

A DAWN CHORUS

During the Rotorua-based OSNZ field study course of Labour Weekend 1975, I took the opportunity to listen to a dawn chorus and made the following notes.

Dawn chorus. 4 km S of Te Teko. 27 October 1975; 0515-0630. Open farmland adjacent to swamp and scrub. Weather fine with hazy cloud. Sunrise: 0622 NZ Daylight Time.

- 0515-0530 All quiet
- 0530 Skylark flight song; Pheasant call
- 0532 Blackbird song
- 0534 Song Thrush song; Pukeko call
- 0537 Blackbirds and thrushes singing on all sides
- 0542 Magpie brief snatch of song
- 0545 Fantail song
- 0555 Grey Warbler song
- 0557 Californian Quail call
- 0558 Spotless Crake call
- 0559 Chaffinch song
- 0605 Shining Cuckoo call
- 0607 Starling song
- 0608 Cockerel
- 0609 Mallard quacks
- 0614 Greenfinch call
- 0618 Silvereye song and call; Greenfinch song
- 0622 Sunrise — obscured by cloud
- 0623 Mynah calls
- 0626 Goldfinch flight calls
- 0630 Note taking discontinued

Comment: Although it is open to question whether dawn chorus reports have more than general interest in New Zealand conditions, Labour Weekend being the first in Daylight Time appears a good date to make such observations.

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