

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2014 / 15

*Chorley and District Natural History Society is a  
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## FLORA REPORT

October to December are usually the quietest months for botany in the year. The end of 2014 was quite an exception. We do often have some flowers showing in this period, our usual ones that flower throughout the year such as gorse, daisy etc as well as red campion, Herb Robert etc. For those with long memories, I mentioned in 2011 that summer did not go away. This season, apart from a very good fruit crop, we had Himalayan Balsam, common mouse ear, groundsel, Michaelmas Daisy and even some brambles still in flower on Christmas Eve. I did notice as well, large numbers of knopper galls in many of the acorns near my house.



Although not local, the BSBI, in their "Vascular Plant Red List for England" have reported that nationally heather is becoming rare. Some suggest this is caused through burning the heather too much or too early when managing grouse moors. The reduction of quantity and quality of heather for feeding, could have affected grouse populations locally. There has been a report by the Forestry Commission from the Clitheroe area of Ash Dieback. This, though not local yet, is a little too close for comfort. The two main concentrations are East Anglia and Lancashire. I shall make an up to date comment on this in our next Annual Report. I add a map here with permission from the Forestry Commission.

**David Beattie**

## BIRD REPORT

### October

A Great White Egret was seen flying east over George's Lane, Rivington on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and perhaps the same bird was reported on the Leeds Liverpool canal at Hoghton on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The first Whooper Swans were a flock of 14 seen flying west over Euxton on the 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by 10 sheltering on Croston Twin Lakes in bad weather on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 19 flew over Eccleston on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 1500 Pink-footed Geese were feeding on Croston Moss (5<sup>th</sup>), and 200 were on Mawdesley Moss on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a noticeable movement on the 23<sup>rd</sup> including 450 east over Hartwood and 200 south over Thornhill. What were described as "hundreds" of Canada Geese dropped in to roost on Croston Moss on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Croston Twin Lakes held a good variety of wildfowl during the month, including 40 Gadwall (11<sup>th</sup>), 3 Wigeon (4<sup>th</sup>), 16 Tufted Duck (11<sup>th</sup>), 2 Teal (5<sup>th</sup>), 4 Little Grebe (17<sup>th</sup>), 4 Great Crested Grebe (5<sup>th</sup>) and 100 Coot (8<sup>th</sup>). 8 Wigeon were on Anglezarke Reservoir (15<sup>th</sup>), 5 Pochard were there on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and 20 Teal were there on the 4<sup>th</sup>. 50 teal were at Belmont Reservoir on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10 were in Yarrow Valley Park (15<sup>th</sup>). The female Goldeneye of unknown origin was again on the Yarrow at Eccleston (8<sup>th</sup>). Little Grebe were also noted in Astley Park and in Yarrow Valley Park (both 2<sup>nd</sup>). A Water Rail was noted at Yarrow Valley Park on several dates from the 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Water Rail seen at YVP*

Lapwing flocks included 100+ on Croston Moss (5<sup>th</sup>) and 150 at Withnell Fold (26<sup>th</sup>). Snipe sightings included 7 at Anglezarke Reservoir (4<sup>th</sup>), one at Great Knowley (9<sup>th</sup>), 6 at Eccleston (10<sup>th</sup>) and 10 at Adlington (11<sup>th</sup>). A Green Sandpiper was seen on the Syd Brook at Eccleston on 5<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A Curlew was seen at Eccleston on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Raptor sightings were unexceptional. Peregrines were seen on Croston Moss and on Morrison's chimney on various dates. Buzzards were reported from across the area with 6 together over Croston Moss (17<sup>th</sup>) and 3 at White Coppice (24<sup>th</sup>). Barn Owls were noted on Mawdesley Moss (23<sup>rd</sup>), Eccleston (25<sup>th</sup>) and Croston Moss (29<sup>th</sup>). 4 Tawny Owls were noted in the Eccleston / Heskin area (7<sup>th</sup>) and at Ulnes Walton also on the 7<sup>th</sup>.



*Buzzards seen across the area*

Coveys of Grey Partridge on Croston Moss included 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Ring-necked Parakeets were at Whittle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Eccleston (2 on the 16<sup>th</sup>).

Summer visitors on passage were still in evidence. The last 2 House Martins were at Adlington on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 16 Swallows were at Wilcock's Farm, Rivington (11<sup>th</sup>) and the last were 2 at Yarrow Valley Park (12<sup>th</sup>). Wheatear were seen regularly on the moors with the last being one on George's Lane Rivington (18<sup>th</sup>). At the same location up to 7 Ring Ousels were seen between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a noticeable movement of Meadow Pipits between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with in excess of 100 birds seen at both Adlington and Eccleston. Take your pick as to whether the Blackcap in an Euxton garden (4<sup>th</sup>) and the Chiffchaff singing at Coppull (16<sup>th</sup>) were summer or winter visitors.

Definitely winter visitors were the 5 Redwing at Belmont (3<sup>rd</sup>), but the main arrival was around a week late with flocks of up to 50 being seen over Chorley, Coppull and Eccleston (14<sup>th</sup>) and 250 over Eccleston (17<sup>th</sup>). 2 Fieldfare were at Belmont (10<sup>th</sup>), but the main arrival did not take place until 31<sup>st</sup> with flocks of 90 at Eccleston and 40 at Rivington recorded, probably a good two weeks later than normal. First Brambling was again at Belmont (10<sup>th</sup>) and 3 were at Rivington (29<sup>th</sup>).

Other sightings of interest were Black Redstart on Winter Hill (5<sup>th</sup>), Willow Tit at Lower Healey (15<sup>th</sup>) and Stonechat on Winter Hill (3 on 4<sup>th</sup>), Eccleston (2 on 8<sup>th</sup>), George's Lane (11<sup>th</sup>), Croston Moss (21<sup>st</sup>) and White Coppice (4 on 24<sup>th</sup>).

## November

Great White Egret was again reported from Rivington Moor on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the Withnell Fold area on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This may well have been the same bird that was wandering around East Lancashire at the time.

A mixed flock of swans took a liking to Loch Meadow on Croston Moss. First noticed from the 23<sup>rd</sup>, numbers varied from day to day but peaked at 48 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, with 30 Whoopers, 12 Mute and a single Bewick's, with good numbers of juveniles amongst them. Pink-footed Geese feeding on the moss exceeded 2000 birds for most of the month. An unexpected goose record was of 20 Brent Geese which dropped in briefly to Belmont reservoir (3<sup>rd</sup>).



*Best duck record for the area was of 2 Pintail at Arley nature reserve on the 18<sup>th</sup>.*

2 Shelduck were at Croston Twin Lakes (15<sup>th</sup>), as were Wigeon (2<sup>nd</sup>), 20 Gadwall (2<sup>nd</sup>), 16 Tufted (15<sup>th</sup>), 4 Little Grebe (2<sup>nd</sup>) and 110 Coot (15<sup>th</sup>). At Yarrow Valley Park, Teal numbers peaked at 7 (1<sup>st</sup>), Tufted Duck at 11 (also 1<sup>st</sup>), a drake Pochard was present on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the dubious female Shoveler remained throughout. The similarly dubious Goldeneye remained on the Yarrow at Croston, where there were also up to 6 Mandarin Duck. The first 'genuine' Goldeye of the winter was at Lower Healey on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Up to 40 Teal were at Belmont Reservoir (15<sup>th</sup>) and 17 were on Anglezarke Reservoir (9<sup>th</sup>). 3 Goosander on the same day were the first back. The Water Rail at Yarrow Valley Park was noted on several occasions to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Lapwing flocks included 70 on Lower Rivington Reservoir (9<sup>th</sup>), 120 at Belmont Reservoir (15<sup>th</sup>) and 25 on Gale Moss (26<sup>th</sup>). Green Sandpiper was again seen on the Yarrow and Syd Brook in the Eccleston area on several dates, as were up to 3 Curlew. Sightings of Snipe came from Eccleston (8<sup>th</sup>), Croston Moss (6 on 9<sup>th</sup>), and Arley Reserve (18<sup>th</sup>) when a Jack Snipe and Woodcock were also present. Woodcock were also seen at Bretherton (5<sup>th</sup>), Mawdesley Moss (5<sup>th</sup>) and Croston Moss (15 on 9<sup>th</sup>). A covey of 8 Grey Partridge was at Eccleston on the 1<sup>st</sup> and up to 30 Pheasant were in a field at Whittle on the 1<sup>st</sup>.



It was a better month for raptor sightings with Hen Harrier on Rivington Moor (6<sup>th</sup>) and Red Kite at Charnock Richard (15<sup>th</sup>) vying for first prize. Not far behind was Merlin chasing Skylarks on Croston Moss (9<sup>th</sup>). Owls of the month were the Short-eareds on Croston Moss (15<sup>th</sup>) and at Adlington (18<sup>th</sup>). A Barn Owl was again on Croston Moss on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Red Kite seen at Charnock Richard*

Kingfisher sightings during the month came from Astley Park, Cuerden Valley Park, Yarrow Valley Park, Croston Moss and Eccleston. In Yarrow Valley Park a pair of Dippers was seen carrying nesting material on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Willow Tit sightings came from Great Knowley (4<sup>th</sup>), Croston Moss (9<sup>th</sup>), Hartwood (26<sup>th</sup>) and Lower Healey (29<sup>th</sup>). Up to 5 Stonechats were on Croston Moss (16<sup>th</sup>). A Black Redstart was again on Winter Hill (16<sup>th</sup>). A wintering Chiffchaff was in a Chorley garden (30<sup>th</sup>) and wintering Blackcaps were on Croston Moss (16<sup>th</sup>) and in an Eccleston garden (29<sup>th</sup>).

Largest Redwing flock was one of 50 at Whittle on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Fieldfares were still arriving at the beginning of the month with around 100 at Great Knowley (1<sup>st</sup>), 200 at Eccleston (7<sup>th</sup>) and 50 over Chorley (13<sup>th</sup>). Flocks on Croston Moss included 2000+ Starlings (2<sup>nd</sup>), 45 Corn Bunting (24<sup>th</sup>) and 150 Linnet (16<sup>th</sup>). 12 Linnet were on Gale Moss (26<sup>th</sup>). Not exactly a flock, but 221 Magpies were counted going to roost in Yarrow Valley Park on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## December

The egret on show this month was a Little Egret, first seen flying south from Anglezarke Reservoir on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then on the shore of Lower Rivington Reservoir on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The herd of swans on Loch Meadow remained until at least the 17<sup>th</sup>, with Whoopers peaking at 42 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Mute at 15 on the same day. The Bewick's Swan remained until the 5<sup>th</sup>. 150 Pink-footed Geese were also feeding on the mosses on 13<sup>th</sup>. Teal numbers at Belmont and Anglezarke were similar to November's, but 40 on the Douglas at Croston were also recorded. Wigeon were seen on Yarrow reservoir (9<sup>th</sup>) and on Croston Twin Lakes (15<sup>th</sup>). Gadwall numbers at the latter site had reduced to 12 by the 5<sup>th</sup>. The dodgy Shoveler remained at Yarrow Valley Park, but more genuine contenders were at Croston Twin Lakes (15<sup>th</sup>) and at Lower Healey (21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>). Tufted Duck numbers peaked at 10 at Yarrow Valley Park (7<sup>th</sup>), and at 25 on Croston Twin Lakes (16<sup>th</sup>). Goosander were few and far between with just 2 on the canal at Whittle and one on the Douglas at Croston (both 13<sup>th</sup>). Goldeneye were not much better with one on Croston Twin Lakes (16<sup>th</sup>), 3 at Lower Healey (24<sup>th</sup>) and 2 on High Bullough (31<sup>st</sup>), plus the one of unknown origin on the Yarrow at Croston. Little Grebe were again at Croston Twin Lakes, Croston Moss and Yarrow Valley Park. Coot at Croston Twin Lakes numbered 90 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Water Rail at Yarrow Valley Park remained until at least the 9<sup>th</sup>. Another was near the E-shaped Pond on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A flock of 220 Lapwings was seen flying over the A49 at Charnock Richard (8<sup>th</sup>), and the flock on Gale Moss had built up to 70 by the 30<sup>th</sup>. A single Golden Plover was on Croston Moss on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 7 Snipe were on Mawdesley Moss (6<sup>th</sup>) and 16 were at Bretherton Eyes (23<sup>rd</sup>), when a Jack Snipe was near the E-shaped Pond. Woodcock were at Eccleston (8<sup>th</sup>) and Heskin (14<sup>th</sup>). A covey of 7 Grey Partridge was on Croston Moss (13<sup>th</sup>) and of 10 Red-legged Partridge at the site on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A ring-tailed Hen Harrier on Croston Moss on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and a Red Kite at the same site on the 31<sup>st</sup> were again the star raptors. A Merlin was there on the 4<sup>th</sup>, as were 3 Kestrel and 3 Buzzard (both 3<sup>rd</sup>). Peregrines were seen at High Bullough (7<sup>th</sup>), Morrisons (12<sup>th</sup>), Bretherton Eyes (14<sup>th</sup>) and Mawdesley Moss (16<sup>th</sup>). Owls were represented by Little Owl on Croston Moss (6<sup>th</sup>) and at Adlington (28<sup>th</sup>), Tawny Owl at Eccleston (8<sup>th</sup>) and Barn Owl at Croston (13<sup>th</sup>).

Redwing flocks included 20 at Eccleston (21<sup>st</sup>) and 100 at Whittle (31<sup>st</sup>). Fieldfare flocks included 100 on Croston Moss (15<sup>th</sup>) and 140 at Eccleston (15<sup>th</sup>). The largest Starling flock reported was of 400+ birds on Croston Moss (2<sup>nd</sup>). Other flocks on Croston Moss included 20 Stock Dove (17<sup>th</sup>), 100 Skylark (4<sup>th</sup>), 200 Linnet (28<sup>th</sup>), and 40 Corn Bunting (16<sup>th</sup>). Elsewhere 100 Pied Wagtail were at Croston Sewage Works (21<sup>st</sup>), 300 Jackdaw were observed going to roost at Cuerden (20<sup>th</sup>) and 42 Goldfinch were at Hartwood (18<sup>th</sup>) and another 40 at Heskin (25<sup>th</sup>).

Kingfishers were again seen regularly on Croston Moss, in Cuerden Valley Park and in Yarrow Valley Park. Ring-necked Parakeets were reported from gardens near Chorley Hospital and on Burgh Lane. Wintering warblers included 2 Chiffchaff at Croston Sewage Works (16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>), and Blackcap in gardens at Euxton (17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>), Great Knowley (21<sup>st</sup>), Chorley and Eccleston (both 25<sup>th</sup>). Great Knowley gardens also held 2 Lesser Redpoll (25<sup>th</sup>), and Willow Tit (16<sup>th</sup>). The latter species was also seen on Croston Moss (2<sup>nd</sup>) and at Hartwood (8<sup>th</sup>). Finally a pair of Stonechat was at Belmont Reservoir (6<sup>th</sup>), and another was on Croston Moss on the same day.



*Ring Necked Parakeets seen near Chorley Hospital*

Many thanks to the following for submitting records:-

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

**Neil Southworth**

## ANCIENT WOODLANDS

The phrase “Ancient Woodlands” has become a common feature of our local papers in recent months, usually as part of objections to planning applications. It seems to be used to mean any species rich woodland, regardless of age, providing a rich and varied range of habitats supporting a wide range of species of animals as well as plant life.

Unfortunately this usage leads to confusion as the term “Ancient Woodlands” has a more restricted meaning for botanists. Some purists would like to take a very strict interpretation and only use the phrase to describe land which has been occupied by woodland ever since the first colonisation after the retreat of the last ice sheet. This would be ‘primeval’ or ‘virgin’ forest, the real ‘wildwood’. It is very doubtful if any such wildwood still exists in even the most remote equatorial rain forest as there is plenty of evidence that from the earliest times man has cut down the rain forest, cropped it for a very few years and then allowed the rain forest to regenerate.

A much more realistic definition, which most botanists accept, was made by the now superseded Nature Conservancy in the 1980s when it published its Inventory of Ancient Woodlands (Provisional) Map when they decided that woodlands extant before c. 1600 were ‘Ancient Woodlands’ and those created since that date were ‘Recent Woodlands’. This very roughly coincides with the time that tree species began to be imported, so that ‘Ancient Woodlands’ are comprised of ‘native’ tree species which arrived shortly after the land began to warm up after the ice-age, whereas ‘Recent Woodlands’ may, but not necessarily, contain much later introductions. There is a surprisingly large collection of trees which have established themselves since or around the year 1600 and so cannot be considered ‘native’



*Yellow Pimpernel – one of the flora indicators of an “ancient woodland”*

There are plants, other than trees, which are good indicators of an 'ancient woodland' ecosystem such as –

*Adoxa moschatellina* – Wood Moschatel  
*Allium ursinum* – Ramsons  
*Anemone nemorosa* – Wood Anemone  
*Carex strigose* – Thin-spiked Wood-sedge  
*Ceratocarpus claviculata* – Climbing Corydalis  
*Conopodium majus* – Pignut  
*Convalleria majalis* – Lily of the valley

*Dryopteris aemula* - Hay-scented Buckler-fern  
*Epipactis purpurata* – Violet Helleborine  
*Galium odoratum* – Woodruff  
*Helleborus viridis* – Green Hellebore  
*Hordelymus europaeus* – Wood Barley  
*Luzula pilosa* – Hairy Wood-rush  
*Lysimachia nemorum* – Yellow Pimpernel

*Melica uniflora* – Wood Melick  
*Maianthemum bifolium* – May Lily  
*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* - Daffodil  
*Orchis mascula* – Early Purple Orchid

*Oxalis acetosella* – Wood Sorrell

*Paris quadrifolia* – Herb Paris  
*Platanthera chlorantha* – Greater Butterfly Orchid

*Polygonatum multiflorum* – Solomon's Seal

*Primula vulgaris* - Primrose

*Sanicula europaea* – Sanicle

*Scirpus sylvaticus* – Wood Club-rush

*Vicia sylvatica* – Wood Vetch

*Viola reichenbachiana* – Early Dog-violet

None of these plants, by itself, is an indicator of a possible Ancient Woodland, but a wide selection is certainly a good indication of the possibility of such a status. The more of these indicator plants present in a wood the more likely it is to be an Ancient Woodland.

On the other hand there are tree species whose presence in a wood is very definitely an indicator that it is not an Ancient Woodland. This includes all tree species not native to the United Kingdom and introduced after the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Landscape artists such as Capability Brown and many others rather liked introducing exotic species into their plantings around stately houses. The following is a list of relatively recently introduced tree species which cannot be part of an Ancient Woodland.

**Abies** – the true Firs, none of which is native to the United Kingdom, but which have been widely planted.

- A. *balsamea* – the Balsam Fir introduced 1697
- A. *alba* – the European Silver Fir introduced c. 1700
- A. *cephalonica* – the Greek Fir introduced 1824
- A. *grandis* – the Giant Fir introduced 1831
- A. *magnifica* – Red Fir introduced 1851

**Acer** – the Maples of which there are some 200 species distributed around the Northern Hemisphere with one species extending down as far south as Malaysia but only one species, *Acer campestre*, the Field Maple, is native to the United Kingdom. However several species have become well-established in our woodlands in more recent years but none should be found in Ancient Woodlands.

- A. *pseudoplatanus* – the Sycamore introduced c.1550 but first only planted as an ornamental tree in gardens and only many years late escaping to establish itself as an aggressive woodland species.
- A. *negundo* – the Box elder introduced 1688
- A. *saccharinum* – the Silver Maple introduced 1725
- A. *carpinifolium* – The Hornbeam Maple introduced 1879

**Aesculus** – the Horse Chestnuts with only 13 species scattered around the Northern Hemisphere with 1 species in S.E. Europe, 5 species in India and E. Asia and 7 species in N. America but none native to the United Kingdom.

- A. *hippocastanum* – the Horse Chestnut introduced in early 17<sup>th</sup> century
- A. *carnea* – the Red Horse Chestnut introduced early 18<sup>th</sup> century

**Alnus** – the Alders with some 35 species round all North temperate areas and south to Indochina region with only one native species, *A. glutinosa*, native to the United Kingdom

- A. *incana* - the Grey Alder introduced 1780. This species proliferates from suckers and can form dense stands in woodland.

**Castanea** – the Sweet Chestnuts with 12 species around the temperate Northern Hemisphere but none native to the United Kingdom

*C sativa*- the Sweet Chestnut was possibly introduced in Roman times as a cultivated food crop when the dried fruits were ground into a flour but did not flourish after the departure of the Romans. Possibly reintroduced by the Normans but again died out and was reintroduced in late Tudor times as a coppiced crop. The species sometimes has become naturalised as a woodland tree in Southern England.

**Cedrus** – the Cedars with 4 species found round the Mediterranean but none native to the United Kingdom though now widely planted as ornamental trees in parks and gardens. Their presence in woodland is a sure sign that the woodland had its origin as a plantation.

- C libani* – the Cedar of Lebanon introduced c. 1675
- C deodara* – the Deodar introduced 1831
- C atlantica* –the Atlas Cedar introduced 1840

**Chamaecyparis** – the Cypresses with 7 species in N. America though none native in the United Kingdom

*C lawsoniana* – Lawson's Cypress introduced 1854 and widely planted as a windbreak and shelter tree because of its rapid growth.

***Cuprocyparis leylandii*** – Leyland's Cypress introduced in 1888. A hybrid between *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis*. Now all too commonly planted as a fast growing conifer for a screening plant or in hedgerows and windbreaks. It has a rather small root-ball so is easily blown down in gales.

***Cupressus*** – the Cypresses but there are no species native to the United Kingdom

*C sempervirens* – the Italian Cypress introduced in 1660 as an ornamental tree for gardens but never an original inhabitant of any woodland.

***Fagus*** – the Beeches, with 10 species distributed around the north temperate regions as far south as Mexico.

*F. sylvaticus* – the Common European Beech. This is a native of southern England but has great difficulty in natural reproduction in the north of England where it is invariably a planted tree. It is not an inhabitant of Ancient Woodlands and is found in more recent woodlands and in ornamental plantings.

***Fraxinus*** – the Ashes, with over 70 species found all round the northern hemisphere especially in East Asia and North America. The European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is our only native species, sadly it is under great threat from recently introduced disease.

*F. americana* – the American White Ash was introduced in 1774 and is occasionally planted both in large gardens and woodlands.

***Juglans*** – the Walnuts with 15 species distributed from the Mediterranean to Eastern Asia, Indochina and North and Central America as far south as the Andes. There are no native species.

*Juglans regia* – the Common Walnut is a native of south-eastern Europe and has been widely cultivated from the earliest times. It was possibly introduced by the Romans to supply a delicacy but is thought to have become extinct after the withdrawal of the Romans. It was reintroduced by the Normans for the edible nuts. It does not reproduce naturally in England apart from occasionally in very mild, sheltered areas and certainly not as far north as Lancashire.

***Larix*** – The Larches with about 12 species found throughout mountainous Europe and right round the Northern Hemisphere but with no species native in the United Kingdom

*L. decidua* the European Larch was introduced in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and has been widely planted both as an ornamental tree and for forestry since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

***Picea*** – the Spruce 50 species spread all round the Northern Hemisphere but with no native species in the United Kingdom

*P.abies* – the Norway Spruce introduced in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and widely used for shelter belts, in forestry plantations and as an ornamental.. It occasionally self-sows.

*P. sitchensis* – the Sitka Spruce introduced in 1831. Widely grown for forestry.

**Pinus** – the Pine with nearly 100 species found all round the Northern Hemisphere and even on mountains in the northern tropics.

*P. sylvestris* the Scots Pine, our only native pine forms both pure and mixed woodlands sometimes of great age in the Highlands of Scotland. Elsewhere it is widely planted both for forestry and as an ornamental.

**Platanus** – the Planes with one species (*P. orientalis*) with a wide distribution in south-east Europe and another (*P. occidentalis*) in Indochina.

*P. x hispanica* - the London Plane is a hybrid between *P.occidentalis* and *P. orientalis* produced in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and widely planted as a street tree and an ornamental. It produces fertile seedlings and has established itself in some woodlands.

**Quercus** – the Oaks; a very large genus with some 450 species throughout the Northern Hemisphere and south to western tropical South America. We have two native species – the Sessile Oak (*Q. petraea*) found throughout the British Isles and commonest on shallow, sandy acid soils with an altitude range going over 300m., the Pedunculate Oak (*Q. robur*) commoner on drier and deeper rich soils rarely found above 300m.

*Q. ilex* –the Evergreen Oak, also called the Holly or Holm Oak. Introduced as an ornamental tree in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century but can occasionally set good seed and has spread into woodlands.

**Robert Yates**

## FIELD TRIPS PROGRAMME

### **Marshside – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Meet on the reserve car park at 10.00 am. There is a reasonable high tide, which might bring a few good birds.

### **Bird Race – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

The Annual 24 hour Bird Race will take place between noon on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April and noon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone wishing to enter a team or join an existing team, please let us know through the Forum or at one of the evening meetings.

## EVENING WALKS

The walks take place on the third Thursday of the month and commence at 7.00 pm prompt at the venue.

### **Eccleston to Croston and back – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Meet at St Mary's, Eccleston car park at 7.00 pm. The walk follows the Yarrow to Croston Corn Mill, returning to Eccleston via Tincklers Lane fields

### **Freeman's Pasture and the Yarrow Valley – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Meet at Yarrow Valley Dob Brow car park, and after a visit to the Freeman's Pasture Reserve, we will have a walk through Dob Brow fields to Common Bank Lodge.

The remaining two walks will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, with details to be announced in the next Newsletter.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

<b>Grade of Membership</b>	<b>2014 / 2015</b>
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>Mar. 19</i>	<i>'In Search of Himbrini'</i>	<i>Gordon Yates</i>
<i>Apr. 16</i>	<i>'The Work of Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue'</i>	<i>Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue</i>

## WINTER PROGRAMME 2015/2016

<i>Sep 17</i>	<i>'Techniques of Bird and Wildlife Photgraphy'</i>	<i>John Gardner</i>
<i>Sep 24</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>Members Only</i>
<i>Oct 15</i>	<i>'Eagles on Mull'</i>	<i>Alan Fielding</i>
<i>Nov 19</i>	<i>'Gardening for Wildlife'</i>	<i>Ken Green</i>
<i>Dec 17</i>	<i>Members' Evening</i>	<i>Volunteers please</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](http://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 149</i>	<i>Spring 2015</i>	<i>21<sup>st</sup> April 2015</i>
<i>No 150</i>	<i>Summer 2015</i>	<i>21<sup>st</sup> July 2015</i>

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