

# The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



February 2019

## What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: February to April 2019

### Field Trips

February 16 - The annual Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Bird Count, organized by the Waihora Ellesmere Trust. This survey involves counting all the bird at Lake Ellesmere. If you are interested in participating, contact Denise - [manager@wet.org.nz](mailto:manager@wet.org.nz) or 021 052 9720.

March - A weekend field trip to Twizel. The date and more information about this trip will be confirmed at a later date. Ron Nilsson is organizing this trip so for any queries please contact him on 03 9426 484 or [kokakodreamingstill@gmail.com](mailto:kokakodreamingstill@gmail.com).

April 14 - A day trip to the Arthur's Pass area. Probable stops include Hawdon Shelter and Bridle Veil Track, plus Lakes Lyndon, Pearson and maybe Grassmere. This will be a full but easy day's birding, comprising of short walks. Scopes will be useful for the lakes. If you plan on attending, contact Nick Allen - [christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com) or phone 358 5994 or text 021 111 9885. Depending on who is coming and their needs we will agree on car-pooling and a place to meet.

### Rambles

February 19 - Yarrs Bay. Meet at the end of Wolfes Road.

March 12 - Brooklands Lagoon. Meet at the carpark on Heyders Road.

April 9 - Bottlelake Forest. Meet at the carpark on Waitikiri Drive.

All rambles start at 9:30 am. Please contact Bev ([birdiebev@xtra.co.nz](mailto:birdiebev@xtra.co.nz) or 03 313 7009) if you are going to attend a ramble.

### 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.

February 25 - Jim Briskie will speak on "A year in the life of a cuckoo: new insights into the breeding and non-breeding biology of New Zealand's brood parasites".

March 25 - Our meeting will begin with a short AGM, followed by a member's night. Please contact Sandra ([birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz](mailto:birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz)) if you would like to give a short talk of 5-15 minutes.

April 29 - Ron Nilsson will speak on "How to find an extinct species".

### Birds NZ Conference and AGM 2019

The 2019 New Zealand Bird Conference and the 80th Annual General Meeting of Birds New Zealand will be held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington between 1-3 June (Queen's Birthday Weekend). Online registration and full details are to be found on the Birds NZ website - <https://www.osnz.org.nz/NZ-Bird-Conference-2019>. Register before 1 March for the early-bird discount.

### Farewell to the Godwits

The 21st annual Farewell to the Godwits event is being held on Wednesday, 20 February from 6:30-7:30pm at Southshore Spit Reserve on Rockinghorse Road. Following some short speeches, there is a guided walk so people can see the godwits. If you have a scope and are willing to come along and help members of the public look through it, that would be much appreciated. Let Sandra know if you'll be attending with your scope. If you don't have a scope, just come along and enjoy the evening.

### BRaid Seminar

Thanks to funding from Environment Canterbury, BRaid will once again be hosting a free full-day braided rivers' seminar, this time at Lincoln University, 8.30am-5.00pm (although it may run a bit later) Wednesday 26 June. While there isn't yet a full programme in place, PDFs of presentations from the 2016 workshop and 2017 seminar will give you an idea of the format and content (and it's worth having a look at these to follow the story so far). To register, please go to <http://braid.org.nz/seminar-2019/>. Alternatively, head directly to the Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/braided-rivers-seminar-2019-tickets-54687597075>

### 2019 City Nature Challenge

Between the 26-29 April Christchurch is participating in the 2019 City Nature Challenge, hoping to make the most observations of nature, find the most species and engage the most people. Planning is still underway, but we'll be assisting with the bird side of things. We'll let you know more when plans are finalised. Any birds observed within the Christchurch City boundaries will count towards the total. For more information check out [signaturechallenges.org](http://signaturechallenges.org) and City Nature Challenge 2019: [Christchurch.iNaturalist.org](http://Christchurch.iNaturalist.org).

### Canterbury AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury Branch of Birds New Zealand will be held in the DoC office, 31 Nga Mahi Road on Monday 25 March beginning at 7:30pm. The two most important items of business will be to approve the accounts for the 2018 year and to elect office bearers and a committee for the coming year. All positions - Regional Representative, Regional Recorder and Treasurer - as well as committee members will be voted on. However, we are in special need of a Treasurer. John Allan, who has ably filled the role for many years, will be moving away from Christchurch later this year. It would be ideal to find a new Treasurer now, when John will still be around to assist them to settle into the role.

The role of a committee member isn't onerous. Committee meetings are held three to four times per year. Ideally you would also assist with organising speakers and running field trips and other activities. If you'd like to find more about the other roles please contact the person currently filling the position. They are the ones who know what the role actually involves. Their contact details are at the rear of the newsletter.

Nominations can be made in writing to Sandra Wallace or in person on the night. You'll find a nomination form at the end of the newsletter.

### Summer at the Styx

The Styx Living Laboratory Trust is holding Summer in the Styx 2019 from 11am-3pm on 17th February at Radcliffe Road, Belfast. Around 30 environmental and cultural groups participate and arrange some interesting activities relating to the Styx River and Kā Pūtahi Creek. While Birds NZ is not involved, it still sounds like an interesting event for anyone interested in learning more about the area.

### Marj Davis Scholarship

The Committee has established a Marj Davis Scholarship using part of the income from the \$80,000 bequest received from Marj in 2014 and 2015. The proposal to investigate such a scholarship was discussed at the March 2018 AGM of the Branch. Since that time we have had discussions with and input from Jim Briskie of University of Canterbury and Ingrid Hutzler Birds NZ Exec Officer. A written proposal was put to the October 2018 Birds NZ Council meeting for comment and Bruce McKinley provided useful written feedback.

One Marj Davis Scholarship may be awarded annually and shall have a maximum value of \$1,500. The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to a student who is studying full time for a Masters or PhD degree and is conducting research in ornithology. To be eligible, applicants must either be studying at Canterbury or Lincoln Universities or studying at another New Zealand tertiary institution having previously lived in Canterbury/West Coast for a minimum of three years.

Eligible research projects must clearly be of benefit to ornithology in New Zealand and to New Zealand birds. Preference will be given to proposals for ornithological research that are expected to contribute to a greater knowledge of birds in the Canterbury/ West Coast region.

The scholarship may be applied at the discretion of the successful student to provide financial support for field work, study-related travel, data analysis, reporting and living expenses (or any combination of these).

Applications will be reviewed and the successful applicant selected by a panel comprising a subcommittee of the Canterbury Branch committee together with at least one other person who has a PhD in a relevant scientific discipline and is a member of the society. Paul Sagar has agreed to join the subcommittee in this role. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate that they have a minimum of two years of experience with ornithology in New Zealand. All applicants must be current members of Birds NZ at the time of submission of an application.

Within 12 months of receiving the scholarship, the successful student must provide a short summary report on the project, suitable for publication in Birds New Zealand (max. 1 page). The student will be encouraged to publish the results of the research in a paper in Notornis.

The scholarship will run for an initial period of three years after which it will be reviewed.

The income from the bequest has consistently been underspent since it has been received. The only grants that have been made have been to assist student members attend various Birding NZ activities including youth camps and the society's AGM. There has been a surplus of around \$1500 most years so that the Branch should be able to continue to fund student member activities at a similar level, as well as the scholarship, from within the annual income.

It is appropriate that Marj Davis' lifetime commitment to Canterbury birds and bird study should be commemorated by this scholarship. Through it, the committee looks forward to assisting 'Canterbury' research in ornithology and supporting our post-graduate students.

By John Allan

### Situation Vacant - Penguin Coordinator

An exciting opportunity has come up in Dunedin for a three year, full time contract as "Penguin Coordinator". A brief job description is available on the Birds NZ website:

[https://www.osnz.org.nz/Penguin\\_Coordinator](https://www.osnz.org.nz/Penguin_Coordinator).

### Fantail and Tui Awards

The final Tui award for 2018 was awarded to Bev Alexander. Not only is she one of Canterbury's most prolific eBird users but she also tirelessly promotes the use of eBird to other birders, encouraging and assisting them to get started.

Meanwhile the Fantail award was presented to Sandra Wallace. Rumour has it that she knows the author of the humorous article that appeared in the last issue of this newsletter!

The Tui and Fantail awards have now been retired, at least in their current form. The committee will be considering other fun ways to encourage everybody to study and enjoy birds so keep your eyes peeled!

### Recent Happenings

November's ramble to Travis Wetlands was attended by seven members. A good total of twenty six different species were counted, including all of the usual waterfowl and passerines. At one point during the walk, three rambler saw the movement of a small bird slipping out of sight in a muddy area and wondered if it might be a crake. However, despite plenty of looking, the bird wasn't seen again and its identity remains a mystery.

The Ashley River survey was postponed for a week due to high river flows. Eighteen volunteers took part and overall bird numbers were about the same as last season. It had been hoped numbers would increase after the large flood of 2017 cleared away many of the weed. A smaller flood earlier in the month may provide a possible explanation. The good news was that 20 Wrybill were present on the river, up from 9 the previous season and more than the long term average of 13.

The annual summer wader count was conducted at Lake Ellesmere in early December. The lake level was very high for the time of year meaning that access was impossible in some locations, "challenging" in others, and that several spots had no suitable habitat for waders. The most productive of our sections was from Jarvis to Embankment Road with 578 birds in total. This was mostly comprised of Pied Stilts and Wrybill but also included 33 Red-necked Stints, 5 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers. Twenty six Pacific Golden Plover were in Osbornes and the section from Greenpark Huts to Jarvis Road. A spreadsheet with results from all the sites in Canterbury is at the back of the newsletter. Many thanks once again to those who volunteered their time.

Our final speaker of 2018 was John Dowding. The meeting did not get off to a great start with some technological hiccups, which clearly demonstrated the value of DoC staff letting us in to the building and getting us set up. Thanks Anita and Allannah -we clearly can't manage without you! Once we finally had the computer and projector cooperating we were treated to a fascinating talk by John on the lessons to be learnt from the Chatham Islands Oystercatcher programme. Despite the challenges of working in this remote and not always supportive environment, the population of these oystercatchers roughly tripled during the period of intensive management between 1998 and 2004. Once management stopped however the population flat-lined or slightly decreased. Cat control was reintroduced -trapping and releasing pet cats but killing wild ones but has very low

success rates. Plenty of cat tracks were seen but few were captured, suggesting they have become wary of traps. John also discussed the value of banding since it could provide information on survival, pair bonds, age at first breeding and natal distribution. These birds don't disperse very far and very few move across Pitt Strait meaning there are effectively two populations to manage, one on Chatham Island and one on the smaller islands. The importance of maintaining bands is crucial to prevent harm to the birds from damaged bands so the bands are now replaced every 8 years. To ensure the future of this species John recommended that monitoring be maintained, cat control methods be reviewed, more focus be placed on Pitt Island and that a new recovery plan be introduced since old birds are dropping out of the population and there are not enough new chicks to replace them.

### 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 – 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.

### Submissions

The next edition of *The Wrybill* is due out in early May. The editor invites members to submit their contributions - articles and/or photos - by April 20 for inclusion in the next issue. Submissions don't have to be about exciting trips overseas or about finding rare birds - even summaries of our monthly field trips, rambles and meetings are much appreciated.

Recent Sightings

**Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report  
November 2018 to January 2019**

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 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)** Otira Valley Walkway: 1f 18/11 JA, RC. Arthur's Pass Village vicinity: 1m 21/11 MA, DL, SM, JHo, 1 1/12 PC. Hawdon Hut: heard calling at night 14/1 GMc, 1 heard calling 10.15am 25/1 AS.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 5/1 GM, NMu. Paddock Kingsbury & Corbetts Rds, S Rakaia Huts: 2 19/12 FM.

**Mute Swan (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 1/11 AC, 5/11 AC, 6/11 AC, 7/11 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 4/11 BA, 3 16/11 JB, 2 ad 3 juv 24/12 BA, 4 2/1 BA, 3 21/1 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 27/11 PC. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 3/11 ACr. Liffey Springs Walkway, Lincoln: 2 6/11 BA. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 29/11 PR, 2 nesting 10/12 PR, 3 30/1 PR. Embankment Road: 4 6/11 BA. Yarrs Bay: 1 10/1 KRo. LII Pools: 2 2/12 NA. Harts Creek: 2 29/11 BA, 1 9/12 KRo, 2 30/12 KRo, 3 1/1 GMc, 9 2/1 KRo, 2 12/1 JC, 9 17/1 KRo, 7 19/1 SG, 8 22/1 DT. Coopers Lagoon: 18 30/11 BA, PR, 13 9/12 BA, 20 30/12 KRo, 21 4/1 ACr,CC,XC, 11 15/1 JB, 19 27/1 NA. Spider Lagoon: 1 18/12 PS.

**Muscovy Duck (A)** Charlesworth Reserve: 1 27/12 HR. Westlake Reserve: 1 5/11 PR, 1 21/11 PR, 2 ads 3 small chicks (possible hybrids) 3/12 PR. Liffey Springs

Walkway, Lincoln: 2 6/11 BA. Fishermans Point: 2 2/1 GMc.

**Blue Duck (A)** Kawhaka Creek: 3 26/1 KRo.

**Northern Shoveler (V)** CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit 1m 5/11 ACr.

**Helmeted Guineafowl (A)** Timberyard Road: 4 2/11 AC, 5 10/1 KRo, 2 12/1 GMc, 4 22/1 DT, 2 27/1 NA.

**Peafowl (A)** Factory Road, Sefton: 2 7/11 BA, 1 8/1 BA, 4 12/1 EG. Living Earth car park, Bromley: 3m 1f 3ch 27/12 HR. Flea Bay Road: 2f 13/11/18 MO&RT, 1f 23/12 AZ. Maddisons Road, Templeton: 1 5/11 JB.

**Chukar (A)** Red Tarn Track: 2 10/11 KR. Mt John: 2 24/11 SS, 3 24/11 RD, 2 30/11 DR, 1 16/12 DH.

**Turkey (A)** Timberyard Road: 3 30/11 BA, PR, 2a 4y 12/1 GMc, 1 21/1 NMu, 4 27/1 HM.

**Australasian Little Grebe (V)** St Anne's Lagoon: 1 22/11 DL, MA, NM, SM, JHo.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Lake Grassmere: 2 18/1 NK. Tutaepatu Lagoon: 1ad 1 imm 4/12 BA. Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 2/1 NMu, 2 6/1 GM, 1 9/1 KRo, 1 19/1 BA. Roto Kohatu: 3 5/11 AC, 9 6/11 BA 3 ads 3 attendant chicks 22/11 NA, 2 ads 7 chicks 6/12 JB, 15 6/1 EG, 8 16/1 BA, 5 19/1 DT, NK. Lake Forsyth: 15 23/11 CW, 3 29/11 JB, 5 11/12 Mho, 8 5/1 KRo, 7 8/1 GMc, 16 9/1 EG, 8 12/1 MR, 16 20/1 PC, 16 25/1 TG.

Kaituna Lagoon: 4 13/11 MO&RT. Harts Creek: 1 29/11 BA. Coopers Lagoon: 1 30/11 BA, PR 1 9/12 BA. Lake McGregor: 8 15/11 JHa, 2 12/12 E&JJ, PM. Lake Tekapo S shore: 4 30/11 DR, 2 3/12 CM, 2 19/12 JP, 2 28/12 HR. Lake Alexandrina south end: 3 2/1 PR. Head of Lake Pukaki: 2 29/1 PG. Lake Ohau: 2 18/11 PH. Kelland Ponds: 3 6/1 KR. Lake Ruataniwha: 1 27/1 PG. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 5 18/11 PH, 2 25/11 SS, 10 ad 3 juv 6/1 KR.

**Blue Penguin (S)** Avon River nr Kilmore Street: 1 seen swimming upstream 27/12 'KT Te', AT.

**Fiordland Crested Penguin (S)** Knights Point: 10 (unusual site) 17/11 WS.

**Cook's Petrel (S)** Albatross Encounter pelagic: 1 28/11 GHo.

**Grey-backed Storm Petrel (S)** Albatross Encounter pelagic: 1 7/12 CM.

**White-faced Storm Petrel (S)** Albatross Encounter pelagic: 2 26/1 SHu, CB, GV.

**Australasian Gannet (S)** Leithfield Beach: 61 8/1 NF.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Ashley Estuary: 4 29/1 CP, SK. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 6 5/1 DT, 2 19/1 DT, NK, 2

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25/1 MDe. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 2 9/1 AS, 3 17/1 AS. Styx Mill Reserve: 2 10/1 JB. Horseshoe Lake Reserve: 2 1/11 BA. Lake Kate Sheppard: 14 9/1 AS, 1 10/1 OR, 2 31/1 BA. Windsurf area Avon-Heathcote Est: 1 27/12 HR. Linwood Canal: 1 22/1 NMu, Charlesworth Reserve: 1 27/12 HR. Wigram Retention Basin: 5 29/1 NA. Birdlings Flat: 2 6/1 KRo. Harts Creek: 1 30/12 KRo. Coopers Lagoon: 1 30/12 KRo, 1 (adjacent beach/sea) & 2 (lagoon) 15/1 JB.

**Otago Shag (A)** Waitaki RM: 43 9/1 BA.

**Foveaux Shag (V?)** Monro Beach: 1 bronze phase probably this species 4/12 IS.

**Spotted Shag (S)** Birdlings Flat: 1500 in flocks about 500 m offshore 10/1 GMc.

**Australasian Bittern (A)** Otumahana Lagoon nr Karamea: 1 10/1 SMc. Swamp NE of Birchfield, Waimangaroa: 1 22/12 RN. Harts Creek Walkway: 1 in wet paddock 29/11 BA, 1 calling 9/12 KRo.

**White Heron (A)** Saltwater Creek, Waikuku: 1 30/1 MR. Ashley Estuary: 1 5/11 AC, 6/11 AC, 7/11 BA, 5/1 BA, 7/1 BA, 9/1 KRo, 25/1 MDe, 26/1 PR, 28/1 ML. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 19/1 DT, NK. Styx RM Wetlands: 1 30/1 AS. Lake Forsyth: 2 9/1 EG. Harts Creek: 2 2/11 BA. Lake Poerua: 1 11/11 DB.

**Reef Heron (A)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 1 26/11 CM. Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 11/12 RS. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 11/12 E&JJ, PM, 1 4/1 DT. Albatross Encounters Pelagic: 2 21/1 SG.

**Cattle Egret (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 2 3/11 BA, 1 6/11 AC, JH, 1 21/11 BA. Harts Creek: 3 flew over hide heading N towards Timberyard Pt 17/1 KRo. Timberyard Road: 3 29/11 BA, 30/11 BA, PR, 9/12 BA, KRo, 3 1/1 JB, 3 4/1 ACr,CC,XC, 1 21/1 NMu.

**Glossy Ibis (A)** Ashley Est: 4 4/1 Birds NZ Canterbury. CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit 3 5/11 ACr. Spider Lagoon: 1 8/1 PS.

**Royal Spoonbill (S)** Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 1/1 CMi, Wigram Retention Basin: 1 17/12 NA. Duvauchelle Bay mudflats: 4 25/12 SB.

**Marsh Crake (A)** Travis Wetland: 1 heard 27/11 PC. Harts Creek: 1 12/1 JC. Ben Ohau Wetland; 1 27/1 GK. Ohau C Pools: 3 19/11 DL, MA, NM, SM, JHo, 1 12/12 E&JJ, PM.

**Australian Coot (S)** Lake Forsyth: 1 23/11 CW. Harts Creek: 1 30/12 KRo.

**Pied Stilt (S)** Yarrs Bay: 697 20/1 EG. Wolfes Road Bay: approx. 1000 25/1 PMc, BA, PR.

**Black Stilt (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 15/12 ACr,CC,XC, 16/12 BA, (banded KOR/KY) 26/12 NA, 26/12 HR, 29/12 BA, 1/1 GMc, 2/1 NA, 4/1 BA, EG, 5/1 DT, 6/1 GM, 7/1 BA, 9/1 KRo, 11/1 TC, 16/1 ACr,CC,XC, 18/1 BA, 23/1 AS, 25/1 MDe, 26/1 PR, GK, TC, 27/1 GV, SHu, CB, 28/1 ML, 29/1 CP, SK, 30/1 BA. Kaituna Lagoon: 2 13/11 MO&RT. Cowens Hill, Tekapo: 2 15/11 JHa. Lake Tekapo SE corner: 2 16/11 JW, 2 25/11 JA, NR, RC, 2 29/11 GHo, 3 3/12 CM. Lake McGregor: 2 15/11 JHa, 2 12/12 E&JJ, PM. Lake Tekapo, McGregor inlet: 1 30/11 DR. Tasman Fan: 1 17/11 JBo, 5 19/11 DL, MA, NM, SM, JHo, 1 20/11 CCa, 2 18/12 SH, 2 19/12 CS-B,JP, 2 29/12 MH, 2 10/1 SG, 1 14/1 CD, 2 25/1 JS. Waterwheel Wetland: 2 25/1 JS, 2 26/1 JS. Kaki Ponds: 2 28/1 PG.

**Pacific Golden Plover (A)** Ashley Est: 1 29/11 GHo. Paddock between Greenpark Huts and Halswell River: 21 2/12 JWa. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 53 27/12 MD. Embankment Road: 4 16/12 MD, 16 27/1 NA. Crescent I: 2 6/1 KRo. Hapuku/Turnbull/Okuru RM: 2 6/12 BS.

**Banded Dotterel (S)** Clarkes Road: 920 27/1 NA. Embankment Road: 1067 29/1 JWa.

**Black-fronted Dotterel (A)** Hurunui RM: 1 22/1 ACr, XC. Waipara RM: 3 2/12 NA, 1 1/1 GMc, 3 23/1 FG. Ashburton RM: 1 13/11 MO&RT, 3 3/1 ACr.

**Wrybill (S)** Waipara RM: 1 2/12 NA. Ashley Est: 42 5/12 NA, 17 6/12 BA, 14 7/12 BA 50 14/12 BA, 15 15/12 ACr,CC,XC. Washdyke Lagoon: 2 7/12 PS.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (V)** Ashley Estuary: 1 6/12 BA, 15/12 ACr,CC,XC.

**Marsh Sandpiper (V)** Embankment Road: 1 16/12 MD.

**Hudsonian Godwit (V)** Jarvis Road: 1 19/11 GM via DT. Embankment Road: 1 16/12 MD, 1 17/12 KRo. Yarrs Bay: 1 13/1 DT, 16/1 'Wazzagonewild', 20/1 EG, 27/1 NA. Wolfes Road Bay: 1 22/1 MAs, 24/1 MAs, 25/1 PMc, BA, PR, 27/1 KR, 29/1 NMu, 30/1 PC. Crescent I: 1 6/1 KRo.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Orowaiti Lagoon, Westport: 60 29/1 BM. Ashley Est: 135 5/12 NA, 102 at roost on spit 21/1 GMc. Kairaki/Waimakariri RM: 120 10/11 BA. Yarrs Bay: 107 20/1 EG, 109 27/1 NA. Wolfes Road: 150+ 31/1 'Adam C'. Crescent I: 86 6/1 KRo.

**Turnstone (A)** Kaikoura, New Wharf-Fyffe House: 15 5/1 DT. Point Kean, Kaikoura: 3 24/12 MH, 23 31/12 CMi, 5 26/1 SHu, CB. South Bay, Kaikoura: 5 28/1

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MDe. Ashley Estuary: 3 7/11 BA, 3 22/11 BA, 1 29/11 GHo, 3 6/12 BA, 7 7/12 BA, 1 12/12 PM, 7 14/12 BA, 3 15/12 ACr,CC,XC, 3 16/12 BA, 6 20/12 BA, 1 1/1 GMc, 1 2/1 NMu, 1 4/1 BA, 2 4/1 EG, 5 7/1 BA, 3 16/1 ACr,CC,XC. Embankment Road: 25 27/12 MD, 23 30/12 KW, 3 1/1 GMc, 11 2/1 KRo, 1 9/1 ACr. Yarrs Bay: 5 10/1 KRo. Crescent I: 1 6/1 KRo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 16 5/11 ACr, 18 20/12 ACr,PC. Rakaia RM: 42 29/12 ACr. Ashburton RM: 1 3/1 ACr. Te Whanga Lagoon, North Road shore: 7 3/12 SS.

**Lesser Knot (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 7/11 BA, 13 29/11 GHo, 8 5/12 NA, 8 6/12 BA, 20 7/12 BA, 3 12/12 PM, 15 14/12 BA, 10 15/12 ACr,CC,XC, 6 16/12 BA. Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 1 6/1 DT. Embankment Road: 12 27/12 MD. Yarrs Bay: 7 13/1 DT, 6 16/1 EG, 8 20/1 EG, 7 22/1 DT, 'Adam C'. CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit 4 5/11 ACr. Crescent I: 11 6/1 KRo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 6 20/12 ACr,PC, 4 5/1 GM, NMu.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A)** CCC Reserve, Kaitorete Spit 1 5/11 ACr. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 8 20/12 ACr,PC. Clarkes Road: 1 27/1 NA. Embankment Road: 1 2/1 KRo, 1 5/1 'Adam C', 1 6/1 JC, DT, NK, 3 27/1 NA, 1 29/1 MAs. Yarrs Bay: 4 20/1 EG, 1 22/1 'Adam C'. Wolfes Road: 1 19/1 SG, 1 22/1 DT, KRo, 1 26/1 XC, ACr, 1 29/1 NMu. Te Whanga Lagoon, North Road shore (Chatham I): 3 3/12 SS.

**Curlew Sandpiper (A)** Embankment Road: 1 2/1 KRo, 1 6/1 DT, NK, 1 24/1 JC, 'Adam C', 1 29/1 JWa. Yarrs Bay: 1 16/1 'Wazzagonewild', 1 20/1 EG. Wolfes Road: 2 20/1 NMu.

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Ashley Est: 3 6/12 BA. Clarkes Road: 2 27/1 NA. Embankment Road: 30+ 27/12 MD, 21 30/12 KW, 1 1/1 GMc, 16 2/1 KRo, 26 6/1 DT, NK, 10 9/1 ACr, 14 24/1 JC, 7 27/1 NA, 6 29/1 JWa. Yarrs Bay: 13 10/1 KRo, 12 13/1 DT, 2 16/1 EG, 2 20/1 EG, 23 27/1 NA. Wolfes Road: 10 19/1 SG, 3 20/1 NMu, 3 22/1 DT, 13 26/1 XC, ACr, 2 27/1 NA, 1 29/1 NMu. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 21 5/11 ACr, 33 20/12 ACr,PC, 2 5/1 NMu.

**Sanderling (V)** Ashley Estuary: 1 15/12 ACr,CC,XC, 16/12 BA, 'Wazzagonewild', 21/12 'Adam C', 25/12 BD, 26/12 NA, 29/12 BA, 2/1 NA, NMu, 4/1 BA, EG, 7/1 BA, 9/1 KRo, 16/1 ACr,CC,XC, 18/1 BA, 19/1 DT, NK, 26/1 PR, TC.

**Pectoral Sandpiper (A)** Embankment Road: 1 27/1 NA, 3 29/1 MAs. Yarrs Bay: 3 20/1 EG, 4 22/1 'Adam C'. Wolfes Road: 1 3/11 AC, 6 20/1 NMu, 5 22/1 DT,

1 24/1 JC, 1 26/1 ACr, 4 29/1 NMu, 4 31/1 'Adam C'. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 5/11 ACr.

**Pomarine Skua (A)** Waikuku Beach: 1 7/1 'Wazzagonewild'.

**Black-billed Gull (S)** Smarts Road, Ashley River: approx. 1000 1/12 BA.

**Little Tern (V)** Hurunui RM: 1 22/1 ACr, XC. Ashley Estuary: 1 5/11 AC, 6/11 JH.

**Gull-billed Tern (V)** Embankment Road: 1 27/1 KR. Wolfes Road: 2 24/1 MAs, 2 31/1 'Adam C'.

**Caspian Tern (S)** Fishermans Point: 72 2/1 GMc.

**White-winged Black Tern (A)** Waimakariri River mid reaches: 3 8/1 ACr, NMu.

**White-fronted Tern (S)** Clarence RM: approx. 1000 7/11 PCr.

**Common Tern (V)** Ashley Estuary: 1 6/11 JH.

**Barbary Dove (A)** Marshlands Road between QE2 Dr & Prestons Rd: 1 10/11 NA. Roydvale Avenue: 1 15/10 EG. Ellesmere Cemetery: 2 1/1 BA, 2 4/1 ACr,CC,XC, 1 5/1 PR, 1 8/1 KRo, 1 11/1 GMc, 2 22/1 DT, 4 27/1 NA.

**Shining Cuckoo (S)** Hillsborough: Grey Warblers feeding a fledgling in contributor's garden 31/10 GH. The species was widespread from the start of November; a little later than usual.

**Long-tailed Cuckoo (A)** Hurunui Hut: 1 31/1 MR. Arthur's Pass village: 1 flew up and down calling at night 1/12 PC, 1 16/1 PG. Klondyke Corner: 2 calling 3-5am 18/1 ACr. Hawdon Shelter: 1 20/1 AS. Cole Street, Geraldine: 1 found stunned after flying into window, later recovered 22/11 via PS.

**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 1 8/1 PS, SMc. Kawhaka Creek: 1 26/1 KRo. Hawdon Valley: 1 14/1 GMc. Castle Hill: 1 26/1 KRo, Lake Lyndon: 1 22/11 DL, MA, NM, SM, JHo. Prices Valley: 1 4/1 PS, SMc. Akaroa town foreshore: 1 23/11 CW. Onuku: 1 7/11 TG. Lake Ianthe: 1 28/1 SHu, CB, GV. Mueller Lookout, Aoraki/Mt Cook: 1 16/12 anon, 1 25/1 SU. Sealey Tarns: 1 31/12 PS,SMc. White Horse Hill camp ground, Aoraki/Mount Cook: 1 17/11 JBo. Hooker Valley Track: 2 11/1 SG, 2 ad 1 juv 15/1 CD. NE of Burkes Pass village: 1 21/11 CC. W of Burkes Pass village: 1 12/12 E&JJ, PM. Okarito township: 1 19/11 JA, NR, RC. Clay Cliffs nr Omarama: 1 26/11 RD, SS. Hapuka Estuary: 1 5/11 MO&RT.

**Kea (S)** Ghost Lake Hut, Old Ghost Road: 1 18/12 SSt, Hawdon Hut: 6 14/1 GMc. Hawdon Valley: 1 17/1



## The Wrybill - February 2019

ACr, XC. Korowai-Torlesse Tussocklands Park: 1 18/1  
KR. Pakihi Walk, Okarito: 5 28/1 SHu, CB, 3 31/1 BM.  
Forks-Okarito Road: 1 28/1 SHu, CB. Fox Glacier  
Walk: 2 9/1 SG. Tekoe, Upper Landsborough River: 1  
31/1 PG. Fantail Falls, Haast Highway: 1 6/11  
MO&RT. Brewster Track: 4 19/11 CC. Hapuka  
Estuary: 1 5/11 MO&RT.

**Kaka (A)** SH7 just W of Maruia Springs: 1 11/11 RN.  
Hurunui Valley N Branch: 1 30/1 MR. Hawdon  
Valley: 2 6/1 AS, 2 25/1 AS, 2 26/1 AS. Binser Saddle  
Track, Arthur's Pass NP: 1 24/11 PC. Gleniti Road,  
Timaru: 1 31/10 via 'sm1979'. Lake Moeraki: 1  
18/11 CCa. Brewster Track: 1 19/11 CC.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A)** Prices Valley: 7 13/11  
MO&RT, 7 6/1 KRo, 8 8/1 ACr, 3 9/1 EG, 1 10/1  
GMc, 8 14/1 NMu.

**Rock Wren (A)** Upper Otira Valley: 1 20/11 BB, 1  
18/1 ACr. Tekoe, Upper Landsborough River: 1 31/1  
PG.

**Tui (S)** Victoria Park Ranger HQ: 1 23/12 PC.

**Yellowhead (A)** Hawdon Hut: 2 14/1 GMc, 2 15/1  
GMc. Hawdon Valley: 6 6/1 AS, 1 17/1 ACr, XC, 2  
26/1 AS.

**Cirl Bunting (A)** Northbrook Ponds, Rangiora: 1m  
singing 3/1 BA, 1m 1f 15/1 BA. Godley Head: 1 18/1  
JC. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 14/12 PR, 1 18/1 KRo, 1f  
22/1 NA. Lower Prices Valley Road: 1m 1f 8/1 ACr.

**Rook (A)** Fairton area: 2 25/1 JS.

### Contributors:

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# CANTERBURY WADER COUNT November- December 2018

Species	Hurunui RM	Waipara RM	Ashley/Swater Crk Est	Taranaki Creek paddocks	Waimakariri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Wetland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lyttelton Harbour	Port Levy	Pigeon Bay	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	
Counters/NC	AC	NA	NA	NA	AC, AW	AC, AW	KR	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	n/c	PC	PC	AC	AC	AC	MR, DM	KR	JW	
Notes																Crescent I							
Date counted	15-Nov	2-Dec	5-Dec	5-Dec	29-Nov	29-Nov	9-Dec	4-Dec	5-Dec	27-Nov	27-Nov	27-Nov	27-Nov		1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	2-Dec
Aus Crested Grebe																							
Mute Swan																						1	
Australasian Bittern																							
Cattle Egret																							
Royal Spoonbill			12			47		17	3						10	4		4	5	55	25	4	
Little Black Shag																				1			
Otago Shag																							
Pied Oystercatcher	2	2	60		1	17		598	79	9		2	10				8	7	4				
Variable Oystercatcher	4		4			5		42	10	2	4	1	20										
Hybrid Oystercatcher			11																				
Pied Stilt		50	47			17	34	44	12			4	2		12		68	2	5	251	137	20	
Hybrid Stilt																							
Banded Dotterel	2	9	13		2	6									12	16	4	2		5	4	3	
Black-fronted Dotterel		3																					
Wrybill		1	42												19					1	2	2	
Pacific Golden Plover																							21
Spur-winged Plover		2		2	4	17	8	36	14	6	4	12	17			12	6	16	65	6	7	38	
Turnstone															18								
Lesser Knot			8					4															
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper															2								
Pectoral Sandpiper																							
Red-necked Stint																							
Bar-tailed Godwit			135			181		1369	359												23		
Black-billed Gull		5	8																				
Black-fronted Tern		2	1																				
Caspian Tern		5	7			2		8	3	2			5						4	17	85	1	
Site totals	8	79	348	2	7	292	42	2118	480	19	8	19	54	0	73	32	86	31	83	359	261	89	
Wader site totals	8	67	320	2	7	243	42	2093	474	17	8	19	49	0	63	28	86	27	74	286	150	84	
% of total count	0.1	1.2	5.5	0.0	0.1	4.2	0.7	36.1	8.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.3	4.9	2.6	1.4	
# wader species at site	3	6	8	1	3	6	2	6	5	3	2	4	4	0	5	2	4	4	3	5	4	5	

Note 1. Royal Spoonbills at Brooklands Lagoon were a colony at Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds

Note 2. Lake Ellesmere level 1.18m (but wind-affected reading) 3/12/18.

### Counters

Nick Allen = NA   Jan Walker = JW   Andrew Crossland = AC   Matt Rose = MR   Sandra Wallace = SW   Eleanor Gunby = EG   Bev Alexander = BA   Phil Crutchley = PC   Kenny Rose = KR   Dale Mcintee = DM   Alice Waerhouse = AW   Paul Sagar = PS   Joy Sagar = JS   Steve Atwood = SA   Nadine Campbell = NC   Peter Reese = PR

Species	Greenpark Huts 'east bay'	Greenpark Huts - Jarvis Road	Jarvis-Embankment Roads	Embankment Rd-Yards	L/I RM to Selwyn Huts	Rennie's Bay	Irwell RM	Drain Road	Harts Creek	Timberyard Road	Johnstons Road	Lower Lake Road nr Taumutu	Fisherman's Point	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Ashburton RM	Spider Lagoon	Opihi RM/Milford Lagoon	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Wainono	TOTAL
Counters/NC	JW	SA	EG	SW, NC	NA	n/c	n/c	n/c	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA		BA, PR	AC	PS	PS	PS, JS	PS	
Notes							access				nil count		nil count								level v high
Date counted	2-Dec	2-Dec	2-Dec	2-Dec	2-Dec		flooded		29-Nov	29-Nov	29-Nov	30-Nov	29-Nov		30-Nov	22-Nov	18-Dec	18-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	
Aus Crested Grebe									1					1	1						2
Mute Swan				7	2				2					12	18						30
Australasian Bittern									1					1							1
Cattle Egret										3				3							3
Royal Spoonbill		1	4	8	24							2		146		2					227
Little Black Shag														1							1
Otago Shag														0		1					1
Pied Oystercatcher				3						1				23		6	4	11	2	5	829
Variable Oystercatcher														0		4	1		32		125
Hybrid Oystercatcher														0							11
Pied Stilt	85	166	358	57	165					8		13		1347		6	28	6	106	263	1966
Hybrid Stilt				3										3							3
Banded Dotterel	1		4	4										55		8	1	11	5	4	114
Black-fronted Dotterel														0		2					5
Wrybill		25	151	8										208					2		253
Pacific Golden Plover		5												26							26
Spur-winged Plover				2		11				4		2		169			2	2	5	20	320
Turnstone														18		3					21
Lesser Knot														0							12
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper				5										7							7
Pectoral Sandpiper				2										2							2
Red-necked Stint				33										33							33
Bar-tailed Godwit				9										32							2076
Black-billed Gull					11									11				86	12		122
Black-fronted Tern														0		7		3			13
Caspian Tern		5	4	1										117		1		2	3	1	156
Site totals	86	202	578	96	202	0	0	0	4	16	0	17	0	2215	19	40	36	121	167	293	6359
Wader site totals	86	196	570	69	176	0	0	0	0	13	0	15	0	1923	0	29	36	30	152	292	5803
% of total count	1.5	3.4	9.8	1.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	33.1	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	2.6	5.0	100.0
# wader species at site	2	3	10	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	12	0	6	5	4	6	4	17

Note 1. Royal Spoonbills at Brooklands Lagoon were a colony at Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds

Note 2. Lake Ellesmere level 1.18m (but wind-affected reading) 3/12/18.

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