

# The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

Regional Representative: Sandra Wallace  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 03 358 5706. Email: sandraw67@gmail.com



May 2017

What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:  
May to July 2017

## Field Trips

May 20 – Ashburton River Mouth. Meet near the Cookie Time factory in Templeton and be ready to leave from there by 9am. We'll explore the river mouth, part of the river itself, and possibly Lake Hood if time permits. All going well we might find some Black-fronted Dotterel. Make sure to bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, and warm clothes. Don't forget your lunch.

June 17 – Winter Wader Count. Meet at the lake end of Embankment Road at 9am sharp. Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, food and warm clothes. Boots or footwear that you don't mind getting wet and muddy are essential. Please confirm your attendance with Sandra by June 10 so she has time to organize teams and assign them to suitable sections.

July 22 – Ashburton Lakes Count. Meet at Mount Somers Tavern at 9am. Bring warm clothes and wet weather gear, and a change of clothes could also be useful. There will be a get together at Neville Adams' bach at Lake Clearwater at the end of the day for soup and a catch up. If the weather is bad, the count will be postponed until Sunday 23. Note that we may be able to arrange carpooling, leaving Templeton at 7:30am, depending on numbers.

For all trips, please let Sandra know if you plan

on attending. Her contact details are 358 5706 or sandraw67@gmail.com.

## Indoor Meetings

Evening Meetings take place at 7.30 pm on the last Monday of the month at Mahaanui Area DOC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Road, off Blenheim Road, Sockburn. Plenty of parking is available.

May 29 - Vanessa Mander will talk to us on a topic to be confirmed at a later date.

June 26 - The real New Zealand "All Black" - introducing the Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*. Biz (Elizabeth) Bell, Wildlife Management International Ltd, will share her experiences of the endemic Black Petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*, from her research that she has been undertaking on Great Barrier Island/Aotea for over 20 years and more recently on Hauturu/Little Barrier Island. This can involve incredible gymnastic manoeuvres putting one arm down into a burrow while trying not to slide down the bank, or lying over and under trees and rocks ending up with grumpy adults, fragile eggs or fluffy chicks in the hand. Biz will share the results of this on-going project and explain what is needed to further understand the

## The Wrybill - May 2017

breeding and at-sea behaviour of these fantastic seabirds. She will also discuss the risks they have while on land and at sea and what is being done to help them.

July 31 – Mist netting and banding. Peter Reese is a very experienced bander who for many years was involved in a long running banding project in Wellington. He'll introduce us to banding and share his knowledge and experiences with us.

### Rambles

May 9 - Halswell Quarry. Meet at the car park closest to the ranger station at 9:30am, and we will explore the quarry from there.

June 13 - The Botanic Gardens and the Museum. Meet at the Armagh Street carpark, by the bridge, at 9:30am. We will walk through the gardens and see what birds we can find before having a look around the museum.

July 11 - Avon-Heathcote Estuary. We will meet in the carpark off Humphreys Drive, opposite Charlesworth Reserve, at 9:30am, before walking around to Sandy Point. This will be confirmed at a later date to ensure the tides will be right.

For all rambles, please contact Bev Alexander (03 313 7009 or [birdiebev@xtra.co.nz](mailto:birdiebev@xtra.co.nz)) if you intend to come. Otherwise we will not be able to let you know if the ramble is cancelled or the location changed for some reason.

### Global Big Day

This year's Global Big Day is 13 May. Basically it's an invitation to everybody worldwide to go birding and enter their data. Last year 17,500

birders in 154 countries participated and saw more than 60% of the world's bird species – a new world record.

To participate simply go out birding, keep a record of how many birds of each species you see and where you see them. Enter the data on eBird or give it to Bev Alexander who will happily enter it for you using the Birds NZ Canterbury account.

This isn't a competition between people, so if you plan to go out and want to coordinate where you go so we cover as much of Canterbury as possible please contact Bev. Her contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

To find out more about the Global Big Day go to <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/gbd20171mo/>.

### Garden Bird Survey

This year's Garden Bird Survey is being held from June 24 to July 2. It takes just one hour to do the count, which helps monitor the distribution and population trends for our garden birds species. To find out more, go to <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys>.

### BRaid Workshop

On June 29, BRaid (an umbrella group that works to protect, enhance and restore braided river ecosystems) is hosting a free day long seminar. Many of the presentations will focus on birds. Bookings are essential. Further details (including a list of speakers) are on their website – <http://braid.org.nz/>. Their latest newsletter is also available online. It includes a link to a new DoC publication – Management and Research Priorities for New Zealand Braided Rivers.

### Birds NZ Youth Camp 2017

During the April school holidays, I was lucky enough to attend my third Birds NZ Youth Camp, which this year was held in the Bay of Islands. Having never been further north than Auckland, I felt sure there would be many new and interesting birds to see, and I was definitely not disappointed.

On day one, we all met up at Auckland airport before starting the drive to Russell. To break up all the driving, we made three birding stops – one to find Fairy Tern, and two to search for Australasian Little Grebes. We found a Fairy Tern at Waipu, getting good views of the roosting bird. We searched for the grebes but, despite our best efforts, they were nowhere to be seen. Sadly there wasn't any extra time to be spent searching, so we carried on and arrived in Russell just in time for dinner. Before bed, we were given a talk about Urupukapuka Island and Project Island Song (you can read about it at <https://www.projectislandsong.co.nz/>) in preparation for our visit to the island the following day.

Day two, and our trip to Urupukapuka Island was at hand. We took the ferry over, and split up into our groups to practise five minute birds counts. These are hard enough in Canterbury where I'm actually familiar with all the birds, but on the island with calls like Saddleback and Myna to interpret, it was really tricky at first. The different dialects didn't help, either. Still, I found myself becoming more confident with them the more counts we did. The highlight of the morning was spotting a Whitehead as my group was walking back to meet up with the others. After a quick lunch, we had some free time to wander around before the ferry came at two thirty. Since there was nothing in particular I wanted to search for, I hung around where we'd eaten and was rewarded by spotting a couple of Saddleback, the first I'd seen that day. The rest of the afternoon was spent in Russell, exploring our camp ground and the mangrove swamp across the road. That evening, it was time for our North Island Brown Kiwi survey. In

four teams, we each went to a site nearby and sat for an hour, recording all the Kiwi calls we heard, including the sex of the bird, what time it called, and the compass bearing of the call. The group I was in only heard one Kiwi, so we also recorded the Weka calls for practise.

A bit of breakfast-time birding on day three allowed us views of a Brown Teal and brief glimpses of a Fernbird around the pond in front of the holiday camp. We spent the rest of the day entirely away from Russell, starting with a drive out to Ninety Mile Beach to participate in a beach patrol. On the way, we made two quick stops, one of which turned up a Reef Heron, while the other finally yielded an Australasian Little Grebe. Upon arriving at Ninety Mile Beach, we split up again, with each team starting at a different location. We found the bodies of a Little Blue Penguin, a Fluttering Shearwater, and an Arctic Skua. While it wasn't a lot, this was the first beach patrol I've done and I really enjoyed it. Next up was a stop at Awanui Wharf to see the nearly five hundred Royal Spoonbills, a very impressive sight. While we were watching them, five other white birds flew over – Cattle Egrets! Our last bit of birding that afternoon was at the Kaitia Sewage Ponds, but we only spent a little time there and I personally didn't see much. After yet another delicious dinner, and half of a talk on seabird identification, we headed out to see...Barn Owl! This was my favourite bird of the trip, and I was really excited to get such good views as one landed, flew to another tree, and then flew off. Our final activity was the other half of the seabird talk, which made sure we were all prepared for the pelagic the next day.

The main activity on day four was a pelagic out to the Poor Knights Islands. Since I get seasick, it had been a hard decision as to whether I should risk it or not. In the end I decided I couldn't stand missing out on all those seabirds, even if I did feel awful. Still, I was slightly apprehensive when we reached Tutukaka and boarded the boat, ready to head out. On the way out, we saw some Gannets, Fluttering Shearwaters and Common Diving Petrels. But it was when we stopped the boat and threw out some fish that

## The Wrybill - May 2017

the real excitement began. Two Campbell Island Mollymawks landed beside the boat, along with Flesh-footed Shearwaters. Black Petrels, Fairy Prions and Buller's Shearwaters flew by, allowing us good views. And, right before we started the journey back, we even managed to see some New Zealand Storm Petrels. As the motor started up again and the land began drawing slowly nearer, I blithely assumed we'd seen all the seabirds we were going to see. But as we were moving past Sugar Loaf Rock, what did we find but some Grey Ternlets – twenty six of them, in fact! If I'd doubted it before (which I hadn't), the birds definitely made the sickness worth it, and I was pleased to note that I didn't feel quite as bad as I had done on my first pelagic.



One of the Campbell Island Mollymawks we saw during the pelagic. Photo by Eleanor Gunby.

Before I knew it, it was day five already – our last day of camp. We decided to make the most of the time we had left by getting up early and walking around the mangrove swamp across the road to look for Banded Rail. Some people had seen them there on previous mornings, but I'm not exactly what you'd call a morning person. So it was a nice reward for the 5am start to catch glimpses of a rail amongst the mangroves. Maybe getting up early sometimes is worth it, after all! After that, there was just time to practise five minute bird counts at four stations around the holiday camp before we had to leave. On the way back to Auckland, we only made one stop, looking for Bittern on Marsden Point Road. While the views weren't brilliant, I

managed a quick glimpse of its head amongst the reeds. Bitterns certainly are secretive and well camouflaged.

After that, it seemed like barely any time at all before we had reached the airport and were all going separate ways. All three of the teen camps I've attended have been very different, but they have all been really amazing experiences and I've enjoyed each and every one. So thanks everyone for yet another brilliant camp!

By Eleanor Gunby

### A Day's Twitching

Tuesday morning and our homeschooling day was just beginning. I suggested to Eleanor that she could try and plow through most of her schoolwork in the morning so we could head out to Lake Ellesmere after lunch in search of a Marsh Sandpiper that had recently been seen there. She had other ideas however, pointing out that the sun would make viewing more difficult later in the day and the wind could get up further compounding the viewing problems. Of course she was right so we shelved the statistics lesson and other books for later in the day, tossed the scope and binoculars in the car and headed out.

From eBird we learnt the bird had been seen in several different locations, all in the same rough area. So we decided to start with its most recent reported location and work from there. Careful scanning from the first stop revealed nothing of interest except a group of people in the distance. Perhaps they were twitchers, better informed or luckier than us. So we turned our binoculars on them. Even though they didn't appear to be birders (no binoculars in sight) we decided to send Eleanor on foot along the rail trail in their direction while I moved the car and then walked back to her. More careful scanning but still no Marsh Sandpiper.

Time to drive on to another location. Same result.

After a quick discussion we decided on one final stop. If it wasn't there we'd give up for the day since Lake Ellesmere is a big place and birds (most of them at any rate) can fly, so it could be anywhere. Pulled into Kaituna Lagoon. Discovered the gate is padlocked shut and wondered why as we climb over. Hopefully not a bad omen. Scanned the lake first. No luck. Tried a couple of partly dried up ponds to our left. No joy there either. Started to feel a little depressed but agreed to walk a little way and check out the pond to the right. I scanned the close end with my binoculars while Eleanor scanned the far end with her scope. "Got it," she cried. And indeed she did. Feeding in among the Pied Stilts was the Marsh Sandpiper, about half their size and looking – to the non birder at least – like a baby stilt that hadn't yet got its adult plumage since it was grey where they were black.

Smiles all around, some time spent (successfully) observing it, and some more time spent (unsuccessfully) trying to photograph it. Then home for lunch and some book work.

We'd barely been in the house five minutes, in fact I was still unpacking the car, when Eleanor came racing out to report that there was an Erect Crested Penguin on Waikuku Beach. As in it was seen at noon and it was now only 12:45. Could we go? She'd get caught up on statistics and other pesky things tomorrow or on the weekend. Sure we could. Did I mention that today was Valentine's Day, a day for lovers? It certainly looked like it was going to be a great day for bird lovers. But there was just one problem. Eleanor had to be at work at 3:30 which didn't leave us much time. Some quick calculations revealed that it was doable but only just and we'd have to place a strict time limit on how long we could spend on the beach.

So away we sped – not quite literally but pretty close to it! I was even allowed to drive since I could perhaps save us a few precious moments if passing or other tricky manoeuvres were

required.

Arrived at Waikuku Beach and quickly decided on our plan. Sprinted – well as much as you can sprint with binoculars round your neck, a scope over your shoulder and one member of the party who was nearing 50 – out of the car and up the beach. Used the scope and spied a group of people who appeared to be huddled around something. Smiles all around since it had to be the penguin. More near sprinting but the group dispersed and they weren't looking at a penguin. They appeared to be a school group on a field trip. Fast walk. Stop. Scan. Repeat. Checked the time. Considered calling in to work and explaining that Eleanor couldn't come in since she had a penguin to find. Doubted the powers-that-be would consider that a good excuse. So we reluctantly and dejectedly made the slow walk back to the car and began our depressed drive back to Christchurch.

PS I can report that Eleanor did make work on time and that all schoolwork was completed later that week. We later learnt that the penguin had been taken into care just over an hour after it was first seen.

By Sandra Wallace

### Recent Happenings

As usual, our first field trip of the year was the annual all-bird count of Lake Ellesmere. Overall, the total tally was slightly up from last year, but still lower than the counts made in 2015 and earlier. Interestingly, the total of New Zealand waders was much higher than last year, and the gulls and terns total was also higher than in 2016. However, the total number of shags has decreased. To see the results from the count, please refer to the back of the newsletter. More details are on the WET website - <http://www.wet.org.nz/>.

Four members shared some of their birding experiences with us at our members' night in

## The Wrybill - May 2017

February. I think all of us were a bit jealous of the rare birds Matthias Dehling has twitched around the country, from Red-footed Booby to Asiatic Dowitcher to Cox's Sandpiper. The same goes for William Harland's trip to Lord Howe Island, where he found species such as the Lord Howe Woodhen and Brown Noddy. Closer to home, Janet Burton shared pictures she took locally at places such as Hart's Creek and Styx Mill Reserve. Finally, Bev Alexander played some of Jill Hanna's videos, including the moulting Erect-crested Penguin, Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots and, most excitingly, a Marsh Crake at the Ashley Estuary.



A Brown Noddy was one of the many birds on Lord Howe Island. Photo by William Harland.



A Yellowhammer eating a cicada, seen during our ramble to Styx Mill Reserve. Photo by Janet Burton.

That month's ramble to Styx Mill Reserve was attended by a large group of fifteen members on a very pleasant summer day. A Grey Duck was the trip's highlight, which led to interesting discussions on how to differentiate between Mallards, Grey Ducks and hybrids. The usual waterfowl and passerine species were seen as well.

Last year, our trip to Oashore Reserve on Banks Peninsula had to be cancelled due to bad weather, so it was nice to finally get a chance to go over there for March's field trip. While the track was tough going in places, the scenery was lovely and everyone enjoyed the outing. We observed many Bellbirds and Fantails, along with some Grey Warblers and Kereru. A few members also saw Brown Creeper at the start of the walk.



Predator control is helping the bird populations at Oashore Reserve. Photo by Angela Guy.

March's meeting began with our annual AGM, where we had to elect a new Regional Representative. After ten years as Canterbury's RR, Jan Walker stepped down, and Sandra Wallace was elected in her stead. Many thanks to Jan for her hard work and commitment over the years. John Dowding then spoke about a trip he had taken to the Galapagos Islands, which are home to many special animals. He showed us Darwin's famous finches, as well as the Galapagos Penguin, Waved Albatross, Flightless

Cormorant and many more.

April's fieldtrip to Le Bons Bay turned up a good variety of birdlife, including around forty Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. Other highlights were Tomtit, Brown Creeper, and New Zealand Pipit, as well as the more common bushbirds such as Kereru and Fantail. While Riflemen were heard, nobody managed to see them. A walk to Fisherman's Beach found a Caspian Tern and Red- and Black-billed Gulls.

That same month, we enjoyed a talk by Matthias Dehling on the work he undertook on frugivorous birds in Peru for his PhD. This was followed by more general pictures of what he saw during his time in Peru, including tanagers, tinamou, cock-of-the rock, many species of hummingbirds, and much more. As well as birds, Matthias talked a bit about the local arachnids, insects, and other wildlife. Everyone enjoyed his excellent photos.

Also in April was our ramble to Riccarton Bush. Grey Warbler, Kereru, Fantail and Bellbird were the most interesting species. As well as the birds, we also looked at bird feathers and nests and discussed what species they belonged to.



Our ramble at Riccarton Bush. Photo by Bev Alexander.

### EBird

EBird is an online checklist programme supported by Birds New Zealand. It doesn't take long to enter your checklists and if you've got a smartphone you can enter your data directly from the field.

A recent paper in *Biological Conservation* highlights 159 conservation actions based on eBird data and shows how that data can be used for conservation purposes. One of the examples mentioned was the Greater Wellington Council's National Resource Plan. The plan was required under the Resource Management Act and includes 52 sites of importance to native birds. Those sites were identified based on eBird data. The full report is available at <http://www.osnz.org.nz/node/873>. It is free but only until 18 May so, if you want to know more, make the time to read it soon.

If you don't already have one, set up an eBird account today. It is a small and simple way to contribute to conservation efforts in New Zealand.

### Notornis Submissions

*Notornis* is the scientific journal of Birds New Zealand. It is currently seeking submissions and is even offering incentives. An annual award of \$500 is available for the best article where a student or recent graduate is the lead author, while a \$300 annual award is offered to the best paper with a sole or lead author previously unpublished in *Notornis* or any other scientific journal. To find out more go to <http://www.osnz.org.nz/node/874>.

## Wader Counts

The annual summer and winter wader counts do not always seem like a lot of fun. It can feel like you are either slogging over vast expanses of dried out mud counting hundreds if not thousands of birds in summer, or else trudging through gloopy mud and ice-cold water in winter, with barely a bird to be seen. So it's great to know that the data gathered does not just gather dust in a box under someone's bed. It's actually put to good use. A recent study led by Dr Colin Studds used ten years worth of data, including that from our own wader counts. The study showed that the more reliant a migratory wader was on the Yellow Sea as a stopover point on its journey, the faster it was declining. While this had been suspected it required data to actually prove it. This study should give more urgency to and emphasise the need for international cooperation and conservation efforts in the East Asian Australasian Flyway. To learn more go to [http://www.osnz.org.nz/Yellow\\_Sea](http://www.osnz.org.nz/Yellow_Sea).

And now that you know how useful this data can be consider giving a few hours of your time to the wader count in June. Details at the front of the newsletter.

## *Birds: A Field Companion*

*Birds: A Field Companion* is a new book, designed to help you better observe and record birds in the field. Birds NZ members will receive a 20% discount on all orders placed this year. To learn more or to place an order go to [http://www.osnz.org.nz/Special\\_Book\\_Offer](http://www.osnz.org.nz/Special_Book_Offer).

## Recent Sightings

### **Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report January 2017**

This report covers the period 14th January to 25th April 2017 and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird, the Birding NZ internet discussion site, and New Zealand Birders Facebook page. Your regional recorder would welcome news of any interesting bird sighting, unusual behaviour or searchable sources of other sightings. Email [christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com).

Key to letters after bird names:

A = all reported occurrences (for rare/scarce species or escaped/released species etc)

S = significant numbers/occurrences (for species regularly encountered in the regions)

V = vagrant

**Great Spotted Kiwi (A)** Berlins (Lower Buller Gorge): 1 heard 20/2 LF.

**Yellow-eyed Penguin (A)** Beach near Southbridge: 1 imm 20/4 MA.

**Antipodean Wandering Albatross (S)** Lake Ellesmere: 1 young bird photographed by fisherman Clem Smith 30/1.

**(Parkinson's) Black Petrel (V)** Albatross Encounters Pelagic: 1 7/3 AE.

**Feral Goose (S)** Irwell RM: 37 11/2 BA. Washdyke Lagoon: 52 10/2 PS.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** Washdyke Lagoon: 1 10/2 PS.

**Mute Swan (A)** Ashley Estuary: 4 flew over 15/3 BA. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku Beach: 2 28/1 EG, 3 3/3 BA, 8 15/3 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 2 6/4 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 28/1 EG, 5 6/2 BA, 7 24/2 BA, 2 5/3 BA, 2 16/3 BA, 4 9/4 BA. Liffey Stream, Lincoln: 2 8/4 BA. Motukarara: 1 flew over 16/4 PC. Hart's Creek: 1 25/1 BA. Cooper's Lagoon: 5 ad 1 imm 16/4 BA. Spider Lagoon: 2 ads 1 juv 9/2 PS, same 9/3 PS. Meyers Reservoir, Hakataramea Valley: 2 1/4



## The Wrybill - May 2017

(‘begged for food’) GL.

**Paradise Shelduck (S)** Just N of Karamea RM lagoon: 200 12/2 R&GA.

**Blue Duck (A)** Kohaihai River Mouth (Buller): 2 in surf zone March WR. Kawhaka Creek nr Tom’s Hut (West Coast): 2 14/2 J&JS.

**Grey Teal (S)** Washdyke Lagoon: 705 10/2 PS, 599 10/3 PS.

**Muscovy Duck (S)** St Anne’s Lagoon: 1 20/1 JG. The Groynes: 16 16/4 BA. Travis Wetlands: 2 21/1 JG, 1 24/1 NM, 1 4/3 JG, 1 10/3 BA. Westlake Reserve: 4 8/3 PR, 4 10/4 PR.

**New Zealand Scaup (S)** Hokitika Oxidation Ponds: 125 21/2 NW. Pegasus Wetlands: 250 5/3 BA.

**Peafowl (A)** Factory Road, Sefton: 4 24/1 BA, 6m 4f 17/2 EG.

**Chukar (A)** Station Peak Road nr Hakataramea: 2 1/4 GL.

**Helmeted Guineafowl (A)** Kaituna Valley Road: 2 23/1 NM.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Lake Rotokohatu: 2 ad 2 juv 24/1 AB, 2 ad 2 back-riding young 11/4 BA, 2 ad 1 juv 18/4 PK. Bromley Oxidation Pond 1: 1 juv 23/2 AC. Caton’s Bay, Lake Forsyth: 12 23/1 NM, 6 31/1 PC, 2 1/3 PR, BA. Cooper’s Lagoon: 1 3/3 PR. Lake Georgina: 2 nest building 5/2 NA. Lake Selfe: 1 5/2 NA. Lake Tekapo, southern end: 1 25/3 JG. Lake MacGregor: 3 8/2 JS&RvB. Wairepo Arm, Lake Ruataniwha: 2 8/2 JS & RvB, 1 imm 18/2 PR, 2 26/3 JG, 3 15/4 KR, 2 22/4 RHu. Kelland Ponds: 4 21/1 SS, 1 2/2 MS.

**Erect-crested Penguin (V)** New Wharf, Kaikoura: 1 imm 29-30/1 DS&BG, JG. 1 31/1 JG. Point Kean: 1 2/2-9/2 JG, 3/2 TH-H, 7/2 JS, 9/2 MA, 11/2 JG, 12/2 RH, AH, EF, 13/2 BA, 17/2 EG, 18/2 IS, AH. Waikuku Beach: 1 14/2 WB. Waitangi Bay, Chatham Is: 1 25/1 TB. Mangere Island Front Landing, Chatham Is: 1 23/2-7/3 TB.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 12/4 BA. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 16/3 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 9/4 BA. Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 1/4 BA. Beacon Street Wetland, Brooklands: 1 29/1 BA. Bexley Wetland: 1 4/3 EG. Heathcote River, Beckenham: 1 22/4 AN. Westlake Reserve: 1 10/4 PR. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 23/1 NM.

**Spotted Shag (S)** Westlake Reserve: 1 well inland 8/3 PR.

**White Heron (A)** Saltwater Creek, Ashley Estuary: 1 4/3 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 1 6/4 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 9/4 BA. Travis Wetland: 2 25/2 SP, 1 27/2 KR, 1 4/3 EG. Sunset Point, Ataahua: 1 19/4 PC. Hart’s Creek: 1 21/4 PR.

**Reef Heron (A)** Point Kean: 1 15/3 JG. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 17/2 EG. Albatross Encounters pelagic: 2 15/2 AE, 1 18/2 AE. Barney’s Rock: 1 17/2 EG. Goose Bay: 1 16/2 JG.

**Royal Spoonbill (S)** Okari Estuary (Buller): 7 7/2 R&GA. Albatross Encounters pelagic: 25 flew north at ‘The Hole’ 2/3 AE. Armer’s Beach, Kaikoura: 15 4/4 AH. Ashley Estuary: 18 1/3 NA, 14 2/3 BA, 21 3/3 BA, 7 4/3 BA, 14 12/4 BA. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 2 3/3 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 10 6/4 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 3 24/2 BA. Bexley Wetland: 9 4/3 EG, 35 10/3 BA. Kaituna Lagoon: 50 3/2 MS, 42 12/2 PC. Crescent Island: 31 11/2 PC. Embankment Road: 16 31/3 EG. Yarr’s Bay: 19 1/4 EG. Harts Creek: 18 3/3 PR, 3 8/4 PR. Kaitorete Spit tip: 14 11/2 PC. Cooper’s Lagoon: 18 3/3 PR. Spider Lagoon: 6 9/2 PS, 6 9/3 PS. Wainono Lagoon: 24 11/2 PS. Near Waihao RM: 13 11/2 PS.

**Australasian Harrier (S)** Albatross Encounter pelagic: 1 5 nm offshore heading towards land 22/4 PK.

**Black Kite (V)** ‘On the road up to Hanmer Springs’: 1 reported by two British birders 12/2.

**Marsh Crake (A)** Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 16/4 TM.

**Pied Stilt (S)** Kaituna Lagoon: 320 3/2 MS. Harts Creek: 350 3/3 PR. Ki-Wainono: 1025 11/2 PS.

**Black Stilt (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 27/1 JH, 1 probably banded KY/KR 28/1 BA, 1 2/2 BA, 1 10/2 BA, 1 12/2 NA, 1 banded YB/BOR 19/2 IS, 1 2/3 BA, 3/3 BA, 28/3 TBI, 30/3 BA, 12/4 BA. Seabridge Road-Sunset Point, Lake Ellesmere: 1 1/2 PC. Milford Lagoon/Opihi RM: 1 banded YY/OK 9/2 PS. Tasman Fan: 30 24/1 MAy&RP, 21 2/2 MS, 13 8/2 JS&RvB, 6 19/2 BG, 5 26/3 JG. Black Stilt breeding centre lagoons: 2 21/1 SS, 1 24/1 MAy&RP, 1 19/2 BG, 1 11/3 PN.

**Hybrid Stilt (S)** Ki-Wainono: 2 (nodes F-G) 11/2 PS.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher (S)** Otumahana Lagoon, Karamea: 100 9/2 R&GA. Okari Estuary mouth (Buller): 120 7/2 R&GA. Ashley Estuary: 295

## The Wrybill - May 2017

10/2 BA, 267 12/2 NA.

**Pacific Golden Plover (A)** Crescent Island: 15 11/2  
PC. Embankment Road: 7 1/4 EG.

**Spur-winged Plover (S)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 309 in  
one paddock 6/2 BA.

**Banded Dotterel (S)** Lake Lyndon: 14 21/2 BA.  
Crescent Island: 238 11/2 PC. Kaitorete Spit tip: 476  
11/2 PC. Yarr's Bay: 344 3/2 EG. Washdyke Lagoon:  
44 10/3 PS. Ki-Wainono: 260 11/2 PS.

**Black-f ronted Dotterel (A)** St Anne's Lagoon: 12  
20/1 JG. Waipara RM: 2 15/4 EG.

**Wrybill (S)** Embankment Road: 238 31/3 EG. Yarr's  
Bay: 114 21/1 BA, 120+ 21/1 PR, 136 3/2 EG.  
Washdyke Lagoon: 13 10/2 PS, 4 10/3 PS. Ki-  
Wainono: 3 11/2 PS.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (V)** Ashley Estuary: 1 videoed  
23/1 JH. Waitangi West (Chatham Is): 1 18/2 TB.

**Marsh Sandpiper (V)** Kaituna Lagoon: 1 12/2 ID,  
14/2 EG. Sunset Point, Ataahua: 1 12/2 PC, 18/2 KiR.

**Eastern Curlew (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 10/2 BA, 1  
12/2 NA, 1 4/3 BA.

**Hudsonian Godwit (V)** Selwyn Huts: 1 2/4 SA.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Karamea River Mouth,  
Flagstaff Road access: 28 21/2 LF. Otumahana  
Lagoon, Karamea: 42 12/2 R&GA. Ashley Estuary:  
141 10/2 BA, 125 12/2 NA. Brooklands Lagoon: 24  
29/1 BA. Wolfe's Road Bay: 125 21/1 BA. Washdyke  
Lagoon: 2 10/2 PS.

**Turnstone (S)** Point Kean: 22 7/2 JS, 54 17/2 EG.  
Jimmy Armer's Beach: 7 13/2 BA. Ashley Estuary: 2  
23/1 BA, 2 10/2 BA. Kaitorete Spit tip: 7 11/2 PC.  
Wolfe's Road Bay: 7 21/1 BA, 8 21/1 PR. Waitangi  
West (Chatham Is): 28 18/2 TB.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Aggie's, Kaitorete Spit: 1  
11/2 PC. Yarr's Bay: 1 21/1 BA & PR, 2 3/2 EG. Ki-  
Wainono: 6 11/2 PS.

**Cox's Sandpiper (V)** Crescent Island: 1 21/1 KiR, 1  
11/2 PC&MR.

**Curlew Sandpiper (A)** Crescent Island: 3 21/1 KiR, 3  
11/2 PC. Embankment Road: 2 31/3 EG.

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Crescent Island: 17 11/2 PC.  
Embankment Road: 31 31/3 EG. Yarr's Bay: 3 21/1  
BA & PR, 25 3/2 EG, 25 1/4 EG.

**Sanderling (V)** Crescent Island: 1 23/1 MA, 1 11/2  
PC.

**Pectoral Sandpiper (A)** Kaitorete Spit, Aggie's: 2 11/2  
PC. Yarr's Bay: 1 1/4 EG.

**Arctic Skua (S)** Bromley WTP: 1 6/2 PC.

**Black-billed Gull (S)** Waikuku Beach Road: about 800  
in paddock 12/4 BA. Beach off Ship Creek, South  
Westland: 400 23/4 DB.

**Red-billed Gull (S)** Albatross Encounters pelagic:  
3000 21/1 AE, 2000 13/2, 15/2 AE, 2000 16/2 JG&AE.

**Caspian Tern (S)** Ashley Estuary: 18 12/2 NA. Bexley  
Wetland: 21 4/3 EG. Crescent Island: 21 11/2 PC.

**Black-f ronted Tern (S)** Lower Opihi River 300m  
upstream of mouth: 37 ad 5 juv 9/2 PS. Ahuriri  
Bridge Conservation Area: 100 20/1 SS.

**White-f ronted Tern (S)** Okari Estuary mouth  
(Buller): 300 7/2 R&GA. Ashley Estuary: 700 23/1 BA,  
337 12/2 NA. Boulder Bay, Godley Head: 200 16/1  
KR. Birdlings Flat: 300 23/1 NM. Opihi RM: 213+ 9/2  
PS.

**Barbary Dove (A)** Bottle Lake Forest Park HQ: 1 27/2  
KR, 2/3 PC.

**Shining Cuckoo (S)** Kennedy's Bush: 1 25/1 PC.

**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Northern edge of Kaikoura  
town, SH1: 1 24/4 PK. Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway:  
1 22/2 JG. Runanga township (West Coast): 1 13/3,  
14/3 MFT. E of Reefton: 1 leucistic individual (light  
grey) 13/3 MFT. Moana, Lake Brunner: 1 22/2 BA.  
Waimakariri River nr Bealey Bridge: 1 18/4 PK. Stony  
Bay Saddle: 1 9/2 PC. Ross township: 1 26/3 MV.  
Poerua River Bridge, Harihari: 1 18/1 OS. Harihari  
township: 1 20/1 SS. Tasman Lake, Mt Cook NP: 1  
22/4 RHu. Glentanner: 1 26/3 JG. Glentanner  
Airfield: 1 24/1 MAy&RP.

**Kea (S)** Mueller Hut: 4 ad 2 imm 21/4 RHu.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** Price's Valley: 12 1/3 PR,  
BA, about 30 23/4 Birds NZ Canterbury field trip.

**Eastern Rosella (A)** Victoria Park: 1 16/1 PC.

**Rock Wren (A)** Otira Valley: 2 8/2 BW, 1m 1f 'past  
the footbridge and just around the corner' 9/2  
'Bennyboy87654'.

**Tui (S)** Port Levy: 1 19/1 MO.

**White-winged Triller (V)** Balmoral Lane,  
McCormack's Bay, Christchurch : 1 reported found  
by householder stuck under strawberry netting and  
released by hand. First seen early/mid-February and  
present some days to 15/3.

**Tree Martin (V)** Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 5/2 AC, 7/2 MD, 15/2 TBa, 11/3 PG.

**Australasian Pipit (S)** Pegasus Town: 2 on vacant lot 9/4 BA.

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, R&GA Rick & Gael Arthur, MA Mike Ashbee, SA Steve Attwood, MAy Mark Ayre, TBa Tim Barnard, AB Alison Beare, TBl Tim Blake, TB Tansy Bliss, WB William Brockelsby, DB Danny Burgin, AC Andrew Crossland, PC Philip Crutchley, ID Igor Debski, MD Matthias Dehling, AE Albatross Encounters, LF Leslie Feasey, EF Erik Forsyth, JG Jesse Golden, BG Bob Gress, PG Paul Guiniven, EG Eleanor Gunby, JH Jill Hanna, AH Ailsa Howard, TH-H Ted Howard-Huttons, RHu Rachel Hufton, RH Richard Hurt, PK Peter Kyne, GL Graeme Loh, TM Tyler McBeth, NM Nancy Miller, PN Pete Naik, AN Arthur Norman, MO Martin Oelderink, RP Richard Preston, SP Simon Piestnall, PR Peter Reese, KR Kenny Rose, MR Matt Rose, WR Wendy Ross, KiR Kieran Rowe, PS Paul Sagar, IS Ian (Sav) Saville, MS Miles Scheuering, DS David Seibel, J&JS Janet & Jock Slater, OS Olaf Soltau, SS Susan Steele, JS Jesse Swift, RvB Raymond van Buskirk, MV Mike Vincent, NW Noel Ward, Ben Weatherly, MFT Marlborough Falcon Trust.



The Cox's Sandpiper, last seen on February 11 at Crescent Island. Photo by Matthias Dehling.

### Wrybill Submissions

As usual, the Wrybill's editor would appreciate any submissions of articles or photos by July 20 for the next edition, which is due out in August. As you can see in this edition, pictures and articles about common species or trips to a local birding location are appreciated just as much as those of rare birds or an overseas holiday. All submissions are welcomed.

### Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Sandra Wallace  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 358 5706  
Email: sandraw67@gmail.com

Regional Recorder: Nick Allen  
11 Seagrave Place, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 03 358 5994  
Email: nick\_allen@xtra.co.nz

Education and Outings Officer: Bev Alexander  
63 Golding Ave, Rangiora 7400  
Ph 03 313 7009  
Email: birdiebev@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: John Allan  
67 Clifton Terrace, Christchurch 8081  
Ph 326 4966  
Email: johnruth@xtra.co.nz

The Wrybill Editor: Eleanor Gunby  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 358 5706  
Email: eleanor.gunby@gmail.com

# CANTERBURY WADER COUNT FEBRUARY 2017

Species	Waipara RM	Ashley/S water Crk Est	Taranaki Creek paddocks	Waimakariri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Wetland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lyttelton Harbour	Okains Bay	Akaroa Harbour	Lake Forsyth	Tip of Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Birdlings Flat A	Birdlings Flat B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes	Eastern Greenpark	Embankment Rd
Counters/NC	NA	NA	NA	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	PC, MR	PC, MR	AC, SB	AC, SB	AC, SB	NM, TH, SR	KR, MH	JW, HC, UC	JW, DM, DH, WH	DS, SW, EG
Notes			nil count																		
Date counted	12-Feb	12-Feb	12-Feb	27-Feb	27-Feb	27-Feb	21-Feb	5-Mar	3-Mar	3-Mar	2-Mar	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb
Aus Crested Grebe																					
Mute Swan																					
Cape Barren Goose																					
White Heron						1															
Australasian Bittern																					
Royal Spoonbill		1			19	11	54			12	30	14	31	4	51	4	97	112	70	2	7
Pied Oystercatcher	2	267			106		3090	425	9	316		13			1					3	
Variable Oystercatcher		11			5		67	4	12	10											
Hybrid Oystercatcher		14			1																
Pied Stilt	10	31		2	56	45	122	126	16	34	2	25	290	25	66	387	271	157	5	282	69
Black Stilt		1																			
Hybrid Stilt								1								2					
Banded Dotterel	3	8		11								476	238	127	210		298	136		401	479
Black-fronted Dotterel																					
Wrybill												7	30							2	3
Pacific Golden Plover															15						
Spur-winged Plover	2	9			1	16	65	21	18	35		16	60	23	9	10	27	14		9	
Turnstone							1					7									
Lesser Knot													42								
Curlew Sandpiper															3						
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper																1					
Pectoral Sandpiper																2					
Cox's Sandpiper																1					
Red-necked Stint																	17				2
Sanderling																	1				
Eastern Curlew		1																			
Whimbrel																					
Bar-tailed Godwit		125			134		1507	228					6			5	36	15			15
Arctic Skua							2														
Black-billed Gull	12	167										9	22	20	21			51	25	52	88
White-winged Tern																					
Black-fronted Tern	2	2		1	2		1					4		9							
Caspian Tern	2	19			6		42	2	1	6	5		21	1	13		2	7		33	5
White-fronted Tern	57	338			5		17		48	21		2		1							
Site totals	90	994	0	14	335	73	4968	807	104	434	37	573	777	211	376	408	731	492	100	784	668
Wader site totals	17	467	0	13	303	61	4852	805	55	395	2	544	703	175	291	404	632	322	5	697	568
% of total count	0.11	3.06	0.00	0.09	1.98	0.40	31.78	5.27	0.36	2.59	0.01	3.56	4.60	1.15	1.91	2.65	4.14	2.11	0.03	4.56	3.72
# wader species at site	4	9	0	2	6	2	6	6	4	4	1	6	11	3	8	4	4	4	1	5	5

Species	Yarrs Flat	LJ RM to Selwyn Huts	Rennie's Bay	Doyleston	Harris Creek	Lakeside	Taumutu	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Rakaia RM south side	Ashburton RM	Spider Lagoon	Opihi RM	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Wainono	TOTAL
Counters/NC	NMu & tm	KH, CP	AS & tm	BA,SS	DR,FS & tm	RS,SH, AR,GB	SH, AR, GB		n/c	AC	AC	PS	PS	PS, JS	PS, JS	
Notes																
Date counted	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb	11-Feb			25-Feb	25-Feb	9-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb	
Aus Crested Grebe								0								0
Mute Swan			4			1		5								5
Cape Barren Goose		1						1						1		2
White Heron							1	1								2
Australasian Bittern								0								0
Royal Spoonbill	70	90	52	15	35	51	15	720			1	6		1	37	892
Pied Oystercatcher	1							18					1	3	1	4238
Variable Oystercatcher								0			1			17		127
Hybrid Oystercatcher								0								15
Pied Stilt	225	149	143	83	90	526	28	2821			37	17	7	151	1025	4502
Black Stilt								0					1			2
Hybrid Stilt								2						1	2	6
Banded Dotterel	221	214	31					2831			122		11	43	260	3289
Black-fronted Dotterel								0			4					4
Wrybill	6	242	1					291						13	3	307
Pacific Golden Plover								15								15
Spur-winged Plover	6	18	55		4	8		259			5	5		11	27	474
Turnstone								7								8
Lesser Knot								42								42
Curlew Sandpiper								4								4
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper								1							6	7
Pectoral Sandpiper		1						3								3
Cox's Sandpiper								1								1
Red-necked Stint	4	21						45								45
Sanderling								1								1
Eastern Curlew								0								1
Whimbrel								0								0
Bar-tailed Godwit	92					13		182						2		2178
Arctic Skua							2	2								4
Black-billed Gull	48		14	4	31	22	2	409								588
White-winged Tern								1								1
Black-fronted Tern	2		4				2	21		20	87		42	1	3	182
Caspian Tern	6						3	91		2	8	2		5	1	192
White-fronted Tern							26	29		80	49		213	43	6	906
Site totals	681	736	304	102	161	621	78	7803	0	102	314	30	275	292	1371	18043
Wader site totals	555	645	230	83	94	547	28	6523	0	0	169	22	20	241	1324	15269
% of total count	3.63	4.22	1.51	0.54	0.62	3.58	0.18	42.72	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.14	0.13	1.58	8.67	100.00
# wader species at site	7	6	4	1	2	3	1	16	0	0	5	2	4	8	7	

### Counters

AC = Andrew Crossland

PC = Phil Crutchley

MR = Matt Rose

SB = Scott Butcher

NM = Nigel Morritt

TH = Tom Hitchon

SR = Sacha Roselli

KR = Kenny Rose

MH = Michael Hargraves

JW = Jan Walker & team

DM = Dale McEntee

DH = Duane Harland & team

DS = Des Smith & team

NMu = Niall Mugan & team

KH = Ken Hughey & team

BA = Bev Alexander & team

DR = Di Robertson

FS = Frances Schmechel

RS = Robin Smith & team

SH = Scott Hooson & team

PS = Paul Sagar

JS = Joy Sagar

NA = Nick Allen

AR = Anthea Reynolds

GB = Grahame Bell

SS = Sue Stubenvoll

AS = Anita Spencer

CP = Colleen Philip

WH = William Harland

HC = Hugh Cable

UC = Uschi Cable

(1) Hybrid stilt Lyttelton Harbour F node

(2) Hybrid stilt Washdyke Lagoon node E

(3) Hybrid stilts Ki-Wainono nodes F-G