

The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

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August 2018

What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:
August to October 2018

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 August – We'll be treated to two speakers this evening. Lorna Deppe and Laura Young will talk about two amazing mountain dwelling species – the Huttons Shearwater and the Kea.

24 September – Luke Martin is the Curator of the New Zealand Native Plant Collection at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, where he manages to fit plenty of bird observations into his working day. He'll be sharing some of those with us, as well as his experiences working with parakeets on the Chathams and Norfolk Island.

29 October – Helen Taylor, from the University of Otago, will talk to us on some of her research which focuses on the impact of low genetic diversity and inbreeding on the sperm health of birds.

Field Trips

25 August – With spring fast approaching, we'll walk along a section of the rail trail, exploring a

part of Lake Ellesmere that we don't cover in the wader counts. The track is smooth, straight and reasonably well formed, although we may venture off the track in places. I'll determine the exact start and finish points once I know who plans to attend. Carpooling from Halswell is possible depending on numbers. Plan for a 9:30 am start with a picnic lunch along the way. Book (sandraw67@gmail.com or 358 5706) no later than 18 August please so I have plenty of time to work out the final logistics.

22 September – We'll visit Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula. Hopefully we'll see plenty of bush birds, including natives like Tomtit, Riflemen, Brown Creeper, Tui and New Zealand Falcon. Many of the tracks are steep in places so may not be suitable for all, and walking poles are recommended for those who need them. To book or for further details contact Sandra by 15 September.

27 October – Arthur's Pass Exploration. I'm hoping to arrange a walk up the Otira Valley to look for Rock Wren. However, that is definitely only suitable for those who are fit and fleet of foot. If there is enough interest it may also be possible to arrange for another group to explore some of the shorter, easier walks in the area. If you are interested in either option please let Sandra know by 13 October.

Rambles

14 August – Otukaikino. From Christchurch, travel through Belfast and turn right onto Main North Road just before the start of the motorway. Park at the car park about 300m down the road.

11 September – Sandy Point. Meet in the windsurfing carpark off Humphrey's Drive.

16 October – Hart's Creek Walkway. Park in the carpark off Lower Lake Road.

For all rambles, meet at the designated point at 9:30 am. If you intend to go on a ramble, please let Bev know on birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 03 313 7009. This is important in case the trip is called off due to bad weather. Bev can't tell you if the ramble has been cancelled if she doesn't know you are coming.

Conference Summary

This year's conference experience began on Thursday morning with an 8 am flight to Auckland, followed by several hours killing time in the centre of Auckland, before boarding the bus to Paihia. Birding out a bus window while travelling at 100km proved difficult but I did spot a couple of flocks of wild Turkeys on the side of the highway. I may also have seen a Spotted Dove on power lines but doubted I could convince the bus driver to stop and reverse back a little so I could confirm my identification! We arrived in Paihia just after 5:30pm and then faced a 30 minute walk around the bay to the hotel in Waitangi, while lugging our bags and dragging suitcases. If only I had discovered earlier that the hotel operated a complimentary shuttle!

Eleanor and I met up with Peter Howden on Friday morning and fitted in some birding and a good walk before the serious business began with the annual RR's meeting. For me the most useful item was a discussion of new health and safety guidelines. Hopefully we can implement

them in a way that isn't onerous or intrusive but keeps everyone safe while ensuring that activities are still enjoyable. Our new health and safety guidelines are outlined later in the newsletter - please take the time to read them. It was also interesting to get an update on the new national bird monitoring scheme. The exact form and protocols are still being worked out, however it sounds like it will be similar to the previous bird atlas schemes but with additional aspects. It should be unveiled at the 2019 conference in Wellington.

Saturday and Sunday were the days of the conference proper and were filled with a variety of talks on all things bird-related. Colin Miskelly's talk on pest eradication and endemic bird reintroductions at Zealandia was intriguing for its finding that not all birds benefited equally. In fact native species (excluding the Tui) and non-natives that were present before pest eradication and bird reintroductions began actually decreased in number, leading Colin to conclude that in the absence of predators our deep endemics will out-compete other species. Susan Walker's talk on changes in native bird occupancy combine data from the OSNZ bird atlases with other data. We often focus on introduced predators as the biggest threat to our endemic birds but this talk showed another culprit – us. Our deep endemics show the most aversion to human land modification. This talk also showed that deep endemics do better in cold forests than warm ones, so climate change poses an additional threat to their survival. Kristina Smiley spoke about hormonal regulation and parental care. Her experiments showed that decreasing prolactin levels in breeding Zebra Finches led to the birds spending less time brooding and feeding their chicks. Altering prolactin levels could be one tool used to alter the breeding success of some bird species. Rebecca French won the prize for best student talk with her presentation on human disturbance to sub-antarctic Yellow-eyed Penguins. Another interesting session was the unveiling of the proposed new logo, which was formally adopted at the AGM on Saturday evening. Regardless of people's views on the logo itself I think everyone found the insight into

the design process and reasoning as to why various design decisions were made the way they were to be fascinating.

Monday was field trip day – a day to experience some of what the Far North has to offer in birding terms. I opted to visit Urupukapuka Island. I'm not one for boats so when they described conditions as being "bumpy" I did consider promptly disembarking. However I was assured that after 10 minutes or so we would be protected by island chains where conditions would be much calmer. I'm glad I persevered. For me the highlight was undoubtedly the North Island Saddleback. I counted at least a dozen but there were also plenty of North Island Robins and Tomtits to be seen in the bush, plus several Banded Rail on the lawn near the jetty, a Reef Heron on the jetty, and New Zealand Dotterel on the beach. Not to mention plenty of gannets soaring and plunging just offshore. My glimpse of Whitehead was disappointingly brief and I arrived at the bird hide just as the Brown Teal swam out of view. I did debate walking to another spot where Brown Teal might be seen but the weather was forecast to deteriorate later in the day (meaning the boat trip would be bumpier...) so I decided to take the early boat back. This stopped at Russell where I took the opportunity to explore some of the historical sites – and got absolutely drenched while walking up to Hone Heke's infamous flagpole.

All in all the annual conference is a great experience – a chance to meet with plenty of like minded people, learn about much of the current research into New Zealand birds, have your say on the running of our organisation via the AGM, and to go birding in other parts of the country. If you haven't yet attended a conference I recommend it as good way to pass Queens Birthday weekend. Next year's conference will be in Wellington while the 2020 conference will be hosted by...drumroll please... us here in Canterbury.

By Sandra Wallace

Birds NZ Conference Field Trips - A Pelagic and Kayaking

I had booked a pre-conference pelagic trip from Tutukaka on 27th May. This was scheduled to go out to the Poor Knights and then well beyond. Unfortunately this trip was cancelled three days prior to departure because of the stormy weather forecast. (The day itself was quite calm inshore but I'm told there was a big swell out in the ocean). So I was quite excited to learn that the conference had added a pelagic trip from Paihia on 1st June. I only heard about this the day before but fortunately was able to join 9 others, plus the skipper Jochen and crew Griffin for the trip, and which was led by Chris Gaskin.

The day was a bit overcast and windy but largely rain free and the swell was not too bad. We headed out towards Ninepin Rock. There were fine views of the Treaty Grounds through a misty shoreline. A Little Blue Penguin called as we went by it. Ninepin Rock, although very steep sided, is the only Australasian Gannet colony for some distance and there were 40-50 birds present. From there we continued out towards Ninepin Trench (around 40 kms off-shore). In contrast to my last pelagic trip in the Hauraki Gulf there were very few birds although we did see a good number of species. About half-way out a cetacean was spotted quite close to the vessel and was identified as a Minke whale. Then two others, thought most likely to be Bryde's whales.

Ninepin Trench is around 420 metres deep and stopping here we put out chum. Again the birds were somewhat slow to arrive but a good variety. Amazingly the NZ Storm Petrel was the most numerous with six birds seen and five in one view at once. In contrast no White-faced Storm Petrels were seen. Chris noted quite a few NZSP have been seen this far north and that has led to some thoughts that there might be another nesting site other than on Hauturu (Little Barrier).

The Wrybill - August 2018



New Zealand Storm Petrel. Photo by Denise Poyner.

We retraced our route back to Paihia and put out chum again close to where we encountered the whales. No whales this time but after only a few minutes a large toothed mouth took the net with the chum in one bite. Those in the know said it was probably a Mako shark. All in all it was a great day full of variety. The full species list (supplied by Chris but all seen by most on board) is below.

Species list:

1. Wandering Albatross – Gibson’s Albatross (adults and one juvenile)
2. Northern Royal Albatross
3. White-capped Albatross
4. Black-browed/Campbell Albatross
5. Buller’s Albatross
6. Northern Giant Petrel
7. Cape Petrel
8. Black Petrel
9. Grey-faced Petrel
10. Buller’s Shearwater
11. Sooty Shearwater
12. Fluttering Shearwater
13. Little Shearwater
14. Fairy Prion
15. Common Diving Petrel
16. NZ Storm-petrel - six the most seen at one time
17. Little Blue Penguin
18. Australasian Gannet
19. Pied Shag
20. Black-backed Gull
21. Red-billed Gull
22. White-fronted Tern

Minke whale
Bryde’s whale
NZ fur seal
Mako shark

On the first evening of the conference, Prue and I did our own “field-trip” to little beyond Kerikeri. It was very wet, windy and dark. NI Brown Kiwi are quite common in these parts and we were headed to an area we had been told was a good place to hear them. The “Kiwi live here” painted on the road was a good sign even though it seemed there were quite a lot of houses around, albeit mixed with farmland and a few patches of bush. We pulled just onto the road verge to get out and listen but had not reckoned with a Northland downpour. When we tried to drive on it was clear our front wheel was going to dig ever deeper into the ground. Fortunately a local resident with a big 4-wheel drive passed by and very obligingly offered to pull us out. Whilst he went to fetch a tow rope, a male kiwi called from what seemed like only a few metres away. Our Good Samaritan said you could often see Kiwi at the roadside in just this spot. A successful field-trip after all!

Our official field trip the day after the conference was the kayak trip down from the Haruru Falls to the Waitangi road bridge. There were 10 takers for this trip, which turned out to be a mini-van to the falls, a walk from the falls to the bridge, a mini-van to the falls and a kayak trip back. It sounds complicated but was dictated by the weather (wet), tide (high) and river (in flood)! The walk was initially through regenerating bush and then a long board walk section through mangrove forest. There were few bush birds, Tui, Fantail and Kingfisher being most common. The track passed below three pine trees with a colony of Pied Shag nests, several with chicks of various ages. One we watched had three chicks but the much larger one was the only one to be fed on a couple of occasions. Further on was an area suitable for Fernbird but Prue and I did not hear any. We were told the group behind played some calls, had answering bird(s) and at least one was seen. The water was very high through the mangrove

The Wrybill - August 2018

section so there was no chance of hoped for Banded Rail.

Back at the falls, in the kayaks, we headed one by one towards the falls and then turned downstream with the flow – potential mishaps possible but all made it round safely. As a diversion, nestled close to the river at the far side of the falls was a Reef Heron. We had a further look at the Pied Shag colony from the river. And near the river mouth around 10 Royal Spoonbill were huddled on the bank.

Brian Darlow July 2018



The flooded mangrove forest. Photo by Brian Darlow.

Post-Conference Field Trip to Cape Reinga and 90 Mile Beach

This was a two day field trip to explore the Far North including Cape Reinga and 40 kms of Ninety Mile beach. We were in three 4WD vehicles and were wonderfully hosted by two local entities, Lois Wagener and Kevin Matthews. Both have family links in the region right back to early European settlement and have a wealth of knowledge to share. Their depth of understanding of the local ecology overlayed with cultural and environmental issues made it a fascinating and engaging two days. While birds were our primary focus we learnt a great deal more as well and felt very lucky to be with two such knowledgeable leaders.

The weather was reasonably inclement, making bird watching a little challenging. We saw a huge flock of Royal Spoonbills roosting in a paddock near Doubtless Bay, visited several dune lakes including Lake Ngatu and found New Zealand Dabchicks along with the usual wetland suspects, then at high tide there was a large gathering of Royal Spoonbills in Macrocarpa trees near the Houhora pub.



High tide roost for Royal Spoonbills at Houhora Harbour.

On the first afternoon we reached at Cape Reinga via the road in a buffeting wind. It was wonderful to see the Tasman and Pacific crashing into each other – the views were spectacular. A lone New Zealand Pipit braved the elements and bobbed around close to the track. A lot of effort has gone into native plant restoration at Cape Reinga making it an improved habitat for native birds. Then we dropped down to Tapotupotu Bay – a beautiful beach where three New Zealand Dotterels took our attention and a Banded Rail was spotted in the undergrowth.

We returned to spend the night at Kaitaia in time for a strategically planned dusk sighting of a Barn Owl.

The trip up 90 Mile beach on the second day was spectacular – enhanced by wind and the occasional wet squall. We stopped from time to time to view Variable Oystercatchers, White-fronted Terns, the occasional Caspian Tern, Black-backed and Red-billed Gulls, with the occasional glimpse of a soaring albatross in the far seaward distance.

The Wrybill - August 2018



Spot the three northern New Zealand Dotterels at Tapotupotu bay.



Variable Oystercatchers at Maunganui Bluff on Ninety Mile Beach

There were some significant middens containing layers of shell and bone mixed with charcoal. These midden sites were extensive and have been recently protected. We had lunch near the Maunganui Bluff Reserve and on arrival we were greeted by half a dozen of the wild horses that roam the coastline. The full herd consists of about 300 horses and have been roaming in the wild for over 50 years.

Lois and Kevin were knowledgeable and generous leaders. Through them both we were able to understand much more about the fragile ecologies of the far North and the growing tensions between caring for the diminishing natural environments and people's hopes to make a living from rapidly expanding industries such as avocados and dairying, which have a thirst for irrigation. Water extraction to support

these and other local industries is putting fragile wetlands and the birdlife at risk and this is a major concern. These rare dune wetland ecosystems are also under threat with the extraction of swamp kauri and the renewed interest in plantation forestry.

We came away from the field trip with a much better understanding of the region's environment, ecosystems, wildlife and the current environmental and cultural issues it faces. We couldn't have been with better leaders – their knowledge of the area was exceptional and we had a lot of fun as well!

Article and photos by Penny Carnaby and Tina Troup

Conference Mist Netting Field Trip

After two days packed full of scientific talks, it was time for the field trips. I had managed to snag the last spot for the two day mist netting trip. After the conference dinner on Sunday night, we piled into cars and headed across to the Russell-Orongo Bay Holiday Park. It was a great location with lots of birds around, and they generously offered us discounted accommodation as well. That night was just supposed to involve a debrief about the next day's activities before bed, but we ended up doing a bit of banding. While I was putting my bags away, some of the others had found and caught two Welcome Swallows. After they'd been banded, they were put back into bags and hung in a safe, quiet area to spend the night, before being released at dawn the next morning.

After hearing the weather forecast the day before, nobody was holding out high hopes of getting much banding in. However, over the next day and a half it only rained one afternoon, so we got banding in on both mornings. We were split into three groups of trainees, each accompanied by two level three banders. On Monday, my group was under the instruction of

The Wrybill - August 2018

Mike Bell and Troy Makan. Despite the fact that there were lots of birds around, they weren't flying into our nets! Still, I got to band two sparrows, and it was interesting to see how different level threes do things. As well as attaching the band and taking the usual measurements, we practised identifying the different groups of feathers. We also practised passing birds between different banders. Since none were inadvertently released in the process, I think we did a pretty decent job.

On Tuesday, the level threes swapped groups and David Melville and Paul Cuming were assigned to our group. I got to work with more, and a better variety of, birds than on Monday. I extracted three sparrows, banded one each of a sparrow, Chaffinch, and Grey Warbler, and handled an additional sparrow. The Grey Warbler was the first one I've ever banded, and it was definitely my highlight of the mist netting. After lunch, it was time to pack up (not forgetting to get my bander training log signed off!) and disperse, in my case to Auckland to catch my flight home. While I didn't get to band as many birds as I'd hoped, it was still a good chance to learn from a variety of different banders.

By Eleanor Gunby

"Eleanor's valuable efforts in communicating information about New Zealand birds and the enjoyment of bird study through a variety of channels and to a number of audiences are recognised with this award. She has consistently contributed her skills in this area over a number of years. Eleanor currently edits the BirdsNZ Canterbury Regional newsletter "Wrybill" and has been doing so since February 2015, directly benefiting local members. She is part of the team at YoungBirdersNZ, contributing regularly to their online magazines aimed at young people. YoungBirdersNZ works in partnership with BirdsNZ to encourage birding by young people. In addition, Eleanor published her first short note in Notornis a few months ago (on New Zealand's first Cox's sandpiper), and is a supporter of the Records Appraisal scheme, submitting several Unusual Bird Reports in addition to the Cox's sandpiper. This reflects both her knowledge of birds and her enthusiastic support for schemes run by our society."



David Lawie presenting Eleanor with the award.

Photo by Darren Markin.

Conference Awards

At the conference, three members were presented with awards. One was the Robert Falla Memorial Trophy, which was presented to David Melville. The remaining two were A. T. Edgar Junior Awards, which were awarded to George Hobson and Eleanor Gunby. In nominating Eleanor, council member Sharon Alderson wrote:

The Wrybill - August 2018

Kaikoura Pelagic - 14 July 2018

We drove up to Kaikoura for our chartered sea watching boat trip on 13 July. On the way we stopped at St Anne's Lagoon, just north of Cheviot, where Bev found among the usual waterfowl an Australasian Little Grebe. It was on the far side of the lagoon, but the yellow facial markings were clearly visible using binoculars. We found over 20 species along the shore in Kaikoura, including our target bird - a reef heron.

Next day, seven of us reported to Encounter Kaikoura at the relaxed time of 9 am, and were very pleased to have a hot, sunny, calm day ahead. We had an exciting start not far offshore - a raft of up to 5,000 fairy prions on the sea. Gary, the skipper, said he had never seen so many in his years of sea watching. Later we watched fishing boats landing huge fish, and again Gary said he had not seen such large fish for around 10 years.

As well as birds, we saw sperm whale blowing in the distance and the Y-shaped tail of a diving whale. We were accompanied by dusky dolphins leaping and playing, as well as great albatross and mollymawk species, giant petrels and other birds as Gary put out chum to attract them to within arms length. He was a helpful, informative skipper, and we had a great 4 hours at sea, with everyone sharing their knowledge and exchanging birding yarns.

Our sea-list was:

Northern Royal Albatross	1
Southern Royal Ibatross	10
Wandering Albatross – Gibsons, and a possible Antipodean	9
Black Browed Albatross	35
NZ White Capped Albatross	40
Salvin's Albatross	12
Buller's Albatross	10
N/S Giant Petrel	29
Cape Petrel – including a number of southern variants	200
Common Diving Petrel	1
Westland Petrel	3

Fairy Prions	5,000
Fluttering Shearwater	4
White-fronted Tern	3
Black-fronted Tern	8
Black-backed Gull	15
Black-billed Gull	10
Red-billed Gull	30

By Anthea Reynolds



Antipodean Wandering Albatross (top). Salvin's Albatross (middle). Southern Royal Albatross (bottom). All photos by William Harland.

Recent Happenings

The annual winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere was held on Sunday 17 June. The weather was ideal – calm and not too cold. Conditions underfoot were less so – wet and boggy in places with some sections having deep channels which proved a challenge to cross. It was great to see a few new faces at the count but we still need more people so we can cover the lake in a safe, accurate and timely manner. As it was Bev and Sandra covered much of the south side of the lake the day before the main count and a couple of people ended up going out alone and/or covering more than one section. With a few minor accidents that could easily have been more serious this is hardly ideal practice. Of the sections that we cover Selwyn Huts to the LII had the greatest number of birds and a good variety including a White Heron, spoonbills, oystercatchers, Pied Stilts, Black-billed Gulls, Caspian Terns, Banded Dotterels and Spur-winged Plovers. Eight Red-necked Stints were in the section between Jarvis and Embankment Roads. The most interesting birds of the count were in the section of the lake covered by Christchurch City Council rangers. They discovered two Northern Shoveler and two Hoary-headed Grebes.

The following month was the annual Ashburton Lakes count and several members travelled down to assist with this. With the exception of the wind the weather was ideal and the scenery spectacular as always. Overall, the total number of birds was on the lower side compared to previous years. Lake Heron had the largest number of birds, followed by Western Maori Lake, Lake Emma and Eastern Maori Lake. New Zealand Scaup were the most numerous species, followed by Canada Geese, Black Swan and Mallard.

Full details of both these counts can be found at the end of this newsletter.

In the past three months we were treated to three excellent talks, all by local Canterbury members. We're fortunate to have a large

groups of members, active in birding research and other activities, who are willing to share their knowledge with us.

In May Courtney Hamblin spoke about her Masters research into Black-fronted Terns. Predation is a major problem with this colonial nesting species but predator control is made more challenging since they are fickle with where they nest. Courtney found that using social attractants such as decoy birds and playing calls led to a significant difference in the number of interactions at treatment sites as well as an increase in the number of nests nearby. Clearly this has useful implications for the management of the species.

In June Matthias Dehling shared stunning photos of birds and other animals, as well as landscapes and an insight into life in remote areas around the Congo. The work of the medical team which travelled by boat up the Congo and was partly funded by the WWF was especially interesting, as was Matthias's observation of how empty many of the forests were due to hunting. Special thanks are due to Matthias for stepping in as a speaker at the last minute.

In July we were treated to Stephanie Galla's enthusiastic talk on Kākī and what tools were best suited to making pairing recommendations for captive breeding birds. A spirited discussion followed. During her talk Stephanie challenged us to name as many New Zealand birds as we could whose names started with the letter K. How many can you come up with?

While there was a bit of drizzle about, five members still braved the weather to stroll around the Botanic Gardens for July's ramble. Highlights included two Bellbird and two Kereru, plus a sole California Quail.

A good turnout of ten members attended July's ramble to Bexley Wetlands. While there were low counts of some species – only seven Black Swans were seen – everyone enjoyed watching the large numbers of Sacred Kingfishers flying

between posts and stumps. Some good discussions on how to tell hybrid ducks apart from any potential pure Mallards or Grey Ducks were had, however the ducks in the group we saw were certainly all hybrids.

Fantail and Tui Awards

Bev's Fantail and Tui awards have only been awarded once each in the past three months, both in June. The Tui Award for contributing to eBird was presented to Janet Burton. Janet has become a regular contributor to eBird, which is fantastic to see.



Janet Burton with the Tui award. Photo by Bev Alexander.



Eleanor Gunby with the Fantail award. Photo by Bev Alexander.

Health and Safety

In order for everyone to have an enjoyable time on field trips and other activities we first need make sure everyone stays safe. Here's how you can do your bit.

1. Wear clothing appropriate for the activity such as plenty of warm layers, hat and gloves in winter; sunhat and sunglasses in summer. Bringing a raincoat is always a sensible option. Footwear needs to be suitable as well – think sturdy soles and good ankle support for many walks especially on hills, something that can get wet and muddy especially at Lake Ellesmere in winter. Walking poles could be helpful to some on steep and/or uneven ground.
2. Be honest and open about your physical abilities. Not all trips will be suitable for everyone. If you have a preexisting medical condition that could impact the trip (such as –

The Fantail Award for contributions to the newsletter or at a meeting was presented to Eleanor Gunby, our newsletter editor. However, Eleanor doesn't want to have to receive this every month so please remember to send in your articles and photos for the next Wrybill! It was absolutely brilliant to see so many different people contributing to this one.

but not limited to - asthma, allergy to bee stings, diabetes) please notify the trip leader of the condition, any problems that could arise and what the trip leader and others may be required to do to assist you. This information will be kept confidential unless a medical event requires it being shared. Make sure you bring whatever medications you may need.

3. Bring enough food and drink for the event plus a little extra in case the trip takes longer than planned. Fresh water is not always available and dehydration can be a concern in summer so bring your own drinking water.
4. Listen to the health and safety briefing given at the beginning of each trip. Keep your eye out for any unexpected hazards and talk to the trip leader and others if you have any concerns along the way. Let the trip leader know of any accidents or near misses.
5. Stay with the group at all times unless you have talked to the trip leader and have their okay.
6. The trip leader reserves the right to decline participation in any trip if they have concerns about anyone being unable to participate safely or not being suitably equipped.

Regional Projects

Birds New Zealand Council is aware that there are many regional projects that have never been written up. They are also aware that one reason may be lack of expertise in data analysis or formal writing and have funding and other assistance available to assist with these matters if need be. As a first step to getting as many projects published as possible, and to ensure that resources are used in the best manner possible they'd like to compile a list of regional projects still to be published. If you know of such a project – even one that doesn't need help to be completed – please let Sandra know so that she can pass the information on.

Banding

Michelle Bradshaw of the national banding office stresses the importance of the banding office having up to date records regarding who holds which bands and which bands have actually been put on birds. If you have records not yet submitted to the banding office then please do so and if you've got bands that you won't be using please return them. If people report a band and in return receive some information about the bird they are much more likely to report other band sightings. And in most cases bands are only valuable if sightings of them are subsequently reported. So please do your bit and help ensure the banding database is as complete as possible.

The Library

Did you know that the Canterbury branch of Birds NZ has its own library full of a range of fascinating bird-related books, magazines and journals? Some of the many titles include:

Bullers Birds of New Zealand

Seabirds of the World by M. Lockley and E. Hosking

New Zealand Birds and How to Identify Them by P. Moncrieff

Identification Guide to European Passerines by L. Svensson

Beach Patrollers' Guide to Stormcast Seabirds (Procellariiformes) Found in NZ by S. Rowe and A. Plant

We are currently updating our records but if you'd like a list of currently catalogued titles please contact Sandra and she'll email it to you. If you'd like to borrow something from the library contact Jan (shesagreen@gmail.com).

Scope For Loan

We have a scope which is available to members on short-term loan. Contact Sandra (sandraw67@gmail.com or 358 5706) if interested.

Behind the Scenes Kiwi Tour

Did you know that Willowbank incubate eggs for four kiwi species as part of Operation Nest Egg? We have the opportunity to learn more about this in a Behind the Scenes Kiwi tour. It would take place at 1pm on a Saturday probably in September or possibly October (exact date will depend on operational matters including when they get eggs to incubate) and last for approximately one hour. Cost would be \$25 plus admission to Willowbank (\$29.50 for adults or \$24 for seniors and students with ID). If you want to be notified about this if and when it goes ahead contact Sandra.

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report May to July 2018

This report covers the period 1st May to 31st July 2018 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 christchurchnzbirders@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) Heaphy Hut: 1 27/6 BR. Kiwi reserve, Atarau: 6 (juv health checks & 1 juv heard) 15/6 RH.

Peafowl (A) Factory Road, Sefton: 2 22/6 BA.

Cape Barren Goose (A) Hawkswood Road, Ferniehurst: 1 27/7 DH. St Anne's Lagoon: 2 7/5 MD, 2 30/5 BA, 2 14/7 BA, 1 19/7 NM, SR.

Mute Swan (A) Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 25/6 BA, 29/6 BA, JB. Victoria Park, Rangiora: 1 flying over west to east 20/5 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 5 8/5 BA, 5 31/5 BA, 9 10/6 BA, 2 2/7 PaC, 2 3/7 BA, 2 23/7 BA. Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Bridge Street: 1 10/7 IK. Avon-Heathcote Estuary windsurf car park: 1 18/7 RS. Lincoln Wetlands: 2 17/5 PR, 27/6 PR, 7/7 JB. Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth: 3 14/5 PC. CCC Reserve Kaitorete Spit: 8 17/6 PC. Halswell Flats: 7 17/6 KR, DM, AW. E of Halswell RM: 2 17/6 MR, MH, KM, 4 27/6. CCC Reserve: 8 17/6 AC. Wolfes Road: 6 17/6 JB, 6 25/7 BA, PR. Harts Creek: 1 imm 23/5 KaR. Timberyard Road: 1 27/5 JB, 3 9/6 JB. Coopers Lagoon: 11 3/6 BA, 14 16/6 BA. Spider Lagoon: 2a 2jv 28/6 PS. Prattleys Road: 2a 1jv 28/6 PS.

Paradise Shelduck (S) Tasman Fan: ~2000 6/7 MB

Muscovy Duck (A) The Groynes: 1 2/7 BA. Christchurch Botanic Gardens: 1 12/6 Birds NZ Canterbury. Westlake Reserve: 4 7/5 PR, 1 15/5 BA, 4 21/5 PR, 3 5/6 PR, 2 8/6 BA, 3 25/6 PR, 3 9/7 PR 3 24/7 PR. Lincoln Wetlands: 3 27/6 PR. Kowai Road, Springfield: 1m 1f 15/7 NA. Coopers Lagoon: 1 3/6 BA, 16/6 BA. Ashburton Domain: 1 3/7 MB.

Northern Shoveler (V) East of Halswell RM: 1m 17/6 MR, KR, DM, AW, KM, MH, PC, AC, 19/6 BA, EG. 24/6 GB, MD, 27/6 DT, MA, NA. CCC Reserve: 1m 17/6 AC.

Grey Teal (S) Ataahua Point, Kaituna Lagoon: ~2000 30/6 PR. E of Halswell RM: 2450 27/6 NA. Tasman Fan: ~1500 6/7 MB.

New Zealand Scaup (S) Kaiapoi Lakes: 163 14/5 BA.

The Wrybill - August 2018

Australasian Little Grebe (V) St Anne's Lagoon: 1 3/5 EG, BA, 7/5 MD, 8/5 PC, 30/5 BA, 7/7 KW, 10/7 NM, SR, 13/7 BA, 19/7 NM, SR, 26/7 PaC.

Hoary-headed Grebe (V) East of Halswell RM: 2 17/6 AC, PC.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Taranaki Stream, Waikuku: 1 29/6 JB, BA. Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 ad 1 imm 5/5 BNZ, 14/5 BA, 2 19/5 PC, 1 22/7 BA, 2 27/7 BA. Lincoln Wetlands: 2 17/5 PR. New Brighton Boat Club, Lake Forsyth: 10 19/6 BA, EG, 4 30/7 AnC. Kaituna Lagoon: 2 17/6 AC. Halswell Flats: 2 KR, DM, AW. Crescent I, Lake Ellesmere: 3 17/6 PC. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 17/6 PC. Coopers Lagoon: 1 16/6 BA, SW. Lake Camp: 2 7/5 DP. Lake Tekapo SE corner: 1? 14/7 SA. Lake McGregor: 6 5/7 MB. Lake Alexandria: 6 5/7 MB.

Cape Petrel (S) Albatross Encounters pelagic: ~200 14/7 PC, BA.

Fairy Prion (S) Albatross Encounters pelagic: raft of ~5000 14/7 PC, BA.

Grey-backed Storm Petrel (A) Albatross Encounters pelagic: 1 23/6 NM.

Little Black Shag (A) Ashley RM: 2 2/5 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 11/5 JB. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 1 3/6 KJ. Halswell Flats: 1 17/6 MR, MH, KM.

Otago Shag (A) Ashburton RM: 1 5/5 EG, 5 17/5 AC, 3 22/7 AC. Timaru Port North Rock Mole: 2 22/7 AC. Waitaki RM: 283 5/5 GL.

Spotted Shag (S) Wigram Retention Basin: 1 1/5 NA. Ashburton RM c7430 5/5 EG, c8130 17/5 AC, c10000 3/7 MB. Waitaki RM c237 5/5 GL.

Australasian Bittern (A) Waipara RM: 1 5/5 KR, MR. Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 2/5 BA, 25/6 BA. Travis Wetland: 2 (1 dark 1 pale) 21/6 KR.

White Heron (A) Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 2/5 BA, 19/5 BA, 21/5 BA, 5/6 BA 29/6 BA, JB, 3/7 BA, 6/7 BA, 7/7 BA, 10/7 NM, SR, 15/7 BA. Ashley Estuary: 1 30/7 BA. Taranaki Creek Walkway: 1 26/7 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road: 1 25/6 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 23/7 BA. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 1 7/5 EG, 3/6 KJ. Spencerville Camp Ground: 1 21/6 KS. Linwood Canal: 1 1/5 GE, 5/5 BNZ. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 17/6 AC 30/6 PR, 4 7/7 SA. E of Halswell RM: 2 17/6 MR, MH, KM, 1 27/6 NA. Wolfes Road: 2 25/7 BA, PR. Selwyn Huts/LII RM: 1 16/6 NK, JT MD. Boggy Creek, Lake

Ellesmere: 1 16/6 BA, SW. Timberyard Road: 2 27/5 JB. Johnstons Road bay: 1 17/7 BA. Upper Ahuriri Valley: 1 6/7 JW.

Reef Heron (A) Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 10/5 NK. Point Kean: 1 13/7 BA.

Cattle Egret (A) Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 18/5 BA, 2 19/5 BA, 2 21/5 BA, 2 29/5 BA, 1 2/6 BA, 1 5/6 BA, 1 21/6 BA, EG, 1 6/7 BA, 2 7/7 BA, 1 10/7 NM, SR, 2 20/7 BA. Drain Road, Lakeside: 2 13/5 BA, 10 10/7 BA. The Lake Road: 11 17/7 BA, 1 21/7 JB.

Royal Spoonbill (S) E of Haswell RM: 48 17/6 KR, DM, AW.

Spotless Crake (A) Harts Creek: 1 14/5 AP.

Pukeko (S) Linwood Paddocks: 227 18/7 RS. Harts Creek: 110 23/5 KaR.

Australian Coot (S) Styx Mill Reserve: 109 'a record for this site' 2/6 SLLT Bird.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley RM: 1 2/5 BA, 5/5 BNZ, 9/5 BA, 10/5 NK, 17/5 AC, 19/5 BA, 27/6 BA, 19/7 BA, 30/7 BA. Hokitika RM: 1 11/7 JM. Lake Tekapo SE corner: 5 14/7 SA 2 28/7 DH. Tasman Fan: 15 6/7 MB.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher (S) Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 1541 25/6 AC.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Waipara RM: 2 5/5 KR, MR, 4 24/6 NA. Ashburton RM: 7 5/5 EG. Washdyke Lagoon: 4 30/5 PS, 2 21/6 PS.

Wrybill (A) Ashley RM: 1 2/5 BA, 17/5 AC, 19/5 BA, 14/6 BA. Taranaki Creek Paddocks: 1 28/7 BA.

Grey-tailed Tattler (V) Ashley RM: 1 2/5 BA, 5/5 BNZ, 9/5 BA, 17/5 AC, 19/5 BA.

Bar-tailed Godwit (S) Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 152 25/6 AC.

Red-necked Stint (A) Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 8 16/6 SW. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 27/6 DT, MA.

Black-billed Gull (S) Motukarara: 610 1/6 PC. Kaituna Lagoon: 1168 17/6 AC.

White-winged Black Tern (A) Bromley WTP/Te Huingi Manu: 1 in non-breeding plumage 2/5 PC.

New Zealand Pigeon (S) Sign of the Bellbird: 22 in air together put up by Harrier 12/7 PC.

Chatham Island Pigeon (S) Tuku Camp paddock: 267 5/5 KW.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 32 19/6 BA, EG, 19 4/7 PaC, 68 22/7 'Hypno'.

Kaka (A) North of Haast township: 1 21/6 RH.

The Wrybill - August 2018

New Zealand Kingfisher (S) Ashley Estuary: 23 30/7

BA.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Victoria Park: 1 28/5 PC.

Kennedys Bush/Summit Road: 1 9/7 PC. Head of

Prices Valley: 1 8/7 PC. Pleasant Valley: 1 7/6 PS.

Take Tekapo south end: 2 8/5 DN. Okarito: 1 18/5

KaR. Mount Cook township: 1 6/7 MB. Ben Ohau

Track (Lake Ohau): 2 14/7 DNe.

Tui (S) Takamatua: 3 2/5 KR. Geraldine: up to 5 birds

on feeders in June via PS. Totara Street, Geraldine: 2

4/7 MB. Timaru: 1 at feeder in late June via PS.

Welcome Swallow (S) St Annes Lagoon: 450 27/5

MB.

Common Myna (V) Hawke Street area, New

Brighton: 1 18/5 JS, GB, 19/5 BA, 26/5 via AC, 10/6

GB. Brooker Avenue area: 1 22/6

'Wanderinthlander'. Hardy Street near

Collingwood Street: 1 4/7 JS.

Cirl Bunting (A) Brusio Drive, Wigram: 1 13/5 PR.

Halswell Quarry Park: 1f 13/7 NA. Little River rail

trail nr Ataahua: 1 19/6, 25/7 PC.

Observers:

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, MA Mike Ashbee,

SA Steve Attwood, GB Grahame Bell, MB Mike Bell,

JB Janet Burton, AnC Annette Ching, AC Andrew

Crossland, PaC Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, MD

Matthias Dehling, GE Graham Erikson, EG Eleanor

Gunby, MH Mike Hargraves, DH Dave Howes, RH

Rachel Hufton, KJ Kelly Johnson, NK Nyil Khwaja, IK

Ian Kington, GL Graeme Loh, NM Nikki McArthur, JM

John McCoy, KM Kristina MacDonald, DM Dale

McIntee, DN Donna Nagiello, DNe Dean Nelson, DP

David Price, AP A Purdie, SR Samantha Ray, PR Peter

Reese, B R Bob Rigger, KaR Karen Rose, KR Kenny

Rose, MR Matt Rose, PS Paul Sagar, RS Richard

Schofield, KS Kathryn Snook, JS John Stewart, JT

Jane Taylor, DT David Thomas, SW Sandra Wallace,

AW Alice Waterhouse, JW Jill West, KW Kailash

Wills, BNZ Birds New Zealand.

Wrybill Contributions

Thank you to all the members who contributed to this month's Wrybill. Please consider submitting a photo and/or an article by October 25 for inclusion in November's Wrybill.

Suggestions for what you might submit are:

* A summary and/or pictures from a recent Birds NZ field trip, ramble or meeting you attended.

* A report and/or pictures about the birds in your backyard.

* An article and/or a picture about an interesting bird you saw recently.

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CANTERBURY WADER COUNT JUNE 2018

Species	Waipara RM	Ashley/Saltwater Crk Est	Taranaki Creek paddocks	Waimakariri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Wetland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lytelton Harbour	Purau Bay	Port Levy	Pigeon Bay	Okains Bay	Akaroa Harbour	Lake Forsyth	Ahuriri Lagoon	Tip of Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Birdlings A	Birdlings B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes
Counters/NC	NA	NA	NA	AC	AC	GB,JSk	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	PC	PC	AC	AC	AC	MR,MH KM	KR,DM AW	n/c
Notes																							
Date counted	24-Jun	24-Jun	24-Jun	20-Jun	20-Jun	16-Jun	25-Jun	19-Jun	19-Jun	19-Jun	19-Jun	19-Jun	19-Jun	24-Jun	25-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun
Aus Crested Grebe																	3			2			2
Hoary-headed Grebe																							2
Mute Swan																		8				2	7
Northern Shoveler																		1				1	
Little Black Shag																						1	
Otago Shag																							
White Heron																1				1		2	
Royal Spoonbill	1	6			9																		48
Pied Oystercatcher		12			101	5	1541	340	31	80	42	69	122		3			6	3	27			
Variable Oystercatcher	1	5			3			13	8	7	16	14	46	2									
Hybrid Oystercatcher		6																					
Pied Stilt		31			30	32	63	15				13	10	30	3	13		16	59	9	73	130	
Black Stilt																							
Hybrid Stilt																							
Banded Dotterel	3				34		42							20		46	6	233	84	195			1
Black-fronted Dotterel	4																						
Wrybill																							
Spur-winged Plover			5	12	32	16	44	19		12	4	33	17	28	297	10	16	60	72	298	53	12	
Red-necked Stint																							
Bar-tailed Godwit							152	7															
Black-billed Gull	34	174																		1168	22	33	
Black-fronted Tern	22	61		1												1							
Caspian Tern	6	2			4		16	11	1		1	2	4	21		3	2			2	3		
White-fronted Tern	6	5																					
Site totals	77	302	5	13	213	53	1858	405	40	99	63	131	199	101	303	74	27	324	218	1702	157	235	0
Wader site totals	8	54	5	12	200	53	1842	394	39	99	62	129	195	80	303	69	22	315	218	529	126	143	0
% of total count	0.13	0.88	0.08	0.20	3.27	0.87	30.14	6.45	0.64	1.62	1.01	2.11	3.19	1.31	4.96	1.13	0.36	5.15	3.57	8.66	2.06	2.34	0.00
# wader species at site	3	4	1	1	5	3	5	5	2	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	2	4	4	4	2	3	0

Counters

Nick Allen = NA Jan Walker = JW Andrew Crossland = AC Matt Rose = MR Sandra Wallace = SW Anthea Reynolds = AR Bev Alexander = BA Phil
Crutchley = PC Graeme Bell = GB Matthias Dehling = MD John Skilton = JSK Jane Taylor = JT Janet Burton = JB Nyil Khwaja = NK Jill West = JW
Russell Simon = RS Kenny Rose = KR Dale Mcintee = DM Alice Waerhouse = AW Michael Hargraves = MH Kristina MacDonald = KM

Species	Greenpark Huts- Jarvis Road	Jarvis- Embankment Rds	Embankment Rd	Yarrrs Flat	LII RM to Selwyn Huts	Boggy Creek	Irwell RM	Drain Road	Harts Creek	Timberyard Point	Johnston's Bay	Lower Lake Road	Flats/Paddocks	Fishermans Point	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Rakaia RM	Ashburton RM	Spider Lagoon	Opihi RM/Milford Lagoon	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Wainono	TOTAL
Counters/NC	SW,BA, JWe,RS	SW	JW	AR,JB	NK,JT, MD	BA,SW	n/c	BA,SW	BA,SW	n/c	n/c	BA,SW	BA,SW		BA,SW	AC	AC	PS	PS	P&JS	J&PS		
Notes						no waders		no waders					no waders										
Date counted	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun		16-Jun	16-Jun			16-Jun	16-Jun		16-Jun	22-Apr	22-Apr	28-Jun	28-Jun	21-Jun	26-Jun		
Aus Crested Grebe															7	1							8
Hoary-headed Grebe															2								2
Mute Swan				6											23	14	3						40
Northern Shoveler															2								2
Little Black Shag															1								1
Otago Shag															0			9					9
White Heron					1	1									6								6
Royal Spoonbill					9										57				1				73
Pied Oystercatcher				2	8								2		48		3	12	3		3	8	2423
Variable Oystercatcher															0			6		2	25		147
Hybrid Oystercatcher															0								6
Pied Stilt	7	95	1	34	104				8				17		566		19			1	26	180	1019
Black Stilt															0								0
Hybrid Stilt															0								0
Banded Dotterel		51	6		241										863			2	4		39	15	1022
Black-fronted Dotterel															0			2			2		8
Wrybill															0								0
Spur-winged Plover	6	29	2	4	87				4				4		657	9	31	5	10	9		79	1319
Red-necked Stint		8													8								8
Bar-tailed Godwit															0								159
Black-billed Gull		60			105										1388	1				1	61		1659
Black-fronted Tern															1		33			46			164
Caspian Tern					6										16		2	5		4	1	3	99
White-fronted Tern															0							70	81
Site totals	13	243	9	46	561	1	0	0	12	0	0	23	0	3645	25	91	41	18	63	157	355	8257	
Wader site totals	13	183	9	40	440	0	0	0	12	0	0	23	0	2142	9	53	27	17	12	95	282	6112	
% of total count	0.21	2.99	0.15	0.65	7.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.00	35.05	0.15	0.87	0.44	0.28	0.20	1.55	4.61	100.0	
# wader species at site	2	4	3	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0		1	3	5	3	3	5	4	12	

