

# The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

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November 2017

What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:  
November 2017

## Field Trips

2 December – Summer Wader Count at Lake Ellesmere. Please contact Sandra (sandraw67@gmail.com or 358 5706) by 25 November to confirm your attendance and so she can plan coverage for all sections of the lake.

10 February – All Bird Count at Lake Ellesmere. Mark the date in your diary. More details will come next year.

17 February - A group of Otago Birds NZ members will be coming up to Canterbury. We will show them the highlights at Lake Ellesmere. More details to follow later.

## 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.

27 November – Kerry Weston will be talking about her work with Rock Wren.

26 February - This will be our first evening meeting for 2018. Look for all the details in February's newsletter.

## Rambles

14 November - Ashley Estuary. Contact Bev for all the details - 03 313 7009 or 027 3184 713.

## NZ Big Day

The first ever nationwide Big Day in New Zealand has been organised for December. It will run from 12 am on Saturday 16 until 11:59 pm on Sunday 17 December. Each team must consist of least two people. Your team can pick a 24 hour period to take part, but this must be on one day only, either Saturday or Sunday but not both. The rules for the big day are the same as those used by the American Birding Association, the only difference being that flying in any kind of aircraft is not allowed during our big day. You can find a link to the American rules here: <http://listing.aba.org/big-day-count-rules/> For more information on the event, go to the Facebook page 'The Big Day Birdathon NZ 2017' or go to the website: <http://birdathon.co.nz/> Even if you don't think you could challenge Canterbury's Big Day record, an impressive 98 species, don't be afraid to go out and see what you can find on the day for a bit of fun.

### Leucism vs. Albinism



I spotted this unusual looking Blackbird while walking home from the market. Why does it have those strange white spots? It's leucistic. Although this is sometimes referred to as partial albinism, leucism and albinism have different causes. In leucism the affected areas completely lack the pigment producing cells or melanocytes. In albinism the melanocytes are present but lack the enzyme needed to produce the melanin pigments.

So how can you tell the difference? Albinism affects the entire bird. Even the eyes lack melanin so they are pink. Leucistic birds usually only have patches of white feathers but even if they have entirely white feathers the eyes will still have normal coloration. Note that in both conditions carotenoid pigments are unaffected so yellow and orange pigments will still be present.

Photo and text by Angela Guy

### Youth Banding Camp

Over Labour Weekend, I was lucky enough to take part in a teen banding camp up in Miranda along with ten other young birders. Since I'm hoping to work towards my level two banding qualification, it was a great chance to get in some more mist netting experience.

Friday morning, and I was up early and heading to the airport. Arriving in Auckland, I was driven to Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, where I waited excitedly for everyone else to arrive. Once almost everyone else had shown up, we headed to the orchard to set up mist nets in preparation for the following morning.

A blaring alarm woke me up at the ridiculously early hour of 4:50 on Saturday morning. I half fell, half climbed out of my bunk and set about getting dressed and ready to go. We reached the orchard before six and went around unfurling the nets. Once that was done, it was just a matter of waiting and periodically checking the nets, hoping that some birds would fly in. As well as just banding the birds, we recorded their weight, bill and wing length, wing moult, fat score, and brood patch score. It was slow but steady going most of the morning until a flock of around twenty Silvereyes struck the net all at once. Then it was all hands on deck to extract and process them. In total, I banded a Goldfinch, a Greenfinch, and two Silvereyes. Apart from the banding, the highlight of the morning was getting good views of a Shining Cuckoo while waiting for some more birds to band. In the evening, we headed down to the hide to look for banded or flagged birds and do a general wader watch. The light was starting to fade and we were just packing up our scopes when all of a sudden a cry of "Shore Plover!" came from around the other side of the hide. We hurried around en masse and quickly re-erected our scopes and most, if not all, of us got at least a brief glimpse of the bird. It was a lifer for me – not what I was expecting on a dedicated banding camp.

Sunday saw us back at the orchard for more mist

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netting. It was much the same process as the day before, but we measured the tarsus, and took the head-bill measurement instead of just the bill. I got to extract a Silvereye and a Blackbird from the net, as well as banding a Sparrow, a Silvereye, and a Fantail. We only banded two Fantails during camp – they are notoriously hard to catch – so I was really excited to get to band one. During the afternoon, we had a couple of choices as to what we did. We could go to Ray's Rest for some birding, go back to the orchard and do some more banding, or chill out at the centre. Obviously I wasn't going to stay at the centre when I could be banding, so I went back to the orchard along with a couple of adults and three other teens. We didn't stay as long as we did during the morning, but with only the four of us I still managed to band two Sparrows and handle two recaptures, a Sparrow and a Silvereye. The night before, our planned banding over the Stilt Ponds had to be cancelled due to the wind, so I was really glad the weather was fine and we could go out tonight. After walking out into the mud to set up the mist nets, we set up camp under a tarpaulin propped up between two car boots. And then we sat in the dark, waiting and attempting to be quiet. Lots of people, adult instructors included, pessimistically thought we'd catch maybe a few Grey Teal and Pied Stilts. I was convinced that after we'd gone to all that effort setting up the nets, we weren't going to catch anything at all. Instead, I think it is safe to say that we did much better than anyone anticipated. We caught Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots, Wrybill, and a few Pied Stilts. I banded a godwit and a Wrybill. Now, the thing with mist netting waders in the middle of a pond is that they can see the nets unless it's dark, meaning it can make for a very late night. By the time we'd banded all the birds, packed up, headed back to camp and actually got into bed, it was at least one thirty on Monday morning!

After a very short sleep, I woke as usual at five the next morning, only to find that it was raining. Bother! Seeing as we couldn't do any banding, we went back to sleep for a while.

Well, everyone else went back to sleep. Despite being exhausted, I lay awake in my bunk and stared at the ceiling. Once we got up, we spent a bit of time filling out our banding logs and the application forms that will allow us to be registered as level one banders. Once again, we had a choice of activities; we could go birding at the hide, rest at the centre, or go pack up mist nets. Along with a few adults and two other teens, I headed back to the orchard to take down the nets. That didn't take too long, which left us with enough time to go down to the hide and do a bit of birding. The highlights were two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, a Curlew Sandpiper, and three Brown Teal. No Shore Plover to be found, though. We also spent a bit of time reading and recording godwit flags. I read and reported four flags, and it was really interesting to be sent back a bit of information about the history of the bird. After that, it was time to go back to the centre, eat lunch, and hang out for a while before we said our goodbyes and head off in different directions. As always, it was an amazing camp. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and run it, and especially to everyone who supervised the banding.

By Eleanor Gunby



Eleanor holding the godwit she banded. Photo by Paul Cuming.



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### Recent Happenings

On 26 August eight of us headed north to check out St. Anne's Lagoon/Mata Kapae. After the lagoon totally dried out earlier in the year we were keen to see what the water level was like now and whether the birds had returned. But our first stop was at Cheviot Hills reserve. We had a quick stroll, and Bev had just remarked that we might see Kereru when, right on cue, one flew overhead and perched on a bare tree, giving us perfect views.



The Kereru we saw at Cheviot Hills. Photo by Una Harland.

Then it was on to St. Anne's. The water level was high, so there was no chance of waders. All the expected waterfowl were present but in much smaller numbers than a year ago. Over lunch, a Cape Barren Goose strolled into view on farmland across the water before flying onto a small island. We all thought we could hear two distinct calls so perhaps there was a pair but nobody managed to spot a second bird. On the trip home, we took a bit of a coastal detour. There were two highlights of the stop at Gore Bay. First were the Variable Oystercatchers feeding on the tide line, following the retreating water out, feeding on the freshly delivered food, then running in ahead of the next wave, seemingly trying to avoid getting their legs and bellies wet. Second was the Australasian Gannet who flew close to the shore and treated us to a few plunge dives! The final stop at the Hurunui

River Mouth rewarded us with a mixed group of Hutton's and Fluttering Shearwaters plus brief views of a petrel. All in all a good trip.



Spot the Cape Barren Goose! Photo by William Harland.



A view of the Ashburton River Mouth. Photo by Bev Alexander.

A small party of just three members attended September's field trip, but those of us who did go had a very pleasant day's birding. Our first stop was the south side of the Ashburton River Mouth. During the short walk along the beach to reach the river mouth, we were treated to the sight of a small group of dolphins swimming close to shore. But we weren't so distracted that we missed a pair of Banded Dotterel and their three young chicks. Upon reaching the river mouth itself, we found a good sized roost of Spotted Shags, Black-billed Gulls, and White-fronted Terns. While two of us were busy

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counting them, Sandra was scanning elsewhere and found a pair of Black-fronted Dotterel. After leaving the river mouth, we headed back to Lake Hood for lunch and a bit more birding. We saw the usual array of waterfowl and passerines scattered around the lake, including a group of Pied Stilts. A quick stop at the bridge on State Highway One revealed a large colony of Black-billed Gulls beginning to form – we didn't spot any nests though. Then there was just time to stop in Ashburton for an ice cream before heading home.

October's field trip was another small one, with three members venturing over to the West Coast for the weekend. After leaving Christchurch on Friday afternoon, we travelled to Forest and Bird's Boyle Base hut where we spent the night, taking part in a few five minute bird counts in the surrounding area. On Saturday, we drove to Marble Hill to meet up with Kath Morris, one of our West Coast members. We'd barely gotten out of the car when a South Island Robin flew over to the picnic table beside us, and soon after two Kaka flew overhead. We took a quick walk up the track where we heard a Yellow-fronted Parakeet and saw the usual variety of bushbirds. Our next stop was at Tauranga Bay, where we met up with Kerry-Jayne Wilson. While it was too calm for the planned seawatch, it was a pleasant walk. Following that, we checked out Okari Lagoon, with the highlight being a group of around 70 Bar-tailed Godwits. After getting settled in at Kerry-Jayne's house, where we were going to spend the night, we headed off for some more birding. We stopped at a local Fernbird hotspot and got great views of two pairs. Then it was on to our main destination – Punakaiki – to see the Westland Petrels. It was exciting enough seeing a few flying offshore, but then we parked on the road near their colony to watch them flying in for the night. On Sunday, we stopped at a Spotted Shag colony to check out the West Coast subspecies of shag. Then it was time to say goodbye to Kerry-Jayne and Kath. The three of us made one more stop on the way back to Christchurch, at Lake Brunner. We walked to Rakaitane Track and saw bushbirds including a Tomtit and two Kereru. It was a very enjoyable

trip, and many thanks to Kerry-Jayne for her hospitality and her help in planning the trip.



Eleanor, Bev, Kath and Colleen at Marble Hill.

August's monthly meeting began with Sandra providing a brief introduction to OSNZ's nest record scheme. We then had two guest speakers from the Ashley/Rakahuri Rivercare Group. Nick Ledgard focused on the correlation between recent lower than average breeding productivity of Wrybill, Black-fronted Terns and Black-billed Gulls, and the loss of bare gravel areas on the river due to weed invasion. Heavy flooding in July did remove much weed cover but they are currently using heavy machinery to clear other areas, especially in sections of the river favoured by Wrybill. Grant Davey then shared photos and observations from last season's successful Black-billed Gull colony which established not on the river, but on a nearby dairy paddock.

Paul Scofield gave a thought-provoking talk in September exploring the question of whether full ecological restoration was possible (the short answer is it isn't since we've lost so many species to extinction), or even necessarily desirable. Would we really want to introduce cassowaries even though they would fill an ecological niche left vacant by moa? Even if it was possible we probably wouldn't want to remove every introduced species. Several introduced worms form a significant part of kiwi diets.

Jenny Dent shared some of her research about



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memory informed foraging in Bellbirds with us in October. By using 5 minute bird counts in the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula she was able to demonstrate that, despite being generalists, Bellbirds do track nectar sources such as flowering fuschia, flax and kowhai. She followed this up with feeder experiments. These showed that once the Bellbirds had located a feeder with a more concentrated solution of sugar water they readily returned to that feeder. The memory seemed to last for at least 30 days and appeared to override clues such as colour. It was interesting to learn about this local research into a more common species.

August's ramble around Pegasus Wetlands turned up 32 species. Among the common and expected waterfowl and passrine species there was also a Grey Duck, a White Heron, Mute Swans, Black Shags and a Bellbird. No sign of a Bittern unfortunately – or a Pipit, which two of our members were hoping to see. One eagle-eyed member of the group spotted one elsewhere in Pegasus on his drive home and used his trusty cellphone to summon us to the spot. Thanks Peter!

Six of us ventured to Yarrs Bay for September's ramble. The weather wasn't as cooperative as it could have been but, despite the rain, we still managed to spot 27 species. Pied Stilts were the most common wader (40) but a White Heron, White-faced Heron, SIPO, 3 Banded Dotterel and 4 Spur-winged Plovers were also present. A single Black-fronted tern was the most noteworthy of the other species.

As well as these regular activities we've been involved in a few special events recently. At the start of October we hosted two ebird workshops run by Nikki McArthur. It was pleasing to attract so many non-members to the courses. Hopefully these well-received courses will result in more ebird lists from Canterbury in the future.

We've also taken part in three public events which have been a good chance to raise awareness of birds and Birds NZ. We had displays at two events run by the Waimakariri

District Council to discuss the Northern Pegasus Bay Implementation Plan. We also ran a display and activities in the Botanic Gardens as part of Wild Eyes Mission HQ, a family event run by the DoC and the Christchurch City Council at the start of Conservation Week. Many thanks to Sue, Anthea, Janet, Bev, Sandra and Eleanor for helping with this event.



Children used clothes pegs as 'bird beaks' to move nesting material and try to construct their own nests at the event in the Botanic Gardens. Photo by Sandra Wallace.

### Bird Books to Rehome

One of our members, Angela Guy, has two copies of The Hand Guide to the Birds of New Zealand that she no longer requires. For more details, contact Angela - [angelaguy@att.net](mailto:angelaguy@att.net).

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### Christchurch Banding Project

A joint banding project between Birds NZ Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council has kicked off with three sessions at Halswell Quarry. The project has two goals. One is to move some local birders up through the banding qualifications to level two and hopefully level three. The second goal is to learn more about passerines, including their distribution and the way they use local habitat. We hope to have room for another bander or two in the future, so if you are interested contact Sandra.



### Recent Sightings

#### Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report July-August 2017

This report covers the period 28th July to 31st October 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)** Bullock Creek Road/Inland Pack Track, Punakaiki: 8 20/8 MD, 2 23/9 NA.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** St Anne's Lagoon: 1 26/8 BNZ Canterbury, 1 7/10 HB.

**Mute Swan (A)** Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 13/10 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 6 5/8 BA, 7 15/8 BNZ Canterbury, 2 21/9 JP, 2 1/10 MH. LII River Delta: 4 8/10 NA&HB. Harts Creek: 5 25/8 KR, 5 1/10 PG, 4 8/10 KiR. Coopers Lagoon: 2 10/9 BA, 3 29/9 PR.

**Northern Shoveler (V)** Kaituna Lagoon: 1 male 17/10 MD, 1 18/10 PC.

**Muscovy Duck (A)** The Groynes: 7 25/8, 4 6/10 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 24/8, 2/10 BA. Riccarton House market area: 1 7/10AG. Westlake Reserve: 3 12/9, 4/10, 5 30/10 PR.

**Wild Turkey (A)** Timberyard Road: 7 29/9 PR.

**Chukar (A)** Mount John: 3 10/10 EG,SW,GH&MB-SI. Godley Peaks Road near & NW of Mt John: 2 9/10 NM. Godley Peaks Road south of Lake Murray: 2 1/10 MiR&ZS.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Taranaki Creek Lagoon, Waikuku: 2 29/9 BA, 1 21/10 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 1/10 MH. Tutaepatu Lagoon: 2 2/9 BA. Lake Forsyth-Catons Bay 4 14/9, 19 28/9 PR, 2 31/10 PR. Lake Forsyth mouth: 1 25/10 GT. Kaituna Lagoon: 2 14/9 PR. LII River Delta: 1 8/10 HB. Harts Creek: 1 25/8 KR, 2 8/9 EG, 2 1/10, 4/10 PG, 3 5/10 BA. Coopers Lagoon: 2 10/9 BA. Lake Tekapo, southern shore: 2 19/8 NA, 6 26/9 NM, 7 29/10 NM. Lake Alexandrine eastern shore: 4 14/9, 3 26/9 NM. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 2 19/8 NA, 1 29/9 RH, 2 10/10 EG,SW,GH&MB-S.

**Black-browed Albatross (S)** Albatross Encounter pelagic, Kaikoura: 18 30/7 (outnumbered all other mollymawks seen combined) PM.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Bexley Wetland: 1 1/10 BA.

**Australasian Bittern (A)** Travis Wetland: 1 13/8, 5/9, 10/9 KR 1 12/9 GB. CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit: 2

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29/7 MR. Near Halswell RM: 1 28/9 MH. Harts Creek:  
3 25/8 KR, 2 1/10 PG, 1 4/10 PG.

**White Heron (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 29/7 BA.

Little Ashley Stream, Waikuku: 1 3/8 BA. Ashley Estuary: 1 7/9 BA, 1 29/9 BA, 1 very tame individual (didn't flinch at about 3 m distance) 8/10 NA&HB, 1 17/10 BA 1 21/10 BA. Taranaki Creek Lagoon, Waikuku: 1 29/9 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road: 1 2/9, 19/9 BA 1 20/9 Birds NZ Canterbury. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 15/8 BNZ Canterbury, 1 21/9 JP. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 1 30/9 KH. CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit: 1 29/7 MR. Wolfes Road: 1 12/9 EG&Birds NZ Canterbury. Harts Creek: 2 25/8 KR.

**Cattle Egret (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 28/7, 3/8, 16/8, 24/8, 2/9, 19/9, 11/10, 21/10 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road: 1 21/9 JP. Drain Road, Lakeside: 9 9/9 EG, 15 24/9 BA. Harts Creek: 12 25/8 KR.

**Glossy Ibis (A)** Waikuku Beach Road: 1 28/7, 29/7 BA. Ashley Estuary: 1 7/9 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road: 1 19/9 BA, 1 20/9 Birds NZ Canterbury, 1 21/9 JP.

**Royal Spoonbill (S)** Bexley Wetland: 11 1/10 BA. Wainono Lagoon, Hook River colony: 18 present, 7 nests being sat on 24/10 GL.

**Marsh Crake (A)** Travis Wetland: 1 9/8, 10/10 KR.

**Spotless Crake (A)** Harts Creek: 1 24/9 KiR, at least 2 8/10 KiR.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher (S)** Ashley Estuary: 305 25/10 BA.

**Variable Oystercatcher (S)** Okari Lagoon & river: 52 28/10 BA. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 14/9 PR.

**Pied Stilt (S)** Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 300+ 11/8 BA & BNZ Canterbury. Jarvis Road: 500 24/9 KiR.

**Black Stilt (A)** Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 1 5/8, 11/8 (a different individual) BA. Lilybank Road pond NE of Godley Delta: 2 18/10 NM. Cass River: 2 26/9, 30/9 NM. Cass River Delta: 2 14/9 NM. Tasman Fan: 8 30/9 MiR&ZS. Kaki Lagoons, Twizel: 1 8/10 LZ. Ahuriri Delta: 2 10/10 EG,SW,GH&MB-S. Otematata: 1 in flooded roadside paddock 20/8 TW.

**Pacific Golden Plover (A)** Embankment Road: 6 8/10 NA&HB.

**Black-f roned Dotterel (A)** Clarence River, Jacks Pass Junction: 1 28/9 PaC. Ashburton RM: 2 16/9 EG,BA&Birds NZ Canterbury.

**Banded Dotterel (S)** Williscroft Bridge, Maruia River:

60 2/9 SN.

**Wrybill (S)** Hurunui RM: 2 2/10 GT. Ashley RM: 2 7/8, 10/8, 16/8, 6 29/8, 5 7/9 BA, 7 21/9 JP, 2 17/10 BA, 3 21/10 BA, 10 25/10 BA. Ashley River, Smarts Road: 2 24/8 BA. Jarvis Road: 70 24/9 KiR, 50 27/9 EG. Embankment Road: 126 8/10 NA&HB. Washdyke Lagoon: 3 24/8, 13 28/9, 21 19/10 PS. Glentanner: 2 23/10 GT. Wainono square lagoon: 21 24/10 GL.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Okari Lagoon & river: 70 28/10 BA. Ashley Estuary: 16 8/9 BA the first returning birds reported, 97 25/10 BA. Brooklands Lagoon: 50 30/9 KH. Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 348 7/9, 1111 18/9 AC. Jarvis Road: 170 24/9 KiR, 114 27/9 EG, 70 1/10 MiR&ZS, 54 8/10 NA&HB. Embankment Road: 41 17/9 JW, 95 8/10 NA&HB. Okarito Lagoon: approx. 150 11/10 EG,SW,GH&MB-SI.

**Turnstone (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 21/10 BA. Embankment Road: 15 19/10 MA. Wainono square lagoon: 1 24/10 GL.

**Red Knot (S)** Jarvis Road: 5 24/9 KiR, 8 27/9 EG,BA&PR, 2 1/10 MiR&ZS. Embankment Road: 28 8/10 NA&HB.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A)** Jarvis Road: 1 27/9 EG,BA&PR. Embankment Road: 1 8/10 NA&HB, 1 19/10 MA.

**Curlew Sandpiper (A)** Jarvis Road: 2 27/9 EG,BA&PR. Embankment Road: 2 19/10 MA.

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Jarvis Road: 3 24/9 KiR, 10 27/9 EG,BA&PR. Embankment Road: 2 17/9 JW, 22 8/10 NA&HB, 40+ 19/10 MA.

**Sanderling (V)** Jarvis Road: 1 24/9 KiR, 1 27/9 EG,BA&PR. Embankment Road: 1 19/10 MA.

**Black-billed Gull (S)** Williscroft Bridge, Maruia River: 750 nest-building 19/10 SW. Lower Arahura Valley (WC): 350 28/8 NW. Ashley RM: approx. 200 17/10 BA.

**Black-f roned Tern (S)** Ashley RM: 58 10/8 BA. Channel between Quail I and King Billy I, Lyttelton Harbour: 1 15/10 NA.

**White-f roned Tern (S)** Ashley RM: approx. 600 8/10 NA&HB.

**Barbary Dove (A)** Lamb & Hayward Waimana Chapel, Kippenburger Ave, Rangiora: 2 17/10 BA. Marshland Road near Prestons Road: 2 19/10 BA. Russley Golf Club: 1 singing 17/9 NA.



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**Shining Cuckoo (S)** Travis Wetland: 1 23/9 GB was first of this spring reported. Duvauchelle Cemetery: 1 28/9 PR. Victoria Park: 1 1/10 AC. Widespread from then on.

**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Hanmer Springs village: 1 30/10 BR. Saltwater Creek, Waikuku: 1 2/9 SN. Hoffman Street, Hokitika: 1 25/8 NW. Lilybank Road, Lake Tekapo: 1 10/10 NM.

**Kaka (A)** Marble Hill camp ground/picnic area: 2 28/10 BA.

**Kea (S)** Arahura Valley township: 1 21/9 MRe.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (S)** Gebbies Valley, SH75: 32 30/10 BG. Prices Valley: 7 14/9 PR&BA.

**Yellow-crowned Parakeet (S)** Smoothwater River & Bay: 1 29/8 RH.

**Orange-fronted Parakeet (A)** Hawdon Valley: 2 3/9 BW.

**Eastern Rosella (A)** Ranger HQ, Victoria Park: 1 1/8, 13/8 PC.

**Rock Wren (A)** Tasman Glacier car park: 1 23/9 GT.

**Yellowhead (A)** Hawdon Valley: a group of about 5 3/9 BW.

**South Island Robin (S)** Woodland Walk, Hanmer Springs: 1 4/9 BA.

**Cirl Bunting (A)** Kaikoura WTP: 1 17/9 PM. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 7/10 HB. Victoria Park: 1 singing 23/10 PC. Awatea Road Flood Pond: 1 16/8 PR.

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, MA Michael Ashbee, GB Grahame Bell, HB Harry Boorman, MB-S Michael Burton-Smith AC Andrew Crossland, PaC Pat Crowe, PC Philip Crutchley, MD Matthias Dehling, PG Pablo Garcia, BG Brenda Greene, EG Eleanor Gunby, AG Angela Guy, GH George Hobson, MH Mark Herse, RH Rachel Hufton, KH Kirsten Hunter, GL Graeme Loh, NM Nikki McArthur, PM Paul Maury, SN Stuart Nicholson, JP Jerry Pruett, BR Brian Ratcliff, MRe Miriam Rees, PR Peter Reese, MiR Mint Ren, KR Kenny Rose, MR Matt Rose, KiR Kieran Rowe, PS Paul Sagar, ZS Zhang Shen, GT Graham Tompsett, JW Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, NW Noel Ward, TW Tom Waterhouse, BW Ben Weatherley, LZ Lei Zhu.

### Nests





The first two photos are of a Black-backed Gull nest, while the last two photos are of a Variable Oystercatcher nest. These pictures, all taken by Bev Alexander at the Ashley Estuary, highlight just how different nests can be.

### Ideas for 2018

If anyone has any speakers they would like to hear or places they would like to visit for a field trip please let Sandra know.

### Contributions

The editor wishes all members a happy summer of birding. Look out for the next edition of *The Wrybill* in early February. Any contributions are welcomed by January 20.

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