



March 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the March 2011 edition of the Fylde Bird Club (FBC) newsletter. Unfortunately, Stephen Dunstan is no longer able to continue as Newsletter Editor so I am standing in on this occasion. A big thank you to Stephen for all his hard work in producing the newsletter for the last few years. Subsequent newsletters will be produced by Jean Wagstaff and Peter Rhind.

We hope you find something of interest in the following pages. Paul Slade presents a detailed account of a very full year's birding in "Fylde Bird Club 2010 Yearlist Competition" (pages 2-6). The 2010 Yearlist competition was won by Len Blacow but it was a hard fought contest, with Paul Slade and Maurice Jones being only one species behind Len's impressive total of 199. I also took part in the year list challenge and thoroughly enjoyed it (although at a more leisurely pace). I may not be a contender but I still finished up with 164 species for the year and it was all good fun.

The FBC 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 25th January 2011 at the River Wyre pub in Poulton Le Fylde. The meeting was well attended and you can read a summary on page 7. A warm welcome to two new committee members, Peter Rhind and Jean Wagstaff.

There is a very informative account on birding the Little Singleton area from Ron & Sue Bedford on pages 9-13. Ron & Sue present detailed

information on their local patch spanning the last 10 years.

We welcome any articles and information for the newsletter that are relevant to birding and conservation issues and will interest FBC members. We try to produce the newsletter quarterly so the next issue should be available in June 2011. If you have an article that you would like to be included please forward it to the contact details given below. If you are posting anything to us please remember to keep a photocopy yourself. We are also happy to help with editing articles so no need to worry if your writing skills are a bit rusty. You can send articles of any length. You may have something small of only a few sentences that you think will be of interest or you may have a longer article of a few pages that reports on a trip or birding holiday.

Send any copy for the newsletter to:

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Fylde Bird Club 2010 Yearlist Competition. Paul Slade

When Stuart Piner said it would be a good idea to set up an annual yearlist competition for Fylde Bird Club members I must admit I was a little sceptical as to the interest it would create. Now over two years down the line I am one of the keenest competitors. Stuart originally said the idea was to get people out birding locally and, more importantly, in areas and to sites they would not normally visit. I did not imagine this would happen but I am sure anyone who has taken part in the last couple of years would agree that it has been a total success. Personally I have never done as much local birding and derived so much pleasure from doing it; I have visited sites I have not been near for years and enjoyed every visit (although trudging through mud and heavy rain at Clifton Marsh in September for two Black Tern's did make me have second thoughts !)

In 2009 I only made a half hearted attempt at the competition but early January 2010 saw me keen to win. I decided that if I was to stand any chance I had to go out and find as much as possible myself as well as 'twitching' all the good birds found by others.

January started well as the Drake Ring Necked Duck from 2009 was on Fleetwood Marine Lake on the 1st after which I visited Marton Mere and caught up with Long Eared Owl, Cetti's Warbler and finally Bittern which had eluded me several times in 2009. A freezing cold visit to Cottam Brickworks on 3rd got me Willow Tit and Bullfinch followed by Warton Bank where Peregrine, Merlin and Short Eared Owl were all performing well. Thirty nine Bewicks Swan's nearby were rewarding as they have become harder and harder to see in recent years amongst the large numbers of Whoopers we now enjoy every Winter. Over Wyre now beckoned with Little

Owl soon seen and a quick look at Conder Green produced wintering Greenshank and Spotted Redshank. Thurnham Hall Church Wood is always worth a look and came up trumps with four Woodcock. On 6th January I was on Lytham Moss where I saw the Bittern of recent days and a Green Sandpiper that flew over turned out to be the only one I saw all year. Later that afternoon I stood freezing cold at Cocker's Dyke hoping to see the first winter Caspian Gull Chris Batty had added to the Fylde list the previous evening; he correctly guessed that it would probably come in to roost on the sands as I added it to both my Fylde and Yearlist. By the end of the week I had added Raven, Hen Harrier and Dipper, none of which are easy Fylde birds to see. A photogenic Snow Bunting in Anchorsholme Park was an easy addition as they quite often turn up on St Annes beach and can disappear for days or even weeks on end. Stuart Piner found a nice drake American Wigeon at Cockersands on 29th which was very handy as I happened to be driving past anyway on my way up to Lancaster with work.



Tundra Bean Goose (Paul Slade)

Mid February brought my first half decent find of the year in the form of a Tundra Bean Goose with Pink feet near Thurnham, the same flock also held Eurasian White Front and Barnacle Geese. An Egyptian Goose at Cockerham on 24th was a new Fylde bird for me and a welcome



addition to the year. In March I saw a Kingfisher at Ellel Grange, which could have been a very hard to come by bird considering the very cold spell we had in January. Even more surprising was the wintering Common Sandpiper at Conder Green the same day. A rumour that the Green Woodpecker in Poulton New Cemetery had been seen recently was worth a look and turned out to be true as it sat calling long enough to get a few digiscoped photographs.

Rossall Point in Spring is always worth regular visits so I decided if I didn't have time to do the point I would try and have a few quick looks before work from the old hospital car park, a tact that worked well when I picked up a Shag flying North on 28th March. Another early start at Rossall Point paid off on 11th April when a distant diver drifted closer and turned out to be a near summer plumage Black Throat, a bird I had not seen locally for nearly 25 years ! A week later I was back at the point where an adult summer Little Gull passed by and also turned out to be the only one I saw all year.

Marion Mere was my port of call on 18th April catching up with Grasshopper, Reed and Sedge Warbler's before heading Over Wyre for the WeBS count where an early showy singing Lesser Whitethroat was a nice surprise. A detour through Weeton on the way home yielded two first summer Mediterranean Gulls, which now seem annual in the Spring, following ploughs in the Weeton/Mythop area. Mythop flood turned up the goods with an early, if distant, Wood Sandpiper on the 22nd April. I was at Rossall Point again for an early start on 24th which turned out to be one of my most memorable days of the year due to an excellent passage of migrants including 24 Tree Pipit's, two Yellow Wagtail's, hirundines and nearly 500 Meadow Pipit's. The following day I decided Rossall was worth a look again and things started

well when a Yellow Wagtail flew over before I had even shut the car door, a Grasshopper Warbler 'reeled' away from a clump of bramble on the walk up to the point and two Pale Bellied Brent Geese flying east close in were the highlight on the sea. A phone call from Len Blacow in the nearby cemetery prompted an end to the seawatching. Almost immediately I arrived a calling Cuckoo flew quickly North. Then I saw the reason for the phone call, a stunning male Ring Ouzel showing well on the grass at the South end of the cemetery. Returning to the Point, six fantastic Yellow Wagtails on the Golf Course brought back memories of when they were a much commoner bird than nowadays.

A break from yearlisting at the end of April saw myself and Paul Ellis at Preston Dock with four painted car tyres and bags of gravel on a rickety old 'boat' chugging out to a couple of pontoon's to install our hoped for Common Tern nesting shelters. More to follow.....

A quick visit to Starr Gate on 1st May, on the offchance of a seabird or two, turned out well when 273 Manx Shearwater's passed by. Many were distant but one group of 11 moving north gave very good views even with just binoculars. A sleeping drake Garganey at Mythop flood on 2nd May woke up briefly before flying off out of sight, much to the disgust of our Secretary who rolled up all bleary eyed a minute or two later ! A shopping trip to Preston later in the day turned up a shock as two Common Terns were happily checking out one of our tyres that we had only put out two days earlier !

Five amazing days birding in Bulgaria from 7th May (See Maurice Jones' recent article for details of a similar trip in the December 2010 newsletter) could have seen me fall behind in the birdrace but Wood Warbler was the only thing I missed and as it turned out I would probably have missed it



anyway as news didn't get out until early on the Saturday evening. Mid May becomes Tree Sparrow season at Todderstaffe. Checking the boxes and ringing the young can mean two or three visits a week right through to late August as many pairs will have up to three broods, not ideal for a keen yearlister ! A quick look at Thurnham Church wood after the webs count on 16th May paid off when we found two Spotted Flycatchers feeding high up in the middle of the wood.

Early June brought a rare trip out of the Fylde when myself, Paul Ellis and Dave Hall visited the Farnes for a fantastic sunny day out photographing the thousands of very tame nesting seabirds, a day out I would thoroughly recommend if you have never been. After searching for accommodation for a couple of hours we ended up in a pub in Newbiggin by the Sea and after a few pints and an excellent Indian meal we turned in for the night. Sunday morning dawned dull and grey but not deterred we headed to Amble harbour to meet our pre booked boat to Coquet Island to see the nesting Roseate Terns. The weather could not have been more different to the previous glorious day; it was cold and wet but we still came away happy with a few photo's of the terns. A detour on the way home to a very wet Langden Beck was worthwhile for nine Black Grouse feeding in roadside fields.

June's WeBs count added Yellow Legged Gull to my yearlist total, a species I was quite lucky with finding, with possibly three or four different birds during the Autumn. A visit to Marton Mere at the month end for a female Ruddy Duck was the only one I saw all year as they have become very scarce since the controversial culling of the species in the UK.

Autumn starts for me at the end of June as I commence my daily visits to Skippool hoping for the odd rare wader or gull amongst the sometimes very large numbers of birds present. If

nothing unusual is about, just counting the ever changing numbers of birds can be very interesting and rewarding. Gulls were the highlight of June with a couple of contentious Yellow Leg's or Hybrids causing both confusion and frustration.

Late July brought the first of a few highly anticipated boat trips out of Fleetwood that I had booked with a local fisherman. Although we saw less than hoped for, great views of Manx Shearwater, Fulmar and Kittiwake were very rewarding. An evening visit to Skippool on 26th brought a first record for me for the site in the form of four juvenile Little Ringed Plovers feeding at the mouth of the creek.

August started very well on the 1st when I found a calling Quail at Bone Hill and half an hour later picked up a female Marsh Harrier hunting fields near Eagland Hill. News of Black Redstart's nesting in Preston centre had to be worth a visit although I didn't hold out much hope so it was a nice surprise to roll up and see a male and a juvenile within five minutes of parking the car. I was lucky enough to be stood next to Stephen Dunstan on the 8th when he picked up the Fylde's first Balearic Shearwater moving north off Starr Gate. My second bit of good luck of the day came in the afternoon when driving near St Michael's; Stuart Piner phoned to say he had just caught a Pied Flycatcher. Five minutes later I arrived just in time to see him release the bird. A brief Skippool visit on the 11th before baby sitting duties took over and I was looking at a distinctly different looking juvenile gull, which at the time I believed to be a Yellow Legged. However, a quick e-mailed photo to Chris Batty had him dashing to the river to confirm the Fylde's second Caspian Gull. Juvenile Caspian Gull appears to be the rarest age recorded in the UK and further research seems to confirm the first record of a juvenile away from the south east.



Mediterranean Gull continues to be one of my favourite birds, and I never tire of scanning through the Black Heads trying to pick out all the distinctive ages and regularly colour ringed birds that appear in late summer. Reading ring numbers can be challenging but in recent years we have confirmed birds from Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Poland. Fewer birds passed through in 2010 but I still managed to see up to six birds in the roost with three birds present most nights. Another of my favourite birds is Curlew Sandpiper which turns up on the Wyre most Autumn's in varying numbers; first was a juvenile at Wardleys Creek followed by up to five in the following couple of weeks.

Early September brought a change of birds at Skippool where over 1000 Swallow gathered pre roost. Up to 600 Dunlin and 100 Ringed Plover regularly fed on the food rich mud, and up to 10 Greenshank were present including a nice group of seven that dropped in one evening from the north, calling constantly before feeding for ten minutes and heading high to the south with a Ruff. The second boat trip finally happened on the 3rd September after a couple of cancellations due to the weather. As I have already written in an earlier article, it was well worth the wait. Flat calm in glorious sunshine, we encountered Great Skua over the boat, Harbour Porpoise alongside and thousands of moulting, calling Common Scoter, which made for one of the highlights of the year for myself and several other participants.

A wet evening visit to Myerscough Quarry in mid September was organised to meet up with the potential new site owners and developers. We will hopefully see some of our input and ideas to improve the site come to fruition and increase the numbers of breeding birds in the not too distant future.

September is traditionally THE month for seawatching off the Fylde and this year was no exception although I missed virtually everything due to staff holidays at work. However, a pre work Leach's Petrel in the mouth of the Wyre was a bonus. Birds I missed that day included Long Tailed Skua, Sabines Gull and good numbers of both Leach's and Great Skua's. After the wind calmed down, Frank Walsh found a very confiding Red Necked Phalarope on Fairhaven Lake, much to the delight of many who missed the last one on the lake in the mid eighties, which was in the company of a Grey Phalarope at the same time! A long trudge out to Clifton Marsh on the 19th through mud, wet grass, wind and near torrential rain hoping for the two juvenile Black Terns seen a week earlier was a long shot, but much to my surprise they were still there showing very well. Another long walk out on Preesall Sands at the month end was made even more uncomfortable due to a badly bruised and swollen foot after a tumble at home.



Grey Phalarope (Paul Slade)

Mid October brought record numbers of Lapland Buntings to Britain so surely there had to be some in the Fylde? Our WeBs count at Arm Hill had to be as good a bet as anywhere and much to the disbelief of myself and our Secretary we both shouted 'Lapland Bunting' as one flew quickly past us calling and heading south. Lane Ends beckoned after the count and after scanning through the large numbers of Teal present we picked out



three different Garganey between us. Ian Gardner completed his hatrick on 13th October when he found a cracking juvenile Red Backed Shrike at Rossall School following previous finds at the same site and Fleetwood Nature Park (or Power Station as it was back then). Diurnal watches at Fleetwood and Ridge Farm mid October brought good numbers of Brambling, Siskin and Chaffinch over calling early morning. Barnacle Goose is another bird I like to see, so scanning through Pink Feet at Lane Ends and picking out 26 was a nice sight. A week later Bob Danson found potentially the Fylde's first Red Breasted Goose nearby at Fluke Hall.



Red backed Shrike (Chris Batty)

New birds for the year were getting increasingly difficult to find so in late October and November I was out walking and hoping that visiting out of the way places like Winmarleigh Moss would produce something out of the ordinary like a Rough Legged Buzzard or Great Grey Shrike (I live in hope!). Ian did it again early November when he found a very confiding juvenile Great Northern Diver on Fleetwood Marine lake, a long overdue record as all previous sightings have been on the sea or flying past. Mid November brought huge numbers of Waxwing to the country and up to 200 birds in Preston were hard to resist as they are usually very photogenic. Taking the camera out that day was far from wasted as Bob Stinger found a Grey Phalarope on a flooded field on Lytham Moss. Amazingly another call from Ian on 15th had me nipping out from work to see a Barred Warbler he had just found in the small wood next

to Farmer Parrs at Fleetwood. Late November brought a rush of Firecrest's to the Fylde with two at Freckleton, singles at Warton and St Annes and nicely for me one I found at Thurnham Church Wood late on in the day.

December turned out to be the coldest most of us can remember with temperatures down to -12 degrees at Todderstaffe on Christmas Day. Not to be deterred by the weather I tried hard all month to catch up with a Purple Sandpiper at Rossall, which turned out to be my final new bird of the year. However, I still managed to find a Bullfinch at Thurnham, three Waxwings that flew past calling at Bodie Hill and a couple of Tundra Bean Geese at Todderstaffe. Accompanying the Bean Geese was an adult Eurasian White Front, a bird I knew Len Blacow still needed for the year. I knew myself, Len and Maurice Jones were all on 198 species so a call to Len handed him the trophy really, finishing the year one short of the magic 200!

I know not everyone agrees with the bird race but I can honestly say it has been one of my most enjoyable Fylde birding years, and such a high total is only possible by the finders of scarce birds being good enough to put out their news so a big thank you to all who made the effort. I decided to take a closer look at my total of 198 and was pleasantly surprised to see rather than just chasing other peoples finds around all year I had managed to find 175 out of the 198 myself. This equates to just over 88% which I think is pretty good going. So am I doing it again in 2011? You bet I am. I want to crack 200 this year and get my name on that trophy! Congratulations to Len on his 199 but watch your back this year Blacow! To join in with the 2011 competition follow this link : <http://www.fyldebirdclub.org/YearlistChallenge2011.htm>

Paul Slade, January 2011



AGM held on 25th January 2011 Summary

The meeting was attended by the Chairman (Paul Slade), Secretary (Paul Ellis), Treasurer (John Barker) and 24 members. The minutes from the previous AGM held in January 2009 were accepted as a true record.

The Chairman presented a review of the year. It had been another good year for membership with 128 members in 2010, only one short of our record year in 2009. The Treasurer presented his review of the year and accounts were available for members to examine. The Treasurer concluded that the club's finances were in a healthy state and there was no need to increase subscription rates; our current rates of £14 for adult members, £10 for senior members and £22 for family membership could remain unchanged for 2011. The current Building Society account held by the Club was proving unworkable, due to limitations on paying in cheques, and this was in the process of being changed to a Bank account.

The election of committee members followed. Paul Slade, Paul Ellis, John Barker, Chris Batty, Kinta Beaver, Ron Bedford and Stuart Piner were all willing to stand for re-election and all were voted onto the committee for 2011. Two additional committee places were available and Peter Rhind and Jean Wagstaff offered to stand and were voted in by the membership. Paul Morgan had offered to continue in post as Honorary Auditor and this was accepted by the membership.

Subscriptions to other bodies remained unchanged and members agreed that the club should continue to support the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire & Cheshire Fauna Society.

A full copy of the AGM minutes can be obtained on request from Paul Ellis (Secretary).

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Your Fylde Bird Club Committee for 2011



Paul Slade
(Chairman)



Paul Ellis
(Secretary)



John Barker
(Treasurer)



Chris Batty



Kinta Beaver



Ron Bedford



Stuart Piner



Peter Rhind



Jean Wagstaff



Gift Aid

The Gift Aid scheme is for gifts of money from individuals who pay UK tax. Your subscription to Fylde Bird Club (FBC) can be counted under the Gift Aid scheme. All new members are sent Gift Aid forms so they can decide if they wish to allow FBC to reclaim tax on their subscription. This is entirely voluntary but FBC would welcome your Gift Aid donation. Gift Aid donations are regarded as having basic rate tax deducted by the donor. FBC is a registered Charity and will take your donation/subscription (money you've already paid tax on) and reclaim the basic rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on its 'gross' equivalent - the amount before basic rate tax was deducted. Currently, basic rate tax is 20%, so this means that if you give £10 using Gift Aid, it's worth £12.50 to FBC. For donations between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011 FBC will also get a separate government supplement of 3p on every pound you give.

How to make a donation using Gift Aid

In order to make a Gift Aid donation you'll need to make a Gift Aid declaration. If you have not been asked to complete a Gift Aid form, or you are not sure if you have completed a form in the past, please contact Kinta Beaver (contact details below).

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- tax deducted at source from savings interest
- tax on State Pension and/or other pensions
- tax on investment or rental income
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Please note that only UK tax counts; if you only pay tax outside the UK you will not be able to use Gift Aid.

How to check if you've paid enough tax

To work out if you've paid enough tax to cover your donations, divide the donation value by four. For example, if you give £10 in a particular tax year you will need to have paid £2.50 tax over that period. ($£10/4 = £2.50$). If you completed a Gift Aid form some time ago and you think that you are not currently paying enough tax for FBC to reclaim tax on your subscription please let us know as it is important that we keep up to date. Information on tax rates was taken from the HM Revenues & Customs website, accessed 2nd February 2011. For further information check out the following website link for information on Charities and Gift Aid donations: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm>

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Subscription reminder

Subs for 2011 were due in January 2011. If you have not renewed your membership please consider re-joining and send your subscription to:

John Barker (Treasurer). Quail Cottage, Hollins Lane, Forton, Preston. PR3 0AB OR
Kinta Beaver (Membership Secretary). 18 Staining Rise, Staining, Blackpool. FY3 0BU
Adults £14; Seniors £10; Juniors (<16) £5, Family £22



**A Local Bird Report 2001-2010
Little Singleton Site
(Ron & Sue Bedford)**

We did a report in January 2006 for the Club newsletter covering the first five years of the century. This report absorbs the earlier one and brings us to the end of 2010. Our basic approach is intended to reduce the variability in recording. It's the same geography, the same observers and the same methods. We try to cover the same state-of-tide too so that we can get a good spread of species. Where practicable there is a count at low water and another around high tide. The first timing is to maximise wader exposure and the second to observe activities as the salt marsh floods (especially at spring tides). Observing positions and counting methods are constant and even the quality of the observers is constant – only the standard is in question.

So, apart from the sheer pleasure of watching birds (even in less than comfortable weather) what we hope to present in this report is a record of 10 years of bird activity on this part of the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. It might be useful sometime.

The layout of the patch is sketched in Figure 1. In essence we have a field-of-view sweeping the River Wyre from the Shard Bridge upstream to Windy Harbour 'ness'. Our garden is small, well 'feeder-ed' and 'nest boxed' and has medium sized trees north and south with an open easterly aspect across parkland and ponds. For access to all this we thank our good neighbours Tony Eglin and Mick Smithson

Summary

From Table 1 and Table 2

Species Maxima counts – trends 2001-2010

Selection criteria – only species with an annual average maximum count of more than 10 are used (less statistical variation)

Trend % = $\frac{\text{average annual max counts 2001-2005}}{\text{average annual max counts 2006-2010}}$

Grey Heron	-9%	
Mute Swan		+23%
Pink-footed Goose		+230%
Canada Goose		+270%
Shelduck	-37%	
Wigeon		+35%
Teal		+4%
Goldeneye		+9%
Oystercatcher	-10%	
Golden Plover	-17%	
Lapwing	-24%	
Dunlin	-40%	
Common Sandpiper		+15%
Redshank		+39%
Black-tailed Godwit		+75%
Curlew	-25%	
Whimbrel	-32%	



Other observed changes

Little Egret	INCREASED number of sightings	2006-2010
Red-breasted Merganser	DECREASED number of sightings	2006-2010
Pintail	INCREASED number of sightings (and increasing numbers)	2006-2010
Buzzard	INCREASED number of sightings	2004-2010
Song Thrush Redwing Fieldfare Mistle Thrush	} DECREASED number of sightings and decreased numbers sighted	2006-2010
<i>Garden</i>		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	INCREASED number of sightings and increased numbers sighted	2001-2010
Goldfinch	DECREASED number of sightings	2006-1010
Tree Sparrow	INCREASED number of sightings and increased numbers sighted First breeding	2004-2010 2010

Conclusions

A mixture of good news and bad news. Perhaps reductions in river disturbance, especially jet skis and shooting on the marsh would improve matters. It is a delightful site and continues to please. Long may it last. Oh, by the way, our total species count for the site 1996-2010 is 131.

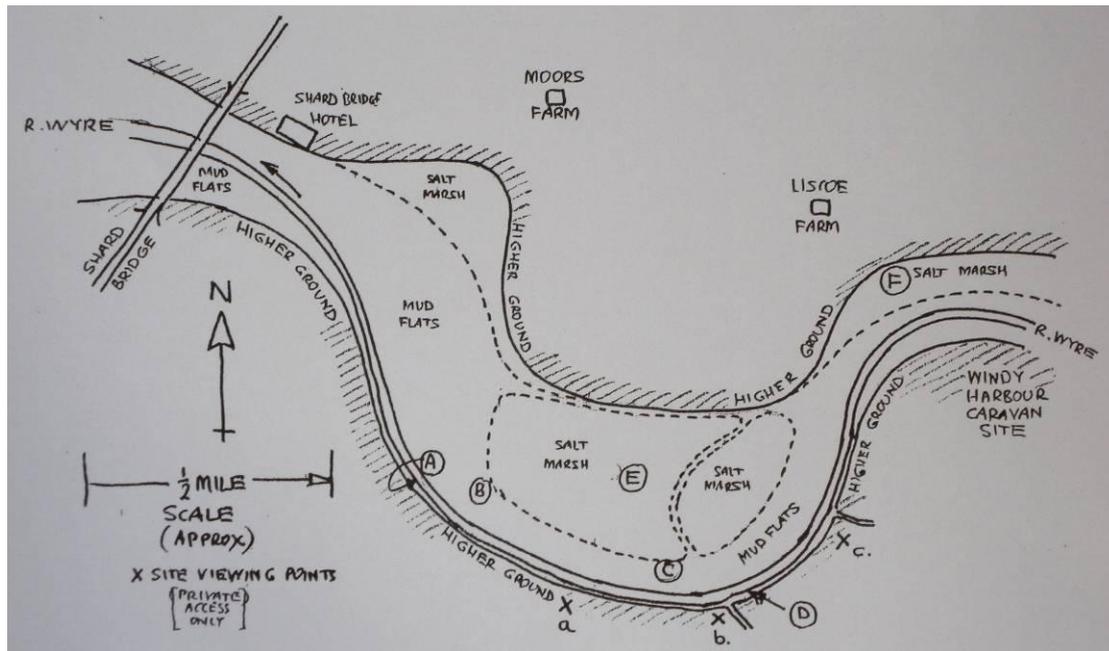
*Ron & Sue Bedford
January 2011*

Sites to accompany Figure 1

A	Stony/mud shore	Low water	waders, duck
B	Flat mud	Low water	waders (esp. Lapwing)
C	Flat mud	Pre & post high tide	waders (esp. Redshanks, Lapwing)
D	Stony/mud shore	Low water	waders. On R Wyre; heron, Cormorant, diving ducks feeding
E	Salt Marsh	Low water	Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Skylark, Linnnet
F	Salt Marsh	High water 'refuge'	Swans, geese, waders, duck on river



Figure 1. Little Singleton site sketch



Notes

- Tidal conditions
 - High tide (local) is Fleetwood H.T plus 30 min
 - Low water (local) is Fleetwood H.T minus 1hr 40min
- Salt marshes start flooding when Fleetwood high tides are greater than 9.3m
- High tide levels are much increased by combinations of
 - N.W winds
 - Low pressure
 - Earlier rain
- Low tide/water roosts are affected by earlier rain on hills
- Wyre shows a Bore* occasionally – about 4in high (!)
- Sketch shows course of River Wyre indicatively only. Likely only at lowest tides/driest conditions

* in addition to the author



Table 1. Main counted species – annual maxima 2001-2010

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Annual observer days	305	306	308	310	304	312	300	276	268	282
Cormorant	8	7	13*	11	9	8	6	8	6	10
Little Egret	1	0	0	3	5	10*	5	4	8	5
Grey Heron	9	11	10	13*	9	13*	8	9	7	11
Mute Swan	32	30	40	35	42	40	57*	32	41	50
Bewick's Swan	14	9	17*	12	4	15	10	2	6	3
Whooper Swan	1	17	4	52	58*	9	12	7	20	19
Pink-footed Goose	40	541	332	729	1	495	336	5	200	2803*
Greylag Goose	11	10	5	8	7	0	3	1	55	98*
Canada Goose	90	63	44	81	67	136	194	195	218*	199
Shelduck	120	255*	154	97	110	114	85	120	96	50
Wigeon	213	276	124	107	293*	176	150	186	212	269
Teal	131	126	125	166	278	146	100	75	93	445*
Goldeneye	13	12	14	6	8	6	12	14	16*	10
Goosander	6	10	9	10	7	7	16*	7	6	3
Red-breasted Merganser	0	4	6*	4	3	2	2	3	0	2
Buzzard	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	3*	2	2
Sparrowhawk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
Kestrel	1	2	8*	4	1	1	1	5	3	1
Peregrine	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Oystercatcher	120	108	106	75	120	116	137*	50	97	74
Golden Plover	60	92	108	190*	120	119	163	125	19	28
Lapwing	1615	1884*	1339	1425	1705	1555	1455	1174	935	932
Knot	0	6	21	54	69	2	86*	66	1	2
Dunlin	120	250	250	800*	250	195	120	86	164	275
Common Sandpiper	9	20*	10	11	8	10	21	12	9	15
Redshank	133	178	149	230	340*	305	244	249	319	314
Greenshank	6	8	9	16*	11	7	7	6	5	9
Black-tailed Godwit	20	56	24	205	108	59	214	263*	147	40
Curlew	720*	540	379	455	423	390	600	409	306	175
Whimbrel	88	42	32	61	64	53	7	15	24	97*
Snipe	12	3	9	32*	21	12	16	14	18	13
Common Gull	42	4	4	16	22	14	18	76*	26	10

* max.number each species

NB. Wildfowl counts are of surface-based i.e. feeding/roosting not overflying



Table 2. Less regular counted species – annual maxima 2001-2010

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Annual observer days	305	306	308	310	304	312	300	276	268	282
Great Crested Grebe									1	1
Little Grebe			1		1					
Slavonian Grebe				1						
Black Swan				2				2	2	2
Barnacle Goose						1	1			
White-fronted Goose			1							
Mandarin	1	1							2	1
Pintail						2	10	2	12	12
Shoveler			4	1		1		1	2	
Gadwall				1						
Tufted Duck	1									
Eider	1									
Marsh Harrier						1				1
Hen Harrier						1				
Coot	1									
Ringed Plover						1		1		1
Turnstone			1			1				
Little Stint	1							2		
Green Sandpiper						1	2		1	
Spotted Redshank						1				1
Ruff						2				
Yellow-legged Gull										1
Mediterranean Gull								1		
Kingfisher						1	2	1	1	1
Rock Pipit	1									
Song Thrush	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	1
Redwing	3	9	8	20	79	79	24	9	1	1
Fieldfare	7	17	20	101	3	3	2	0	0	1
Mistle Thrush	8	3	7	2	2	2	2	4	2	4
Wheatear							1			
Linnet							20	10		
Raven										1
Little Owl										1

Table 3. Species seen but not counted and garden birds 2001-2010

Species seen but not counted	Garden Birds (reported under BTO Garden Watch)	
Mallard	<i>48 species seen 2001-2010</i>	
Black Headed Gull	Lesser Black Backed Gull	2010
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Lady Amherst's pheasant (male)	2008/2009
Greater Black-backed Gull	Reeves Pheasant (female)	2008/2009
Herring Gull	Willow Warbler	2009
Swift	Nuthatch	2005/2010
House Martin	Brambling	2003/2008
Swallow	Lesser Redpoll	2009
Skylark	Twite	2003/2008/2010
Starling	Reed Bunting	2007
Woodpigeon		



Recent Reports by *Stuart Piner*

August 2010

The highlight of the month arrived when Stephen Dunstan and Paul Slade watched a Balearic Shearwater fly north past Starr Gate on 8th. This is the first time that Balearic Shearwater has been identified in Fylde waters. It is currently listed as critically endangered, with the total (declining) world population estimated at just 10,000-30,000 individuals (Seawatch Southwest, 2010), but in mid-summer the majority leave their Balearic Islands breeding grounds to feed in the Atlantic (Parkin & Knox, 2010). The species regularly visits British waters; at least 1,000 individuals occur off southern and south-west coasts from mid-summer into the autumn, but it remains rare in the eastern Irish Sea (Wynn, 2010, White et al., 2008). Balearic Shearwaters occur relatively frequently off North Wales, but there are only three accepted records from Lancashire and North Merseyside, one from Heysham (August 1986) and two from Formby Point (July 1994 and September 2004). Despite its regional status, Balearic Shearwater has long been predicted as a likely addition to the Fylde List; excellent numbers of Manx Shearwaters pass and feed off our coastline in August, and given that this coincides with the peak periods for Balearic Shearwaters in the Irish Sea (Seawatch Southwest, 2010), it was thought likely that the Manx could carry a wandering Balearic with them. Luckily, Stephen and Paul were on hand to turn theory into reality. There seems little doubt that concerted effort off our coastal watchpoints in mid-August will produce further records of Balearic Shearwater - the challenge is on!

Paul Slade was also involved with August's juvenile Caspian Gull, which he located at Skippool Creek on 11th August. Paul alerted Chris Batty to his discovery of a strange juvenile gull, who responded rapidly and confirmed the identification as the Fylde's third

Caspian Gull. Small numbers of juvenile Caspian Gulls move westwards into Britain soon after fledging, but most only reach as far as southeast England and East Anglia – in fact, this individual represents the first record of a Caspian Gull in juvenile plumage in Northern England.



Caspian Gull. Skippool Creek. Chris Batty

Yellow-legged Gulls were well represented during August. Skippool Creek hosted an adult, 2nd-summer and 1st-summer (the latter representing the first Yellow-legged Gull to be identified in this plumage on the Fylde), Glasson hosted an adult before it moved to Cocker's Dyke later in the month (believed to be the same bird that frequented Glasson and Cocker's Dyke during the previous two summers, as a 2nd-summer then a 3rd-summer) and Cocker's Dyke continued to host the juvenile found in July (this bird also visited Knott End and Ridge Farm).

August also produced a number of notable scarcity records, including Quails at Bone Hill and Rawcliffe Moss, a Pied Flycatcher at Myerscough Quarry, Shag, Great Skua and two Little Terns past Starr Gate, Wood Sandpipers at Myerscough Quarry (2) and Freckleton Naze, Osprey over Gipsy Hole Wood, Cetti's Warbler at Marton Mere, Little Stint at Cockersand, Curlew Sandpipers at Skippool Creek and Fairlawn Road and a Hobby over Carleton. One of the most popular birds was a showy juvenile Cuckoo at Cocker's Dyke, whilst in Preston the breeding Black Redstarts lingered in



the city centre, and finally, on 31st a Honey Buzzard flew over Herons' Reach.



Cuckoo. Cocker's Dyke. David Moreton

September

A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope found by Frank Walsh at Fairhaven Lake on 17th September was the highlight of the month. This is the first Red-necked Phalarope to have been found on the Fylde since 1989, when one visited Marton Mere on 25th May. Despite its local rarity status, this is not the first record at Fairhaven Lake; in September 1983 both a Red-necked and Grey Phalarope occurred simultaneously at the site!



Red-necked Phalarope. Fairhaven. Mike McGough

Strong southwest and west winds through the Irish Sea produced tremendous seawatching off the Fylde coast between 14th and 20th. During this period a juvenile Long-tailed Skua flew past Rossall Point, a Sabine's Gull flew past Starr Gate and Leach's Petrels were recorded in excellent numbers; peak counts comprised 23 past Starr Gate on 14th, and 28 past Rossall Point, 22 past Blackpool North

Shore, 18 past Bispham and 18 past Knott End on 15th. Single Black and Little Terns, Black Guillemot and several Great Skuas (including 18 past Blackpool North Shore on 15th) were also logged past coastal watchpoints.

Several Yellow-legged Gulls lingered from August, including the adult at Glasson, 1st-summer and adult at Skippool Creek and 1st-winter at Cocker's Dyke/Ridge Farm. At Marton Mere up to three Cetti's Warblers remained on site. An Osprey flew over Pilling Marsh and two juvenile Black Terns visited Clifton Marsh, whilst another flew south past Cleveleys. A Barnacle Goose flew south over Carleton with Pink-footed Geese, 12 Scaup flew west past Rossall Point and a further three Scaup were at Glasson. Notable migrant passerines were few and far between, but a Redstart was logged at Ridge Farm. Curlew Sandpipers passed through the Fylde in good numbers; reports comprised 12 at Knott End, 10 at Cocker's Dyke, seven at Glasson, five at Skippool Creek, Cockersand and Conder Estuary, three at Skippool Creek, and one at Lytham. Little Stints were recorded at Cocker's Dyke (3), Knott End (2), Cockersand, Glasson and Starr Gate.

October

The highlight of an exciting month was the discovery of a 1st-winter Red-breasted Goose at Fluke Hall Lane on 24th. The bird, found by Bob Danson, accompanied Pink-footed Geese by Fluke Hall Lane and on the adjacent Pilling Marsh throughout the day, but it could not be found thereafter. This is the first instance of a Red-breasted Goose accompanying Pink-footed Geese on the Fylde. This individual was first found in Lancashire outside the Fylde on 14th October with Pink-footed Geese at Martin Mere WWT. It was seen again there on 16th, before it relocated to Pilling on 24th. Following its trip to the Fylde, it reappeared at Martin Mere WWT on 30th October, visited Marshside RSPB (Merseyside)



on 31st October and 6th November, returned to Martin Mere WWT on 9th and 13th November, before finally being seen near Eccleston (Merseyside) on 23rd November.



Red breasted Goose (Paul Ellis)

October also produced a fine array of scarce passerines. Maurice Jones dealt the first blow with a brief Great Grey Shrike in Fairhaven Dunes on 8th, then on 13th superstar rarity-finder Ian Gardner found not only a Red-backed Shrike at Rossall School (the third Red-backed Shrike Ian has discovered on the Fylde) but also a Yellow-browed Warbler at Fleetwood Cemetery. On 16th Ian once again produced the goods, this time with a flyover Great Grey Shrike at Rossall School.

Lapland Buntings irrupted into Britain and Ireland in unprecedented numbers during autumn 2010, and by October a small number had found the Fylde; records comprised singles over Rossall Point and Barnaby's Sands, two on Fleetwood Golf Course, at least three at Ridge Farm and three adjacent to Pilling Marsh.

Waxwings began to arrive in Britain in overwhelming numbers during October, and harbingers of what would prove to become a significant invasion on the Fylde included up to 12 in Preston and 12 over Myerscough College.

On 28th October a Great White Egret flew north over Pilling Marsh, but the bird could not be found subsequently. The best of the rest included the

Willow Tit to Cottam Brickworks, a Grey Phalarope off Rossall Point, a peak count of 26 Barnacle Geese with the Over Wyre Pink-footed Geese flocks, an Osprey flew south over Blackpool North Pier, the adult Yellow-legged Gull lingered at Glasson and up to three Cetti's Warblers remained at Marton Mere. Garganey were recorded at Pilling Marsh (3), Mythop (2) and Marton Mere, Little Stints were at Knott End (4) and Cocker's Dyke, Curlew Sandpipers were at Cocker's Dyke (8), Glasson (3), Knott End (2), Skippool Creek (2) and Cockersand, and Brent Goose records comprised two off Rossall Point, two Dark-bellied Brent Geese on Pilling Marsh and a Pale-bellied Brent Goose flew south over Mount Park, Fleetwood.

November

Ian Gardner found November's star bird, a Barred Warbler in Fleetwood. This is the eighth Fylde record of Barred; the previous seven records have all occurred in autumn between 12th August and 24th October, so this year's bird is the latest by 22 days. In addition to the Barred Warbler, during autumn 2010 Ian also found both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrike and a Yellow-browed Warbler, all in Fleetwood – an incredible achievement by one observer in Northwest England.

Whilst driving across Lytham Moss on 4th Bob Stinger hit the jackpot when he noticed a spinning wader on a small flood; a closer look revealed a first-winter Grey Phalarope, which showed well until 17th. Back in Fleetwood, Ian Gardner found the Fylde's first example of an 'inland' Great Northern Diver when he discovered a showy juvenile on Fleetwood Marine Lakes on 7th, where it lingered until 27th. The Waxwing invasion gathered momentum during November; records comprised of a flock of up to 200 at various locations in Preston, 20 in Galgate, 18 at Cottam Brickworks, 14 flying over Knott End, 10 each at Pilling Lane and Forton, flocks of six at



Fleetwood and Marton Mere and three in Lytham.



Waxwing. Preston. Paul Ellis

An exceptional run of Firecrest records during November included two in Freckleton and singles at Warton Bank, St. Annes and Thurnham Hall. Iceland Gulls were located at Preston Dock and Cocker's Dyke, Marton Mere hosted up to nine Long-eared Owls, six Cetti's Warblers, two Bitterns and a Scaup, two Cetti's Warblers were logged at Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park and two Lapland Buntings were seen at Eagland Hill. A Goshawk made a few appearances at Newton Marsh, the Willow Tit lingered at Cottam Brickworks, Snow Buntings were at Starr Hills and St Annes Beach, a Purple Sandpiper was at Rossall Point, a Barnacle Goose joined Pink-footed Geese on Pilling Marsh and records on the sea included a Scaup off Knott End, Shag at Starr Gate and Great Northern Diver past Rossall Point.

December

The highlight of December was the return of last winter's Ring-necked Duck to Marton Mere. The adult drake, discovered by Ashley Baines on 22nd, lingered at Marton Mere until 28th.

Scarce geese found amongst flocks of Pink-footed Geese included two Tundra Bean Geese and two Eurasian White-fronted Geese at Todderstaffe Hall, two Greenland White-fronted Geese in Preesall, a single White-fronted Goose unassigned to form near Marton Mere and two Barnacle Geese (at Todderstaffe Hall and

Preesall). Away from the flocks of Pink-footed Geese, a Dark-bellied Brent Goose visited Blackpool North Shore Golf Course.

Both of November's juvenile Iceland Gulls lingered into December, at Preston Dock and Cocker's Dyke/Bourbles Pit. Scaup records comprised 14 off Cockersand, three off Starr Gate and singles at Marton Mere and Fleetwood Marine Lakes. A Bittern was at Preesall Flashes and Purple Sandpipers were located at Cleveleys (2) and Fleetwood. The Great Northern Diver last seen on Fleetwood Marine Lakes on 27th November was rediscovered at Fleetwood Docks on 27th December, Marton Mere hosted seven Long-eared Owls and two each of Cetti's Warblers and Bitterns, the Willow Tit lingered at Cottam Brickworks, a Snow Bunting was at Rossall Point and a Long-tailed Duck flew past Starr Gate.



Iceland Gull. Preston Dock. Christopher Piner

An excellent spread of Waxwing records produced the following peak counts: 200+ in Preston, 31 flying over Churchtown, 14 at Preston Dock, 12 at Skippool, seven at Warton Bank, four at Marton Mere, three at Lytham, Thurnham and Glasson, two at Herons' Reach, Fleetwood and Myerscough Quarry and singles at Conder Green, Newton Marsh, Burglar's Alley and Cottam Brickworks.

January

On 4th January Frank Walsh discovered a confiding Red-necked Grebe at Fairhaven Lake, where it



remained until 31st. The last widely twitched Red-necked Grebe on the Fylde lingered in Stanley Park from 18th February until 13th March 1979.

Last year's Red-breasted Goose was rediscovered at Staynall on 5th. The bird remained on the Fylde until 31st January, accompanying Pink-footed Geese at Pilling Lane Ends, Dam Side, Cockerham Moss Edge, Cleveleys, Cocker's Dyke, Eagland Hill, Cumming Carr and Fluke Hall.

A male Green-winged Teal visited Glasson on 17th and the adjacent Conder Estuary the following day. A Green-winged Teal at Marton Mere in February 1991 constituted the first Fylde record. By the end of 2010 there had been a further eight records (two at Cockerham/ Pilling Marsh, two at Marton Mere and singles at Barnaby's Sands, Freckleton Naze Pool, Newton Marsh and Preesall Flashes), making Green-winged Teal the most frequently occurring species of vagrant Nearctic duck on the Fylde.

In Fleetwood, last November's Great Northern Diver reappeared at Fleetwood Docks from 2nd-17th January 2011. On 27th January the male Ring-necked Duck also reappeared in Fleetwood, initially at Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park before relocating to Thornton ICI Reservoir. Elsewhere lingering scarcities included the Iceland Gull at Preston Dock (another Iceland Gull visited Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park) and Willow Tit at Cottam Brickworks. Marton Mere hosted nine Long-eared Owls, six Cetti's Warblers and two Bitterns.

Two Water Pipits were identified at The Heads, Yellow-legged Gulls were at Fleetwood Docks, Knott End and Fairhaven Lake, a Bittern visited Preesall Flashes, two Purple Sandpipers were at Cleveleys and a

Snow Bunting was discovered at Cockersand. Waxwing reports comprised flocks of 22 at Preston Dock, 20 in Preston, 11 in Kirkham, eight in Ingol, seven in Ansdell, five at Warton Aerodrome, four in Fleetwood and three in Blackpool.

Scarce geese located during January included at least 12 Eurasian White-fronted Geese (including a flock on ten on Warton Marsh), two Greenland White-fronted Geese, at least two Dark-bellied Brent Geese, two Pale-bellied Brent Geese and at least one Barnacle Goose.

February

Highlights of the month included a Red Kite over Marton on 18th, a Glaucous Gull off Fleetwood on 9th and Egyptian Goose at Nateby Lodge.

Scarcities lingering from January included the Snow Bunting at Cockersand (until 22nd), Willow Tit at Cottam Brickworks, Iceland Gull at Preston Dock (until 23rd), Ring-necked Duck in Fleetwood (until 18th) and Purple Sandpiper at Rossall Point/ Cleveleys. Marton Mere hosted eight Long-eared Owls, six Cetti's Warblers and a Bittern, a Great Skua visited Pilling Marsh on 7th and up to four Water Pipits were seen at Warton Bank. A Nordic Jackdaw was photographed in Lytham and Yellow-legged Gulls were noted at Fleetwood Marsh Nature Park and Stanah. Peak Waxwing counts comprised 40 in Preston, 12 at Fleetwood Marine Gardens and singles at Bispham Marsh and Fairhaven.

Scarce geese reported with the Pink-footed Goose flocks included a first-winter Greenland White-fronted Goose, two Pale-bellied Brent Geese, at least one Dark-bellied Brent Goose, a Barnacle Goose and at least four Eurasian White-fronted Geese.



News & Announcements

2011 Fylde Bird Club Pelagics

After a couple of trips out from Fleetwood last Summer / Autumn we have arranged five trips for Club members this year. The boat will pick up off the beach by Fleetwood Lifeboat Station, access to the boat is by either a ladder or steep plank so please be aware of this before booking. See dates Below:

April 25th : (Easter Monday) 06.00 – 14.00. Cost £30

July 11th : 16.00 – 21.00. Cost £25

July 26th : 15.00 – 20.00. Cost £25

August 23rd : 14.00 – 19.00. Cost £25

August 24th : 15.00 - 20.00. Cost £25

Please contact Paul Slade to book :

E Mail : Paul@winclad.fsnet.co.uk or Mobile 07970 986904

Places available on a **first come first paid** basis.

If a trip has to be cancelled for any reason, payment will be refunded in full.

Preston Bird Watching & Natural History Society

There is a trip to Bempton Cliffs on Saturday 18th June

7.45am from St. Mary's Church Hall, Cop Lane, Penwortham. Free car parking during the day on the Hall car park. £15 per person.

Suggest bringing two packed meals.

Return from Bempton at about 7pm to arrive back in Preston about 9pm, largely depending on the weather and drivers regulations.

Anyone who is interested please contact Steve Halliwell on 01772 705468 for further details.

www.prestonsociety.co.uk

Fylde Bird Club: forthcoming meetings

22nd March: Kingfishers – Up Close and Personal with Jeff Harrison

26th April: A Future for Hen Harriers in England? with Stephen Murphy

24th May: Brockholes Wetland with Sophie Leadsom

28th June: Business Update & Members Photographs



Ribble Bird Tours

Ribble Bird Tours is a Fylde based Birdwatching Holiday company. The Fylde Bird Club suggests that Club members seeking organised birding trips, might wish to consider the tours offered by this company. Limited places remain on a few tours this coming spring.

In April there are a couple of places left on a 2 week tour along the Texas coast and along the Rio Grande Valley. It's a great time for migration and among the many highlights will be hundreds of dazzling American Wood Warbler species along with great birds such as Roadrunner, Cactus Wren and Least Grebe.

A couple of places are available on another 2 week trip in May to Hungary and Romania where highlights will include Saker, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Wallcreeper, Great Bustard and numerous species of Woodpecker. We should also see European Brown Bear on this tour.

There are also a couple of places left on a week long tour in May to Eastern Poland where time is spent in the Bialowiesza Forest and in the Biebzra Marshes. Target birds here include Aquatic Warbler, Great Snipe, Pygmy Owl, Red breasted Flycatcher, Corncrake and Woodpeckers galore such as Three toed and White backed.

A 2 week tour of Bulgaria also has 2 places remaining and on this trip there'll be numerous raptors, numerous warblers, waders and wildfowl and many woodland species. A superb birding trip.

There are just 2 places left on a visit to Norfolk in early June when the targets will be the breeding specialities such as Nightingale, Nightjar, Montagu's Harrier, Garganey, Hobby, Honey Buzzard, Stone Curlew, Woodlark etc.

There are also just 2 places remaining on a 3 day / 2 night trip to the Farne Islands and Northumberland in mid June. Apart from the usual seabird spectacular participants should see Roseate Terns and Black Grouse on this trip.

A detailed itinerary and prices are available on request from RBT's at smrbt@blueyonder.co.uk or 01253 312043 / 07954 584359 or visit www.ribblebirdtours.co.uk

All overseas tours depart from Manchester airport.

There are also a few seats left on some of the days / short breaks programme in the NW. On Thursday March 17th there is 1 place left on a visit to 2 sites near Warrington for Lesser spotted Woodpecker and other good birds. On Monday March 21st the day will be spent around the Fylde, with time spent over the high tide at Warton Marsh for Water Pipits, as well as other sites. On March 24th / 25th there is a visit to North Wales with an overnight stay and on Thursday March 31st there are a couple of places left on a trip to the Dunsop Valley and East Lancs for Ring Ouzels, Goshawk and more. On Monday April 4th a day will be spent in the Fylde looking for early spring migrants amongst other birds. On Monday May 9th a day will be spent locally concentrating on Warbler identification.

Photographic Competition February 2011

Check out the winners of the photographic competition on the FBC website <http://www.fyldebirdclub.org/meetings.htm>

Winners:

Fylde category: Sparrowhawk in Cleveleys by Jackie Moreton

British Isles category: Cuckoo at Cocker's Dyke by David Moreton

World category: African Fish Eagle at Lake Baringo, Kenya by Kinta Beaver



Fylde Bird Report 2010 – Call for Species Writers

We would welcome expressions of interest from any members who would be willing to write species accounts for the 2010 Fylde Bird Report. In 2009 we had a team of species writers who divided up the 218 species accounts. However, we currently have a shortfall in the number of species writers and we need to recruit additional help to produce a quality report by the end of the year.

What is involved?

Chris Batty collates all the records and puts them onto Excel spreadsheets. So, each individual species is listed in the spreadsheet with information about date, location, numbers of birds and other relevant information (such as evidence of breeding). Each species account is sent to Kinta Beaver as a WORD file for inclusion in the report. Hence, to be able to write the species accounts you need to have access to a computer and be able to use an Excel spreadsheet and WORD. The Excel spreadsheet allows the records to be sorted by species, date, location, number seen, etc. Therefore a basic ability to use Excel to sort and filter the spreadsheet is needed. We check and proof read all the species accounts for grammar, typing errors and content so please don't worry if your writing skills are a bit rusty. Accuracy and the ability to interpret the data is important e.g. was it a good or a bad year for a particular species. If you look at the 2009 report this will give you a very good idea of what is required for each species.

Even if you are only able to write up one species account this would be a great help. Currently the number of species that our sub-editors write ranges from 9 to 63. BUT every little helps.

If you are interested please get in touch with any of the following:

Chris Batty: chrisbatty400@hotmail.com
Kinta Beaver: kbeaver@uclan.ac.uk
Paul Ellis: paul.ellis24@btopenworld.com

WeBS Count Dates

WeBS is the Wetland Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), which consists of monthly co-ordinated counts. Volunteers are always welcome for the North Fylde coast. Please contact Jean Roberts JeanRbrts6@aol.com

The Chairman and Secretary count the Wyre and you are welcome to join them 2 hours before high tide at the Heads.

Next dates: March 20th
 April 17th
 May 15th
 June 19th

The Big Spring Tides

These will start at 11:28 Sunday 20th March (10.2m) peaking at 12:12 Monday 21st (10.3m) and ending at 12:57 Tuesday 22nd (10.2m).

Warton Bank and the Burrows Marsh/The Heads are favourite sites for Water Pipits. If visiting Warton Bank it is advised that you do not park in the wildfowler's car park at the end of Bank Lane.

www.fyldebirdclub.org

