

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 147

Autumn 2014

*Chorley and District Natural History Society is a
Registered Charity: Registration Number 513466*

FLORA REPORT

The cuckoo arrives in April, or so they say. Well cuckoo flower certainly did on April third, delighting us with its delicate lilac petals. It was, as always accompanied by that other Orange tip food plant, garlic mustard.



Blackthorn seemed to be in extra abundance as well with many bushes looking as though they were covered in snowflakes.

I mentioned last year about the wonderful display of bluebells throughout Chorley. This year has seen a repeat of that with various people mentioning Cuerden, Roddlesworth, Birkacre, Brinscall, and Houghton. April also brings the annual bird race and many of the contestants report their botanical observations. It also means a variety of colour with the bluebells mixing with red campion, common dog violet, ransoms, herb Robert, bugle and ground ivy. By May, all these flowers were at their best and complemented by wood sorrel, wood anemone, white clover, ragged robin, wood avens and. as you would expect from its common name of mayflower, hawthorn. This provided more food for all our early insects.



As summer overtook spring the woodlands, meadows and waterways abounded in colour and fragrance. I searched in vain on Cuerden for Bee Orchid and looking at my records, it seems nobody else has reported any. We have seen several locations where broad-leaved helleborine have been observed and it was good to see Scarlet Pimpernel return again this year. One of evening walks this summer was to Hic Bibi, where the botanists seemed to outnumber the birders making it an amble rather than a walk. Then at the end of September we visited Chorley Cemetery. It was supposed to be a fungal foray yet managed to see fleabane, Devil's bit Scabious, autumn crocus and yet another record of broad-leaved helleborine. The photo of the crocus is mine though an even better one by Phil Kirk can be seen on our Flickr page



Autumn Crocus at Chorley Cemetery

This year there appears to have been an even better harvest than last. A cornucopia of brambles, sloes, raspberries and a variety of apples weighed the trees and bushes down. Acorns and beech mast also covered the floor of most of our woodland. In my local area, I don't think I have seen so many knopper galls on acorns ever before. I write this in late-ish October though I would expect the plethora of Michaelmas daisy blooms, I still have noted self-heal, red campion, white dead nettle, Himalayan Balsam and bramble still flowering. However what else can you expect with temperatures locally around seventeen degrees Celsius.

David Beattie

INSECT REPORT



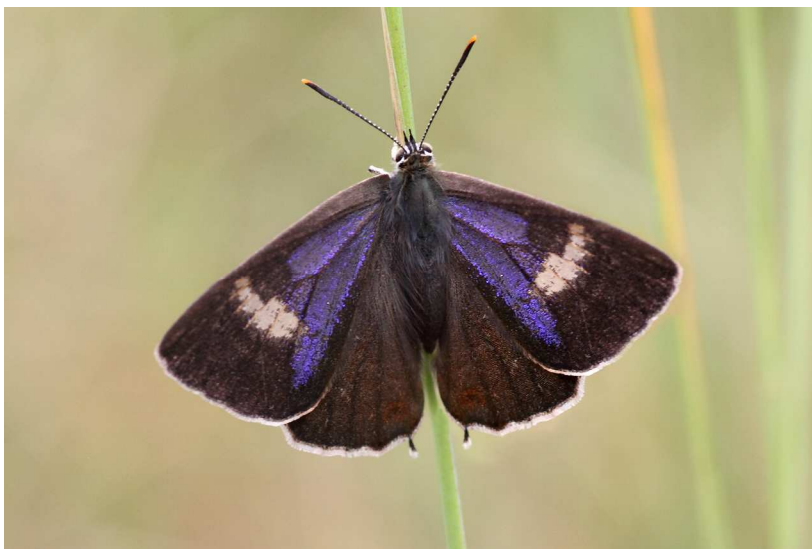
A Brimstone was observed ovipositing at Lower Burgh Meadows

Alder Buckthorn is the foodplant of the Brimstone butterfly. Some 30 odd years ago I planted one in our garden in the hope of attracting Brimstones. We've never had one! 10 or so years ago, Butterfly Conservation planted several at Lower Burgh Meadows and finally this summer, their work paid off. A female Brimstone was seen laying eggs on one of the trees. The adult butterflies are seen reasonably often locally, but this is the first time that egg laying has been observed. This sighting was on 2nd July and in fact proved to be the only summer sighting of the Brimstone.

Another species of "white" is the Clouded Yellow. This is a migrant and is seen every few years locally. This year proved to be one of those years. The first sighting was in the Yarrow Valley near Butterworth Brow on 31st July. Thereafter it was seen at Ulnes Walton (6th August), Hic Bibi (2 present from 21 – 24 August) and Lower Burgh Meadows (15th September).

There are a few resident butterfly species whose numbers locally are supplemented by migrants – such as Red Admirals and Large Whites. We have only two absolute migrants - one being the Clouded Yellow, and the other the Painted Lady. The latter was also present, but only in singles at 3 sites. This is a little below average for the species. Did anyone see one that I don't know about?

On July 26th one recorder counted at least 12 Purple Hairstreaks at a site in the Anglezarke area. This is a new site for the species. White Letter Hairstreak turned up in an Euxton Garden on 15th July. This was the fourth year out of the last five when the species has been present in that garden. No other records were received.



Purple Hairstreak seen at new site near Anglezarke

Common Blue had a really successful year. Hic Bibi seemed to have the best population and several mated pairs were reported from there. That bodes well for next year. At the time of writing, I have had no records of the Holly Blue for the second half of the year.

Hic Bibi also produced good numbers of Gatekeepers and Meadow Brown. Both these species again seemed to have done particularly well this summer, with high numbers being reported from lots of sites throughout the area. This was also the case for the Speckled Wood, which was very frequently seen in all parts of the area during August and September.

Migrant Hawkers were seen at four sites, which is an improvement on the single sighting we had in 2013. Common Darters seemed to be very numerous at all the known Dragonfly sites. Brown Hawkers and Southern Hawkers were seen laying eggs at Hic Bibi. Black Darters are common at a few sites such as Healey Nab and Belmont, but they were seen this year at Hic Bibi as well. They have occurred in the past at the nearby Ellerbeck site, so might have been overlooked at Hic Bibi in the past. Eyes peeled next year!

Phil Kirk

BIRD REPORT

July

The pair of Little Grebe in Astley Park finally produced 3 young on the 21st. Three were also noted at Croston Twin Lakes on the 29th. This site also held 2 pairs of Great Crested Grebe with a minimum of 4 young on the 3rd. Seven Tufted Duck were on Anglezarke Reservoir (5th), when 33 Greylag Geese were on Upper Rivington Reservoir, and post-breeding flocks of Canada Geese included 80 on Anglezarke reservoir, 30 on Upper Rivington Reservoir and 35 on Big Lodge in Yarrow Valley Park.

Three juvenile Little Egret were at Belmont Reservoir (12th), and another was at Eccleston (24th). Eight species of wader were noted during the month including Green Sandpiper on Syd Brook (22nd) and the Yarrow (30th), both in the Eccleston area. The other species were Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe.



Little Ringed Plover was amongst the wader species seen in July

The Peregrine family at Morrison's had left the site by the 10th. It is not known if the single young had fledged successfully. Hobby sightings included 2 at White Coppice on several dates, and birds at Eccleston (13th) and Croston (14th). A Red Kite was seen by several observers at White Coppice on the 17th. Barn Owl sightings came from Great Knowley (7th), Anglezarke and Mawdesley (7th & 28th). A pair of Little Owl at White Coppice had one, and possibly 2 young.

The pair of Common Tern and 3 young at Yarrow Valley Park had left the site by the 10th. A juvenile Green Woodpecker at White Coppice on the 22nd was an excellent find, particularly as it was only the second sighting for the year. It begs the question as to where its parents were. An equally good sighting was of a juvenile Cuckoo at Eccleston on the 26th, as sightings of juveniles are few and far between in the area. Kingfishers were noted at Common Bank, Eccleston, Heskin and Whittle-le Woods during the month. Post breeding flocks of Swift were noted including one of 80 birds over Coppull Moor on the 18th.

Another good find at White Coppice was a Whinchat (5th). The bird held territory for the remainder of the month, but it is not known if it found a mate. The Stonechat did with 2 or 3 juveniles being seen as evidence. Other Stonechat sightings came from Anglezarke Moor and Rivington. A family party of Redstart was also at White Coppice and a resident pair of Spotted Flycatcher there completed an excellent quartet! Spotted Flycatcher was also noted at Withnell Fold. Grasshopper Warbler were reeling at White Coppice (10th) and Anglezarke Moor (18th). Lesser Whitethroat with young were noted at Chisnall (5th) and Common Whitethroat with young were at White Coppice (12th). A family party of 4 Goldcrest was at Eccleston on the 1st.



Goldcrest

Finally, Willow Tit was recorded at Yarrow Valley Park (23rd) and Croston Moss (30th). A post-breeding flock of 100 Linnet was on Croston Moss (28th).

August

The pair of Little Grebe in Astley Park appeared to have lost all their young, but there was a later suggestion that one may have survived. A pair was seen on a pond at Wheelton (14th) and 4 were on Croston Twin Lakes (25th). Coot at the latter site had built up to 120 on the 19th. A female Tufted Duck with 10 chicks was noted on Anglezarke reservoir on the 3rd. 4 wintering Teal had returned to the site by the 26th. A pair of Mandarin was seen regularly on the Yarrow between Eccleston and Croston throughout.



Greenshank – one of 13 wader species seen in August

Thirteen species of wader were recorded. Post-breeding Lapwing flocks included 40 on Croston Moss (1st), 120 at Belmont (3rd) and 100 at Lower Rivington Reservoir (30th). Other plovers included 5 Golden on Croston Moss (18th), Ringed at Belmont (1st) and Anglezarke (17th-20th) and Little Ringed at Belmont, Anglezarke and Whittle. A Greenshank was at Anglezarke from 20th to 26th, and a Redshank was also at the location Green Sandpiper was seen regularly on the Yarrow at Eccleston. Common Sandpiper were recorded at Belmont and Anglezarke. . Most other wader records came from Belmont which also hosted Curlew, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Snipe. Four of the latter were at Eccleston on the 12th. If anyone's counting, Oystercatcher makes up the 13.

Hobbies were seen regularly in the Croston and Eccleston areas. Passing through were Osprey at Rivington (11th), and Marsh Harrier heard over Gillibrand North (24th). A Merlin at George's Lane Rivington (31st) may have been a local breeder.



Little Owl

Two juvenile Kestrels were seen fighting near Syd Brook, Eccleston (25th). A Barn Owl was on Croston Moss (19th), a Little Owl was at White Coppice (27th) and a Tawny Owl was a road casualty at Bretherton (26th).

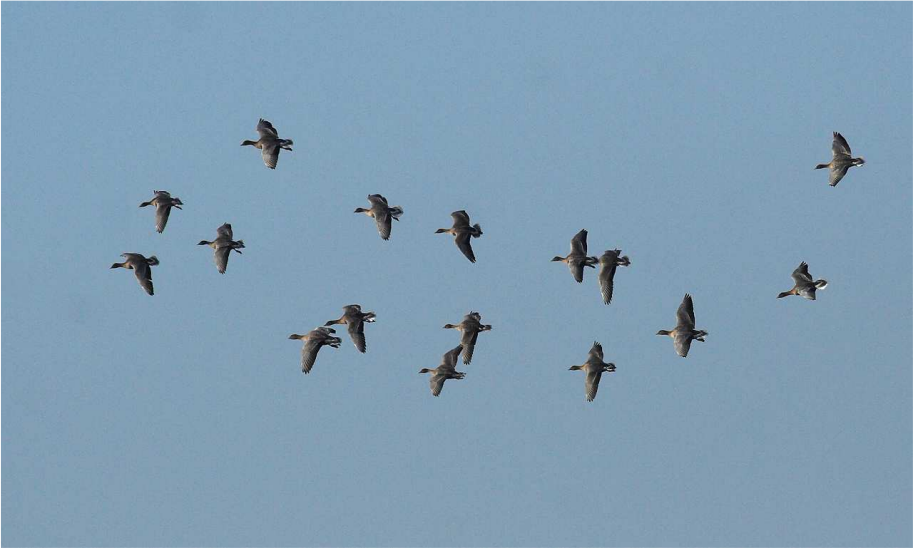
200+ Pheasant on Croston Moss (31st) were presumably shooting releases. Hopefully the family party of Grey Partridge at the same site on the 4th were the real thing. Also on Croston Moss a Little Gull was noted with Black-headededs on the 20th.

Several reports of Green Woodpecker were received from both White Coppice / Anglezarke and from George's Lane, Rivington. A family party of 3 Great Spotted Woodpeckers was at Shaw Hill Golf Course (20th). As usual Swift had more or less disappeared by the end of the first week, with the last record being one over Astley Road (25th). In contrast, House Martins were still feeding young at Frederick's (27th), Eaves Lane (28th), and Kittiwake Close (29th). Sand Martins were seen at Withnell Fold (9th) and Wheelton (14th).

Black Redstarts were recorded in George's Lane (15th & 19th) and on Winter Hill (23rd). Wheatear passage was noted on Anglezarke Moor, George's Lane and Croston Moss. A Tree Pipit in George's Lane (19th) was one of few records for the area this year. A family party of 5 Whinchat at White Coppice on 19th perhaps answered the question as to whether the bird found in July had a mate.

Post-breeding flocks included 35 Mistle Thrush at Shaw Hill (20th), 150 Linnet on Croston Moss (31st) and 200 Goldfinch at Croston Sewage Works (25th).

September



Pink-footed Geese – a sign of Autumn

A skein of 50 Pink-footed Geese flying west over Chorley on the 8th was a sign that Autumn had arrived. Wildfowl were also noted returning to Croston Twin Lakes from the 2nd, including 2 Shoveler, 8 Gadwall, 4 Wigeon and 8 Tufted Duck. A female / juvenile Goldeneye on the Yarrow at Eccleston was a bit of a mystery. 300 Canada Geese appeared on Twin Lakes on the 25th.

Post-breeding flocks of Lapwing included 171 at Lower Rivington Reservoir (7th), 120 at Belmont (9th), and 220 on Croston Moss (21st). A single Golden Plover was again on Croston Finney (15th & 27th). A Green Sandpiper was seen regularly throughout the month on the Yarrow at Eccleston and occasionally on Syd Brook.

A juvenile Red Kite was seen at Rivington (14th & 21st). Hobby sightings again were mainly from the Croston / Eccleston area except for one at Lower Rivington on the 22nd. A Peregrine was on Morrison's chimney on several dates. Multiple Buzzard sightings included 13 over Coppull (5th), 7 over Gillibrand North (7th) and 5 at Great Knowley (18th). A Little Owl was on Croston Finney (15th). Tawny Owl corpses were found at Great Knowley and at Mawdesley (28th).

All three woodpecker species were recorded including a Lesser Spotted at Hoghton (15th). Kingfishers were observed at Eccleston, Croston Twin Lakes and Yarrow Valley Park. House Martins were still feeding young mid-month and the odd one or two of both House Martin and Swallow were seen at the month's end.

A Black Redstart was again noted at George's Lane (2nd) and Winter Hill (17th). George's Lane / Winter Hill produced most passage migration records including Wheatear, Whinchat, Stonechat, and Ring Ousel. Hundreds of Meadow Pipit also passed through. Elsewhere, a Spotted Flycatcher was at Eccleston (5th) and a Reed Warbler was in Yarrow Valley Park (11th). Willow Tits were noted at Great Knowley (4th) and at Chisnall (28th).



Whinchat

Finally, 6 returning Fieldfare were seen at Great Knowley (28th).

Many thanks to the following for submitting records:-

I.Ball, R.Barnes, D.Beattie, D.Beevers, S.Bottomley, J.Cobham, A.Darbyshire, B.Derbyshire, G.Dixon, D.Downing, T.Dunn, J.Edwards, M.Fishwick, J.Frankland, M.Gardner, K.Haydock, R.Hoyle, C&T.Johnson, P.Kirk, P.Krischkiw, L.Harrison, E.Langrish, A.Leach, G.Lilley, J.Love, I.Lynas, A.Makin, S.Martin, G.Parsons, L.Poxon, C.Rae, J.Riley, N.Root, L.Rose, P.Ross, P.Rowlands, I.Ryding, N.Southworth, R.Spencer, C.Thistlethwaite, M.Thornhill, N.&T.West, P.West, T.Westhead, P.Whittaker, S.Wilkins, K.Woan.

Please continue to send your records to the forum or the editor.

Neil Southworth

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

The Garden Bird Survey again took place during the winter months between December 2013 and March 2014. 22 completed forms were returned, which is the same number as last year. Thank you to all those who took part. The distribution of gardens was as follows:-

<u>Location</u>	Urban	Suburban	Rural
	1	17	4
<u>Size</u>	Small	Medium	Large
	2	15	5

The medium sized suburban garden remains the most numerous contributor. The average number of species per garden was 21.27, which is slightly down on last year, perhaps because of the milder winter. Great Knowley was again the place to be with gardens there recording 34, and 33 species respectively. Gardens at Euxton with totals of 32, 31 and 30 were close behind. Gardens elsewhere appeared to be one or two species down on previous years.

The total number of species recorded this year was 49, two less than last year, with Fieldfare and Black-headed Gull being the most notable absentees. There was no new addition to the list. The total number of species recorded in the 16 years or so that the survey has been running now stands at 66. The following chart is based on number of gardens visited by each species. A weighting is then used to separate species in case of equality. Thus the first four in the table visited all 22 gardens, but Blackbird and Blue Tit were the most frequent species based on the weighting.

Little has changed in the Top 10, with Magpie and Coal Tit leap-frogging House Sparrow, being the only movement. Between 10 and 20, Goldfinch continues to rise, Collared Dove continues to fall and Bullfinch re-entered.

Outside the Top 20, and presumably because it was a mild winter, there were fewer records than usual of winter visitors. Siskin were recorded in 6 gardens, Brambling in 3, Blackcap in 2, Redwing in 2, but no record at all for Fieldfare and Chiffchaff. The species which didn't make the Top 20 were as follows:-

Sparrowhawk (12 gardens), Carrion Crow (9), Great Spotted Woodpecker (8), Jackdaw (7), Pheasant and Siskin (6), Pied Wagtail (5), Goldcrest, Tawny Owl, Mistle Thrush and Mallard (4), Stock Dove, Lesser Redpoll, Buzzard, Kestrel, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, Treecreeper, Brambling and Reed Bunting (3), Moorhen, Redwing, Blackcap, Willow Tit, Rook, Tree Sparrow and Linnet (2), and Feral Pigeon and Lesser Black-backed Gull (one each).

Year					Species	Weighted score	Gardens visited
'14	'13	'11	'03	'98			
1	1	1	1	1	Blackbird	62	22
1=	2	1=	3	2	Blue Tit	62	22
3	3	3	1=	4	Robin	57	22
4	4	4=	4	3	Great Tit	55	22
5	5	4	5	7	Dunnock	53	20
6	6	6	14	15	Woodpigeon	52	20
7	7	9	6	6	Chaffinch	47	20
8	9	11	6=	5	Magpie	46	21
9	10	8	10	13	Coal Tit	44	17
10	8	14	11	8	House Sparrow	43	19
11	13	13	16	17	Goldfinch	41	16
12	11	7	8	9	Collared Dove	40	17
13	12	12	13	14	Long-tailed Tit	38	19
14	14	---	-	-	Nuthatch	31	13
15	15	10	14	11	Starling	30	15
16	16	15	9	10	Greenfinch	27	14
17	19	16	12	12	Wren	25	18
18	-	19	19	-	Bullfinch	24	13
19	18	16	17	20	Song Thrush	20	14
20	17	18	18	16	Jay	20	13

We will again be running the survey on the same basis in the coming winter, so I look forward to receiving all your forms, plus perhaps a few more besides?

THE MOLE AND ITS RELATIVES

There was a plaintive comment in the Annual Report 2013 saying “Although molehills were widespread and abundant in suitable habitats throughout the year, there were no reports of live animals.” which follows a similar report in the 2012 Annual Report. It is not surprising that none were seen as they do not often emerge from the safety of their tunnels. Nevertheless there are a lot of moles around with the national population estimated at around 11 to 12 million, but this can only be a fairly rough estimate.

We now know a great deal more about the habits of moles (*Talpa europaea*) than we used to thanks to the studies by Dr David Stone of Aberdeen University. He managed to fasten miniaturised radio transmitters on to moles and thus track their activities and movements throughout the year. Moles breed from the end of February to early June with the actual timing of conception probably dependant on soil temperature. Births occurring in from April to July with an average litter size of 4 though as many as 8 have been recorded. Whilst the young are dependent on their mother's milk the females have to provide food for themselves and their young so they are much more active in tunnelling in search of new food supplies and consequently this is a time when molehills are a common sight. The young stay with their mother for up to 9 to 10 weeks before she ousts them from her tunnel system. They then have to find new territories and start their own web of feeding tunnels. This is a time when young moles can be seen above ground as they disperse and it is also a time of high mortality rates as owls, hawks and other predators such as foxes feed upon them.

Both in new territories and old the autumn is another time of high activity in molehill production as both new colonisers and older residents seek to increase their food supply and fatten up to survive the lean times ahead during winter when earthworms are less active.

Moles feed predominantly on earthworms which never fall to less than 50% of their diet in the Summer and rises to a little more than 75% of their diet in Autumn, Winter and Spring. It is during summer that the moles are slightly less reliant of earthworms for food and also consume any insects and their larvae which fall into the tunnels as well as a small proportion of slugs, millipedes and centipedes. It is thought that moles evolved to exploit the niche provided in the soil of deciduous woodlands rich in earthworms but have spread to permanent pastures and even arable fields temporarily. Young moles on first colonizing a new area tend to make first a straight tunnel up to 15 metres long before making side tunnels to check both on the abundance of earthworms and the presence of other moles. Males always occupy a set of tunnels which are not used by any other males but their territory may well overlap that of several females with whom the male will breed. Each female has her own territory separate from that of any other female.

When I was an undergraduate, more than 60 years ago, moles, and their many relatives, were all bundled into a single order, the Insectivora, which included all small, unspecialised, insectivorous mammals, seen as representatives of an early stage in the evolution of mammals. It was thought that in the early Triassic, when

mammals evolved, ` insects were both numerous and often very much larger than they are today so they provided a food resource which developing small mammals could exploit whilst remaining hidden from predators in the undergrowth of the tree-fern forests of that time. Now, thanks to DNA analysis, we know that the old Insectivora order comprises at least two separate orders –

The **Euliotyphia**; an order which includes, in addition to the moles, the hedgehogs, desmans, true shrews and shrew moles. Within this order the moles, shrew moles and the desmans make up the family Talpidae with a total of 17 genera and 42 species at present. But I always remember my former colleague, Bob Carcasson, Curator of Zoology at the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi, many years ago saying that whilst finding a large new mammal was a once in a life time experience, finding small mammals, whether rodents or Insectivora was no more than a day's trapping in a favourable environment such as the bamboo forests of the East African mountains. His problem was finding the time to research to find if the new species had in fact already been described and if not, then making all the investigations necessary before writing a paper for submission to the relevant scientific journals. So we may well still have further members of this order to discover.

The other order derived from the old Insectivora is the **Afroscoricida**; which includes the golden moles of southern Africa and the tenrecs of west and central Africa and Madagascar with a total of 10 genera and 30 species. The old order Insectivora is now thought not to be monophyletic, that is not to have a single evolutionary origin. The Afroscoricida are now thought to have a separate independent origin from the Euliotyphia and probably belong in the large grouping the "Afrotheria" which includes aardvarks, elephant shrews, hyraxes, sea cows and even elephants.

Robert Yates

BOOK REVIEW: 'FASCINATED BY FUNGI' by Pat O'Reilly

However many times I tell myself that I don't need any more books on Natural History, especially Fungi, I don't listen to my own advice! The latest book I couldn't resist buying for myself as my Christmas present is 'Fascinated by Fungi – exploring the majesty and mystery, facts and fantasy of the quirkiest kingdom of life on earth'. The fact that the author is a man with another version of my surname had no influence on my decision to make the purchase!

I found out about the book when I was searching the Internet to help me identify some of the fungi growing on one of the lawns in the garden of the society's secretary, Phil Kirk (see 'postings' on the Forum of the society's website for details of these fungi.



Beige Coral fungus shown on left was one of them) and was directed to the First Nature website www.first-nature.com This excellent website covers many aspects of natural history, including fungi and was set up and is maintained by Pat and his wife, Sue.

Pat is an active conservationist and currently serves on the Countryside Council for Wales, where his special interest is in fungi conservation and the

management of National Nature Reserves in Wales. For his work in this field, Pat O'Reilly was awarded MBE in 2003.

The reason that I bought yet another book on fungi is that this one is different and will give me many hours of pleasure just browsing through the pages. It is not just another field guide, although it is very helpful in identification of fungi and it is definitely not a scientific tome, although some scientific aspects are mentioned – it is described by the author as 'a love story'. Having been fascinated by fungi for over thirty years myself, I can understand this description! It is a very reader-friendly book and has over 1000 photographs of fungi, with even a chapter on digital photography of fungi. Fungi are shown in the habitats in which they grow, including grassland and different types of woodland, one chapter having the title 'Parasites, Brackets & other Hangers-on' and another as 'Woodland Fungi – the rest of the Rotters'

So although it isn't a book I will carry about in the field for identification of fungi, I will be happy to have it for reference on one of my favourite subjects of natural history. The book can be purchased directly from First Nature or via Amazon.

Joyce Riley

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Will members please note that subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st September. Subscription rates are to remain unchanged for the forthcoming season and are now as follows:-

Grade of Membership	2014 / 2015
Adult	£10.00
Family	£15.00
Seniors.	£8.00
Senior Family	£12.00
Junior (under 18)	Free

Members who attend meetings are requested to make a donation at the door. A charge of £2.00 is made for non-members.

Members who are not able to attend meetings may send their subscription direct to the Membership Secretary:-

Mr Nigel Fairclough,
122, Brook Street,
Chorley,
PR6 0LB

Subscriptions may also be paid by Standing Order. This reduces administration, particularly in enabling the Society, which is a registered Charity, to claim back tax on the subscription of those members who have also signed Gift Aid Declarations, and at no extra cost to the member. For further details, contact the Membership Secretary or the Treasurer. Thanks to those members who have already arranged to pay by Standing Order. Thanks also to those who have signed Gift Aid Declarations. One advantage of this over the covenant scheme is that we can claim for all subscriptions - not just those paid by Standing Order - as long as you have signed a Declaration.

DATA PROTECTION

Records of name, address, telephone numbers and type of membership of the Society's members are now stored on computer. If you object to this information about yourself being stored in this manner, please notify the Membership Secretary in writing of your objection.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many thanks to Joan Smith for kindly allowing us the continuing use of her late husband Colin's photographs in our publications.

WINTER PROGRAMME 2014/2015

<i>Sep. 18</i>	'Foraging for Edible Plants and Fungi'	<i>David Winnard</i>
<i>Sep 25</i>	'Annual General Meeting'	<i>Members Only</i>
<i>Oct. 16</i>	'Birds of The Gambia'	<i>Dennis Atherton</i>
<i>Nov. 20</i>	'Birds on The Ribble Marshes'	<i>Graham Clarkson</i>
<i>Dec. 18</i>	'Members' Evening'	<i>Volunteers please!</i>
<i>Jan. 15</i>	'Right Time, Right Place'	<i>Brian Rafferty</i>
<i>Feb. 19</i>	'Arocha: Faith in the Environment'	<i>David Beattie</i>
<i>Mar. 19</i>	'In Search of Himbrini'	<i>Gordon Yates</i>
<i>Apr. 16</i>	'The Work of Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue'	<i>Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue</i>

All the above meetings will be held at St Mary's Parish Centre, Devonshire Road, Chorley and commence at 7.30 p.m. Please note that all meetings are on a Thursday evening. Visitors are welcome at all the meetings.

For confirmation of the programme and further information about the Society, please contact:- Secretary:- Phil Kirk on Chorley (01257) 266783.

Or visit our Website: www.chorleynats.org.uk.

DEADLINES

The deadlines for receipt of articles, letters and book reviews for the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter are :-

<i>No 148</i>	Winter 2014/5	<i>21st January 2015</i>
<i>No 149</i>	Spring 2015	<i>21st April 2015</i>

All contributions for Newsletters should be sent to the Editor - Neil Southworth, 9, Queensgate, Chorley, PR7 2PX (01257 276065).