

## The RSPB Lancaster Local Group Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2019 RSPB Lancaster Local Group Newsletter. We hope that you will join us over the coming months for our programme of Spring and Summer indoor events and outings. As I compile this newsletter in late March, we still have some of our winter swans, with over 300 whooper swans still in the Thurnham/Cockersands area. They should be in Iceland by the time you read this newsletter! However, our spring migrants are starting to arrive, with sand martins and swallows now with us, chiffchaffs singing, avocets on the Allen pool and bitterns booming at Leighton Moss. Wheatears are moving north along with ospreys and other migrants, a sure sign that spring is on its way.

In this newsletter Valerie has her leader's report and details of birds in Williamson Park in Lancaster, plus a report from our event at WCF Garden Centre. David gives us his treasurer's report and has an article on feeding garden birds. We have an update from John on pied flycatchers in the Lune valley and Anne has a report on Bowland AONB. Rob Pocklington gives us details of hawfinch at Sizergh and asks for help monitoring ringed birds.

If you would like to contribute a short article, or have any interesting wildlife news from your local patch, please email your contribution for the next RSPB Lancaster Local Group Newsletter to [kenharrison\\_1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kenharrison_1@yahoo.co.uk) no later than 30 September 2019.

*Ken Harrison – Newsletter Editor*

### Leader's Report

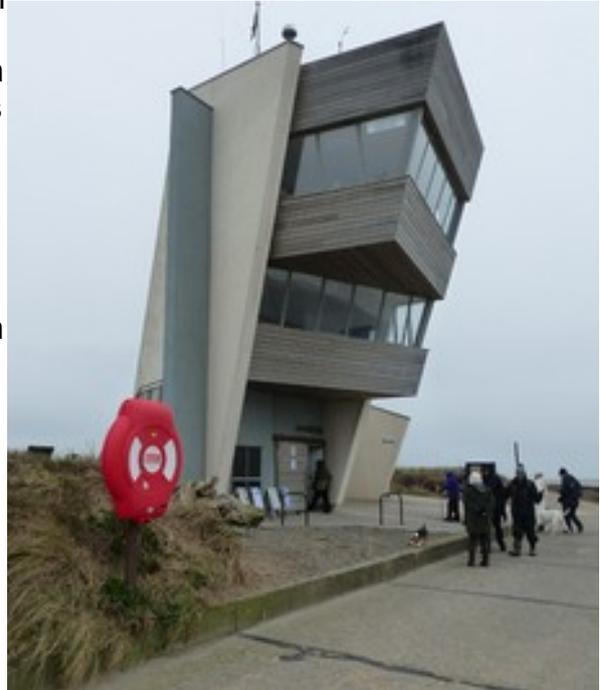
This is our spring newsletter and hopefully we can now look forward to some warmer weather and lighter nights.

Following on from the autumn newsletter at our indoor meeting in October we had a very informative talk by Lee Schofield about the work the RSPB has been doing at the reserve at Haweswater. It set us all planning for a trip there next year to see for ourselves. In November we tried a different type of meeting with a guessing competition, a quiz and a DVD about cranes which was well received. 2019 started with a talk in February by Gary Prescott about his time as a biking birder and in March a very interesting and informative talk by Mike McKavett about the island of Lesvos, showing us the variety of habitats, the birds and wildlife to be found there and his search for 10 target birds, all illustrated by excellent photos. For our next meeting in April we have a talk by Peter Holden about the amazing journeys birds make when on migration and the new discoveries being made about this phenomenon. Then in May a talk about butterflies by Chris Winnick showing us the conservation projects that are helping their numbers to increase.

In October our outdoor meeting was to Pilling for views of pinkfooted geese, waders and other autumn wildlife. Lead by Ken Harrison the event was well attended and all enjoyed a hot sunny day which also brought out large numbers of ladybirds that kept landing on members of our party! A new venture in November was a train ride from Silverdale to Arnside, with a walk back to Silverdale lead by John Webb. This idea was well received and John's excellent knowledge of the area made for a very interesting return journey. Outdoor events in 2018 ended with our now annual visit to Teal Bay in December, followed by refreshments at the home of friends Chris and Bill Ashby. We started 2019 in January with a visit to Conder Green and Glasson Dock, lead by Michael Gardner, which produced

good views of the Egyptian geese that had been sighted in the area. In February we started early at Sizergh hoping for views of the hawfinch that can feed under the hornbeams in the car park. We weren't lucky this time, but the National Trust ranger Rob Pocklington was there to provide information about these shy birds. We then set off to walk to the hide at Park End Moss led by John and Christine Richardson who were keen to ensure we had good sightings of the wildfowl on the pools.

Our visit in March was to Rossall Point and the observation tower. We had booked the visit and were welcomed by the voluntary rangers and given a tour of the tower. We were able to enter the coast watch room on the second floor where the volunteers who watch over the shipping and the sea were happy to explain their work and the technical equipment they use. Andrew Cornall attended to assist me with identification and we looked for grassland birds on the golf course at the rear of the tower and for birds on the beach and the sea. As the morning wore on the wind increased and eventually heavy rain came down so we had to abandon the walk to view the birds on the island in the marine lake as the tide came in. In April we have a walk along the Borrowdale valley near Tebay lead by Michael Gardner and in May we join the Butterfly Conservation Group at Warton Crag for a walk lead by Chris Winnick to view the conservation projects there. In June we will join Graham Thomas for a walk from Churchtown near Garstang and in July we will visit Leighton Moss, starting with a moth trap opening with Irene Mower, followed by walks around the reserve.



(Rossall Point © Graham Thomas)

Our visit on Tuesday 6 August is to Esthwaite Water to view the Ospreys who have nested there each year. The best way to get good sightings is from the water by hiring a self driven motor boat. Each boat takes 4 people and the cost is £25 per boat per hour. I need to book the boats in good time to ensure they will be available on the day as they only have 4 boats. So we are asking for members to book with me by the 31 May. I already have 4 bookings so please contact me quickly if you plan to join us. Members who do not wish to take to the water will be able to view the lake from the shore at the side of the cafe or from inside the cafe where there is a screen with live views. The area is close to Hawkshead village and Beatrix Potter's house, so it would be possible to extend the day with a visit there. Members wishing to do this could leave their cars in the car park and follow a 2 mile walk from the lake to the village, or we can arrange to take members to the village so then they would only have the walk back. We will end our summer events on the 31 August with a return visit to the wildlife garden at Bank House near Ingleton.

Thank you for supporting your local group and we are looking forward to seeing many of you during 2019.

RSPB Lancaster Local Group programmes can be picked up at Halton, Leighton Moss, our indoor meetings or from committee members.

Full details of all our indoor and outdoor meetings can be found on our website at [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lancaster](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lancaster)

*Valerie Hall – Local Group Leader*

## Committee Update

After announcing the good news in the autumn newsletter that the group had welcomed a new secretary to the committee, the sad news is that Teresa Seed resigned in February due to personal circumstances. We thank Teresa for the time she gave to the local group and wish her well for the future. Anne Clark has kindly agreed to be acting minutes secretary for the current year and we are once again seeking a new secretary.

I became leader of the group in January 2015 when I answered an advert in the volunteering section of the RSPB website. Leaders and treasurers have to be approved by the RSPB through the regional local groups officer and I was duly interviewed by Carol Tresadern, the then regional officer. My application was approved by her and passed to the committee for acceptance subject to official election at the AGM in September 2015. Leaders and treasurers are expected to serve for a maximum of 5 years and then need to apply for re-election if they wish to serve for another 5 years. Two or more terms of office are not encouraged and require ratification by the RSPB. Also, a leader or treasurer wishing to resign is recommended to give a year's notice if possible. This all means that my 5 years will be up in January 2020 and I will need to apply for re-election at the AGM in September 2020. I have enjoyed the role and found it interesting, rewarding, stimulating, challenging, irksome, frustrating and fun!

The local group has changed and evolved over the last 4 years and I am grateful for the help the committee has given me during this time. Long serving committee members have left after putting much time and effort into keeping the local group going and new members have joined the committee, giving their time to help in carrying on the good work.

Group finances have been highlighted by David in his contribution to this newsletter. We need to increase our annual income from subscriptions by encouraging new members to join the group and, as our other regular source of income is from indoor meetings, we need to boost attendances there.

We have a programme arranged and booked to December 2019. There is a lot of admin work that goes into advertising and promoting the events in the programme, but this is the best way to increase the membership and make the group known throughout Lancashire and south Cumbria.

We need a person to join the committee to help with this monthly work. To have someone who could just concentrate on all aspects of advertising would mean that the work would be done more thoroughly and effectively than I can do while it is added to my role as leader. We need to start planning the programme for 2020, but we need to consider whether the group will be solvent enough to fund the cost of booking halls, speakers and all other expenses.

Advertising is key to this, so to give hope for the future we need to recruit a Publicity Officer, who can work from home with access to a computer and is confident in using emails and contacting advertising sources. The ability to produce posters and add posts to facebook and twitter would also be an advantage.

Thank you for reading this, please consider the points raised. If anyone is interested in any of the above posts or in joining the committee, please get in touch or contact me at any of our meetings!

*Valerie Hall – Local Group Leader*

## Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Notes

I have just completed our accounts for the year ended on 31 March 2019, and they will be presented to the Annual General Meeting on 18 September. However, I want to make you aware of some potential difficulties challenging our finances.

We began the year with a contact list of 110 households but, by the end of February, only 55 had renewed their subscriptions, so I wrote to the others with limited success. At the time of writing we now have only 72 households who have renewed.

Over the past year the average attendance at indoor meetings was 29 (22.5 members and 6.5 visitors, resulting in an average income per meeting from donations of £64.50 but the cost for a speaker, the hire of the room and other expenses is now about £100.

The annual subscription of £5 per household is adequate to meet general running expenses, but this year we have not been able to make a donation to any of the RSPB's bird projects, which is one of the purposes of the local group.

I am hoping to rectify this with our jumble sale at Ingleton Community Centre on Saturday, 30 November. Their jumble sales are extremely popular, raising several hundreds of pounds, but we do need lots of help - people to man the stalls, articles for sale, raffle and tombola prizes, home-made cakes, etc., etc. Please let me or my wife, Carol, know if you can help in any way. I confess that I am not a jumble sale enthusiast, but I am an enthusiast about caring for nature, especially birds, and I am enthusiastic about the future of our local group. Are you?

Here are a few ideas for how you can help:

1. Donate items for the raffles – the monthly ones as well as the jumble sale.
2. Help to advertise our events by putting up posters in your local community – shops, churches, pubs, libraries, community centres, garden centres, etc.
3. Offer to help in the running of the local group. Right now, a few people are doing lots of things. We need a secretary, a publicity officer, an events organiser, and committee members.

Our membership stretches from Coniston to Preston and Blackpool to Ingleton and we all want our local group to be the best it can be, so please let us have your constructive ideas, comments and suggestions. I, and Valerie would love to hear from you.

You will also notice that we have advertisements in this newsletter for the first time. These will help towards the costs of printing and posting the newsletter. However, we hope that you will choose to receive our newsletters by email if possible, as this will help more of your subscription go towards supporting the work of the RSPB. Please contact me if you want to change from print to email for newsletters and other correspondence. We thank the advertisers for their support.

With many thanks for your support and kind regards to all.

Revd. David Mann, Treasurer/Membership Secretary,  
RSPB Lancaster Local Group.  
113 New Village, Ingleton, Carnforth, LA6 3DJ.  
Tel. 015242 41131. Email: davidmannrspb@outlook.com

*David Mann – Treasurer & Membership Secretary*

## Feeding Garden Birds

Every season has its particular needs for feeding garden birds. In the spring, birds are nesting and feeding young; in the summer, they are moulting and some are preparing for migration; in the autumn, birds are preparing for winter; and in winter it is a matter of survival. So, throughout the year, they require high protein foods such as black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mild grated cheese, mealworms, waxworms, mixes for insectivorous birds, good seed mixtures without loose peanuts. Soft apples and pears cut in half, bananas and grapes are also good. Incidentally, soft, mushy bananas can be a big help to butterflies in late summer/early September.

To make life easy, all the necessary bird food products can be bought in bulk online or in person at the RSPB shop at Leighton Moss, and at garden centres such as at WCF, Claughton. These could include such things as sunflower kernels, fat balls and high energy nibbles. Some extras such as mealworms – live or dried – and bird granola can turn your garden into a first-class bird restaurant. Don't forget to provide a fresh supply of water for both drinking and bathing, and to keep all your feeders clean, otherwise feeding birds may cause more harm than good by spreading diseases.



(Great Tit © Ken Harrison)

We also need to be careful in what we feed to the birds. Avoid using peanuts, fat and bread in the spring, as they can be harmful if adult birds feed them to the nestlings. People are sometimes concerned that putting out bird food can attract rats, so if you have food on the ground, try to limit it to the amount that your birds will eat in a day. You can always top it up from time to time.

(Robin © Ken Harrison)



Birds time their breeding period to exploit the availability of natural foods: earthworms in the case of blackbirds and song thrushes, and caterpillars in the case of tits and chaffinches. As we well know, the weather can turn cold and wet in spring and summer and there can be severe shortages of insect food, or it just could be that long periods of hot dry weather can make it hard for birds to find earthworms. In order to help with both situations 'buggy nibbles' and meal worms can be a valuable help to prevent starvation.

Don't be surprised if the birds in your garden show preferences. Goldfinches are supposed to love nyjer seeds, but ours ignore them, much preferring sunflower hearts that go like the proverbial hot-cakes! You will soon find out what goes down best when you experiment with choices.

Whilst you are about in the garden, look for signs that you may have hedgehogs visiting. Do you know that we have lost half of the UK hedgehog population since 2000? They are nomadic and nocturnal, and they can travel several miles a night in search of food, so having gaps in the garden wall, hedge or fence can help them to explore your patch. Suitable food can be bought in the same place where you buy bird food, and please also provide fresh water. Whatever you do, don't feed them with bread and milk, which does terrible things to their digestive system!

*David Mann – Treasurer & Membership Secretary*

## The Pied Flycatcher in the Lune Valley

The study of pied flycatchers in the Lune valley has been one of the most successful of the Ringing Group projects and is of undoubted conservation value. It may come as something of a surprise to many that up to 1965 there was only one breeding record of pied flycatchers nesting in the Lancashire part of the Lune valley and that was in 1895 near Halton! In the early 1960s small numbers had been reported from Barbondale and near Abbeystead. Obviously, scattered pairs nesting in natural holes could have been missed, but many of the woods now occupied were searched and wood warblers and redstarts located but no pied flycatchers found. A shortage of natural holes was the probable reason for their absence.

*(Pied Flycatcher © Ken Harrison)*

In 1966 seven nest boxes were erected in a wood in Roeburndale and two pairs nested, although both were unsuccessful. The numbers of nest boxes was increased and the scheme spread to other woods, so that by 1983, 13 pairs were nesting. The population continued to increase as further nest boxes were installed and more woods were brought into the study and by the early 1990s the population had levelled out to about 50 pairs, all in Roeburndale and Littledale. In 2005 the scheme was extended to Hindburndale, with 43 nest boxes by 2010 and 80 by 2012. Over the last eight years, although there have been minor extensions, these have been balanced by some removal or non-recording of nest boxes, so the data is reasonably comparable over this period.



The population statistics over the past 11 years from the 16 woods surveyed is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 : Population and Productivity of Pied Flycatchers Lune Valley Woodlands 2008-2018**

Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
No of Pairs	108	100	79	90	86	59	87	92	63	54	68
Successful Nests	68	83	55	51	77	50	76	76	51	43	41

Since 1967 we have ringed 11,557 pied flycatchers. We have had eight foreign recoveries. The ones in Morocco, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands must have been on passage judging by the date of recovery. F431440 though is interesting, on 4 May 1991 it was caught in Noord Holland, The Netherlands, then 33 days later it was caught in a nest box in Jylland Denmark. It was identified as a male, but no other details are given on the recovery sheet. The same year F431397, also a male, was caught at a nest box with 4 young on 28 June in North Germany. Both of these birds had been ringed as nestlings the previous year. That same year one was found dead in Northern Italy on 15 May. It is fascinating that these three long distance movements occurred in the same year, were they the result of some adverse winds on migration?

Other birds we ringed as nestlings have been found breeding in later years in Strathclyde, Durham (2), Cumbria (8), Derbyshire and Powys (3). We have also found birds breeding in our boxes which had been born in Dumfries (2), Cumbria (11), Northumberland and, Durham (5), Yorkshire (2), Derbyshire (3) and Wales (4).

The study has shown the importance of nest boxes in these otherwise suitable woods. It is clear from the results of our study that the species would not have colonised or increased without the provision of nest boxes. It is interesting that some populations have declined in the South West and Wales, while ours have remained reasonably stable with a welcome increase this year.

We intend to continue the study, but because of health problems in key members of our team we are seriously short of personnel to do the recording. Any help from members to check nest boxes would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact John Wilson (johnwilson711@btinternet.com)

*John Wilson*

## **Bowland AONB**

The special lecture on the Forest of Bowland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) proved to be very popular and superbly delivered by Sandra Silk, the Project Officer for the past ten years. The Forest of Bowland was granted this status in 1964, and is often described as a “hidden gem”. So much so it attracted the artist William Turner to paint the Crook o’Lune and surrounding landscapes, and Thomas Gray to write a poem. It covers 312 square miles, 10% in North Yorkshire, and internationally known for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds, including the hen harrier. Approximately 17,000 people live within the boundary of the gateway towns. Most funding comes from DEFRA. There are 9 funding councils who meet, the objective to protect the natural and cultural heritage, and encourage enjoyment of the area.

By law AONBs have to have a management plan. Bowland has a grant to conduct a landscape partnership scheme of which there are 12 individuals who cover lots of disciplines. The grant ends in March. Future projects are 1) peatland restoration – logs are used as barriers to keep water in place. Sphagnum moss helps to keep growth stable and stop flooding. 2) meadow restoration – Bowland has 9 meadows and working with Yorkshire 50 hectares have been restored. To celebrate the Queen’s 60<sup>th</sup> reign, Sykes Farm was selected to design a coronation meadow where people can learn to scythe, do dry stone walling and hedge-laying. 3) Haytime rescue – grown by hand and foster parents for seeds. The area is popular for cycling, walking and horse riding. Also trails suitable for trampers, an off road mobility scooter, which can be hired.

It is hoped to reintroduce a parish lengthsman to do small scale jobs and reinstate a local contractor for fencing, clearing ditches, litter etc. AONB contribute towards the scheme, it helps to keep local areas attractive. The church at Dalehead moved when Stocks reservoir was made. A project is planned to excavate the foundations and put on a display.

The aftermath of the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 farmers set up B&Bs and holiday cottages, which encouraged tourism. Bowland also includes Pendle, which is separated by the Ribble Valley. It has a popular hill but Sandra would like to encourage visitors to visit other areas, it has much to offer.

Bowland festival is an annual event. For more information visit the website Discover Bowland recently published.

*Anne Clark*

## Sizergh Hawfinch Ringing

I am sure by now people are aware of hawfinches on the Sizergh estate. It is a discrete woodland species whose ecology and needs are poorly understood. This very secretive of species has very little known about it in the breeding season, as it nests high up and is not as easy to see in the foliage as in the winter bare branches. It also appears to have undergone a recent rapid population decline. The trust was approached by Natural England and Morecambe Bay NIA project about the possibility of catching hawfinch and fitting them with radio transmitters and then tracking them around the countryside to see what they get up to and where they breed. Recent surveys suggest that its breeding population is now restricted to about six core areas, including South Cumbria. (Forest of Dean in Wales and Scone Palace in Scotland are examples of other areas). Although some work is being carried out to better understand hawfinch ecology in some of these core areas, this is not currently the case in South Cumbria.

### South Cumbria / Arnside and Silverdale AONB

In this area there is known to be a population of breeding hawfinches, with young birds seen at feeding stations frequented by adults in winter. It is assumed that the birds seen at feeding stations in winter are local, although more individuals are seen during winter than during summer. At least four sites are known where hawfinches are regular in winter: Witherslack, Grange-over-Sands, Woodwell, Sizergh.

At three of these sites, birds are regular visitors during the late winter period to feeding stations; this behaviour offers the opportunity to capture birds for ringing and study. Three of these sites are in back gardens and the fourth is Sizergh Castle. It is assumed that there is no interchange of individuals between feeding stations, but there is no data to support this. Once away from the feeding stations, birds are very discreet and rarely recorded.

Over the past 7 years with the trust I have become quite attached to these birds and have put lots of time into watching them and finding breeding habitat. If there's a hawfinch around I'll see it! Understanding the needs of hawfinches locally needs some basic understanding of their local ecology and data on how they use the local landscape. This has proved impossible to date, as once away from the feeding stations the birds have been impossible to follow. However, the advent of small radio transmitters that can be attached to birds offers the opportunity to follow individual birds for a period of time. By capturing birds at late-winter feeding sites in late-March and early-April, and then following them over the spring period, it should be possible to gain a better understanding of where the birds spend their time away from feeding stations, locate roost sites and locate nesting sites.

So at the end of May the trap was set and our first bird (a male) was caught!! Get in!! Wing measurements were then taken and weighed, fitted with a standard BTO silver ring and a plastic red ring with white letters and fitted with a transmitter and released. It sat in a tree for the following half hour or so before heading off. A team of dedicated individuals then tracked this bird for the next 6 weeks (battery life on transmitter is 6 weeks) and put in a good few miles around the back roads of south Cumbria! He was found 8km away from Sizergh a week later and not seen since! (This is all useful info, and not finding the birds is also as useful, unless it's inside a cat that is!).

*(Hawfinch with ring © Rob Pocklington)*



Catching male birds is OK but it's the female birds we are targeting, as this would offer the opportunity to find birds on the nest. The catching technique was fairly simple, fire a net over a baited area and wait for the birds to drop onto the seed, pull a string and the net fires over the target species.

During May, June and July 5 birds have been caught (3 males, 2 females). One of the female birds has been spending a lot of time around Sizergh estate, especially around the ranger's base and Strickland Arms beer garden (a bird with clear taste!). The first male after initially been found a week later did a runner and another male fitted with a transmitter is out there (tracker should be ok till late August). 2 bullfinch and a blackbird also got in on the action!

So this is where you can help. If you would like to be involved with the tracking of 'the male' (and female although she is in a pattern of visiting the pub, still need to see where she is) then it would be really useful to have more secret agents out there searching. Sizergh has the tracking kit and rangers are trained on how to use the devices. Please contact Rob the ranger, [robert.pocklington@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:robert.pocklington@nationaltrust.org.uk) to discuss. Also if anybody sees colour ringed birds, then please let me know also.

*Rob Pocklington*

The advertisement features a composite image. On the left, a yellow bird with a black breast patch is shown in profile. On the right, a partridge with a grey back and black and white striped wings stands on a rock. The background is a blurred natural setting with tall grasses. The text 'Wild Herzegovina' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the top. Below it, the website 'www.wild-herzegovina.com' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text 'FROM THE DINARIC ALPS ALL THE WAY TO THE ADRIATIC SEA' and 'ONE-CENTRE GUIDED BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**Wild Herzegovina**  
[www.wild-herzegovina.com](http://www.wild-herzegovina.com)

**FROM THE DINARIC ALPS ALL THE WAY TO THE ADRIATIC SEA  
ONE-CENTRE GUIDED BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS**

## Have You Visited Williamson Park?

The Ashton Memorial is an iconic landmark that always appears on the skyline when viewing Lancaster from a distance. But have you ever taken the time to visit the park in which it stands?

*(Ashton Memorial © Valerie Hall)*

When driving round Lancaster on the motorway I have always noticed the outline of the building, but never thought to take a closer look. I was told it was a folly built in memory of the wife of Lord Ashton and it contained a butterfly house. This had not encouraged me to find out more during the four and a half years I had lived in Ingleton until November 2018. On 20 November I received an email through our group email address from Kathy Storey, who is a volunteer for "Friends of Williamson Park". They are a volunteer group that works with Lancaster City Council on gardening and conservation work in Williamson Park. Kathy had been working with the group to relocate and improve the bird feeding station in Fenham Carr.



She was interested in learning more about the birds in the park and how to organise a bird survey. I went along one lunch time at 1.00 pm to meet her and the "Monday group" after they had finished their gardening work for the day. We had a constructive discussion followed by a visit to view the bird feeding station, then a walk through Fenham Carr. This is the most natural part of the park and the best place to see birds. After the meeting I spent the rest of the day exploring the park and taking photographs to try out my new camera.

I was amazed at the size of the park, 54 acres in total, with a maze of footpaths wandering up and down through a multitude of habitats including many garden areas, one of these being planted to attract butterflies and another for winter colour. A stream runs through the park into a lake, there are numerous historic features, buildings and statues dotted around. And of course the Ashton Memorial dominates the area with fantastic views over Lancaster to the sea. It is a pleasant area of Lancaster where you can get some fresh air while you unwind and relax or exercise. A number of additional facilities make the park a suitable place for a family day out and to complete the trip there is a cafe for refreshments.

The "friends of the park" support the Council in the management of the park and they work on projects to improve the facilities for everyone. They are a registered charity and hold fund raising days to help finance the projects they undertake. The bird feeding station has been one of their projects and they are always happy to receive donations of money or seeds to help feed the birds. They have also made and installed over a hundred bird boxes. In the autumn they manage to clean and repair the boxes, but they do not have enough volunteers to monitor the boxes when birds start to nest in the spring. If you visit the park and notice a bird using one of the boxes you can email your sightings to [info@parkfriends.co.uk](mailto:info@parkfriends.co.uk), putting "bird box" in the subject line or make an entry in the book at the park shop. If you are a regular visitor to the park you could "adopt" a group of boxes to monitor on a weekly basis. As well as information on the boxes, they would like to know about the areas where birds build their own nests. The "friends" would be grateful for any help you can give, as this will assist them to build up a picture of the birds in the park and to plan future habitat management.

***Valerie Hall – Local Group Leader***

# **GREENSPACES**

## **Small Group Trips, Tours, Holidays, Talks and Workshops**

**Come on one of our organised trips at various locations around Great Britain - Scotland, Somerset, Devon, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, with others planned for the future.**

**Easy paced, personally tailored and value for money. All of our tours and accommodation have been vetted by ourselves.**

**Why not get a group of friends together and let us organise it for you. We also offer a birdwatching / wildlife guiding service for Lincolnshire our home county.**



**Great Photographic Opportunities!  
For further information – Tours, Trips and Testimonials.**

**See our Website**

**[www.stevelovellgreenspaces.co.uk](http://www.stevelovellgreenspaces.co.uk)**

**email : [stephenlovell58@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenlovell58@btinternet.com)**

**or speak to us on**

**079 57 618 684 or 01522 689456**

### **Event at WCF Country and Garden Centre**

We were invited to attend the WCF store at Cloughton on Saturday 23 February 2019 to give advice on feeding garden birds. We took our table top display along, with lots of leaflets about feeding birds, putting up nest boxes, and creating a wildlife garden. We also had a good supply of our programme and local group membership leaflets. We were able to talk to customers about birds and to promote our local group and the RSPB. A lot of customers were already feeding birds in their gardens and were calling in for further supplies. The WCF store sells a range of country goods including supplies for pets such as cats, dogs and rabbits, equipment and food for poultry and horses and a range of outdoor clothing. There is also a garden centre with plants and gardening equipment. They have a good selection of bird food and feeders including their own label bird seeds. The company are now also selling RSPB bird seeds in their stores. So if you haven't time to call at Leighton Moss for your RSPB seeds, maybe Cloughton is the answer. The staff are very supportive of the RSPB and were eager to promote our group to their customers. The company had also given a 10% discount on bird food sold on the day. After a good day on the Saturday the staff asked us to leave our display up for the Sunday so they could pass on information to more customers.



***Valerie Hall – Local Group Leader***

## Wildlife of Uganda – a preview

A reminder that our AGM will be on Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Holt at Leighton Moss. Our talk that evening will be on the Wildlife of Uganda by Ken Harrison, editor of both your RSPB Lancaster Local Group Newsletter and Website. Ken visited areas including Murchison Falls, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Kibale National Park, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, and Lake Mburo National Park during his time in Uganda.



*(Chimpanzee at Kibale National Park © Ken Harrison)*

**Please Note:** If you no longer wish to hear from RSPB Lancaster Local Group, please contact our membership secretary, Revd. David Mann, 113 New Village, Ingleton, Carnforth, LA6 3DJ. Tel. 015242 41131, Email: davidmannrspb@outlook.com confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from RSPB Lancaster Local Group's communications.

*The opinions expressed by the contributors to this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RSPB or of the RSPB Lancaster Local Group.*

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity,  
inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

**[rspb.org.uk/groups/lancaster/](https://rspb.org.uk/groups/lancaster/)**  
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The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:  
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