions during the middle of August and nearby a Bonxie flew past Cockersand on 15<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile Hobby was briefly on Pilling Marsh the following day and on 20<sup>th</sup> four Ravens were observed flying north over Rossall Point.

A Wood Sandpiper flew east over Conder Green on 26<sup>th</sup> and towards the end of the month, record numbers of Little Egrets began to build up on the Ribble, with 24 roosting at Freckleton Naze Pool on 31<sup>st</sup>.



## September

Great Grey Shrike, Wryneck and Long-tailed Skua were all discovered during September, but unfortunately none on these 'goodies' were available to the masses. The Great Grey Shrike flew past Len Blacow at Rossall Point on 30<sup>th</sup>, the Wryneck visited a Treales garden on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Long-tailed Skua was typically a fly-by, past Knott End on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The month began with a party of five Ring-necked Parakeets in Lytham Crematorium and a female Mandarin at Bispham Marsh (the latter remaining until the 5<sup>th</sup>). An Osprey flew over Forton on 3<sup>rd</sup>; the only other September Osprey was one over Skippool Creek on 17<sup>th</sup>. On 6<sup>th</sup> a Fylde (and Lancashire) record count of Little Egrets roosted at Freckleton Naze Pool, a whopping 43 birds. The Freckleton Naze area also produced Scaup, Raven and up to three Marsh Harriers during the early part of the month.

A juvenile Curlew Sandpiper arrived at Skippool Creek on 6<sup>th</sup>, by 9<sup>th</sup> the total had increased to three and a party of five were on the mudflats on 30<sup>th</sup>. On 11<sup>th</sup> at least 11 Curlew Sandpipers were counted at Glasson, with at least six still in the area on 24<sup>th</sup>. The regular adult Yellow-legged Gull remained at Glasson until the 17<sup>th</sup> and three Scaup flew north on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nearby a Turtle Dove was a fabulous record at Cockersand on 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Hobby flew over Fleetwood Golf Course on 7<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile Pale-bellied Brent Goose accompanied a flock of Pink-footed Geese on Pilling Marsh on 15<sup>th</sup>. A Purple Sandpiper flew over Pilling Marsh on 29<sup>th</sup> and a party of five Barnacle Geese were logged at Eagland Hill and Pilling Marsh on the same day.

The long-staying Glossy Ibis, now residing at Marshside RSPB, made short visit at Warton Marsh on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> before returning to the 'dark side' of the Ribble.

In addition to the Knott End Long-tailed Skua, seawatching highlights included Shags past Starr Gate on 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and a couple past Rossall Point on 9<sup>th</sup>. A Bonxie flew past Rossall on 10<sup>th</sup> and a Black-throated Diver flew west on 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## October

Following the Great Grey Shrike on 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Fleetwood area completed a spectacular hat trick during the first two days of October. Seumus Eaves was first to strike, finding a Yellow-browed Warbler in Fleetwood Cemetery on 1<sup>st</sup> and the following day Ian Gardner watched a Richard's Pipit fly over Rossall Point. The Fleetwood area continued to produce the goods throughout October – Black-throated Diver, Sabine's Gull, Black Redstart, a couple of Snow Buntings and a pair of Long-tailed Ducks were all recorded.

The Fylde's first inland Sabine's Gull was discovered in a ploughed field at Myerscough as dusk was approaching on 15<sup>th</sup>. The following day, presumably the same juvenile was seen off Rossall Point, having probably roosted somewhere off the Wyre Estuary mouth.

A flock of eight Curlew Sandpipers dropped in to Skippool Creek on 4<sup>th</sup>; lower numbers remained on site up to 19<sup>th</sup> and on 16<sup>th</sup> a couple of Ravens flew over. A Bittern returned to Marton Mere on 5<sup>th</sup>, where it was joined by a second bird from 14<sup>th</sup>. Marton Mere also hosted a Scaup during the month, as well as an exceptional Starling roost, estimated to contain over 126,000 birds – quite a spectacle!

A couple of Snow Buntings flew over Fairhaven Lake on 6<sup>th</sup> and a Short-eared Owl was at Cockersand; Short-eared Owls were also noted at Head Dyke Lane on 15<sup>th</sup>, Mythop on 18<sup>th</sup> and Rossall Point on 27<sup>th</sup>. A Scaup was at Cockersand on 7<sup>th</sup>; another Scaup was located on Conder Pool on 20<sup>th</sup> then a party of three arrived on 28<sup>th</sup>, before relocating to Glasson Basin the following day.

A brace of Curlew Sandpipers visited Glasson on 19<sup>th</sup> and nearby a male Hen Harrier was at Thurnham on 20<sup>th</sup>. The month's second Pied Flycatcher made landfall in a Knott End garden on 8<sup>th</sup> and another Pied Flycatcher was at Bispham Marsh on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ring-necked Parakeets have been reported at Lytham Crematorium on and off for several months, but by mid October they were finally pinned down. Up to eight were regularly seen in the vicinity of a woodpecker nest box – perhaps we may soon have a new breeding species on the Fylde!

A Firecrest was an excellent find at Windy Harbour on 24<sup>th</sup>; the same day produced a Velvet Scoter past Starr Gate. At least one Water Pipit was at Warton Marsh on 27<sup>th</sup> and last but by no means least, Marsh Harriers were observed at Newton Marsh and Pilling Marsh during the month.

