

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 151

Autumn 2015

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

EDITORIAL

Winter is a coming, so it's Garden Bird Survey Time again. The report for last year's survey is included in this newsletter, and forms are available for the forthcoming winter for anyone who wishes to take part. If you can't make it to a meeting, just let me know and I will put a copy in the post. If you prefer an electronic version, I can send you an Excel file for the survey. All I will need is your email address!

Our indoor meeting in December is the Member's Evening, when members are invited to do a 10 minute slot, showing slides, reciting poetry or whatever. There will also be a natural history quiz, and a photography competition. If you wish to enter the latter, please send three images to Phil Kirk at secretary@chorleynats.org.uk

Neil Southworth



*Red Squirrel by Mick Brookes
Winner of 2014 Photo Competition*

INSECT REPORT

In my last report I suggested keeping a lookout for more Painted Ladies and Hummingbird Hawk Moths. This advice proved to be correct, as Painted Ladies were seen at many local sites throughout the quarter. September was especially productive. There weren't large numbers, 3 being the best count at Euxton on 6th September. There was still a "tatty" specimen in a Chorley garden on October 4th.

Hummingbird Hawk Moths also turned up in two Chorley town centre locations in July (13th and 23rd), then at the start of October they were seen in counts of up to 3 in gardens at Withnell (where they were seen on several days) and in Chorley. Let's hope these late individuals make it back to the sunshine before winter.



Red Underwing

As well as the Hummingbird Hawks, there were a few decent moth records in the summer months. An Emperor Moth larva was found on Winter Hill on 16th August; a Drinker moth turned up in an Adlington garden; a Red Underwing came to a lighted window at our house on 20th September. On 5th July, a Dot moth spent a full day sheltering in the laundry hanging out to dry in a Pilling Lane back yard! Maybe it liked the smell of the washing powder.

Ringlet butterflies were seen at 4 sites in July. This is great news as it follows the couple of records we had for the species in 2014. Hopefully it will become established. It was seen at Birkacre, Healey Lodges, Riley Green and on Mawdesley Moss. All records were between 12th and 25th July. Anyone else seen one?

After a blank year in 2014 we at last have some Wall records. 5 were counted on Anglezarke Moor on 27th September. This is very good news as I have great fears that we might lose this species locally.

White Letter Hairstreak was only reported from one site (Euxton). I would welcome any records for this species. Lower Burgh Meadows Conservation Group are planning to plant some Elms, so hopefully in time the species may recover. On July 3rd, Lower Burgh Meadows produced an excellent record of 9 Brimstone larvae feeding on Alder Buckthorn whips. Well done LBMCG for planting them. Adult Brimstones continued to be seen right up until 28th September (Rivington). They hibernate as adults, so really late records are still possible.

Black Tailed Skimmers were seen at two sites in July. These were in addition to the record from Cuerden in June which I reported in the last edition. Again it is good news that a new species is becoming more widespread. Migrant Hawkers seem to have had a good year, with records from 5 sites in total. Hic Bibi seems to be the favoured area.

I seldom get records of Orthoptera. I know of only 3 species of Grasshopper locally, but if more members caught and examined them, maybe a few more species would be added to the list. Crickets are even less well represented. The only recent record is the Oak Bush Cricket which has been recorded by a member in Adlington on a couple of occasions. This year he found another one on 7th September. I am sure it can't be the only local site. I found another Orthoptera species this year, both in our garden and in the waste ground next door. The Slender Ground Hopper is certainly not something I have seen locally previously, but suddenly there were lots of them around our property. Keep a look out, they are quite distinctive and easy to catch for examination.



Slender Ground Hopper

Phil Kirk

BIRD REPORT

July

The latest breeding attempt by Great Crested Grebes at Yarrow Valley Park again ended in failure, with the finger of suspicion pointing at one of the large terrapins which inhabit the lodges. It was seen regularly in the vicinity of the grebe's nest. It does not seem to have been a great breeding season for Coot either. However, 2 young were at Lower Healey on the 4th and 3 were at Yarrow Valley Park on the 19th. 5 Tufted Duck were also at Lower Healey on the 4th. A female Mandarin with 3 young was noted in the reed bed at Yarrow Valley Park on the 7th. Other wildfowl interest included a flock of 39 Shelduck flying north to south over the M61. 15 Greylag Geese were noted on Upper Rivington Reservoir on the 24th.

The Quail which had arrived on Mawdesley Moss at the end of June were heard calling regularly until at least the 25th. It wasn't a great month for wader records with just 4 species being noted. A Little Ringed Plover was at Buckshaw, possibly breeding judging by its frantic behaviour. A Common Sandpiper was on Anglezarke reservoir on the 24th. Post-breeding flocks of Lapwing included 30 at Withnell Fold (10th) and a similar number on Mawdesley Moss. Two young were in a field at Whittle on the 19th.



Oystercatcher seen on Mawdesley Moss

Oystercatcher records came from Mawdesley Moss (3rd), Buckshaw (4th), Eyes Lane (5th) and Anglezarke Reservoir (3 on the 12th). The absence of any Curlew record is a bit of a concern. Was there a complete breeding failure followed by an early exit of the adults to the coast?

It's believed that all 4 Peregrine young at Morrison's fledged successfully. Kestrels appear to be doing well with records received from at least 10 sites, many of which were of family groups. A Merlin noted at Belmont on the 23rd was the only record of the species. Sparrowhawk records related mainly to birds with a kill, including Mawdesley Moss (12th), Eccleston (18th) and Croston Moss (21st). Buzzard sightings came from across the area, with one or two reports of young birds among them. Juvenile Tawny Owls included 3 at Heskin (8th) and 1 at Mawsdesley (23rd). Barn Owl sightings came from Great Knowley (14th), 2 on Mawdesley Moss (14th) and 2 at Heskin (15th), where there was also a Little Owl.

Only one juvenile Common Tern remained at Yarrow Valley Park. It is not known if the other two young had got away or not. At least one adult / juvenile was around the site for the remainder of the month. A Cuckoo was heard at White Coppice on the 1st, and 2 were in the Eccleston / Mawdesley area on the 16th, presumably birds on passage. Kingfisher records came from Croston Twin Lakes (11th), Syd Brook (14th) and Duxbury Woods (17th). Dippers were noted at regular sites at White Coppice and in Duxbury Woods. Family parties of Grey Wagtail were recorded in Yarrow Valley Park, Heapey Lodges, Anglezarke Reservoir, White Coppice, Syd Brook and Duxbury Woods, suggesting a good breeding season. Ring-necked Parakeets continued to visit gardens in the Lower Burgh area, where 4 were seen on the 5th.



Around 20 House Martin were feeding at White Coppice on the 3rd with another 7 at Heapey Lodges on the 5th. A family group of 5 Whitethroat was on Lower Burgh Meadow (9th). Still singing were Grasshopper Warbler at Hic Bibi and Great Knowley (12th), Reed Warbler in Eyes Lane (5th), Burgh Hall (5th) and Yarrow Valley Park (11th), and Sedge Warbler in Eyes Lane (4th), Lower Burgh Meadow (ringed bird on 9th) and 2 at Withnell Fold (10th).

Resident bird breeding records included a pair of Skylark at Great Knowley (14th), a juvenile Stonechat at Rivington (13th), a party of 4 Raven at White Coppice (29th), Long-tailed Tit flocks at Eccleston, Heapey Lodges and in a Chorley garden, all on the 5th, and Goldcrest with 2 young in Yarrow Valley Park (24th). A Willow Tit was again at Great Knowley (27th). Early Siskin records came from Lower Burgh Way (14th) and White Coppice (29th). Around 20 Corn Bunting including 12 singing males were counted on Mawdesley Moss on the 25th. Reed Buntings still singing included 3 at Withnell Fold (10th) and 6 on Mawdesley Moss (12th)

August

15 Common Scoter dropped into Belmont Reservoir briefly on the 15th. Tufted Duck started to reappear with a single at Lower Healey (22nd), 3 in Yarrow Valley Park (28th) and one on Croston Twin Lakes (30th). First Teal back was one on Syd Brook (30th). A pair of Mute Swan was on the canal at Withnell Fold (8th), but there was no sign of any young. The 3 cygnets continued to prosper at Yarrow Valley Park under dad's watchful eye. 5 Great Crested Grebe on Croston Twin Lakes (24th) included one juvenile, which is possibly the only breeding record this year. The pair of Little Grebe remained in Astley Park, making another breeding attempt. 3 young Coot at the site (13th) and 5 in Yarrow Valley Park (16th), had been a long time arriving. Young Moorhen included 2 on Syd Brook (1st), 4 on the pond in Eccleston (1st) and one on Common Bank Lodge (2nd).

A Common Crane was reported on Birdguides as being seen crossing the M6 at Charnock Richard in a westerly direction on the 10th, but there were no further sightings of this bird.



Similarly, a Bretherton resident taking his dog for a late night walk on the 2nd was surprised to hear a Corncrake calling from a nearby field, but it wasn't heard again on subsequent evenings, so was presumably a bird on return migration.

Corncrake heard at Bretherton

20 Red-legged Partridge were noted on Mawdesley Moss on the 10th, but by the 18th a large release of both that species and Pheasant had taken place. Three Grey Partridge were on Croston Moss on the 26th. It was a slightly better, but nonetheless disappointing month for waders with just 6 species being recorded. A single Whimbrel at Euxton on the 2nd was a surprise find, 100+ Lapwing were on the edge of Lower Rivington Reservoir on the 15th, a Woodcock was flushed in Heatherlea Woods on the 16th, and the first Snipe was back on Croston Moss on the 28th. A Green

Sandpiper was on Syd Brook (18th & 28th), and 2 Common Sandpiper were on Croston Twin Lakes on the 24th.

It was better for raptors with 7 species recorded. An Osprey was seen flying up Upper Rivington reservoir in a southerly direction on the 1st. A Red Kite was over Anglezarke Moor on the 18th. Hobby sightings came from White Coppice (2nd), Upper Rivington (9th), Great Knowley (11th) and White Coppice again on the 23rd. Peregrines were seen from time to time on Morrison's chimney, and a couple at White Coppice on the 11th were making a tremendous racket, so possibly adult and juvenile.



Buzzard

There were 7 Buzzard sightings at Withnell Fold on the 8th with three of them feeding on a Canada Goose. 5 were over Adlington on the 24th.

Juvenile Kestrels were observed at Euxton (2nd), 2 at White Coppice (8th) and 3 near Croston sewage works on the 15th. A family group of Sparrowhawk was on Healey Nab on the 16th, when a pair was also noted in Yarrow Valley Park. Singles were at White Coppice (28th) and in a Chorley garden (30th). Tawny Owls were noted at Eccleston (5th) and Cuerden Valley Park (18th). A Barn Owl was hunting near Great Hanging Bridge (18th) and a Little Owl was again at Heskin (8th).

A juvenile Cuckoo at Rivington on the 2nd was an excellent find – records of juveniles are few and far between. It was good also to receive records of Green Woodpecker, from Rivington on 15th & 18th and from White Coppice (21st). Ring-necked Parakeet records came from the cemetery (9th) and from Hartwood on the 13th. Kingfishers were observed along Syd Brook (1st), along the Goit (2nd), in Yarrow Valley Park

(22nd) and at Croston Twin Lakes (30th). A Dipper was singing on the Chor near Common Bank Lodge on the 2nd.

As usual the local Swifts left us in the first week of August with 20 at Eccleston on the 5th presumably on the way south. Single figure sightings, however continued throughout the month with 5 over Gillibrands (12th), 1 at Eccleston (27th), 3 over Chorley (27th) and finally 2 over Coppull (30th). Swallows were noted still feeding young at Heskin on the 8th but 40 at Eccleston on the same day were preparing to head south. The same applies to House Martins, two pairs of which were feeding young at Gillibrands on the 12th, whilst 20+ at Great Knowley on the same day were on the move.



Pied Flycatcher at Rivington

A family party of 3 Redstart was at White Coppice on the 21st. Stonechats were at White Coppice (8th and 21st), Winter Hill (16th) and George's Lane, Rivington (6 on 17th). A Pied Flycatcher was in George's Lane, Rivington (13th), where there were also 2 Wheatear on the 17th. A Wheatear was also noted on Croston Finney on the 31st. A Whitethroat was at Croston Twin Lakes on the 31st and another 6 were on Croston Moss on the same day.

A family party of Nuthatch was at White Coppice on the 25th. Willow Tit was again in a Great Knowley garden. Siskin numbers continued to increase with parties of up to 8 birds at both White Coppice and Duxbury Golf Course on the 11th and 4 in George's Lane, Rivington on the 17th. Out on Croston Moss flocks of up to 55 Tree Sparrow were noted on 13th and 28th. A flock of 50 Linnet was there on the 25th.

September



Little Egret and Great White Egret

Bird of the month was undoubtedly the Great White Egret which was found initially on the 3rd at the north end of Anglezarke Reservoir. It remained there until at least the 8th when it was relocated at the north end of Upper Rivington Reservoir. It then alternated between the two sites and remained in the area until the end of the month. It was joined by a Little Egret on Upper Rivington Reservoir on 27th and 28th.

Pink-footed Geese started to arrive, with a skein of 60 birds heading south over Mawdesley Moss on the 25th and 80 heading east over Eccleston on the 26th. A flock of 250-300 Canada Geese was on Bretherton Eyes on the 7th. Best duck sighting during the month was a Red-breasted Merganser briefly at Belmont, followed – sad to say – by 2 Pochard on Anglezarke reservoir (10th). The Pochard population nationally has apparently crashed by 50% in the last few years. Other noteworthy sightings were 2 Goosander on the Lostock at Croston (1st) and Mandarin on the Yarrow at Croston (8th). Tufted Duck numbers included 11 on High Bullough (13th) and 7 on Croston Twin Lakes (20th). 73 Teal were counted at Belmont Reservoir on the 26th. Elsewhere, counts were much more modest with 3 on Syd Brook (10th), 2 in Yarrow Valley Park (13th), 3 on Croston Moss (19th) and 12 on Anglezarke Reservoir (29th). 70+ Mallard in a field on Croston Moss on the 6th were perhaps shooting releases? A juvenile Great Crested grebe on the E-shaped Pond was possibly the same bird which had been on Twin Lakes in August. The second breeding attempt by the Little Grebes in Astley Park again ended in failure around mid-month when the lily pads on which they were nesting died back surprisingly early.

Lapwing flocks included 100+ on Mawdesley Moss (9th), 35 at Lower Rivington Reservoir (13th) and 23 on Belmont Reservoir (26th). Only three other species of wader were recorded during the month – Dunlin over Croston Moss (6th), Green Sandpiper at Eccleston (23rd) and 3 Snipe at Belmont Reservoir (26th).

Raptors fared better with 9 species recorded. Hobby sightings came from Eccleston (4th & 8th) and White Coppice (29th). Merlin were seen at Bretherton Eyes (7th) and Hic Bibi (30th) – possibly birds on the move to their wintering territories. An Osprey was seen over Lower Rivington on the 27th, a Goshawk was reported from Eccleston (28th) and a Marsh Harrier was at Belmont Reservoir. One or two Peregrines were around Morrison's chimney on several dates. 8 Buzzard were over Coppull (22nd) and Kestrel and Sparrowhawk were noted at all the usual sites. Tawny Owl records included 2 on Mawdesley Moss (7th) and singles at Great Knowley (24th) and Eccleston (25th). Barn Owl sightings came from Mawdesley Moss (7th), Anglezarke (9th) and Great Knowley (27th). A Little Owl was at a regular site on Croston Moss



(26th).

Marsh Harrier

The Ring-necked Parakeet invasion continued apace with sightings from Astley Village (7th), the cemetery (10th), Moor Road (4 on 17th), Great Knowley (3 over on 22nd) and 5 in a garden in the north of the borough at the end of the month. More welcome were further records of Green Woodpecker from White Coppice (8th, 20th and 29th). Kingfisher sightings came from Anglezarke, Astley Park, Eccleston, Heapey Lodges and Yarrow Valley Park.

There was a strong passage of House Martins at White Coppice during the month including 200 (8th), 100+ (9th), and at least 100 still on the 30th. This seems to be something of an annual event at the site. As well as good numbers of Swallow mixed in with the House Martins, thousands are said to have passed over Town Lane, Whittle on the 12th. A more modest 50 were over Upper Rivington Reservoir on the 27th. Other migrants on the move included Yellow Wagtail at Belmont, 6 Wheatear on Winter Hill (27th), a couple of Whinchat at White Coppice (7th & 8th), Grasshopper Warbler at Hic Bibi (13th), Willow Warbler at White Coppice (26th) and Blackcap at Euxton (28th). Chiffchaff were still singing at several sites including Croston (12th), Great Knowley (26th) and White Coppice (20th). The species was also seen at Croston sewage works, the E-shaped Pond and Euxton.

A Black Redstart was noted on Winter Hill on 7th & 20th. Stonechat were also at the site and at Rivington, White Coppice and Eccleston. A Twite was a good record at Belmont. Post-breeding flocks included 30 Pied Wagtail at Croston sewage works (15th), 500+ Starling on Croston Moss (6th), 30 Linnet also on Croston Moss (6th), 30 Siskin at White Coppice (8th) with 10 along Syd Brook (25th). Numerous Goldfinch charms were reported including 50's at Coppull, White Coppice and Great Knowley, 70 at the E-shaped Pond and 100 on Croston Moss.

Many thanks to the following for submitting records:-

I.Ball, D.Beattie, D.Beevers, J.Cobham, B.Derbyshire, D.Downing, T.Dunn, J.Edwards, M.Fishwick, J.Frankland, M.Greenhalgh, L.Harrison, P.Hodson, R.Hoyle, P.Irvine, C&T.Johnson, P.King, P.Kirk, P.Krischkiw, E.Langrish, A.Leach, G.Lilley, J.Love, I.Lynas, A.Makin, S.Martin, M.Nightingale, L.Poxon, C.Rae, J.Riley, N.Root, L.Rose, P.Ross, P.Rowlands, I.Ryding, N.Southworth, R.Spencer, M.Stuart, J.Sutton, C.Thistlethwaite, M.Thornhill, N.&T.West, P.West, T.Westhead, P.Whittaker, I.Whittle, 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 2014 and March 2015. 23 completed forms were returned, which is one more than last year. Thank you to all those who took part. The distribution of gardens was as follows:-

<u>Location</u>	Urban	Suburban	Rural
<u>Size</u>	2	16	5
	Small	Medium	Large
	1	17	5

The medium sized suburban garden remains the most numerous contributor. The average number of species per garden was 22.09, which is slightly up on last year, perhaps because of the milder winter. Great Knowley was again the winning location with a garden there recording 34 species, followed by one at Euxton recording 33 and one at Rivington and another at Great Knowley recording 31 species.

The total number of species recorded this year was 49, the same as last year, with Fieldfare again being the most notable absentee. 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 seven in the table visited all 23 gardens, but Blackbird and Blue Tit were the most frequent species based on the weighting.



Blackbird Was Equal First With Blue Tit

Year					Species	Weighted score	Gardens visited
'15	'14	'11	'03	'98			
1	1	1	1	1	Blackbird	67	23
1=	1=	1=	3	2	Blue Tit	67	23
3	5	4	5	7	Dunnock	65	23
4	6	6	14	15	Woodpigeon	64	23
5	3	3	1=	4	Robin	63	23
6	4	4=	4	3	Great Tit	61	23
7	8	11	6=	5	Magpie	52	23
8	10	14	11	8	House Sparrow	50	21
9	7	9	6	6	Chaffinch	45	21
10	12	7	8	9	Collared Dove	44	19
11	9	8	10	13	Coal Tit	43	20
11	11	13	16	17	Goldfinch	43	20
13	15	10	14	11	Starling	40	20
14	13	12	13	14	Long-tailed Tit	36	20
15	17	16	12	12	Wren	32	20
16	14	---	-	-	Nuthatch	29	12
17	16	15	9	10	Greenfinch	27	16
18	20	18	18	16	Jay	26	14
19	21	21	24	--	Carriion Crow	24	12
20	18	19	19	-	Bullfinch	22	14
20	19	16	17	20	Song Thrush	22	14

Perhaps because of the weighting system, Dunnock has supplanted Robin in 3rd place, with Robin also being pushed down into 5th position by the inexorable rise up the charts of Woodpigeon into 4th place. It's reassuring to see that House Sparrow has regained its place in the Top 10, and that Starling has also moved back up the table. On the negative side, Greenfinch continues its slide down the table and Chaffinch aren't as common as they once were. Coal Tit has also slipped out of the Top 10, whilst Carrion Crow crept into the Top 20 for the first time.

Outside the Top 20, it was a poor winter for Siskin and Brambling which were recorded in just 2 and 1 gardens respectively. Redwing were recorded in 7 but there was no record at all for Fieldfare. Blackcap was recorded in 4 gardens and Chiffchaff in one. The species which didn't make the Top 20 were as follows:-

Sparrowhawk (13 gardens), Jackdaw, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pied Wagtail and Redwing (7), Goldcrest (6), Stock Dove and Black-headed Gull (5), Pheasant, Tawny Owl, Grey Wagtail, Blackcap and Rook (4), Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Treecreeper, Lesser Redpoll and Reed Bunting (3), Willow Tit and Siskin (2), and Buzzard, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, Feral Pigeon, Chiffchaff, Tree Sparrow, Brambling and Linnet (one each).



Poor Year For Bramblings

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?

BOOK REVIEW

Water, Water Everywhere

The Collins New Naturalist series rolls on like a great river with the latest volume published in 2015 the 128th in the series. Its title is 'Lakes, Loughs and Lochs' written by Brian Moss, a recently retired Professor of Botany at Liverpool University. He is a well-known freshwater biologist or perhaps more accurately known as a limnologist as he has concentrated on large bodies of freshwater rather than on smaller ponds. His many publications are largely on the condition of the freshwater – its chemical composition, its varying temperatures and the effects these physical and chemical factors have on the biology of the water. Amongst his earliest research papers, way back in the 1960's, one with the title 'Vertical heterogeneity in the water column of Abbot's Pond: the influence of physical and chemical conditions on the spatial and temporal distribution of the phytoplankton and of a community of epipelagic algae' is typical.

Nevertheless, Professor Moss has written a wide-ranging book on the ecology of large bodies of freshwater throughout the British Isles. After opening chapters on the make-up of the waters in these larger lakes he moves on very thoroughly to the living elements, starting with a chapter on the viruses, bacteria and their relatives, algae, protozoa and smaller fungi which play an important role in the ecology of lakes. These are organisms at the bottom of any food chain, feeding either by breaking down dead organic matter or by photosynthesis and so introducing the energy and nutrients on which all the other freshwater organisms, whether plant or animal, will in one way or another depend.

It is only in his 4th chapter that he turns first to the animal life. In an interesting table he points out that freshwater living animals all-told muster some 126,000 species in the British Isles whereas we have so far described some 1,300,200 species worldwide and still counting more every year. Of the British Isles' freshwater animals the Insects are by far the most numerous with 75,874 species currently described, 2nd largest are the fish with a mere 12,740 species and close behind are the crustaceans with 11,990 species. However interested the ordinary man may be in mammals, they represent the smallest group with a mere 124 species described from freshwater habitats.

The 5th chapter looks at the margins of lakes – the 'littoral zone' – which has a rich flora with many different forms established as natives in the British Isles and an increasing number of alien species becoming firmly established. Some of these are escapes from aquaria or garden ponds, others introduced in raw products for industry but an increasing number a product of natural migration as a consequence of climatic warming producing more favourable habitats for formerly Continental species. Moss lists 23 native species of Charophytes with a further 2 alien species, 6 native species of mosses and liverworts with no aliens as yet, 11 species of ferns with 1 introduction, and no fewer than 257 species of flowering plants in our freshwater with 27 aliens currently surviving. The number of aliens of all kinds is very likely to increase in future

years with unknown effects on our native species which may, or may not, be able to resist this competition.

In total the book contains 10 chapters surveying the past, present and possible future state of our large freshwater bodies. It is copiously illustrated with tables, charts and colour photographs which amount to 205 figures. This is definitely not a book to use to identify individual species but it is an invaluable survey to help anyone understand the complexity of apparently simple bodies of water and the many factors which enable the many different species of the higher organisms to flourish or not as the case may be. It is also a warning that we need to take care with all our freshwater as it can so easily be changed dramatically whether by accidental pollution, or the release of nutrient rich sewage or agricultural fertilizers. All this in addition to the inevitable changes that climate warming will produce.

Like all the recent New Naturalist publications this is not a cheap book with a cover price of £60. Fortunately, there are several retailers offering discounts of up to 25% which does help a little.

Robert Yates

FIELD TRIPS

Brockholes Nature Reserve:- Saturday 28th November

Our next Field Trip will be a visit to Brockholes Nature Reserve at Salmesbury, where hopefully there will be plenty of wildfowl on view.

Meet on the reserve car park at 9.00 am. If anyone would like a lift, please let a member of the committee know and we will try to accommodate you.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Grade of Membership	2015 / 2016
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, Brooke 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 2015/2016		
Sep 17	'Techniques of Bird and Wildlife Photography'	<i>John Gardner</i>
Sep 24	Annual General Meeting	<i>Members Only</i>
Oct 15	'Eagles on Mull'	<i>Alan Fielding</i>
Nov 19	'Gardening for Wildlife'	<i>Ken Green</i>
Dec 17	Members' Evening	<i>Volunteers please</i>
Jan 21	A Shot at Wildlife 2014	<i>Pauline & Ian Greenhalgh</i>
Feb 18	Wild Flowers of Lancashire	<i>John Ball</i>
Mar 17	The Plight of the Humble Bee	<i>Richard Hall</i>
Apr 21	50 Great British Trees	<i>Phil Kirk</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 :-

No 152	Winter 2015 / 2016	<i>21st January 2016</i>
No 153	Spring 2016	<i>21st April 2016</i>

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